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URBAN-RURAL PATTERN OF POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND CHANGES IN THIS PATTERN DURING THE LAST FEW DECADES

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### 1. The degree of urbanization

Latin America has undergone rapid urbanization during the last three decades. This process, as elsewhere in the world, has involved important sociological changes caused principally by the movement of considerable masses of the population from the country and the smaller towns into the big cities.

Although up-to-date census figures are only available in the case of twelve countries, it can be said that in 1960 the urban population of Latin America constituted less than 50 per cent of the total (in accordance with the definition for census purposes of urban population). In view of the tendencies apparent in this process of urbanization, one may expect in the next few decades a continuation of this geographical redistribution of the population and, in consequence, the emergence of new cities and the development of the suburban areas of the great centres of population.

The degree of urbanization differs significantly from one country to another within the region. In addition, it bears no relation to the density or to the volume of the population. It is probable that the differences expressed by the census-figures do not always reflect the real situation. Such figures may understate the case or, on the other hand, give an exaggerated picture, owing to the different definitions of urban population that have been employed or to different meanings attached to the same theoretical criterion (e.g. the size of the population centre), depending on the differing conditions of economic and social development within the area. Bearing in mind these inevitable limitations we will consider, for the purposes of comparison, the degree of urbanization in accordance with the definitions of urban population used for census purposes, and, in addition,

the population-figures of centres with over 20 000 inhabitants. Definitions, for census purposes, of urban population generally include small towns with administrative jurisdiction over minor political areas, or simply towns of over 1 000, 2 000 or 2 500 inhabitants, as the case may be. By including only centres of over 20 000 inhabitants in the figures given for urban population, one is able to eliminate from the survey agglomerations that are really semi-rural in character -from the point of view of economic activity- and, in general, to facilitate comparison between one country and another. Table 1 denotes the degree of urbanization as of 1950, according to the criterion described above, and the figures corresponding to the year 1960 in those countries where a census had been held.

Three out of the four countries with the largest populations, i.e. Brazil, Mexico and Colombia (with a combined population, in 1960, of about 120 000 000), have an urban population of approximately 45-50 per cent of the total. Ten years previously, the urban population of these countries was between 36 and 43 per cent. The fourth of these four most highly populated countries, Argentina, was the most urbanized of all -with the probable exception of Uruguay, for which there are no census-figures- and it was probably still the most urbanized country in 1960.

Countries that have a relatively small population, but are nevertheless the most urbanized except for Argentina, are: Chile, Cuba and Venezuela, with urban populations constituting, in 1950, 62.5, 56.3, and 53.8 per cent respectively, of the total population of each country. By 1960 the proportion had risen, in Chile, to 66.5 per cent, and in Venezuela to 62.5 per cent.

The remaining countries show a lower degree of urbanization, probably below 40 per cent in 1960, with the exception of Panama and, especially, Peru (where the proportion was close to 50 per cent).

If we now consider the degree of urbanization in relation to the relative importance of the population of nuclei of over 20 000 inhabitants, it can be said that in 1950 only four countries (Argentina, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela), gave evidence of conditions comparable to those obtaining in the countries of Western Europe or in the United States, that is to say with percentages of urban population in relation to total population of higher than 30 per cent, and even, in the cases

Table 1  
URBAN-RURAL COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION OF 18 LATIN AMERICAN  
COUNTRIES IN 1950 AND 1960 (APPROXIMATE DATES)

Country	Total Population (thousands)		Urban population (Census definition) (per cent)		Population living in nuclei of over 20 000 inhabitants (per cent) <sup>a/</sup>	
	1950	1960	1950	1960	1950	1960
Brazil	51 944	70 967	36.2	45.1 <sup>b/</sup>	18.4	29.1 <sup>b/</sup>
Mexico	25 791	34 923	42.6	50.7	26.4	33.6
Argentina	15 894	20 009	62.5	e/	47.9	e/
Colombia	11 548	d/	38.0	d/	22.4	d/
Peru	6 208	10 364	35.4 <sup>f/</sup>	47.1 <sup>b/</sup>	14.2	28.4 <sup>b/</sup>
Chile	5 933	7 340	60.2	66.5 <sup>c/</sup>	42.9	e/
Cuba	5 829	d/	56.3	d/	36.3	d/
Venezuela	5 035	7 524	53.8	62.5 <sup>b/</sup>	31.6	47.2 <sup>b/</sup>
Ecuador	3 203	4 581	28.5	35.3 <sup>b/</sup>	18.4	27.5 <sup>b/</sup>
Guatemala	2 791	d/	25.0	d/	11.2	d/
Bolivia	2 704	d/	33.6	d/	21.9	d/
Dominican Republic	2 136	3 014	23.8	30.5 <sup>b/</sup>	12.1	20.0 <sup>b/</sup>
El Salvador	1 856	2 511	36.5	39.0 <sup>c/</sup>	12.9	17.3 <sup>b/</sup>
Honduras	1 369	1 883	29.0	e/	-	11.5 <sup>b/</sup>
Paraguay	1 328	1 817	34.6	35.4 <sup>b/</sup>	15.6	16.8 <sup>b/</sup>
Nicaragua	1 057	e/	34.9	e/	e/	e/
Panama	805	1 076	36.0	41.5	30.4	35.0
Costa Rica	801	1 325	33.5	34.5 <sup>b/</sup>	22.6	22.2 <sup>b/</sup>

<sup>a/</sup> This figure includes that part of the population permanently resident in the principal nucleus, according to the particular definition of this nucleus in each country (See Appendix 1).

<sup>b/</sup> Based on provisional and interim data.

<sup>c/</sup> Figures based on samples (a 1 per cent sample in the case of Chile, and a 5 per cent sample in that of El Salvador).

<sup>d/</sup> No census.

<sup>e/</sup> No data available.

<sup>f/</sup> 1940.

of Argentina and Chile, of above 40 per cent. By 1960 the ratio of urban to total population must have risen considerably, although there are no figures available to support this assertion; as is demonstrated by the case of Venezuela, which shown a rise from 31 per cent to 40 per cent over ten years. On the other hand, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and probably Colombia show, in 1960, a ratio of urban to total population of about 30 per cent.

This means that, except for four countries (Argentina, Chile, Venezuela and Cuba), the relatively small proportion of the population that lives in towns of over 20 000 inhabitants, combined with the tendencies towards accelerated urbanization hitherto observed, give grounds for predicting an increasing concentration of the population in urban centres of this nature. This process will plainly be highly significant in countries that, like Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, have relatively large population. In the smaller countries, such as the Central American Republics, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, urbanization will not, in the near future, cause the emergence of important urban centres. In these conditions, as has happened up to now, the city which already enjoys a predominant position in the country will increase this predominance still further.

## 2. The big cities

In 1960, Latin America contained 10 cities of over one million inhabitants. The combined population of these cities is over 25 millions, which constitutes approximately 11 per cent of the total population of the area.

A further ten cities with populations of between 500 and 800 thousand contain, in their turn, a population of nearly 6 millions. Nine of these cities are to be found in the countries with the biggest populations: Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia.

Finally, mention must be made of a further 20 cities of between 250 and 500 thousand inhabitants, including eight cities that are capitals of their respective countries.

These figures indicate that there are, at present, no less than thirty cities that, because of the dimensions they have already attained, (the 20 cities which had already reached the half million inhabitants in 1960 and few approximating that figure) or because of their importance as political centres, (the eight capital cities to referred to in paragraph above) must be considered as urban nuclei with growth problems now and in the immediate future.

Twenty years ago, around 1940, there were only four cities of over one million inhabitants, four of from 500 to 950 thousand, and eight of from 250 to 499 thousand; this last category included three capital cities.

If the tendencies towards urban concentration observed in the last two decades are maintained, it is probable that, by 1970, there will be 26 cities of over half a million inhabitants, as compared with 20 today. More important, however, than the mere number of new big cities in the growth of the population within cities of this size. Table 2 gives an idea of the evolution of 108 nuclei of population that, around 1950, had over 20 000 inhabitants, situated in four countries: Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela. These nuclei are classified according to the number of inhabitants they contained in, approximately, the following years: 1940, 1950 and 1960. The figures for 1970 are estimates and are based on the assumption that past rates of growth will be maintained, or, in some cases, diminish.

Of the 108 nuclei under consideration there were, in 1950, 16 of over 100 000 inhabitants. In 1960, there were 63, and by 1970 one may expect there to be 90. When we consider the cities of over half a million inhabitants, a total of 3, in 1940, increases to 13 in 1960 and will probably rise to 18 by 1970.

Table 2

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO SIZE, IN 1940, 1950, 1960 AND 1970  
(APPROXIMATE DATES), OF 108 NUCLEI OF OVER 20 THOUSAND IN-  
HABITANTS (IN 1950), SELECTED FROM BRAZIL, MEXICO, COLOMBIA  
AND VENEZUELA

Size (Number of inhabitants)	1940	1950	1960	1970 <sup>a/</sup>
Over 1 000 000	3	3	5	9
500 000 - 999 000	-	2	8	9
250 000 - 499 000	5	9	8	13
100 000 - 249 000	12	19	42	59
50 000 - 99 000	22	41	39	18
20 000 - 49 000	49	34	6	-
Under 20 000	17			
Total	108	108	108	108

a/ Estimate

The four countries to which these figures refer are especially important as being regions where in the last two decades there have emerged numerous important nuclei evincing rapid growth tendencies and where new centres of population are expected to emerge in the near future. This was caused not only by the volume of the population (in the cases of Brazil and Mexico) but by the important regional development that took place in these areas. <sup>1/</sup> In the majority of the remaining countries the growth has been concentrated in the principal nucleus, as in the cases of Chile, Peru, Cuba, Bolivia and, in general, the countries of Central America.

### 3. Disparate growth of the urban nuclei

In light of the fourteen countries listed in Table 3, the average annual rate of increase of the population was over 2.9 per cent in the decade 1950-1960. In a further four countries it was between 2.5 and 2.8 per cent. Only in Argentina was there a relatively small increase -1.7 per cent. From the remaining Latin American countries there are no figures available yet.

With such high rates of increase, it is hardly surprising that the population of the urban centres should also have shown an extraordinary large growth. Table 3 shows the rates of growth of the cities and of the minor nuclei, classified for this purpose according to the number of inhabitants they contained around the year 1950. This method of classification ensures that the data are strictly comparable over a given period of time.

Rapid urban growth is not confined to the principal centres of population, as might be thought. In several countries, and especially during the last two decades, the cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants and the smaller nuclei of between 20 and 99 thousand inhabitants (excluding, in both cases, the principal nucleus in each country) grew, on an average, at the same rate as the principal nucleus. This was so in the cases of Brazil, Mexico, Colombia (1938-1951) and Venezuela. In these countries the rate of growth of the principal nucleus was over 4 per cent during the two decades after 1940, and frequently over 5 per cent. Before 1940 the rate of growth had been slightly smaller, generally speaking, but still close to, or even exceeding, 4 percent. Similar figures could be quoted for

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<sup>1/</sup> In Argentina, where there occurred a similar process as regards regional development, the growth of the urban nuclei appears to have been slower (with the important exception of the Gran Buenos Aires district) than in the other four countries mentioned above. This assessment is, however, provisional in character, since the figures subdivided by "localities", or nuclei, from the 1960 census, are not yet available.

the growth of the remaining nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants.

In Argentina and Chile the growth of the principal nucleus was also extremely rapid. This contrasts with the relatively slow growth of the remaining nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, although there were exceptions to this rule. In both countries, however, the figures available from the last census do not yet permit an accurate evaluation of the changes that have occurred in the last decade.

In five of the countries listed in Table 3 (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and the Dominican Republic) the rate of growth of the principal nucleus is also high, close to or exceeding 4 per cent, and particularly high in the Dominican Republic (6.7 per cent). Here we are speaking, however, of small nuclei, of approximately 100 to 300 thousand inhabitants. In these countries, it would not be worth while to consider the growth of the other nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, in view of their small number (see Table 3).

Peru and Ecuador manifest similar characteristics. The rate of increase of the principal nucleus is somewhat above 5 per cent, and the corresponding figure for other nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants is about 4 per cent. In the case of Peru such figures represent an average over 21 year (1940-1961), from which it might be surmised that the rate of growth during the decade 1950-1960 was even higher.

In conclusion, it can be said that, of the nine Latin American countries with the largest populations, with the exceptions (already noted) of Argentina and Chile, and of Cuba (for lack of information) -that is to say, in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Ecuador, the population of the cities of over 20 thousand inhabitants, both in the case of the principal nucleus and of the other cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants and of the nuclei of from 20 to 99 thousand inhabitants, registered during the last decade an increase of around 4 per cent or higher. This generalization can also be extended to include the previous decade, at least in several cases for which data are available.

Table 3

ANNUAL RATES OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, OF THE POPULATION OF THE PRINCIPAL NUCLEUS AND OF THE POPULATION OF CITIES AND MINOR NUCLEI CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN 1950 (APPROXIMATELY), IN FOURTEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE LAST FEW DECADES

Country	Intercensal Period		Annual rates of increase, in percentages <sup>a/</sup>					
	Dates	Duration (n)	Country	Principal nucleus	Other cities of over 100 000 inhab.	Summary		
						Nuclei of 20-99 000 inhab.	Nuclei of over 20 000 inhab.	Rest of country
Brazil	1940-50	9.83	2.3	3.9	(12)	(36)	(50)	2.0
	1950-60	10.17	3.0	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.0	2.6
Mexico					4.6	5.3	4.6	
					(9)	(52)	(62)	
	1930-40	9.75	1.8	3.6	d/	d/	d/	d/
	1940-50	10.25	2.6	5.2	5.1	d/	d/	d/
	1950-60	10.00	3.0	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7	2.3
Argentina					(8)		(9)	
	1914-47	32.92	2.0	2.3	d/	d/	d/	d/
	1947-60	13.50	1.7	3.0	0.8 <sup>b/</sup>	d/	2.3 <sup>b/</sup>	1.2 <sup>b/</sup>
Colombia					(5)	(22)	(28)	
	1938-51	12.83	2.2	5.1	5.6	4.9	5.2	1.5
Peru					(10)	(11)		
	1940-61	21.00	2.4	5.1	c/	3.6	4.6	1.8
Chile					(2)	(21)	(24)	
	1930-40	10.00	1.6	2.9	0.9	1.5	2.1	1.3
	1940-52	11.42	1.4	3.0	1.3	2.4	2.6	0.7
	1952-60	8.58	2.5	4.1	d/	d/	d/	
Venezuela					(2)	(17)	(20)	
	1936-41	4.92	2.7	6.5	3.6	3.7	4.8	2.2
	1941-50	9.00	3.0	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.0	1.4
	1950-61	10.25	3.9	5.4	5.7	6.2	5.8	2.8
Ecuador					(1)	(4)	(6)	
	1950-62	12.00	2.9	5.4	4.4	3.8	4.8	2.4

Table 3 (cont.)

Country	Intercensal Period		Annual rates of increase, in percentages <sup>a/</sup>					
	Dates	Duration (n)	Country	Principal nucleus	Other cities of over 100 000 inhab.	Nuclei of 20-99 000 inhab.	Summary	
						Nuclei of over 20 000 inhab.	Rest of country	
Domini can Rep.	1950-60	10.00	3.4	6.7	d/	(1) 3.8	(2) 6.1	3.0
El Salvador	1930-50 1950-61	20.08 10.92	1.3 2.7	2.9 3.8	c/ c/	(2) 3.4	(3) 3.7	1.1 2.6
Honduras	1950-61	10.83	2.9	5.6	c/	(1) 8.6	(2) 6.4	2.6
Paraguay	1950-62	12.00	2.6	3.2	c/	(1) c/	(2) 3.2	2.5
Panama	1930-40 1940-50 1950-60	10.67 10.25 10.00	2.7 2.5 2.9	4.3 3.6 4.1	c/ c/ c/	(1) 3.5 1.6 1.2	(2) 4.1 3.1 3.6	2.2 2.2 2.5
Costa Rica	1927-50 1950-63	23.00 12.83	2.2 3.8	2.9 3.7	c/ c/	(1) c/ c/	(2) 2.9 3.7	2.1 3.9

<sup>a/</sup>  $\frac{2(N^n - N^0)}{n(N^n + N^0)}$ , where  $N^0$  and  $N^n$  are the population at the beginning and end of the census-period, and  $n$  is the number of years in the census-period.

<sup>b/</sup> Population of intermediate administrative divisions ('partidos' or 'departamentos') with cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants as assessed in the 1947 census.

<sup>c/</sup> In 1950 there was no nucleus in this category.

<sup>d/</sup> No adequate data available.

**NOTE:** Figures in parentheses indicate the number of nuclei in that size-category in 1950. In all periods the growth of these nuclei were taken into account, irrespective of their size at previous or later census.

#### 4. Concentration of the population in urban areas

It is frequently stated, as a commonplace, that the countries of Latin America possess few important cities (in many cases only one), and also that the principal nucleus is of disproportionately large size in relation to the other nuclei of second or third rank. The first assertion still holds true for the majority of these countries, i.e. these with small populations, but it is no longer applicable to Brazil, which has 31 cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants, while Mexico has 17, and Colombia has 10. Neither, in all probability, has it been applicable to Argentina for several decades.

Nevertheless, the principal nucleus is still disproportionately large. In 1950, the principal nucleus of Mexico (i.e. the Federal District) contained about twice the combined population of the nine other cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants, and in Argentina (in 1947) the population of the Gran Buenos Aires district was three times that of the remaining 8 nuclei of over 100 thousand inhabitants. In 1960, comparing the populations of the same nuclei, the proportions in each country were roughly the same. The situation in Venezuela is similar to that in Mexico, and that in Chile to that in Argentina, but it must be born in mind that, in the cases of Venezuela and Chile, there were only 2 centres of over 100 thousand inhabitants in 1950.

Brazil and Colombia present a somewhat different picture. The population of the principal nucleus is only half the combined population of the remaining nuclei of over 100 thousand inhabitants. In each country, the combined populations of the first and second largest nucleus is approximately equal to the population of the remaining cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants.

In the other countries, except for Uruguay and Cuba (for which there are no recent census-figures), the fact that besides the principal nucleus there are only one or two cities of any importance, or in some cases none at all, confers an overwhelming importance on the principal nucleus, as in the cases of Panama and Costa Rica and, to a lesser extent, Peru and Paraguay.

The importance of the principal nucleus in relation to the total population of the country is an exact measure of the concentration of population, and this facilitates comparison in terms of space and time. For this purpose, we define the principal nucleus in a special way, including in this term, in addition to the central city, the contiguous urban area falling within its immediate sphere of influence. In general, we have used here the methods of delimitation employed for the census and for other national statistical compilations, such as the Metropolitan Area of San José (Costa Rica), Gran Santiago, Gran Buenos Aires, etc., delimited as shown in the Appendix.

From the point of view of this survey, the countries with the highest proportion of their population concentrated in the principal nucleus were, round about 1960: Argentina (33.8 per cent), Chile (26.3 per cent), Panama (27.3 per cent), Costa Rica (22.2 per cent), Cuba (20-23 per cent) and, naturally, Uruguay. Except for Argentina (20 millions), Chile (7.3 millions) and Cuba (approx. 7 millions), each of the other countries mentioned have population of between 1 and 1.5 million.

Following these countries, as regards the proportion of the population concentrated in the principal nucleus, are: Peru (17 per cent), Venezuela (15 per cent), Mexico (14 per cent), Paraguay (18 per cent). In the remaining countries, the proportion of the population concentrated in the principal nucleus is less than 12 per cent. Brazil and Colombia are remarkable for the small proportion of the population represented by the principal nucleus.

The relative importance of the population of the principal nucleus has, generally speaking, increased continuously. In Mexico, Venezuela and Chile this proportion has almost doubles in the last 30 years. In the other countries the tendency towards concentration in the principal nucleus has been less pronounced, as, for example, in some countries that 20, 30 or more years ago already showed a high degree of concentration (Costa Rica, Panama and Argentina).

A more accurate assessment of this process of concentration may be made by measuring the part of the total population increase accounted for by the principal nucleus. As a general rule, the part of the increase accounted for by the principal nucleus is relatively greater than the proportion of the population living in the principal nucleus would lead one to expect. In the last decade, the following

percentages of the population increase accounted for by the principal nucleus have been remarkable for their magnitude: Argentina, 55.5 per cent; Chile, 41.0 per cent; Panama, 37.2 per cent; Peru, 28.7 per cent; Mexico, 19.9 per cent; and Venezuela, 19.3 per cent. (See Table 4).

In the remaining countries listed in Table 4 the proportion is smaller, but in general it bears an analogous relationship to the total increase figure, depending on the relative importance of the principal nucleus as shown by ratios in column 4 of above mentioned table. Such ratios constitute a measure of the change in the degree of concentration of the population in the principal nucleus during a specified period of time. If the ratio is equal to 1 there is no change in the level of concentration; if it is higher than 1 the positive excess is indicative of increase in concentration; if it is smaller than 1 it shows a decrease. If these values increase (decrease) through time its sequence indicates the trend in the level of concentration.<sup>1/</sup> During the last decade these proportions were: Peru 2.1; Dominican Republic, 2.0; Honduras, 1.9; Argentina, 1.8; Chile 1.7; Mexico, 1.5; El Salvador, Brazil and Panama, 1.4. The proportion was low in Paraguay (1.2) and in Costa Rica (1.0).

Comparing these tendencies in successive periods, it may be stated that this type of concentration is especially pronounced after 1930. The proportional relationship noted above appears to have been especially high between 1930 and 1940 in certain countries, and between 1940 and 1950 in others; e.g., Mexico, 2.1; Venezuela, 2.4; Chile, 2.1. The part of the population increase accounted for by the principal nucleus also appears to have been greatest, in certain countries, between 1940 and 1950: e.g. Mexico, 21.1 per cent; Venezuela, 25.0 per cent; Chile, 43.8 per cent; Brazil, 13.9 per cent; Costa Rica, 27.4 per cent. In Panama and Argentina the highest proportion was reached in the decade 1950-1960. It may be concluded from the foregoing that the velocity of the concentration of the population in the principal nuclei has reached, or is reaching, its maximum point in several countries, and that a diminution of this velocity is to be expected.

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<sup>1/</sup> The ratio in effect represents the relation between the rate of growth of the population of the principal nucleus and that of the country.

Table 4

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE POPULATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL NUCLEUS AND OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE AND THEIR RESPECTIVE INTER-CENSAL INCREASE IN THIRTEEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, IN THE LAST FEW DECADES

Country <sup>a/</sup>	Inter-censal period	Principal nucleus		Percentage of increase of country absorbed by principal nucleus	Ratio of: Col. 3 to Col. 2
		Population (thousands) <sup>c/</sup>	Percentage of country <sup>b/</sup>		
Brazil	1940-1950	4 576 <sup>d/</sup>	8.2	13.9	1.7
	1950-1960	7 135 <sup>d/</sup>	9.5	13.4	1.4
Mexico	1930-1940	1 758	8.2	17.0	2.1
	1940-1950	3 050	10.6	21.1	2.0
	1950-1960	4 871	13.0	19.9	1.5
Argentina	1914-1947	4 479	27.4	30.5	1.1
	1947-1960	6 763	31.3	55.5	1.8
Colombia	1938-1951	648	4.8	11.2	2.3
Peru	1940-1961	1 716	13.5	28.7	2.1
Chile	1920-1930	713	15.2	36.0	2.4
	1930-1940	952	17.9	32.4	1.8
	1940-1952	1 350	21.0	43.8	2.1
	1952-1960	1 927	24.7	41.0	1.7
Venezuela	1936-1941	325	7.8	18.5	2.4
	1941-1950	621	10.6	25.0	2.4
	1950-1961	1 101	13.7	19.3	1.4
Dominican Republic	1950-1960	367	10.7	21.1	2.0
El Salvador	1930-1950	162	7.6	17.3	2.3
	1950-1961	248	9.4	13.3	1.4
Honduras	1950-1961	134	6.3	12.1	1.9

Table 4 (cont.)

Country <sup>a/</sup>	Inter-censal period	Principal nucleus		Percentage of increase of country absorbed by principal nucleus	Ratio of: Col. 3 to Col. 2
		Population (thousands) <sup>a/</sup>	Percentage of country <sup>b/</sup>		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Paraguay	1950-1962	305	16.3	20.0	1.2
Panama	1930-1940	133	19.8	32.3	1.6
	1940-1950	193	22.8	33.0	1.4
	1950-1960	294	25.9	37.3	1.4
Costa Rica	1927-1950	181	21.3	27.4	1.3
	1950-1963	294	22.4	21.6	1.0

<sup>a/</sup> In decreasing order by population (as of 1950)

<sup>b/</sup> Estimated percentage in the middle of the period in question, calculated by taking the average of the populations of the country and of the principal nucleus at the beginning and end of the period.

<sup>c/</sup> For definition, see Appendix 1. The population is assessed as at the end of the period.

<sup>d/</sup> Population of the State of Guanabara and of the Municipality of Sao Paulo.

5. Distribution of urban population in nuclei of over 20 000 in relation to the size of such nuclei

Various points of interest may be noted with regard to the distribution of the urban population of a country in relation to the size of the urban nuclei. The demographic and sociological characteristics of the population of the big cities differ from those of the inhabitants of the medium-sized cities (those of from 50 to 200 thousand inhabitants). Similarly, these cities display different characteristics from those of the smaller towns and villages. The economic and social climate, institutions and other aspects of social organization, determine these differences, although other factors contribute to them. In short, the urban population is not an homogeneous entity, although in defining this urban population we have considered only the inhabitants of those areas whose urban character is unquestioned (e.g., nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants).

Another aspect of this problem is the following: the local development of modern economic activities generally runs parallel to the multiplication and growth of urban nuclei. The small number of economically independent cities of medium size (50 to 200 000 inhabitants), would seem to indicate a lack of equilibrium between one region and another in a country where the urban population numbers several millions, especially if this situation coincides with the existence of one principal nucleus which by itself constitutes an appreciable proportion of the total national population.

In order to analyse the distribution of the urban population in relation to the size of the nuclei, it might suffice to consider the number of nuclei, dividing them into categories according to size, provided the number of nuclei were large enough and the number of different categories large enough also. If, however, the number of nuclei is small, then it is necessary to complement these data with data regarding the respective population of each nucleus. Similarly, if one classifies the nuclei by size into only two or three categories, as in Table 5, it is necessary, to facilitate comparison, to include data regarding the respective populations, even though the number of the nuclei taken into consideration is large.

Table 5 shows the percentils distribution of the population that, in 1960, lived in nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, including the principal nucleus, the remaining nuclei of over 100 thousand inhabitants, and those of from 20 to 99 thousand inhabitants. Only countries with over 25 nuclei of 20 thousand inhabitants have been included<sup>1/</sup>. The twelve countries excluded from this survey have only a small number of nuclei of this size, and in many cases there is no nucleus of over 100 thousand inhabitants except for the principal nucleus. In these countries, with one or two exceptions, the principal contains approximately 60 per cent of the urban population, and in two cases it contains 100 per cent. It should be mentioned that this is the case in the least-populated countries, with from one to five million inhabitants.

It will be readily understood that a survey of the distribution of the population is of greater interest and significance in the case of the larger countries. In Brasil (70 millions) and Mexico (35 millions), about one third in accounted for by the nuclei of over 100 thousand inhabitants, excluding the principal nucleus (and, in the case of Brazil, excluding also Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo). The situation in Colombia (15 millions) appears to be similar, to judge by the 1951 census figures. In short, in the three countries mentioned the distribution between the three sizes of nucleus is fairly even.

In Argentina (20 millions), Chile (7 millions) and Peru (10 millions), the situation is different from that of the other countries, owing to the predominance of the central nucleus. Although there are no figures available for 1960 in the cases of Argentina and Chile, it may be assumed on the basis of the previous census, that this central nucleus contains around, or in excess of, 60 per cent of the total population of nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants. In Peru, as can be seen from the Table, the proportion is 58.2 per cent. Both in Chile and in Peru one notes a deficiency in the proportion contributed by the "over 100 thousand" category, which is only 13-14 per cent.

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<sup>1/</sup> The complete figures, as far as they are available, are given in the Appendix.

The situation in Venezuela (7 millions) is somewhat peculiar. The nuclei of from 20 to 99 thousand inhabitants constitute the most important part (43.1 per cent), and those of over 100 thousand the least important part (25.9 per cent, contributed by only 4 nuclei)<sup>1/</sup>.

The analysis of the composition of population in relation to the size of the nuclei may be improved by the use of a more detailed classification. This is possible provided that the number of nuclei is sufficiently large. These conditions are found in Brazil (190 nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, including 31 of over 100 thousand) and Mexico (91 nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, including 16 of over 100 thousand). They are also found in Argentina and Colombia (see Table 5), but unfortunately there are no sufficiently detailed recent figures from these countries. In Chile, Venezuela, Peru and Cuba, the small number of nuclei of over 100 thousand inhabitants presents serious disadvantages. In the remaining countries, as has been stated before, there are few nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants.

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<sup>1/</sup> The data given in Table 5 are subject to important limitations which should be born in mind: The division of the nuclei into 2 categories (20 to 99 thousand, and over 100 thousand inhabitants), although it represents a quantitative criterion, necessarily possesses also a qualitative significance in so far as the attempt has been made to group populations with common demographic and sociological characteristics, quite apart from the mere number of inhabitants. By reason of the points of delimitation between one category and another, which have been selected quite arbitrarily, it is hazardous to draw conclusions for the purposes of comparison between successive census figures (see Appendix 2), in view of the distorting effect of several nuclei being transferred from one category to another during the inter-censal period. These drawbacks are attenuated or eliminated in the case of a large number of nuclei, for in this case the transfer of nuclei from one category to another has less importance statistically and tends to be self-compensating. On the other hand, it is reasonable to expect that in these conditions the nuclei will be better distributed between size-categories. The principal advantages, however, in working with data from a large number of nuclei is that it permits us to employ a more detailed classification.

Graph N° 1 shows the distribution of population living in nuclei of over 50 thousand inhabitants, approximately, in Brazil and Mexico in 1960, expressed as a function of the number of nuclei<sup>1/</sup>. The values of both variables (population and number of nuclei) are accumulated percentages based on an arrangement of the nuclei in descending order of size. The concave nature of the curve in relation to the axis X indicates the extent of concentration of the population. Expressing this concentration by means of an index figure, which varies on a scale from 0 to 1, one finds similar values for both countries: 0.63 for Brazil and 0.65 for Mexico<sup>2/</sup>.

The same calculation for the year 1950, based on the same nuclei, gives virtually the same results: 0.65 for Brazil, and 0.66 for Mexico. Both the similarity of the situations in these two countries and the lack of variation in the figures over such a period of time, are worthy of note. In the other countries where a similar evaluation could be made, it is most probable that the "index of concentration" is even higher, except in the case of Colombia.

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<sup>1/</sup> The nuclei considered represented in 1950 those of over 20 thousand inhabitants in Mexico and of over 35 thousand in Brazil. The latter figure was chosen to facilitate the identification of identical nuclei in 1950 and 1960, in view of the restricted nature of the data available.

<sup>2/</sup> This graphical representation is known as the "curve of concentration" X represents the (total) accumulated population of a certain number of nuclei represented by Y. For this purpose the nuclei have been arranged in descending order of size. If the population were evenly distributed (i.e. if all nuclei were of the same size), the graph would be drawn diagonally from the bottom left-hand corner to the top right-hand corner. The further it is displaced from this diagonal towards the axis of X, the greater is the concentration. Thus the area contained between the diagonal and this curve measures the concentration, and is usually expressed as an index figure varying from 0 (nil concentration) to 1.

Table 5

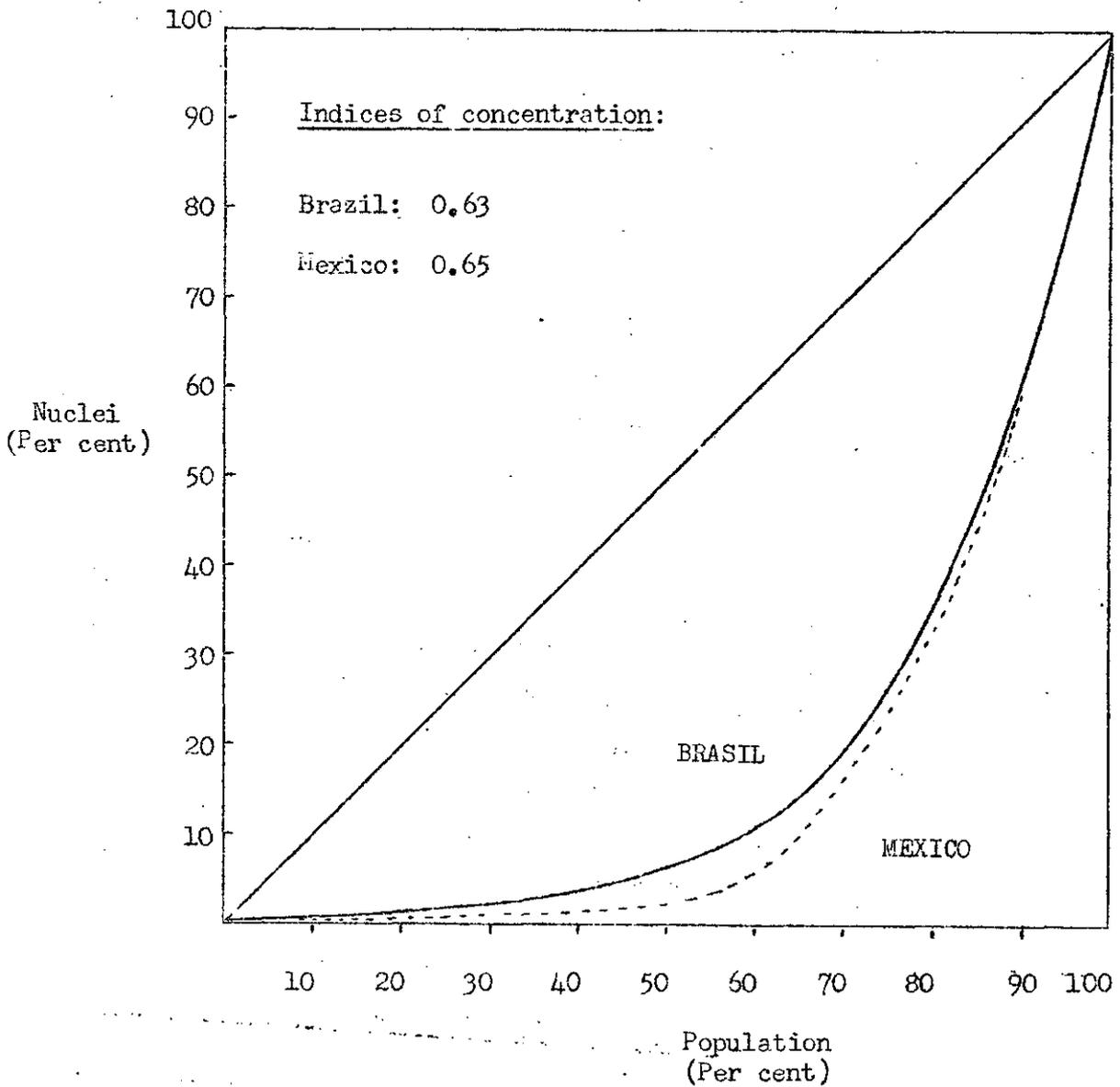
RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF NUCLEI OF OVER 20 THOUSAND INHABITANTS IN RELATION TO THE SIZE OF THE NUCLEUS, IN THE EIGHT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST POPULATIONS, IN 1950 AND 1960 <sup>a/</sup>

Country	Year	Population of nuclei of over 20 000 inhab.		Percentage distribution according to size of nucleus <sup>b/</sup>			
		Inhab. (thousands)	Percentage of countries	Principal nucleus	Other nuclei of over 100 thousand inhab.	Nuclei of from 20 to 99 thousand inhab.	
Brazil	1950	9 545	18.4	(2) 47.9 <sup>c/</sup>	(12)30.6	(36)	21.5
	1960	20 667	29.1	(2) 34.5 <sup>c/</sup>	(29)33.5	(159)	32.0
Mexico	1950	6 819	26.4	(1) 44.7	(10)24.4	(52)	30.9
	1960	11 743	33.6	(1) 41.5	(15)30.5	(75)	28.0
Argentina (c)	1947	7 607	47.9	(1) 58.9	(8)24.1	(36)	17.0
Colombia	1951	2 589	22.4	(1) 25.0	(6)41.0	(22)	34.0
Peru	1961	2 948	28.4	(1) 58.2	(3)14.2	(24)	27.6
Chile (c)	1952	2 544	42.9	(1) 53.1	(3)13.4	(21)	33.5
Cuba	1953	2 115	36.3	(1) 57.6	(1) 7.7	(18)	34.7
Venezuela	1950	1 593	31.6	(1) 39.0	(2)21.4	(19)	39.6
	1961	3 549	47.2	(1) 31.0	(4)25.9	(35)	43.1

- <sup>a/</sup> Latest available data. Of the minor countries excluded from the survey, Ecuador possesses 13 nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants in 1962, the Dominican Republic had 9 in 1960, and the remaining countries had a smaller number.
- <sup>b/</sup> Figures in parentheses indicate the number of nuclei in the respective category.
- <sup>c/</sup> In the case of Brazil, two independent centres are considered as 'principal nucleus', Rio de Janeiro (State of Guanabara) and Sao Paulo (Municipality area).
- <sup>d/</sup> In these countries census were held in 1960, but figures subdivided by nuclei are not yet available.

Graph 1

CONCENTRATION OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN NUCLEI OF OVER 50 THOUSAND INHABITANTS (IN 1960) IN RELATION TO THE SIZE OF THESE NUCLEI. BRASIL AND MEXICO



## 6. Causes and consequences of urbanization

It would be exceeding the intended scope of this study to describe and discuss the sociological causes and consequences supposedly related to the process of urbanization; these have been the subject of numerous surveys<sup>1/</sup>. Nor will we attempt to describe the demographic effects of the process, beyond an assessment of the tendencies of growth and of composition by sex and age. A more profound analysis would involve theoretical problems and problems in connection with the compilation of adequate data, which for the moment must be shelved for lack of time. We will simply point out certain significant facts in connection with the demographic mechanism of the urbanization process, and certain differential characteristics that manifest themselves in the case of the big cities.

The high rate of urbanization that, generally speaking, has been maintained during the last few decades in the countries of Latin America, and in particular the rapid growth of the biggest cities, must be attributed principally to movements of internal migration. Although it is true that differences from area to area in the natural rate of increase play their part, the exact measurement of these and even the evaluation of their significance are rendered extremely difficult by the absence or unreliability of available data regarding the rural areas and areas of greater or lesser degree of urbanization. One should expect to find an inverse ratio between the birth rate and the degree of urbanization, and this appears to be confirmed in some countries of the region by the larger number of children born to women living in the rural areas (according to census-figures)<sup>2/</sup>.

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1/ Among the most interesting international studies, the following may be mentioned:

1. Nation Unies, Rapport sur la situation sociale dans le monde, ST/SOA/3, New York, 1957.
2. UNESCO, Urbanization in Asia and the Far East: Proceedings of the Joint UN/Unesco Seminar, Bangkok 8-18 August 1956. Calcuta, 1957.
3. UNESCO, Urbanization in Latin America Documents of the Seminar on urbanization problems in Latin America sponsored jointly by ONU, ECLA, and UNESCO; Santiago, Chile, from 6 to 18 July, 1959. Unesco, 1962

2/ Carmen Miró, The Population of Latin America. United Nations. Demographic Centre (CELADE), 1963.

and also an inverse ratio between the death rate and the degree of urbanization. If one considers that the death rate has been reduced to a relatively low level and that in consequence the regional differences within each country have tended to grow smaller, one may conclude that this latter factor has had little effect on the regional differences in natural population increase during the last few years, at least in certain countries. Consequently, if the natural rate of increase diminishes with increased urbanization, by reason of the drop in the birth-rate, then the effect of the migratory movements is even greater than what could be suggested by a simple comparison between increase ratios in the rural areas and in urban nuclei of various sizes.

The cities of over one million inhabitants -with the exception of Gran Buenos Aires (3 per cent)- grew at a rate of over 4 per cent during the last decade. This indicates an increment due to migration of between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent annually, varying from one city to another. The capitals of countries with a population of less than one million -most of which in fact have between 200 and 500 thousand inhabitants- showed a similar rate of increase. In general, the cities of over 100 thousand inhabitants, and also those of from 20 to 99 thousand inhabitants (excluding in both cases the principal nucleus), showed an average rate of increase as large as those of the big cities, with the important exceptions of Argentina and Chile. These two countries have three distinguishing characteristics, namely a rate of increase below that of the Latin American average, the highest degree of urbanization, and the greatest concentration of the population in the principal nucleus. This is probably true of Uruguay as well.

The tendencies noted above are not peculiar to recent times. As far as can be established, they manifested themselves with at least as great intensity during the decade 1940-1950. In general terms, one may say that this tendency is characteristic of urban nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, without attributing to this figure any more significance than that of a mere order of magnitude.

The sources contributing to this remarkable increase by means of migratory movements probably vary from country to country depending on the existing demographic conditions (e.g., the volume of the national population, the degree of urbanization and the size of the principal nucleus). The results of the 1962 enquiry into immigration in the Gran Santiago district<sup>1/</sup> indicated that 2/3 of the immigrants who had arrived during the previous decade came from nuclei of over 5 thousand inhabitants (1952 size), and the same picture emerges if one considers the last two decades<sup>2/</sup>. The immigrants coming from nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants constituted 42 per cent in the decade 1952-1962 and 37 per cent in the decade 1942-1951. This comparatively large proportion of immigrants coming from urban nuclei is hardly surprising if one reflects that in Chile, in 1952, 60 per cent of the population already lived in urban areas (as defined for census purposes). We may expect to find a similar situation as regards immigration into the most important cities of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia.

In the small and medium-sized towns the immigrants will obviously include a higher proportion of people coming from rural areas. The moderate rate of growth of the population of the smaller nuclei is an indication that these nuclei serve as temporary stopping places for migrants on their way to the big cities, although this process often takes two generations. In Colombia, for example, the nuclei of from 1 500 to 4 999 inhabitants grew at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent in the period 1938-1951 (the natural rate of increase should have been 2.5 per cent). This growth is not, however, a universal phenomenon, for in Venezuela the nuclei of from 1 000 to 4 999 inhabitants grew at a rate of 4.3 per cent during the period 1941-1950 (the rate of increase of the nuclei of 20 thousand inhabitants was much

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1/ Enquiry carried out by the Latin American Demographic Centre in the City of Santiago, Chile, in 1962.

2/ Virtually the same proportions were observed in the case of immigrants who arrived after the age of 15.

higher: 6.8 per cent)<sup>1/</sup>.

The principal conclusion, on the basis of the data available, is that the migratory movements that swell the population of the big cities, though the immigrants come from all over the country, are chiefly composed not of country-dwellers but of citizens of other cities and smaller urban centres, including in the latter case a fair proportion of persons born in the country but with the experience of living in urban surroundings. This generalization applies, to an even greater extent, to countries where the degree of urbanization has led to the formation of a fair number of cities and of smaller urban nuclei. In countries where the rural element predominates in the population, and the urban element consists almost exclusively of the inhabitants of the principal nucleus or of a few relatively important urban centres, the immigrants arriving in these centres, if they are numerous, necessarily include a much higher proportion of country-dwellers.

Consequently, the problem of the development of the large nuclei of population cannot be considered in terms of immigration from rural areas playing an important part. The low socio-economic level of an appreciable section of the immigrant population points rather to similar conditions obtaining in other nuclei that are less developed in every sense.

The factors that cause these migratory movements are varied, and little is known about them, although there are grounds for affirming that, in very general terms, they are chiefly of an economic nature. In present

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<sup>1/</sup> Figures for rates of immigration in five Latin American cities, corresponding to the decade 1940-1950, indicate rates of 3 per cent annually, or in excess of this figure, with one exception. The following annual rates (in percentages) refer to the male population that was over ten years old at the end of the survey period: Sao Paulo (Brazil) 3.5; Bogotá (Colombia), 3.4; Caracas (Venezuela), 3.0; Maracaibo (Venezuela), 5.3; Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 1.4. The low rate of growth of Rio de Janeiro could probably be explained due to the inclusion of the suburban areas which extends beyond the limits of the State of Guanabara as shown in Appendix 1. The figures for female immigration are about the same, sometimes a little higher or lower. These results provide ample confirmation of the important role of the migratory movements in the remarkable growth of the population of the big cities.

circumstances, when there is sharp contrast between the conditions of economic and social development in one or in a few cities, as the case may be, and the conditions in the rest of the national territory of a Latin American country, a determining factor (in migration) must be the poor economic opportunities offered by the areas outside these privileged zones. For the rural worker the best opportunities -depending on his capacity and experience- are to be found in the villages and small towns of his region. Workers in manufacturing industries and, in general, manual workers engaged in non-agricultural occupations will usually find or hope to find more stable employment in the big cities. Finally, technicians, office-workers and other "white-collar" groups also see in the big cities better opportunities of finding employment and/or higher remunerations.

It could be estimated that the population living, in 1960, in cities of over half a million inhabitants, is increasing by over a million per year, and not less than half of this figure is made up of immigrants<sup>1/</sup>. If one adds to this the cities of from 250 to 500 thousand inhabitants, this increase would be as high as 1.3 million per year<sup>2/</sup>, of which 600-700 thousand would be accounted for by immigrants. This population increase has meant in the last few years, and will continue to do so in the near future, a demand for thousand of new houses, public works of an urban nature (streets, water-mains, electrical installations, etc.), schools, urban transport services, additional sanitary and medical services, and an increase in every kind of public utility. One may ask how far these requirements have been adequately fulfilled, or whether, on the contrary, the rapid increase has been responsible for the growth of shanty-towns entirely lacking in urban services and, generally speaking, containing large social groups living in depressed economic and social conditions.

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<sup>1/</sup> 20 cities with a total of approximately 30 millions inhabitants.

<sup>2/</sup> 21 cities with a total of approximately 7 millions inhabitants.

Of the various problems arising out of the growth of the big cities, the most urgent, or at least the most immediately striking, is the lack of dwellings and of adequate urban services. To satisfy these needs, large-scale investments are necessary, which most of these new city-dwellers are not in a position to make either directly or through taxation.

A detailed study of the characteristics and conditions of urban life is impossible in view of the lack of adequate information regarding almost all countries of the region. Frequently the data from the census of population and dwellings refer to the entire country and to its principal administrative divisions, and if they refer to the urban nuclei, for example, the information supplied is in fact very limited. The following data give some idea of the type of information available about accommodation in the cities in several countries in the area.

In the area formed by the Federal District of Mexico, which includes Mexico City, other urban nuclei and a rural zone (which contains only 5 per cent of the total population of the Federal District), 29 per cent of the houses listed in the 1960 census were built of inferior materials (adobe, wood, etc.). 55 per cent had no piped water in the dwelling itself, 21 per cent had piped water in the building though not in the dwelling, and the remaining 24 per cent had no access to piped water at all. Finally, dwellings with drainage or sewerage constituted 73 per cent of the total.

In the city of Caracas (Venezuela)<sup>1/</sup>, the housing situation was as follows in 1950:

20 per cent of the dwellings were classified as "shacks" (built of flimsy material, generally straw and mud); of this total 3/4 were in the zones generally considered urban, i.e. Caracas proper. Only 2/3 of the

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<sup>1/</sup> For the purposes of the last census (1961), the city or urban nucleus was extended to include Libertador department, except Maracao parish.

dwellings possessed a W.C., while the rest had earth latrines or no sanitary facilities at all.

In Panama District (90 per cent urban, including Panama City) in 1950, 1/3 of the houses were built of brick, concrete or similar material, while almost 2/3 were of wood. 87 per cent possessed a W.C., and the rest earth latrines or nothing.

The lack of up-to-date statistics, evident in nearly all countries of the area, may be remedied when recent census-figures are made available, as will probably happen in the course of the next year in several countries.

Another interesting aspect of this question is the demographic and social differences between the populations of the big cities, the smaller urban nuclei and the rural zone. The people who emigrate to the big cities (and this is true of emigrants in general) have a different composition by sex and age from that of the population as a whole. Generally, more women than men arrive as immigrants in the big cities. This fact, combined with the greater longevity of women, results in some big cities having a masculinity ratio of 90, or even lower (as in the cases of Santiago and Mexico City). In other cases, foreign immigrants (in which group men predominate) have a compensating effect, as occurred in Caracas (Venezuela), where the numbers of men and women were approximately equal in 1950.

Proportionately a higher number of immigrants are in the 15-35 age-group than in the lower or higher age-groups. In Colombia, in the period 1938-1951, the (net) rate of immigration into nuclei of over 20 thousand inhabitants, between the mean ages of 5 and 25, was 4.5 per cent and 4.9 per cent in the case of men and women respectively, while in the 25-45 age-group it was 2.3 per cent and 2.5 per cent, and the rate diminishes even more noticeably in the case of the more advanced age-groups. Even more pronounced differences are found in the (net) rates of immigration into nuclei of the same size in Venezuela, in the period 1941-1950. Although the effect of a

constant stream of immigrants on the age-structure is difficult to assess, because, among other reasons, the children of the immigrants must be taken into account; nevertheless the result is generally a bulge in the younger adult age-groups; but if this stream were interrupted or seriously diminished, the consequence would be a relative ageing of the urban population.

The census-figures permit one to guess at some sociological differences, of which we will mention only a few, though they are significant. The educational level of the big cities is markedly higher than that of the other areas. This fact is a reflection of the greater educational facilities, and the sociological conditions of the respective populations. A better comparison could be made by examining the situation in various cities and minor urban centres, since we know that the rural population has a lower educational level than the urban population.

A characteristic feature of the big cities is the widespread participation of women in wage-earning occupations. It is more common in the urban areas than in the rural, but it is most developed in the big cities. Another feature is the high proportion of wage earners and the relative importance of the labour force in certain modern economic activities which acquire importance in the great urban centres, and require skilled and qualified employes and/or workmen of a relatively high educational standard.

Table 6 shows, merely for the purposes of illustration (in view of the limited nature of this survey), a comparison of certain demographic and sociological characteristics of the populations of the principal nucleus and of the country as a whole, in Mexico and Venezuela.

Table 6

A COMPARISON OF CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL NUCLEUS AND OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IN MEXICO (1960) AND VENEZUELA (1950)

Characteristic	Mexico (1960)	Venezuela (1950)
1. Masculinity ratio:		
Principal nucleus	92	100
Country	99	103
2. Percentage of persons under 15 years of age:		
Principal nucleus	41	34
Country	44	42
3. Masculinity ratio of population aged 10 to 49 years:		
Principal nucleus	59	65
Country	57	60
4. Percentage of illiterates in population aged over 15 years:		
Principal nucleus	14	16
Remaining population of country	38	54
5. Occupation of females in paid employment:		
Principal nucleus	48 <sup>a/</sup>	30 <sup>b/</sup>
Remaining population of country	16 <sup>a/</sup>	16 <sup>b/</sup>
6. Percentage of wage-earners (both sexes) engaged in non-agricultural activities: c/ d/		
Principal nucleus	82 <sup>a/</sup>	82 <sup>b/</sup>
Remaining population of country	74 <sup>a/</sup>	69 <sup>b/</sup>
7. Percentage of professional, technical and office workers, and other white-collar groups (both sexes) engaged in non-agricultural activities:		
Principal nucleus	25 <sup>a/</sup>	16 <sup>b/</sup>
Remaining population of country	19 <sup>a/</sup>	9 <sup>b/</sup>

Table 6 (notes)

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- a/ Over 12 years of age.
- b/ Over 10 years of age.
- c/ In the case of Venezuela, the figures for wage-earners include those persons economically active in unspecified occupations, the great majority of whom are seeking employment for the first time.
- d/ The proportion of wage-earners engaged in agricultural occupations varies considerably from one country to the other. In Venezuela it was 24 per cent, while in Mexico it was 53 per cent.

APPENDIX 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DEFINITION OF THE PRINCIPAL NUCLEUS  
IN THIRTEEN COUNTRIES

1. Gran Buenos Aires (Argentina). Comprises the following districts: Almirante Brown, Avellaneda, Esteban Echeverría, Florencia Varela, General San Martín, General Sarmiento, La Matanza, Lanús, Lomas de Zamora, Merlo, Moreno, Morón, Quilmes, San Fernando, San Isidro, Tigre, Tres de Febrero, Vicente López.
2. Federal District (Mexico). Includes Mexico City.
3. Río de Janeiro - Sao Paulo (Brazil). Comprises the State of Guanabara and the Municipal District of Sao Paulo. In the case of Rio de Janeiro, the State of Guanabara does not contain all the population of the city. A suburban section extends beyond its limits. There is some probability that the rate of growth of the population of this external fringe was particularly high. This would cause an underestimation of the rate of growth of the nucleus Rio de Janeiro - Sao Paulo estimated on the basis of the definition adopted.
4. Gran Santiago (Chile). Comprises the following communes: Santiago, Barrancas, Conchalí, La Cisterna, Las Condes, La Granja, Ñuñoa, Providencia, Quinta Normal, Renca and San Miguel.
5. Lima (Peru). Comprises the districts of: Lima, Breña, Chorrillos, Fray Martín de Porras, La Victoria, Lince, Magdalena del Mar, Magdalena Vieja, Miraflores, Rimac, San Isidro, San José de Surco, San Miguel, Barranco, Surquillo.
6. Economic district of Havana (Cuba). Urbanized zone comprising the following municipal sub-districts: La Habana, Marianao, Guanabacoa, Santiago de las Vegas, Regla, Bauta and Santa María del Rosario.
7. Caracas (Venezuela). Comprises Libertador Department (Federal District), except for the parish of Maracao.

8. Bogotá (Colombia). Municipal district of Bogotá
9. City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).
10. Asunción (Paraguay). City of Asunción and Petaré.
11. City of San Salvador (El Salvador).
12. Panama (Panama). District of Panama.
13. Metropolitan Area of San José (Costa Rica). Comprises the following cantonal districts: Central, Escazú, Desamparados, Goicochea, Alajuslita, Tibás, Moravia, Montes de Oca and Curridabat. Certain sub-districts of these are excluded.

APPENDIX 2

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF NUCLEI OF OVER 20 THOUSAND INHABITANTS IN RELATION TO THE SIZE OF THE NUCLEUS, IN THE SIXTEEN LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES, IN 1950 AND 1960 <sup>a/</sup>

Country	Year	Population of nuclei of over 20 000 inhab.		Percentage distribution according to size of nucleus <sup>b/</sup>		
		Inhabitant (thousands)	Percentage of country	Principal nucleus	Other nuclei of over 100 000 inhabitants	Nuclei of from 20 to 99 thousand inhabitants
Brazil, Mexico Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela (See Table 5)						
Ecuador	1950	589	18.4	44.0	(1) 35.6	(4) 20.4
	1962	1 259	27.5	40.6	(1) 28.7	(11) 30.7
Bolivia	1950	593	21.9	54.1	-	45.9
Dominican Rep.	1950	258	12.1	70.4	-	(2) 29.6
	1960	603	20.0	60.8	-	(8) 39.2
El Salvador	1950	240	12.9	67.5	-	(2) 32.5
	1961	434	17.3	57.2	-	(5) 42.8
Honduras	1961	217	11.5	61.7	-	(2) 38.3
Paraguay	1950	207	15.6	100.0	-	-
	1962	305	16.8	100.0	-	-
Panama	1950	245	30.4	78.8	-	(1) 21.2
	1960	377	35.0	78.1	-	(2) 21.9
Costa Rica	1950	181	22.6	100.0	-	-
	1963	294	22.2	100.0	-	-

a/ Latest available data.

b/ Figures in parentheses indicate the number of nuclei in the respective category.

