

# 3.4 Intraregional Migration

- ▶ Most intraregional migration traditionally has been from rural to urban areas.
- ▶ In developed countries, most intraregional migration is now from cities to suburbs.

**Intraregional migration** is movement within one region. Intraregional migration is much more common than interregional or international migration. Most intraregional migration has been from rural to urban areas or from cities to suburbs.

## RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

Migration from rural to urban areas began in the 1800s in Europe and North America as part of the Industrial Revolution (see Chapter 11). The percentage of people living in urban areas in the United States, for example, increased from 5 percent in 1800 to 50 percent in 1920. By some measures, more than 90 percent of the population in the United States and other developed countries now live in urban areas.

In recent years, large-scale rural to urban migration has occurred in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa (Figure 3.4.1). Worldwide, more than 20 million people are estimated to migrate each year from rural to urban areas.

Like interregional migrants, most people who move from rural to urban areas seek economic advancement. They are pushed from rural areas by declining opportunities in agriculture and are pulled to the cities by the prospect of work in factories or in service industries.

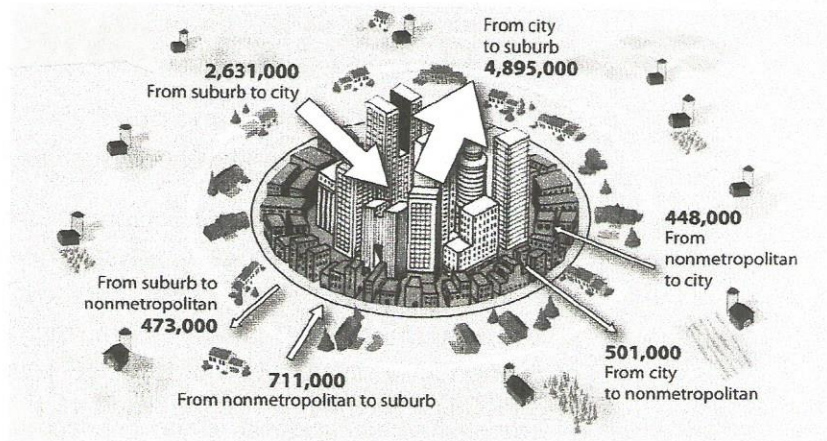
## MIGRATION FROM URBAN TO SUBURBAN AREAS

Most intraregional migration in developed countries is from cities out to surrounding suburbs. The population of most cities in developed countries has declined since the mid-twentieth century, while suburbs have grown rapidly. Nearly twice as many Americans migrate from central cities to suburbs each year than migrate from suburbs to central cities (Figure 3.4.2). Comparable patterns are found in Canada and Europe.

The major reason for the large-scale migration to the suburbs is not related to employment, as is the case with other forms of migration. For most people, migration to suburbs does not coincide with changing jobs. Instead, people are pulled by a suburban lifestyle. Suburbs offer the opportunity to live in a detached house rather than an apartment, surrounded by a private yard where children can play safely. A garage or driveway on the property guarantees

space to park automobiles at no charge. Suburban schools tend to be more modern, better equipped, and safer than those in cities. Automobiles and trains enable people to live in suburbs yet have access to jobs, shops, and recreational facilities throughout the urban area (see Chapter 13).

As a result of suburbanization, the territory occupied by urban areas has rapidly expanded. To accommodate suburban growth, farms on the periphery of urban areas are converted to housing developments, where new roads, sewers, and other services must be built.



▲ 3.4.2 INTRAREGIONAL MIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Figures show migration between cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas in 2010.