

# **Geographical Mobility:**

## **March 1982 to March 1983**

by  
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**SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES**

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
  - B Base less than 75,000.
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# Geographical Mobility: March 1982 to March 1983

## INTRODUCTION

The geographical mobility data in this report are estimates from the March 1983 Current Population Survey (CPS). The data are derived by comparing answers to questions about residence in 1982 with actual residence in 1983.

While this report deals primarily with internal migration within the United States, the number of persons moving to the United States from abroad is also tabulated. The number of persons who left the country is not available. Most of the detailed tables show movement within and between central cities, suburbs of metropolitan areas,<sup>1</sup> and nonmetropolitan areas or within and between counties, States, and regions of the country. These various types of movers are cross classified by demographic, social, and economic characteristics such as age, sex, race, education, marital status, income, and occupation.

## RATES OF MOVEMENT

In March 1983, about 36 million people, 16 percent of the population 1 year old and over, were reported to have resid-

<sup>1</sup>Until the CPS sample is redesigned metropolitan areas must be defined in terms of the 1970 census. Therefore, the metropolitan data referred to in this report are for standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's), their central cities, and the remainder of each SMSA (suburbs).

ed in a different house in the United States in March 1982 (table A). More than half of the persons who moved within the United States moved within the same county. Of those 14 million persons who moved between counties, slightly more than half moved within the same State. Only about 6 million persons made interstate moves.

The annual mobility rate has continued to decline since the 1960's. About 20 percent of the population moved within the United States between 1960 and 1961, compared with about 16 percent between 1982 and 1983.

## INTERREGIONAL MOVEMENT

The current survey reveals that Americans continued to shift between the four major regions of the country in line with patterns that existed during recent decades (table B). The Northeast and Midwest<sup>2</sup> once again experienced net out-migration while the South and the West had net gains of residents from the North.

## CITY-TO-SUBURB MOVEMENT

Migration out of central cities into the suburbs between 1982 and 1983 was about twice as great as suburb-to-city

<sup>2</sup>Formerly North Central region.

**Table A. Annual Rates of Mobility: 1960-61, 1970-71, 1980-81, 1981-82, and 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Total movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
		Total	Same county	Different county			
				Total	Same State	Different State	
<b>Number:</b>							
1960-61.....	36,533	35,535	24,289	11,246	5,493	5,753	998
1970-71.....	37,705	36,161	23,018	13,143	6,197	6,946	1,544
1980-81.....	38,200	36,887	23,097	13,789	7,614	6,175	1,313
1981-82.....	38,127	37,039	23,081	13,959	7,330	6,628	1,088
1982-83.....	37,408	36,430	22,858	13,572	7,403	6,169	978
<b>Percent:</b>							
1960-61.....	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	0.5
1970-71.....	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	0.8
1980-81.....	17.2	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	0.6
1981-82.....	17.0	16.6	10.3	6.2	3.3	3.0	0.5
1982-83.....	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	0.4

**Table B. Inmigrants, Outmigrants, and Net Migration, for Regions: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands. Excludes movers from abroad)

Region	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migration
Northeast.....	439	625	-186
Midwest <sup>1</sup> .....	661	947	-286
South.....	1,211	973	+238
West.....	880	645	+235

<sup>1</sup>Formerly the North Central Region.

movement, continuing a long-standing pattern of metropolitan deconcentration (table C). About 4 million persons moved from central cities to the suburbs, while 2 million persons made the opposite move.

**Table C. Moves Within and Between Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands. Excludes movers from abroad)

Type of move	Number
Moved within central cities.....	8,785
Same SMSA.....	7,360
Different SMSA.....	1,425
Moved to central cities.....	2,733
From suburbs.....	1,920
From nonmetropolitan areas.....	813
Moved from central cities.....	4,964
To suburbs.....	3,910
To nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,054
Net for central cities.....	-2,231
Moved within suburbs.....	8,102
Same SMSA.....	6,461
Different SMSA.....	1,641
Moved to suburbs.....	5,186
From central cities.....	3,910
From nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,276
Moved from suburbs.....	2,932
To central cities.....	1,920
To nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,012
Net for suburbs.....	+2,254

Nearly half of the 36 million persons who changed residences within the United States between 1982 and 1983 moved within the same SMSA. However, less than a quarter of these persons moved between cities and suburbs. Most central city dwellers changed residences within the city, while most suburbanites traded one suburban location for another (table 1).

## METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN MOVEMENT

Unlike the trends shown in the last decade, the 1983 data show no net gain of migrants for nonmetropolitan areas (table

D). Prior to the early 1970's, persons moving between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas produced a long standing pattern of net gains by metropolitan areas. For example, the 1970 census showed that SMSA's gained a net of 352,000 persons from nonmetropolitan areas between 1965 and 1970.

**Table D. Inmigrants, Outmigrants, and Net Migration, for Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1970 through 1983**

(Numbers in thousands. Excludes movers from abroad)

Census or survey and migration interval	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migration
<b>Five-year periods:</b>			
1970 census.....	5,457	5,809	-352
1975 CPS.....	6,721	5,127	+1,594
1980 CPS.....	7,337	5,993	+1,344
1980 census <sup>1</sup> .....	6,618	5,622	+996
<b>One-year periods:</b>			
1976 CPS.....	2,477	2,081	+396
1981 CPS.....	2,350	2,156	* +194
1982 CPS.....	2,366	2,217	* +149
1983 CPS.....	2,066	2,088	* -22

\*Not statistically different from zero.

<sup>1</sup>1980 definition of metropolitan areas; all other periods use 1970 definition of metropolitan areas.

The 1973 CPS report on geographical mobility showed the first observed net loss for metropolitan areas and net gain for nonmetropolitan areas due to migration within the United States. The surveys for 1974 through 1980 also showed net movement out of metropolitan areas and into nonmetropolitan areas. The very small net loss for nonmetropolitan areas shown in this report and the small net gains for nonmetropolitan areas in the 1981 and 1982 CPS reports are not statistically significant. However, they do represent at least a leveling off of net population movement between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas.

Another factor to be considered when examining migration between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas is the effect of migration from abroad. Movers from abroad are much more likely to move to metropolitan areas than nonmetropolitan areas: table 1 shows that 749,000 persons residing in metropolitan areas in 1983 were abroad in 1982, while only 229,000 persons moved from abroad to nonmetropolitan areas. If the estimates of movers from abroad are added to the counts for internal migration, metropolitan areas show a net gain of 771,000 persons between 1982 and 1983.

## AGE AND THE PRESENCE OF CHILDREN

For both adults and children, rates of moving decline with increasing age. The highest rate of moving is found for adults in their early twenties (table E). The high rate of mobility for persons in their twenties is primarily the result of the many life-cycle changes that also lead to a change in residence. Young adults may leave their parental homes to establish their own households or move in with friends, marry for the first

**Table E. Number and Percent Moving, by Age: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Age	Total	Movers	Percent movers
Total.....	225,874	37,408	16.6
Under 5 years.....	14,019	3,537	25.2
5 to 9 years.....	15,951	2,982	18.7
10 to 14 years.....	17,802	2,422	13.6
15 to 19 years.....	19,020	2,915	15.3
20 to 24 years.....	21,061	7,264	34.5
25 to 29 years.....	20,638	6,313	30.6
30 to 34 years.....	18,704	3,850	20.6
35 to 44 years.....	28,750	3,774	13.1
45 to 54 years.....	22,205	1,805	8.1
55 to 64 years.....	21,985	1,299	5.9
65 years and over...	25,738	1,249	4.9

time, go away to college, or join the military. Children's rates of moving parallel those of their parents. Younger children have a higher rate of mobility than older children except for an upturn in the rates for older teens.

Householders between 15 and 54 years old with children present in the household tend to have about the same mobility rate (18 percent) as householders without children (19 percent). When the age of the children is taken into account, marked differences are apparent among householders with children (table F). Households appear to move in order to accommodate additional members or in anticipation of children

**Table F. Number and Percent Moving, by Presence and Age of Own Children: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Presence and ages of own children	Number	Movers	Percent movers
Householder, 15-54 years...	41,788	7,753	18.6
Without own children.....	12,458	2,423	19.4
With own children.....	29,330	5,330	18.2
Under 6 years only.....	7,801	2,336	29.9
6-17 years only.....	15,593	1,893	12.1
Under 6 and 6-17 years.	5,936	1,101	18.5

**Table G. Percent Moving, by Race and Spanish Origin: 1982-83**

Race	Total movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
		Total	Same county	Different county			
				Total	Same State	Different State	
All races.....	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	0.4
White.....	16.1	15.7	9.6	6.1	3.4	2.7	0.3
Black.....	18.3	18.0	13.3	4.7	2.4	2.3	0.3
Spanish origin <sup>1</sup> .....	21.7	19.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1.8

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

reaching school age. The presence of school-age children and the likelihood of their having older parents appears to reduce the chances of those householders moving. While 30 percent of householders whose children were all below school age (under 6 years old) moved, 19 percent of all householders with both school-age children and children below school age moved between 1982 and 1983, and only 12 percent of householders whose children were all of school age (6 to 17 years old) moved.

## RACE AND SPANISH ORIGIN

Rates of geographical mobility vary also by race and Spanish origin (table G). Blacks are more likely to make short-distance moves than Whites: 13 percent of Blacks reported moving within the same county between 1982 and 1983, compared with 10 percent of Whites. However, Whites are more likely to make moves between counties (6 percent) than Blacks (5 percent). There was no difference in the rates at which Whites and Blacks moved from abroad. Since local (intra-county) moves account for more than half of all moves, Blacks have a higher overall rate of moving than Whites.

The total Spanish geographical mobility rate (22 percent) is higher than the rate for Blacks (18 percent). Persons of Spanish origin also have a higher rate of moving solely within the United States (20 percent) than Whites (16 percent) and are more likely to have moved from abroad than either Whites or Blacks.

## EDUCATION

Higher geographical mobility rates are associated with higher levels of educational attainment (table H). Persons 18 years and older with only an elementary school education were least likely to have moved in the preceding year and also least likely to make local moves. Among long-distance movers, persons with at least some college have the highest rate of moving, followed by those with some high school (or a high school diploma but no college) and those with only an elementary school education.

Since mobility rates decrease with age, many of the differences in mobility rates by education are due to differences

in age structure. This is especially apparent among persons with only an elementary school education who have a median age of 62 years, compared with those with at least some

high school but no college (39 years) or persons who have attended college (36 years).

**Table H. Number and Percent Moving, by Education: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Education	Total	Movers within United States		Movers within same county		Movers between States	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total 18 years and over.....	167,067	26,502	15.9	16,339	9.8	4,531	2.7
Elementary: 0 to 8 years.....	21,846	2,202	10.1	1,627	7.4	246	1.1
High school: 1 to 4 years.....	88,230	14,186	16.1	9,043	10.2	2,243	2.5
College: 1 to 4 more more.....	56,990	10,114	17.7	5,669	9.9	2,042	3.6

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Rates of moving are also related to employment status (table I). Persons who were unemployed in March of 1983 were much more likely to have moved in the preceding year (26 percent) than were persons who were employed (17 percent). Unfortunately, labor force and employment status at the time of the move is not known, and therefore, we do not

know how many of those who were employed in March of 1983 had moved to take a new job. As expected, persons in the Armed Forces had the highest rate of moving in the preceding year, while persons not in the labor force had the lowest rates of moving. Persons not in the labor force include retired workers, persons staying at home while their spouses work, students, the discouraged unemployed, and those unable to work because of mental or physical disability.

**Table I. Number and Percent Moving, by Employment Status: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Labor force status	Total	Movers within United States		Movers within same county		Movers between States	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total 16 years and over.....	174,537	27,316	15.7	16,886	9.7	4,664	2.7
In the labor force.....	110,696	20,259	18.3	12,619	11.4	3,314	3.0
Employed.....	97,804	16,834	17.2	10,616	10.9	2,537	2.6
Unemployed.....	12,011	3,081	25.7	1,869	15.6	609	5.1
Armed Forces.....	881	344	39.0	134	15.2	168	19.1
Not in the labor force.....	63,841	7,057	11.1	4,267	6.7	1,350	2.1

## MARITAL STATUS

Marital status is also related to geographical mobility (table J). Persons who were married with their spouses present in the household had the lowest rate of moving within the United

States between 1982 and 1983 (13 percent). They also had the lowest rate of moving for both short distances (8 percent) and for long distances (2 percent). Single (never married) persons had the highest overall mobility rate (20 percent); they also had the highest rate of moving long distances.

**Table J. Number and Percent Moving, by Marital Status: 1982-83**

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital status	Total	Movers within United States		Movers within same county		Movers between States	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total 16 years and over.....	174,537	27,316	15.7	16,886	9.7	4,664	2.7
Never married.....	43,289	8,659	20.0	5,353	12.4	1,467	3.4
Married, spouse present.....	101,325	13,138	13.0	7,923	7.8	2,328	2.3
Other marital status <sup>1</sup> .....	29,923	5,519	18.4	3,610	12.1	869	2.9

<sup>1</sup>Includes persons who are married, spouse absent; divorced; separated; or widowed.

## INTERVAL LENGTH

The mobility questions that are used in the March CPS do not measure the number of moves during a given time period but estimate the number of persons who lived in a different house at the beginning of the period than at the survey date. In other words, the number of *movers* is estimated, not the number of *moves*. Persons who moved more than once are counted only once, and persons who moved out of their current residence but returned by the end of the period are not counted as movers at all. As a result, a count of the number of *movers* in a shorter period more nearly approximates the number of *moves* during that period than is measured in a longer interval which more nearly measures the percentage of the population that is affected by mobility.

The effect of repeat movers on short-interval mobility rates can be illustrated by comparing the 1-year mobility rate from the March 1983 CPS with the 5-year rate derived from data collected in the 1980 survey. According to estimates from the 1983 survey, 16.6 percent of the 225,874,000 persons 1 year old and over were living in a different house in the United States 1 year earlier. By comparison, the 1980 survey shows that 45.0 percent of the 223,719,000 persons 5 years old and over were living in a different house in the United States on that date 5 years earlier.

## MIGRATION UNIVERSE

The mobility data in this report are derived from the answers to questions on residence 1 year before the survey date and the geographical location of the respondent's current residence. A facsimile of the question on previous residence is shown below. These questions were asked for all members of the survey household who were 15 years old and over on the survey date. Previous residence for persons under 15 years old was allocated based on the responses of their parents or other members of the household. (See the section entitled "Allocations of Mobility Status" for a further discussion of the allocation of mobility data for children and other persons for whom no response or only partial responses to the mobility questions were given.)

53. Was . . . living in this house (Apt.) 1 year ago; that is, on March 1, 1982?	
Yes	No
(Skip to 55A)	(Ask 54A)
54A. Where did . . . live on March 1, 1982?	
1. Name of State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc. →	
2. Name of county →	
3. Name of city, town, village, etc. →	
B. Did . . . live inside the limits of that city, town, village, etc.?	
Yes	No

The universe sampled includes all civilian noninstitutional households and members of the Armed Forces living off base or with their families on base. (For a more detailed discussion of the sample selection and limitations of the sample and survey design, see "Source and Reliability of the Estimates.")

## ALLOCATIONS OF MOBILITY STATUS

In the March 1983 CPS, complete mobility information was not reported for about 6 percent of all persons 15 years old and over, and the mobility questions were not asked for any persons under 15 years of age. In these cases, missing mobility data are allocated by values obtained for other family members (if available) or from other active respondents with similar demographic characteristics. The previous residence assigned to a nonrespondent is that obtained for another person with similar demographic characteristics who did respond and who has been selected systematically in the order in which individual records are processed. Characteristics used in these allocations (when mobility data for other family members are not available) are age, race, years of school completed, metropolitan status, and State of current residence. (State of previous residence is used instead of State of current residence if State but not place or county of previous residence is provided by the respondent.)

## RELATED REPORTS

Statistics on the mobility of the population have been collected annually in the Current Population Survey since 1948. Tables similar to those in this report were published for the 1981-82 period in Series P-20, No. 384, *Geographical Mobility: March 1981 to March 1982*; for the 1980-81 period in Series P-20, No. 377, *Geographical Mobility: March 1980 to March 1981*; for the 1975-80 period in Series P-20, No. 368, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1980*; for the 1975-79 period in Series P-20, No. 353, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1979*; for the 1975-78 period in Series P-20, No. 331, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1978*; for the 1975-77 period in Series P-20, No. 320, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1977*; for the 1975-76 period in Series P-20, No. 305, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1976*; for the 1970-75 period in Series P-20, No. 285, *Mobility of the Population of the United States: March 1970 to March 1975*; for the 1970-74 period in Series P-20, No. 273; and for the 1970-73 period in Series P-20, No. 262. Data for the 1970-71 period were issued in Series P-20, No. 235, and similar statistics were published in this series each year beginning with the report for 1947-48.

Statistics on geographical mobility of the population for cities, counties, SMSA's, urbanized areas, State economic areas, States, divisions, regions, and the United States appear in Volume I of the 1970 Census of Population (based on State of birth or residence 5 years before the census). Detailed statistics on mobility status by race and sex for these areas and the United States appear in Volume II, Subject Reports: PC(2)-2A, *State of Birth*; PC(2)-2B, *Mobility for States and the Nation*; PC(2)-2C, *Mobility for Metropolitan Areas*; PC(2)-2D, *Lifetime and Recent Migration*; PC(2)-2E, *Migration Between State Economic Areas*; and PC(2)-7E, *Occupation and Residence in 1965*. Some other subject reports of the 1970 census present statistics on mobility status in relation to the main subject of this report.

Statistics on geographical mobility of the population between 1975 and 1980 appear in 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1C Series, General Social and Economic Characteristics and PC80-1-D Series, *Detailed Population Characteristics*.