

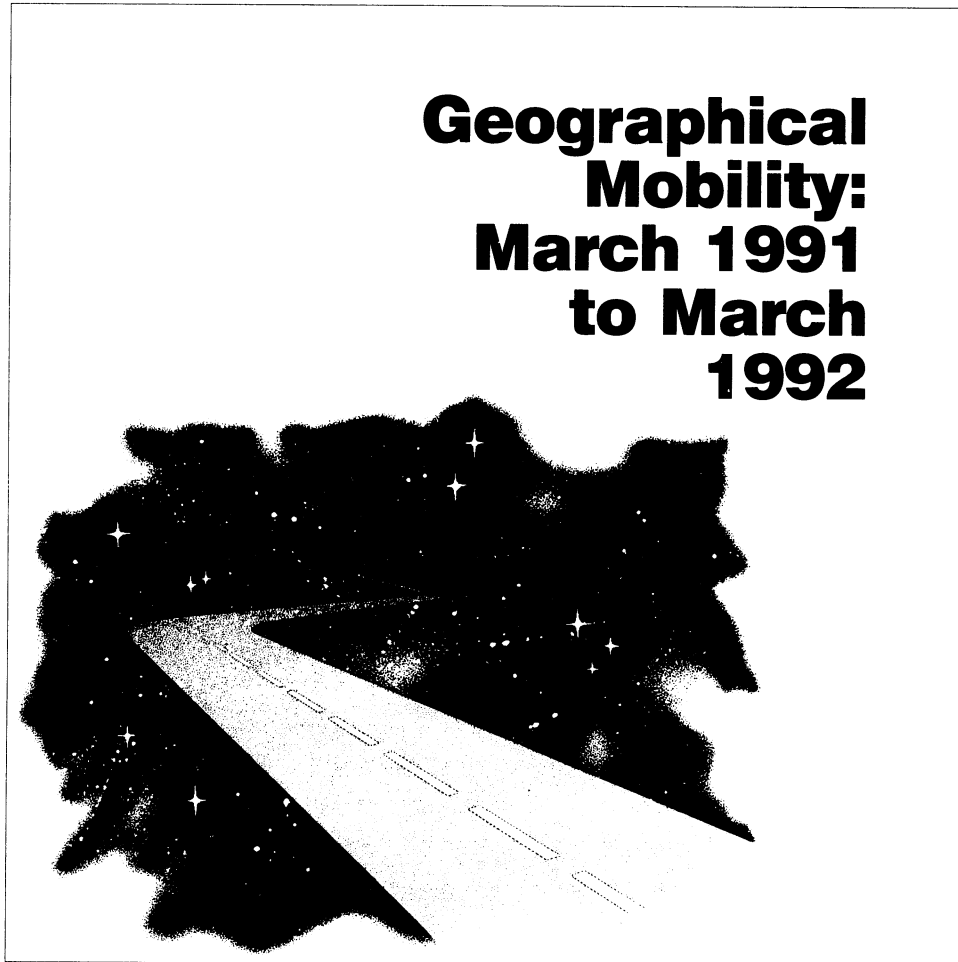
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**Geographical
Mobility:
March 1991
to March
1992**



by Kristin A. Hansen



U.S. Department of Commerce
Ronald H. Brown, Secretary

Economics and Statistics Administration
Paul A. London, Acting Under Secretary
for Economic Affairs

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Harry A. Scarr, Acting Director



**Economics and Statistics
Administration**
Paul A. London, Acting Under Secretary
for Economic Affairs



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Harry A. Scarr, Acting Director

William P. Butz, Associate Director
for Demographic Programs

POPULATION DIVISION
Arthur J. Norton, Chief

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SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

-	Represents Zero or Rounds to Zero.
B	Base Less than 75,000.
NA	Not Available.
X	Not Applicable.

Geographical Mobility: March 1991 to March 1992

INTRODUCTION

This report provides detailed statistics on the geographical mobility of Americans for the period between March 1991 and March 1992. The data were collected in the March 1992 Current Population Survey (CPS). Mobility status is determined by asking respondents if each household member 15 years old and over was living in the same residence (house or apartment) one year earlier; for persons who changed residence, additional questions were asked to identify the U.S. State or foreign country, county and city of residence in March 1991. Mobility data for children under the age of 15 were assigned based upon the responses of other family members (See appendix A.)

This report highlights the changes that have occurred in the last year, with reference to other recent years, characteristics of movers by type of move, and differences in moving rates by type of geographic area. The tables used to highlight the text are based on the more detailed tables that follow.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Between March 1991 and March 1992, 42.8 million persons moved from one residence to another. This amounted to 17.3 (\pm 0.3) percent of the total population 1 year old and over.
- Most of these persons moved locally — 26.6 million persons or 10.7 (\pm 0.3) percent of the total population 1 year old and over moved within the same county.
- Young adults have the highest rates of moving. One-third of all persons in their twenties (34.7 (\pm 1.1) percent) moved between March 1991 and March 1992.
- Renters are nearly four times as likely to have moved in the previous year than are persons living in owner-occupied homes — 34.3 (\pm 0.7) versus 8.9 (\pm 0.3) percent.
- The South had a net gain of 224,000 migrants from the other regions between 1991 and 1992, while the Northeast experienced a net loss of 292,000 persons. The Midwest and the West had nearly equal numbers of inmigrants and outmigrants from the other regions.

ANNUAL MOBILITY RATES

Table A shows annual numbers of movers and the rates of moving for the first two years in the 1990's, each year in the 1980's, and selected earlier periods for comparison. This table shows that 42.8 million people lived in a different house or apartment in March 1992 than in March 1991; this amounted to 17.3 percent of the total population 1 year old and over. Most of these persons (26.6 million) had moved within the same county (10.7 percent), a rate slightly higher than the rate of 10.3 percent for the previous 1-year period. These local moves are generally housing adjustments in response to life cycle events such as marriage or divorce, or the birth of children. Some families move locally in anticipation of their children starting school or to move to a "better" school district. Other local moves are generated when young adults leave home to live on their own and when retired or older couples move to smaller housing units to reduce costs or maintenance needs. In some very large metropolitan areas, a change of jobs may result in a residential move because of the increased commute to work.

In addition to the slight increase in the percent making local moves (defined in this report as moves to a different house within the same county), there was a slight decrease in the rate of movement from abroad compared to the previous year. All other types of moves, including the overall rate of moving, showed no significant change from the preceding year's survey.

The annual rates of moving have fluctuated over the 30-year period shown in table A. The overall rates for both 1991-1992 and 1990-1991 are significantly lower than the rates for the previous 6 years. Most of these fluctuations in the overall rates are the result of small changes in moving within the same county, most likely in response to short-term changes in home mortgage rates, new home construction costs, and local or national economic conditions such as the recent recession.

Rates of longer-distance moving (moves to a different county) are not only smaller than local moving rates (6.0 percent in 1992), with slightly higher rates for moves between counties in the same State (3.2 percent) than for interstate moves (2.9 percent), but are also more stable over time. Some of what appear to be longer-distance moves are actually local moves, within the same metropolitan or commuting area, that happen to cross county or State boundaries.

Table A. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates, By Type of Movement for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1960-1992

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total, 1 year old and over	Total movers	Different house in the United States						Movers from abroad
			Total	Same county	Different county				
					Total	Same State	Different State	Different region	
NUMBER									
1991-92	247,380	42,800	41,545	26,587	14,957	7,853	7,105	3,285	1,255
1990-91	244,884	41,539	40,154	25,151	15,003	7,881	7,122	3,384	1,385
1989-90	242,208	43,381	41,821	25,726	16,094	8,061	8,033	3,761	1,560
1988-89	239,793	42,620	41,153	26,123	15,030	7,949	7,081	3,258	1,467
1987-88	237,431	42,174	40,974	26,201	14,772	7,727	7,046	3,098	1,200
1986-87	235,089	43,693	42,551	27,196	15,355	8,762	6,593	3,546	1,142
1985-86	232,998	43,237	42,037	26,401	15,636	8,665	6,971	3,778	1,200
1984-85	230,333	46,470	45,043	30,126	14,917	7,995	6,921	3,647	1,427
1983-84	228,232	39,379	38,300	23,659	14,641	8,198	6,444	3,540	1,079
1982-83	225,874	37,408	36,430	22,858	13,572	7,403	6,169	3,192	978
1981-82	223,719	38,127	37,039	23,081	13,959	7,330	6,628	3,679	1,088
1980-81	221,641	38,200	36,887	23,097	13,789	7,614	6,175	3,363	1,313
1970-71	201,506	37,705	36,161	23,018	13,143	6,197	6,946	3,936	1,544
1960-61	177,354	36,533	35,535	24,289	11,246	5,493	5,753	3,097	998
PERCENT									
1991-92	100.0	17.3	16.8	10.7	6.0	3.2	2.9	1.3	0.5
1990-91	100.0	17.0	16.4	10.3	6.1	3.2	2.9	1.4	0.6
1989-90	100.0	17.9	17.3	10.6	6.6	3.3	3.3	1.6	0.6
1988-89	100.0	17.8	17.2	10.9	6.3	3.3	3.0	1.4	0.6
1987-88	100.0	17.8	17.3	11.0	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.3	0.5
1986-87	100.0	18.6	18.1	11.6	6.5	3.7	2.8	1.5	0.5
1985-86	100.0	18.6	18.0	11.3	6.7	3.7	3.0	1.6	0.5
1984-85	100.0	20.2	19.6	13.1	6.5	3.5	3.0	1.6	0.6
1983-84	100.0	17.3	16.8	10.4	6.4	3.6	2.8	1.6	0.5
1982-83	100.0	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	1.4	0.4
1981-82	100.0	17.0	16.6	10.3	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.6	0.5
1980-81	100.0	17.2	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	1.5	0.6
1970-71	100.0	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8
1960-61	100.0	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	1.7	0.6

The rate of movement from abroad between the 1991 and 1992 surveys declined from 0.6 percent to 0.5 percent, despite changes in the Immigration Act of 1990 that increased worldwide limits on total legal immigration to the United States from 290,000 annually through 1991, to 700,000 during 1992 through 1994, and then 675,000 total immigrants beginning in 1995.¹

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

The detailed tables in this report contain a wealth of demographic, social, and economic characteristics for movers and nonmovers. The characteristics that are most clearly associated with higher mobility rates are summarized in table B.

Age

Age is closely related to the rate of moving, partly because of the association of age and life-cycle events. The concentration in most persons' twenties of many life-cycle events that frequently result in residential changes (college graduation, marriage, service in the Armed Forces, starting a career) makes it reasonable to expect that persons at those ages will have higher rates of moving than others. Accordingly, the data in table B show that one third of all persons in their twenties moved in the previous year. As with movers of all ages, about two-thirds made a local move (within the same county).

Rates of moving for adults decline with age after peaking in the early twenties. While data from decennial censuses show evidence of a gradual increase in mobility rates for persons over age 75 (presumably to move in with family or to nursing homes), the data in this report do not show a significant difference in moving rates for

¹U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, "1991 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service," M-367, 1992. (Appendix I, Page A1-20)

Table B. Geographical Mobility Rates by Selected Characteristics: 1992

(Numbers in thousands)

Selected Characteristics	Total persons	Same house (non-movers)	Total movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
				Total	Same county	Different county			
						Total	Same State	Different State	
NUMBER									
Total, 1 year and over.....	247,380	204,580	42,800	41,545	26,587	14,957	7,853	7,105	1,255
Age									
1 to 4 years.....	15,511	12,040	3,471	3,415	2,353	1,062	502	560	56
5 to 9 years.....	18,604	15,256	3,348	3,271	2,136	1,135	600	535	77
10 to 14 years.....	18,021	15,242	2,779	2,715	1,783	932	509	424	65
15 to 19 years.....	16,568	13,676	2,892	2,796	1,812	984	519	465	96
20 to 24 years.....	17,848	11,319	6,529	6,297	4,048	2,249	1,253	995	232
25 to 29 years.....	20,132	13,478	6,654	6,438	4,275	2,163	1,229	934	216
30 to 44 years.....	61,932	50,875	11,057	10,732	6,815	3,917	2,040	1,876	325
45 to 64 years.....	48,173	43,757	4,416	4,277	2,542	1,735	826	909	140
65 to 74 years.....	18,441	17,445	996	965	491	474	241	233	31
75 to 84 years.....	9,659	9,148	511	494	266	228	106	122	18
85 years and over.....	2,490	2,344	146	146	67	79	28	51	0
Sex									
Male.....	120,436	99,086	21,350	20,643	13,125	7,518	3,925	3,593	706
Female.....	126,944	105,493	21,451	20,902	13,463	7,439	3,927	3,512	549
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White.....	207,030	172,456	34,574	33,706	21,083	12,623	6,701	5,921	868
Black.....	30,773	24,606	6,167	6,024	4,329	1,695	859	836	143
Hispanic origin (of any race).....	21,544	16,485	5,059	4,686	3,584	1,102	672	431	372
Tenure									
In owner-occupied units.....	165,612	150,824	14,788	14,418	8,546	5,872	3,064	2,808	371
In renter-occupied units.....	81,768	53,756	28,012	27,127	18,042	9,086	4,789	4,297	884
Educational Attainment									
Total, 25 years and over.....	160,827	137,047	23,781	23,051	14,455	8,596	4,470	4,126	730
Less than 9th grade.....	15,439	13,671	1,767	1,649	1,205	444	219	225	118
9th to 12th grade, no diploma.....	17,672	15,068	2,604	2,563	1,815	748	412	336	41
High school graduate.....	57,860	49,966	7,894	7,738	4,967	2,772	1,523	1,249	156
Some college or associate degree.....	35,520	29,782	5,737	5,579	3,413	2,166	1,186	981	158
Bachelor's degree.....	22,764	18,781	3,983	3,828	2,211	1,617	773	844	155
Graduate or professional degree.....	11,573	9,778	1,795	1,693	844	849	357	492	102
Labor Force Status									
Total, 16 years and over.....	191,862	159,162	32,701	31,660	20,003	11,656	6,155	5,501	1,041
Civilian labor force.....	125,452	101,293	24,159	23,595	15,282	8,313	4,553	3,760	564
Employed.....	115,724	94,354	21,371	20,904	13,678	7,226	4,042	3,184	467
Unemployed.....	9,728	6,939	2,789	2,691	1,604	1,087	511	575	98
Armed Forces.....	841	447	394	294	135	159	28	131	100
Not in labor force.....	65,568	57,421	8,147	7,771	4,586	3,185	1,575	1,610	376

Table B. Geographical Mobility Rates by Selected Characteristics: 1992—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Selected Characteristics	Total persons	Same house (non-movers)	Total movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
				Total	Same county	Different county			
						Total	Same State	Different State	
PERCENT									
Total, 1 year and over.....	100.0	82.7	17.3	16.8	10.7	6.0	3.2	2.9	0.5
Age									
1 to 4 years.....	100.0	77.6	22.4	22.0	15.2	6.8	3.2	3.6	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	100.0	82.0	18.0	17.6	11.5	6.1	3.2	2.9	0.4
10 to 14 years.....	100.0	84.6	15.4	15.1	9.9	5.2	2.8	2.4	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	100.0	82.5	17.5	16.9	10.9	5.9	3.1	2.8	0.6
20 to 24 years.....	100.0	63.4	36.6	35.3	22.7	12.6	7.0	5.6	1.3
25 to 29 years.....	100.0	66.9	33.1	32.0	21.2	10.7	6.1	4.6	1.1
30 to 44 years.....	100.0	82.1	17.9	17.3	11.0	6.3	3.3	3.0	0.5
45 to 64 years.....	100.0	90.8	9.2	8.9	5.3	3.6	1.7	1.9	0.3
65 to 74 years.....	100.0	94.6	5.4	5.2	2.7	2.6	1.3	1.3	0.2
75 to 84 years.....	100.0	94.7	5.3	5.1	2.8	2.4	1.1	1.3	0.2
85 years and over.....	100.0	94.1	5.9	5.9	2.7	3.2	1.1	2.0	0.0
Sex									
Male.....	100.0	82.3	17.7	17.1	10.9	6.2	3.3	3.0	0.6
Female.....	100.0	83.1	16.9	16.5	10.6	5.9	3.1	2.8	0.4
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White.....	100.0	83.3	16.7	16.3	10.2	6.1	3.2	2.9	0.4
Black.....	100.0	80.0	20.0	19.6	14.1	5.5	2.8	2.7	0.5
Hispanic origin (of any race).....	100.0	76.5	23.5	21.8	16.6	5.1	3.1	2.0	1.7
Tenure									
In owner-occupied units.....	100.0	91.1	8.9	8.7	5.2	3.5	1.9	1.7	0.2
In renter-occupied units.....	100.0	65.7	34.3	33.2	22.1	11.1	5.9	5.3	1.1
Educational Attainment									
Total, 25 years and over.....	100.0	85.2	14.8	14.3	9.0	5.3	2.8	2.6	0.5
Less than 9th grade.....	100.0	88.5	11.4	10.7	7.8	2.9	1.4	1.5	0.8
9th to 12th grade, no diploma.....	100.0	85.3	14.7	14.5	10.3	4.2	2.3	1.9	0.2
High school graduate.....	100.0	86.4	13.6	13.4	8.6	4.8	2.6	2.2	0.3
Some college or associate degree.....	100.0	83.8	16.2	15.7	9.6	6.1	3.3	2.8	0.4
Bachelor's degree.....	100.0	82.5	17.5	16.8	9.7	7.1	3.4	3.7	0.7
Graduate or professional degree.....	100.0	84.5	15.5	14.6	7.3	7.3	3.1	4.3	0.9
Labor Force Status									
Total, 16 years and over.....	100.0	83.0	17.0	16.5	10.4	6.1	3.2	2.9	0.5
Civilian labor force.....	100.0	80.7	19.3	18.8	12.2	6.6	3.6	3.0	0.4
Employed.....	100.0	81.5	18.5	18.1	11.8	6.2	3.5	2.8	0.4
Unemployed.....	100.0	71.3	28.7	27.7	16.5	11.2	5.3	5.9	1.0
Armed Forces.....	100.0	53.2	46.8	35.0	16.1	18.9	3.3	15.6	11.9
Not in labor force.....	100.0	87.6	12.4	11.9	7.0	4.9	2.4	2.5	0.6

persons in 5-year cohorts between ages 65 and 84, or for those 85 years old and over.² This upturn in rates is not evident in part because the Current Population Survey sample does not include institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Mobility rates also decline with age for children. Preschoolers under the age of 5 have the highest rates of moving (22.4 percent); this rate declines to 18.0 percent for those 5 to 9 years old. Children over the age of 10 have the lowest rates of moving; about 15 percent for both those 10 to 14 and those 15 to 17 years old. Moving rates then increase dramatically to 21.9 percent for 18 and 19 year old teens.

Sex

There are small differences in rates of moving by sex. Men have slightly higher rates of overall and long-distance mobility than women. Some of this difference is related to the greater numbers of men in the military, a group with extremely high rates of long-distance moving (see the section on labor force status) and to the greater numbers of male than female immigrants from foreign countries.

Race and Hispanic origin

Rates of moving and patterns of moving shown in table B vary somewhat by race and Hispanic origin.³ Whites have lower rates of moving than either Blacks or Hispanics, with the rate for Blacks midway between the rates for the other two groups.

As with overall moving rates, Whites have the lowest and Hispanics have the highest rates of moving within the same county. However, there is no significant difference in the rates of moving between counties in the same State for the three groups. Both Whites and Blacks have higher rates of interstate migration than do persons of Hispanic origin.

Hispanics have a rate of movement from abroad four times the rate for Whites and three times the rate for Blacks because of the large numbers of persons immigrating from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean and the movement of citizens into the continental U.S. from Puerto Rico.⁴

Tenure

Tenure is the one characteristic most closely associated with residential mobility. Renters are nearly four times as likely to have moved in the previous year than

are persons living in owner-occupied homes. This difference is closely related to the association between age and mobility rates — younger persons are less likely to own their own homes. This disparity between the moving rates of persons in owner-occupied housing units and renter-occupied housing units holds for all types of moves.

Educational attainment

This report uses the new concept of educational attainment developed for the 1990 census. This new variable classifies persons with education beyond high school by type of degree obtained rather than additional years of school completed as done in the 1991 CPS and earlier surveys.

Rates of moving by educational attainment are very complex due to the associations of age, education, income, and tenure. Among persons 25 years old and over, the lowest rates of moving are found for persons with less than a 9th grade education. This is not surprising since nearly 80 percent of these persons are over 45 years old (half are over 65) and rates of moving for adults decline precipitously with age. (Detailed table 5 shows educational attainment by age.)

Despite the fact that three out of every 5 high school dropouts are also over the age of 45, these persons have a higher overall rate of moving than high school graduates and the highest rate of local moving of all educational groups. The majority of high school dropouts are in the working population, between the ages of 25 and 64. It is likely that these individuals have the lowest paying jobs, if they are employed, and are therefore more likely to be renters than homeowners.

The vast majority of adults are high school graduates; according to table 5, about 80 percent of persons 25 years and older have at least a high school degree. When mobility rates among persons with at least a high school degree are compared, those with a bachelor's degree from college have the highest overall rates of residential mobility. Persons with bachelor's degrees or higher are more likely to move to a different county than those with a high school education or only some college. Higher educational attainment is also associated with increasing rates of interstate moves, disputing conventional wisdom that assumes persons with professional degrees, such as doctors and lawyers, may be tied more closely to an area and find long-distance moving economically unfeasible because their jobs are dependent upon an established clientele.

Labor force status

Rates of moving vary greatly by labor force status. Labor force data are restricted to persons 16 years old and over. (The detailed tables also show residential mobility of employed persons by occupation and industry

²1980 Census of Population, "Geographical Mobility for States and the Nation," PC80-2-2A, 1985.

³Although persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race, most Hispanics in the Current Population Survey report their race as White.

⁴Unpublished data from the 1990 census.

groups.) For persons in the civilian labor force, those who were employed have much lower rates of moving than unemployed persons. Nearly one-third of the unemployed (28.7 percent) moved in the previous year as compared with only 18.5 percent of employed persons; unemployed persons had higher rates of all types of moving than employed persons.

Persons 16 years old and over who were not in the labor force had the lowest rates of moving, perhaps because of the presence of older, retired persons in that category. According to table 8, 41.1 percent of the persons not in the labor force were over 65 years old and another 21.6 percent were between 45 and 65. Only 12.4 percent of the persons 16 and over who reported they were not in the labor force moved between March 1991 and March 1992.

Persons in the Armed Forces have the highest overall rate of moving of all labor force status groups. Nearly half of all persons in the Armed Forces in March of 1992 had moved in the previous year; this group had the highest rates of nearly all types of moves. In a one-year period, 16.1 percent made local moves within the same county, 15.6 percent moved between States, and 11.9 percent moved from abroad. These rates might be even higher if Armed Forces personnel living in barracks and other group quarters were included in the Current Population Survey.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Westward movement through migration of natives⁵ as well as immigration from abroad has been a significant factor in the expansion and growth of this country. Following the Civil War, while movement continued to the West, net movement out of the South into the industrialized States of the North, by both Blacks and Whites, played a major part in the interregional redistribution of population. By the early part of this century, this movement was large for both races; during the 1920's, the 1940's, and the 1950's, movement out of the South to the North was especially large for Blacks.⁶

In the 1960's, the South began to have a net immigration of persons from the North, primarily because of the movement of Whites. In the early 1970's, the South also began to experience a net immigration of Blacks.⁷ This turnaround was due to the culmination of many economic and social factors: the leveling of educational and cultural advantages across regions; the advent of affordable residential air conditioning; the growth of light industry

that depends upon trucking for transportation rather than rail or sea, combined with the availability of cheaper labor, fewer labor unions, and lower taxes in the South; and the success of the civil rights movement.

Recent patterns in regional gains and losses

Table C shows the immigration, outmigration, and net migration for each of the four major regions of the country during the last years of the 1980's and the early years of this decade. Immigration from abroad is shown for each region, as well as a second "net migration" figure that includes these immigrants. Immigrants from abroad are not just immigrants from foreign countries; a large proportion are members of the military, their dependents, and other citizens who are returning from abroad. Persons coming from Puerto Rico or an outlying area of the United States such as the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, or American Samoa are also included in the movers from abroad category. This second "net migration" is not a true net figure because it does not include an estimate of outmigration from the United States. While the number of emigrants from the United States has been estimated at less than 200,000 per year, the number of persons moving back to Puerto Rico or an outlying area of the U.S., and the number of military, their dependents and other citizens temporarily moving abroad, may be quite large.

During the five 1-year periods from 1987 to 1992 shown in table C, the Northeast region had a net loss of persons to the other three regions due to migration. Substantial immigration from abroad, particularly to States such as New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, usually canceled out these net losses. The net figures including movement from abroad show very small losses or small gains that are not significantly different from zero for each year except 1990-1991; during that year the Northeast had an unusually large net loss due to increased outmigration from the region.

The data for the Midwest appear to show net losses due to migration for all but one of the years shown in table C, but none of the changes due to internal movement alone is statistically significant. Including movers from abroad results in net gains that were significantly different from zero in the 1988-89 and 1990-91 periods, but not between 1991 and 1992. The only Midwestern State that draws particularly large numbers of movers from abroad is Illinois.

The South has the most consistent pattern of net movement. In each of the five periods shown in table C, the South had net gains both internally and when movers from abroad are included. Texas and Florida are both traditional recipients of large numbers of immigrants from elsewhere in the United States and from abroad. Virginia, with its large military population, and Maryland also contribute to the South's overall gain, with large numbers of persons moving to these two States from abroad as well as from elsewhere in the United States.

⁵Natives are defined as persons born in a U.S. State, Puerto Rico or an outlying area of the United States, and persons born in a foreign country with at least one American parent.

⁶Larry H. Long, Chapter 5, "Interregional Migration, Race, and Public Policy," *Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States*, Russel Sage Foundation, New York, NY, 1988.

⁷Larry H. Long and Kristin A. Hansen, "Trends in Return Migration to the South," *Demography* 12, No. 4 (1975).

Table C. Annual Immigration, Outmigration, Net Migration, and Movers from Abroad for Regions: 1987-1992

(Numbers in thousands.)

Period	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1991-1992				
Inmigrants	409	816	1,305	755
Outmigrants	701	878	1,081	626
Net migration	-292*	-62	224*	129
Movers from abroad	255	175	383	442
Net migration (including abroad)	-37	113	607*	571*
1990-1991				
Inmigrants	346	782	1,421	835
Outmigrants	932	797	987	668
Net migration	-585*	-15	433*	167
Movers from abroad	209	208	351	617
Net migration (including abroad)	-376*	193*	784*	784*
1989-1990				
Inmigrants	461	908	1,428	964
Outmigrants	758	1,024	1,198	781
Net migration	-297*	-116	230*	183
Movers from abroad	328	169	500	562
Net migration (including abroad)	31	53	730*	745*
1988-1989				
Inmigrants	370	777	1,318	791
Outmigrants	714	703	1,071	768
Net migration	-344*	74	247*	23
Movers from abroad	292	170	375	629
Net migration (including abroad)	-52	244*	622*	652*
1987-1988				
Inmigrants	430	715	1,338	613
Outmigrants	671	818	886	721
Net migration	-241*	-103	452*	-108
Movers from abroad	261	146	414	379
Net migration (including abroad)	20	43	866*	271*

* Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

During four of the last 5 years, the West appears to have small net gains due to internal migration, but none of these changes is statistically significant. However, when the large numbers of movers from abroad, particularly to California and Washington, are included, the West had statistically significant net gains in each of the years shown.

The Sunbelt

Table D shows the number of movers into and out of the Sunbelt. A definition of the Sunbelt is included in appendix A, but generally it includes all States south of a line running along the northern borders of North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. This line continues west to include Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada and southern California (generally the greater Los Angeles area and south). While there is no official definition of the Sunbelt, this is a widely used one.

Although the "Sunbelt" had a much larger flow of inmigrants and outmigrants between 1991 and 1992 than the non-Sunbelt South and West, overall net migration for the two areas was similar. However, while the non-Sunbelt portions of the South and West regions had

significant net immigration of movers from other parts of the U.S., net movement to the Sunbelt was dominated by movers from abroad.

In the previous year, March 1990 to March 1991, the Sunbelt had a positive net migration of movers from other parts of the country as well as large numbers of movers from abroad. This resulted in a net migration including movers from abroad that was as large as that for the remainder of the South and West regions. In the three 1-year periods prior to that, the net migration figures for the Sunbelt are similar to those for the 1991-92 period.

Table E shows geographical mobility in the previous year by region of residence in 1992 and for the Sunbelt versus the remainder of the United States. Comparing the percent who move for each area, it can be seen that persons living in the South and the West in 1992 had higher rates of mobility than those in the other two regions. Persons residing in the Sunbelt also had higher rates of moving than those in the remainder of the United States, except for moves between counties in the same State.

The Northeast had the lowest total mobility rate (11.9 percent). The overall rate of moving was highest in the West (21.2 percent), followed by the South (18.9 percent) and the Midwest (16.0 percent). The Northeast also had

Table D. Immigration, Outmigration, Net Migration, and Movers from Abroad for the Sunbelt: 1987-1992

(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Sunbelt	Remainder of South and West	Non-Sunbelt U.S.
1991-1992			
Inmigrants	1,611	449	1,674
Outmigrants	1,515	192	1,771
Net migration	96	257*	-97
Movers from abroad	557	268	698
Net migration (including abroad) ..	654*	524*	600*
1990-1991			
Inmigrants	1,641	615	1,743
Outmigrants	1,335	320	2,049
Net migration	306*	294*	-306*
Movers from abroad	605	363	780
Net migration (including abroad) ..	911*	657*	474*
1989-1990			
Inmigrants	1,713	679	2,048
Outmigrants	1,639	340	2,122
Net migration	74	339*	-74
Movers from abroad	684	378	875
Net migration (including abroad) ..	758*	717*	801*
1988-1989			
Inmigrants	1,586	523	1,670
Outmigrants	1,547	292	1,709
Net migration	39	231*	-39
Movers from abroad	634	370	832
Net migration (including abroad) ..	673*	601*	793*
1987-1988			
Inmigrants	1,575	376	1,521
Outmigrants	1,410	197	1,686
Net migration	165	179*	-165
Movers from abroad	526	267	674
Net migration (including abroad) ..	691*	446*	509*

* Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

the lowest rate of local moves with 7.3 percent, compared to 10.3 percent for the Midwest, 11.2 percent for the South, and 13.7 percent for the West.

There was a large degree of movement within the Sunbelt as well— 19.9 percent of the population living there in 1992 changed residences in the previous year. A total of 12.8 percent of the persons living in the Sunbelt moved within the same county, as compared to only 9.6 percent for those living in the remainder of the U.S.

While the percent of persons making longer distance moves was quite small, it is clear that there were regional differences in those rates as well. The Northeast had a lower rate of moving between counties than any of the other three regions (4.0 percent versus 5.4 percent, 7.3 percent, and 6.7 percent for the Midwest, South, and West regions, respectively.) The rates for the South and the West are not statistically different, but both are larger than the rate for the Midwest. This pattern was found for all types of long-distance moves within the United States.

Movers from abroad were not distributed regionally in the same way as movers between counties within the U.S. The Midwest had the lowest percent of movers from abroad, only 0.3 percent of the population. The West had the greatest percentage of movers from abroad with 0.8 percent. The South and the Northeast both had 0.5 percent.

MIGRATION FOR SUB-REGIONAL AREAS

While the size of the Current Population Survey sample is too small to provide reliable estimates for most sub-regional areas of the United States, some data for these areas are provided so that users can re-combine the numbers to produce figures for areas appropriate to their needs. Furthermore, in many cases the data are statistically significant for the larger entities in each sub-regional category.

Divisions and States

Table 21 shows immigration, outmigration, and net migration for regions, divisions, and States. The programming of this table has been changed for the 1992 report. In the earlier reports, the table was restricted to inter-regional movers. Therefore, in-migrants and out-migrants for individual States only included movers into or out of that State from another region. Movers between States within the same region were not included in the comparable table in the reports for 1988 through 1991.

In this report, table 21 has been reprogrammed to include all interstate movers for individual States. It is restricted to inter-divisional movers when presenting data for the nine divisions. The data for the four major regions of the country are programmed the same as for the earlier reports: the in-migrants, out-migrants, and net migration are restricted to interregional movers.

Because of these universe restrictions, the number of in-migrants for each region is smaller than the sum of the in-migrants for the divisions that compose that region. Similarly, the number of in-migrants for each division is smaller than the sum of the in-migrants to the States in the division. This is because persons who move between States in the same division are not counted as in-migrants to that division.

Movers into the United States from abroad are not included in table 21 for this report or the earlier reports. For most States, the number of movers from abroad is small and insignificant compared to the number of in-migrants from other States. However, a few States, notably California, New York, Texas, and Florida have particularly large numbers of in-migrants from abroad.

The data in table 21 for States should be used with caution because of the small numbers. Sampling error is a significant factor, especially for small States. The CPS

Table E. Geographical Mobility for Regions and Areas of the United States: 1992

(Numbers in thousands.)

Region or area of residence in 1992	Total, 1 year old and over	Same house (non- movers)	Total movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
				Total	Same county	Different county			
						Total	Same State	Different State	
NUMBER									
Northeast.....	50,045	44,103	5,942	5,687	3,674	2,012	1,079	933	255
Midwest.....	59,471	49,950	9,521	9,346	6,109	3,237	1,756	1,481	175
South.....	84,701	68,654	16,047	15,664	9,510	6,154	3,110	3,004	383
West.....	53,163	41,872	11,291	10,849	7,294	3,554	1,907	1,647	442
Sunbelt.....	91,699	73,448	18,250	17,693	11,708	5,985	3,073	2,912	557
Remainder of United States.....	155,681	131,131	24,551	23,853	14,879	8,972	4,779	4,153	698
PERCENT									
Northeast.....	100.0	88.1	11.9	11.4	7.3	4.0	2.2	1.9	0.5
Midwest.....	100.0	84.0	16.0	15.7	10.3	5.4	3.0	2.5	0.3
South.....	100.0	81.1	18.9	18.5	11.2	7.3	3.7	3.5	0.5
West.....	100.0	78.8	21.2	20.4	13.7	6.7	3.6	3.1	0.8
Sunbelt.....	100.0	80.1	19.9	19.3	12.8	6.5	3.4	3.2	0.6
Remainder of United States.....	100.0	84.2	15.8	15.3	9.6	5.8	3.1	2.7	0.4

data for individual States should be considered as indicators of the relative proportion of immigrants or outmigrants that the State provides for the region as a whole and the probable direction of net movement for that State.

More reliable data for States are available from the 1990 Census of Population.⁸ However, the 1990 census data are not directly comparable to the CPS data for several reasons. First, the migration data from the 1990 census is for a 5-year interval rather than a 1-year interval. Secondly, the migration period is during the late 1980's (April 1985 to April 1990) rather than the 1990's, and migration patterns can fluctuate greatly from one year to another due to economic and social conditions. Thirdly, the CPS has a restricted universe as compared to the 1990 Census. The CPS sample does not include persons in institutions or group quarters such as military barracks and college dormitories. (In fact, while students in college dormitories were counted in their dormitories for the 1990 census, they are included as residents of their parents' homes, even if attending college in a different State, for the CPS.)

The net migration figures for regions, divisions, and States in table 21 differ greatly from data in a table showing "Estimates of the Resident Population of States: July 1, 1992 and July 1, 1991 and Components of

Change Since July 1, 1991" in a recent report.⁹ In the estimates report, the bulk of the component labelled "Residual Change" is attributed to internal (domestic) net migration. As a residual, that component may be affected by inaccuracies in the input data or estimation procedures. More importantly, the estimates universe is not the same as the Current Population Survey universe; it differs from the CPS universe in the same ways as did the 1990 census universe. Also, while both the CPS and the estimates are measuring migration for a 1-year period, the estimates migration period is for July 1991 to July 1992 as opposed to March 1991 to March 1992 for CPS.

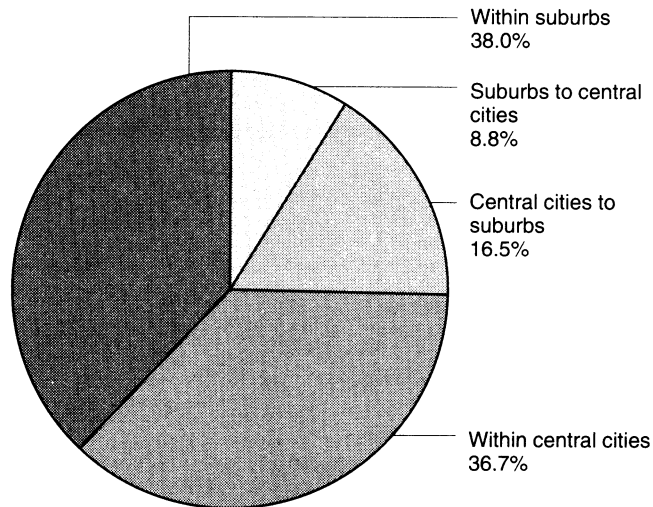
Recent patterns

Each region is made up of two or three divisions. Table 21 shows immigration, outmigration, and net migration for each region, division and State; the organization of the table shows which States make up each division and which divisions constitute each region. In many cases, one division may dominate the region. For example, the South Atlantic division is so large in population that it overwhelms any different pattern of migration in the rest of the South. The net migration figures for many of the divisions and for most States are not significantly different from zero because of the small sample size, but they are shown here as an indication of their direction and so that they may be grouped together as required by the data user.

⁸1990 Census data on State to State movements between 1985 and 1990 are available in CPH-L-121, "Selected Place of Birth and Migration Statistics for States." This listing is available from the Statistical Information Staff, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 for \$10. This table package can also be ordered by calling (301) 763-5002.

⁹U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P25-1106, "State Population Estimates by Age and Sex: 1980 to 1992," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1993.

Figure 1.
Mobility Within Metropolitan Areas: 1992



The Northeast region, which lost population overall due to internal migration (-292,000), is made up of two divisions—New England and Middle Atlantic. Both divisions show a net loss in table 21 but the net for New England (-73,000) is too small to be significantly different from zero. The States in upper New England (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) appear to be net gainers, while the States in lower New England (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) appear to be net losers of population due to internal migration. The Middle Atlantic States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania had a significant net loss as a group (-219,000), dominated by New York's significant net loss (-202,000).

The Midwest's apparent net loss (-62,000) was not significant. The East North Central division's significant net loss was offset by the West North Central's non-significant net gain. Minnesota (+141,000) was the only Midwestern State with a significant net migration figure.

The South had a significant net gain (+224,000) due to the large net gain of the South Atlantic Division (+224,000). Two South Atlantic States had significant net gains — Florida (+173,000) and Maryland (+109,000). The other two divisions in the South had insignificant but offsetting changes. Texas (+138,000), in the West South Central division, was the only other southern State with a significant net gain or loss.

The West did not have a significant net gain as a whole (+129,000) because the Mountain division's significant net gain (+253,000) was offset by the apparent losses in

the Pacific division. Oregon (+121,000) was the only State in the West with a significant net gain or loss.

Metropolitan Migration Patterns

This report includes many detailed tables showing patterns of moving within and between metropolitan areas (MAs) in the aggregate by the characteristics of those movers. Moves between MAs and the nonmetropolitan portion of the country are also included. The metropolitan areas included in the Current Population Survey are as defined in 1984 based on data from the 1980 Census of Population. New metropolitan definitions based on 1990 census data will be integrated into the CPS in 1995.

Movers within MAs can be categorized by whether their current/previous residence is/was within a central city of the MA or within the remainder of the metropolitan area. In this report the term suburbs refers to that portion of metropolitan areas outside central cities.

Figure 1 shows that between March 1991 and March 1992, movement within the same type of area, either central city or suburb, was much more common than moves between them. About equal proportions of the total movers within MAs moved within central cities (36.7 percent) or within suburban locations (38.0 percent). For moves between different types of areas, city to suburb moves (16.5 percent) were much more common than the reverse move (8.8 percent).