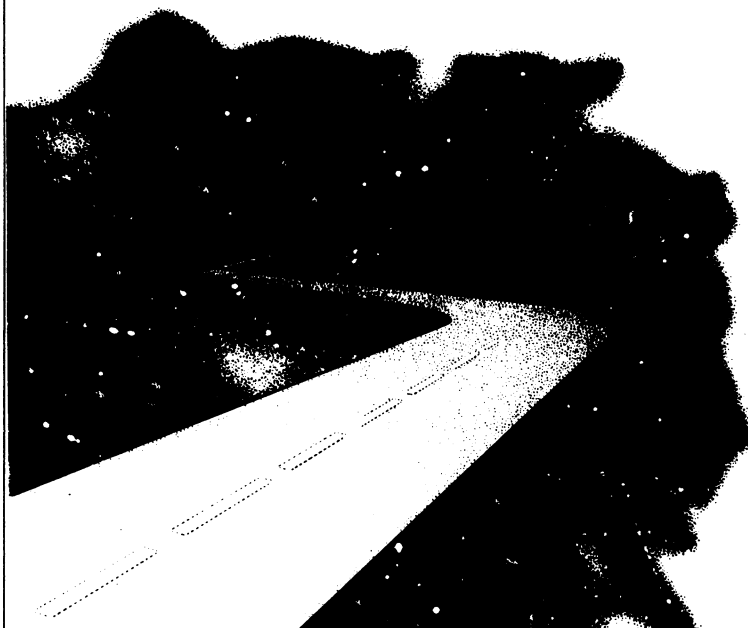




CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS  
**Population Characteristics**

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# **Geographical Mobility: March 1990 to March 1991**



by Diana DeAre

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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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.
r	Revised.

# Geographical Mobility: March 1990 to March 1991

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides detailed statistics on the geographical mobility of Americans, based upon data collected in the March 1991 Current Population Survey (CPS). Mobility status is determined by asking respondents if they were living in the same residence (house or apartment) one year earlier; for persons who changed residence, additional questions are asked to identify county and city of residence one year earlier. This enables classification of moves into within-county and between-county moves as well as classing movement according to metropolitan and nonmetropolitan origins and destinations.

The CPS is adjusted to updated independent estimates of the population based on data from decennial censuses. The estimates for 1991 in this report are inflated to national population controls by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. The population controls are based on results of the 1980 census carried forward to 1991. The estimates in this report, therefore, may differ from estimates that would have been obtained using 1990 census results brought forward to the survey date. Population controls incorporating 1990 census results will be used for survey estimation beginning in 1993.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- About 17 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) percent of Americans changed residence between March 1990 and March 1991.<sup>1</sup> The rate of moving is down from the preceding year when 17.9 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) percent of the population moved. The current rate is the lowest it has been since the early 1980's. The decline is due to a drop in the rate of interstate moving.
- Metropolitan areas have shown modest net immigration from nonmetropolitan areas during the 1980's and early 1990's. Suburbs gained 6.0 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million persons from central cities and nonmetropolitan areas between 1990 and 1991 while losing 3.4 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) million outmigrants, for a net gain of 2.6 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) million persons. Central cities gained 3.2 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) million from immigration but lost 5.7 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) million movers, for a net loss of 2.5 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) million.

- Central cities were not as likely to retain residents as were suburbs and nonmetropolitan areas. A little more than three out of four ( $78 \pm 1.4$  percent) suburban residents in March 1990 who moved during the next year were still living in suburbs in March 1991. A similar proportion ( $78 \pm 2.4$  percent) of nonmetropolitan movers stayed within nonmetropolitan areas. Among central city dwellers who moved, two-thirds ( $66 \pm 1.6$  percent) chose a central city destination.
- The Northeast had a consistent pattern of net outmigration to the other regions during the 1980's and early 1990's, whereas the South had a pattern of net immigration. The West and Midwest each attracted and lost comparable numbers of interregional movers. When movers from abroad are taken into account, each of the four regions had statistically significant net immigration between March 1990 and March 1991.
- Persons in their twenties had the highest rates of moving— 35.3 ( $\pm 1.5$ ) percent for those 20 to 24 years of age and 32.6 ( $\pm 1.4$ ) percent for those 25 to 29 years old. Only 5.0 ( $\pm 1.9$ ) percent of persons 85 years old and over moved between March 1990 and March 1991. Movers are more likely to make a within-county move than a longer-distance move up to about age 55, after which most age groups are just as likely to make between-county moves as within-county moves.
- Black and White homeowners moved at similar rates between March 1990 and March 1991—6.6 ( $\pm 1.0$ ) percent for Blacks and 7.3 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) percent for Whites. White renters moved at a higher rate ( $34.0 \pm 0.8$  percent) than Black renters ( $26.6 \pm 1.5$  percent). Because a higher proportion of Blacks rent than own, their overall average mobility rate ( $18.1 \pm 1.0$  percent) was higher than the rate for Whites ( $16.0 \pm 0.3$  percent).
- Adults who were unemployed in March 1991 were more likely to have made a move during the preceding year ( $28.7 \pm 1.2$  percent) than civilian employees ( $18.2 \pm 0.3$  percent), who in turn were more likely to have moved than persons 16 years and over who were not in the labor force ( $12.3 \pm 0.3$  percent). About 43 ( $\pm 4.1$ ) percent of members of the Armed Forces moved between March 1990 and March 1991.

<sup>1</sup>Figures following the  $\pm$  notation in this section represent the 90-percent confidence intervals around the estimates. See appendix B for further explanation of confidence intervals.

## ANNUAL MOBILITY RATES

Between March 1990 and March 1991, 41.5 million persons, or 17.0 percent of all persons aged one year and over, moved from one residence to another. The mobility rate—17.0 percent— includes 16.4 percent of the population who were living in a different house in the United States one year earlier and 0.6 percent who were living abroad. See table A.

Both the number of movers and the rate of moving declined between 1989-90 and 1990-91. The number of movers dropped from 43.4 million to 41.5 million. The rate of moving dropped from 17.9 percent to 17.0 percent, which is the lowest it has been since the early 1980's. The overall trend in mobility rates has been downward over the last 40 years. Annual moving rates of 20 percent or more during the 1950's and 1960's were followed by rates averaging about 18 percent during the 1970's and 1980's.

**Table A. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates, By Type of Movement for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1950-1991**

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total, 1 year old and over	Total movers	Residing in the United States at beginning of the period						Residing outside the United States at beginning of the period
			Total	Different house, same county	Different county				
					Total	Same State	Different State	Different region	
NUMBER									
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
1975-76 .....	208,069	36,793	35,645	22,399	13,246	7,106	6,140	3,279	1,148
1970-71 .....	201,506	37,705	36,161	23,018	13,143	6,197	6,946	3,936	1,544
1965-66 .....	190,242	37,586	36,703	24,165	12,538	6,275	6,263	3,348	883
1960-61 .....	177,354	36,533	35,535	24,289	11,246	5,493	5,753	3,097	998
1955-56 .....	161,497	34,040	33,098	22,186	10,912	5,859	5,053	(NA)	942
1950-51 .....	148,400	31,464	31,158	20,694	10,464	5,276	5,188	(NA)	306
PERCENT									
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
1975-76 .....	100.0	17.7	17.1	10.8	6.4	3.4	3.0	1.6	0.6
1970-71 .....	100.0	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8
1965-66 .....	100.0	19.8	19.3	12.7	6.6	3.3	3.3	1.8	0.5
1960-61 .....	100.0	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	1.7	0.6
1955-56 .....	100.0	21.1	20.5	13.7	6.8	3.6	3.1	(NA)	0.6
1950-51 .....	100.0	21.2	21.0	13.9	7.1	3.6	3.5	(NA)	0.2

NA Not available

## WITHIN-COUNTY VERSUS BETWEEN-COUNTY MOVES

Most movers make local moves. Ideally, a local move might be defined as one that occurs within a single labor market area—that is, within reasonable commuting distance to the same job. In the CPS, movers were not asked whether they could commute to the same job from the new residence, so it is not possible to define local moves in such a manner. In this analysis, moves within the same county are considered local, and moves between counties are termed long-distance moves. Of course some moves between counties within the same State, and even some moves between States, may really be local moves if the counties or States in question are adjacent.

Generally speaking, local moves are housing adjustments—the purchase of a new home, a change of apartments, etc.—or are made in response to changes in family status which are commonly termed life-cycle changes. These life-cycle changes include marriage, divorce, birth of a child, and death of a spouse. Long-distance moves are more frequently undertaken for economic reasons, including corporate transfers, military transfers, new jobs, or looking for work. Other persons move to attend school or for non-economic reasons such as a desire for a change of climate, proximity to recreational areas, or family reasons.<sup>2</sup>

As can be seen from table A, within-county movers outnumber between-county ones. The highest proportion of movers between March 1990 and March 1991 (10.3 percent of the total population or 25.2 million persons) stayed within the same county; much lower proportions moved to a different county in the same State (3.2 percent) or to a different State (2.9 percent), and only 1.4 percent moved from one of the four major census regions to another.

The decline in the rate of moving since March 1990 was due to a decline in the proportion of persons moving between States. The percent of persons making interstate moves dropped from 3.3 percent for 1989-90 to 2.9 percent for 1990-91. The proportions moving within the same county and between counties in the same State appear lower but do not represent statistically significant changes.

## HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY RATES

The notion of mobility rates for households and families is somewhat ambiguous because the members do not always move as a group. As an alternative one can examine the mobility rate for the householder—the

person who owns/rents the house. A family householder is a householder who lives with at least one other person related by marriage, birth, or adoption. A non-family householder lives alone (84 percent of all non-family householders in March 1991) or with unrelated persons. The number of family householders equals the number of families, and the total of family and nonfamily householders equals the number of households. Mobility data for all householders and family and nonfamily householders are shown in table B.

The mobility rate for all householders was 16.5 percent—just a little lower than the rate for all persons shown in table A. The rate declined from the preceding year, when it was 17.4 percent. The rates for both family and nonfamily householders also declined, down to 14.6 percent for family householders and 20.9 percent for nonfamily householders.

## METROPOLITAN MOBILITY PATTERNS

A net movement of population to metropolitan areas has been a distinguishing feature of U.S. population during the 20th century.<sup>3</sup> The major exception was the 1970's, which was characterized by net outmigration from metropolitan areas to the nonmetropolitan parts of the country.<sup>4</sup>

Since 1980, metropolitan areas have reverted to net gains in population as the result of internal migration. The Current Population Survey taken in March 1986 was the first to present migration data according to the new Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) definitions based on 1980 census data. The definitions carried in the CPS refer to MSA's defined as of June 30, 1984. Table C shows mobility data for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas for one-year periods beginning with March 1985-86. The data show modest net internal immigration to metropolitan areas for 1985-86 and 1986-87, followed by four years when net flows were not statistically different from zero. Metropolitan areas had statistically significant net immigration for all years if movers from abroad are included.

Nonmetropolitan areas had consistent net outmigration over the six years, but the flows for only two years (1985-86 and 1986-87) were large enough to be statistically significant. The impact of movers from abroad on nonmetropolitan areas is small, since most movers from abroad (about 91 percent for 1990-91) settle in metropolitan areas. The effects of movers leaving the country are not captured by these data.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, Jeanne Woodward, Current Housing Reports, Series H121, No. 91-2, *Housing Characteristics of Recent Mover Households, 1991*; and Larry H. Long and Diana DeAre, Special Demographic Analyses, CDS 80-2, *Migration to Nonmetropolitan areas: Appraising the Trend and Reasons for Moving*, 1980.

<sup>3</sup>William H. Frey and Alden Speare, Jr., *Regional and Metropolitan Growth and Decline in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.

<sup>4</sup>Larry Long and Diana DeAre, "Repopulating the Countryside: A 1980 Census Trend," *Science*, Vol. 217, September 1982, pp. 1111-1116.

Table B. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates for Householders, for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1965-1991

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Householders		Family householders		Nonfamily householders	
	Total	Movers	Total	Movers	Total	Movers
NUMBER						
1990-91 .....	94,311	15,530	66,321	9,692	27,990	5,838
1989-90 .....	93,347	16,197	66,090	10,161	27,257	6,036
1988-89 .....	92,830	16,219	65,837	10,143	26,993	6,076
1987-88 .....	91,124	15,923	65,204	10,095	25,920	5,828
1986-87 .....	89,479	16,060	64,491	10,435	24,988	5,625
1985-86 .....	88,458	15,941	63,558	10,162	24,900	5,779
1984-85 .....	86,789	16,861	62,706	10,978	24,083	5,883
1983-84 .....	85,407	14,329	61,997	9,234	23,410	5,095
1982-83 .....	83,918	13,463	61,393	8,572	22,525	4,891
1981-82 .....	83,527	14,138	61,019	8,906	22,508	5,232
1980-81 .....	82,368	13,931	60,309	8,986	22,059	4,945
1975-76 .....	72,867	13,320	56,245	9,470	16,622	3,850
1970-71 .....	64,379	11,941	51,828	9,189	12,551	2,752
1965-66 .....	58,101	11,173	48,173	9,122	9,928	2,051
PERCENT						
1990-91 .....	100.0	16.5	100.0	14.6	100.0	20.9
1989-90 .....	100.0	17.4	100.0	15.4	100.0	22.1
1988-89 .....	100.0	17.5	100.0	15.4	100.0	22.5
1987-88 .....	100.0	17.5	100.0	15.5	100.0	22.5
1986-87 .....	100.0	17.9	100.0	16.2	100.0	22.5
1985-86 .....	100.0	18.0	100.0	16.0	100.0	23.2
1984-85 .....	100.0	19.4	100.0	17.5	100.0	24.1
1983-84 .....	100.0	16.8	100.0	14.9	100.0	21.8
1982-83 .....	100.0	16.0	100.0	14.0	100.0	21.7
1981-82 .....	100.0	16.9	100.0	14.6	100.0	23.2
1980-81 .....	100.0	16.9	100.0	14.9	100.0	22.4
1975-76 .....	100.0	18.3	100.0	16.8	100.0	23.2
1970-71 .....	100.0	18.5	100.0	17.7	100.0	21.9
1965-66 .....	100.0	19.2	100.0	18.9	100.0	20.7

Data for March 1985-86 and March 1986-87 have been revised since earlier publication.<sup>5</sup> The data were originally processed incorrectly: previous residence of movers was coded according to June 1981 MSA definitions instead of those for June 1984, whereas current residence was correctly coded according to the June 1984 definition. The net effect of the processing error was to overstate immigrants to metropolitan areas by 400,000 to 500,000 and to understate immigrants to nonmetropolitan areas by about 100,000.

Flows within metropolitan areas are substantial. For each of the six one-year periods shown in table C, central cities lost 1.6 to 3.0 million residents while their suburbs (the parts of metropolitan areas outside central

cities) gained 1.9 to 3.2 million persons. The gross flows which underlie the net gains and losses are even more substantial. Between March 1990 and March 1991, central cities gained 3.2 million persons from suburbs and nonmetropolitan areas but lost 5.7 million. The suburbs gained 6.0 million persons from central cities and nonmetropolitan areas and lost only 3.4 million. Thus suburbanization continued to be a major feature of population redistribution in the 1980's, as it has been throughout this century.

The flows between central cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas are important indicators of population redistribution, but they account for less than 30 percent of all movers. As shown in table D, the largest flows are within the same type of area rather than between areas. From March 1990 to March 1991, 12.0 million people made suburb-to-suburb moves. A slightly smaller number, 10.8 million, moved within central cities, and 6.4 million moved within nonmetropolitan areas. Looked at another way, a little more than three out of four (78 percent, or 12.0 out of 15.5 million) suburban

<sup>5</sup>The mobility reports which had incorrect migration figures were Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 425, *Geographical Mobility: March 1985 to March 1986*, 1988; and No. 430, *Geographical Mobility: March 1986 to March 1987*, 1989. Only the tables that classified movers by metropolitan-nonmetropolitan origin were incorrect. Corrected migration data fields for the March 1986 and March 1987 public use files are available from the Data User Services Division of the Census Bureau.

**Table C. Inmigrants, Outmigrants, and Net Migration for Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1985-1991**

(Numbers in thousands. Metropolitan areas defined as of June 30, 1984)

Mobility period and type of area	Inmigrants	Outmigrants	Net migration	Movers from abroad	Net migration (including movers from abroad)
<b>1990-91</b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	1,817	1,700	117	1,253	1,370*
Central cities.....	3,223	5,682	(2,459)*	683	(1,776)*
Suburbs.....	6,021	3,446	2,575*	570	3,145*
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,700	1,817	(117)	131	14
<b>1989-90</b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	1,931	1,803	128	1,429	1,557 *
Central cities.....	3,692	6,472	(2,780)*	769	(2,011)*
Suburbs.....	6,738	3,830	2,908 *	660	3,568 *
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,803	1,931	(128)	131	3
<b>1988-89</b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	1,748	1,537	211	1,367	1,578 *
Central cities.....	3,183	6,138	(2,954)*	755	(2,199)*
Suburbs.....	6,575	3,410	3,165 *	612	3,777 *
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,537	1,748	(211)	100	(111)
<b>1987-88</b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	1,820	1,651	169	1,021	1,190 *
Central cities.....	3,461	6,084	(2,623)*	576	(2,047)*
Suburbs.....	6,421	3,629	2,792 *	445	3,237 *
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,651	1,820	(169)	179	10
<b>1986-87<sup>r</sup></b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	2,148	1,660	488 *	1,033	1,521 *
Central cities.....	4,342	6,022	(1,680)*	609	(1,071)*
Suburbs.....	6,378	4,211	2,167 *	424	2,591 *
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,660	2,148	(488)*	110	(378)*
<b>1985-86<sup>r</sup></b>					
Metropolitan areas.....	2,034	1,731	303 *	1,082	1,385 *
Central cities.....	4,222	5,802	(1,580)*	580	(1,000)*
Suburbs.....	6,168	4,285	1,883 *	502	2,385 *
Nonmetropolitan areas.....	1,731	2,034	(303)*	118	(185)

Note: Numbers in parentheses are negative.

<sup>r</sup>Revised. \*Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

residents in March 1990 who moved during the succeeding year were still living in suburbs after the move. A similar proportion of nonmetropolitan movers—78 percent (6.4 out of 8.2 million) stayed within nonmetropolitan areas. Central cities, in contrast, were not as likely to retain residents. Among central city dwellers who moved, about two-thirds (66 percent or 10.8 out of 16.5 million) chose a central city destination.

## REGIONAL PATTERNS OF MOVING

Regional migration is another important form of population redistribution. Historically, the population of this country has shifted to the West. Between the Civil War and the late 1950's, there was a secondary shift from

the South to the industrialized cities in the North. By the 1960's, however, the South had experienced a turnaround and was showing net immigration of persons from the other regions.<sup>6</sup>

The turnaround in regional migration patterns has been attributed to a variety of economic and life-style changes.<sup>7</sup> Contributing factors include: the relocation of industry out of the "Rustbelt" into the South because of tax incentives and lower labor costs; the rise of light industry, such as electronics, that depend on trucking rather than rail transportation; the spread of home air conditioning; the leveling of regional differences in standards of living, educational opportunities, and cultural amenities; and the success of the civil rights movement.

<sup>6</sup>Larry H. Long and Kristin A. Hansen, "Trends in Return Migration to the South," *Demography*, Vol. 12, November 1975, pp. 601-614.

<sup>7</sup>Larry Long, *Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.

**Table D. Movers Within and Between Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1985-1991**

(Numbers in thousands. Metropolitan areas defined as of June 30, 1984)

Previous residence	Current residence				
	All areas	Inside metropolitan areas			
		Total	Central cities	Suburbs	Nonmetropolitan areas
1990-91					
All movers . . . . .	41,539	33,352	14,744	18,607	8,187
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	31,982	30,282	13,320	16,962	1,700
Central cities . . . . .	16,520	15,784	10,838	4,946	736
Suburbs . . . . .	15,462	14,498	2,482	12,016	964
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	8,173	1,817	741	1,075	6,356
Abroad . . . . .	1,385	1,253	683	570	131
1989-90					
All movers . . . . .	43,381	34,934	15,846	19,088	8,447
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	33,377	31,574	14,252	17,322	1,803
Central cities . . . . .	17,857	17,017	11,385	5,632	840
Suburbs . . . . .	15,520	14,557	2,867	11,690	963
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	8,444	1,931	825	1,106	6,513
Abroad . . . . .	1,560	1,429	769	660	131
1988-89					
All movers . . . . .	42,620	34,434	15,758	18,676	8,186
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	32,856	31,319	14,342	16,977	1,537
Central cities . . . . .	17,958	17,308	11,820	5,488	650
Suburbs . . . . .	14,898	14,011	2,522	11,489	887
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	8,297	1,748	661	1,087	6,549
Abroad . . . . .	1,467	1,367	755	612	100
1987-88					
All movers . . . . .	42,175	33,558	15,147	18,411	8,617
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	32,368	30,717	13,775	16,942	1,651
Central cities . . . . .	17,194	16,507	11,110	5,397	687
Suburbs . . . . .	15,174	14,210	2,665	11,545	964
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	8,607	1,820	796	1,024	6,787
Abroad . . . . .	1,200	1,021	576	445	179
1986-87					
All movers . . . . .	43,695	34,911	15,798	19,113	8,784
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	33,390	31,730	14,235	17,495	1,660
Central cities . . . . .	16,869	16,032	10,847	5,185	837
Suburbs . . . . .	16,521	15,698	3,388	12,310	823
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	9,162	2,148	954	1,194	7,014
Abroad . . . . .	1,143	1,033	609	424	110
1985-86					
All movers . . . . .	43,237	34,306	15,838	18,468	8,931
Metropolitan areas . . . . .	32,920	31,190	14,339	16,851	1,730
Central cities . . . . .	16,837	16,089	11,036	5,053	748
Suburbs . . . . .	16,083	15,101	3,303	11,798	982
Nonmetropolitan areas . . . . .	9,117	2,034	919	1,115	7,083
Abroad . . . . .	1,200	1,082	580	502	118

\*Revised

Inmigration, outmigration, and net migration for the four major regions are shown in table E. Two patterns that are fairly consistent during the latter 1980's and early 1990's are the movement out of the Northeast and the continued movement to the South. The Northeast had a consistent pattern of net outmigration to the other regions; the net flows were statistically significant for all years. Movers from abroad have tended to offset net

losses for the Northeast, however, so that the region did not experience statistically significant loss due to net migration until 1990-91, when its net outflow was 376,000 persons. (The figures do not account for movers who leave the U.S., who are not interviewed in the survey.) The South, in contrast, has shown a consistent pattern of net inmigration over the six-year period with significant flows for all but one year (1985-86). Movers from

abroad have supplemented the internal gains to give the South statistically significant net immigration for every year.

The West, like the South, has had statistically significant net immigration for each of the six years when movers from abroad are taken into account. Internal migration patterns have been in the positive direction.

The Midwest has experienced small net flows due to internal migration over the period, none of which was statistically significant. Immigration from abroad has resulted in statistically significant net immigration for 1988-89 and 1990-91.

The flows between regions for 1990-91 are shown in tables 20 and 21. Caution should be used in interpreting them, since some of the figures are small and have large sampling errors.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Selected characteristics of movers by type of move for 1990-91 are shown in table F and discussed below.

More details on these characteristics and other characteristics are included in the tables that follow the text.

### Age

Moving rates vary by age, as shown in table F and figure 1. Among adults, those in their twenties have the highest rates of moving: 35.3 percent of persons 20-24 years and 32.6 percent of persons 25-29 years moved between March 1990 and March 1991. The rate gradually decreased to 21.6 percent for 30-34 year-olds, 13.3 percent for 40-44 year-olds, 9.5 percent for 50-54 year-olds, and 5.0 percent for persons 85 years and over. The age variation exists regardless of type of move; young adults in their twenties were more likely than others to have made both local and long-distance moves.

At most ages, movers are more likely to make a local move than a long-distance move. Figure 1 illustrates the

Table E. **Annual Immigration, Outmigration, Net Migration, and Movers from Abroad for Regions: 1985-1991**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1990-91				
Immigrants .....	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 movers from abroad) .....	(376)*	193*	784*	784*
1989-90				
Immigrants .....	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 movers from abroad) .....	31	53	730 *	745 *
1988-89				
Immigrants .....	370	777	1,318	791
Outmigrants .....	714	703	1,071	768 <sup>r</sup>
Net migration .....	(344)*	74	247 *	23 <sup>r</sup>
Movers from abroad .....	292	170	375	629
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(52)	244 *	622 *	652 <sup>r</sup>
1987-88				
Immigrants .....	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 movers from abroad) .....	20	43	866 *	271 *
1986-87				
Immigrants .....	398	858	1,374	916
Outmigrants .....	732	969	1,095	750
Net migration .....	(334)*	(111)	279 *	166
Movers from abroad .....	214	193	277	458
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(120)	82	556 *	624 *
1985-86				
Immigrants .....	502	1,011	1,355	910
Outmigrants .....	752	996	1,320	710
Net migration .....	(250)*	15	35	200 *
Movers from abroad .....	198	158	342	502
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(52)	173	377 *	702 *

Note: Numbers in parentheses are negative.

<sup>r</sup>Revised. \*Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

Table F. **Selected Characteristics of Persons, by Mobility Status and Type of Move: 1990-1991**

(Numbers in thousands)

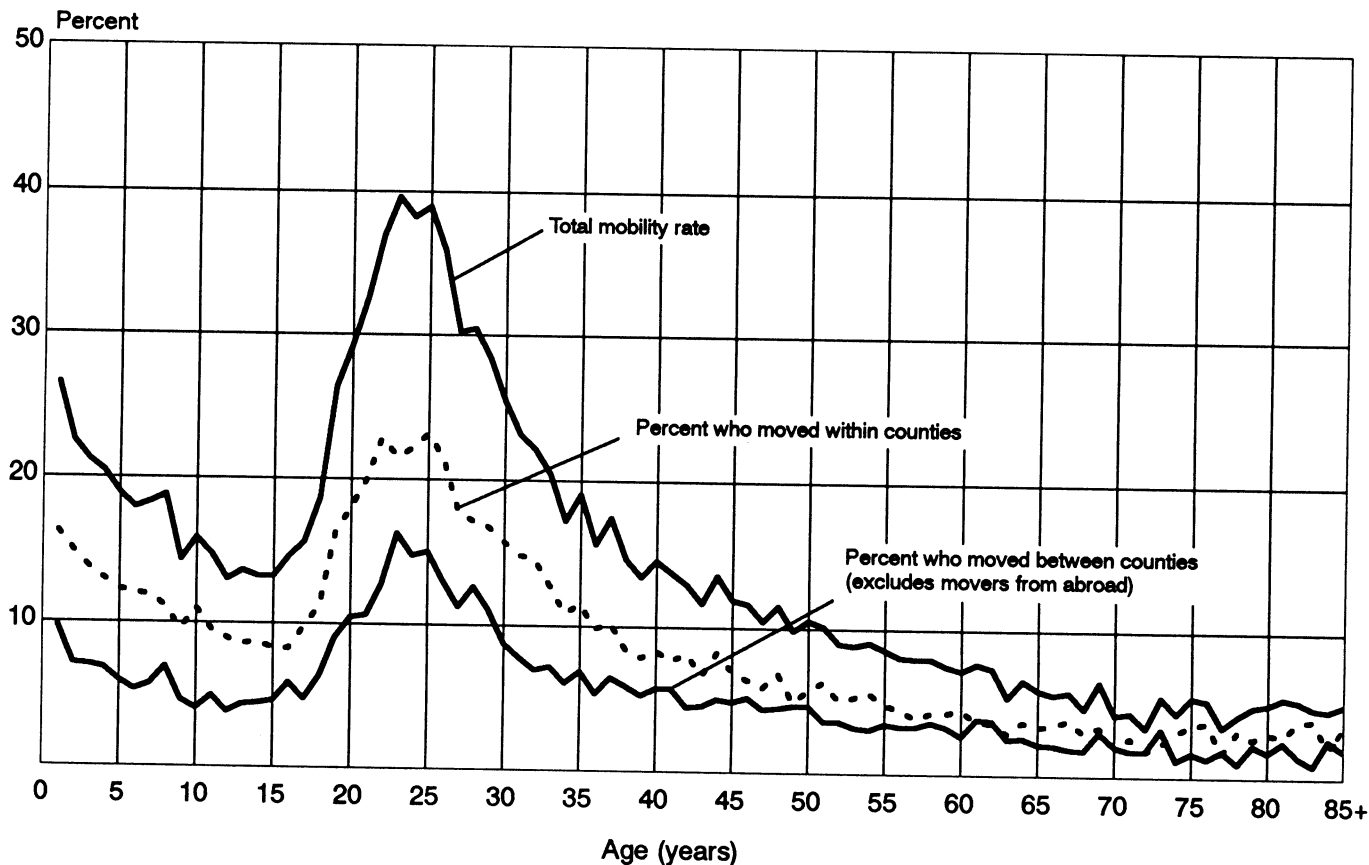
Characteristic	Total, 1 year old and older	Total movers	Residing in the United States at beginning of the period					Residing outside the United States at beginning of the period
			Total	Different house, same county	Different county			
					Total	Same state	Different state	
NUMBER								
All persons .....	244,884	41,539	40,154	25,151	15,003	7,881	7,122	1,385
Age:								
1-4 years .....	15,297	3,474	3,393	2,221	1,171	601	570	81
5-9 years .....	18,466	3,256	3,154	2,102	1,051	588	464	102
10-14 years .....	17,601	2,483	2,400	1,647	753	374	379	83
15-19 years .....	16,839	2,999	2,851	1,817	1,033	518	516	148
20-24 years .....	17,986	6,353	6,083	3,757	2,326	1,280	1,047	270
25-29 years .....	20,767	6,766	6,563	3,967	2,596	1,467	1,129	203
30-34 years .....	22,138	4,786	4,647	3,033	1,614	842	771	139
35-39 years .....	20,379	3,272	3,162	1,954	1,208	617	591	110
40-44 years .....	18,286	2,425	2,354	1,425	929	496	433	71
45-49 years .....	14,129	1,565	1,528	869	659	277	382	37
50-54 years .....	11,557	1,097	1,053	638	415	215	199	44
55-59 years .....	10,692	850	812	459	354	178	175	38
60-64 years .....	10,654	721	701	380	321	143	178	20
65-69 years .....	10,123	570	555	340	215	117	98	15
70-74 years .....	8,114	348	342	185	156	53	103	6
75-79 years .....	5,835	271	260	171	89	59	30	11
80-84 years .....	3,629	182	178	113	65	33	33	4
85 years and over .....	2,391	119	118	72	46	21	25	1
Median age .....	33.5	26.5	26.6	26.3	27.2	27.0	27.6	25.2
Sex:								
Male .....	119,152	20,815	20,077	12,417	7,660	4,021	3,639	738
Female .....	125,732	20,724	20,077	12,734	7,343	3,859	3,484	647
Race:								
White .....	205,514	34,023	33,035	20,296	12,739	6,872	5,867	988
Black .....	30,307	5,573	5,464	3,817	1,647	722	925	109
Hispanic origin:								
Hispanic .....	20,907	4,884	4,447	3,482	965	569	396	437
Not Hispanic .....	223,977	36,655	35,707	21,669	14,038	7,312	6,726	948
Tenure:								
Owner-occupied .....	164,173	14,450	14,171	8,207	5,964	3,155	2,809	279
Renter-occupied .....	80,711	27,088	25,983	16,944	9,039	4,726	4,313	1,105
Total 25 years and over .....	158,694	22,973	22,273	13,606	8,667	4,520	4,147	700
Elementary: 0 to 8 years .....	16,849	1,941	1,787	1,289	498	297	202	154
High school: 1 to 3 years .....	17,379	2,654	2,595	1,725	871	499	372	59
4 years .....	61,272	8,432	8,272	5,229	3,043	1,662	1,381	160
College: 1 to 3 years .....	29,169	4,624	4,519	2,729	1,790	908	882	105
4 years .....	20,101	3,343	3,225	1,668	1,558	754	803	118
5 years or more .....	13,925	1,979	1,874	967	907	400	508	105
Median years of school completed ...	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.7	13.0	12.9	13.3	12.9
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over .....	190,216	31,892	30,786	18,910	11,876	6,248	5,628	1,106
Civilian labor force .....	124,074	23,490	22,917	14,248	8,669	4,803	3,866	573
Employed .....	115,187	20,940	20,463	12,810	7,653	4,253	3,400	477
Unemployed .....	8,887	2,551	2,454	1,437	1,017	550	466	97
Armed Forces .....	977	418	353	178	175	32	143	65
Not in the labor force .....	65,164	7,984	7,516	4,485	3,031	1,412	1,619	468

Table F. Selected Characteristics of Persons, by Mobility Status and Type of Move: 1990-1991—Continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total, 1 year old and older	Total movers	Residing in the United States at beginning of the period					Residing outside the United States at beginning of the period
			Total	Different house, same county	Different county			
					Total	Same state	Different state	
PERCENT								
All persons .....	100.0	17.0	16.4	10.3	6.1	3.2	2.9	0.6
Age:								
1-4 years .....	100.0	22.7	22.2	14.5	7.7	3.9	3.7	0.5
5-9 years .....	100.0	17.6	17.1	11.4	5.7	3.2	2.5	0.6
10-14 years .....	100.0	14.1	13.6	9.4	4.3	2.1	2.2	0.5
15-19 years .....	100.0	17.8	16.9	10.8	6.1	3.1	3.1	0.9
20-24 years .....	100.0	35.3	33.8	20.9	12.9	7.1	5.8	1.5
25-29 years .....	100.0	32.6	31.6	19.1	12.5	7.1	5.4	1.0
30-34 years .....	100.0	21.6	21.0	13.7	7.3	3.8	3.5	0.6
35-39 years .....	100.0	16.1	15.5	9.6	5.9	3.0	2.9	0.5
40-44 years .....	100.0	13.3	12.9	7.8	5.1	2.7	2.4	0.4
45-49 years .....	100.0	11.1	10.8	6.2	4.7	2.0	2.7	0.3
50-54 years .....	100.0	9.5	9.1	5.5	3.6	1.9	1.7	0.4
55-59 years .....	100.0	7.9	7.6	4.3	3.3	1.7	1.6	0.4
60-64 years .....	100.0	6.8	6.6	3.6	3.0	1.3	1.7	0.2
65-69 years .....	100.0	5.6	5.5	3.4	2.1	1.2	1.0	0.1
70-74 years .....	100.0	4.3	4.2	2.3	1.9	0.7	1.3	0.1
75-79 years .....	100.0	4.6	4.5	2.9	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.2
80-84 years .....	100.0	5.0	4.9	3.1	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.1
85 years and over .....	100.0	5.0	4.9	3.0	1.9	0.9	1.0	0.0
Sex:								
Male .....	100.0	17.5	16.8	10.4	6.4	3.4	3.1	0.6
Female .....	100.0	16.5	16.0	10.1	5.8	3.1	2.8	0.5
Race:								
White .....	100.0	16.6	16.1	9.9	6.2	3.3	2.9	0.5
Black .....	100.0	18.4	18.0	12.6	5.4	2.4	3.1	0.4
Hispanic origin:								
Hispanic .....	100.0	23.4	21.3	16.7	4.6	2.7	1.9	2.1
Not Hispanic .....	100.0	16.4	15.9	9.7	6.3	3.3	3.0	0.4
Tenure:								
Owner-occupied .....	100.0	8.8	8.6	5.0	3.6	1.9	1.7	0.2
Renter-occupied .....	100.0	33.6	32.2	21.0	11.2	5.9	5.3	1.4
Years of school completed:								
Total 25 years and over .....	100.0	14.5	14.0	8.6	5.5	2.8	2.6	0.4
Elementary: 0 to 8 years .....	100.0	11.5	10.6	7.7	3.0	1.8	1.2	0.9
High school: 1 to 3 years .....	100.0	15.3	14.9	9.9	5.0	2.9	2.1	0.3
4 years .....	100.0	13.8	13.5	8.5	5.0	2.7	2.3	0.3
College: 1 to 3 years .....	100.0	15.9	15.5	9.4	6.1	3.1	3.0	0.4
4 years .....	100.0	16.6	16.0	8.3	7.8	3.8	4.0	0.6
5 years or more .....	100.0	14.2	13.5	6.9	6.5	2.9	3.6	0.8
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over .....	100.0	16.8	16.2	9.9	6.2	3.3	3.0	0.6
Civilian labor force .....	100.0	18.9	18.5	11.5	7.0	3.9	3.1	0.5
Employed .....	100.0	18.2	17.8	11.1	6.6	3.7	3.0	0.4
Unemployed .....	100.0	28.7	27.6	16.2	11.4	6.2	5.2	1.1
Armed Forces .....	100.0	42.8	36.1	18.2	17.9	3.3	14.6	6.7
Not in the labor force .....	100.0	12.3	11.5	6.9	4.7	2.2	2.5	0.7

Figure 1.  
**Percent Who Moved, by Type of Move and Age:**  
**March 1990 to March 1991**



relationship between age and type of move. The proportion moving locally is higher up to about age 55. For most age groups above 55, however, there are no statistically significant differences between the proportions making local and long-distance moves. Movers in age groups 55-59, 60-64, 70-74, and 80 years and over were just as likely to have made a long-distance move as a local one.

### Race and Hispanic origin

Blacks have higher overall rates of moving than Whites—18.4 percent for Blacks and 16.6 percent for Whites (table F). The higher overall rates of moving for Blacks reflect higher rates of local moving. Between 1990 and 1991, 12.6 percent of Blacks moved within the same county while 9.9 percent of Whites made such moves. There were no statistically significant differences in the rates at which Blacks and Whites moved between States and from abroad, and Blacks had slightly lower rates of moving between counties within the same State.

Although most persons of Hispanic origin report their race as White in the CPS (96 percent in March 1991), their rates and patterns of moving may be very different

from those of other Whites as well as from persons reporting their race as Black. (Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.) Rates of moving for persons of Hispanic origin and non-Hispanics are shown in table F. An estimated 23.4 percent of persons of Hispanic origin moved between 1990 and 1991, compared with 16.4 percent of non-Hispanics. The difference reflects higher rates of local moving for Hispanics (16.7 percent versus 9.7 percent for non-Hispanics) and more movers from abroad. The rate of moving between counties in the same State was similar for Hispanics and non-Hispanics, while Hispanics had a slightly lower rate of moving between States.

The differences in mobility rates by race and ethnic origin are associated with housing tenure. Renters have much higher moving rates than owners (33.6 percent versus 8.8 percent for 1990-91), and Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to rent than Whites and non-Hispanics, respectively. When tenure is taken into account, the differences by race and ethnic origin change. Table G shows separate rates of moving for White, Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic householders, classified by whether they owned their homes or rented their homes after the move. (Only tenure after the move was obtained

**Table G. Mobility of Householders, by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Tenure: 1990-1991**

(Numbers in thousands)

Tenure	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Not Hispanic
Total, 15 years old and over .....	80,968	10,671	6,220	88,092
Owner-occupied .....	54,527	4,526	2,423	57,972
Renter-occupied .....	26,441	6,145	3,797	30,120
Total movers .....	12,973	1,933	1,494	14,036
Owner-occupied .....	3,990	300	224	4,215
Renter-occupied .....	8,983	1,633	1,270	9,822
Total percent moving .....	16.0	18.1	24.0	15.9
Owner-occupied .....	7.3	6.6	9.2	7.3
Renter-occupied .....	34.0	26.6	33.4	32.6

in the CPS.) Among homeowners, there is not a statistically significant difference between White (7.3 percent) and Black (6.6 percent) mobility rates. Among renters, Whites had higher mobility rates (34.0 percent) than Blacks (26.6 percent), just the reverse of the overall finding. Hispanic homeowners had slightly higher mobility rates than non-Hispanic homeowners, but the rates for Hispanic and non-Hispanic renters were not statistically different.

## Education

The relationship between education (measured here as years of school completed) and residential mobility is complicated. Table F shows mobility rates by years of school completed for persons 25 years old and over. Persons who had completed college or had some college had higher rates of moving than those with only a high school education. Persons who had attended high school, in turn, had higher mobility rates than persons with only an elementary school education. This general pattern is a good description of between-county movers. There was not as consistent a pattern among within-county movers.

The relationship between education and mobility is further complicated by the effects of age. One reason why persons with only an elementary school education had the lowest rates of moving is that they are likely to belong to the least-mobile, older age groups. About 47 percent of persons with only an elementary school education in March 1991 were 65 years and over; more than three-fourths (78 percent) were 45 years and over.

## Labor force status

Rates of moving also vary by labor force status, which in the CPS is available only at the time of the survey and may not reflect status at the time of moving. Members of the Armed Forces had very high rates of moving—about 43 percent had changed residences during the twelve months preceding March 1991 (table F). This may be an underestimate, since the Current Population Survey includes only those members of the

Armed Forces living off base or in housing units on base with their families. Military personnel who lived in barracks or other group quarters may have had even higher rates of moving than those surveyed.

Although members of the Armed Forces have very high rates of moving, they account for only eight percent of the total labor force in the CPS. Among civilians, persons who were unemployed during the survey week had higher rates of moving than those who were employed and also higher than those who were not in the labor force, although not as high as the rate at which military personnel moved. About 29 percent of the unemployed in March 1991 had moved during the preceding year. Both the within-county and between-county moving rates for the unemployed were higher than those for the employed and for those not in the labor force.

Employed persons moved at a rate only a little higher than the national average for all persons 16 years and over (18.2 percent versus 16.8 percent), with most moves taking place within the same county (61 percent). A lower rate of moving was found among persons 16 years and over who were not in the labor force—only 12.3 percent had moved in the previous year. Persons 16 years old and over who are not in the labor force consist mainly of retired persons, students, persons keeping house and/or caring for their families, and others who do only volunteer work. Self-employed persons who work at home are considered employed.

## USER COMMENTS

We are interested in the reaction of users to the usefulness of the information presented in this report and to the content of the questions used to provide the results contained in this report (there is a facsimile of the questionnaire in the Appendix A). We welcome user recommendations for improving our survey work. If you have suggestions or comments, please send them to:

Current Survey Comments  
Population Division  
U.S. Bureau of the Census  
Washington, D.C. 20233.