**Why Did You Move?: An Overview and Analysis of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement’s Reason for Move Write-In Expansion**

**David Ihrke**[[1]](#footnote-1)

U.S. Census Bureau

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**Introduction**

The reason for move question, *what was (name’s) main reason for moving*, has been asked on the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS) continuously since 1998. There are currently 19 individual reason for move choices, including change in marital status, new job or job transfer, wanted cheaper housing, and natural disaster.[[2]](#footnote-2)

This paper concentrates on three of these individual reasons: other family, other job-related, and other housing. These responses provide a general sense of why the respondent moved, however, they lack any degree of specificity. This is particularly concerning because the percentage of movers selecting one of these three reasons reached as high as 31 percent.[[3]](#footnote-3),[[4]](#footnote-4) With these reasons being broad in scope, migration analysts have limited insight into why movers selected them. The reason for move write-in expansion addresses this by collecting additional information for movers who select other family, other job-related, or other housing by asking them to specify their exact reason for move through write-in fields. This provides migration analysts with the opportunity to evaluate and enhance the response categories offered on the survey.

The main purpose of this working paper is to document the reason for move write-in expansion, which was implemented in the 2016 ASEC. This is accomplished by describing the various elements of the expansion. These include who was impacted, how the write-in coding procedure changed, and how the edits changed. Justifications for adopting the expansion are provided, including an example based on a response being created from write-in responses. This paper concludes with an analysis of results from the 2016 ASEC. Common responses in each of the four “other” categories are provided, along with a general idea of how often cases are changed by coding.

**Explanation of the reason for move write-in expansion**

In previous years, only respondents who selected “other reason” were asked to specify their exact reason in a write-in field. The reason for move write-in expansion modified the response categories of other family, other job-related, and other housing, requesting movers who selected these reasons to further specify their reason through a write-in screen. These write-in responses provided additional detail about why respondents who selected one of these categories moved, something that was lacking before the expansion.

**Who was impacted by the expansion?**

Only a small proportion of survey respondents experienced the write-in expansion. The reason for move question was not asked of children under the age of one or nonmovers, which disqualified 90.3percent of the 2016 ASEC sample.[[5]](#footnote-5) Field representatives were another group involved in the expansion. Whether they collected the data in person or over the phone, the two methods of collections used for ASEC, they faced the same amount of time added to the survey as respondents, with no additional burden beyond obtaining, summarizing, and typing the reason. Migration analysts tasked with reviewing and coding the data experienced the largest change, as the number of write-in cases increased from 201 cases in 2015to over 2,100in 2016. As a result, more time was spent coding reason for move write-in cases.

**What was the write-in coding procedure and how did it change?**

Before the expansion, only respondents who selected “other reason” were asked to specify through a write-in screen. Write-in responses were compared to official reason for move definitions shown in **Table 1**.[[6]](#footnote-6) If the response closely matched one of the definitions, it was moved to the corresponding reason. Otherwise, it was placed back into “other reasons.”

Write-in coding for the expansion operated in mostly the same manner with a few key differences. First, those who responded with other family, other job-related, and other housing reasons were sent to the write-in screen to be collected and coded. Under the original approach, only “other reason” responses were collected and coded. The second difference involves what information appeared on the write-in coding files.[[7]](#footnote-7) Using the original approach, migration analysts added reason for move precodes directly to the write-in files. For example, if someone wrote-in that they moved for a new job, then that response would receive precode “4” for new job or job transfer. With the adoption of the expansion, the original reason for move precode (e.g. “3” for other family, “8” for other job-related, “14” for housing, and “19” for other reason) was included on the write-in files. There were several justifications for this difference. The number of write-in cases increased by more than 1,800. Inputting a code for each case is time consuming. Including the original reason for move code also offered migration analysts a sense of what the respondent might have been thinking when they selected their choice.[[8]](#footnote-8) Finally, by including the original reason for move code on the file, the default action was to leave the response in the original reason for move category. Only write-ins that could be recoded were changed, which greatly reduced the amount of coding necessary.

**Edit changes**

The reason for move edit was not altered in any way. The edit program only changes cases with missing information or out of universe cases.[[9]](#footnote-9) Since the expansion does not deal with missing or out of universe cases, there was no reason for the edit to change.

While the edit itself did not change, any changes to the reason for move distribution would alter the distribution of donors used for allocating missing values.[[10]](#footnote-10) For instance, write-in cases coded from other housing into “wanted cheaper housing” could slightly alter the allocated values of missing responses. As the number of cases in “wanted cheaper housing” increased, so too would the likelihood that a missing response received it as an allocated reason for move value. Therefore, the final reason for move distribution would change to more closely resemble the distribution of reason for move responses after coding.

**Expansion justifications**

***The shift away from other reason towards other family, other job-related, and other housing reasons***

The four other categories (family, job-related, housing, and other) have been response categories since 1998. In order to visually depict change over time, **Figure 1** displays percentages of “other reason” and a single, combined estimate for other family, other job-related, and other housing reasons between 1999 and 2016.[[11]](#footnote-11),[[12]](#footnote-12)

As illustrated in this figure, there has been a shift away from other reason towards other family, other job-related, and other housing. Responses in the other reason category accounted for 4.1 percent of all reasons in 1999, the first comparable year. This number fell to 1.7 percent by 2006, but gradually rebounded to 4.8 percent by 2009. The timing corresponds to the Great Recession, which suggests that other reasons were selected more often during that period. A few years after the recession officially ended, the estimate fell from 4.1 percent in 2011 to 0.9 percent in 2012.[[13]](#footnote-13) It remained below 2.0 percent between 2012 and 2015.

Because reason for move estimates all have the same denominator, movers 1 year and over, a decrease in one reason must result in an increase in another.[[14]](#footnote-14) When other reason fell to low levels in 2012, other family, other job-related, and other housing dramatically increased. The combined estimate for these three categories went from 23.1 percent in 2011 to 28.7 percent in 2012. By 2013, 31.0 percent of respondents were selecting one of these three reasons. Stated differently, nearly three out of every 10 movers selected other family, other job-related, or other housing as their main reason for moving in 2013. At that time, none of the movers who selected these three reasons were asked to specify through the write-in field. This severely limited the understanding of why they were selected.

The adoption of the write-in expansion provided migration analysts with a better understanding of what these categories contained and which reasons should be considered for future reason for move lists. Previously, only cases in “other reason” were codable. When reasons were coded from “other reason” to other family, job-related, or housing, there was no indication how representative these responses were among movers. Now that write-in responses are collected for all four “other” categories, we can determine the prevalence of specific reasons within each “other” category.

***Missed opportunity to collect data***

When respondents selected other family, other job-related, or other housing during the survey, their specific reason was not captured. They might mention specific details to the field representative (e.g., my lease ended), but there was nowhere to record this information. This resulted in “other” categories with potentially unlimited reasons, only a few of which were identifiable through the old write-in coding process.

An example of how missed opportunities to collect data could hinder analysis occurred in 2011. An outside stakeholder asked about the prevalence of movers responding with foreclosure or eviction-related reasons in ASEC. Neither foreclosure nor eviction was offered as response categories on the 2011 questionnaire. The only way to identify moves caused by foreclosures or evictions was through write-in responses to the other reason category. Cases that mentioned foreclosure or eviction were placed into a new “foreclosure/eviction” category.[[15]](#footnote-15)

The 2011 ASEC estimate for foreclosure/eviction was 1.2 percent, but this was likely an underestimate. A reasonable assumption can be made that most movers and field representatives placed foreclosure or eviction-related reasons into other housing rather than the other reason category. Without a write-in option attached to other housing, it was impossible to determine the exact reason why someone moved. Because foreclosure/eviction cases could not be identified in the other housing reason category, they could not be placed into the new foreclosure/eviction reason. This issue was resolved when foreclosure/eviction became a selectable option on the 2012 ASEC. The 2012 foreclosure/eviction estimate was 2.2 percent, likely a more accurate estimate than the 2011 estimate.

The write-in expansion resolves these missed opportunities to collect data as field representatives will have access to a write-in screen capable of recording the respondent’s reason verbatim. The information can later be used for coding purposes. For example, some respondents may be placing “moved in with boyfriend/girlfriend/unmarried same-sex partner/fiancé” into the other family reason. According to the reason for move coding rules, unless they are married, these relationships cannot be coded to any of the family-related reasons. Without collecting specific write-in information, we would have no idea how often this occurs and could not recode accordingly.

**2016 ASEC Results**

With the successful implementation of the reason for move write-in expansion, the 2016 ASEC marks the first time migration analysts could delve into the specifics of why people who selected other family, other job-related, and other housing reasons moved.

According to results from the 2016 ASEC, there were a combined 2,129 write-in reason for move responses, which represented 30.1 percent of reason for move responses before coding, editing, and weighting.[[16]](#footnote-16) The distribution was 927 in other family, 72 in other job-related, 311 in other housing, and 819 in other.[[17]](#footnote-17)

These numbers suggest that other family reasons and other reasons might be the best starting point when considering adding individual reasons to the list. To better support this notion, it is prudent to consider the reason for move distribution in percentage form before and after coding. Results from **Table 2** demonstrate the conclusion of the last paragraph, that other family reasons and other reasons were the most common, followed by other housing, and other job-related. These results support the notion that other family would be the best candidate for adding reasons because it contains the most responses that do not fit into any of the individual reasons provided on the survey. With this in mind, we can better analyze the common write-in responses within each of the four write-in responses.

**Common write-in responses**

For the first time ever, analysts were able to see the specific reason of every mover that selected other family, other job-related, other housing, and other reason. This information was used to create a list of common write-in responses for 2016, displayed in **Table 3**.[[18]](#footnote-18)

For other family, a few of the common write-in responses included adding a new family member (pregnant/had a baby/adoption), moved with family member(s), and to assist or take care of family members.[[19]](#footnote-19) The “adding a new family member” reason may cause difficulty because it could easily be intertwined with “wanted new or better home/apartment”. The decision of which “other” reason to choose was initially decided by the respondent. If they provided a response to one of the write-in options, the reason will likely be coded to other family because it is more feasible that the new family member led to wanting a new or better home/apartment than the opposite. Assisting or taking care of family members may become more important in the near future as the Baby Boom generation ages and becomes more dependent upon family members for assistance or care with daily living activities.

Other job-related was the smallest of the four write-in categories with 72.[[20]](#footnote-20) Identifying common themes for this category in **Table 3** was difficult because there were so few cases. In some instances, the respondent simply answered “job.” They did not specify if they moved because they had a new job, transferred from an old job, or lost their job and moved to look for work. For whatever reason they did not select these options when they were offered during the interview, so assigning cases based on such little detail is difficult to justify. Some respondents who selected the other job write-in gave enough detail to be coded into one of the more specific job-related reasons. One such example is coding “change in duty station” to “new job or job transfer.”

One of the common write-ins for other housing was lease ended. The lease ended write-ins indicated that sometimes the respondent actively chose not to renew their lease while others were not given the option. Downsizing/wanted a smaller home or apartment was another common other housing reason. For some, this could be the result of an aging population or having people move out of the household. In both of these situations, the amount of space available in the house or apartment might be more than needed or desired. In order to remedy the situation, the person(s) moved to something better suited to their housing preference. An obvious and straightforward housing reason for move was the sale of the previous home or apartment. In these situations, the person sold their home and wanted, or needed, to move elsewhere.

A common write-in response for the other reason category was to live with a nonfamily member.[[21]](#footnote-21) In some cases, this was a roommate or the name of a specific person (e.g., Bob). In others, they specified the relationship rather than the person’s name (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, fiancé, etc.). School was another write-in response that appeared quite often. With more information, a response of “school for children” could be placed in other family, “better schools” could arguably be placed in better neighborhood/less crime, and “attend (university’s name)” placed in attend/leave college. Without any additional detail, school is too vague and remains in the other category. Some movers said financial constraints were their main reason for moving. What sort of financial constraints caused these moves was unclear, which is why these cases remained in the other reason category.

Any of the common write-in reasons mentioned in this section could be potential candidates for inclusion in future reason for move lists. Before any changes are made to the list of reasons, additional years of data and research will be needed. One piece of research that can be accomplished now is to determine which reasons were not frequently selected. Based on an analysis of reason for move data from the last decade, shown in **Table 4**, the reasons of retired, change in climate, health reasons, and natural disaster all fall into this category.[[22]](#footnote-22)

**Comparison of the 2015 and 2016 ASEC reason for move write-in results**

How do the 2016 ASEC results compare with those from 2015? We can only compare write-ins for “other reason” because it was the only reason where respondents were asked to specify in 2015. There were 201 write-ins for 2015, about one-fourth of the number reported in 2016 (819). One possible explanation for this difference could be changes made to the training guides. In 2016, field representatives were instructed to use the other write-in field if they were unsure about how a reason should be coded. The guide also reminded field representatives that boyfriends, girlfriends, unmarried partners, fiancés, and foster children are not considered family members for the reason for move question, and therefore should not be coded in any of the family related reasons. This would result in some cases moving from other family to other reason. Another possibility is that field representatives, respondents, or both, were avoiding the write-in field in 2015. By expanding write-ins to other family, other job-related, and other housing, the ability to avoid write-ins became more difficult.

**How did coding change the reason for move distribution?**

Another exercise that has never been attemptedis to examine how coding altered the reason for move distribution. Prior to the expansion, this was less important because the only reason likely to experience considerable change was the other reason write-in. Now that four reasons include write-ins and the number of write-ins has increased considerably, the possibility to alter the reason for move distribution is greater.

**Table 5** contains the percent in each reason before coding, after coding, and the percent changed by coding.[[23]](#footnote-23) According to **Table 5**, 30.1 percent of cases were in other family, other job-related, other housing, or other before coding. After coding, these four reasons accounted for 25.9 percent.[[24]](#footnote-24) As demonstrated in the percent changed by coding column, other job-related and other reasons were responsible for the majority of this decline. The ”other” reason decreased from 11.6 percent before coding to 7.2 percent after. The other-job related category showed a huge percent change due to coding (-132.3 percent), but it started out with a small base (72 cases). The remaining seventeen reasons changed by less than 20 percent, suggesting that for most reasons, coding does not alter the distribution a great deal.

**How did edits and weighting change the reason for move distribution?**

A householder can report that all members of the household moved together.[[25]](#footnote-25) In that case, all household members are given the householder’s reason for move through a pre-edit.[[26]](#footnote-26) In the event of missing data, cases proceed through the reason for move edit to be assigned or allocated a reason. Responses from household members are assigned to other members of the household, when available.[[27]](#footnote-27) Respondents who do not have a reason for move and are not assigned one are allocated from donors, which may or may not be in the household, based on specific characteristics.[[28]](#footnote-28) The final step in the process, weighting, makes the number representative of the general population of the United States.

Based on the final column of **Table 5**, it is clear that the edits and weighting have a larger impact on the reason for move distribution than coding.[[29]](#footnote-29) Fourteen out of the 19 reasons changed by more than 15 percent after edits and weighting.

**Conclusion**

The reason for move question has been asked on the CPS-ASEC for almost two decades. In recent years, the write-in responses for those specifying “other reason” reached extremely low levels. At the same time, other family, other job-related, and other housing accounted for as high as 31.0 percent of movers. In an effort to collect additional information to improve data on the reasons people and households move, the ASEC reason for move write-in field was expanded in 2016 to include other family, other job-related, and other housing reasons. The only people impacted by this expansion were movers who selected one of these three reasons for move choices, field representatives, and migration analysts. No changes were necessary to the edits.

Write-in results from the 2016 ASEC suggest that the other family reason might be the best starting place when considering adding another reason to the list. It accounted for the highest percentage of write-ins in 2016. Common write-in responses for other family included adding a new family member, moving with a family member, and to assist or take care of a family member. Common write-in responses for other housing included lease ended and sold house. Among the common reasons for the other reason category were moving in with nonfamily members and school.

Another unprecedented analysis included in this paper involved examining how the coding, editing, and weighting procedures affected the overall reason for move distribution. Results indicate that coding plays a relatively small role for most of the reasons. The two exceptions were “other job-related” and “other reasons”. Editing and weighting appear to exert more influence on the reason for move distribution.

**Future research**

This analysis is only the first step towards a potential change to the list of reason for move responses based on answers to the write-ins. More years of post-expansion data are needed to better determine the appropriate categories. There may be responses unique to 2016 that lose their importance in later years. Therefore, basing decisions on a single year of data would be rash and potentially harmful. After the write-in expansion has been implemented for a few years, migration analysts will better understand which responses repeatedly appear at or near the top of common responses within each of the other write-in categories. Armed with this knowledge, a more representative reason for move list can eventually be created to reduce the overall number of people selecting one of the other reasons and increase the number selecting specific individual reasons.

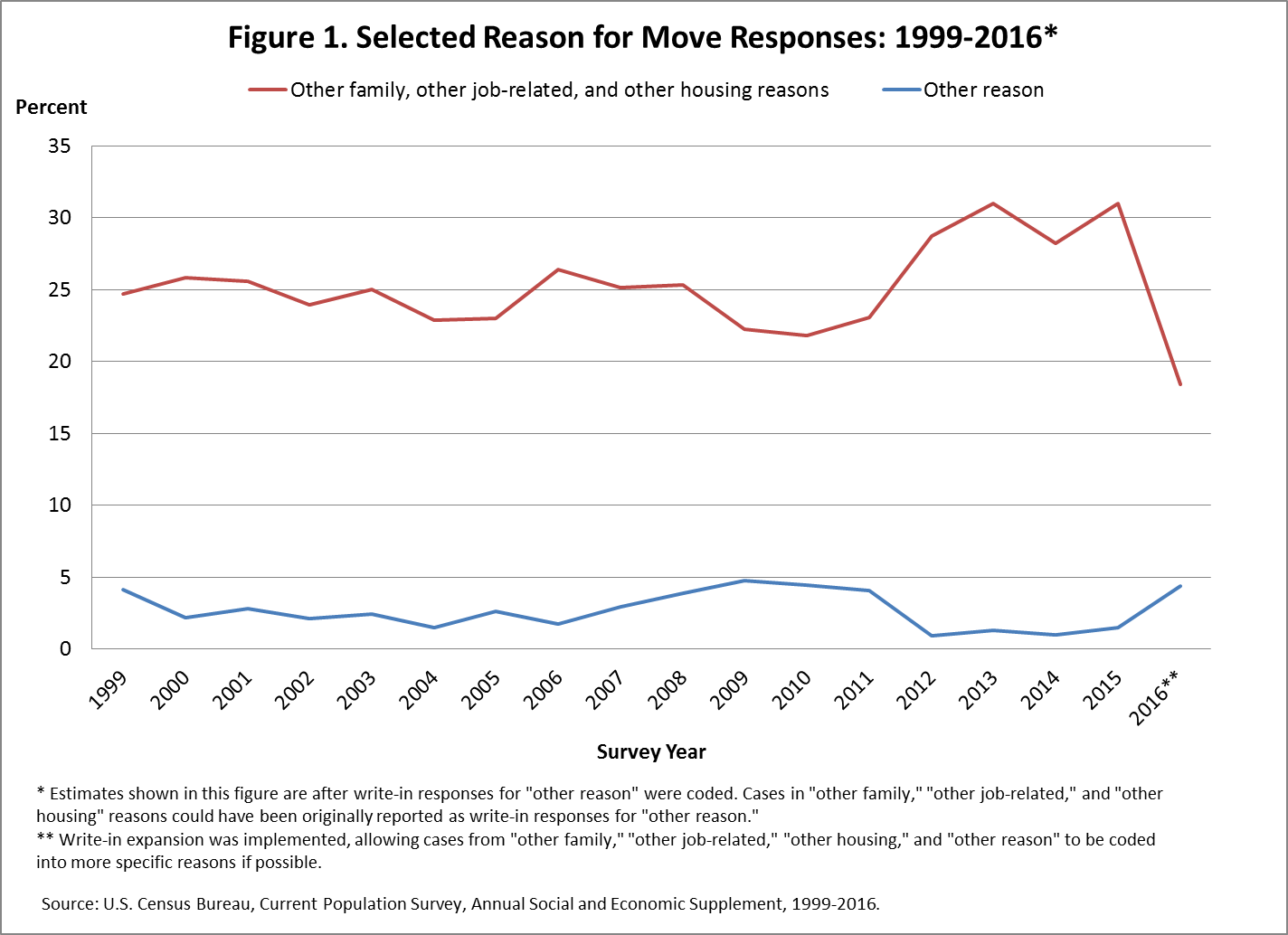
Another avenue for future research is the unexpected increase in write-ins for “other reason” after the expansion. Was this something limited to responses between 2015 and 2016 or will it continue to be higher? What factor(s) could account for such an increase besides the expansion? How does the new sample affect the results? Evaluation of the data to answer these questions may also improve our collection and reporting of data about why people move.

**References**

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Schachter. Jason. 2001. *Why People Move: Exploring the March 2000 Current Population Survey: March 1999 to March 2000.*Current Population Reports. P23-204. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.





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| Table 2. 2016 Other Reason for Move Distribution: Before and After Coding | | | | |
| Reason for Move/1 | Before Coding | | After Coding/2 | |
| Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Other family reason | 927 | 13.1 | 917 | 12.9 |
| Other job-related reason | 72 | 1.0 | 31 | 0.4 |
| Other housing reason | 311 | 4.4 | 378 | 5.3 |
| Other reason | 819 | 11.6 | 511 | 7.2 |
| 1/ People who moved with the household and had the same reason for moving are excluded. Movers who did not provide a reason for move are also excluded. | | | | |
| 2/ Write-in responses can be recoded from one "other" category into a different "other" category. For instance, an "other housing" reason could be recoded to "other reason". | | | | |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2016. | | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 3. Common Write-In Responses for Other Family, Other Job-related, Other Housing, and Other Reasons: 2016 ASEC | | | |
| Other Family | Other Job-related | Other Housing | Other Reason |
| Moved with family member(s) | Job | Lease ended | To live with nonfamily members (includes roommates and cohabitors) |
| Pregnant/had a baby/adoption |  | Landlord issues | School |
| Assist or take care of family member(s) |  | Downsizing/wanted smaller house or apartment | Just wanted to move |
| Death of family member |  | Previously homeless or incarcerated | Financial constraints |
| Move closer to family |  | Sold house or apartment |  |
| Note: These write-in responses represent a few of the more common write-in responses for each category. They are not in any particular order. Common write-in responses from 2016 may differ from other years. | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2016 (internal file). | | | |



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 5. 2016 Reason for Move Distribution: Before Coding, After Coding, After Edits, and After Weighting | | | | | | |
| Reason for Move/1 | Before coding | After coding/2 | Percent changed by coding/3 | After coding and edits | After coding, edits, and weighting | Percent changed by edits and weighting/4 |
| Change in marital status | 6.2 | 6.5 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.8 | -35.2 |
| To establish own household | 12.4 | 12.7 | 2.3 | 12.0 | 12.2 | -4.3 |
| **Other family reason/5** | **13.1** | **12.9** | -1.1 | **11.4** | **10.5** | -23.4 |
| New job or job transfer | 9.9 | 10.9 | 8.6 | 11.1 | 10.8 | -0.2 |
| To look for work or lost job | 1.9 | 2.0 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 1.5 | -35.3 |
| To be closer to work/easier commute | 5.4 | 5.5 | 2.3 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 7.2 |
| Retired | 0.7 | 0.7 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | -10.6 |
| **Other job-related reason/5** | **1.0** | **0.4** | -132.3 | **1.3** | **1.2** | 63.9 |
| Wanted own home, not rent | 4.7 | 4.7 | 0.6 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 20.2 |
| Wanted new or better home/ apartment | 11.1 | 12.4 | 10.5 | 16.5 | 17.4 | 28.8 |
| Wanted better neighborhood /less crime | 2.1 | 2.3 | 6.8 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 27.2 |
| Wanted cheaper housing | 7.3 | 7.6 | 3.9 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 6.8 |
| Foreclosure/eviction | 1.0 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 0.9 | -23.6 |
| **Other housing reason/5** | **4.4** | **5.3** | 17.7 | **7.1** | **6.7** | 20.3 |
| To attend or leave college | 4.6 | 4.9 | 6.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | -51.3 |
| Change of climate | 0.4 | 0.5 | 8.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 37.3 |
| Health reasons | 1.9 | 2.2 | 14.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | -24.8 |
| Natural disaster | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -70.8 |
| **Other reason/5** | **11.6** | **7.2** | -60.3 | **4.6** | **4.4** | -65.3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Percent in other family, job-related, housing, and other reasons | 30.0 | 25.9 | N/A | 24.4 | 22.7 | N/A |
| 1/ People who moved with the household and had the same reason for moving are excluded. Movers who did not provide a reason for move are also excluded. | | | | | | |
| 2/ Write-in responses can be recoded from one "other" category into a different "other" category. For instance, an "other housing" reason could be recoded to "other reason." | | | | | | |
| 3/ The percent changed by coding was calculated as follows: (number of cases after coding – number of cases before coding) divided by the number of cases after coding, which is then multiplied by 100. | | | | | | |
| 4/ To calculate percent changed by edits and weighting, subtract the after coding number from the after coding, edits, and weighting number, divide the result by the after coding, edits, and weighting number, and multiply by 100. | | | | | | |
| 5/ Write-in information collected for these reasons in 2016. | | |  |  |  |  |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2016. | | | | | |  |

1. This paper reports the results of research and analysis undertaken by U.S. Census Bureau staff. It has undergone more limited review than official publications and is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. Any views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A complete list of reasons provided in ASEC is available in **Table 1**. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. All comparisons in this paper are statistically significant unless noted otherwise. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This number might indicate that there are reasons not adequately reflected in the current response categories. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Unweighted estimates are used in this section because the sample, not the population, is being analyzed. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. An earlier version of this table originally appeared as Appendix Table 1 on page 14 in the report, “Reason for Moving: 2012 to 2013”, available at <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2001/demo/p23-204.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Write-in responses for reason for move are removed from the full file, sent to migration analysts, and coded. The coded responses are then returned to the full file. Individual write-ins are never released publicly. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Under the original coding procedure, “other reason” was the only response for write-ins. Knowing the original reason for move code did not provide any additional, helpful information. With four reasons, we can develop a basic understanding of why the respondent selected a particular reason. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The population universe for the reason for move question is the population one year and over that moved within a 1-year period. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The analysis section of this working paper further discusses how edits changed the reason for move distribution in 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Several changes were made to the reason for move categories between 1998 and 1999, therefore I recommend excluding 1998 reason for move data for comparisons with later years. For more information regarding these changes, see footnote 2 of the report, “Why People Move: Exploring the March 2000 Current Population Survey,” available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p23-204.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Estimates displayed in Figure 1 are coded, edited, and weighted. They cannot be compared to uncoded, unedited, or unweighted data shown elsewhere in this paper. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The 1999 other reason for move estimate is not statistically different from the 2009 and 2011 estimates. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Changes might occur to reasons not shown in **Figure 1**. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The foreclosure/eviction category was treated the same as any reason for move response in terms of processing and editing. Additional information is available in the CPS User Note: Addition of Foreclosure/Eviction Reason for Move Category, available at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/user-notes/geographic-mobility-user-notes/2012-01.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. The coding process involves placing some of the write-in responses into different reasons. Editing fills in missing values with assignments and allocations. It is discussed further in the “how did edits and weighting change the reason for move distribution” section. Weighting adjusts the sample estimates in order to make them representative of the population. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Before coding, weighting, and editing. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. These lists are in no particular order. The reasons shown might be unique to 2016 and not representative of other years. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. For the purpose of this paper, reasons were grouped by related themes. They do not necessarily have to be grouped in this manner. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. This suggests that the list of job-related reasons provided is representative for all but a few. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Some cases in the “other family reason” said their main reason for moving was “to live/move in with (name)”. Because the relationship was not identified in their response, the conservative approach of leaving them in the other family reason was taken. This approach assumes that the person listed is somehow related to the respondent. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Table 4 is a modified and relabeled version of historical Table A-5. All of the ASEC historical migration tables are available at <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/geographic-mobility/historic.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. The percent changed by coding was calculated as follows: (number of cases after coding – number of cases before coding) divided by the number of cases after coding, which is then multiplied by 100. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The percent in the “other housing” reason increased after coding. This was due, in part, to reasons being coded from “other reason” to “other housing.” [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. For reference, the migration and reason for move questions are available near the end of Appendix D in the 2016 ASEC technical documentation, available at <http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar16.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Respondents who lived at a residence 1 year ago that was different from the rest of the household were asked for their previous address and reason for move. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. This applies to the householder, their spouse, and their children. Children in subfamilies were given their parent’s reason for move if the parent was present and reported a reason. Other household members receive values from donors through the edit matrix. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Caution should be used when comparing unedited and edited data. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. To calculate percent changed by edits and weighting, I subtracted the after coding number from the after coding, edits, and weighting number, divided the result by the after coding, edits, and weighting number, and multiplied by 100. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)