

Geographical Mobility: 2008 to 2009

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Population Characteristics

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Each year, millions of people pack up their belongings and move. A variety of reasons and conditions motivate these moves—life changes, personal and economic opportunities, setbacks and misfortunes. This report provides information about the level of geographical mobility in the United States between 2008 and 2009, along with some sociodemographic characteristics of the people who moved.

The data used in this report come from two different survey collections undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau. Since the late 1940s, questions on residential mobility have been asked as part of the March supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is now known as the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). ASEC data provide estimates of geographical mobility in 1-year retrospective periods over the last 6 decades, and these data have been the source of a large, detailed set of tabulations and analyses, some of which are in this report. Many additional data tables are available on the Census Bureau Web site.¹

In the 1990s, the Census Bureau began a new data collection activity that provides additional detailed information on geographical mobility. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a large, national, ongoing survey of the population that began full implementation in 2005. The ACS was designed to replace the detailed data that had been collected from the “long-form” questionnaire as

¹ These tables are located on the Census Bureau's migration Web page at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/cps.html>.

Report Highlights

- According to the 2009 ACS, 15.4 percent of the population 1 year and over lived in a different residence 1 year ago.
- Young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 were the most mobile group of the U.S. population.
- The top state-to-state migration flows (moving from one state to another) for 2009 were from California, Florida, New Jersey, and New York.
- About 40 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles in distance, as indicated in 2009 ASEC data.
- Housing-related reasons were the most common reasons given for moving.

part of the once-a-decade census. With a sample of nearly 3 million households a year, the ACS provides far greater geographic and demographic subgroup detail than other existing surveys can provide. Like the ASEC, the ACS includes questions about mobility in the past year. The questions are similar, but differ slightly for a variety of reasons.² Some of the differences, and their impact on the actual

² Additional details on these differences are available in the Census Bureau's migration comparison report at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/fs-migration.html> and in the report “Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Geographic Mobility: 2004” at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2007/2007_Koerber_01.pdf>.

Current Population Reports

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estimates, are explained in the appendix of this report, along with further important details about the two surveys.

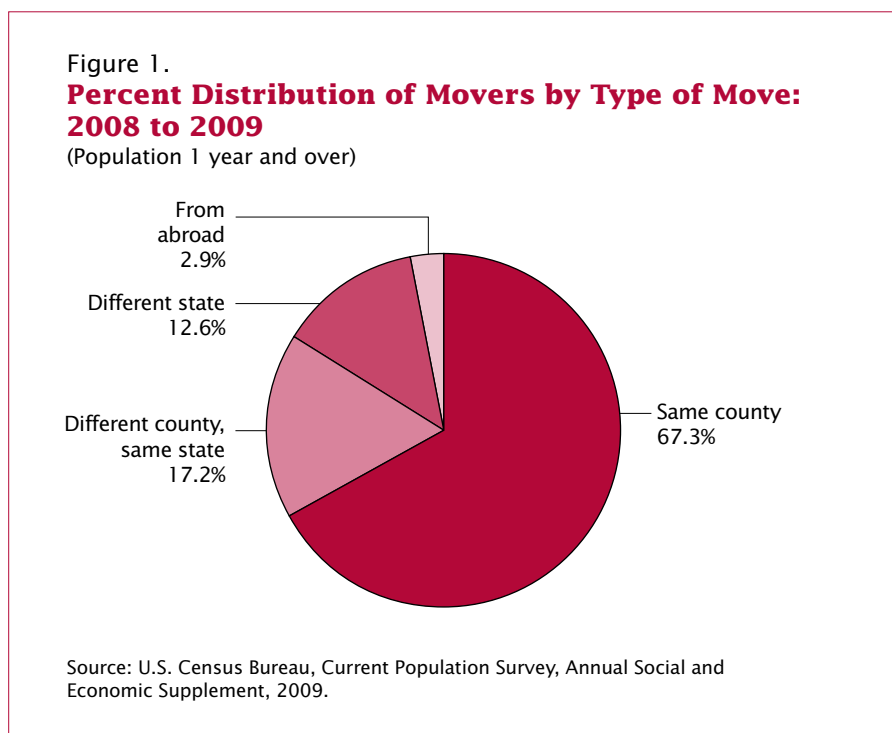
Together, the ASEC and ACS provide important and useful analytic data that allow researchers the opportunity to produce historical trends, subnational disaggregations, and detailed socioeconomic descriptions of people who were geographically mobile between 2008 and 2009.³

MOVER RATES AND PAST TRENDS

Data from the 2009 ASEC indicate that 37.1 million U.S. residents moved between 2008 and 2009 (Table 1a). This represents an increase of 1.9 million from the 2008 estimate of 35.2 million movers. The same trend is noticeable for the mover rate, which increased from 11.9 percent in 2008 to 12.5 percent in 2009. Figure 1 contains the percent distribution of movers by type of move for 2009. Of those who moved between 2008 and 2009, 67.3 percent moved within the same county, 17.2 percent moved from a different county within the same state, 12.6 percent moved from another state, and 2.9 percent moved from abroad.⁴ Compared with 2008, a greater percentage of moves were within the same county (65.4 percent in 2008 and 67.3 percent in 2009), while moves

³ All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level.

⁴ To calculate the distribution of moves, divide the percent moved for the focal type of move by the total percent moved. (Example: For the 2009 ASEC, movers within the same county=8.4; total percent moved=12.5. Thus, 8.4/12.5=67.3 percent of moves were within the same county).



from a different state decreased from 13.4 percent to 12.6 percent.⁵

Comparing the 1996–1997 mobility period with the current mobility period offers an appreciation of the near historic lows of the current mover rate, despite the increasing size of the universe (population 1 year and over). The most notable difference between 1997 and 2009 is the decrease in the number of movers, from 43.4 million to 37.1 million. The mover rate experienced a decline from 16.5 percent to 12.5 percent. Moves within the same county represented a larger percentage of moves in 2009 than 1997 (67.3 percent compared with 63.9 percent), whereas moves from a different county, either within

⁵ The percentage that moved from a different county within the same state and the percentage that moved from abroad are not statistically different between 2008 and 2009.

the same state or from a different state, decreased from 33.1 percent to 29.7 percent.⁶ Based on these data, remaining in the same house or moving within the same county was more common in 2009 than in 1997.

From a broader historical standpoint, current mobility

⁶ Prior to 2006, cases were imputed using an initial sort order by the various ASEC subsamples, followed by geography. Research indicates this may have resulted in an overstatement of interstate movers for this period. For additional information, see Kaplan, Greg and Sam Schulhofer-Wohl, "Interstate Migration Has Fallen Less Than You Think: Consequences of Hot Deck Imputation in the Current Population Survey," working paper 681, revised March 2011, <www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/pub_display.cfm?id=4568>. Beginning in 2006, a processing change sorted all data geographically, an improvement over the previous method. Additional details on this processing change can be found in the note "Impact of Processing on CPS Interstate Migration Rates: 2000–2006" at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf>.

Table 1a.

Annual Mover Rates by Type of Move: Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1948–2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Population 1 year and over	Same residence (nonmovers)	Total movers		Percent moved				
			Number	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Total	Same county	Different county		From abroad
							Same state	Different state ²	
2008–2009	297,182	260,077	37,105	591	12.5	8.4	2.1	1.6	0.4
2007–2008	294,851	259,685	35,167	578	11.9	7.8	2.1	1.6	0.4
2006–2007	292,749	254,068	38,681	599	13.2	8.6	2.5	1.7	0.4
2005–2006	289,781	249,945	39,837	606	13.7	8.6	2.8	2.0	0.4
2004–2005	287,148	247,261	39,888	606	13.9	7.9	2.7	2.6	0.6
2003–2004	284,367	245,372	38,995	601	13.7	7.9	2.8	2.6	0.4
2002–2003	282,556	242,463	40,093	608	14.2	8.3	2.7	2.7	0.4
2001–2002	278,160	237,049	41,111	614	14.8	8.5	2.9	2.8	0.6
1999–2000	270,219	226,831	43,388	628	16.1	9.0	3.3	3.1	0.6
1996–1997	262,976	219,585	43,391	880	16.5	10.5	3.0	2.4	0.5
1991–1992	247,380	204,580	42,800	842	17.3	10.7	3.2	2.9	0.5
1986–1987	235,089	191,396	43,693	821	18.6	11.6	3.7	2.8	0.5
1981–1982	223,719	185,592	38,127	776	17.0	10.3	3.3	3.0	0.5
1975–1976 ³	208,069	171,276	36,793	722	17.7	10.8	3.4	3.0	0.6
1970–1971 ³	201,506	163,800	37,705	730	18.7	11.4	3.1	3.4	0.8
1966–1967	192,233	155,710	36,523	720	19.0	11.6	3.3	3.4	0.7
1961–1962	179,663	144,445	35,218	868	19.6	13.0	3.0	3.1	0.5
1956–1957	164,371	131,648	32,723	841	19.9	13.1	3.2	3.1	0.5
1951–1952	150,494	120,016	30,478	999	20.3	13.2	3.2	3.4	0.4
1947–1948	141,698	113,026	28,672	972	20.2	13.6	3.3	3.1	0.3

¹ The margin of error, or MOE, when added to or subtracted from the total number of movers, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

² Users of ASEC interstate migration data should be cautious when comparing rates from the 1999–2000 to 2004–2005 period with other periods. For additional information, see the note “Impact of Processing on CPS Interstate Migration Rates” at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf>.

³ The 1-year geographic mobility question was not asked from 1972 to 1975 and from 1977 to 1980. In the first half of the 70s (1971 to 1975), a question asked about migration since 1970, and in the second half (1976 to 1980), a question asked about migration since 1975.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, select years, 1948–2009.

rates are among the lowest levels recorded throughout the entire 60-plus years the ASEC has been conducted. Table 1a shows the gradual decline of mover rates in 1-year intervals between 2002 and 2009.⁷ Five-year intervals are provided before 2002, dating back to 1948. Between 1947 and 1948, 20.2 percent of the U.S. population lived at a different residence 1 year ago, compared to 12.5 percent between 2008 and 2009. Moves within the same county remained the most prevalent, accounting for 67.0 percent of all moves in 1948 and 67.3 percent in 2009.⁸ In terms of numbers, the 2009 estimate of 37.1 million represents an increase of approximately 8.4 million movers since the survey began.

⁷ The 2005 mover rate is not statistically different from the 2004 or 2006 mover rate.

⁸ The distribution of moves for those who moved within the same county for 1948 and 2009 is not significantly different.

Even though the size of the U.S. population has more than doubled during this time period, the number of movers has not kept pace. Applying the 1948 mover rate to the 2009 population 1 year and over results in an estimate of 60.1 million movers, over 23 million more than the 2009 estimate.

According to the 2009 ACS estimate, 46.8 million people lived at a different residence 1 year ago. The mover rate was 15.4 percent for the population 1 year and over. These numbers are available in Table 1b, which shows the fluctuation in mover rates using single-year ACS data from 2005 to 2009. The 2009 distribution of movers was 60.9 percent within the same county, 20.8 percent from a different county within the same state, 14.7 percent from a different state, and 3.6 percent from abroad. While

the ACS mover rate is higher than the ASEC's, both data sources show a falling mover rate in recent years (with the exception of the 2008–2009 period, when the ASEC rate actually increased).

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Dividing populations according to characteristics allows researchers to analyze the geographical mobility of segments of the population that may be lost in the aggregate. This allows for an easier examination of differences between groups and the national average. For the purpose of this report, characteristics are divided into major demographic, social, and economic and housing categories. Table 2 provides data on geographical mobility for the U.S. population 1 year and over by selected characteristics, using the 2009 ACS.

Table 1b.

Annual Mover Rates by Type of Move: American Community Survey, 2005 to 2009

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Population 1 year and over	MOE ¹ (±)	Same residence (non-movers)	MOE ¹ (±)	Total movers		Percent moved									
					Number	MOE ¹ (±)	Total	MOE ¹ (±)	Same county	MOE ¹ (±)	Different county				From abroad	MOE ¹ (±)
											Same state	MOE ¹ (±)	Different state	MOE ¹ (±)		
2009. . . .	302,952	35	256,165	259	46,786	256	15.4	0.1	9.4	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.6	0.1
2008. . . .	299,926	31	253,113	253	46,813	250	15.6	0.1	9.2	0.1	3.3	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.6	0.1
2007. . . .	297,545	28	250,026	282	47,519	274	16.0	0.1	9.4	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.6	0.1
2006. . . .	295,345	30	245,678	296	49,667	290	16.8	0.1	9.9	0.1	3.6	0.1	2.7	0.1	0.6	0.1
2005 ² . . .	284,367	32	238,488	332	45,878	324	16.1	0.1	9.9	0.1	3.1	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.6	0.1

¹ The margin of error, or MOE, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

² Residents living in group quarters were not included in 2005.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2005 to 2009.

Demographic Characteristics

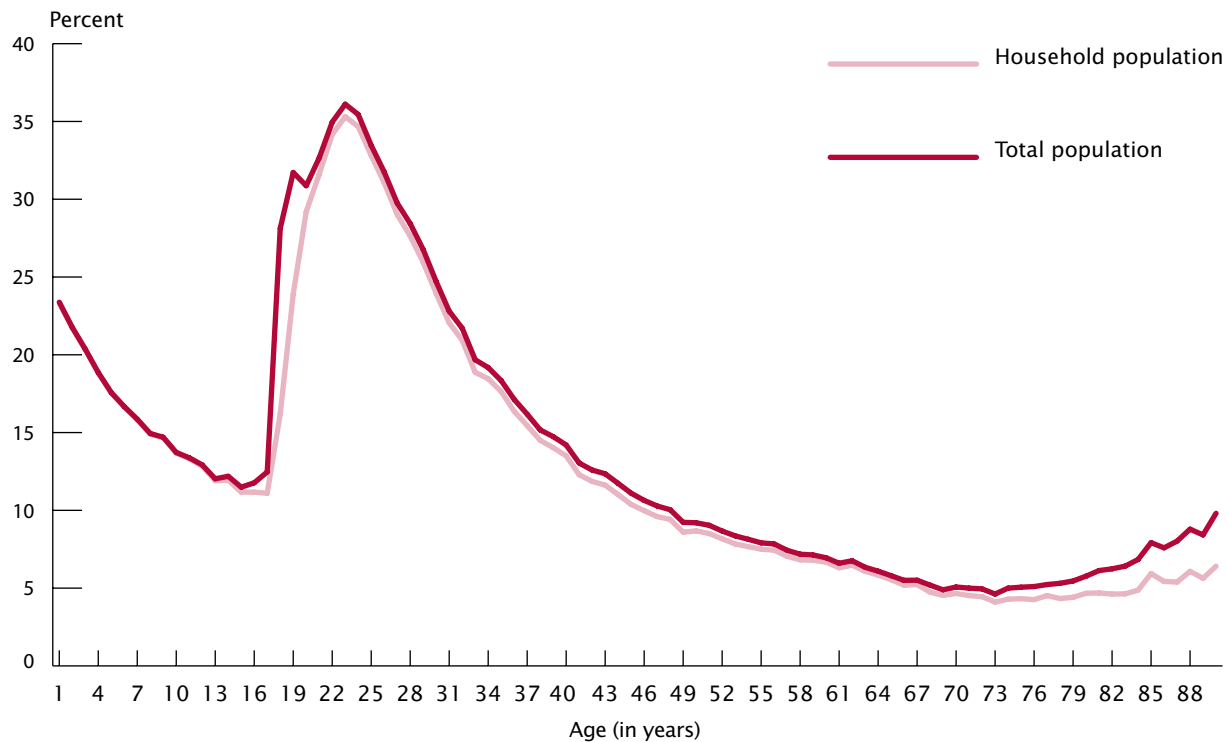
Individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 were the most mobile.

People in the 18 to 24 age range had the highest geographical mobility rate (32.7 percent), followed by

people ages 25 to 29 (30.0 percent). These ages cover busy points in the life course because several major events (college, employment, and marriage) typically occur during these years. Older respondents reported the lowest mover rates,

with 7.1 percent for 55 to 64 year olds, 5.2 percent for 65 to 74 year olds, and 6.6 percent for those 75 years and over. To offer a better idea of how mover rates fluctuate over the life course, Figure 2 displays a line graph showing the

Figure 2.
Mover Rate by Age: 2009
(Population 1 year and over)



Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 2. **Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009**—Con.

Selected characteristic	Total	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same residence (nonmovers)	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Total movers	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same county	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Percent moved				Margin of error ¹ (±)	From abroad	Margin of error ¹ (±)
									Same state	Different county	Different state	Margin of error ¹ (±)			
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS															
Total population															
1 year and over	302,951,552	35,363	256,165,199	259,435	46,786,353	256,011	9.4	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	
Age															
1 to 4 years	17,154,203	37,746	13,536,809	41,362	3,617,394	42,300	14.3	0.2	3.5	0.1	2.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	
5 to 17 years	53,287,776	26,714	45,938,577	64,584	7,349,199	73,829	9.5	0.1	2.2	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.4	0.1	
18 to 24 years	30,557,190	48,655	20,562,579	60,969	9,994,611	59,412	17.5	0.2	8.6	0.1	5.4	0.1	1.2	0.1	
25 to 29 years	21,525,218	27,788	15,057,364	52,339	6,467,854	45,490	18.0	0.2	6.4	0.1	4.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	
30 to 44 years	61,522,572	33,212	51,176,082	82,381	10,346,490	73,335	10.3	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.6	0.1	
45 to 54 years	44,597,268	33,382	40,361,527	58,246	4,235,741	42,031	5.8	0.1	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	
55 to 64 years	34,800,677	18,204	32,334,440	34,688	2,466,237	26,884	4.2	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	
65 to 74 years	20,825,637	20,062	19,741,804	25,540	1,083,833	17,087	2.9	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.1	
75 years and over	18,681,011	14,432	17,456,017	25,521	1,224,994	21,702	4.1	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.1	
Sex															
Male.....	149,303,667	36,571	125,611,664	138,582	23,692,003	136,924	9.4	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.6	0.1	
Female.....	153,647,885	39,134	130,553,535	144,256	23,094,350	138,177	9.4	0.1	3.0	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	
Race															
White alone	227,031,333	130,209	194,634,209	210,754	32,397,124	187,468	8.5	0.1	3.1	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	
Black or African American alone	37,542,269	55,255	30,215,760	88,175	7,326,509	81,535	13.0	0.2	3.8	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,419,565	29,666	1,966,953	28,602	452,612	18,734	11.7	0.6	3.9	0.3	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	
Asian alone	13,610,826	29,012	11,307,731	46,084	2,303,095	39,649	8.8	0.2	2.7	0.1	2.6	0.1	2.8	0.1	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	449,195	10,229	355,576	11,781	93,619	7,929	13.3	1.4	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.7	1.3	0.4	
Some other race alone	14,654,023	126,887	11,950,072	112,210	2,703,951	49,482	13.1	0.3	2.7	0.1	1.7	0.1	1.0	0.1	
Two or more races	7,244,341	76,794	5,734,898	67,686	1,509,443	30,074	13.1	0.3	4.1	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.6	0.1	
Hispanic or Latino Origin															
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	47,316,174	19,154	38,853,918	82,413	8,462,256	82,062	12.5	0.2	2.7	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.9	0.1	
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	197,230,069	30,531	169,992,327	163,307	27,237,742	163,433	7.9	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. **Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Total	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same residence (nonmovers)	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Total movers	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Percent moved													
							Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same county	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Different county		From abroad	Margin of error ¹ (±)							
										Same state	Different state			Margin of error ¹ (±)						
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS																				
Total population 1 year and over	302,951,552	35,363	256,165,199	259,435	46,786,353	256,011	15.4	0.1	9.4	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.6	0.1				
Nativity																				
Native	264,454,204	124,284	224,092,116	267,671	40,362,088	219,450	15.3	0.1	9.3	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.2	0.1				
Foreign born	38,497,348	115,321	32,073,083	106,784	6,424,265	71,783	16.7	0.2	9.9	0.1	2.1	0.1	1.9	0.1	2.7	0.1				
Marital Status																				
Population 15 years and over	245,155,843	34,911	207,829,201	203,761	37,326,642	182,886	15.2	0.1	9.0	0.1	3.3	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.6	0.1				
Never married	78,010,818	162,355	59,913,229	124,748	18,097,589	106,119	23.2	0.1	13.4	0.1	5.6	0.1	3.4	0.1	0.8	0.1				
Now married, except separated	120,756,313	244,816	108,787,316	254,805	11,968,997	88,036	9.9	0.1	5.8	0.1	1.9	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.1				
Separated	5,390,597	45,509	3,914,840	33,980	1,475,757	27,854	27.4	0.4	17.9	0.3	5.8	0.2	3.1	0.1	0.6	0.1				
Widowed	14,954,049	55,064	13,621,225	50,716	1,332,824	23,123	8.9	0.1	5.6	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.1				
Divorced	26,044,066	77,236	21,592,591	68,442	4,451,475	47,590	17.1	0.2	10.6	0.1	3.8	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.3	0.1				
Household or Group Quarters Type																				
Population 1 year and over living in households	294,678,598	35,378	251,902,307	251,473	42,751,251	254,678	14.5	0.1	9.2	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1				
In married-couple family households ..	180,096,335	368,959	161,965,841	145,819	18,130,947	146,034	10.1	0.1	6.0	0.1	1.9	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.5	0.1				
Other family households	66,189,824	319,176	52,607,991	144,761	13,582,214	146,156	20.5	0.2	14.5	0.2	3.4	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1				
Other nonfamily households	48,392,439	127,680	37,328,475	95,118	11,038,090	96,285	22.8	0.2	14.0	0.1	4.8	0.1	3.3	0.1	0.7	0.1				
Group quarters	8,272,954	1,241	4,237,852	35,696	4,035,102	35,696	48.8	0.4	16.7	0.3	21.3	0.4	9.3	0.3	1.4	0.1				
Institutionalized	4,222,433	2,670	2,335,212	20,352	1,887,221	20,352	44.7	0.5	20.0	0.4	21.0	0.4	3.3	0.2	0.5	0.1				
Noninstitutionalized	4,050,521	2,768	1,902,640	30,012	2,147,881	30,012	53.0	0.7	13.4	0.5	21.7	0.6	15.5	0.5	2.4	0.2				
Householder 15 Years and Over	113,616,229	161,397	98,290,663	182,708	15,325,566	68,231	13.5	0.1	8.7	0.1	2.5	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.4	0.1				
Currently married (includes separated and spouse absent)	61,533,840	145,531	55,413,376	147,579	6,120,464	46,249	9.9	0.1	6.1	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.6	0.1	0.4	0.1				
Unmarried (never married, divorced, and widowed) ²	52,082,389	87,610	42,877,287	89,091	9,205,102	54,181	17.7	0.1	11.7	0.1	3.4	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.1				
Partner in an unmarried household ..	6,262,995	40,005	4,571,035	33,037	1,691,960	23,176	27.0	0.3	18.5	0.3	5.3	0.2	2.9	0.1	0.3	0.1				
Not a partner in an unmarried household	45,819,394	85,873	38,306,252	87,094	7,513,142	48,423	16.4	0.1	10.7	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.1				
Educational Attainment																				
Population 25 years and over	201,952,383	73,039	176,127,234	186,481	25,825,149	140,928	12.8	0.1	7.7	0.1	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.5	0.1				
Less than high school graduate	29,785,248	108,900	25,500,661	92,633	4,284,587	46,243	14.4	0.1	9.5	0.1	2.9	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.7	0.1				
High school graduate (or equivalent)	57,551,671	116,233	50,599,896	107,304	6,951,775	62,468	12.1	0.1	7.8	0.1	2.5	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.3	0.1				
Some college or associate's degree ..	58,279,810	120,558	50,593,820	120,086	7,685,990	56,914	13.2	0.1	8.1	0.1	2.8	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.3	0.1				
Bachelor's degree	35,494,367	120,221	31,000,269	120,765	4,494,098	40,869	12.7	0.1	6.8	0.1	2.6	0.1	2.5	0.1	0.7	0.1				
Graduate or professional degree	20,841,287	90,808	18,432,588	89,962	2,408,699	27,368	11.6	0.1	5.6	0.1	2.2	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.8	0.1				

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. **Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009**—Con.

Selected characteristic	Total	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same residence (nonmovers)	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Total movers	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Percent moved											
							Total	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Same county	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Different county		From abroad	Margin of error ¹ (±)				
											Same state	Margin of error ¹ (±)			Different state	Margin of error ¹ (±)		
ECONOMIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS																		
Total population																		
1 year and over	302,951,552	35,363	256,165,199	259,435	46,786,353	256,011	15.4	9.4	0.1	0.1	3.2	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.6	0.1		
Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months																		
Population 1 year and over for whom poverty status is determined	295,028,476	39,222	252,148,730	254,968	42,879,746	251,797	14.5	9.2	0.1	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1		
Below 100% of the poverty level	41,904,533	229,377	30,783,112	166,224	11,121,421	131,612	26.5	17.7	0.2	0.2	4.7	0.1	3.0	0.1	1.1	0.1		
100% to 149% of the poverty level	27,096,696	166,516	21,818,622	150,835	5,278,074	72,552	19.5	13.4	0.2	0.2	3.3	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.6	0.1		
At or above 150% of the poverty level	226,027,247	312,460	199,546,996	360,998	26,480,251	163,805	11.7	7.1	0.1	0.1	2.3	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.4	0.1		
Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)																		
Less than \$10,000	15,534,274	108,632	11,692,338	86,639	3,841,936	57,312	24.7	16.0	0.3	0.3	4.4	0.1	3.0	0.1	1.3	0.1		
\$10,000 to \$14,999	11,929,975	93,449	9,407,655	80,566	2,522,320	53,433	21.1	14.6	0.4	0.3	3.5	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.6	0.1		
\$15,000 to \$24,999	26,666,190	135,905	21,376,457	119,517	5,289,733	77,249	19.8	13.8	0.3	0.2	3.3	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.6	0.1		
\$25,000 to \$34,999	27,850,786	163,668	22,774,433	134,314	5,076,353	72,475	18.2	12.3	0.2	0.2	3.2	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.5	0.1		
\$35,000 to \$49,999	40,039,657	172,199	33,597,649	159,370	6,442,008	85,878	16.1	10.6	0.2	0.2	2.9	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1		
\$50,000 to \$74,999	57,681,444	213,387	49,872,968	186,752	7,808,476	93,541	13.5	8.5	0.1	0.1	2.6	0.1	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.1		
\$75,000 to \$99,999	40,889,289	184,256	36,287,961	165,218	4,601,328	62,182	11.3	6.7	0.1	0.1	2.3	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.4	0.1		
\$100,000 to \$149,999	43,042,005	187,930	38,831,384	182,073	4,210,621	75,526	9.8	5.4	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.5	0.1		
\$150,000 to \$199,999	15,605,037	111,275	14,213,182	108,879	1,391,855	30,442	8.9	4.7	0.2	0.2	1.9	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.5	0.1		
\$200,000 or more	14,550,530	116,775	13,320,640	112,353	1,229,890	31,772	8.5	4.1	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.6	0.1		
Housing Tenure																		
Population 1 year and over living in occupied housing units	294,678,598	35,378	251,927,347	254,665	42,751,251	251,473	14.5	9.2	0.1	0.1	2.7	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.5	0.1		
Owner-occupied	200,494,765	463,873	187,152,899	448,452	13,341,866	108,645	6.7	3.9	0.1	0.1	1.4	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.1		
Renter-occupied	94,183,833	463,609	64,774,448	299,284	29,409,385	246,669	31.2	20.5	0.2	0.1	5.4	0.1	4.3	0.1	1.1	0.1		

¹ The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

² Includes cases in which marital status is separated but unmarried partner is in household.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

mover rate by single year of age for the total population and household population.⁹ As shown in Table 2, the largest proportion of migrations occurs between the ages of 18 and 29. The percentage of movers reaches its peak around the age of 23 and steadily declines until the early 70s, where it rebounds slightly. This upswing is more pronounced for the total population than the household population and can partially be explained by people moving into and between assisted-living facilities.

Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest mover rate of all races.

Mover rates vary considerably by race.¹⁰ Respondents reporting two or more races or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander had the highest mover rates, with 20.8 percent each.¹¹ Non-Hispanic Whites were the least mobile, with 13.8 percent. The mover rate among

⁹ The household population excludes individuals who currently live in group quarters. Examples of group quarters are adult correctional facilities, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities, other health care facilities and residential schools for people with disabilities, college and university student housing, military quarters and military ships, and other noninstitutional facilities.

¹⁰ Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This report shows data using the first approach (race alone). This report refers to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as non-Hispanic White. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. In this report, the term "non-Hispanic White" refers to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. The Census Bureau uses non-Hispanic Whites as the comparison group for other race groups and Hispanics. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups.

¹¹ The mover rate for Black or African American is not significantly different from Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Hispanics of any race was 17.9 percent. These differences in mover rates can be partially explained by age differences within the racial and Hispanic origin categories. The "Logistic Regression" section of this report discusses this point in further detail. Of those who moved, non-Hispanic Whites had the largest percentage that moved from a different county within the same state (23.2 percent). Asians had the highest proportion of movers from abroad (16.8 percent).

Social Characteristics

In terms of marital status, separated respondents were the most mobile.

Of the population 15 years and over, regardless of marital status, 15.2 percent moved within the last year. The two marital statuses that had the most mobile people were separated (27.4 percent) and never married (23.2 percent). Married¹² and widowed respondents reported the lowest mobility rates, with 9.9 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively. People who are partners living in an unmarried household had a mover rate of 27.0 percent, compared to 16.4 percent of people who are roommates or other nonpartners living together in a household.

Most movers with an educational attainment level of less than high school graduate moved within the same county.

For the population 25 years and over, total mover rates were similar among the various levels of educational attainment. People who did not graduate from high school¹³ were the most mobile group, with 14.4 percent, and the least mobile group was graduate or professional degree holders, with 11.6 percent. Even though mover rates were

¹² The married marital status excludes separated respondents.

¹³ Or equivalent.

similar between these levels, the type of move varied considerably. Same county moves were more common among people who did not graduate from high school, whereas those with graduate or professional degrees tended to move from a different county. Sixty-six percent of all moves for respondents who did not graduate from high school were within the same county, and 29.1 percent were from a different county. By comparison, 48.2 percent of moves by those with a graduate or professional degree were within the same county, and 44.8 percent were from a different county. Graduate or professional degree holders also had the largest percentage of movers from abroad (7.1 percent), trailed by those with a bachelor's degree (5.5 percent).

Economic and Housing Characteristics

As an individual's poverty level increased, the likelihood of moving decreased.

Of the population for whom poverty is determined, 14.5 percent lived in a different residence 1 year ago.¹⁴ People below 100 percent of the poverty level had the highest mover rate, with 26.5 percent. Individuals between 100 percent and 149 percent of the poverty level had the second highest mover rate (19.5 percent), while those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level had the lowest rate (11.7 percent). A similar relationship exists between geographical mobility and household income. The mover rate decreases from a high of 24.7 percent for households making less than \$10,000 to 8.5 percent for households earning \$200,000 or more.

¹⁴ Poverty is not determined for people not living in households, nor for children under 15 years who are not related to the householder.

People living in renter-occupied housing units were 4.7 times more mobile than those living in owner-occupied housing units.

Of the population 1 year and over living in households, 14.5 percent lived in a different residence between 2008 and 2009. Consistent with results shown in past geographical mobility reports, respondents living in renter-occupied housing units had a high rate of geographical mobility. Nearly one-third (31.2 percent) currently living in renter-occupied housing units moved to a different residence, compared to 6.7 percent living in owner-occupied housing units.

STATE-TO-STATE MIGRATION

The number of movers between states declined from 7.2 million in 2008 to 6.9 million in 2009, according to the ACS. This

continued the downward trend of interstate movers seen since the ACS started collecting data for the total population—households and group quarters—in 2006, when 7.9 million persons moved between states. Table 3 shows the largest immigration and outmigration flows for each state. These flows usually involve a neighboring state, but there are some exceptions. The largest inflow to Florida, for instance, was from New York. Table 4 lists the top ten state-to-state migration flows for people 1 year and over, as reported by the ACS from 2006 through 2009. Throughout the 4 years, the largest state-to-state flows were fairly consistent. The top seven flows in 2009 were within the top ten for 2006, but all with significant decreases. A notable exception was the flow from Louisiana to Texas. This was the largest state-to-state migration flow in 2006 in the aftermath

of Hurricane Katrina, but was not among the largest flows in subsequent years.

Three of the four most populous states (California, Florida, and New York) were responsible for the top eight state outmigration flows in 2009. The largest state-to-state migration flow was from California to Texas, with 61,270 movers.¹⁵ Flows from California to Arizona, Washington, and Nevada were also on the top ten list. These four states combined (Texas, Arizona, Washington, and Nevada) were the destination of 34.9 percent of the domestic migrants from California. People from California represented 36.6 percent of the interstate movers to Nevada, 20.8 percent to Arizona, 22.2 percent to Washington, and 12.1 percent to Texas.

¹⁵ The flow from California to Texas was not significantly different from New York to Florida.

Table 3.

Largest Migration Inflow and Outflow by State: 2009

(Population 1 year and over)

State	Largest inflow was from	Size of inflow	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Largest outflow was to	Size of outflow	Margin of error ¹ (±)
Alabama	Georgia Florida	20,889 15,799	3,782 3,202	Georgia	18,302	3,493
Alaska	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	California	46,921	5,970	California	34,040	5,056
Arkansas	Texas	14,036	2,630	(X)	(X)	(X)
California	(X)	(X)	(X)	Texas	61,270	6,014
Colorado	California Texas	21,223 19,214	3,248 3,557	Texas California	19,748 16,798	5,184 2,956
Connecticut	New York	19,313	3,499	(X)	(X)	(X)
Delaware	Pennsylvania	9,068	2,425	(X)	(X)	(X)
District of Columbia	Maryland	9,960	2,471	Maryland	21,189	3,944
Florida	New York	53,482	6,261	Georgia	43,170	6,119
Georgia	Florida	43,170	6,119	Florida	33,835	5,069
Hawaii	California	11,820	2,846	California	13,042	2,986
Idaho	Washington California	11,906 10,008	2,740 2,555	(X)	(X)	(X)
Illinois	Indiana Florida	19,672 17,472	3,359 3,479	(X)	(X)	(X)
Indiana	Illinois	28,173	4,299	Illinois	19,672	3,359
Iowa	Illinois	11,981	2,320	Illinois	11,109	3,452
Kansas	Missouri	24,307	3,964	Missouri	18,757	3,084

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.

Largest Migration Inflow and Outflow by State: 2009—Con.

(Population 1 year and over)

State	Largest inflow was from	Size of inflow	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Largest outflow was to	Size of outflow	Margin of error ¹ (±)
Kentucky	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Louisiana	Texas	24,857	3,994	Texas	26,438	4,025
Maine	Massachusetts New Hampshire	3,518 3,395	1,081 1,031	(X)	(X)	(X)
Maryland	Virginia District of Columbia	22,050 21,189	3,569 3,944	Virginia Pennsylvania	26,226 18,826	4,014 2,811
Massachusetts	New York	22,409	3,867	(X)	(X)	(X)
Michigan	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Minnesota	Wisconsin	17,189	2,577	Wisconsin	16,937	2,646
Mississippi	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Missouri	Illinois Kansas	21,245 18,757	3,799 3,084	Kansas	24,307	3,964
Montana	Washington	4,701	1,163	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nebraska	(X)	(X)	(X)	Iowa	7,380	1,935
Nevada	California	39,762	4,657	California	32,333	5,352
New Hampshire	Massachusetts	14,984	3,216	Massachusetts	10,775	2,430
New Jersey	New York	41,692	4,980	Pennsylvania New York	38,000 36,630	5,221 5,045
New Mexico	(X)	(X)	(X)	Texas	15,279	2,741
New York	New Jersey Florida	36,630 30,875	5,045 4,819	Florida	53,482	6,261
North Carolina	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
North Dakota	Minnesota	13,564	2,052	Minnesota	7,160	1,660
Ohio	(X)	(X)	(X)	Florida	21,346	4,283
Oklahoma	Texas	32,437	5,060	Texas	25,784	4,080
Oregon	California	32,088	4,316	Washington	26,687	4,105
Pennsylvania	New Jersey New York	38,000 31,898	5,221 4,091	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rhode Island	Massachusetts	6,947	1,445	Massachusetts	6,316	1,543
South Carolina	North Carolina	24,468	4,184	North Carolina	22,374	3,955
South Dakota	Minnesota	5,445	1,646	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tennessee	Georgia Florida	15,255 14,221	3,539 2,921	(X)	(X)	(X)
Texas	California	61,270	6,014	California Oklahoma	35,104 32,437	5,123 5,060
Utah	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Vermont	(X)	(X)	(X)	New York	4,407	1,283
Virginia	(X)	(X)	(X)	North Carolina	27,787	4,088
Washington	California	42,693	5,917	California	33,408	4,711
West Virginia	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	Illinois Minnesota	21,139 16,937	3,512 2,646	Minnesota	17,189	2,577
Wyoming	Colorado Utah	4,636 3,832	1,386 1,456	Colorado	5,630	2,796
Puerto Rico	Florida	11,603	2,735	Florida	14,783	4,366

(X) Neither a single flow nor two flows were statistically the largest.

¹ The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 4.
The Ten Largest State-to-State Migration Flows: 2006 to 2009
 (Population 1 year and over)

Year and rank	Migration flow	Estimate ¹	Margin of error ² (±)
2009 ACS			
	Movers between states ³	6,897,773	73,469
1	California to Texas	61,270	6,014
2	New York to Florida	53,482	6,261
3	California to Arizona	46,921	5,970
4	Florida to Georgia	43,170	6,119
5	California to Washington	42,693	5,917
6	New York to New Jersey	41,692	4,980
7	California to Nevada	39,762	4,656
8	Florida to Texas	38,150	5,339
9	New Jersey to Pennsylvania	38,000	5,221
10	New Jersey to New York	36,630	5,045
2008 ACS			
	Movers between states ³	7,238,473	71,643
1	California to Texas	73,174	4,866
2	New York to Florida	58,145	4,507
3	California to Arizona	51,253	4,295
4	Florida to Georgia	50,222	4,006
5	New York to New Jersey	48,055	4,175
6	Georgia to Florida	46,743	3,789
7	California to Nevada	42,615	3,577
8	Texas to California	42,451	3,389
9	Florida to North Carolina	42,061	3,429
10	New York to Pennsylvania	41,606	2,869
2007 ACS			
	Movers between states ³	7,506,867	63,665
1	California to Texas	78,310	5,052
2	Florida to Georgia	77,098	5,354
3	California to Arizona	65,684	5,961
4	New York to Florida	63,312	3,201
5	California to Nevada	53,489	4,354
6	New York to New Jersey	52,294	3,961
7	New York to Pennsylvania	47,476	2,902
8	Florida to North Carolina	44,954	3,543
9	California to Washington	43,361	3,351
10	Texas to Louisiana	40,743	3,092
2006 ACS			
	Movers between states ³	7,947,060	73,469
1	Louisiana to Texas	118,552	9,858
2	New York to Florida	87,576	7,883
3	California to Arizona	85,497	8,213
4	California to Texas	81,572	7,350
5	Florida to Georgia	75,182	8,524
6	California to Nevada	59,811	6,768
7	New York to New Jersey	54,781	5,341
8	California to Washington	53,034	6,203
9	California to Oregon	51,295	4,509
10	Texas to California	49,027	6,617

¹ Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from estimates for other flows not listed in the table.

² The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

³ Includes the District of Columbia.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2006 to 2009.

The other largest flows were from New York to Florida and New Jersey; from Florida to Georgia and Texas; from New York to New Jersey; and from New Jersey to Pennsylvania and New York.¹⁶

The percentage of people who lived in a different state 1 year ago is shown in Figure 3. At least 4 percent of people who lived in Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, Washington, D.C., or Wyoming in 2009 moved from another state within the last year.¹⁷ The states that fell below 2 percent of people who lived in a different state 1 year ago were California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.¹⁸ All of the states below 2 percent are located in the Midwest and Northeast regions of the country, with the lone exception of California.

LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Table 5 provides the results of a logistic regression model of geographical mobility on select demographic, social, and economic characteristics for respondents 18 years and over, using 2009 ACS data.¹⁹ Logistic regression is used because the dependent variable—geographical mobility—is binary (moved/did not move). Similar to other multivariate techniques, logistic regression statistically controls for other variables included in the model. For interpretation purposes, people with characteristics that have an odds ratio higher than

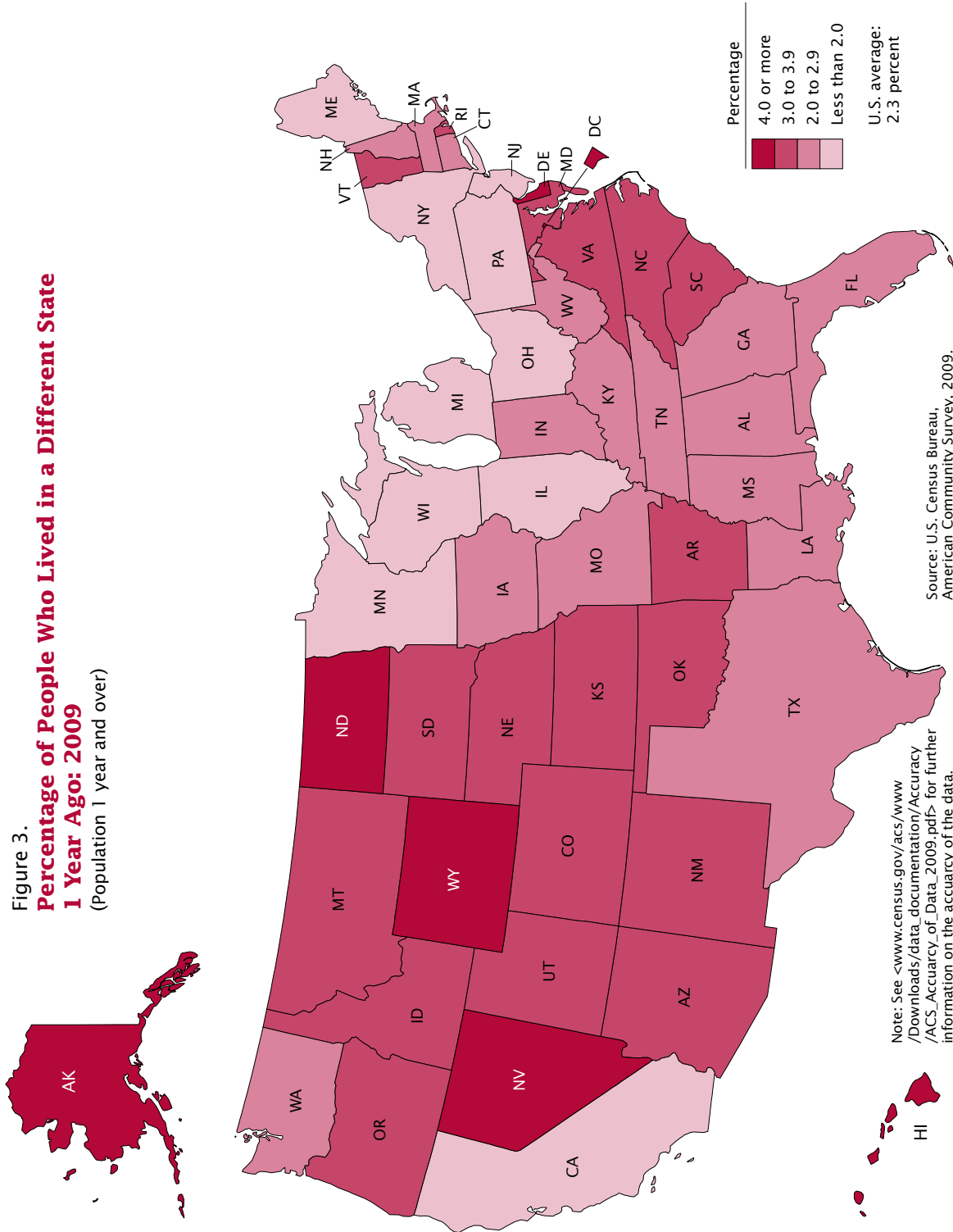
¹⁶ For additional state-to-state migration flow tables and reports, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's state-to-state migration flows Web page at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/acs/state-to-state.html>.

¹⁷ The following states were not significantly different from 4 percent: Hawaii, Nevada, Delaware, Idaho, and South Dakota.

¹⁸ Maine, Louisiana, Texas, and Indiana were not significantly different from 2 percent.

¹⁹ Only respondents who gave valid responses to all variables in the logistic regression model are included in this analysis.

Figure 3.
Percentage of People Who Lived in a Different State
1 Year Ago: 2009
 (Population 1 year and over)



Note: See www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

1.00 have a higher likelihood of geographical mobility than those in the comparison group. By contrast, values lower than 1.00 suggest a lower likelihood to move than the comparison group.

The focal independent variable for the current study is housing tenure and its impact on geographical mobility. When all other variables listed in the model are controlled, the odds ratio suggests respondents currently living in renter-occupied housing units are 5 times more likely to have moved than those in owner-occupied housing units. The fact that the odds ratio is high demonstrates how strong a predictor housing tenure is on the likelihood of moving. No other variable in the model has an odds ratio near this magnitude.

The first block of variables in the model includes the demographic characteristics of age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Compared with 18 to 29 year olds, people in all three age ranges (30 to 44; 45 to 64; and 65 and over) had lower odds of migration. These findings are consistent with the data on residence 1 year ago by age displayed in Figure 2 and the 2009 ACS selected characteristics shown in Table 2. Based on the odds ratios, people ages 30 to 44 years old had 73.5 percent lower odds of moving, ages 45 to 64 had 84.8 percent lower odds of moving, and ages 65 and over had 49.1 percent lower odds of moving than 18 to 29 year olds. Females were less likely to move than males.

With controls for the various social, economic, and demographic characteristics in place, several racial categories differed significantly from Whites. For example, controlling age allows for a better comparison of geographical mobility across races. Any age differences that were causing the mover rate

to vary by race are now taken into consideration. Respondents who are Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or two or more races between the ages of 18 to 29 are compared to White respondents of the same age. With this in mind, the results of the logistic regression suggest that Blacks and respondents of some other race both had lower odds of moving than Whites (21.7 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively). The only racial group with significantly higher odds of moving than Whites were respondents who reported two or more races. Respondents of Hispanic origins were less likely to move than non-Hispanics.

Social characteristics are the second block of variables in the likelihood model of moving. Native born respondents were 1.2 times more likely to move than those foreign born.²⁰ Respondents with marital statuses of separated, widowed, and divorced all had higher odds of geographical mobility than never married individuals, although married respondents showed no significant difference from those never married. Separated adults were 2 times more likely to move than their never married counterparts. Widowed and divorced respondents also had higher odds of moving than never married individuals, at 40.0 percent and 55.6 percent, respectively. Mobility by educational attainment was evenly divided; people with education levels below some college or who have associate's degrees had lower odds of geographical mobility, and people with higher levels of education had higher odds.

²⁰ Native born people are U.S. citizens at birth. All people with the following citizenship status are native born: (1) born in the United States; (2) born in Puerto Rico or a U.S. outlying area; or (3) born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or parents. All other people are foreign born.

Economic characteristics are the third and final block of characteristics included in the model. Households within the three income groups (\$50,000 to \$74,999; \$75,000 to \$99,999; and \$100,000 or more) were significantly less likely to have moved than households earning between \$35,000 and \$49,999. Households in the remaining income groups (less than \$10,000; \$10,000 to \$24,999; and \$25,000 to \$34,999) had higher odds of moving than households earning between \$35,000 and \$49,999.

DISTANCE MOVED AND REASONS FOR MOVING

The ASEC has been conducted for over 60 years. Data from the ASEC provide a historical picture of national and regional migration patterns. The ASEC data also show how different variables influence the likelihood that a person moved and provide a distinct understanding of who moves, how far, and why.

Between 2008 and 2009, about 40 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles.

Distance moved is a unique characteristic calculated using the ASEC. This measure is only calculated for intercounty moves (that is, moves from one county to another), which can vary greatly in terms of the distance involved. In the ASEC, distance moved is calculated from the population center (the "centroid") of the origin county to the destination county.²¹ Table 6 provides the distance of intercounty moves by year for 2003 (the first year distance moved was calculated) through 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, 39.9 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles

²¹ More details on this process can be found on page 10, footnote 14, of the Current Population Report titled "Geographical Mobility: 2002 to 2003" at <www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-549.pdf>.

Table 5.

Likelihood Model of Moving in the Past 12 Months: 2009

Characteristic	Parameter coefficient	Standard error	Odds ratio	Margin of error
Intercept	-1.924	0.015	(NA)	(NA)
Housing Tenure				
(Reference: owner-occupied housing unit)				
Renter-occupied housing unit	1.623	0.008	*5.07	0.0785
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Age				
(Reference: 18 to 29 years old)				
30 to 44 years	-1.327	0.008	*0.27	0.0045
45 to 64 years	-1.886	0.012	*0.15	0.0035
65 years and over	-0.675	0.007	*0.51	0.0065
Sex				
(Reference: male)				
Female	-0.045	0.004	*0.96	0.0070
Race				
(Reference: White alone)				
Black or African American alone	-0.245	0.010	*0.78	0.0155
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	-0.052	0.031	0.95	0.0575
Asian alone	0.023	0.018	1.02	0.0355
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	-0.044	0.070	0.96	0.1310
Some other race alone	-0.084	0.017	*0.92	0.0305
Two or more races	0.059	0.018	*1.06	0.0370
Hispanic or Latino Origin				
(Reference: any race, not Hispanic or Latino)				
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	-0.177	0.011	*0.84	0.0180
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS				
Nativity				
(Reference: foreign born)				
Native born	0.193	0.010	*1.21	0.0235
Marital Status				
(Reference: never married)				
Married	-0.007	0.007	0.99	0.0145
Separated	0.708	0.015	*2.03	0.0600
Widowed	0.336	0.015	*1.40	0.0420
Divorced	0.442	0.008	*1.56	0.0255
Educational Attainment				
(Reference: some college or associate's degree)				
Less than high school graduate	-0.155	0.008	*0.86	0.0140
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	-0.115	0.005	*0.89	0.0095
Bachelor's degree	0.117	0.007	*1.12	0.0160
Graduate or professional degree	0.159	0.009	*1.17	0.0205
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS				
Household Income in the Past 12 Months				
(Reference: \$35,000 to \$49,999)				
Less than \$10,000	0.090	0.012	*1.10	0.0260
\$10,000 to \$24,999	0.070	0.010	*1.07	0.0205
\$25,000 to \$34,999	0.038	0.011	*1.04	0.0230
\$50,000 to \$74,999	-0.035	0.012	*0.97	0.0215
\$75,000 to \$99,999	-0.065	0.013	*0.94	0.0230
\$100,000 or more	-0.081	0.012	*0.92	0.0220
Somers' D ¹	0.587	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Number of unweighted cases	3,307,535	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not applicable.

* Significant at .05 percent.

¹ Somers' D is an ordinal measure of association. Values range between -1.0 and 1.0. The stronger the relationship, the higher the absolute value of Somers' D.Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 6.
Distance of Intercounty Move by Year: 2003–2009

Characteristic	2002–2003	2003–2004	2004–2005	2005–2006	2006–2007	2007–2008	2008–2009
Intercounty movers 1 year and over (in thousands)	15,356	15,171	15,287	13,690	12,299	11,009	11,034
Distance of intercounty move (in percent)							
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 50 miles	32.3	30.8	30.5	40.9	41.9	40.4	39.9
50 to 199 miles	22.2	24.5	24.6	21.3	21.0	19.2	21.8
200 to 499 miles	20.7	21.0	19.7	15.3	14.7	14.6	14.2
500 miles or more	24.9	23.7	25.3	22.6	22.5	25.8	24.1
Distance of intercounty move (in miles)							
Mean	392.2	382.4	419.3	361.8	358.4	400.4	389.3
Median	155.3	154.6	156.4	90.5	83.0	103.2	97.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003–2009.

in distance. The longest distance moved category (500 miles or more) had the second largest share, at 24.1 percent. Both of these categories led distance moved in 2008 as well, with 40.4 percent and 25.8 percent, respectively. None of the 2008 estimates were significantly different from 2009 except moves 50 to 199 miles, which increased from 19.2 percent to 21.8 percent.

The number of intercounty movers decreased by 4.3 million between 2003 and 2009.

The last geographical mobility report described distance moved using 2003 data. In 2003, 15.4 million people completed an intercounty move. In 2009 the number of intercounty movers was 11.0 million, representing a decline of 4.3 million.²² Long distance moves comprised fewer intercounty moves between 2003 and 2009. Combining the categories of 200 to 499 miles and 500 or more miles into a measure of long distance moves shows that 45.6 percent of intercounty moves were long distance in 2003, compared to 38.3 percent

²² At least some of this decline may be due to the previously mentioned processing change. The difference in the number of intercounty movers for 2003 and 2009 was 4.3 million instead of 4.4 million due to rounding.

of moves in 2009. Changes in distance moved over time can also be tracked by analyzing means and medians. While no significant difference existed between the mean distance moved between 2003 and 2009, more people were moving shorter distances in 2009 than in 2003, a result that is consistent with changes in the distribution of moves less than 50 miles during these years.

Housing-related reasons were the most common reasons given for moving.

Another unique measure collected by the ASEC is reason for moving. Respondents are asked to select from a list of common reasons for moving, with an option to write-in other reasons for responses that do not fit the choices provided. Table 7 shows reason for move by type of move (intracounty versus intercounty) for the 1999 and 2009 ASEC.²³ The most cited reasons for moving in 2009 were housing-related (47.1 percent), followed by family-related (26.5 percent), employment-related (17.0 percent), and other (9.4 percent).

²³ Reason for move was first asked in 1998. Additions and changes were made to the reasons in 1999, so comparisons between 1998 and other years are discouraged.

Within these major categories, most moved because they “wanted a new or better home/apartment” (14.9 percent), for “other family reason” (11.4 percent), for a “new job or job transfer” (8.2 percent), or “other reasons” (4.5 percent). Reason for move was less evenly distributed among the major reason categories in 1999. About half (51.0 percent) of all reasons given were housing-related, while 25.6 percent were family-related, 16.0 percent were employment-related, and 7.4 percent were other.²⁴ Part of the change in housing-related reasons can be attributed to 21.5 percent selecting “wanted new or better home/apartment” and 11.4 percent choosing “other housing reason.” These two reasons were more frequently cited by movers in 1999 than 2009. However, “wanted cheaper housing” became more important over the decade; that estimate increased from 6.2 percent in 1999 to 11.4 percent in 2009.

²⁴ The percentage of respondents who gave family-related reasons or employment-related reasons was not statistically different between 1999 and 2009.

Table 7.

Reason for Move by Type of Move: 1998 to 1999 and 2008 to 2009

Reason for move	Percent distribution by reason					
	1998 to 1999			2008 to 2009		
	Total	Intra-county	Inter-county	Total	Intra-county	Inter-county
Total domestic movers 1 year and over (in thousands)	41,207	25,268	15,939	36,017	24,984	11,034
Family-related reasons	25.6	25.4	25.9	26.5	26.5	26.6
Change in marital status	6.5	6.5	6.6	5.4	5.5	5.4
To establish own household	7.8	9.7	4.8	9.7	11.6	5.4
Other family reason	11.3	9.2	14.5	11.4	9.5	15.8
Employment-related reasons	16.0	5.6	32.6	17.0	8.9	35.5
New job or job transfer	9.2	1.4	21.5	8.2	2.1	22.0
To look for work or lost job	1.3	0.3	2.9	2.3	1.0	5.4
To be closer to work/easier commute	3.2	3.0	3.6	5.2	5.0	5.6
Retired	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.8
Other job-related reason	1.8	0.7	3.6	1.0	0.7	1.8
Housing-related reasons	51.0	64.7	29.3	47.1	57.2	24.3
Wanted own home, not rent	8.1	10.0	5.0	5.6	6.6	3.6
Wanted new or better home/apartment	21.5	28.2	10.8	14.9	18.6	6.5
Wanted better neighborhood/less crime	4.0	4.4	3.3	5.2	6.2	2.9
Wanted cheaper housing	6.2	7.8	3.6	11.4	13.9	5.8
Other housing reason	11.4	14.3	6.7	10.0	11.9	5.5
Other reasons	7.4	4.3	12.3	9.4	7.5	13.6
To attend or leave college	1.8	0.5	4.0	2.4	1.5	4.5
Change of climate	0.8	0.1	1.9	0.6	0.1	1.5
Health reason	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.4	2.0
Natural disaster	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	0.4	0.5	0.2
Other reason	3.7	2.7	5.2	4.5	4.1	5.5

(NA) Not applicable. The natural disaster reason for move was added in 2006.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1999 and 2009.

Based on reason for move responses, intracounty movers placed more importance on housing than employment.

Among intracounty movers, housing-related reasons dominated, with 57.2 percent of respondents giving these reasons for moving in 2009. "Wanted new or better home/apartment" led the housing-related reasons category and all single reasons given, with 18.6 percent. Among intercounty movers, employment-related reasons were highest, with 35.5 percent. "New job or job transfer" led the employment-related reasons category and is the highest selected single reason, with 22.0 percent. For both types of movers, family-related reasons were the second most reported, with 26.6 percent for intracounty and 26.6

percent for intercounty movers.²⁵ "To establish own household" and "other family reason" were the most common responses given within the family-related reasons category for intracounty movers, with 11.6 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively. Intercounty movers gave "other family reason" as the most prevalent reason within the family-related reasons category, with 15.8 percent.

Employment-related reasons were the most common among intercounty movers, especially those who moved 50 miles or more.

Figure 4 combines the major reason for move categories with the distance of intercounty move measure, using data from the 2009

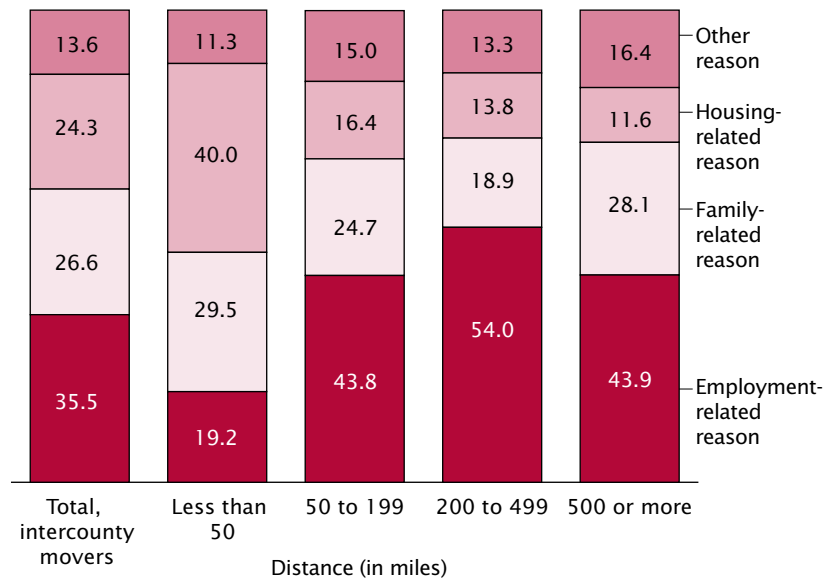
²⁵ The difference in percentage who responded with family-related reasons for intercounty and intracounty moves was not statistically significant.

ASEC. Employment-related reasons are the most reported category for all intercounty movers 1 year and over, with 35.5 percent. Housing-related and family-related reasons trail behind with 24.3 percent and 26.6 percent, respectively. Employment-related reasons are most commonly selected among people who move 200 to 499 miles (54.0 percent), 500 or more miles (43.9 percent), and 50 to 199 miles (43.8 percent).²⁶ People who moved shorter distances, less than 50 miles, cited housing (40.0 percent) and family-related (29.5 percent) reasons more often than employment (19.2 percent). Housing-related reasons were used far less often among longer distance movers; these reasons comprised 13.8

²⁶ The percentages of intercounty movers who gave employment-related reasons and moved 500 or more miles or 50 to 199 miles were not statistically different.

Figure 4.
Reason for Move by Distance of Intercounty Move: 2009

(Percent distribution of intercounty movers 1 year and over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009.

percent of moves 200 to 499 miles and 11.6 percent of moves 500 or more miles.²⁷

APPENDIX

The ASEC provides a historical perspective on geographical mobility dating back to 1948. Throughout this period the survey has been conducted annually.²⁸ Most of the data are collected one week in March²⁹ through computer-assisted telephone and personal interviews, with additional households

²⁷ The percentages of movers who gave housing-related reasons and moved 200 to 499 miles or 500 or more miles were not statistically different.

²⁸ The 1-year geographic mobility question was not asked from 1972 to 1975 and from 1977 to 1980. In the first half of the 70s (1971 to 1975), a question asked about migration since 1970, and in the second half (1976 to 1980), a question asked about migration since 1975.

²⁹ The interview week for the ASEC is the week containing the 19th of the month.

interviewed in February and April to achieve the necessary sample size.³⁰ The 2009 sample consists of about 97,000 households, representing the civilian³¹ noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Mobility data from the ASEC are available at the national and regional levels.³²

The ACS was first conducted in four test counties in 1996. The sample expanded during the testing phase and achieved full implementation in 2005; every county or county equivalent in the United States and Puerto Rico was covered,

³⁰ Prior to 2001, all interviews were conducted during the month of March and, on rare occasions, early April.

³¹ Members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post are included, but all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

³² For more information about the Current Population Survey operations, see "Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology, Technical Paper 66" at <www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/tp-66.pdf>.

with about 250,000 housing units sampled each month. The next year, the sample was expanded to include residents living in group quarters. The large sample size allows reasonable estimates to be published for a wide range of geographies,³³ such as congressional districts, counties, school districts, and places. Housing units in each monthly sample are mailed questionnaires during the first month of collection. If there is no response from a housing unit by the second month, the Census Bureau attempts to get the information by a computer-assisted telephone interview. A subsample of housing units that did not respond are visited in the third month for computer-assisted personal interviews. Thus, there is a 3-month period in which the survey can be completed.

The wording of the geographical mobility questions are similar on both surveys. The questions as they appear on the 2009 ACS paper questionnaire are shown in Figure 5.³⁴ The ASEC asks "Was the reference person living in this house (or apartment) one year ago?" If the person moved within the United States, the respondent is asked to provide state, county, place, zip code of residence 1 year ago, and whether the person lived inside city limits or not. If the person moved from abroad, country of residence 1 year ago is asked.³⁵

³³ Geographical mobility data are not available below the state level for group quarters.

³⁴ The ACS began collecting street-level addresses of respondents in 2008 to improve the precision of determining where a person lived 1 year ago. For more information, see "2006 American Community Survey Contest Test Report P. 3: Evaluation Report Covering Residence 1 Year Ago (Migration)" at <www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content_test/P3_Residence_1_Year_Ago.pdf>.

³⁵ A facsimile of the ASEC Supplement Questionnaire is available on pages D-93 and D-94 of the "2009 ASEC Technical Documentation" at <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar09.pdf>.

Besides the slight differences in questions, there are other dissimilarities between the surveys. These include the use of three interview modes in the ACS (mail, phone, and personal) and only two in the ASEC (personal and phone); group quarters coverage (the ASEC includes only civilian noninstitutional group quarters population), the process in which the master address file (MAF) is updated; residence rule definitions; data editing and imputation procedures; selection of controls; and the calculation of weights.³⁶

Another critical difference for understanding and comparing these two data sources is the actual collection and reference periods that the two surveys use. These differences ensure that ACS and ASEC estimates will not match; both sources track the “pace of mobility,” but at different levels.

Figure 6 shows and compares the collection and reference periods for the ACS and ASEC. The collection period for the ASEC occurs during mid-February to mid-April of the survey year, with the data being gathered within a 1-week period for any given housing unit. The ACS data is collected from the beginning of the survey year until the end of the survey year. Obtaining data from a housing unit may take up to 3 months.

The reference period, the time frame in which a respondent moves, is the year prior to the

³⁶ For more information on the differences of migration estimates between the ACS and ASEC, see “Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Geographic Mobility: 2004” at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2007/2007_Koerber_01.pdf>.

Figure 5.
Reproduction of the Migration Questions from the 2009 American Community Survey

15 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?

Person is under 1 year old → *SKIP to question 16*

Yes, this house → *SKIP to question 16*

No, outside the United States and Puerto Rico – *Print name of foreign country, or U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to question 16*

No, different house in the United States or Puerto Rico

b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?

Address (Number and street name)

Name of city, town, or post office

Name of U.S. county or municipio in Puerto Rico

Name of U.S. state or Puerto Rico **ZIP Code**

completion of a survey. The ASEC data are collected in the months of February, March, and April. Thus, for the ASEC, data cover a period from mid-February of the year before the survey year to mid-April of the survey year, a span of about 14 months. ACS data are collected monthly January through December, so the ACS data cover about 24 months.³⁷

³⁷ Additional information on data collection can be found in “Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology, Technical Paper 66” at <www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/tp-66.pdf> and “American Community Survey: Design and Methodology” at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/survey_methodology/acs_design_methodology.pdf>.

The net result of these differences in the surveys is that “annual” ACS migration rates are higher than those obtained from the ASEC.

The ACS mobility rate for people 1 year and over living in households (excluding residents living in group quarters) is 15.9 in 2006, 15.0 in 2007, 14.6 in 2008, and 14.5 in 2009.

As shown in Table 8, the ACS estimates of the proportion of persons who moved in the past year have varied from the ASEC estimate in each year. During this period, the ASEC instrument and operations were relatively stable. The ACS, on the other hand, underwent numerous changes, including a major sample expansion in 2005, the addition of institutional populations (likely to be much more mobile than the noninstitutional populations) in 2006, and changes to the survey questions in 2008. Through this the ACS estimate has been higher and has stayed higher.

All of the design differences likely contribute in some way to the overall difference in the estimate itself.

SOURCES OF THE DATA

The data in this report are from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Some estimates are based on data obtained by the ACS and ASEC in earlier years.

The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters (that is,

Figure 6.
**Collection and Reference Periods for the
 2009 ACS and 2009 ASEC**

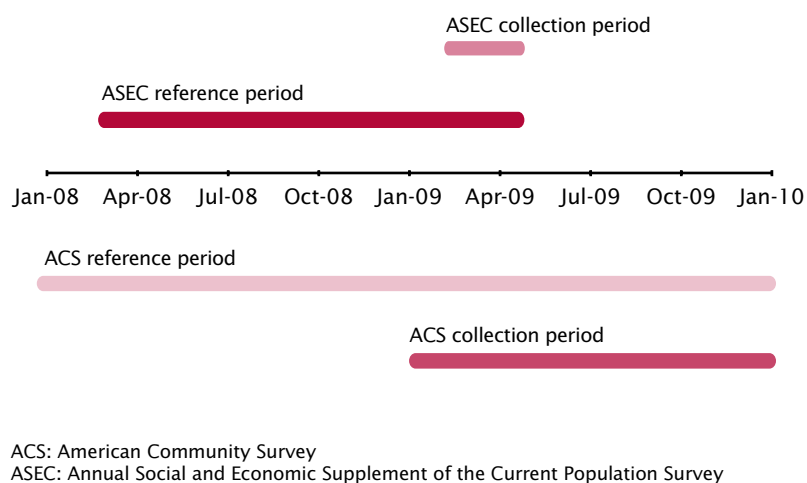


Table 8.
One-Year U.S. Mobility Rate: ASEC and ACS
 (Population 1 year and over)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ASEC	13.9	13.7	13.2	11.9	12.5
ACS	*16.1	16.8	16.0	15.6	15.4

* Residents living in group quarters were not included in 2005.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey and Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2005 to 2009.

the resident population). The group quarters population consists of the institutionalized population (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized population (most of whom are in college dormitories).

The population represented (the population universe) in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized

population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March 2009 (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2009. For analysis of annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2009 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March supplement to the CPS in prior years.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports, to minimize these errors.

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar09.pdf or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS,

see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detailed geographical mobility/migration tables from the 2009 ASEC are available on the Census Bureau's Web site <www.census.gov>. Once on the site, click "Subjects A to Z," select "M," then select "Migration/Geographic Mobility." From the "Geographical Mobility/Migration" page, use the quick link for "CPS Data on Geographical Mobility/Migration." Under the "Geographic Mobility 2008 to 2009" subheading select "Detailed Tables."

To access ACS tables about geographical mobility/migration, visit the American Factfinder on the Census Bureau's Web site at <factfinder.census.gov>.

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For additional information, contact the U.S. Census Bureau Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 (toll free) or visit <ask.census.gov>.

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