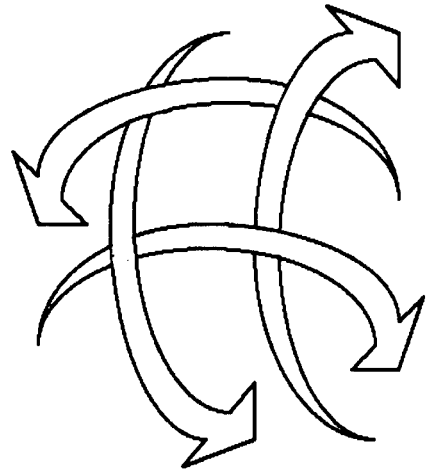

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

**Population
Characteristics**

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**Geographical
Mobility:
March 1983
to March 1984**

by Donald C. Dahmann



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SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
 - B** Base less than 75,000.
 - NA** Not available.
 - X** Not applicable.
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Geographical Mobility: March 1983 to March 1984

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information on the geographical mobility of Americans between March 1983 and March 1984. The text highlights some of the changes that occurred, with particular reference to the volume and rate of movement, changes in the types of movement, the characteristics of movers, and changes in the patterns of population redistribution attributable to geographical mobility. The report's detailed data tabulations provide information on these and other subjects. All data are from the Current Population Survey, which is conducted monthly by the Bureau of the Census. Further information on the March 1984 Current Population Survey is contained in the appendix of this report; general information on the survey is contained in *The Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology* (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978).

As the data in this report are derived from a survey, estimates are subject to sampling variability. Caution should be exercised, particularly when estimates are based on a small number of cases and when comparisons are made between numbers of similar magnitude. Information on the sampling variability of the estimates in this report is contained in Appendix B. Source and Reliability of Estimates.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of persons moving in the United States between March 1983 and March 1984 increased significantly over the previous 1-year period of March 1982 to March 1983. During the 1983-84 period, 39.4 million persons moved to a different residence, an increase of 2 million persons from the 1982-83 period.
- The rate of movement during the 1983-84 period (17.3 percent) was also higher than that in the 1982-83 period (16.6 percent). This increase in the overall mobility rate represents a reversal of the decline in mobility that occurred during the 1970's (as represented by the Current Population Survey rates of 17.7 for 1975-76 and 18.7 for 1970-71).
- The number of nonlocal movers (persons who moved between counties) increased more than the number of local movers during the 1983-84 period.
- The survey suggests that metropolitan areas had a net inflow of migrants from nonmetropolitan areas in 1983-84, a reversal of the pattern for the 1970's.
- The West Region of the country did not experience net immigration from other regions of the United States between

1983 and 1984, reversing, at least temporarily, a decades' old trend of movement to the West. The West did, however, have net immigration from abroad.

- The South now stands as the only region of the country experiencing population growth through migration from other regions of the country.
- Both the number of movers and rate of movement increased during the 1983-84 period over the 1982-83 period among persons aged 30 to 44, Whites, employed persons, persons with a high school education, and residents of metropolitan areas; no other groups experienced statistically significant increased mobility.

VOLUME OF MOVEMENT

The number of persons who moved to a different residence in the United States between March 1983 and March 1984 increased significantly over the number of persons moving during the previous 1-year period (March 1982 to March 1983). An estimated 39.4 million persons resided in a different dwelling in March 1984 than one year earlier, an increase of 2 million movers over the previous year's number of 37.4 million (table A).

RATE OF MOVEMENT

Not only did the volume of movement increase between the 1982-83 and 1983-84 periods, but so too did the rate at which Americans moved. During the 1983-84 period, 17.3 percent of all persons 1 year of age and older moved to a different dwelling, compared with 16.6 percent during the 1982-83 period.

The increased rate of geographical mobility occurring between the 1982-83 and 1983-84 periods represents only the third time that the Current Population Survey has recorded an increase in the Nation's geographical mobility rate from one year to the next. The only other statistically significant increases occurred between the 1949-50 and 1950-51 periods—when the rate increased from 19.1 to 21.2 percent—and between the 1953-54 and 1954-55 periods—when the rate increased from 19.3 to 20.4 percent.

TYPES OF MOVEMENT

Geographical mobility takes a variety of forms, ranging from local moves by individuals changing apartments in the same building or moving to a new house in the same community,

Table A. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates, by Type of Movement for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1950's to 1980's

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total movers	Percentage of total population 1 year and older at different dwelling							
		Total	Residing in United States at beginning of period						Residing outside the United States at beginning of period
			Total	Different house, same county	Different county				
					Total	Same State	Different State	Different region	
1983-84	39,379	17.3	16.8	10.4	6.4	3.6	2.8	1.5	0.5
1982-83	37,408	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	1.4	0.4
1981-82	38,127	17.0	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.6	0.5
1980-81	38,200	17.2	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	1.5	0.6
1975-76	36,793	17.7	17.1	10.7	6.4	3.4	3.0	1.6	0.6
1970-71	37,705	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8
1965-66	37,586	19.8	19.2	12.7	6.6	3.3	3.3	1.8	0.5
1960-61	36,533	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	1.7	0.6
1955-56	34,040	21.1	20.4	13.7	6.8	3.6	3.1	1.7	0.6
1950-51	31,464	21.2	21.0	13.9	7.1	3.6	3.5	(NA)	0.2

NA Not available.

to nonlocal moves between rural areas and cities in the same State, to interstate, coast-to-coast, and moves to the United States from abroad. As in other years, most moves during the 1983-84 period were local, i.e., consisted of various forms of residential mobility within the same local area. Local moves in the Current Population Survey are accounted for by moves within the same county: 23.7 million persons made such moves during the 1983-84 period, or about 60.1 percent of all movers.

Nonlocal movers, who in general undertake long-distance and work-related moves, are represented in the Current Population Survey by persons moving between counties. Nonlocal moves of all types included approximately 16 million persons or about 40 percent of all movers. The various forms of nonlocal mobility included 8.2 million moves to a different county within the same State and 6.4 million interstate moves (table B), and 3.5 million moves among the four major regions of the country. An additional 1.1 million persons moved to the United States from a residence outside the country.

The number of local movers remained essentially unchanged between the 1983 and 1984 surveys, while nonlocal movement of all types increased by 1.2 million persons. There is also some evidence to suggest that the volume of interregional moves increased by about 350,000. This increase in nonlocal mobility along with the relative stability of local movement indicates that the increased levels of geographical mobility during 1984 were accounted for in large part by persons relocating for employment-related reasons and by moving between different communities or labor markets.

Paralleling this increase in the volume of nonlocal movement is an increase in the rate of such moves. The overall rate of nonlocal geographical mobility increased from 6.4 percent of

all persons one year of age and older in 1983 to 6.9 percent in 1984. Table A provides selected single-year rates of geographical mobility for each of these various types of movement during the past four decades.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

The Average Mover During the 1983-84 Period

Geographically mobile persons may be distinguished from other Americans in a number of ways. Overall rates of geographical mobility were higher among some groups than others during the 1983-84 period. They were particularly high among the following groups: young adults, military personnel, the unemployed, persons with higher levels of educational attainment, central-city residents, and those residing in the West and South Regions of the country (table B). The bases for these generalizations from the March 1984 Current Population Survey, for differences between local and nonlocal movers, and changes since the previous year (1982-83 period) are presented in the following sections.

All Movers

Age. Geographical mobility in the United States peaks among young adults in their twenties, especially the latter twenties, and tends to decline thereafter. Many lifecycle events associated with early adulthood contribute to the high rate of geographical mobility exhibited by this age group, including leaving school, entry into the labor force, early career mobility, establishment of a separate household, and residence in rental

housing. Such factors led to a geographical mobility rate between 1983 and 1984 of 33 percent among 20-to-29-year-olds. Geographical mobility rates declined with increasing age thereafter to a low of about 5 percent among persons aged 65 and over. Patterns of mobility among children paralleled those of their parents— younger-aged children, particularly in the pre-school years, moved more frequently than older children: about 26 percent of children under 5 years of age

moved between 1983 and 1984 versus about 17 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 19.

Labor force status. Consideration of the labor force status of persons reveals the very high geographical mobility of persons in the Armed Forces. In 1984, about 53 percent of the military personnel interviewed in the Current Population Survey lived in a different residence than in 1983. Actual rates of

Table B. Selected Characteristics of Persons 1 Year and Older, by Mobility Status and Type of Movement: March 1983 to March 1984

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Total 1 year and older	Non- movers	Type of geographical movement					From abroad
			Total	Local movement (within county)	Nonlocal movement			
					Total	Between counties		
						Within State	Between States	
NUMBER								
All persons	228,323	188,853	39,379	23,659	14,641	8,198	6,444	1,079
Age:								
1-4 years	14,371	10,707	3,664	2,295	1,271	706	566	97
5-19 years	52,060	43,385	8,675	5,364	3,055	1,638	1,417	254
20-29 years	42,053	28,185	13,868	8,198	5,278	3,065	2,214	391
30-44 years	49,185	40,636	8,549	5,091	3,190	1,710	1,480	267
45-64 years	44,273	40,865	3,408	1,994	1,363	796	567	51
65 years and over	26,291	25,073	1,218	717	484	283	204	17
Sex:								
Male	110,554	90,820	19,734	11,607	7,504	4,193	3,311	623
Female	117,678	98,033	19,645	12,052	7,138	4,005	3,133	455
Race and Spanish origin:								
White	194,926	161,864	33,062	19,390	12,920	7,222	5,697	753
Black	27,145	22,304	4,841	3,500	1,244	679	565	97
Spanish origin ¹	14,601	11,344	3,257	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	274
Educational attainment:								
Total 18 years and over	169,472	140,735	28,737	16,943	11,010	6,255	4,755	785
Elementary : 0 to 8 years	21,150	18,838	2,312	1,575	640	409	231	97
High school: 1 to 4 years	89,661	74,247	15,414	9,449	5,554	3,254	2,300	412
College: 1 year or more	58,661	47,650	11,011	5,919	4,815	2,591	2,224	277
5 years or more	11,883	9,829	2,054	1,060	932	494	438	62
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over	176,703	147,052	29,651	17,503	11,322	6,426	4,896	826
Civilian labor force	111,943	90,356	21,587	13,180	8,013	4,653	3,360	393
Employed	102,731	83,577	19,154	11,747	7,090	4,188	2,901	317
Unemployed	9,212	6,779	2,433	1,434	924	465	459	317
Military	879	417	462	161	196	34	162	76
Not in the labor force	63,881	56,279	7,602	4,161	3,113	1,739	1,374	328
Type of settlement:								
Metropolitan area	155,267	127,640	27,627	17,145	9,612	5,273	4,339	871
Central city	63,855	50,987	12,868	8,481	3,942	2,167	1,774	446
Outside central city	91,412	76,653	14,759	8,663	5,670	3,106	2,564	425
Nonmetropolitan area	72,965	61,213	11,752	6,514	5,029	2,924	2,105	208
Region of residence:								
Northeast	48,532	42,712	5,820	3,560	2,047	1,154	893	213
Midwest	57,382	48,414	8,968	5,708	3,118	1,848	1,270	141
South	77,436	62,755	14,681	8,415	5,883	3,223	2,661	383
West	44,882	34,973	9,909	5,976	3,593	1,973	1,620	341

See footnote at end of table.

Table B. Selected Characteristics of Persons 1 Year and Older by Mobility Status and Type of Movement: March 1983 to March 1984 (Continued)

Characteristic	Total 1 year and older	Non- movers	Type of geographical movement					
			Total	Local movement (within county)	Nonlocal movement			From abroad
					Between counties		From States	
					Total	Within State		
PERCENT								
All persons	100.0	82.7	17.3	10.4	6.4	3.6	2.8	0.5
Age:								
1-4 years	100.0	74.5	25.5	16.0	8.8	4.9	3.9	0.7
5-19 years	100.0	83.3	16.7	10.3	5.9	3.1	2.7	0.5
20-29 years	100.0	67.0	33.0	19.5	12.6	7.3	5.3	0.9
30-44 years	100.0	82.6	17.4	10.4	6.5	3.5	3.0	0.5
45-64 years	100.0	92.3	7.7	4.5	3.1	1.8	1.3	0.1
65 years and over	100.0	95.4	4.6	2.7	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.1
Sex:								
Male	100.0	82.1	17.9	10.5	6.8	3.8	3.0	0.6
Female	100.0	83.3	16.7	10.2	6.1	3.4	2.7	0.4
Race and Spanish origin:								
White	100.0	83.0	17.0	9.9	6.6	3.7	2.9	0.4
Black	100.0	82.2	17.8	12.9	4.6	2.5	2.1	0.4
Spanish origin ¹	100.0	77.7	22.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1.9
Educational attainment:								
Total 18 years and over	100.0	83.0	17.0	10.0	6.5	3.7	2.8	0.5
Elementary: 0 to 8 years	100.0	89.1	10.9	7.4	3.0	1.9	1.1	0.5
High school: 1 to 4 years	100.0	82.8	17.2	10.5	6.2	3.6	2.6	0.5
College: 1 year or more	100.0	81.2	18.8	10.1	8.2	4.4	3.8	0.5
5 years or more	100.0	82.7	17.3	8.9	7.8	4.2	3.7	0.5
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over	100.0	83.2	16.8	9.9	6.4	3.6	2.8	0.5
Civilian labor force	100.0	80.7	19.3	11.8	7.2	4.2	3.0	0.4
Employed	100.0	81.4	18.6	11.4	6.9	4.1	2.8	0.3
Unemployed	100.0	73.6	26.4	15.6	10.0	5.0	5.0	0.8
Military	100.0	47.4	52.6	18.3	22.3	3.9	18.4	11.9
Not in the labor force	100.0	88.1	11.9	6.5	4.9	2.7	2.2	0.5
Type of settlement:								
Metropolitan area	100.0	82.2	17.8	11.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	0.6
Central city	100.0	79.8	20.2	13.3	6.2	3.4	2.8	0.7
Outside central city	100.0	83.9	16.2	9.5	6.2	3.4	2.8	0.5
Nonmetropolitan area	100.0	83.9	16.1	8.9	6.9	4.0	2.9	0.3
Region of residence:								
Northeast	100.0	88.0	12.0	7.3	4.2	2.4	1.8	0.4
Midwest	100.0	84.4	15.6	9.9	5.4	8.2	2.2	0.2
South	100.0	81.0	19.0	10.9	7.6	4.2	3.4	0.5
West	100.0	77.9	22.1	13.3	8.0	4.4	3.6	0.8

¹Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

movement for those in the Armed Forces may be even higher as military personnel residing in group quarters (barracks, bachelor officers quarters, etc.) on military installations are not interviewed in the Current Population Survey.

Persons in the civilian labor force (as of March 1984) were significantly less mobile than military personnel: approximately 19 percent of the civilian labor force moved between 1983 and 1984. Currently employed persons were less mobile, with 19 percent moving, than those who were unemployed in 1984, with 26 percent moving. Least mobile of persons of working age (16 and older) were those not in the labor force, such as

individuals who were retired, students, persons remaining in the home, and the discouraged unemployed, with 12 percent moving.

Education. In general, persons with higher levels of educational attainment were more likely to move than others during the 1983-84 period: 11 percent of persons whose formal schooling ended at the eighth grade or lower moved, compared with 17 percent of persons with at least some schooling at the secondary level (grades 9-12) and 19 percent of college graduates (4 years of college). Persons with 5 years or

more of college training moved somewhat less frequently than college graduates, 17 percent versus 19 percent, perhaps reflecting the increasing trend toward obtaining post-collegiate schooling after labor force entry, when persons are more tied to the local community and schooling is obtained locally.

Sex. Males were only slightly more likely to have moved than females: 18 percent of males moved during the 1983-84 period, compared with 17 percent of females.

Race and Spanish origin. Whites and Blacks moved at essentially the same rate during the 1983-84 period: 17 percent of Whites moved and 18 percent of Blacks moved during the year. Persons of Spanish origin (who may be either White or Black) moved more often than all Whites or all Blacks: 22 percent changed their place of residence in the 1983-84 period.

Type of settlement. In general, residents of the Nation's metropolitan areas were more likely to have moved than those residing in nonmetropolitan areas in 1984: 18 percent of metropolitan residents moved during the 1983-84 period, compared with 16 percent of nonmetropolitan residents. Within metropolitan areas, geographical mobility was significantly higher among residents of central cities, where 20 percent moved, than among those residing outside central cities in established, older suburbs, in new suburban areas, or in exurban areas, where 16 percent moved.

Region of residence. Overall geographical mobility rates differed rather dramatically among the various regions of the country. Overall mobility, including all forms of movement, was highest in the West, where 22 percent of all persons moved during the 1983-84 period, followed by the South, with 19 percent movers, the Midwest, with 16 percent movers, and the Northeast, with 12 percent movers. Local mobility rates (within-county moves) within each of the four regions paralleled overall differences among the four regions. Nonlocal mobility was roughly equivalent in the West and South and higher in those two regions than in either the Midwest or the Northeast.

Local and Nonlocal Movers

Local movers (persons moving to a different residence within the same county) differed from nonlocal movers (those moving between counties) in a number of ways during the 1983-84 period. The rates at which persons moved locally were higher among persons in their twenties, Blacks, persons with a high school education, persons in the military, persons who were unemployed, residents of metropolitan areas and particularly their central cities, and residents of the West, than others. Males and females moved locally with about the same frequency. Nonlocal, long-distance movers, were typically in their twenties and in the military as with local movers, but also were more frequently males than females, Whites than

Blacks, persons of higher than lower educational attainment, and residents of nonmetropolitan areas and Southerners or Westerners rather than Northerners.

Changes Between the 1982-83 and 1983-84 Periods

Several significant changes occurred in the types of persons that moved during the 1982-83 and 1983-84 periods. The number of persons participating in any type of move increased among those who were between the ages of 30 and 44 (from 7.6 to 8.5 million), Whites (from 31.1 to 33.1 million), those employed in the civilian labor force (from 17.1 to 19.2 million), persons with a high school education (from 10.6 to 11.5 million), residents of metropolitan areas (from 25.6 to 27.6 million), and those residing in the South (from 13.8 to 14.7 million). The number of persons moving between March 1983 and March 1984 that were unemployed as of March 1984 declined from the previous year (from 3.2 to 2.4 million); their rate of movement remained unchanged at about 26.4 percent.

GEOGRAPHY OF MOVEMENT

Settlement System Mobility

During any one year, the overwhelming majority of movers relocate to another dwelling unit within the same type of settlement area.¹ During the 1983-84 period, 71 percent of the

38.3 million moves within the United States were made within the same type of area: 9.1 million moves occurred within central cities of metropolitan areas, 8.7 million moves within the noncentral city portions of metropolitan areas, and 9.3 million moves within nonmetropolitan areas.

The remaining 29 percent of all moves, involving 11.2 million persons, occurred among the three components of the settlement system. These moves between settlement areas resulted in two distinct net flows: (1) a net flow of persons from nonmetropolitan areas to metropolitan areas and (2) the deconcentration—or suburbanization—of persons out of central cities. Each of the net flows (figure 1) resulted from a set of much larger gross flows in and out of each area (table C).

The first of these two net flows during the 1983-84 period suggests a re-emergence of the long-standing trend of urbanization, or metropolitanization, of settlement in the United States, i.e., urban and metropolitan areas growing at the expense of rural and nonmetropolitan areas. It contrasts with

¹The tabulations in this report provide information on three components (areas) of the Nation's settlement system: central cities of metropolitan areas, the core political jurisdictions of metropolitan areas; the area outside central cities of metropolitan areas, generally equated with suburban settlement; and nonmetropolitan area, generally equated with various forms of rural settlement. Metropolitan areas in this report, currently referred to as metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's), utilize metropolitan areas, then referred to as standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's), delineated at the time of the 1970 census. The Nation's metropolitan area as currently delineated (June 30, 1984) includes an additional 34 MSA's and 178,022 square miles of territory beyond that which existed when the sample utilized in this report was established.

Table C. Movement Among Components of the Settlement System: March 1983 to March 1984

(Numbers in thousands)

Area moved from	Total	Area moved to		
		Central city of metropolitan area	Outside central city of metropolitan area	Nonmetropolitan area
1983-84:				
Total movers	11,212	3,337	5,617	2,258
Central city of metropolitan area	5,086	(X)	4,045	1,041
Outside central city of metropolitan area	3,517	2,300	(X)	1,217
Nonmetropolitan area	2,609	1,037	1,572	(X)
1982-83:				
Total movers	9,985	2,733	5,186	2,066
Central city of metropolitan area	4,964	(X)	3,910	1,054
Outside central city of metropolitan area	2,932	1,920	(X)	1,012
Nonmetropolitan area	2,809	813	1,276	(X)
1975-76:				
Total movers	9,880	2,650	4,753	2,477
Central city of metropolitan area	4,605	(X)	3,499	1,106
Outside central city of metropolitan area	3,193	1,827	(X)	1,371
Nonmetropolitan area	2,082	828	1,254	(X)

X Not applicable.

the trend of the 1970's when the dominant migration flows were out of metropolitan areas (figure 1).² During the 1983-84 period, the flow of 2.6 million persons from nonmetropolitan to metropolitan areas was countered by a flow of 2.3 million persons in the opposite direction, resulting in an apparent net loss of 351,000 nonmetropolitan residents to metropolitan areas.

The second net flow—deconcentration within metropolitan areas—continues the well-established suburbanization trend, which has resulted in the loss of residents from the older, more central, residential neighborhoods of the Nation's metropolitan areas for decades. Flows during the 1983-84 period of 3.3 million into and 5.1 million out of the central cities of metropolitan areas resulted in a net loss of 1.7 million central city residents. Flows of 5.6 million into and 3.5 million out of those portions of metropolitan areas located outside central cities resulted in a net gain of 2.1 million suburban and exurban residents.

Interregional Mobility

The effects of migration on the regional redistribution of the Nation's population are represented in the Current Population Survey by migration among the four census regions: the

Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. A total of 3.5 million persons moved among the four major regions of the country during the 1983-84 period, a number somewhat larger than during the previous year (3.2 million persons) but essentially unchanged from the mid-1970's when 3.3 million persons moved during the 1975-76 period. The individual flows among the four census regions are shown in table D.

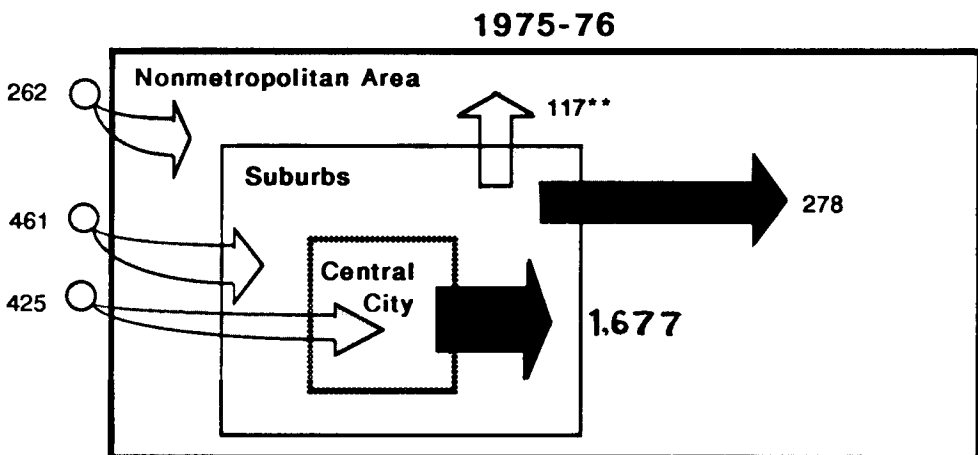
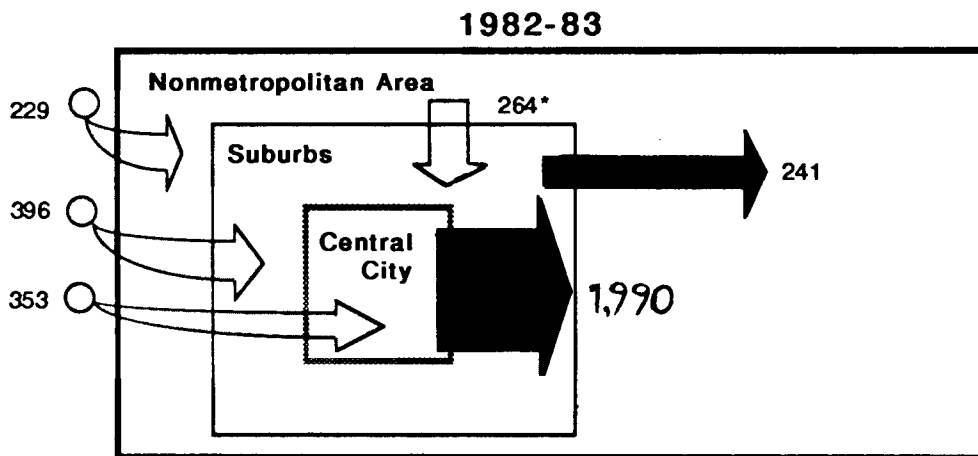
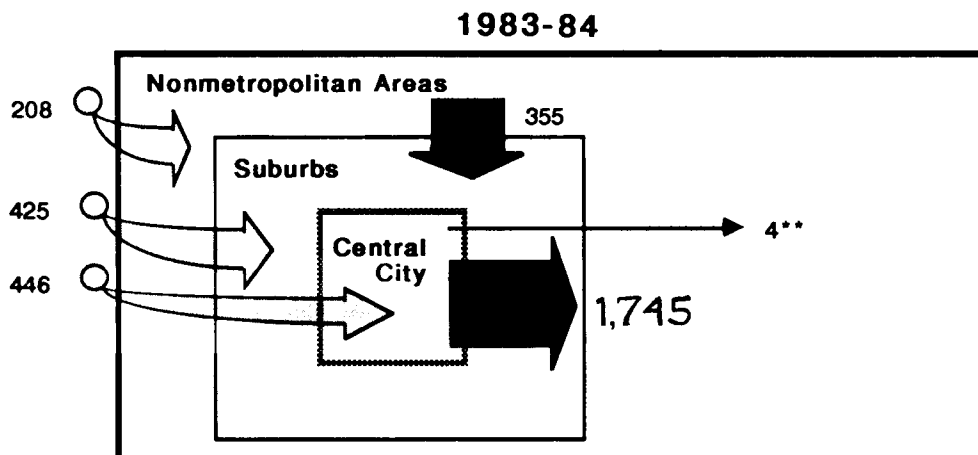
The net flows among the four regions for the 1983-84, 1982-83, and 1975-76 periods suggests several new interregional migration patterns appear to be emerging during the 1980's (figure 2). During the 1983-84 period, the Midwest stood as the region that fed the largest number of migrants to other portions of the country. It lost, for instance, 624,000 persons to the South, while gaining only 359,000 migrants from there, for a net loss of 265,000 residents. This was the Nation's largest net flow of interregional migrants during the 1983-84 period. In fact, no other net interregional migration stream was statistically significant at the 2 standard-error level, and only the net outflow of 103,000 persons from the Northeast to the South was statistically significant at the 1.6 standard-error level.

Driven in large measure by the Midwest-to-South flow of migrants, the South was the only region of the Nation that experienced net immigration from other areas of the country during the 1983-84 period. During this most recent 1-year period, the South gained an estimated 426,000 new residents from other regions of the country.

Differences between the current situation and the 1970's may be seen when these figures are compared with events during the 1975-76 period, the only mid-1970's period for which single-year migration data are available. During the 1975-76 period, Western states received significant net flows of migrants from all other regions of the country: 89,000 persons from the Northeast, 138,000 persons from the Midwest, and 140,000 persons from the South. By the 1983-84 period,

²Brian J. L. Berry and Donald C. Dahmann, "Population Redistribution in the United States in the 1970s," in Brian J. L. Berry and Lester P. Silverman, eds., *Population Redistribution and Public Policy*. Washington, DC: National Academy of Sciences, 1980; John F. Long, *Population Deconcentration in the United States*, Bureau of the Census Special Demographic Analyses, CDS-81-5. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Mobility of the Population of the United States: March 1970 to March 1975*. Current Population Reports, Series, P-20, No. 285. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1975; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Geographical Mobility: March 1975 to March 1980*. Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 368. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981.

Figure 1. Net Settlement-System Flows: 1983-84, 1982-83, 1975-76
(Numbers in thousands)



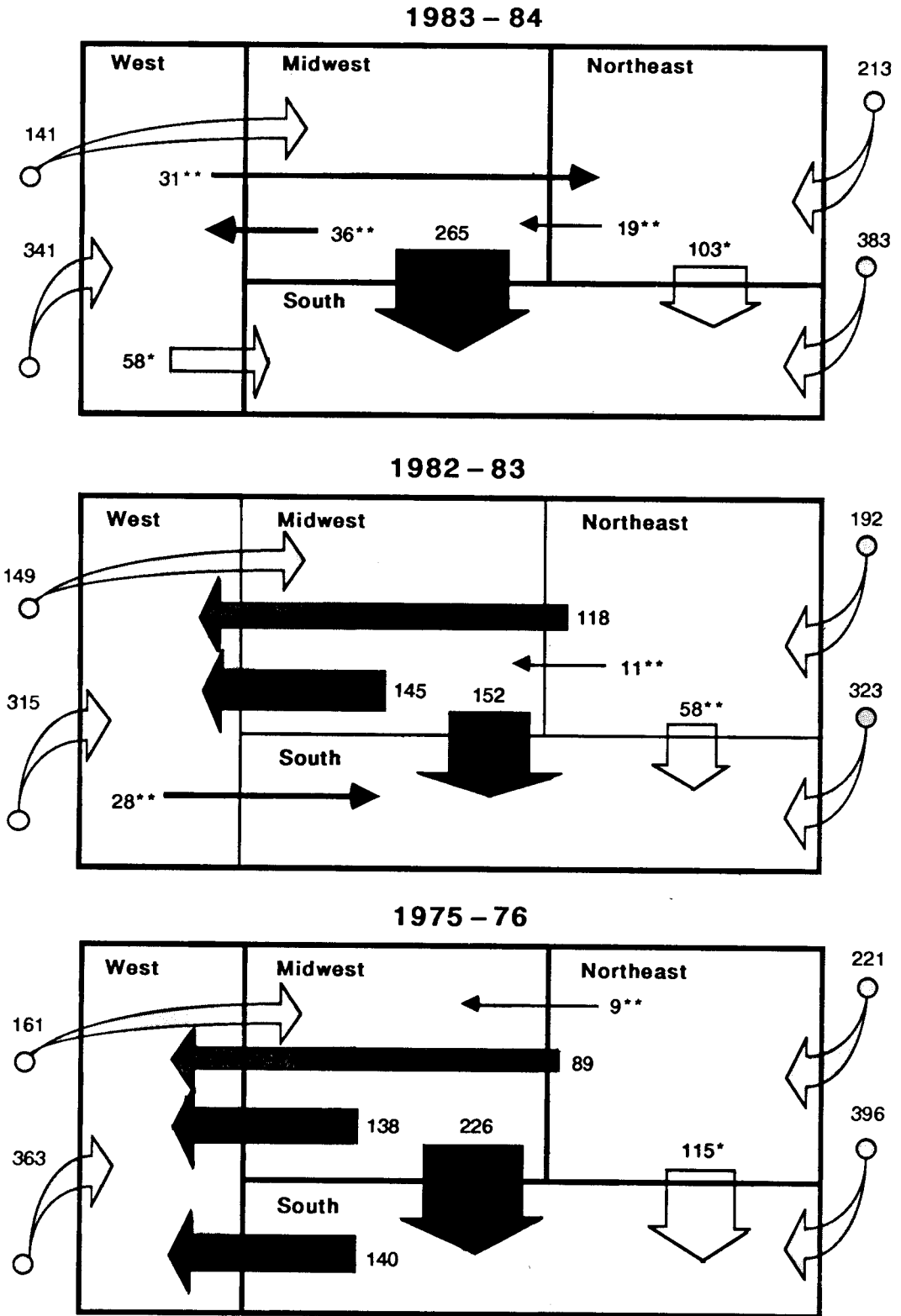
Arrows originating with a dot represent flows from abroad.

* Not statistically different from zero at one standard error level.

** Not statistically different from zero at two standard error level.

Figure 2. Net Interregional Flows: 1983-84, 1982-83, 1975-76

(Numbers in thousands)



Arrows originating with a dot represent flows from abroad.

* Not statistically different from zero at one standard error level.

** Not statistically different from zero at two standard error level.

Table D. Movement Among the Census Regions: 1983-84, 1982-83, and 1975-76

Region moved from	Total	Region moved to			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1983-84:					
Total movers	3,540	487	820	1,399	834
Northeast	578	(X)	124	355	99
Midwest	1,102	105	(X)	624	373
South	973	252	359	(X)	362
West	887	130	337	420	(X)
1982-83					
Total movers	3,192	439	661	1,211	881
Northeast	626	(X)	97	324	205
Midwest	947	86	(X)	522	339
South	973	266	370	(X)	337
West	646	87	194	365	(X)
1975-76					
Total movers	3,279	453	668	1,191	967
Northeast	666	(X)	135	361	170
Midwest	1,023	126	(X)	535	362
South	990	246	309	(X)	435
West	600	81	224	295	(X)

X Not applicable.

however, each of these flows had diminished to the level of being statistically equivalent to zero, i.e., no net population gains being made as a result of migration from other areas of the United States.

Two points should be emphasized about these apparent changes. First, the West did not experience significant population growth in 1984 as a result of net immigration from other regions of the country, a radical change from the past several decades. Second, population losses as a result of net out-migration from the Northeast and Midwest to the West have diminished to essentially zero.

While the net flow of migrants from other regions to the West appears to have ceased, movement to the South has increased significantly over that occurring during the 1970s. The South now stands (during the 1983-84 period) as the only region of the country experiencing population gains through the interregional flow of migrants, a gain of 426,000 persons.

It is appropriate to compare these Current Population Survey figures with estimates derived of the Bureau's population estimates program, which provides information on births, deaths, and net migration for States on an annual basis. Estimates of net migration for the four census regions for 1980 to 1984 are a loss of 246,000 persons in the Northeast, a loss of 1.4 million in the Midwest, a gain of 2.8 million in the South, and a gain of 1.6 million in the West³. These independent estimates show net immigration to the West for the entire 1980-84 period, whereas the 1984 Current Population Survey shows no net immigration for the last year (1983-84) of the 4-year period for which estimates data are available.

Movement from Abroad

During the 1983-84 period, the Current Population Survey estimates that 1.1 million persons moved to the United States from abroad.⁴ This stream of migrants to the United States includes both immigrants and Americans returning from residence overseas, which include certain military personnel returning from overseas assignments. The flow of persons from abroad in 1984 remained essentially the same as in 1983 (1.0 million persons) and during the 1970s (1.1 million persons in 1976).

The largest flow of movers from abroad was to metropolitan areas, where about equal numbers came to reside within and outside central cities—446,000 and 425,000 persons, respectively (figure 1). While the flow of migrants from abroad was largest to metropolitan areas, it is important to note that these migrants added significant numbers of residents to each of the three types of settlement area: within and outside central cities of metropolitan areas and in nonmetropolitan areas. This inflow of migrants was especially important in central cities of metropolitan areas, where it helped reduce the impact of a loss of 1.7 million residents in 1984 that was due to net outmigration. The numbers of migrants from abroad to each of the three types of settlement area remained essentially unchanged from the 1970's.

In terms of their regional destinations, movers from abroad closely paralleled the patterns of internal migrants. Significantly more moved to the Nation's growing periphery of the South

³U.S. Bureau of the Census, *State Population Estimates, by Age and Components of Change: 1980 to 1984*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 920, 1985.

⁴As the Current Population Survey is a sample of households residing in the United States, it provides no measure of emigration (movement out of the country). For the manner in which emigration is taken into account in national population estimates, see *Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: 1980 to 1983*, Current Population Report, Series P-25, No. 949, 1984.

(383,000) and the West (341,000) than to the core regions of the Northeast (213,000) and the Midwest (141,000). Contrary to the generally limited effect of internal migration on regional population change (the only statistically significant net flow during the 1983-84 period was of Midwesterners to the South), the flow of movers from abroad added a significant number of persons to the population of each region. The number of movers from abroad to each of the four regions has remained essentially unchanged since the 1970's (figure 2).

RELATED REPORTS AND DATA PRODUCTS

Statistics on the geographical mobility of the population of the United States have been collected annually in the Current Population Survey since 1948. Tabulations from these annual surveys are contained in Current Population Reports, Series P-20. Previous reports for the 1980's are *Geographical Mobility: March 1982 to March 1983*, Series P-20, No. 393, *Geographical Mobility: March 1981 to March 1982*, Series P-20, No. 384, and *Geographical Mobility: March 1980 to March 1981*, Series P-20, No. 377.

Microdata computer files are also available for each of the Current Population Survey's Annual Demographic Files (March Supplement) beginning with 1968. The 1984 tape is available from Data User Services Division, Customer Services (Tapes), U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; telephone: (301) 763-4100. Technical documentation comes with the tape or is available separately from the Data Access and Use Staff of the Bureau's Data User Services Division, telephone: (301) 763-2074, and should be cited as *Current Population Survey, March 1984: Technical Documentation*.

Geographical mobility researchers may wish to utilize data from two other current surveys conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The American Housing Survey (formerly Annual Housing Survey), conducted since 1973, contains a broad array of data that are particularly rich with information pertaining to residential mobility for the nation as a whole and for individual metropolitan areas. The Survey of Income and Program Participation, begun in 1984, is a series of panel

surveys, initiated annually, in which national samples of individuals are reinterviewed every four months for periods of 2½ years. Details concerning data products from both of these current surveys are available in *Census Catalog and Guide: 1985* (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1985).

The Bureau of the Census also publishes annual State population estimates, which contain net migration estimates for states, and population projections that employ a variety of migration assumptions. The most recent State estimates of net migration are available in *State Population Estimates, by Age and Components of Change: 1980 to 1984*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 970; and *Estimates of the Population of States: 1970 to 1983*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 957. National level population projections to 2080 are available in *Projections of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: 1983 to 2080*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 952; State-level projections that incorporate net migration assumptions based on interstate movement during the 1970-80 period are available to 2000 in *Provisional Projections of the Population of States, by Age and Sex: 1980 to 2000*, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 937.

Various forms of geographical mobility data are also collected as part of the decennial Census of Population. Each decennial census since 1850 has collected information on place of birth and current location of residence. The decennial censuses of 1940, 1960, 1970, and 1980 asked, in addition, where individuals resided 5 years previously, i.e., in 1935, 1955, 1965, and 1975, and the 1950 census asked where individuals resided in 1949. Tabulations and microdata computer files are available from each of those decennial censuses.

Tabulations from the most recent decennial census are available by States in the PC80-1-C series, *General Social and Economic Characteristics* and PC80-1-D, *Detailed Population Characteristics*; in three Supplementary Reports, *State of Residence in 1975 by State of Residence in 1980*, PC80-S1-9; *Gross Migration for Counties: 1975 to 1980*, PC80-S1-17; and *Residence in 1975 for States by Age, Sex, Race, and Spanish Origin*, PC80-S1-16; and in two Volume 2 Subject Reports, *Geographical Mobility for Metropolitan Areas*, PC80-1-2C, and *Geographical Mobility for States and the Nation*, PC80-2-2A.

Table Finding Guide—Subjects by Type of Mobility and Table Number

Subject	General mobility	Settlement system mobility	Mobility for SMSA's	Mobility for central cities of SMSA's	Regional mobility
General and Social Characteristics					
Age:		5			
Single years of age					
Age groups	4	6,13,18,24,27	9,11,14,16,22,28,32,34,36,37,38	10,12,15,17,23,30,33	6,7,34,36,40,41
Race	1,35,39	2,3,43	2,3,8,25,29,34,36,37,38,43	26,31,42	2,3,7,8,34,35,36,39,40,42
Spanish origin	1		25,29,37,38	26,31	
Years of school completed		24	22,25,37,38	23,26	40,41
Marital status		27	28,32	33	
Households and household relationship			8,9	10	8
Families	35	13,18,21	11,14,16,19,34,36,37,38	12,15,17,20	34,35,36,40,41
By presence or ages of own children		18,21	14,16,19	15,17,20	
Unrelated individuals			36		36
Economic Characteristics					
Employment status		27	28,29,37,38	30,31	40,41
Occupation			28,29	30,31	40,41
Income in 1983:					
Persons			32,37,38	33	
Families		18	16	17	
Receipt of public assistance	35		34,37,38		34,35
Above or below poverty level			36,37,38		36,40,41