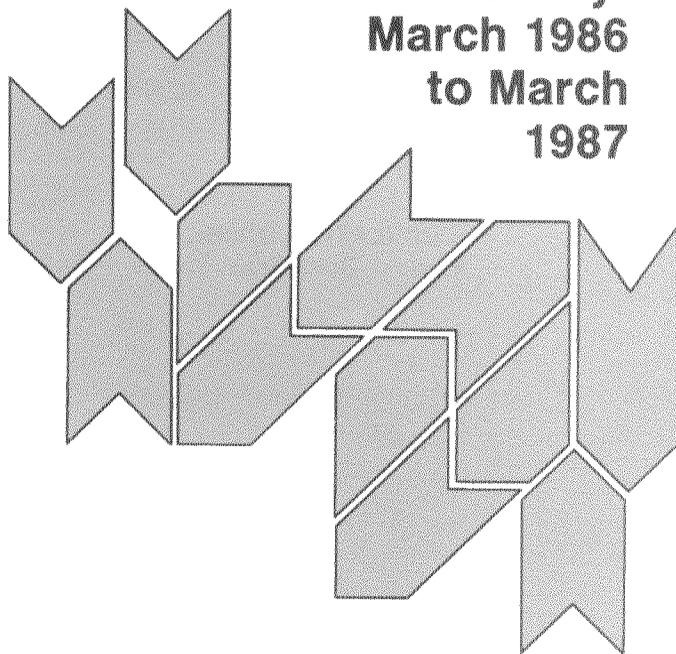


CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS
Population Characteristics

Series P-20, No. 430

**Geographical
Mobility:
March 1986
to March
1987**



Issued April 1989



U.S. Department of Commerce
Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Contents

	Page
Introduction.....	1
Highlights.....	1
Annual rates of moving.....	1
Characteristics of movers.....	3
Metropolitan mobility patterns.....	8
Regional patterns of moving.....	10
Table finding guide.....	13

TEXT TABLES

A. Annual geographical mobility rates, by type of movement for selected 1-year periods: 1960-87.....	2
B. Selected characteristics of persons 1 year and older, by mobility status and type of movement: 1986-87.....	4
C. Median age, by years of school completed: 1986-87.....	7
D. Inmigrants, outmigrants, and net migration for central cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas: 1986-87.....	9
E. Movers within and between central cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas: 1986-87.....	9
F. Annual immigration, outmigration, and net migration for regions: 1980-87.....	10
G. Immigration, outmigration, and net migration, by race for regions: 1986-87.....	10
H. Movement between regions: 1986-87, 1985-86, 1984-85 and 1983-84.....	11
I. Mobility rates, for regions: 1986-87.....	12

FIGURES

1. Distribution of movers, by type of move: 1986-87.....	2
2. Annual rates of moving: 1980-87.....	3
3. Movers, by age: 1986-87.....	6
4. Net migration, for regions: 1980-88.....	11

DETAILED TABLES

1. Detailed mobility, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin.....	15
2. General mobility, by race, region, and type of residence.....	16
3. Mobility and region of residence at both dates, by race.....	18
4. Detailed mobility, by age and sex.....	20
5. General mobility, by sex and single years of age.....	21
6. General mobility, by region and age.....	24
7. Region of residence at both dates, by age and race.....	25
8. Metropolitan mobility, by race and region.....	26
9. Metropolitan mobility, by age, sex, and relationship to householder.....	27
10. Central city mobility, by age, sex, and relationship to householder.....	29

DETAILED TABLES—Continued

	Page
11. Metropolitan mobility of families, by type of family and age of householder	31
12. Central city mobility of families, by type of family and age of householder	33
13. General mobility of families, by type of family and age of householder	35
14. Metropolitan mobility of family householders, by age of householder and ages and number of own children under 18	37
15. Central city mobility of family householders, by age of householder and ages and number of own children under 18	38
16. Metropolitan mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder, family income, and number of own children under 18	39
17. Central city mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder, family income, and number of own children under 18	41
18. General mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder, family income, and number of own children under 18	43
19. Metropolitan mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder and number of own children under 6	45
20. Central city mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder and number of own children under 6	46
21. General mobility of married-couple family householders, by age of householder and number of own children under 6	47
22. Metropolitan mobility, by age, sex, and years of school completed	48
23. Central city mobility, by age, sex, and years of school completed	50
24. General mobility, by age, sex, and years of school completed	52
25. Metropolitan mobility, by race, Hispanic origin, and years of school completed	54
26. Central city mobility, by race, Hispanic origin, and years of school completed	54
27. General mobility, by age, sex, marital status, and employment status	55
28. Metropolitan mobility, by age, sex, marital status, employment status, and major occupation group	59
29. Metropolitan mobility, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, employment status, and major occupation group	69
30. Central city mobility, by age, sex, employment status, and major occupation group ..	70
31. Central city mobility, by sex, race, Hispanic origin, employment status, and major occupation group	72
32. Metropolitan mobility, by sex, age, marital status, and income	73
33. Central city mobility, by sex, age, marital status, and income	79
34. Metropolitan mobility of family householders, by race, age, and receipt of public assistance	85
35. Detailed mobility of family householders, by race and receipt of public assistance ...	87
36. Metropolitan mobility, by age, race, family status, and poverty status	88
37. Nonmovers and movers to MSA's, by size of MSA and selected characteristics	91
38. Movers from MSA's, by size of MSA and selected characteristics	94
39. Detailed mobility, inmigrants, and outmigrants, by region and race	97
40. Movers within and between States, and inmigrants and outmigrants, for regions, by selected characteristics	99
41. Interregional migrants, by selected characteristics	104
42. Mobility for interregional migrants, by race	105
43. General mobility, by race and metropolitan mobility	105

APPENDIXES

A. Definitions and Explanations	107
Definitions	107
Migration universe	109
Allocations of migration data	110
Related reports and data products	110

APPENDIXES—Continued

	Page
B. Source and Reliability of Estimates	113
Source of data	113
Reliability of estimates.....	113

APPENDIX TABLES

B-1. Standard errors of estimated numbers of movers between March 1986 and March 1987	115
B-2. Standard errors of estimated percentages: Total, White, Black, and Hispanic	116
B-3. a and b parameters and factors (f) for estimated numbers and percentages.....	117

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.
- B Base less than 75,000.

Geographical Mobility: March 1986 to March 1987

INTRODUCTION

This report provides detailed statistics on the geographical mobility of Americans. The data were collected in the March 1987 Current Population Survey. Mobility status and moving data were calculated by comparing the locations of each person's current residence and residence 1 year earlier.

This publication includes highlights of some of the important changes that have occurred in the last year, with particular reference to the rates of movement and changes in metropolitan and regional patterns of population movement. The tables used to highlight the text are based on the more detailed tables which follow.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of moving between March 1986 and March 1987, 18.6 (± 0.33) percent, did not change from the previous 1-year period. Most people who moved made local moves—11.6 (± 0.27) percent of all persons 1 year old and over (62 percent of all movers) moved within the same county.
- The highest moving rates were found among persons in their twenties—34.7 (± 1.42) percent for those 20 to 24 years of age in 1987 and 31.8 (± 1.31) percent for those 25 to 29 years old.
- Blacks had higher overall rates of moving than Whites—19.6 (± 0.98) percent versus 17.8 (± 0.35) percent. Blacks had higher rates of local moving (13.8 ± 0.85 percent) than Whites (11.2 ± 0.29 percent); Whites had higher rates of longer-distance moves (6.6 ± 0.23 percent) than Blacks (5.7 ± 0.57 percent).
- Persons of Hispanic origin had higher overall rates of moving (22.6 ± 1.27 percent) than either non-Hispanic Whites or Blacks, and higher rates of local moving (17.6 ± 1.16 percent) than the other two groups.
- The Northeast had a net loss of migrants—334,000 ($\pm 130,000$)—to the other regions. The South had a net gain of 279,000 ($\pm 193,000$) persons, while the West had a net gain of 166,000 ($\pm 152,000$) people due to migration. The Midwest had nearly equal numbers of immigrants and outmigrants for the second year in a row.
- Metropolitan areas in the aggregate gained 932,000 ($\pm 300,000$) persons at the expense of nonmetropolitan areas. However, the central cities of metropolitan areas lost 1,040,000 ($\pm 421,000$) persons to both nonmetropolitan areas and the suburbs, while the suburbs gained population from both of the other types of areas (1,972,000 $\pm 433,000$).

ANNUAL RATES OF MOVING

Although the total population of the United States increased between March 1986 and March 1987, there was no change in the number of movers, either overall or by type of move. (The small differences in the numbers of movers by type of move shown in table A are not statistically significant.) However, differences in the rates of moving by type of move do show some significant changes.

The overall rate at which persons moved in the 1-year period showed no change from the previous year. The annual rate of residential mobility leveled off at 18.6 percent after a period of declining rates during the 1970's and early 1980's and the sharp increase in the mid-1980's. The rate fell from an average of about 20 percent annually during the 1950's and 1960's to a low of 16.6 in 1983. The rate then climbed to 20.2 percent in 1985 before falling again to the current rate.

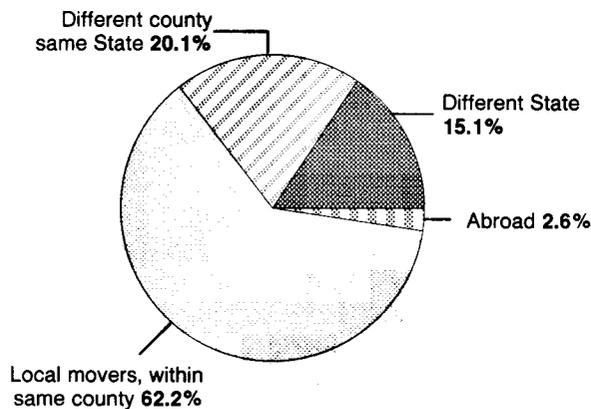
Local versus long-distance moving. Most people who move make local moves. Optimally, a local move would be defined as a move within a labor market—that is, within an area that would allow commuting to the same job. The extent of the labor market would be specifically defined for each area of residence. Since it is not possible to define and tabulate moves between labor markets using these data, this analysis defines a local move as a move within the same county. Moves from outside the county of current residence are called long-distance moves. Of course, some moves between counties within the same State and even some moves between States may really be local moves, if the counties or States in question are adjacent. Nevertheless, this operational definition of local versus long-distance moving is useful despite such definitional problems.

Generally, local moves are housing adjustments—the purchase of a new home, a change of apartments, etc.—or are made in response to changes in family

status or what is commonly termed a "life-cycle change". These life-cycle changes include marriage, divorce, birth of a child, and retirement. Long-distance moves are more frequently undertaken for economic reasons, including corporate transfers, military transfers, new jobs, or looking for work. Others move to attend school or for non-economic reasons such as a desire for a change of climate, proximity to recreational areas, or family reasons.¹

Table A shows the number of movers by type of move for selected annual periods. Between March 1986 and March 1987, 43,693,000 persons changed residences. Of those, more than 3 out of every 5 (27,196,000) moved within the same county. Of the remaining movers, more moved between counties in the same State (8,762,000) than moved between States or from abroad (6,593,000 and 1,142,000, respectively). While table A shows the percent of the total population that made each type of move, figure 1 graphically displays the proportion of *movers* who made each type of move. Note that as the implied distance increased, the proportion of moves declined. This assumes that movers between counties within the same State usually move

Figure 1.
Distribution of Movers,
by Type of Move: 1986-87



shorter distances than persons moving between States and that movers within the same county move, on average, the shortest distances.

Most of the change in rates of moving during the last 20 years has been in the rate at which people made local moves. In March 1987, 11.6 percent of the population reported that they lived in a different house or apartment in the same county 1 year earlier. Like the overall rate of moving, the rate of local moving did not decline from the rate found the previous year. However, the 1987 rate of local mobility is significantly lower than

¹U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Reasons for Moving: March 1962 to March 1963*, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 154, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1966; and Long, Larry H. and Kristin A. Hansen, *Reasons for Interstate Migration*, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 81, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1979.

Table A. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates, by Type of Movement for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1960-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total movers	Residing in the United States at beginning of period						Residing outside the United States at the beginning of period
		Total	Different house, same county	Different county				
				Total	Same State	Different State	Different region	
NUMBER								
1986-87	43,693	42,551	27,196	15,355	8,762	6,593	3,546	1,142
1985-86	43,237	42,037	26,401	15,636	8,665	6,971	3,778	1,200
1984-85	46,470	45,043	30,126	14,917	7,995	6,921	3,647	1,427
1983-84	39,379	38,300	23,659	14,641	8,198	6,444	3,540	1,079
1982-83	37,408	36,430	22,858	13,572	7,403	6,169	3,192	978
1981-82	38,127	37,039	23,081	13,959	7,330	6,628	3,679	1,088
1980-81	38,200	36,887	23,097	13,789	7,614	6,175	3,363	1,313
1970-71	37,705	36,161	23,018	13,143	6,197	6,946	3,936	1,544
1960-61	36,533	35,535	24,289	11,246	5,493	5,753	3,097	998
PERCENT								
1986-87	18.6	18.1	11.6	6.5	3.7	2.8	1.5	0.5
1985-86	18.6	18.0	11.3	6.7	3.7	3.0	1.6	0.5
1984-85	20.2	19.6	13.1	6.5	3.5	3.0	1.6	0.6
1983-84	17.3	16.8	10.4	6.4	3.6	2.8	1.6	0.5
1982-83	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	1.4	0.4
1981-82	17.0	16.6	10.3	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.6	0.5
1980-81	17.2	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	1.5	0.6
1970-71	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8
1960-61	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	1.7	0.6

that found in 1985 (although higher than the rate of about 10 percent found during the earlier years of this decade).

The rates at which persons made longer distance moves also did not change between the 1986 and 1987 March CPS surveys. At both dates, 3.7 percent of the population reported moving between counties within the same State, while about 3 percent moved between States. However, the rates of moving between counties within the same State during these two years were slightly higher than the rates for most of the 1-year periods during the early 1980's.

Figure 2 is a line graph showing the annual rates of moving by type of move between 1980 and 1987. Note that the line for local moves mirrors the line for the total rate of moving, while the lines for long distance moves do not. This figure shows that the total annual rate of moving is most influenced by changes in local rates of moving.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Movers differ from nonmovers in many ways. Examination of the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of each group and the differences between movers by type of move can be very illuminating. Selected characteristics of movers by type of move are shown in table B as well as in the detailed tables that follow the text. The following sections of the text examine various characteristics of persons who moved in the previous year.

Age. Moving rates are highly dependent upon age. The highest moving rates were found for persons in their twenties—34.7 percent for those 20 to 24 years of age in 1987 and 31.8 percent for those 25 to 29 years old. Rates of moving declined with increasing age from 18.9 percent for those 30 to 44 years of age to 9 percent for those 45 to 64 years old and to about 5 percent for persons 65 years old and over.

Among young persons, rates of moving began at 26.7 percent for children under the age of 5 and gradually declined with increasing age. The rates for children reflected the average age of their parents; younger children—presumably those with younger parents—had higher rates of moving than older children.

Sex. Men were somewhat more likely to have moved in the previous year than women—18.4 versus 17.8 percent—primarily because they were more likely than women to possess other characteristics associated with high mobility rates. For example, men tend to marry at older ages than women and are, therefore, more likely to be living in nonfamily households. Men are also more likely to be in the military. Each of these groups has a higher rate of moving than other persons. Men had higher rates of moving than women for all types of moves except moves between counties within the same State.

Race. The CPS sample is not large enough to allow comparison of mobility rates for every race, but the differences in rates for Whites and Blacks are compared in table B. Blacks have higher overall rates of moving

Figure 2.

Annual Rates of Moving: 1980-87

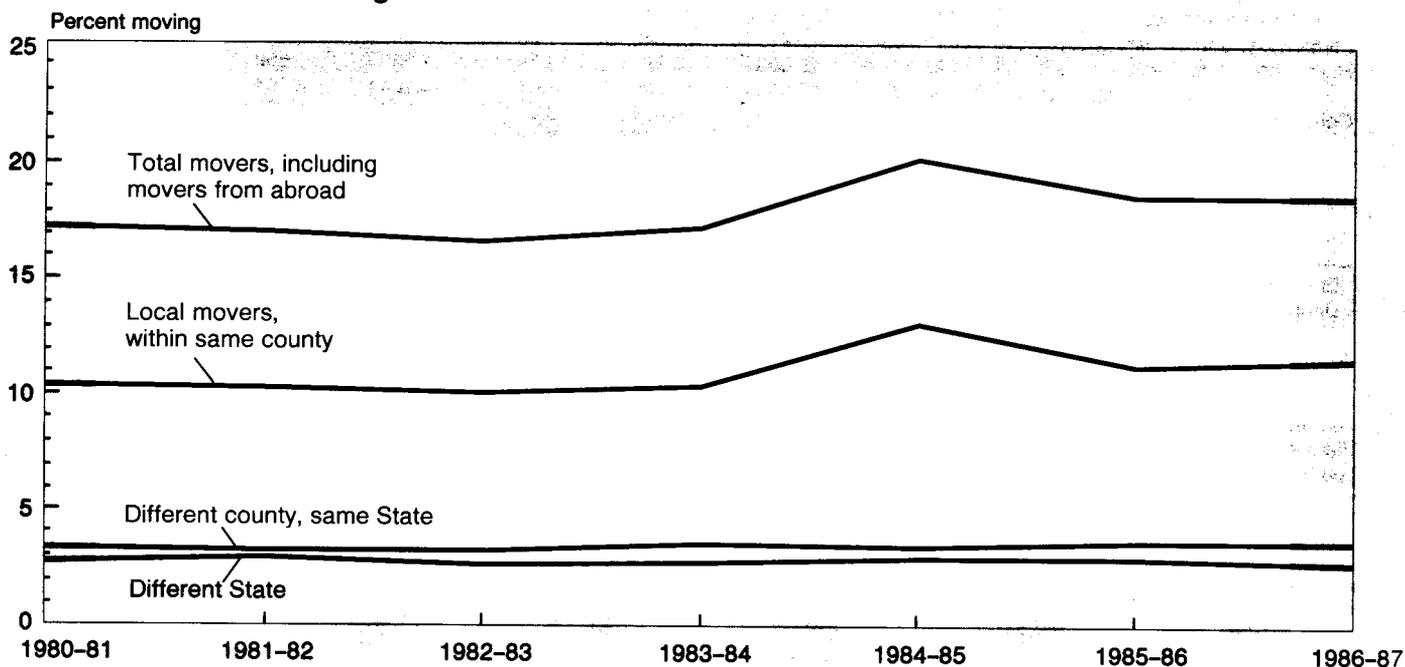


Table B. Selected Characteristics of Persons 1 Year and Older, by Mobility Status and Type of Movement: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

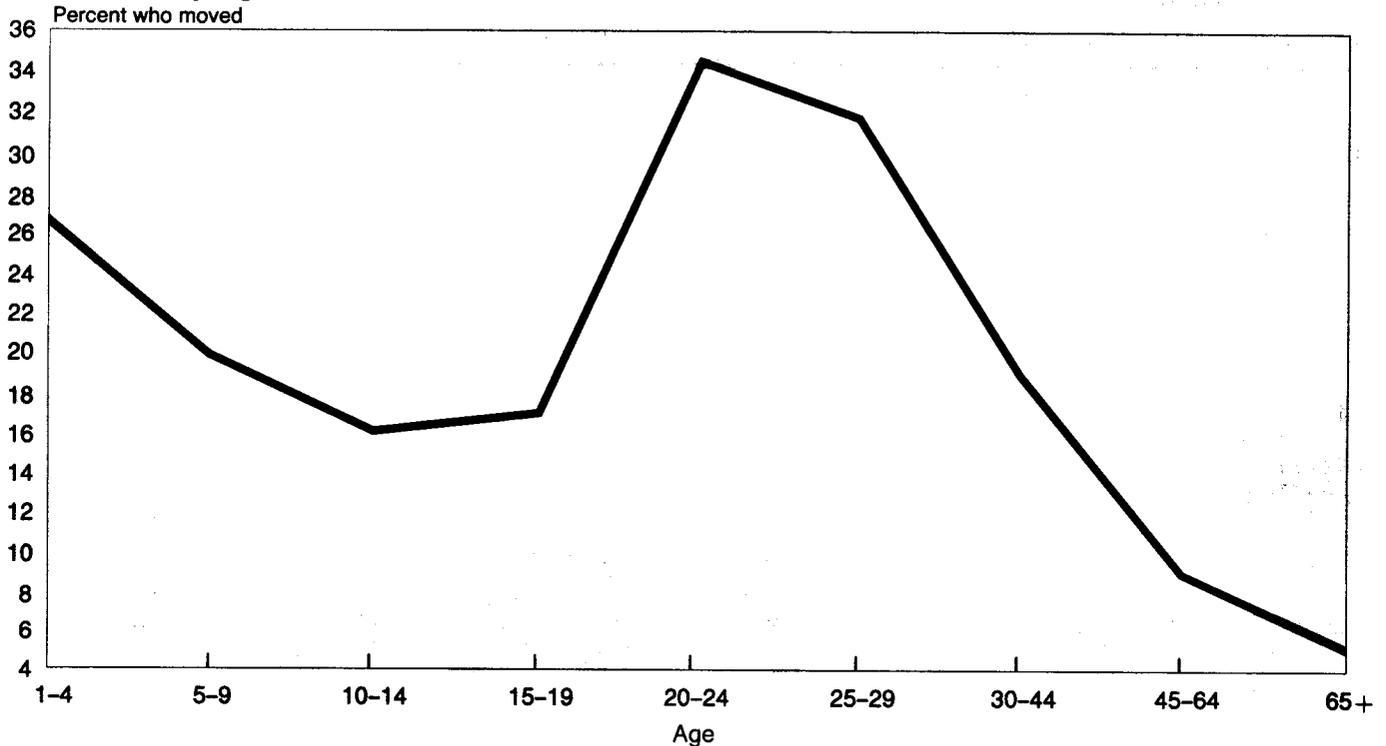
Characteristic	Total, 1 year and older	Non-movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
			Total	Local movement (within county)	Moved between counties			
					Total	Within State	Between States	
NUMBER								
All persons	235,089	191,396	42,551	27,196	15,355	8,762	6,593	1,142
Age:								
1-4 years	14,430	10,474	3,857	2,631	1,226	717	509	99
5-9 years	17,518	13,972	3,482	2,360	1,122	654	468	64
10-14 years	16,454	13,723	2,652	1,816	836	465	371	78
15-19 years	18,186	14,967	3,090	1,960	1,131	603	527	129
20-24 years	19,358	12,458	6,726	4,199	2,527	1,478	1,049	174
25-29 years	21,636	14,564	6,889	4,417	2,472	1,445	1,027	183
30-44 years	54,631	44,008	10,333	6,589	3,744	2,129	1,616	291
45-64 years	44,901	40,791	4,027	2,327	1,699	934	765	84
65 years and over	27,975	26,440	1,496	899	597	336	261	39
Median	32.7	35.3	26.1	25.7	26.7	26.6	26.8	25.7
Sex:								
Male	114,140	92,457	21,042	13,399	7,643	4,333	3,309	641
Female	120,950	98,939	21,510	13,797	7,712	4,428	3,284	501
Race:								
White	199,438	163,155	35,550	22,302	13,247	7,560	5,687	734
Black	28,369	22,681	5,557	3,926	1,631	940	691	131
Hispanic origin:								
Hispanic	18,424	13,944	4,161	3,247	915	564	351	319
White, not Hispanic	181,591	149,645	31,515	19,145	12,370	7,017	5,353	432
Black, not Hispanic	27,966	22,363	5,486	3,877	1,609	924	685	117
Relationship to householder:								
Persons in families	201,825	167,780	33,158	21,159	11,999	6,764	5,235	887
Family householder	64,492	54,057	10,236	6,647	3,589	2,074	1,515	199
Spouse	51,537	43,616	7,745	4,683	3,062	1,688	1,374	176
Child of householder	75,767	62,801	12,640	8,294	4,346	2,455	1,891	326
Other relative	10,029	7,306	2,537	1,535	1,002	547	455	186
Nonfamily householder	24,987	19,363	5,525	3,578	1,947	1,166	781	99
Other nonrelative	8,275	4,252	3,667	2,459	1,408	831	577	156
Educational attainment:								
Total 18 years and over	175,606	143,759	31,019	19,407	11,612	6,639	4,973	828
Elementary: 0 to 8 years	19,933	17,411	2,346	1,680	666	414	252	176
High school: 1 to 3 years	22,271	18,083	4,120	2,784	1,336	808	528	68
4 years	69,020	57,066	11,722	7,618	4,104	2,394	1,710	232
College: 1 to 3 years	32,766	26,193	6,434	3,909	2,524	1,456	1,068	139
4 years	18,889	14,647	4,115	2,182	1,933	1,031	901	127
5 years or more	12,728	10,359	2,283	1,233	1,050	536	514	86
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over	183,093	150,195	32,016	20,052	11,964	6,823	5,141	882
Civilian labor force	118,134	93,724	23,939	15,222	8,717	5,161	3,556	471
Employed	109,854	87,811	21,642	13,815	7,827	4,714	3,114	401
Unemployed	8,280	5,913	2,297	1,408	889	447	442	70
Armed Forces	896	467	360	157	203	37	165	69
Not in the labor force	64,063	56,004	7,717	4,672	3,045	1,625	1,420	342
Region of residence:								
Northeast	48,864	42,810	5,839	3,714	2,126	1,328	798	214
Midwest	57,813	47,957	9,662	6,167	3,496	2,094	1,401	193
South	80,500	63,906	16,318	10,370	5,948	3,207	2,742	277
West	47,912	36,723	10,732	6,946	3,785	2,133	1,652	458
Tenure:								
Persons in owner-occupied units	159,355	143,141	15,899	9,836	6,063	3,812	2,251	315
Persons in renter-occupied units	75,734	48,255	26,652	17,360	9,292	4,950	4,342	827

Table B. Selected Characteristics of Persons 1 Year and Older, by Mobility Status and Type of Movement: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total, 1 year and older	Non-movers	Different house in the United States					Movers from abroad
			Total	Local movement (within county)	Moved between counties			
					Total	Within State	Between States	
PERCENT								
All persons	100.0	81.4	18.1	11.6	6.5	3.7	2.8	0.5
Age:								
1-4 years	100.0	72.6	26.7	18.2	8.5	5.0	3.5	0.7
5-9 years	100.0	79.8	19.9	13.5	6.4	3.7	2.7	0.4
10-14 years	100.0	83.4	16.1	11.0	5.1	2.8	2.3	0.5
15-19 years	100.0	82.3	17.0	10.8	6.2	3.3	2.9	0.7
20-24 years	100.0	64.4	34.7	21.7	13.1	7.6	5.4	0.9
25-29 years	100.0	67.3	31.8	20.4	11.4	6.7	4.7	0.8
30-44 years	100.0	80.6	18.9	12.1	6.9	3.9	3.0	0.5
45-64 years	100.0	90.8	9.0	5.2	3.8	2.1	1.7	0.2
65 years and over	100.0	94.5	5.3	3.2	2.1	1.2	0.9	0.1
Sex:								
Male	100.0	81.0	18.4	11.7	6.7	3.8	2.9	0.6
Female	100.0	81.8	17.8	11.4	6.4	3.7	2.7	0.4
Race:								
White	100.0	81.8	17.8	11.2	6.6	3.8	2.9	0.4
Black	100.0	79.9	19.6	13.8	5.7	3.3	2.4	0.5
Hispanic origin:								
Hispanic	100.0	75.7	22.6	17.6	5.0	3.1	1.9	1.7
White, not Hispanic	100.0	82.4	17.4	10.5	6.8	3.9	2.9	0.2
Black, not Hispanic	100.0	80.0	19.6	13.9	5.8	3.3	2.4	0.4
Relationship to householder:								
Persons in families	100.0	83.1	16.4	10.5	5.9	3.4	2.6	0.4
Family householder	100.0	83.8	15.9	10.3	5.6	3.2	2.3	0.3
Spouse	100.0	84.6	15.0	9.1	5.9	3.3	2.7	0.3
Child of householder	100.0	82.9	16.7	10.9	5.7	3.2	2.5	0.4
Other relative	100.0	72.8	25.3	15.3	10.0	5.5	4.5	1.9
Nonfamily householder	100.0	77.5	22.1	14.3	7.8	4.7	3.1	0.4
Other nonrelative	100.0	51.4	46.7	29.7	17.0	10.0	7.0	1.9
Educational attainment:								
Total 18 years and over	100.0	81.9	17.7	11.1	6.6	3.8	2.8	0.5
Elementary: 0 to 8 years	100.0	87.3	11.8	8.4	3.3	2.1	1.3	0.9
High school: 1 to 3 years	100.0	81.2	18.5	12.5	6.0	3.6	2.4	0.3
4 years	100.0	82.7	17.0	11.0	5.9	3.5	2.5	0.3
College: 1 to 3 years	100.0	79.9	19.6	11.9	7.7	4.4	3.3	0.4
4 years	100.0	77.5	21.8	11.6	10.2	5.5	4.8	0.7
5 years or more	100.0	81.4	17.9	9.7	8.2	4.2	4.0	0.7
Labor force status:								
Total 16 years and over	100.0	82.0	17.5	11.0	6.5	3.7	2.8	0.5
Civilian labor force	100.0	79.3	20.3	12.9	7.4	4.4	3.0	0.4
Employed	100.0	79.9	19.7	12.6	7.1	4.3	2.8	0.4
Unemployed	100.0	71.4	27.7	17.0	10.7	5.4	5.3	0.8
Armed Forces	100.0	52.1	40.2	17.5	22.7	4.1	18.4	7.7
Not in the labor force	100.0	87.4	12.0	7.3	4.8	2.5	2.2	0.5
Region of residence:								
Northeast	100.0	87.6	11.9	7.6	4.4	2.7	1.6	0.4
Midwest	100.0	83.0	16.7	10.7	6.0	3.6	2.4	0.3
South	100.0	79.4	20.3	12.9	7.4	4.0	3.4	0.3
West	100.0	76.6	22.4	14.5	7.9	4.5	3.4	1.0
Tenure:								
Persons in owner-occupied units	100.0	89.8	10.0	6.2	3.8	2.4	1.4	0.2
Persons in renter-occupied units	100.0	63.7	35.2	22.9	12.3	6.5	5.7	1.1

Figure 3.
Movers, by Age: 1986-87



than Whites—19.6 percent versus 17.8 percent, although patterns and implied distances vary considerably.

The higher rates of overall moving by Blacks are accounted for by their high rates of local moving. Between March of 1986 and March of 1987, 13.8 percent of Blacks moved within the same county, while only 11.2 percent of Whites made such moves. On the other hand, Whites had higher rates of longer-distance moves within the United States—6.6 percent as opposed to 5.7 percent. This difference was due to the fact that Whites were more likely than Blacks to move between States and between counties within the same State. There was no statistically significant difference in the rate at which Blacks and Whites moved from abroad.

Hispanic origin. While most persons of Hispanic origin reported their race as White (97 percent), their rates and patterns of moving are very different from those of other Whites as well as from persons reporting their race as Black. Rates of moving for persons of Hispanic origin, non-Hispanic Whites, and non-Hispanic Blacks are shown in table B.

Hispanics had higher total rates of moving than non-Hispanic Whites or Blacks—22.6 percent as compared with 17.4 percent and 19.6 percent, respectively—and much higher rates of local moving (17.6 percent versus 10.5 percent for non-Hispanic Whites and 13.9 percent for Blacks). Because of the high rate of immigration from Mexico and various areas in Central America as well as the movement of persons from Puerto

Rico, the rate of moving from abroad was especially high for persons of Hispanic origin (1.7 percent as compared with 0.2 percent for non-Hispanic Whites and 0.4 percent for non-Hispanic Blacks). Both Hispanics and Blacks had lower rates of long-distance moving, either within the same State or between States, than non-Hispanic Whites.

Household relationship. Table B also includes data on mobility by relationship to householder. Persons in families had much lower rates of moving (16.4 percent overall) than persons not living in families. The mobility rate for children in families (16.7 percent) was a little higher than for either householders (15.9 percent) or their spouses (15.0 percent). Other relatives (for example, parents, brothers and sisters of the householder or spouse) had the highest rate of moving of all family members (25.3 percent).

Nonfamily householders (persons living alone or with nonrelatives) have fairly high rates of moving (22.1 percent), although not as high as rates for other relatives in family households. However, nearly half of nonrelatives, persons living with a nonfamily householder or an unrelated person living in a family household, moved in the previous year (46.7 percent). These nonrelatives include unrelated roommates or partners; foster children; roomers, boarders, or lodgers; and employees.

Education. The relationship between education (measured in the CPS as years of school completed) and

residential mobility is more complicated than the relationship between residential mobility and many other characteristics. Table B includes mobility rates by years of school completed for persons 25 years old and over. Persons who completed exactly 4 years of college had the highest rate of moving (21.8 percent), followed by those who attended college for less than 4 years (19.6 percent). Persons with more than 4 years of college moved at about the same rate as persons with only a high school education (17.0 percent for high school graduates, 18.5 percent for high school dropouts).

Persons 25 years old and over with only an elementary school education had the lowest rates of moving between March 1986 and March 1987 (11.8 percent), due in part to the fact that they were most likely to be elderly. According to table C, the median age of persons with only an elementary school education is 64.1 years as compared with 51.2 years for persons with at least some high school and 43.6 years for high school graduates who did not go on to attend college. In March 1987, the median age of persons who had attended college was about 40.

Labor force status. Rates of moving also vary by labor force status. While it would be desirable to know each person's labor force status at the time of the move, this information is not available. Therefore, data are limited to information on each person's labor force status after the move, at the time of the survey, as shown in table B.

Members of the Armed Forces continued to have the highest mobility rates—not only for long-distance moves between States and from abroad—but also for short-distance, local moves within the same county (with the possible exception of unemployed local movers). In March 1987, 1 out of every 4 military respondents reported that they lived in a different State or were abroad one year earlier (18.4 and 7.7 percent, respectively). Combined with those who had moved within the same county (17.5 percent) and those who had moved from a different county in the same State (4.1 percent), nearly half of all military personnel surveyed (47.9 percent) were movers. The Current Population Survey

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

Rates of moving for civilians vary by labor force status. Persons who were unemployed during the survey week had high rates of moving, but their moves were typically local. And while the mobility rates among the unemployed were quite a bit higher than for employed persons, they were much lower than the rate at which military personnel moved. About 27.7 percent of the unemployed moved within the United States between March 1986 and March 1987; 17.0 percent moved within the same county.

Employed persons moved at a rate only a little higher than the national average for all persons (19.7 percent). Like most movers, the majority of their moves were within the same county (12.6 percent).

The lowest rate of moving was found among persons not in the labor force—only 12.0 percent of these persons had moved in the previous year. Persons 16 years old and over who were not in the labor force consist mainly of retired persons, students, housewives, and others who do only volunteer work or their own housework. Self-employed persons who work at home are considered employed.

Tenure. One of the most important indicators of a person having moved in the previous year is household tenure. Residential mobility is much more common for renters than for homeowners and their families. Like labor force status, it would be desirable to know tenure at the time of the move; that is, whether or not the previous housing unit was owned or rented. Since that information is not collected in the Current Population Survey, this analysis is limited to tenure at the time of the survey; that is, after the move. These data are shown in table B.

People living in owner-occupied housing units in March 1987 were much less likely to have moved in the preceding year than people living in rental units at the

Table C. Median Age, by Years of School Completed: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Age	Elementary, 0-8 years	High school		College		
		1-3 years	4 years	1-3 years	4 years	5 or more years
Total 25 years and over.....	18,942	17,417	57,669	25,479	17,169	12,469
25 to 29 years	896	2,139	9,177	4,656	3,411	1,357
30 to 34 years	854	1,856	8,362	4,501	3,451	1,977
35 to 44 years	1,925	2,818	13,140	6,836	4,704	4,208
45 to 64 years	6,081	6,130	18,382	6,561	3,965	3,783
65 years and over.....	9,186	4,474	8,608	2,925	1,638	1,144
Median age.....	64.1	51.2	43.6	40.2	38.7	41.9

time of the survey. Only 10.0 percent of the respondents living in housing units owned by someone in the household had moved in the previous year as compared with 35.0 percent of the renters. Of those homeowners who had moved, most had made local moves; 6.2 percent of all homeowners moved within the same county while only 3.8 percent moved from a different county in the United States. Renters also made many more local moves than long-distance moves; 23.0 percent had moved within the same county compared with only 12.1 percent who had moved between counties. While 1.1 percent of renters lived abroad the previous year, only 0.2 percent of those living in owner-occupied units had moved from abroad.

Despite the fact that many more people live in owner-occupied homes than in rental units, movers are more likely to be renters than homeowners. In March 1987, the CPS found that 159,355,000 persons (68 percent) were living in owner-occupied units; that left 75,734,000 or 32 percent of the total population living in rental units. However, only 15,899,000 (37 percent) of the movers were homeowners while 26,652,000 or 63 percent were renters. Movers from abroad were also much more likely to be renters than owners. Only 28 percent of those who lived abroad 1 year earlier were living in owner-occupied units in March 1987; 72 percent were living in rental units.

METROPOLITAN MOBILITY PATTERNS

Residence in 1986 can be compared with residence at the survey date to determine whether or not each person lived in the same metropolitan statistical area (MSA) one year earlier. Moves can be variously categorized as moves within or between MSA's; into MSA's from nonmetropolitan parts of the country and vice versa; or within or between cities and suburbs. In this text, the "suburbs" are synonymous with the "remainder of the MSA" shown in the detailed tables; "metropolitan areas" and "inside MSA's" are also synonymous as are "nonmetropolitan areas" and "outside MSA's."

The data on inmigration and net migration for MSA's, their component parts, and nonmetropolitan areas discussed below and shown in the text tables exclude the effects of movement into these areas from abroad; the numbers of movers from abroad are included in the detailed tables. The net migration figures that result only from internal migration should not be confused with population change. Net internal migration is only one component of population change; the other components include immigration from abroad, emigration from the United States, the net effect of births and deaths in the area, and the movement of U.S. citizens into and out of the country.

The industrial revolution spurred the movement of people off the farm and out of rural places into the cities.² This movement of the population from nonmetropolitan to metropolitan places has been measured by successive censuses since the initial designation of metropolitan areas in the early 1950's. Earlier data on population growth indicated the redistribution of people from rural areas to the cities.³ This pattern of urbanization is seen throughout the world in developing countries and is a primary component of traditional migration theory.

During the 1970's the United States saw a reversal⁴ of this classic and expected trend toward increased urbanization. That decade was characterized by a period of net outmigration from metropolitan areas to the nonmetropolitan parts of the country. Some speculation arose that this was only continuing suburbanization of counties adjacent to existing metropolitan areas, and that redefinition of standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) after the 1980 census would see most of these counties redefined as metropolitan. Investigation of the nonmetropolitan counties which experienced growth during the late 1970's⁵ indicated that five-eighths of the movers were going to counties adjacent to metropolitan areas. And while migrants were not generally moving to farms (the farm population continued to decline), the remaining three-eighths were indeed moving to areas not adjacent to SMSA's. These counties were often either major recreational areas, sites of large universities or other major institutions or military installations, or were popular retirement areas. Data from the 1980 census using the updated SMSA definitions showed a net loss for metropolitan areas for the 1975-80 period.

Since 1980, metropolitan areas (even using the old, pre-1980 definitions) have reverted to the former pattern of net inmigration as the result of internal migration. Redefinition of metropolitan areas, now called metropolitan statistical areas or MSA's, occurred in 1983. The 1986 Current Population Report on geographical mobility (P-20, No. 425) was the first in this series of reports to display data using the new metropolitan area definitions. As expected, those data showed a continuation of net inmigration for metropolitan areas. Individual metropolitan areas (in both the 1970's and now) may have different patterns of movement than all metropolitan areas combined. For example, 1980 census data reveal

²Zelinsky, Wilbur, "The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition," *The Geographical Review* LVI, April 1971, pp. 219-249.

³Thompson, Warren S., *The Growth of Metropolitan Districts in the United States: 1900-1940*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC, 1947.

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

⁵Beale, Calvin L., *The Revival of Population Growth in Nonmetropolitan America*, ERS-605, Washington, DC, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 1975.

that some individual SMSA's experienced net immigration due to internal migration between 1975 and 1980, while all areas combined exhibited net outmigration.⁶

Moves between MSA's and nonmetropolitan areas.

In the year between March 1986 and March 1987, metropolitan areas continued to gain population at the expense of the nonmetropolitan parts of the country. The movement between cities, suburbs and nonmetropolitan areas during this year was substantial. (Table D shows immigrants, outmigrants, and net migration for MSA's and nonmetropolitan areas.) Although the net gain for MSA's was nearly a million, over 4 million people changed their type of residence—2,686,000 moved from nonmetropolitan areas to metropolitan areas, while 1,754,000 persons made the opposite move.

The net gain of internal migrants for metropolitan areas as a whole occurred because the suburbs' net gains were large enough to more than compensate for the net losses suffered by the central cities. During the period between March 1986 and March 1987, the central cities of MSA's lost 1,040,000 more residents than they gained from the suburbs and the nonmetropolitan parts of the country, while the suburbs had a net gain of 1,972,000 residents from the central cities and outside MSA's.

Table E shows the flows of persons between cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas. Note that persons leaving MSA's for nonmetropolitan areas were about equally likely to have previously lived in central cities as in suburbs (828,000 and 926,000 persons, respectively). Movers from the nonmetropolitan parts of the country to MSA's were somewhat more likely to choose a suburban destination than to move to a central city—3 out of every 5 moved to the suburbs (1,597,000 persons), while only 2 out of 5 moved to central cities (1,089,000 persons).

Movement within and between cities and suburbs.

In addition to the 4,440,000 persons who changed their residence from nonmetropolitan to metropolitan (or vice versa), an additional 8,289,000 persons moved between

⁶U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population and Housing, *Geographical Mobility for Metropolitan Areas*, PC80-2-2C, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1985.

Table D. Inmigrants, Outmigrants, and Net Migration for Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Residence in 1987	Inmigrants	Outmigrants	Net migration
Inside MSA's	2,686	1,754	+932
Central cities	4,583	5,623	-1040
Suburbs	6,392	4,420	+1972
Outside MSA's	1,754	2,686	-932

Table E. Movers Within and Between Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Residence in 1988	Movers from inside MSA's			Movers from outside MSA's
	Total	Central cities	Suburbs	
Inside MSA's	30,843	15,401	15,442	2,686
Central cities	14,100	10,606	3,494	1,089
Suburbs	16,743	4,795	11,948	1,597
Outside MSA's	1,754	828	926	6,920

cities and suburbs during the year. The combination of all these moves resulted in the nearly one million net loss for central cities and the nearly 2 million net gain for the suburbs noted above and shown in table D. The magnitude of those net gains and losses, however, seems small in comparison to the 12,729,000 moves that generated them (see table E). Since the majority of all moves took place within metropolitan areas, a closer look at these moves is warranted.

Most of the central city residents in 1987 who had moved within the United States during the previous year were not newly arrived in the central city—8,617,000 had moved from another residence in the same city; 1,989,000 had moved from a central city of a different MSA; and 3,494,000 were former suburbanites. Only 1,089,000 had moved from nonmetropolitan areas. (These data are shown in table 1.)

One of the most common patterns in residential mobility and population redistribution in this century has been the suburbanization of America. City planners and inner-city mayors constantly complain about the loss of tax base due to middle class flight to the suburbs. While individual cities and their suburbs may not display this pattern, generally central cities lose more residents due to internal migration within an MSA than they gain from other jurisdictions.

Most of the people who left the central cities of MSA's stayed in metropolitan areas. During the year preceding the 1987 survey, 5,623,000 persons left the central cities of MSA's—the vast majority of them moved to the suburbs (85.3 percent) rather than to nonmetropolitan locations (14.7 percent).

A similar picture can be painted of suburban movers. Like central city dwellers, movers living in suburbs in 1987 were nearly twice as likely to have moved from another suburban residence (11,948,000 persons) as from either a central city (4,795,000 persons) or a nonmetropolitan location (1,597,000 persons). Three-quarters of the persons moving from one suburban residence to another moved within the same MSA (8,877,000 persons); moves from the suburbs of one MSA to another were much less common (3,071,000 persons).

As noted above, the suburbs gained three-quarters of their immigrants (4,795,000 persons) from the central cities. Only 1,597,000 came from nonmetropolitan areas. Persons leaving the suburbs were more likely to move to central cities (3,494,000 persons) than to nonmetropolitan parts of the country (926,000 persons).

These data show that when we move, we are most likely to stay in the same type of area—suburbanites are most likely to move to another suburban residence and city dwellers are most likely to remain city dwellers. Nonmetropolitan residents are also most likely to remain nonmetropolitan residents when they move—while 2,696,000 moved to cities or suburbs between 1986 and 1987, another 6,920,000 persons moved from one nonmetropolitan residence to another.

REGIONAL PATTERNS OF MOVING

Regional migration patterns are important indicators of population redistribution. Historically, the population of this country has shifted to the West. Between the Civil War and up through the 1950's, there was a secondary shift from the South to the industrialized cities in the North. Beginning in the 1960's, however, the South began to have a net immigration of persons from the other regions.⁷ By the late 1970's, the previous 100 years of net outmigration from the South by Blacks had also reversed.

The causes of this turnaround⁸ have been attributed to many changes in the economy and life-styles in this country. The relocation of industry out of the "Rustbelt" into the South because of tax incentives and cheaper, non-Unionized labor; the rise of light industry, such as electronics, that depend on trucking rather than rail transportation; the spread of home air conditioning; the leveling of regional differences in standards of living, educational opportunities, and cultural amenities; and the success of the civil rights movement have all been offered as contributing factors.

The data collected in this survey provide for the disaggregation of movers by their region of current residence and their region of residence prior to the move. Data of this sort can be used to determine whether a change in the net migration for a region is due to a change in the origin or destination of interregional migrants or to a change in the relative size of the flows into or out of a region.

Immigrants, outmigrants, and net migration for regions are shown in table F. These numbers reflect persons who reported that they moved from one region to another during the stated periods. Persons moving into

Table F. Annual Immigration, Outmigration, and Net Migration for Regions: 1980-87

(Numbers in thousands)

Period	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
1986-87:				
Immigrants	398	858	1,374	916
Outmigrants	732	969	1,095	750
Net migration	-334	¹ -111	+279	+166
1985-86:				
Immigrants	502	1,011	1,355	910
Outmigrant	752	996	1,320	710
Net migration	-250	¹ +15	¹ +35	+200
1984-85:				
Immigrants	482	842	1,329	994
Outmigrants	691	1,053	1,169	734
Net migration	-209	-211	+160	+260
1983-84:				
Immigrants	487	820	1,399	834
Outmigrants	578	1,102	973	887
Net migration	¹ -91	-282	+426	¹ -53
1982-83:				
Immigrants	439	661	1,211	880
Outmigrants	625	947	973	645
Net migration	-186	-286	+238	+235
1981-82:				
Immigrants	473	793	1,482	931
Outmigrants	685	1,163	1,012	819
Net migration	-212	-370	+470	¹ +112
1980-81:				
Immigrants	464	650	1,377	871
Outmigrants	706	1,056	890	710
Net migration	-242	-406	+487	+161

¹ Not statistically significant.

a region from abroad (or for that matter persons who left the United States during the period) are not included in this discussion or in the text table displaying data for the regions.

Table G. Immigration, Outmigration, and Net Migration, by Race for Regions: 1986-87

(Numbers in thousands)

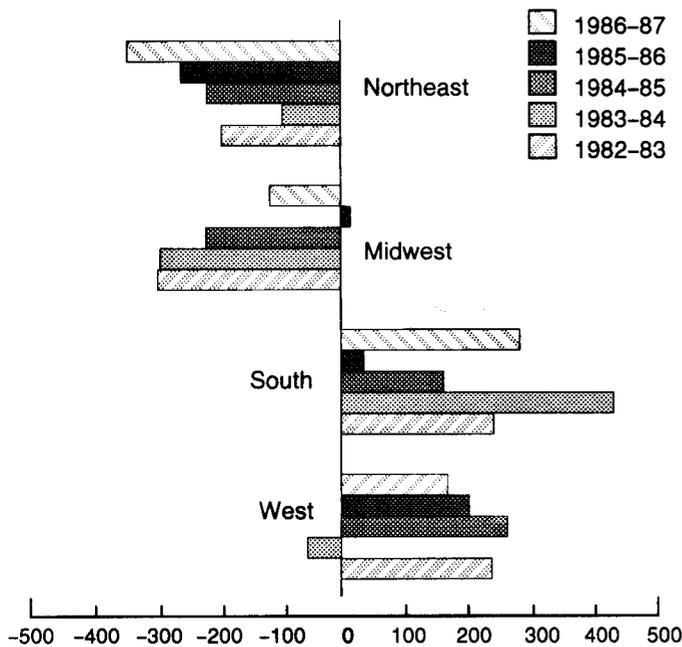
Race	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
Total:				
Immigrants	398	858	1,374	916
Outmigrants	732	969	1,095	750
Net migration	-334	¹ -111	+279	+166
White:				
Immigrants	360	764	1,105	826
Outmigrant	601	855	942	656
Net migration	-241	¹ -91	¹ +163	+170
Black:				
Immigrants	14	62	238	59
Outmigrants	114	97	90	72
Net migration	-100	¹ -35	+148	¹ -13

¹ Not statistically significant.

⁷Long, Larry H., and Kristin A. Hansen, "Trends in Return Migration to the South," *Demography*, Vol. 12, November 1975, pp. 601-614.

⁸Long, Larry, "Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States," Russell Sage Foundation, New York, NY, 1988.

Figure 4. Net Migration, for Regions: 1980-87



Net migration for regions. Between March 1986 and March 1987, the Northeast had a net loss of 334,000 migrants to the other regions; the South had a net gain of 279,000 migrants; and the West had a net gain of 166,000 people due to migration. The net loss for the Midwest shown in table G (-111,000 ± 168,000) is not statistically significant—because of sampling variability the “true” net for the Midwest could range from -279,000 to +58,000 persons.

The South also had net immigration of Blacks between 1986 and 1987. (The numbers of immigrants, outmigrants, and net migration by race are shown in table G.) Black immigrants to the South outnumbered Black outmigrants by 148,000 (±70,000). The Northeast also had a significant net outmigration of 100,000 (±44,000) Blacks. The other two regions had nearly equal numbers of Black immigrants and outmigrants. For Whites, only the net loss of 241,000 (±120,000) migrants from the Northeast and the net gain of 170,000 (±143,000) migrants to the West were statistically significant. The Midwest and the South had nearly equal numbers of in and outmigrants.

In the previous 1-year period (between March 1985 and March 1986) the patterns for the Northeast, the

Table H. Movement Between Regions: 1986-87, 1985-86, 1984-85 and 1983-84

(Numbers in thousands)

Region moved from	Total	Region moved to			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
1986-87:					
Total movers	3,546	398	858	1,374	916
Northeast	732	(X)	130	433	169
Midwest	969	71	(X)	558	340
South	1,095	226	462	(X)	407
West	750	101	266	383	(X)
1985-86:					
Total movers	3,778	502	1,011	1,355	910
Northeast	752	(X)	119	451	182
Midwest	996	88	(X)	559	349
South	1,320	265	676	(X)	379
West	710	149	216	345	(X)
Change 1985-86 to 1986-87:					
Total movers	-232	-104	-153	19	6
Northeast	-20	(X)	11	-18	-13
Midwest	-27	-17	(X)	-1	-9
South	-225	-39	-214	(X)	28
West	40	-48	50	38	(X)
1984-85:					
Total movers	3,647	482	842	1,329	994
Northeast	691	(X)	124	400	167
Midwest	1,053	142	(X)	582	329
South	1,169	269	402	(X)	498
West	734	71	316	347	(X)
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)

X Not applicable.

Midwest, and the West were the same as for the current year. However, during that period the South did not have significantly different numbers of immigrants and outmigrants.

The data in table F also show that during most years of this decade the Northeast and the Midwest most often had net losses of migrants, while the South and the West usually had net immigration. These data for the last 5 years are shown graphically in figure 4.

Flows between regions. Looking at the origin and destination figures in table H for the two most recent periods, the only flow between the four regions that significantly changed was the number of persons moving from the South to the Midwest—a decrease of 214,000 migrants.⁹ The number of movers in each of the other flows did not show any significant change between the two periods.

Looking at the total number of immigrants and outmigrants by region, the number of outmigrants from the South declined by 225,000 between the 1985-86 and 1986-87 periods. The total number of immigrants to the South did not show any significant change between the two periods. Nor was there any significant change in the numbers of immigrants or outmigrants for any of the other three regions.

Rates of moving by region of residence. Rates of moving vary by region of residence. These data are shown at the bottom of table B. We would expect that the South and the West would have the highest percent of persons living there that had moved in the previous year since those two regions had net gains of interregional migrants. However, persons living in those two regions also had higher rates of intra-regional movement than persons living in the Northeast and the Midwest in 1987. In other words, people living in the South or the West are more likely to move than persons living in the Northeast or Midwest.

Persons living in the West had the highest overall movement with 22.4 percent of the population reporting that they had lived elsewhere in the United States 1 year earlier, compared with 18.1 percent for the United States as a whole. Westerners also made the most local moves—14.5 percent had moved within the same county, compared with 11.6 percent nationwide.

⁹Table H shows that the flow from the South to the Midwest declined from 676,000 persons in 1985-86 to 462,000 in 1986-87, a difference of 214,000 persons.

Table I. **Mobility Rates, for Regions: 1986-87**

Region	Popula- tion in ¹ 1986	² Movers	
		Number	Percent
Northeast	48,985	6,175	12.6
Midwest	57,730	9,772	16.9
South	79,944	16,040	20.1
West	47,287	10,565	22.3

¹Population of the region in 1987 minus immigrants to the region plus outmigrants from the region.

²Movers within the region plus outmigrants from the region.

Southerners also had both a higher than average overall rate of moving within the United States (20.3 percent) and a higher than the national average rate of local moves (12.9 percent).

Northeasterners and Midwesterners were the least mobile. Only 11.9 percent of persons living in the Northeast in March 1987 and 16.7 percent of Midwesterners had moved within the United States in the previous year. Their rates of intra-regional movement were also lower than the national average, with 10.7 percent of Midwesterners and only 7.6 percent of Northeasterners moving within the same county.

Only the West had a particularly high rate of movement from abroad—1.0 percent as compared with 0.3-0.4 percent for each of the other regions.

It can be argued that the Northeast and Midwest had lower rates of moving because more of their residents moved out to the other two regions. However, when the 1986 population at risk of moving is reconstructed and the rates of moving are calculated for persons by region of residence in 1986, the Northeast and the Midwest still had lower mobility rates than the other two regions. (These data are shown in table I.) Using these at risk rates, only 12.6 percent of Northeasterners and 16.9 percent of Midwesterners moved in the year between March 1986 and March 1987. At the same time the at risk rates for Southerners and Westerners were 20.1 percent and 22.3 percent, respectively.

USER COMMENTS

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

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