

CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

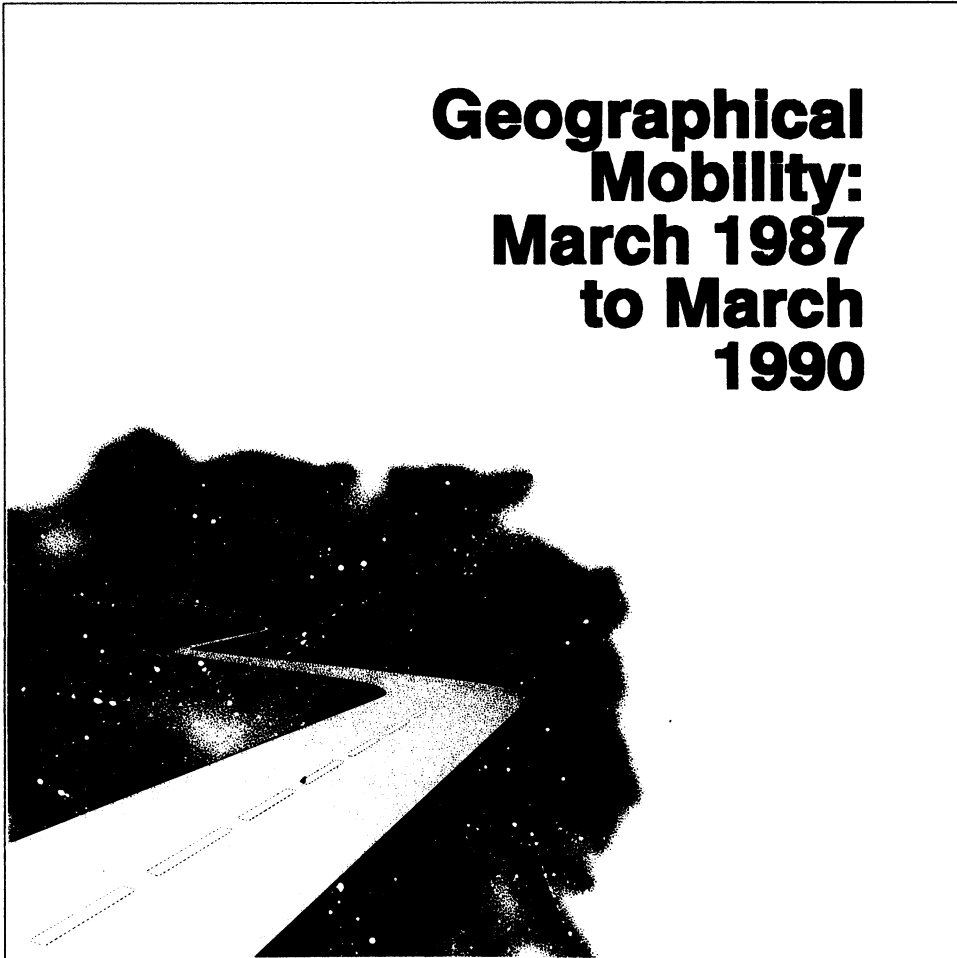
**Population Characteristics**

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by  
Diana DeAre

**Geographical  
Mobility:  
March 1987  
to March  
1990**



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary**  
**Rockwell A. Schnabel, Deputy Secretary**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**Michael R. Darby, Under Secretary**  
**for Economic Affairs and Administrator**

**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**  
**Barbara Everitt Bryant, Director**

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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.

# Geographical Mobility: March 1987 to March 1990

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides detailed statistics on the geographical mobility of Americans for the three 12-month periods between March 1987 and March 1990. The data were collected in the March Current Population Surveys (CPS) of 1988, 1989, and 1990. Mobility status is determined by asking respondents if they were living in the same residence (house or apartment) one year earlier; for persons who changed residence, additional questions are asked to identify county and city of residence one year earlier.

The mobility data for March 1988 and later years reflect a new computer processing system. The processing system was rewritten to incorporate new imputation and weighting procedures as well as some other changes; the new system is discussed more fully in Current Population Report, Series P-60, No. 166, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988*. The new processing system affected some of the mobility estimates but did not have any statistically significant impact on the number or rate of movers.

The tables in this report have been redesigned and expanded since the last mobility report. The new table package is included in its entirety for March 1989-90 data, whereas a selection of tables are shown for March 1988-89 and March 1987-88.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- About 18 ( $17.9 \pm 0.3$ ) percent of Americans changed residence between March 1989 and March 1990.<sup>1</sup> Rates of moving are down from the 1950's and 1960's when 20 percent or more of the population moved every year.
- The rate of moving for householders was  $17.4 (\pm 0.3)$  percent between 1989 and 1990. Nonfamily householders had a much higher rate of moving— $22.1 (\pm 0.7)$  percent—than family householders— $15.4 (\pm 0.4)$  percent.
- Metropolitan areas have shown modest net immigration from nonmetropolitan areas during the 1980's. Suburbs gained  $6.8 (\pm 0.3)$  million persons from

central cities and nonmetropolitan areas between 1989 and 1990 while losing only  $3.8 (\pm 0.3)$  million outmigrants. Central cities gained  $3.6 (\pm 0.3)$  million from immigration but lost  $6.6 (\pm 0.3)$  million movers.

- The Northeast had a consistent pattern of net outmigration to the other regions during the 1980's, whereas the South had a pattern of net immigration. The West and Midwest each attracted and lost nearly equal numbers of movers during the latter half of the decade.
- Black and White homeowners moved at similar rates between 1989 and 1990— $7.4 \pm 1.0$  percent for Blacks and  $7.6 \pm 0.3$  percent for Whites. White renters moved at a higher rate ( $35.6 \pm 0.8$  percent) than Black renters ( $29.2 \pm 1.5$  percent). Because a higher proportion of Blacks rent, however, their overall average mobility rate ( $20.0 \pm 1.0$  percent) was higher than the rate for Whites ( $16.7 \pm 0.3$  percent).
- One-fourth ( $25.1 \pm 1.3$  percent) of persons of Hispanic origin moved between 1989 and 1990, compared with  $17.3 (\pm 0.3)$  percent of non-Hispanics. The rate for Hispanic householders who owned their homes was not statistically different from the rate for non-Hispanic homeowners, and the rate for Hispanic renters was similar to that for non-Hispanic renters. The higher overall rate of moving for Hispanics reflects the higher proportion of Hispanics living in rental housing, which is associated with higher mobility rates.

## ANNUAL MOBILITY RATES

Between March 1989 and March 1990 43.4 million persons, or 17.9 percent of all persons aged one year and over, moved from one residence to another. The mobility rate—17.9 percent—includes 17.3 percent of the population who were living in a different house in the United States one year earlier and 0.6 percent who were living abroad. See table A.

The 1989-90 mobility rate is about the same as the rates for the two preceding years and coincides with the average of the ten one-year rates recorded over the 1980's. During the decade, the rate ranged from 16.6 percent in 1982-83 to 20.2 percent in 1984-85. The rates of moving during the 1980's were not much

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

**Table A. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates, By Type of Movement for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1950-1990**

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total, 1 year old and over	Total movers	Residing in the United States at beginning of the period						Residing outside the United States at beginning of the period
			Total	Different house, same county	Different county				
					Total	Same State	Different State	Different region	
<b>NUMBER</b>									
1989-90 .....	242,208	43,381	41,821	25,726	16,094	8,061	8,033	3,761	1,560
1988-89 .....	239,793	42,620	41,153	26,123	15,030	7,949	7,081	3,258	1,467
1987-88 .....	237,431	42,174	40,974	26,201	14,772	7,727	7,046	3,098	1,200
1986-87 .....	235,089	43,693	42,551	27,196	15,355	8,762	6,593	3,546	1,142
1985-86 .....	232,998	43,237	42,037	26,401	15,636	8,665	6,971	3,778	1,200
1984-85 .....	230,333	46,470	45,043	30,126	14,917	7,995	6,921	3,647	1,427
1983-84 .....	228,232	39,379	38,300	23,659	14,641	8,198	6,444	3,540	1,079
1982-83 .....	225,874	37,408	36,430	22,858	13,572	7,403	6,169	3,192	978
1981-82 .....	223,719	38,127	37,039	23,081	13,959	7,330	6,628	3,679	1,088
1980-81 .....	221,641	38,200	36,887	23,097	13,789	7,614	6,175	3,363	1,313
1975-76 .....	208,069	36,793	35,645	22,399	13,246	7,106	6,140	3,279	1,148
1970-71 .....	201,506	37,705	36,161	23,018	13,143	6,197	6,946	3,936	1,544
1965-66 .....	190,242	37,586	36,703	24,165	12,538	6,275	6,263	3,348	883
1960-61 .....	177,354	36,533	35,535	24,289	11,246	5,493	5,753	3,097	998
1955-56 .....	161,497	34,040	33,098	22,186	10,912	5,859	5,053	(NA)	942
1950-51 .....	148,400	31,464	31,158	20,694	10,464	5,276	5,188	(NA)	306
<b>PERCENT</b>									
1989-90 .....	100.0	17.9	17.3	10.6	6.6	3.3	3.3	1.6	0.6
1988-89 .....	100.0	17.8	17.2	10.9	6.3	3.3	3.0	1.4	0.6
1987-88 .....	100.0	17.8	17.3	11.0	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.3	0.5
1986-87 .....	100.0	18.6	18.1	11.6	6.5	3.7	2.8	1.5	0.5
1985-86 .....	100.0	18.6	18.0	11.3	6.7	3.7	3.0	1.6	0.5
1984-85 .....	100.0	20.2	19.6	13.1	6.5	3.5	3.0	1.6	0.6
1983-84 .....	100.0	17.3	16.8	10.4	6.4	3.6	2.8	1.6	0.5
1982-83 .....	100.0	16.6	16.1	10.1	6.0	3.3	2.7	1.4	0.4
1981-82 .....	100.0	17.0	16.6	10.3	6.2	3.3	3.0	1.6	0.5
1980-81 .....	100.0	17.2	16.6	10.4	6.2	3.4	2.8	1.5	0.6
1975-76 .....	100.0	17.7	17.1	10.8	6.4	3.4	3.0	1.6	0.6
1970-71 .....	100.0	18.7	17.9	11.4	6.5	3.1	3.4	2.0	0.8
1965-66 .....	100.0	19.8	19.3	12.7	6.6	3.3	3.3	1.8	0.5
1960-61 .....	100.0	20.6	20.0	13.7	6.3	3.1	3.2	1.7	0.6
1955-56 .....	100.0	21.1	20.5	13.7	6.8	3.6	3.1	(NA)	0.6
1950-51 .....	100.0	21.2	21.0	13.9	7.1	3.6	3.5	(NA)	0.2

NA Not available

different from the 1970's but were considerably lower than during the 1950's and 1960's, when 20 percent or more of the population moved every year.

The overall decline in moving rates for Americans is not the result of a change in age structure. The proportion of the population in the high-mobility ages of 20-29 is slightly higher in 1990 than it was in 1951. Furthermore, other research has shown that moving rates are down for almost all age groups.<sup>2</sup> That research has suggested a number of factors that may be contributing to the decline. For example, the increasing rate of homeownership, at least since the 1950's and 1960's,

would tend to dampen mobility rates since homeowners have lower rates than renters. Increasing car ownership and widening commuting distances, which can allow commuting to substitute for moving, may also be contributing to the decline in moving rates. Another possible factor is the increasing labor force participation of women and their greater likelihood to have careers, which leads to more two-career families, which in turn makes relocating more difficult. The effect of the increase of two-career families on local moving rates is not clear. Their greater purchasing power may lead to more mobility transitions; however, they may also be able to achieve better housing at earlier ages and not have to make as many transitions.

<sup>2</sup>Larry Long, *Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.



## LOCAL VERSUS LONG-DISTANCE MOVING

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

Generally speaking, local moves are housing adjustments—the purchase of a new home, a change of apartments, etc.—or are made in response to changes in family status which are commonly termed life-cycle changes. These life-cycle changes include marriage, divorce, birth of a child, and death of a spouse. Long-distance moves are more frequently undertaken for economic reasons, including corporate transfers, military transfers, new jobs, or looking for work. Other persons move to attend school or for noneconomic reasons such as a desire for a change of climate, proximity to recreational areas, or family reasons.<sup>3</sup>

As can be seen from table A, short-distance movers outnumber long-distance ones. The highest proportion of movers (25.7 million persons or 10.6 percent of the total population) stayed within the same county; much lower proportions (3.3 percent each) moved to a different county in the same State or to a different State; and only 1.6 percent moved from one of the four major census regions to another. Local moves were also the predominant type of move in earlier decades. In 1950-51, for example, movers within the same county accounted for 2 out of 3 movers (20.7 million local movers out of a total 31.5 million movers).

The gradual decline in mobility rates since the 1950's is mainly the result of a decline in local moving rates. Same county movers represented about 14 percent of the population in the 1950's but just under 11 percent by 1989-90. The proportion of long-distance movers, on the other hand, has not changed significantly from the 1950's (around 7.0 percent) to 1990 (6.6 percent).

## HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY RATES

The notion of mobility rates for households and families is somewhat ambiguous because the members do not always move as a group. One can examine the

mobility rate for the householder—the person who owns/rents the house. A family householder is a householder who lives with at least one other person related by marriage, birth, or adoption. A nonfamily householder lives alone (84 percent of all nonfamily householders in March 1990) or with unrelated persons. The number of family householders equals the number of families, and the total of family and nonfamily householders equals the number of households. Mobility data for all householders and family and nonfamily householders are shown in table B.

About 16.2 million householders moved between March 1989 and March 1990. The mobility rate for all householders was 17.4 percent—just a little lower than the rate for all persons shown in table A. The two series have both declined between the mid-1960's and 1990.

About 15.4 percent of family householders moved, a rate lower than those for all persons as well as for all householders. The rate is down from about 19 percent in the mid-1960's. Nonfamily householders, in contrast, have a much higher current rate of moving—22.1 percent—than all persons and all householders, and the rate has increased slightly since the mid-1960's. Thus the decline in overall mobility over the last two decades is due to declines in family mobility. This lends some support to the view that mobility rates in the U.S. have been dampened as a result of the growth of two-career families, although there may be other reasons for the changes in family mobility. The decline may also reflect a greater difficulty in making the short-distance housing transitions that typify life-cycle changes, such as having to spend more time as renters before moving to a starter house and more time in a starter house before moving to a larger house.

## METROPOLITAN MOBILITY PATTERNS

A net movement of population to metropolitan areas has been a distinguishing feature of U.S. population during the 20th century.<sup>4</sup> The major exception was the 1970's, which was characterized by net outmigration from metropolitan areas to the nonmetropolitan parts of the country.<sup>5</sup>

Since 1980, metropolitan areas have reverted to net gains in population as the result of internal migration. The Current Population Survey taken in March 1986 was the first to present migration data according to the new MSA definitions based on 1980 census data. The definitions carried in the CPS refer to MSA's defined as of June 30, 1984. Table C shows mobility data for

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, Jeanne Woodward, Current Housing Reports, Series H121, No. 91-2, *Housing Characteristics of Recent Mover Households*, 1991; and Larry H. Long and Diana DeAre, Special Demographic Analyses, CDS 80-2, *Migration to Nonmetropolitan areas: Appraising the Trend and Reasons for Moving*, 1980.

<sup>4</sup>William H. Frey and Alden Speare, Jr., *Regional and Metropolitan Growth and Decline in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.

<sup>5</sup>Larry Long and Diana DeAre, "Repopulating the Countryside: A 1980 Census Trend," *Science*, Vol. 217, September 1982, pp. 1111-1116.

Table B. Annual Geographical Mobility Rates for Householders, for Selected 1-Year Periods: 1965-1990

(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Householders		Family householders		Nonfamily householders	
	Total	Movers	Total	Movers	Total	Movers
<b>NUMBER</b>						
1989-90	93,347	16,197	66,090	10,161	27,257	6,036
1988-89	92,830	16,219	65,837	10,143	26,993	6,076
1987-88	91,124	15,923	65,204	10,095	25,920	5,828
1986-87	89,479	16,060	64,491	10,435	24,988	5,625
1985-86	88,458	15,941	63,558	10,162	24,900	5,779
1984-85	86,789	16,861	62,706	10,978	24,083	5,883
1983-84	85,407	14,329	61,997	9,234	23,410	5,095
1982-83	83,918	13,463	61,393	8,572	22,525	4,891
1981-82	83,527	14,138	61,019	8,906	22,508	5,232
1980-81	82,368	13,931	60,309	8,986	22,059	4,945
1975-76	72,867	13,320	56,245	9,470	16,622	3,850
1970-71	64,379	11,941	51,828	9,189	12,551	2,752
1965-66	58,101	11,173	48,173	9,122	9,928	2,051
<b>PERCENT</b>						
1989-90	100.0	17.4	100.0	15.4	100.0	22.1
1988-89	100.0	17.5	100.0	15.4	100.0	22.5
1987-88	100.0	17.5	100.0	15.5	100.0	22.5
1986-87	100.0	17.9	100.0	16.2	100.0	22.5
1985-86	100.0	18.0	100.0	16.0	100.0	23.2
1984-85	100.0	19.4	100.0	17.5	100.0	24.4
1983-84	100.0	16.8	100.0	14.9	100.0	21.8
1982-83	100.0	16.0	100.0	14.0	100.0	21.7
1981-82	100.0	16.9	100.0	14.6	100.0	23.2
1980-81	100.0	16.9	100.0	14.9	100.0	22.4
1975-76	100.0	18.3	100.0	16.8	100.0	23.2
1970-71	100.0	18.5	100.0	17.7	100.0	21.9
1965-66	100.0	19.2	100.0	18.9	100.0	20.7

Table C. Inmigrants, Outmigrants, and Net Migration for Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1985-1990

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

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

\*Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup>Revised since publication in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 430, *Geographical Mobility: March 1986 to March 1987*; and No. 425, *Geographical Mobility: March 1985 to March 1986*.

metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas for one-year periods beginning with March 1985-86. The data show modest net immigration to metropolitan areas for 1985-86 and 1986-87, followed by small net flows for the next three years that are not statistically significant. The net immigration for metropolitan areas is statistically significant for all years when movers from abroad are taken into account. Nonmetropolitan areas had consistent negative net flows over the five years but the flows for only two years (1985-86 and 1986-87) were large enough to be statistically significant. The impact of movers from abroad on nonmetropolitan areas was minor, since most movers from abroad (about 92 percent for 1989-90) settle in metropolitan areas. The effects of movers leaving the country are not captured by these data.

Note that the data for March 1985-86 and March 1986-87 have been revised since earlier publication.<sup>6</sup> The data were originally processed incorrectly; previous residence of movers was coded according to June 1981 MSA definitions instead of those for June 1984, whereas current residence was correctly coded according to the June 1984 definition. The net effect of the processing error was to overstate immigrants to metropolitan areas by 400,000 to 500,000 and to understate immigrants to nonmetropolitan areas by about 100,000.

Although the net flows between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas due to internal migration are quite modest, the net flows within metropolitan areas are substantial. For each of the five one-year periods shown in table C, central cities lost 1.6 to 3.0 million residents while their suburbs (the parts of metropolitan areas outside central cities) gained 1.9 to 3.2 million persons. The gross flows which underlie the net gains and losses are even more substantial. Between March 1989 and March 1990, central cities gained 3.7 million persons from suburbs and nonmetropolitan areas but lost 6.5 million. The suburbs gained 6.7 million persons from central cities and nonmetropolitan areas and lost only 3.8 million. Thus suburbanization continued to be a major feature of population redistribution in the 1980's, as it has been throughout this century.

The flows between central cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas are important indicators of population redistribution, but they account for less than 30 percent of all movers. As shown in table D, the largest flows are within the same type of area rather than between areas. From March 1989 to March 1990, 11.7 million people made suburb-to-suburb moves. A similar number, 11.4 million, moved within central cities, and

6.5 million moved within nonmetropolitan areas. Viewed differently, three out of four (11.7 out of 15.5 million) suburban residents in March 1989 who moved during the succeeding year were still living in suburbs after the move. A similar proportion of nonmetropolitan movers—77 percent (6.5 out of 8.4 million) stayed within nonmetropolitan areas. Central cities were not as likely to retain residents; among central city dwellers who moved, 64 percent (11.4 out of 17.9 million) chose a central city destination.

## REGIONAL PATTERNS OF MOVING

Regional migration patterns are another important indicator of population redistribution. Historically, the population of this country has shifted to the West. Between the Civil War and the late 1950's, there was a secondary shift from the South to the industrialized cities in the North. By the 1960's, however, the South had experienced a turnaround and was showing net immigration of persons from the other regions.<sup>7</sup>

The turnaround in regional migration patterns has been attributed to a variety of economic and life-style changes in this country.<sup>8</sup> Contributing factors include: the relocation of industry out of the "Rustbelt" into the South because of tax incentives and lower labor costs; the rise of light industry, such as electronics, that depend on trucking rather than rail transportation; the spread of home air conditioning; the leveling of regional differences in standards of living, educational opportunities, and cultural amenities; and the success of the civil rights movement.

Immigration, outmigration, and net migration for the four major regions are shown in table E. Two patterns that are fairly consistent during the 1980's are the movement out of the Northeast and the continued movement to the South. The Northeast had a consistent pattern of net outmigration to the other regions; the net flows were statistically significant for all but one year (1983-84). Movers from abroad have tended to offset net losses for the Northeast, however, so that the region has not experienced any statistically significant losses due to net migration in any year of the decade. (This ignores movers to outside the U.S., who are not captured by the survey.) The South, in contrast, has shown a consistent pattern of net immigration over the decade with significant flows for all but two years (1984-85 and 1985-86). Movers from abroad have supplemented the internal gains to give the South statistically significant net immigration for every year.

The West, like the South, has had statistically significant net immigration for every year of the decade when movers from abroad are taken into account. Internal

<sup>6</sup>The mobility reports which had incorrect migration figures were Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 425, *Geographical Mobility: March 1985 to March 1986*, 1988; and No. 430, *Geographical Mobility: March 1986 to March 1987*, 1989. Only the tables that classified movers by metropolitan-nonmetropolitan origin were incorrect. Corrected migration data fields for the March 1986 and March 1987 public use files will be made available from the Data User Services Division of the Census Bureau.

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

<sup>8</sup>Larry Long, *Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States*, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.

Table D. **Movers Within and Between Central Cities, Suburbs, and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1985-1990**

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

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

migration patterns have been inconsistent with only three years of significant net inflows. The Midwest has experienced small net flows that are not statistically significant; the region is attracting and retaining more people than during the first half of the decade, when it experienced net outmigration from internal migration every year.

The flows between regions are shown in detailed tables 20 and 21. Caution should be used in interpreting them, since some of the figures are small and not statistically reliable.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Selected characteristics of movers by type of move for 1989-90 are shown in table F and discussed below.

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

### Age

Moving rates vary by age, as shown in table F and Figure 1. Among adults, those in their twenties have the highest rates of moving: 37.9 percent of persons 20-24 years and 33.4 percent of persons 25-29 years moved between March 1989 and March 1990. The overall rate peaked at 22-24 years, when rates reached 41 percent; see figure 1. The rate gradually decreased to 23.2 percent for 30-34 year-olds, 14.0 percent for 40-44 year-olds, 9.1 percent for 50-54 year-olds, to 6.4 percent for persons 85 years and over. The age variation

Table E. Annual Immigration, Outmigration, Net Migration, and Movers from Abroad for Regions: 1980-1990

(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>1989-90</b>				
Inmigrants .....	461	908	1,428	964
Outmigrants .....	758	1,024	1,198	781
Net migration .....	(297)*	(116)	230 *	183
Movers from abroad .....	328	169	500	562
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	31	53	730 *	745 *
<b>1988-89</b>				
Inmigrants .....	370	777	1,318	791
Outmigrants .....	714	703	1,071	637
Net migration .....	(344)*	74	247 *	154
Movers from abroad .....	292	170	375	629
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(52)	244 *	622 *	783 *
<b>1987-88</b>				
Inmigrants .....	430	715	1,338	613
Outmigrants .....	671	818	886	721
Net migration .....	(241)*	(103)	452 *	(108)
Movers from abroad .....	261	146	414	379
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	20	43	866 *	271 *
<b>1986-87</b>				
Inmigrants .....	398	858	1,374	916
Outmigrants .....	732	969	1,095	750
Net migration .....	(334)*	(111)	279 *	166
Movers from abroad .....	214	193	277	458
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(120)	82	556 *	624 *
<b>1985-86</b>				
Inmigrants .....	502	1,011	1,355	910
Outmigrants .....	752	996	1,320	710
Net migration .....	(250)*	15	35	200 *
Movers from abroad .....	198	158	342	502
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(52)	173	377 *	702 *
<b>1984-85</b>				
Inmigrants .....	482	842	1,329	994
Outmigrants .....	691	1,053	1,169	734
Net migration .....	(209)*	(211)*	160	260 *
Movers from abroad .....	228	168	532	499
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	19	(43)	692 *	759 *
<b>1983-84</b>				
Inmigrants .....	487	820	1,399	834
Outmigrants .....	578	1,102	973	887
Net migration .....	(91)	(282)*	426 *	(53)
Movers from abroad .....	213	141	383	341
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	122	(141)	809 *	288 *
<b>1982-83</b>				
Inmigrants .....	439	661	1,211	880
Outmigrants .....	625	947	973	645
Net migration .....	(186)*	(286)*	238 *	235 *
Movers from abroad .....	192	149	323	315
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	6	(137)	561 *	550 *
<b>1981-82</b>				
Inmigrants .....	473	793	1,482	931
Outmigrants .....	685	1,163	1,012	819
Net migration .....	(212)*	(370)*	470 *	112
Movers from abroad .....	229	134	401	324
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	17	(236)*	871 *	436 *
<b>1980-81</b>				
Inmigrants .....	464	650	1,377	871
Outmigrants .....	706	1,056	890	710
Net migration .....	(242)*	(406)*	487 *	161
Movers from abroad .....	207	180	412	514
Net migration (including movers from abroad) .....	(35)	(226)*	899 *	675 *

\*Net flow significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

Table F. Selected Characteristics of Persons, by Mobility Status and Type of Move: 1989-1990

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total 1 year and older	Different house in the United States						Movers from abroad
		Total movers	Total	Local movement (same county)	Long-distance (different county)			
					Total	Same state	Different state	
<b>NUMBER</b>								
All persons .....	242,208	43,381	41,821	25,726	16,094	8,061	8,033	1,560
<b>Age:</b>								
1-4 years .....	14,948	3,553	3,474	2,275	1,199	555	644	79
5-9 years .....	18,300	3,480	3,373	2,238	1,135	545	590	107
10-14 years .....	17,168	2,559	2,452	1,559	892	398	494	107
15-19 years .....	17,266	3,068	2,874	1,789	1,085	557	528	194
20-24 years .....	17,988	6,810	6,532	4,046	2,486	1,340	1,146	278
25-29 years .....	21,200	7,080	6,861	4,172	2,689	1,386	1,303	219
30-34 years .....	22,040	5,116	4,953	3,023	1,929	931	999	163
35-39 years .....	19,891	3,572	3,433	2,077	1,355	621	734	139
40-44 years .....	17,304	2,421	2,342	1,406	936	466	470	79
45-49 years .....	13,860	1,456	1,408	813	595	339	256	48
50-54 years .....	11,444	1,041	1,008	625	383	182	201	33
55-59 years .....	10,549	870	841	477	364	171	194	29
60-64 years .....	10,683	742	700	355	345	189	155	42
65-69 years .....	10,126	583	567	314	253	141	112	16
70-74 years .....	7,853	334	328	187	141	79	62	6
75-79 years .....	5,791	336	327	178	149	80	69	9
80-84 years .....	3,563	218	212	114	97	44	54	6
85 years and over .....	2,233	143	137	76	61	39	23	6
Median age .....	33.2	26.5	26.6	26.1	27.3	27.3	27.4	25.3
<b>Sex:</b>								
Male .....	117,791	21,681	20,838	12,698	8,140	4,089	4,052	843
Female .....	124,416	21,700	20,983	13,029	7,954	3,973	3,982	717
<b>Race:</b>								
White .....	203,788	35,302	34,163	20,437	13,727	6,900	6,826	1,139
Black .....	29,769	6,024	5,903	4,178	1,725	871	854	121
<b>Hispanic origin:</b>								
Hispanic .....	20,257	5,086	4,588	3,412	1,176	681	495	498
Not Hispanic .....	221,951	38,295	37,233	22,314	14,918	7,380	7,538	1,062
<b>Tenure:</b>								
Owner-occupied .....	162,877	15,047	14,701	8,463	6,238	3,276	2,962	346
Renter-occupied .....	79,331	28,334	27,121	17,263	9,856	4,785	5,072	1,214
<b>Years of school completed:</b>								
Total 25 years and over .....	156,538	23,910	23,116	13,818	9,298	4,666	4,632	794
Elementary: 0 to 8 years .....	17,590	1,965	1,813	1,288	525	300	225	152
High school: 1 to 3 years .....	17,462	2,630	2,580	1,729	851	461	389	50
4 years .....	60,119	8,799	8,571	5,325	3,246	1,750	1,496	228
College: 1 to 3 years .....	28,075	4,773	4,656	2,694	1,962	980	982	117
4 years .....	19,466	3,479	3,339	1,726	1,613	713	901	140
5 years or more .....	13,825	2,266	2,158	1,057	1,101	461	639	108
Median years of school completed .....	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.7	13.0	12.9	13.6	12.9
<b>Labor force status:</b>								
Total 16 years and over .....	188,479	33,275	32,033	19,357	12,676	6,453	6,222	1,242
Civilian labor force .....	123,499	24,589	23,881	14,602	9,279	4,839	4,439	708
Employed .....	116,669	22,569	21,950	13,471	8,479	4,454	4,026	619
Unemployed .....	6,830	2,019	1,931	1,131	800	386	414	88
Armed Forces .....	955	453	380	162	217	43	174	73
Not in the labor force .....	64,026	8,233	7,772	4,593	3,179	1,571	1,609	461

Table F. Selected Characteristics of Persons, by Mobility Status and Type of Move: 1989-1990—Con.

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total 1 year and older	Different house in the United States						
		Total movers	Total	Local movement (same county)	Long-distance (different county)			
					Total	Same state	Different state	Movers from abroad
<b>PERCENT</b>								
All persons .....	100.0	17.9	17.3	10.6	6.6	3.3	3.3	0.6
<b>Age:</b>								
1-4 years .....	100.0	23.8	23.2	15.2	8.0	3.7	4.3	0.5
5-9 years .....	100.0	19.0	18.4	12.2	6.2	3.0	3.2	0.6
10-14 years .....	100.0	14.9	14.3	9.1	5.2	2.3	2.9	0.6
15-19 years .....	100.0	17.8	16.6	10.4	6.3	3.2	3.1	1.1
20-24 years .....	100.0	37.9	36.3	22.5	13.8	7.4	6.4	1.5
25-29 years .....	100.0	33.4	32.4	19.7	12.7	6.5	6.1	1.0
30-34 years .....	100.0	23.2	22.5	13.7	8.8	4.2	4.5	0.7
35-39 years .....	100.0	18.0	17.3	10.4	6.8	3.1	3.7	0.7
40-44 years .....	100.0	14.0	13.5	8.1	5.4	2.7	2.7	0.5
45-49 years .....	100.0	10.5	10.2	5.9	4.3	2.4	1.8	0.3
50-54 years .....	100.0	9.1	8.8	5.5	3.3	1.6	1.8	0.3
55-59 years .....	100.0	8.2	8.0	4.5	3.5	1.6	1.8	0.3
60-64 years .....	100.0	6.9	6.6	3.3	3.2	1.8	1.5	0.4
65-69 years .....	100.0	5.8	5.6	3.1	2.5	1.4	1.1	0.2
70-74 years .....	100.0	4.3	4.2	2.4	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.1
75-79 years .....	100.0	5.8	5.6	3.1	2.6	1.4	1.2	0.2
80-84 years .....	100.0	6.1	6.0	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.5	0.2
85 years and over .....	100.0	6.4	6.1	3.4	2.7	1.7	1.0	0.3
<b>Sex:</b>								
Male .....	100.0	18.4	17.7	10.8	6.9	3.5	3.4	0.7
Female .....	100.0	17.4	16.9	10.5	6.4	3.2	3.2	0.6
<b>Race:</b>								
White .....	100.0	17.3	16.8	10.0	6.7	3.4	3.3	0.6
Black .....	100.0	20.2	19.8	14.0	5.8	2.9	2.9	0.4
<b>Hispanic origin:</b>								
Hispanic .....	100.0	25.1	22.6	16.8	5.8	3.4	2.4	2.5
Not Hispanic .....	100.0	17.3	16.8	10.1	6.7	3.3	3.4	0.5
<b>Tenure:</b>								
Owner-occupied .....	100.0	9.2	9.0	5.2	3.8	2.0	1.8	0.2
Renter-occupied .....	100.0	35.7	34.2	21.8	12.4	6.0	6.4	1.5
<b>Years of school completed:</b>								
Total 25 years and over .....	100.0	15.3	14.8	8.8	5.9	3.0	3.0	0.5
Elementary: 0 to 8 years .....	100.0	11.2	10.3	7.3	3.0	1.7	1.3	0.9
High school: 1 to 3 years .....	100.0	15.1	14.8	9.9	4.9	2.6	2.2	0.3
4 years .....	100.0	14.6	14.3	8.9	5.4	2.9	2.5	0.4
College: 1 to 3 years .....	100.0	17.0	16.6	9.6	7.0	3.5	3.5	0.4
4 years .....	100.0	17.9	17.2	8.9	8.3	3.7	4.6	0.7
5 years or more .....	100.0	16.4	15.6	7.6	8.0	3.3	4.6	0.8
<b>Labor force status:</b>								
Total 16 years and over .....	100.0	17.7	17.0	10.3	6.7	3.4	3.3	0.7
Civilian labor force .....	100.0	19.9	19.3	11.8	7.5	3.9	3.6	0.6
Employed .....	100.0	19.3	18.8	11.5	7.3	3.8	3.5	0.5
Unemployed .....	100.0	29.6	28.3	16.6	11.7	5.7	6.1	1.3
Armed Forces .....	100.0	47.4	39.8	17.0	22.7	4.5	18.2	7.6
Not in the labor force .....	100.0	12.9	12.1	7.2	5.0	2.5	2.5	0.7

exists regardless of type of move; young adults in their twenties were more likely than others to have made both local and long-distance moves.

At most ages, movers are more likely to make a local move than a long-distance move. Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between age and type of move. The proportion moving locally is generally higher up to about age 55. For age groups above 55, however, there are no statistically significant differences between the proportions making local and long-distance moves. In other words, movers over age 55 were just as likely to make a long-distance move as a local one.

### Race and Hispanic origin

Blacks have higher overall rates of moving than Whites—20.2 percent for Blacks and 17.3 percent for Whites (table F). The higher overall rates of moving for Blacks reflect higher rates of local moving. Between 1989 and 1990, 14.0 percent of Blacks moved within the

same county while 10.0 percent of Whites made such moves. There were no statistically significant differences in the rates at which Blacks and Whites moved from abroad, and Blacks had slightly lower rates of moving between counties within the same State and between States.

While most persons of Hispanic origin report their race as White (96 percent in March 1990), their rates and patterns of moving may be very different from those of other Whites as well as from persons reporting their race as Black. Rates of moving for persons of Hispanic origin and non-Hispanics are shown in table F. One-fourth of persons of Hispanic origin—25.1 percent—moved between 1989 and 1990 compared with 17.3 percent of non-Hispanics. The difference mainly reflects higher rates of local moving for Hispanics (16.8 percent versus 10.1 percent for non-Hispanics) and more movers from abroad. The rates of moving between counties in the same State were similar for Hispanics and non-Hispanics, and Hispanics had a slightly lower rate of moving between States.

Figure 1.  
**Percent Who Moved, by Type of Move and Age:  
March 1989 to March 1990**

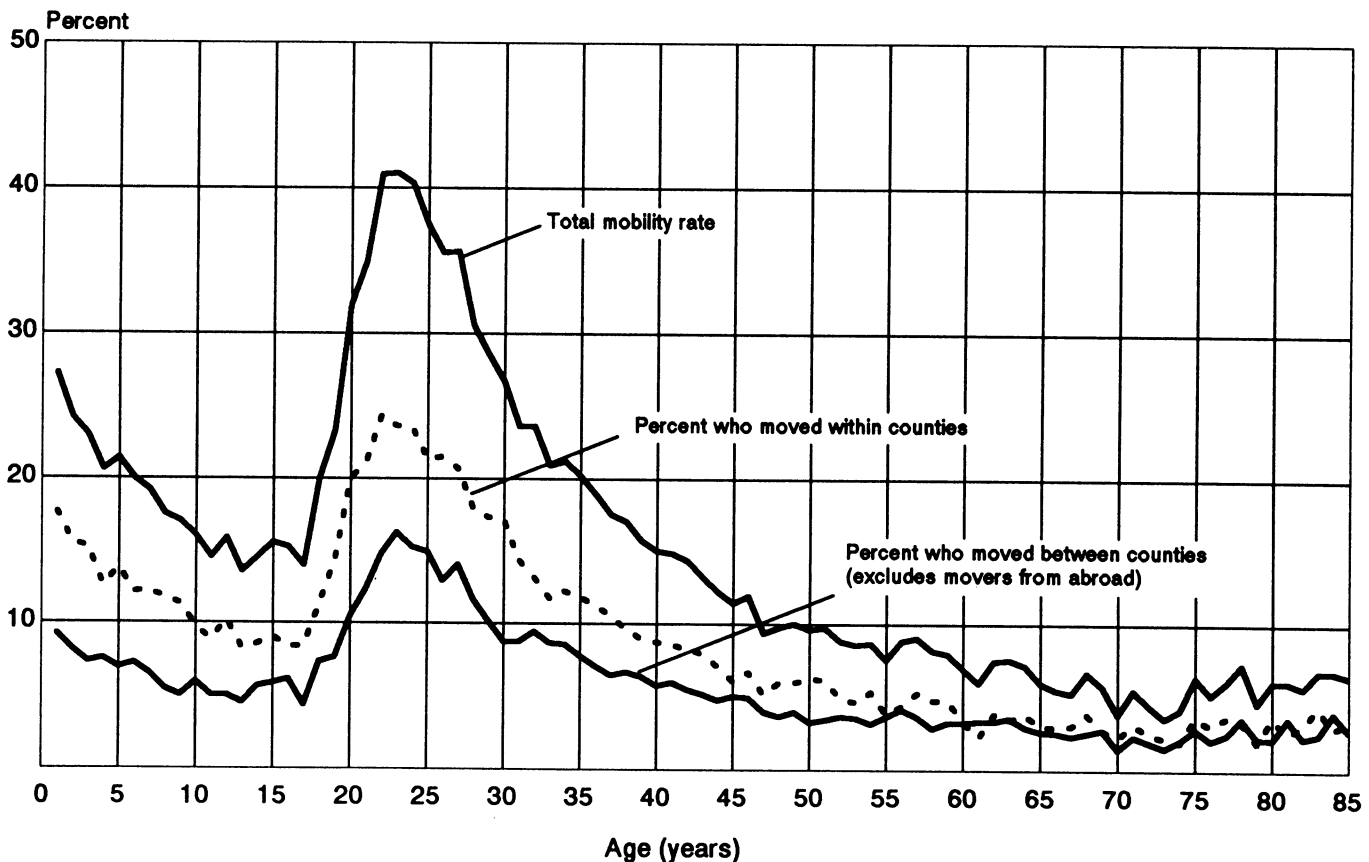




Table G. **Mobility of Householders, by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Tenure: 1989-1990**

(Numbers in thousands)

Tenure	White	Black	Hispanic origin	Not Hispanic
Total 1 year and over .....	80,163	10,485	5,933	87,514
Owner-occupied .....	54,094	4,445	2,443	57,403
Renter-occupied .....	26,069	6,040	3,490	30,111
Total movers .....	13,399	2,092	1,399	14,799
Owner-occupied .....	4,114	329	217	4,395
Renter-occupied .....	9,285	1,763	1,182	10,404
Total percent moving .....	16.7	20.0	23.6	16.9
Owner-occupied .....	7.6	7.4	8.9	7.7
Renter-occupied .....	35.6	29.2	33.9	34.6

The differences in mobility rates by race and ethnic origin are associated with housing tenure. Renters have higher moving rates than owners (35.7 percent versus 9.2 percent for 1989-90), and Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to rent than Whites and non-Hispanics, respectively. When tenure is taken into account, the differences by race and ethnic origin change. Table G shows separate rates of moving for White, Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic householders who owned their homes and who rented their homes after the move. Tenure was only obtained after the move in the CPS. Among homeowners, there is no statistically significant difference between White and Black mobility rates. Among renters, Whites had higher mobility rates than Blacks, just the reverse of the overall finding. The moving rate for Hispanic homeowners was not statistically different from those of non-Hispanic, Black, and White homeowners. Hispanic renters had slightly higher rates than Blacks, but their rates were not significantly different from those of non-Hispanics and Whites.

## Education

The relationship between education (measured here as years of school completed) and residential mobility is complicated. Table F shows mobility rates by years of school completed for persons 25 years old and over. Persons who completed college or had some college had higher rates of moving than those with only a high school education. Persons who had attended high school, in turn, had higher mobility rates than persons with only an elementary school education. This general pattern only describes long-distance movers, however. Among local movers, persons with only elementary school educations were still least likely to move whereas those with high school and college educations had similar probabilities of moving.

The relationship between education and mobility is further complicated by the effects of age. One reason why persons with only an elementary school education had the lowest rates of moving is that they are likely to belong to the least-mobile, older age groups. Almost

half (48 percent) of persons with only an elementary school education in March 1990 were 65 years and over; 79 percent were 45 years and over.

## Labor force status

Rates of moving also vary by labor force status, which in the CPS is available only at the time of the survey and may not reflect status at the time of moving. Members of the Armed Forces had very high rates of moving—about half (47.4 percent) had changed residences during the twelve months preceding March 1990 (table F). This may be an underestimate, since the Current Population Survey includes only those members of the Armed Forces living off base or in housing units on base with their families. Military personnel who lived in barracks or other group quarters may have had even higher rates of moving than those surveyed.

Although members of the Armed Forces have very high rates of moving, they account for less than eight percent of the total labor force in the CPS. Among civilians, persons who were unemployed during the survey week had higher rates of moving than those who were employed and also higher than those who were not in the labor force, although not as high as the rate at which military personnel moved. About 30.0 percent of the unemployed in March 1990 moved within the United States during the preceding year. Both the local and non-local moving rates for the unemployed were higher than those for the employed and for those not in the labor force.

Employed persons moved at a rate only a little higher than the national average for all persons 16 years and over (19.3 percent versus 17.7 percent), with most moves taking place within the same county (60 percent). A lower rate of moving was found among persons 16 years and over who were not in the labor force—only 12.9 percent had moved in the previous year. Persons 16 years old and over who are not in the labor force consist mainly of retired persons, students, persons keeping house and/or caring for their families, and others who do only volunteer work. Self-employed persons who work at home are considered employed.