



Chapter 7

Migration

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# Migration

Americans have traditionally been highly mobile, with nearly 1 in 7 people changing residence each year. Some of these moves occur within the same neighborhood; others are to a different state or region. People move for many reasons, including a search for economic opportunities, the desire for a different social environment or lifestyle, the beckoning lights of a bigger city, or the lure of a better climate. Regardless of the reason for moving, migration has brought about substantial and continued redistribution of the nation's people.

*Migration* is commonly defined as a move that crosses a jurisdictional boundary, such as that of a county or state. *Residential mobility* includes migration as well as moves within a jurisdictional boundary. Moves between counties are referred to as *intercounty* migration, while moves that also cross state boundaries are called *interstate* migration. Further, migration can be differentiated as movement among the 50 states and District of Columbia (*domestic*, or *internal*, migration) and movement into and out of the United States (*international* migration).

### Migration's Impact

Population redistribution has consequences for the origin and the destination communities as well as the individual migrants. Migration can result in population decline or population growth for an area, depending on whether the net movement of people to the area is positive (more immigrants than outmigrants) or negative (more outmigrants than immigrants). Migration trends also can affect the size, age-sex structure, and other characteristics of an area's population. For instance, the average educational level of an area's population can increase if immigrants to the area have

higher levels of educational attainment than the area's residents or outmigrants.

### Why People Move

There are mixed and multiple motives behind migration. Combinations of economic and noneconomic factors can help explain the reasons why people move and how far away they choose to move. Some of the economic factors include cost of housing, employment opportunities, and commuting time to work. Noneconomic factors include proximity to family, change in marital status, and a desire for better housing.

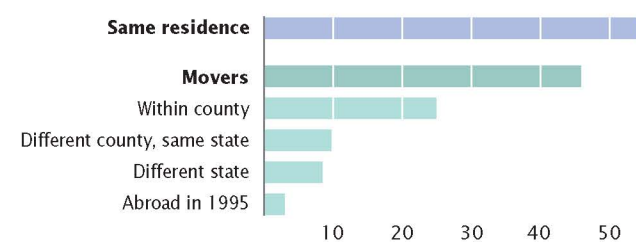
The socioeconomic characteristics of movers, such as level of education and income, can also play a role in the decisions people make. In general, the likelihood of migrating decreases with age (until retirement), and long-distance migration is more common among the highly-educated.

### Distances of Moves

Census 2000 revealed that most people were living in the same residence in 2000 as in 1995 (Figure 7-1). Of the 262.4 million people aged 5 and older in 2000, 142.0 million, or 54.1 percent, were living in the same residence as in 1995. In contrast, 120.3 million people were living in a different residence in 2000 than in 1995. Most of the movers had not moved a long distance. Indeed, 65.4 million of the 120.3 million movers lived in a different residence within the same county in 1995 and 2000, while 22.1 million people had moved from a different state. In 2000, 7.5 million people reported they had lived abroad in 1995.

Figure 7-1.

### Percent of Population 5 and Older by Type of Move, 1995 to 2000



### “Go West, Young Man”

Westward migration has been a hallmark of American migration for more than two centuries, and as the nation gradually expanded westward, the location of the “West” shifted accordingly. In the early to mid-nineteenth century, migrants from New England and the Northeast settled much of the Great Lakes region of the Midwest. In the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s, many thousands of farm families in the hard-hit states of the Great Plains and elsewhere migrated westward to California in search of work. Stark regional differences in migration patterns from 1935 to 1940 are seen in map 07-01, with the net domestic outmigration in the Great Plains states contrasting with the net domestic immigration for many western states. (Alaska and Hawaii, which became states in 1959, were not part of the domestic migration universe in the 1940 census.) The flow of migrants to California continued in the decades following World War II, with the result that in the early 1960s, California surpassed New York to become the nation's most populous state.

In the 1950s and 1960s, some southern states, such as Alabama and Mississippi, continued to experience net outmigration to the rest of the country, while others, including Florida and Texas, received considerable net domestic immigration. These migration patterns were due, in part, to shifting economic conditions. Florida, in particular, was the destination of many migrants from other states. Between 1965 and 1970, Florida had net domestic migration of 573,000 people, a rate of 110.2 per 1,000 residents in 1965 (map 07-02).

Between 1975 and 1980, net domestic immigration occurred in the majority of southern states, as Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee joined Florida, Georgia, and Texas in experiencing net domestic immigration from the rest of the country.

In the 1985-to-1990 period, net domestic immigration occurred in southeastern states and in much of the West, while net domestic outmigration

occurred in many states in the Northeast and Midwest. Four states (Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming) that had net domestic immigration between 1975 and 1980 saw their migration patterns reverse to net domestic outmigration 10 years later. Migration patterns in these four states were likely affected by the economic hardships in the energy industry during the period 1985 to 1990.

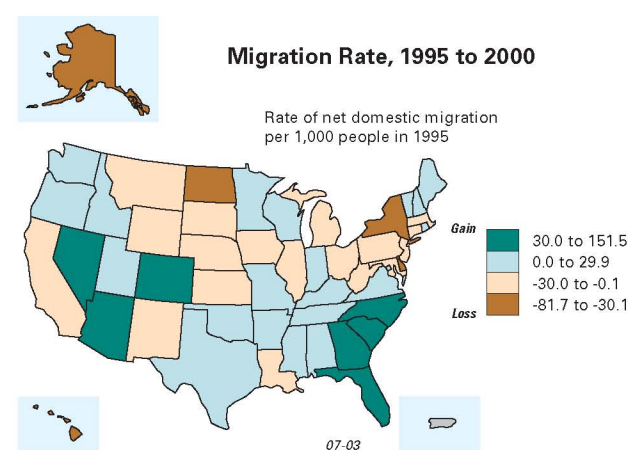
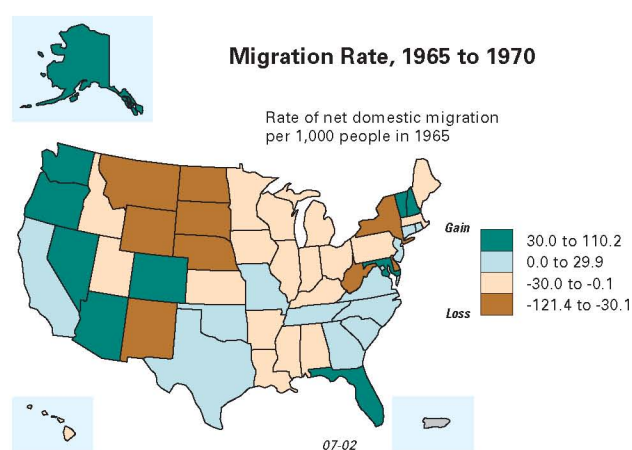
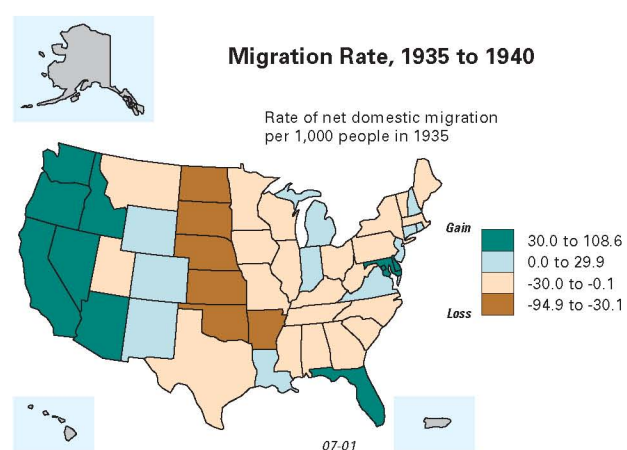
### Contemporary Migration Patterns

State-level domestic migration patterns shifted again for the period 1995 to 2000. California, historically a destination for migrants from elsewhere in the United States, changed roles and experienced net domestic outmigration of about 756,000. California's population still grew—from both natural increase (births minus deaths) and net international migration—but its experience in the 1990s illustrates that migration patterns often change over time. The states with the highest rates of net domestic migration between 1995 and

2000 are located in the southeast and parts of the West (map 07-03).

Although some western states like Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado have attracted many new migrants in recent decades, the top destination region for migrants in the 1990s was the South (Figure 7-2). Census 2000 migration data revealed that the South had the highest levels of net domestic immigration among the four regions, with a net gain of 1.8 million migrants in the preceding 5 years. The South was the only region that experienced substantial net domestic immigration. The West had net domestic immigration of 12,000. The Northeast had domestic net outmigration of 1.3 million people, while the Midwest had net outmigration of 0.5 million people.

In 2000, 8 percent of the U.S. population indicated that they were living in a different state 5 years earlier. Three regional patterns are visible on map 07-04. First, a group of western states (with California as a notable exception) had high percentages of their



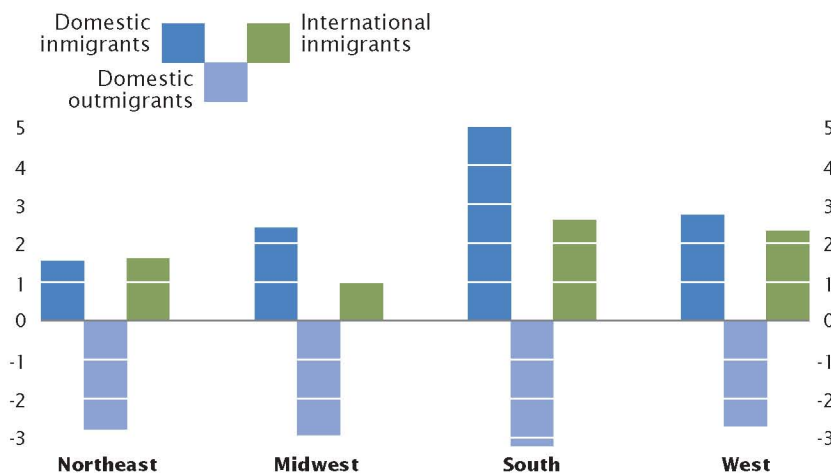


population living in another state 5 years earlier. Second, states surrounding the Great Lakes all had lower percentages living in a different state 5 years earlier. Finally, some states along the southern Atlantic coast had percentages exceeding the U.S. figure.

**This Chapter's Maps**

This chapter's maps reveal a country of varied migration patterns. For some nonmetropolitan counties in the Great Plains and in Pennsylvania, 20 percent or more of householders in 2000 reported that they were living in the same house in 1969 (map 07-27). In many counties in Florida and the West, in contrast, less than 6 percent of householders reported living in the same residence in 1969. Some counties nationwide have mobile populations, with 30 percent or more of their householders in 2000 reporting that they had changed residences in the previous year (map 07-28). For some counties, over one-fifth of the population in 2000 was living in a different state 5 years earlier (map 07-30). Counties with the highest percentages of immigrants from other states often border one or more of these other states. Many coastal

Figure 7-2. **Migrants (millions) by Type and Region, 1995 to 2000**



counties in the South also were in the highest category.

The percentage of a county's 65-and-older population that was born in its current state of residence varied geographically in 2000 (map 07-32). Some of the counties with low percentages of their older population born in their state reflect the immigration of retirees in recent decades. For other counties, the older adult populations migrated from other states as young adults or children. Many areas in southern California are in the lowest category on the map, reflecting that much of its older population in 2000 had moved to California from other states in earlier decades.

The series of maps illustrating net domestic migration as captured in the 1970 through 2000 censuses (maps 07-06 through 07-09) shows that domestic migration patterns for states also may differ from one period to the next. Texas and Colorado, for instance, saw migration reversals over the decades, with domestic net immigration between 1975 and 1980, net outmigration between 1985 and 1990, and net immigration between 1995 and 2000.

The maps with arrows in this chapter graphically represent flows of migrants among the states by

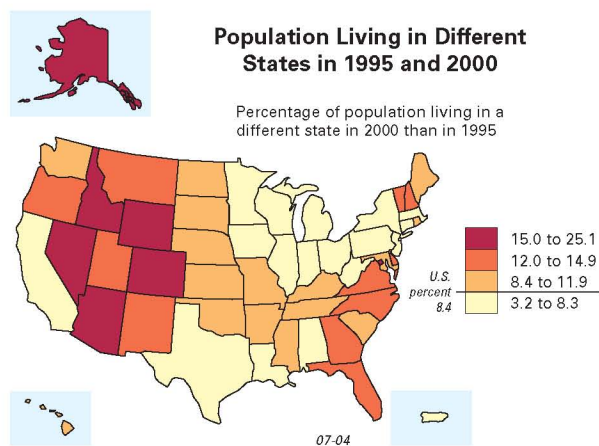
various characteristics. The width of each arrow is proportional to the migration flow.

Region-to-region migration patterns have changed somewhat over time, as maps 07-10 and 07-11 demonstrate. Between 1955 and 1960, the Northeast had net outmigration to all three other regions, the Midwest had net outmigration to the South and the West, and the South had net outmigration to the West. Between 1995 and 2000, the Northeast again had net outmigration to the Midwest, the South, and the West; and the Midwest had net outmigration to the South and the West. Unlike in the earlier period, however, the West had net outmigration to the South between 1995 and 2000.

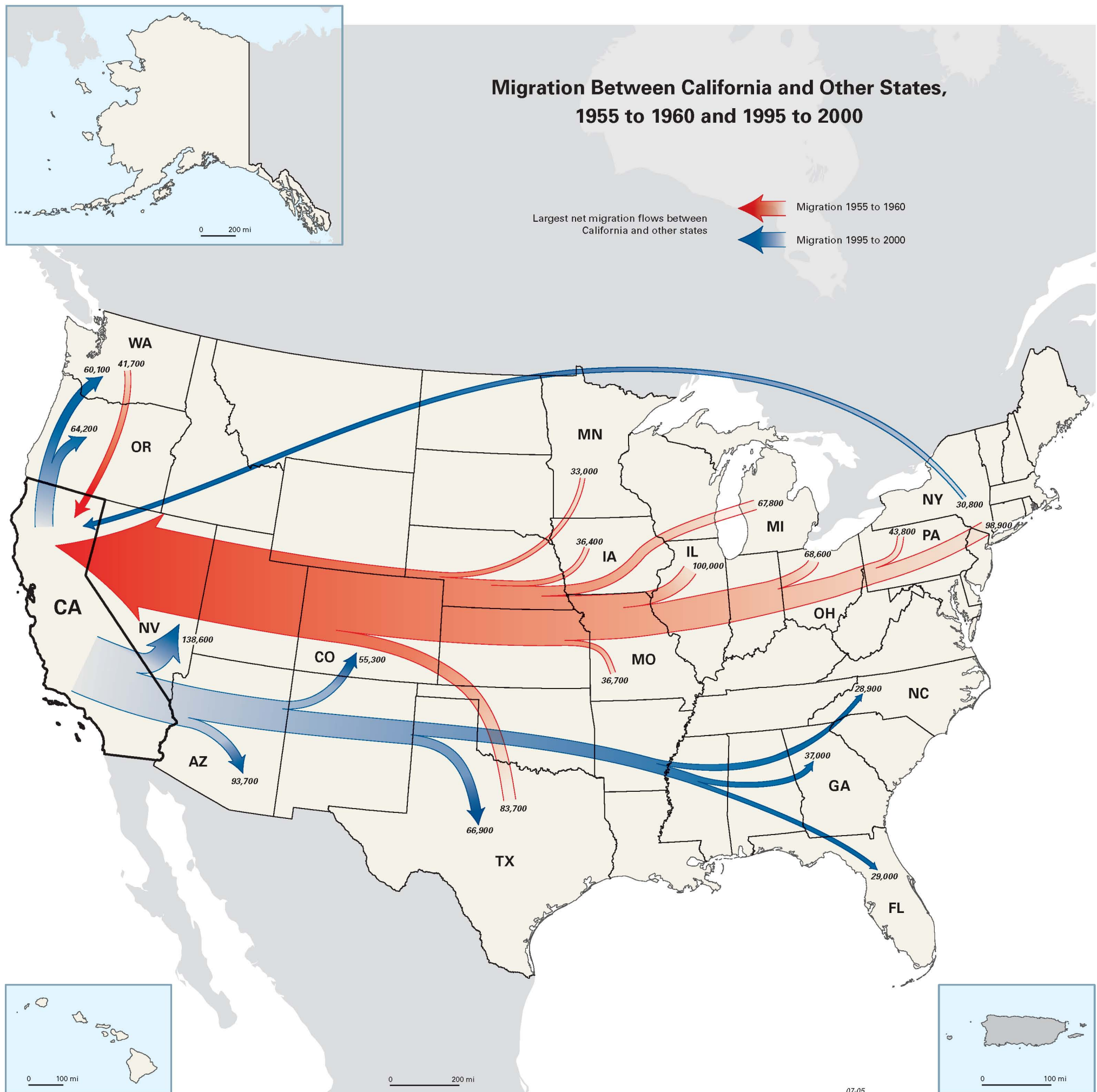
In some cases, the maps confirm commonly held beliefs about migration patterns. Between 1995 and 2000, the largest state-to-state net flow of migrants aged 65 and older was from New York to Florida (map 07-15). Patterns shown in some maps may be less expected, however. One of the larger net flows of 25-to-39-year-olds was from Florida to Georgia (map 07-14).

A majority of immigrants to the United States between 1995 and 2000 lived in one of the six immigration gateway states with foreign-born populations of 1 million or more in 2000: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. Three of those states—New York, California, and Illinois—also experienced considerable outmigration of their foreign-born populations to other states during that same period. This secondary migration redistributed some of the foreign-born population out of the gateway states to other states.

States receiving large numbers of foreign-born migrants from California included Nevada, Texas, Arizona, and Washington (map 07-18). California's role as a source of population redistribution was not limited to neighboring states in the West—Georgia had higher net foreign-born migration from California than from more geographically proximate gateway states such as Florida or New York. New York's largest flows of foreign-born migrants were to Florida, New Jersey, and California.





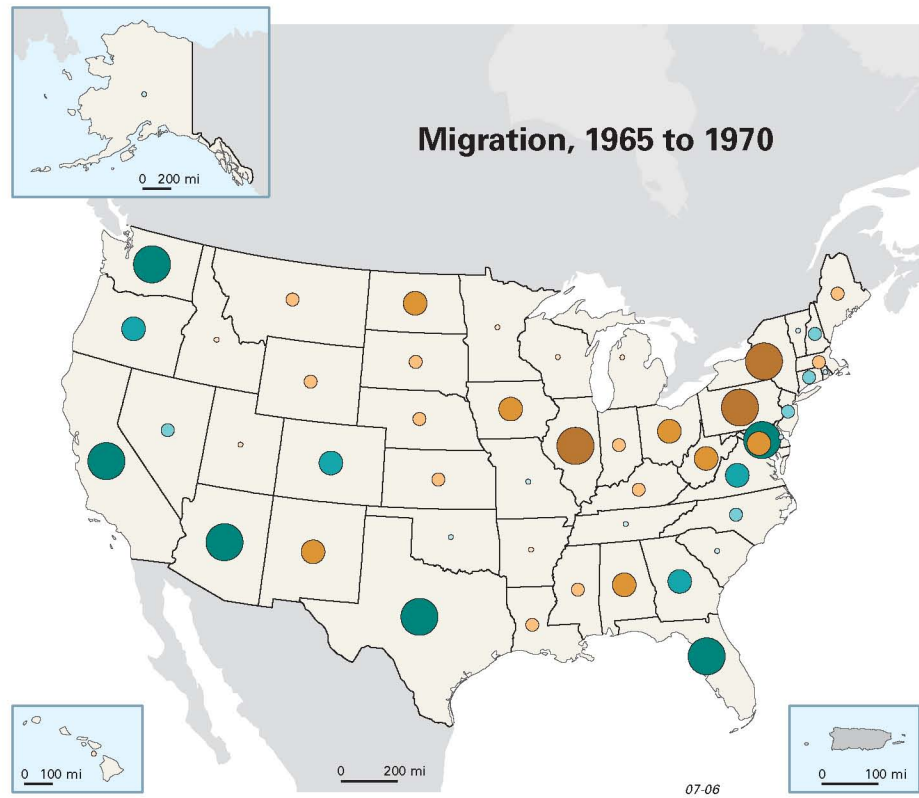


The above map portrays the largest state-to-state net migration flows involving California for the periods 1955 to 1960 and 1995 to 2000. For the earlier period, the largest flows involving California were all inflows to the state, generally from states in the midwestern or north-eastern parts of the country. In the 1995 to 2000 period, nearly all of the largest flows involving California were outflows—that is, outmigration from California to other

states, generally elsewhere in the West but also to states in the southeastern part of the country. The only inflow to California among its largest flows was from New York.

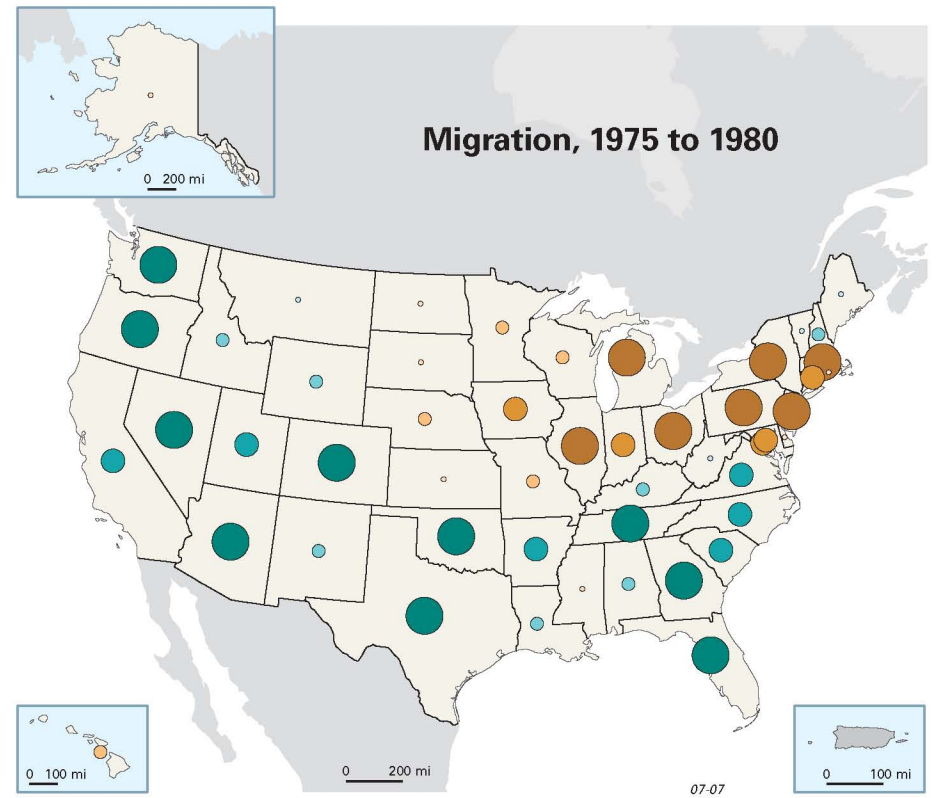
The contrasts in internal migration for the two periods illustrate a recent shift in migration patterns for California, which historically had been a destination for migrants from elsewhere in the country. Between 1955 and 1960, California had net immigration from nearly every

state and an overall net gain of 1.1 million migrants. During the 1990s, in contrast, California experienced sustained net outmigration to other states for the first time. In the 1995 to 2000 period, this net domestic outmigration from California totaled 756,000—second only to New York's net domestic outmigration of 874,000.



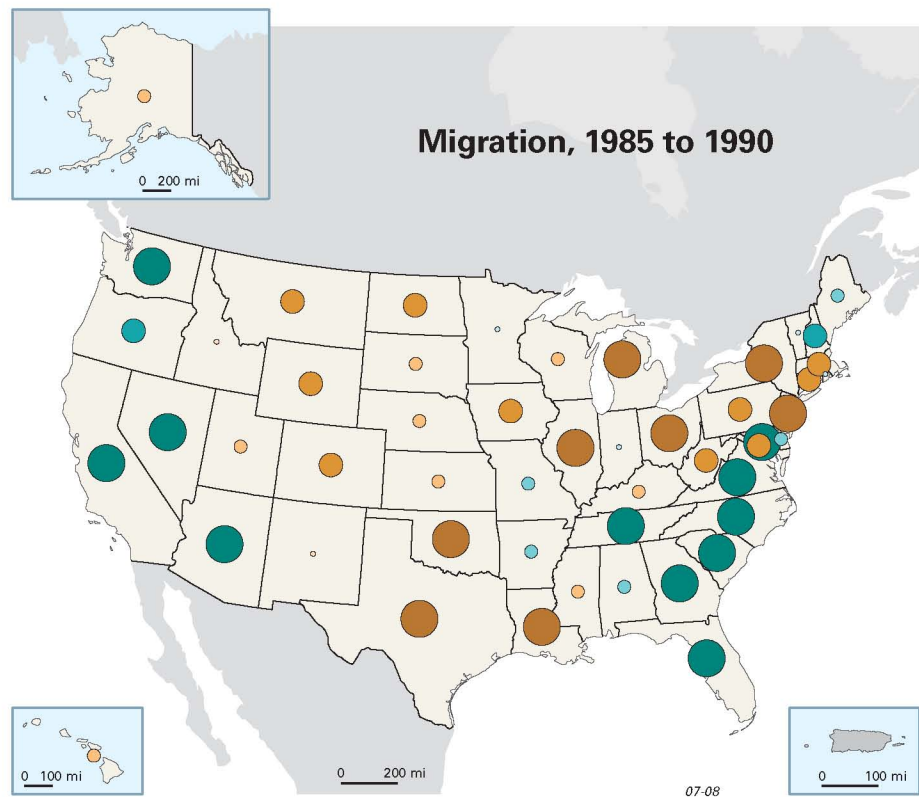
Net domestic migration into or out of the 50 states and District of Columbia

- 100,000 to 574,000
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 0 to 19,999
- -20,000 to -1
- -50,000 to -20,001
- -100,000 to -50,001
- -568,000 to -100,001



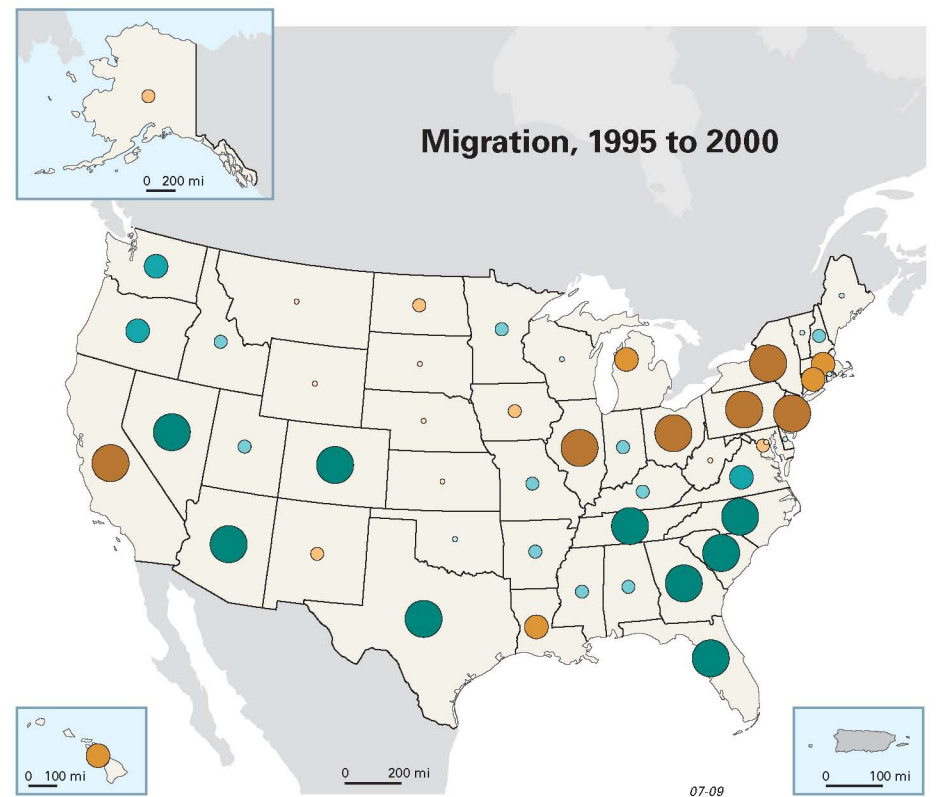
Net domestic migration into or out of the 50 states and District of Columbia

- 100,000 to 824,000
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 0 to 19,999
- -20,000 to -1
- -50,000 to -20,001
- -100,000 to -50,001
- -1,098,000 to -100,001



Net domestic migration into or out of the 50 states and District of Columbia

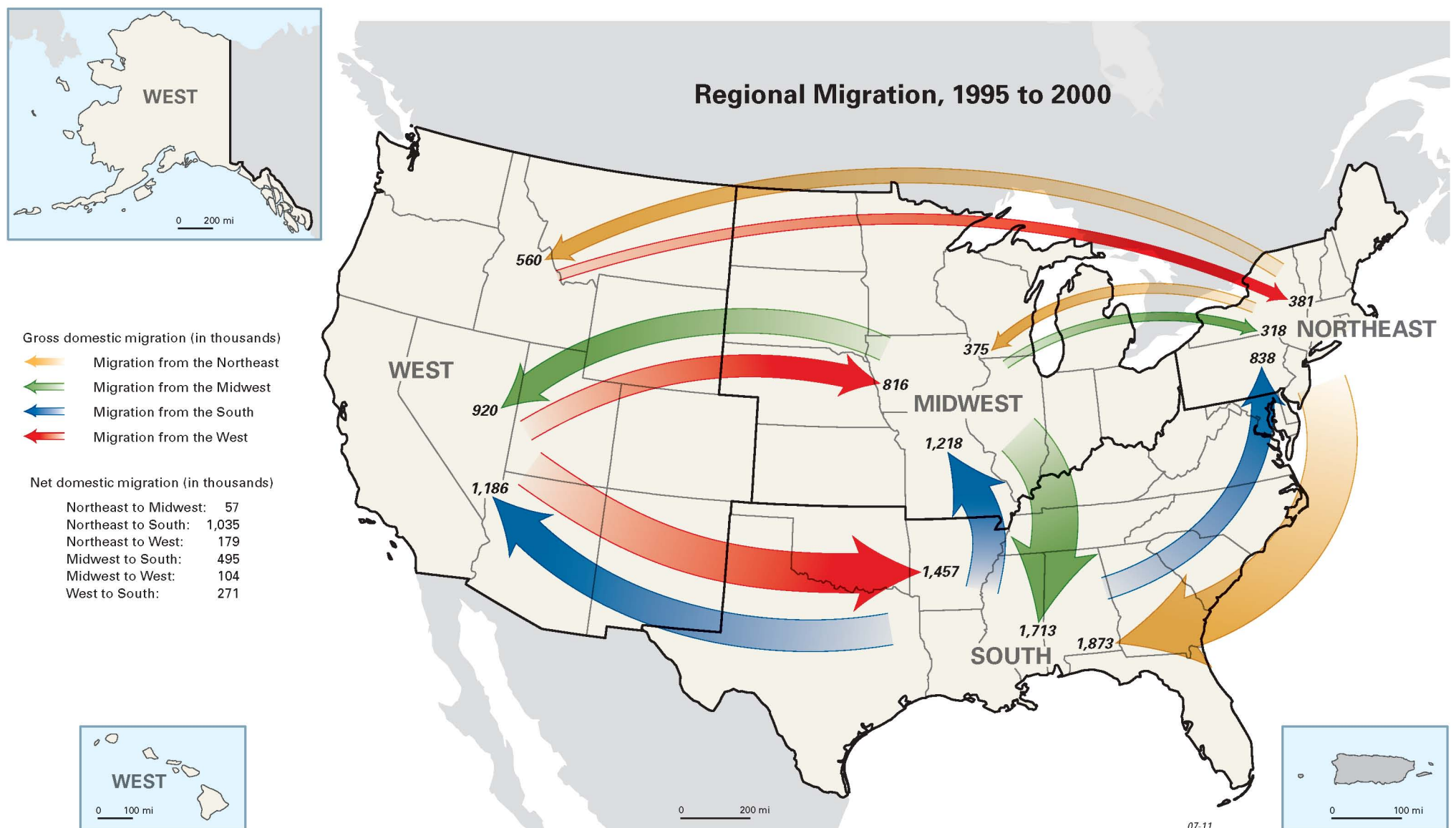
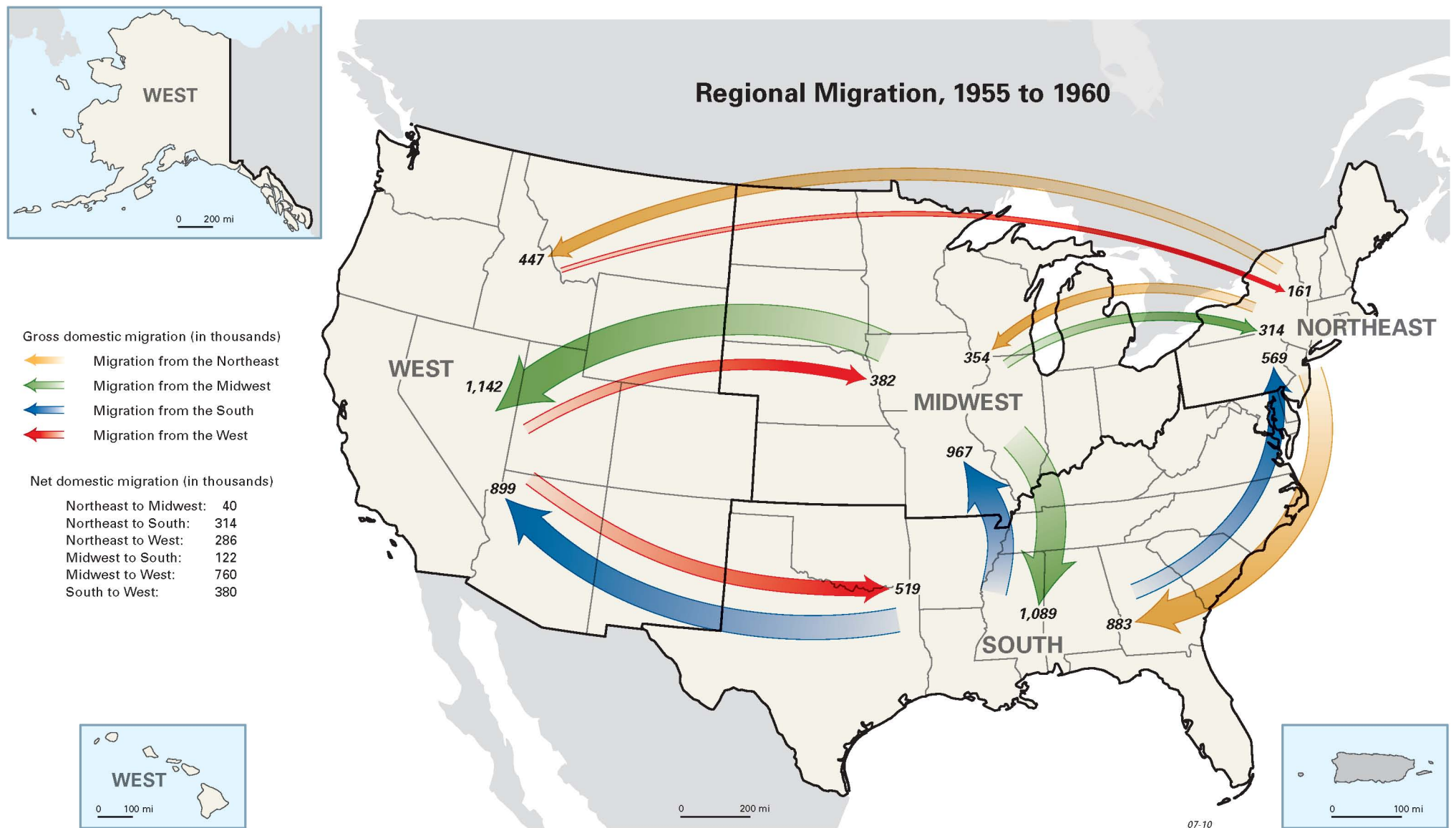
- 100,000 to 1,072,000
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 0 to 19,999
- -20,000 to -1
- -50,000 to -20,001
- -100,000 to -50,001
- -821,000 to -100,001



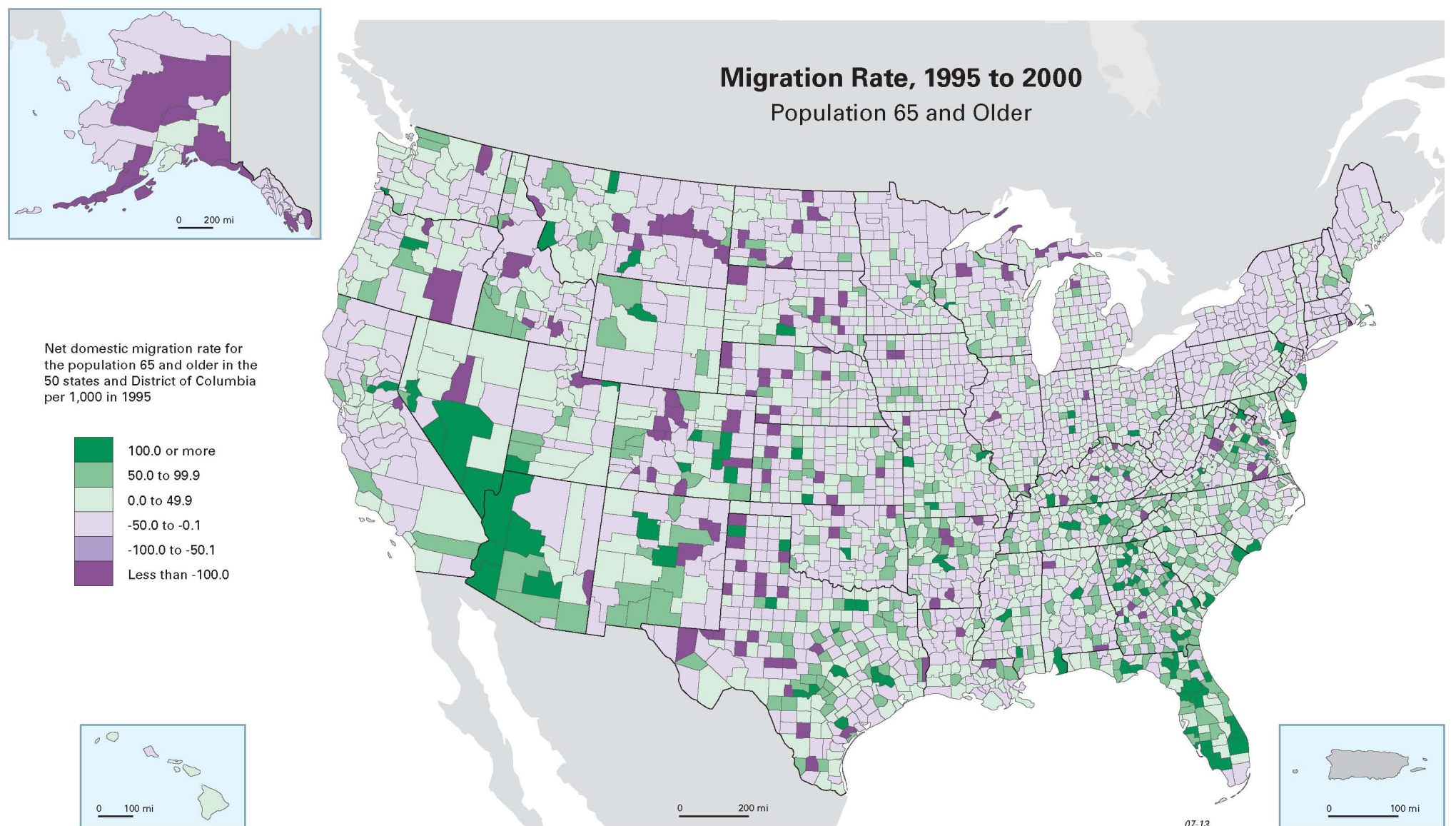
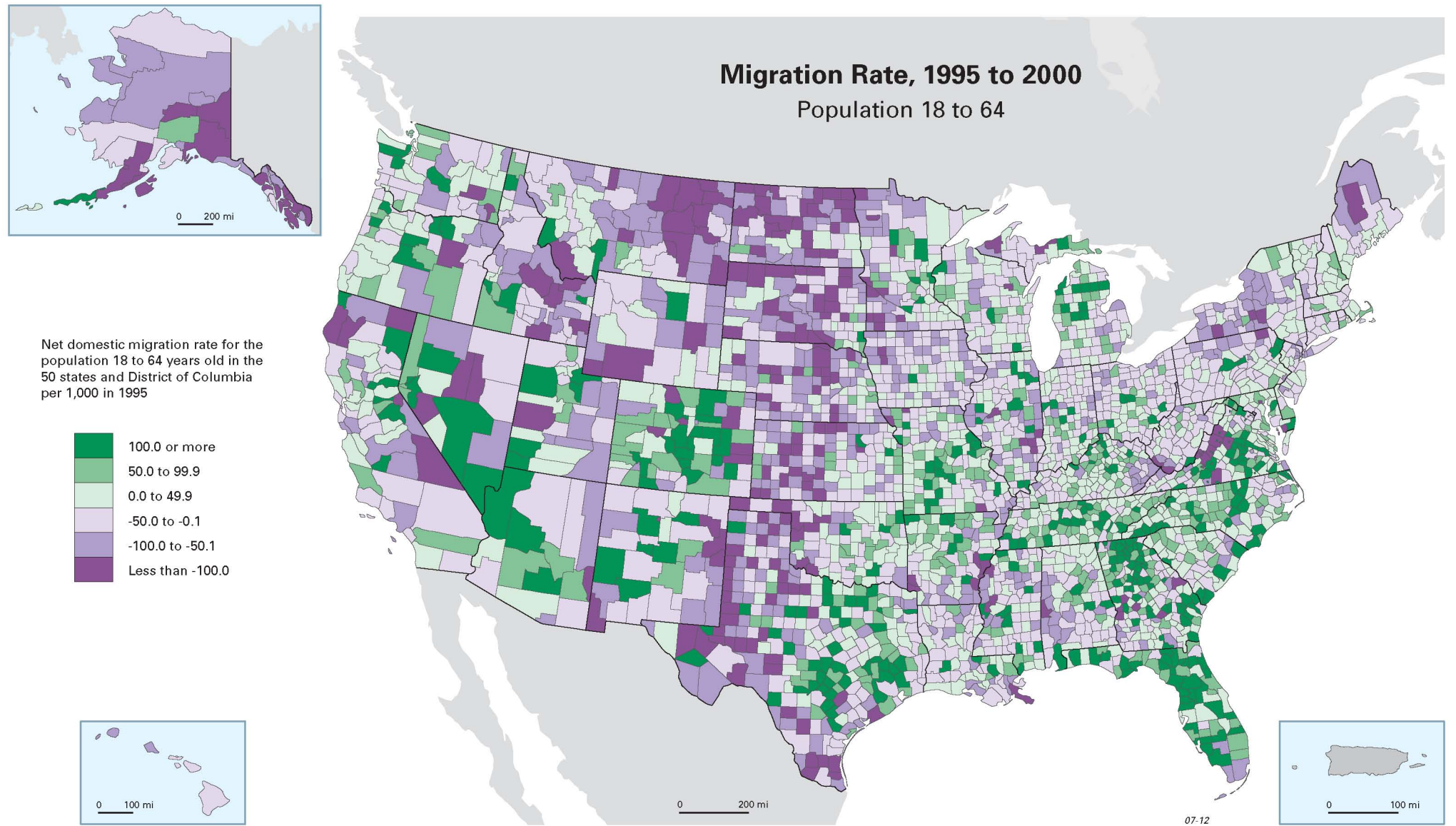
Net domestic migration into or out of the 50 states and District of Columbia

- 100,000 to 608,000
- 50,000 to 99,999
- 20,000 to 49,999
- 0 to 19,999
- -20,000 to -1
- -50,000 to -20,001
- -100,000 to -50,001
- -875,000 to -100,001

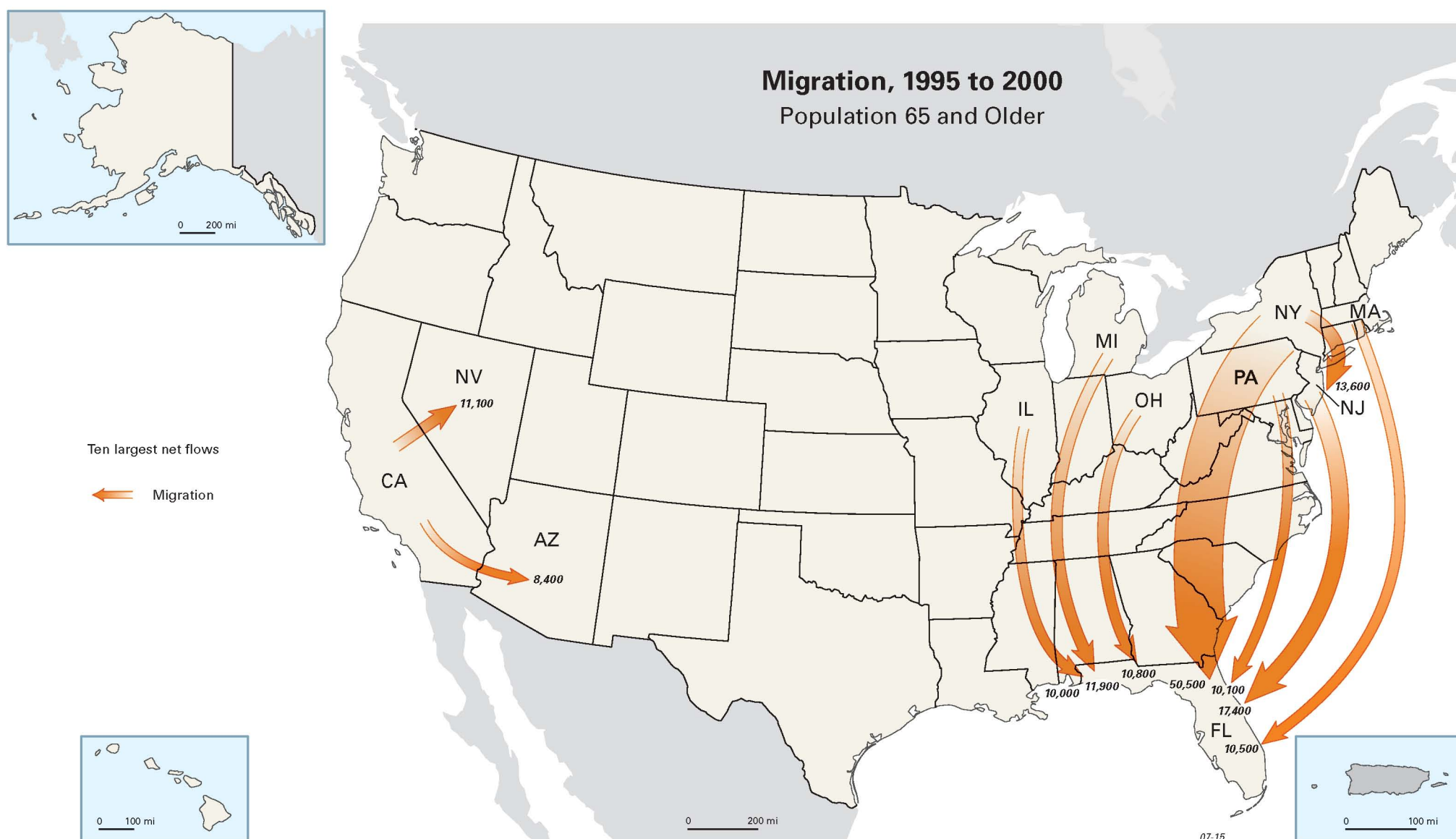
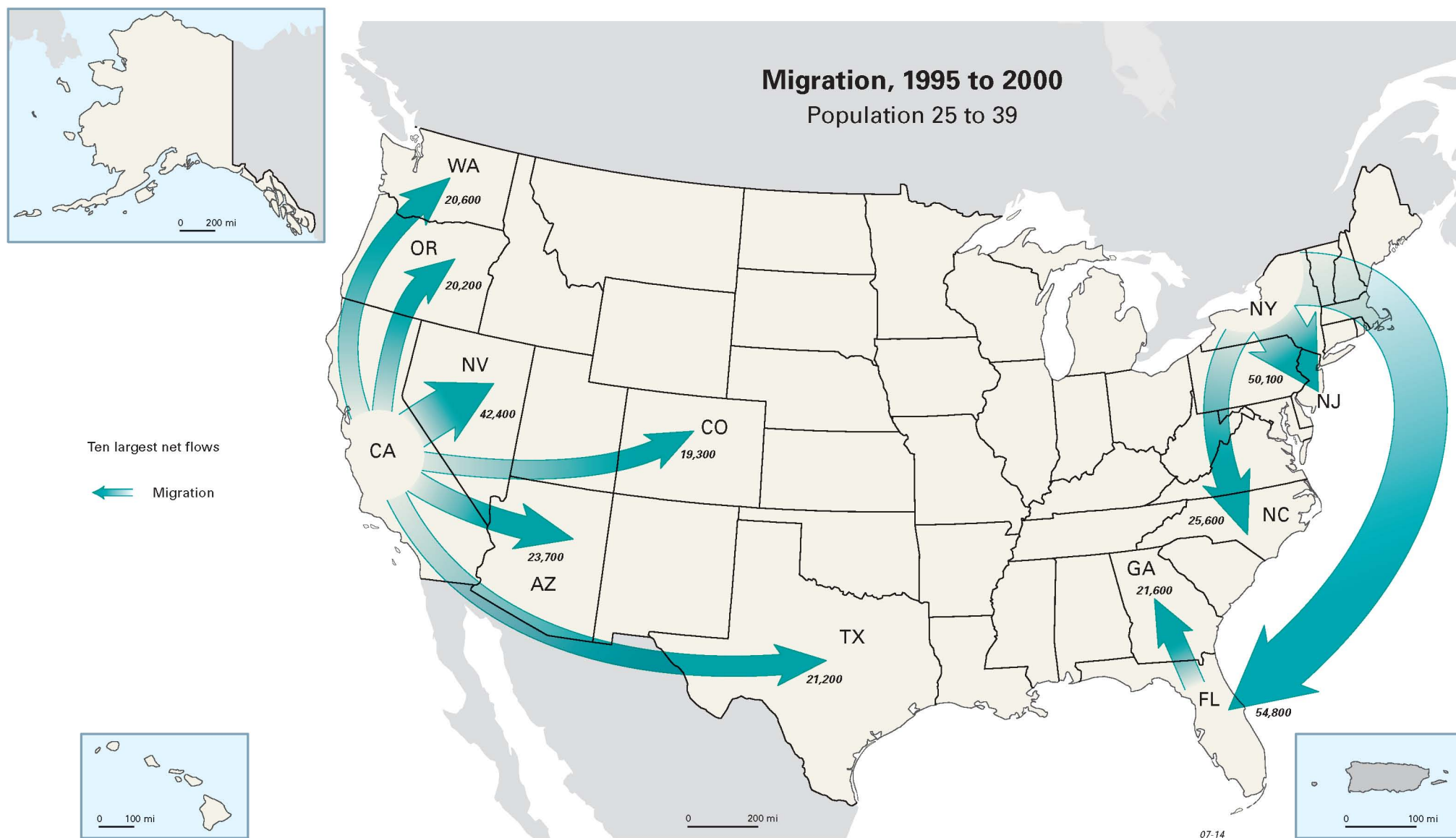




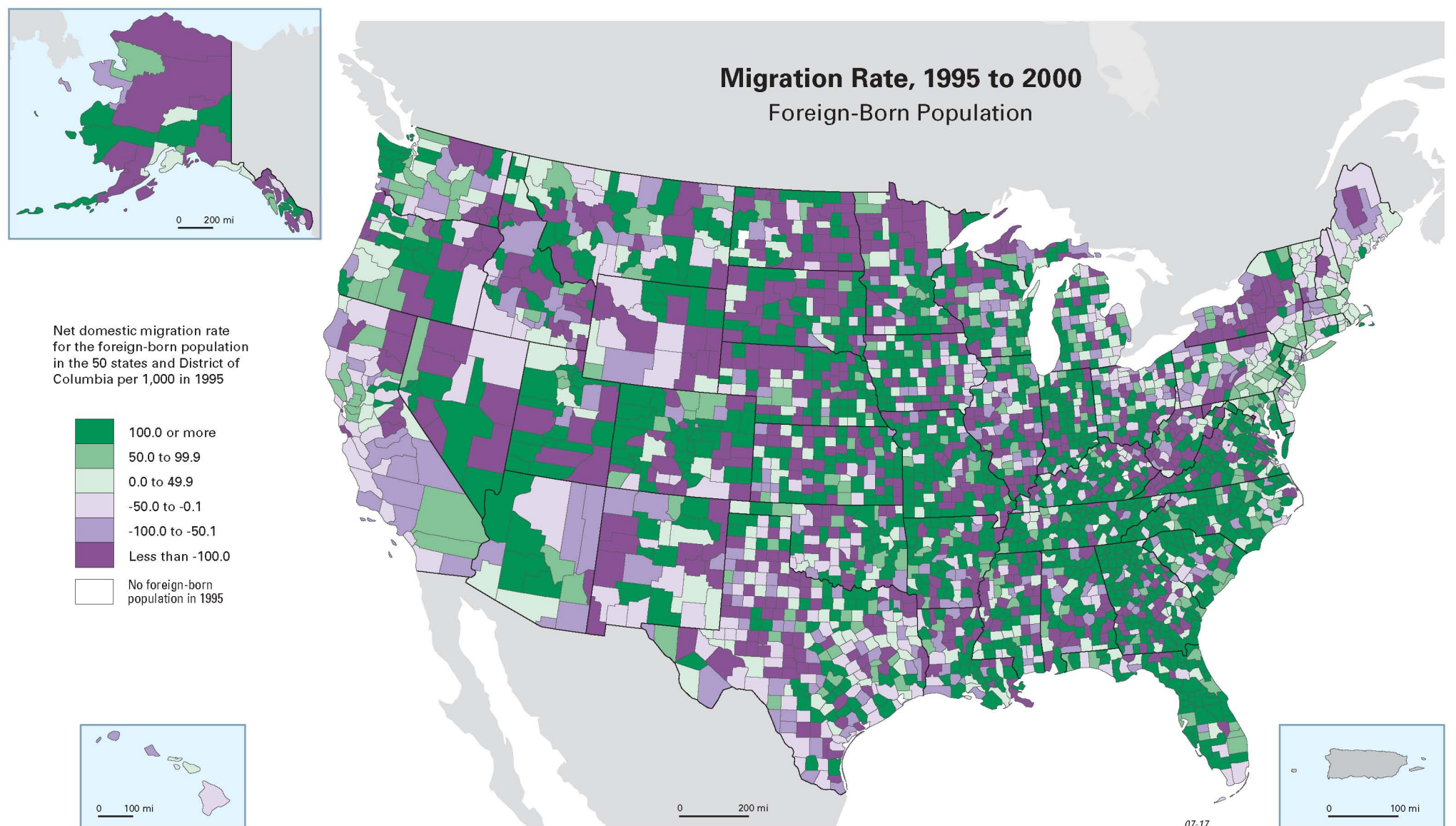
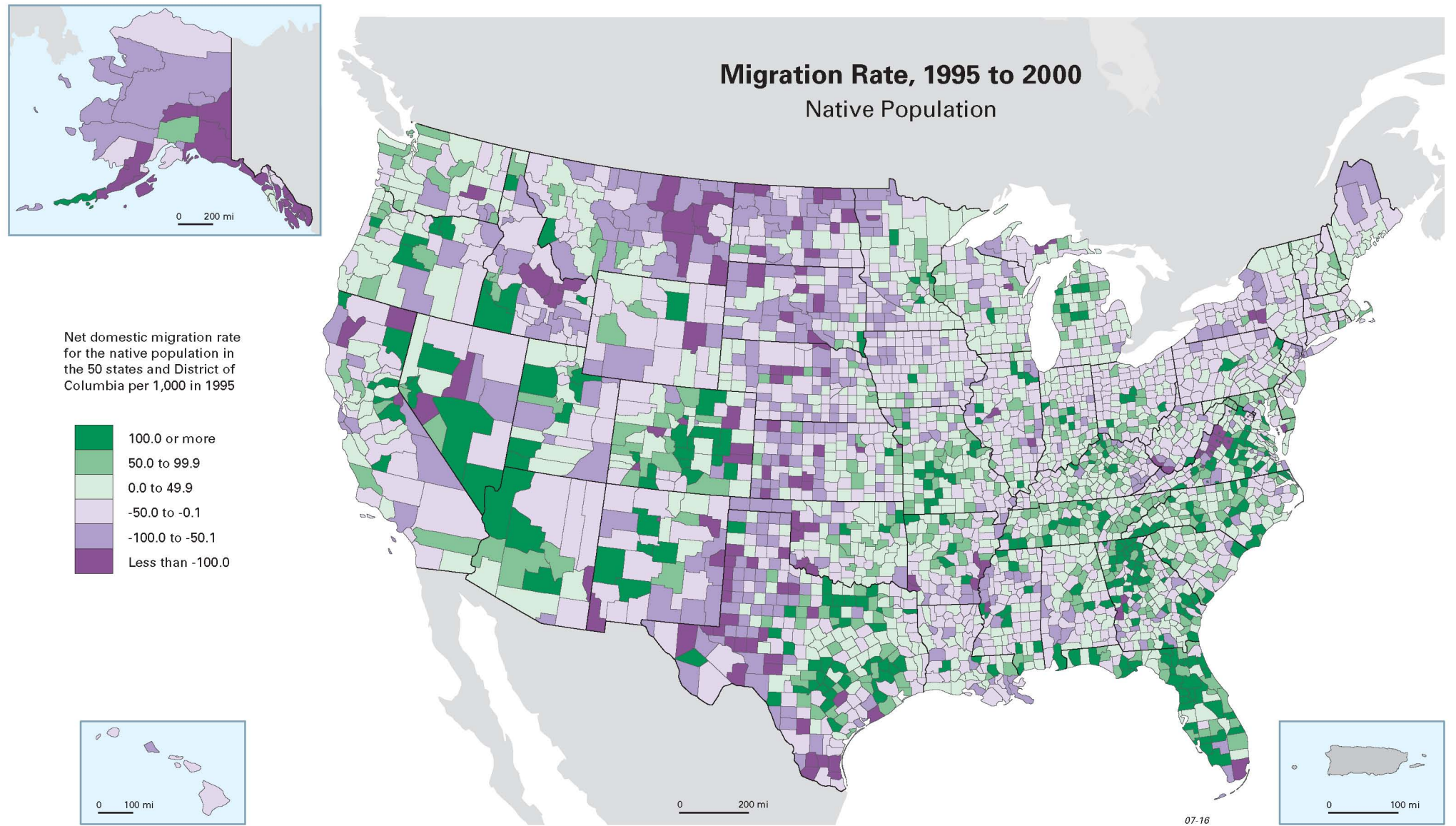




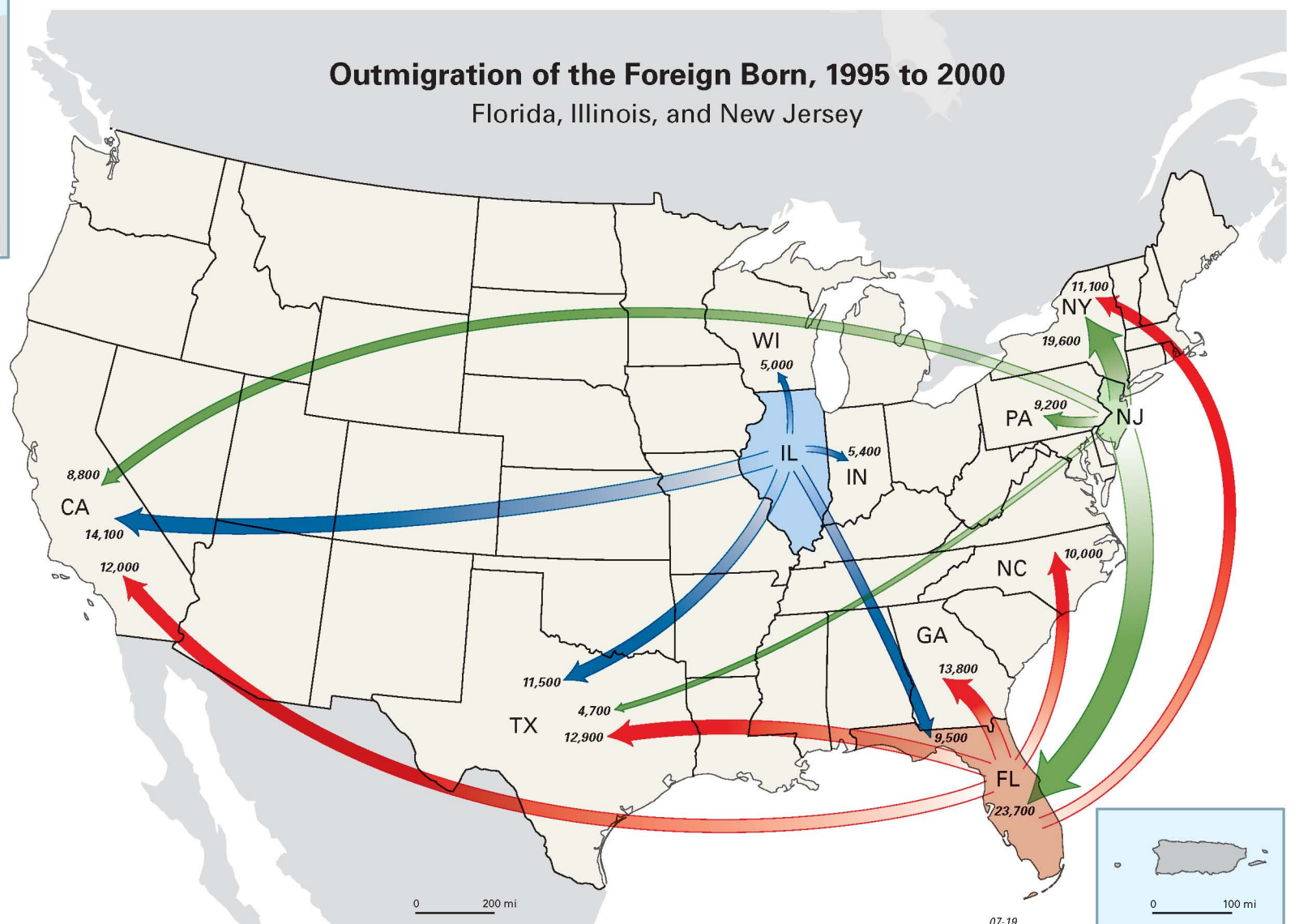
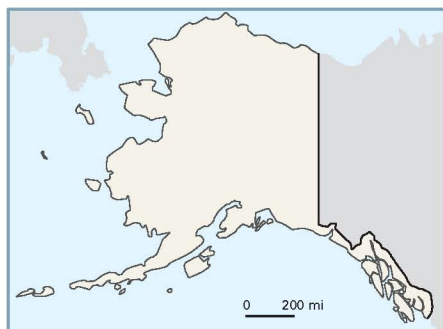
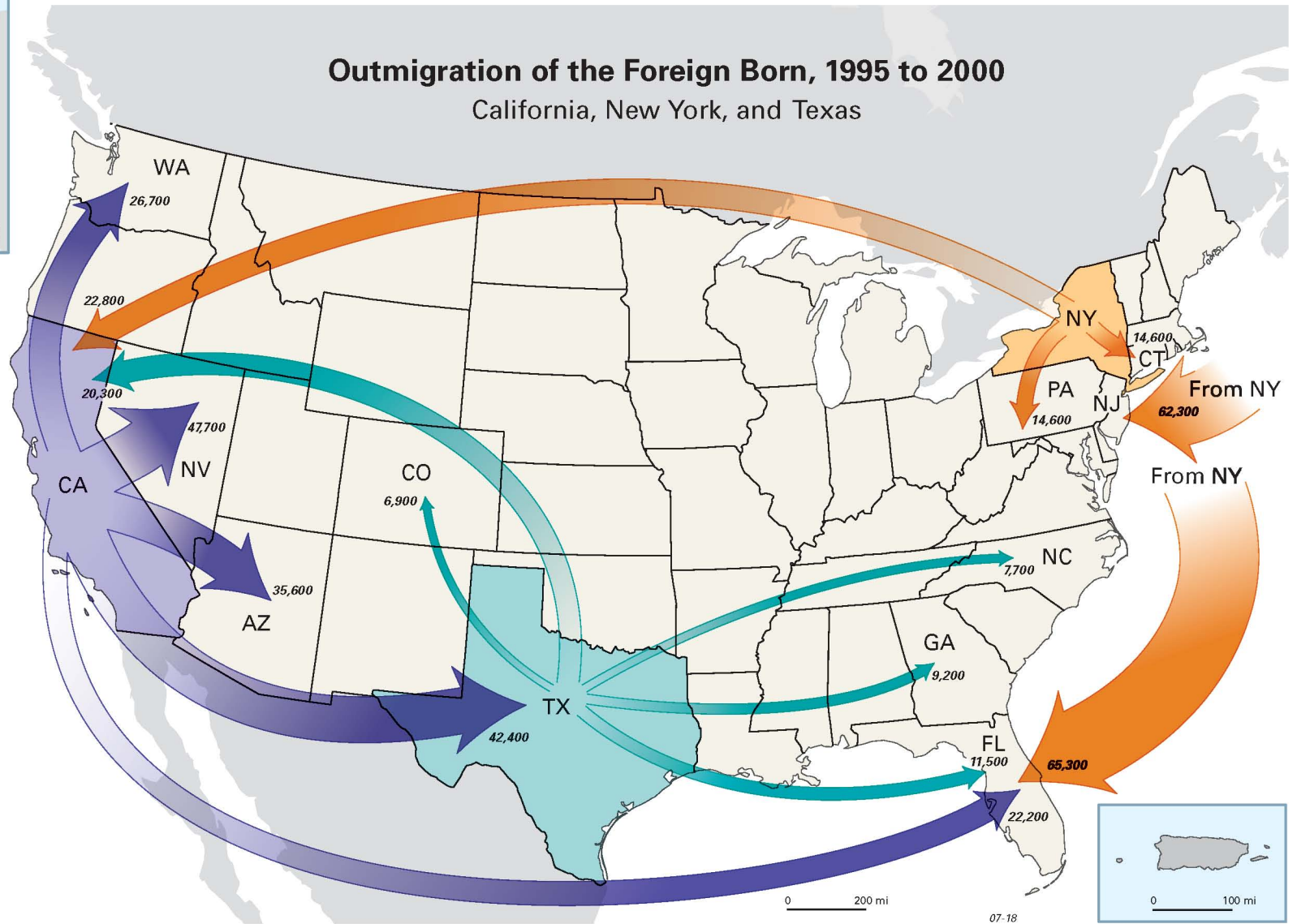
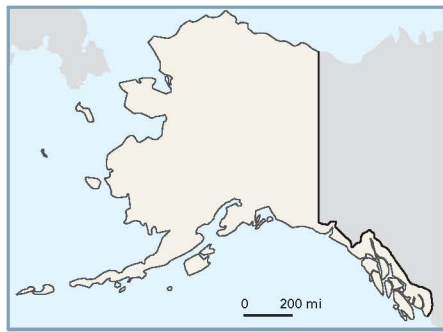




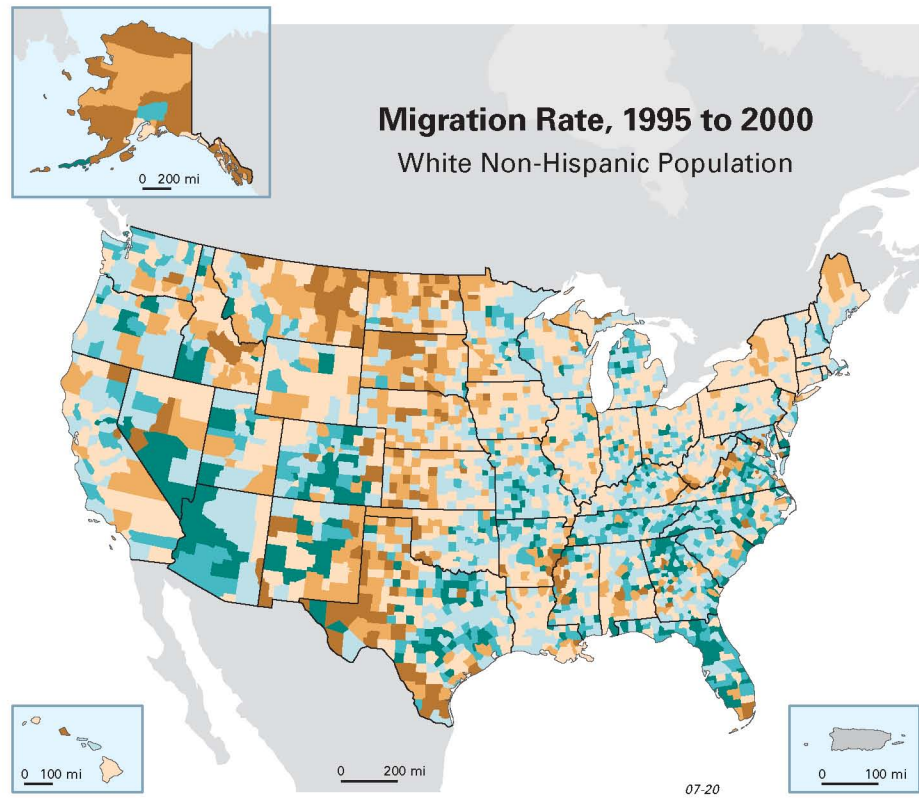




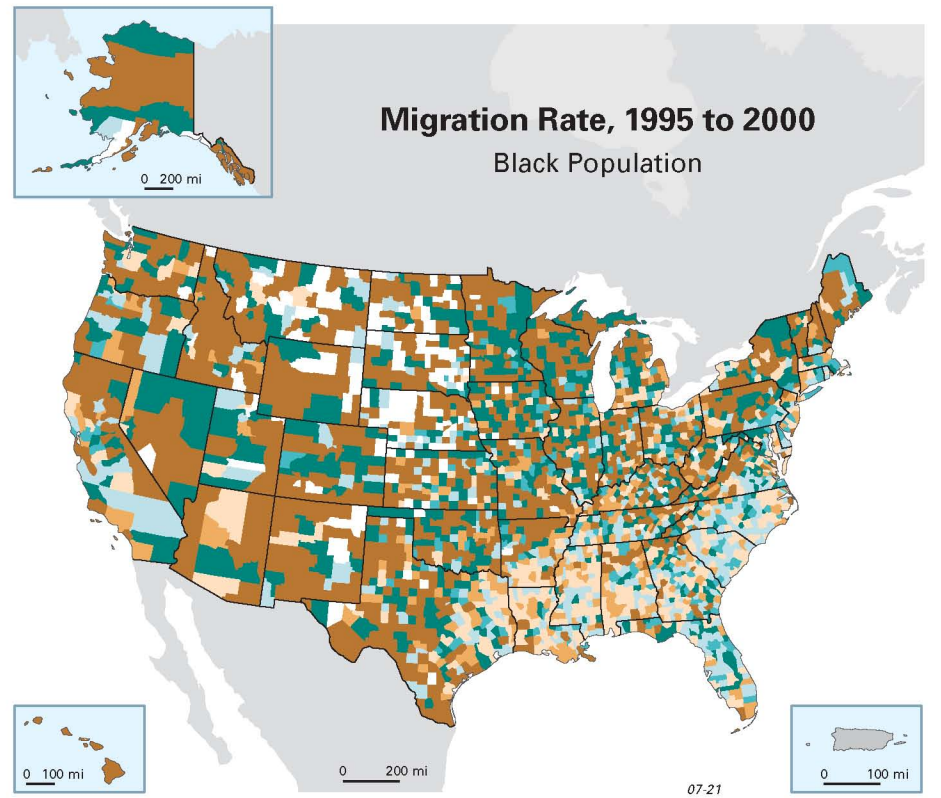
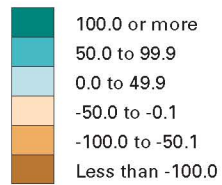




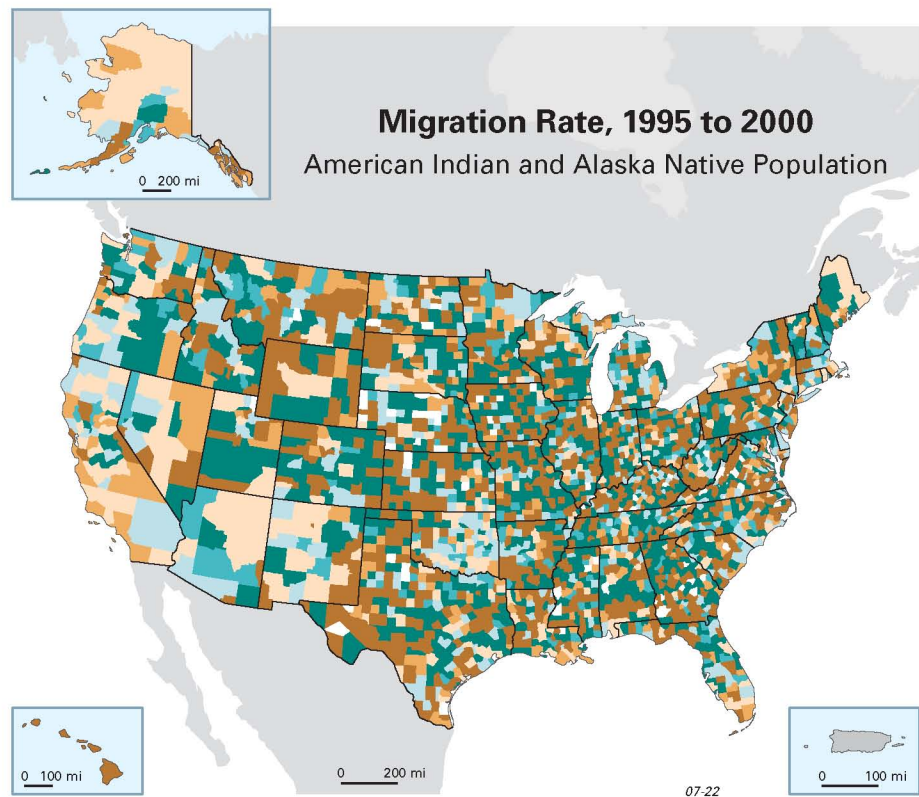
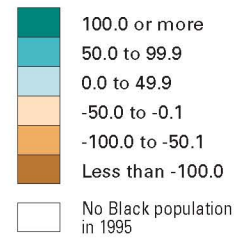




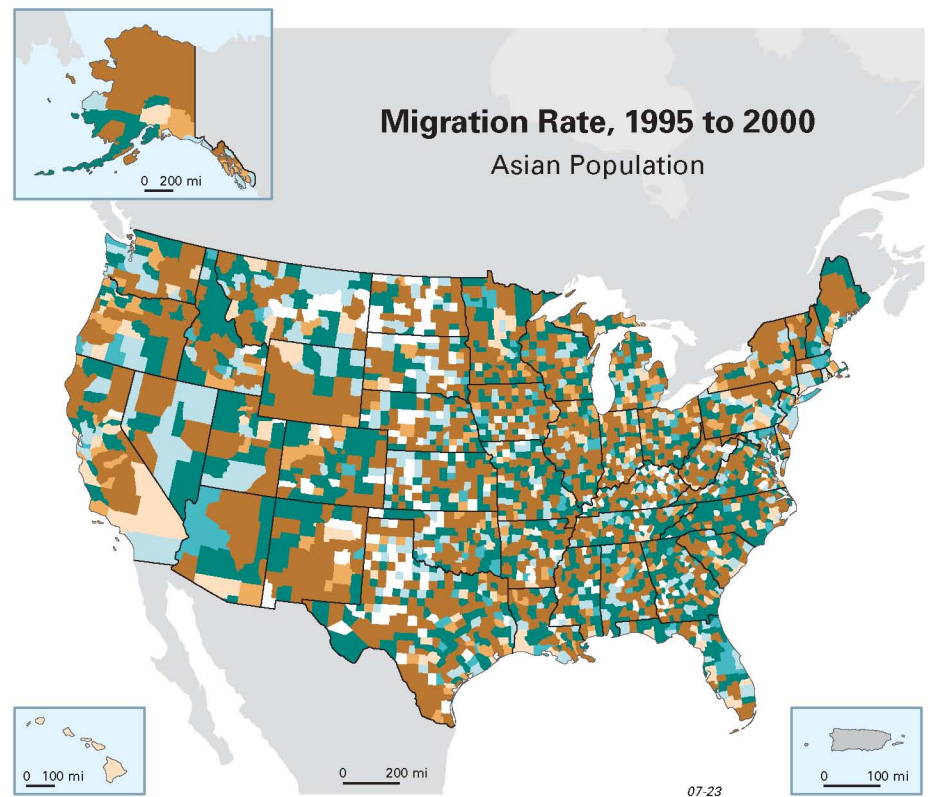
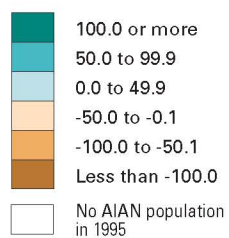
Net domestic migration rate per 1,000 non-Hispanic Whites in 1995



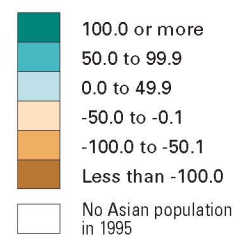
Net domestic migration rate per 1,000 Blacks in 1995



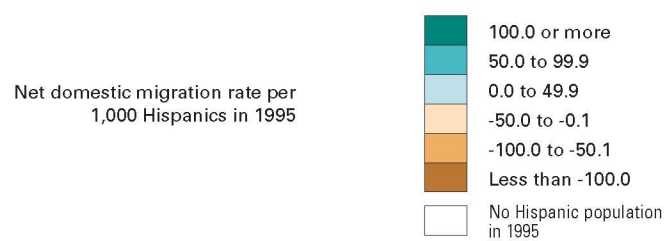
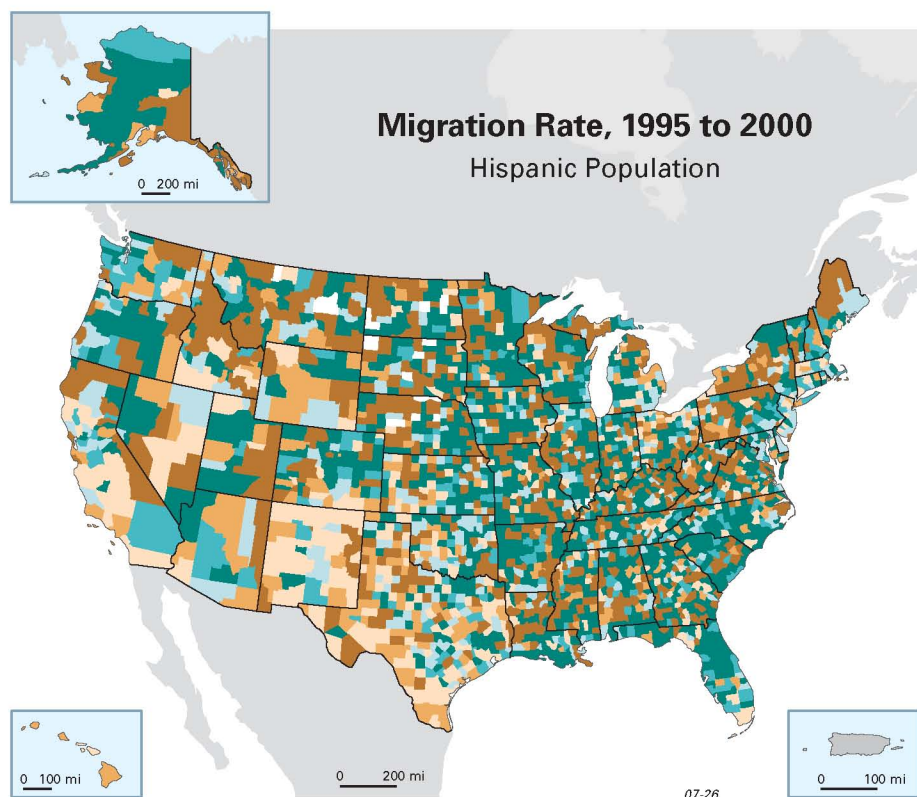
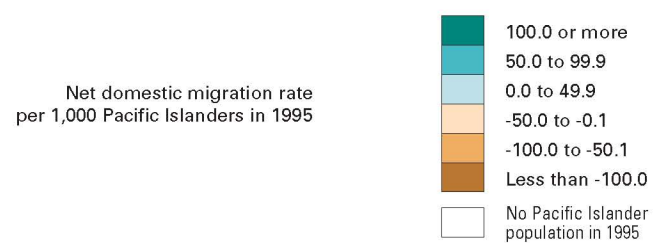
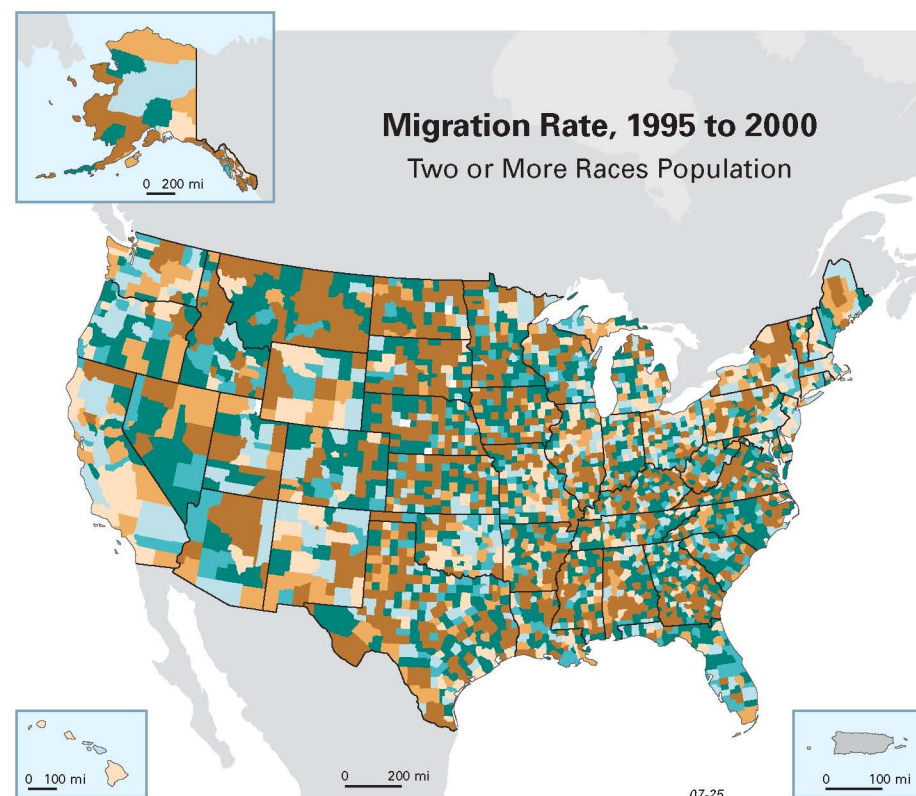
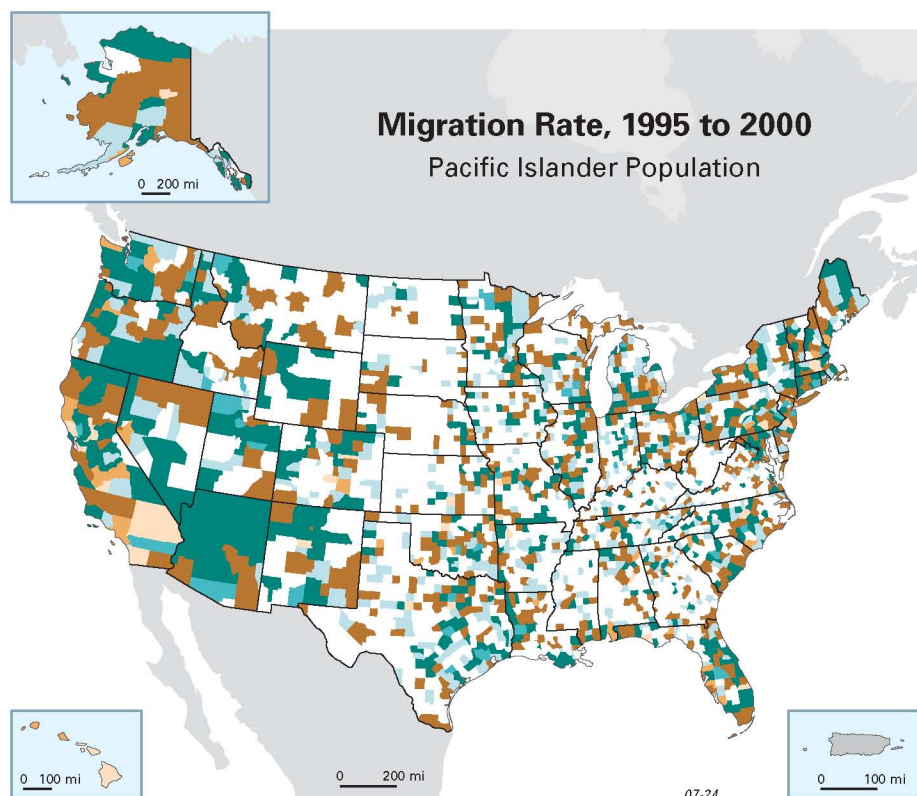
Net domestic migration rate per 1,000 American Indian and Alaska Natives in 1995



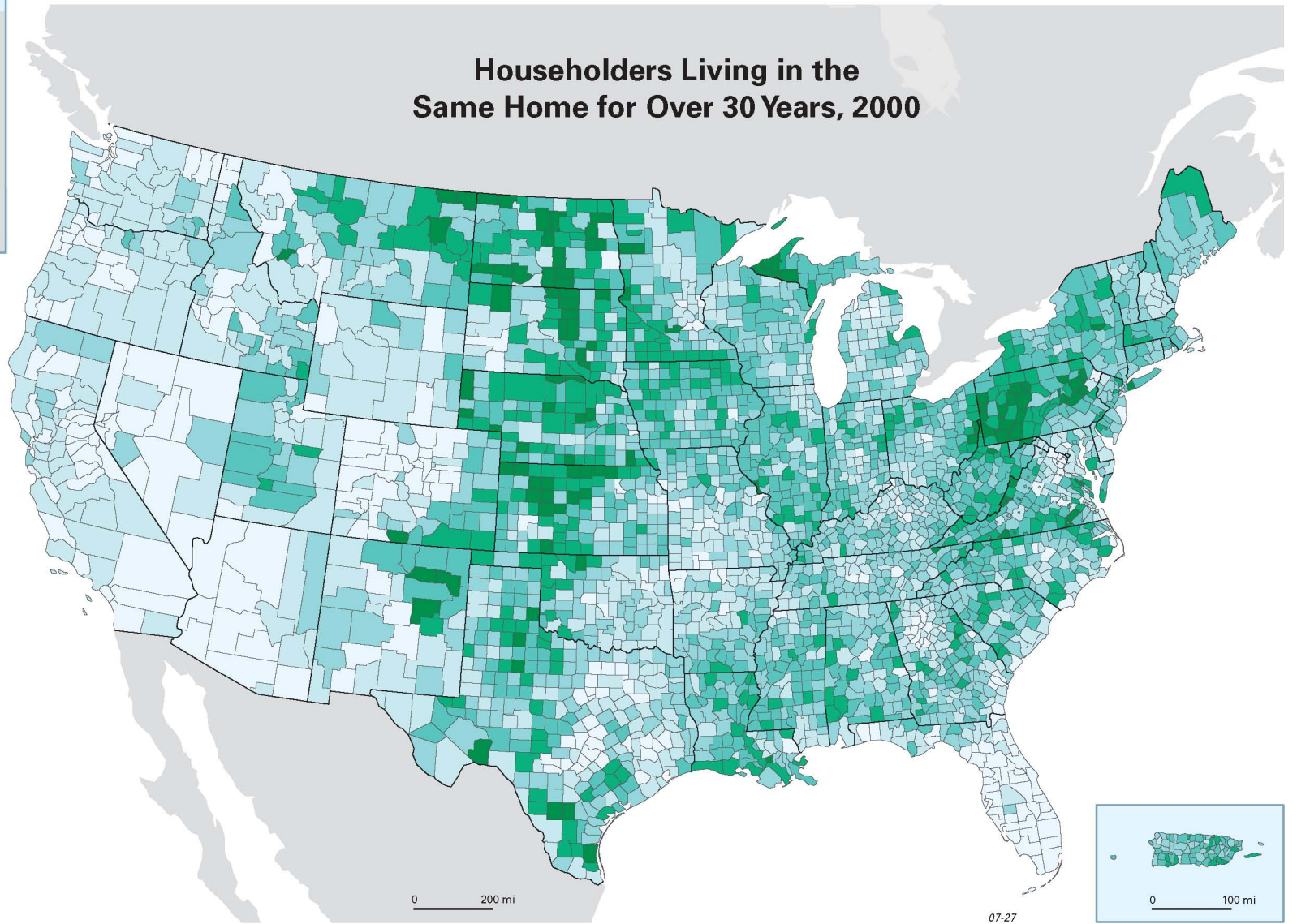
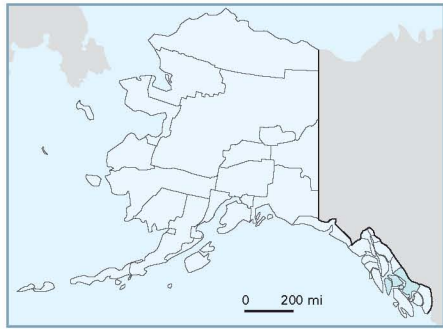
Net domestic migration rate per 1,000 Asians in 1995



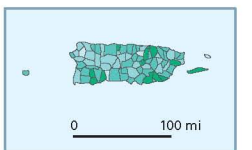
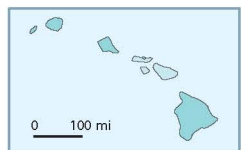
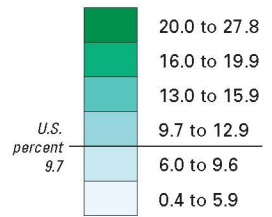




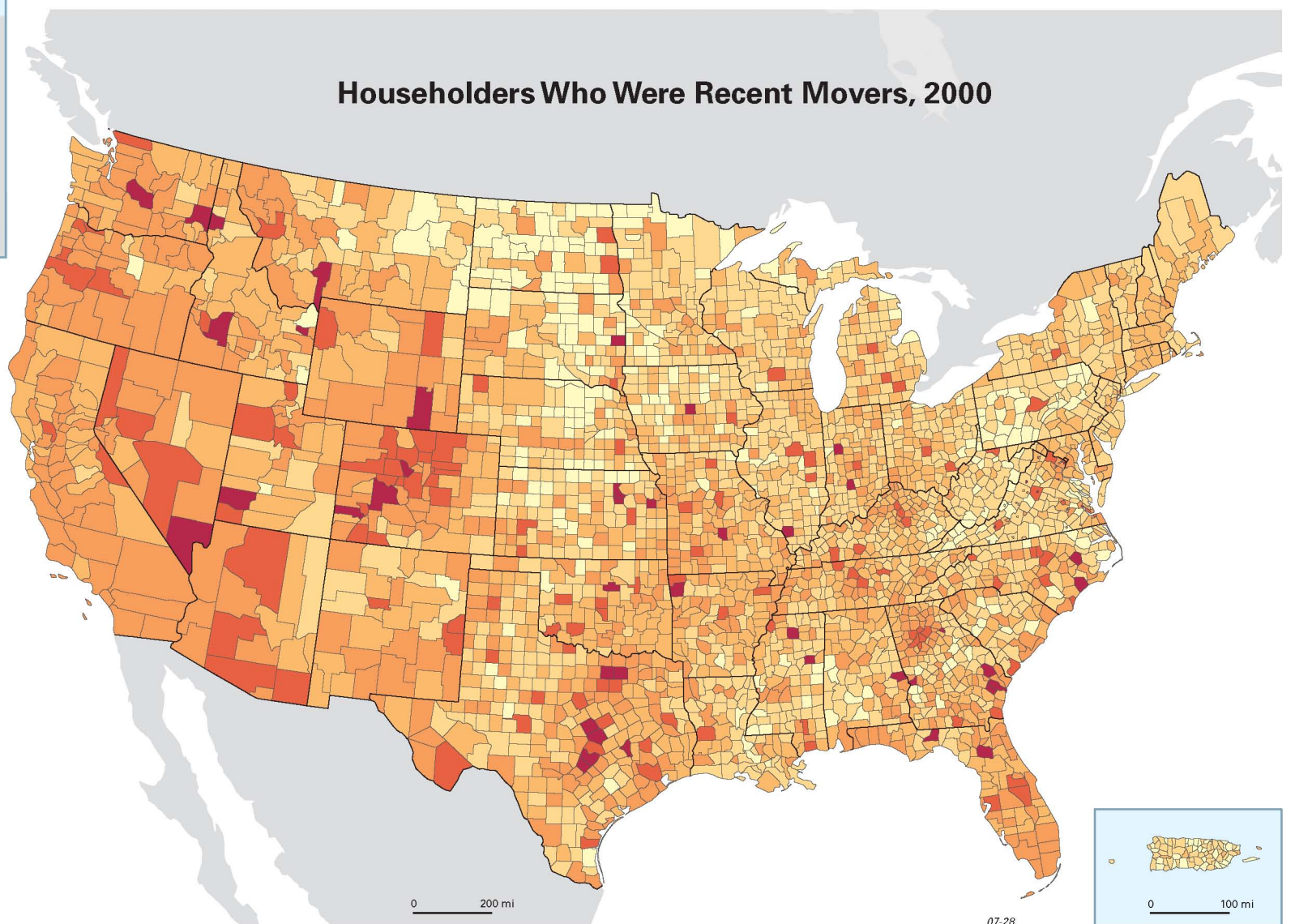
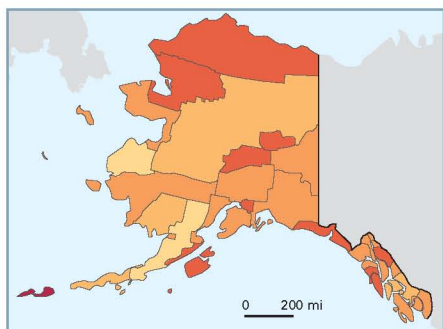




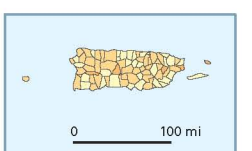
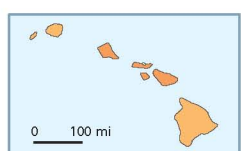
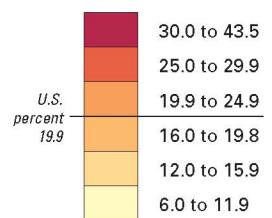
Percentage of all householders in 2000 living in the same house, apartment, or mobile home as in 1969 or earlier



07-27



Percentage of householders who moved from January 1, 1999, to April 1, 2000



07-28



