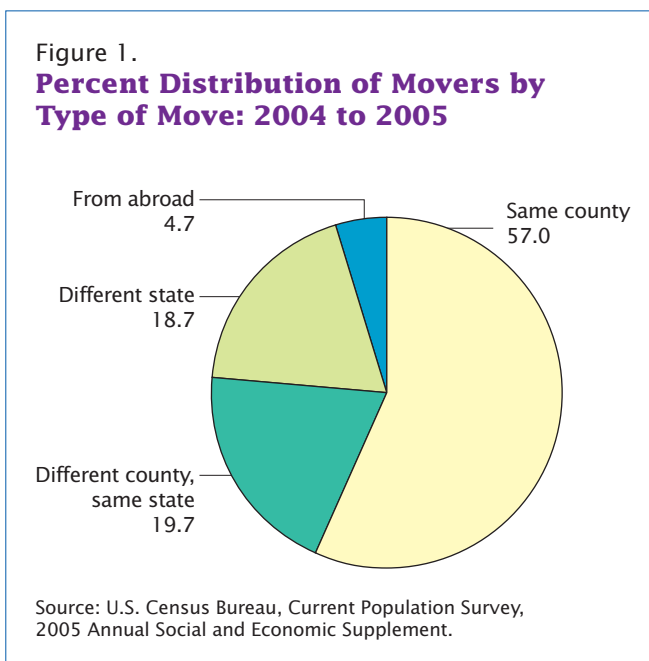


GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY BETWEEN 2004 AND 2005

People move for various reasons. For example, some seek better housing or a new job; others may be entering a new phase of life such as retirement. The U.S. Census Bureau studies patterns of relocation to find clues about future population distribution. Information in this chapter about geographical mobility among the civilian noninstitutionalized population comes from the 2005 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).¹

Millions of Movers

Among the 287.1 million people (aged 1 and older) living in the United States in 2005, 39.9 million lived at a different address in 2004. Annual moving rates have declined over the previous decades, dropping



¹ The estimates in this chapter (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Words That Count

Movers are all people 1 and older who lived in a different residence one year earlier.

from 16 percent of the population in 1995 to 14 percent in 2005.

Although movers over the past 10 years have become more likely to cross state lines, most moves between 2004 and 2005 were within the same county. In the 1-year period ending in 2005, 57 percent of all moves were made within the same county, while 20 percent were to a different county within the same state, 19 percent were to a different state, and 5 percent were from abroad, as illustrated in Figure 1. In the 1-year period ending in 1995, 66 percent of all moves were within the same county while 14 percent crossed state boundaries.

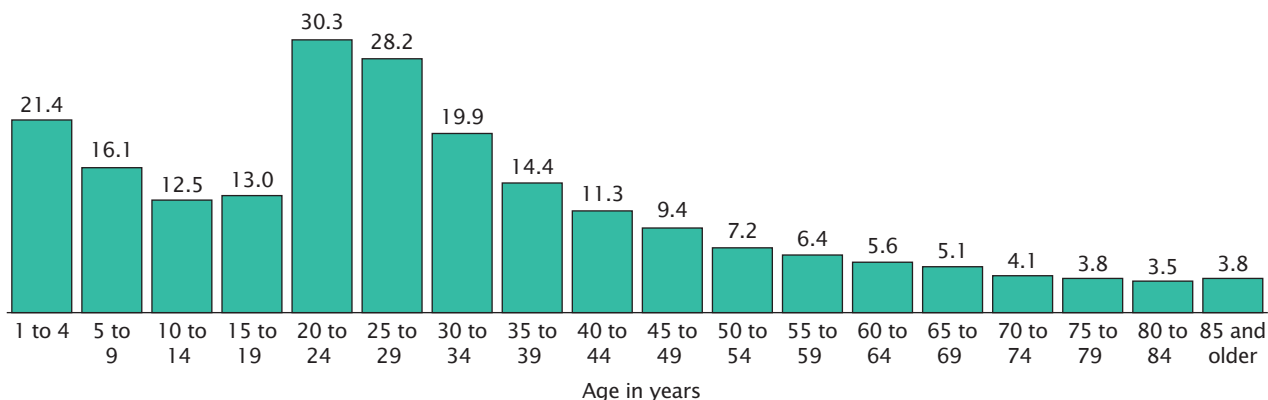
Moving rates varied by characteristics such as age, income, and race and Hispanic origin. Housing tenure (whether a person owns or rents) was also an important indicator of whether a person moved or not. Thirty percent of people living in renter-occupied housing moved between 2004 and 2005, compared with 7 percent of those living in owner-occupied housing.²

Mobility by Region

Between 2004 and 2005, the South was the only region to experience a net increase in population from domestic migration (Table 1). During the 12-month period, 1.3 million people aged 1 and older moved into the South from other regions of the United States, while 907,000 people moved away—for a net gain of 428,000. Taking movers from abroad into account, the total gain from net migration in the South was about 1.1 million people during this time period.

² As is the case with all characteristics in the CPS ASEC, housing tenure was measured at the time of the survey (March 2005); tenure before the survey was not ascertained. The householder is the person who owns or rents the dwelling.

Figure 2.
Moving Rates by Age: 2004 to 2005
 (Percent of all people in age group)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Table 1.
Annual Immigration, Outmigration, Net Migration, and Movers From Abroad: 2004 to 2005

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of migration	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Net internal migration	*-411	-79	*428	63
Immigrants	362	679	1,335	718
Outmigrants	774	758	907	655
Movers from abroad	323	259	685	597
Net migration (including abroad)	-88	*180	*1,113	*660

* Net flow significantly different from zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

In contrast, 362,000 people moved into the Northeast from other U.S. regions, while 774,000 moved away—for a net loss from domestic migration of 411,000 people. After accounting for movers from abroad, the net change in the population in the Northeast from migration was not statistically different from zero between 2004 and 2005.

Between 2004 and 2005, the net change in population from domestic migration was not statistically different from zero in the Midwest and the West. However, both regions experienced population increases when the

net change from international migration was taken into account.

Mobility by Age

Young adults have the highest moving rates. Twenty-nine percent of adults aged 20 to 29 moved between 2004 and 2005—more than double the moving rate of all people 1 and older. Mobility peaked among people in their twenties and then generally decreased with age, but leveled off after age 70, as shown in Figure 2. Older movers were more likely to cross state lines than younger movers—31 percent of movers in their sixties crossed state lines, compared with 17 percent of those in their twenties.

Mobility by Income

Among people aged 15 and older, those with incomes below \$45,000 were more likely to have moved (14 percent) than those with higher incomes (10 percent). The proportion of within-county moves was larger for people with lower incomes than those with higher incomes (56 percent and 52 percent, respectively). While 18 percent of movers with incomes below \$45,000 made an interstate move, 23 percent of those with higher incomes did.

Mobility by Race and Hispanic Origin

Between 2004 and 2005, mobility varied among the race groups and Hispanics. The moving rate for non-Hispanic Whites was 12 percent, compared with about 16 percent for Blacks, 15 percent for Asians, and 19 percent for Hispanics.³

Among people who moved, 60 percent of Hispanics and 63 percent of Blacks moved within the same county, while 55 percent of non-Hispanic Whites and 44 percent of Asians did.⁴ Asian movers and Hispanic movers (17 percent and 11 percent, respectively) were more likely than Black movers (3 percent) and non-Hispanic White movers (2 percent) to have come from abroad.⁵

Previous studies have shown that when age, education, economic, household, nativity, residential, and tenure characteristics of the racial and ethnic groups are taken into account using multivariate analysis, the differences between some groups narrow.⁶

³ Federal surveys now give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Asian may be defined as those who reported Asian and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). This report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that this is the preferred method of presenting data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

In this report, the term “non-Hispanic White” refers to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. The Census Bureau often uses non-Hispanic Whites as the comparison group for other race groups and Hispanics.

Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for the Hispanic population or for race groups because these populations consist of many distinct groups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration. In addition, the CPS does not use separate population controls for weighting the Asian sample to national totals. Data were first collected for Hispanics in 1972 and for Asians and Pacific Islanders in 1987. For further information, see <www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/adsmain.htm>.

Because Hispanics may be any race, data for Hispanics overlap slightly with data for the Black and Asian populations. Based on the total male and female population surveyed in the ASEC, 3 percent of the single-race Black population and 2 percent of the single-race Asian population were also Hispanic. Data for the American Indian and Alaska Native population, the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, and the Two or More Races population are not shown here because of their small sample size in the ASEC.

⁴ The percentages of Black movers and Hispanic movers who moved within a county are not statistically different.

⁵ The percentages of Black movers and non-Hispanic White movers who came from abroad are not statistically different.

⁶ See page 6 of *Geographical Mobility: 2002 to 2003* (P20-549) by Jason P. Schachter. See the box at the end of the report for further information.

Reasons for Moving

Almost half of all people who moved between 2004 and 2005 gave housing-related reasons for their relocation. These reasons included wanting a new or better apartment or house (18 percent), wanting to own rather than rent (9 percent), wanting cheaper housing (7 percent), wanting a better neighborhood or one with less crime (4 percent), and other housing reasons (9 percent).

While 6 in 10 people moving within a county gave housing-related reasons, 3 in 10 of those who crossed county boundaries did. Among movers from abroad, 1 in 10 moved for housing-related reasons.

More than one-quarter of all movers said they moved for family-related reasons. These reasons included changes in marital status (7 percent), establishing one's own household (8 percent), and other family-related reasons (12 percent). More than 1 in 4 people moving within a county moved for family reasons. About 3 in 10 people moving across county lines and 2 in 10 movers from abroad also gave this reason.

Fewer than 1 in 5 movers (18 percent) relocated for employment-related reasons, including a new job or transfer (10 percent), an easier commute (3 percent), looking for work (2 percent), and retirement or other employment-related reasons (2 percent).

Among movers who relocated within a county, 7 percent gave an employment-related reason for their move, compared with about 29 percent of movers crossing county lines. Among movers from abroad, 55 percent came for employment-related reasons.

The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

Consult the Census Bureau Current Population Report *Geographical Mobility: 2002 to 2003* (P20-549) by Jason P. Schachter.

Look for complete reports and detailed tables on the Census Bureau's Web site <www.census.gov>. Click on “Subjects A to Z,” then click on “G,” and select “Geographic Mobility / Migration Data.”

Contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Call Center (toll-free) at 1-866-758-1060.

E-mail <ask.census.gov>.

See Appendix A for information on the accuracy of the estimates.