

Domestic Migration Across Regions, Divisions, and States: 1995 to 2000

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Movement of people from one location to another at any geographic scale affects both the origin and the destination locations. When the rate of natural increase is low, an increasing share of population change may be attributed to migration, whether domestic or international. Domestic (or internal) migration is the movement of people within national boundaries, whereas international migration refers to movement across those boundaries. In the United States, according to Census 2000, over 22 million people were domestic migrants who changed their state of residence between 1995 and 2000. Of these domestic migrants, approximately half relocated to a state in a different region. This movement did not affect all states equally, however. Immigration and outmigration levels varied widely, with markedly uneven results across the country.

This report, the first of several addressing Census 2000 migration topics, discusses migration between regions, divisions, and states between 1995 and 2000. It provides an overview of migration patterns at the three geographic levels and shows which parts of the country gained and lost most from the movement of people within the United States. Although movement from abroad represents an important component of the country's migration experience, this report concentrates solely on internal, or domestic, migration. Net migration rates complement migration flow numbers, and together the two measures summarize the effects of migration on regional,

division, and state populations in the United States between 1995 and 2000.

The South had the highest immigration and outmigration levels of the four regions.

Details of in- and outmigration flows from 1995 to 2000 for all regions,

Common Migration Terms

Migration: Commonly defined as moves that cross jurisdictional boundaries. This report includes those moves that crossed state, division, or region boundaries within the United States.

Immigration: Migration into an area during a given period.

Outmigration: Migration out of an area during a given period.

Gross Migration: The sum of immigration and outmigration for an area for a given period. This measure shows, in other words, the total amount of movement in and out of an area.

Net Migration: The difference between immigration and outmigration during a given period. A positive net, or net immigration, indicates that more migrants entered the area than left it during that period. A negative net, or net outmigration, means that more migrants left the area than entered it.

By
Rachel S. Franklin

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divisions, and states are shown in Table 1.¹ The highest levels of both in- and outmigration of all four census regions occurred in the South.² Just over 5 million people moved from the Northeast, the Midwest, and the West to the South between 1995 and 2000.³ During the same period, 3.2 million individuals left the South for one of the other regions. The resulting net immigration rate was 20.2, meaning that the South gained 20.2 people through migration for every 1,000 individuals living there in 1995.⁴

The Northeast, the Midwest, and the West displayed different

¹ All decennial census migration data refer to the population 5 years old and over in 2000. Movers are defined as those who did not live in their residence 5 years previously. Thus previous residence is measured 5 years prior to the census and does not track any other moves made within that 5-year period. Similarly, the census question on residence 5 years ago did not capture those who moved away from a place of residence and later returned to that same residence during that 5-year period.

The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All comparisons made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

² The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

³ Figures appearing in the text have been rounded. See Table 1 for complete numbers.

⁴ The net migration rate in this report is based on an approximated 1995 population, which is the sum of people who reported living in the area in both 1995 and 2000, and those who reported living in that area in 1995 but lived elsewhere in 2000. The net migration rate is the 1995-to-2000 net migration, divided by the approximated 1995 population and multiplied by 1,000.

migration patterns from the South. Between 1995 and 2000, net outmigration in the Northeast reached 25.5 for each 1,000 residents in 1995. In the Midwest, the net outmigration rate during the same period was much lower, at 9.1. Although the second-highest level of immigration was in the West, at 2.7 million people, this figure was balanced by an almost equivalent number of outmigrants, creating a net immigration rate for the West of just 0.2.

The South Atlantic division drew most of the migrants who moved to the South.

When census regions are separated into their divisions, greater variation in migration patterns appears.⁵ Although the South as a whole experienced substantial net immigration, the main driver of migration growth in the region was the South Atlantic division, where the net migration rate was 31.6. Net immigration rates in the remaining two southern divisions, East South Central and West South Central, were 15.1 and 4.7, respectively.

Similarly, net outmigration in the Northeast and the Midwest regions was concentrated in specific divisions. The net outmigration

⁵ The New England division includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The Middle Atlantic division states are New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The East North Central division includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The West North Central division includes Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The South Atlantic division comprises Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The East South Central division states are Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. The West South Central division includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Mountain division states are Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. The Pacific division includes Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

rate for the Middle Atlantic division of the Northeast was 32.0, but its companion division in the region, New England, had a net outmigration rate of 6.4. In the Midwest, the net migration rate for the East North Central division indicates that 12.5 individuals outmigrated during this period for every 1,000 residents in 1995. In contrast, net outmigration from the West North Central division resulted in a net outmigration rate of 1.1, a much smaller net rate.

Although the West as a whole experienced negligible net immigration between 1995 and 2000, its two divisions displayed noticeably different migration trends. The Pacific division, in spite of receiving 1.9 million domestic immigrants, had an even greater number of outmigrants, resulting in a net outmigration rate of 17.4. In net terms, the Mountain division gained about the same number of migrants as the Pacific division lost (an approximate 724,000 net gain in the Mountain division compared with an approximate 712,000 net loss in the Pacific). The impact of net migration appears to be much larger in the Mountain division, where the net immigration rate was 46.5.

Nevada and New York were among the states with the most active internal migration.

Net migration rates indicate one-sided migration flows — that is, flows dominated by either in- or outmigration — when they are either strongly negative, in the case of net outmigration, or strongly positive, in the case of net immigration (see Figure 1 and Table 1). Nevada had the highest net immigration rate of all the states, with a gain of 151.5 people for every 1,000 residents in 1995. Among all states, the highest net outmigration rate was in Hawaii

Table 1.
Domestic Migration for Regions, Divisions, and States: 1995 to 2000

(Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)

Area	Number				Rate (per 1,000 population) ¹			
	Inmigrants	Outmigrants	Gross migration	Net migration	Immigration	Outmigration	Gross migration	Net migration
Region								
Total²	11,655,373	11,655,373	*	-	45.7	45.7	*	-
Northeast	1,537,293	2,807,951	4,345,244	-1,270,658	30.8	56.2	87.0	-25.5
Midwest	2,409,578	2,950,767	5,360,345	-541,189	40.5	49.6	90.0	-9.1
South	5,042,453	3,242,654	8,285,107	1,799,799	56.6	36.4	93.1	20.2
West	2,666,049	2,654,001	5,320,050	12,048	47.3	47.1	94.3	0.2
Division								
Total³	16,060,203	16,060,203	*	-	63.0	63.0	*	-
New England	778,937	861,222	1,640,159	-82,285	61.0	67.4	128.4	-6.4
Middle Atlantic	1,247,180	2,435,553	3,682,733	-1,188,373	33.6	65.6	99.1	-32.0
East North Central	1,809,824	2,332,403	4,142,227	-522,579	43.3	55.7	99.0	-12.5
West North Central	1,177,807	1,196,417	2,374,224	-18,610	66.6	67.6	134.2	-1.1
South Atlantic	3,998,646	2,563,525	6,562,171	1,435,121	88.0	56.4	144.4	31.6
East South Central	1,216,613	983,419	2,200,032	233,194	78.7	63.6	142.4	15.1
West South Central	1,737,468	1,605,984	3,343,452	131,484	61.8	57.1	118.9	4.7
Mountain	2,192,156	1,467,936	3,660,092	724,220	140.7	94.2	234.9	46.5
Pacific	1,901,572	2,613,744	4,515,316	-712,172	46.6	64.0	110.6	-17.4
State								
Total⁴	22,089,460	22,089,460	*	-	86.7	86.7	*	-
Alabama	326,212	300,389	626,601	25,823	80.0	73.7	153.7	6.3
Alaska	95,562	126,060	221,622	-30,498	159.9	210.9	370.8	-51.0
Arizona	796,420	480,272	1,276,692	316,148	187.2	112.9	300.1	74.3
Arkansas	252,100	209,984	462,084	42,116	104.3	86.9	191.2	17.4
California	1,448,964	2,204,500	3,653,464	-755,536	47.1	71.7	118.8	-24.6
Colorado	643,820	481,187	1,125,007	162,633	173.6	129.7	303.3	43.8
Connecticut	260,823	325,433	586,256	-64,610	82.9	103.5	186.4	-20.5
Delaware	101,461	84,078	185,539	17,383	145.4	120.5	265.9	24.9
District of Columbia	113,029	158,360	271,389	-45,331	203.8	285.5	489.4	-81.7
Florida	1,860,772	1,253,749	3,114,521	607,023	135.0	91.0	226.0	44.0
Georgia	965,558	624,853	1,590,411	340,705	137.7	89.1	226.9	48.6
Hawaii	125,160	201,293	326,453	-76,133	107.6	173.0	280.5	-65.4
Idaho	182,929	149,082	332,011	33,847	160.2	130.5	290.7	29.6
Illinois	665,122	1,007,738	1,672,860	-342,616	57.7	87.4	145.0	-29.7
Indiana	451,397	429,772	881,169	21,625	81.2	77.3	158.5	3.9
Iowa	214,841	247,853	462,694	-33,012	78.6	90.7	169.3	-12.1
Kansas	276,786	284,578	561,364	-7,792	112.7	115.8	228.5	-3.2
Kentucky	318,579	284,452	603,031	34,127	86.2	77.0	163.2	9.2
Louisiana	253,520	329,279	582,799	-75,759	60.5	78.6	139.2	-18.1
Maine	107,999	104,359	212,358	3,640	90.8	87.7	178.5	3.1
Maryland	495,152	514,875	1,010,027	-19,723	102.8	106.9	209.7	-4.1
Massachusetts	446,849	501,557	948,406	-54,708	77.0	86.4	163.4	-9.4
Michigan	467,638	559,568	1,027,206	-91,930	50.8	60.8	111.6	-10.0
Minnesota	355,250	326,081	681,331	29,169	79.3	72.8	152.2	6.5
Mississippi	226,788	199,858	426,646	26,930	87.6	77.2	164.8	10.4
Missouri	473,369	427,316	900,685	46,053	92.6	83.6	176.2	9.0
Montana	111,530	116,696	228,226	-5,166	131.9	138.0	269.9	-6.1
Nebraska	154,025	169,378	323,403	-15,353	97.4	107.1	204.5	-9.7
Nevada	466,123	232,189	698,312	233,934	301.8	150.3	452.1	151.5
New Hampshire	162,250	134,347	296,597	27,903	145.4	120.4	265.8	25.0
New Jersey	534,578	717,407	1,251,985	-182,829	69.2	92.8	162.0	-23.7
New Mexico	205,267	235,212	440,479	-29,945	122.1	139.9	262.0	-17.8
New York	726,477	1,600,725	2,327,202	-874,248	40.6	89.4	130.0	-48.8
North Carolina	919,336	581,453	1,500,789	337,883	131.7	83.3	215.0	48.4
North Dakota	60,252	85,459	145,711	-25,207	97.0	137.6	234.6	-40.6
Ohio	588,650	705,590	1,294,240	-116,940	55.6	66.6	122.1	-11.0
Oklahoma	322,500	305,613	628,113	16,887	102.6	97.2	199.8	5.4
Oregon	399,328	324,663	723,991	74,665	131.3	106.8	238.1	24.6
Pennsylvania	668,753	800,049	1,468,802	-131,296	58.0	69.4	127.5	-11.4
Rhode Island	96,980	93,744	190,724	3,236	101.4	98.0	199.4	3.4
South Carolina	442,449	310,244	752,693	132,205	124.4	87.2	211.6	37.2
South Dakota	72,548	85,016	157,564	-12,468	102.3	119.9	222.2	-17.6
Tennessee	567,966	421,652	989,618	146,314	111.5	82.8	194.4	28.7
Texas	1,362,849	1,214,609	2,577,458	148,240	74.2	66.1	140.3	8.1
Utah	242,189	216,893	459,082	25,296	125.2	112.2	237.4	13.1
Vermont	69,748	67,494	137,242	2,254	123.4	119.4	242.8	4.0
Virginia	821,738	746,008	1,567,746	75,730	129.7	117.7	247.4	11.9
Washington	618,395	543,065	1,161,460	75,330	117.8	103.4	221.2	14.3
West Virginia	138,487	149,241	287,728	-10,754	81.0	87.3	168.3	-6.3
Wisconsin	338,108	330,826	668,934	7,282	68.3	66.8	135.1	1.5
Wyoming	72,834	85,361	158,195	-12,527	154.9	181.6	336.5	-26.6

- Net migration and the net migration rate for domestic migration for the United States are zero by definition.

* Gross migration and the gross migration rate for region, division, and state totals are not computed.

¹The net migration rate is based on an approximated 1995 population, which is the sum of people who reported living in the area in both 1995 and 2000, and those who reported living in that area in 1995, but lived elsewhere in 2000. The net migration rate is the 1995-to-2000 net migration, divided by the approximated 1995 population and multiplied by 1000.

²Interregional migration.

³Interdivisional migration.

⁴Interstate migration.

Note: A negative value for net migration or the net migration rate is indicative of net outmigration, meaning that more migrants left an area than entered it, between 1995 and 2000. Positive values reflect net immigration to an area.

Note: Census 2000 migration data include Puerto Rico among all movers from abroad. Because this report focuses solely on domestic migration, Puerto Rico has been excluded from this table. Puerto Rico migration data are available on the Census Bureau's Web site: www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/migration.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

(65.4). Washington, DC, had a net outmigration rate of 81.7.

Figure 1 illustrates that migration in a few states differed markedly from trends in nearby states. Net outmigration from Illinois, for example, contrasted with net immigration to four of its five adjacent states. Louisiana and New Mexico also experienced net outmigration, but were surrounded by states with net immigration. Perhaps the most startling case is California, whose moderate net outmigration rate contrasted with high rates of net immigration in the neighboring states of Nevada and Arizona.

The highest gross migration between 1995 and 2000, indicating the total movement in and out of an area during a particular period, was seen in California, Florida, Texas, New York, and Illinois. In California's case, gross migration exceeded 3.6 million people. Outmigration exceeded immigration, however, resulting in a net loss of approximately 756,000 people. Outmigration greatly exceeded immigration in New York and Illinois, as well. Florida, in comparison, had net immigration of approximately 607,000, or a net immigration rate of 44.0, with total migration of 3.1 million. Texas also experienced net immigration, although to a smaller extent (8.1 net migration rate).

In summary, many of the highest state migration levels were in the South, largely in the South Atlantic division; Nevada's net immigration rate was the highest in the country.

Many of the highest levels of migration were in the South. That region's South Atlantic division includes states that were among the top destination states in the country during the 1995 to 2000

period, especially Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. Of the states, Nevada's net immigration rate was the highest in the country.

The region with the lowest levels of immigration, gross migration, and net migration was the Northeast. The high net outmigration rate reflects that the Northeast lost more population through outmigration than any other region, with most of the loss in the Middle Atlantic division and particularly the state of New York.

This report shows that, at each geographic level, internal migration was not uniformly balanced across the country; some locations gained population through immigration, while others experienced a net loss. In still other locations, migration was characterized by a high degree of movement in *and* out of the area.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

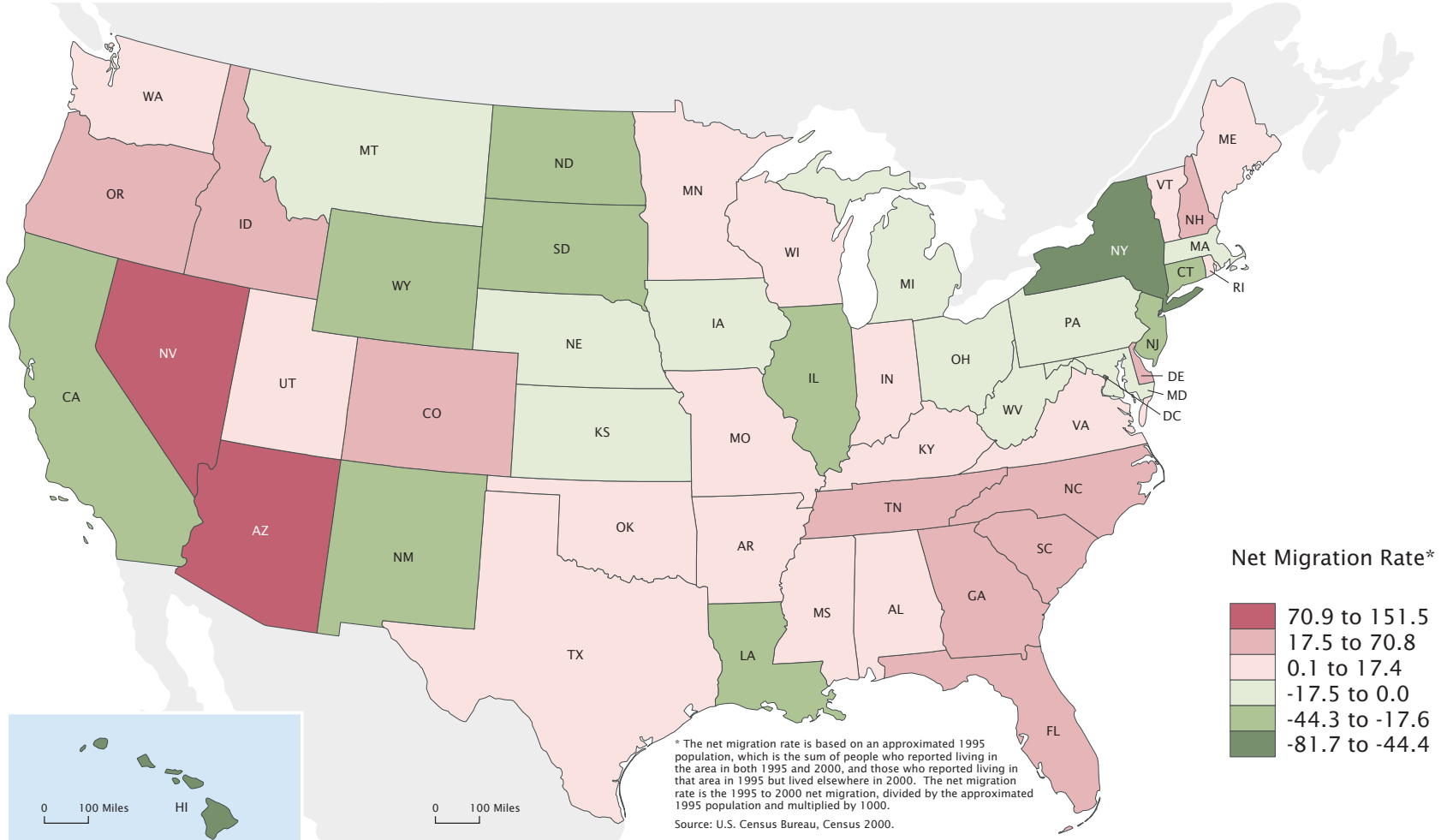
Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* under



Figure 1. Net Domestic Migration Rates by State: 1995 to 2000

(Data based on a sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

All statements in this Census 2000 report have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More detailed information on decennial migration products, including additional tables and other product announcements, is available on the Internet and can be accessed via the Census Bureau's decennial census migration Web page at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/migration.html.

The decennial migration Web page contains additional detailed migration tables not included in this report, a schedule of upcoming migration data releases, and migration-related Census 2000 Special Reports.

For more information on decennial migration products, please contact:

Population Distribution Branch
Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
301-763-2419

or send e-mail to pop@census.gov.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief and Special Reports Series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. These series present information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

Census 2000 information and data can also be accessed via the Census 2000 Gateway Web page at www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.