

Geographical Mobility (Update)

Population Characteristics

March 1998
to
March 1999

Issued June 2000

P20-531

Data Highlights

Detailed tabulations are now available on the geographical mobility of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States, based on the March 1999 Current Population Survey (CPS). These tables provide information such as:

- Between March 1998 and March 1999, 42.6 million people (or 15.9 percent of the population) moved. Most movers (59.3 percent) stayed in the same county, 19.8 percent moved between counties within the same state, 17.6 percent moved to a different state, and 3.4 percent moved from abroad.
- Moving rates declined with age: 32.4 percent for people 20 to 29 years old, 22.8 percent for those 30 to 34, 14.1 percent for those 35 to 44, 9.5 percent for those 45 to 54, 6.7 percent for those 55 to 64, and only 4.5 percent for those 65 and older.
- Rates of moving were lower for non-Hispanic Whites (14.4 percent) than for non-Hispanic Blacks, non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders, and people of Hispanic origin—all of which were around 19.5 percent.
- 1.4 million people moved to the United States from abroad: 40.1 percent were non-Hispanic Whites, 31.6 percent were of Hispanic origin, 21.5 percent were non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders, and only 6.7 percent were non-Hispanic Blacks.
- Renters had higher rates of moving than owners. About 1 in 3 people living in renter-occupied housing units in March 1999 had moved in the previous year (33.2 percent), compared with fewer

than 1 in 10 people in owner-occupied housing units (8.3 percent).

- The Northeast had the lowest overall moving rate (11.7 percent—well below the national rate of 15.9 percent), followed by the Midwest (15.1 percent), the South (17.1 percent), and the West (18.5 percent).
- The South continued recent trends as the only region with a significant increase due to internal migration, with a net gain of 270,000 people.

Detailed Tabulations

The set of newly revised detailed tabulations consists of 30 tables from the 1999 March CPS (422 pages) and 4 historical tables. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (www.census.gov). Once on the site, go to "Subjects A-Z," then click on "M," and finally on "Migration."

An abbreviated paper version (without the race and geographic repeats) is available as PPL-132 for \$38. To receive a paper copy, send a request for "PPL-132, Geographical Mobility: March 1998 to March 1999 (Update)," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$38 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call the Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this update by contacting the Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

Current Population Reports

By Carol S. Faber

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For additional information on these topics, contact Carol S. Faber, Journey to Work and Migration Branch, on 301-457-2454 or via Internet e-mail, **Carol.S.Faber@ccmail.census.gov**.

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability since they are not based on a complete enumeration of the population. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, or the use of standard errors, contact Alfred Meier, Demographic Statistical Methods Division, at 301-457-4220 or on the Internet at **Alfred.G.Meier@ccmail.census.gov**.

Notice to Users

Short updates of major findings from the Current Population Survey will be made available in both printed and electronic form for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. To obtain the new tabulations for March 1999, which update *Geographical Mobility: March 1997 to March 1998* (Current Population Reports, P20-520), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

The decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a

variety of factors. Ultimately, it is hoped that this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. Comments about this change or the P20 series in general may be made by contacting the Census Bureau on the Internet at **pop@census.gov**, or by writing to Chief, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233.

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