

We asked... You told us

Residence in 1985

The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.

In question 14 on the 1990 census forms, we asked people if they lived in the same house or apartment on April 1, 1985. We asked those who did not live in the same house or apartment to write in the names of the U.S. State, county, and city, or the name of the foreign country where they lived in 1985. We then compared these answers with their 1990 residence.

From what you told us, we learned that:

- Only a little over half of U.S. residents 5 years old and over lived in the same house or apartment in 1985. About 53 percent, or 122.8 million persons, did not move in the 5-year period preceding the 1990 census.
- This means that nearly one of every two persons (47 percent or 107.6 million) moved between 1985 and 1990.
- The majority of these moves were local. Over half of the persons who moved changed residences within the same county (see pie chart). Three-fourths of the movers stayed in the same State, and one-fifth moved to a different State.
- About 5 percent of movers (5.1 million persons) reported they lived abroad in 1985. Most of these persons lived in a foreign country. The others were in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or another U.S. commonwealth or territory.

The Nation Was Still on the Move

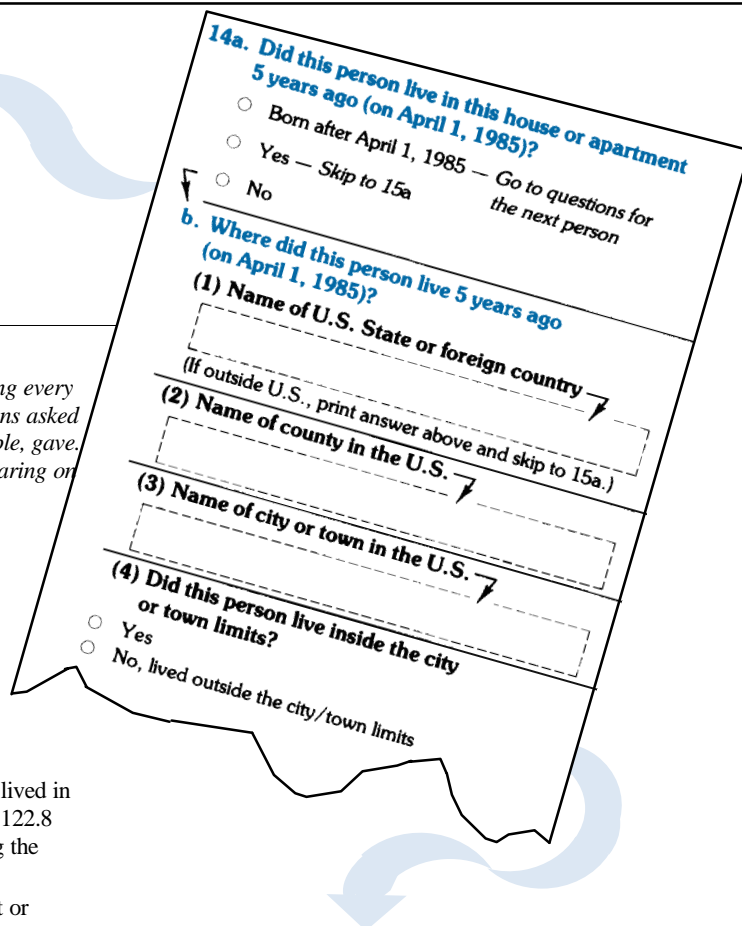
- The large percentage of movers between 1985 and 1990 was not surprising as it continued Americans' historically high level of geographic mobility.
- As the table shows, the mobility rates for the 1985-90 period were very similar to those reported in the 1980 census for the 1975-80 period. Nearly identical percentages of persons reported making each type of move.

Who Uses This Information?

Just a few examples:

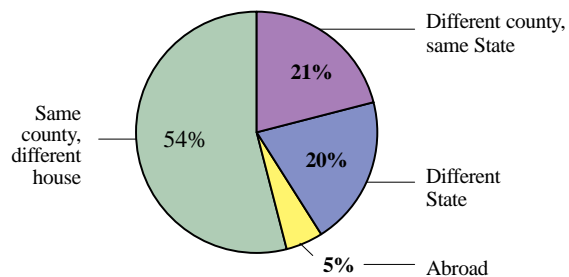
- Federal Government to determine where to build veterans hospitals and to forecast needs for emergency services following natural disasters
- State governments to estimate State and county population growth between censuses for funds allocation and program planning
- Local governments to forecast the demand for new public facilities such as schools, hospitals, libraries, and fire and police stations
- Private business and industry to decide where to locate new stores and plant/office sites

Note: Data on residence in 1985 are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.



Most Movers Did Not Cross County Lines

Percent Living in Different House in 1985



1985-90 Rates of Mobility Mirrored 1975-80 Rates

Previous residence	1985-90	1975-80
Persons 5 years and over	100.0	100.0
Same house	53.3	53.6
Different house in the U.S.	44.5	44.5
Same county	25.5	25.1
Different county	19.0	19.4
Same State	9.7	9.7
Different State	9.4	9.7
Abroad	2.2	1.8

Census Trivia: According to the 1990 census, which State had the largest number of immigrants from other States? Which State had the largest number of immigrants from outside the United States? Which State had the largest number of outmigrants to other States? (Answer on reverse.)

Migration Rates Varied Widely by State

The national figures don't explain the whole story. People living in some parts of the country were much more likely to move than those living in other areas. For example, rates of moving differed greatly for individual States, as shown in the map to the right.

- In six States — all in the Northeast or South — less than 40 percent of the population moved within the United States between 1985 and 1990. New York had the lowest percentage of persons living in a different house in 1985 (34 percent), followed closely by Pennsylvania and West Virginia (each 36 percent).
- For another seven States, at least half of the residents lived in a different house in the U.S. in 1985. Of these, only Florida was not in the West. Nevada led the States with the highest percentage of movers (63 percent).

Net Gains or Losses From Migration Also Differed by State

Between 1985 and 1990, some States gained movers at the expense of other States. The map at the bottom of the page shows the magnitude of these net gains and losses for each State. (Movers from abroad are not included.)

- Eleven States had net *gains* of more than 100,000 movers from other States. All of these were in the far West or South. Florida had by far the biggest net gain (nearly 1.1 million persons). The second and third largest net gainers were Georgia and North Carolina. They each had over 250,000 more people move into the State as move out.
- At the other extreme, eight States had net *losses* of more than 100,000 persons. New York recorded the largest net outmigration — about 821,000 more people moved out than moved in. The most popular destination of those leaving New York was Florida. Other States with net losses of 100,000 or more were the oil-producing States of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, several "Rust Belt" States (Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio), and New Jersey.

Trivia Answer: Florida had the largest number of immigrants from other States between 1985 and 1990 (2.1 million). During that period, California had both the largest number of immigrants from outside the United States (1.5 million) and the largest number of outmigrants to other States (1.8 million).

Want to Know More?

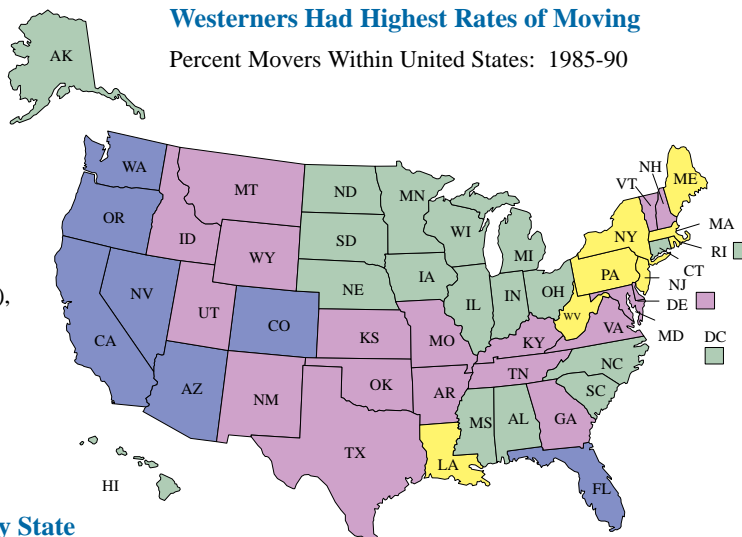
- Consult the series of 1990 census reports, CP-2, *Social and Economic Characteristics*, and CPH-3, *Census Tracts*, at a large public or university library. Also for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO).
- Data on migration can also be found in the listing, CPH-L-121, *1990 Selected Place of Birth and Migration Statistics for States*, available for purchase by calling **301-763-5002**.

If you want to know more, call:

- Customer Services at the Census Bureau, **301-763-4100**, for ordering information from GPO about the reports listed above OR for copies of CQC bulletins
- Kristin Hansen, **301-763-3850**, for more information on this bulletin or on migration data
- Karen Mills, **301-763-4263**, for general information on CQC bulletins

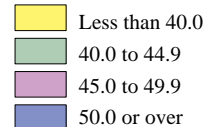
Westerners Had Highest Rates of Moving

Percent Movers Within United States: 1985-90



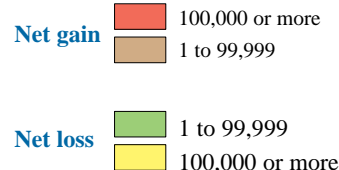
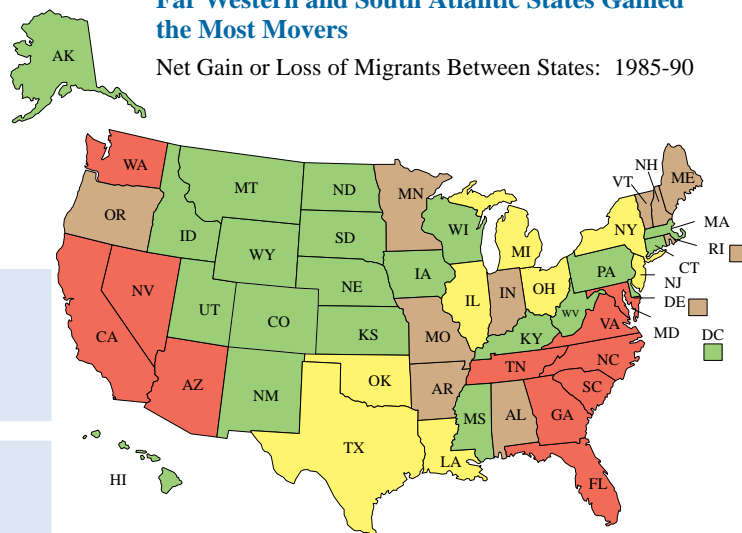
United States 44.5 percent

Percent in different house in 1985



Far Western and South Atlantic States Gained the Most Movers

Net Gain or Loss of Migrants Between States: 1985-90



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