

# Geographical Mobility: 2005 to 2010

## Population Characteristics

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### INTRODUCTION

Geographical mobility data are used to determine the extent of mobility of the U.S. population and resulting redistribution. Migration data are collected as part of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS).<sup>1</sup> How populations change has implications for federal, state, and local governments, as well as for private industry. Researchers can identify characteristics of movers from these data and track the mobility of the U.S. population over time.

This report examines data based on the 5-year migration question from the March 2010 CPS. Historical migration data derived from the Decennial Census and CPS/ASEC questions on residence 5 years ago are provided and discussed for comparative purposes. The 5-year mobility question asked for information about respondents aged 5 years and over whether they lived in the same house or apartment 5

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report, CPS and ASEC are used interchangeably even though the ASEC is a supplement within the CPS survey.

years ago. This type of question is limited by the fact that it does not capture repeat migration (people who leave a residence and return within the 5-year period) and only captures one move. Moves are commonly classified by type: within the same county, from a different county in the same state, from a different state, or from abroad.

### Report Highlights

- The 5-year mover rate for 2010 was 35.4 percent, the lowest in CPS history.
- Among those who moved, the type of move shifted towards movement within the same county (61.0 percent).
- People in their mid to late twenties had the highest mover rate of 65.5 percent.
- Unemployed individuals (47.7 percent) were more mobile than their employed (civilian) counterparts (37.2 percent).
- Between 2005 and 2010, the South was the only region to report a significant net gain of 1.1 million due to migration.

### BACKGROUND

Since 1940, every 10 years the census asked individuals where they lived 5 years ago, with the exception of the 1950 Census, which asked for residence 1 year ago. Beginning in 1975, the CPS asked a similar question on previous residence for the first 5 years of the decade, a period not covered by the census. This allowed for an expansion of the time series and provided 5-year estimates for the period between decennial censuses. With the discontinuation of the census long form after the 2000 Census, no 5-year mobility data were collected in the 2010 Census. In that year, the CPS/ASEC collected 1-year and 5-year geographic mobility data, providing users with an uninterrupted set of 5-year data covering a 40-year period.

## MOVER RATES AND TRENDS

According to data from the 2010 Current Population Survey shown in Table 1, 100.2 million people aged 5 years and over lived in a different residence 5 years ago.<sup>2</sup> The number of movers decreased from 107.0 million reported in the 2000–2005 period, the last time 5-year CPS migration data were collected. The mover rate also decreased from 39.5 percent for 2000–2005 to 35.4 percent for 2005–2010. Figure 1 shows mover rates from 1970 through 2010 for the Decennial Census, 5-year CPS, and 1-year CPS.<sup>3</sup> Focusing exclusively on mover rates from the CPS 5-year estimates, the 1975 estimate of 45.6 percent is the highest. The 1985 rate fell to 41.7 percent due to decreases in all types of moves. The 1995 mover rate increased to 44.1 percent and has declined for both 5-year mobility periods thereafter.

<sup>2</sup> All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and, unless otherwise noted, all comparisons are statistically significant at the 10 percent significance level.

<sup>3</sup> For comparison guidance regarding 1-year and 5-year migration estimates, see the Appendix of this report.

For 2010, 21.6 percent of people 5 years old and over moved to another residence within the same county. People who moved to a different county—within the same state and to a different state—accounted for 6.7 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively. Only 1.5 percent of the population moved to the United States from abroad. The 2005 estimates reflect a type of move distribution that varies from 2010.<sup>4</sup> Movers within the same county increased from 20.4 percent in 2005 to 21.6 percent in 2010. The percentage that moved to a different county, within the same state and to a different state, was 16.9 in 2005 compared with 12.3 in 2010. People who moved from abroad represented a larger percentage in 2005 (2.3 percent) than 2010 (1.5 percent).

<sup>4</sup> Part of the difference in the type of move distribution may be due to a change in ASEC processing. This may have resulted in an overestimate of interstate movers for the 2005 estimates. For additional details on the processing change, see page 2, footnote 6 of the Current Population Report titled “Geographical Mobility: 2008 to 2009” at <[www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p20-565.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p20-565.pdf)> or the “Impact of Processing on CPS Interstate Migration Rates” at <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf)>.

Percent distribution in Figure 2 focuses on those who moved instead of the total population 5 years and over. Because percent distribution is limited to movers, fluctuations in one type of move result in changes to others. In 2010, the same county mover estimate of 61.0 percent reached an all time high for the ASEC. The remaining types of moves all showed significant decreases between 2005 and 2010, especially movers from a different state (19.7 percent to 15.7 percent) and movers from a different county within the same state (23.0 percent to 19.0 percent).<sup>5</sup> Results from 1985 and 1995 further support the notion that decreases in the percent moved from a different county within the same state and from a different state were primarily responsible for the distribution shift to moves within the same county. The different county categories, same state and different state, comprised 38.5 percent of movers in 1995 and

<sup>5</sup> The percentage point decreases of movers from a different state and different county within the same state are not significantly different.

Table 1.  
**Five-Year Mover Rates, by Type: 1970–2010**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Mobility period	Total, 5 years and over	Number of movers	Mover rate	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (+/–)	Percent moved			
					Same county	Different county		From abroad
						Same state	Different state	
2005–2010	282,846	100,152	35.4	0.29	21.6	6.7	5.6	1.5
2000–2005	270,904	107,012	39.5	0.31	20.4	9.1	7.8	2.3
1995–2000	262,375	120,348	45.9	0.01	24.9	9.7	8.4	2.9
1990–1995	241,805	106,616	44.1	0.45	25.0	8.8	8.1	2.2
1985–1990	230,446	107,649	46.7	0.01	25.5	9.7	9.4	2.2
1980–1985	216,108	90,126	41.7	0.45	22.1	9.1	8.7	1.8
1975–1980	210,323	97,629	46.4	0.01	25.1	9.8	9.7	1.9
1970–1975 <sup>2</sup>	183,093	83,442	45.6	0.47	25.6	8.9	9.1	2.0
1965–1970 <sup>2</sup>	176,354	77,790	44.1	0.01	24.6	8.9	9.1	1.5

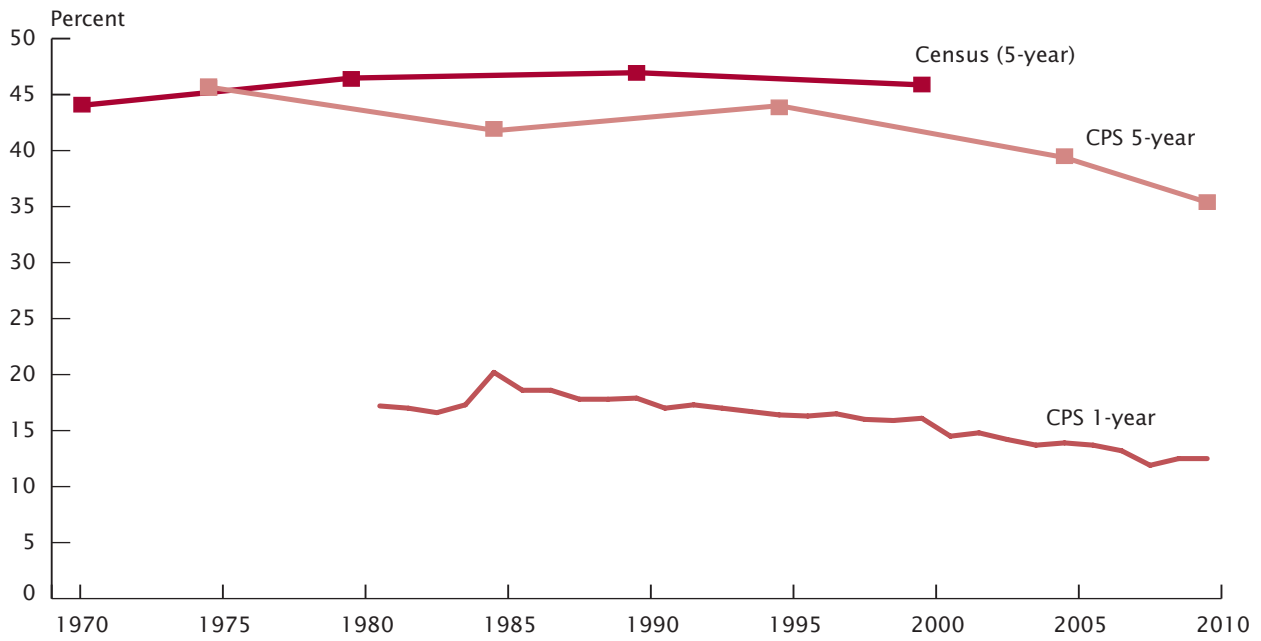
<sup>1</sup> The margin of error, or MOE, when added to or subtracted from the mover rate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> The 1970 Census and 1975 Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates do not include respondents who did not specify a mobility status.

Note: Comparisons between data from the CPS and the Decennial Census must be made with caution because of sampling and nonsampling variability. Data from the Decennial Census are for the total resident population of the United States, whereas data from the March CPS are for the civilian noninstitutionalized population plus members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post and are therefore not totally comparable.

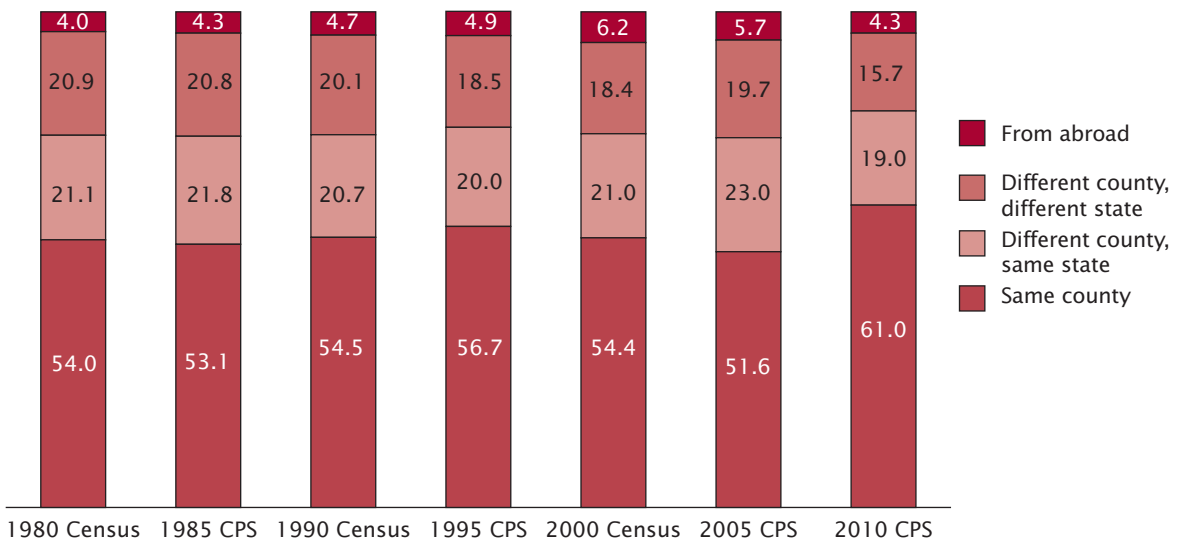
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Figure 1.  
**Mover Rate: 1970–2010**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1980–2010.

Figure 2.  
**Five-Year Percent Distribution of Movers: 1980–2010**  
 (In percent)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

42.6 percent in 1985, more than the 34.8 percent in 2010.

## CHARACTERISTICS

Table 2 contains selected demographic characteristics from the "Geographical Mobility: 2005 to 2010, 5-Year Detailed Table Package."<sup>6</sup> Characteristics discussed in this report include age, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, educational attainment, labor force status, household income in 2009, tenure, and poverty status. Proper utilization of characteristics helps to identify differences in migration patterns among various subgroups.

### People in their mid to late twenties were the most mobile.

Respondents between the ages of 25 and 29 had the highest 5-year mover rate of any age group, at 65.5 percent. About 48.0 percent of 18 to 24 year olds also moved during this time period. These ages are a common time in the life course when people are transitioning between college, first jobs, and establishing their own households. The two oldest age categories, 65 to 74 years old and 75 years and over, had the lowest mover rates at 15.2 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively. For these older ages, the percentage that moved within the same county was less than ten percent, well below the rate reported by younger age groups.

### Mover rates and type of move differ by race.

Respondents who reported being Hispanic or Latino of any race

<sup>6</sup> The 2010 detailed tables have been redesigned to decrease repetition present in the 2005 tables. For comparison guidance between the 2005 and 2010 tables, see the "5-Year ASEC Table Package Comparison" at <[www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/cps/usernote2010.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/cps/usernote2010.html)>.

or who reported being Black or African American had the highest mover rates with 43.1 percent and 42.9 percent, respectively.<sup>7,8</sup> The distributions of moves for these two groups tell completely different stories. Moves from a different county were more common among Black or African Americans (12.5 percent) than Hispanics or Latinos (9.1 percent). However, Asians had the highest percentage of movers from abroad, with 9.5 percent followed by Hispanic or Latino with 3.0 percent. These were higher than the rates for Black or African American with 1.7 percent and White, not Hispanic or Latino with 1.0 percent.

### Occupants of rental housing units were more mobile than occupants of owned housing units.

The 5-year mover rate suggests people living in renter-occupied housing units were much more mobile than those living in

<sup>7</sup> 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 shows data using the first approach (race alone). This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black or African American-alone population as Black or African American, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as White, not Hispanic or Latino. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. In this report, the term "White, not Hispanic or Latino" refers to people who are not Hispanic and who reported White and no other race. The Census Bureau uses non-Hispanic Whites as the comparison group for other race groups and Hispanics. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups.

<sup>8</sup> The mover rate for Hispanic or Latinos is not statistically different from that of Black or African Americans.

owner-occupied housing units.<sup>9</sup> About two-thirds of renters moved within a 5-year period compared with less than one-quarter of owners. Part of this difference can be attributed to movers within the same county. Approximately 40.7 percent of renters moved within the same county, while 13.2 percent of owners moved within the same county.

### People who completed some college coursework or obtained a post-secondary degree had higher levels of mobility from a different state than those who did not pursue education beyond high school.

Among the population 25 years and over, those with a bachelor's degree had the highest mover rate: 35.6 percent. Among professional or graduate degree holders, 8.4 percent moved from another state, 7.7 percent who attained a bachelor's degree moved from a different state, and 5.5 percent of people with some college or an associate's degrees moved from a different state. About 4 percent of high school graduates and 3.1 percent of those who did not graduate from high school completed a state-to-state move.

### Separated individuals were the most mobile marital status.

For the population 15 years and over, 51.6 percent of separated respondents moved between 2005 and 2010. Marital events such as separation often require a move and may explain why this group has the highest rates. Never married respondents are another mobile group with a mover rate of 44.2 percent. Never married individuals tend to be younger and

<sup>9</sup> From this point forward, people living in renter-occupied housing units are referred to as "renters" and people living in owner-occupied housing units are "owners."

Table 2.

**Five-Year Mover Rates, by Selected Characteristics: 2005–2010**

(Numbers in thousands)

Selected characteristics	Total	Movers	Mover rate	Percent			Movers from abroad
				Same county	Different county		
					Same state	Different state	
<b>Total, 5 years and over . . . . .</b>	<b>282,846</b>	<b>100,152</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Sex</b>							
Male . . . . .	138,530	49,468	35.7	21.7	6.8	5.7	1.6
Female . . . . .	144,316	50,684	35.1	21.5	6.7	5.5	1.4
<b>Age</b>							
5 to 9 years . . . . .	20,785	9,292	44.7	28.9	8.0	6.1	1.7
10 to 17 years . . . . .	32,820	11,369	34.6	23.1	5.6	4.5	1.5
18 to 24 years . . . . .	29,313	14,068	48.0	27.9	10.5	7.4	2.2
25 to 29 years . . . . .	21,453	14,043	65.5	37.5	13.2	11.6	3.2
30 to 44 years . . . . .	60,079	27,311	45.5	27.6	8.3	7.3	2.3
45 to 64 years . . . . .	79,782	18,781	23.5	14.6	4.5	3.7	0.8
65 to 74 years . . . . .	20,956	3,177	15.2	8.5	3.2	3.2	0.3
75 years and over . . . . .	17,657	2,110	11.9	7.1	2.6	2.0	0.3
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>							
White alone . . . . .	226,457	76,251	33.7	20.4	6.7	5.6	1.0
Black or African American alone . . . . .	35,363	15,159	42.9	28.7	7.2	5.3	1.7
Asian alone . . . . .	12,991	5,282	40.7	19.6	5.6	6.0	9.5
Hispanic or Latino <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	43,343	18,689	43.1	31.0	5.2	3.9	3.0
<b>Tenure</b>							
In an owner-occupied housing unit . . . . .	196,656	43,588	22.2	13.2	4.7	3.7	0.6
In a renter-occupied housing unit . . . . .	86,190	56,564	65.6	40.7	11.3	9.9	3.7
<b>Educational Attainment (aged 25 and over)</b>							
Not a high school graduate . . . . .	25,711	8,566	33.3	23.6	4.4	3.1	2.2
High school graduate . . . . .	62,456	18,733	30.0	19.6	5.6	3.9	0.9
Some college or associate's degree . . . . .	51,920	17,397	33.5	20.2	6.9	5.5	0.9
Bachelor's degree . . . . .	38,784	13,792	35.6	18.4	7.5	7.7	1.8
Professional or graduate degree . . . . .	21,056	6,933	32.9	16.0	6.3	8.4	2.2
<b>Marital Status (aged 15 and over)</b>							
Married . . . . .	124,219	35,823	28.8	16.5	5.6	5.1	1.6
Widowed . . . . .	14,356	2,599	18.1	11.3	3.4	2.9	0.5
Divorced . . . . .	23,758	9,523	40.1	26.1	7.7	5.8	0.5
Separated . . . . .	5,541	2,858	51.6	33.9	9.5	6.8	1.4
Never married . . . . .	74,294	32,837	44.2	27.0	8.5	6.7	1.9
<b>Household Income (in 2009, aged 15 and over)</b>							
Without income . . . . .	30,914	11,418	36.9	22.7	5.8	5.0	3.5
Under \$10,000 . . . . .	41,920	14,870	35.5	21.2	6.9	5.7	1.7
\$10,000 to \$29,999 . . . . .	74,270	26,300	35.4	22.0	6.8	5.3	1.3
\$30,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .	43,553	15,281	35.1	21.2	7.4	5.5	0.9
\$50,000 to \$74,999 . . . . .	27,421	8,648	31.5	17.8	6.8	6.0	1.0
\$75,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .	10,822	3,315	30.6	17.4	6.0	6.4	0.8
\$100,000 and over . . . . .	13,268	3,806	28.7	15.4	5.6	6.7	0.9
<b>Employment Status (aged 16 and over)</b>							
Employed (civilian) . . . . .	137,753	51,241	37.2	22.6	7.3	5.8	1.4
Unemployed . . . . .	15,764	7,519	47.7	29.3	9.4	7.3	1.7
Armed Forces <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	937	681	72.7	21.2	8.2	36.4	6.8
Not in labor force . . . . .	83,641	22,851	27.3	16.0	5.2	4.6	1.5
<b>Poverty Status</b>							
Below 100 percent of poverty . . . . .	38,673	20,300	52.5	33.8	9.0	6.7	3.0
100 percent to 149 percent of poverty . . . . .	25,650	10,832	42.2	27.7	7.5	4.8	2.2
150 percent of poverty and above . . . . .	218,523	69,020	31.6	18.7	6.2	5.5	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.<sup>2</sup> Includes members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2010.

therefore, more mobile. Widowed respondents were least likely to have moved (18.1 percent) and tend to be older.

**Movement among several household income groups is not statistically different.**

The 2010 ASEC asks about the respondent's household income in 2009 instead of 2005. The difference in the total mover rate among several of the lower household income groups is not statistically different. For example, households that earned under \$10,000 or less, \$10,000 to \$29,999, or \$30,000 to \$49,999 all had mover rates ranging from 35.1 percent to 35.5 percent. Other household income groups reported lower mover rates. Households with income of \$75,000 to \$99,999 and \$100,000 and over had movers rates of 30.6 percent and 28.7 percent, respectively.

**Members of the Armed Forces tend to move a lot, especially from a different state and abroad.**

Of the population 16 years and over, 37.2 percent of the employed civilian workforce lived at a different residence 5 years ago. People employed by the Armed Forces had the highest mover rate of any employment status, with 72.7 percent.<sup>10</sup> As shown in Table 2, this is a very mobile population, with 36.4 percent moving from a different state and 6.8 percent moving from abroad within a 5-year period. Unemployed respondents were the second most mobile group, with 47.7 percent. About 30 percent of the unemployed moved within the same county, the highest of any employment status.

<sup>10</sup> Only members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States are included.

**About one-third of respondents below 100 percent of poverty moved to a different residence within the same county.**

People below 100 percent of poverty had the highest mover rate with 52.5 percent. People at or above 150 percent of poverty had a considerably lower mover rate of 31.6 percent. This difference is attributable to lower percentages for all types of moves, especially within the same county (18.7) and to a different county within the same state (6.2 percent).

**IN, OUT, AND NET MIGRATION BY REGIONS AND METRO STATUS**

One strength of ASEC data is the ability to identify migrations between regions of the United States. The following section focuses on regional migration in order to determine the population change resulting from 5-year migration.

**Region**

Regional migration approaches population change from more of a larger scale, macro level rather than the micro level same county/different county approach. Regional migration concentrates on the overall redistribution of people as they move throughout the country. Three different types of regional changes are contained in Table 3: inmigrants, outmigrants, and net domestic migration. For this report, inmigrants are people who moved into an area during a 5-year period. Outmigrants are people who moved out of an area over the same period. The term net domestic migration refers to the overall change in an area when both inmigrants and outmigrants are taken into consideration. This number provides the clearest picture of population change in an

area, due to migration, by limiting the outside influence of immigration (movement into the country from abroad). To calculate the net domestic migration estimate, subtract the number of outmigrants from the number of inmigrants. A positive result means the region gained population, while a negative result means the region lost population. If the net domestic migration estimate has an asterisk symbol (\*) next to it, then the estimate is statistically different from zero.

Data from Table 3 and Figures 3, 4, and 5 display in, out, and net domestic migration estimates by region from 1970 to 2010. The first 5-year estimates from the CPS are from 1975. According to these data, the South reported 4.1 million inmigrants and the West had 2.3 million. The Midwest had the largest number of outmigrants with 2.9 million and the West had the lowest with 1.6 million. The net domestic migration estimates show the Northeast losing more than 1 million people during this time.<sup>11</sup> The South and West both gained population, although the South was the only region with a net gain of 1 million or more people.

The estimates from the 1995 ASEC are an approximate midpoint between 1975 and 2010 data. Keeping with results present in the 1975 data, the South continued to have the largest number of inmigrants with 4.7 million and the Northeast had the least with 1.2 million. However, the variation in outmigration was considerably smaller in 1995 compared with 1975. In 1975, outmigration ranged from 1.6 million to 2.9 million. The 1995 estimates ranged

<sup>11</sup> Estimates for the Northeast and Midwest are not significantly different.

from 2.5 million to 2.7 million.<sup>12,13</sup> The outmigration for all regions between 1990 and 1995 was not significantly different from one another. Taking the components of immigration and outmigration into consideration simultaneously, the

<sup>12</sup> The 1995 outmigration estimates of 2.5 million and 2.7 million are not significantly different.

<sup>13</sup> The 1975 estimate of 2.9 million is not significantly different from the 1995 estimate of 2.7 million.

net domestic migration estimates from 1995 indicate that the Northeast and Midwest lost population during this 5-year period. With 2.0 million, the South was the only region that experienced an increase in population due to migration.

Data from the 2010 ASEC indicate a continuation of historical regional migration trends. The South led immigration with 3.5 million and the Northeast placed last with

1 million people. Outmigration estimates for the regions were between 1.8 million for the Northeast and 2.4 million for the South.<sup>14</sup> For net domestic migration, only the South had a significant increase in the population due to migration.

<sup>14</sup> Outmigration estimates for the Northeast and West and the South and Midwest were not significantly different from one another.

Table 3.

**Five-Year In, Out, and Net Domestic Migration, by Region: 1970–2010**

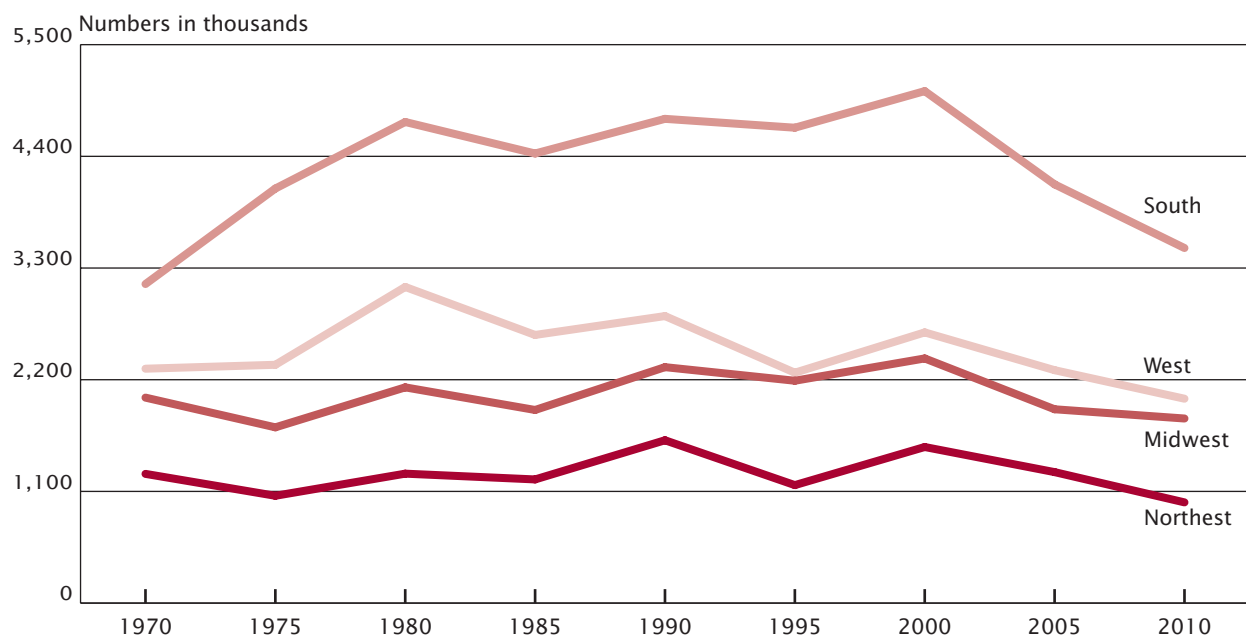
(Numbers in thousands)

Period	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
2005–2010				
Inmigrants . . . . .	992	1,818	3,497	2,013
Outmigrants . . . . .	1,824	2,168	2,386	1,942
Net domestic migration . . . . .	*-832	*-350	*1,111	71
2000–2005:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,290	1,909	4,124	2,294
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,313	2,328	2,701	2,273
Net domestic migration . . . . .	*-1,024	*-420	*1,422	21
1995–2000:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,537	2,410	5,042	2,666
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,808	2,951	3,243	2,654
Net domestic migration . . . . .	-1,271	-541	1,800	12
1990–1995				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,162	2,190	4,682	2,269
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,477	2,643	2,653	2,530
Net domestic migration . . . . .	*-1,316	*-452	*2,029	-261
1985–1990:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,604	2,324	4,769	2,827
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,720	3,172	3,344	2,289
Net domestic migration . . . . .	-1,116	-848	1,426	538
1980–1985:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,218	1,902	4,428	2,641
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,239	3,426	2,631	1,992
Net domestic migration . . . . .	*-1,021	*-1,524	*1,797	*649
1975–1980:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,275	2,125	4,738	3,114
Outmigrants . . . . .	3,059	3,505	2,752	1,935
Net domestic migration . . . . .	-1,785	-1,380	1,986	1,179
1970–1975:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,057	1,731	4,083	2,347
Outmigrants . . . . .	2,399	2,927	2,254	1,638
Net domestic migration . . . . .	*-1,342	*-1,196	*1,829	*709
1965–1970:				
Inmigrants . . . . .	1,273	2,024	3,142	2,309
Outmigrants . . . . .	1,988	2,661	2,486	1,613
Net domestic migration . . . . .	-715	-637	657	695

\* The net migration flows are significantly different from zero. Only net domestic migration estimates from the CPS were tested for significance.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Figure 3.  
**Five-Year Domestic Immigration, by Region: 1970–2010**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Another approach to utilizing regional migration data to its fullest potential is to identify the characteristics of people moving into and out of a region. Table 4 provides these estimates by combining a limited set of selected characteristics from Table 2 and the in, out, and net domestic categorization of Table 3. The key components of this table are the net estimates, because they provide the best understanding of the overall change resulting from regional migration. For instance, we can tell that between 2005 and 2010 the Northeast had a net loss of 233,000 people aged 30 to 44. The South fared better, reporting a net gain of 232,000 people within this age range. In fact, the South was the only region to report a net gain in all age categories from 10 to 74 years old.

A topic of interest to many migration researchers is the movement of the college educated. A well-educated workforce is of interest to every city, state, and region. Table 4 offers a general sense of where the highly educated are moving. From a regional perspective, the South and West were popular destinations among graduate degree holders 25 years and over with net gains of 89,000 and 104,000, respectively.<sup>15</sup> The Northeast had a net loss of 124,000 professional or graduate degree holders. At the opposite end of the education spectrum, the South had the highest net gain of people who were not high school graduates with 106,000.

<sup>15</sup> Net migration estimates for the number of professional or graduate degree holders in the South and West are not significantly different.

The Western region lost a net of 54,000.<sup>16</sup>

### **DISTANCE MOVED**

A unique measure calculated using ASEC migration data is the distance a person moved. Distance moved is calculated by measuring the distance between the population center of the origin county and destination county.<sup>17</sup> Because this approach is used, moves within the same county (intracounty) and from abroad are not calculated since their distance moved values would be zero.<sup>18</sup> Only people who moved

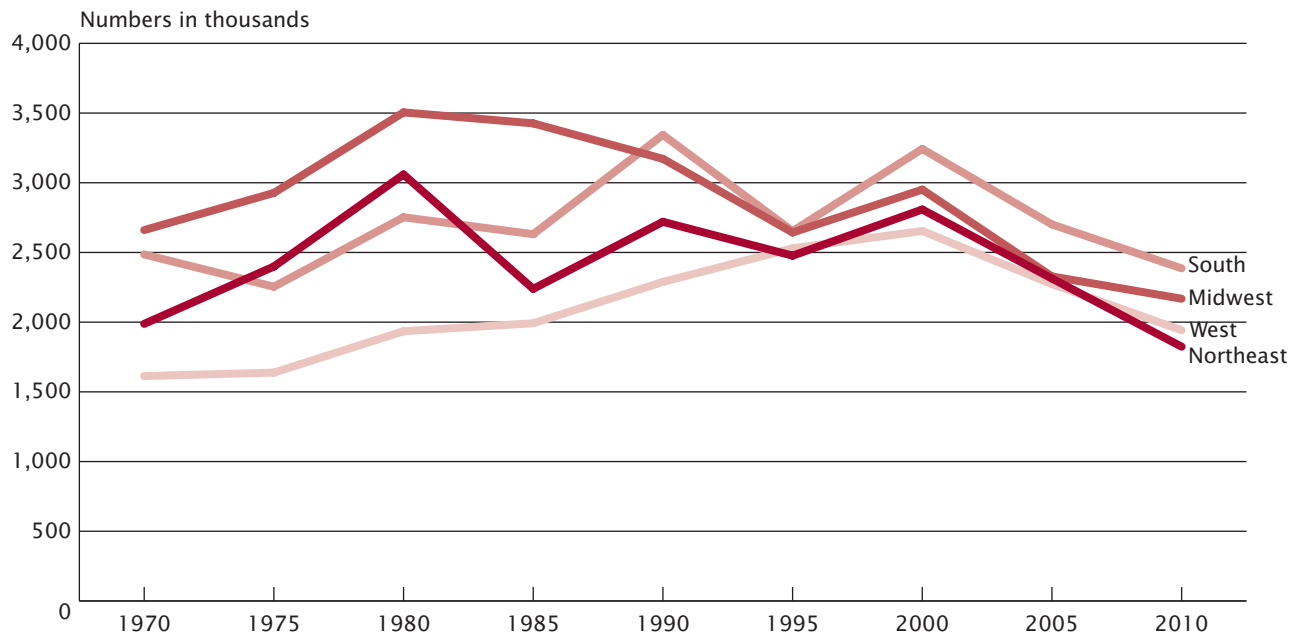
<sup>16</sup> The net loss for the West is not significantly different from the net loss of the Northeast.

<sup>17</sup> More details on this process can be found on page 10, footnote 14, of the Current Population Report titled "Geographical Mobility: 2002 to 2003" at <[www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-549.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p20-549.pdf)>.

<sup>18</sup> For intracounty movers, distance moved would equal zero because the origin and destination centroids are the same. For movers from abroad, there is no origin centroid for foreign countries.

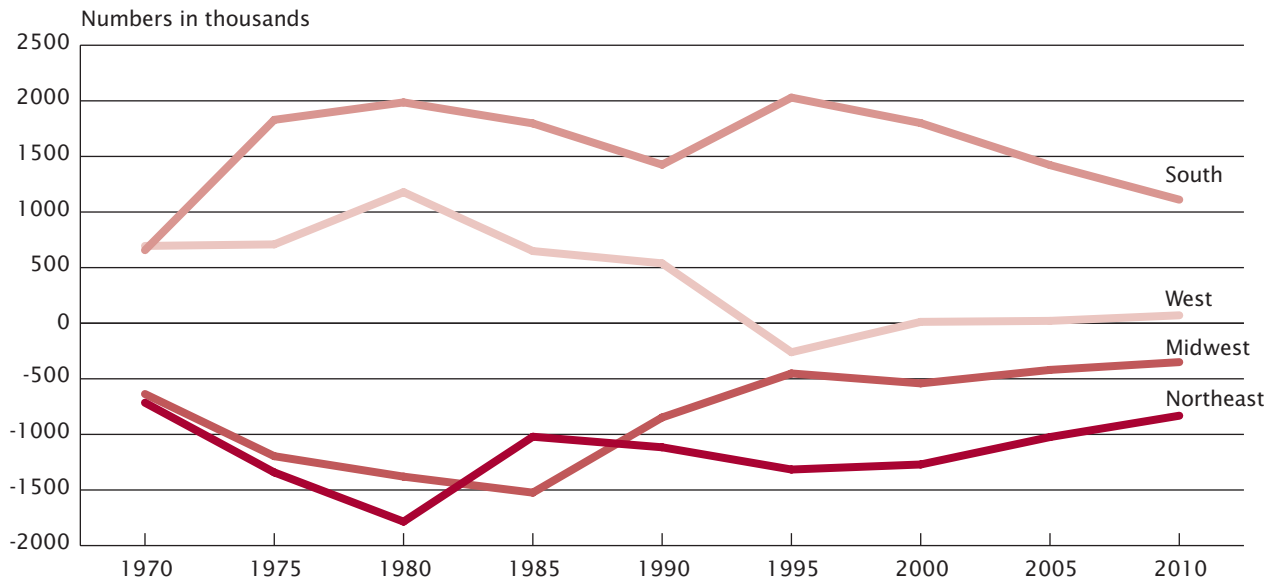


Figure 4.  
**Five-Year Domestic Outmigration, by Region: 1970–2010**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Figure 5.  
**Five-Year Domestic Net Migration, by Region: 1970–2010**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Table 4.

## Immigration, Outmigration, and Net Domestic Migration for Regions, by Selected Characteristics: 2005–2010

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristics	Northeast			Midwest			South			West		
	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net
<b>Total, 5 years and older . . .</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>*-831</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>*-350</b>	<b>3,497</b>	<b>2,386</b>	<b>*1,111</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Sex</b>												
Male . . . . .	488	922	*-433	887	1,094	*-207	1,735	1,156	*578	1,047	985	62
Female . . . . .	504	902	*-398	931	1,074	-143	1,762	1,230	*532	966	958	9
<b>Age</b>												
5 to 9 years . . . . .	72	126	*-54	183	165	18	269	206	63	148	175	-27
10 to 17 years . . . . .	73	190	*-116	196	177	19	329	220	*110	149	162	-12
18 to 24 years . . . . .	171	208	-37	222	306	*-85	433	313	*120	306	305	2
25 to 29 years . . . . .	161	296	*-136	267	399	*-132	527	340	*187	361	280	80
30 to 44 years . . . . .	263	496	*-233	520	540	-20	941	709	*232	595	574	21
45 to 64 years . . . . .	194	335	*-141	329	447	*-118	702	449	*253	330	325	6
65 to 74 years . . . . .	43	103	*-60	45	95	*-51	209	98	*111	82	83	-1
75 years and over . . . . .	15	70	*-55	56	38	19	86	51	35	41	39	2
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>												
White alone . . . . .	835	1,340	-505	1,492	1,709	-217	2,699	1,969	730	1,660	1,667	-8
Black or African American alone . .	74	320	-247	189	239	-50	540	212	328	114	145	-31
Asian alone . . . . .	54	114	-60	96	151	-55	169	146	24	163	72	91
Hispanic or Latino <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	69	160	-91	181	129	52	426	280	146	210	316	-106
<b>Educational Attainment (25 years and over)</b>												
Not a high school graduate . . . . .	35	76	*-40	87	99	-12	200	94	*106	60	114	*-54
High school graduate . . . . .	147	262	*-115	345	299	47	585	414	*171	209	311	*-103
Some college or associate's degree . . . . .	166	292	-126	331	368	-36	629	435	*194	344	376	-32
Bachelor's degree . . . . .	185	404	*-219	258	489	*-232	667	409	*258	508	316	*192
Professional or graduate degree . .	143	267	*-124	196	265	*-69	383	294	*89	288	184	*104
<b>Marital Status (15 years and over)</b>												
Married . . . . .	340	698	*-358	648	934	*-286	1,579	945	*634	813	803	10
Widowed . . . . .	26	56	*-30	42	59	-16	99	58	*40	54	48	6
Divorced . . . . .	96	126	*-30	176	143	32	293	244	*49	150	202	*-52
Separated . . . . .	13	48	*-34	68	44	*24	86	63	23	30	44	-13
Never married . . . . .	398	636	*-237	579	701	*-122	956	733	*223	710	574	*136
<b>Income in 2009 (16 years and over)</b>												
Without income . . . . .	85	130	*-45	151	180	-29	324	204	*120	166	212	*-46
Under \$10,000 . . . . .	169	251	*-82	285	307	-21	460	371	*89	294	280	14
\$10,000 to \$29,999 . . . . .	226	442	*-216	499	546	-47	914	649	*266	487	489	-2
\$30,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .	160	299	*-139	277	341	*-65	579	330	*249	293	338	-45
\$50,000 to \$74,999 . . . . .	115	200	*-85	128	246	*-118	351	217	*135	227	159	*68
\$75,000 and over . . . . .	109	223	*-114	142	240	*-97	351	241	*110	277	175	*101
<b>Labor Force Status (16 years and over)<sup>2</sup></b>												
Employed (civilian) . . . . .	522	962	*-440	880	1,137	*-257	1,741	1,148	*592	1,077	971	*106
Unemployed . . . . .	67	131	*-64	143	184	*-41	291	174	*118	130	142	-12
Not in labor force . . . . .	269	443	*-174	439	503	*-65	874	611	*262	458	481	-23

\* The net migration flows are significantly different from zero.

<sup>1</sup> Hispanics or Latinos may be of any race.<sup>2</sup> Excludes members of the Armed Forces in the United States due to limited regional mobility.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

to a different county or different state are included in the distance moved measure. The typical categories are less than 50 miles, 50 to 199 miles, 200 to 499 miles, and 500 miles or more.

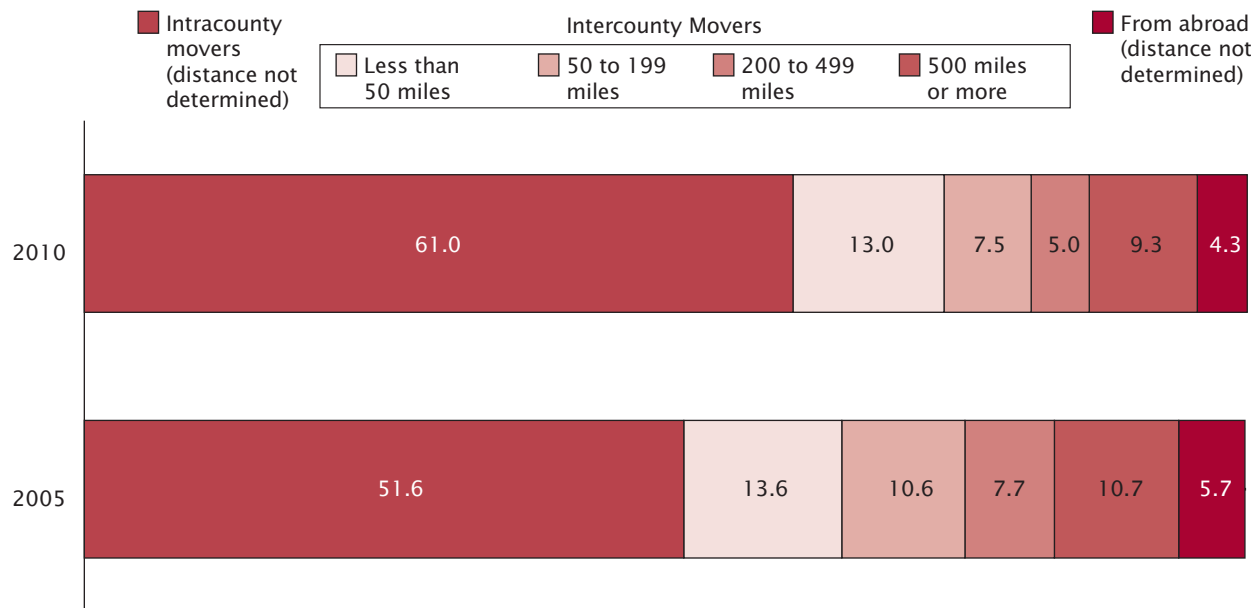
Distance moved was first calculated in 2003 for 1-year ASEC migration estimates. In 2005, the same method was applied to calculate 5-year distance moved estimates. The release of the 2010 5-year detailed table package marks the first time two 5-year distance moved estimates are available for comparison. Figure 6 emphasizes movers by displaying a percentage breakdown of type of move with intercounty movers subdivided by their distance moved. According to this figure, intracounty movers account for the majority of moves for 2005 and 2010; however, they comprise more of the distribution

in 2010 (61.0 percent) than 2005 (51.6 percent). Movers from abroad decreased from 5.7 percent in 2005 to 4.3 percent in 2010.

The distance moved category of less than 50 miles was the most common distance moved. Among all movers, 13.0 percent made an intercounty move less than 50 miles in 2010. Intercounty moves 500 miles or more were the second most common with 9.3 percent, trailed by 50 to 199 miles and 200 to 499 miles, respectively. In 2005, intercounty moves less than 50 miles also led the distance moved categories, and moves 200 to 499 miles were last. The categories of 50 to 199 miles and 500 miles or more were not significantly different from one another in 2005. Both of these distances moved decreased between 2005 and 2010.

In the detailed table package, distance moved is tabulated by various characteristics to provide an idea of how intercounty movers with selected characteristics differ by their distance moved. Educational attainment is of particular interest because distance moved can be determined across educational attainment categories. As displayed in Figure 7, there is considerable variation in distance moved across education groups. About 70 percent of moves by people who were not high school graduates were within the same county. Among the distance moved categories, less than 50 miles was the highest with 9.5 percent. The longest distance moved category of 500 miles or more had 5.5 percent. For comparison purposes, those with a graduate or professional degree had 48.6 percent of their

Figure 6.  
**Type of Move and Distance Moved: 2005 and 2010**  
(in percent)

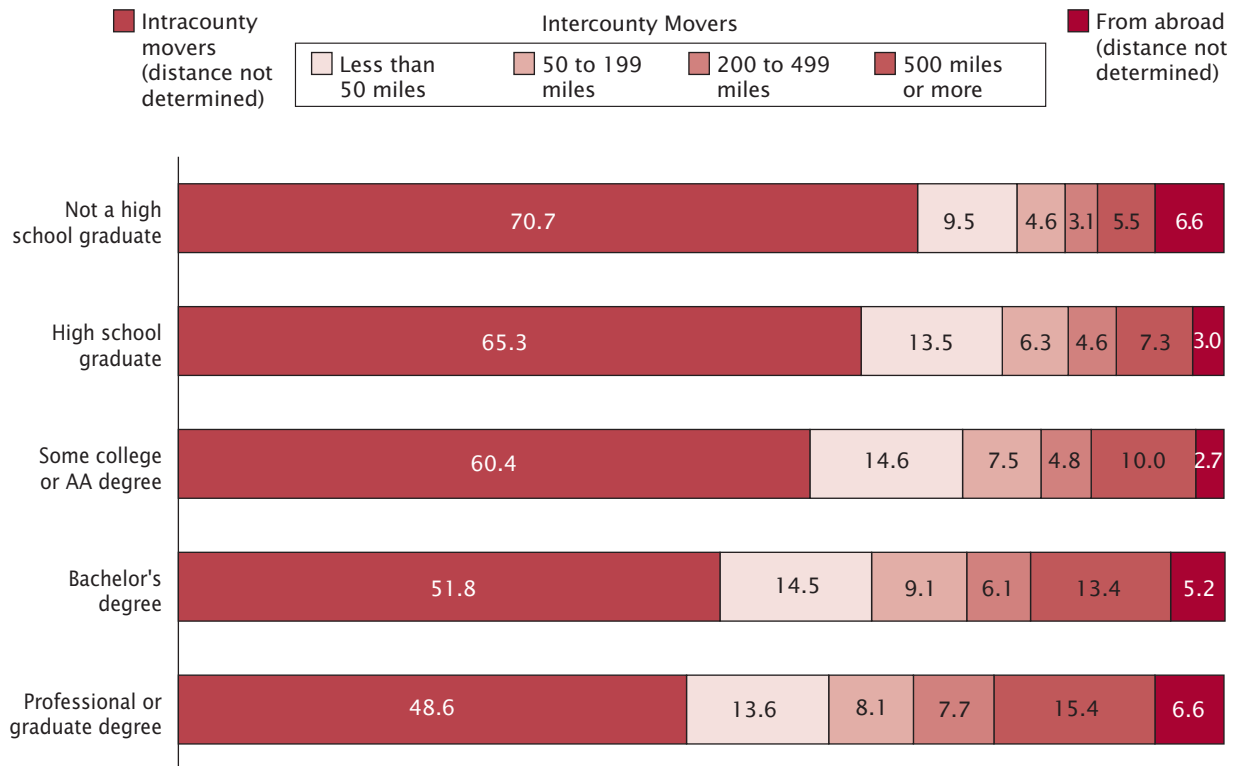


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

Figure 7.

**Educational Attainment by Type of Move and Distance Moved: 2010**

(In percent. Population 25 years and over)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2010.

moves within the same county. The 500 miles or more category was the largest distance moved with 15.4 percent. Less than 50 miles was the second largest with 13.6 percent. These results indicate that among those who moved, there is a much greater likelihood that people who did not graduate high school will move within the same county than someone with a professional or graduate degree. Conversely, intercounty mobility, of any distance, was more common among professional or graduate degree movers than movers without a high school degree. This is especially true for intercounty moves of 500 miles or more, which was 2.8 times

greater for movers with a graduate or professional degree than movers who were not high school graduates.

**SUMMARY**

From 2010 on, the CPS will be the sole provider of 5-year migration statistics collected by the Census

Bureau.<sup>19</sup> With the discontinuation of the census long form, 5-year migration data would not have been available for 2010. To remedy this, the CPS decided to add a 5-year migration question to the survey instrument. Future plans include continuing to add a 5-year

<sup>19</sup> The American Community Survey (ACS) currently releases 5-year multiyear estimates for migration. These estimates are based upon data for residence 1 year ago collected over a 60-month period. They are not equivalent to 5-year CPS estimates, which are based upon data for residence 5 years ago collected over a three-month period between the months of February and April. For additional information on ACS multiyear estimates, consult the American Community Survey Multiyear Accuracy of the Data at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2010.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2010.pdf)>.

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migration question to years ending in “5” and “0” in order to provide a streak of uninterrupted 5-year migration data dating back to 1970.

Several noteworthy results from the 2010 ASEC were discussed in this report. The number of movers and the mover rate both decreased from their 2005 levels. The 2010 mover rate of 35.4 percent was the lowest CPS estimate since it began collecting 5-year migration data in 1975. A smaller percentage of people moved to a different county (within the same state and to a different state) in 2010 than 2005. Respondents between the ages of 25 and 29 were the most mobile age group between 2005 and 2010. Approximately two-thirds lived at a different residence during this period. The unemployed were a particularly mobile group as well, more so than employed civilians.

## **SOURCES OF THE DATA**

The population universe in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000). Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2010. For annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2010 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March supplement to the CPS in prior years.

The population represented (the population universe) in the Decennial Census is the population living in the United States on April 1 of that year. This includes people living in group quarters, noninstitutionalized and institutionalized.

## **ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES**

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors.

The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the

survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar10.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar10.pdf)> or contact the Census Bureau’s Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <[dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov](mailto:dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov)>.

Data from the Decennial Census are based on the sample of households who responded to the long form. In 2000, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units nationally were included in this sample.<sup>20</sup> As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from 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 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 census data. Such errors include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining

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<sup>20</sup> The rates for previous censuses vary.

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incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerator's 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.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Detailed geographical mobility/migration tables from the 2010 ASEC are available on the Census Bureau's Web site <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Once on the site, click "Subjects A to Z," select "M," then select "Migration/Geographical Mobility." From the "Geographical Mobility/Migration" page, use the quick links for "CPS Data on Geographical Mobility/Migration." Under the "Geographical Mobility: 2005 to

2010, 5-year" subheading select "Detailed Tables."

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For additional information, contact the U.S. Census Bureau Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 (toll free) or visit <[ask.census.gov](http://ask.census.gov)>.

### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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## APPENDIX

### Comparison Guidance: Five-Year Migration and One-Year Migration

The 5-year mobility question asks respondents 5 years old and over where they lived 5 years ago. The 1-year question asks respondents 1 year old and over where they lived 1 year ago. Changing the time interval (i.e., reference period) causes 1- and 5-year estimates to become too different and therefore not comparable. One year questions are better suited to capture people who move repeatedly, while 5-year questions offer a better overall picture of long-term changes among the population as a whole. For example, a respondent moves once a year between 2005 and 2010. This person is selected to participate in the 2010 CPS and answers that they lived in a different residence 5 years ago. They are counted as a mover once using a

5-year question. If the same person participated in the 2006 through 2010 CPS using 1-year questions, they would be categorized as a mover 5 times, once for each year. To reiterate, the same person could be theoretically counted as a mover five times using multiple 1-year questions but only once using a 5-year question covering the same period. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of 1- and 5-year mover rates. A common misconception is that multiplying a 1-year estimate by five equals a 5-year estimate. Using 2010 ASEC data as an example, the 1-year mover rate is 12.5 percent. Multiplying the 1-year estimate by five results in 62.5 percent ( $12.5 \times 5 = 62.5$ ). The actual 5-year mover rate for 2010 is 35.4 percent. Multiplying the 1-year estimate by five incorrectly assumes that the same percentage of people move within any given year and that the estimates are independent, which is often

not the case. Taking the opposite approach of dividing the 5-year estimate by five yields 7.08 percent ( $35.4/5 = 7.08$ ). This estimate falls well below any of the 1-year estimates between 2005 and 2010 again, because more people move multiple times in the 5-year period. Because of these differences, 1-year data should be compared only with other annual data.

Looking at Figure 1, both sets of CPS mover rates, 1-year and 5-year, show a decrease when comparing results from 2005 and 2010. This decrease in the mover rate appears to be more dramatic for the 5-year estimates due to limited data points on the graph. One-year estimates are available on a more frequent basis (annually), smoothing out the line.