



News Release

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UNITED VAN LINES' NATIONAL MOVERS STUDY REVEALS AMERICANS ARE MOVING WEST AND SOUTH

New Jersey Tops List of Outbound Moves while Western and Southern States Lead Inbound Moves

ST. LOUIS – Jan. 2, 2019 – Americans are on the move, relocating to western and southern parts of the country. The results of United Van Lines' 42nd Annual [National Movers Study](#), which tracks customers' state-to-state migration patterns over the past year, revealed that more residents moved out of **New Jersey** than any other state in 2018, with 66.8 percent of New Jersey moves being outbound. The study also found that the state with the highest percentage of inbound migration was **Vermont** (72.6 percent), with 234 total moves. **Oregon**, which had 3,346 total moves, experienced the second highest percentage nationally, with 63.8 percent inbound moves.

States in the Mountain West and Pacific West regions, including **Oregon**, **Idaho** (62.4 percent), **Nevada** (61.8 percent), **Washington** (58.8 percent) and **South Dakota** (57 percent) continue to increase in popularity for inbound moves. In tune with this trend, **Arizona** (60.2 percent) joined the list of top 10 inbound states in 2018.

Several southern states also experienced high percentages of inbound migration, such as **South Carolina** (59.9 percent) and **North Carolina** (57 percent). United Van Lines determined the top reasons for moving south include job change (46.6 percent) and retirement (22.3 percent).

In the Northeast, however, an outbound moving trend continues. **New Jersey** (66.8 percent), **Connecticut** (62 percent) and **New York** (61.5 percent) were included among the top 10 outbound states for the fourth consecutive year. Midwestern states like **Illinois** (65.9 percent), **Kansas** (58.7 percent), **Ohio** (56.5 percent) and **Iowa** (55.5 percent) saw high outbound relocation as well.

"As the nation's largest household goods mover, our study allows us to identify the most and least popular states for residential relocation throughout the country, year after year," said Eily Cummings, director of corporate communications at United Van Lines. "These findings accurately reflect not only where Americans are moving to and from, but also the reasons why."

The National Movers Study reveals the business data of inbound and outbound moves from 2018. In addition to this study, United Van Lines also conducts a survey to find out more about the reasons behind these moves. A leading motivation behind these migration patterns across all regions is a career change, as the survey showed approximately one out of every two people who moved in the past year moved for a new job or company transfer. Other reasons for the high percentage of moves to the Mountain West in 2018 include retirement (28.1 percent), proximity to family (20.8 percent) and lifestyle change (19.4 percent). Compared to all other states, **Idaho** saw the largest influx of new residents desiring a lifestyle change (25.95 percent), and more people flocked to **New Mexico** for retirement than any other state (42.74 percent).

“The data collected by United Van Lines aligns with longer-term migration patterns to southern and western states, trends driven by factors like job growth, lower costs of living, state budgetary challenges and more temperate climates,” said Michael Stoll, economist and professor in the Department of Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles. “Unlike a few decades ago, retirees are leaving California, instead choosing other states in the Pacific West and Mountain West. We’re also seeing young professionals migrating to vibrant, metropolitan economies, like Washington, D.C. and Seattle.”

Moving In

The top inbound states of 2018 were:

1. Vermont
2. Oregon
3. Idaho
4. Nevada
5. Arizona
6. South Carolina
7. Washington
8. North Carolina
9. South Dakota
10. District of Columbia

New to the 2018 top inbound list are **Arizona** at No. 5 and **District of Columbia** at No. 10, with 60.2 percent and 56.7 percent inbound moves, respectively.

Moving Out

The top outbound states for 2018 were:

1. New Jersey
2. Illinois
3. Connecticut
4. New York
5. Kansas
6. Ohio
7. Massachusetts
8. Iowa
9. Montana
10. Michigan

New Jersey (66.8 percent), which has ranked in the top 10 for the past 10 years, moved up one spot on the outbound list to No. 1. New additions to the 2018 top outbound list include **Iowa** (55.5 percent), **Montana** (55 percent) and **Michigan** (55 percent).

Balanced

In several states, the number of residents moving inbound was approximately the same as the number moving outbound. **Arkansas** and **Mississippi** are among these “balanced states.”

Since 1977, United Van Lines has annually tracked migration patterns on a state-by-state basis. The 2018 study is based on household moves handled by United within the 48 contiguous states and Washington, D.C. and ranks states based off the inbound and outbound percentages of total moves in each state. United classifies states as “high inbound” if 55 percent or more of the moves are going into a state, “high outbound” if 55 percent or more moves were coming out of a state or “balanced” if the difference between inbound and outbound is negligible.

To view the entire 2018 study, an [interactive map](#) and archived press releases from United, visit the United Van Lines website.

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