

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Work from Home and Interstate Migration](#)

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Tweet: The rise in the work-from-home share accounts for more than half of the rise in overall interstate migration since 2019, and states with greater WFH opportunities experienced more out-migration.

Summary: In the American Community Survey (ACS), annual interstate migration [AIM] among adults ages 18-64 fell from 2.75% in 2005 to 2.23% in 2010. AIM rose from 2.40% in 2019 to 2.66% in 2022. Data from the Real-Time Population Survey (RPS) provide micro evidence that access to WFH increases interstate migration. [Fig. 4 shows] that 6.30% of workers who switched to WFH post-Covid moved states since February 2020, [compared to] 3.58% of workers who commuted both pre- and post-Covid. A potential concern [is] that the pandemic increased the desire to move across states and a large share of these moves involve WFH, but WFH itself was not necessary for those moves to happen [and thus not causal]. Using novel questions in the RPS - whether workers who commuted prior to the pandemic did so due to job characteristics, personal preferences, or employer requirements, and whether employer WFH policies had changed since 2020 - we find that plausibly exogenous changes in employer WFH policies predict higher rates of WFH and higher rates of interstate migration. Finally, consistent with the interpretation that WFH reduces the benefit of living near a workplace, we find that (i) among workers who remain with their pre-pandemic employer, WFH workers are more likely to move states, and (ii) among workers who move states WFH workers are less likely to change employers.

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Primary Topic: Workforce Reorganization

Topics: Academic paper, Database, Productivity, Weekly, Workforce, Workforce Reorganization

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