

## Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

# Geographical Mobility: March 1996 to March 1997 (Update)

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### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on the geographical mobility of the noninstitutional population of the United States, based on the March 1997 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- Between March 1996 and March 1997, 42.1 million Americans (or 16 percent of the population) moved. Most movers (65.9 percent) stayed in the same county, 18.9 percent moved between counties within the same state, and 15.2 percent changed states.
- The highest rates of moving were found among young adults 20-to-29 years old (31.8 percent). Moving rates declined as age increased: 21.3 percent for people 30-to-34 years old, 14.2 percent for those 35-to-44 years old, 9.4 percent for those 45-to-54 years old, 7.6 percent for those 55-to-64 years old, and only 4.7 percent for those 65 years and over.
- Whites had lower overall rates of moving (15.3 percent) than either Blacks or people of Hispanic origin (both approximately 20 percent).
- The South was the only region with a significant net change due to internal migration, as it gained 391,000 people from the other three regions.
- During the survey period, central cities lost 3.0 million people due to migration, while the suburbs gained 2.8 million.
- 1.3 million people moved to the United States from abroad. Around 92 percent of these movers went to metropolitan areas.
- Renters were more likely to move than homeowners. About one-third of the people living in renter-occupied housing units in March 1997 had moved in the previous year (32.9 percent) compared with fewer than 1 in 10 people in owner-occupied housing units (8.2 percent).

### DETAILED TABULATIONS

The set of detailed tabulations consists of 43 tables from the 1997 CPS (165 pages) and four historical tables. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z," then on "M," and finally on "Migration."

A paper version of these tables, along with related historical tables, is available as PPL-104 for \$38. To receive a paper copy, send your request for "PPL-104, Geographical Mobility: March 1996 to March 1997," along with a check or money order in the amount of \$38 payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our 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. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on these topics, contact Carol S. Faber or Kristin A. Hansen, Journey to Work and Migration Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2454 or via Internet E-mail ([Carol.S.Faber@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:Carol.S.Faber@ccmail.census.gov)).

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey (the Current Population 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, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors, contact Alfred Meier, Demographic Statistical Methods Division (301-457-4220) or via Internet E-mail ([Alfred.G.Meier@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:Alfred.G.Meier@ccmail.census.gov)).

### NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms 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. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1997, updating *Geographical Mobility: March 1995 to March 1996* (Current Population Reports, P20-497), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: [pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov), or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.