

MANSION

SPREAD SHEET | SANETTE TANAKA

WHEN MOVING IS A HEAVY LIFT

Moving trucks loaded with the biggest hauls rolled out of California and into Texas last year; a road well traveled by luxury movers



TARA DARBY LOVED EVERY-THING about her life in Los Angeles—except for her rental apartment. “The most frustrating thing about L.A. was we were

making really good money and could never break into the housing market. We were spending a fortune on rent,” says Ms. Darby, 31 years old.

So Ms. Darby and her partner, Dak Rasheta, who both work in the entertainment industry, moved to Dallas last month. They bought a three-bedroom house, and their mortgage payment is less than half of what they were paying in rent each month.

“We feel like we’re living large,” she says.

It turns out the couple’s road out of California is well traveled by luxury movers.

Allied Van Lines conducted 66,862 interstate residential moves last year, most of which weighed around 10,000 pounds. But 10.8% of those

clocked in at a hefty 16,000 pounds or more, says Steve McKenna, Allied’s vice president for pricing.

The majority of these moves are due to corporate relocations, where a company initiates the move for an employee.

“You have the vice presidents and senior vice presidents who have accumulated a lot of furniture and stuff in general. That definitely drives luxury moves,” he says, adding that 40% of Allied’s moves overall are corporate moves.

Packing and transporting a 16,000-pound shipment 1,000 miles (about the distance from New York to Florida) costs about \$11,500 to \$13,000, according to Allied, a subsidiary of Sirva Inc.

Spread Sheet asked Allied to determine where wealthy households were moving, based on heavy-weight, high-value moves.

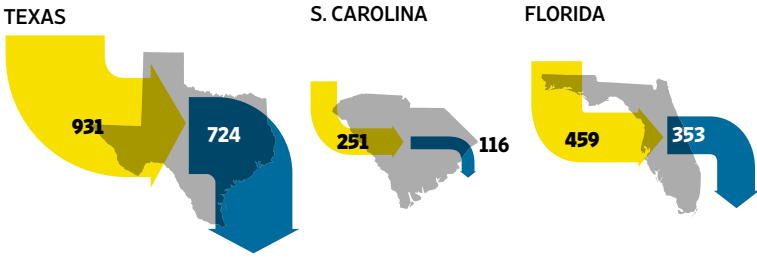
According to the data, Texas saw the largest influx of well-heeled households moving into the state last year, consistent with move trends overall. South Carolina and Florida also posted net gains.

Big Moves

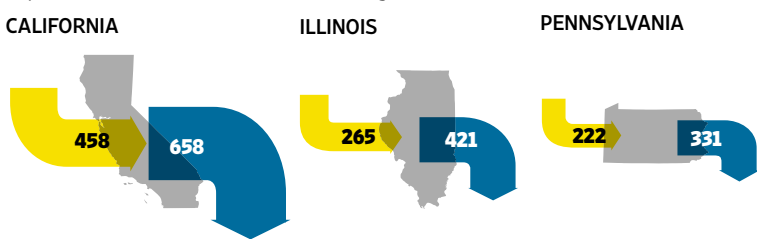
Close to 11% of residential moves by Allied Van Lines in 2013 weighed 16,000 pounds or more. A look at these heavy-weight, high-value moves:

HEAVY-WEIGHT INBOUND MOVES HEAVY-WEIGHT OUTBOUND MOVES

Top three states with most net gain of large moves in 2013



Top three states with most net loss of large moves in 2013



Source: Allied Van Lines

The Wall Street Journal

On the flip side, Illinois and Pennsylvania saw more high-value households move out of state than in, according to the data.

California saw the biggest net loss of heavy-weight moves.

Last year, California had a net loss of 49,259 people to other states, according to the U.S. Census.

California markets also have seen some of the strongest year-over-year price growth in the U.S., says Ellen Haberle, economist at real-estate brokerage Redfin.

“For the average buyer, it’s not that California was affordable to start with—it’s just getting even harder,” she says.

Texas had the highest net gain in terms of domestic migration—113,528 more people moved into the state than out last year, census data show.

Job opportunities are home-buyers’ top reason for relocating to Texas, according to a Redfin survey last month of 1,909 customers and website users.

Lifestyle factors are the most cited reasons for relocating to areas in California.

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