# Geographical Mobility: 2008 to 2009

*Population Characteristics*

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Each year, millions of people pack up their belongings and move. A variety of reasons and conditions motivate these moves—life changes, personal and economic opportunities, setbacks and misfortunes. This report provides information about the level of geographical mobility in the United States between 2008 and 2009, along with some sociodemographic characteristics of the people who moved.

The data used in this report come from two different survey collections undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau. Since the late 1940s, questions on residential mobility have been asked as part of the March supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is now known as the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC). ASEC data provide estimates of geographical mobility in 1-year retrospective periods over the last 6 decades, and these data have been the source of a large, detailed set of tabulations and analyses, some of which are in this report. Many additional data tables are available on the Census Bureau Web site.[1]

In the 1990s, the Census Bureau began a new data collection activity that provides additional detailed information on geographical mobility. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a large, national, ongoing survey of the population that began full implementation in 2005. The ACS was designed to replace the detailed data that had been collected from the "long-form" questionnaire as part of the once-a-decade census. With a sample of nearly 3 million households a year, the ACS provides far greater geographic and demographic subgroup detail than other existing surveys can provide. Like the ASEC, the ACS includes questions about mobility in the past year. The questions are similar, but differ slightly for a variety of reasons.[2] Some of the differences, and their impact on the actual

**Report Highlights**

- According to the 2009 ACS, 15.4 percent of the population 1 year and over lived in a different residence 1 year ago.
- Young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 were the most mobile group of the U.S. population.
- The top state-to-state migration flows (moving from one state to another) for 2009 were from California, Florida, New Jersey, and New York.
- About 40 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles in distance, as indicated in 2009 ASEC data.
- Housing-related reasons were the most common reasons given for moving.

[1] These tables are located on the Census Bureau's migration Web page at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/cps.html>.

[2] Additional details on these differences are available in the Census Bureau's migration comparison report at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/fs-migration.html> and in the report "Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Geographic Mobility: 2004" at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2007/2007_Koerber_01.pdf>.

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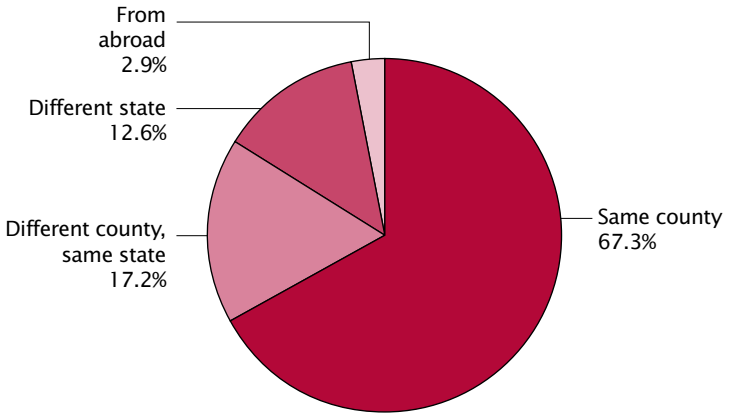
estimates, are explained in the appendix of this report, along with further important details about the two surveys.

Together, the ASEC and ACS provide important and useful analytic data that allow researchers the opportunity to produce historical trends, subnational disaggregations, and detailed socioeconomic descriptions of people who were geographically mobile between 2008 and 2009.[3]

## MOVER RATES AND PAST TRENDS

Data from the 2009 ASEC indicate that 37.1 million U.S. residents moved between 2008 and 2009 (Table 1a). This represents an increase of 1.9 million from the 2008 estimate of 35.2 million movers. The same trend is noticeable for the mover rate, which increased from 11.9 percent in 2008 to 12.5 percent in 2009. Figure 1 contains the percent distribution of movers by type of move for 2009. Of those who moved between 2008 and 2009, 67.3 percent moved within the same county, 17.2 percent moved from a different county within the same state, 12.6 percent moved from another state, and 2.9 percent moved from abroad.[4] Compared with 2008, a greater percentage of moves were within the same county (65.4 percent in 2008 and 67.3 percent in 2009), while moves from a different state decreased from 13.4 percent to 12.6 percent.[5]

Figure 1.
**Percent Distribution of Movers by Type of Move: 2008 to 2009**
(Population 1 year and over)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009.

Comparing the 1996–1997 mobility period with the current mobility period offers an appreciation of the near historic lows of the current mover rate, despite the increasing size of the universe (population 1 year and over). The most notable difference between 1997 and 2009 is the decrease in the number of movers, from 43.4 million to 37.1 million. The mover rate experienced a decline from 16.5 percent to 12.5 percent. Moves within the same county represented a larger percentage of moves in 2009 than 1997 (67.3 percent compared with 63.9 percent), whereas moves from a different county, either within the same state or from a different state, decreased from 33.1 percent to 29.7 percent.[6] Based on these data, remaining in the same house or moving within the same county was more common in 2009 than in 1997.

From a broader historical standpoint, current mobility

[3] 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.

[4] To calculate the distribution of moves, divide the percent moved for the focal type of move by the total percent moved. (Example: For the 2009 ASEC, movers within the same county=8.4; total percent moved=12.5. Thus, 8.4/12.5=67.3 percent of moves were within the same county).

[5] The percentage that moved from a different county within the same state and the percentage that moved from abroad are not statistically different between 2008 and 2009.

[6] Prior to 2006, cases were imputed using an initial sort order by the various ASEC subsamples, followed by geography. Research indicates this may have resulted in an overstatement of interstate movers for this period. For additional information, see Kaplan, Greg and Sam Schulhofer-Wohl, "Interstate Migration Has Fallen Less Than You Think: Consequences of Hot Deck Imputation in the Current Population Survey," working paper 681, revised March 2011, <www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/pub_display.cfm?id=4568>. Beginning in 2006, a processing change sorted all data geographically, an improvement over the previous method. Additional details on this processing change can be found in the note "Impact of Processing on CPS Interstate Migration Rates: 2000–2006" at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf>.

Table 1a.
## Annual Mover Rates by Type of Move: Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1948–2009
(Numbers in thousands)

| Mobility period | Population 1 year and over | Same residence (nonmovers) | Total movers | | Percent moved | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Number | Margin of error[1] (±) | Total | Same county | Different county | | From abroad |
| | | | | | | | Same state | Different state[2] | |
| 2008–2009 | 297,182 | 260,077 | 37,105 | 591 | 12.5 | 8.4 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 2007–2008 | 294,851 | 259,685 | 35,167 | 578 | 11.9 | 7.8 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| 2006–2007 | 292,749 | 254,068 | 38,681 | 599 | 13.2 | 8.6 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 0.4 |
| 2005–2006 | 289,781 | 249,945 | 39,837 | 606 | 13.7 | 8.6 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 0.4 |
| 2004–2005 | 287,148 | 247,261 | 39,888 | 606 | 13.9 | 7.9 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 0.6 |
| 2003–2004 | 284,367 | 245,372 | 38,995 | 601 | 13.7 | 7.9 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 0.4 |
| 2002–2003 | 282,556 | 242,463 | 40,093 | 608 | 14.2 | 8.3 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 0.4 |
| 2001–2002 | 278,160 | 237,049 | 41,111 | 614 | 14.8 | 8.5 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 0.6 |
| 1999–2000 | 270,219 | 226,831 | 43,388 | 628 | 16.1 | 9.0 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 0.6 |
| 1996–1997 | 262,976 | 219,585 | 43,391 | 880 | 16.5 | 10.5 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 0.5 |
| 1991–1992 | 247,380 | 204,580 | 42,800 | 842 | 17.3 | 10.7 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 0.5 |
| 1986–1987 | 235,089 | 191,396 | 43,693 | 821 | 18.6 | 11.6 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 0.5 |
| 1981–1982 | 223,719 | 185,592 | 38,127 | 776 | 17.0 | 10.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 0.5 |
| 1975–1976[3] | 208,069 | 171,276 | 36,793 | 722 | 17.7 | 10.8 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 0.6 |
| 1970–1971[3] | 201,506 | 163,800 | 37,705 | 730 | 18.7 | 11.4 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 0.8 |
| 1966–1967 | 192,233 | 155,710 | 36,523 | 720 | 19.0 | 11.6 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 0.7 |
| 1961–1962 | 179,663 | 144,445 | 35,218 | 868 | 19.6 | 13.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 0.5 |
| 1956–1957 | 164,371 | 131,648 | 32,723 | 841 | 19.9 | 13.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 0.5 |
| 1951–1952 | 150,494 | 120,016 | 30,478 | 999 | 20.3 | 13.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 0.4 |
| 1947–1948 | 141,698 | 113,026 | 28,672 | 972 | 20.2 | 13.6 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 0.3 |

[1] The margin of error, or MOE, when added to or subtracted from the total number of movers, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[2] Users of ASEC interstate migration data should be cautious when comparing rates from the 1999–2000 to 2004–2005 period with other periods. For additional information, see the note "Impact of Processing on CPS Interstate Migration Rates" at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/CPSnote.pdf>.
[3] The 1-year geographic mobility question was not asked from 1972 to 1975 and from 1977 to 1980. In the first half of the 70s (1971 to 1975), a question asked about migration since 1970, and in the second half (1976 to 1980), a question asked about migration since 1975.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, select years, 1948–2009.

rates are among the lowest levels recorded throughout the entire 60-plus years the ASEC has been conducted. Table 1a shows the gradual decline of mover rates in 1-year intervals between 2002 and 2009.[7] Five-year intervals are provided before 2002, dating back to 1948. Between 1947 and 1948, 20.2 percent of the U.S. population lived at a different residence 1 year ago, compared to 12.5 percent between 2008 and 2009. Moves within the same county remained the most prevalent, accounting for 67.0 percent of all moves in 1948 and 67.3 percent in 2009.[8] In terms of numbers, the 2009 estimate of 37.1 million represents an increase of approximately 8.4 million movers since the survey began.

[7] The 2005 mover rate is not statistically different from the 2004 or 2006 mover rate.
[8] The distribution of moves for those who moved within the same county for 1948 and 2009 is not significantly different.

Even though the size of the U.S. population has more than doubled during this time period, the number of movers has not kept pace. Applying the 1948 mover rate to the 2009 population 1 year and over results in an estimate of 60.1 million movers, over 23 million more than the 2009 estimate.

According to the 2009 ACS estimate, 46.8 million people lived at a different residence 1 year ago. The mover rate was 15.4 percent for the population 1 year and over. These numbers are available in Table 1b, which shows the fluctuation in mover rates using single-year ACS data from 2005 to 2009. The 2009 distribution of movers was 60.9 percent within the same county, 20.8 percent from a different county within the same state, 14.7 percent from a different state, and 3.6 percent from abroad. While the ACS mover rate is higher than the ASEC's, both data sources show a falling mover rate in recent years (with the exception of the 2008–2009 period, when the ASEC rate actually increased).

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Dividing populations according to characteristics allows researchers to analyze the geographical mobility of segments of the population that may be lost in the aggregate. This allows for an easier examination of differences between groups and the national average. For the purpose of this report, characteristics are divided into major demographic, social, and economic and housing categories. Table 2 provides data on geographical mobility for the U.S. population 1 year and over by selected characteristics, using the 2009 ACS.

Table 1b.
## Annual Mover Rates by Type of Move: American Community Survey, 2005 to 2009
(Numbers in thousands)

| Mobility period | Population 1 year and over | MOE[1] (±) | Same residence (non-movers) | MOE[1] (±) | Total movers | | Percent moved | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Number | MOE[1] (±) | Total | MOE[1] (±) | Same county | MOE[1] (±) | Different county | | | | From abroad | MOE[1] (±) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Same state | MOE[1] (±) | Different state | MOE[1] (±) | | |
| 2009. . . . | 302,952 | 35 | 256,165 | 259 | 46,786 | 256 | 15.4 | 0.1 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| 2008. . . . | 299,926 | 31 | 253,113 | 253 | 46,813 | 250 | 15.6 | 0.1 | 9.2 | 0.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| 2007. . . . | 297,545 | 28 | 250,026 | 282 | 47,519 | 274 | 16.0 | 0.1 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| 2006. . . . | 295,345 | 30 | 245,678 | 296 | 49,667 | 290 | 16.8 | 0.1 | 9.9 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| 2005[2] . . . | 284,367 | 32 | 238,488 | 332 | 45,878 | 324 | 16.1 | 0.1 | 9.9 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |

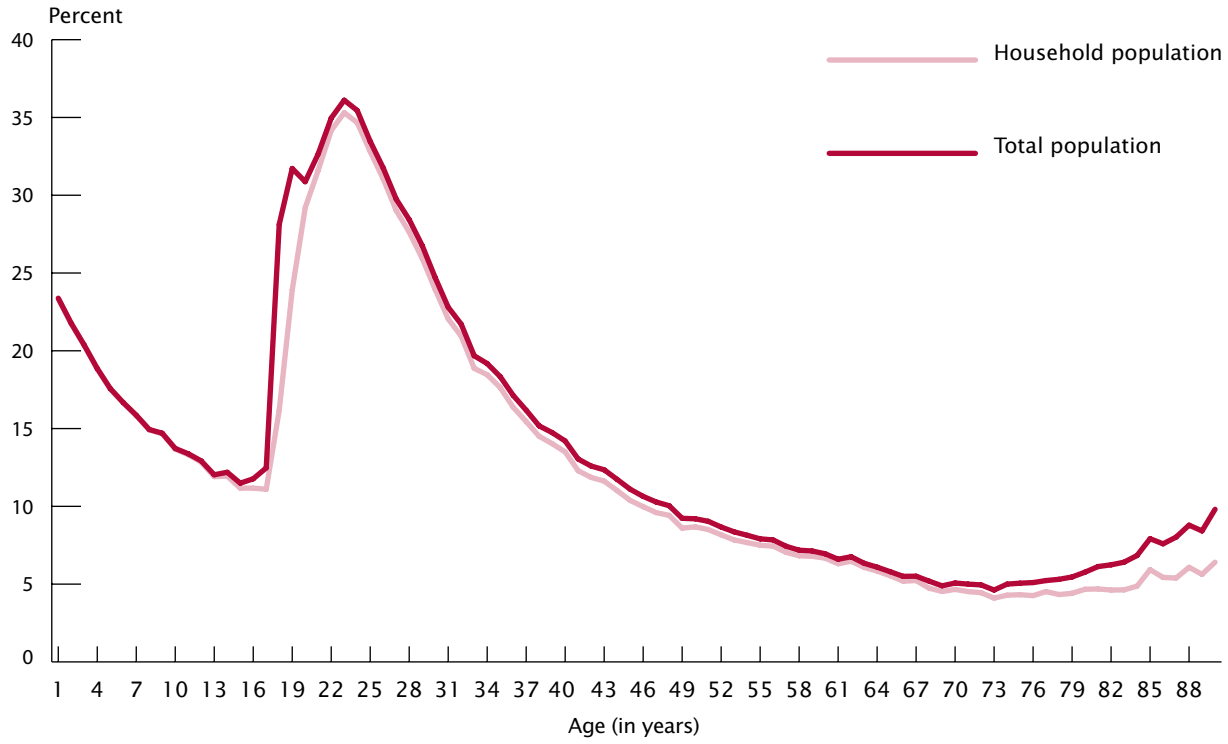
[1] The margin of error, or MOE, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[2] Residents living in group quarters were not included in 2005.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2005 to 2009.

## Demographic Characteristics

*Individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 were the most mobile.*

People in the 18 to 24 age range had the highest geographical mobility rate (32.7 percent), followed by people ages 25 to 29 (30.0 percent). These ages cover busy points in the life course because several major events (college, employment, and marriage) typically occur during these years. Older respondents reported the lowest mover rates, with 7.1 percent for 55 to 64 year olds, 5.2 percent for 65 to 74 year olds, and 6.6 percent for those 75 years and over. To offer a better idea of how mover rates fluctuate over the life course, Figure 2 displays a line graph showing the

Figure 2.
### Mover Rate by Age: 2009
(Population 1 year and over)




Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuarcy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuarcy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 2.
## Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009—Con.

| Selected characteristic | Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same residence (nonmovers) | Margin of error[1] (±) | Total movers | Margin of error[1] (±) | Percent moved | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same county | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different county | | | | From abroad | Margin of error[1] (±) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Same state | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different state | Margin of error[1] (±) | | |
| **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total population 1 year and over** | **302,951,552** | **35,363** | **256,165,199** | **259,435** | **46,786,353** | **256,011** | **15.4** | **0.1** | **9.4** | **0.1** | **3.2** | **0.1** | **2.3** | **0.1** | **0.6** | **0.1** |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 to 4 years | 17,154,203 | 37,746 | 13,536,809 | 41,362 | 3,617,394 | 42,300 | 21.1 | 0.2 | 14.3 | 0.2 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| 5 to 17 years | 53,287,776 | 26,714 | 45,938,577 | 64,584 | 7,349,199 | 73,829 | 13.8 | 0.1 | 9.5 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| 18 to 24 years | 30,557,190 | 48,655 | 20,562,579 | 60,969 | 9,994,611 | 59,412 | 32.7 | 0.2 | 17.5 | 0.2 | 8.6 | 0.1 | 5.4 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| 25 to 29 years | 21,525,218 | 27,788 | 15,057,364 | 52,339 | 6,467,854 | 45,490 | 30.0 | 0.2 | 18.0 | 0.2 | 6.4 | 0.1 | 4.5 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| 30 to 44 years | 61,522,572 | 33,212 | 51,176,082 | 82,381 | 10,346,490 | 73,335 | 16.8 | 0.1 | 10.3 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| 45 to 54 years | 44,597,268 | 33,382 | 40,361,527 | 58,246 | 4,235,741 | 42,031 | 9.5 | 0.1 | 5.8 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| 55 to 64 years | 34,800,677 | 18,204 | 32,334,440 | 34,668 | 2,466,237 | 26,884 | 7.1 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 20,825,637 | 20,062 | 19,741,804 | 25,540 | 1,083,833 | 17,087 | 5.2 | 0.1 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| 75 years and over | 18,681,011 | 14,432 | 17,456,017 | 25,521 | 1,224,994 | 21,702 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 4.1 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| **Sex** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 149,303,667 | 36,571 | 125,611,664 | 138,582 | 23,692,003 | 136,924 | 15.9 | 0.1 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Female | 153,647,885 | 39,134 | 130,553,535 | 144,256 | 23,094,350 | 138,177 | 15.0 | 0.1 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| **Race** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White alone | 227,031,333 | 130,209 | 194,634,209 | 210,754 | 32,397,124 | 187,468 | 14.3 | 0.1 | 8.5 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Black or African American alone | 37,542,269 | 55,255 | 30,215,760 | 88,175 | 7,326,509 | 81,535 | 19.5 | 0.2 | 13.0 | 0.2 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone | 2,419,565 | 29,666 | 1,966,953 | 28,602 | 452,612 | 18,734 | 18.7 | 0.7 | 11.7 | 0.6 | 3.9 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Asian alone | 13,610,826 | 29,012 | 11,307,731 | 46,084 | 2,303,095 | 39,649 | 16.9 | 0.3 | 8.8 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.1 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | 449,195 | 10,229 | 355,576 | 11,781 | 93,619 | 7,929 | 20.8 | 1.7 | 13.3 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| Some other race alone | 14,654,023 | 126,887 | 11,950,072 | 112,210 | 2,703,951 | 49,482 | 18.5 | 0.3 | 13.1 | 0.3 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Two or more races | 7,244,341 | 76,794 | 5,734,898 | 67,686 | 1,509,443 | 30,074 | 20.8 | 0.4 | 13.1 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| **Hispanic or Latino Origin** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race) | 47,316,174 | 19,154 | 38,853,918 | 82,413 | 8,462,256 | 82,062 | 17.9 | 0.2 | 12.5 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 197,230,069 | 30,531 | 169,992,327 | 163,307 | 27,237,742 | 163,433 | 13.8 | 0.1 | 7.9 | 0.1 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.
## Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009—Con.

| Selected characteristic | Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same residence (nonmovers) | Margin of error[1] (±) | Total movers | Margin of error[1] (±) | Percent moved | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same county | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different county | | | | From abroad | Margin of error[1] (±) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Same state | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different state | Margin of error[1] (±) | | |
| **SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total population 1 year and over** | **302,951,552** | **35,363** | **256,165,199** | **259,435** | **46,786,353** | **256,011** | **15.4** | **0.1** | **9.4** | **0.1** | **3.2** | **0.1** | **2.3** | **0.1** | **0.6** | **0.1** |
| **Nativity** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Native | 264,454,204 | 124,284 | 224,092,116 | 267,671 | 40,362,088 | 219,450 | 15.3 | 0.1 | 9.3 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Foreign born | 38,497,348 | 115,321 | 32,073,083 | 106,784 | 6,424,265 | 71,783 | 16.7 | 0.2 | 9.9 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 |
| **Marital Status** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15 years and over | 245,155,843 | 34,911 | 207,829,201 | 203,761 | 37,326,642 | 182,886 | 15.2 | 0.1 | 9.0 | 0.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Never married | 78,010,818 | 162,355 | 59,913,229 | 124,748 | 18,097,589 | 106,119 | 23.2 | 0.1 | 13.4 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Now married, except separated | 120,756,313 | 244,816 | 108,787,316 | 254,805 | 11,968,997 | 88,036 | 9.9 | 0.1 | 5.8 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Separated | 5,390,597 | 45,509 | 3,914,840 | 33,980 | 1,475,757 | 27,854 | 27.4 | 0.4 | 17.9 | 0.3 | 5.8 | 0.2 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Widowed | 14,954,049 | 55,064 | 13,621,225 | 50,716 | 1,332,824 | 23,123 | 8.9 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Divorced | 26,044,066 | 77,236 | 21,592,591 | 68,442 | 4,451,475 | 47,590 | 17.1 | 0.2 | 10.6 | 0.1 | 3.8 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| **Household or Group Quarters Type** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 year and over living in households | 294,678,598 | 35,378 | 251,902,307 | 251,473 | 42,751,251 | 254,678 | 14.5 | 0.1 | 9.2 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| In married-couple family households | 180,096,335 | 368,959 | 161,965,841 | 145,819 | 18,130,947 | 146,034 | 10.1 | 0.1 | 6.0 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Other family households | 66,189,824 | 319,176 | 52,607,991 | 144,761 | 13,582,214 | 146,156 | 20.5 | 0.2 | 14.5 | 0.2 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Other nonfamily households | 48,392,439 | 127,680 | 37,328,475 | 95,118 | 11,038,090 | 96,285 | 22.8 | 0.2 | 14.0 | 0.1 | 4.8 | 0.1 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Group quarters | 8,272,954 | 1,241 | 4,237,852 | 35,696 | 4,035,102 | 35,696 | 48.8 | 0.4 | 16.7 | 0.3 | 21.3 | 0.4 | 9.3 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Institutionalized | 4,222,433 | 2,670 | 2,335,212 | 20,352 | 1,887,221 | 20,352 | 44.7 | 0.5 | 20.0 | 0.4 | 21.0 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Noninstitutionalized | 4,050,521 | 2,768 | 1,902,640 | 30,012 | 2,147,881 | 30,012 | 53.0 | 0.7 | 13.4 | 0.5 | 21.7 | 0.6 | 15.5 | 0.5 | 2.4 | 0.2 |
| **Householder 15 Years and Over** | 113,616,229 | 161,397 | 98,290,663 | 182,708 | 15,325,566 | 68,231 | 13.5 | 0.1 | 8.7 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Currently married (includes separated and spouse absent) | 61,533,840 | 145,531 | 55,413,376 | 147,579 | 6,120,464 | 46,249 | 9.9 | 0.1 | 6.1 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Unmarried (never married, divorced, and widowed)[2] | 52,082,389 | 87,610 | 42,877,287 | 89,091 | 9,205,102 | 54,181 | 17.7 | 0.1 | 11.7 | 0.1 | 3.4 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Partner in an unmarried household | 6,262,995 | 40,005 | 4,571,035 | 33,037 | 1,691,960 | 23,176 | 27.0 | 0.3 | 18.5 | 0.3 | 5.3 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Not a partner in an unmarried household | 45,819,394 | 85,873 | 38,306,252 | 87,094 | 7,513,142 | 48,423 | 16.4 | 0.1 | 10.7 | 0.1 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| **Educational Attainment** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 25 years and over | 201,952,383 | 73,039 | 176,127,234 | 186,481 | 25,825,149 | 140,928 | 12.8 | 0.1 | 7.7 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Less than high school graduate | 29,785,248 | 108,900 | 25,500,661 | 92,633 | 4,284,587 | 46,243 | 14.4 | 0.1 | 9.5 | 0.1 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| High school graduate (or equivalent) | 57,551,671 | 116,233 | 50,599,896 | 107,304 | 6,951,775 | 62,468 | 12.1 | 0.1 | 7.8 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 58,279,810 | 120,558 | 50,593,820 | 120,086 | 7,685,990 | 56,914 | 13.2 | 0.1 | 8.1 | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Bachelor's degree | 35,494,367 | 120,221 | 31,000,269 | 120,765 | 4,494,098 | 40,869 | 12.7 | 0.1 | 6.8 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 20,841,287 | 90,808 | 18,432,588 | 89,962 | 2,408,699 | 27,368 | 11.6 | 0.1 | 5.6 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.1 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.
## Geographical Mobility in the United States by Selected Characteristic: 2009—Con.

| Selected characteristic | Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same residence (nonmovers) | Margin of error[1] (±) | Total movers | Margin of error[1] (±) | Percent moved: Total | Margin of error[1] (±) | Same county | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different county: Same state | Margin of error[1] (±) | Different county: Different state | Margin of error[1] (±) | From abroad | Margin of error[1] (±) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ECONOMIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total population 1 year and over** | **302,951,552** | **35,363** | **256,165,199** | **259,435** | **46,786,353** | **256,011** | **15.4** | **0.1** | **9.4** | **0.1** | **3.2** | **0.1** | **2.3** | **0.1** | **0.6** | **0.1** |
| **Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 year and over for whom poverty status is determined | 295,028,476 | 39,222 | 252,148,730 | 254,968 | 42,879,746 | 251,797 | 14.5 | 0.1 | 9.2 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Below 100% of the poverty level | 41,904,533 | 229,377 | 30,783,112 | 166,224 | 11,121,421 | 131,612 | 26.5 | 0.2 | 17.7 | 0.2 | 4.7 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| 100% to 149% of the poverty level | 27,096,696 | 166,516 | 21,818,622 | 150,835 | 5,278,074 | 72,552 | 19.5 | 0.2 | 13.4 | 0.2 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| At or above 150% of the poverty level | 226,027,247 | 312,460 | 199,546,996 | 360,998 | 26,480,251 | 163,805 | 11.7 | 0.1 | 7.1 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| **Household Income in the Past 12 Months** *(in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than $10,000 | 15,534,274 | 108,632 | 11,692,338 | 86,639 | 3,841,936 | 57,312 | 24.7 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.3 | 4.4 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.1 |
| $10,000 to $14,999 | 11,929,975 | 93,449 | 9,407,655 | 80,566 | 2,522,320 | 53,433 | 21.1 | 0.4 | 14.6 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| $15,000 to $24,999 | 26,666,190 | 135,905 | 21,376,457 | 119,517 | 5,289,733 | 77,249 | 19.8 | 0.3 | 13.8 | 0.2 | 3.3 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| $25,000 to $34,999 | 27,850,786 | 163,668 | 22,774,433 | 134,314 | 5,076,353 | 72,475 | 18.2 | 0.2 | 12.3 | 0.2 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| $35,000 to $49,999 | 40,039,657 | 172,199 | 33,597,649 | 159,370 | 6,442,008 | 85,878 | 16.1 | 0.2 | 10.6 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| $50,000 to $74,999 | 57,681,444 | 213,387 | 49,872,968 | 186,752 | 7,808,476 | 93,541 | 13.5 | 0.1 | 8.5 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| $75,000 to $99,999 | 40,889,289 | 184,256 | 36,287,961 | 165,218 | 4,601,328 | 62,182 | 11.3 | 0.1 | 6.7 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| $100,000 to $149,999 | 43,042,005 | 187,930 | 38,831,384 | 182,073 | 4,210,621 | 75,526 | 9.8 | 0.2 | 5.4 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| $150,000 to $199,999 | 15,605,037 | 111,275 | 14,213,182 | 108,879 | 1,391,855 | 30,442 | 8.9 | 0.2 | 4.7 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| $200,000 or more | 14,550,530 | 116,775 | 13,320,640 | 112,353 | 1,229,890 | 31,772 | 8.5 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| **Housing Tenure** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 1 year and over living in occupied housing units | 294,678,598 | 35,378 | 251,927,347 | 254,665 | 42,751,251 | 251,473 | 14.5 | 0.1 | 9.2 | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Owner-occupied | 200,494,765 | 463,873 | 187,152,899 | 448,452 | 13,341,866 | 108,645 | 6.7 | 0.1 | 3.9 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| Renter-occupied | 94,183,833 | 463,609 | 64,774,448 | 299,284 | 29,409,385 | 246,669 | 31.2 | 0.2 | 20.5 | 0.1 | 5.4 | 0.1 | 4.3 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 |

[1] The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.
[2] Includes cases in which marital status is separated but unmarried partner is in household.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

mover rate by single year of age for the total population and household population.[9] As shown in Table 2, the largest proportion of migrations occurs between the ages of 18 and 29. The percentage of movers reaches its peak around the age of 23 and steadily declines until the early 70s, where it rebounds slightly. This upswing is more pronounced for the total population than the household population and can partially be explained by people moving into and between assisted-living facilities.

*Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest mover rate of all races.*

Mover rates vary considerably by race.[10] Respondents reporting two or more races or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander had the highest mover rates, with 20.8 percent each.[11] Non-Hispanic Whites were the least mobile, with 13.8 percent. The mover rate among Hispanics of any race was 17.9 percent. These differences in mover rates can be partially explained by age differences within the racial and Hispanic origin categories. The "Logistic Regression" section of this report discusses this point in further detail. Of those who moved, non-Hispanic Whites had the largest percentage that moved from a different county within the same state (23.2 percent). Asians had the highest proportion of movers from abroad (16.8 percent).

## Social Characteristics

*In terms of marital status, separated respondents were the most mobile.*

Of the population 15 years and over, regardless of marital status, 15.2 percent moved within the last year. The two marital statuses that had the most mobile people were separated (27.4 percent) and never married (23.2 percent). Married[12] and widowed respondents reported the lowest mobility rates, with 9.9 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively. People who are partners living in an unmarried household had a mover rate of 27.0 percent, compared to 16.4 percent of people who are roommates or other nonpartners living together in a household.

*Most movers with an educational attainment level of less than high school graduate moved within the same county.*

For the population 25 years and over, total mover rates were similar among the various levels of educational attainment. People who did not graduate from high school[13] were the most mobile group, with 14.4 percent, and the least mobile group was graduate or professional degree holders, with 11.6 percent. Even though mover rates were similar between these levels, the type of move varied considerably. Same county moves were more common among people who did not graduate from high school, whereas those with graduate or professional degrees tended to move from a different county. Sixty-six percent of all moves for respondents who did not graduate from high school were within the same county, and 29.1 percent were from a different county. By comparison, 48.2 percent of moves by those with a graduate or professional degree were within the same county, and 44.8 percent were from a different county. Graduate or professional degree holders also had the largest percentage of movers from abroad (7.1 percent), trailed by those with a bachelor's degree (5.5 percent).

## Economic and Housing Characteristics

*As an individual's poverty level increased, the likelihood of moving decreased.*

Of the population for whom poverty is determined, 14.5 percent lived in a different residence 1 year ago.[14] People below 100 percent of the poverty level had the highest mover rate, with 26.5 percent. Individuals between 100 percent and 149 percent of the poverty level had the second highest mover rate (19.5 percent), while those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level had the lowest rate (11.7 percent). A similar relationship exists between geographical mobility and household income. The mover rate decreases from a high of 24.7 percent for households making less than $10,000 to 8.5 percent for households earning $200,000 or more.

[9] The household population excludes individuals who currently live in group quarters. Examples of group quarters are adult correctional facilities, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities, other health care facilities and residential schools for people with disabilities, college and university student housing, military quarters and military ships, and other noninstitutional facilities.

[10] 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 refers to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as non-Hispanic White. 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 "non-Hispanic White" 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.

[11] The mover rate for Black or African American is not significantly different from Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

[12] The married marital status excludes separated respondents.

[13] Or equivalent.

[14] Poverty is not determined for people not living in households, nor for children under 15 years who are not related to the householder.

*People living in renter-occupied housing units were 4.7 times more mobile than those living in owner-occupied housing units.*

Of the population 1 year and over living in households, 14.5 percent lived in a different residence between 2008 and 2009. Consistent with results shown in past geographical mobility reports, respondents living in renter-occupied housing units had a high rate of geographical mobility. Nearly one-third (31.2 percent) currently living in renter-occupied housing units moved to a different residence, compared to 6.7 percent living in owner-occupied housing units.

## STATE-TO-STATE MIGRATION

The number of movers between states declined from 7.2 million in 2008 to 6.9 million in 2009, according to the ACS. This continued the downward trend of interstate movers seen since the ACS started collecting data for the total population—households and group quarters—in 2006, when 7.9 million persons moved between states. Table 3 shows the largest inmigration and outmigration flows for each state. These flows usually involve a neighboring state, but there are some exceptions. The largest inflow to Florida, for instance, was from New York. Table 4 lists the top ten state-to-state migration flows for people 1 year and over, as reported by the ACS from 2006 through 2009. Throughout the 4 years, the largest state-to-state flows were fairly consistent. The top seven flows in 2009 were within the top ten for 2006, but all with significant decreases. A notable exception was the flow from Louisiana to Texas. This was the largest state-to-state migration flow in 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but was not among the largest flows in subsequent years.

Three of the four most populous states (California, Florida, and New York) were responsible for the top eight state outmigration flows in 2009. The largest state-to-state migration flow was from California to Texas, with 61,270 movers.[15] Flows from California to Arizona, Washington, and Nevada were also on the top ten list. These four states combined (Texas, Arizona, Washington, and Nevada) were the destination of 34.9 percent of the domestic migrants from California. People from California represented 36.6 percent of the interstate movers to Nevada, 20.8 percent to Arizona, 22.2 percent to Washington, and 12.1 percent to Texas.

[15] The flow from California to Texas was not significantly different from New York to Florida.

Table 3.
**Largest Migration Inflow and Outflow by State: 2009**
(Population 1 year and over)

| State | Largest inflow was from | Size of inflow | Margin of error[1] (±) | Largest outflow was to | Size of outflow | Margin of error[1] (±) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | Georgia<br>Florida | 20,889<br>15,799 | 3,782<br>3,202 | Georgia | 18,302 | 3,493 |
| Alaska | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Arizona | California | 46,921 | 5,970 | California | 34,040 | 5,056 |
| Arkansas | Texas | 14,036 | 2,630 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| California | (X) | (X) | (X) | Texas | 61,270 | 6,014 |
| Colorado | California<br>Texas | 21,223<br>19,214 | 3,248<br>3,557 | Texas<br>California | 19,748<br>16,798 | 5,184<br>2,956 |
| Connecticut | New York | 19,313 | 3,499 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Delaware | Pennsylvania | 9,068 | 2,425 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| District of Columbia | Maryland | 9,960 | 2,471 | Maryland | 21,189 | 3,944 |
| Florida | New York | 53,482 | 6,261 | Georgia | 43,170 | 6,119 |
| Georgia | Florida | 43,170 | 6,119 | Florida | 33,835 | 5,069 |
| Hawaii | California | 11,820 | 2,846 | California | 13,042 | 2,986 |
| Idaho | Washington<br>California | 11,906<br>10,008 | 2,740<br>2,555 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Illinois | Indiana<br>Florida | 19,672<br>17,472 | 3,359<br>3,479 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Indiana | Illinois | 28,173 | 4,299 | Illinois | 19,672 | 3,359 |
| Iowa | Illinois | 11,981 | 2,320 | Illinois | 11,109 | 3,452 |
| Kansas | Missouri | 24,307 | 3,964 | Missouri | 18,757 | 3,084 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.
## Largest Migration Inflow and Outflow by State: 2009—Con.
(Population 1 year and over)

| State | Largest inflow was from | Size of inflow | Margin of error[1] (±) | Largest outflow was to | Size of outflow | Margin of error[1] (±) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kentucky | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Louisiana | Texas | 24,857 | 3,994 | Texas | 26,438 | 4,025 |
| Maine | Massachusetts<br>New Hampshire | 3,518<br>3,395 | 1,081<br>1,031 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Maryland | Virginia<br>District of Columbia | 22,050<br>21,189 | 3,569<br>3,944 | Virginia<br>Pennsylvania | 26,226<br>18,826 | 4,014<br>2,811 |
| Massachusetts | New York | 22,409 | 3,867 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Michigan | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Minnesota | Wisconsin | 17,189 | 2,577 | Wisconsin | 16,937 | 2,646 |
| Mississippi | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Missouri | Illinois<br>Kansas | 21,245<br>18,757 | 3,799<br>3,084 | Kansas | 24,307 | 3,964 |
| Montana | Washington | 4,701 | 1,163 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Nebraska | (X) | (X) | (X) | Iowa | 7,380 | 1,935 |
| Nevada | California | 39,762 | 4,657 | California | 32,333 | 5,352 |
| New Hampshire | Massachusetts | 14,984 | 3,216 | Massachusetts | 10,775 | 2,430 |
| New Jersey | New York | 41,692 | 4,980 | Pennsylvania<br>New York | 38,000<br>36,630 | 5,221<br>5,045 |
| New Mexico | (X) | (X) | (X) | Texas | 15,279 | 2,741 |
| New York | New Jersey<br>Florida | 36,630<br>30,875 | 5,045<br>4,819 | Florida | 53,482 | 6,261 |
| North Carolina | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| North Dakota | Minnesota | 13,564 | 2,052 | Minnesota | 7,160 | 1,660 |
| Ohio | (X) | (X) | (X) | Florida | 21,346 | 4,283 |
| Oklahoma | Texas | 32,437 | 5,060 | Texas | 25,784 | 4,080 |
| Oregon | California | 32,088 | 4,316 | Washington | 26,687 | 4,105 |
| Pennsylvania | New Jersey<br>New York | 38,000<br>31,898 | 5,221<br>4,091 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Rhode Island | Massachusetts | 6,947 | 1,445 | Massachusetts | 6,316 | 1,543 |
| South Carolina | North Carolina | 24,468 | 4,184 | North Carolina | 22,374 | 3,955 |
| South Dakota | Minnesota | 5,445 | 1,646 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Tennessee | Georgia<br>Florida | 15,255<br>14,221 | 3,539<br>2,921 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Texas | California | 61,270 | 6,014 | California<br>Oklahoma | 35,104<br>32,437 | 5,123<br>5,060 |
| Utah | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Vermont | (X) | (X) | (X) | New York | 4,407 | 1,283 |
| Virginia | (X) | (X) | (X) | North Carolina | 27,787 | 4,088 |
| Washington | California | 42,693 | 5,917 | California | 33,408 | 4,711 |
| West Virginia | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Wisconsin | Illinois<br>Minnesota | 21,139<br>16,937 | 3,512<br>2,646 | Minnesota | 17,189 | 2,577 |
| Wyoming | Colorado<br>Utah | 4,636<br>3,832 | 1,386<br>1,456 | Colorado | 5,630 | 2,796 |
| Puerto Rico | Florida | 11,603 | 2,735 | Florida | 14,783 | 4,366 |

(X) Neither a single flow nor two flows were statistically the largest.

[1] The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 4.

## The Ten Largest State-to-State Migration Flows: 2006 to 2009

(Population 1 year and over)

| Year and rank | Migration flow | Estimate[1] | Margin of error[2] (±) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2009 ACS** | | | |
| | Movers between states[3] | 6,897,773 | 73,469 |
| 1 | California to Texas | 61,270 | 6,014 |
| 2 | New York to Florida | 53,482 | 6,261 |
| 3 | California to Arizona | 46,921 | 5,970 |
| 4 | Florida to Georgia | 43,170 | 6,119 |
| 5 | California to Washington | 42,693 | 5,917 |
| 6 | New York to New Jersey | 41,692 | 4,980 |
| 7 | California to Nevada | 39,762 | 4,656 |
| 8 | Florida to Texas | 38,150 | 5,339 |
| 9 | New Jersey to Pennsylvania | 38,000 | 5,221 |
| 10 | New Jersey to New York | 36,630 | 5,045 |
| **2008 ACS** | | | |
| | Movers between states[3] | 7,238,473 | 71,643 |
| 1 | California to Texas | 73,174 | 4,866 |
| 2 | New York to Florida | 58,145 | 4,507 |
| 3 | California to Arizona | 51,253 | 4,295 |
| 4 | Florida to Georgia | 50,222 | 4,006 |
| 5 | New York to New Jersey | 48,055 | 4,175 |
| 6 | Georgia to Florida | 46,743 | 3,789 |
| 7 | California to Nevada | 42,615 | 3,577 |
| 8 | Texas to California | 42,451 | 3,389 |
| 9 | Florida to North Carolina | 42,061 | 3,429 |
| 10 | New York to Pennsylvania | 41,606 | 2,869 |
| **2007 ACS** | | | |
| | Movers between states[3] | 7,506,867 | 63,665 |
| 1 | California to Texas | 78,310 | 5,052 |
| 2 | Florida to Georgia | 77,098 | 5,354 |
| 3 | California to Arizona | 65,684 | 5,961 |
| 4 | New York to Florida | 63,312 | 3,201 |
| 5 | California to Nevada | 53,489 | 4,354 |
| 6 | New York to New Jersey | 52,294 | 3,961 |
| 7 | New York to Pennsylvania | 47,476 | 2,902 |
| 8 | Florida to North Carolina | 44,954 | 3,543 |
| 9 | California to Washington | 43,361 | 3,351 |
| 10 | Texas to Louisiana | 40,743 | 3,092 |
| **2006 ACS** | | | |
| | Movers between states[3] | 7,947,060 | 73,469 |
| 1 | Louisiana to Texas | 118,552 | 9,858 |
| 2 | New York to Florida | 87,576 | 7,883 |
| 3 | California to Arizona | 85,497 | 8,213 |
| 4 | California to Texas | 81,572 | 7,350 |
| 5 | Florida to Georgia | 75,182 | 8,524 |
| 6 | California to Nevada | 59,811 | 6,768 |
| 7 | New York to New Jersey | 54,781 | 5,341 |
| 8 | California to Washington | 53,034 | 6,203 |
| 9 | California to Oregon | 51,295 | 4,509 |
| 10 | Texas to California | 49,027 | 6,617 |

[1] Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from estimates for other flows not listed in the table.

[2] The margin of error, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

[3] Includes the District of Columbia.

Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2006 to 2009.

The other largest flows were from New York to Florida and New Jersey; from Florida to Georgia and Texas; from New York to New Jersey; and from New Jersey to Pennsylvania and New York.[16]

The percentage of people who lived in a different state 1 year ago is shown in Figure 3. At least 4 percent of people who lived in Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, Washington, D.C., or Wyoming in 2009 moved from another state within the last year.[17] The states that fell below 2 percent of people who lived in a different state 1 year ago were California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.[18] All of the states below 2 percent are located in the Midwest and Northeast regions of the country, with the lone exception of California.

## LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Table 5 provides the results of a logistic regression model of geographical mobility on select demographic, social, and economic characteristics for respondents 18 years and over, using 2009 ACS data.[19] Logistic regression is used because the dependent variable—geographical mobility—is binary (moved/did not move). Similar to other multivariate techniques, logistic regression statistically controls for other variables included in the model. For interpretation purposes, people with characteristics that have an odds ratio higher than

[16] For additional state-to-state migration flow tables and reports, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's state-to-state migration flows Web page at <www.census.gov/hhes/migration/data/acs/state-to-state.html>.

[17] The following states were not significantly different from 4 percent: Hawaii, Nevada, Delaware, Idaho, and South Dakota.

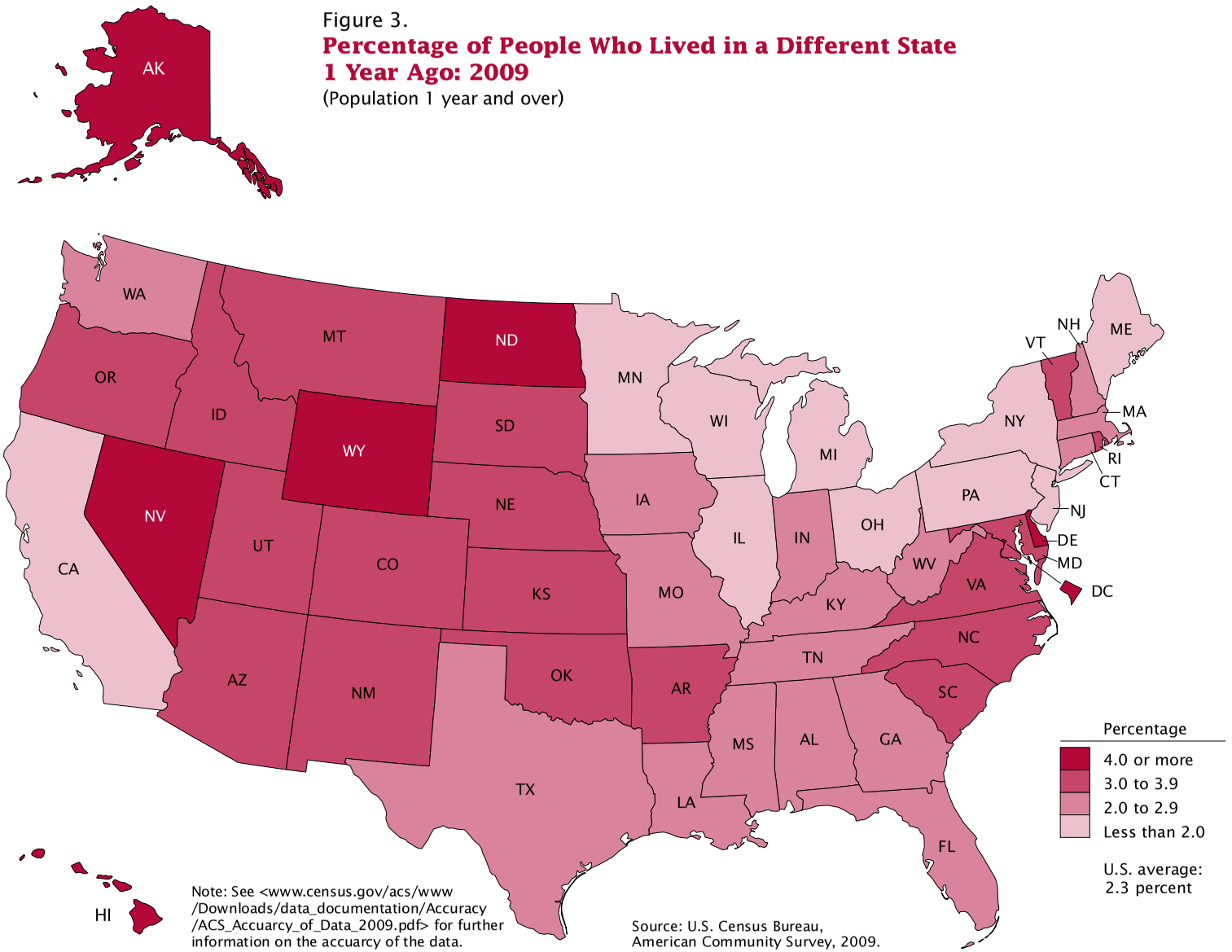
[18] Maine, Louisiana, Texas, and Indiana were not significantly different from 2 percent.

[19] Only respondents who gave valid responses to all variables in the logistic regression model are included in this analysis.

Figure 3.

## Percentage of People Who Lived in a Different State 1 Year Ago: 2009

(Population 1 year and over)




Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www /Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy /ACS_Accuarcy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuarcy of the data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

1.00 have a higher likelihood of geographical mobility than those in the comparison group. By contrast, values lower than 1.00 suggest a lower likelihood to move than the comparison group.

The focal independent variable for the current study is housing tenure and its impact on geographical mobility. When all other variables listed in the model are controlled, the odds ratio suggests respondents currently living in renter-occupied housing units are 5 times more likely to have moved than those in owner-occupied housing units. The fact that the odds ratio is high demonstrates how strong a predictor housing tenure is on the likelihood of moving. No other variable in the model has an odds ratio near this magnitude.

The first block of variables in the model includes the demographic characteristics of age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Compared with 18 to 29 year olds, people in all three age ranges (30 to 44; 45 to 64; and 65 and over) had lower odds of migration. These findings are consistent with the data on residence 1 year ago by age displayed in Figure 2 and the 2009 ACS selected characteristics shown in Table 2. Based on the odds ratios, people ages 30 to 44 years old had 73.5 percent lower odds of moving, ages 45 to 64 had 84.8 percent lower odds of moving, and ages 65 and over had 49.1 percent lower odds of moving than 18 to 29 year olds. Females were less likely to move than males.

With controls for the various social, economic, and demographic characteristics in place, several racial categories differed significantly from Whites. For example, controlling age allows for a better comparison of geographical mobility across races. Any age differences that were causing the mover rate to vary by race are now taken into consideration. Respondents who are Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or two or more races between the ages of 18 to 29 are compared to White respondents of the same age. With this in mind, the results of the logistic regression suggest that Blacks and respondents of some other race both had lower odds of moving than Whites (21.7 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively). The only racial group with significantly higher odds of moving than Whites were respondents who reported two or more races. Respondents of Hispanic origins were less likely to move than non-Hispanics.

Social characteristics are the second block of variables in the likelihood model of moving. Native born respondents were 1.2 times more likely to move than those foreign born.[20] Respondents with marital statuses of separated, widowed, and divorced all had higher odds of geographical mobility than never married individuals, although married respondents showed no significant difference from those never married. Separated adults were 2 times more likely to move than their never married counterparts. Widowed and divorced respondents also had higher odds of moving than never married individuals, at 40.0 percent and 55.6 percent, respectively. Mobility by educational attainment was evenly divided; people with education levels below some college or who have associate's degrees had lower odds of geographical mobility, and people with higher levels of education had higher odds.

[20] Native born people are U.S. citizens at birth. All people with the following citizenship status are native born: (1) born in the United States; (2) born in Puerto Rico or a U.S. outlying area; or (3) born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent or parents. All other people are foreign born.

Economic characteristics are the third and final block of characteristics included in the model. Households within the three income groups ($50,000 to $74,999; $75,000 to $99,999; and $100,000 or more) were significantly less likely to have moved than households earning between $35,000 and $49,999. Households in the remaining income groups (less than $10,000; $10,000 to $24,999; and $25,000 to $34,999) had higher odds of moving than households earning between $35,000 and $49,999.

## DISTANCE MOVED AND REASONS FOR MOVING

The ASEC has been conducted for over 60 years. Data from the ASEC provide a historical picture of national and regional migration patterns. The ASEC data also show how different variables influence the likelihood that a person moved and provide a distinct understanding of who moves, how far, and why.

*Between 2008 and 2009, about 40 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles.*

Distance moved is a unique characteristic calculated using the ASEC. This measure is only calculated for intercounty moves (that is, moves from one county to another), which can vary greatly in terms of the distance involved. In the ASEC, distance moved is calculated from the population center (the "centroid") of the origin county to the destination county.[21] Table 6 provides the distance of intercounty moves by year for 2003 (the first year distance moved was calculated) through 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, 39.9 percent of intercounty moves were less than 50 miles

[21] 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>.

Table 5.
## Likelihood Model of Moving in the Past 12 Months: 2009

| Characteristic | Parameter coefficient | Standard error | Odds ratio | Margin of error |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Intercept | –1.924 | 0.015 | (NA) | (NA) |
| **Housing Tenure** | | | | |
| (Reference: owner-occupied housing unit) | | | | |
| Renter-occupied housing unit | 1.623 | 0.008 | *5.07 | 0.0785 |
| **DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | |
| **Age** | | | | |
| (Reference: 18 to 29 years old) | | | | |
| 30 to 44 years | –1.327 | 0.008 | *0.27 | 0.0045 |
| 45 to 64 years | –1.886 | 0.012 | *0.15 | 0.0035 |
| 65 years and over | –0.675 | 0.007 | *0.51 | 0.0065 |
| **Sex** | | | | |
| (Reference: male) | | | | |
| Female | –0.045 | 0.004 | *0.96 | 0.0070 |
| **Race** | | | | |
| (Reference: White alone) | | | | |
| Black or African American alone | –0.245 | 0.010 | *0.78 | 0.0155 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone | –0.052 | 0.031 | 0.95 | 0.0575 |
| Asian alone | 0.023 | 0.018 | 1.02 | 0.0355 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | –0.044 | 0.070 | 0.96 | 0.1310 |
| Some other race alone | –0.084 | 0.017 | *0.92 | 0.0305 |
| Two or more races | 0.059 | 0.018 | *1.06 | 0.0370 |
| **Hispanic or Latino Origin** | | | | |
| (Reference: any race, not Hispanic or Latino) | | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | –0.177 | 0.011 | *0.84 | 0.0180 |
| **SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | |
| **Nativity** | | | | |
| (Reference: foreign born) | | | | |
| Native born | 0.193 | 0.010 | *1.21 | 0.0235 |
| **Marital Status** | | | | |
| (Reference: never married) | | | | |
| Married | –0.007 | 0.007 | 0.99 | 0.0145 |
| Separated | 0.708 | 0.015 | *2.03 | 0.0600 |
| Widowed | 0.336 | 0.015 | *1.40 | 0.0420 |
| Divorced | 0.442 | 0.008 | *1.56 | 0.0255 |
| **Educational Attainment** | | | | |
| (Reference: some college or associate's degree) | | | | |
| Less than high school graduate | –0.155 | 0.008 | *0.86 | 0.0140 |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | –0.115 | 0.005 | *0.89 | 0.0095 |
| Bachelor's degree | 0.117 | 0.007 | *1.12 | 0.0160 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 0.159 | 0.009 | *1.17 | 0.0205 |
| **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS** | | | | |
| **Household Income in the Past 12 Months** | | | | |
| (Reference: $35,000 to $49,999) | | | | |
| Less than $10,000 | 0.090 | 0.012 | *1.10 | 0.0260 |
| $10,000 to $24,999 | 0.070 | 0.010 | *1.07 | 0.0205 |
| $25,000 to $34,999 | 0.038 | 0.011 | *1.04 | 0.0230 |
| $50,000 to $74,999 | –0.035 | 0.012 | *0.97 | 0.0215 |
| $75,000 to $99,999 | –0.065 | 0.013 | *0.94 | 0.0230 |
| $100,000 or more | –0.081 | 0.012 | *0.92 | 0.0220 |
| Somers' D[1] | 0.587 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Number of unweighted cases | 3,307,535 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |

(NA) Not applicable.
* Significant at .05 percent.
[1] Somers' D is an ordinal measure of association. Values range between –1.0 and 1.0. The stronger the relationship, the higher the absolute value of Somers' D.
Note: See <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf> for further information on the accuracy of the data.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009.

Table 6.
## Distance of Intercounty Move by Year: 2003–2009

| Characteristic | 2002–2003 | 2003–2004 | 2004–2005 | 2005–2006 | 2006–2007 | 2007–2008 | 2008–2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Intercounty movers 1 year and over (in thousands)** | **15,356** | **15,171** | **15,287** | **13,690** | **12,299** | **11,009** | **11,034** |
| **Distance of intercounty move (in percent)** | | | | | | | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Less than 50 miles | 32.3 | 30.8 | 30.5 | 40.9 | 41.9 | 40.4 | 39.9 |
| 50 to 199 miles | 22.2 | 24.5 | 24.6 | 21.3 | 21.0 | 19.2 | 21.8 |
| 200 to 499 miles | 20.7 | 21.0 | 19.7 | 15.3 | 14.7 | 14.6 | 14.2 |
| 500 miles or more | 24.9 | 23.7 | 25.3 | 22.6 | 22.5 | 25.8 | 24.1 |
| **Distance of intercounty move (in miles)** | | | | | | | |
| Mean | 392.2 | 382.4 | 419.3 | 361.8 | 358.4 | 400.4 | 389.3 |
| Median | 155.3 | 154.6 | 156.4 | 90.5 | 83.0 | 103.2 | 97.8 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2003–2009.

in distance. The longest distance moved category (500 miles or more) had the second largest share, at 24.1 percent. Both of these categories led distance moved in 2008 as well, with 40.4 percent and 25.8 percent, respectively. None of the 2008 estimates were significantly different from 2009 except moves 50 to 199 miles, which increased from 19.2 percent to 21.8 percent.

### *The number of intercounty movers decreased by 4.3 million between 2003 and 2009.*

The last geographical mobility report described distance moved using 2003 data. In 2003, 15.4 million people completed an intercounty move. In 2009 the number of intercounty movers was 11.0 million, representing a decline of 4.3 million.[22] Long distance moves comprised fewer intercounty moves between 2003 and 2009. Combining the categories of 200 to 499 miles and 500 or more miles into a measure of long distance moves shows that 45.6 percent of intercounty moves were long distance in 2003, compared to 38.3 percent of moves in 2009. Changes in distance moved over time can also be tracked by analyzing means and medians. While no significant difference existed between the mean distance moved between 2003 and 2009, more people were moving shorter distances in 2009 than in 2003, a result that is consistent with changes in the distribution of moves less than 50 miles during these years.

### *Housing-related reasons were the most common reasons given for moving.*

Another unique measure collected by the ASEC is reason for moving. Respondents are asked to select from a list of common reasons for moving, with an option to write-in other reasons for responses that do not fit the choices provided. Table 7 shows reason for move by type of move (intracounty versus intercounty) for the 1999 and 2009 ASEC.[23] The most cited reasons for moving in 2009 were housing-related (47.1 percent), followed by family-related (26.5 percent), employment-related (17.0 percent), and other (9.4 percent). Within these major categories, most moved because they "wanted a new or better home/apartment" (14.9 percent), for "other family reason" (11.4 percent), for a "new job or job transfer" (8.2 percent), or "other reasons" (4.5 percent). Reason for move was less evenly distributed among the major reason categories in 1999. About half (51.0 percent) of all reasons given were housing-related, while 25.6 percent were family-related, 16.0 percent were employment-related, and 7.4 percent were other.[24] Part of the change in housing-related reasons can be attributed to 21.5 percent selecting "wanted new or better home/apartment" and 11.4 percent choosing "other housing reason." These two reasons were more frequently cited by movers in 1999 than 2009. However, "wanted cheaper housing" became more important over the decade; that estimate increased from 6.2 percent in 1999 to 11.4 percent in 2009.

[22] At least some of this decline may be due to the previously mentioned processing change. The difference in the number of intercounty movers for 2003 and 2009 was 4.3 million instead of 4.4 million due to rounding.

[23] Reason for move was first asked in 1998. Additions and changes were made to the reasons in 1999, so comparisons between 1998 and other years are discouraged.

[24] The percentage of respondents who gave family-related reasons or employment-related reasons was not statistically different between 1999 and 2009.

Table 7.
## Reason for Move by Type of Move: 1998 to 1999 and 2008 to 2009

| Reason for move | Percent distribution by reason | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1998 to 1999 | | | 2008 to 2009 | | |
| | Total | Intra-county | Inter-county | Total | Intra-county | Inter-county |
| **Total domestic movers 1 year and over (in thousands)** | **41,207** | **25,268** | **15,939** | **36,017** | **24,984** | **11,034** |
| **Family-related reasons** | **25.6** | **25.4** | **25.9** | **26.5** | **26.5** | **26.6** |
| Change in marital status | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| To establish own household | 7.8 | 9.7 | 4.8 | 9.7 | 11.6 | 5.4 |
| Other family reason | 11.3 | 9.2 | 14.5 | 11.4 | 9.5 | 15.8 |
| **Employment-related reasons** | **16.0** | **5.6** | **32.6** | **17.0** | **8.9** | **35.5** |
| New job or job transfer | 9.2 | 1.4 | 21.5 | 8.2 | 2.1 | 22.0 |
| To look for work or lost job | 1.3 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 5.4 |
| To be closer to work/easier commute | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.6 |
| Retired | 0.6 | 0.3 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Other job-related reason | 1.8 | 0.7 | 3.6 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.8 |
| **Housing-related reasons** | **51.0** | **64.7** | **29.3** | **47.1** | **57.2** | **24.3** |
| Wanted own home, not rent | 8.1 | 10.0 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 3.6 |
| Wanted new or better home/apartment | 21.5 | 28.2 | 10.8 | 14.9 | 18.6 | 6.5 |
| Wanted better neighborhood/less crime | 4.0 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 2.9 |
| Wanted cheaper housing | 6.2 | 7.8 | 3.6 | 11.4 | 13.9 | 5.8 |
| Other housing reason | 11.4 | 14.3 | 6.7 | 10.0 | 11.9 | 5.5 |
| **Other reasons** | **7.4** | **4.3** | **12.3** | **9.4** | **7.5** | **13.6** |
| To attend or leave college | 1.8 | 0.5 | 4.0 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 4.5 |
| Change of climate | 0.8 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Health reason | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.0 |
| Natural disaster | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Other reason | 3.7 | 2.7 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 5.5 |

(NA) Not applicable. The natural disaster reason for move was added in 2006.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 1999 and 2009.

*Based on reason for move responses, intracounty movers placed more importance on housing than employment.*

Among intracounty movers, housing-related reasons dominated, with 57.2 percent of respondents giving these reasons for moving in 2009. "Wanted new or better home/apartment" led the housing-related reasons category and all single reasons given, with 18.6 percent. Among intercounty movers, employment-related reasons were highest, with 35.5 percent. "New job or job transfer" led the employment-related reasons category and is the highest selected single reason, with 22.0 percent. For both types of movers, family-related reasons were the second most reported, with 26.5 percent for intracounty and 26.6 percent for intercounty movers.[25] "To establish own household" and "other family reason" were the most common responses given within the family-related reasons category for intracounty movers, with 11.6 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively. Intercounty movers gave "other family reason" as the most prevalent reason within the family-related reasons category, with 15.8 percent.

*Employment-related reasons were the most common among intercounty movers, especially those who moved 50 miles or more.*

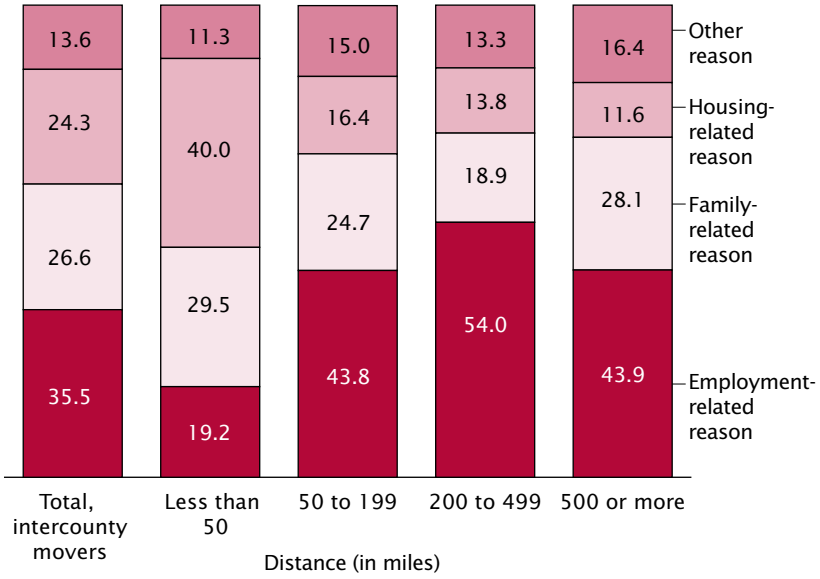
Figure 4 combines the major reason for move categories with the distance of intercounty move measure, using data from the 2009 ASEC. Employment-related reasons are the most reported category for all intercounty movers 1 year and over, with 35.5 percent. Housing-related and family-related reasons trail behind with 24.3 percent and 26.6 percent, respectively. Employment-related reasons are most commonly selected among people who move 200 to 499 miles (54.0 percent), 500 or more miles (43.9 percent), and 50 to 199 miles (43.8 percent).[26] People who moved shorter distances, less than 50 miles, cited housing (40.0 percent) and family-related (29.5 percent) reasons more often than employment (19.2 percent). Housing-related reasons were used far less often among longer distance movers; these reasons comprised 13.8

[25] The difference in percentage who responded with family-related reasons for intercounty and intracounty moves was not statistically significant.

[26] The percentages of intercounty movers who gave employment-related reasons and moved 500 or more miles or 50 to 199 miles were not statistically different.

Figure 4.
**Reason for Move by Distance of Intercounty Move: 2009**

(Percent distribution of intercounty movers 1 year and over)




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009.

percent of moves 200 to 499 miles and 11.6 percent of moves 500 or more miles.[27]

## APPENDIX

The ASEC provides a historical perspective on geographical mobility dating back to 1948. Throughout this period the survey has been conducted annually.[28] Most of the data are collected one week in March[29] through computer-assisted telephone and personal interviews, with additional households interviewed in February and April to achieve the necessary sample size.[30] The 2009 sample consists of about 97,000 households, representing the civilian[31] noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Mobility data from the ASEC are available at the national and regional levels.[32]

The ACS was first conducted in four test counties in 1996. The sample expanded during the testing phase and achieved full implementation in 2005; every county or county equivalent in the United States and Puerto Rico was covered, with about 250,000 housing units sampled each month. The next year, the sample was expanded to include residents living in group quarters. The large sample size allows reasonable estimates to be published for a wide range of geographies,[33] such as congressional districts, counties, school districts, and places. Housing units in each monthly sample are mailed questionnaires during the first month of collection. If there is no response from a housing unit by the second month, the Census Bureau attempts to get the information by a computer-assisted telephone interview. A subsample of housing units that did not respond are visited in the third month for computer-assisted personal interviews. Thus, there is a 3-month period in which the survey can be completed.

The wording of the geographical mobility questions are similar on both surveys. The questions as they appear on the 2009 ACS paper questionnaire are shown in Figure 5.[34] The ASEC asks "Was the reference person living in this house (or apartment) one year ago?" If the person moved within the United States, the respondent is asked to provide state, county, place, zip code of residence 1 year ago, and whether the person lived inside city limits or not. If the person moved from abroad, country of residence 1 year ago is asked.[35]

[27] The percentages of movers who gave housing-related reasons and moved 200 to 499 miles or 500 or more miles were not statistically different.

[28] The 1-year geographic mobility question was not asked from 1972 to 1975 and from 1977 to 1980. In the first half of the 70s (1971 to 1975), a question asked about migration since 1970, and in the second half (1976 to 1980), a question asked about migration since 1975.

[29] The interview week for the ASEC is the week containing the 19th of the month.

[30] Prior to 2001, all interviews were conducted during the month of March and, on rare occasions, early April.

[31] Members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post are included, but all other members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

[32] For more information about the Current Population Survey operations, see "Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology, Technical Paper 66" at <www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/tp-66.pdf>.

[33] Geographical mobility data are not available below the state level for group quarters.

[34] The ACS began collecting street-level addresses of respondents in 2008 to improve the precision of determining where a person lived 1 year ago. For more information, see "2006 American Community Survey Contest Test Report P. 3: Evaluation Report Covering Residence 1 Year Ago (Migration)" at <www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content_test/P3_Residence_1_Year_Ago.pdf>.

[35] A facsimile of the ASEC Supplement Questionnaire is available on pages D-93 and D-94 of the "2009 ASEC Technical Documentation" at <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar09.pdf>.

Besides the slight differences in questions, there are other dissimilarities between the surveys. These include the use of three interview modes in the ACS (mail, phone, and personal) and only two in the ASEC (personal and phone); group quarters coverage (the ASEC includes only civilian noninstitutional group quarters population), the process in which the master address file (MAF) is updated; residence rule definitions; data editing and imputation procedures; selection of controls; and the calculation of weights.[36]

Another critical difference for understanding and comparing these two data sources is the actual collection and reference periods that the two surveys use. These differences ensure that ACS and ASEC estimates will not match; both sources track the "pace of mobility," but at different levels.

Figure 6 shows and compares the collection and reference periods for the ACS and ASEC. The collection period for the ASEC occurs during mid-February to mid-April of the survey year, with the data being gathered within a 1-week period for any given housing unit. The ACS data is collected from the beginning of the survey year until the end of the survey year. Obtaining data from a housing unit may take up to 3 months.

The reference period, the time frame in which a respondent moves, is the year prior to the completion of a survey. The ASEC data are collected in the months of February, March, and April. Thus, for the ASEC, data cover a period from mid-February of the year before the survey year to mid-April of the survey year, a span of about 14 months. ACS data are collected monthly January through December, so the ACS data cover about 24 months.[37]

Figure 5.
**Reproduction of the Migration Questions from the 2009 American Community Survey**

**15 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 1 year ago?**

- ☐ Person is under 1 year old ➔ *SKIP to question 16*
- ☐ Yes, this house ➔ *SKIP to question 16*
- ☐ No, outside the United States and Puerto Rico – *Print name of foreign country, or U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, etc., below; then SKIP to question 16*
- ☐ No, different house in the United States or Puerto Rico

**b. Where did this person live 1 year ago?**

**Address (Number and street name)**

**Name of city, town, or post office**

**Name of U.S. county or municipio in Puerto Rico**

**Name of U.S. state or Puerto Rico**

**ZIP Code**

The net result of these differences in the surveys is that "annual" ACS migration rates are higher than those obtained from the ASEC.

The ACS mobility rate for people 1 year and over living in households (excluding residents living in group quarters) is 15.9 in 2006, 15.0 in 2007, 14.6 in 2008, and 14.5 in 2009.

As shown in Table 8, the ACS estimates of the proportion of persons who moved in the past year have varied from the ASEC estimate in each year. During this period, the ASEC instrument and operations were relatively stable. The ACS, on the other hand, underwent numerous changes, including a major sample expansion in 2005, the addition of institutional populations (likely to be much more mobile than the noninstitutional populations) in 2006, and changes to the survey questions in 2008. Through this the ACS estimate has been higher and has stayed higher.

All of the design differences likely contribute in some way to the overall difference in the estimate itself.

## SOURCES OF THE DATA

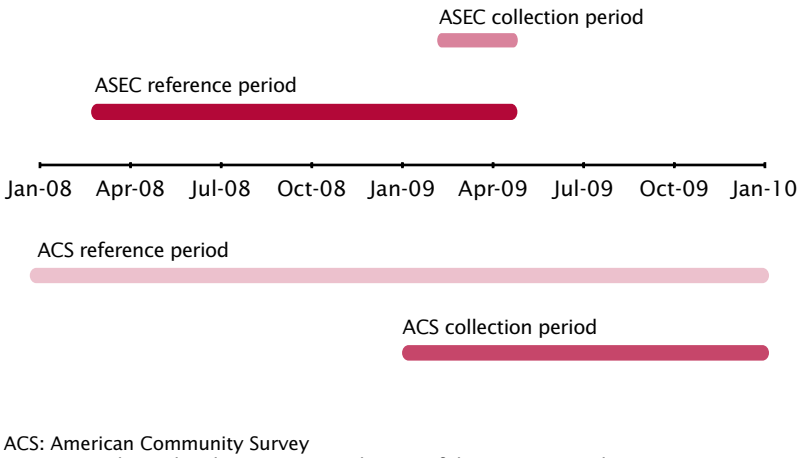
The data in this report are from the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Some estimates are based on data obtained by the ACS and ASEC in earlier years.

The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters (that is,

[36] For more information on the differences of migration estimates between the ACS and ASEC, see "Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Geographic Mobility: 2004" at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/library/2007/2007_Koerber_01.pdf>.

[37] Additional information on data collection can be found in "Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology, Technical Paper 66" at <www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/tp-66.pdf> and "American Community Survey: Design and Methodology" at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/survey_methodology/acs_design_methodology.pdf >.

Figure 6.
**Collection and Reference Periods for the 2009 ACS and 2009 ASEC**




ACS: American Community Survey
ASEC: Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey

Table 8.
**One-Year U.S. Mobility Rate: ASEC and ACS**
(Population 1 year and over)

| Year | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ASEC | 13.9 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 11.9 | 12.5 |
| ACS | *16.1 | 16.8 | 16.0 | 15.6 | 15.4 |

* Residents living in group quarters were not included in 2005.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey and Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2005 to 2009.

the resident population). The group quarters population consists of the institutionalized population (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized population (most of whom are in college dormitories).

The population represented (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 2009 (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2009. For analysis of annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2009 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March supplement to the CPS in prior years.

## 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/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar09.pdf> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, 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 the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detailed geographical mobility/migration tables from the 2009 ASEC are available on the Census Bureau's Web site <www.census.gov>. Once on the site, click "Subjects A to Z," select "M," then select "Migration/Geographic Mobility." From the "Geographical Mobility/Migration" page, use the quick link for "CPS Data on Geographical Mobility/Migration." Under the "Geographic Mobility 2008 to 2009" subheading select "Detailed Tables."

To access ACS tables about geographical mobility/migration, visit the American Factfinder on the Census Bureau's Web site at <factfinder.census.gov>.

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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>.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

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