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# Census shows country is on the move

## South saw an extra 1.8 million residents in five-year span

By Genaro C. Armas  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — America really is a country on the move. In the last five years of the 20th century, close to half the population packed up and moved to different homes. Usually, the moving van didn't have to travel too far — nearly one-quarter of the country's 262.4 million people 5 and older moved to a new address in the same county, according to a Census Bureau report Tuesday.

The South attracted the most transplants — 1.8 million more than moved out of the region — while the West stayed about even and the Northeast and Midwest saw declines.

Nevada, the fastest-growing state during the 1990s, had the highest percentage of movers — 63 percent — followed by Colorado and Arizona, both at 56 percent. About one-quarter of Nevada's population moved in from another state between 1995 and 2000.

The study, culled from responses to the 2000 head count, didn't include an age breakdown or a look at why people moved, only if they did and where they did.

But typically, the type of move depends on a person's age, said John Logan, sociologist at the State University of New York at Albany. Long-distance moves are most common among people from their late teens to early 30s, primarily for college or a better job, he said.

"Long-distance moves have generally been about making a significant change in your life and hoping to build a better

future, and that has been especially the case for young adults who are free to do that," he said.

People in their mid-30s through 50s with children tend to make more shorter moves in search of a bigger home or quieter neighborhood, he noted, while those in their 60s and older move to warm-weather climates or closer to family members after retirement.

Overall, 45.9 percent of the 262.4 million U.S. residents age 5 and older in 2000 had moved in the previous five years, according to the Census Bureau. That figure includes 7.5 million people who moved to America from abroad.

The five-year moving rate has hovered at about 46 percent since 1970.

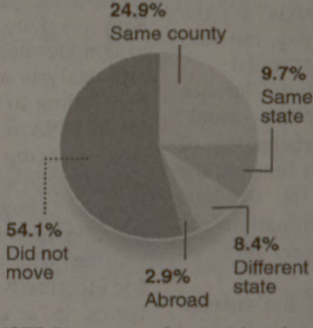
Warm-weather destinations in the South and West that were unattractive decades ago are now more livable because of technology and upgraded infrastructure systems, said Robert Lang, a demographer at the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech in Alexandria, Va.

"Air conditioning and the interstate highway system defeated the remoteness of these places," Lang said.

Such states have also become popular retirement destinations, said the bureau's Carol Faber, an author of the report.

### Mobile Americans

Americans are moving, but they don't go very far. In the last five years, 46 percent of the population ages five and older left their homes, but over half of those stayed within the same county.



NOTE: Percentage reflects number of people who moved between 1995 and 2000.  
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau AP

Communities near military bases and college towns have the highest proportion of movers, led by the Jacksonville, N.C., metropolitan area at 48 percent. That area includes the Camp Lejeune Marine base. It was followed by Bryan-College Station, Texas, which includes Texas A&M University and Lawrence, Kan., home to the University of Kansas.

Only 21 percent of Nevada residents were born there, the lowest percentage in the country, followed by Florida and Arizona, popular destinations for retirees and new immigrants.

States in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and Deep South had the highest proportion of people living in the state in which they were born, which includes people who moved away and then returned.

Louisiana had the highest percentage of residents who are natives, with nearly 80 percent, followed by Pennsylvania and Michigan.

In Louisiana, many among the state's large Cajun population don't leave because they live on land which has been owned by families for generations, and because of strong family ties, said Jacques Henry, a University of Louisiana-Lafayette sociologist.



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## Faith takes root in Texas inner cities

By Bobby Ross Jr.  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A "Jesus in the Hood" banner hangs on the dusty white wall of a makeshift sanctuary in East Dallas.

Just after 8 a.m. on a Tuesday, gospel music blares from a stereo in this old building with folding chairs and exposed ceiling pipes. About 40 men and women, many clad in tattered jeans and T-shirts, clap and sway as they sing "Lord, You Are Good" and "Come, Holy Spirit."

White, black and Hispanic, they have come to a voluntary service at the Reconciliation Outreach ministry office before a food pantry offering day-old bread, cakes and doughnuts opens next door.

An elegant-looking woman in a black dress and sandals walks in and finds a seat near the back. To the casual observer, this one-time New York debutante might look out of place. But make no mistake, this is home — at least in the spiritual sense — for the Rev. Dorothy Moore.

The 67-year-old wife of a corporate lawyer from Texas grew up in a world of fine china and chauffeurs, but finds fulfillment as a minister to the downtrodden and homeless.

The journey for this mother of four began about 30 years ago. She committed herself to Christian work, but her transformation did not occur overnight. It took years, she said, before she fully understood what God wanted her to do.

She discovered her calling, as she considers it, when she helped organize a 1986 tent crusade aimed at inner-city youths. The next year, Moore started Reconciliation Outreach, which provides housing, food and clothing for the homeless and needy in an East Dallas neighborhood once better known for crack houses than coffee houses.

"When I saw the conditions that the kids were in here, it just touches your heart," she said.

In the early years, she dodged bullets and gang violence and mourned two young friends caught in the crossfire. She drew threats for leading an anti-drug march.

Violence in the neighborhood has declined, thanks in part to the work of Moore.

"I just think she has done wonders," said Mitchell Rasansky, a Dallas city councilman. "There's not too many people who will go into a neighborhood like that and do the work she's been doing."

Before he met Moore, Thomas Smith, 51, lived on the streets. Smith still walks with a severe limp, the product of years of excessive drinking and sleeping on concrete and under bridges.

"If it had not been for her and a place like this, there's no telling what would have happened to me," he said.

In addition to providing food, clothing and temporary housing for about 150 people, Reconciliation Outreach serves more than 700 families and single adults each year through its life rehabilitation program.

*"There's not too many people who will go into a neighborhood like that and do the work she's been doing."*

— Mitchell Rasansky  
Dallas city councilman



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