Income Characteristics of Out-of-State Movers Migrating to and from Albuquerque-Rio Rancho and Other Surrounding Substate Areas

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The U.S. Census Bureau produces a range of data on migration and geographic mobility of the population within the United States, its states, and substate areas. The Census Bureau collects data on geographic mobility through the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS) and collects data on state-to-state and county-to-county migration flows through the American Community Survey (ACS). Information on the flows of population and the characteristics of the migrating population are important for government entities and the private sector. Migrating populations can impact a region's demographic base and economy by changing not just the count of the population, but the dynamic make-up of that population. This can impact the need of and demand for public services as well as the overall purchasing power of a population, which directly impacts business and economic development. Migration patterns can also provide insights on an area's draw and ability to attract new families and workers from other counties and states. Also, they often serve as a starting point for looking more deeply into the composition of a region and its population and the impacts of certain population variables on the economy.

This article's main focus is the income characteristics of what are referred to as "out-of-state" movers. Out-of-state movers are persons that either recently lived in a defined substate area and moved to another state or currently live in a substate area and moved to that area from another state. The article does not focus on intrastate movers (persons moving within a state). The analysis evaluates out-of-state movers for a select set of major population areas within and around New Mexico. State-to-state migration flows are introduced first. Data is from the 2012 ACS one-year estimates and represents movement of the population that is one-year old or older. In-migration, for the purposes of this article, is defined as the count of persons who had recently moved to the substate area from another state or abroad at the time of the survey. In-migration data by income level is for 2012 and is from the 2008-2012 ACS five-year estimates, Table B07010, Geographical Mobility in the Past Year by Individual Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2012 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) for Residence 1 Year Ago in the United States. Both in-migration and out-migration data at the substate and income characteristics level count the movement of the population 15 years and older. Net migration is presented at the statewide levels, but net migration at the city/metropolitan level is not presented, as out-migration data does not include persons moving out of the U.S. due to data limitations. For more information on the data sources and related methodologies for migration and geographic mobility of the population, visit the Census Bureau website at http://www.census.gov/hhes/migration.

2012 Net Migration for New Mexico

Exhibit 1 shows the net migration of population between New Mexico and all other states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). Approximately 9,228 more persons moved from New Mexico than moved to New Mexico in 2012. Florida had the largest net number of persons moving to New Mexico (1,854), while Texas had the largest net number of persons moving to the state from New Mexico (4,807). Colorado had the second largest net number of persons moving from New Mexico (1,740), followed by California. About 555 more New Mexican residents moved to Arizona than Arizona residents moved to New Mexico in 2012. Oklahoma also had a net in-migration of persons moving from New Mexico. Utah was the only state that borders New Mexico that experienced a net out-migration, with more people moving to New Mexico in 2012. Interestingly, the states with the fourth and fifth greatest net number of persons migrating from New Mexico were North Carolina and South Carolina. The states with the largest amount of migration, overall, or, in other words, the states with the movement to and from New Mexico, were Texas (28,717 movers), Arizona (13,337 movers), Colorado (11,300 movers), California (10,457 movers), Florida (7,560 movers), Ohio (2,539 movers), and others.

1. New Mexico’s Net Migration by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Net Migration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>9,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>1,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>4,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>1,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>10,457</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
<td>2,539</td>
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* Denotes neighboring state of New Mexico.
and Virginia (2,507 movers).

Exhibit 2 provides New Mexico’s migration distribution by state, showing the percentage of movers that moved to and moved from New Mexico in 2012. While the exhibit doesn’t provide information on the number of movers, it gives an idea of the states where in-migration or out-migration dominates. New Jersey had the largest concentration of persons moving from the state to New Mexico (84.8 percent of all movers), although the number of overall movers was fairly small (297). New Jersey was followed closely by two southern states—Louisiana and Mississippi. On the other end of the spectrum, Rhode Island and West Virginia had the largest concentration of persons moving from New Mexico into the state; neither of the states had a measurable number of persons moving to New Mexico. These two states were followed by Maine and Wyoming, with about 82 to 87 percent of movers relocating from New Mexico.

Out-of-State Movers in Albuquerque and Other Substate Areas

Exhibit 3 provides information on the number of persons that migrated into and out of select substate areas in and around New Mexico and to and from other states. The selected areas represent those with large population bases. The exhibit only presents movers that changed states, not those that moved to a different city or county within the same state. Note that, because out-migration data does not measure persons moving from the area to another country, a true net migration amount cannot be evaluated. When looking strictly at persons moving into and out of the areas shown to and from other states, most of the areas shown experienced a net in-migration of persons from other states in the U.S. The Austin-Round Rock area had the largest concentration of persons moving into the area from outside of Texas (approximately 60 percent of all movers, not including those moving from abroad). The Denver-Lakewood-Aurora area followed, with close to 9,000 more persons moving into the area from outside of Colorado than residents moving away to other states. The Albuquerque-Rio Rancho area had nearly net neutral migration. The number of persons moving into the area from outside New Mexico was extremely close to the number of residents that moved to another state. Tucson and El Paso were similar to Albuquerque-Rio Rancho in that net migration was nearly zero. Salt Lake City was the only area of those shown that experienced a measurable net out-migration, with more people moving away from Utah; about 53 percent of all movers left the area to live in another state.

The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area had the largest number of movers coming into the area from abroad (13,423), followed by Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale (11,965). El Paso, however, had the largest concentration of movers coming from abroad; just over 21 percent of all movers, including those moving into the area from abroad, were emigrating from another country. San Antonio-New Braunfels and Austin-Round Rock had the second and third largest concentrations of movers emigrating from abroad.

Income Characteristics of Movers Migrating Into the Substate Area

Exhibit 4 shows the percentage of intrastate, interstate, and abroad movers for all of the substate areas of focus. The sample includes only those persons that were currently living in the substate area at the time of the survey and had either moved within the state or from another state or from abroad (in-migration). Persons migrating into the substate area are a combination of those moving from another state and those moving from abroad in order...
to account for larger margins of error. Colorado Springs had the largest concentration of persons moving into the area from outside of the state; nearly 32 percent of all residents that had moved in the last year moved from another state or country, as opposed to just over 68 percent that moved to the area from another location in Colorado. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington had the smallest concentration of persons moving into the area from outside the state; close to 15 percent of persons that moved within the previous year moved to the area from outside of Texas. In the Albuquerque-Rio Rancho area, just over 22 percent of all persons that had moved in the last year migrated into the area from another state or country. This ranked Albuquerque fourth amongst the substate areas shown for concentration of recent movers that came from out of state.

Exhibit 5 presents the income characteristics of persons that recently moved into the substate areas from out of state. The substate areas with the largest concentrations of no-income and low-income persons moving into the area include Tucson, Tulsa, and Salt Lake City. About 69 to 77 percent of the persons that moved into the substate area from out of state either had no income or made less than $25,000 in the previous 12 months. The substate areas with the largest concentrations of no-income persons that moved into the area include Tucson, El Paso, and Dallas. The percentage of persons with no income in the last 12 months is typically higher for persons moving from abroad than for persons moving from another state. This is particularly the case in El Paso and Tucson. Many of the immigrants in these areas had not had income in the last 12 months and many likely moved from Mexico. It is important to note, however, that a higher likelihood of error exists for estimates of persons moving from abroad because the sample size is smaller, and there is likely some additional difficulty in collecting data from these movers. Estimates should be evaluated at a high-level and reported with caution.

The substate areas with the largest concentrations of high-income residents that recently moved from out of state include Colorado Springs, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, and Albuquerque-Rio Rancho. About 20 to 22 percent of movers that came from out of state made over $50,000 in the last 12 months prior to the survey. Tucson, Tulsa, and Salt Lake City had the smallest concentrations of high-income movers from out of state. In the Albuquerque-Rio Rancho area, about 16 percent of persons that moved to the area from out of state had no previous income in the last 12 months. About 42 percent earned less than $25,000, while 22 percent earned $25,000 to $49,000, and 21 percent earned $50,000 or more. Albuquerque-Rio Rancho ranked tenth of 12 in concentration of low-income persons and third of 12 in concentration of high-income persons moving to the area from out of state.

**Income Characteristics of Persons Migrating to Other States from the Substate Areas**

Exhibit 6 presents the income characteristics of persons that recently moved from the substate areas of focus to another state (out-migration). The substate areas with the largest concentrations of low-income persons that moved out of the state include Oklahoma City, Tucson, and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington. About 62 to 65 percent of the persons that moved out of the substate area and to another state made less than $25,000 in the previous 12 months. The substate areas with the largest concentrations of high-income residents that recently moved out of state include Austin-Round Rock, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, and San Antonio-New Braunfels. About 19 to 22 percent of movers that had moved out of state made over $50,000 in the last 12 months prior to the survey.
In the Albuquerque-Rio Rancho area, about 13 percent of persons that moved out of New Mexico from the area had no previous income in the last 12 months. About 47 percent earned less than $25,000, while 21 percent earned $25,000 to $49,000, and 20 percent earned $50,000 or more. Albuquerque-Rio Rancho ranked ninth of 12 in concentration of low-income persons and fourth of 12 in concentration of high-income persons moving out of the state from the substate area.

Net Out-of-State Movers in Albuquerque and Other Substate Areas by Income Characteristics

Exhibit 7 presents the net migration of persons within substate areas by income characteristic. Note that movers emigrating from abroad are not included in order to have a direct comparison of persons moving into and out of the substate areas. As discussed previously, Austin-Round Rock had the largest concentration of movers coming into the substate area from outside of Texas (see Exhibit 3). This is also reflected in the net gains across all income brackets shown in Exhibit 7. The exhibit also shows the net gains in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area and Oklahoma City. Net out-migration is evident for Salt Lake City as well, with net losses across all income brackets. In the Albuquerque-Rio Rancho area, net out-migration occurred in the less than $25,000 income bracket, while net in-migration was largest for the $25,000 to $50,000 bracket. The San Antonio-New Braunfels area saw net in-migration of persons earning $25,000 to $50,000. In Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, net in-migration occurred in income brackets above $25,000, while net out-migration occurred in the no income and lowest income brackets. This would indicate that the area is gaining higher-wage earners while losing lower-wage earners. Tucson, on the other hand, has seen a net in-migration of lower-wage earners while seeing more higher-wage earners leave the area, even though the total net domestic migration is nearly zero. Additional quantitative and qualitative analysis would need to be completed to draw more solid conclusions and relationships regarding the movement of wage earners amongst the substate areas and their states. Migration data, however, provides a starting point for understanding how population movement can impact an area’s demographics and economy, as is particularly evident when looking at migration of lower- and higher-wage earners.