

**THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND  
PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

**THE SEASONALITY OF MOVING: AN ANALYSIS  
OF DATA FROM THE SURVEY OF INCOME  
AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

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# THE SEASONALITY OF MOVING: AN ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

## INTRODUCTION

The Census Bureau has been collecting and tabulating data on residential mobility for almost 150 years, beginning with questions about state of birth included in the 1850 census. The 1940 census introduced a fixed-period migration question (where a person lived five years ago) and obtained information on the origin, destination, and a wealth of social and economic characteristics. As a result, the existing database on geographical mobility is very rich in terms of both historical perspective and characteristics of migrants.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) introduced a 1-year question in 1948 to provide more current information on mobility rates and characteristics of movers.<sup>1/</sup> The annual data from the CPS show that the mobility rate has been declining over the last 40 years. During the 1950's and 1960's, an average of 20 percent or more of the population changed residences in a 1-year period. Annual rates were down to about 18 percent during the 1970's and 1980's, and they dropped further in the beginning of the 1990's--just 17 percent of Americans moved between March 1990 and March 1991.<sup>2/</sup>

Despite the large volume of recorded data on annual mobility, very little is known about mobility over a shorter time period. Although there seems to be a general notion that more people move in the summer than in the winter, there are not many readily available statistics to support that view. Data from moving van companies for 1990 show about one-third of moves taking place in the summer months of June, July, and August. The number of households included in the data, however, represent only about 5 percent of all mover households.<sup>3/</sup>

The purpose of this paper is to explore the monthly pattern of residential mobility, based on data from the 1991 and 1984 Surveys of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and to document any seasonality in moving behavior. The SIPP offers a unique data source for this type of analysis.

The SIPP is a longitudinal survey of the noninstitutionalized resident population of the United States. Each panel of respondents is divided into four rotation groups, which are interviewed every 4 months during a 32-month period and asked about activities during the preceding 4 months. The interviews consist of a battery of core questions asked during each visit to the household, plus topical modules which might be asked at one or two times during the life of the panel. The core questions are designed to obtain detailed monthly information on the economic status of the population through questions about such topics as receipt of cash and noncash income and eligibility and participation in various government transfer programs. Topical

modules have covered pension and retirement plans, tax-related information, welfare history, energy usage, child care arrangements, marital history, and migration history.<sup>4/</sup>

This paper uses information from the topical module on migration history, which was part of the second wave (interview) of the 1991 panel and the eighth wave of the 1984 panel. The topical module is asked of all persons age 15 years and over, and includes questions on month of the most recent move and of the previous move. A facsimile of the questions in the migration history topical module of the 1991 panel is shown as figure 1.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the highlights of the topics discussed in this paper include:

August was the peak month of move for households moving between June 1990 and June 1991. About 10.7 percent of mover households moved in August. Late summer-early fall was the peak season of mobility: 28.4 percent of mover households moved during August, September, and October. Only 22.5 percent of households who moved did so during the winter months of December, January, and February.

Households moving into rental housing made a disproportionate number of moves in August--11.4 percent. Households moving into owner-occupied housing showed no peak month of moving.

Households moving into both types of housing, renter and owner-occupied, showed winter troughs in moving. Only 5.5 percent of owners moved in February and only 5.7 percent of renters moved in December. Winter troughs in moving have shown up consistently over time.

Seasonal peaks in moving behavior may vary from year to year but generally occur in the summer and fall. Data for householders who moved into their present residences during the last 40 years show that peaks occurred in the summer and fall months of June, August, September, and October.

Seasonal peaks in moving were not associated with the age of the householder. There was some evidence, however, that households with middle-aged householders were the most likely to avoid moving during the winter months.

August was the peak month of moving for households with school-age children who moved between June 1990 and June 1991. About 12.0 percent of these households moved in August.

Seasonal patterns of moving were fairly universal among persons giving disparate reasons for moving.

## DOES MOVING PEAK DURING THE SUMMER?

A case can be made that moving should peak during the summer months, when marriage rates are high and school is out. Since marriage is a life cycle change that typically engenders a residential move, summer marriages would seem to cause summer moves. Likewise, there are reasons to expect that parents of school-age children would wait for the summer vacation months to move so as to minimize disruption of their children's education. Goodman has argued that the seasonal peaking of moves by these two groups leads to a greater supply of available housing, which in turn motivates others to move during the summer months.<sup>5/</sup> Conversely, fewer moves could be expected during the winter months in the middle of the school year.

### Data

The 1991 SIPP can be used to analyze the seasonality of moving. Month and year of moving were asked of all persons in the survey who were 15 years of age or older and had made a move during their lifetime. Month and year of move were obtained for the most recent move and the move preceding that one. The questions were asked in interviews conducted during June, July, August, and September 1991. The 1991 SIPP data in this report include only persons whose move was made during the 12 months preceding the start of interviewing, i.e., from June 1990 through May 1991.<sup>6/</sup>

All persons whose most recent move was during that period were included, plus any additional movers whose previous move was made during that period, i.e., those who moved during the interviewing months and also made a previous move during the 12 months beginning in June 1990.

One other adjustment made to the data was to eliminate observations where month of move was imputed or allocated instead of reported by the respondent or other household member. Month of move is not well-reported in the SIPP; it is asked in a number of places on the migration history topical module and frequently comes in blank or with inconsistent responses. Month of most recent move was blank for 11.2 percent of cases in the 1991 topical module, for 10.7 percent in 1990, and for 10.6 percent in 1988. Month of move previous to the most recent was blank for 24.5, 23.3, and 23.3 percent of cases in the last three topical modules.

The SIPP Interviewers are instructed to probe for month of move but to accept a "Don't know" response. Edit and consistency computer routines later impute and allocate consistent month of move responses. Any responses that have been manipulated are flagged and can be deleted from an analysis if desired. This procedure contrasts with that of the American Housing Survey (AHS), another Census Bureau-conducted survey which collects month of move. AHS

interviewers are instructed to probe for month and then to probe for season of move; if winter is mentioned, they enter January as month of move; if spring is mentioned, they enter April; for summer they enter July, and for fall they enter October. Records that have had a month entered based on a season probe are unidentifiable from other records where month was reported by the respondent.

## Monthly Peaks

Table A shows SIPP data on month of move for households who moved during the 12-month period beginning June 1990. The month of move is the month reported by the householder--the person who owns/rents the house. If there was no monthly difference in moving, each month would have an equal share of movers--1 out of 12, or 8.33 percent. Each percentage has been tested to determine if it is statistically different from 8.33 at the 90-percent confidence level; any month with a percentage significantly different from 8.33 is marked with an asterisk in the table.

About 14.4 million households moved between June 1990 and June 1991, which represents 15.1 percent of all households. The number of movers is a little lower than the corresponding estimate from the CPS, which showed an estimated 15.2 million households moving during a slightly different 12-month period from March 1990 to March 1991. The percent of households moving in the CPS was 16.5 percent, which is also a little higher than the SIPP estimate. The SIPP estimates would be expected to be lower because they were adjusted to exclude persons who did not report month of move.

About 1.5 million of the mover households cited August as the month of move; that is, 10.7 percent of householders who moved between June 1990 and June 1991 reported moving in August. None of the other months was cited either more or less frequently than would be expected if there was no seasonality in moving. The data on housing tenure (tenure after the move) suggest that the August peak among households is caused by renters. About 11.4 percent of households who moved into rental housing between June 1990 and 1991 moved during the month of August. The monthly data are smoother for households who moved into owner housing, with no statistically significant peak months. The greater seasonality of moving into renter housing may in part be the result of more leeway in the timing of moves among that group. They do not have to wait for settlement on a new residence, and since they are more likely to be moving from rental housing, they do not have to wait to sell a previous residence. This explanation assumes that a summer moving date is preferred for other reasons, such as decisions about school attendance.

The data for owners and renters show two months with fewer moves than expected, and these are winter months. Among householders who became owners, only 5.5 percent moved in February 1991, and among householders who became renters, only 5.7 percent moved in December 1991.

The data in table A are summarized by figure 2. Households who moved into rental housing between June 1990 and 1991 made a disproportionate number of moves in August, when mobility peaked, and in December, when rates dipped. Moves by owners, in contrast, were more evenly distributed among the 12 months, with no peaks and a February trough.

### Seasonal Peaks

Although table A showed an August peak among some types of movers, there was no evidence of an overall summer peaking of moves. Table B was put together from the same data used in table A in order to identify seasonal peaks and troughs, i.e., consecutive months with high or low proportions of movers. The proportions of movers in consecutive three-month periods are presented. For example, the first line shows that 25.4 percent of all households moved during June, July, or August of 1991. Proportions that are statistically greater or lesser than 25 percent (3 out of 12) are marked by an asterisk.

The only 3-month period where the proportion of movers is more than 25.0 percent is August-September-October, when 28.4 percent of households moved. The peak reflects moves by households who entered rental housing. Thus the season of peak mobility appears to have been in late summer-early fall in 1991, rather than encompassing the summer months. There was an overall trough during the winter months as expected, with just 22.5 percent of households moving during December, January, and February.

### Temporal Perspectives

The finding of a late summer-early fall peak beginning in August, instead of the expected summer peak, may be a characteristic of the particular time period studied. Month of move may vary by year, depending upon such factors as interest rates and the economic environment in addition to the timing of school vacations and marriages. Table C features retrospective data on month of move covering 4 decades. The data are from the 1991 SIPP, the same source as for tables A and B, but they include households whose last move was not as recent. The table shows month of move for all householders who moved into their current residences after 1949 and before 1990. Persons whose month of move was allocated are excluded from the table.

The data are grouped into 10-year categories for 1950-80 and 5-year categories for the 1980's in order to increase sample size and thus produce more reliable estimates. The pattern of monthly moves varies somewhat over time. The number of householders who moved into their current residences back in the 1950's was understandably small, and the only month whose proportion of movers was statistically different from 8.33 was January, which was cited by only 4.7 percent of movers. About 13.1 percent of householders moving in the 1960's named August, making it the only peak moving month. Months with fewer moves than expected were February, March, and May. The May dip in moving is not readily explainable.

The 1970's are similar to the 1990-91 pattern, with peaks of about 11 percent in the early fall months of September and October and troughs in January and February. The early 1980's are more similar to the expected pattern; there were peaks of about 11 percent in the summer months of June and August and troughs of about 6 percent in the winter months of February and March. During the latter part of the 1980's, peaks occurred in the summer and fall months of June, August, and October and troughs occurred in January, February, March, and December. The data do not lead to a neat summarization. There is some support for the late summer-early fall seasonal peaking pattern shown by the 1-year data, but there is also some evidence of peaking in the early summer. Evidence of a winter trough in moving, however, is quite consistent over time.

## SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVER HOUSEHOLDS

This section looks at a few characteristics of households, in addition to tenure, that might be expected to influence month or season of move. The characteristics include age of the householder, the presence or absence of school-age children in the household, and the main reason for moving.

### Age of Householder

The relationship between age of householder and season of move is not clear-cut. The earlier finding that August was a peak month for moving mainly among renters suggests the possible influence of college students returning to apartments for the fall semester. If this is the case, the August peak should be clearly present for householders of college-age, i.e., roughly late teens and early 20's. Since early summer marriages would be most prevalent among persons in their 20's, young adult householders might be expected to show an earlier summer peaking as well. The ages at which householders are most likely to have school-age children and thus might desire to wait until summer vacation time to move probably range from about 25 to 45 years, and into the 50's to a lesser degree. Householders of retirement age might be less likely to show seasonality in moving, since they are not as likely to be influenced by the above factors.

Table D shows data from the 1991 SIPP topical module for households who moved by month of move and age of the householder. The left side of the table presents 1-year data for households who moved from June 1990 to May 1991. These are the same households included in tables A and B. August was a peak moving month for households with householders aged 30-44. The proportion moving in August was 11.7 percent. This was expected of the age group most likely to have school-age children present. The data do not reveal any statistically significant monthly patterns for the other age groups. This is partly the result of sample size, since the bases for the two older groups are relatively small.

The right side of table D presents data from the same source but covers a larger sample. These are households where the householders moved into their current residence during the last 5

years of the 1980's; the group was also shown earlier in the last column of table C. Since the mobility period is 5 years instead of 1 and these are households with a longer duration of residence than the 1-year movers (some have lived in their current homes since 1985), there are more movers and they tend to be older than those in the 1-year sample. All age groups have fairly large bases and should provide reliable estimates.

The group of mover households with the youngest householders (aged 15-29 years) showed an August peak and a December trough in moving. The August peak could reflect college students returning to school; there is no early summer peaking that might be linked to early summer marriages. The two groups of mover households with early-to-late middle-aged householders (30-44 years and 45-59 years) reveal fairly similar patterns. Both show winter troughs in January, February, and March; both show late summer-to-fall peaks in August and October. The August moves could well represent school vacation moving. The October move is not easily explained, but it was also a factor influencing the earlier finding of an overall late summer-early fall seasonal peaking. Households with householders 30-44 years of age also showed a June peak, which could reflect the hypothesized marriage factor as well as school vacation moving. Households with the oldest householders (60 years and over) showed a June peak rather than the lack of seasonal peaking which was hypothesized. They also have fairly high proportions (although not statistically significant) of moves in August and October. Thus their monthly moving patterns are not much different from those of younger movers.

The overall conclusion based on the 5-year analysis is that mover households showed fairly similar patterns of seasonal peaks in moving, regardless of age. August was a popular month, as were October and June. Households with middle-aged householders were the most likely to avoid moving during the winter season, whereas households with younger and older householders were not as likely to show winter troughs in moving.

### Movers with School-Age Children

One of the reasons for expecting a summer peak in moving is that people with school-age children are expected to move during the summer vacation. The rationale behind this expectation is similar to the reasoning behind the expectation that families with school-age children are less mobile than other families. Studies that have found lower mobility among families with school-age children have attributed the behavior in part to a reluctance to transfer children from one school district to another because of undesirable effects.<sup>7/</sup> An extension of this argument would lead to the hypothesis that families with school-age children who do move are more likely to wait until the summer months when school is out so as to cause less disruption to their children's education.

The data in table E show month of move for households with and without children aged 5-18 years present. The data are for households who moved during the 1-year period from June 1990 to May 1991. Households with school-age children were indeed more likely to move in the summer month of August than in other months: 12.0 percent moved in August. This supports the



hypothesis that parents of school-age children put off moving until the summer months. The only troublesome aspect is the low proportions of movers in the two earlier summer months, which would be expected to also receive a share of summer vacation movers. Households without school-age children did not show any monthly peaks or troughs in moving. Their August proportion is fairly large at 10.1 percent, but it is not statistically different from 8.33 (1 out of 12).

## Reasons for Moving

The reasons given for moving might be expected to be related to the seasonality of the move in a number of ways. At one extreme, people who are forced out of their homes do not have the opportunity to select the season of their move. Similarly, persons who move because of marital disruptions may not have the option of choosing when they move. Persons who move because of job transfers may also be restricted in their choices of when to move. Thus there is no compelling reason to expect strong seasonal patterns in the moving behavior of these groups. Persons who move for family and housing reasons, on the other hand, probably have more leeway and can select a summer month when the weather is more accommodating and children are out of school.

The first two SIPP topical modules on migration history, which were part of the 1984 and 1985 panels, included questions on reasons for moving. Respondents were asked to give all reasons for moving and then pick the main reason. The questions that were asked about reasons for the most recent move, and the 27 categories of reasons that were shown to respondents on a flashcard, are reproduced as figure 3. All persons 15 years and over were asked when they moved into their current residence, where they lived before and during what time period, and then were asked "What categories on this card best describe ...'s (most recent) move?" For respondents giving more than one reason, the interviewer asked which was the "main" reason and marked one of the 26 reasons listed on the flashcard or the "other reason not specified above" category.

Data on reasons for moving by month of move from the 1984 panel are presented in table F. The table is restricted to the main reason for moving for all persons (not just householders) 15 years and older whose most recent move was made during calendar years 1981 through 1985. The topical module was asked of 3 rotation groups at the end of the survey during January, February, and March 1986. The data in table F thus refer to persons whose most recent move was made during the 5 years preceding the interview. Because of small cell frequencies, the 27 categories of reasons for moving have been collapsed into 11.

A total of 76.0 million persons 15 years and over made their most recent move in 1981-85. This represents 41.2 percent of the total persons 15 years and over in the SIPP survey. The estimates are not statistically different from comparable estimates from the CPS. Since the CPS asked a 5-year mobility question in addition to the usual 1-year question in March 1985, it provides an estimate of mobility for a 5-year period roughly similar to that covered in table F. The CPS estimate of movers 15 years and over from March 1980 to March 1985 was 74.2 million

person, about 40.7 percent of the total.

Overall, the 76.0 million movers for the 5-year period 1981-85 showed a monthly moving pattern very similar to that of households for 1985-89 (shown in table C). Movers in the early 1980's made more moves than would be expected in August (11.2 percent), October (10.1 percent), and June (9.8 percent). Disproportionately fewer moves were made in the winter months of January (5.3 percent) and February (4.7 percent).

The first category of reasons in table F includes job transfers and military-related moves. It was hypothesized that moves undertaken for these reasons would not show any specific seasonality, and this is seemingly borne out since no one month has a statistically higher proportion of movers than 8.33 (1 out of 12). There is, however, a noticeable peaking in late summer and early fall. The proportion moving from July through October was 46.9 percent, which is statistically higher than the 33.3 percent that would be expected over a 4-month period if all months were equal in terms of moves made. This may mean that individual choice plays an active role in the timing of job transfers.

The second category in table F includes taking a new job and looking for work. It was hypothesized that moves made for these reasons would show a summer peak, but they do not. No individual month and no series of consecutive months show any significant peaking. This description also fits the monthly pattern of the "other" category of employment and school-related reasons, which includes reasons like retirement and to be closer to work, and was also expected to show a summer peak.

Persons moving for school-related reasons showed a pattern that would be expected. About 29.4 percent moved in August, and about half (49.0 percent) moved in the two months of August and September. A high proportion moved in June, as well, but it was not high enough to be a statistically significant peak.

The fifth category of reasons is a little different from the others. It includes persons who said they moved in order to accompany other family members, so it is likely to be made up of older teenage children and spouses who moved because the householder moved. There is no basis for hypothesizing seasonal moving behavior for this group. The group's moving behavior was very similar to the overall pattern, with peaks in June and October and troughs in January and February.

All changes in marital status were combined as one reason in the survey, which prevents categorizing moves into those made in order to get married, which could be expected to show a summer peaking, and those made to disband a marriage, which could be expected to take place at any time. Nevertheless, there is a summer-early fall peak in the data, with 42.4 percent of persons making their moves in June, July, August, or September.

The seventh category combines persons moving for health reasons, to be closer to

relatives or friends, because of changes in family size, and other personal reasons. This category would be expected to show the popular summer peak. Although there was not a significant peak for any one month, the hypothesis is in a sense supported because the months of August and September combined had a significantly higher proportion of movers (23.3) than would be expected over a 2-month period.

Housing and neighborhood reasons make up the largest category of reasons for moving. The small category of persons who were displaced or had their homes destroyed was not expected to show seasonality in moving patterns, and it did not. The group who moved in order to purchase a home did not show any distinct peaking but did show winter dips in February and December. The other housing reasons were combined into one category. Persons moving for such reasons as to live in a larger or smaller house, or a better neighborhood, were hypothesized to have leeway in choosing season of move. These movers showed an August peak and a February trough in their moving behavior. About 11.9 percent cited August as their month of move, whereas only about 5 percent cited either January or February.

The final category, which includes miscellaneous reasons like change of climate, lower living costs, and wanting to move from abroad, did not have statistically significant monthly patterns.

In summary, the seasonal patterns shown overall were pretty much universal regardless of reason for moving. The similarity of patterns is illustrated by figure 4, which plots month of move for persons by the 3 major categories of reasons: family, housing, and employment reasons. The August peak was present regardless of the main reason given. A seasonal peaking in summer and fall was shown by such disparate groups as those moving to take job transfers, for school-related reasons, because of marital changes, to purchase a home, and to change their house or neighborhood. Finally, winter troughs were prevalent among the largest groups of movers, those moving to accompany a family member or for other family or health reasons and those moving to change their house or neighborhood.

Additional work on mobility behavior using SIPP could take advantage of the other topical modules asked during Wave 2. They include work disability, education and training history, marital history, fertility history, and household relationships. Information from the modules could be linked to determine the direct relationships between timing of mobility and changes in marital status or education or employment, for example. This would enable an assessment of how much of the summer peaking in moving is due to each of the various hypothesized factors.

## References

1/ A discussion of the history of migration questions used by the Census Bureau is contained in Chapter 1, "Research and Data on Geographical Mobility," in Larry Long, Migration and Residential Mobility in the United States, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1988.

2/ See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Diana DeAre, Current Population Reports, P20-463, "Geographical Mobility: March 1990 to March 1991," 1992.

3/ Based on data from the 1990 Peak/Off-Peak Survey, American Movers Conference, Household Goods Carrier's Bureau.

4/ Overviews of the survey are provided in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Dawn Nelson, David B. McMillen, and Daniel Kasprzyk, "An Overview of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: Update 1," SIPP Working Paper, No. 8401, 1985; and "The Survey of Income and Program Participation in the 1990's," SIPP Working Paper, No. 9206, 1992.

5/ See John L. Goodman, Jr., "A Housing Market Matching Model of the Seasonality in Geographic Mobility," Journal of Real Estate Research (forthcoming).

6/ Persons who said their most recent move was during any of the 4 interview months were not included unless their previous move took place during the 12 months preceding the start of interviewing. This was done because the interview months do not have the same opportunity of being cited as do earlier months. That is, because of the timing of the data collection, some moves are missed. For example, persons who moved during the latter part of June 1991 (after the interview) would not be counted as June movers. For July, persons who moved in the latter part of the month, plus persons interviewed in June (1/4 of the respondents) who then moved in July, would be missed. For August, persons who moved in the latter part of the month, plus persons interviewed in June and July (1/2 of respondents) who made a later move, could not be counted as movers. For September, movers in late September plus those interviewed in June, July, and August (3/4 of respondents) could not answer September. Therefore the data are restricted to movers who stated their move was from June 1990 through May 1991.

7/ See Larry H. Long, "The Influence of Number and Ages of Children on Residential Mobility," Demography, Vol. 9, August 1972.

**Figures 1 (1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History), 2 (Proportions of Households Moving, by Month of Move and Tenure: June 1990-May 1991) and 3 (Questions and Flashcard on Reasons for Moving Used in the 1984 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History) can be supplied upon request.**

Table A. Month of Move for Households, by Tenure: June 1990-May 1991

Month	Number (thousands)			Percent		
	Total	Own	Renters	Total	Owners	Renters
Total	14,426	4,409	10,018	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	1,225	279	946	8.5	6.3	9.4
February	1,010	243	767	7.0	5.5*	7.7
March	1,127	355	773	7.8	8.0	7.7
April	1,327	324	1,003	9.2	7.4	10.0
May	1,280	327	953	8.9	7.4	9.5
June	1,046	371	675	7.2	8.4	6.7
July	1,072	411	661	7.4	9.3	6.6
August	1,542	395	1,146	10.7*	9.0	11.4*
September	1,324	395	929	9.2	9.0	9.3
October	1,229	449	779	8.5	10.2	8.1
November	1,240	425	814	8.6	9.6	8.1
December	1,005	433	572	7.0	9.8	5.7*

\*Statistical different from 8.33 at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: 1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History

Table B. Proportions of Households Moving Over Cosecutive 3-Month Periods, by Tenure: June 1990-May 1991

Months	Total	Owners	Renters
June-July-August	25.4	26.7	24.8
July-August-September	27.3	27.3	27.3
August-September-October	28.4*	28.1	28.5*
September-October-November	26.3	28.8	25.2
October-November-December	24.1	29.7	21.6*
November-December-January	24.1	25.8	23.3
December-January-February	22.5*	21.7	22.8
January-February-March	23.3	19.9	24.8
February-March-April	24.0	20.9	25.4
March-April-May	25.9	22.8	27.2

\*Statistically different from 25.0 at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: 1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History

Table C. Month of Last Move for Households, by Decade: 1950-1989

Month	1950's	1960's	1970's	1980-84	1985-89
Total (thous.)	3,434	5,919	11,292	9,092	24,838
January	161	355	647	612	1400
February	192	322	587	500	1351
March	222	291	809	550	1409
April	289	382	826	660	1919
May	330	345	965	782	1984
June	300	645	1139	960	2502
July	284	609	1044	828	2290
August	344	777	1150	988	3036
September	366	639	1205	936	2319
October	337	543	1245	833	2798
November	366	517	851	732	2081
December	243	494	824	711	1749
Total (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	4.7*	6.0	5.7*	6.7	5.6*
February	5.6	5.4*	5.2*	5.5*	5.4*
March	6.5	4.9*	7.2	6.0*	5.7*
April	8.4	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.7
May	9.6	5.8*	8.5	8.6	8.0
June	8.7	10.9	10.1	10.6*	10.1*
July	8.3	10.3	9.2	9.1	9.2*
August	10.0	13.1	10.2	10.9*	12.2

September	10.7	10.8	10.7	10.3	9.3
October	9.8	9.2	11.0	9.2	11.3
November	10.7	8.7	7.5	8.1	8.4
December	7.1	8.3	7.3	7.8	7.0

\*Statistically different from 8.33 at the 90-percent confidence level

Source: 1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History

Table D. Month of Move for Households, by Age of Householder: June 1990-May 1991 and 1985-1989

Month	Moved June 1990-May 1991					Moved 1985-1989				
	Total, 15 And older	15-29	30-44	45-49	60+	Total, 15 And older	15-29	30-44	45-49	60+
Total (thous.)	14,426	5,766	5,779	1,693	1,189	24,836	3,866	12,947	4,722	3,301
Total (percent)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	8.5	9.8	7.7	9.3	4.8	5.6*	7.0	4.9*	6.0*	6.4
February	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.1	8.1	5.4*	5.8	5.2*	5.0*	6.3
March	7.8	8.4	8.2	8.9	2.0	5.7*	6.6	5.5*	5.3*	5.7
April	9.2	10.4	8.9	6.1	9.3	7.7	7.9	8.0	7.1	7.3
May	8.9	7.5	9.4	8.7	13.0	8.0	9.8	7.7	7.7	7.5
June	7.2	6.7	7.9	7.1	7.2	10.1*	9.0	10.3*	9.0	12.3*
July	7.4	6.1	7.9	10.2	7.7	9.2	10.2	8.8	9.9	8.8
August	10.7*	10.6	11.7*	8.1	10.2	12.2*	12.3*	12.3*	12.5*	11.5
September	9.2	8.8	9.8	7.5	10.9	9.3	8.3	9.2	10.8	9.2
October	8.5	9.0	7.4	8.5	11.5	11.3*	10.9	11.1*	11.5*	11.9
November	8.6	9.0	7.5	10.8	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.9	7.5	7.9
December	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.9	6.6	7.0*	4.0*	8.1	7.8	5.2

\*Statistically different from 8.33 at the 90-percent confidence level

Source: 1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History



Table E. Month of Move for Households, by Presence of School-Age Children  
June 1990-May 1991

Month	Number (thousands)			Total households	Percent	
	Total households	With school-age children	Without school-age children		With school-age children	Without school-age children
Total	14,426	4,361	10,066	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	1,225	352	873	8.5	8.1	8.7
February	1,010	313	697	7.0	7.2	6.9
March	1,127	308	819	7.8	7.1	8.1
April	1,327	476	851	9.2	10.9	8.5
May	1,280	307	973	8.9	7.0	9.7
June	1,046	343	703	7.2	7.9	7.0
July	1,072	287	785	7.4	6.6	7.8
August	1,542	524	1,018	10.7*	12.0*	10.1
September	1,324	345	979	9.2	7.9	9.7
October	1,229	431	797	8.5	9.9	7.9
November	1,240	334	906	8.6	7.7	9.0
December	1,005	340	665	7.0	7.8	6.6

\*Statistically different from 8.33 at the 90-percent confidence level.

Source: 1991 SIPP Topical Module on Migration History