

Seasonality of Moves and the Duration and Tenure of Residence: 2004

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Household Economic Studies

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INTRODUCTION

Geographic mobility is a frequent aspect of American life. Each year millions of people in the United States move to a new home. The most frequently asked questions about this mobility concern (1) the time of the year when moves occur (the seasonality of moves), (2) the length of time that people stay in one place (the duration of residence), and (3) homeownership status (the tenure of residence).

The data in this report come from the second interview of the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panel, conducted between June and September 2004.¹ This report continues an analysis of the seasonality of moves and duration of residence first reported using data from the 1993 panel of the SIPP.² The 2004 panel included a question that asked the respondent to report the housing tenure (owner or renter status) of his or her current and previous residences.³ New information presented

in this report shows transitions in tenure, such as a shift from previously living in a renter-occupied unit to currently living in an owner-occupied unit. Other new information shows the characteristics of people who have never moved in their lifetimes.

SEASONALITY OF MOVES

Information about the seasonality of moves is useful to schools, businesses, service providers, and others whose work may vary by time of the year. The data on seasonality of moves contained in this report were tabulated by the characteristics of the movers at the time the survey was conducted. Some characteristics—such as marital status, parenthood, citizenship, education, and income—may have been different at the time of the most recent move, which may have occurred at any time prior to the survey. With the exception of tenure of previous residence, the survey did not collect data on the characteristics of people at the time they moved.⁴

¹ The population represented (population universe) is the civilian, noninstitutionalized, adult population (15 years and older) living in the United States.

² See P70-66, *Seasonality of Moves and Duration of Residence*, issued in October 1998. Note that in that report, moves into both current and previous residences were used to analyze when the moves occurred, while in this report, time of move is limited to the month each person moved into his or her current residence.

³ The inclusion of this question was documented in Population Division Working Paper No. 69, *Seasonality of Moves and the Duration and Tenure of Residence: 1996* (November 2002), which includes additional analysis of seasonality of moves, duration in residence, and patterns of settlement. This working paper is available at <www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0069/twps0069.html>.

⁴ The results in the section on the seasonality of moves only include the people who reported both at least one move in their lifetime and a month and year that they moved into their current residence (an estimated 204,546,000 people). The estimated number of people in the United States 15 years and older from the 2004 SIPP is 227,162,000. Fewer people provided both a tenure of current residence and tenure of previous residence (215,504,000); responses for this group are shown in the section on tenure changes. The section on duration in residence is limited to the estimated 216,204,000 people who reported the month and year they moved into their current residence.

Current Population Reports

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Table 1.

Seasonality of Moves for People 15 Years and Older: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1993–2004

Season of move	1993 SIPP	1996 SIPP	2001 SIPP	2004 SIPP
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Winter (December, January, February)	16.6	18.8	20.3	20.7
Spring (March, April, May)	18.7	22.6	24.0	23.5
Summer (June, July, August)	36.9	32.0	32.3	32.2
Fall (September, October, November)	27.8	26.6	23.5	23.6

Note: The data in this table are for people who: 1) reported a valid month in which they began living in their current residence and 2) had at least one lifetime move. In the P70-66 report based on the 1993 SIPP panel, the months of moves into both current and previous residences were used to analyze the seasonality of the moves. Seasonality of moves discussed using the 1996, 2001, and 2004 SIPP panels is limited to the month each person moved into his or her current residence.

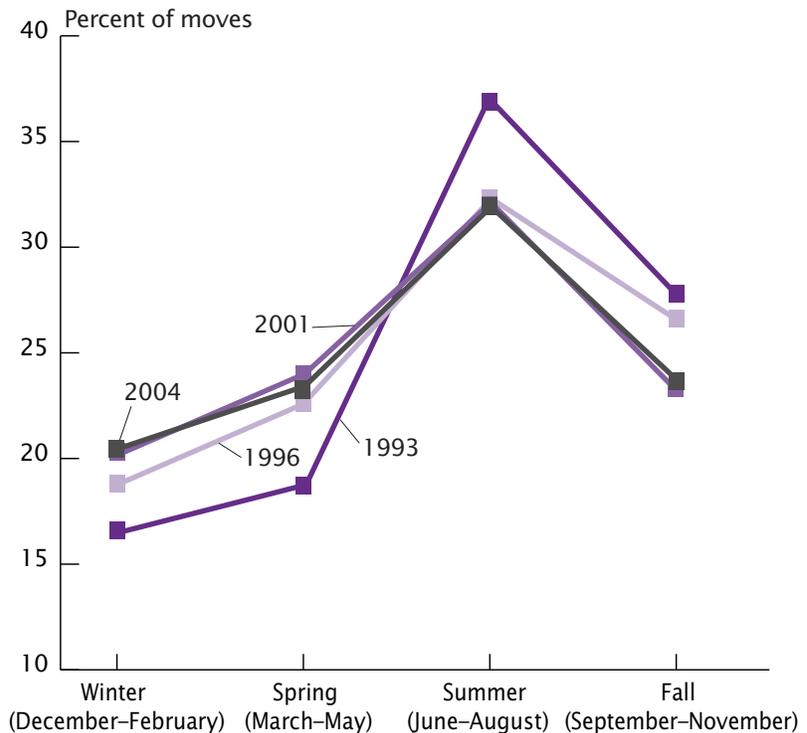
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1993, 1996, 2001, and 2004 Panels, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

As Table 1 and Figure 1 indicate, moves are not evenly distributed throughout the year.⁵ More people moved in the summer months (defined here as June, July, and August) than in any of the other three quarters, presumably because the weather is good and children are less likely to be in school. As illustrated in Figure 2, the month of June had the largest proportion of people changing residence (12 percent), followed by August, July, and May (about 10, 10, and 9 percent, respectively).⁶ More than 40 percent of all moves (41 percent) took place during the 4 months of May through August. After August, the proportion of people 15 years and older who moved each month declined, with the lowest

⁵ The SIPP asks respondents who are at least 15 years old to provide the month and year they moved into their current residence. It is possible that people who have moved out of the house and then back (for example, college students who went away to school and are now home for the summer) reported the date of their most recent move back to the residence rather than the date they originally moved into the residence.

⁶ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from the actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Figure 1.
Seasonality of Moves for People 15 Years and Older: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1993–2004

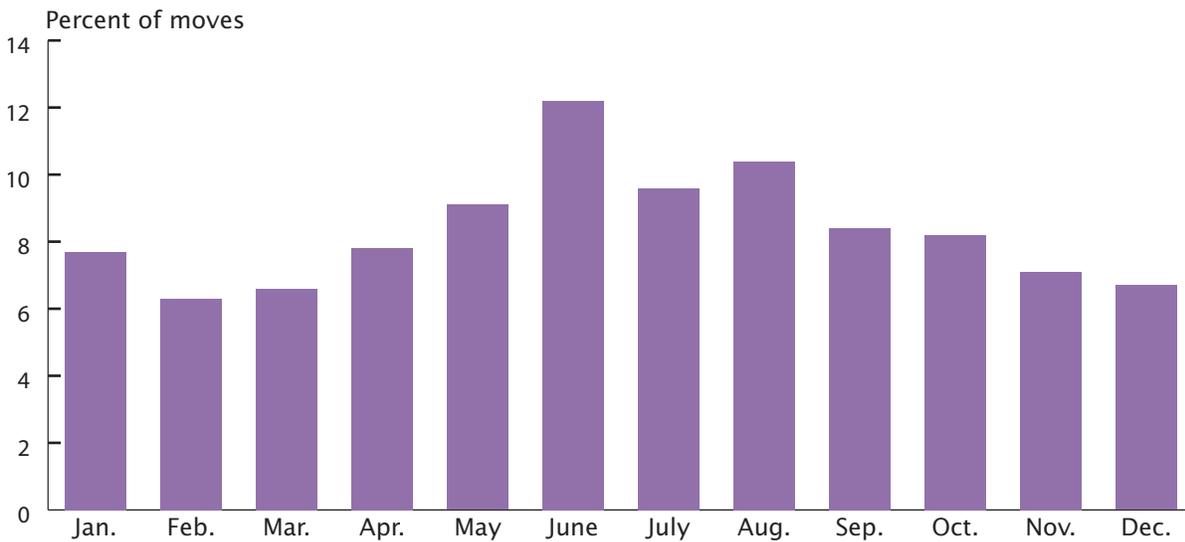


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 1993, 1996, 2001, and 2004 Panels, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

proportion from December through February, when winter weather conditions in many areas make moving more difficult and children are enrolled in school.

There is little variation in the seasonality of moves reported on surveys taken over the past decade. Table 1 and Figure 1 show that, for all of the panels from 1993

Figure 2.
Distribution of Most Recent Move by Month for the Population 15 Years and Older, 2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

to 2004, summer was the quarter with the highest percentage of moves for respondents in each SIPP panel. Winter consistently had the lowest proportion of moves during the course of a year, while the proportion of moves occurring in the spring and fall fell in the middle for every survey panel.

Table 2 shows the seasonality of moves into current residence by detailed characteristics of movers, as reported in the 2004 survey. The table shows that there are few differences in the seasonality of moving among different population groups: people moved most often in the summer, with around 30 percent of people in any group experiencing their most recent move then. The lowest proportion of moves occurred primarily in the winter for most groups, while in a few cases the lowest levels occurred in the fall or spring.

Summer

The population aged 15 to 24 was more likely than all other age groups to have moved during the summer. As educational attainment increased, people were statistically more likely to concentrate moves during the summer months. About 34 percent of people with at least a bachelor's degree moved during the summer, compared with 31 percent of people who had less than a high school diploma. People currently living in the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States were more likely to have moved in the summer (34 and 33 percent, respectively) than were people living in the South (31 percent) and West (32 percent).⁷

In general, the relative distance of domestic moves increased concomitantly with the proportion of

moves that occurred in the summer months. While the data do not permit a direct calculation of the distance moved, we can estimate the relative distance, assuming that people who move within the same county are moving, on average, a shorter distance than those moving between counties, and that those moving between states are moving the longest distance. The proportion of moves in the 3 summer months increased from 32 percent for those moving within the same county to 33 percent for those moving between counties within the same state and to 35 percent for those making an interstate move.

Winter

People living in the Midwest showed lower rates of moving during the winter months, perhaps due to weather conditions that make moving more difficult. People with at least a bachelor's degree were also less likely to have moved

⁷ The proportion of Northeasterners and Midwesterners moving in the summer months did not differ statistically from each other; neither did the proportions of Southerners and Westerners.

Table 2.

Seasonality of Most Recent Move for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004

Characteristic	Movers, 15 years and older		Percent distribution of movers			
	Number	90 percent confidence interval ¹	December–February	March–May	June–August	September–November
Total (in thousands)	204,546	204,019–205,073	20.7	23.5	32.2	23.6
SEX						
Male	98,117	97,260–98,974	20.8	23.4	32.3	23.5
Female	106,428	105,564–107,292	20.6	23.5	32.2	23.7
AGE						
15 to 24 years	31,695	31,096–32,294	20.8	23.8	34.1	21.3
25 to 34 years	35,444	34,817–36,071	21.0	24.7	31.6	22.7
35 to 44 years	40,121	39,462–40,780	20.4	24.2	32.2	23.3
45 to 54 years	38,655	38,005–39,305	20.7	23.6	31.2	24.6
55 to 64 years	27,103	26,543–27,663	20.5	22.0	32.4	25.1
65 years and older	31,527	30,929–32,125	21.0	21.7	32.2	25.1
MARITAL STATUS						
Married	116,710	115,845–117,575	20.3	23.5	31.9	24.3
Spouse present	114,566	113,700–115,432	20.2	23.5	31.9	24.4
Spouse absent	2,145	1,977–2,312	26.9	23.4	30.7	19.0
Widowed	12,105	11,717–12,493	20.7	22.5	32.9	24.0
Separated	4,059	3,830–4,288	23.4	24.4	30.9	21.3
Divorced	20,525	20,030–21,020	22.2	23.1	31.1	23.6
Never married	51,146	50,424–51,868	20.8	23.6	33.3	22.2
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN						
White alone	168,469	167,708–169,230	20.5	23.4	32.4	23.8
Non-Hispanic	145,138	144,305–145,971	19.9	23.1	32.6	24.4
Black alone	22,594	22,077–23,111	22.4	23.9	31.4	22.3
Asian alone	7,143	6,841–7,444	19.6	24.7	31.9	23.9
All other races alone or in combination	6,341	6,056–6,626	21.2	23.1	30.8	24.9
Hispanic (any race)	25,179	24,636–25,722	24.0	24.8	30.7	20.5
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP						
Native-born	177,051	176,329–177,773	20.2	23.4	32.7	23.8
Foreign-born	27,494	26,930–28,058	23.9	24.0	29.2	22.8
Citizen	12,525	12,131–12,919	22.7	24.3	30.0	23.1
Noncitizen	14,969	14,540–15,398	24.8	23.9	28.6	22.7
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18						
Not present	127,599	126,740–128,458	20.5	23.1	32.4	24.0
Present	76,947	76,128–77,766	21.1	24.0	31.9	23.1
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Less than high school diploma	32,657	32,051–33,263	23.1	23.5	30.8	22.7
High school graduate	55,163	54,422–55,904	20.8	23.3	32.0	23.9
Some college/associate's degree	68,270	67,477–69,063	20.4	23.6	32.0	24.1
Bachelor's degree or more	48,455	47,747–49,163	19.5	23.4	33.8	23.3
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS						
Yes	52,884	52,153–53,615	22.7	23.4	31.6	22.4
No	151,662	150,845–152,479	20.0	23.5	32.4	24.1
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME²						
Under \$25,000	43,473	42,793–44,153	22.2	24.0	31.6	22.2
\$25,000 to \$49,999	55,417	54,675–56,159	20.9	23.0	32.0	24.1
\$50,000 to \$74,999	42,761	42,085–43,437	19.9	23.7	32.4	24.0
\$75,000 and over	62,896	62,122–63,670	20.1	23.2	32.7	24.0
REGION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Northeast	37,393	36,752–38,034	20.0	21.8	33.5	24.6
Midwest	46,643	45,945–47,341	17.8	23.2	33.2	25.8
South	73,069	72,261–73,877	22.9	23.5	31.3	22.2
West	47,440	46,737–48,143	20.8	24.8	31.5	22.9
HOUSING TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Owner-occupied	146,041	145,210–146,872	20.2	23.3	31.8	24.8
Renter-occupied	58,505	57,749–59,261	22.0	23.9	33.3	20.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2.

Seasonality of Most Recent Move for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004—Con.

Characteristic	Movers, 15 years and older		Percent distribution of movers			
	Number	90 percent confidence interval ¹	December–February	March–May	June–August	September–November
TYPE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Metropolitan	170,599	169,847–171,351	20.7	23.7	32.3	23.3
Nonmetropolitan	33,947	33,331–34,563	20.8	22.1	31.9	25.3
TYPE OF MOVE (FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENCE)						
Same state, same county	146,437	145,607–147,267	20.7	24.0	31.7	23.6
Same state, different county	31,603	31,005–32,201	20.6	22.7	33.0	23.6
Different state	22,509	21,993–23,025	20.1	21.1	34.8	24.0
From abroad	3,997	3,770–4,224	26.6	21.2	29.7	22.6

¹ This range represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

² The annual income per household is based on the annualized average of the monthly incomes for households during the 4 months of the second wave of the SIPP 2004 panel.

Note: The data in this table are for people who: 1) reported a valid month in which they began living in their current residence and 2) had at least one lifetime move.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

most recently during December, January, or February, compared with people with less than a high school degree. For a few groups, the rates of moving in the winter were quite high. People for whom the most recent move was from outside the United States moved more in the winter. A higher proportion (27 percent) of moves from abroad took place in the winter months (December, January, and February) compared with interstate, intrastate, and intracounty moves (21 percent, 21 percent, and 20 percent, respectively). Overall the foreign-born population was more likely to move in the winter months compared with the native-born (24 percent and 20 percent, respectively).⁸ Naturalized citizens were less likely than noncitizens to have experienced their most recent move in the winter (23 percent and 25 percent, respectively). Hispanics were more likely to have had their

most recent move in the winter than the other race groups.⁹

Spring and Fall

Spring was the season that generally had the highest proportion of recent moves after the summer

⁹ 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). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data for people who reported they were White, Black, or Asian alone. People who reported that race in combination with another race and people who reported another race alone are shown in a separate category. Use of the single-race populations does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. For further information, see the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (C2KBR/01-1) at <www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>.

Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for the White, Black, Asian, and other race populations. Based on the population 15 years and older in the 2004 SIPP, 14 percent of the White-alone population, 3 percent of the Black-alone population, 1 percent of the Asian-alone population, and 16 percent of the other races alone and in-combination population were also Hispanic. In the text of this report, the groups "White alone, non-Hispanic," "Black alone," and "Asian alone" are referred to as "White," "Black," and "Asian," respectively.

months, with between a fifth and a quarter of moves having occurred during this time for each group. The proportional level of moving in this season was fairly homogenous across groups. People moving within and to the Western region of the United States were more likely to move in the spring months of March, April, and May (25 percent) than were people currently living in the other regions. Local moves, those within the same county, occurred more frequently in the spring than did longer distance moves.

The proportion of moves occurring in the fall showed substantial variation, both between and within groups. Older people, defined as those aged 45 and older, were somewhat more likely to move in the fall (September, October, and November) than were younger people (aged 15 to 44). About a quarter of the moves of people aged 45 and older were made in the fall, compared with about a fifth of the moves of those aged 15 to 24. People in households without their own children under age 18 were not different from those in

⁸ For the purposes of this report, "native" or "native-born" refers to anyone born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area (U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa), or born abroad to American parents.

Table 3.

Duration of Current Residence (in Months) for People 15 Years and Older by Tenure of Residence, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution		
		Living in all unit types	Living in an owner-occupied unit	Living in a renter-occupied unit
Total (in thousands)	216,204	216,204	155,979	60,225
DURATION (IN MONTHS)				
Less than 12 months.	35,169	16.3	9.4	34.1
12 to 23 months.	19,725	9.1	6.8	15.1
24 to 35 months.	16,595	7.7	6.6	10.4
36 to 47 months.	13,735	6.4	5.9	7.6
48 to 59 months.	12,756	5.9	6.0	5.6
60 to 71 months.	10,335	4.8	5.0	4.2
72 to 83 months.	8,133	3.8	4.1	2.9
84 to 95 months.	7,288	3.4	3.7	2.5
96 to 107 months.	6,804	3.2	3.5	2.2
108 to 119 months.	6,026	2.8	3.3	1.6
120 months or more	79,637	36.8	45.7	13.9
Median Duration (in years)¹	216,204	5.9	8.7	2.0

¹ The median duration lived in current residence in years is calculated by dividing the median duration in months by 12.

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a month and year they began living in their current residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

households with their own children under age 18 with respect to recent moves in the winter and summer. However, households with children moved less often during the early part of the school year than did those households without children. Among people in households with their own children under age 18, 23 percent moved in the fall, compared with about 24 percent for people in households without their own children.

For some groups, particularly ones that had higher levels of movement in the winter months, the fall (September, October, and November) had the year's lowest levels of moves. Hispanics saw fall as the season with the lowest level of most recent moves (21 percent). People who were married with their spouse present were more likely than either those who were separated or those who were married with their spouse absent to have moved in the fall. People currently living in renter-occupied homes (21 percent) were less likely than those currently in owner-occupied homes (25 percent) to have had their most recent move in the fall.

DURATION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE

Duration of residence is the length of time that a person has lived in his or her current home. This measure does not attempt to project how long each person might continue to live in the unit he or she occupies beyond the time of the SIPP interview. For this report, the duration of current residence is the number of calendar months that have elapsed between the month a respondent moved into his or her current residence and the month the survey was administered. For those who have never moved (i.e., people who have always lived in their current residence), the duration of residence is the person's age in months. The median duration in years was calculated by dividing the median number of calendar months lived in the current residence by 12.

Median Duration of Current Residence Is 5.9 years

In 2004, the median duration of current residence for the U.S.

population 15 years and older was 5.9 years, as Table 3 shows. This means that half of all people 15 years and older have lived in their current residences longer than 5.9 years, while half have lived in their residences a shorter time. Thirty-nine million people, or 14 percent of the population, moved between March 2003 and March 2004.¹⁰ The duration-in-residence data in Table 3 show that in 2004 about 16 percent of the population had lived in their current homes fewer than 12 months, while 37 percent of the population had lived in their current residences for 120 months or more (10 years or longer). As Table 3 shows, persons living in rental units have a far shorter median duration, 2.0 years, while persons who are owners have lived in their current residences much longer, with half having been there longer than 8.7 years.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau (2005). "Geographical Mobility: 2004 Detailed Tables." Available online at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/migrate/cps2004.html>.

Table 4.

Duration of Current Residence for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution				Median years in current residence ¹
		Fewer than 12 months	12 to 35 months	36 to 119 months	120 months or more	
Total (in thousands)	216,204	16.3	16.8	30.1	36.8	5.9
SEX						
Male	104,365	16.6	17.0	30.0	36.4	5.8
Female	111,839	16.0	16.6	30.2	37.2	6.0
AGE						
15 to 24 years	38,028	25.1	18.0	24.9	32.1	4.3
25 to 34 years	36,847	29.1	29.8	31.7	9.4	2.3
35 to 44 years	41,362	16.2	19.6	40.9	23.3	4.8
45 to 54 years	39,679	11.0	13.3	32.7	43.1	8.1
55 to 64 years	27,756	7.6	10.5	25.8	56.1	12.4
65 years and older	32,532	5.3	6.9	21.2	66.8	19.6
MARITAL STATUS						
Married	118,860	12.9	16.2	32.2	38.7	6.7
Spouse present	116,604	12.6	16.2	32.3	39.0	6.8
Spouse absent	2,255	30.8	19.9	27.1	22.2	2.8
Widowed	12,524	7.2	9.4	22.7	60.8	15.9
Separated	4,213	30.6	20.8	27.9	20.7	2.7
Divorced	21,091	19.5	19.9	32.1	28.6	4.6
Never married	59,517	22.7	18.1	27.0	32.2	4.5
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN						
White alone	177,700	15.4	16.4	29.9	38.2	6.3
Non-Hispanic	153,145	14.5	15.8	29.4	40.4	6.9
Black alone	24,520	19.5	18.3	30.4	31.8	4.8
Asian alone	7,329	20.1	19.9	32.5	27.6	4.3
All other races alone or in combination	6,656	22.2	17.9	30.6	29.3	4.4
Hispanic (any race)	26,483	21.9	20.5	33.4	24.2	4.0
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP						
Native-born	188,709	15.4	16.1	29.5	39.1	6.5
Foreign-born	27,494	22.6	21.8	34.3	21.4	3.6
Citizen	12,525	13.5	15.7	36.5	34.3	6.2
Noncitizen	14,969	30.2	26.8	32.4	10.6	2.3
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18						
Not present	134,595	16.0	14.8	25.7	43.5	7.5
Present	81,609	16.7	20.1	37.4	25.8	4.6
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Less than high school diploma	36,523	16.6	16.6	30.2	36.7	5.9
High school graduate	58,549	15.8	15.4	28.1	40.7	6.9
Some college/associate's degree	71,436	16.7	16.8	30.2	36.3	5.8
Bachelor's degree or more	49,696	15.9	18.7	32.3	33.1	5.3
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS						
Yes	56,220	21.3	19.8	32.2	26.7	4.2
No	159,983	14.5	15.7	29.4	40.4	6.9
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME²						
Under \$25,000	45,840	19.5	17.1	26.4	37.0	5.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999	58,327	18.2	17.3	29.1	35.4	5.4
\$50,000 to \$74,999	44,941	15.7	17.6	31.3	35.5	5.8
\$75,000 and over	67,095	12.8	15.7	32.7	38.9	6.8
REGION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Northeast	40,351	12.5	14.0	29.5	44.0	7.9
Midwest	49,283	15.2	16.4	28.7	39.7	6.7
South	77,494	17.5	17.3	30.3	34.9	5.5
West	49,076	18.5	18.7	31.8	31.1	4.9
HOUSING TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Owner-occupied	155,979	9.4	13.5	31.5	45.7	8.7
Renter-occupied	60,225	34.1	25.5	26.6	13.9	2.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4.

Duration of Current Residence for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004—Con.

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution				Median years in current residence ¹
		Fewer than 12 months	12 to 35 months	36 to 119 months	120 months or more	
TYPE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE						
Metropolitan	179,892	16.6	17.3	30.4	35.7	5.7
Nonmetropolitan	36,312	14.6	14.1	28.8	42.5	7.5
TYPE OF MOVE (FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENCE)						
Always lived here	11,658	(X)	(X)	(X)	100.0	23.8
Same state, same county	146,437	17.0	17.4	31.8	33.8	5.5
Same state, different county	31,603	16.6	18.2	32.3	32.9	5.3
Different state	22,509	17.7	19.0	31.7	31.6	5.0
From abroad	3,997	24.5	21.4	30.7	23.4	3.3

(X) Not applicable.

¹The median duration lived in current residence in years is calculated by dividing the median duration in months by 12.

²The annual income per household is based on the annualized average of the monthly incomes for households during the 4 months of the second wave of the SIPP 2004 panel.

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a month and year they began living in their current residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

Factors Associated With Duration

Age is one factor consistently associated with duration of residence. The longest median duration of current residence among the age categories was for people 65 years and older, at 19.6 years, as shown in Table 4. For marital status, the duration of current residence for people who were widowed was more than twice that of those who were married, spouse present (15.9 years compared with 6.8 years). This is not unexpected, as 76 percent of widowed people are 65 years and older, while only 16 percent of people who were married with a spouse present are 65 years and older.¹¹

The duration of current residence was longer for people who lived in households without their own children under age 18 (7.5 years) than for households with their own children (4.6 years). Prior research has indicated that the presence of children constrains a household's

mobility and that larger families and families with school-age children move less frequently than families without children.¹² The lower median duration results for families with their own children in the SIPP data are likely associated with the age of the people; people in the sample without their own children in the current housing unit tended to be older, and in general, median duration of residence increases with age.

Characteristics of region and type of residence were also associated with longer durations. The Northeast region of the United States had the longest median duration of current residence

(7.9 years) of all regions. This region had both the lowest proportion of people who had lived in current residence under 1 year (12.5 percent) and the highest proportion of people who had lived in their current residence at least 10 years (44 percent). Forty-three percent of people who currently lived in nonmetropolitan areas had a current residential duration of 120 months or more, compared with about 36 percent of people in metropolitan areas. Nonmetropolitan areas had statistically longer durations in residence than metropolitan areas (7.5 years compared with 5.7 years).

Forty percent of non-Hispanic Whites (and 38 percent of all Whites) had lived in their current residences 10 years or longer, compared with 32 percent of Blacks, 28 percent of Asians, and 24 percent of Hispanics. Natives were more likely to have lived in their current residences for 10 years or more (39 percent) than were the foreign-born (21 percent). Citizenship status is a factor in mobility for the foreign-born population. The median duration in current residence for noncitizens was 2.3

¹² For examples of this type of research, see:

Davanzo, J. (1977). *Why Families Move: A Model of the Geographic Mobility of Married Couples*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Hagan, J., R. Macmillan, and B. Wheaton (1996). "The Life Course Effects of Family Migration on Children." *American Sociological Review* 61:368–85.

Long, L. (1972). "The Influence of Number and Ages of Children on Residential Mobility." *Demography* 9:271–82.

Shauman, K., and Y. Xie (1996). "Geographic Mobility of Scientists: Sex Difference and Family Constraints." *Demography* 33:455–68.

¹¹ These statistics are from the 2004 American Community Survey data, available at <factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en>.

Table 5.

Median Duration (in Years) of Current Residence for People 15 Years and Older by Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, and Current Tenure, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Current housing tenure	
		Owner-occupied	Renter-occupied
Total	5.9	8.7	2.0
AGE AT TIME OF SURVEY			
15 to 19 years	6.6	9.2	2.0
20 to 24 years	2.2	7.7	0.9
25 to 29 years	1.9	2.7	1.2
30 to 34 years	2.7	3.4	1.7
35 to 44 years	4.8	5.8	2.3
45 to 54 years	8.1	9.8	3.3
55 to 64 years	12.4	14.8	4.0
65 years and older	19.6	24.7	6.4
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN			
White alone	6.3	8.8	1.9
Non-Hispanic	6.9	9.3	1.9
Black alone	4.8	8.8	2.4
Asian alone	4.3	6.3	2.2
All other races, alone or in combination	4.4	7.3	1.8
Hispanic (any race)	4.0	6.2	2.2

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a month and year they began living in their current residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

years, compared with 6.2 years for naturalized citizens. Table 4 shows that naturalized citizens were more than three times as likely as were noncitizens to have resided in their current home 10 years or longer (34 percent vs. 11 percent).

Homeownership status, or tenure, is one of the strongest predictors of how frequently people move. People who lived in renter-occupied housing were much more mobile than those in owner-occupied housing units.¹³ People in rental housing had lived in their current residence for a median duration of 2.0 years, compared with 8.7 years for people who lived in owner-occupied housing units. This was the lowest duration of current residence for all group characteristics shown in Table 4. However, the median length of residence increased with age for people 25 years and older living in renter-occupied units (shown in Table 5).

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau (2005). "Geographical Mobility: 2004 Detailed Tables" shows that 29.8 percent of those living in renter-occupied units moved between March 2003 and March 2004, compared to 7.3 percent of those living in owner-occupied housing units.

Renters who were 65 years and older had the highest median, 6.4 years, compared with 2.0 years for all renters.

There was also a similar pattern in the median duration by age for people in owner-occupied housing units, with a steady increase in duration starting with the 25- to 29-year-old age group. Younger people, those under age 25, had higher median durations in owner-occupied housing compared with the population aged 25 to 34, and they were more often living in housing owned by someone older, such as a parent or guardian. Apart from people currently living in renter-occupied housing units, the lowest calculated median duration in current residence was 2.3 years, for people aged 25 to 34. Two marital statuses, married with spouse absent and separated, were also associated with low durations in current residence (2.8 years and 2.7 years, respectively).

The patterns of tenure by race and Hispanic origin were similar to those for the entire population.

Owners in each group had longer median durations than renters (Table 5). The median durations for White owners (8.8 years) and Black owners (8.8 years) were not statistically different, although non-Hispanic White owners (9.3 years) did differ significantly from Black owners. Hispanics and Asians who lived in owner-occupied housing units had shorter median durations—6.2 and 6.3 years, respectively—than Whites and Blacks. For renters, all race groups had a similar median of about 2 years in renter-occupied housing units.

TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE

For this report, a housing unit was considered to be owner-occupied if the owner or a co-owner lived in the home, including homes that were mortgaged; all other housing units were classified as renter-occupied, including units that were rented for cash rent and those that may have been occupied without the payment of cash rent.

Table 6.

Current Housing Tenure for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Current housing tenure	
		Percent owner-occupied	Percent renter-occupied
Total (in thousands)	227,162	71.5	28.5
SEX			
Male	109,663	71.8	28.2
Female	117,499	71.3	28.7
AGE			
15 to 24 years	40,458	62.0	38.0
25 to 34 years	38,838	55.2	44.8
35 to 44 years	43,168	72.1	27.9
45 to 54 years	41,225	78.7	21.4
55 to 64 years	28,905	83.2	16.8
65 years and older	34,568	82.2	17.8
MARITAL STATUS			
Married	121,070	81.6	18.4
Spouse present	118,410	82.4	17.6
Spouse absent	2,660	45.9	54.1
Widowed	14,053	74.1	25.9
Separated	4,640	42.3	57.7
Divorced	22,964	61.8	38.2
Never married	64,434	57.7	42.3
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN			
White alone	185,589	75.0	25.0
Non-Hispanic	158,889	78.4	21.6
Black alone	26,641	52.2	47.8
Asian alone	7,968	62.9	37.2
All other races alone or in combination	6,964	63.6	36.5
Hispanic (any race)	28,762	54.1	45.9
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP			
Native-born	196,631	74.1	25.9
Foreign-born	30,530	55.2	44.8
Citizen	13,848	71.3	28.7
Noncitizen	16,682	41.8	58.3
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18			
Not present	142,834	71.5	28.5
Present	84,328	71.6	28.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
Less than high school diploma	39,138	61.5	38.5
High school graduate	62,223	69.7	30.3
Some college/associate's degree	74,382	72.8	27.3
Bachelor's degree or more	51,419	79.7	20.3
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS			
Yes	60,494	51.3	48.7
No	166,668	78.9	21.1
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME¹			
Under \$25,000	49,106	50.4	49.6
\$25,000 to \$49,999	61,357	65.7	34.3
\$50,000 to \$74,999	46,744	76.7	23.3
\$75,000 and over	69,955	88.1	11.9
REGION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE			
Northeast	43,316	67.2	32.8
Midwest	51,091	76.8	23.2
South	81,207	73.6	26.4
West	51,548	66.7	33.3
TYPE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE			
Metropolitan	189,765	70.5	29.5
Nonmetropolitan	37,396	76.9	23.1
See footnotes at end of table.			

Table 6.

Current Housing Tenure for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004—Con.

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Current housing tenure	
		Percent owner-occupied	Percent renter-occupied
TYPE OF MOVE (FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENCE)			
Always lived here.	11,658	85.2	14.8
Same state, same county	155,099	69.9	30.2
Same state, different county	32,707	76.5	23.5
Different state	23,422	73.4	26.6
From abroad	4,276	47.8	52.2

¹The annual income per household is based on the annualized average of the monthly incomes for households during the 4 months of the second wave of the SIPP 2004 panel.

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a value for tenure of current residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

Most People Live in Owner-Occupied Housing Units

Table 6 shows that, of all people, about 71.5 percent currently lived in owner-occupied housing and 29.5 percent lived in renter-occupied units.¹⁴ The percentage of people that lived in owner-occupied housing units increased steadily from 55 percent of those 25 to 34 years old to over 80 percent of people 55 years and older. The relatively high proportion of people aged 15 to 24 that lived in owner-occupied housing (62 percent) reflects the fact that many of these young people were living in homes that were owned by another individual in the survey, usually their parents.

Among people who were married with their spouse present, 82 percent lived in owner-occupied housing, compared with 58 percent of never-married people. The data also show that marriage transitions affect the tenure status at current

residence. Widowed people were more likely to be in an owner-occupied housing unit than people who were divorced or separated. Divorced, separated, and married-spouse-absent people showed high rates of residence in renter-occupied housing units, more like the rates for never-married people than for married people with their spouse present. Households with their own children under age 18 were no more likely to be living in owner-occupied housing units than were households without their own children under age 18.

The higher the level of education, the more likely a person was to live in an owner-occupied housing unit. Among those with a bachelor's degree or higher, 80 percent lived in owner-occupied housing units, compared with 62 percent of those with less than a high school education (Table 6). Similarly, people living in households with higher income were more likely to live in owner-occupied housing units: 88 percent of those living in households with income of \$75,000 or more lived in owner-occupied housing, compared with 50 percent of those who lived in households with income less than \$25,000. Non-metropolitan residents were more likely than metropolitan residents to live in owner-occupied housing

units (77 percent and 71 percent, respectively).

As shown earlier, the length of residence varied by race and Hispanic origin. Some of this variation can be explained by differences in rates of homeownership by race and Hispanic origin. Since owners have longer durations of residence than renters, a group with a higher percentage of people living in owner-occupied units should have longer durations of residence than a group with a higher percentage of renters. For most groups in the SIPP 2004 data, this relationship appeared to hold true.

Seventy-eight percent of non-Hispanic Whites (and 75 percent of all Whites) lived in owner-occupied units, compared with 52 percent of Blacks. Table 5 shows that non-Hispanic Whites had longer median durations in current residence than Blacks (6.9 years and 4.8 years, respectively). A lower proportion of Hispanics (about 54 percent) than Whites or Blacks were living in owner-occupied housing units, and Hispanics had lower median duration in current residence (4.0 years). Asians had a higher proportion that lived in owner-occupied housing units (about 63 percent) than either Blacks or Hispanics, and Asians' median duration in current residence, 4.4 years, was higher than that of Hispanics, 4.0 years.

¹⁴ The tenure percentages reported here are not directly comparable with those in other Census Bureau surveys such as the American Housing Survey (AHS). The SIPP analysis is person-based, while the AHS is housing-unit-based, which leads to differing results. For example, the 2005 AHS reported that 68.8 percent of occupied housing units were owner occupied, versus 71.5 percent of people in the 2004 SIPP (and 67.5 percent of SIPP households) who lived in owner-occupied units. AHS figures from <www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs05/ahs05.html>.

Table 7.

Lifetime Move Status for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution	
		Never moved	Moved at least once
Total (in thousands)	227,162	5.1	94.9
SEX			
Male	109,663	53.6	48.0
Female	117,499	46.4	52.0
AGE			
15 to 24 years	40,458	54.3	15.8
25 to 34 years	38,838	12.0	17.4
35 to 44 years	43,168	10.7	19.5
45 to 54 years	41,225	8.8	18.7
55 to 64 years	28,905	5.6	13.1
65 years and older	34,568	8.6	15.6
MARITAL STATUS			
Married	121,070	18.4	55.2
Spouse present	118,410	17.5	54.0
Spouse absent	2,660	1.0	1.2
Widowed	14,053	3.6	6.3
Separated	4,640	1.3	2.1
Divorced	22,964	4.9	10.4
Never married	64,434	71.8	26.0
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN			
White alone	185,589	79.2	81.8
Non-Hispanic	158,889	68.7	70.0
Black alone	26,641	16.5	11.5
Asian alone	7,968	1.6	3.6
All other races alone or in combination	6,964	2.7	3.1
Hispanic (any race)	28,762	11.2	12.7
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP			
Native-born	196,631	100.0	85.8
Foreign-born	30,530	(X)	14.2
Citizen	13,848	(X)	6.4
Noncitizen	16,682	(X)	7.7
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18			
Not present	142,834	60.0	63.0
Present	84,328	40.0	37.0
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
Less than high school diploma	39,138	33.2	16.4
High school graduate	62,223	29.0	27.3
Some college/associate's degree	74,382	27.2	33.1
Bachelor's degree or more	51,419	10.6	23.3
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS			
Yes	60,494	28.6	26.5
No	166,668	71.4	73.5
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME¹			
Under \$25,000	49,106	20.3	21.7
\$25,000 to \$49,999	61,357	25.0	27.1
\$50,000 to \$74,999	46,744	18.7	20.7
\$75,000 and over	69,955	36.0	30.5
REGION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE			
Northeast	43,316	25.4	18.7
Midwest	51,091	22.6	22.5
South	81,207	38.0	35.6
West	51,548	14.0	23.2
HOUSING TENURE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE			
Owner-occupied	162,519	85.2	70.8
Renter-occupied	64,643	14.8	29.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7.

Lifetime Move Status for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004—Con.

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution	
		Never moved	Moved at least once
TYPE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE			
Metropolitan	189,765	79.7	83.7
Nonmetropolitan	37,396	20.3	16.3

¹The annual income per household is based on the annualized average of the monthly incomes for households during the 4 months of the second wave of the SIPP 2004 panel.

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a value for tenure of current residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH NO LIFETIME MOVES

The 2004 SIPP data showed that 5 percent of the population 15 years and older had never moved in their lifetime. Table 7 shows selected characteristics of the 15 years and older population by the number of lifetime moves. More than half of the nonmovers were under age 25, and 72 percent were never married. Only 6 percent of nonmovers were between 55 and 64 years old, while 9 percent of nonmovers were 65 years or older. People who had never moved had lower levels of education: 11 percent of the nonmovers had earned at least a bachelor's degree compared with 23 percent of people with at least one lifetime move. Nonmovers were more likely to be Black (17 percent) than were movers (12 percent), while at least twice the proportion of people who had moved at least once (3.6 percent) were Asian compared with those with no lifetime moves (1.3 percent).

Compared to movers, nonmovers more often lived in the Northeast region of the United States (25.4 percent), and less often lived in the Western portion of the country (14 percent). Movers less often lived in metropolitan areas (16 percent) than did nonmovers (20 percent). A larger percentage of people with no lifetime moves (85 percent)

lived in owner-occupied residences compared with those who moved at least once (71 percent).

TENURE CHANGES WITH MOST RECENT MOVE

This section of the report provides information about changes in housing tenure that accompany moves from a previous to a current residence. The data are shown for people who reported (1) both a current and a previous place of residence. As Table 8 shows, 61 percent had the same tenure status at their previous and their current residences (38 percent were owners and 23 percent were renters at both residences). The smallest group (7 percent) was comprised of people who were previously in an owner-occupied unit but moved to a rental unit. Thirty-two percent of those who moved said they were renters in their previous residence but were now homeowners.

Continuing to Rent

About 23 percent of the population moved between renter-occupied housing units. A large proportion of the population in this group was aged 15 to 24 (34 percent) and aged 25 to 34 (37 percent). Moving between rented units declined as age increased. Marital status was also related to the likelihood of continuing to rent after a move.

The people most likely to remain in renter-occupied housing units were married with their spouse absent or separated (44 and 45 percent, respectively). Individuals who were never married or who were divorced (38 percent and 29 percent, respectively) were both more likely than married-spouse-present individuals (14 percent) to remain in renter-occupied housing units after a move.

Among the foreign-born population, the patterns were different for naturalized citizens than for non-citizens. Naturalized citizens were slightly more likely to remain renting after a move than were natives (25 percent and 20 percent, respectively). In comparison, noncitizens were the most likely (50 percent) to remain renters. Within the race and Hispanic origin groups, Blacks and Hispanics were similarly (41 percent) likely to have moved from one renter-occupied housing unit to another, a higher percentage than other groups.

Lower household income, lower educational attainment, metropolitan residence, and receipt of means-tested benefits were all associated with remaining in a renter-occupied housing unit after a move. A larger proportion of moves from abroad consisted of people renting in both their previous and their current residences

Table 8.

Change in Housing Tenure for Most Recent Move for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution			
		Renter to renter	Renter to owner	Owner to owner	Owner to renter
Total (in thousands)	215,504	22.7	32.4	38.4	6.5
SEX					
Male.....	103,415	22.8	32.7	38.3	6.2
Female.....	112,089	22.6	32.2	38.5	6.8
AGE					
15 to 24 years ¹	34,126	33.5	29.5	27.5	9.5
25 to 34 years.....	37,435	37.3	33.0	21.2	8.4
35 to 44 years.....	41,926	22.6	36.3	35.7	5.4
45 to 54 years.....	40,202	16.6	34.5	44.0	4.8
55 to 64 years.....	28,252	12.7	32.1	51.1	4.1
65 years and older.....	33,562	11.1	27.5	54.6	6.9
MARITAL STATUS					
Married.....	118,921	14.4	35.2	46.3	4.1
Spouse present.....	116,372	13.8	35.5	46.8	3.9
Spouse absent.....	2,550	44.0	22.1	22.4	11.6
Widowed.....	13,634	15.7	26.6	47.1	10.6
Separated.....	4,487	44.6	25.2	16.7	13.4
Divorced.....	22,398	29.2	29.9	31.4	9.5
Never married.....	56,064	37.5	29.4	24.1	9.0
RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN					
White alone.....	176,358	19.4	32.6	41.7	6.3
Non-Hispanic.....	150,882	15.9	32.2	45.5	6.4
Black alone.....	24,715	41.2	30.3	20.4	8.1
Asian alone.....	7,782	30.8	36.9	25.5	6.9
All other races alone or in combination.....	6,649	30.0	30.7	31.9	7.3
Hispanic (any race).....	27,457	41.0	34.4	18.8	5.8
NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP					
Native-born.....	184,973	20.0	32.2	41.2	6.6
Foreign-born.....	30,530	38.6	33.7	21.4	6.3
Citizen.....	13,848	24.5	39.3	32.1	4.2
Noncitizen.....	16,682	50.2	29.1	12.6	8.0
OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18					
Not present.....	135,838	21.9	30.8	40.1	7.3
Present.....	79,665	23.9	35.2	35.6	5.3
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT					
Less than high school diploma.....	35,272	34.1	31.3	27.7	6.9
High school graduate.....	58,837	24.0	31.8	37.0	7.2
Some college/associate's degree.....	71,215	20.9	32.4	39.7	7.0
Bachelor's degree or more.....	50,179	15.6	33.9	45.7	4.9
HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS					
Yes.....	57,157	41.3	29.5	20.6	8.6
No.....	158,347	15.9	33.5	44.8	5.8
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME²					
Under \$25,000.....	46,738	40.2	22.1	27.1	10.6
\$25,000 to \$49,999.....	58,447	27.1	32.1	33.0	7.8
\$50,000 to \$74,999.....	44,563	18.5	37.0	39.0	5.5
\$75,000 and over.....	65,755	9.1	36.9	50.8	3.2
REGION OF CURRENT RESIDENCE					
Northeast.....	40,357	27.4	32.7	33.6	6.3
Midwest.....	48,451	17.1	32.1	44.1	6.7
South.....	76,783	20.6	32.4	40.4	6.6
West.....	49,912	27.5	32.5	33.6	6.5
TYPE OF CURRENT RESIDENCE					
Metropolitan.....	180,473	23.9	32.6	37.2	6.4
Nonmetropolitan.....	35,031	16.5	31.3	44.8	7.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8.

Change in Housing Tenure for Most Recent Move for People 15 Years and Older by Selected Characteristics, 2004—Con.

Characteristic	Total, 15 years and older	Percent distribution			
		Renter to renter	Renter to owner	Owner to owner	Owner to renter
TYPE OF MOVE (FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENCE)					
Same state, same county	155,099	24.4	34.0	35.9	5.7
Same state, different county	32,707	16.7	31.4	45.1	6.9
Different state	23,422	18.3	24.3	49.1	8.3
From abroad	4,276	28.4	27.0	20.8	23.8

¹Many of the respondents in the 15-to-24 population resided with older respondents for whom a tenure change occurred. The reported tenure change is at the household level.

²The annual income per household is based on the annualized average of the monthly incomes for households during the 4 months of the second wave of the SIPP 2004 panel.

Note: The data in this table are for people who reported a value for tenure of both current and previous residence.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2004 Panel, Wave 2 Migration Topical Module.

(28 percent) than was the case for moves that took place over a shorter distance, such as moves between different counties within a state (17 percent). Finally, there were also differences by region. About 27 percent of movers who lived in the Northeast and West remained renters, while this was true for about 17 percent of Midwesterners and 21 percent of Southerners.

Moving From Renter-Occupied to Owner-Occupied Units

Moves involving a transition from a renter-occupied unit to an owner-occupied one accounted for 32 percent of all moves. As age increased, the proportion of people changing to ownership increased, with a peak in the 35- to 44-year-old age group, when 36 percent of the movers went from renting to owning. The proportion then declined with age, primarily because most people over age 45 had already experienced a prior transition from renting to owning that occurred before the move identified in this report.

The rate of this transition varied by race and Hispanic origin, with Asians more often making this transition (37 percent) than the

other groups. People with a bachelor's degree were more likely to have moved from renting to owning than those with lower levels of educational attainment. Married people with their spouse present were more likely (36 percent) than all other marital-status groups to move from a renter-occupied housing unit to an owner-occupied one.

Households with their own children under age 18 were somewhat more likely than households without their own children to move from a renter- to an owner-occupied housing unit (35 percent and 31 percent, respectively). The rates of this transition for native movers and foreign-born movers were similar; however, within the foreign-born population, naturalized citizens were more likely to move from renter-occupied to owner-occupied housing units (39 percent) than were noncitizens (29 percent).

Household income was also associated with this tenure shift. Residents with annual household incomes of \$50,000 or more were more likely than those with incomes of less than \$25,000 (37 percent and 22 percent, respectively) to move from a renter-occupied housing unit to an owner-occupied one. This pattern was

also evident among households receiving means-tested benefits, which were less likely (30 percent) than those not receiving benefits (34 percent) to switch to an owner-occupied housing unit. Regional differences were not apparent here, with between 32 and 33 percent of residents of all regions moving from a rental to an owned unit.

Continuing to Own

Among movers who did not change tenure status when they moved, most moved from one owner-occupied unit to another (38 percent of movers). From 44 percent to 55 percent of the population 45 years and older maintained owner-occupied status, compared with 21 percent to 36 percent of people under age 45. Both married-spouse-present people and widowed people (47 percent each) were more likely to move between owner-occupied units than were separated, divorced, or never-married people (17 percent, 31 percent, and 24 percent, respectively).

Race, Hispanic origin, nativity, and citizenship were associated with the tenure status of the person's current residence. Non-Hispanic White movers were more likely (46 percent) to remain in an

owner-occupied housing unit than were the other race and Hispanic-origin groups. The native population was about twice as likely to remain in an owner-occupied housing unit (41 percent) as was the foreign-born population (21 percent). Citizenship of the foreign-born population was associated with tenure, as 32 percent of naturalized citizens moved between owner-occupied dwellings compared with 13 percent of noncitizens.

People living in nonmetropolitan areas who moved were more likely to have moved from one owner-occupied unit to another (45 percent) than were those living in a metropolitan area (37 percent). Maintaining ownership between moves also varied by region of the country. Residents in the Midwest (44 percent) were more likely than were those in the Northeast or the South (34 percent each) to have moved between owner-occupied housing units. People moving to a different county within the same state (45 percent) or between different states (49 percent) were more likely to have moved between owner-occupied dwellings than those moving within the same county (36 percent) or from abroad (21 percent).

Moving From Owner-Occupied to Renter-Occupied Units

The least common transition involved moving from owning to renting a housing unit—only 7 percent of movers made this type of change. Among people of all ages, the likelihood of this transition was most frequent for the population 15 to 24 years old (10 percent), possibly because they had left a parental home. Compared with all other marital statuses, married people with their spouse present were the least likely to change from an owner-occupied to a renter-occupied unit (4 percent). Situations

that involved the absence of a spouse—married-spouse-absent (12 percent), widowed (11 percent), separated (13 percent), and divorced (10 percent)—had two to three times the level of transition from owning to renting compared with people who were married with their spouse present.

People with a bachelor's degree or more education were less likely (5 percent) than those with less than a high school degree (7 percent) to move from an owned to a rented housing unit. This pattern was also evident when looking at household income groups. As annual income of a household increased, its likelihood of moving from an owner-occupied to a renter-occupied housing unit decreased. Households with annual income of \$75,000 or more (3 percent) were less likely than households with income of less than \$25,000 (11 percent) to make this tenure transition. Noncitizens more often made this housing unit transition (8 percent) than naturalized citizens (4 percent). People who moved from abroad were more likely (24 percent) to have moved from an owner-occupied unit to a renter-occupied unit, compared with people moving shorter distances, such as intracounty and intercounty moves within the same state (6 percent and 7 percent, respectively). There were no significant regional differences for this tenure shift.

SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed overview of three important characteristics of moving in the United States: seasonality of a move, length of time in residence, and homeownership status or tenure of residence. The collection of data in the Survey of Income and Program Participation allows the identification of detailed data on season and

month of moves and changes in tenure with most recent move, analyzed along an array of social and demographic characteristics.

Nearly one-third of the most recent moves reported by people 15 years and older occurred during the summer months (June, July, and August). The month with the single highest proportion of moves reported by people was June, at 12.2 percent. Moves from abroad occurred more often in the winter compared with domestic moves of any type. Summer was also the most concentrated time for moving for people living in the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States. Data on families with their own children under age 18 showed that they moved less often during the beginning of the school year than families without their own children.

The median time in current residence reported by people 15 years and older was 5.9 years. About 37 percent of the population lived in the same house for 10 years or longer. Renters had shorter durations of residence than homeowners did. Duration of residence tends to increase with age, regardless of tenure of residence, although people in the youngest age group (15 to 19) tend to have longer durations than do people 20 to 34 years old. The Northeast region of the United States had the longest median duration of residence. Duration of residence was longer for nonmetropolitan areas compared with metropolitan areas.

Overall, 71.5 percent of people currently lived in owner-occupied housing units. The proportion of the people living in owner-occupied housing units tended to increase with age. People who were married or widowed more often owned their current residence than did people with other marital statuses.

Higher levels of education and higher incomes increased the likelihood of living in an owner-occupied unit.

Only 5 percent of the population reported no moves in their lifetime. More than 50 percent of the nonmovers were under age 25, and 72 percent were never married. Most were living in owner-occupied housing units. A much smaller proportion of those who had never moved lived in the western region of the country compared with those who had moved. Blacks made up a disproportionate share of those people who had never moved.

The data available for tenure changes with the most recent move showed that 61 percent had the same tenure status at their previous and current residences. The lowest proportion making a tenure change was the people who moved from owner-occupied to renter-occupied, at 7 percent. Thirty-two percent of people said they had made the transition from renting to owning with their most recent move.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at 4-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from June through September of 2004 in the second wave (interview) of the 2004 SIPP. The data highlighted in this report come primarily from the main survey and the migration history topical module that included questions for all people 15 years and older, on location, duration, and tenure of previous and current residences. Other items included in the module are place of birth,

citizenship, nativity, year of entry, and immigration status. Although the main focus of the SIPP is information on labor force participation, jobs, income, and participation in federal assistance programs, information on other topics, such as migration, is also collected in topical modules on a rotating basis. 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 population in Census 2000).

ACCURACY OF THE DATA

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 unless otherwise noted. 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 was designed, how people interpret questions, how able and willing people are to provide correct answers, and how accurately answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures during all stages of the production process, including the design of surveys, the wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and statistical review of reports.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 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. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

Further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, is available at <[www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12\(S&A-9\).pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/sourceac/S&A04_W1toW12(S&A-9).pdf)>, or contact Stephen Clark of the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <stephen.clark@census.gov>.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following Web sites: <www.census.gov/sipp/index.html> (the main SIPP Web site), <www.census.gov/sipp/workpapr/wp230.pdf> (SIPP Quality Profile), and <www.census.gov/sipp/usrguide/sipp2001.pdf> (SIPP User's Guide).

MORE INFORMATION

The report is available on the Internet at <www.census.gov>; search for migration data by clicking on the "Subjects A-Z" button and select "Migration/Geographic Mobility" under "M." Additional tables showing historical data from the 1996 and 2001 SIPP Migration History Topical Modules are also available at the same Web site.

CONTACTS

Additional migration information may be obtained from the authors of this report, who can be contacted in the U.S. Census Bureau Journey to Work and Migration Statistics Branch at (301) 763-2454 or by e-mail at: <matthew.c.marlay@census.gov>.

USER COMMENTS

The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of data and report users. If you have any suggestions or comments, please e-mail <hhes@census.gov> or write to:

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