

news release

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MORE PEOPLE MOVING WESTWARD, MORE LEAVING THE MIDWEST AND EAST COAST, ACCORDING TO UNITED VAN LINES STUDY

ST. LOUIS - The year 2001 saw many people move west, while the Midwest and several East Coast states, including New York, experienced an increase in outbound migration, as measured by business trends of United Van Lines, the nation's largest household goods mover.

The statistics are among the findings of United's 25th annual "migration" study showing where its customers, over the last 12 months, moved from and the most popular destinations. The findings were announced by United Executive Vice President William F. Beard, Jr.

United has tracked shipment patterns annually on a state-by-state basis since 1977. For 2001, the accounting is based on the 222,446 interstate household moves handled by United among the 48 contiguous states, as well as Washington, D.C. In its study, United classifies each state in one of three categories -- "high inbound" (55% or more of moves associated the state inbound); "high outbound" (55% or more moves coming out of a state); or "balanced." Although the majority of states were in the "balanced" category last year, several showed more substantial population shifts.

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Westward movement has continued in the U.S., but this year the West Coast saw less in-migration, while other Western states filled in and welcomed more new residents. Nevada with 65.2% of United shipments inbound, Oregon (63.0% inbound), Idaho (59.6% inbound) and Arizona (55.7% inbound) were all categorized as “high inbound” states for United-handled shipments, while California saw its highest outbound migration since 1996 (49.6% outbound). For the third straight year, Washington (55.1% outbound in 2001) saw more people move out of the state than in, after 22 consecutive years of in-migration.

Some other noteworthy inbound-migration states in 2001:

- Colorado (53.1%) has continued to be inbound since 1990.
- Idaho (59.6% inbound) was “high inbound” for the 14th consecutive year.
- Florida (57.6%) continued its unbroken annual inbound trend since the inception of the study, and it, along with North Carolina (60.2% inbound, its highest inbound percentage ever in the study) and South Carolina (58.2% inbound), were the only “high inbound” states in the Southeast.
- Nevada, with 65.2% of shipments inbound in 2001, continued its inbound trend of the previous 23 consecutive years and also had the highest inbound migration of all of the states in the study.
- New Mexico (52.4%) is inbound for the first time since 1995.
- Vermont, in 2001, had its highest inbound percentage (59.2%) since 1982.

States in the Midwest and along the East Coast generally showed an outbound trend, according to United’s records. Midwestern states Illinois (58.3%) and Kansas (56.3%) were categorized as “high outbound,” as was Indiana, which was also the second-highest outbound state overall in the survey (61.9% outbound). Other Midwest states with outbound percentages were Ohio (53.0%), Kentucky (52.4%), Iowa (52.1%) and

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Missouri (51.6%). On the East Coast, New York (58.2% outbound), New Jersey (55.8%) and Pennsylvania (56.8%) ranked on the “high outbound” list.

Some of the other noteworthy outbound-migration states in 2001:

- North Dakota (72.3%) had the highest outbound percentage of all states for the second year in a row and has been outbound since United began the survey.
- Washington, in 2001, had its highest outbound percentage (55.1%) since the inception of the survey.
- Michigan remained outbound (58.2%), as it has been every year of the survey.
- Georgia experienced its highest out-migration (48.1% outbound) since United’s 1982 study.

Beard said the United Van Lines study, through the years, has been shown to accurately reflect the general migration patterns in various regions of the country, and it basically supports the reports of the U.S. Census Bureau for Census 2000. He also noted that real estate firms, financial institutions, and other observers of relocation trends regularly use the United data in their business planning and analysis activities.

United Van Lines, with headquarters in suburban St. Louis, is the nation’s largest household goods mover and maintains a network of 1,000 affiliated agencies in 135 countries around the world. More information about United and its services can be obtained through the company’s Web site at www.unitedvanlines.com.

Editor’s note: Attached, for your reference, is a listing of total shipments by United Van Lines in each state, including a breakdown of inbound and outbound shipments by number and percentage, as well as a map showing migration trends for each state.