

news release

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SOUTHERN STATES GAINING APPEAL, NORTH SEES MORE LEAVING, ACCORDING TO LATEST UNITED VAN LINES STUDY

ST. LOUIS – The year 2002 saw many people moving south, while most northern states, including New York and states in the Great Lakes area, 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 26th annual "migration" study tracking 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 2002, the accounting is based on the 198,571 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.

Movement into the southern portion of the United States increased in 2002, with Florida (57.6% of moves inbound) continuing an inbound trend, which has

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continued every year since the inception of the study. Florida, along with North Carolina (59.9% inbound) and South Carolina (59.6% inbound, its highest inbound percentage ever in the study), were the only “high inbound” states in the South. Louisiana (51.1%) saw its first inbound migration since 1997, while Georgia (52.5% inbound) continued its inbound pattern of the past 21 years. Alabama (51.5%), Mississippi (50.6%), and Texas (51.2%) were other southern states that saw more people moving in this year.

Some other noteworthy inbound-migration states in 2002:

- Idaho (61.1% inbound) was “high inbound” for the 15th consecutive year.
- Nevada had 65.5% of shipments inbound in 2002 and continued its inbound trend of the previous 24 consecutive years. It also had the highest inbound migration of all of the states in the study.
- Wyoming (52.7%) and Montana (54.6%) have been inbound the past two years.
- Arizona (56.4%) continued its 13-year inbound streak, with the last two years being “high inbound.”
- New Mexico (54.3%) continued its inbound pattern from last year, after having five years of outbound migration prior to 2001.
- Washington, D.C. (60.3%) has remained inbound since the first year of the study.

States in the North generally showed an outbound trend, according to United’s records. Northern states that border Lake Michigan were categorized as “high outbound”: Illinois (58.6%), Michigan (57.7%), Wisconsin (55.1%), and Indiana, which was also the second-highest outbound state overall in the study for the past three years (60.0% outbound). Other northern states with outbound percentages

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were Minnesota (54.6%, ranking “outbound” for 23 years), Washington (53.7%), and North Dakota (63.2%, the highest outbound state for the third year in a row and outbound since United began the study).

Some of the other noteworthy outbound-migration states in 2002:

- New Jersey (58.0%) has been outbound since United’s 1987 study and “high outbound” since 1997.
- New York (57.6%) experienced its second year of “high outbound” migration and has been outbound since the beginning of the study.
- Midwestern states continued to see outbound migration: Kansas (55.2%) has been “high outbound” since 1999 and outbound since the inception of the study, Missouri (51.3%) has been outbound every year of the study except for 1994, and Oklahoma (54.9) and Nebraska (51.1) have both been outbound for the past five years.
- California (52.1%) experienced its highest out-migration in seven years.
- Colorado (50.9%) had its first year of out migration since 1990.
- Maryland (52.8%) has been outbound for the past decade.
- Although Pennsylvania continued to be outbound, it saw its lowest percentage (53.6) since 1987.
- Utah switched to an outbound state (54.6%) after being inbound last year.

“Migration patterns generally correspond with what is happening in the economy,” Beard said. “With corporations and individuals all experiencing economic pressures, we haven’t seen many drastic shifts in migration from one region to another.”

The United Van Lines study, through the years, has been shown to accurately reflect the general migration patterns in various regions of the country. Beard 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.

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United Van Lines, with headquarters in suburban St. Louis 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.

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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. If you are interested in specific information for your area, please contact Jennifer Bonham at 636-349-2508 or jennifer_bonham@unigroupinc.com.