

news release

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WEST GAINS IN POPULARITY, EAST COAST SEES MIXED ACTIVITY ACCORDING TO LATEST UNITED VAN LINES MIGRATION STUDY

ST. LOUIS – The year 2003 saw many people moving west, while the east coast saw a mix of inbound and outbound migration. Many northeast states, including New York and Massachusetts, experienced an increase in outbound migration, while many southeast states, including North and South Carolina, showed an inbound migration increase. The results are measured by the business trends of United Van Lines, the nation’s largest household goods mover.

The statistics are among the findings of United’s 27th 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 Brian Paluch.

United has tracked shipment patterns annually on a state-by-state basis since 1977. For 2003, the accounting is based on the 204,522 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 going into a state); “high outbound” (55% or more of 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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Movement into the west portion of the United States increased in 2003, with Nevada continuing a 25-year inbound trend, as well as having the highest inbound migration (66.5%) of all states in the study. Nevada, along with Oregon (56.6% inbound), Arizona (60% inbound, its highest inbound percentage in six years), New Mexico (59.8% inbound, its highest inbound percentage in the past decade) and Idaho (60.6% inbound), are the western states that were classified as “high inbound.”

After being outbound last year, Colorado (51.5% inbound) and Utah (51.2% inbound) saw more people move in this year. Montana (54.5%) continued its three-year trend as an inbound state.

In addition to the west seeing an inbound migration influx, the southeastern states also were a top migration spot. North Carolina (61.3%) and South Carolina (61.3%) saw their highest-ever inbound percentages. Georgia (51.8%) continued its 21-year pattern of inbound migration, while Florida (59.6%) saw its highest inbound percentage in 12 years.

Some other noteworthy inbound-migration states in 2003:

- Alabama (56.1%) saw its highest-ever inbound percentage.
- Washington, D.C. (62.5%) has remained inbound since the first year of the study.
- For the past nine years, Delaware (56.5%) has been an inbound state.
- Kentucky (52.1%) saw its highest inbound percentage in nine years.
- After five years of outbound migration, Nebraska (50.3%) became an inbound state.

States in the north and northeast generally showed an outbound trend, according to United's records. The states that border Lake Michigan were categorized as "high outbound": Illinois (60.1%), Michigan (58.1%), Wisconsin (55.1%), and Indiana, (61.2%). Other northern states with outbound percentages were Minnesota (52.3%, ranking "outbound" for 24 years), Washington (51.2%), and North Dakota (67.6%, the highest outbound state for the fourth year in a row and outbound since United began the study).

In the northeast, New York (59.3%, outbound since the beginning of the study), New Jersey (62.2%), Massachusetts (58.6%, its largest outbound percentage in 11 years), and Rhode Island (55.6%) were all "high outbound" states. Maine (50.4%), Vermont (51.8%), and New Hampshire (52.2%) became outbound states this year, after experiencing inbound migration last year.

Some of the other noteworthy outbound-migration states in 2003:

- The Midwest saw continued outbound migration: Kansas (51.7%) has been outbound since the inception of the study, Missouri (52.6%) had its highest outbound percentage in three years, Ohio (53.9%) had outbound migration for the twelfth year, and Oklahoma (53.6) continued its six-year trend of outbound migration.
- California (53.8%) experienced its highest out-migration in eight years.
- Maryland (52.7%) continued a 12-year outbound trend.
- Since the survey's inception, Pennsylvania (54.5%) and Wisconsin (55.1%) have been outbound states.

Paluch 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. 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 Study - add three

United Van Lines, with headquarters in suburban St. Louis maintains a network of 1,000 affiliated agencies throughout 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.