

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FIELD SERVICE
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August 6, 1958

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WESTERN STATES GAIN 210,000 ANNUALLY BY MIGRATION FROM 1953 TO 1957

The State of Washington and other States west of the Rockies, in the four-year period from April 1953 to April 1957, gained an annual average of 699,000 persons through migration from other sections of the United States, William H. Flood, Manager of the Seattle Field Office, U. S. Department of Commerce reported. At the same time, 489,000 western States residents migrated from the region, leaving a net population gain averaging 210,000 annually, according to the Bureau of the Census "Current Population Reports" on Mobility of the Population of the United States, issued July 21, 1958.

Where did the migrants into the Western States come from? Between 1956 and 1957, 371,000 persons came from the North Central States; 243,000 persons from the Southern States; and 120,000 new residents came from the Northeast. During this same period the Bureau of Census estimates 223,000 persons left the West for the Southern States; 125,000 persons to the North Central States; and 76,000 persons left for the Northeast.

To demonstrate how people tend to move, the Bureau of the Census found that in the United States as a whole, about one out of five persons 1 year old and over last year were living in homes different from those previously occupied by them. Population of the West continued to be most mobile and that of the Northeast the least. The proportion of mobile persons was twice as high and the proportion of interstate migrants was three times as high in the West as in the Northeast. Well-settled, stay-at-homes accounted for 71.9 percent of Westerners who remained in the same residence, and .9 percent were abroad.

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