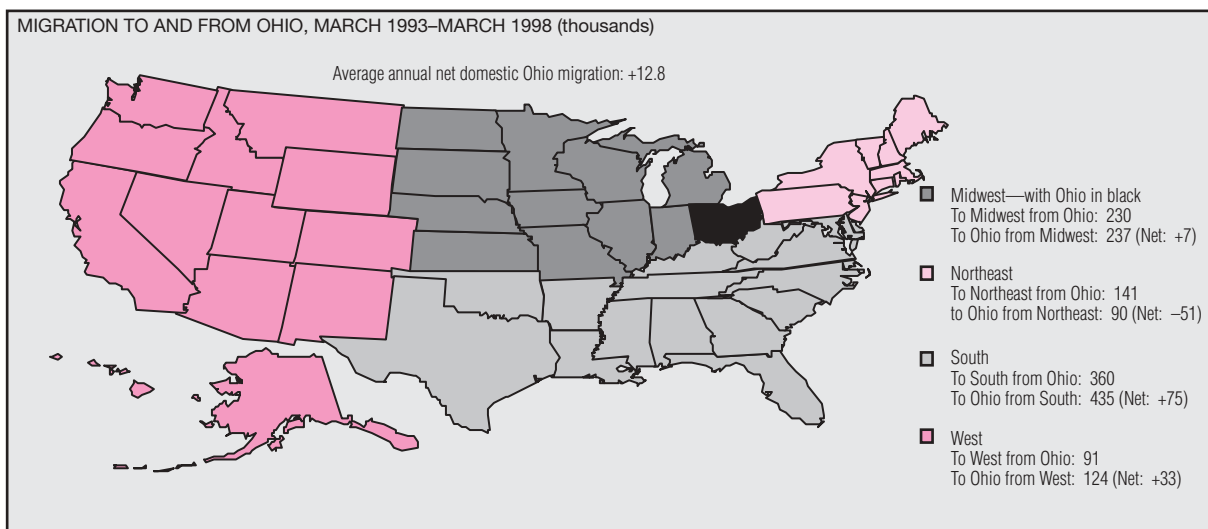
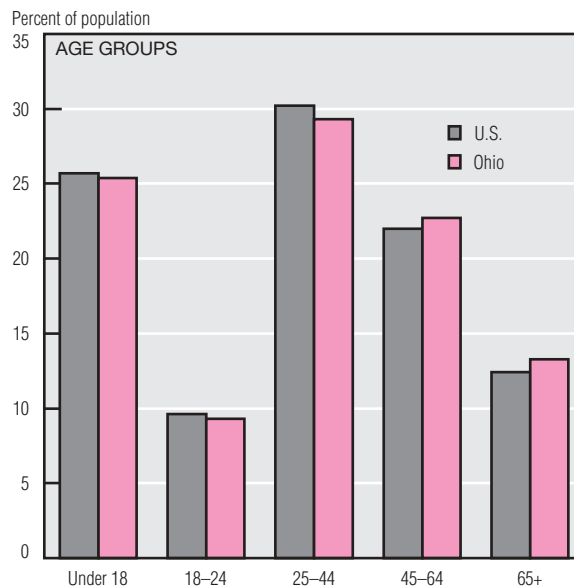
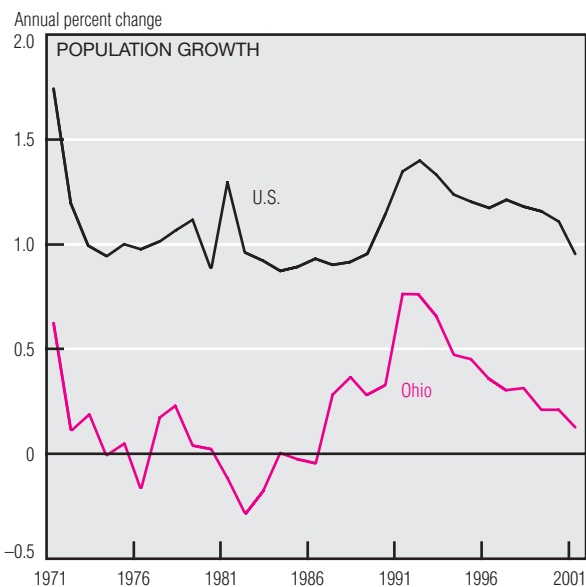


Migration to and from Ohio



SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over the last 30 years, Ohio's population growth has been well below the national average. After the recessions of 1973-75 and those of the early 1980s, the state saw an exodus of individuals and outright (net) population declines. Ohio's population growth accelerated during the early 1990s, when individuals flowed in from other states. Beginning in the mid-1990s, however, Ohio's rate of population growth slowed steadily,

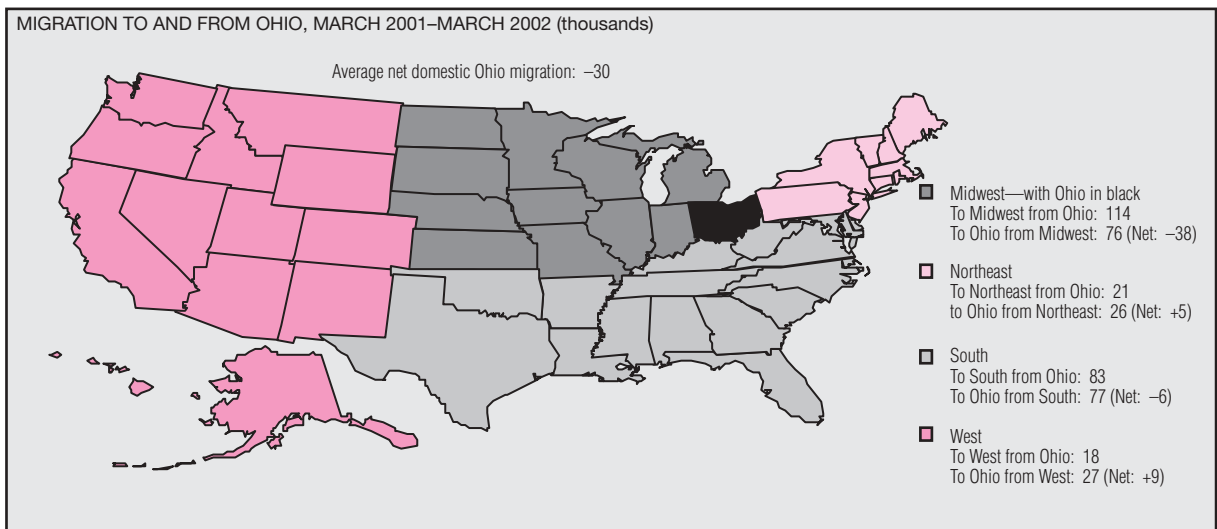
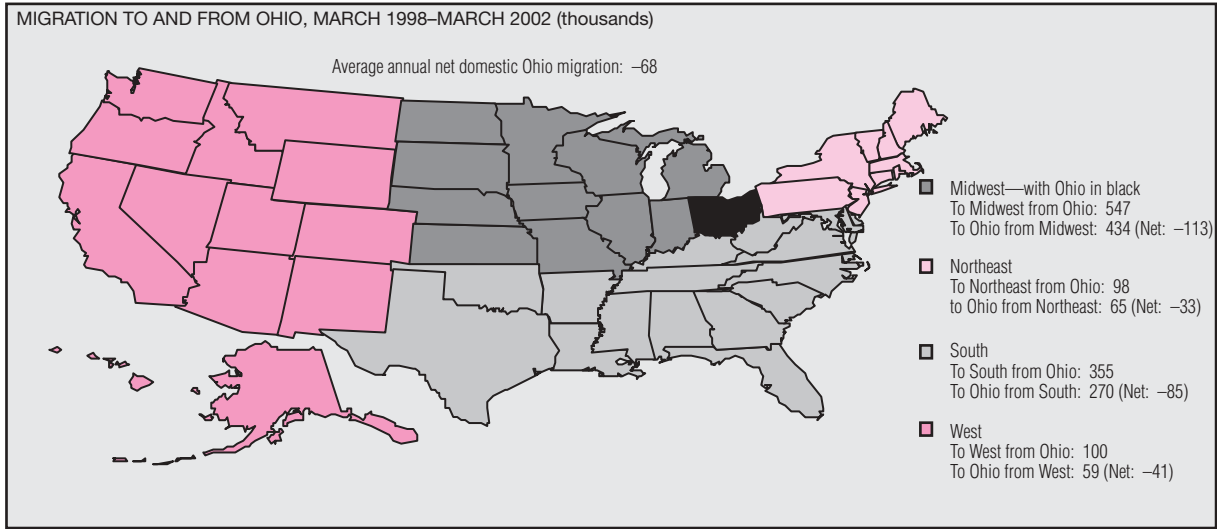
reaching a rate of only 0.12% in 2001. This can be explained partly by its relatively aged population—the share of individuals over the age of 45 is larger in Ohio than in the U.S. as a whole.

The other, perhaps more important, part of the explanation is migration patterns. State and local government officials, as well as Ohio's media, have focused considerable time and energy on out-migration from the state and possible explanations for it.

From 1993 to 1998, Ohio had a net gain of individuals from other states, that is, more in-migrants than out-migrants; on average, the annual gain was nearly 13,000. The largest comparative gains came from the South and the West. This has been explained anecdotally as a movement of people in search of jobs; these regions were hit especially hard by the recession of the early 1990s, whereas the Midwest was relatively insulated from that recession's worst effects.

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Migration to and from Ohio (cont.)



SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Since 1998, however, Ohio has suffered a net out-migration, averaging roughly 68,000 a year; surprisingly, Ohio’s largest losses have been to other Midwest states. From 1998 to 2002, a total of 434,000 people moved to Ohio from other Midwest states but roughly 547,000 Ohioans moved to other states in the Midwest. The South was the next most popular destination for Ohioans, followed by the West and the Northeast.

The annual exodus of individuals from Ohio appears to have slowed somewhat. In 2002, the most recent year of data, the state’s out-migrants totaled 30,000, roughly half the average for the four years ending in 2002. Ohio made relative population gains from the Northeast and the West, but continued to lose large numbers of individuals to other Midwest states.

Before 1998, one could only speculate about why individuals were

moving to and from Ohio. In 1998, however, the Current Population Survey added the question, “What was your main reason for moving?” It put respondents’ reasons in one of four categories: family related (change in marital status, to create one’s own household, etc.); employment related (new job, job transfer, looking for work, retired, etc.); housing related (a better home or neighborhood, cheaper housing, etc.); and

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Migration to and from Ohio (cont.)

In-migration to Ohio, March 1998–March 2002		
Reason for moving	Annual average (thousands)	Percent
Family related	48.6	23.5
Employment related	90.4	43.7
New job/job transfer	75.9	36.7
To look for job	4.3	2.1
Housing related	49.7	24.0
Other	18.3	8.8
Attend/leave college	6.6	3.2
Change in climate	2.0	1.0

Out-migration from Ohio, March 1998–March 2002		
Reason for moving	Annual average (thousands)	Percent
Family related	74.2	26.9
Employment related	102.7	37.3
New job/job transfer	73.5	26.7
To look for job	5.6	2.0
Housing related	61.6	22.4
Other	36.8	13.4
Attend/leave college	10.4	3.8
Change in climate	10.2	3.7

In-migration to Ohio, March 2001–March 2002		
Reason for moving	Annual average (thousands)	Percent
Family related	29.2	14.2
Employment related	110.5	53.8
New job/job transfer	82.8	40.3
To look for job	1.9	0.9
Housing related	32.6	15.9
Other	33.1	16.1
Attend/leave college	9.6	4.7
Change in climate	0.0	0.0

Out-migration from Ohio, March 2001–March 2002		
Reason for moving	Annual average (thousands)	Percent
Family related	44.5	18.8
Employment related	80.5	34.1
New job/job transfer	48.3	20.4
To look for job	1.3	0.6
Housing related	52.9	22.4
Other	58.3	24.7
Attend/leave college	5.1	2.2
Change in climate	23.4	9.9

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; and Ohio Board of Regents.

other, which includes attending or leaving college, a change in climate or health, and all other reasons that did not fall into any of the other three categories.

The largest share of in-migrants to Ohio moved for employment related reasons. On average, from 1998 to 2002, roughly 75,900 people moved into Ohio each year because they found a new job or were transferred by their current employer. This is fairly close to the average 73,500

people who moved out of Ohio each year for the same reasons.

The migration of higher education students has been a focal point of discussion for several years now, and the Current Population Survey identifies students moving to and from states for higher education purposes. From 1998 to 2002, an average of 6,600 students per year moved into Ohio for higher education. Roughly 10,400 students moved out of Ohio each year for the same reason. The difference—roughly 3,800 students

per year—seems negligible as a fraction of the 290,000-plus students enrolled in the state's public universities last year.

One factor in migration decisions is climate. Responses to the Current Population Survey indicate that Ohio's weather has discouraged population growth. Between 1998 and 2002, the state experienced an average annual net loss of more than 8,000 people who moved away (mostly to the South) for a change in climate.