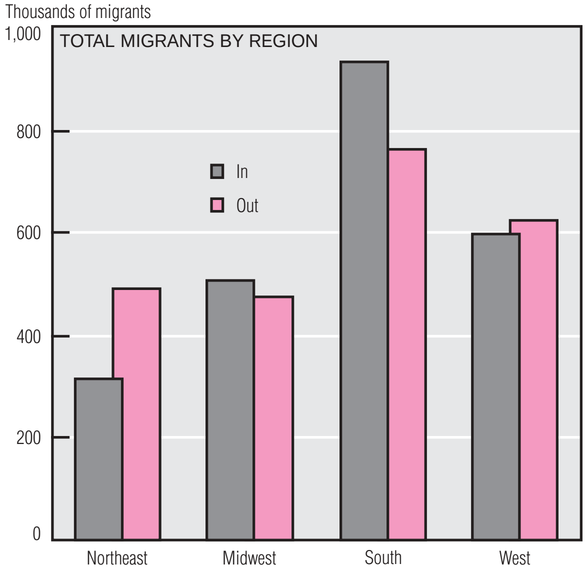
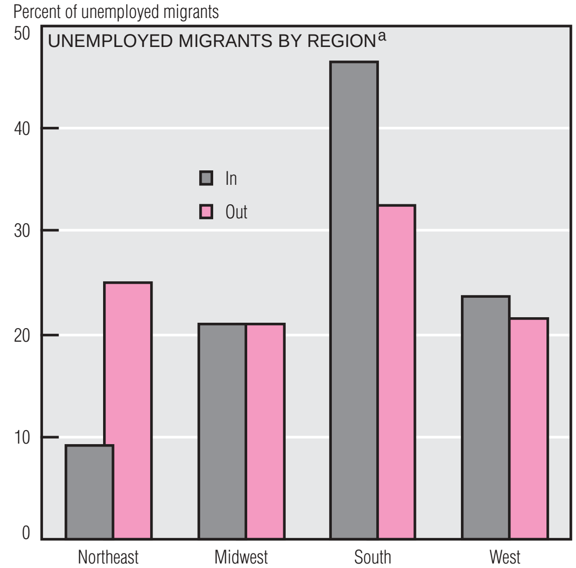
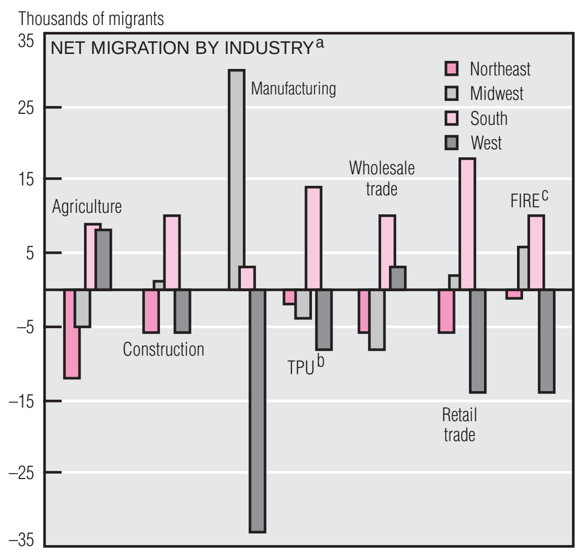
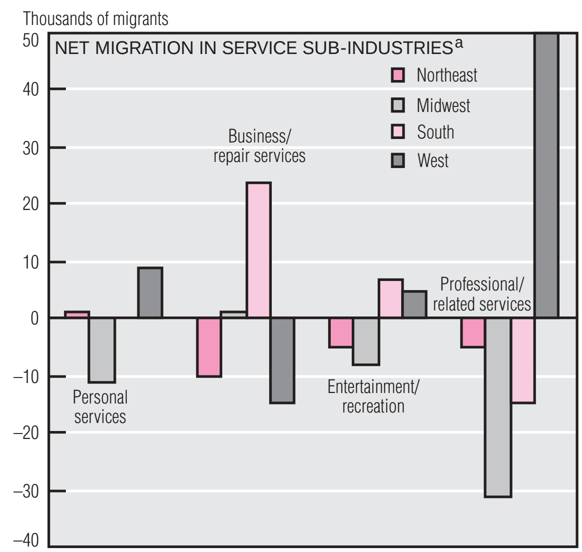
Migration in the U.S.









a. Shows post-migration responses.
b. Transportation and public utilities.
c. Finance, insurance, and real estate.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, mobility data from *Current Population Survey*, March 1999 to March 2000.

Typical U.S. migration patterns show that for any year, gross flows into and out of a given region are large relative to net flows. In 1999–2000, the South accounted for the largest numbers of both in- and out-migrants. The Northeast had far fewer in- than out-migrants. In the West and Midwest, the number of people entering roughly equaled those leaving, which produced a small net change.

A frequently cited reason for migration is improved job opportunities. Among migrants who were unemployed after their move, the largest share (47%) moved to the South, where job growth has been robust for several years. A substantial share (25%) of unemployed migrants came from the Northeast, whereas only 9% moved into that region.

The simultaneous movement into and out of regions may result from the types of jobs that are being gained and lost in each. Looking at net regional migration (the difference between the total number of migrants moving into and out of a region), the South posted significant net gains in every major industrial sector except mining and public administration. In manufacturing, the Midwest posted a net addition of 30,000 workers, while 33,000 left the West. The Northeast had net losses or no change in every sector, with the largest loss in agriculture (roughly 10,000 workers). The South's largest gain was in retail trade.

Within the service industries, migration gave the West a net positive gain of 50,000 workers in professional and related services, the counterpart of net losses in this category in every other region.