



Nothing phoney about influx of Californians

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

You're not imagining it: Californians are coming here in droves.

Most newcomers to Central Texas come from other Texas cities. Outside of that, the Golden State was the single biggest source of new residents into Central Texas between 2000 and 2004, based on the most current data available from the IRS.

Brian Kelsey, economic development director of the Capital Area Council of Governments, estimates that about 15,000 Californians moved into the area during that time, with an average household income of almost \$75,000.

"It's definitely a major source of in-migration," Kelsey said. The second largest state was Arizona, which sent about 3,700 people here.

The California migration has "done nothing but heat up big-time since then," said Ryan Robinson, demographer for the city of Austin.

During the 1990s tech boom, the California migration to Austin was mostly upper-middle-class and affluent families.

This time around, Robinson said, "it's now middle-class families," some coming here to retire, many more coming here for work. "They're not having to beat the pavement for jobs."