

# Fewer Americans move out of state

By Haya El Nasser, USA TODAY

Moving companies are delivering fresh evidence that Americans' wanderlust is waning.

Interstate moves dropped substantially this year over the previous year, according to two large shippers — United Van Lines and Atlas Van Lines.

Shipments were down more than 10% the first 11 months of this year, says Greg Hoover, president and chief operating officer of Atlas World Group.

**STATE-BY-STATE:** [Interstate resettling across U.S.](#)

**FAMILY TIES:** [Majority of Americans haven't lived outside birth state](#)

**HOMETOWNS:** [Midwest most 'rooted'](#)

United expects to end the year down about 16%, or 35,000 fewer shipments, spokeswoman Jennifer Bonham says.

"Our business follows the real estate market," she says.

When it tanks, moving slows.

"I don't think there's any more direct tie in terms of predictor for the moving industry than home sales," Hoover says. "If somebody can't sell their home, they're not moving."

Both companies report a big drop in corporate relocations in recent months. As layoffs mount and companies' budgets tighten, all-expenses-paid moves become rarer.

Shipments by moving companies confirm that migration trends captured by July 1 estimates released this month by the Census Bureau have lasted through the year. Atlas and United will release full-year data in January. Statistics through November of this year show:

- **Atlas for the first time handled more household moves out of Florida than in. Inbound shipments started to drop after several hurricanes hit the state in 2004 and 2005. The housing meltdown followed two years later.**

"Some people are moving out because they can't support the 'second housing' option," says Drew Klacik, policy analyst for Indiana University Center for Urban Policy and the Environment. "A lot of us who want to avoid the ice in Indiana and move to Florida, can't. It's harder and harder for people to sell their homes."

- Oregon and other parts of the Northwest continue to draw people.
- **Despite a slowdown in Nevada's growth, both United and Atlas show more shipments going there than coming out.**
- **Moving trucks are heading out of the Midwest, center of the hard-hit automobile industry.**

**Almost two-thirds of United shipments involving Michigan are leaving the state.**

"One of the things that we continue to find is that people are moving less because of work because we can telecommute," Bonham says. "The younger workforce is less likely to move because of a job and more likely to choose a place they want to live in."

Retirement moves have decreased, also because of the housing market.

When the financial markets were sound, many older workers bought retirement condos long before they retired, Hoover says. They would use them as vacation homes, moving many of their belongings gradually and often duplicating furnishings in their year-round homes. When it was time to retire, they would sell one home and many of the belongings they hadn't moved.

"The trend (now) is no big retirement moves," Hoover says.

### **A state-by-state look at interstate resettling**

Data from January through November show the number of interstate moves of household goods by United Van Lines and Atlas Van Lines companies. Numbers do not include in-state moves or do-it-yourself moves.

	<u>Total shipments</u>	<u>Percentage inbound</u>	<u>Percentage outbound</u>
Ala.	6,765	55%	45%
Alaska	285	61%	39%
Ariz.	15,410	51%	49%
Ark.	3,101	54%	46%
Calif.	46,281	50%	50%
Colo.	14,329	55%	45%
Conn.	6,396	45%	55%
Del.	1,640	49%	51%
D.C.	2,701	66%	34%
Fla.	33,458	48%	52%

Ga.	18,137	51%	49%
Hawaii	1	100%	0%
Idaho	2,849	49%	51%
Ill.	18,084	44%	56%
Ind.	7,480	45%	55%
Iowa	3,469	49%	51%
Kan.	5,966	46%	54%
Ky.	5,426	52%	48%
La.	5,538	52%	48%
Maine	2,508	45%	55%
Md.	11,167	50%	50%
Mass.	10,393	49%	51%
Mich.	11,014	37%	63%
Minn.	8,422	49%	51%
Miss.	3,461	49%	51%
Mo.	9,165	50%	50%
Mont.	2,175	53%	47%
Neb.	2,860	49%	51%
Nev.	5,351	56%	44%
N.H.	1,922	50%	50%
N.J.	11,047	40%	60%
N.M.	4,672	52%	48%
N.Y.	19,298	43%	57%
N.C.	19,066	58%	42%
N.D.	1,520	43%	57%
Ohio	14,976	43%	57%
Okla.	4,916	52%	48%
Ore.	6,839	57%	43%
Pa.	14,300	46%	54%

R.I.	1,572	43%	57%
S.C.	9,398	54%	46%
S.D.	1,140	52%	48%
Tenn.	9,913	55%	45%
<b>Texas</b>	<b>41,065</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Utah	4,172	50%	50%
Vt.	915	51%	49%
Va.	20,940	54%	46%
Wash.	16,171	56%	44%
W.Va.	1,482	46%	54%
Wis.	7,279	47%	53%
Wyo.	1,498	53%	47%

*Note: percentages rounded. Sources: United Van Lines, Atlas Van Lines*

**Courtesy of JB Goodwin**