

# THE MIGRATION OF PEOPLE AND THEIR INCOMES IN THE MEMPHIS MSA: 1992 TO 1997

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## Introduction

This study uses data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to describe migration patterns in the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). In-migration and out-migration data are analyzed for the MSA as a whole and for each of the five counties including Shelby, Tipton and Fayette in Tennessee, DeSoto County, Mississippi and Crittenden County, Arkansas. The data are from 1992 to 1997 and approximate the migration of individuals, households and household income.

Our methodology follows standard approaches of using IRS records for population studies. Taxpayers (individual IRS 1040 forms) are used as a proxy for households while taxpayers plus their claimed dependents (total exemptions) is a proxy for the number of migrants. Income is based on Form 1040 Adjusted Gross Income.

The years from 1992 through 1997 were the most recent period for which both migration and income data were available at the time of our analysis. The Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) purchased data files from the IRS containing county to county migration data for the U.S. and then sorted in and out-migration flows for each Memphis MSA county to calculate net migration.

All data are based on year to year comparisons of taxpayer addresses by the IRS, and is estimated to account for roughly 80% of the total U.S. population.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, to estimate total migration, migration data in this report should be increased by approximately 25% to account for those migrants that are not required to file tax returns. Income data should more closely reflect actual income migration as non-filers have taxable income levels below the amount subject to the federal income tax. Similarly, immigration of foreign nationals is typically not captured in the IRS data files. In all likelihood, the MSA witnessed positive net international migration between 1992 and 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> For detail on the IRS methodology see Migration Flow Documentation Guide (March 1999) Internal Revenue Service, and Sailer, P. and Weber, M. (1999) The IRS Population Count: An Update, Internal Revenue Service.

## **Scope and Limitations of this Study**

It should be emphasized that this study reflects data from the five year period from 1992 to 1997. Consequently, this relatively short time span may not be indicative of long range trends within the Memphis MSA. Assumptions or projections regarding migration trends beyond 1997 (or before 1992) are not established or implied. Data from longer time periods, as well as information on reasons for moving to another county, would be necessary to adequately forecast migration beyond this study period. Furthermore, a large variety of economic and social factors have significant influence on migration, and these factors are always subject to change. As mentioned earlier, persons who are not required to file federal income taxes may have a significant impact on migration flows, and these migrants are not captured in our analysis.

Net migration can be highly volatile as a county's in-migration or out-migration is often several times greater than net migration. Consequently, slight shifts in either migration flow can yield large changes in the net migration.

The data on average income per return for county to county comparison is subject to distortion by small numbers of high income taxpayers, and in some cases may not reflect the general pattern of income flows associated with migration.<sup>2</sup> Such a distortion was found in the income flows between Shelby County and Tarrant County (Dallas MSA) and is discussed in the text.

However, this study does provide useful information on the dynamics and magnitude of recent population movements in the Memphis area. County level data is provided on the migration of people and incomes within the five county Memphis MSA and with areas elsewhere in the region and nation. Recent migration trends and some factors influencing migration are presented. This information can allow us to better understand our region, and, hopefully provide public and private sector decision-makers with useful insights for planning.

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<sup>2</sup> Median incomes would be the more appropriate measure for comparing incomes of in-migrants and out-migrants. However, the aggregation of IRS data prevents the computation of medians for the combined five year study period.

## Migration at the MSA Level

Between 1992 and 1997 IRS data show that the Memphis MSA gained 9,850 net migrants resulting from 184,698 in-migrations and 174,848 out-migrations. During the same period, 59,163 Memphis MSA residents moved to another county within the MSA. However, the results of population movements from outside or inside the MSA were not uniform among the five MSA counties, nor was it related to county population. Total MSA population is estimated to have increased by 51,000 between 1992 and 1997 due to the net effects of births, deaths and migration.<sup>3</sup>

### *Population*

Chart 1 shows in-migrants, out-migrants and net migration for each of the five counties in the MSA (numbers within boxes). The number remained represents those who remained in the same county from 1992 to 1997. County to county net migration is shown by arrows depicting the direction of net migration and the number of net migrants. Arrows not connecting two MSA counties reflect net migration from outside the MSA.

Chart 1 reveals that Fayette, Tipton and DeSoto Counties experienced net population gains from migration, while Shelby and Crittenden Counties experienced net out-migration. Chart 1 also shows net migration from the primary MSA county (Shelby) to three of the four outlying counties. Only Crittenden County lost population to Shelby County between 1992 and 1997. Clearly, DeSoto County was the largest beneficiary of migration with 15,159 net migrants, of which two-thirds were from Shelby County. Likewise, DeSoto County edged out Shelby County in net migration from outside the MSA.

Annual migration flows for the MSA are shown in Graph 1 (Page 23).<sup>4</sup> In-migration was relatively stable during the 1992 to 1997 period, fluctuating between 36,000 and 38,000 persons per year. However, slightly greater volatility in annual out-migrations yielded higher net migration between 1992 and 1994-95 (3,078, 2,985 and 2,529 for each year respectively).

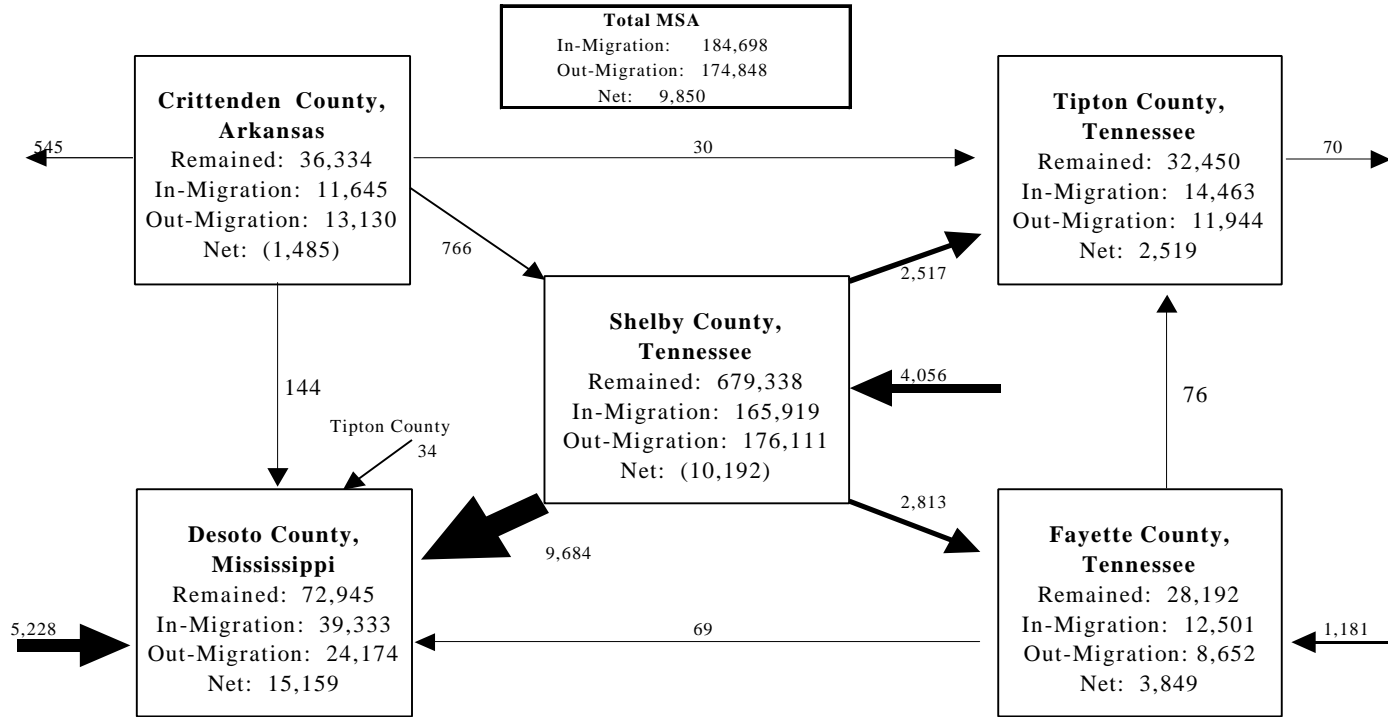
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<sup>3</sup> REDC calculation based on [Tennessee State Profile](#): (1996 & 2000) Woods & Poole Economics, Washington.

<sup>4</sup> Annual migration graphs are presented together to allow for comparison.

# CHART 1 MSA POPULATION MIGRATION

**Chart 1**  
**Memphis MSA**  
**Net Migration of Taxpayers and Their Dependents**  
**1992 - 1997**

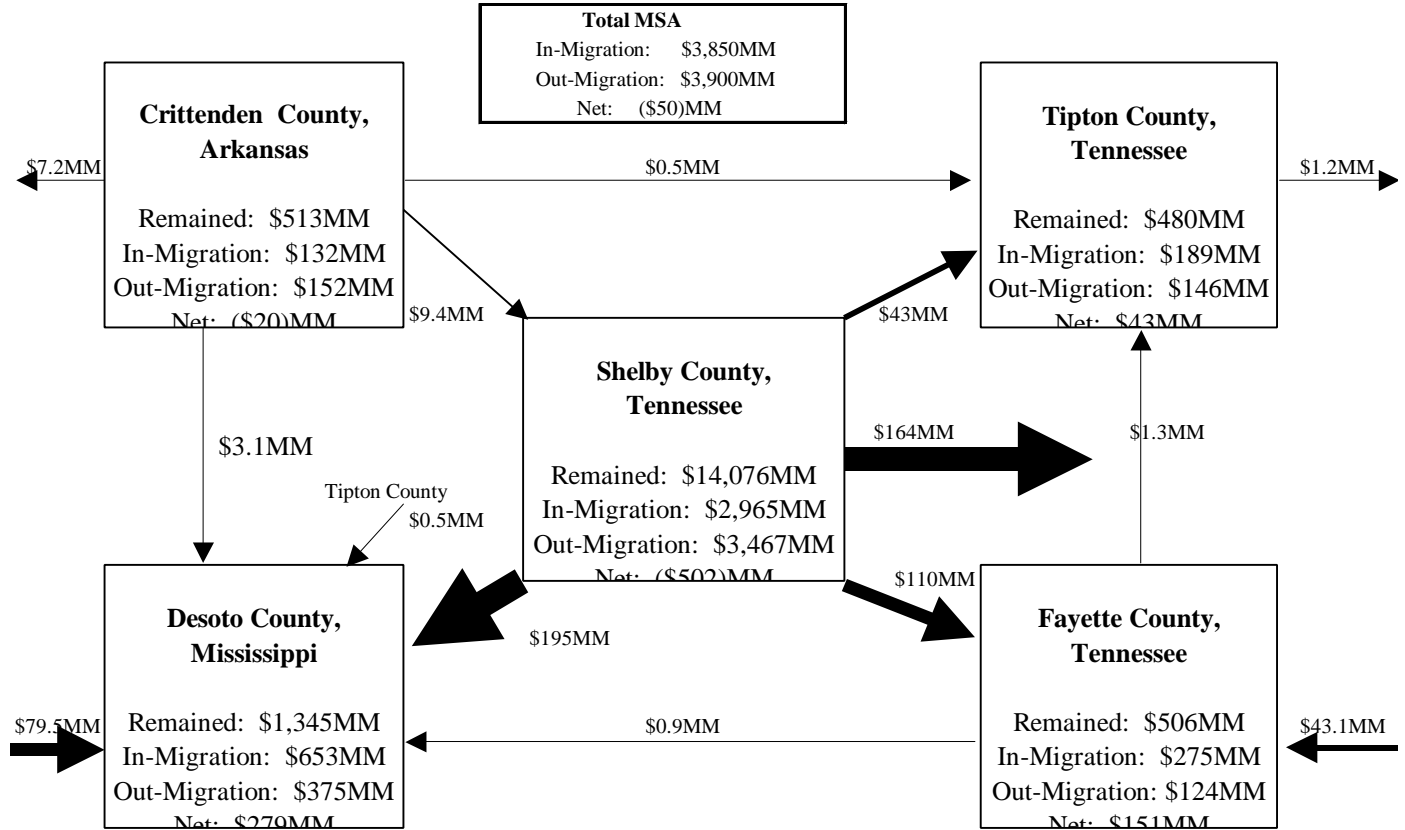


Note: ( ) = negative

Source: Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) calculation based on IRS data.

CHART 2 MSA INCOME MIGRATION

Chart 2  
**Memphis MSA**  
 Net Migration of Aggregate Income  
 1992 - 1997



Notes: MM = Millions

( ) = negative

Source: Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) calculation based on IRS data.

Out-migrants exceeded in-migrants in only one year (725 between 1995 and 1996), followed by positive net migration of 1,329 in 1996-97.

The Memphis MSA's positive net domestic migration fares well compared with metropolitan areas as a whole. Census Bureau survey data show that between 1992 and 1997 U.S. metropolitan areas experienced net negative migration as more people relocated to non-urban communities. Movers from abroad, however, resulted in total migration gains for the nation's MSA's.<sup>5</sup>

### *Income Flows*

Income flows associated with net migration are shown in Chart 2.<sup>6</sup> Migration shifts between the Memphis MSA and other areas resulted in the MSA "losing" \$50 million in income during the five year period.<sup>7</sup> Income flows from outside the MSA were in the same direction and magnitude as net migration except for Shelby County. Shelby County had a positive net migration of over 4,000 persons from outside the MSA, however, out-migrants had higher average incomes than in-migrants, resulting in a net loss of \$164 million in income from 1992 to 1997.

Income flows within the MSA followed the movement of households from one county to another. DeSoto, Fayette and Tipton Counties collectively gained \$348 million in taxpayer incomes from Shelby County during the five year period.

### *Comparison With Nashville MSA*

For comparison, we analyzed similar IRS migration data for the Nashville MSA. During the 1992 to 1997 period the eight county Nashville MSA experienced a net in-migration of 57,025

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<sup>5</sup> Current Population Survey. P20-531, June, 2000, U.S. Census Bureau. CPS domestic migration should reasonably correspond with IRS based migration even though different methodologies are employed.

<sup>6</sup> All income values are for the five year period from 1992 to 1997, and have been restated to year 2000 dollars to better allow for comparison.

<sup>7</sup> Income "loses" may not represent actual decreases in local income, but more likely reflect individuals who accept a higher paying job in a different location. The "loss" represents the aggregate income differences between the new and old job. Inflation is eliminated as a component of this difference as all income is restated to a common year (2000).

persons. The Nashville MSA gained over \$1 billion in aggregate income from migration. However, it is premature to make conclusions regarding the strength of the Memphis MSA relative to Nashville based on this data. For example, data since 1995 show that the Memphis MSA (specifically Shelby County) has outpaced all other areas of the state in capital investment by industry.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, this economic growth (and resulting jobs) has been particularly strong from 1997 to the present, a period only partially represented by this study.

The following sections discuss migration with respect to the five individual counties comprising the Memphis MSA. Additional detail is provided for Shelby County due to its larger migration flows.

### **Shelby County**

Between 1992 and 1997 migration resulted in Shelby County experiencing negative net migration of 10,192 persons. While Shelby County netted 4,056 residents from outside the MSA, movement to other counties within the Memphis MSA (DeSoto, Fayette and Tipton) resulted in a net decrease of 14,248 to surrounding counties.

#### *Population*

Population flows between Shelby County and other counties are shown in Table 1. Shelby County's largest population gains were with respect to Cook County, Illinois (1,284) and Los Angeles County (1,099), followed by Crittenden County (766). The largest population losses to areas outside the MSA were with respect to Escambia County Florida (1,685) and Davidson County (774). Negative net migration to Escambia County reflects the relocation of certain Millington naval personnel to Pensacola in the mid 1990's.<sup>9</sup> Shelby County experienced negative net migration to three other large sunbelt MSA's (Atlanta, Dallas and Jacksonville) but had gains relative to Little Rock, San Diego and Houston. Again, the movement of naval

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<sup>8</sup> Barton, Christopher (June 4, 2000) Shelby Reaps Top Tennessee Dollar. The Commercial Appeal.

<sup>9</sup> The realignment of Millington NAS also resulted in the relocation of higher paid personnel to Millington, resulting in a net decrease in employment but a less than proportional decrease in aggregate income (Burrell, L. & Redding, S. (1995) An Economic Impact Study of the Proposed Realignment of NAS Memphis and an Adjustment Plan for the City of Millington, TN. Regional Economic Development Center, The University of Memphis.)

TABLE 1 SHELBY COUNTY

Table 1  
Shelby County Migration 1992 - 1997  
Top 20 Counties by Total (In and Out) Migration Volume

State	County	MSA or Major City	Total Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000S)			Aggregate Income (000's of 2000S)		
			Inflow from	Outflow to	Net	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference
MS	De Soto County	Memphis MSA	8,709	18,393	(9,684)	\$28,996	\$38,355	(\$9,358)	\$134,542	\$329,581	(\$195,039)
TN	Tipton County	Memphis MSA	4,843	7,360	(2,517)	\$26,773	\$33,224	(\$6,450)	60,454	103,359	(42,905)
TN	Fayette County	Memphis MSA	4,289	7,102	(2,813)	\$30,380	\$55,414	(\$25,034)	62,279	172,062	(109,782)
AR	Crittenden County	Memphis MSA	3,530	2,764	766	\$27,284	\$28,375	(\$1,091)	47,611	38,165	9,447
IL	Cook County	Chicago MSA	3,009	1,725	1,284	\$31,400	\$32,906	(\$1,506)	46,221	31,491	14,730
TN	Davidson County	Nashville MSA	2,807	3,581	(774)	\$33,031	\$34,028	(\$996)	54,667	75,882	(21,215)
MS	Marshall County	Holly Springs	2,490	2,768	(278)	\$24,454	\$27,696	(\$3,242)	30,078	36,476	(6,398)
CA	Los Angeles County	Los Angeles MSA	2,132	1,033	1,099	\$34,642	\$35,973	(\$1,330)	35,612	22,447	13,166
AR	Pulaski County	Little Rock MSA	2,051	1,520	531	\$40,917	\$40,785	\$131	45,049	34,504	10,545
CA	San Diego County	San Diego MSA	1,953	1,731	222	\$31,416	\$25,079	\$6,338	25,447	22,019	3,428
TX	Harris County	Houston MSA	1,722	1,535	187	\$38,353	\$42,283	(\$3,930)	31,833	33,108	(1,275)
TX	Dallas County	Dallas MSA	1,673	1,913	(240)	\$39,446	\$44,777	(\$5,330)	32,307	46,389	(14,082)
TN	Madison County	Jackson MSA	1,619	1,605	14	\$29,064	\$35,352	(\$6,288)	27,088	29,802	(2,714)
TN	Knox County	Knoxville MSA	1,179	1,445	(266)	\$30,425	\$37,831	(\$7,406)	21,784	31,248	(9,464)
TX	Tarrant County	Dallas MSA	1,121	1,314	(193)	\$42,967	\$76,755	(\$33,787)	21,870	47,127	(25,257)
FL	Duval County	Jacksonville MSA	1,104	1,551	(447)	\$31,997	\$27,839	\$4,158	15,454	20,128	(4,673)
MO	St Louis County	St Louis MSA	989	1,028	(39)	\$50,115	\$51,204	(\$1,089)	24,607	25,500	(893)
MS	Tate County	Senatobia	942	1,281	(339)	\$22,984	\$32,220	(\$9,236)	11,079	19,236	(8,157)
GA	Fulton County	Atlanta MSA	889	1,330	(441)	\$49,936	\$50,405	(\$469)	25,218	39,165	(13,947)
FL	Escambia County	Pensacola MSA	500	2,185	(1,685)	\$31,845	\$36,188	(\$4,343)	7,579	31,122	(23,542)
Sub-Total Top 20 Counties			47,551	63,164	(15,613)	\$31,707	\$38,897	(\$7,190)	\$760,779	\$1,188,808	(\$428,029)
All Other Counties			114,585	110,025	4,560	\$37,631	\$41,689	(\$4,058)	\$2,148,930	\$2,238,017	(\$89,087)
APO/FPO & US Possessions			3,783	2,922	861	\$25,029	\$24,005	\$1,024	\$55,564	\$40,664	\$14,900
Total Migration			165,919	176,111	(10,192)	\$35,589	\$40,347	(\$4,758)	\$2,965,273	\$3,467,489	(\$502,216)

personnel may have influenced migration between Shelby County and both Jacksonville and San Diego as well as the APO/FPO overseas military addresses.

Annual migration flows in Graph 2 (Page 23) indicate a shift to net out-migration occurring between 1994 and 1995. Close to one half the total net migration change (from a positive 564 persons in 1993-94 to a negative 2,251 in 1994-95) can be attributed to increases in out-migration from Shelby County to Fayette and Tipton Counties. Out-migration to Fayette and Tipton Counties remained in the range of 3,300 to 3,600 persons per year from 1994 to 1997. The balance of the 1994-95 shift to net out-migration results from general declines in migration inflows from a large variety of counties with no observable geographic patterns.

Out-migration to DeSoto County increased gradually throughout the 1992 to 1997 period, ranging from 3,321 between 1992-93 to 3,897 between 1996-97. During the same period migration from DeSoto County to Shelby County slowed slightly from 1,939 to 1,658.

Between 1995 and 1996 Shelby County posted the largest net loss to migration (5,522). Net out-migration to the Pensacola area in 1995 and 1996 accounted for 1,463 persons. Consequently, that year's higher out-migration may have been influenced by the relocation of the Millington NAS. Net out-migration declined in the following year to slightly over 4,000.

### *Regional Migration*

Migration flows between Shelby County and the four major regions of the country are shown in Table 2 and on Map 1. From 1992 to 1997 Shelby County experienced negative net migration relative to other southern states, but witnessed positive net migration from the balance of the nation. As expected, the greatest migration activity (in-migration plus out-migration) was with other southern states. Over 85% of Shelby County's loss to the southern region was to other counties in Tennessee or to Mississippi (DeSoto County principally). The Midwest followed in total migration activity with in-migration slightly exceeding out-migration. The Northeast provided the largest regional net migration gain for Shelby County. Of all states, California and Illinois provided the greatest net migration gains for Shelby County due in part to the influence of Los Angeles and Cook Counties.

TABLE 2 REGIONAL MIGRATION (SHELBY)

Table 2  
Shelby County Regional Migration 1992 - 1997

Region	Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000\$)			Aggregate Income (000s of 2000\$)					
	Inflow	Outflow	to	Inflow	Outflow	to	Difference	Inflow	from	Outflow	to	Difference
	from											
<b>South</b>												
Alabama	3,403	3,133	270	\$41,304	\$45,051	(3,747)		\$71,952		\$70,145		1,807
Arkansas	10,658	9,314	1,344	\$30,172	\$35,363	(5,190)		\$167,306		\$165,109		2,197
District of Columbia	211	165	46	\$40,098	\$44,413	(4,314)		\$5,293		\$5,596		(303)
Delaware	151	42	109	\$68,462	\$47,500	20,962		\$4,450		\$760		3,690
Florida	6,969	10,502	(3,533)	\$39,614	\$44,511	(4,897)		\$137,263		\$217,614		(80,351)
Georgia	4,502	6,203	(1,701)	\$43,911	\$45,091	(1,180)		\$100,468		\$142,081		(41,613)
Kentucky	1,318	1,315	3	\$40,559	\$45,567	(5,009)		\$27,661		\$29,801		(2,140)
Louisiana	2,974	2,260	714	\$39,636	\$38,598	1,038		\$59,493		\$44,310		15,183
Maryland	1,180	920	260	\$51,295	\$43,867	7,429		\$29,033		\$20,705		8,328
Mississippi	24,428	31,693	(7,265)	\$26,531	\$34,405	(7,874)		\$339,670		\$520,547		(180,877)
North Carolina	2,739	3,175	(436)	\$43,719	\$40,304	3,416		\$54,037		\$63,035		(8,998)
Oklahoma	1,249	1,052	197	\$38,264	\$37,975	289		\$22,193		\$19,747		2,446
South Carolina	1,533	1,322	211	\$39,283	\$39,864	(582)		\$26,555		\$26,151		404
Tennessee	24,422	34,192	(9,770)	\$29,569	\$40,736	(11,167)		\$382,295		\$668,759		(286,464)
Texas	7,991	8,222	(231)	\$40,424	\$52,116	(11,692)		\$151,025		\$208,987		(57,962)
Virginia	3,503	3,294	209	\$42,726	\$32,932	9,794		\$64,473		\$50,089		14,384
Other Flows - South	14,813	15,175	(362)	\$33,216	\$38,590	(5,374)		\$242,939		\$273,139		(30,200)
<b>South Total Migration</b>	<b>112,044</b>	<b>131,979</b>	<b>(19,935)</b>	<b>\$33,224</b>	<b>\$39,740</b>	<b>(6,516)</b>		<b>\$1,886,106</b>		<b>\$2,526,575</b>		<b>(640,469)</b>
<b>West</b>												
Alaska	209	204	5	\$73,656	\$73,653	4		\$7,071		\$6,997		74
Arizona	1,104	1,351	(247)	\$60,095	\$49,011	11,084		\$31,490		\$34,651		(3,161)
California	8,272	5,466	2,806	\$38,773	\$32,986	5,787		\$145,475		\$98,529		46,946
Colorado	1,315	1,582	(267)	\$40,500	\$48,434	(7,934)		\$26,244		\$41,605		(15,361)
Hawaii	640	403	237	\$32,425	\$26,943	5,483		\$8,463		\$5,631		2,832
Idaho	0	22	(22)	n/a	\$42,545	n/a		\$0		\$468		(468)
New Mexico	124	142	(18)	\$41,111	\$39,756	1,355		\$2,590		\$3,260		(670)
Nevada	734	625	109	\$45,516	\$48,939	(3,423)		\$15,976		\$15,954		22
Oregon	166	256	(90)	\$33,148	\$47,062	(13,914)		\$2,917		\$6,871		(3,954)
Utah	244	272	(28)	\$36,972	\$45,872	(8,900)		\$4,030		\$5,734		(1,704)
Washington	1,089	1,311	(222)	\$36,213	\$33,299	2,914		\$18,505		\$22,510		(4,005)
Wyoming	36	0	36	\$39,846	n/a	n/a		\$518		\$0		518
Other Flows - West	3,023	2,871	152	\$37,132	\$49,994	(12,862)		\$51,985		\$71,441		(19,456)
<b>West Total Migration</b>	<b>16,956</b>	<b>14,505</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>\$40,336</b>	<b>\$40,989</b>	<b>(654)</b>		<b>\$315,264</b>		<b>\$313,651</b>		<b>1,613</b>
<b>Northeast</b>												
Connecticut	444	362	82	\$85,521	\$85,414	107		\$18,729		\$14,862		3,867
Maine	69	146	(77)	\$37,286	\$29,114	8,171		\$1,305		\$2,038		(733)
Massachusetts	568	494	74	\$52,092	\$46,249	5,843		\$15,211		\$12,811		2,400
Rhode Island	61	22	39	\$30,367	\$22,400	7,967		\$911		\$224		687
New Jersey	749	168	581	\$64,202	\$47,333	16,869		\$24,461		\$4,686		19,775
New York	1,668	676	992	\$46,879	\$44,064	2,815		\$43,082		\$20,666		22,416
Pennsylvania	930	642	288	\$45,558	\$48,887	(3,329)		\$21,959		\$15,546		6,413
Other Flows - Northeast	7,045	3,450	3,595	\$38,922	\$51,288	(12,366)		\$136,226		\$85,958		50,268
<b>Northeast Migration Totals</b>	<b>11,534</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>5,574</b>	<b>\$44,705</b>	<b>\$50,692</b>	<b>(5,987)</b>		<b>\$261,884</b>		<b>\$156,791</b>		<b>105,093</b>
<b>Midwest</b>												
Iowa	278	281	(3)	\$56,688	\$43,203	13,485		\$7,823		\$5,530		2,293
Illinois	5,556	3,017	2,539	\$40,147	\$43,665	(3,518)		\$104,823		\$67,244		37,579
Indiana	1,426	1,009	417	\$37,118	\$38,378	(1,260)		\$26,651		\$18,882		7,769
Kansas	740	601	139	\$60,440	\$59,774	666		\$20,610		\$16,916		3,694
Michigan	1,894	1,393	501	\$40,924	\$39,050	1,874		\$38,264		\$25,929		12,335
Minnesota	739	850	(111)	\$47,937	\$48,246	(309)		\$17,545		\$20,215		(2,670)
Missouri	2,728	2,827	(99)	\$39,078	\$43,158	(4,081)		\$55,412		\$61,285		(5,873)
Nebraska	387	280	107	\$52,621	\$55,698	(3,078)		\$9,156		\$6,461		2,695
Ohio	2,093	1,680	413	\$53,390	\$50,193	3,197		\$54,137		\$41,108		13,029
South Dakota	20	0	20	\$17,300	\$0	n/a		\$173		\$0		173
Wisconsin	865	555	310	\$33,020	\$33,877	(857)		\$13,175		\$9,079		4,096
Other Flows - Midwest	4,373	8,252	(3,879)	\$44,717	\$41,630	3,087		\$98,690		\$157,154		(58,464)
<b>Midwest Migration Totals</b>	<b>21,099</b>	<b>20,745</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>\$43,215</b>	<b>\$43,309</b>	<b>(94)</b>		<b>\$446,459</b>		<b>\$429,803</b>		<b>16,656</b>
<b>Total US Migration</b>	<b>161,633</b>	<b>173,189</b>	<b>(11,556)</b>	<b>\$36,023</b>	<b>\$40,676</b>	<b>(4,653)</b>		<b>\$2,909,713</b>		<b>\$3,426,820</b>		<b>(517,107)</b>
<b>APO/FPO &amp; US Possessions</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>\$21,824</b>	<b>\$24,005</b>	<b>(2,181)</b>		<b>\$55,564</b>		<b>\$40,664</b>		<b>14,900</b>
<b>Total Migration</b>	<b>165,919</b>	<b>176,111</b>	<b>(10,192)</b>	<b>\$35,589</b>	<b>\$40,347</b>	<b>(4,758)</b>		<b>\$2,965,277</b>		<b>\$3,467,484</b>		<b>(502,207)</b>

MAP 1 REGIONAL MIGRATION (SHELBY)

Regional migration flows for Shelby County generally fit with national trends.<sup>10</sup> Migration inflows and outflows between the West Region and Shelby County closely approximate flows between the West and the balance of the country. Shelby County has somewhat greater levels of migration with the Midwest most likely due to geographic proximity, but has lower total migration flows relative to the Northeast. However, positive net migration from the Northeast to Shelby County fits with the Northeast Region's high level of domestic out-migration. The Southern Region had the largest total migration flows and was the only region with high levels of positive net domestic migration.

### *Income Flows*

Average and aggregate income resulting from Shelby County migration is also shown in Table 1. In total, persons with \$3.5 Billion in aggregate income left Shelby County while in-migration yielded \$3 Billion, resulting in a \$500 million difference. Migration from Shelby County to other counties in the Memphis MSA accounted for \$338 Million (67%) of the total income difference. Households (income tax filers) leaving Shelby County for DeSoto, Tipton and Fayette Counties had significantly higher average incomes than did those moving to Shelby County from these three counties. The average income of households moving to DeSoto County was over \$38,000 and over \$55,000 for those relocating to Fayette County.

Higher average incomes leaving the MSA often reflect persons moving to accept higher paying jobs, whereas relocation to another county within the Memphis MSA may not reflect a job change, but an outward movement of some higher income Shelby County residents to surrounding counties.

Overall, in-migrants had average incomes of \$35,589 and out-migrants had incomes of \$40,347. The highest unfavorable average income difference was with Tarrant County, Texas (\$33,787 difference) while the highest favorable difference was with San Diego County (\$6,338). The large difference between Shelby and Tarrant Counties results from the outflow of over \$23 million reported on 140 FY1994 tax returns. Analysis suggests that, barring source document

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<sup>10</sup> REDC analysis based on the IRS data and Current Population Survey data for 1992 to 1997 (Geographic Mobility. Report P20-531, U.S. Census Bureau, Internet release date: July, 2000).

error, this difference likely reflects the out-migration of a small number of very high income taxpayers (estimated at \$18 million in aggregate) to Tarrant County between 1993 and 1994.<sup>11</sup> If 1993 to 1994 migration were excluded the five year average income per return would be about the same for Shelby and Tarrant Counties.<sup>12</sup>

## **DeSoto County**

Clearly, DeSoto County outpaced the other four MSA counties in net migration of people and incomes between 1992 and 1997. DeSoto County led the MSA with respect to gains from within the Memphis MSA as well as from areas beyond the MSA.

### *Population*

Table 3 shows that other Memphis MSA counties (mostly Shelby) contributed 9,931 net migrants (66% of total net migration) with \$200 million in incomes (72% of income gain from migration). DeSoto County gained over 1,000 net migrants from the remainder of the state, mostly from north Mississippi counties. Relatively large migration flows are noted between DeSoto and neighboring Tate and Marshall Counties. DeSoto County gained population relative to Marshall County, however, Tate County's positive net migration represents the only significant net migration loss for DeSoto County.

Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas) ranks high in migration volumes and provides DeSoto County with the second highest net migration (279) following Shelby County. Presumably, migration between the two counties is related to the growth of the gaming industry in Tunica County.<sup>13</sup> At least a portion of the migration gain from Harrison County (Biloxi) may also be

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<sup>11</sup> The median incomes of in-migrants from Tarrant County to Shelby County was actually higher than out-migrants from Shelby to Tarrant between 1993 and 1994 (\$26,099 versus \$24,151). Low median incomes of out-migrants relative to an average income of \$190,000 indicates the influence of a few very high income out-migrants between 1993 and 1994.

<sup>12</sup> Migration flows between Shelby and Fayette Counties also produce very high average income differentials (\$25,034). However, year by year analysis does not suggest significant distortion by a small number of high income out-migrants to Fayette County.

<sup>13</sup> Tunica County had only 41 residents move from Clark County during the same period and no reported out-migration to Nevada. Tunica County experienced a total net migration loss of 173 persons between 1992 and 1997.

TABLE 3 DESOTO

Table 3  
Desoto County Migration 1992 - 1997  
Top 20 Counties by Total (In and Out) Migration Volume

State	County	MSA or Major City	Total Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000\$)			Aggregate Income (000's of 2000\$)		
			Inflow from	Outflow to	Net	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference
TN	Shelby County	Memphis MSA	18,393	8,709	9,684	\$38,348	\$28,987	\$9,361	\$329,521	\$134,499	\$195,022
MS	Tate County	Senatobia	1,427	1,665	(238)	\$30,360	\$35,756	(\$5,396)	20,129	24,779	(4,650)
MS	Marshall County	Memphis MSA	1,483	1,246	237	\$27,364	\$25,847	\$1,516	17,677	14,087	3,590
MS	Panola County	Batesville	400	428	(28)	\$27,109	\$33,293	(\$6,183)	5,666	6,392	(726)
MS	Tunica County	Tunica	432	263	169	\$26,687	\$25,994	\$693	5,684	3,145	2,539
NV	Clark County	Las Vegas MSA	456	177	279	\$49,317	\$49,819	(\$502)	10,800	4,733	6,068
AR	Crittenden County	Memphis MSA	361	217	144	\$34,261	\$25,832	\$8,430	5,687	2,583	3,104
MS	Lafayette County	Oxford	272	254	18	\$29,917	\$25,506	\$4,410	4,338	3,112	1,226
MS	Harrison County	Biloxi MSA	301	116	185	\$41,232	\$35,067	\$6,165	6,309	1,964	4,345
MS	Lee County	Tupelo	247	150	97	\$32,925	\$31,313	\$1,612	3,424	2,067	1,358
TN	Fayette County	Memphis MSA	194	125	69	\$35,302	\$35,926	(\$624)	3,142	2,227	914
MS	Rankin County	Jackson MSA	167	150	17	\$44,303	\$40,894	\$3,409	3,101	2,454	648
TN	Tipton County	Memphis MSA	150	116	34	\$34,299	\$32,287	\$2,013	2,264	1,743	520
MS	Hinds County	Jackson MSA	181	81	100	\$37,802	\$31,108	\$6,694	3,440	1,369	2,071
MS	Coahoma County	Clarksdale	220	40	180	\$26,669	\$31,887	(\$5,218)	2,907	542	2,365
TN	Davidson County	Nashville MSA	99	108	(9)	\$30,491	\$29,300	\$1,192	1,738	1,904	(166)
MS	Washington County	Greenville, MS	196	0	196	\$38,397	n/a	n/a	3,379	0	3,379
TX	Harris County	Houston MSA	113	49	64	\$46,081	\$33,912	\$12,169	2,304	746	1,558
MS	Bolivar County	Cleveland	124	24	100	\$28,654	\$24,319	\$4,335	1,805	316	1,489
IL	Cook County	Chicago MSA	144	0	144	\$22,699	n/a	n/a	1,634	0	1,634
Sub-Total Top 20 Counties			25,360	13,918	11,442	\$36,655	\$29,950	\$6,705	\$434,949	\$208,662	\$226,287
All Other Counties, APO/FPO & US Possessions			13,973	10,256	3,717	\$30,012	\$31,574	(\$1,562)	218,547	166,109	52,438
Total Migration			39,333	24,174	15,159	\$34,129	\$30,649	\$3,480	\$653,496	\$374,771	\$278,725

related to casino gaming employment. Cook County Illinois provided 144 in-migrants to DeSoto County between 1992 to 1997, while there was no out-migration to Cook County.

Graph 3 (Page 23) reveals gradual increases in both in-migration and out-migration from 1992 to 1997. However, in-migration increased at a faster rate yielding a growing positive net migration from slightly over 2,000 in 1992-93 and approaching 4,000 by 1997.

#### *Income Flows*

Income gains from migration are also shown in Table 3. Shelby County contributed 70% of DeSoto County's \$279 million aggregate income gain from migration, reflecting both strong in-migration as well as higher average incomes (\$9,361 difference) for movers from Shelby County. The greatest average income difference was with Harris County (Houston) where in-migrants to DeSoto County had \$12,169 more in income than those moving from DeSoto to Harris County. Overall, households moving to DeSoto County had incomes of almost \$3,500 above those who left the county.

### **Fayette County**

Fayette County is experiencing strong growth in the net migration of people and incomes. Much of this growth results from its growing popularity as a suburban community. While most new residents are coming from Shelby County many are from outside the MSA.

#### *Population*

Table 4 reveals that two-thirds of Fayette County's net migration was from Shelby County, however, Fayette County had slight population losses to other surrounding counties. The other one-third of net in-migrants were from a large variety of counties not in the immediate region.

Annual migration flows (Graph 4) show the shift to positive net in-migration between 1994 and 1995, corresponding to net out-migration from Shelby County seen in Graph 2. Both in-migration and out-migration increased from 1994 through 1997, with net migration gains remaining fairly constant at approximately 1,200 persons per year.

TABLE 4 FAYETTE

**Table 4**  
**Fayette County Migration 1992 - 1997**  
**Top 10 Counties by Total (In and Out) Migration Volume**

State	County	MSA or Major City	Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000\$)			Aggregate Income (000's of 2000\$)		
			Inflow from	Outflow to	Net	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference
TN	Shelby County	Memphis MSA	7,102	4,289	2,813	\$55,404	\$30,381	\$25,023	\$172,029	\$62,281	\$109,748
TN	Tipton County	Memphis MSA	452	528	(76)	\$20,057	\$23,210	(\$3,153)	3,731	5,013	(1,282)
TN	Hardeman County	Bolivar	394	465	(71)	\$20,600	\$20,795	(\$195)	3,873	3,951	(78)
TN	Haywood County	Brownsville	255	307	(52)	\$18,780	\$18,780	0	2,047	2,460	(413)
MS	De Soto County	Memphis MSA	125	194	(69)	\$35,926	\$35,302	\$624	2,227	3,142	(915)
MS	Marshall County	Holly Springs	111	169	(58)	\$22,431	\$19,499	\$2,932	1,391	1,443	(52)
TN	Davidson County	Nashville MSA	63	14	49	\$46,956	\$32,950	\$14,006	1,315	362	953
TN	Madison County	Jackson MSA	22	15	7	\$25,251	\$23,026	\$2,225	278	230	48
AR	Pulaski County	Little Rock MSA	34	0	34	\$75,640	n/a		832	0	832
MS	Benton County	Ashland	0	26	(26)	n/a	\$26,295		0	316	(316)
Sub-Total Top 10 counties			8,558	6,007	2,551	\$49,900	\$28,458	\$21,442	\$187,722	\$79,198	\$108,524
All Other Counties, APO/FPO & US Possessions			3,943	2,645	1,298	\$56,573	\$39,124	\$17,450	86,784	44,562	42,222
Total Migration			12,501	8,652	3,849	\$51,833	\$31,555	\$20,277	\$274,506	\$123,760	\$150,746

Note: Only 10 counties are listed in Table 4 as the IRS does not identify the county when less than 10 tax filers are included as either in-migrants or out-migrants. These small migration volumes are classified as "Other Flows" and are reflected in Total Migration.

The foregoing indicates that Fayette County has less geographic dispersion of its migration flows than does either Shelby or DeSoto county, e.g., its inflows and outflows are generally associated with fewer counties.

### *Income Flows*

Fayette County had the second highest absolute income gain in the MSA from migration (\$151 million) between 1992 and 1997. However, Fayette County substantially surpassed the other MSA counties in average income per return for in-migrants (almost \$52,000), and realized a \$20,000 favorable difference between the average incomes of out-migrants and in-migrants. This income differential is several times that realized by other MSA counties. While Shelby County contributes the most to average income and aggregate income, substantial contributions are made by households relocating from outside the MSA.

Additional insight into income flows is provided by analysis of annual median incomes of in-migrants to Fayette County. A significant increase in median incomes (\$27,755 versus \$18,173) is noted for 1994 to 1995 compared with 1993 to 1994, corresponding to the large increase in total in-migration revealed in Graph 4. Several components of this change continue through 1997. Lower income households relocated to Fayette County from neighboring counties, particularly from Hardeman, Haywood and Tipton Counties. Most likely a combination of different income groups are moving to Fayette County from Shelby County. Median incomes for 1994 to 1997 hover around \$30,000, however, the high average household income of \$55,000 suggests significant numbers of higher income households.

Highest median incomes are associated with in-migrants from outside the immediate region. In-migrants from the South Region excluding Tennessee had median incomes close to \$38,000 while households moving to Fayette County from other regions had higher incomes. Midwestern in-migrants (242 households from 1994 to 1997) had median incomes of over \$48,000 in each year, and those from the Northeast (81 households) reached \$81,000 in 1995-1996. The high average incomes from Pulaski County (Little Rock) result from 11 tax filers who moved to Fayette County between 1995 and 1996.

## Tipton County

Tipton County migration flows are primarily influenced by its selection as a popular suburban location by former Shelby County residents, and by personnel movements associated with Millington NSA.

### *Population*

Tipton County experienced strong population growth from in-migration during 1992 to 1997. Table 5 shows a net gain of over 2,500 residents from Shelby County, with smaller gains from surrounding counties including Fayette, Haywood, Dyer and Crittenden.

The role of naval facilities at Millington is clearly seen in Tipton County migration flows. The relocation of Millington Naval Air Station to Pensacola is reflected in out-migration to Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, while in-migration from San Diego, Virginia Beach and Jacksonville is likely associated with naval personnel. Recent studies have found that 47% of Tipton County's population influx is from Navy personnel at Millington.<sup>14</sup>

Tipton County's annual migration flows follow a pattern similar to Fayette County, with a shift from relatively small to large positive net migration occurring between 1994 and 1995 and continuing through 1997 (Graph 5). During the 1992 to 1997 period, in-migration from Shelby County increased from roughly 1,150 persons per year to 1,700. Out-migration from Tipton to Shelby County declined from almost 1,100 to around 900, resulting in a net gain of 750 to 800 residents per year for 1994 to 1997. Net gains from San Diego and Virginia Beach occurred between 1992 and 1995 while Crittenden and Cook Counties' contributions were between 1996 and 1997.

### *Income Flows*

Tipton County's increase in aggregate income from migration is a result of households relocating from Shelby County where the combination of positive net migration and higher in-migrant

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<sup>14</sup> Sullivan, Bartholomew, (September 13, 2000) Crittenden, Fayette and Tipton Pushing Metro Area Outward. The Commercial Appeal.

TABLE 5 TIPTON

Table 5  
Tipton County Migration 1992 - 1997  
Top 16 Counties by Total (In and Out) Migration Volume

State	County	MSA or Major City	Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000\$)			Aggregate Income (000's of 2000\$)		
			Inflow from	Outflow to	Net	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference
TN	Shelby County	Memphis MSA	7,360	4,843	2,517	\$33,222	\$26,765	\$6,458	\$103,354	\$60,435	\$42,920
TN	Lauderdale County	Ripley	594	609	(15)	\$21,084	\$22,670	(\$1,586)	5,904	6,325	(421)
TN	Fayette County	Memphis MSA	528	452	76	\$23,210	\$20,057	\$3,153	5,013	3,731	1,283
TN	Haywood County	Brownsville	300	241	59	\$20,700	\$21,143	(\$443)	2,567	2,431	135
FL	Escambia County	Pensacola MSA	0	313	(313)	n/a	\$44,409		0	4,352	(4,352)
MS	De Soto County	Memphis MSA	116	150	(34)	\$32,287	\$34,299	(\$2,013)	1,743	2,264	(520)
TN	Madison County	Jackson MSA	50	80	(30)	\$26,033	\$43,903	(\$17,870)	573	1,756	(1,183)
CA	San Diego	San Diego MSA	117	0	117	\$28,993	n/a		986	0	986
TN	Dyer County	Dyersburg	88	0	88	\$29,235	n/a		1,111	0	1,111
VA	Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach	85	0	85	\$44,581	n/a		1,293	0	1,293
TN	Davidson County	Nashville MSA	22	51	(29)	\$25,354	\$26,859	(\$1,505)	304	859	(555)
FL	Duval County	Jacksonville MSA	30	29	1	\$29,720	\$31,920	(\$2,200)	297	319	(22)
FL	Santa Rosa County	Pensacola MSA	0	41	(41)	n/a	\$48,527		0	679	(679)
NC	Onslow County	Jacksonville, NC	0	32	(32)	n/a	\$29,018		0	319	(319)
AR	Crittenden County	Memphis MSA	30	0	30	\$44,289	n/a		487	0	487
IL	Cook County	Chicago MSA	18	0	18	\$44,393	n/a		621	0	621
Sub-Total Top 16 Counties			9,338	6,841	2,497	\$31,417	\$26,848	\$4,569	\$124,254	\$83,471	\$40,783
All Other Counties, APO/FPO & US Possession			5,125	5,103	22	\$30,833	\$29,881	\$953	64,781	62,660	2,121
Total Migration			14,463	11,944	2,519	\$31,214	\$28,070	\$3,145	\$189,035	\$146,131	\$42,904

Note: Only 16 counties are listed in Table 5 as the IRS does not identify the county when less than 10 tax filers are included as either in-migrants or out-migrants. These small migration volumes are classified as "Other Flows" and are reflected in Total Migration.

incomes yielded \$43 million. The highest average incomes (over \$44,000) were from Virginia Beach, Crittenden and Cook Counties. The greatest difference in average incomes is seen in population flows between Tipton and Madison Counties where out-migrants had incomes of almost \$18,000 higher than those relocating from Madison County.

### **Crittenden County**

Crittenden County experienced a net loss to migration between 1992 and 1997, however, there is evidence this trend may be changing.

#### *Population*

Table 6 shows that other counties in the Memphis MSA (Shelby, DeSoto, and Tipton) accounted for 63% of Crittenden County's net loss to migration of 1,485 during the 1992 to 1997 period. The balance of net out-migration is mostly associated with a large variety of counties represented by small levels of annual migration.

Other counties in east central Arkansas account for about the same volume of migration flows as Memphis MSA counties, however, total net migration is essentially balanced with these Arkansas counties. Net migration gains were made relative to counties southwest of Crittenden (St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, and Monroe), and in the Little Rock-Pine Bluff area (Pulaski, Lonoke, and Jefferson). However, Crittenden County experienced negative net migration with respect to counties to the northwest (Cross, Poinsett, and Craighead) and counties north of Little Rock (Faulkner, White and Cleburne). Interestingly, Crittenden County experienced positive net migration from counties south of the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel (just below the Cross and St. Francis county line), while experiencing net out-migration to those counties north of this line. The only exception was the slightly positive net migration from Mississippi County.

Graph 6 shows that net out-migration from Crittenden County has declined fairly consistently from 507 net out-migrants in 1992 to only 97 in 1997. Overall, a gradual increase in total in-migration coupled with gradual declines in out-migration (except for 1996-1997) produced the

TABLE 6 CRITTENDEN

Table 6  
Crittenden County Migration 1992 - 1997  
Top 20 Counties by Total (In and Out) Migration Volume

State	County	MSA or Major City	Total Exemptions			Average Income Per Return (Restated to Year 2000\$)			Aggregate Income (000's of 2000\$)		
			Inflow from	Outflow to	Net	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference	Inflow from	Outflow to	Difference
TN	Shelby County	Memphis MSA	2,764	3,530	(766)	\$28,381	\$27,277	\$1,104	\$38,172	\$47,599	(\$9,426)
AR	St Francis County	Forrest City	861	724	137	\$20,483	\$20,774	(\$291)	7,210	6,274	936
AR	Cross County	Wynne	462	487	(25)	\$21,141	\$23,870	(\$2,729)	4,165	4,679	(514)
AR	Mississippi County	Blytheville	398	383	15	\$24,842	\$19,477	\$5,365	4,322	3,019	1,304
AR	Poinsett County	Trumann	381	535	(154)	\$24,962	\$22,976	\$1,986	3,969	5,216	(1,247)
AR	Craighead County	Jonesboro	344	406	(62)	\$24,236	\$26,650	(\$2,413)	4,193	5,170	(977)
AR	Pulaski County	Little Rock MSA	312	257	55	\$25,769	\$28,811	(\$3,042)	3,891	3,861	31
MS	De Soto County	Memphis MSA	217	361	(144)	\$25,832	\$34,261	(\$8,430)	2,583	5,687	(3,104)
AR	Lee County	Marianna	175	27	148	\$22,218	\$19,331	\$2,887	1,711	213	1,498
IL	Cook County	Chicago MSA	138	27	111	\$15,707	\$6,631	\$9,076	911	66	845
AR	Phillips County	West Helena	102	0	102	\$22,160	n/a	n/a	1,019	0	1,019
AR	Jefferson County	Pine Bluff	65	0	65	\$20,735	n/a	n/a	601	0	601
TX	Dallas	Dallas MSA	31	66	(35)	\$18,456	\$20,221	(\$1,765)	295	708	(412)
AR	Lonoke	Little Rock MSA	29	0	29	\$27,826	n/a	n/a	278	0	278
AR	Monroe County	Stuttgart	24	0	24	\$23,666	n/a	n/a	237	0	237
AR	White County	Searcy	0	105	(105)	n/a	\$32,153	n/a	0	1,190	(1,190)
AR	Faulkner County	Conway	0	99	(99)	n/a	\$23,291	n/a	0	1,095	(1,095)
AR	Cleburne	Heber Springs	0	84	(84)	n/a	\$23,231	n/a	0	906	(906)
AR	Washington County	Fayetteville	0	63	(63)	n/a	\$28,832	n/a	0	750	(750)
TN	Tipton County	Memphis MSA	0	30	(30)	n/a	\$44,289	n/a	0	487	(487)
Sub-Total Top 20 Counties			6,303	7,184	(881)	\$25,391	\$26,062	(\$671)	\$73,558	\$86,917	(\$13,359)
All Other Counties, APO/FPO & US Possessions			5,342	5,946	(604)	\$24,483	\$24,495	(\$12)	58,442	65,083	(6,641)
Total Migration			11,645	13,130	(1,485)	\$24,981	\$25,367	(\$386)	\$132,000	\$152,000	(\$20,000)

improvement in net migration. The key factor in the 1993-1994 decrease in net out-migration was a decline in net out-migration to Shelby County. Between 1995 and 1997 lessened net out-migration was heavily influenced by declining out-migration to other parts of Arkansas and an increase in in-migration from within the state.

Net out-migration to Shelby County may be slowing as a result of gradual increases in Shelby County residents moving to Crittenden County (479 between 1992 and 1993 versus 639 between 1996 and 1997) and somewhat stable out-migration to Shelby County. Net migration losses to the counties northwest of Crittenden (Cross, Poinsett and Craighead) was highest between 1993 and 1995, falling to an even swap for 1995 to 1997. Similarly, the out-migration to Faulkner, White and Cleburne Counties was highest between 1993 and 1996. In-migration from counties to the southwest (St. Francis, Lee, Phillips and Monroe) was consistently positive over the five year period but varied considerably from year to year. While demonstrating several shifts in the movement of people in and out of Crittenden County, these year by year analyses of county migration flows yield few truly consistent patterns of in-migration or out-migration that clearly establish trends. However, it has been found that at the state level Arkansas shifted to net in-migration during the early 1990's after losing population to migration during the 1980's.<sup>15</sup>

#### *Income Flows*

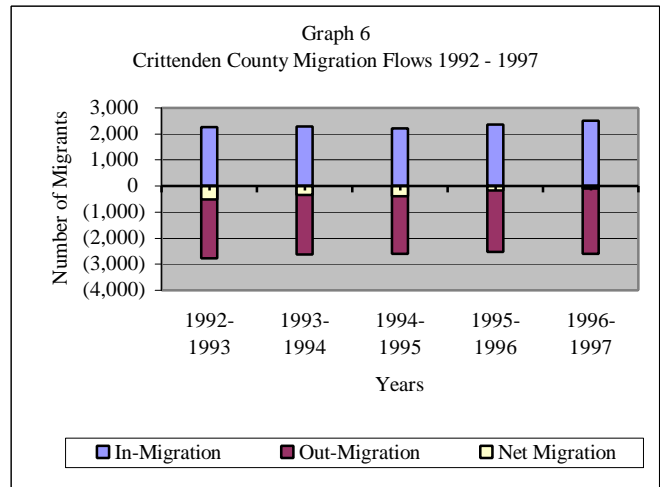
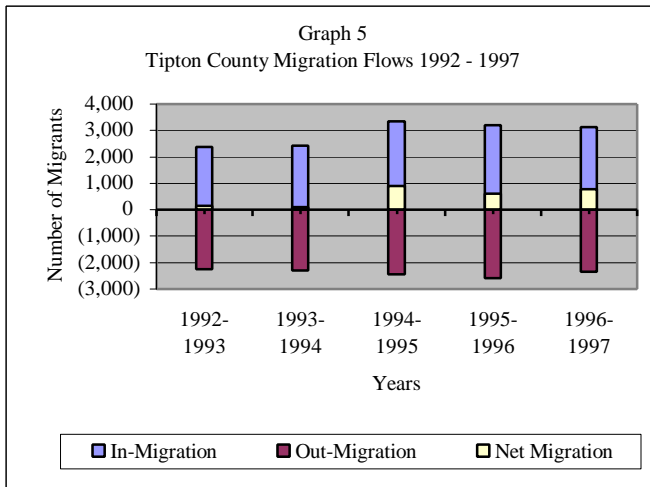
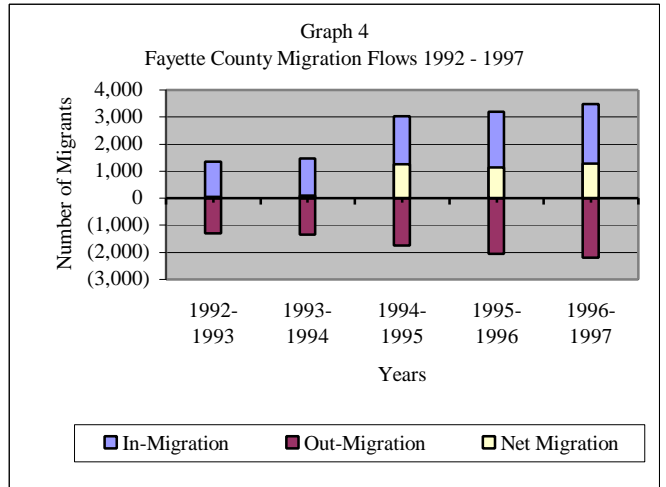
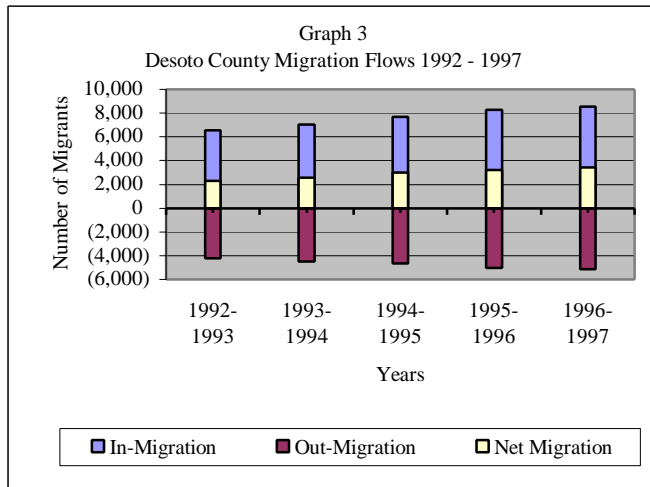
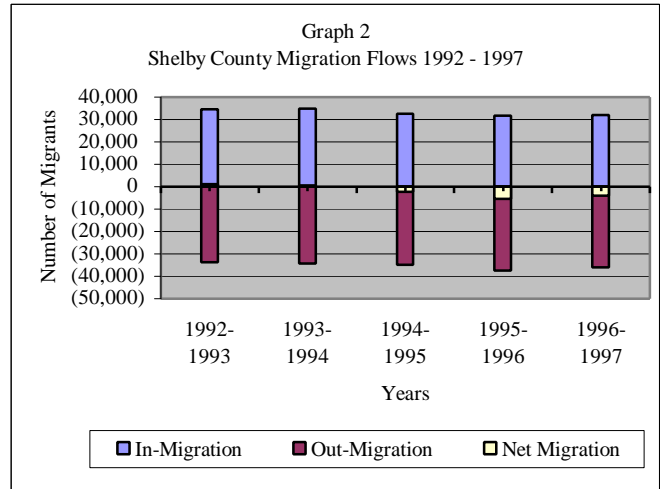
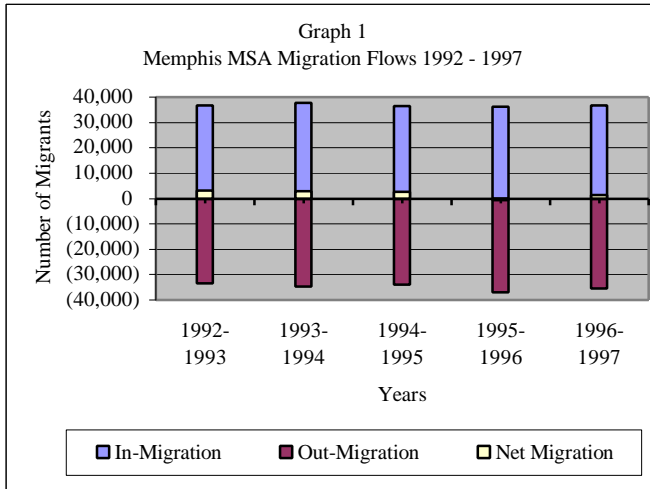
Sixty-five percent of the \$20 million net decrease in migration income was to other counties in the MSA, corresponding to their 63% share of net out-migration from Crittenden County. With respect to migration between Crittenden County and the remaining counties in the Memphis MSA, households moving from Shelby to Crittenden had average incomes \$1,100 higher than those leaving Crittenden for Shelby. However, the opposite was found with DeSoto County – average incomes were \$8,400 higher for those leaving Crittenden County. Also, in-migrants from Cook County, Illinois and Mississippi County had significantly higher average incomes than those leaving for those counties (\$9,076 and \$5,365 respectively).

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<sup>15</sup> Voth, Donald, et al. Migration in Arkansas by Age, Education & Gender. University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. <http://www.uaex.edu/cd/econ/county/migration> (downloaded 9/22/00).

# ANNUAL MIGRATION GRAPHS

## Annual Migration Flows



## **Perspective**

In the eighteen decades since Messrs. Jackson, Overton and Winchester claimed the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff as the City of Memphis, this region has been expanding geographically, with populations migrating to places that best suit their needs and tastes. For each county in the region growth has and will occur at different paces, sometimes from heavy in-migration, and at other times more gradually from the natural increase of the existing population. Consequently, the period covered by this study represents only a slice of time in the continuing definition of our metropolitan area.

Trends observed in our analysis may result from employment changes or new residential developments within the MSA, whereas other trends may reflect national population movements such as the return of many African Americans to the South from cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles, or the migration of Latinos to the Mid South for improved employment opportunities and quality of life.