

**PAA 2013 Extended Abstract**  
**Movers from abroad: An analysis by nativity and citizenship**

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**Introduction**

One of the most commonly analyzed populations to move to the U.S. from abroad is immigrants. There is good reason for this, as this is the largest group entering the U.S. from abroad (Perry and Schachter 2003). It is generally understood that these migrants do not have citizenship, and have been compared to native-born U.S. migrants (Perry and Schachter 2003). However, the U.S. is also destination for citizens who were living abroad in the last year. Furthermore, these migrants may be native or foreign born. Preliminary analyses for this project show that together these migrants make up almost 40% of the total number of movers from abroad, and almost 12% are in the armed services.

It is likely that foreign-born naturalized citizens who came to the U.S. in the last year were immigrants at one point, but their destination preferences and characteristics differ greatly from the foreign-born non-citizen population. The same is true for the native-born movers from abroad (Walters and Trevelyan 2011). Foreign-born migrants from abroad without citizenship tend to move to traditional immigrant gateways: New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Chicago (Hall et al. 2011). A preliminary analysis for this project indicates that native-born abroad movers' destinations look similar to those of the foreign-born, non-citizens, though Washington, D.C. is more popular among this group. Foreign-born naturalized citizens moving from abroad settle in traditional gateways, but also choose metros like Orlando and Seattle.

Hall et al. (2011) note that the share of foreign born migrants coming to the U.S. who have a bachelor's degree has been increasing consistently since 1980, and also are more likely to have a bachelor's degree than American citizens moving to the U.S. How do differences in education across these groups and other various characteristics help inform choices in destinations?

**Data and Methodology**

Using the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, this project analyzes migrants entering the U.S. who lived abroad one year ago. These abroad movers are broken down into three groups: 1) Native-born U.S. citizens, 2) non-native born U.S. citizens (those born in Puerto Rico, U.S. outlying areas, those born abroad of American parents, and naturalized citizens), and 3) non-native born movers who are not U.S. citizens. The characteristics and destinations of these groups are compared. Characteristics include age, sex,

race, Hispanic origin, year of entry, veteran status, education, occupation, industry, place of birth, and the continent they moved from. The Hall et al. (2011) report did not include Puerto Rico in their analysis even though there is a great deal of turnover between the U.S. and Puerto Rico. For clarity, the broad analysis will only include movers to the U.S. will only include those who move to metro areas within the 50 states and will not include Puerto Rico. A separate analysis of abroad movers to Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico movers to the U.S. will be included.

Metropolitan destinations are analyzed for each group. Going one step further, the 2006 and 2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates are used to understand how destination choices may change over time, possibly leading to a pre- and post-recession analysis.

If time allows, t-tests may be used to indicate significant differences across groups of abroad movers.

## **Research Questions**

This analysis aims to answer three questions:

- 1). How do the three groups of abroad movers differ by characteristics?
- 2). What are the migration patterns between the U.S. and Puerto Rico?
- 3). How do metropolitan destinations differ between the three groups of abroad movers?

## **Hypotheses**

Following previous research, we expect to find that foreign-born, non-U.S. citizens have more education than native-born citizens and foreign-born naturalized citizens. We anticipate that the foreign-born naturalized citizens and foreign-born, non-citizens are more likely to be Hispanic than native-born citizens moving from abroad.

We also expect a great deal of movement between the U.S. and Puerto Rico, though it is likely that most of the moves are within Puerto Rico itself.

Regarding the destinations chosen by movers from abroad, preliminary analyses indicate that foreign-born, non-citizens continue to migrate to traditional immigrant gateways. Native-born abroad movers also appear to be moving to traditional gateway metros, though Washington, D.C. is a popular destination for this group. Naturalized foreign-born citizens seem to favor traditional gateways as well as metros like Orlando, Miami, and Seattle. It is likely that jobs are influencing the choice of destination, and this will become clearer with further analysis.

**Tables:**

1. Table 1. Demographic characteristics by type of abroad mover
2. Table 2. Origins, year of entry, place of birth, and veteran status by type of abroad mover
3. Table 3. Education, occupation, and industry by type of abroad mover
4. Table 4. Metro destination mover counts and percents for native-born U.S. citizens moving from abroad in 2006 and 2010
5. Table 5. Metro destination mover counts and percents for non-native born U.S. citizens moving from abroad in 2006 and 2010
6. Table 6. Metro destination mover counts and percents for non-native born non-U.S. citizens moving from abroad in 2006 and 2010

## References

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