

# Geographic Mobility

Central Pennsylvania



Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin,  
Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties

Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC)  
1610 Industrial Blvd., Suite 500A  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570.522.0600  
[www.cpwdc.org](http://www.cpwdc.org)



# Geographic Mobility Patterns

## Introduction

The Geographic Mobility report was prepared by the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) for the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board. The Central Pennsylvania region includes Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties.

All data is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS). The current 3-year ACS survey was selected since it includes smaller geographies that are not included in the single-year survey. Data from the 3-year survey includes areas with a population of 20,000 or more, while the single-year survey's threshold is 65,000. Rural areas such as Central Pennsylvania benefit from this multi-year survey because more counties are then included in the data collection.

For Central Pennsylvania, only Montour County is not included in the three-year ACS because of its low population. Additionally, for each data set analyzed in this report, not every county has available data.

The 2006-2008 ACS 3-year estimates are based on data collected between January 2006 and December 2008. It is important to understand that this data represents the average characteristics over the 3-year period. Equal weight is given to each of the 36 months, so the data should be interpreted as an average that may or may not have fluctuated during the time period.

The scope of this report is limited to determining the average migration patterns during the 2006-2008 time period. While it does identify if there was overall in- or out-migration, it does not identify the specific county from which people relocated or the county to which they moved. Results are only presented then by individual county; the data does not allow for a regional perspective that encompasses all counties as a whole.

## Methodology

The objective of this report was to compare two main data sets: geographic mobility in the past year by current residence and geographic mobility in the past year for residence one year ago. The "current residence" data set identifies the in-migration that occurred in the area, while out-migration is identified in the "residence one year ago" data set. Simply comparing the levels of these data sets will determine if there is net in-migration, where there were more people moving into a county, or net out-migration, where more people moved out of a county.

The following data sets were analyzed to compare migration patterns by county in Central Pennsylvania:

- **Age**-includes population ages one and over in the United States
- **Gender**- includes population ages one and over in the United States
- **Citizenship**- includes population ages one and over in the United States
- **Marital Status**- includes population ages 15 and over in the United States
- **Education**- includes population ages 25 and over in the United States
- **Individual Income**- includes population ages 15 and over in the United States, income based on 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars
- **Poverty Status**- includes population ages one and over in the United States for whom poverty status is determined



## Geographic Mobility Patterns

Because certain data sets are based on different populations, the comparability between them is limited. Also, the population considered for each section is limited to the United States. International migration is excluded because it is not captured by the out-migration data sets.

### Results

As described in the methodology, the in-migration and out-migration data sets were compared to determine net-migration levels. Net in-migration is identified by positive values, while net out-migration uses negative values. In addition to the people that moved between counties during the 2006-2008 time period, there were non-migrants who stayed in the same county. This information is not discussed in detail for each data set.

The following table summarizes the number of non-migrants, net-migration levels, and what data sets are analyzed for each county in Central Pennsylvania:

County	Non-Migrants	Net-Migration	Available Data from 2006-2008 American Community Survey						
			Age	Gender	Citizenship	Marital Status	Education	Income	Poverty
Centre	119,491	12,040	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Clinton	33,557	1,289	x	x		x	x	x	x
Columbia	59,988	425	x	x		x	x	x	x
Lycoming	109,888	-12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mifflin	43,756	289		x		x	x		x
Montour	<i>Data not available from 2006-2008 ACS</i>								
Northumberland	85,889	151	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Snyder	35,223	444		x		x	x	x	x
Union	37,431	2,064	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pennsylvania	11,976,253	14,979	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Non-migrants and net-migration levels based on the gender data set that is based on the population ages one and over in the United States; comparisons to results from other data will differ due to the populations considered. Positive net-migration levels indicate net **in**-migration; negative net-migration levels indicate net **out**-migration.

Based on the available data, all counties in the Central Pennsylvania Region except for Lycoming County experienced net in-migration on average during the 2006-2008 time period, meaning more people moved into these counties than those who relocated to other counties. Even though Lycoming County does show net out-migration, the number is minimal.



## Geographic Mobility Patterns

### Interpreting Results

In its most basic form, migration patterns reveal how the population and the workforce in the county are changing by age, educational attainment, income and all other categories included in the analysis.

While the reasons for migrating in or out of a county are unknown, several implications can be made when reviewing the results. Even though they may be assumptions, they can be validated by referencing other data or using local knowledge of the area.

- While dated, **employment opportunities** may be revealed, especially when looking at education and income levels. Individuals with specific educational backgrounds or income demands may migrate to areas that typically have job opportunities to meet these criteria.
- Another aspect of a county revealed through migration patterns is **living standards** or **costs of living**. Perhaps if there are high levels of in-migration for individuals with lower income levels then the area may have a relatively low cost of living. Similarly, individuals living in poverty who have tight budgets may also move to these areas where they can afford to live.
- On a related idea, where there is high in-migration for persons living below poverty, there may be an abundance of **government assistance programs**.

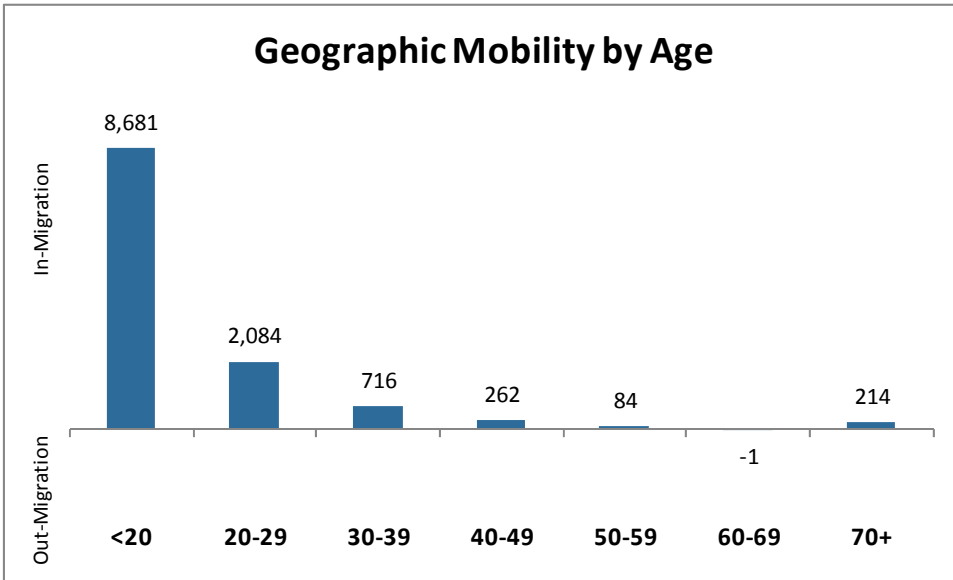
The results of this analysis are likely skewed by the presence of post-secondary institutions, training programs, or correctional facilities in each county. While in these institutions or training programs, individuals typically declare residence there, but may or may not remain in the county once they are finished.

Readers of this report will gain an understanding of the mobility of the population living within the Central Pennsylvania region. There are many benefits to economic developers who will learn if a county's population is increasing its educational base, which is especially helpful when attracting new businesses. Government officials can identify if their county is able to support the poverty-stricken population. Workforce professionals can customize training programs to help increase skill sets of a population that is losing higher education levels.

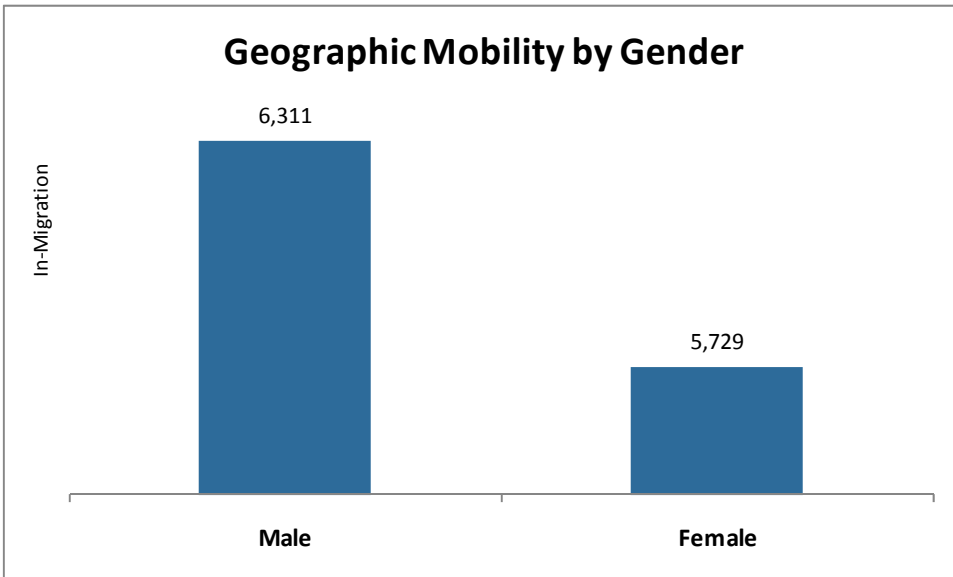
As a reminder, the source of this information is the 2006-2008 American Community survey. Information is based on the average characteristics during the 3-year time period.



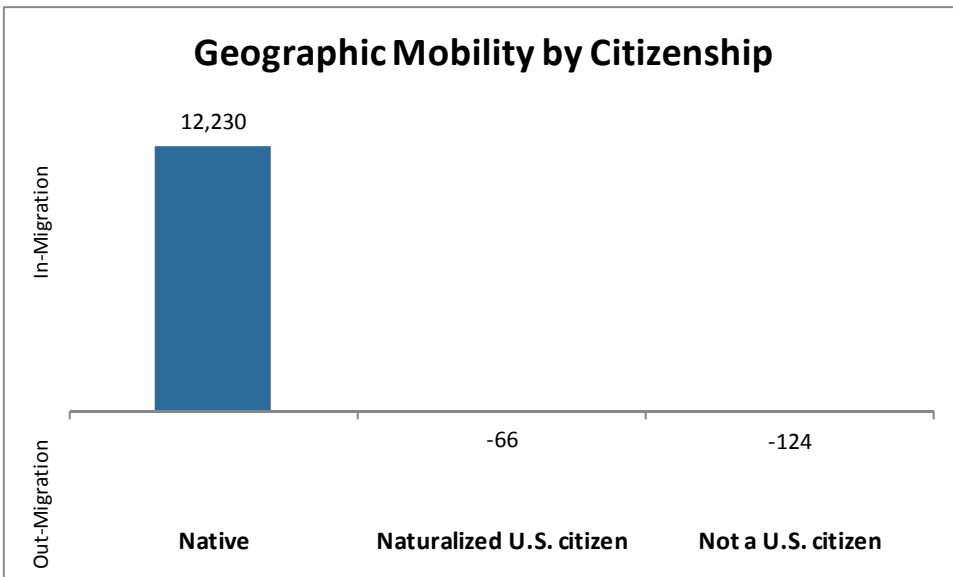
## Geographic Mobility Patterns CENTRE COUNTY



A higher level of in-migration exists for each age group in Centre County, except for the 60-69 age group which displays a net out-migration of only 1 individual. The highest level of net in-migration exists for individuals under the age of 30, which is likely a result of students attending post-secondary education. However, many of these students may remain in the area, as evidenced by higher levels of in-migration for older age groups.



Overall, both genders demonstrate fairly high net in-migration in Centre County.

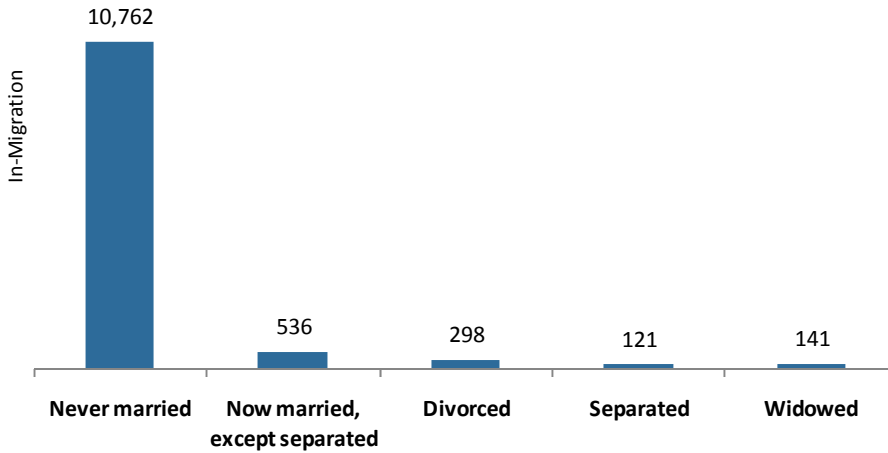


Native United States citizens tend to move into Centre County, as demonstrated by the high level of in-migration for this group. Foreign born individuals tend to move away from here. While these migration patterns do not consider international migration, the number of foreign students attending Pennsylvania State University could have a large impact on these levels. It can only be concluded that the net out-migration shown by foreign individuals is due to leaving the county, but staying in the country.



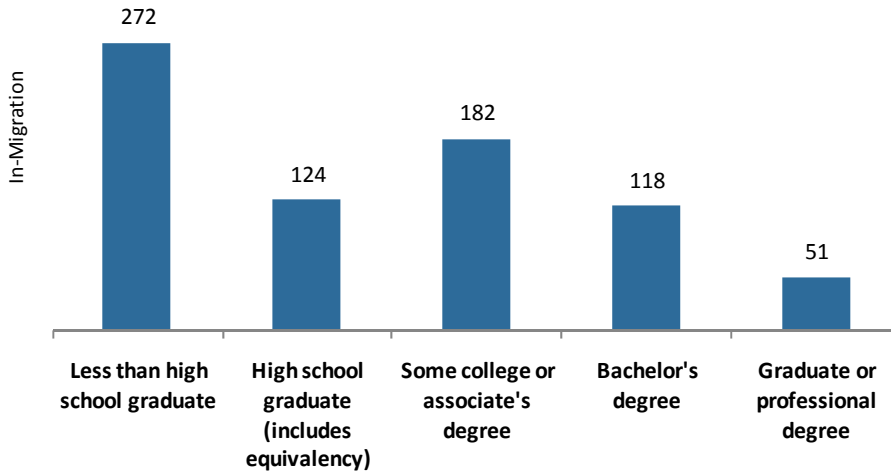
## Geographic Mobility Patterns CENTRE COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Marital Status



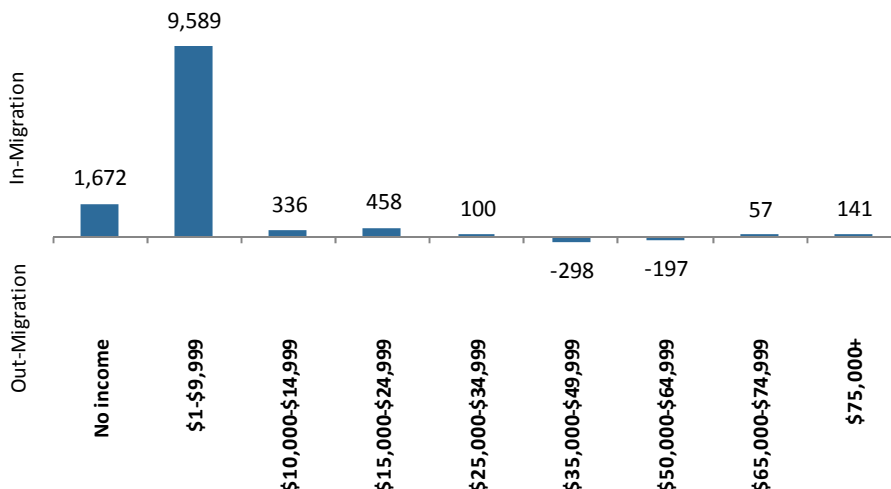
No matter the marital status, more individuals are migrating into Centre County. The highest level of in-migration is apparent for those who have never been married, which may be associated with students entering post-secondary education who typically fall into this category.

### Geographic Mobility by Educational Attainment



There are higher levels of in-migration across all levels of education in Centre County. These results suggest that there may be more employment or training opportunities for all types of educational backgrounds in Centre County compared to other areas. Overall, 169 more individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher migrated to the area than those who left.

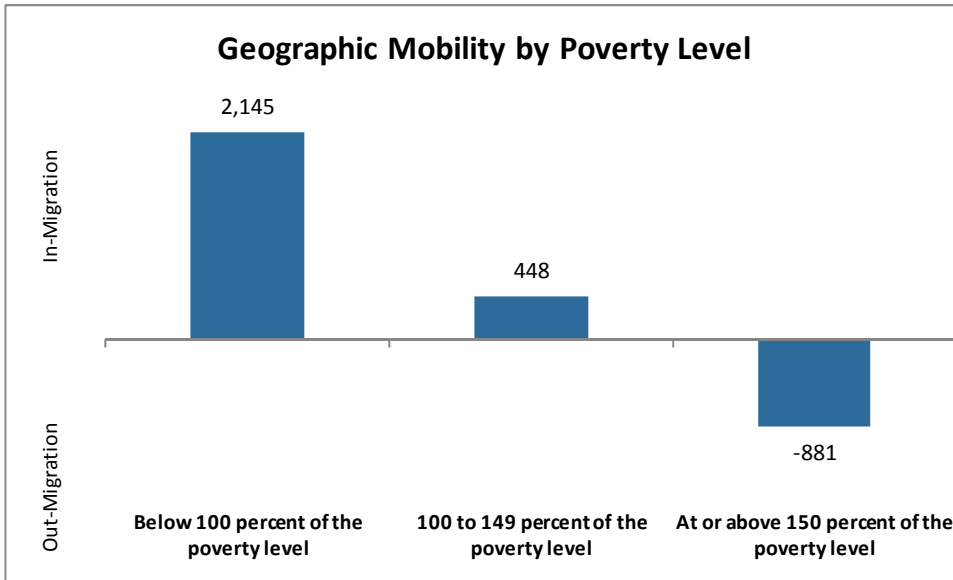
### Geographic Mobility by Income Level



No consistent pattern exists for the migration patterns based on income levels in Centre County. While income levels between \$35,000 and \$64,999 show net out-migration, there is net in-migration for every other category. There are a large number of individuals with less than \$10,000 of income in-migrating to the county, which may be expected when considering individuals attending post-secondary education. This may also include the "no income" group.



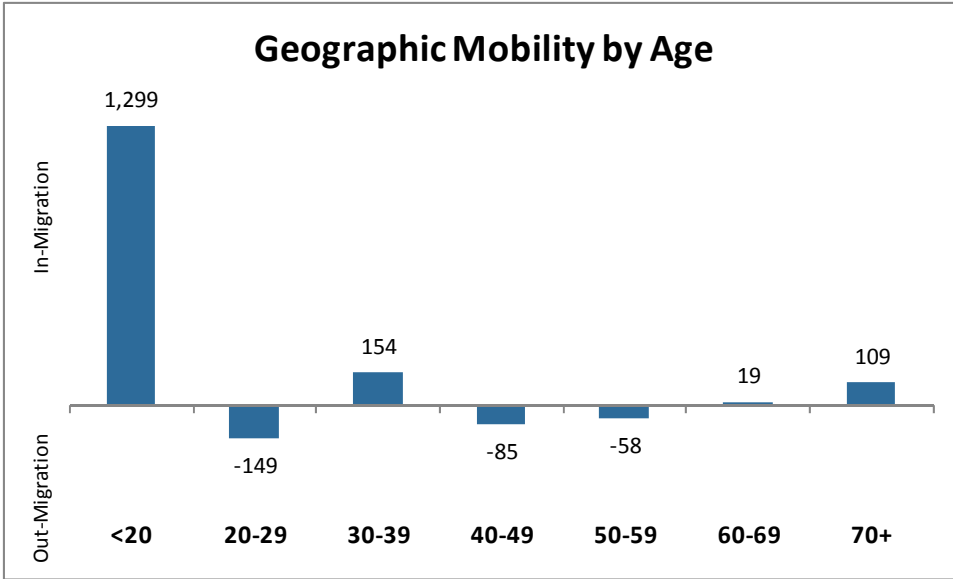
## Geographic Mobility Patterns CENTRE COUNTY



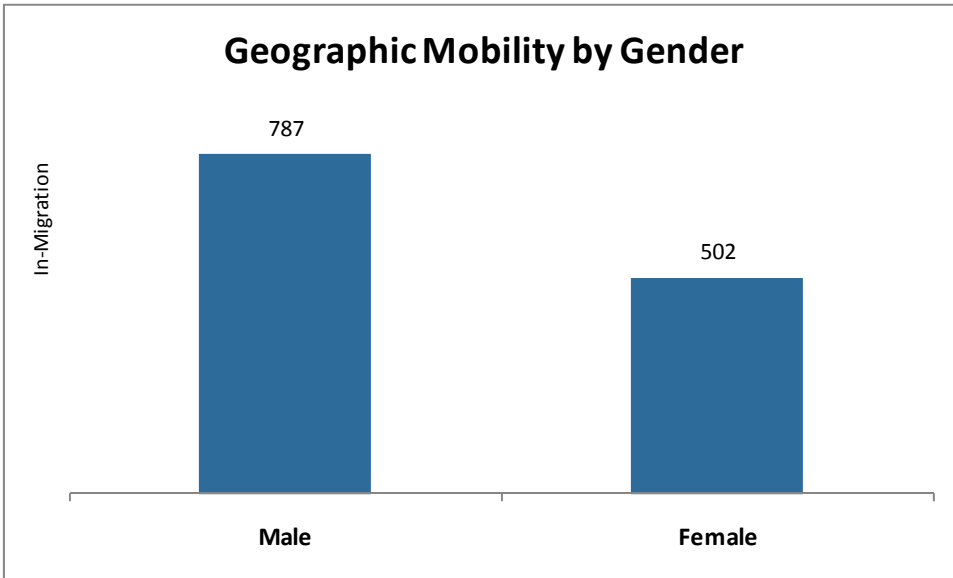
Individuals below 150 percent of the poverty level tend to migrate into Centre County. The county may be able to support this population that is struggling financially through government assistance programs, or the county may have lower costs of living. Similarly, a high number of individuals at or above 150 percent of the poverty level typically leave the area, possibly in search of a higher quality of life.



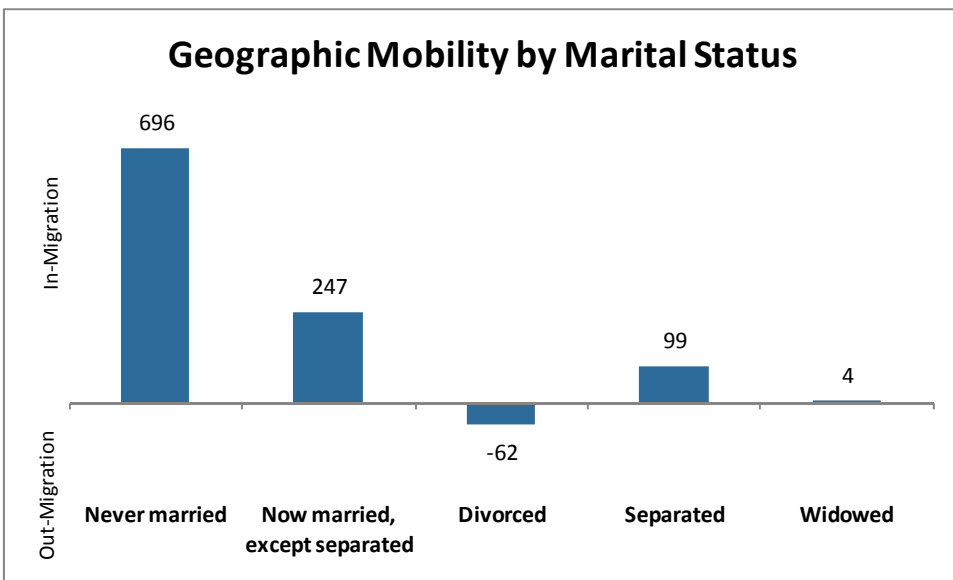
## Geographic Mobility Patterns CLINTON COUNTY



The highest level of net in-migration exists for individuals under the age of 20 in Clinton County, which is likely a result of students attending post-secondary education. These individuals may not remain in the county after graduation since the 20-29 age group shows net out-migration. The oldest age group demonstrates net in-migration, which could be the result of the county's retirement facilities.



Overall, both genders demonstrate net in-migration in Clinton County, with males coming to the county at a higher rate than females.

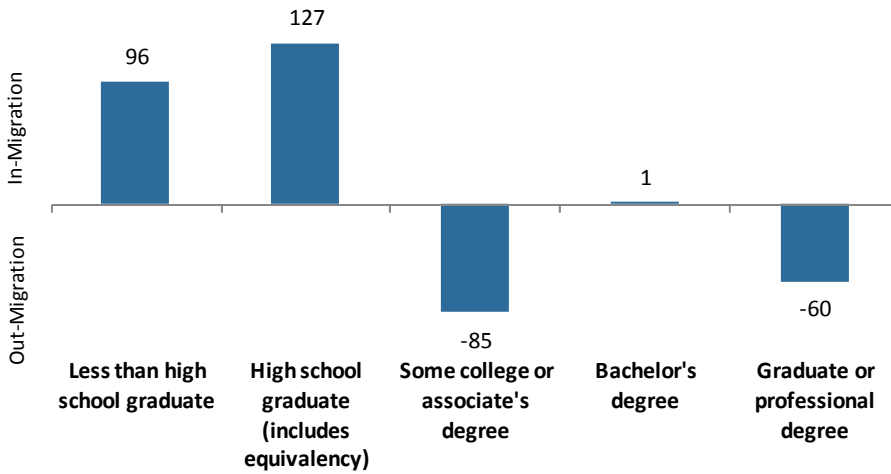


Except for those who are divorced, net in-migration is apparent for all marital statuses in Clinton County. The highest level of in-migration is demonstrated by those who have never been married, which may be associated with students entering post-secondary education who typically fall into this category. Married individuals also show a high level of in-migration, which suggests the ideal living standards of the area for families.



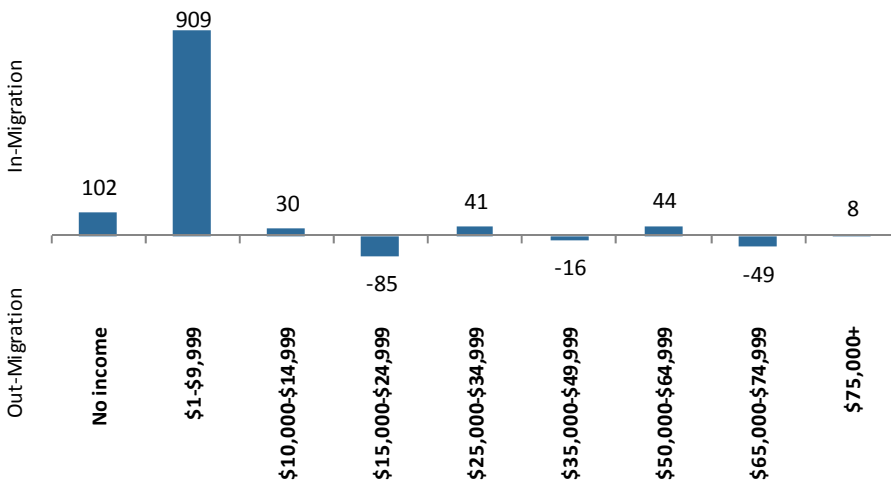
## Geographic Mobility Patterns CLINTON COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Educational Attainment



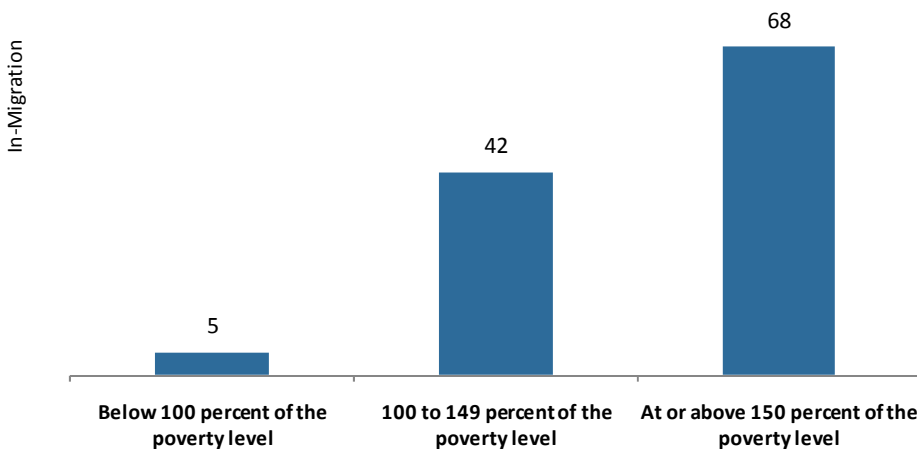
Individuals with a high school education or less typically migrate into Clinton County, possibly because of job or training opportunities. Those with some college, an associate's degree, or a graduate/professional degree are leaving the area, suggesting that graduates do not stay in the county. It is important to note the relative balance of those with bachelor's degrees; whatever strategy is keeping these individuals in the area may be applicable to those that have associate's degrees or even graduate degrees.

### Geographic Mobility by Income Level



No consistent pattern exists for the migration patterns based on income levels in Clinton County, as the migration patterns change with each income level. The most prominent result is the large number of individuals with less than \$10,000 of income in-migrating to the county, which may be expected when considering individuals attending post-secondary education.

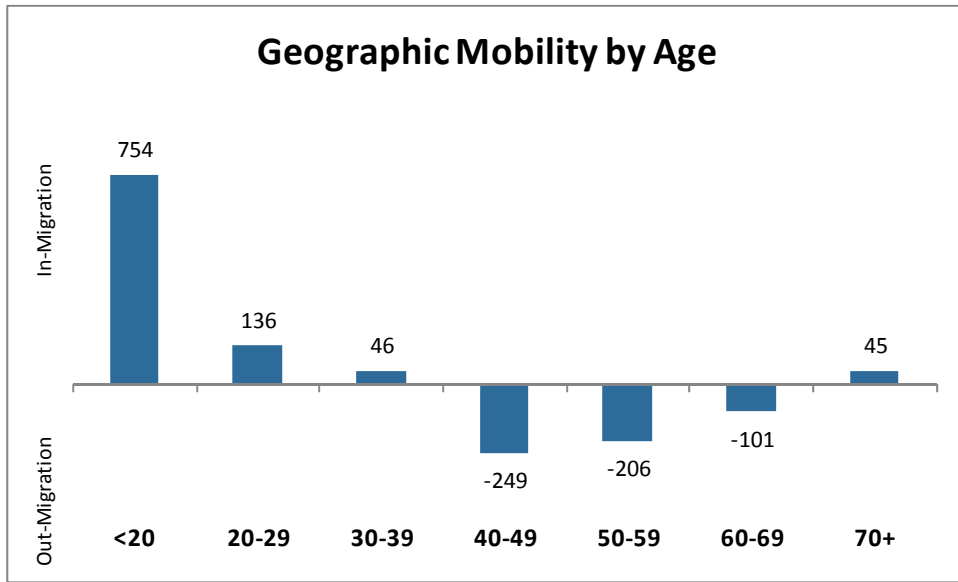
### Geographic Mobility by Poverty Level



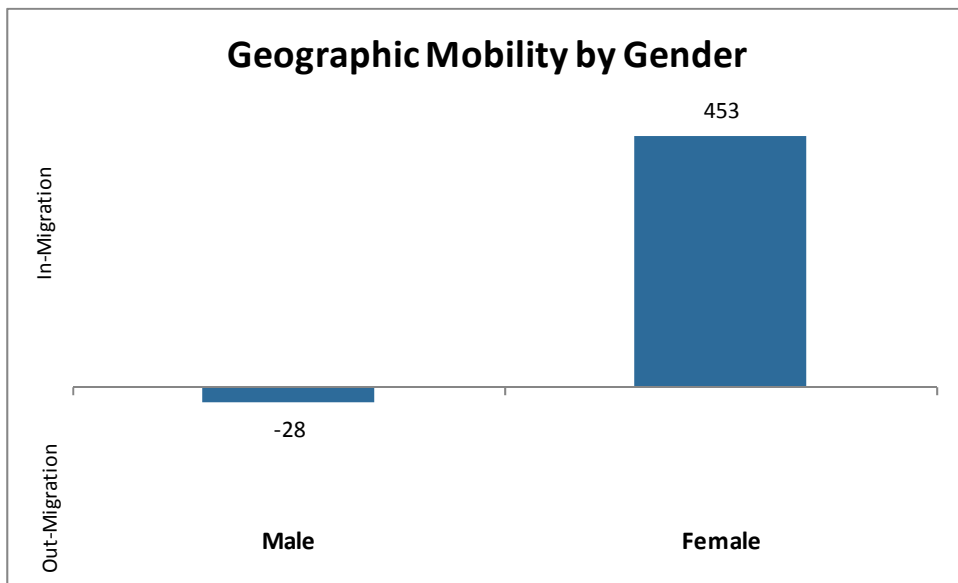
The percentage of poverty level and in-migration appear to be proportional in Clinton County. For those living below 100 percent of the poverty level, there is minimal in-migration, suggesting that there are few government supports in place to support this population. Conversely, for individuals at or above 150 percent of the poverty level, there are higher levels of net in-migration, which may be explained by the area having higher costs of living.



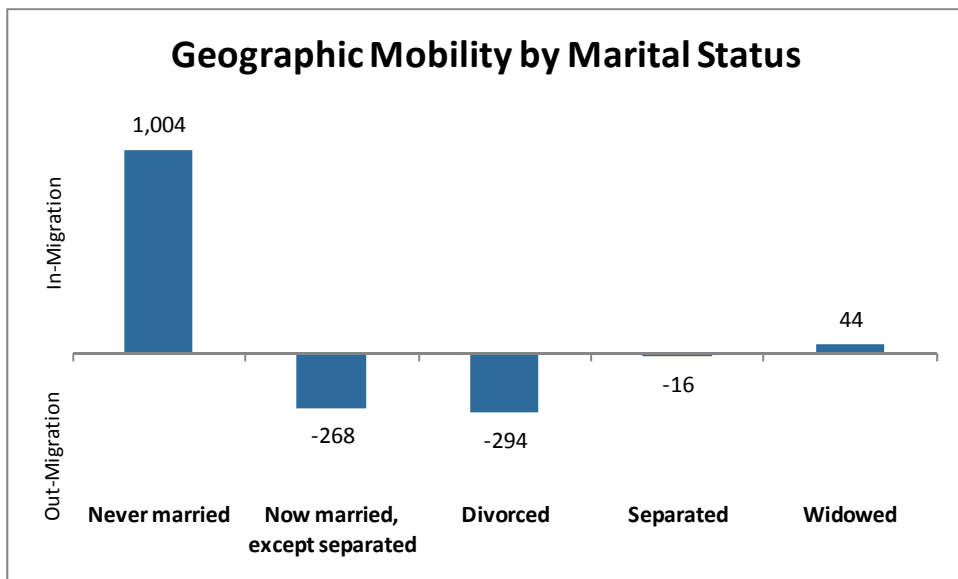
## Geographic Mobility Patterns COLUMBIA COUNTY



The highest level of net in-migration exists for individuals under the age of 20 in Columbia County, which is likely a result of students attending post-secondary education. These individuals may remain in the county after graduation since the 20-29 age group also shows net in-migration. Individuals between the ages of 40 and 69 tend to migrate out of the county, but the oldest age group shows net in-migration, suggesting the availability of retirement facilities.



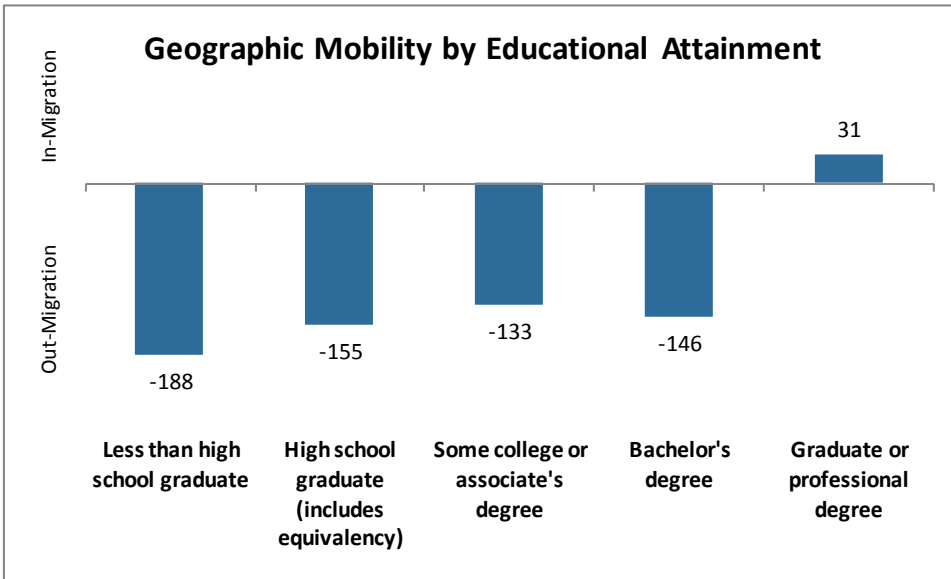
While males tend to leave Columbia County, more females tend to migrate into the area. The rate of females moving to the county is about 16 times that for males leaving the county.



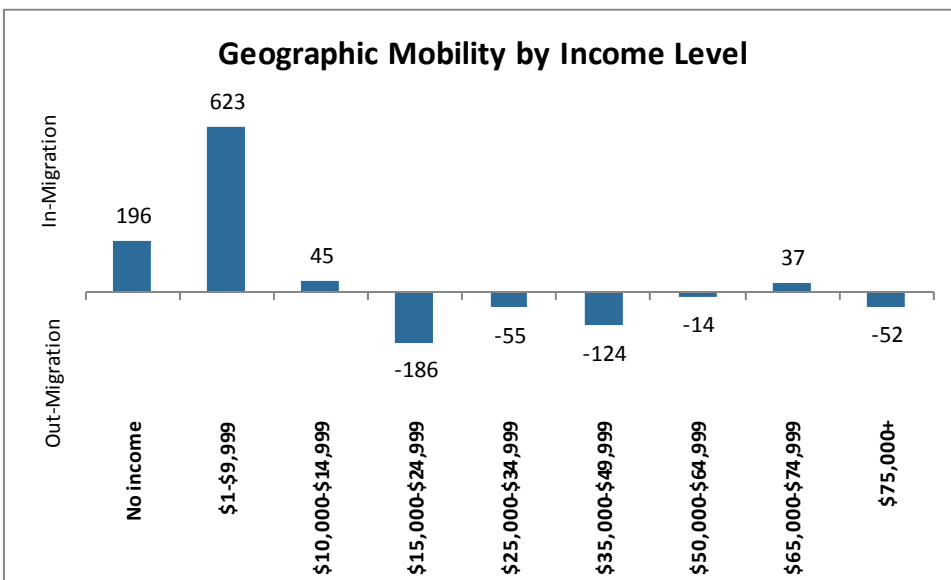
There are many individuals migrating into Columbia County who have never been married, which may be a result of students entering post-secondary education who typically fall into this category. Widowed persons are the only other group to show net in-migration. The married and divorced categories demonstrate relatively high rates of out-migration.



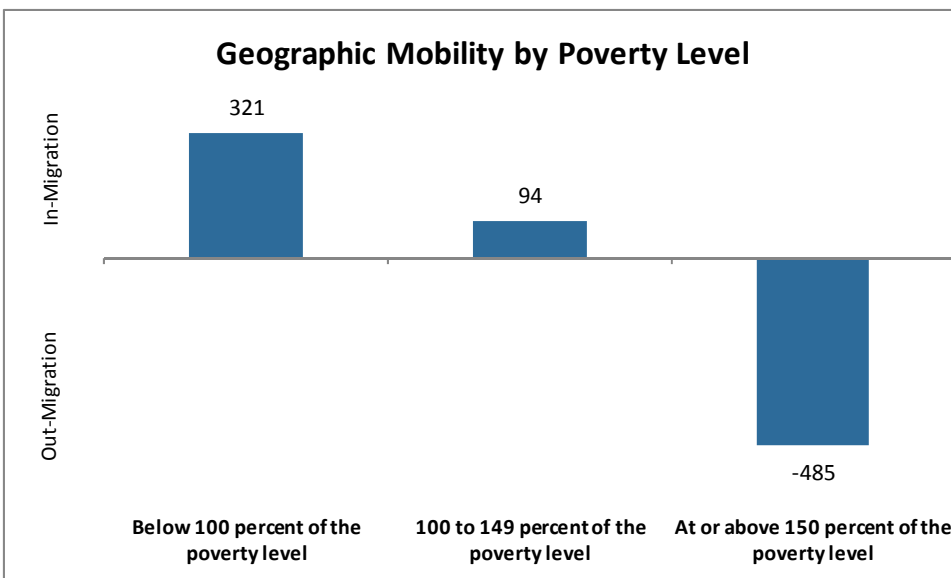
## Geographic Mobility Patterns COLUMBIA COUNTY



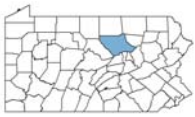
The only educational attainment level to demonstrate net in-migration in Columbia County is the graduate or professional degree group, which could simply be professors moving to the area to work at the university or health care professionals working in local hospitals. All other education levels show net out-migration, suggesting that job and training opportunities do not align with the skill or employment demands in Columbia County.



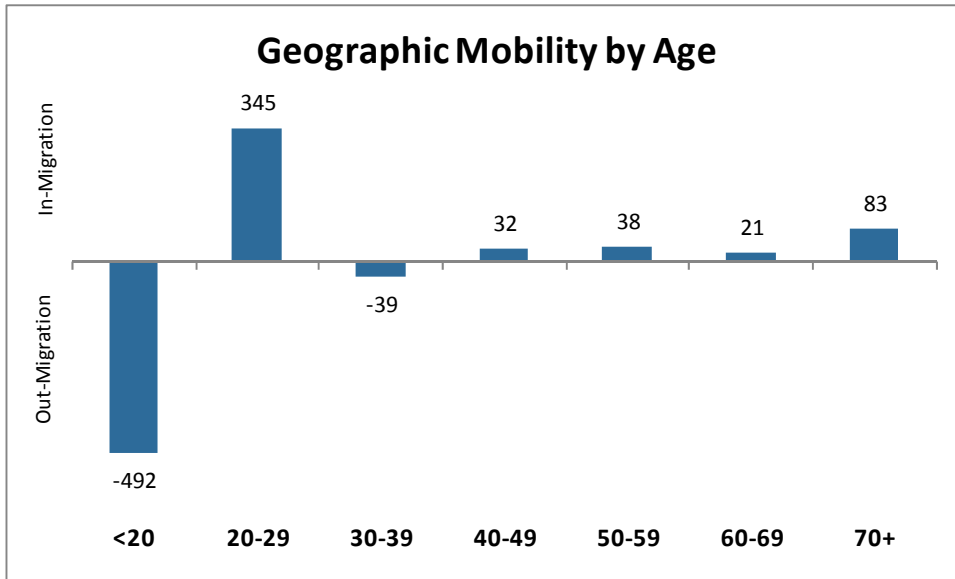
There are a large number of individuals with less than \$10,000 of income in-migrating to Columbia County, which may be expected when considering individuals attending post-secondary education. Generally, income levels above \$15,000 usually result in individuals leaving the area, possibly to pursue areas with higher living standards.



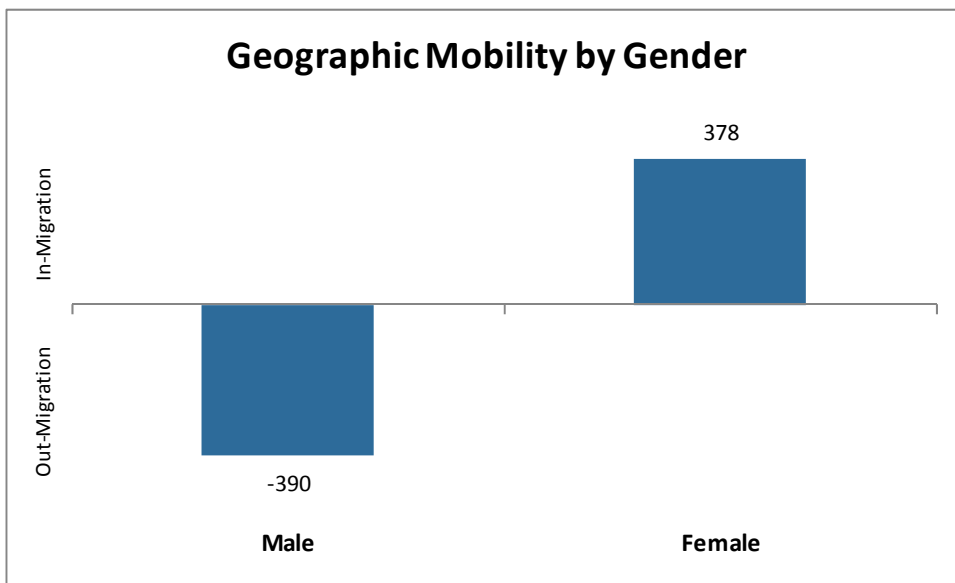
Individuals who live below 150 percent of the federal poverty level typically migrate into Columbia County. This population may come to the area for assistance programs or possibly lower costs of living. Those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level often leave the area, which may be a result of pursuing a higher quality of life.



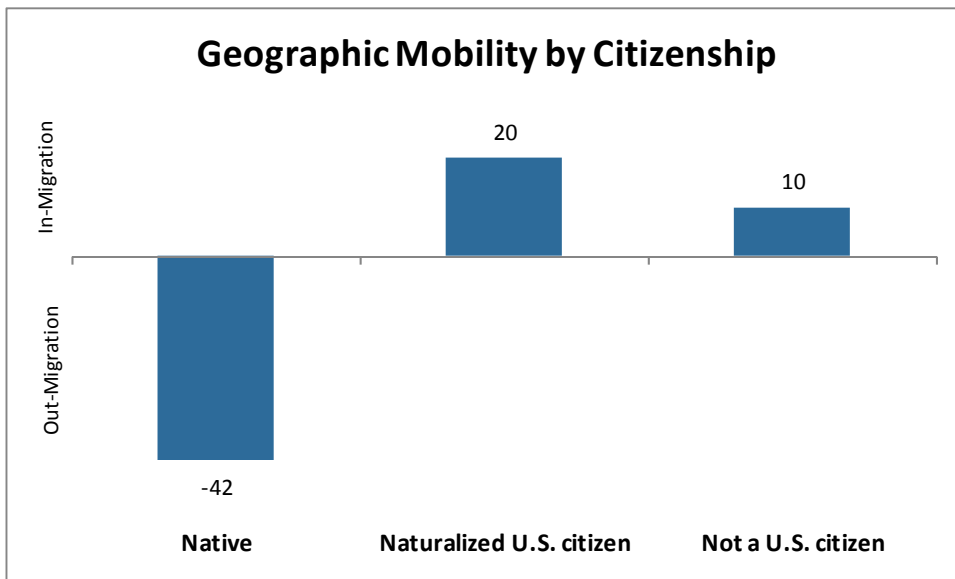
## Geographic Mobility Patterns LYCOMING COUNTY



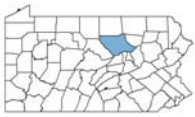
There is significant out-migration for individuals under the age of 20, which may suggest that students are pursuing post-secondary education in other areas. It could be argued that individuals ages 20-29, who show net in-migration, come to the area for Penn College. However, this age range can also include young adults looking for a specific type of place to live or to start a career. This is interesting given the number of students coming in for Penn College, which could be explained by a high number of commuters.



While males tend to leave Lycoming County, more females tend to migrate into the area. The migration levels are fairly similar, but in opposite directions.

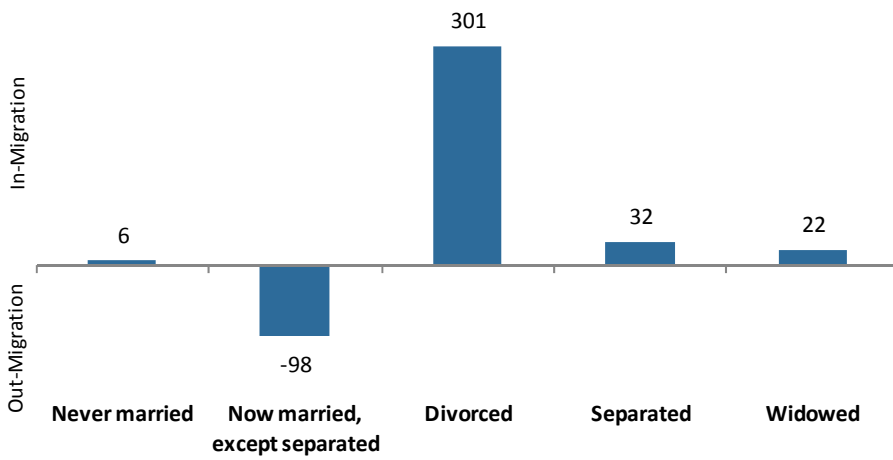


The migration levels for both native and foreign born individuals in Lycoming County are relatively low (less than 50 in each case). This means that a fairly balanced number of people from each group are coming to but also leaving the county.



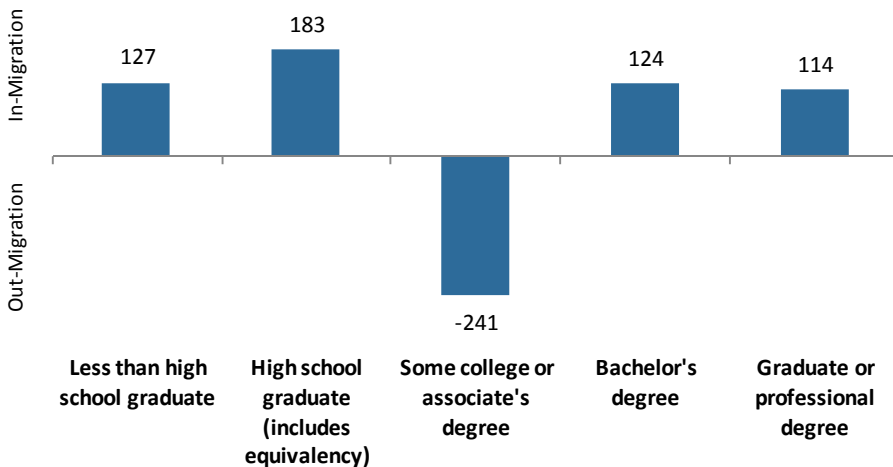
## Geographic Mobility Patterns LYCOMING COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Marital Status



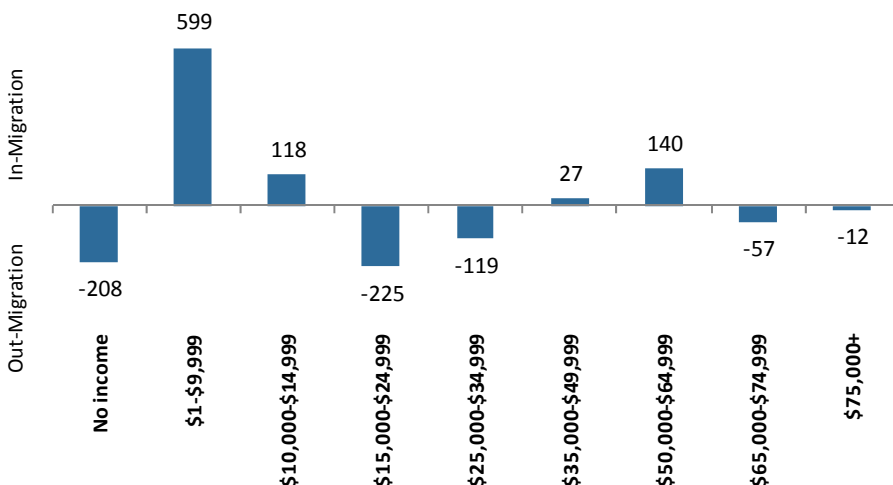
Except for the “now married, except separated” category, most individuals typically move into Lycoming County according to marital status. The highest level of net in-migration is apparent for those who are divorced.

### Geographic Mobility by Educational Attainment



For most educational attainment levels, there is net in-migration. The net out-migration for those with “some college or associate’s degree” implies that graduates of 2-year programs offered in the area may not stay here for employment. Otherwise, there appears to be job and training opportunities for all other educational backgrounds.

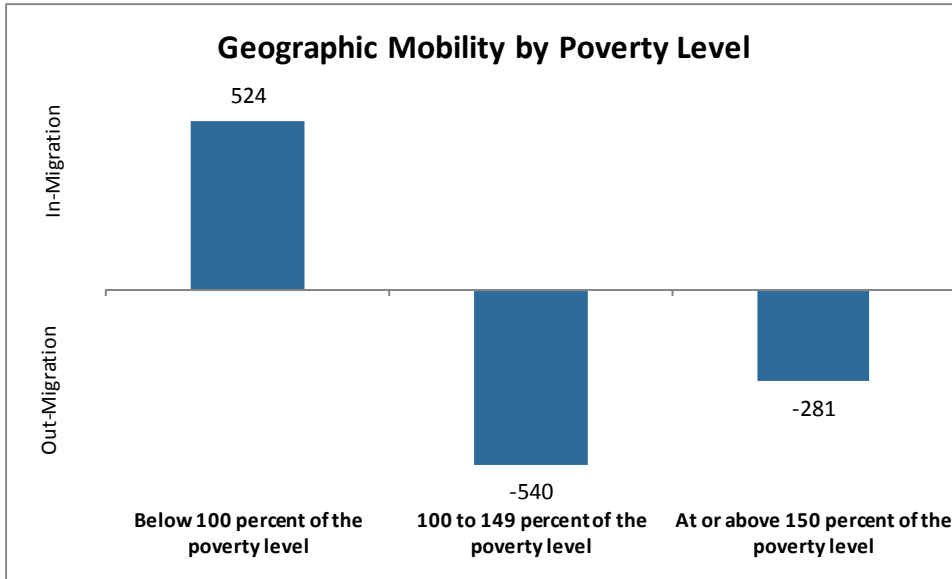
### Geographic Mobility by Income Level



The most significant result of comparing income levels and migration is that a large number of individuals with less than \$10,000 are migrating into Lycoming County. This may be a result of students who are coming to the area for post-secondary education.



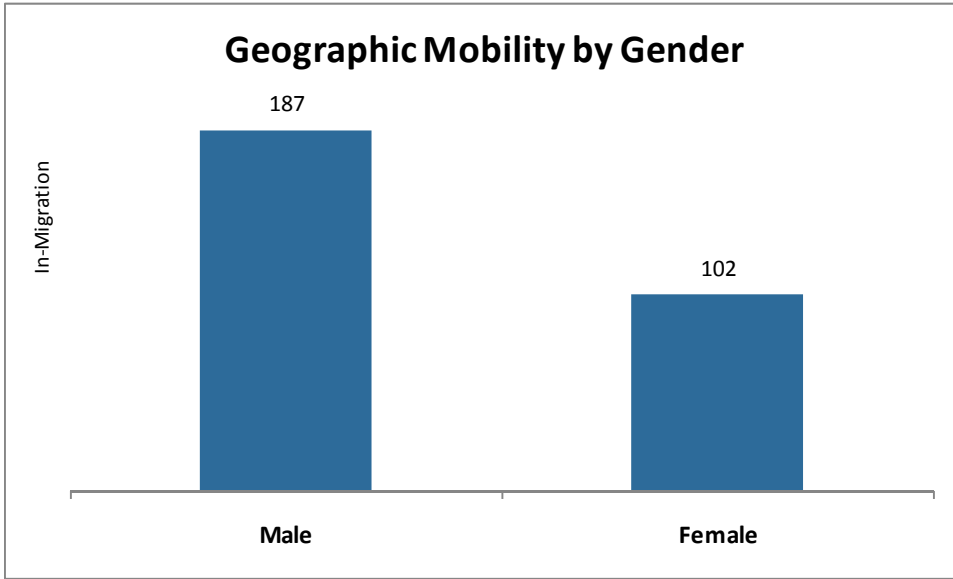
## Geographic Mobility Patterns LYCOMING COUNTY



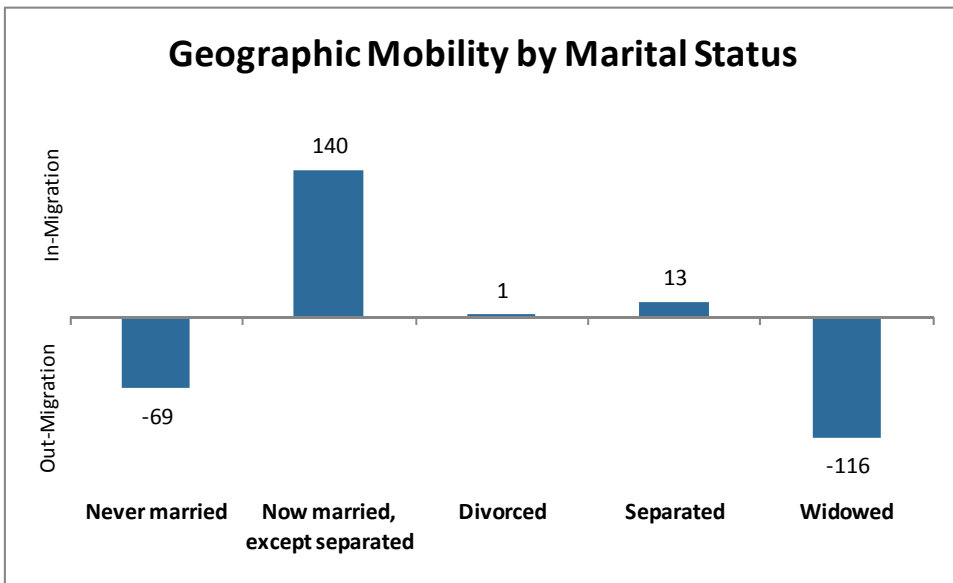
Individuals who live below 100 percent of the federal poverty level typically migrate into Lycoming County. These individuals may come to the area for lower costs of living or to utilize government assistance programs. Those at or above 100 percent of the poverty level often leave the area, which may be a result of pursuing higher standards of living.



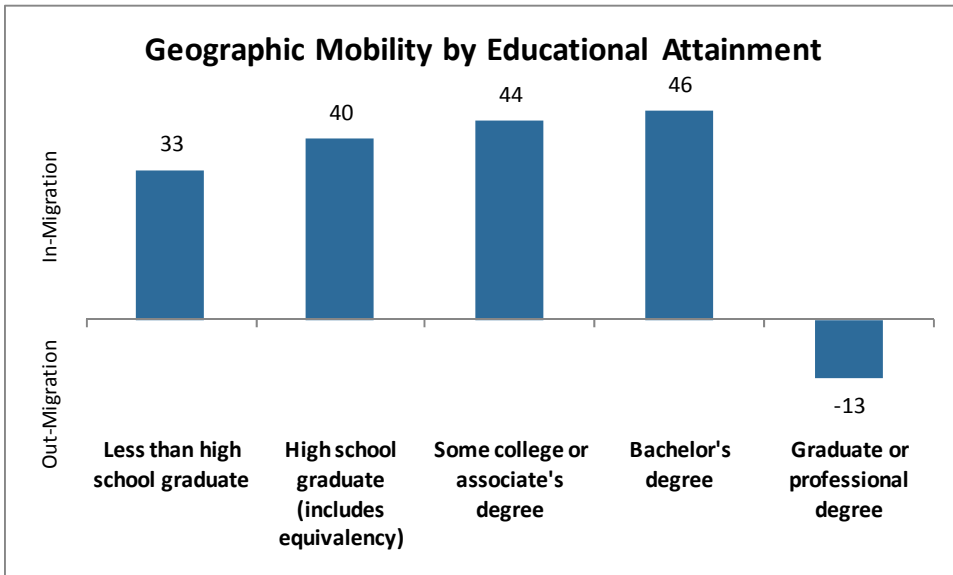
## Geographic Mobility Patterns MIFFLIN COUNTY



Overall, both genders demonstrate net in-migration in Mifflin County, with males coming to the area at almost twice the rate of females.



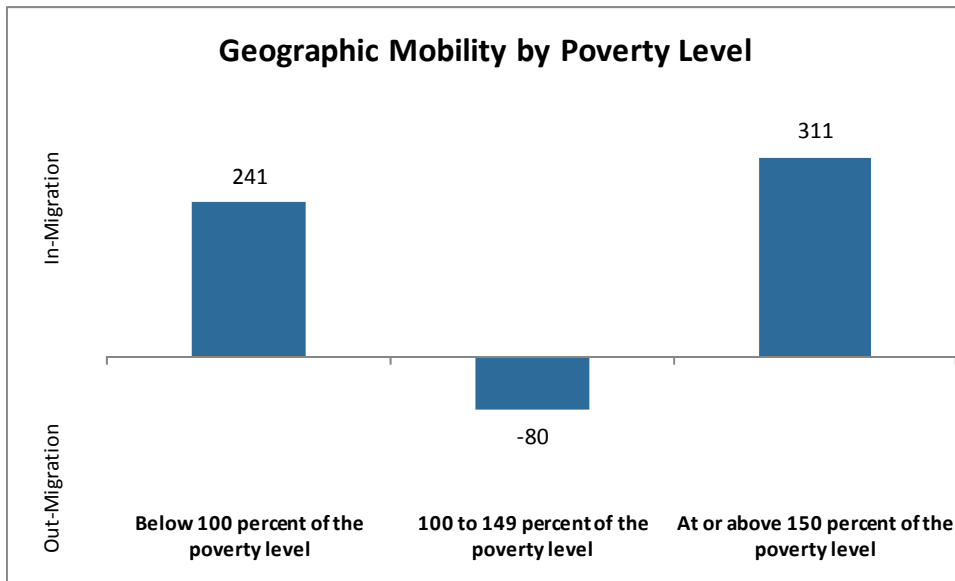
In Mifflin County, the results are varied according to marital status. There are net out-migration levels for the “never married” and “widowed” populations, but there is a large net in-migration for those who are “now married, except separated.” Married individuals may migrate to the county to start a family.



Overall, the migration levels by educational attainment are fairly low (less than 50) in Mifflin County. Nonetheless, there are higher levels of in-migration across most levels of education. Only those with a “graduate or professional degree” tend to leave the area. Otherwise, there appears to be job and training opportunities for all other educational backgrounds.



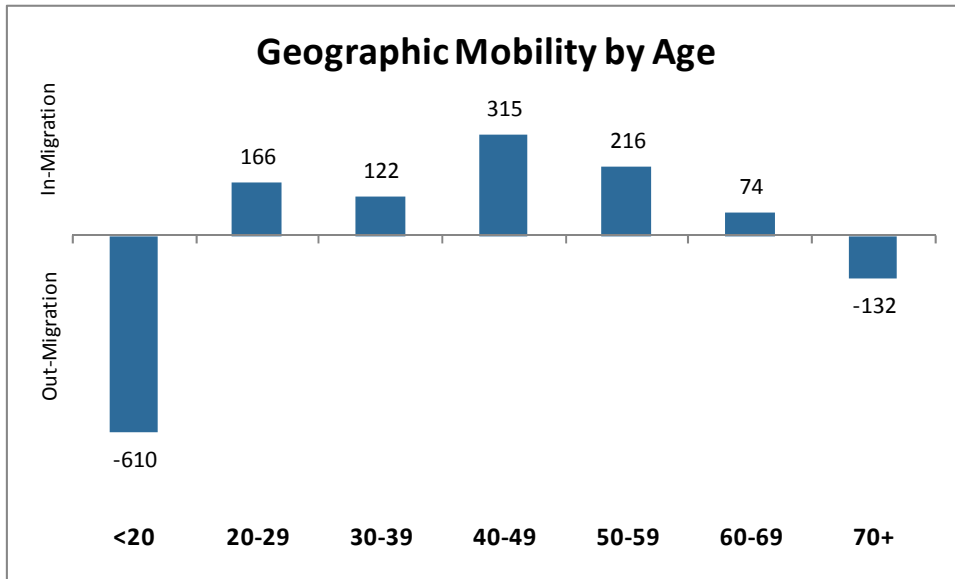
## Geographic Mobility Patterns MIFFLIN COUNTY



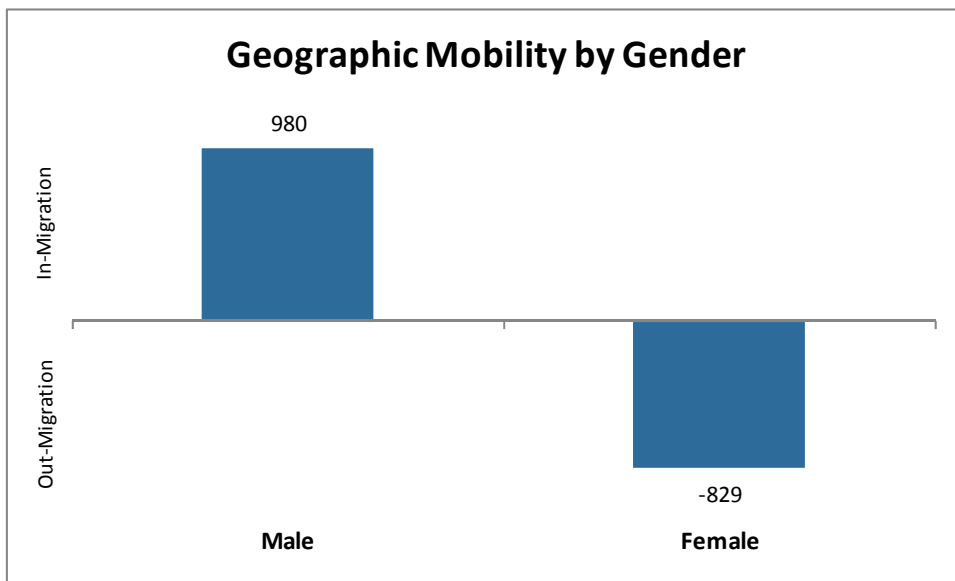
No clear migration patterns are evident when looking at poverty levels in Mifflin County. While individuals who live below 100 percent of the federal poverty level typically migrate into the area, so do those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level. However, those at 100 to 149 percent of the poverty level show a net out-migration. The county may be able to support those below 100 percent of the poverty level through various programs, and also offer attractive features to those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level.



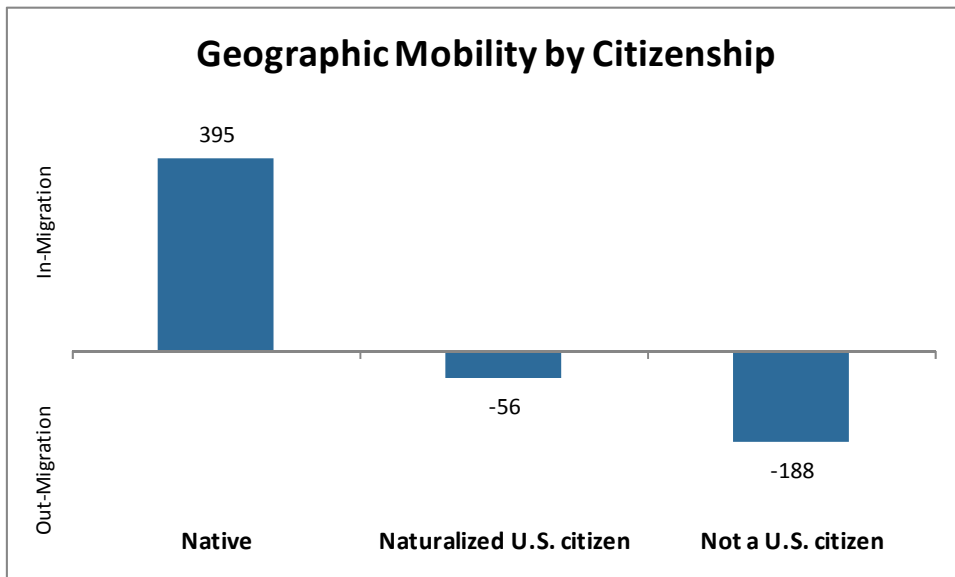
## Geographic Mobility Patterns NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY



A higher level of in-migration exists for most age groups in Northumberland County, most notably for the 40-49 age group. The large number of out-migrants under the age of 20 suggests that students are pursuing post-secondary education in other areas. Similarly, individuals ages 70 and over are also leaving the area, potentially for healthcare reasons. Overall, though, the county appears to be able to attract individuals across most ages, simply because there is no main campus of a postsecondary institution located in the county.



While males tend to migrate into Northumberland County, more females leave the area. The rates of migration are fairly similar, just in opposite directions.

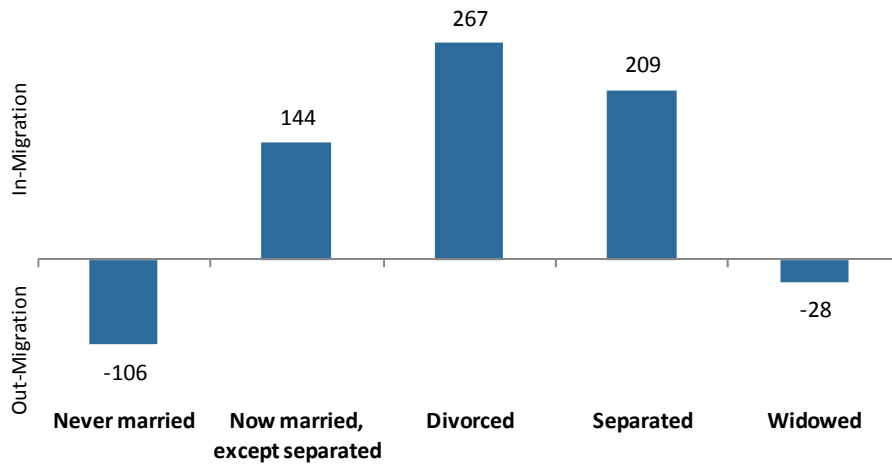


Citizens who are native to the United States tend to move into Northumberland County, while foreign born individuals, including both naturalized U.S. citizens and those who are not U.S. citizens, tend to move away from here.



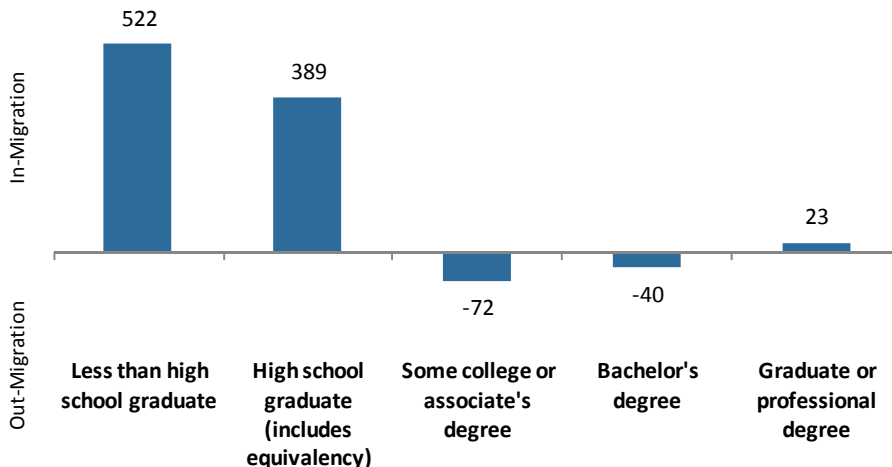
## Geographic Mobility Patterns NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Marital Status



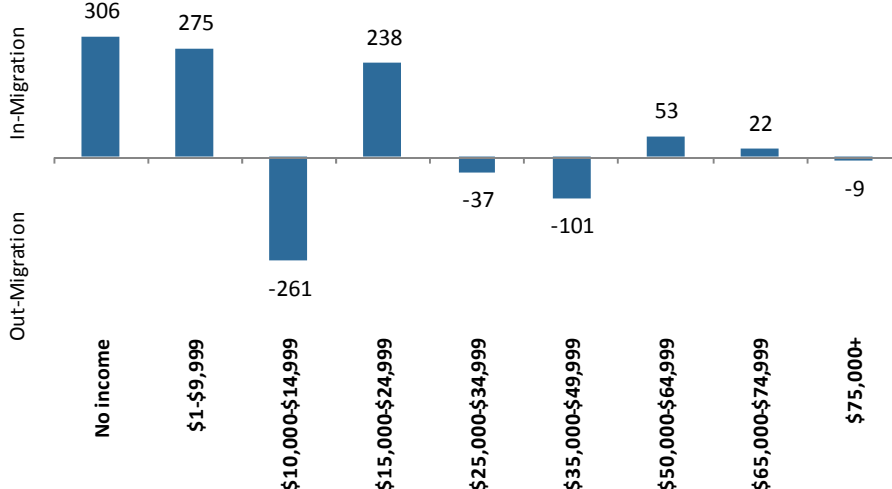
In Northumberland County, the results are varied according to marital status. There are net out-migration levels for the “never married” and “widowed” populations, but there are large net in-migration values for all other categories.

### Geographic Mobility by Educational Attainment



Individuals with a high school education or less are moving into Northumberland County, possibly for job opportunities that require these levels of education. While individuals with higher levels of education typically leave the area, those with graduate or professional degrees migrate into the county.

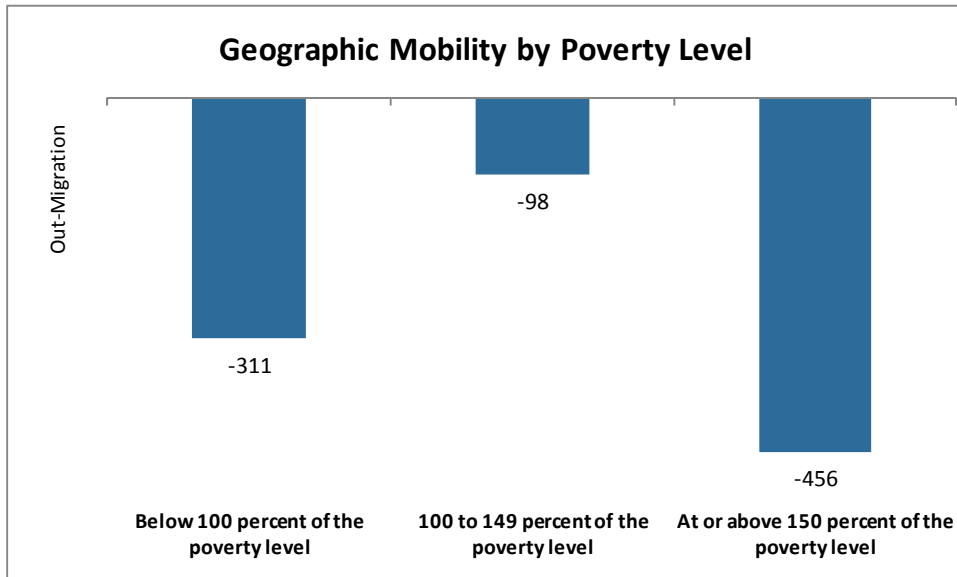
### Geographic Mobility by Income Level



No consistent pattern exists for the migration patterns based on income levels in Northumberland County. Income levels of less than \$10,000 results in net in-migration, which could be a function of the types of education held by individuals coming to the county.



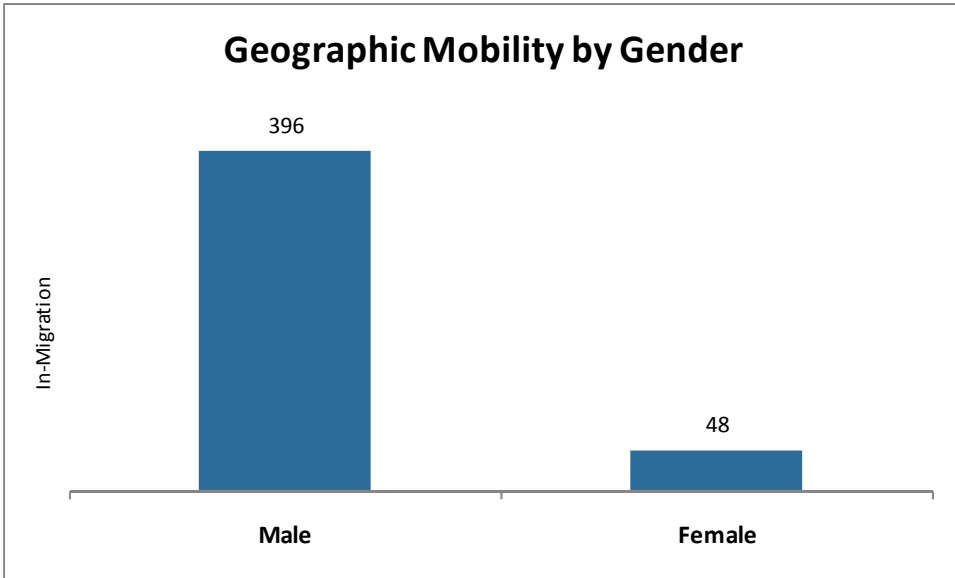
## Geographic Mobility Patterns NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY



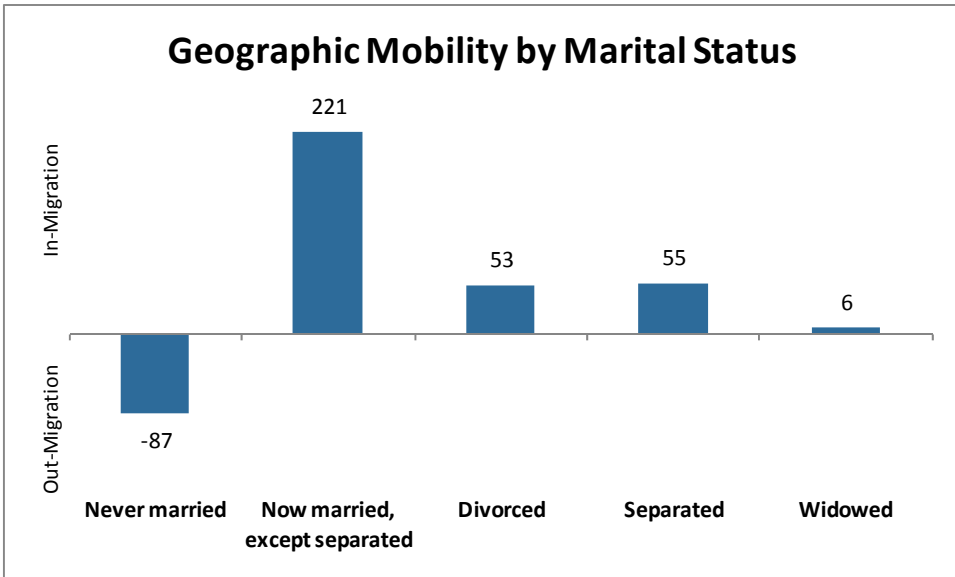
According to all poverty levels, individuals typically migrate out of Northumberland County, suggesting that government assistance programs may more accessible in other areas.



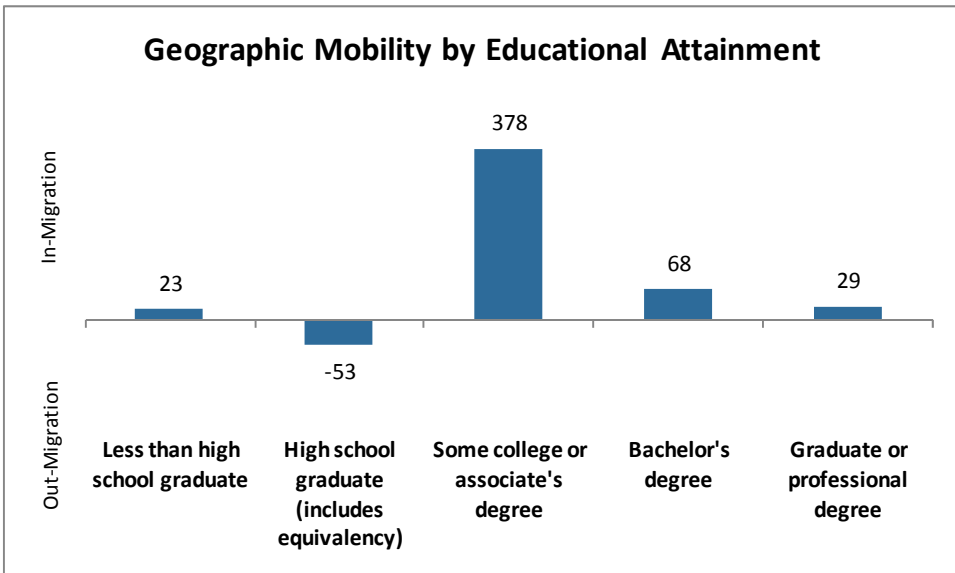
## Geographic Mobility Patterns SNYDER COUNTY



Overall, both genders demonstrate net in-migration in Snyder County, with males migrating to the area at about eight times the rate of females.



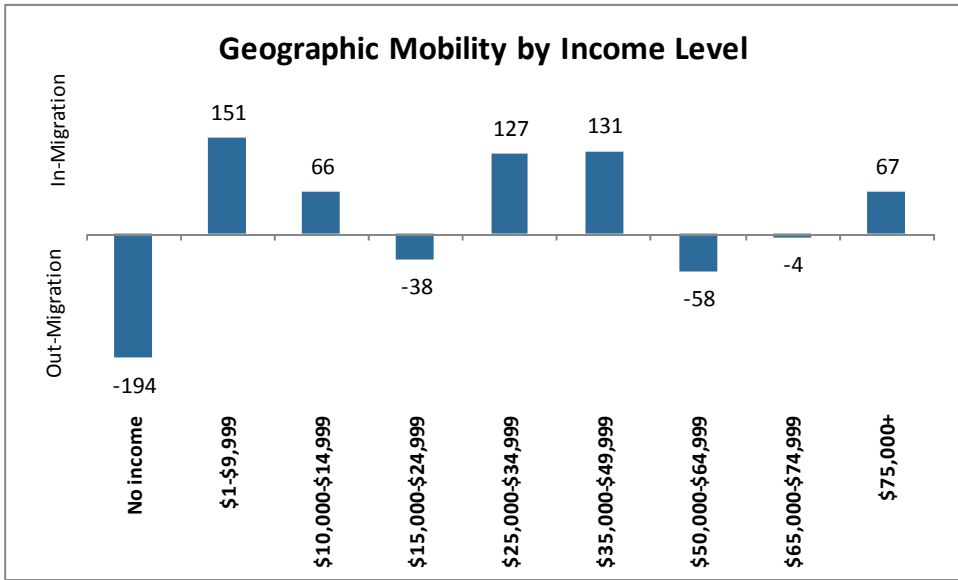
In Snyder County, only the “never married” group shows net out-migration. All other marital status categories demonstrate net in-migration, especially the “now married, except separated” group. Perhaps married individuals are coming to the area to start a family.



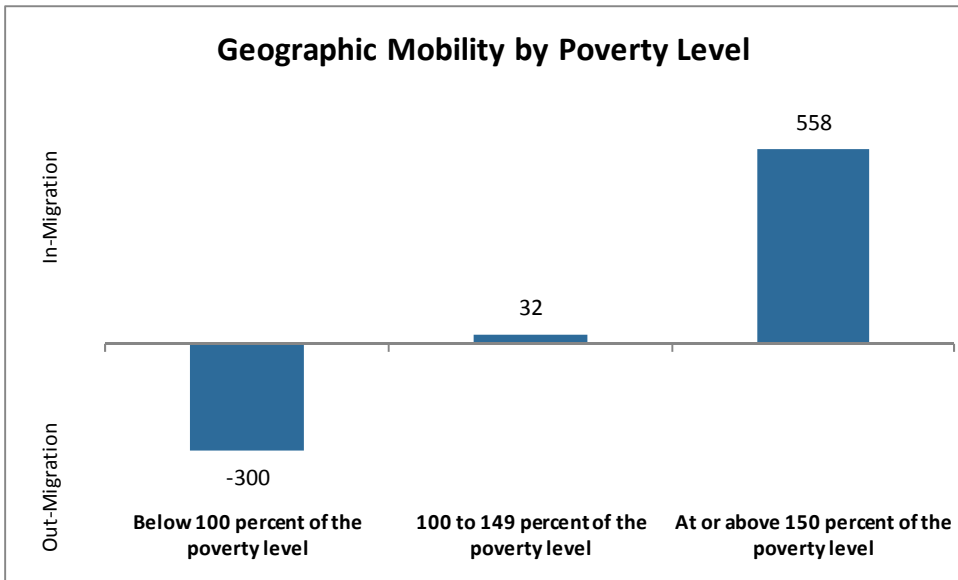
Individuals with a high school education are moving away from Snyder County, possibly for job opportunities that only require a high school diploma. All other education levels demonstrate net in-migration, possibly suggesting that there are job opportunities for these individuals in the county, especially those with some college or associate’s degree.



## Geographic Mobility Patterns SNYDER COUNTY



No consistent pattern exists for the migration patterns based on income levels in Snyder County. There is net in-migration for the lower income categories, which may be a result of students who are coming to the area for post-secondary education. Those with no income are leaving the area, perhaps to access government assistance programs in other counties.

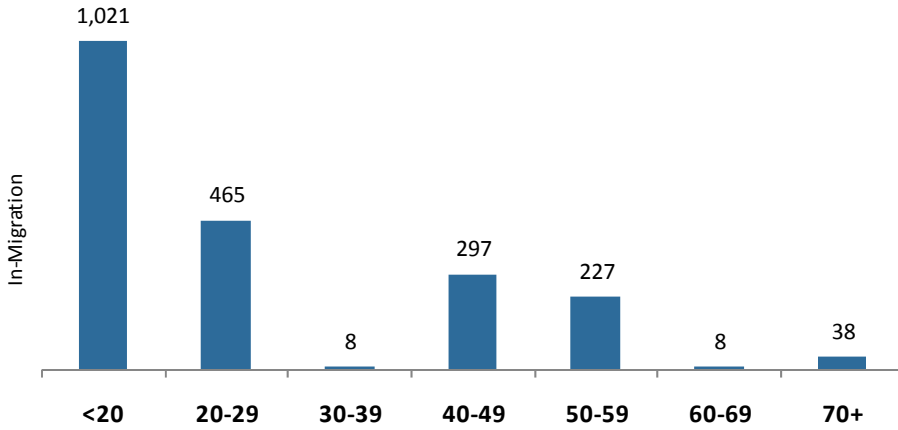


Individuals who live below 100 percent of the federal poverty level typically migrate away from Snyder County. This population may leave the area due to limited assistance programs or higher costs of living. Similarly, those at or above 100 percent of the poverty level often migrate to the area, which may be a result of pursuing higher standards of living.



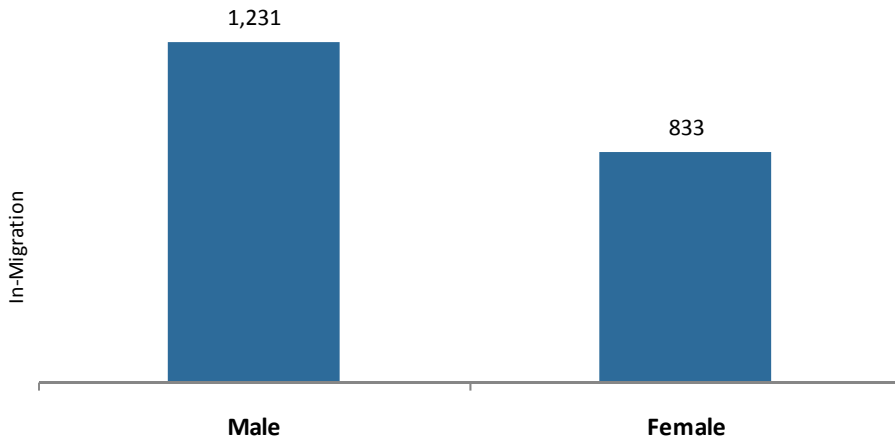
## Geographic Mobility Patterns UNION COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Age



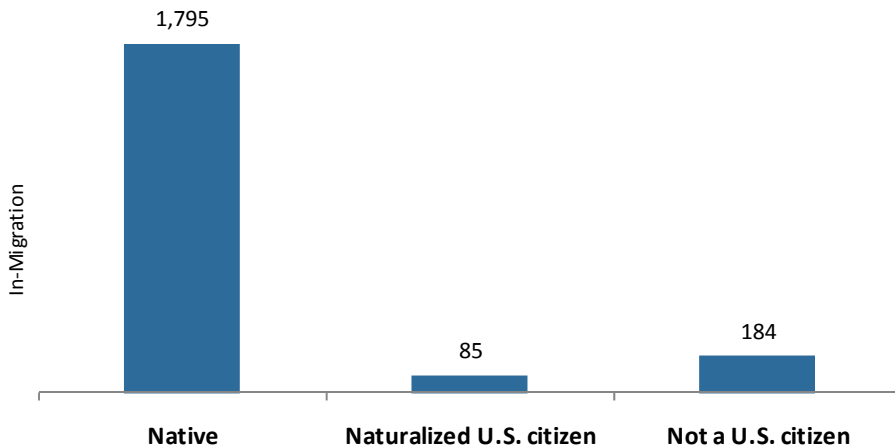
Net in-migration exists for each age group in Union County, especially for individuals under the age of 30 which is likely a result of students attending post-secondary education. However, many of these students may remain in the area, as evidenced by net in-migration for older age groups. The rate of in-migration decreases as age increases.

### Geographic Mobility by Gender



Overall, both genders demonstrate net in-migration in Union County, with males migrating to the area at a higher rate than females. This includes the incarcerated population, which could explain the males.

### Geographic Mobility by Citizenship

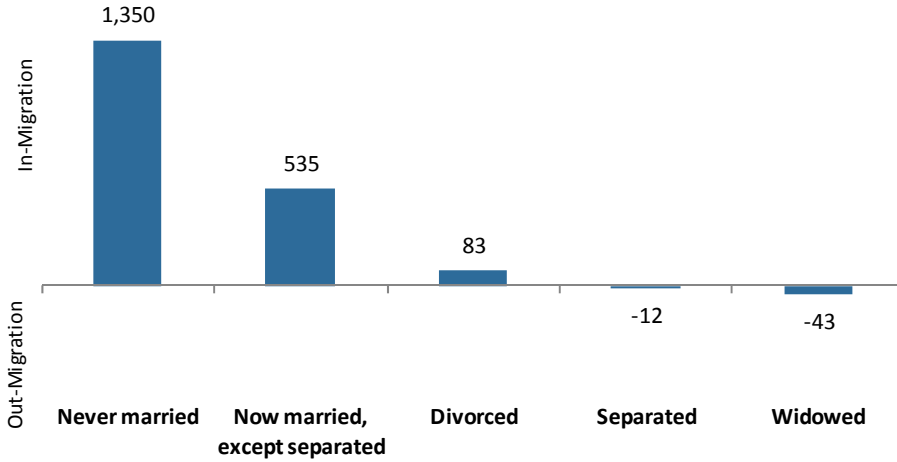


Citizens who are native to the United States tend to move into Union County, as do foreign born individuals including both naturalized U.S. citizens and those who are not U.S. citizens. The in-migration shown by native citizens outpaces the foreign born population at about seven times the combined-rate.



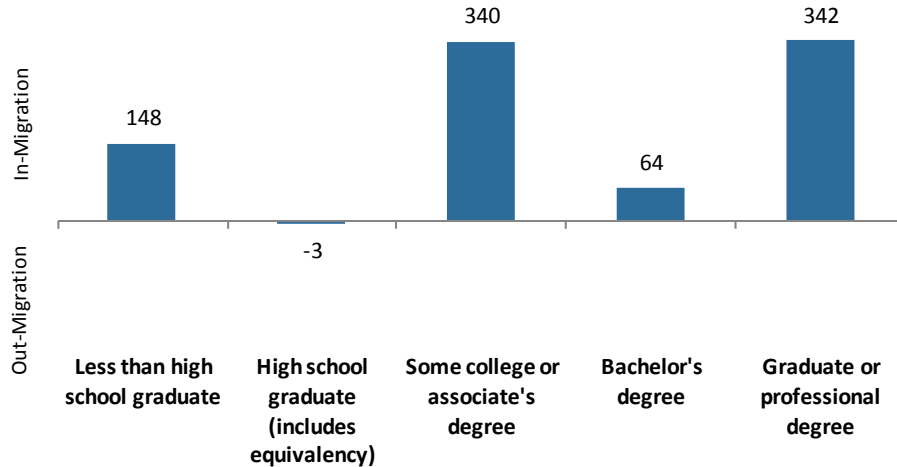
## Geographic Mobility Patterns UNION COUNTY

### Geographic Mobility by Marital Status



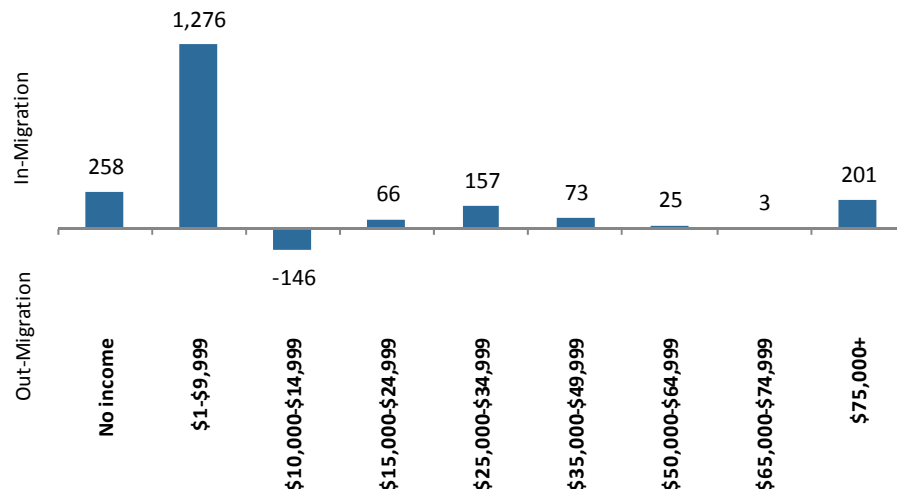
The highest level of in-migration by marital status in Union County is apparent for those who have never been married, which may be associated with students entering post-secondary education who typically fall into this category. A significant level is also seen for the married population, which may indicate the quality of life in the county.

### Geographic Mobility by Educational Attainment

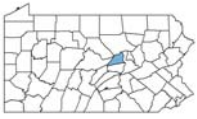


Generally, most individuals according to educational attainment are moving into Union County. Those with a high school education show a net out-migration of only three. All other education levels demonstrate net in-migration, possibly suggesting that there are job and training opportunities for these individuals in the county.

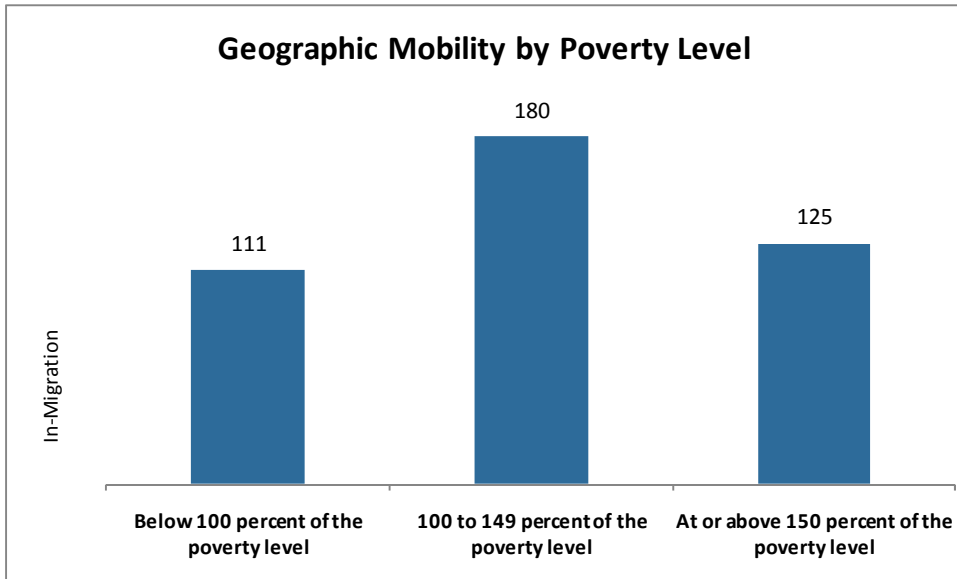
### Geographic Mobility by Income Level



While income levels between \$10,000 and \$14,999 show net out-migration, there is net in-migration for every other category in Union County, suggesting that county is able to accommodate most individuals according to their income levels. There are a large number of individuals with less than \$10,000 of income in-migrating to the county, which may be expected when considering individuals attending post-secondary education.



## Geographic Mobility Patterns UNION COUNTY



Regardless of poverty levels, more individuals are migrating into Union County. Similar to income levels, it appears that Union County is able to support all types of individuals, from those below 100 percent of the poverty level who may be in need of government assistance programs, to those at or above 150 percent of the poverty level who may be in search of a higher quality of life.

## Geographic Mobility Patterns

*For additional information, please contact:*

Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation  
1610 Industrial Boulevard, Suite 500 A  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570.522.0600 (P)  
570.522.0805 (F)  
[www.cpwdc.org](http://www.cpwdc.org)

