

RE: [Homebuyers Are Heading to Florida During Covid, but Nearly as Many Are Moving Out](#)

Size really does matter

- Dr. Jerry Parrish, Florida Chamber Foundation Chief Economist

Of course, I'm an economist, so I'm talking about sample size. Your recent March 11th WSJ article suggests that almost as many people are leaving Florida as are moving in. That's simply not true. You used a report from just one moving company that is a small percentage of the market to make a generalization about the entire industry. For 2020, they used a sample of 7,072 moves their company did to generalize about the entire market of interstate moves. While their data may be accurate for their customers, it is far from accurate for Florida's situation. With Florida growing at around a net of 800 to 900 people per day, their sample is far too small to make reasonable assumptions about the relative size of how many people are actually leaving Florida versus how many are moving to Florida. Most people who move into, or out of, Florida do not use the moving company you source in your story so let me correct the incorrect assertion in the article.

What's actually true is that substantially more people are moving to Florida from other states than are leaving Florida. That has been true for a long time. All you have to do is check the data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Every year, Census releases state-to-state migration data. That data will show you that since 2012, 278,853 more people moved to Florida from New York than left Florida to move to New York – it's the number one state for in-migration to Florida. Next in order are New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Connecticut and Massachusetts. It's no coincidence that the high-tax states are the ones with the highest net migration to Florida. What is actually true is that Florida is a large net gainer of population in both interstate and international moves every year.

Since 2015, Florida has created more than 1 out of 11 new U.S. jobs. Florida has also kept its economy open during the last several months – something that most states now wish they had done and something the WSJ has appropriately recognized Governor DeSantis for. People continue to come to Florida for the quality of life, the economic diversity, the reasonable tax climate, and the top education system we have. Certainly, some people do leave Florida, but please don't use a few examples of people leaving our state to imply that Florida is not attracting a lot more people than it is losing. Florida is open for business and we're growing. Florida's population will grow by approximately 4 million residents and our job creators will need to add approximately 2 million Florida jobs by 2030. Thank you for the excellent work the WSJ team does and I respectfully ask you update your article so your readers have the full picture versus the experience of one company doing too few Florida moves to accurately tell the Florida story.