

**Philly Movers Topline  
January 2019**

This study was conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts via web and mail surveys by SSRS, an independent research company. The field period for this study was from Nov. 13 to Dec. 12, 2018, and during that time, SSRS collected data from a sample of 1,000 adults age 18 or older who moved out of Philadelphia County. The margin of error for total respondents is plus or minus 4.6 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting [ssrs.com](http://ssrs.com).

S1. To start, do you presently live inside the city of Philadelphia or somewhere else?

Live inside the Philadelphia city limits	--
Somewhere else	100%

S2. Have you ever lived in the city of Philadelphia?

Yes, have lived in the city of Philadelphia before	100%
No, have never lived in the city of Philadelphia	--

Q1. Before you moved out of the city of Philadelphia, had you:

Lived in the city all your life	31%
Lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in your life	69%
Refused/web blank	*

Q2. Where did you spend most of your life growing up?

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

The city of Philadelphia	14%
The suburbs of Philadelphia	21%
Somewhere else	64%

Q3. Did you move into the city of Philadelphia:

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

Just once and stayed there until you recently moved out of Philadelphia	78%
More than once: you moved into the city, out, and then back one or more times	22%
Refused/web blank	*

Q4. How old were you when you (last) moved to the city of Philadelphia?

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

Less than 18 years old	7%
18 years old	10%
19-24 years old	32%
25-29 years old	27%
30-34 years old	10%
35 years old or older	15%
Refused/web blank	*

Q5. Did you (last) move to the city of Philadelphia from:

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

The suburbs of Philadelphia	25%
Another suburban location in the U.S.	20%
Another city in the U.S.	38%
A rural area in the U.S.	10%
Another country	8%
Refused/web blank	*

Q6. What was the main type of reason you/your family (last) moved to the city of Philadelphia?

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

Job	37%
Education	28%
Family	14%
Other	22%
Refused/web blank	*

Q7. Was the decision to (last) move to the city of Philadelphia more something you/your family:

*Based on those who lived outside of the city of Philadelphia at some time in their life (n=717)*

WANTED to do	61%
HAD to do	14%
Both	24%
Don't know why moved	1%
Refused/web blank	*

Q8. For how many years did you live in the city of Philadelphia, counting all years that you lived there?

Less than 3 years	14%
3 or 4 years	14%
5 to less than 10 years	19%
10 to less than 20 years	15%
20 to less than 30 years	11%
30 to less than 40 years	8%
40 to less than 50 years	9%
50 years or more	9%

Q9. In what year did you most recently move out of the city of Philadelphia?

Prior to 2014	3%
2015	3%
2016	8%
2017	10%
2018	76%
Refused/web blank	*

Q10. First, what was the MOST IMPORTANT reason why you moved out of Philadelphia?

Note: This was an open-ended question, meaning respondents could say whatever they liked in response. Their answers were coded and sorted into the categories listed below.

Job reasons—opportunities, changed job	26%
Crime and safety reasons	14%
The high cost of living in Philadelphia	12%
Wanted better schools for my children	11%
Housing reasons: type, size, cost	11%
Wanted or needed to be closer to friends/family	9%
Wanted a non-urban lifestyle	8%
Neighborhood where you were living was changing for the worse	8%
Change in your household—birth, divorce, need to care for family member	7%
Transportation reasons/to be closer to work	4%
For a better environment/area/neighborhood/quality of life (non-specific)	4%
To further education/for college/graduate school	4%
Unhappy with city government/leadership (unresponsive/mismanagement/made it a sanctuary city/etc.)	3%
Weather/climate	3%
Other	1%
Refused/web blank	*

Yes—school mentioned (in reference to children, not themselves)	11%

Yes—tax mentioned	6%

Q11. Below are some possible reasons why people might move out of the city of Philadelphia. For each of the following, please indicate whether it was a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason for why YOU most recently moved out of the city of Philadelphia.

	A major reason	A minor reason	Not a reason	Refused/ web blank
a. Job reasons—opportunities, changed job	41%	13%	46%	*
b. Wanted a non-urban lifestyle	17%	27%	57%	--
c. Wanted better schools for my children	29%	6%	65%	--
d. Crime and safety reasons	33%	23%	44%	--
e. The high cost of living in Philadelphia	23%	23%	53%	*
f. Transportation reasons/to be closer to work	17%	13%	70%	--
g. Change in your household—birth, divorce, need to care for family member	15%	11%	74%	--

Q12. Who made the decision to move out of the city of Philadelphia?

I made the decision alone	40%
I made the decision WITH my partner or spouse	58%
Someone else made the decision	2%

Q13. Was the decision to move out of the city of Philadelphia more:

Something you WANTED to do,	43%
Something you HAD to do, or	25%
Both	32%

Q14. Was moving out of the city of Philadelphia something:

You had been planning to do,	46%
Due to something that came up, or	33%
Both	21%

Q15. Here are some more possible reasons why people might move out of the city of Philadelphia. Again, for each of the following, please indicate whether it was a major reason, a minor reason or NOT a reason for why YOU most recently moved out of the city.

	A major reason	A minor reason	Not a reason	Blank
a. Wanted or needed to be closer to family/friends	21%	17%	62%	--
b. Neighborhood where you were living was changing for the worse	24%	13%	63%	--
c. Housing reasons: type, size, cost	31%	21%	47%	--
d. Weather/climate	8%	13%	79%	--
e. High taxes in Philadelphia	22%	21%	57%	*
f. Retirement/old age	7%	7%	87%	--

Q16. How would you rate the city of Philadelphia as a place to live?

Excellent	25%
Good	45%
Only fair	21%
Poor	9%
Refused/web blank	*

Q17. How would you rate the area where you live now as a place to live?

Excellent	51%
Good	37%
Only fair	9%
Poor	3%

Q18. In general, what direction was the city of Philadelphia moving in when you left? Was it:

Getting better	45%
Getting worse	35%
Not changing	19%
Refused/web blank	*

Q19. Which of the following best summarizes what you thought about living in the city of Philadelphia before you moved out?

I loved living there	36%
I liked living there	41%
I did not like living there	16%
I hated living there	7%

Q20. For each of the following, please indicate whether it was better in the city of Philadelphia, better where you live now, or if there is no difference.

	Better in the city of Philadelphia	Better where I live now	No difference	Not applicable (item C Only)	Refused/web blank
a. Your housing situation	16%	75%	9%		*
b. Your overall cost of living	30%	52%	17%		--
c. Your employment situation (if working)	10%	38%	33%	20%	--
d. Your feeling of physical safety	5%	75%	20%		--
e. Access to arts and culture	62%	15%	23%		--
f. Feeling of identity with the community where you live	33%	36%	31%		*
g. The neighborhood you live in	20%	66%	14%		--

Q21. Would you say your overall quality of life now is:

Better than when you lived in the city of Philadelphia	66%
Worse than when you lived in the city of Philadelphia	8%
The same as when you lived in the city of Philadelphia	26%
Refused/web blank	--

Q22. When you think about living in the city of Philadelphia, are there:

Many things you miss about living in the city of Philadelphia,	38%
A few important things you miss about it, or	42%
Not very much or nothing you miss about it	20%

Q23. Do you have any regrets about moving out of the city of Philadelphia?

Yes, major regrets	6%
Yes, minor regrets	29%
No regrets	65%

Q24. Do you think that you will move back to the city of Philadelphia at some point in the future?

Definitely will move back	6%
Probably will move back	15%
Probably will not move back	28%
Definitely will not move back	26%
Don't know	25%

Q25. Were you employed full or part time before you moved out of the city of Philadelphia?

Yes, employed full or part time	82%
No, not employed	18%

Q26. Which of the following best describes your current situation?

Employed full or part time	75%
Unemployed and looking for work	3%
Unemployed but not looking for work	*
Going to school	6%
Stay at home parent	4%
Retired	8%
Something else	4%
Refused/web blank	*

Q27. Do you have:

*Based on those who are currently employed full or part time (n=719)*

The exact same job you had when you left Philadelphia	59%
A different job than the one you had in Philadelphia when you left	41%

Q28. How are you currently paid? Please select your primary source of income.

*Based on those who are currently employed full or part time (n=719)*

Annual salary	57%
Hourly	34%
Self-employed/paid by project	8%

Q29. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?

1	15%
2	43%
3	18%
4	13%
5 or more	11%
Refused/web blank	1%

Q30. How many of the people that currently live in your household are under 18 years of age?

*Based on those who have more than one person living in their household (n=803)*

0	61%
1	17%
2	12%
3 or more	10%
Refused/web blank	*

Q31. Are any of these children between the ages of 4 and 17?

*Based on those who have children under the age of 18 currently living in their household (n=314)*

Yes	76%
No	25%

Q32. If these children between the ages of 4 and 17 were attending schools when you were living in the city of Philadelphia, please check all types of schools that your child/children attended while there.

*Based on those who have children between the ages of 4 and 17 currently living in their household (n=212)*

Public school	47%
Private or religious school	23%
Charter school	22%
Home school	2%
Not in school when living in the city of Philadelphia	17%
Refused/web blank	*

Q33. And what types of schools, if any, does your child/children now attend in the area where you live now?

*Based on those who have children between the ages of 4 and 17 currently living in their household (n=212)*

Public school	75%
Private or religious school	10%
Charter school	10%
Home school	2%
Not in school now	7%
Refused/web blank	*

Q34. What type of housing do you currently live in?

Own	39%
Rent	53%
Live rent-free with others	8%

Q35. And what type of housing did you move from in Philadelphia?

Own	36%
Rent	63%
Live rent-free with others	2%

Q36. What was the last grade you completed in school?

Less than high school	6%
High school graduate	14%
Some college/2-year college/professional certificate	25%
4-year college	25%
Graduate school/degree	30%



Q37. What is your age?

18-24	11%
25-29	26%
30-35	21%
36-49	23%
50-60	9%
61-64	3%
65+	6%

Q38. Is your ethnic background Hispanic, Latino, or other Spanish descent?

Yes	10%
No	90%
Blank	*

Q39. Please indicate which one or more of the following you would use to describe yourself.

White	62%
African-American/Black	22%
Asian	9%
Other	9%
Refused/web blank	*

Q40. What was your total household income in 2017 before taxes?

Under \$25,000	15%
\$25,000 to under \$50,000	22%
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	21%
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14%
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15%
\$150,000 or more	13%
Refused/web blank	1%

Q41. What is your gender?

Male	51%
Female	49%
Refused/web blank	*