Each year, the IRS collects migration data by comparing residential county codes on a citizen’s tax return form from year to year. Last year’s brief focused on the changes that occurred from the 2008 data release to the 2009 data and how the recession may have impacted those changes. This brief highlights the positive changes to migration and commuting patterns since the end of the recession.

From 2009 to 2010, Missouri had a net gain of 232 residents from other states and a net loss of 143 residents to outside the United States. The map below shows the net flows of migrations to and from Missouri. The highest inflows were from Illinois (1,668), Michigan (479), and Wisconsin (279). The highest outflows were to Texas (-1,175), Oklahoma (-387), and Colorado (-385).
Regional Commuting Trends

From 2009 to 2010, the number of commuters both into and out of Missouri generally increased, likely due to the recovering job market. With the exception of Oklahoma, states where Missouri showed a net increase for in-migration also showed gains in commuters from those states to Missouri job sites. Over the year, Missouri workers commuting from out of state to Missouri job sites increased by more than 11,000 or 6.4%. Kansas and Illinois residents accounted for 89% of the change. Likewise Missouri residents commuting to job sites out of state increased but at a smaller rate of 4.7% or nearly 6,500 commuters. Illinois, Arkansas, and Oklahoma experienced the largest numerical gains in Missouri residents commuting out of state. Oklahoma had the highest over the year percentage gain in Oklahoma workers commuting from Missouri at 68%. Notably, Kansas was the only state to show a reduction in Missouri residents commuting to Kansas over this time period.

Sources: 2009-2010 IRS Migration Data, U.S. Census 2009-2010 Net Job Loss/Gains dataset from Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics website