

## Utah's California In-Migrants

Utah's largest source of domestic in-migrants come from California, surpassed only by international migrants.<sup>1</sup> One of every five Utah in-migrants moved from California in the most recent data.<sup>2</sup> California is currently the largest source of domestic migrants for many states besides Utah, but Utah and California have a lengthy migration relationship due to geographic and religious ties.<sup>3,4</sup>

### Utah and California Migration History

Historically, California has sent more migrants to Utah than Utah has sent to California, except for one data point in 1990. There was a sharp spike in Utah's California in-migrants in the 2000s until the Great Recession, when migration levels dropped across the country. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of Californians moving to Utah. Utah out-migrants to California have sustained steady migration levels over recent decades, with a noticeable decrease from 2015-2021, then a sharp uptick in 2022.

### Geography

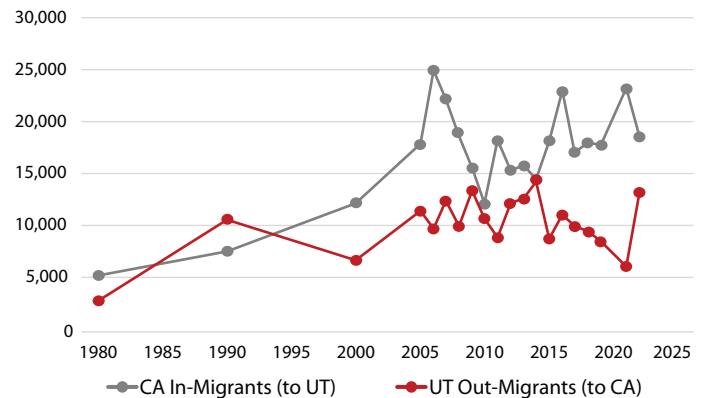
California is the most populous state in the country, and thus, it greatly impacts domestic migration in many states. Two-thirds of California domestic migrants relocate to western or southern states, with Texas, Arizona, and Florida receiving the most California migrants in the nation (see Table 1). Utah ranks 15<sup>th</sup> for the number of California migrants it receives. The most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 1-year estimate data indicate that Utah received 18,700 migrants from California, or 2.3% of all California domestic migrants (see Table 1).

Less than half of Utah's California in-migrants were born in California and nearly one in four of these movers were born in Utah. This indicates some return migration, or Utahns who left the state at one point but returned.

Recent migration data indicates that California migrants live throughout Utah.<sup>5</sup> ACS microdata allows researchers to examine the data at a subcounty geography (Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)) in large counties, providing more geographic detail on where California migrants initially locate within Utah.<sup>6</sup>

The largest shares of California migrants moved to the Utah County PUMA that includes Saratoga Springs, Payson, and Southwest Lehi (21%), the Cache, Summit, Morgan, and Rich Counties PUMA (10%), and the St. George City PUMA (9%). As a whole, Salt Lake County received 23% of California migrants,

**Figure 1: California Migrants to Utah & Utah Migrants to California, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2005-2022**



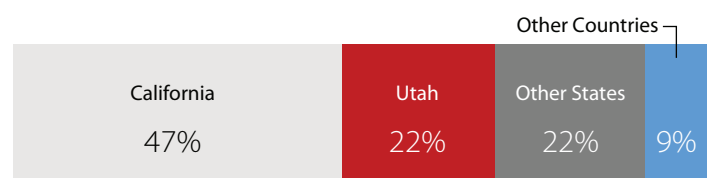
Sources: Decennial Census Data 5% file, 1980, 1990, 2000; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2005-2022.

**Table 1: Top 15 Domestic Destinations of California Migrants, 2022**

State	California In-Migrants	Share of Total California Migrants
Texas	102,442	12.5%
Arizona	74,157	9.1%
Florida	50,701	6.2%
Washington	49,968	6.1%
Nevada	48,836	6.0%
Oregon	36,429	4.5%
New York	34,681	4.2%
Colorado	33,213	4.1%
Idaho	26,887	3.3%
Georgia	25,960	3.2%
North Carolina	22,891	2.8%
Tennessee	22,565	2.8%
Illinois	20,573	2.5%
Virginia	19,036	2.3%
Utah	18,669	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

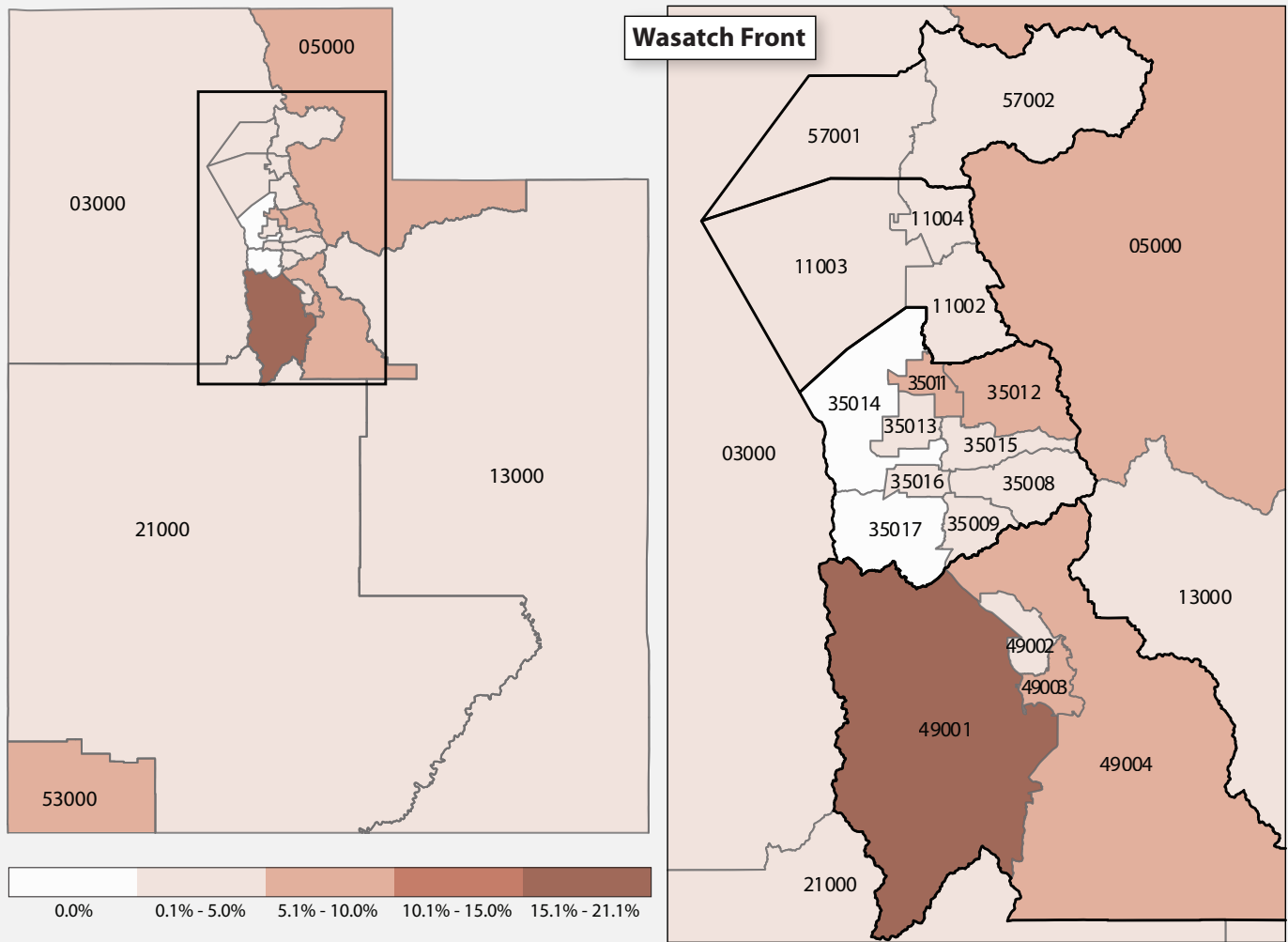
**Figure 2: Place of Birth of California In-Migrants, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

# California Migrants Coming to Utah

**Figure 3: Utah PUMA Locations of Recent California In-Migrants, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Table 2: Top 10 Utah PUMA Destinations for California In-Migrants, 2018-2022**

Code	Area	Share of California In-Migrants
49001	Utah County (West)--Saratoga Springs, Payson & Lehi (Southwest) Cities	21%
05000	Cache, Summit, Morgan & Rich Counties	10%
53000	Washington County--St. George City	9%
49003	Utah County (Central)--Provo City	7%
35012	Salt Lake County--Salt Lake City (East) & Emigration Canyon	6%
35011	Salt Lake County--Salt Lake City (West) & Magna	6%
49004	Utah County (East)--Spanish Fork, Springville, Lehi (Northeast) & Highland Cities	6%
57001	Weber County (West)--Roy, North Ogden, Ogden (Northwest) & West Haven Cities	5%
21000	Southwest & South Central Utah (Outside Washington County)--Cedar City	5%
13000	Southeast Utah & Uintah Basin Region	4%

Note: "PUMAs are non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas that partition each state into geographic areas containing at least 100,000 people- which provides subcounty geographies in larger counties."<sup>8</sup>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

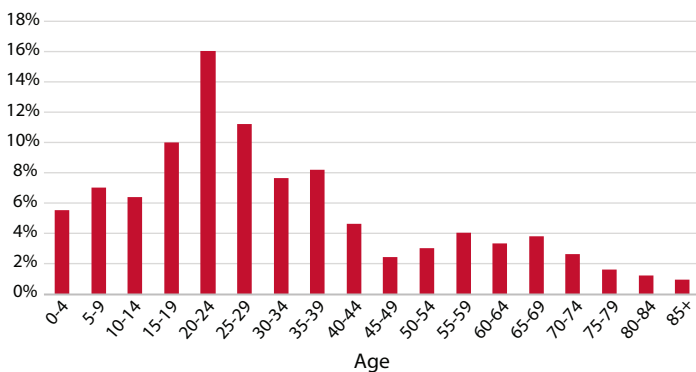
with the Salt Lake City (West) & Magna PUMA and the Salt Lake City (East) & Emigration Canyon PUMA each receiving 6% of California migrants. Utah County PUMAs received over a third of all California migrants.

### Demographic Characteristics

Utah's California in-migrants share many similarities with Utah's in-migrants from other areas. The age distribution of California migrants to Utah is very similar to that of other migrants, with over half between the ages of 15 and 39, peaking at ages 20-24. California in-migrants' race and Hispanic origin characteristics are also similar to Utah's other in-migrants, with approximately 72% identifying as White, non-Hispanic, and 12% Hispanic.<sup>7</sup>

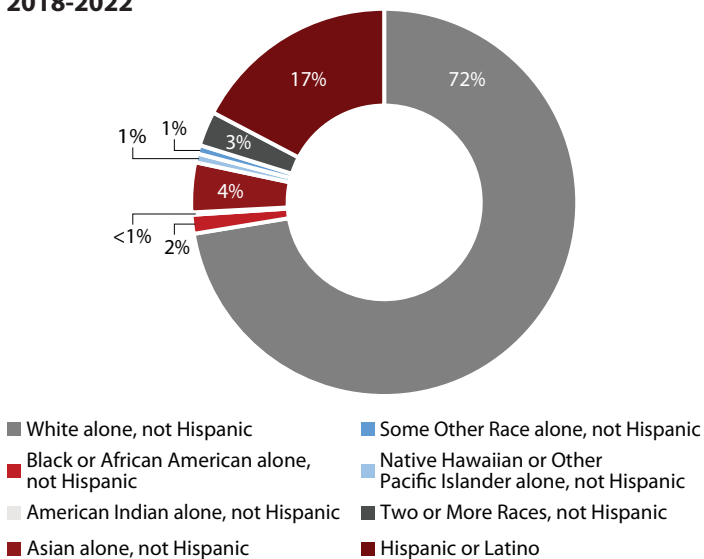
California migrants' employment and education are similar to other Utah in-migrants. Approximately 60% of California migrants age 16 or older are employed civilians, 36% are not in the labor force, and the rest are unemployed or in the Armed Forces. Half of these migrants, aged 25 or over, have either bachelor's or advanced degrees, and approximately a quarter of them have some college experience but no degrees. Two thirds of all California in-migrants are not attending any type of school.

**Figure 4: Age Distribution of California In-Migrants, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Figure 5: Race and Hispanic Origin of California In-Migrants, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

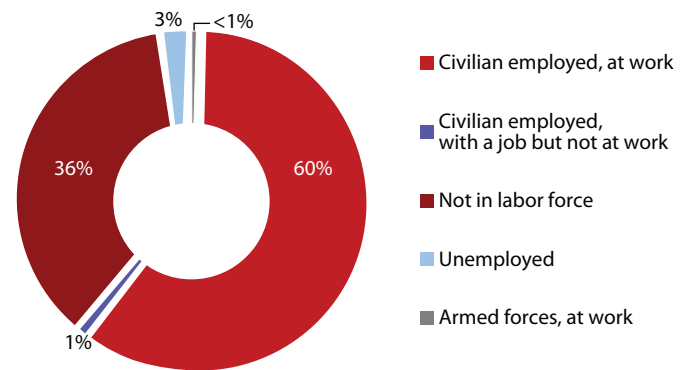
However, when those figures are adjusted for those under age 25, 31% are not attending school, 30% are attending a college undergraduate program, and the largest share are attending PreK through high school (39%).

### Household Characteristics

Within the first year of moving to Utah, half of California in-migrants own their new residence, and the other half rent. This pattern differs from the rest of Utah's in-migrants, where only one-third own their residence within the first year and two-thirds rent.

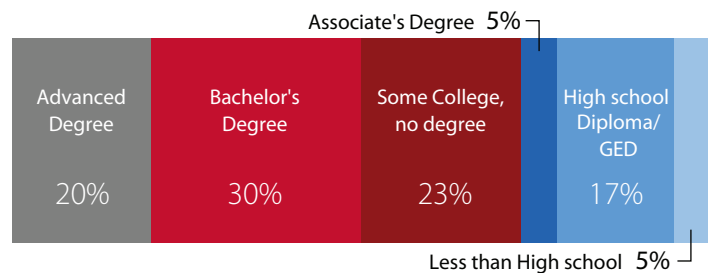
Household income is one factor that may contribute to homeownership. Approximately 40% of Utah's California in-migrants have household incomes of \$100,000 or more, while 28% of all other Utah in-migrants have household incomes of \$100,000 or more.

**Figure 6: Employment Status of California In-Migrants, Ages 16 and Older, 2018-2022**



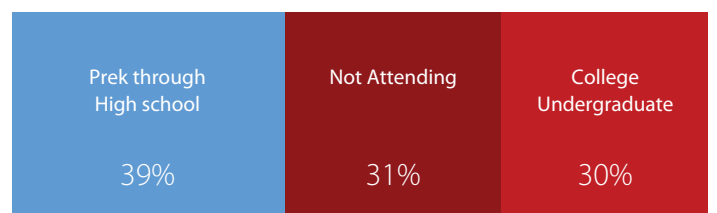
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Figure 7: Educational Attainment of California In-Migrants, Ages 25 and Older, 2018-2022**



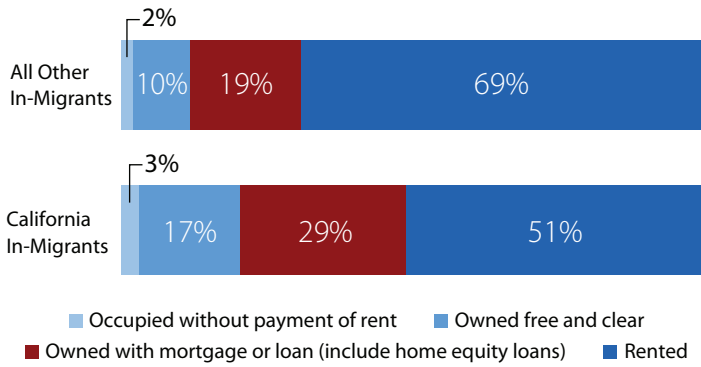
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Figure 8: School Attendance of California In-Migrants, Under Age 25, 2018-2022**



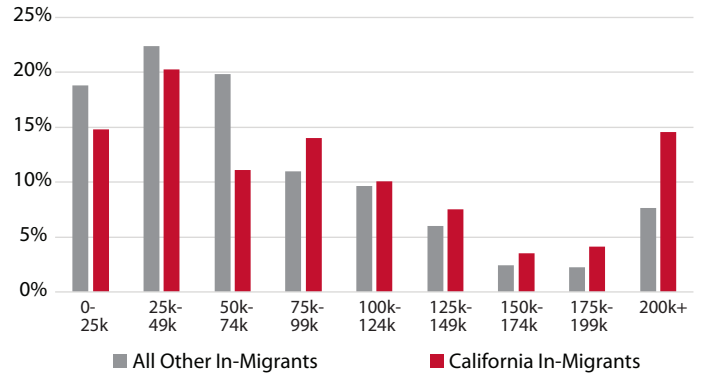
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Figure 9: Housing Tenure of California In-Migrant Households and All Other In-Migrant Households, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Figure 10: Household Income for California In-Migrant Households and All Other In-Migrant Households, 2018-2022**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates- PUMS

**Endnotes**

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- A complete reference table of Utah's PUMAs can be accessed here [https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/DC2020/PUMA/st49\\_ut/Catalog\\_PUMAmaps\\_st49.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/DC2020/PUMA/st49_ut/Catalog_PUMAmaps_st49.pdf)
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