

New Mover Studies: Ringgold County

Sandra Charvat Burke and Mark A. Edelman

Findings

This report highlights the findings and experiences of Ringgold County respondents who were included in a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in Iowa.¹ The purpose of the study is to better understand the decisions and thoughts of people who have moved and what they think about the communities and areas where they have lived. With increased understanding about why people move, community leaders may be able to develop actionable strategies for attracting and retaining population.²

Eleven respondents from Ringgold County participated in the survey, six who moved into the county, three who moved out, and two who moved within the county but changed

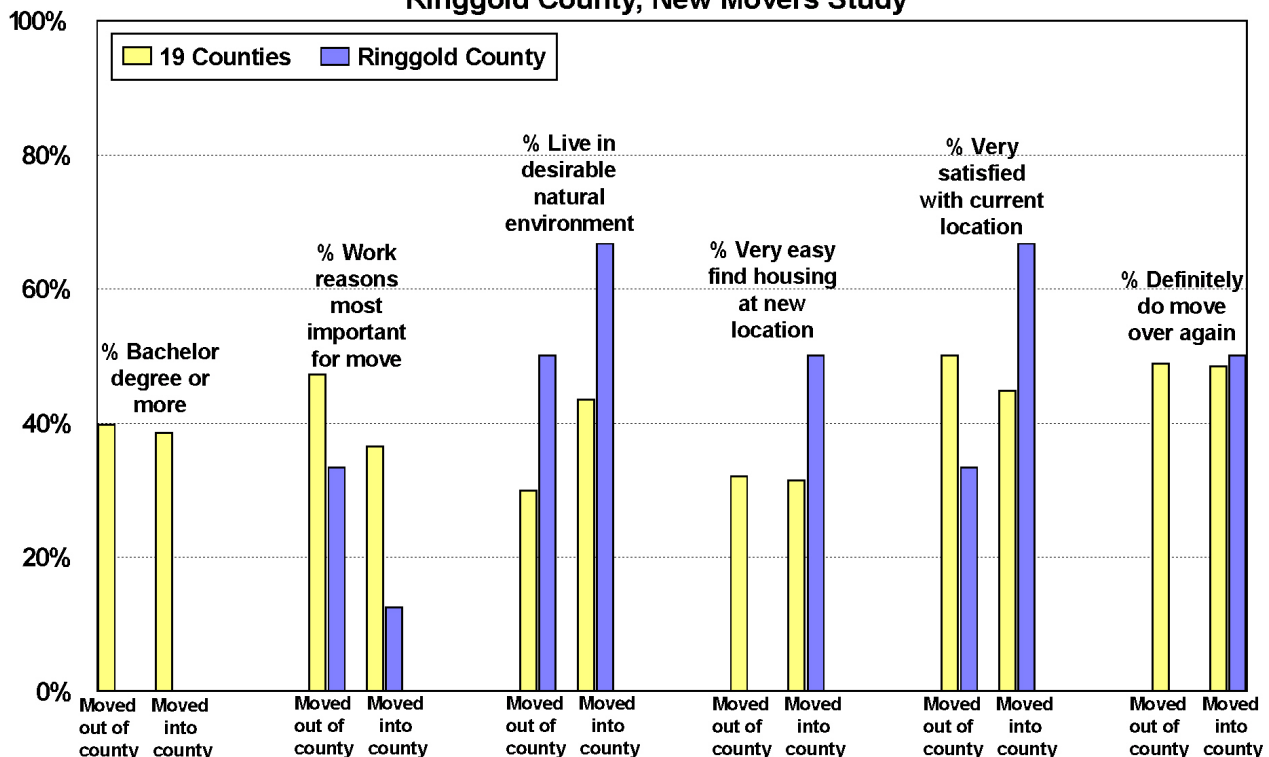
zipcode (Table 1). In many respects, the Ringgold County participants shared similar characteristics and responses with the overall set of respondents, but in some aspects there were differences.

The Ringgold County movers tended to be somewhat older than the overall set of respondents. For both those moving into the county and for those moving out, the median age was higher than the median for the counties overall (Tables 1, 5). Somewhat higher proportions of the Ringgold respondents were divorced than for the overall findings, especially among those moving into the county (Tables 1, 5). None of the movers coming into or leaving Ringgold County reported having a college bachelor degree (Table 1, Figure 1).

Reasons for moving varied among the respondents, but generally fell into those related to work, family, community, or housing. The Ringgold County respondents tended to give fewer work reasons and many more community reasons as the most important factor in their moving decision than did the overall set of movers in the study. Fewer than 13 percent of those moving into Ringgold said that work-related factors were their most important reason for moving (Tables 1, 5; Figure 1).

The respondents coming into Ringgold County were more likely than those overall to say wanting to be nearer siblings, relatives, friends, and acquaintances was a factor in their moving decision. All of the

Figure 1: Selected Demographic, Moving Decision, and Satisfaction Factors, Ringgold County, New Movers Study



Source: Community Vitality Center, New Movers Study

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Median age in years | 48.0 | 56 | 52.0 | * | * | 52.0 | * | na ² |
| Selected age categories | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Age 25 – 34 | 30.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| % Age 70 or older | 20.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Gender | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Male | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| % Female | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| Marital status | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Never married | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| % Married | 60.0 | 50.0 | 66.7 | * | * | 66.7 | * | na |
| % Divorced or separated | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | * | na |
| % Widowed | 10.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Highest level of education completed | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Less than high school graduate | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| % High school graduate or equivalent | 50.0 | 100.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| % Some college or vocational training | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | * | na |
| % Associate degree | 10.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| % Bachelor degree or more | 10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Most important reason for moving | | | | | | | | |
| Number of reasons ¹ | 21 | 3 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 0 |
| Type of reason | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Work, income, education, retirement | 14.3 | 33.3 | 12.5 | * | * | 12.5 | * | na |
| Family, friends, health | 19.0 | 33.3 | 12.5 | * | * | 12.5 | * | na |
| Community, services, amenities | 66.7 | 33.3 | 75.0 | * | * | 75.0 | * | na |
| Housing | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |

¹Information suppressed, fewer than 3 respondents. ²Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

²No respondents in category.

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: Ringgold County

Table 2. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | In From Another State |
| | % Yes ¹ | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| Number of respondents | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Factors in Moving Decision | | | | | | | |
| Moved, commuted, same employer | 22.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na ² |
| Job transfer by employer to location | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Laid off from previous job | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| New job with new employer | 22.2 | 50.0 | 20.0 | * | * | 20.0 | na |
| Moved to look for new job or work | 22.2 | 0.0 | 40.0 | * | * | 40.0 | na |
| Retired from previous employment | 11.1 | 0.0 | 20.0 | * | * | 20.0 | na |
| To be nearer parents | 20.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| To be nearer children | 30.0 | 100.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| To live with spouse or partner | 20.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| To be nearer siblings, other relatives | 36.4 | 33.3 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | na |
| To be nearer friends, acquaintances | 30.0 | 0.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | na |
| Change in marital status | 30.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Place easier find spouse or partner | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Decline in health | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Take care aging parents | 10.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Find less congested place to live | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Find safer place to live | 30.0 | 0.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | na |
| Live in desirable natural environment | 60.0 | 50.0 | 66.7 | * | * | 66.7 | na |
| More outdoor recreation | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Find arts, entertainment, cultural | 10.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Find simpler pace of life | 60.0 | 50.0 | 66.7 | * | * | 66.7 | na |
| Find more exciting lifestyle | 20.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Live someplace new, have fresh start | 60.0 | 50.0 | 66.7 | * | * | 66.7 | na |
| Lower cost of housing | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Have lower taxes | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Have better internet, tv, phone | 10.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Find better quality local schools | 20.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Opportunities children to achieve | 20.0 | 50.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Have more ethnic diversity | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Have less ethnic diversity | 10.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |

*Information suppressed, fewer than 3 respondents. ¹ Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one factor. ² No respondents in category.

| | | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Previously had lived: | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| In current state | 81.8 | 66.7 | 83.3 | * | * | 83.3 | * | na ² |
| In current county | 50.0 | 0.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| In or near current city/town | 30.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | * | na |
| Used source of information for move | % Yes ¹ | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| Internet | 27.3 | 33.3 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| TV, magazines, newspapers | 27.3 | 33.3 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Current community resident | 18.2 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Employer or co-workers | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Friends and acquaintances | 45.5 | 66.7 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| Family | 45.5 | 66.7 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| Travel or vacation to new location | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Attended school or college there | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Ease of finding housing at new location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very difficult (1) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Somewhat difficult (2) | 27.3 | 66.7 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Neither difficult or easy (3) | 27.3 | 33.3 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| Somewhat easy (4) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Very easy (5) | 27.3 | 0.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | * | na |
| Average rating finding housing (1 – 5) | 2.91 | 2.33 | 3.50 | * | * | 3.50 | * | na |
| Household income for 2004 | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Less than \$20,000 (1) | 27.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | * | na |
| \$20,000 - \$34,999 (2) | 9.1 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999 (3) | 27.3 | 66.7 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | * | na |
| \$50,000 - \$69,999 (4) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| \$70,000 - \$99,999 (5) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | * | na |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999 (6) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| \$150,000 or more (7) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | * | na |
| Average income category (1 – 7) | 2.91 | 2.33 | 2.83 | * | * | 2.83 | * | na |

*Information suppressed, fewer than 3 respondents. ¹Respondents could respond "Yes" to more than one source. ²No respondents in category.

New Mover Studies: Ringgold County

Table 4. Income Comparison Between Locations, Satisfaction with Previous and Current Locations, and Doing Move Over Again by Type and Direction of Move.

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Current location income compared with previous location income | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Significantly lower income (1) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na ¹ |
| Somewhat lower income (2) | 9.1 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| About same income (3) | 45.5 | 66.7 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Somewhat higher income (4) | 9.1 | 33.3 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Significantly higher income (5) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Average comparison income (1 – 5) | 3.00 | 3.33 | 2.50 | * | * | 2.50 | na |
| Satisfaction with previous location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very dissatisfied (1) | 10.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Somewhat dissatisfied (2) | 10.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Somewhat satisfied (4) | 30.0 | 50.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Very satisfied (5) | 50.0 | 50.0 | 33.3 | * | * | 33.3 | na |
| Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5) | 4.00 | 4.50 | 3.50 | * | * | 3.50 | na |
| Satisfaction with current location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very dissatisfied (1) | 9.1 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Somewhat dissatisfied (2) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3) | 18.2 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Somewhat satisfied (4) | 18.2 | 66.7 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Very satisfied (5) | 54.5 | 33.3 | 66.7 | * | * | 66.7 | na |
| Average satisfaction current (1 – 5) | 4.09 | 4.33 | 4.00 | * | * | 4.00 | na |
| Would do move over again | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Definitely not (1) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | * | * | 0.0 | na |
| Probably not (2) | 20.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Undecided (3) | 10.0 | 0.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Probably yes (4) | 30.0 | 100.0 | 16.7 | * | * | 16.7 | na |
| Definitely yes (5) | 40.0 | 0.0 | 50.0 | * | * | 50.0 | na |
| Average rating do move over (1 – 5) | 3.90 | 4.00 | 4.00 | * | * | 4.00 | na |

*Information suppressed, fewer than 3 respondents. ¹No respondents in category.

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 5. Age, Gender, Marital Status, Education, and Most Important Reason for Moving by Type and Direction of Move.

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 737 | 327 | 366 | 85 | 206 | 207 | 121 | 159 |
| Median age in years | 46.0 | 42.0 | 48.0 | 45.0 | 43.0 | 44.0 | 41.0 | 53.5 |
| Selected age categories | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Age 25 – 34 | 21.3 | 22.0 | 18.9 | 24.7 | 20.9 | 21.7 | 24.0 | 15.1 |
| % Age 70 or older | 13.2 | 9.8 | 14.5 | 20.0 | 10.2 | 12.6 | 9.1 | 17.0 |
| Gender | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Male | 54.5 | 57.7 | 50.4 | 54.8 | 54.6 | 46.1 | 63.0 | 56.1 |
| % Female | 45.5 | 42.3 | 49.6 | 45.2 | 45.4 | 53.9 | 37.0 | 43.9 |
| Marital status | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Never married | 12.0 | 15.8 | 8.6 | 10.7 | 13.8 | 10.8 | 19.3 | 5.7 |
| % Married | 62.4 | 61.8 | 61.9 | 64.3 | 60.1 | 57.4 | 64.7 | 67.7 |
| % Divorced or separated | 16.3 | 13.3 | 20.5 | 14.3 | 16.8 | 25.0 | 7.6 | 14.5 |
| % Widowed | 9.4 | 9.0 | 9.1 | 10.7 | 9.4 | 6.9 | 8.4 | 12.0 |
| Highest level of education completed | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| % Less than high school graduate | 5.1 | 5.8 | 4.1 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 5.0 |
| % High school graduate or equivalent | 17.3 | 16.7 | 16.3 | 25.0 | 20.0 | 17.6 | 11.0 | 14.6 |
| % Some college or vocational training | 28.3 | 26.0 | 30.3 | 28.6 | 31.2 | 29.3 | 16.9 | 31.6 |
| % Associate degree | 10.6 | 11.8 | 10.7 | 9.5 | 12.7 | 12.7 | 10.2 | 8.2 |
| % Bachelor degree or more | 38.8 | 39.7 | 38.5 | 29.8 | 29.3 | 37.0 | 57.6 | 40.5 |
| Most important reason for moving | | | | | | | | |
| Number of reasons ¹ | 1,011 | 458 | 498 | 115 | 289 | 288 | 169 | 210 |
| Type of reason | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Work, income, retirement, education | 38.4 | 47.2 | 36.5 | 15.7 | 45.0 | 36.1 | 50.9 | 37.1 |
| Family, friends, health | 22.3 | 18.1 | 27.5 | 13.9 | 20.8 | 23.3 | 13.6 | 33.3 |
| Community, services, amenities | 22.0 | 22.0 | 21.9 | 19.1 | 18.0 | 21.2 | 29.0 | 22.9 |
| Housing | 15.7 | 10.5 | 12.4 | 50.4 | 13.8 | 17.0 | 4.7 | 6.2 |
| Other | 1.6 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 0.5 |

¹Number of reasons exceeds number of respondents because some respondents gave more than one reason.

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings
 Table 6. Factors in Moving Decision by Type and Direction of Move.

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 737 | 327 | 366 | 85 | 206 | 207 | 121 | 159 |
| Factors in Moving Decision | % Yes ¹ | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| Moved, commuted, same employer | 14.2 | 12.6 | 13.3 | 28.8 | 16.7 | 18.8 | 5.5 | 6.4 |
| Job transfer by employer to location | 7.6 | 9.8 | 7.1 | 1.3 | 7.8 | 4.0 | 13.4 | 11.0 |
| Laid off from previous job | 4.9 | 7.9 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 8.3 | 3.1 | 7.1 | 3.9 |
| New job with new employer | 26.7 | 34.3 | 24.7 | 3.8 | 29.7 | 25.6 | 42.1 | 23.5 |
| Moved to look for new job or work | 16.5 | 19.4 | 15.9 | 5.0 | 15.0 | 13.6 | 27.0 | 18.8 |
| Retired from previous employment | 14.4 | 11.1 | 16.9 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 14.6 | 11.7 | 19.9 |
| To be nearer parents | 23.7 | 21.0 | 30.5 | 7.5 | 19.7 | 30.2 | 23.1 | 30.9 |
| To be nearer children | 20.1 | 21.3 | 22.3 | 7.4 | 24.4 | 19.7 | 16.0 | 25.6 |
| To live with spouse or partner | 15.0 | 15.5 | 14.3 | 16.5 | 17.6 | 19.0 | 12.0 | 8.0 |
| To be nearer siblings, other relatives | 30.5 | 26.6 | 38.4 | 11.1 | 24.7 | 34.3 | 29.7 | 43.6 |
| To be nearer friends, acquaintances | 29.6 | 29.3 | 32.6 | 21.5 | 30.7 | 34.8 | 27.0 | 29.6 |
| Change in marital status | 13.2 | 12.1 | 13.3 | 16.0 | 12.6 | 16.0 | 11.1 | 9.8 |
| Place easier find spouse or partner | 7.9 | 12.7 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 9.6 | 5.5 | 17.9 | 2.6 |
| Decline in health | 10.4 | 7.6 | 11.5 | 12.3 | 8.6 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 17.4 |
| Take care aging parents | 5.9 | 5.1 | 7.6 | 1.2 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 10.4 |
| Find less congested place to live | 28.2 | 15.2 | 39.2 | 27.2 | 20.6 | 32.3 | 6.0 | 48.1 |
| Find safer place to live | 26.1 | 15.9 | 35.9 | 18.5 | 21.3 | 30.0 | 6.8 | 43.5 |
| Live in desirable natural environment | 35.8 | 29.9 | 43.5 | 25.9 | 31.0 | 43.8 | 28.2 | 43.1 |
| More outdoor recreation | 29.3 | 28.3 | 31.7 | 22.2 | 24.2 | 36.1 | 35.0 | 26.0 |
| Find arts, entertainment, cultural | 23.7 | 36.1 | 15.8 | 6.2 | 28.1 | 16.9 | 49.6 | 14.3 |
| Find simpler pace of life | 36.8 | 25.2 | 49.6 | 24.7 | 30.0 | 44.8 | 16.9 | 55.8 |
| Find more exciting lifestyle | 22.4 | 31.3 | 17.7 | 8.6 | 25.0 | 21.4 | 41.9 | 13.0 |
| Live someplace new, have fresh start | 41.4 | 39.5 | 43.2 | 37.0 | 38.2 | 43.8 | 41.7 | 42.5 |
| Lower cost of housing | 31.7 | 20.1 | 41.5 | 32.9 | 26.3 | 35.3 | 9.5 | 49.4 |
| Have lower taxes | 25.5 | 18.6 | 34.0 | 15.9 | 18.5 | 30.3 | 19.0 | 38.8 |
| Have better internet, tv, phone | 8.3 | 12.4 | 6.2 | 1.2 | 11.6 | 8.5 | 13.8 | 3.3 |
| Find better quality local schools | 14.0 | 12.1 | 17.3 | 8.6 | 13.7 | 16.6 | 9.4 | 18.2 |
| Opportunities children to achieve | 19.3 | 20.7 | 19.2 | 14.8 | 20.8 | 19.0 | 20.5 | 19.5 |
| Have more ethnic diversity | 10.3 | 16.9 | 5.9 | 1.2 | 9.6 | 7.0 | 29.3 | 4.6 |
| Have less ethnic diversity | 4.4 | 2.6 | 6.3 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 1.7 | 9.2 |

¹ Respondents could respond “Yes” to more than one factor.

| | | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State | Total |
| Number of respondents | 737 | 327 | 366 | 85 | 206 | 207 | 121 | 159 | |
| Previously had lived: | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| In current state | 77.2 | 73.9 | 77.6 | 97.5 | 95.5 | 96.9 | 36.8 | 53.5 | |
| In current county | 38.6 | 28.3 | 34.3 | 100.0 | 33.9 | 36.5 | 31.5 | 33.9 | |
| In or near current city/town | 34.2 | 28.5 | 32.3 | 69.9 | 34.0 | 35.6 | 18.7 | 27.9 | |
| Used source of information for move | % Yes ¹ | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes | % Yes |
| Internet | 31.2 | 35.2 | 30.3 | 14.1 | 26.7 | 24.6 | 49.6 | 37.7 | |
| TV, magazines, newspapers | 22.3 | 24.8 | 20.5 | 20.0 | 22.8 | 22.7 | 28.1 | 17.6 | |
| Current community resident | 22.0 | 21.4 | 23.0 | 18.8 | 19.4 | 20.8 | 24.8 | 25.8 | |
| Employer or co-workers | 23.6 | 26.3 | 23.5 | 16.5 | 25.2 | 24.2 | 28.1 | 22.6 | |
| Friends and acquaintances | 36.6 | 39.4 | 35.0 | 34.1 | 36.4 | 38.6 | 44.6 | 30.2 | |
| Family | 41.2 | 37.0 | 44.0 | 42.4 | 37.4 | 41.5 | 36.4 | 47.2 | |
| Travel or vacation to new location | 14.2 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 2.4 | 10.2 | 12.6 | 24.8 | 20.1 | |
| Attended school or college there | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.3 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 3.9 | 6.6 | 9.4 | |
| Ease of finding housing at new location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very difficult (1) | 8.8 | 5.9 | 12.2 | 9.4 | 7.8 | 9.3 | 2.5 | 16.0 | |
| Somewhat difficult (2) | 20.6 | 24.2 | 18.1 | 18.8 | 23.0 | 18.6 | 26.3 | 17.3 | |
| Neither difficult or easy (3) | 16.5 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 21.2 | 14.7 | 17.2 | 16.1 | 12.8 | |
| Somewhat easy (4) | 22.4 | 22.7 | 23.1 | 20.0 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 21.2 | 22.4 | |
| Very easy (5) | 31.6 | 32.0 | 31.4 | 30.6 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.9 | 31.4 | |
| Average rating finding housing (1 – 5) | 3.47 | 3.51 | 3.43 | 3.44 | 3.47 | 3.49 | 3.58 | 3.36 | |
| Household income for 2004 | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Less than \$20,000 (1) | 17.3 | 16.0 | 18.8 | 19.0 | 18.0 | 18.4 | 12.6 | 19.4 | |
| \$20,000 - \$34,999 (2) | 23.0 | 21.6 | 23.3 | 26.6 | 25.0 | 24.3 | 16.0 | 21.9 | |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999 (3) | 18.2 | 18.2 | 17.7 | 22.8 | 18.0 | 20.4 | 18.5 | 14.2 | |
| \$50,000 - \$69,999 (4) | 18.5 | 18.2 | 19.1 | 15.2 | 18.0 | 21.4 | 18.5 | 16.1 | |
| \$70,000 - \$99,999 (5) | 12.4 | 13.8 | 11.9 | 8.9 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 16.0 | 11.0 | |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999 (6) | 7.7 | 8.5 | 7.2 | 3.8 | 6.5 | 1.5 | 11.8 | 14.8 | |
| \$150,000 or more (7) | 2.9 | 3.8 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 6.7 | 2.6 | |
| Average income category (1 – 7) | 3.20 | 3.33 | 3.11 | 2.95 | 3.10 | 2.96 | 3.71 | 3.32 | |

¹ Respondents could respond “Yes” to more than one factor.

New Mover Studies: 19 County Overall Findings

Table 8. Income Comparison Between Locations, Satisfaction with Previous and Current Locations, and Doing Move Over Again by Type and Direction of Move.

| | Type and Direction of Move | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Moved Out Of County | Moved Into County | Within County, Different Zipcode | Out To Different Iowa County | In From Different Iowa County | Out To Another State | In From Another State |
| Number of respondents | 737 | 327 | 366 | 85 | 206 | 207 | 121 | 159 |
| Current location income compared with previous location income | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Significantly lower income (1) | 11.0 | 6.9 | 16.1 | 3.8 | 7.0 | 11.8 | 6.8 | 21.8 |
| Somewhat lower income (2) | 12.1 | 10.7 | 13.3 | 7.5 | 11.9 | 9.8 | 8.5 | 17.9 |
| About same income (3) | 41.9 | 38.2 | 41.7 | 63.8 | 46.8 | 46.6 | 23.7 | 35.3 |
| Somewhat higher income (4) | 23.1 | 29.2 | 19.2 | 17.5 | 26.9 | 20.1 | 33.1 | 17.9 |
| Significantly higher income (5) | 11.8 | 15.0 | 9.7 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 11.8 | 28.0 | 7.1 |
| Average comparison income (1 – 5) | 3.13 | 3.35 | 2.93 | 3.18 | 3.16 | 3.10 | 3.67 | 2.71 |
| Satisfaction with previous location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very dissatisfied (1) | 11.2 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 9.4 | 12.7 | 12.1 | 9.2 | 10.7 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied (2) | 14.7 | 14.8 | 15.9 | 11.8 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 12.5 | 15.7 |
| Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3) | 12.7 | 16.9 | 9.0 | 15.3 | 17.6 | 11.7 | 15.8 | 5.7 |
| Somewhat satisfied (4) | 29.0 | 26.5 | 29.0 | 29.4 | 27.3 | 26.2 | 25.0 | 32.7 |
| Very satisfied (5) | 32.5 | 30.5 | 34.5 | 34.1 | 26.3 | 34.0 | 37.5 | 35.2 |
| Average satisfaction previous (1 – 5) | 3.57 | 3.50 | 3.59 | 3.67 | 3.38 | 3.54 | 3.69 | 3.66 |
| Satisfaction with current location | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Very dissatisfied (1) | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 4.7 | 9.3 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 9.0 |
| Somewhat dissatisfied (2) | 8.1 | 7.8 | 9.5 | 5.9 | 9.8 | 7.4 | 4.3 | 12.2 |
| Neither dissatisfied or satisfied (3) | 6.6 | 5.9 | 8.4 | 3.5 | 7.3 | 6.9 | 3.4 | 10.3 |
| Somewhat satisfied (4) | 29.4 | 27.6 | 29.5 | 28.2 | 24.9 | 27.1 | 32.5 | 32.7 |
| Very satisfied (5) | 48.3 | 50.0 | 44.8 | 57.6 | 48.8 | 51.7 | 52.1 | 35.9 |
| Average satisfaction current (1 – 5) | 4.03 | 4.03 | 3.94 | 4.28 | 3.94 | 4.09 | 4.17 | 3.74 |
| Would do move over again | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Definitely not (1) | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 5.1 | 4.4 |
| Probably not (2) | 5.1 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 9.4 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 4.4 |
| Undecided (3) | 9.7 | 8.7 | 10.4 | 7.1 | 8.3 | 6.8 | 9.3 | 15.2 |
| Probably yes (4) | 33.2 | 35.1 | 33.0 | 29.4 | 38.2 | 35.4 | 29.7 | 29.7 |
| Definitely yes (5) | 48.9 | 48.8 | 48.4 | 52.9 | 46.6 | 50.0 | 52.5 | 46.2 |
| Average rating do move over (1 – 5) | 4.20 | 4.22 | 4.18 | 4.24 | 4.23 | 4.25 | 4.21 | 4.09 |

Community Vitality Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

New Mover Studies: Ringgold County

respondents leaving the county said they moved in order to be nearer their children (Table 1).

The Ringgold movers were very similar to those in other counties in that the respondents who came into Ringgold County were more likely than those who left to say that wanting a less congested or safer place to live or a simpler pace of life was a factor in their moving decision. Those moving out were more likely to say they wanted more arts, entertainment, or cultural activities or a more exciting lifestyle than those who came into Ringgold County. In addition, the Ringgold movers were very interested in living in a desirable natural environment. Two-thirds of those entering the county said this was a factor in their moving decision (Table 2, Figure 1).

The results show that many of the Ringgold movers, both those going into and out of the county, used family, friends and acquaintances as a source of information about their new location. Half of the respondents who came into the county reported it was very easy to find housing in their new location. Many of those leaving the county reported difficulties in finding housing in their new location, however (Table 3, Figure 1).

The income reported by Ringgold participants tended to be lower than that for the overall study. All of the Ringgold movers, whether into or out of the county, reported household income below \$100,000 and most were below \$50,000 (Table 3). One-third of those moving into Ringgold County reported that their

| Category | Type and Direction of Move |
|---|---|
| A: <i>Within County, Zipcode change</i> | Moved within one of the 19 study counties but changed zip code. |
| B: <i>Out To Another Iowa County</i> | Moved out of one of the study counties to another county in Iowa. |
| C: <i>In From Another Iowa County</i> | Moved from another county in Iowa into one of the study counties. |
| D: <i>Out To Another State</i> | Moved out of one of the study counties to another state. |
| E: <i>In From Another State</i> | Moved from another state into one of the study counties. |

income would be significantly lower in their new location compared with where they had lived previously (Table 4).

The movers coming to Ringgold tended to be satisfied with their move. Two-thirds of those moving into the county reported that they were very satisfied with their current location which was higher than for the overall findings. Half of those coming to Ringgold County said they would definitely do their move over again (Tables 4, 8; Figure 1).

The goal of this study is to better understand the experiences of people who have moved. This report focuses on the findings for Ringgold County and highlights some of the similarities and differences with the findings for the entire set of 19 counties. Because the number of respondents in any one county is small, the overall findings and trends are likely the best guidelines as community residents and leaders think about possible next steps. The overall objective is to help community leaders better understand household moving trends so they can develop actionable strategies to address the reasons why people come, why people leave, enhance the qualities that cause people to stay, and thus stabilize or increase their populations.²

The Study

These research results are from a survey of nonmetropolitan movers in 19 selected counties in Iowa that included Ringgold County.¹ People who had moved either into or out of these 19 counties were identified through a purchased database and were mailed a survey in the fall of 2005. The survey asked questions about the respondent's previous location as well as their current location, reasons for moving, satisfaction with multiple factors in their communities, as well as their demographic, social, and economic situation. Five categories of movers are used to examine the results (Table 9). Most respondents had moved during 2003 through 2005 and 737 respondents who met the study criteria replied for an overall response rate of 35 percent. The estimated response rate for Ringgold County was 42.3 percent.

Notes

1. Previous reports, a description of the study, the counties included, and the survey questionnaire are available on the Community Vitality Center web site at: www.cvcia.org.
2. Previous reports contain examples of possible next steps and strategies that community leaders might consider.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension

Community Vitality Center
 478 Heady Hall
 Iowa State University
 Ames, IA 50011-1070
 515-294-3000
cvc@iastate.edu
www.cvcia.org
 December, 2008

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.