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# Inmigrants to the Northern Great Plains

## Survey Results from Nebraska and North Dakota

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**P**opulation change is a major issue for rural decisionmakers. Migration underpins local population change, and yet it is difficult to predict. It transforms public infrastructure and service needs, labor supply, and housing requirements in both origin and destination communities. During the 1980's, much of the Great Plains suffered vast outmigration, with attendant hardship in rural communities. However, recent employment growth associated with successful economic development has reversed migration in some areas. Understanding the characteristics of these inmigrants, their motivations for moving, and their expectations of and satisfaction with their new community helps decisionmakers plan for

*New arrivals to Nebraska and North Dakota had higher educational levels than did the States' populations overall, but few fit the "lone eagle" profile—individuals engaged in high-paying, knowledge-based industries who telecommute to work or service distant clients. Migrants appeared to move for quality of life rather than economic incentives. Most often cited was a desire to be closer to relatives, a safer place to live, and quality of the natural environment. These promising new residents would augment the population lost by the outmigration of the 1980's.*

future needs and, perhaps, influence the size and character of the immigration stream.

In this article, we identify the salient characteristics of recent inmigrants to the Northern Great Plains (specifically Nebraska and North Dakota) and how they compare with existing residents. We examine the socioeconomic/demographic profile of recent inmigrants, what motivates them to move, how satisfied they are with living in Great Plains communities, and what their employment and workforce characteristics are.

### **New Residents: Who Are They?**

About 42 percent of new residents in North Dakota and 41 percent in Nebraska came from adjacent States or provinces. Among nonadjacent States, the Southwestern States were the leading points of origin for Nebraska inmigrants, with about 10 percent coming from California, 5 percent from Arizona, and 4 percent from Texas.

The origin of North Dakota's inmigrants was more varied; nonadjacent States included California (4.6 percent of new residents), Washington (4.5 percent), Texas (3.4 percent), Nebraska (3.2 percent), Wisconsin (3.0 percent), Colorado (2.9 percent), Illinois (2.7 percent), and Arizona (2.6 percent).

More than three respondents in four lived within the city limits of a city or town, while most others lived within 15 minutes of the nearest town. Only 4 percent of the new residents lived more than 15 minutes from town. Just over half (51 percent) of the new residents owned their current home, 38 percent rented, and the remainder reported other housing (e.g., military base).

Respondents were generally younger than Nebraska's and North Dakota's populations overall. Only 5 percent of North Dakota inmigrants and 13 percent of Nebraska's were 60 or older (table 1), compared with 19 and 18 percent of

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the State residents. The racial/ethnic background of the new residents was similar to that of the States' resident populations. Most respondents were married—70 percent for Nebraska and 68 percent for North Dakota, much higher rates than for the resident populations. Inmigrants were more likely to be divorced or separated, and less likely to be widowed or never married. The lower percentage widowed is likely related to their younger age generally.

The educational level of the new residents was substantially higher than that of the resident populations of the respective States.

About 51 percent of inmigrants to North Dakota and 44 percent to Nebraska were college graduates, compared with 28 percent of North Dakota's residents and 24 percent of Nebraska's (table 1). An additional 33 percent of North Dakota's inmigrants and 34 percent of Nebraska's reported some college or vocational/technical school attendance, compared with 21 percent and 24 percent of the resident population.

About 34 percent of the inmigrants lived in the metro counties of their respective States. The new residents in metro counties of both States were younger and better

educated than nonmetro inmigrants (table 1). For example, about 46 percent of inmigrants in nonmetro Nebraska counties were 40 or older, compared with 38 percent in the State's metro counties. About 55 percent of the inmigrants to North Dakota metro counties were college graduates, compared with 45 percent for nonmetro counties. Metro inmigrants also had higher income levels both before and after their moves. About 33 percent of inmigrants to Nebraska's metro counties had incomes over \$50,000 after their move, compared with 13 percent for nonmetro counties; the corresponding figures for North Dakota were 29 percent for metro inmigrants and 16 percent for nonmetro.

### Why Do New Residents Move?

About 59 percent of inmigrants to Nebraska and 63 percent to North Dakota were first-time residents with no clear metro/nonmetro pattern. In Nebraska, metro areas had a higher percentage of first-time residents, while in North Dakota the percentage of first-time residents was slightly higher in nonmetro areas. In general, the return migrants were older than the first-time residents and were more likely to be divorced, separated, or widowed.

When asked whether they would move to Nebraska (or North Dakota) if they had it to do over again, more than two-thirds of the respondents in each State said definitely or probably yes. Fifteen percent of Nebraska and 20 percent of North Dakota residents replied probably or definitely no, and these shares were similar between metro and nonmetro areas.

New residents most often cited the desire to find a safer place to

Table 1  
**Selected characteristics of inmigrants to Nebraska and North Dakota, 1996-97**

*Most inmigrants are younger than 40 years*

| Characteristic             | Nebraska |           |       | North Dakota |           |       |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------------|-----------|-------|
|                            | Metro    | Non-metro | Total | Metro        | Non-metro | Total |
| <i>Number</i>              |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| Total sample               | 183      | 681       | 864   | 355          | 371       | 726   |
| <i>Percent</i>             |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| Respondent age:            |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| Under 40                   | 62       | 54        | 56    | 73           | 66        | 69    |
| 40 to 59                   | 31       | 31        | 31    | 22           | 29        | 26    |
| 60 and over                | 7        | 15        | 13    | 5            | 5         | 5     |
| Respondent education:      |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| High school or less        | 14       | 27        | 22    | 11           | 21        | 16    |
| Some college or vocational | 31       | 35        | 34    | 33           | 34        | 33    |
| College graduate           | 55       | 38        | 44    | 55           | 45        | 51    |
| Annual income before move: |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| Less than \$20,000         | 24       | 33        | 28    | 28           | 30        | 29    |
| \$20,000 to \$50,000       | 43       | 48        | 46    | 42           | 47        | 45    |
| Over \$50,000              | 32       | 19        | 26    | 30           | 22        | 26    |
| Annual income after move:  |          |           |       |              |           |       |
| Less than \$20,000         | 20       | 41        | 30    | 24           | 36        | 30    |
| \$20,000 to \$50,000       | 48       | 47        | 47    | 48           | 47        | 48    |
| Over \$50,000              | 33       | 13        | 23    | 29           | 16        | 22    |

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.  
Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

Table 2

**Reasons for moving, by State and place of residence***Family and safety are most important reasons for moving to North Dakota and Nebraska*

| Item                                  | State          |              | Place of residence |           | Overall           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
|                                       | Nebraska       | North Dakota | Metro              | Non-metro |                   |
|                                       | <i>Percent</i> |              |                    |           |                   |
| Looking for a safer place to live     | 57             | 59           | 53                 | 61        | 58 <sup>1</sup>   |
| To be closer to relatives             | 58             | 50           | 49                 | 57        | 54 <sup>1,2</sup> |
| To lower cost of living               | 47             | 48           | 44                 | 49        | 48 <sup>3</sup>   |
| Quality of the natural environment    | 45             | 49           | 44                 | 49        | 47 <sup>3</sup>   |
| Quality of local grade/high schools   | 37             | 34           | 33                 | 37        | 36 <sup>3</sup>   |
| Outdoor recreational opportunities    | 34             | 38           | 34                 | 37        | 36                |
| Desirable climate                     | 26             | 17           | 16                 | 26        | 22                |
| To obtain training/education          | 20             | 23           | 27                 | 18        | 21 <sup>3,4</sup> |
| More cultural opportunities           | 16             | 16           | 16                 | 16        | 16                |
| To get more affordable health care    | 15             | 15           | 15                 | 15        | 15                |
| To lower cost of operating a business | 7              | 6            | 4                  | 8         | 6 <sup>2</sup>    |

<sup>1</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>2</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>3</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>4</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

live and to be closer to relatives as reasons for moving to the Northern Great Plains (table 2). A lower cost of living and the quality of the natural environment also charted with at least 40 percent of all respondents. With a few exceptions—proximity to relatives and desirable climate—Nebraska and North Dakota respondents cited similar reasons for moving. Metro and nonmetro responses were also similar.

When asked about their reasons for leaving their previous location, respondents most often cited the fear of crime, high cost of living,

unsafe place to live, and urban congestion (table 3). Nebraska respondents were less likely to identify high State and/or local taxes as a reason for leaving their previous location than were North Dakota respondents (25 percent vs. 33 percent).

About 21 percent of North Dakota's immigrants and 14 percent of Nebraska's indicated that they definitely planned to move from their community within the next year. Of these, 77 percent (Nebraska) and 74 percent (North Dakota) expected to move out of State. Residents of nonmetro areas

in each State were slightly less likely to move and, if they did move, were more likely to relocate within the State.

**Moves Often Employment Related**

Job-related considerations often compel a move. Among the new North Dakota residents responding to the survey, 12 percent had been transferred by their current employer, 9 percent had received a military transfer, 27 percent had accepted new employment, and 6 percent had moved to start or take over a business (table 4). Including those who moved with a spouse or partner, about 65 percent of the households reported one or more job-related considerations as influencing their move. Nebraska's residents reported similar frequencies for most employment-related factors, except military transfers were less frequently reported by Nebraska's respondents (2 percent vs. 9 percent) and spouses (3 percent vs. 17 percent). The percentage of households that reported one or more job-related factors—particularly military transfers—was substantially higher for first-time residents (67 percent) than for return migrants (53 percent).

Most new residents (65-67 percent) in both States were employed full-time at the time of the survey (table 5). Prior to their move, 66 percent of Nebraska's respondents and 69 percent of North Dakota's had been employed full-time. After moving, 4 percent of Nebraska's respondents and 6 percent of North Dakota's were unemployed. Similar percentages were reported for spouses in each State.

About 14 percent of immigrants in Nebraska were retired, versus 6 percent in North Dakota. About 14 percent of the respondents in Nebraska were homemakers, com-

pared with 16 percent in North Dakota. Six percent of respondents in Nebraska were full or part-time students, compared with 8 percent in North Dakota.

The recent emergence of telecommuting has attracted increasing attention from policy-makers. Overall, about 6 percent of respondents reported that they were telecommuters, 2 percent full-time (table 5). Telecommuting was more common in metro areas (9 percent reported some telecommuting). In comparison, a recent study (Mokhtarian) estimates that 6 percent of the workforce nationwide is telecommuting.

In a related question, only 2 percent of Nebraska's respondents

and 4 percent of North Dakota's indicated that the availability of technologies—personal computers, fax machines, modems, and/or other telecommunications services—influenced their decision to move.

About 73 percent of new residents reported using a computer at work; 57 percent used fax machines, and 54 percent a voice mail/answering service (table 6). Rates of use for all types of equipment and services were lower in rural areas than in metro areas.

The prevalence of some types of equipment or services in homes appeared to be related to respondents' places of residence, while others were relatively uniform in

their distribution. For example, touch-tone phones and VCR players were ubiquitous across both rural and metro households in the study. In contrast, the following telecommunication items were considerably more likely to be found among metro households: telephone answering machines, cable TV, personal computers and modems, electronic mail, and fax machines. About 10 percent of the respondents reported that the telephone service available to their home would limit their ability to use one or more of the services listed. This percentage was about twice as high among rural households (12 percent).

### New Residents Generally Satisfied With Services and New Neighbors

The new residents of Nebraska and North Dakota were generally quite satisfied with their communities. Ratings of the community were most favorable in the rural areas. About 90 percent of respondents in both Nebraska and North Dakota indicated that they felt welcome or very welcome by local residents. There was little difference between metro and nonmetro residents or between first-time residents and return migrants in this regard.

The respondents also evaluated a variety of public services and community amenities. For each item that was available in their community, the respondents indicated their degree of satisfaction, ranging from very satisfied to very dissatisfied. Fire protection rated highest (96 percent of respondents were either very or somewhat satisfied), followed by church or civic activities (92 percent), and senior centers and sewage disposal (91 percent) (table 7). Least satisfactory were entertainment (54 percent),

Table 3

#### Reasons for leaving former location, by State and place of residence

*Crime and cost of living provided impetus for leaving former location*

| Item                                       | State          |              | Place of residence |           | Overall         |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
|  | Nebraska       | North Dakota | Metro              | Non-metro |                 |
|  | <i>Percent</i> |              |                    |           |                 |
| Fear of crime                              | 45             | 45           | 39                 | 48        | 45 <sup>1</sup> |
| High cost of living                        | 42             | 39           | 31                 | 45        | 41 <sup>1</sup> |
| Unsafe place to live                       | 38             | 36           | 33                 | 39        | 37 <sup>2</sup> |
| Urban congestion                           | 36             | 33           | 31                 | 37        | 35 <sup>2</sup> |
| High State and/or local taxes              | 25             | 33           | 28                 | 29        | 29 <sup>3</sup> |
| Poor schools                               | 20             | 20           | 18                 | 21        | 20              |
| Undesirable climate                        | 19             | 16           | 16                 | 19        | 18              |
| Long commute                               | 17             | 19           | 21                 | 17        | 18 <sup>2</sup> |
| Quality of the natural environment         | 19             | 17           | 16                 | 19        | 18              |
| Lack of outdoor recreational opportunities | 11             | 12           | 10                 | 12        | 11              |
| Too close to relatives                     | 10             | 11           | 9                  | 11        | 10              |
| Few cultural opportunities                 | 11             | 10           | 10                 | 11        | 10              |
| High cost of operating a business          | 9              | 7            | 5                  | 9         | 8 <sup>1</sup>  |

<sup>1</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>2</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>3</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.



Table 4

**Job-related considerations for moving, by State and history of residence***Job is an important component of moving*

| Item  | Nebraska       | North Dakota | First-time residents | Return migrants | Overall           |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|   | <i>Percent</i> |              |                      |                 |                   |
| <b>Respondent:</b>  |                |              |                      |                 |                   |
| Transferred by current employer                               | 7              | 12           | 10                   | 9               | 9 <sup>1</sup>    |
| Accepted job with new employer                                | 31             | 27           | 20                   | 29              | 29 <sup>2</sup>   |
| Start/take over business                                      | 8              | 6            | 6                    | 8               | 7                 |
| Military transfer   | 2              | 9            | 8                    | 2               | 5 <sup>1,3</sup>  |
| <b>Spouse:</b>  |                |              |                      |                 |                   |
| Transferred by current employer                               | 8              | 10           | 11                   | 7               | 9 <sup>4</sup>    |
| Accepted job with new employer                                | 24             | 23           | 24                   | 23              | 24                |
| Start/take over business                                      | 8              | 7            | 8                    | 8               | 8                 |
| Military transfer   | 3              | 17           | 14                   | 2               | 9 <sup>1,3</sup>  |
| One or more job-related considerations (respondent or spouse) | 58             | 65           | 67                   | 53              | 61 <sup>1,3</sup> |

<sup>1</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>2</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>3</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based upon Chi Square test.

<sup>4</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

public transportation (59 percent), retail shopping (61 percent), streets and highways (63 percent), and restaurants (66 percent). Levels of satisfaction were higher among metro residents than for nonmetro respondents—except for streets and highways.

Some services were reported to be unavailable, especially by nonmetro residents. For example, 23 percent of respondents reported a lack of public transportation, ranging from 4 percent for metro residents to 32 percent for nonmetro residents. Similarly, Head Start pro-

grams were not available to 4 percent of metro respondents and 11 percent of rural residents.

### Implications to Recruiters and Policymakers

Recent employment growth in the Northern Great Plains may be stimulating increased immigration to some rural areas, as well as to the region's larger cities, and additional immigration would help to sustain the region's economic momentum. Understanding the characteristics of the new residents, their motivations for moving, and

their expectations about and satisfaction with their new community is important for State and local decisionmakers.

When asked why they moved to the Great Plains, new residents most often cited looking for a safer place to live (58 percent), a desire to be closer to relatives (54 percent), lower cost of living (48 percent), quality of the natural environment (47 percent), quality of local grade/high schools (36 percent), and outdoor recreational opportunities (36 percent). These attributes could be emphasized by those seeking to encourage individuals or businesses to relocate to the Northern Great Plains.

Inmigrants appeared more responsive to quality-of-life factors than to economic incentives. The incomes of inmigrants were very similar before and after moving. Rather, these persons appear willing to move to the Plains because of perceived quality-of-life benefits, provided job opportunities allow them to maintain their previous income level. These findings are consistent with other research indicating that lifestyle preferences, environmental amenities, and other noneconomic factors may be increasingly important as motivations for migration. Hence, it appears that Northern Great Plains States like Nebraska and North Dakota can attract new residents from many parts of the country.

Despite their extensive use of modern telecommunications capabilities, few inmigrants appeared to fit the profile of the "lone eagle"—individuals engaged in high-paying, knowledge-based industries who telecommute to work or service distant clients via fiber optic networks and fax machines. When asked whether the availability of information technologies had any



Photo courtesy Economic Research Service, USDA.

### **GreatPlains New Residents Survey: Questionnaire Design and Survey Implementation**

Results reported here are based on similar surveys conducted in Nebraska and North Dakota. In each State, questionnaires were mailed to individuals who had moved to the State from some other State or country, and had subsequently surrendered their previous driver's license for a Nebraska or North Dakota license. Because both States require new residents to obtain a new driver's license within a short time (30 to 90 days) of establishing residence, this appeared to be the most comprehensive sample frame available (Cordes et al., Leistriz and Sell).

The Nebraska sample consisted of persons who surrendered licenses between May 1994 and April 1995, while the North Dakota sample consisted of persons who surrendered licenses between January and May 1997. The Nebraska survey used a stratified sample, with sampling rates ranging from 1.7 percent in metro counties to 23.7 percent in the most sparsely populated rural counties. A total of 864 usable surveys were obtained, out of 2,061 mailed, for a response rate of 42 percent. Eliminating the surveys returned by the postal service as undeliverable, the effective response rate was over 50 percent. In North Dakota, a total of 2,640 persons had surrendered licenses between January and May 1997, and questionnaires were mailed to all persons in this group. A total of 726 usable surveys were obtained, a response rate of 27.5 percent. Because of the mail system used, it was not possible to determine how many of the questionnaires that were not returned might have been undeliverable because of incomplete addresses or because the addressee had moved, as opposed to representing refusals to participate. In the analysis presented here, all of the observations (1,590) from the two surveys were given equal weights.

The survey analysis included comparisons of many respondent attributes and observations by place of residence. The counties where respondents resided were categorized into two groups:

- Metro*—six Nebraska counties and four North Dakota counties that are part of metropolitan areas,
- Nonmetro*—the remaining 87 counties in Nebraska and 49 counties in North Dakota.

Table 5

### Labor force and employment characteristics of immigrants after moving, by State and place of residence<sup>1</sup>

*Telecommuting is not common among immigrants*

| Labor force status                                      | State    |              | Place of residence |           | Overall           |
|---|----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
|   | Nebraska | North Dakota | Metro              | Non-metro |                   |
|   |          |              | <i>Percent</i>     |           |                   |
| <b>In labor force:</b>                                  |          |              |                    |           |                   |
| Employed full-time                                      | 65       | 67           | 70                 | 64        | 66 <sup>2,3</sup> |
| Employed part-time                                      | 15       | 12           | 13                 | 14        | 14                |
| Unemployed  | 4        | 6            | 4                  | 5         | 5                 |
| <b>Not in labor force:</b>                              | 16       | 14           | 13                 | 17        | 15                |
| Respondent or spouse operate a business out of the home | 20       | 14           | 11                 | 20        | 17 <sup>2,3</sup> |
| Is respondent a telecommuter?                           |          |              |                    |           |                   |
| No, not at all  | 95       | 94           | 91                 | 96        | 94 <sup>4</sup>   |
| Yes, 1 day or less per week                             | 3        | 3            | 4                  | 2         | 3                 |
| Yes, 2-3 days per week                                  | 2        | 1            | 2                  | 1         | 1                 |
| Yes, full-time  | 1        | 2            | 2                  | 1         | 2                 |

Note: Totals may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Full-time = employed at least 35 hours per week; Part-time = employed less than 35 hours per week; Unemployed = not employed and looking for work;

Not in labor force = not employed and not looking for work.

<sup>2</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>3</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>4</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 10-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

Table 6

### Equipment and services used at work, by residence

*Three-quarters of new residents use computers at work*

| Equipment and services                                 | Metro | Nonmetro | Overall         |
|--|-------|----------|-----------------|
|  |       |          | <i>Percent</i>  |
| Computer with keyboard                                 | 84    | 67       | 73 <sup>1</sup> |
| Fax machine or fax modem                               | 68    | 51       | 57 <sup>1</sup> |
| Answering service or voice mail                        | 63    | 49       | 54 <sup>1</sup> |
| Overnight or courier delivery of products and supplies | 47    | 38       | 41 <sup>1</sup> |
| Electronic mail  | 51    | 28       | 36 <sup>1</sup> |
| Cellular telephone                                     | 36    | 31       | 33 <sup>2</sup> |
| Conference telephone capability                        | 41    | 27       | 32 <sup>1</sup> |
| Internet   | 37    | 20       | 26 <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>2</sup>Nebraska and North Dakota respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

effect on their decision to move, only 2 percent of Nebraska's immigrants and 4 percent of North Dakota's responded yes. Similarly, when asked whether the potential to work "long distance" for the same employer or clients influenced the decision to move, only 3 percent of Nebraska's respondents and 5 percent of North Dakota's indicated this was a factor. Finally, when asked whether they considered themselves to be telecommuters in their present job, 94 percent reported they did not telecommute at all and only 3 percent telecommuted more than 1 day per week.



Table 7

**Satisfaction with public services and community amenities,  
by residence**

*Nonmetro immigrants are not satisfied with entertainment opportunities*

| Services and amenities     | Metro          | Nonmetro | Overall         |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|
|                            | <i>Percent</i> |          |                 |
| Fire protection            | 98             | 94       | 96 <sup>1</sup> |
| Church or civic activities | 94             | 91       | 92 <sup>2</sup> |
| Senior centers             | 92             | 91       | 91 <sup>1</sup> |
| Sewage disposal            | 95             | 89       | 91 <sup>1</sup> |
| Emergency medical services | 94             | 87       | 89 <sup>1</sup> |
| Restaurants                | 84             | 55       | 66 <sup>1</sup> |
| Streets and highways       | 60             | 64       | 63              |
| Retail shopping            | 80             | 50       | 61 <sup>1</sup> |
| Public transportation      | 74             | 50       | 59 <sup>1</sup> |
| Entertainment              | 72             | 43       | 54 <sup>1</sup> |

Note: Respondents who indicated that they had “no opinion” or who indicated the service was “not available” were excluded. Figures shown are percentages of those who expressed that they were very or somewhat dissatisfied. The public services and community amenities shown are the top 5 and bottom 5 of a total list of 23 items.

<sup>1</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

<sup>2</sup>Metro and nonmetro respondents are significantly different at 1-percent level based on Chi Square test.

Source: Great Plains New Residents Survey.

**For Further Reading . . .**

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