



*behavior research center's*

# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

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## 13% THINKING ABOUT LEAVING ARIZONA - POOR JOB MARKET PLAYS MAJOR ROLE

Phoenix, Arizona. July 29, 2010. Thirteen percent of Arizonans are giving thought to leaving the state within in the next twelve months and by far the dominant reason is the desire to find a better job than is available in Arizona – 52 percent.

"The Arizona population has always been mobile, with more inflows and outflows than many other states," said Lee McPheters, Research Professor of Economics at the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. "This latest survey shows that the pace of outflows may be up a bit in the next few months, mostly due to Arizona's continuing weak labor markets. But the rest of the story here is that we are lacking strong job growth as the main magnet for attracting newcomers to the state. So even if we have average outflows, lower inflows would restrict economic growth. The poll results mean we are probably going to see more outflows than usual and weaker inflows, and that will be one more factor that drags out the recovery for Arizona," he said.

An additional 14 percent plan to leave based on health reasons mostly tracing to pollution, fears about Valley Fever, air pollution and the high summer temperatures, while ten percent say they are retiring and want to return home for nostalgic reasons and to be closer to their families. Eight percent of those thinking about leaving Arizona say they would do so because of their belief that Arizona has become a racist state. The proportion of Hispanics considering pulling up roots is 25 percent and although racism is a more often expressed reason within their ranks, the majority of Hispanics planning to leave are also looking for better jobs than are available in Arizona (60%).

(Continue)

Although 13 percent admit they are thinking of leaving the state, at the time of this survey only three percent said their plans to leave could be classified as “definite.”

The survey also reveals that roughly six of ten people thinking about moving have a good idea about where they will be headed. The most popular destinations are other states within the Rocky Mountain region (19%) and Pacific coast states (16%). Oklahoma and Texas are also mentioned by about seven percent. Those interested in leaving Arizona are mostly younger people and ethnic minorities.

-30-

**EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2010-III-08), is based on 800 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, conducted between June 30 and July 11, 2010 using BRC’s in-house interviewing staff. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.5 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.**

**To contact Professor McPheters call Debbie Freeman @ 480-965-9271 or contact by email: [Debbie.freeman@asu.edu](mailto:Debbie.freeman@asu.edu).**

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
 RMP (2010-III-08)

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

*“In the coming 12 months is it definite, very likely or not at all likely that you will move out of Arizona for any reason?”*

	Definitely	Very Likely	Any Likelihood
STATEWIDE	3%	10%	13%
<u>AGE</u>			
Under 35	5	18	23
35 to 54	2	9	11
55 and older	1	5	6
<u>ETHNICITY</u>			
Caucasian	2	8	10
Latino	9	16	25
Other	1	14	15

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(ASKED OF THOSE WHO MAY MOVE): *“What is the single most important reason you will/may be moving?”*

|                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Seeking employment, very bad job market here                          | 52%  |
| Health reasons: get away from the dust, heat, pollution, valley fever | 14   |
| Retiring - going home, back to my roots                               | 10   |
| Racist atmosphere in Arizona                                          | 8    |
| I'm just a nomad                                                      | 4    |
| Continuing education                                                  | 4    |
| Other reasons                                                         | 8    |
|                                                                       | 100% |

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*“What state or part of the world is your most likely destination?”*

Rocky Mountain Region	19%
Pacific Coast Region	16
Oklahoma, Texas	7
Other areas in the U.S.	10
Outside the U.S.	6
Not decided yet	42
	100%

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