

Lake Buena Vista in Florida, the state more Americans are moving to than anywhere else.

Florida is the state more Americans are moving to than anywhere else. The sunshine state, located at the southeastern tip of the United States, draws sizable numbers of retirees attracted by its balmy weather and low cost of living, but that's not what's drawing the largest group of movers — young people in their twenties and thirties.

“Young people generally move either for education or for a job, and Florida is one of the largest states in the country,” said Stefan Rayer, a population specialist at the University of Florida. “It's very attractive. It has big metropolitan areas, it has good job opportunities, so that's why people are moving to Florida.”

Last year, 437,516 residents left the state, but 546,501 moved in, resulting in a net inflow of 108,985 people. Florida is used to outsiders making themselves at home. On average in the United States, 60 percent of people live in the state where they were born. However, in Florida, that number drops to just 36 percent. Twenty percent of Floridians were born in another country and the remainder — 44 percent of the population — moved from another state.

In general, that migration is what the experts call “positively selective”.

“You often have people with higher levels of education, higher levels of income, who are moving,” Rayer said. “I looked at some of the retirement communities in Florida, and there it was very pronounced. When you look at the educational attainment of the population by age, it tends to be highest in the oldest age groups.”

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