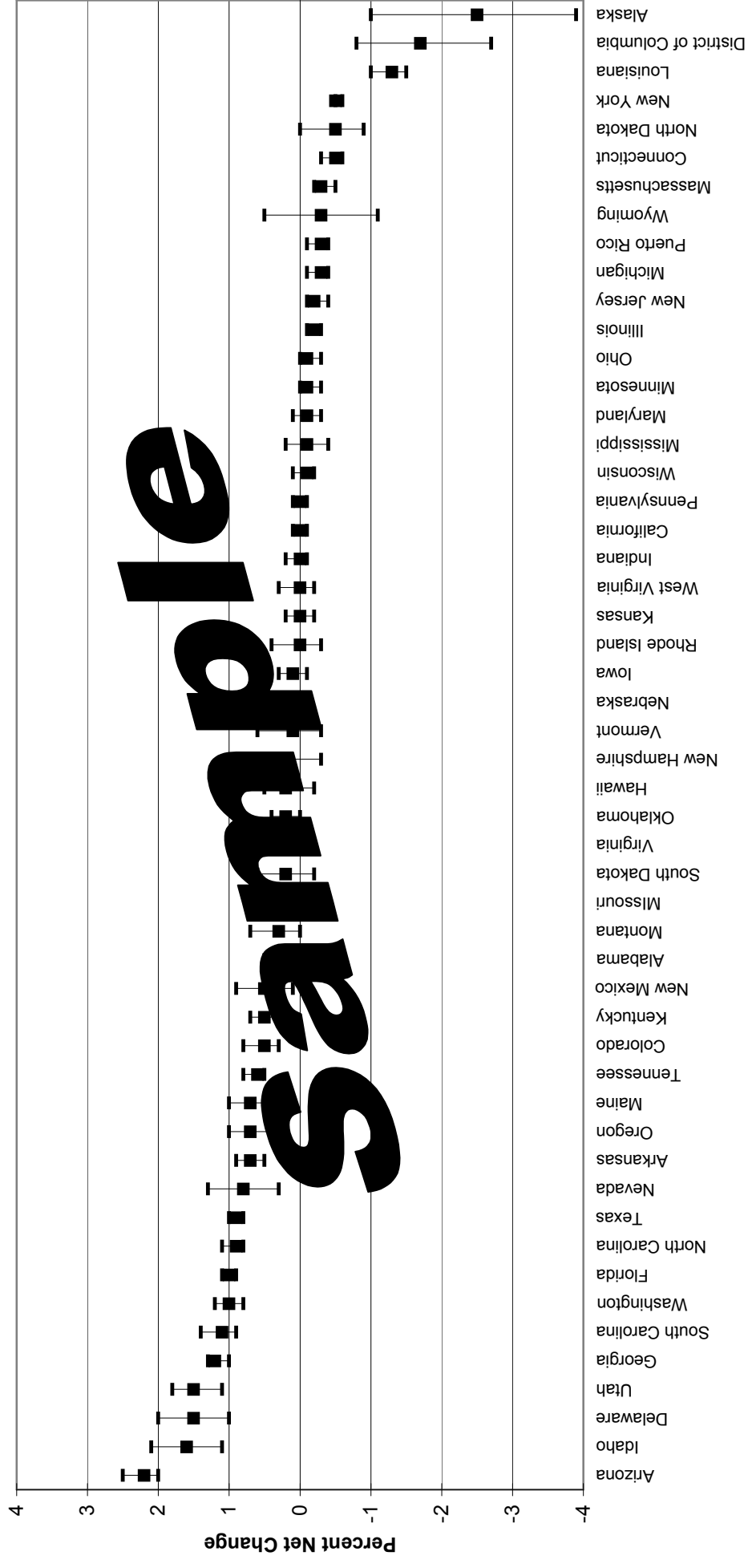**Single Year or Multiyear Migration Estimates? An Analysis and Comparison Using the American Community Survey**

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Using estimates from the 2005 and 2005-2007 American Community Survey (ACS), this project analyzes in, out, and net migration flows for the population 1 year and over, at the state level. By comparing the reliability of these estimates, we attempt to guide researchers in their decision over which estimate to use and when. In certain situations the robustness of the 1-year estimate is preferable, while others require the weighted average approach of 3-year. Estimates from both sources are compared to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses. 1-year estimates give researchers more timely data, but the coefficient of variance may be too large for useful analysis of smaller estimates. 3-year estimates give researchers less variability but might mask significant yearly changes. The combined use of the two datasets can provide a much more complete story of the migration between states of various population groups.

The first part of the paper deals with the total population 1 year and over. The second part examines the net migration for three subgroups within the population by state. The first subgroup is the older population, defined as those 65 years and over. Even though geographic mobility rates among this group are low, they tend to move to a handful of states. Foreign born are the second group, classified as individuals 1 year and over who were born abroad but not of an American parent or parents. They tend to be more mobile than the native population, whether first settling in "gateway" states (Florida, New York, etc.) or resettling elsewhere in the country. The final subgroup are the highly educated, those 25 years and over who attained a bachelor's degree or higher. This subgroup is among the most mobile of the entire population, in terms of moves between states, due to their desirability in state economies.

Net Change Due to Migration of Population Age 60 Years and Over
2005-2007 MYE ACS

States

Percent Net Change

Net Change Due to Migration of Population Age 60 Years and Over
2007 ACS

Percent Net Change

States

Alaska
District of Columbia
Puerto Rico
North Dakota
Connecticut
New York
New Jersey
Illinois
South Dakota
Minnesota
Massachusetts
Michigan
Ohio
Mississippi
Maryland
Wisconsin
Pennsylvania
Kansas
Indiana
Colorado
Alabama
Virginia
Vermont
Iowa
Nebraska
Montana
California
Missouri
New Hampshire
Hawaii
West Virginia
Rhode Island
Wyoming
Oregon
Louisiana
Nevada
Oklahoma
Tennessee
Arkansas
Kentucky
Florida
Georgia
Texas
Maine
New Mexico
North Carolina
Washington
Utah
Idaho
Delaware
South Carolina
Arizona