



## THE DAILY

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### Another poor showing for N.J. in outmigration report

By Jared Kaltwasser

A new report again ranks New Jersey near the bottom when comparing the number of people moving out of the state versus the number of people moving into it.

Moving company **Allied Van Lines** on Tuesday released its 43rd annual Magnet States Report, which tracks the company's household good shipments between states, ranking them by comparing the number of outbound and inbound moves the company completed in 2010. New Jersey had the fourth-highest net relocation loss, with 699 more outbound moves than inbound moves.

The biggest net losers in the Allied survey, in order, were Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

**Jerry Cantrell**, president of the New Jersey Taxpayers' Association, isn't surprised by the findings.

"I would hope that the powers that be perceive this as an opportunity to reverse the trends that have been around for the past few decades," Cantrell said. "Instead of putting a Band-Aid on the situation, why not try to lead the nation in business-friendly policies and practices?"

The Allied report found Texas was the big winner for the sixth year in a row, with 1,640 more moves inbound than outbound. **Bill Lyon**, vice president and general manager for Allied, said relocation for employment was the leading motivation for an individual to move.

Cantrell said one way New Jersey could create jobs would be to reduce the state's corporate business tax rates.

**Bill Dressel**, executive director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, said he would not put too much stock in one moving company's numbers, saying there's no way to know if they are representative of the totality of relocations. But he also said it's clear that New Jersey isn't keeping pace with other states from the recent U.S. Census figures, which will cost the Garden State a congressional seat.

"It's not just New Jersey, it's the whole Northeast that literally is suffering from some of the same problems, and are finding it difficult to retain businesses and attract new ones," Dressel said.

But Dressel said he has seen positive developments in recent months, and is optimistic the state will continue to take positive steps to reverse the trend.

Cantrell, too, believes New Jersey is making strides in the right direction.

"I think we're seeing some positive signs," he said. "There's more bipartisan cooperation than we've seen in the past. I'd still like to see a lot more."

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