

# U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Business Register

Firm Migrations in the United States:  
Magnitude and Trends

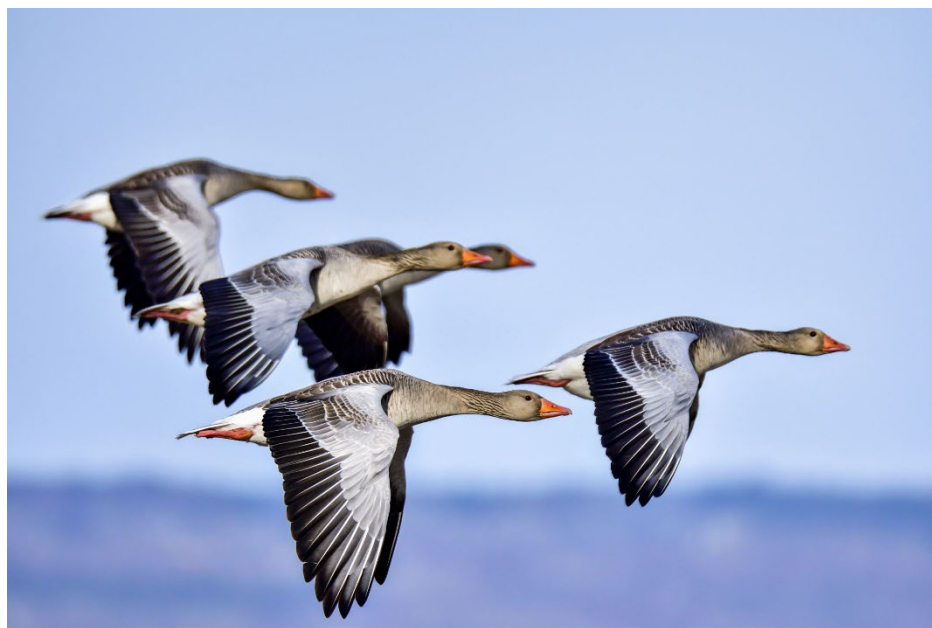
**David Talan & Kevin Cooksey**

Group of Experts on Business Registers  
Online, 15-18 October 2024



# Overview

- Scope and Sources
- Structure and History
- Use Case: Firm Migrations in the United States



# Business Register: Scope and Sources



# QCEW

- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
- Fed/State cooperative program
  - ▶ Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax filings
  - ▶ Employment, Wages, Industry, Geography, Administrative Info
- Covers roughly 97% of nonfarm US businesses
  - ▶ Establishment as unit of analysis

# QCEW Scope

- 97% of employees on nonfarm payrolls
- 12.2 million establishments
  - ▶ 11.9 million in the private sector
  - ▶ 306,000 in the public sector
- 154 million workers
  - ▶ 131 million in the private sector
  - ▶ 23 million in the public sector



# Data Collection: UI Tax Filing

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- What is excluded?
  - ▶ Self-employed, unpaid family employees
  - ▶ Some agricultural employees, some student workers
  - ▶ Elected officials
  - ▶ Members of the Armed Forces

# Business Register: Structure and History



# Business Descriptions

- State UI Tax Number & Reporting Unit Number
- Legal Name, Trade Name
- Phone and Fax
- Single / Multi Status
- Ownership
- Non Profit Indicator
- Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)





# Quarterly Data

## ■ Economic

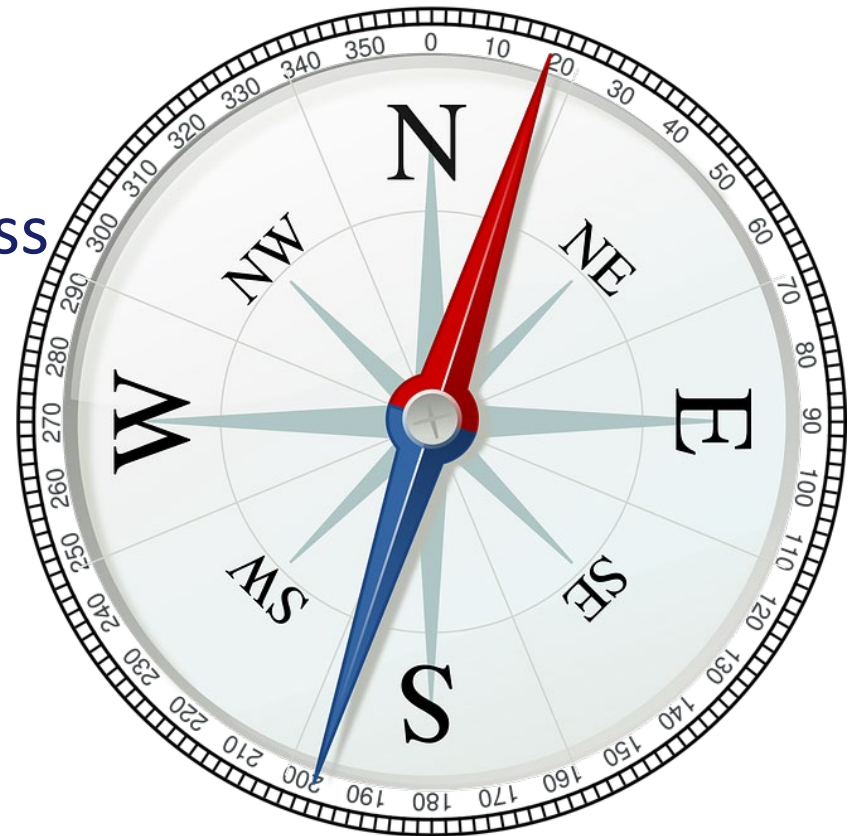
- ▶ Monthly Employment
- ▶ Total Quarterly Wages
- ▶ Taxable Wages
- ▶ Date of first and last positive employment

## ■ Industry

- ▶ 1990 to 2000 – SIC
- ▶ 1990 to 2024 – NAICS

# Geographic Data

- Addresses
  - ▶ UI Tax Address
  - ▶ Physical Location Address
  - ▶ Mailing / Other Address
- County / Township
- MSA, City, Census Block
- Longitude and Latitude
- Hurricane Codes



# Business Register Use Case: Firm Migrations in the United States



# Motivations

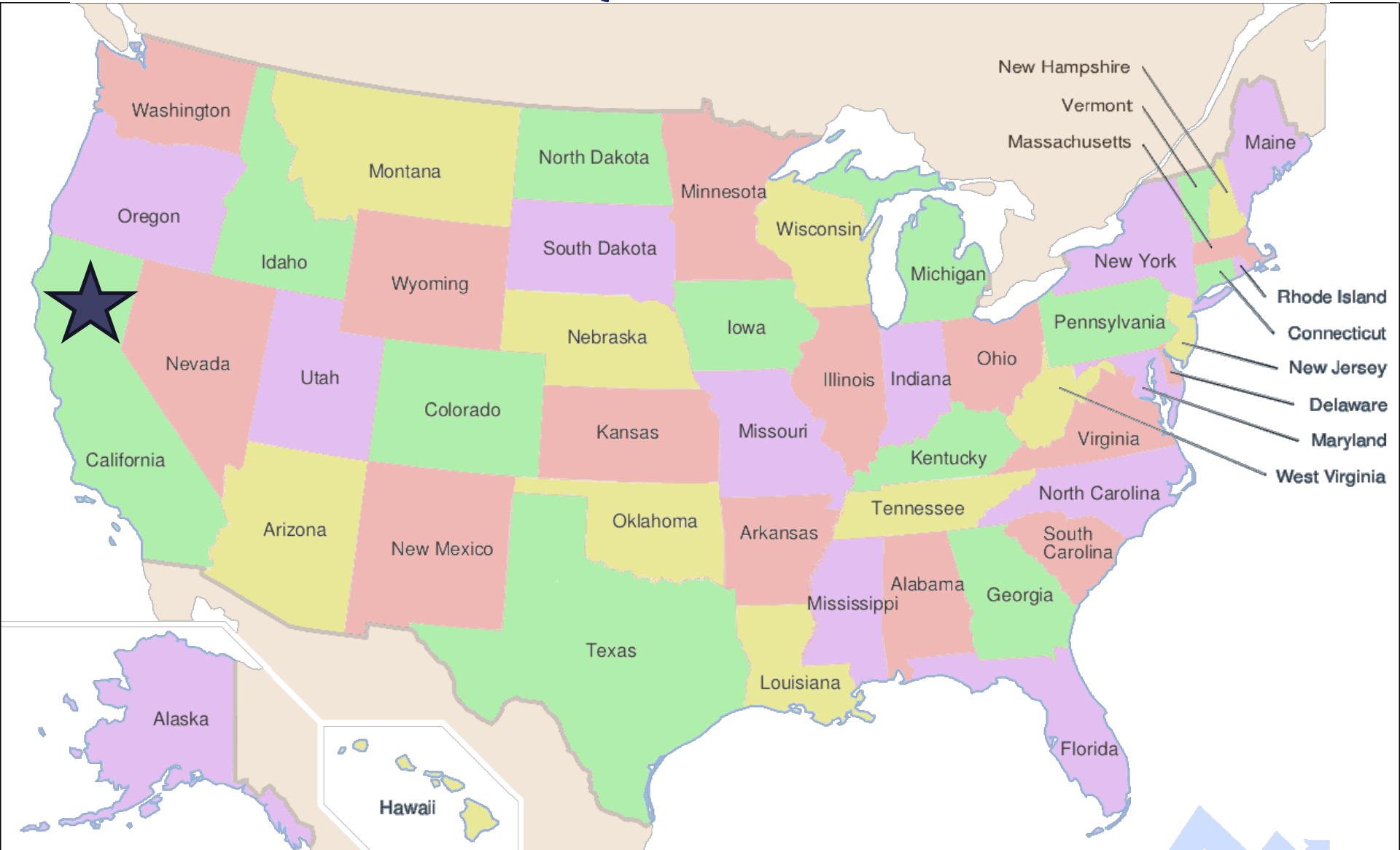
*To understand how business migration has trended over time, in what specific industries and regions migrant businesses are concentrated, and how their employment and wages compare with the rest of the economy.*



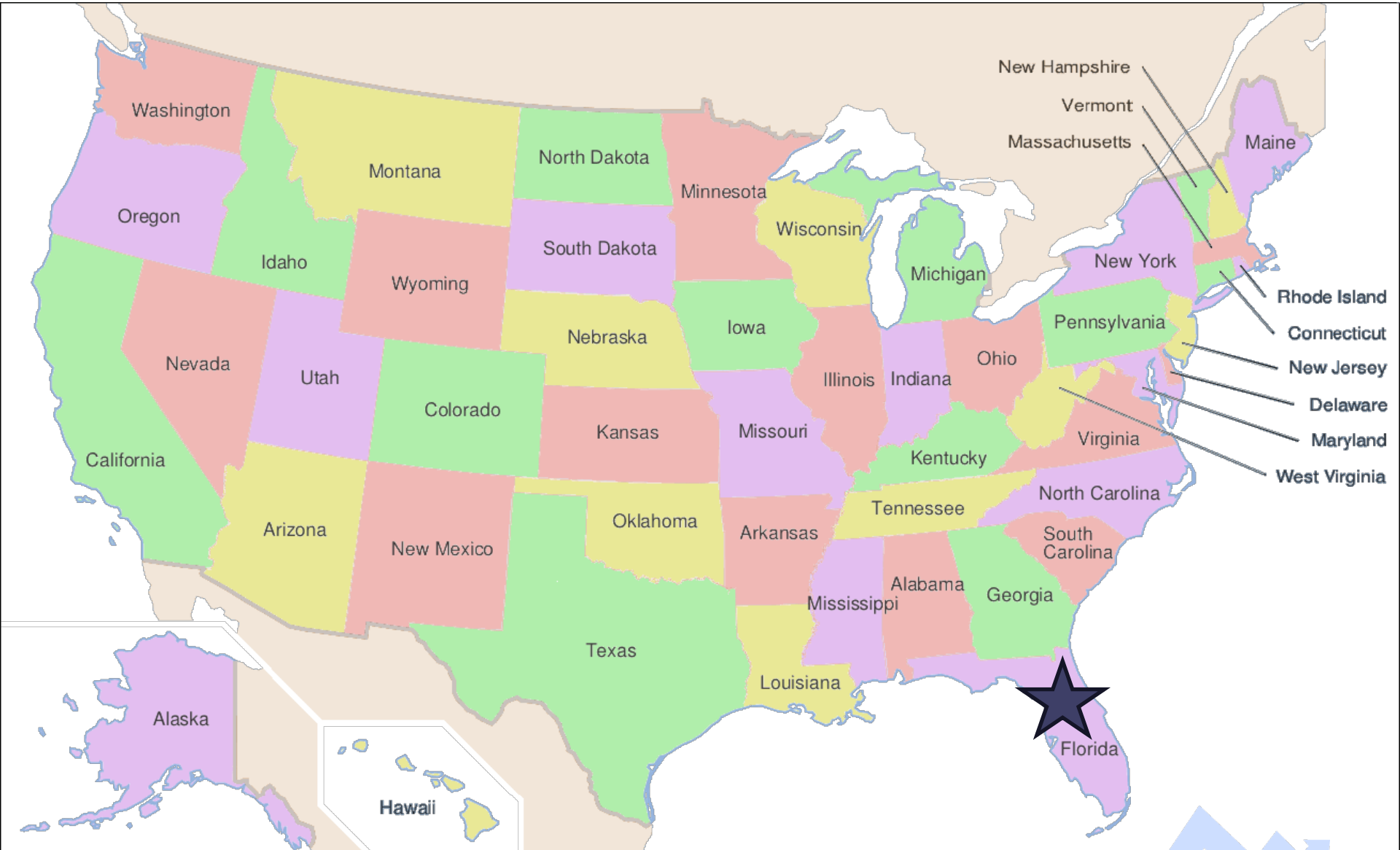
# How are migrating firms identified?



# First Quarter 2020



# First Quarter 2021

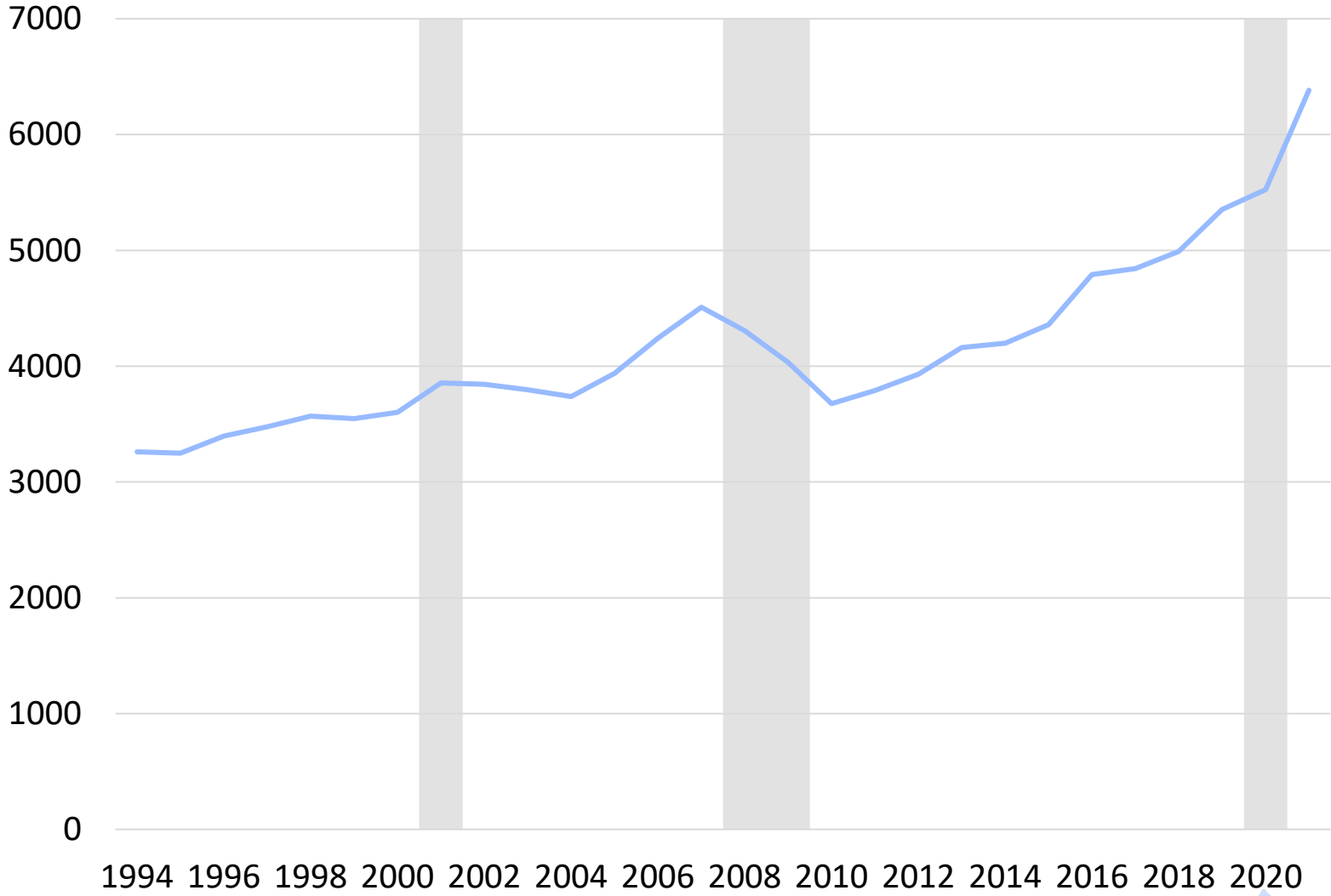


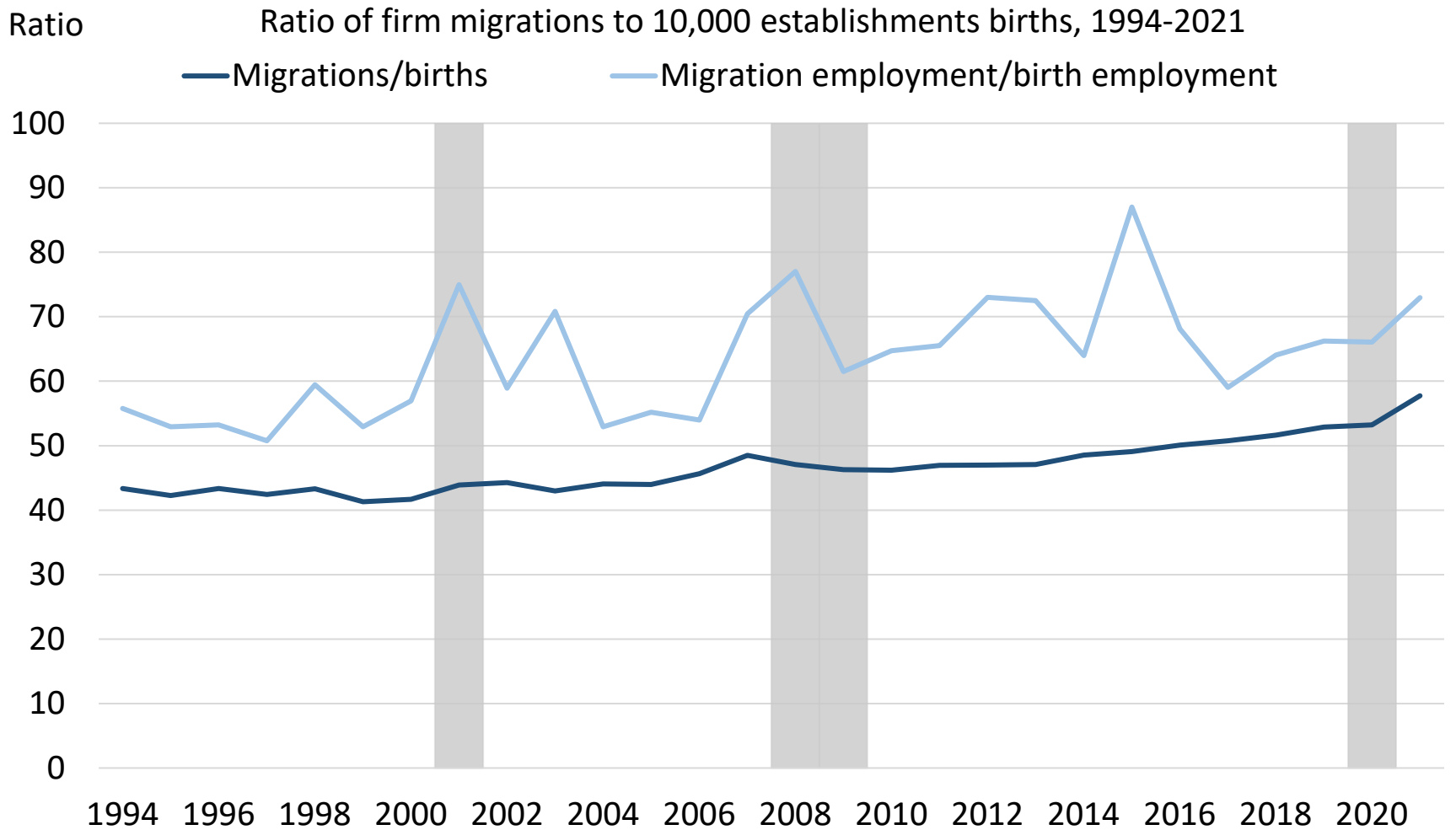
# How has business migration changed over time?



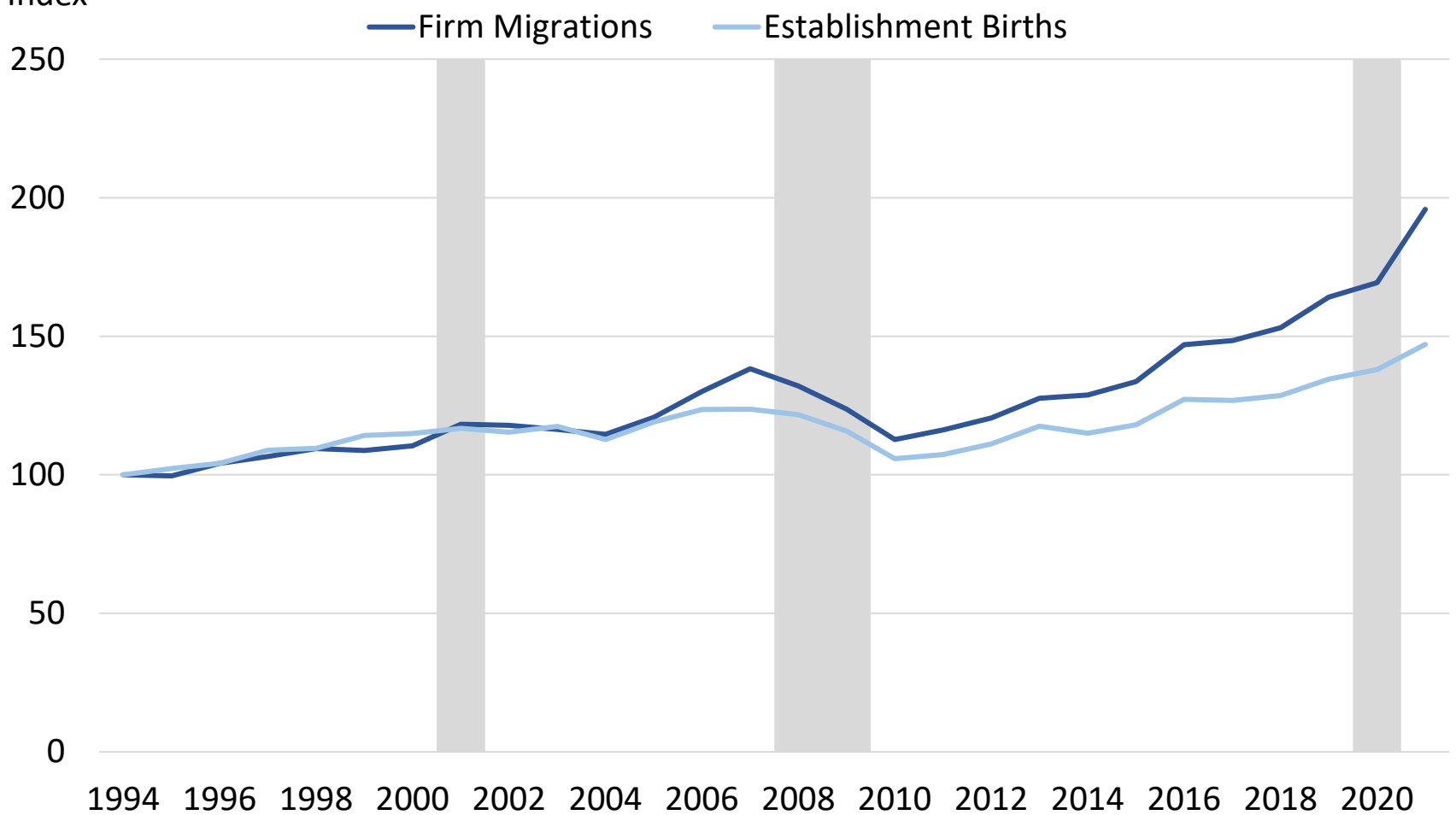


Migration Total migration of single-establishment firms, 1994-2021





# Indexes of firm migrations and establishment births, 1994-2021



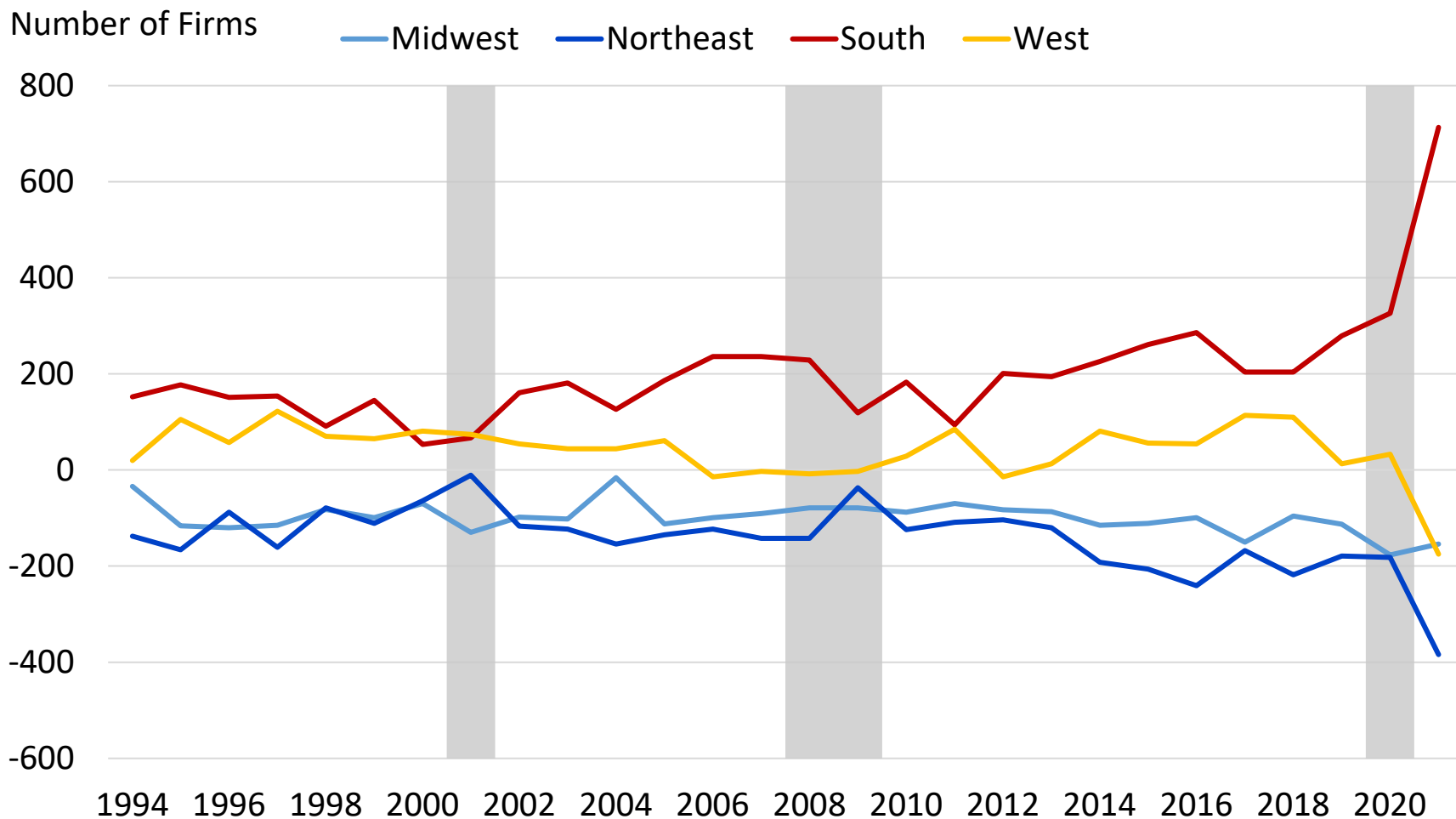
# Where do firms migrate?



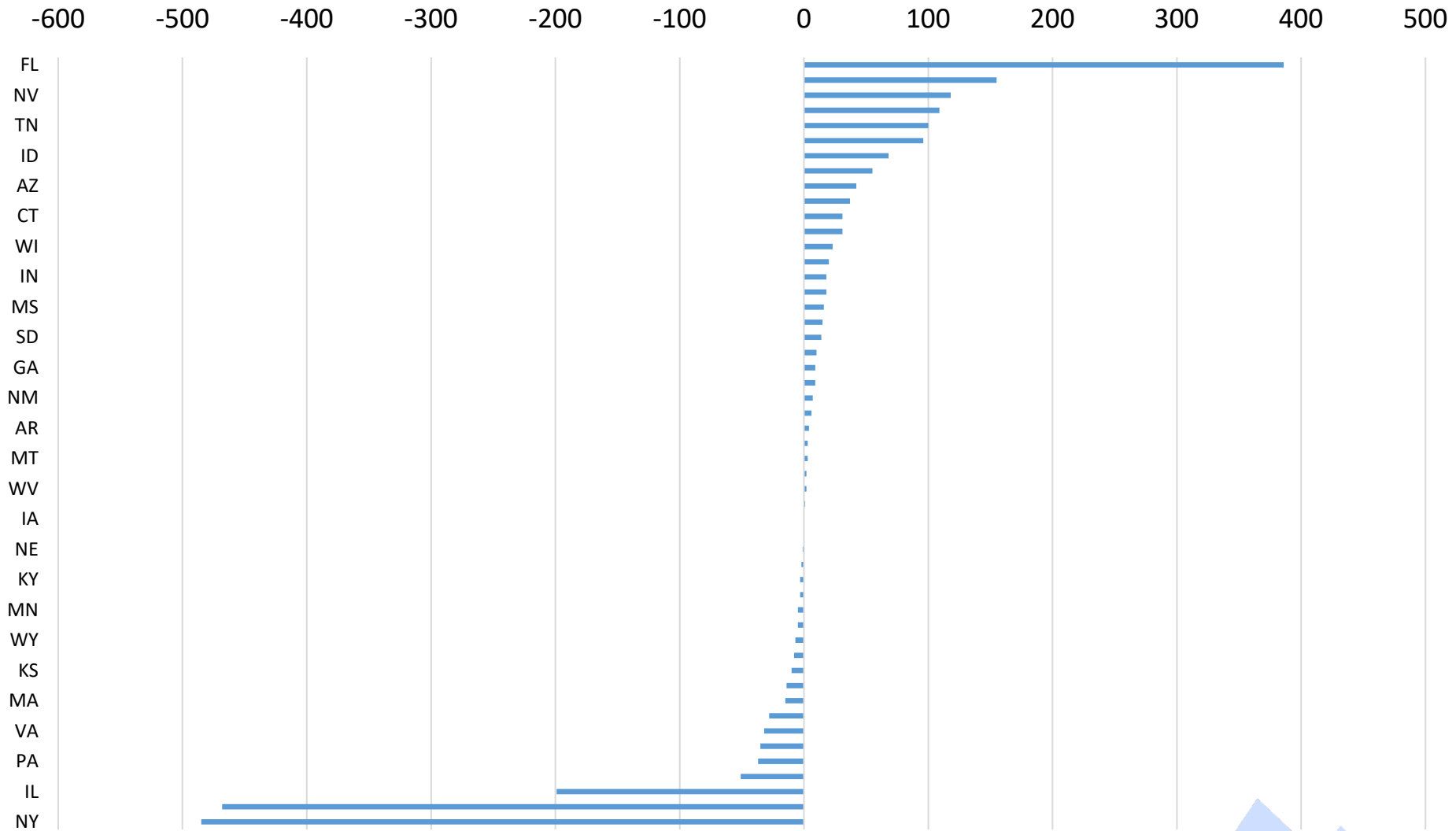
## 2021 Firm migrations by origin and destination regions

2021 Firm Migration		Destination Region				
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West	Total
Origin Region	Northeast	615	119	517	217	<b>1,468</b>
	Midwest	76	426	447	209	<b>1,158</b>
	South	234	255	1,111	349	<b>1,949</b>
	West	159	204	587	859	<b>1,809</b>
	Total	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>6,384</b>

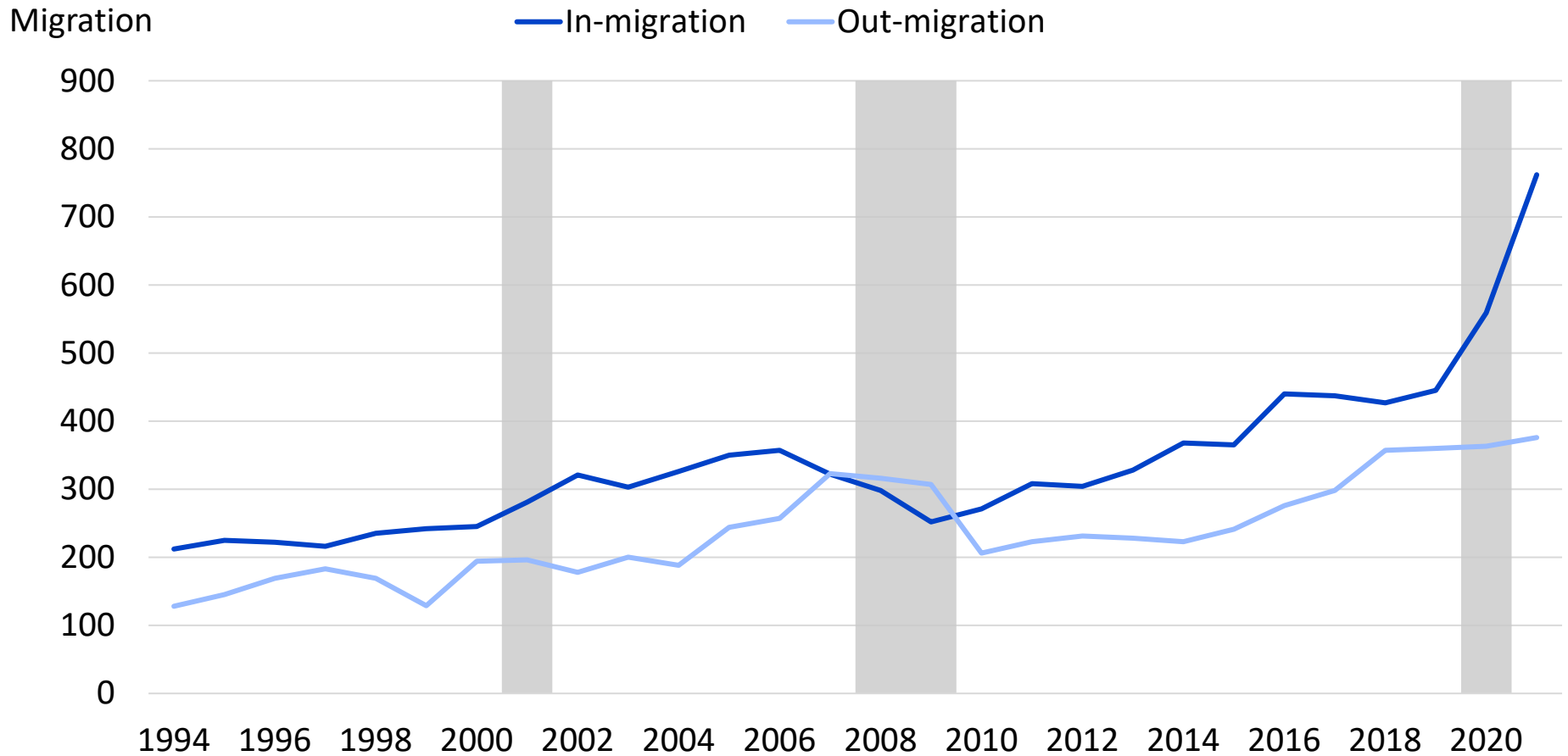
# Net firm migration by region, 1994-2021



# Net firm migration by state, 2021

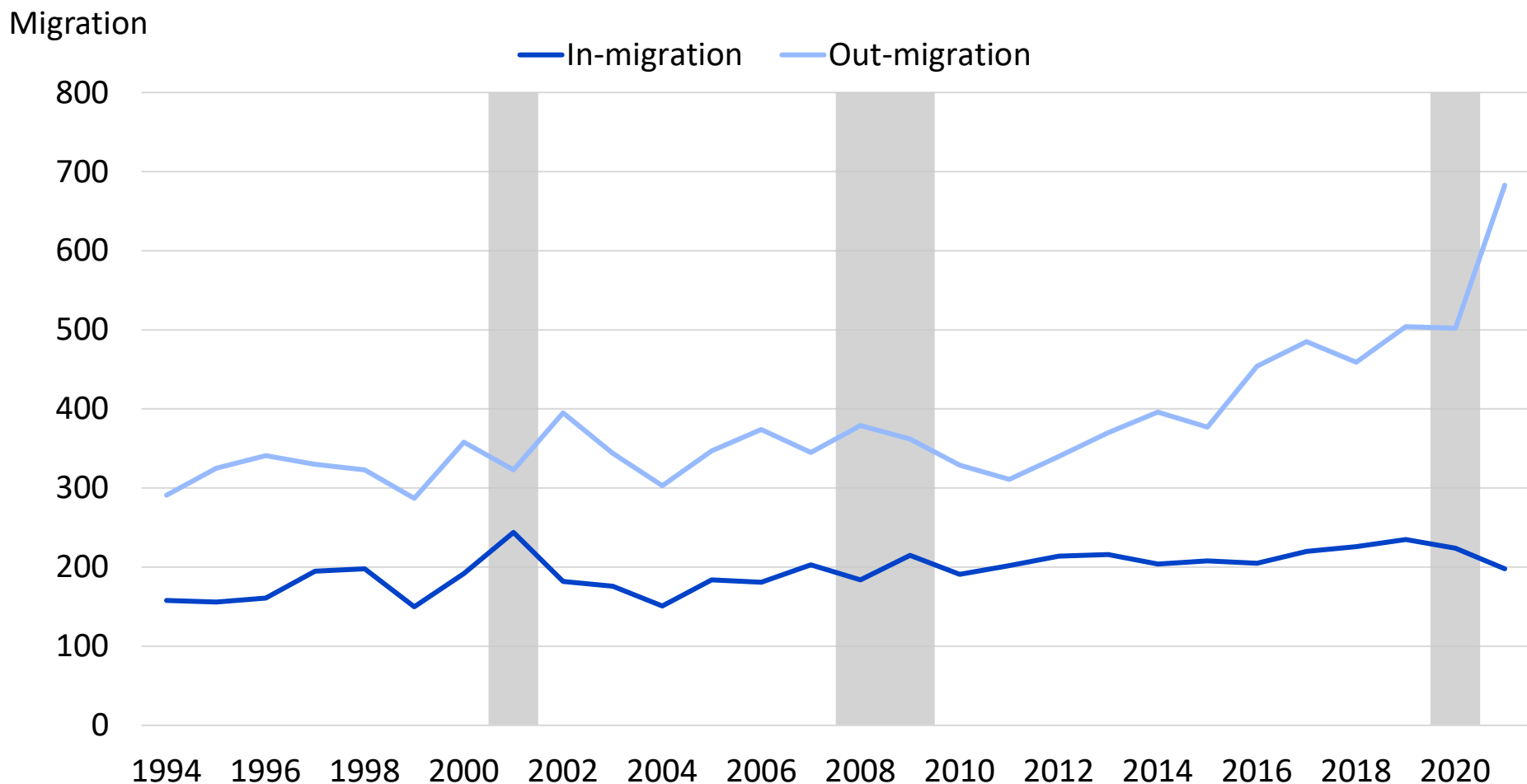


# Incoming and outgoing migration from Florida, 1994-2021





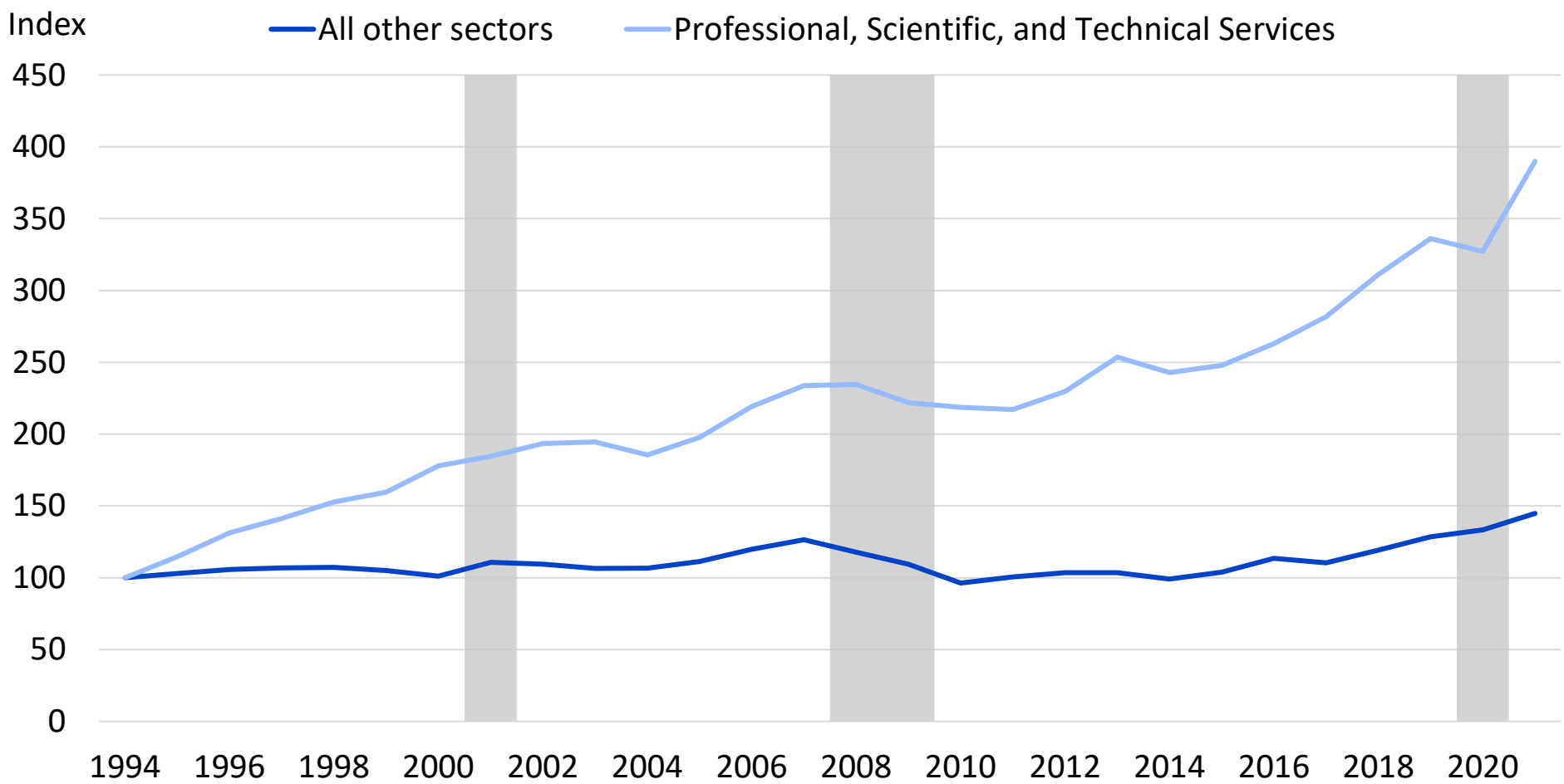
# Incoming and outgoing migration from New York, 1994-2021



# What characteristics typify migrating firms?

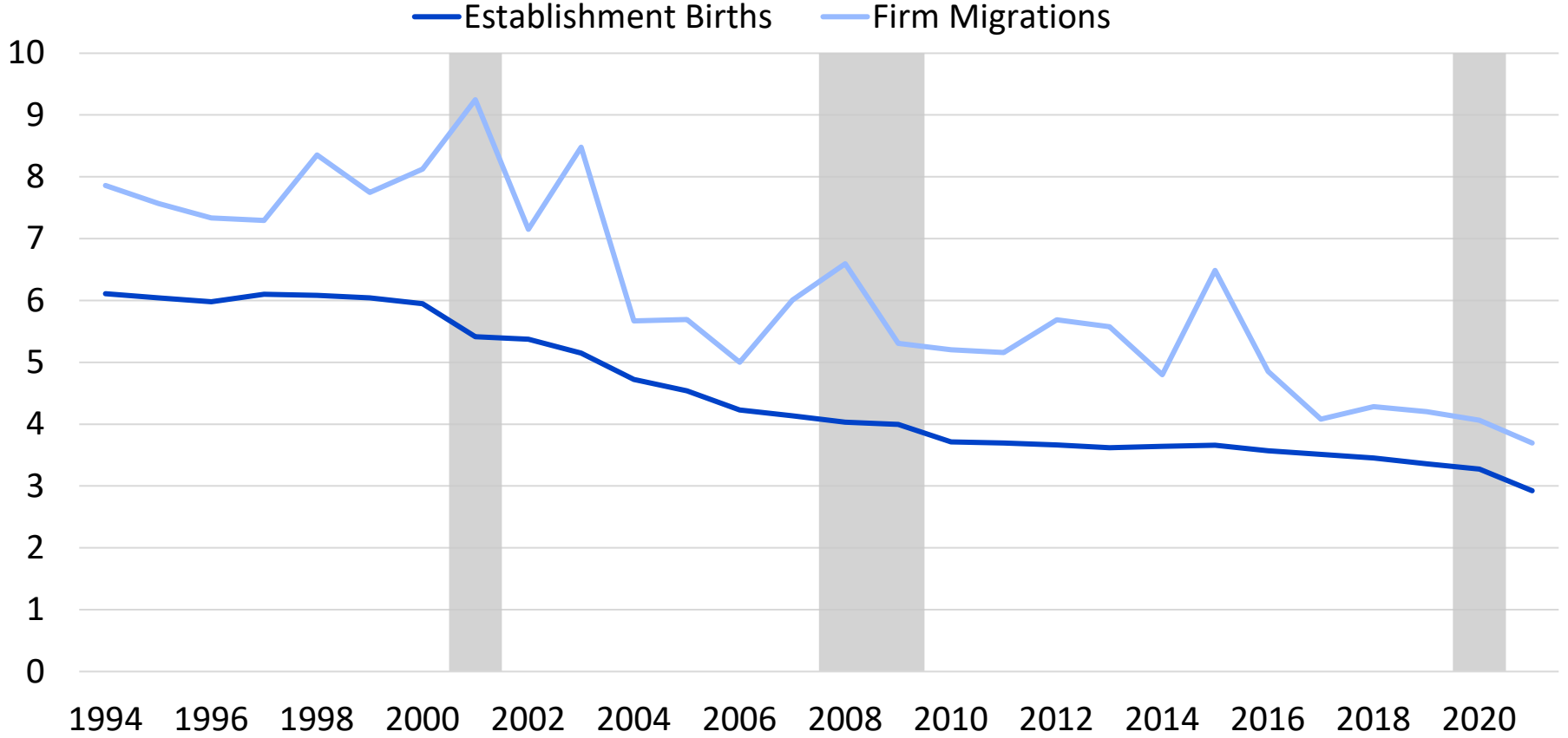


# Indexes of firm migration by sector, 1994-2021



# Average employment of migrating firms and establishment births, 1994-2021

Average employment



# Lessons Learned



# Contact Information

**Kevin Cooksey**

Chief, Business Employment Dynamics

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

[Cooksey.Kevin@bls.gov](mailto:Cooksey.Kevin@bls.gov)

