This paper is a survey article that discusses what was known about the economics of internal US migration as of about 1975. The paper considers such topics as the determinants and consequences of interregional migration and attempts to ascertain the state of knowledge concerning migration research, as well as fruitful directions for future research. (The SSCI® indicates that this paper has been cited in over 220 publications, making it the most-cited paper from this journal.)

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The human capital perspective provided a paradigm that caught the attention of economists. The area of research that has developed most markedly since 1975, however, is that relating to the analysis of micro data. Migration studies in the context of micro data were almost unheard of in 1975, but have been quite common since then. The availability of micro data and the development of techniques to analyze such data provided an important impetus to the rejuvenation of labor economics. Since 1975 the importance of employment opportunities in migration decisions has received much more attention, and simultaneous equations models of migration and employment change have become standard in the literature.

Perhaps one reason for the popularity of my article is that migration research is now common in several disciplines, and as the thrust and tone of published migration research has changed, many scholars wish to reference the "basics." My paper did, I think, lay out these basics as they existed in 1975. I have since updated the article by surveying the literature that appeared roughly between 1975 and 1985. [4]