

Domestic Migration Patterns in the District of Columbia 2000-2007

by
Joy Phillips
Minwuyelet Azimeraw
Daniel Sheres

Introduction

Population growth is primarily a result of natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths. But in any particular area and for specific periods of time migration can impact population growth as well. A fundamental characteristic of people is their movement from place to place, and the right to move was recognized globally with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration states in Article 13 that "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state" and "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country". This report describes state to state and state to county migration patterns for District of Columbia from 2000 through 2007.

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another either permanently or temporarily. People migrate for many different reasons ranging from economical, social and political to environmental, and there are usually both push factors and pull factors. On average, about 40 million people in the United States change residence each year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau Population Survey. Moving rates were found to differ by characteristics such as age, race, ethnicity, marital status, household type, whether the house is owned or rented, income, and poverty status.

Nationally, among people who changed residence in the 2006-2007 period, the highest percentage of people moved because of housing related reasons (42 percent), fol-

lowed by family related (30 percent), work-related (21 percent), and other reasons (7 percent). Housing related reasons included people wanting to own home and not rent, people looking for new or better house or apartment, and better neighborhood with less crime. Family related reasons included change in marital status, and to establish own household. Work related reasons included new job or job transfer, closer to work or easier commute, and retired. Other reasons included attending or leaving college, a need for change of climate, and health reasons.

Definitions

Migration, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, is a move that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Local moves - for instance, those within a county - are considered residential mobility and are not included in this report.

Domestic migration is the movement of people within the United States.

International migration is the movement of people across country borders.

In-migration or inflow is movement into an area during a given period.

Out-migration or outflow is movement out of an area during a given period.

Net migration for a given geographic area is the difference between in-migration and out-migration during a specified time frame. Net migration can be either positive or negative.

DOMESTIC MIGRATION *cont. on p. 2*

DOMESTIC MIGRATION from page 1

Positive net migration indicates that inflow is greater than outflow, while negative net migration indicates inflow is less than outflow.

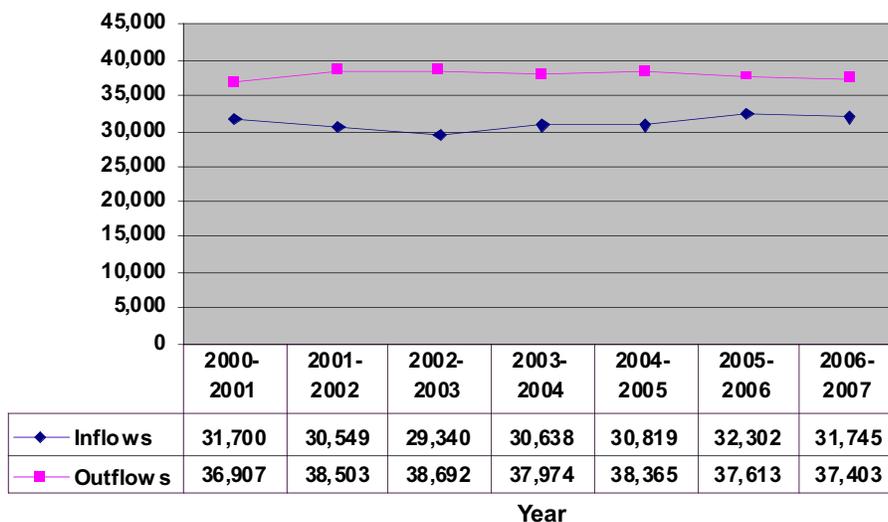
Domestic Inflows and Outflows: States

State to state and state to county migration patterns for District of Columbia from 2000 through 2007 are based on data obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which measures migration with data computed from tax filings.

(Note: The numbers for inflows and outflows of people presented in this report reflect only the population that filed taxes for those years. Although it's an acceptable representation of the movement of people, it does not capture those people who moved but did not file their taxes. However, this data set is the best available indicator of domestic migration).

District of Columbia exchanged migrants with many states between 2000 and 2007. In 2000-2001, 31,700 people moved into the District from other states and 36,907 people moved out of the District to other states. In 2006-2007, 31,745 people moved into the District from other states and 37,403 people moved out of the District to other states. Other periods between 2001

Fig 1: Annual Domestic Migration: District of Columbia 2000-2007



Source: D.C. Office of Planning/ State Data Center and Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

and 2006 showed similar patterns of movement. Figure 1 shows the annual inflows and outflows of District of Columbia during the 2000 to 2007 period.

During the 2000 to 2007 periods more people moved out of the District to all other states than people moving into the District from other states. Top destinations for people leaving the District were neighboring states Maryland and Virginia, followed by

New York. Table 1 below shows the top three state to state inflows to and outflows from the District of Columbia during the 2000 to 2007 periods.

Domestic migration is a major factor in population change estimations. According to the domestic migration data, the District of Columbia had negative net domestic migration during the 2000 to 2007 period. However, the total population of the District

Table 1: State to State Annual Domestic Migration Flows of District of Columbia: Year 2000 to 2007

Inflows to the District

Inflows From	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Maryland	11,326	11,528	11,096	11,339	10,821	11,221	10,976
Virginia	6,128	5,752	5,267	5,590	5,872	5,873	5,745
New York	1,608	1,734	1,805	1,719	1,867	1,867	1,874

Outflows from the District

Outflows To	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Maryland	18,513	18,544	18,771	18,965	19,416	18,575	17,798
Virginia	6,553	7,852	8,436	7,325	6,770	6,363	6,466
New York	1,762	1,623	1,612	1,547	1,645	1,868	1,927

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

DOMESTIC MIGRATION cont. on page 3

DOMESTIC MIGRATION from page 2

was generally increasing as a result of positive natural increase (more births than deaths) and positive net international migration. The District's population thereby increased from 572,059 in 2000 to 587,868 in 2007.

Domestic Inflows and Outflows: Counties

Analyses of the migration data showed the District's highest domestic migration out-

percent) went to Fairfax County, 2115 (27 percent) Arlington County, and 1105 (12 percent) Alexandria. New York received 1,623 migrants from the District in 2001-2002. New York County got 752 (46 percent) and Kings County with 260 (16 percent). Other years since 2000 showed similar outflows by states and counties.

The District's highest domestic migration inflows were in 2005-2006. During this period 32,302 persons came to the District from

domestic migration flows between the District of Columbia and top three states and their corresponding counties are shown in Table 2 for the 2006-2007 period.

In general, during the 2000 to 2007 period, the District's largest inflows and outflows were with neighboring Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia.

Table 2: Inflows and Outflows of People: District of Columbia 2006-2007 (Top 3 states and their corresponding counties)

Inflows to District 2006-2007 From To Top Three States	31,745	Outflows from District 2006-2007 Top Three States	37,403
Maryland	10,976	Maryland	17,798
Prince George's County	6,501	Prince George's County	11,053
Montgomery County	3,141	Montgomery County	4,513
Baltimore	316	Charles County	517
Anne Arundel	280	Baltimore	502
Howard County	177	Anne Arundel	371
Other	561	Other	842
Virginia	5,745	Virginia	6,466
Arlington County	1,929	Arlington County	1,936
Fairfax County	1,523	Fairfax County	1,779
Alexandria	826	Alexandria	962
Prince William County	250	Prince William County	413
Loudoun County	204	Loudoun County	313
Other	1,013	Other	1,063
New York	1,874	New York	1,927
New York County	733	New York County	994
Kings County	234	Kings County	378
Queens County	129	Queens County	98
Nassau	100	Westchester County	61
Suffolk	96	Nassau County	50
Other	582	Other	346

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Statistics of Income

flows occurred in 2001-2002. During this period 38,503 persons moved from the District to other states. The majority, 18,544 (48 percent) moved to Maryland, followed by Virginia with 7,852 (20 percent) and New York with 1,623 (4 percent).

Of the total 18,544 migrants who moved to Maryland, 11,578 (62 percent) went to Prince George's County, 5,170 (28 percent) Montgomery County, and 425 (2 percent) Charles County. Similarly, of the total 7,852 migrants who moved to Virginia, 2,346 (30

other states. The largest number of inflows to the District came from Maryland (11,221), followed by Virginia (5,873) and New York (1,867). Most inflows from Maryland came from Prince George's County (6,614) and Montgomery County 93,213). Inflows from Virginia to the District came from Arlington County (1,913) and Fairfax County (1,716). Inflows from New York to the District came mainly from New York County (743) and Kings County (242). Other years since 2000 showed similar inflows by states and counties. The most current data available on

For additional information contact:
 D.C. Office of Planning
 State Data Center
 801 North Capitol Street, NE
 Suite 4000
 Washington, DC 20002
 (202) 442 7600
 (202) 442-7638 FAX
www.planning.dc.gov



Government of the District of Columbia