

Interstate Migration Leads Maryland's Population Gain State still experiences domestic outmigration

The U.S. Census Bureau released the components of population change (i.e., births, deaths, net international migration and net domestic migration) on January 23, 2014 for previously released population estimates (released December 30th, 2013).¹ The population estimates and components of change cover the April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 period. The following are some highlights of the data:

International migration is the largest contributor to population growth in Maryland. Gains from net international migration in the July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013 period of 24,944 persons comprises well over one-half (56.8%) of the total net population change of 43,946. While the net international migration gain in the last year was slightly below the previous year (25,386), in general, the gains from international migration post 2010 have been well above estimated annual increases over the 2000 to 2010 period.² (See [Chart 3](#).) Since 2010 Maryland has had a total net gain of just under 78,500 persons from international migration, ranked 10th highest in the U.S., and has made up 50.6 percent of the state's total population gain.

States with larger net gains than Maryland from international migration since 2010 were California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, Illinois and Pennsylvania. (See [Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#) and [Map 2](#).) The top five states accounted for just over one-half (51.3%) of the nation's total gain from international migration, while the top 10 states (including Maryland), accounted for two-thirds (67.6%) of the U.S. total.

Maryland's net international migration rate of 4.13 per 1,000 persons ranked eighth highest over the April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 period. States with higher net international migration *rates* than Maryland over the April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 period, include Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Florida, Massachusetts, the District to Columbia and Connecticut. (See [Map 3](#).)

Gains to the population from net natural increase (births minus deaths) are decreasing in Maryland. Over the last year Maryland had just over 27,000 more births than deaths, a gain to the population which was just over 500 fewer than in the previous year, and was the lowest net natural change figure since 2000. (See [Chart 4](#).) Net natural change peaked in the 2006/2007 period at just over 34,200 and has been declining fairly steadily since then. Most of this decline is due to fewer births, with a smaller portion of this decline due to an increase in deaths. Births also peaked in the 2006/2007 period at 78,569, about 5,300 more than in 2012/2013. (See [Chart 5](#).) The total number of births since the peak has been greatly affected by the Great Recession and its aftermath which impacted family formation.

¹ See [2013 Population Growth for Maryland Similar to 2012](#)

² The higher values for international migration in 2012 and 2013 compared to prior years is partly a function of a change in methodology by the U.S. Census Bureau in estimating this component.

The number of deaths in 2012/2013 (46,205) were about 800 greater than in the previous year, and were the highest since 2000. The average number of deaths over the last two years (45,799) was substantially more than during the 2000 to 2011 period (43,712). (See [Chart 5](#).)

Domestic migration remains negative for Maryland. Maryland experienced net domestic out migration of just over 8,500 persons in 2012/2013, the second consecutive annual outflow, and about 650 greater than in the previous year.³ (See [Chart 6](#).) Since April 1, 2010, Maryland has had a net loss of 14,616 residents thru domestic out migration, ranked 35th among the states (where “1” is the state with the highest number of net in migrants and 51 the highest number of net out migrants). (See [Table 4](#) and [Table 5](#).) Maryland is in line with most Northeast and Midwest states which also experienced net out migration. Maryland’s net domestic out migration rate of -0.77 per 1,000 population ranked 31st.

In all, 25 states had gains through domestic migration from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013, and 26 had losses. (See [Map 4](#).) The largest absolute gains were in Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Colorado, South Carolina and Arizona. Total gains were fairly concentrated with Texas and Florida accounting for nearly one-half (49.6%) of all the net gains to states.

For those states which experienced net out migration since April 1, 2010, the largest losses were in New York, Illinois, California, New Jersey and Michigan, with the top three accounting for nearly one-half (49.3%) of all the net losses for states.

North Dakota, which has the strongest economy in the nation due to its booming oil and natural gas mining sector (extraction thru fracking), had by far the highest net domestic in migration rate since April 1, 2010, (15.26 per 1,000 persons). The District of Columbia, which also has one of the strongest economies in the country due to the presence of the federal government, had the second highest in migration rate (10.34), followed by Colorado (5.97), Florida (4.94) and South Carolina (4.90). (See [Map 5](#).)

States with the highest domestic out migration rates since April 1, 2010 were Illinois (-5.38), New York (-5.18) and New Jersey (-5.15).

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³ Net domestic migration measures the net movement between Maryland and all other states. It is derived from subtracting out migration from Maryland to all other states from in migration to Maryland from all other states. The in and out migration flows themselves are not made available by the U.S. Census Bureau.