

Hispanics Continue to Lead Maryland's Population Gain in 2015

All gains due to minorities; Non-Hispanic white population continues to decline

All of the population growth in Maryland between 2014 and 2015 was due to gains in minority population, according to recently released estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ And since the last Census (April 1, 2010), all of the state's nearly 232,600 population increase was also due to the growth in minorities as Maryland moves closer to becoming a majority-minority state.²

Hispanics Lead in Growth

Population gains in Maryland over the last year were led by increases in the Hispanic population (18,064) followed by *non-Hispanic* African Americans (15,583), Asians (12,336) and those of two or more races (3,145).³ (See [Tables 1A, 1B](#) and [Charts 1A, 1B](#).) In contrast to these gains, non-Hispanic whites declined by 18,236, by far the largest decline this decade.⁴ This is a continuation of a long-term trend in Maryland as the number of non-Hispanic whites dropped by just over 134,500 (-4.1%) between 2000 and 2010.

[Chart 2](#) illustrates the estimated annual change for non-Hispanic whites in Maryland from July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2015. In only two of these 14 years – 2001 and 2011 – was there even a small gain in the non-Hispanic white population. Population losses of non-Hispanic whites were heaviest during the 2003/2004 to 2008/2009 period. These six years of greatest non-Hispanic population decline correspond to the period when Maryland was experiencing its largest domestic net out-migration flow (also shown in [Chart 2](#)). The increase in the loss of non-Hispanic whites in the most recent year also corresponds with an uptick in net domestic out-migration. While economic vitality of the state plays a part in the ebb and flow of net domestic out-migration for Maryland, much of the larger net outflows in the last decade were being fueled by the run-up in housing prices which led to an increase in the number of people migrating out of Maryland to bordering states, particularly to Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia where housing prices were lower than in Maryland. The collapse of the housing bubble and the beginning of the Great Recession at the end of 2007 led to severely reduced mobility throughout the country and dampened

¹ Release date, June 23, 2016

² Minorities are everyone other than “non-Hispanic white alone.”

³ All discussion of population by race and population change by race is for *non-Hispanics*. “Hispanic” is an ethnic designation and not a race category, and Hispanics can be of any race. By separating the Hispanic estimates from the race categories, Hispanics are not double counted, and the sum of the changes for the non-Hispanic race categories plus Hispanics equals the total population change.

⁴ In Maryland, most Hispanics are white (79.7 percent in 2015). If white Hispanics are included in the white category, then the decline in the total white population would be much smaller between July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015 around -4,200 (See [Tables 6A](#) and [6B](#).)

both net migration gains and losses for most states. The loss of non-Hispanic whites in the most recent year was the largest since 2007/2008, the beginning of the Great Recession.

While net domestic migration was severely impacted by the Great Recession and the slow-paced recovery which followed, international migration has continued at a steady pace. [Chart 3](#) illustrates the estimated annual international migration for Maryland along with the state's annual change in Hispanic population. By and large the periods of greatest Hispanic population gains during the mid-2000s were during those years when international migration was also very robust. In the last four years, there seems to be more of a disconnect between gains from total international migration and Hispanic growth which may or may not be caused by the Census Bureau's change in methodology for estimating international migration. Another reason for the weaker link may be that as the Hispanic population becomes more numerous in Maryland, more of the growth could be generated internally; that is, by the increase in births over deaths. Last year, for instance, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that at the national level most of the Hispanic growth (71 percent) in 2014 was from natural increase (births minus deaths) as opposed to international migration.⁵

At the height of the growth in the Hispanic population in Maryland, from 2004/2005 to 2007/2008, the gains in Hispanics actually exceeded the combined increase for all of the non-Hispanic population. The same is true for the most recent year. (See [Chart 4](#).)

Minorities Concentrated in Younger Age Groups

With the growth in minority population since April 1, 2010, Maryland's minority share reached 48.0 percent by July 1, 2015, the seventh highest in the country, and well above the U.S. national average of 38.4 percent. (See [Chart 5](#).) Of the six states (including Washington, D.C.) with higher minority concentrations than Maryland, five are already majority-minority, i.e. where minorities make up more than 50 percent of the total population. Only Nevada, at 49.3 percent minority, is not yet majority-minority. For those states which are above Maryland in minority share, Hispanics are the largest minority group in California, Texas, New Mexico and Nevada. Asians are the largest minority group in Hawaii and African Americans are the largest minority group in Washington, D.C. and Maryland. For the U.S. as a whole, Hispanics are by far the largest minority group at just over 56.5 million, compared to 39.9 million for non-Hispanic African Americans, 17.4 million for non-Hispanic Asians and 6.5 million for those who are non-Hispanic two or more races. (See [Table 2](#).)

While Maryland is moving towards being a minority-majority state, for much of the population it is already there. From under one year of age and up to and including age 44, minorities make up more than 50 percent of the population. (See [Chart 6](#).) Minority share falls steadily after age 44 and is 32.5 percent for the population age 65 and over.

⁵ A breakdown of population gains between net natural change and migration by race/ethnicity is not available for states.

Minority Growth Leads Most Jurisdictions

Minority growth made up a majority (i.e. more than 50 percent) of total population increase for all jurisdictions; only two jurisdictions (St. Mary's and Somerset counties) saw an increase in non-Hispanic white population.⁶ (See [Table 3A](#).) The largest numeric increases in minority population were in Montgomery (14,007), Baltimore (7,915), Prince George's (7,451), Howard (5,785) and Anne Arundel (5,041) counties. Combined, these five counties accounted for 81.6 percent of the total minority population change, a bit below their share of total population change (89.4%).

Black, Hispanic and Asian Growth Dominates in Different Counties

While many counties had substantial minority population gains, the type of minority population growth was not uniform. The largest minority gains in Montgomery County over the 2014 to 2015 period, for example, were for Hispanics (5,153) and Asians (4,306), as was the case since 2010 as well as during the last decade (2000 to 2010). Since 2010, Montgomery County has had the state's largest increase in Hispanics and Asians and the second largest increases in African Americans. (See [Charts 7A & 7B](#), [Charts 8A & 8B](#), and [Charts 9A & 9B](#). Also see [Tables 4A & 4B](#) and [Tables 5A & 5B](#).)

For Baltimore County, population gains in the last year were led by increases in African Americans (4,140, the largest in the state), in Hispanics (1,853, the third largest in the state) and in Asians (1,501, the third largest in the state). This continues a trend from the last decade when over the 2000 to 2010 time period Baltimore County had the largest increase in African Americans in Maryland. Baltimore County also had the largest decline in non-Hispanic white population over the last year and since 2010. (See [Charts 10A & 10B](#).)

Anne Arundel County's growth was led by increases in African Americans (2,431), Hispanics (1,434) and Asians (666). The county had a decrease in non-Hispanic whites (-1,132) in 2015, the second straight year of decline. Since 2010 though, Anne Arundel has had the second largest gain in non-Hispanic whites in Maryland (2,255), but this increase makes up only 8.5 percent of the total population gain for the county over this period.

Howard County had the second largest increase in Asians (2,711) over the last year and since 2010 (13,346), and combined with Montgomery County accounted for over one-half (54.9%) of the total statewide increase in the Asian population since 2010. Since 2010, and throughout the last decade, Howard County was the only jurisdiction in Maryland in which Asians had the largest numeric population increase. Overall, Asians made up more than one-half (50.7%) of Howard County's total population gain over the last 5.25 years.

Population growth in Prince George's County was led by gains in the Hispanic population (4,869), the second largest increase in the state in the last year. The county also had the second largest increase in

⁶ Not including those jurisdictions that lost population between July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015: Carroll, Allegany, Garrett, Kent, Talbot, Somerset and Worcester counties and Baltimore City.

Hispanics (to Montgomery) since 2010 (27,126). Combined with Montgomery, the two counties accounted for 58.1 percent of the Hispanic population increase statewide since 2010.⁷ The increase in Hispanics in Prince George's County dwarfed the gain in non-Hispanic African Americans in both the most recent year (1,390, 28.5 percent of the Hispanic gain) and since April 1, 2010 (14,708, or 54.2 percent of the Hispanic gain). Even so, African Americans remain the county's largest group, accounting for 62.1 percent of its population in 2015, although this is down a bit from the 63.8 share in 2010.

Non-Hispanic Whites Increase in Baltimore City

Baltimore City's overall population decline, just over 1,800 between 2014 and 2015, was mostly due to the largest decrease in African Americans in the state (-3,011) along with a relatively small drop in non-Hispanic whites (-65). And despite the overall population loss, there was a gain in Asians (665) and an increase in Hispanics (511) and in those of mixed race (113) in the last year.

Although the City had a decline of non-Hispanic whites in the most recent year, since 2010 the City has seen its non-Hispanic white population grow by over 1,000, an abrupt turnaround from the decade of the 2000s when the City lost nearly 27,500 non-Hispanic whites.

Where Baltimore City continues to lose population is in non-Hispanic African Americans. The drop of over 3,000 over the last year brought the decline in this group to over 7,700 since April 2010, by far the largest in the state.⁸

With its gain in non-Hispanic whites, Baltimore City was the only jurisdiction in Maryland to have a reduction in its minority population share over the 2010 to 2015 period (albeit a tiny 0.1 percentage point decrease). (See [Table 7](#).) Baltimore City still had the second largest minority share in Maryland in 2015 (71.7%) after Prince George's County (86.1%). Other jurisdictions which are already majority-minority are Montgomery (54.8%) and Charles (56.8%) counties, while Somerset (48.5%) and Howard (45.8%) counties are both over 45 percent. (See [Map 1](#).) The largest percentage point increases in minority share over the 2010 to 2015 period occurred in Charles (+5.3 percentage points), Howard (+5.5 percentage points), Montgomery (+4.3 percentage points) and Baltimore (+4.0 percentage points) counties.

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⁷ Strong Hispanic growth in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties is tied to significant gains population gains from international migration. Between 2010 and 2015, the Census Bureau estimates that these two counties combined accounted for well over one-half (58.1%) of the state's gain from international migration. (See [2015 Estimates for Maryland's Jurisdictions](#).)

⁸ The next largest decline in the African American population since 2010 was in Somerset County (-370).