

## **Domestic Net Migration in the United States: 2000 to 2004**

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Migration is an increasingly important determinant of population distribution within the United States. With birth and death rates currently low and largely uniform across the country, natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) exerts less influence than it used to in explaining why some regions, states, or counties have faster population growth than others. Migration, both domestic and international, shapes the overall patterns of population growth and decline for areas within the country.

This poster describes recent patterns of population redistribution as they reflect the domestic net migration component of population estimates data. Analysis will focus on net migration for a number of different kinds of geographic areas, including regions, divisions, states, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, and counties. The primary focus of this paper is on the post-Census 2000 period (July 1, 2000 through July 1, 2004), though annualized migration data for the period 1990 to 2000 are included to provide a historical perspective on the migration patterns discussed. All migration figures in this poster refer to domestic migration and do not include migration exchanges between the United States and other countries. For readability, domestic net migration in the text will be termed *net migration*.

One migration story is that of sizeable net outmigration from the Northeast and the Midwest and net immigration to the South. Within the Northeast, New England continued to experience net outmigration between 2000 and 2004, but at more modest levels than during the 1990s. Within the West, considerable net immigration continued to

the Mountain division and some net outmigration occurred from the Pacific division, but in both cases these trends moderated considerably from the 1990s pace. The South continued to have the most net immigration of any region, due largely to the continued high levels of net immigration to the South Atlantic division. Net immigration to the East South Central and West South Central divisions dropped considerably from their respective average annual levels in the 1990s.

Continuing a decades-long trend, many counties in the Great Plains, stretching from western Texas to North Dakota, experienced moderate-to-substantial net outmigration between 2000 and 2004. A smaller band of high net outmigration counties is seen in the lower Mississippi River valley. Other counties with large rates of net outmigration are found across the country, even in states with overall high net immigration such as Nevada and Arizona.

Domestic migration continues to redistribute the country's population away from some areas and into other areas. The longstanding pattern of net outmigration from the Northeast and Midwest and net immigration to the South and the West continued between 2000 and 2004 with only modest change from the regional patterns in the 1990s. Among states, Florida continued to be the largest migration destination in the South, while Arizona and Nevada were the primary destinations in the West. Net outmigration from California between 2000 and 2004 diminished somewhat from the high levels in the 1990s, leading to less net immigration to many other states in the West.