

District of Columbia

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This report is based on data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

## Domestic Migration Patterns in the District of Columbia 2009-2010

### Introduction

Migration can result in population growth or population decline for an area, depending on whether the net movement of people to the area is positive (more in-migrants than out-migrants) or negative (more out-migrants than in-migrants). This report discusses state-to-state and District-to-county migration patterns for the District of Columbia from 2000-2010 with specific focus on the more recent 2009-2010 period.

People migrate for many different reasons ranging from economic, 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 level and poverty status.

Nationally, among people who changed residence in the 2009-2010 period, the highest percentage of people moved because of housing related reasons (43.7 percent), followed by reasons that were family related (30.3 percent), work related (16.4 percent) and other reasons (9.5 percent). Housing related reasons included people wanting to own a home instead of renting, people looking for a 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. Positive net migration indicates that inflow is greater than outflow, while negative net migration indicates that outflow is greater than inflow.

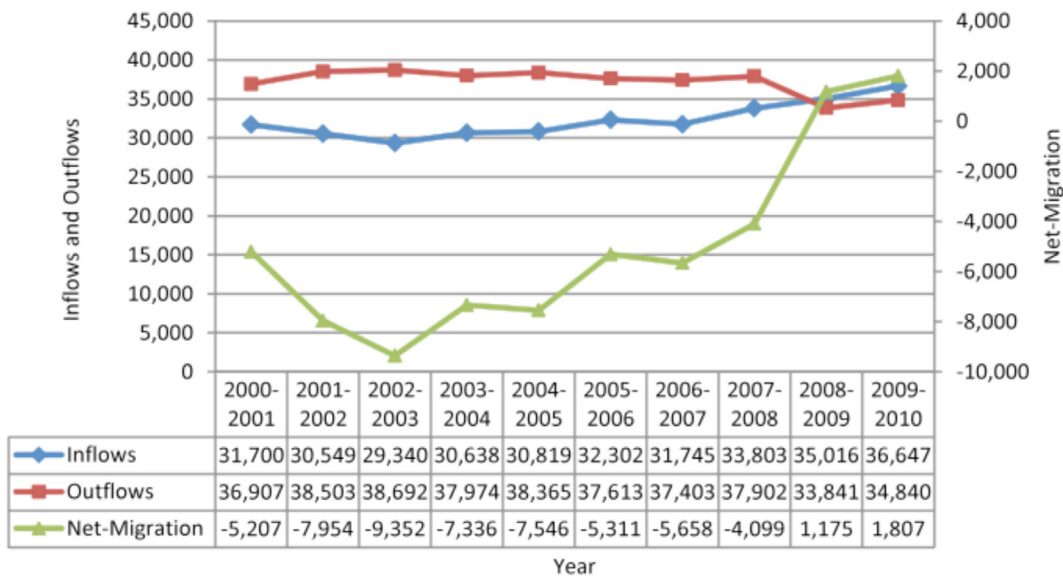
### Domestic Migration Highlights for District of Columbia 2009 - 2010

- During the 2009-2010 period, more people moved into the District from other states than people moved out of the District to other states. Population growth of the District during the 2009-2010 period was attributed to positive natural increase (more births than deaths), and positive domestic and international migration.
- Maryland, Virginia, New York, and California were the main destinations for migrants who left the District during the 2000-2010 period. These same four states were also the main origins of migrants who came into the District during the same time period.
- Although domestic migration of the District during the 2000-2010 period was dominated by the neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia, these neighboring states did not account for the net domestic migration gains of the District during the 2009-2010 period.
- In 2009-2010, of the District's 9,495 total population growth, domestic migration contributed 1,807 persons.
- During the 2009-2010 period, migrants who moved into the District had lower average adjusted gross income levels than migrants who left the District.

### Domestic Inflows and Outflows: States and the District

State-to-state and District-to-county migration patterns for the District of Columbia from 2000-2010 are based on data obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) using individual tax filings. The numbers for inflows and outflows of people presented in this report reflect only the population that filed taxes for those years. Although this data is an acceptable representation of the movement of people, it does not

**Figure 1. Annual Domestic Migration: District of Columbia 2000-2010**



Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) State-to-State Migration Files, 2000-2010

capture those people who moved but did not file their taxes. However, this data set is the best available indicator of domestic migration.

The highest domestic migration outflows from the District occurred in 2002-2003. During this period, 38,692 people moved out of the District to other states and 29,340 people moved into the District from other states, so the District lost 9,352 residents due to negative net domestic migration. The net domestic migration loss of the District declined to 4,099 people in 2007-2008, as 37,902 people moved out of the District to other states and 33,803 people moved into the District from other states. In contrast, both the 2008-2009 period and the 2009-2010 period show more people moving into the District from other states than people moving out of the District to other states. As a result, the District experienced a net gain of 1,175 and 1,807 persons, respectively, due to domestic migration.

Table 1 shows the District’s domestic migration inflows, outflows, net domestic migration gains, and net domestic migration rates during the 2000-2010 period. Net domestic migration rates indicate the contribution of migration to the overall population change. The net domestic migration rate of the District is calculated by dividing the net domestic migration by the average population living in the District during the period and multiplying the resulting figure by 1,000.

$$NMR = (I - O) / P * 1,000$$

Where:

- NMR** is net migration rate
- I** is the number of inflows
- O** is the number of Outflows
- P** is the total midyear population of the District

**Table 1. Inflows and Outflows of Domestic Migration and Average Gross Income of Migrants: District of Columbia 2000-2010**

Year	Inflows		Outflows		Net Migration	Net Migration Rate
	Number	Avg. Adjusted Gross Income	Number	Avg. Adjusted Gross Income		
2009-2010	36,647	\$50,367	34,840	\$64,159	1,807	3.0
2008-2009	35,016	\$52,044	33,841	\$60,449	1,175	2.0
2007-2008	33,803	\$52,225	37,902	\$60,552	-4,099	-7.0
2006-2007	31,745	\$52,490	37,403	\$60,564	-5,658	-9.7
2005-2006	32,302	\$52,561	37,613	\$57,509	-5,311	-9.1
2004-2005	30,819	\$47,653	38,365	\$56,118	-7,546	-13.0
2003-2004	30,638	\$44,968	37,974	\$51,985	-7,336	-12.7
2002-2003	29,340	\$44,150	38,692	\$51,677	-9,352	-16.2
2001-2002	30,549	\$46,544	38,503	\$51,780	-7,954	-13.7
2000-2001	31,700	\$51,736	36,907	\$51,653	-5,207	-9.1

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), State-to-State Migration Files, 2000 to 2010

**Table 2. Top Ten States of Origin and Destination of Migrants, and Net Migration Gains:  
District of Columbia 2000-2010**

State	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005	2003-2004	2002-2003	2001-2002	2000-2001
<b>Origin (in-migrants)</b>										
Maryland	12,134	12,034	12,056	10,976	11,221	10,821	11,339	11,096	11,528	11,326
Virginia	6,650	6,044	5,896	5,745	5,873	5,872	5,590	5,267	5,752	6,128
New York	2,387	2,072	1,745	1,874	1,867	1,867	1,719	1,805	1,734	1,608
California	2,092	1,820	1,550	1,589	1,451	1,544	1,565	1,444	1,430	1,418
Pennsylvania	1,078	1,103	942	999	1,058	935	834	816	809	915
Massachusetts	1,080	1,061	898	911	970	961	907	832	761	788
Florida	1,071	950	781	824	911	820	808	811	844	941
Illinois	894	810	653	664	615	598	583	563	559	542
North Carolina	934	929	648	804	747	678	698	633	699	830
Texas	852	840	608	769	853	726	752	671	785	926
<b>Destination (out-migrants)</b>										
Maryland	15,334	14,791	16,942	17,798	18,575	19,416	18,965	18,771	18,544	18,513
Virginia	7,030	6,398	6,250	6,466	6,363	6,770	7,325	8,436	7,852	6,553
New York	1,668	1,809	1,943	1,927	1,868	1,645	1,547	1,612	1,623	1,762
California	1,510	1,531	1,645	1,564	1,466	1,390	1,343	1,319	1,476	1,697
Pennsylvania	791	749	714	717	755	674	717	678	676	629
Massachusetts	675	683	679	647	621	594	562	592	619	665
Florida	815	742	689	907	862	1,027	1,044	949	958	836
Illinois	487	592	576	602	517	476	435	382	462	453
North Carolina	779	817	762	935	906	856	775	787	740	752
Texas	749	760	681	624	685	616	588	587	602	608
<b>Net Migration</b>										
Maryland	-3,200	-2,757	-4,886	-6,822	-7,354	-8,595	-7,626	-7,675	-7,016	-7,187
Virginia	-380	-354	-354	-721	-490	-898	-1,735	-3,169	-2,100	-425
New York	719	263	-198	-53	-1	222	172	193	111	-154
California	582	289	-95	25	-15	154	222	125	-46	-279
Pennsylvania	287	354	228	282	303	261	117	138	133	286
Massachusetts	405	378	219	264	349	367	345	240	142	123
Florida	256	208	92	-83	49	-207	-236	-138	-114	105
Illinois	407	218	77	62	98	122	148	181	97	89
North Carolina	155	112	-114	-131	-159	-178	-77	-154	-41	78
Texas	103	80	-73	145	168	110	164	84	183	321

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), State-to-State Migration Files, 2000 to 2010

As shown in Table 1, during the 2000-2008 period, the District had a similar pattern of a negative net domestic migration rate ranging from negative 9.1 in 2000-2001 to negative 7.0 in 2007-2008. The negative net domestic migration rates of the District during the 2000 to 2008 period reflect the fact that outflows from the District exceeded inflows to the District, with the highest outflows in 2002-2003 (the District lost 16.2 people for every 1,000 individuals in the population).

In 2008-2009, for the first time using this data source, net domestic migration rate was positive (the District gained two people for every 1,000 individuals in the population).

The District of Columbia exchanged migrants with many states between 2000 and 2010. Table 2 shows the top ten states of domestic migration origins, destinations and net migration of the District

**Table 3. Domestic Inflows, Outflows and Net Migration: District of Columbia 2009-2010**

State	Inflows From:			Outflows To:			Net Migration
	Number	Percent	Avg. Adjusted Gross Income	Number	Percent	Avg. Adjusted Gross Income	
District total	36,647	100.0	\$50,367	34,840	100.0	\$64,159	1,807
Maryland	12,134	33.1	\$43,944	15,334	44.0	\$54,220	-3,200
Virginia	6,650	18.1	\$61,147	7,030	20.2	\$90,523	-380
New York	2,387	6.5	\$66,738	1,668	4.8	\$59,514	719
California	2,092	5.7	\$54,090	1,510	4.3	\$63,508	582
Pennsylvania	1,078	2.9	\$46,227	791	2.3	\$52,165	287
Massachusetts	1,080	2.9	\$47,394	675	1.9	\$72,354	405
Florida	1,071	2.9	\$44,363	815	2.3	\$76,995	256
North Carolina	934	2.5	\$35,689	779	2.2	\$45,571	155
Illinois	894	2.4	\$57,555	487	1.4	\$53,571	407
Texas	852	2.3	\$59,465	749	2.1	\$69,770	103
New Jersey	705	1.9	\$45,582	354	1.0	\$60,311	351
Georgia	680	1.9	\$40,122	477	1.4	\$49,184	203
Ohio	500	1.4	\$38,848	315	0.9	\$51,138	185
Washington	445	1.2	\$49,248	310	0.9	\$63,427	135
Michigan	446	1.2	\$40,860	208	0.6	\$46,309	238
Connecticut	382	1.0	\$55,627	226	0.6	\$67,073	156
Colorado	340	0.9	\$43,534	312	0.9	\$79,429	28
South Carolina	303	0.8	\$36,140	237	0.7	\$54,745	66
Minnesota	290	0.8	\$54,902	148	0.4	\$45,926	142
Tennessee	265	0.7	\$44,209	187	0.5	\$49,597	78
Missouri	249	0.7	\$43,776	142	0.4	\$53,239	107
Arizona	267	0.7	\$54,614	149	0.4	\$58,518	118
Wisconsin	210	0.6	\$33,529	112	0.3	\$50,611	98
Indiana	182	0.5	\$35,713	125	0.4	\$50,333	57
Oregon	181	0.5	\$47,480	135	0.4	\$58,938	46
Louisiana	146	0.4	\$42,077	172	0.5	\$49,723	-26
Delaware	129	0.4	\$43,111	103	0.3	\$86,627	26
New Hampshire	127	0.3	\$37,466	69	0.2	\$65,373	58
Kentucky	104	0.3	\$41,505	90	0.3	\$51,649	14
Alabama	99	0.3	\$38,308	99	0.3	\$58,704	0
Maine	112	0.3	\$41,300	64	0.2	\$71,980	48
Rhode Island	119	0.3	\$52,000	53	0.2	\$51,783	66
New Mexico	96	0.3	\$68,649	81	0.2	\$57,869	15
Kansas	111	0.3	\$42,636	71	0.2	\$47,922	40
Vermont	99	0.3	\$29,210	62	0.2	\$80,085	37
Iowa	85	0.2	\$37,000	59	0.2	\$37,388	26
West Virginia	78	0.2	\$48,169	89	0.3	\$34,721	-11
Hawaii	96	0.3	\$54,123	93	0.3	\$49,328	3
Nevada	100	0.3	\$46,314	60	0.2	\$49,824	40
Mississippi	86	0.2	\$33,237	59	0.2	\$50,421	27
Utah	79	0.2	\$36,349	38	0.1	\$41,967	41
Arkansas	74	0.2	\$50,863	54	0.2	\$42,297	20
Oklahoma	50	0.1	\$44,900	42	0.1	\$51,034	8
Alaska	58	0.2	\$72,048	48	0.1	\$56,077	10
Nebraska	52	0.1	\$42,775	46	0.1	\$72,136	6
Montana	38	0.1	\$30,111	27	0.1	\$75,056	11
Idaho	27	0.1	\$37,391	22	0.1	\$65,941	5
South Dakota	22	0.1	\$35,053	25	0.1	\$60,118	-3
Wyoming	21	0.1	\$30,125	20	0.1	\$62,667	1
North Dakota	22	0.1	\$99,889	19	0.1	\$72,250	3

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) State-to-State Migration Files, 2009-2010

of Columbia. Maryland, Virginia, New York, and California were main states of origin and destination for migrants of the District during the 2009-2010 period.

In 2009-2010, for example, of the total 36,647 migrants who moved into the District from other states, 12,134 or 33.1 percent came from Maryland, 6,650 or 18.1 came from Virginia, and the remaining 17,863 or 48.7 percent came from all other states. Similarly, of the total 34,840 out-migrants of the District in 2009-2010, 15,334 or 44 percent went to Maryland, 7,030 or 20.2 percent went to Virginia, and 12,476 or 35.8 percent went to all other states (Table 3).

However, the neighboring states were not the states that accounted for the net migration gains of the District. As presented in Table 3, in 2009-2010, the District's net domestic migration gains came from almost every state except five; only Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, West Virginia, and South Dakota received more migrants from the District than they lost to the District. The District's positive net migration from New York (719 net migrants) was the highest, followed by California (582 net migrants), Illinois (407 net migrants), and Massachusetts (405 net migrants).

### Income of Migrants

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data also provide information on income levels of migrants. It is more common for the incomes of incoming migrants to the District to be less than the incomes of outgoing migrants from the District. The only exception for this ten-year period is 2000-2001 when migrants who came into the District had slightly higher income levels than migrants who left the District.

With regard to the income of migrants by state, except for those migrants who came from New York, Illinois, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Arkansas, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, and West Virginia, all migrants from other states who came into the District in 2009-2010 had lower average adjusted gross income levels than those migrants who left the District.

**Table 4. Largest Domestic Migration Inflows and Outflows by State and Top Five Counties: District of Columbia 2009-2010**

State/County	Inflows From:		State/County	Outflows To:		Net Migration
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>12,134</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Maryland</b>	<b>15,334</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-3,200</b>
Prince George's County	6,998	57.7	Prince George's County	8,909	58.1	-1,911
Montgomery County	3,532	29.1	Montgomery County	4,695	30.6	-1,163
Baltimore city	400	3.3	Baltimore city	400	2.6	0
Anne Arundel County	331	2.7	Anne Arundel County	337	2.2	-6
Charles County	209	1.7	Charles County	315	2.1	-106
Other	664	5.5	Other	678	4.4	-14
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-380</b>
Arlington County	2,390	35.9	Arlington County	2,279	32.4	111
Fairfax County	1,677	25.2	Fairfax County	1,940	27.6	-263
Alexandria city	943	14.2	Alexandria city	1,106	15.7	-163
Prince William County	274	4.1	Prince William County	424	6.0	-150
Loudoun County	267	4.0	Loudoun County	355	5.0	-88
Other	1,099	16.5	Other	926	13.2	173
<b>New York</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>719</b>
New York County	934	39.1	New York County	767	46.0	167
Kings County	409	17.1	Kings County	336	20.1	73
Queens County	159	6.7	Queens County	111	6.7	48
Nassau County	139	5.8	Nassau County	63	3.8	76
Westchester County	105	4.4	Westchester County	51	3.1	54
Other	641	26.9	Other	340	20.4	301
<b>California</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>582</b>
Los Angeles County	543	26.0	Los Angeles County	365	24.2	178
San Diego County	292	14.0	San Diego County	265	17.5	27
San Francisco County	277	13.2	San Francisco County	209	13.8	68
Alameda County	191	9.1	Alameda County	108	7.2	83
Santa Clara County	134	6.4	Santa Clara County	97	6.4	37
Other	655	31.3	Other	466	30.9	189
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>287</b>
Philadelphia County	292	27.1	Philadelphia County	260	32.9	32
Allegheny County	135	12.5	Allegheny County	118	14.9	17
Montgomery County	111	10.3	Montgomery County	72	9.1	39
Delaware County	65	6.0	Delaware County	29	3.7	36
Bucks County	54	5.0	Bucks County	23	2.9	31
Other	421	39.1	Other	289	36.5	132

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) State-to-State and County-to-County Migration Files, 2009-2010

**Table 5. Top 20 Counties of Origin for Positive Net Migration:  
District of Columbia 2009-2010**

State	County	Inflows	Outflows	Net Migration
Illinois	Cook	654	382	272
Massachusetts	Middlesex	471	276	195
California	Los Angeles	543	365	178
New York	New York	934	767	167
Virginia	Arlington	2,390	2,279	111
Georgia	Fulton	235	142	93
Arizona	Maricopa	172	84	88
California	Alameda	191	108	83
New York	Westchester	139	63	76
Massachusetts	Suffolk	253	179	74
New York	Kings	409	336	73
Minnesota	Hennepin	137	66	71
California	San Diego	277	209	68
Ohio	Cuyahoga	116	52	64
Florida	Miami Dade	221	160	61
California	Orange	121	62	59
Massachusetts	Norfolk	119	61	58
New York	Nassau	105	51	54
Michigan	Washtenaw	112	59	53
Washington	King	253	202	51

Source: Internal Revenue Service (IRS) State-to-State and County-to-County Migration Files, 2009-2010

**Domestic Inflows and Outflows:  
District-to-County and County-to-District**

**2009-2010 Period**

The District's highest domestic migration inflows were in 2009-2010. During this period, 36,647 migrants came into the District from other states. Table 4 shows the District's largest inflows, outflows, and net migration gains in 2009-2010 for the top five states and their top five corresponding counties. Of the total 12,134 inflows from Maryland, 6,998 or 57.7 percent came from Prince George's County, 3,532 or 29.1 percent came from Montgomery County, and 1,604 or 13.2 percent came from all other counties of Maryland. Similarly, of the total 6,650 inflows from Virginia, 2,390 or 35.9 percent came from Arlington County, 1,677 or 25.2 percent came from Fairfax County, 943 migrants or 14.2 percent came from Alexandria County, and 1,640 or 24.6 percent came from other counties in Virginia. The other three states in the top five group showed similar patterns.

Domestic migration inflows and outflows of the District during the 2000-2010 period were dominated by the neighboring Prince George's and Montgomery counties of Maryland, and Arlington and Fairfax counties of Virginia. Although the District's neighboring counties (Prince George's, Montgomery, Arlington, and Fairfax) had large migration flows both to and from the District during the 2000 to 2010 period, except for Arlington county in Virginia, the District had negative net migration flows with neighboring counties. As presented in Table 5, Cook (Illinois), Middlesex (Massachusetts), Los Angeles (California), New York (New York), and Arlington (Virginia) were the top five counties of origins of net domestic migration gains of the District in 2009-2010.

*Note: This migration data source does not show demographic characteristics (age, race, gender, etc.) of the migrants and specific address or other small geographic location beyond the county level for origin and/or destination.*

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