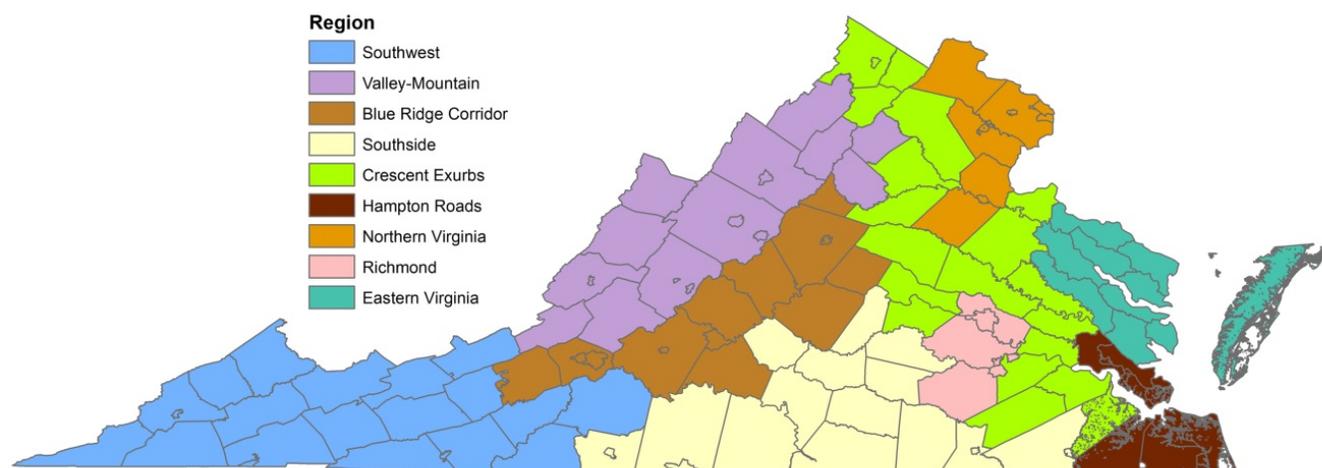


Migration Patterns and Aging among Virginia's Regions

While natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) generally represents one half of Virginia's population growth, the other half is from migration – people moving from other parts of the country and world to Virginia. In this data brief, we

provide a quick look at age-specific migration between 2000 and 2010 for Virginia and its diverse regions to address the question: how do migration patterns affect population aging, especially in rural communities? This analysis was based on these regions:



The table below shows growth and decline due to migration (not mortality) between 2000 and 2010 for major age groups of individuals of or beyond working age. We defined age groups as of 2010 and produced information about migration by comparing the size of an age group in 2000 to the size of the same group ten years older in 2010. Theoretically, over the decade, if there was no migration, the population would remain roughly the same size for younger age groups, and increasingly smaller for older age groups, due to mortality. In reality, cohort sizes often change due to migration. For example, we found that the group of 15-24-year-old Virginians was 13.8% larger in 2010 than the 5-14-year-olds ten years earlier, indicating net in-migration among that group. Likewise, the 10.1 percent decline in Northern Virginia's 65-74-year-olds means that, among those

aged 55-64 in 2000 who survived to 2010, 10 percent left the region in the decade, indicating a net out-migration.

Why does this matter? Virtually every demographic study in the past decade has documented the impact of the aging of our population's largest cohort: the so-called baby-boomers. As this cohort ages in the Commonwealth, local governments, health care providers, and social service agencies, among others, may find increasing demands on their services. Being able to accurately project the size of this growing segment of the population is essential to planning and resource allocation. If, however, increases or decreases in the older population are brought about by migration, planning must take this into account.

Age and Migration in Virginia

Cohort migration by Virginia's regions

Percentage change 2000 to 2010

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74
Blue Ridge Corridor	62.2	-20.8	2.2	6.0	5.2	5.0
Crescent Exurbs	-0.9	14.6	36.9	18.4	15.5	10.8
Eastern Virginia	-18.4	-9.3	8.7	6.9	15.9	8.9
Hampton Roads	4.1	1.9	-5.1	-5.1	-1.7	0.5
Northern Virginia	6.0	66.8	16.9	5.9	-4.1	-10.1
Richmond	16.9	21.2	6.4	3.3	-0.3	-1.2
Southside	-13.2	-6.7	3.2	4.1	7.2	5.1
Southwest	-6.0	-7.7	5.1	4.6	6.9	4.6
Valley-Mountain	-6.6	-1.0	19.1	10.3	10.9	9.8
Virginia	13.8	14.2	8.3	4.1	1.7	-0.1

Major findings are as follows:

1. The significant gains in the Commonwealth's population are among prime working-age groups, 15-54, suggesting employment-driven migration.
2. Regional patterns, however, are quite different. In urban areas, such as Northern Virginia and Richmond, the emerging workforce (25-34-year-olds by 2010) created the greatest growth, and older populations (55-74) tended to move out to pre-retirement or retirement places elsewhere. Large in-migration flows of the prime working-age population make these regions younger than the state median age of 37.
3. Rural areas, including Eastern Virginia, Southside, Southwest, and Valley-Mountain, on the other hand, displayed an opposite pattern. Significant losses among younger age groups (15-34) suggest out-migration in search of education and employment opportunities. Growth in these areas was primarily among older age cohorts migrating to rural areas for natural amenities or to return to their communities of origin. Eastern Virginia, in particular, attracts many retirees or pre-retirees, largely due to its natural amenities, such as the Chesapeake Bay, and proximity to urban centers in Washington, Hampton Roads, and Richmond. Out-migration of the young combined with in-migration of the old results in rapid population aging in these areas, with the median age above 45 in many communities.
4. The Blue Ridge Corridor, which contains major universities including UVA and Virginia Tech, shows a pattern typical of college towns by gaining 15-24-year-olds and then losing most of them when they graduate and move away.
5. Crescent Exurbs outside Virginia's major cities experienced the largest growth among the 35-44 and 45-54-year-old cohorts, who typically are in the stage of raising families. The exurbs also attract older cohorts, primarily for proximity to urban amenities.

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