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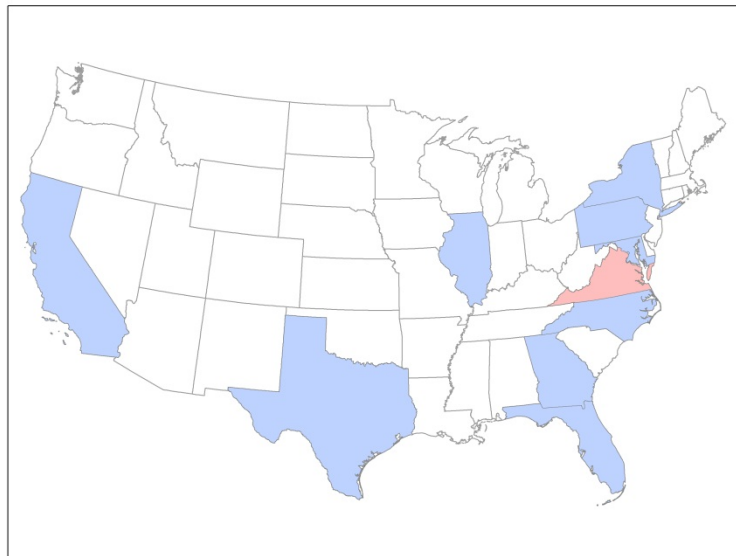
GROWING THROUGH MIGRATION – The Story in Virginia

Population growth/decline is a matter of great interest to states and localities, and is determined by the locality's birth rate, death rate, and what is called migration, that is, people moving in or out. The Census Bureau recently released the first county-to-county migration data from the American Community Survey. This tip sheet draws on that data to present annual average migration for Virginia (total population = 8 million) and shows:

- From 2005-2009, Virginia gained an estimated 29,252 persons annually as a result of migration (both domestic and international)
- More people move to Virginia from other states (domestic in-migration) than move from Virginia to other states (domestic out-migration)
- Many people move to Virginia directly from outside the United States.

Migration INTO Virginia

Between 2005 and 2009, an estimated 282,533 people moved each year into Virginia from other areas of the U.S. These new Virginia residents moved primarily from nearby states such as Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C., but also came in large numbers from California, Texas, and Illinois.



Top 10 Origin States

In addition to the new Virginia residents who moved from other parts of the U.S., some movers came from other parts of the world. The estimated annual international immigration was 59,104 people, primarily from Asian countries.

Numbers of International In-migrants

Area	Immigrants to Virginia
Asia	22,663
Europe	15,820
Central America	7,649
Africa	4,519
Caribbean	2,310
South America	2,306
Puerto Rico	1,451

Migration OUT of Virginia

Each year between 2005-2009, an estimated 253,281 Virginia residents moved to other parts of the country. Most people moved to other states on the East Coast, but large numbers also moved to California and Texas. (International outmigration is unknown because the survey is conducted only in the U.S. and Puerto Rico).

Differential impact across Virginia

The table below shows the places in Virginia to or from which most people moved. The five largest Virginia destination localities are also the largest origin localities. Fairfax County topped both lists with 87,638 in-migrants and 72,989 out-migrants.

Ten Largest Virginia Localities for In- and Out-Migration

Top 10 In-migration Counties	Number Moving In	Top 10 Out-migration Counties	Number Moving Out
Fairfax County	87,638	Fairfax County	72,979
Virginia Beach city	45,866	Virginia Beach city	42,390
Prince William County	35,450	Prince William County	34,113
Norfolk city	30,151	Norfolk city	30,635
Arlington County	29,613	Arlington County	26,926
Newport News city	26,421	Richmond city	23,405
Loudoun County	25,307	Chesapeake city	20,484
Henrico County	24,793	Henrico County	19,764
Richmond city	23,660	Alexandria city	19,022
Alexandria city	22,509	Newport News city	18,204

In addition, analysis of migration throughout the state showed that the flow of movers was localized. On average, more than 900,000 people lived in a different house within the state than they did one year earlier, but fewer than half (407,185) moved across county lines. When people did move across county lines, they typically went to neighboring localities.

Among Virginia's less populated regions - Eastern, Valley, Southside, and Southwest Virginia - the top localities for in- and out-migration were college towns, such as Montgomery County and Harrisonburg city, where Virginia Tech and James Madison University are located, respectively.

The new ACS migration data provide Census information on migration patterns for the first time since Census 2000. They enable us to understand how many people are moving and where they are locating. In Virginia, domestic in-migration outweighs domestic out-migration, and additionally, many new Virginia residents are coming from other parts of the world, often for education and employment opportunities. Migration accounts for half of Virginia's ongoing population growth.

The Census Bureau will release new county-to-county migration data in the coming years. Starting with the release of 2006-2010 migration data, the data will include selected demographic characteristics (age, gender, and race/Hispanic origin), which will allow us to learn even more about movers into and out of Virginia.

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