The Origins and Destinations of D.C. Residents

Almost two-thirds of D.C. residents in 2012 were born outside the city and they come from a number of states, according to a set of <u>elegant graphics</u> published by the New York Times on Aug. 14, 2014. To take a closer look at where people come from when they move to D.C. and where they go when the leave the city, the Office of Revenue Analysis made the maps below using <u>IRS migration data</u>. The top map shows the number of people moving into D.C. between 2010 and 2011 and their states of origin. The bottom map shows the number of people moving out of D.C. and their destinations during the same time period. The IRS migration data estimates the number of movers by counting the number of personal exemptions claimed by tax filers who change addresses from one year to the next.



In-Migration to DC, 2010-2011, by Tax Return Exemptions

Out-Migration from DC, 2010-2011, by Tax Return Exemptions



Given the geographical proximity and the constant trade-off between urban and suburban living, it is not surprising that Maryland and Virginia are the most popular destinations and origins, though there are about twice as many people migrating between Maryland and D.C. than between Virginia and D.C. New York and California have the third and fourth largest number of migrants moving both to and from D.C. It is important to note that at least with California, it is the sheer population of the state driving the large numbers. The share of California's population who move to the District are similar to the average in the nation, at approximately 0.005 percent of the originating state's population. By this metric, the top originating states for District in migration are Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. Though more than 12,000 people moved from Maryland to D.C. between 2010 and 2011, even more moved from D.C. to Maryland, resulting in a net loss from D.C. to Maryland of more than 2,500 people, the highest loss to any state. The largest net gain—388 people—came from Virginia. The table below shows the net number of migrants by state. In terms of the share of net migration in the corresponding state's population, however, Virginia ranks the fourth—the top three states on this count are Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island, with a net of five to six people moving to the District for every 100,000 residents.

(People coming to D.C. minus those moving from D.C.)			
Virginia	388	Arizona	42
New Jersey	383	Missouri	41
Massachusetts	381	Hawaii	38
Pennsylvania	330	Kansas	36
Florida	281	Vermont	35
New York	261	Utah	30
Ohio	246	Montana	24
Illinois	231	Nebraska	23
Georgia	195	Maine	22
North Carolina	190	New Mexico	21
Connecticut	148	Oklahoma	21
Washington	144	Alaska	18
Texas	136	Delaware	18
California	113	Nevada	14
Michigan	99	North Dakota	7
Wisconsin	96	South Dakota	4
South Carolina	90	Idaho	3
Minnesota	83	Oregon	2
Tennessee	82	Colorado	1
Indiana	75	Kentucky	-4
Alabama	73	West Virginia	-6
New Hampshire	59	Wyoming	-27
Rhode Island	50	Louisiana	-39
Arkansas	49	Mississippi	-176
lowa	48	Maryland	-2,583

Net Migrants* to D.C., 2010-2011

*The number of migrants comes from IRS migration data, which counts the number of personal exemptions claimed by tax filers who moved between 2010 and 2011.