



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Mobility and Migration in Pennsylvania: 2008 and 2009

PENN STATE HARRISBURG — Migration is a critical component in Pennsylvania's population growth. This research brief explores the characteristics and trends in Pennsylvania migration.

2009 Pennsylvania State Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates show that Pennsylvania's population has grown slowly but consistently since the last Census: as of July 1, 2009, Pennsylvania's population was 12,604,767, an increase of 323,696 people, or a 2.6 percent increase over 2000.

The Population Estimates program provides detailed yearly data on population change during years between Decennial Censuses, and are created by taking the last Decennial Census count, and updating the count using counts of births, deaths, and migration (both domestic and international).

Migration has been a significant source of Pennsylvania's population growth, particularly international migration. Compared to many other states, a larger share of Pennsylvania's population growth has come from international migration than from natural increase (births minus deaths) or domestic migration. (Pennsylvania is ranked fifth among the states in the ratio of net international migration to natural increase.)

Between 2000 and 2009, that trend has continued, with Pennsylvania gaining 136,359 people from total migration. Domestic migration alone, however, resulted in a net migration loss of 40,139 people, while international migration accounted for an increase of 176,498. (More recently, there was a small positive net domestic migration: between 2008 and 2009, 1,346 more people moved to Pennsylvania from other states than moved to another state).

2008 American Community Survey Mobility Data

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which replaces the Decennial Census long form data provides detailed socio-economic characteristics for small geographic areas, based a continuous sample of the population. It includes detailed statistics on geographic mobility, including breakdowns of people who moved into Pennsylvania (in-migrants) and people who moved out of state (out-migrants), by various socio-economic characteristics. (The following data relates to domestic migration only; no data is available for international out-migrants.)

Domestic Migration Patterns

Pennsylvania residents tend to remain in one place, according to the 2008 American Community Survey: in 2008, 87.4 percent of residents (1 year and older) were living in the same house they lived in a year



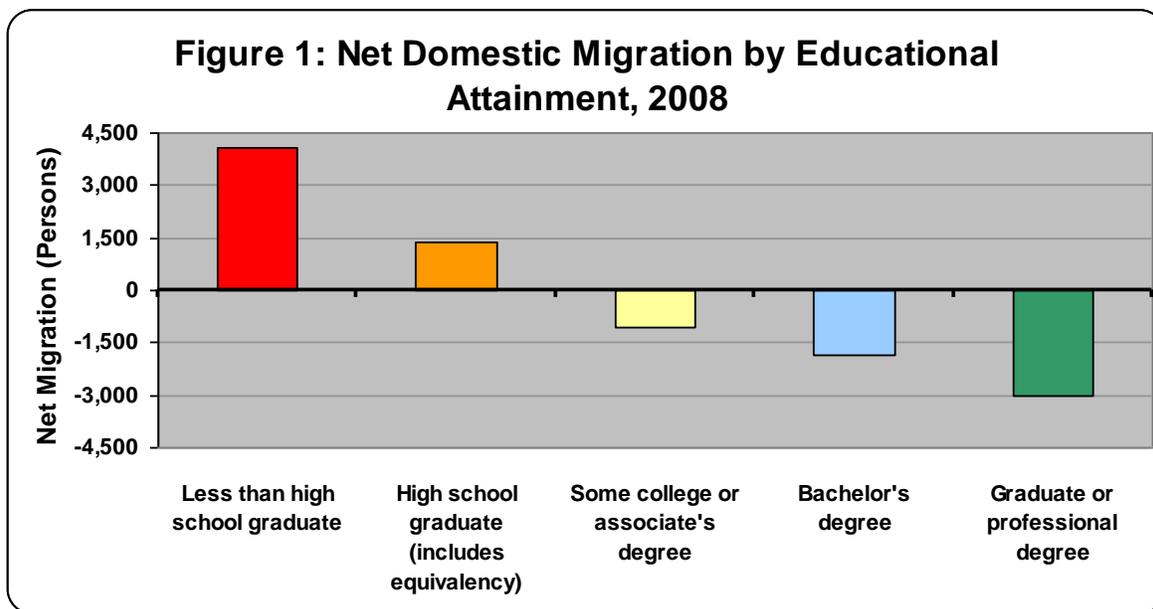
before. That ranks Pennsylvania fifth among the states in the percent of persons who remained the same home from the previous year, and above the national average of 84.4 percent.

Domestic Migration by Education, Income and Age

The detailed data available from the American Community Survey can also provide a richer portrait of the populations that are moving into and out of Pennsylvania. For example, in 2008, there was a net out-migration of persons with college degrees: 4,876 more people with a Bachelor's degree or above moved out of Pennsylvania than moved in (See Figure 1). Out-migrants tended to be more educated overall: 41.0 percent of persons moving into Pennsylvania had a college degree, while 45.5 percent of persons moving out had a college degree.

There was a small net domestic out-migration of young adults in 2008: 422 more people between the ages of 20 and 29 moved out of Pennsylvania than moved into Pennsylvania. Overall, however, out-migrants tended to be slightly older than in-migrants: in 2008, the median age for out-migrants median age was 26.3 while in-migrants had a median age of 25.7.

People moving out of Pennsylvania also tended to have larger incomes than persons moving into Pennsylvania: in 2008, in-migrants had a median income of \$18,298, while out-migrants had a median income of \$21,537.



Customized tables showing Pennsylvania's population by county may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or by emailing at PaSDC@psu.edu.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program. **Editors:** For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division (2009 Vintage); 2008 American Community Survey (American Community Survey Data is subject to sampling error. Margins of error were omitted for this report. Consult factfinder.census.gov or the PaSDC for more information on sampling error and margins of error.)