

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

One Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • Fax: (802) 828-2483

ISSUE BRIEF

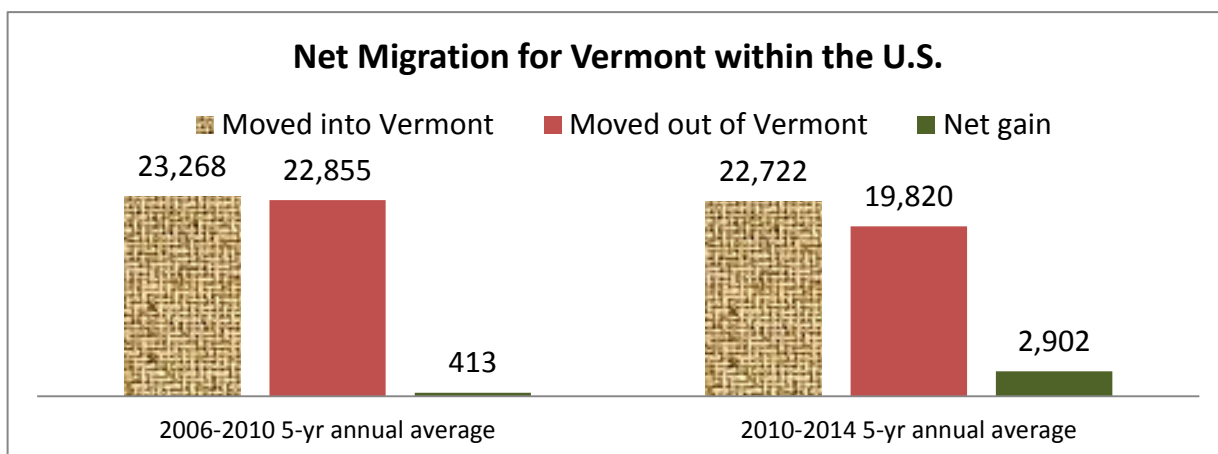
Date: January 25, 2016

Prepared by: Gabrielle Malina and Joyce Manchester

Migration by Age Group for Vermont using the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing annual survey conducted by the Census Bureau. It provides demographic information about the United States and its people, including migration into and out of each state from within the U.S. by age group. We compared annual averages from two different 5-year periods, 2006-2010 and 2010-2014, to gauge migration by age group into and out of Vermont.^{1,2}

On average each year, about 4 percent of the state's total population moved into and out of the state.³ In the years 2006 to 2010, Vermont had an average annual net gain of movers within the U.S. of 413. In the years 2010 to 2014, Vermont had an average annual net gain of movers of 2,902 driven by young adults ages 18 to 24, including college students, and older adults ages 55 to 74. How much of the change can be attributed to changes in the business cycle is difficult to say.



Net Migration for Vermont within the U.S. by Age Group, Annual Average

Age Group	1 to 17	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 plus	Total
2006-2010	493	751	-278	-10	85	-385	-185	-58	413
2010-2014	243	3136	-339	-234	-168	211	114	-61	2902

¹ The American Community Survey's strength is in estimating distributions of characteristics. It is probably the best available tool for examining migration by age for a particular state. All ACS data are estimates based on a sample of the population rather than the whole population. The 5-year annual averages are statistically adjusted and collected over a 60-month period. Because of Vermont's small population, 5-year annual averages are the most reliable estimates. Margins of error can be as large as 33 percent for individual age groups but only about 6 percent for the total. The ACS does not capture reasons for moving, such as housing, family, or employment.

² This brief focuses on migration, not total population. Births and deaths also influence changes in the total population.

³ The ACS does not capture Vermonters who moved out of the country. For that reason, we did not include immigrants into the country in the numbers for in-migration. On average, an additional 2,457 (2006-2010), and 2,372 (2010-2014) people moved to Vermont from abroad. More than half of those movers were ages 18 to 34.

- During the years 2006 to 2010, the average annual net gain for people ages 1 to 44 was 956. For people age 45 or older, 543 more people moved out of the state than moved in.
- During the years 2010 to 2014, 2,806 more people ages 1 to 44 moved into the state annually, on average, than out. Among people age 45 or older, average net in-migration was 96 people each year.
- Median age in Vermont increased from 41.0 (ACS 2006-2010) to 42.2 (ACS 2010-2014). The relatively small percentage of movers (4 percent) in the overall population and the larger net in-migration of people ages 1 to 44 during the more recent 5-year period suggest that migration did not play a significant role in that increase in median age.
- Young adults ages 18 to 24 and ages 25 to 34 were the largest groups of movers into or out of the state.
- The 2006-2010 annual average shows a net gain through migration of 751 people ages 18 to 24; the 2010-2014 annual average shows an even larger net gain of 3,136 people in the same age group. During the latter period, as discussed below, college enrollments increased by almost 2,000 out-of-state students.⁴ In the next few years, as that cohort finishes its college years, there could be an impact on Vermont's population if some proportion of those college students stays in the state.

Moved into Vermont					Moved out of Vermont					In minus Out	
	2006-2010		2010-2014			2006-2010		2010-2014		2006-2010	2010-2014
Age	annual avg	as % of movers	annual avg	as % of movers	Age	annual avg	as % of movers	annual avg	as % of movers	annual avg	annual avg
1 to 17	3,111	13.4%	2,531	11.1%	1 to 17	2,618	11.5%	2,288	11.5%	493	243
18 to 24	8,683	37.3%	9,600	42.2%	18 to 24	7,932	34.7%	6,464	32.6%	751	3,136
25 to 34	4,808	20.7%	4,302	18.9%	25 to 34	5,086	22.3%	4,641	23.4%	-278	-339
35 to 44	2,532	10.9%	1,874	8.2%	35 to 44	2,542	11.1%	2,108	10.6%	-10	-234
1 to 44	19,134	82.2%	18,307	80.6%	1 to 44	18,178	79.5%	15,501	78.2%	956	2,806
45 to 54	1,900	8.2%	1,594	7.0%	45 to 54	1,815	7.9%	1,762	8.9%	85	-168
55 to 64	1,128	4.8%	1,425	6.3%	55 to 64	1,513	6.6%	1,214	6.1%	-385	211
65 to 74	517	2.2%	812	3.6%	65 to 74	702	3.1%	698	3.5%	-185	114
75 plus	589	2.5%	584	2.6%	75 plus	647	2.8%	645	3.3%	-58	-61
45 to 75+	4,134	17.8%	4,415	19.4%	45 to 75+	4,677	20.5%	4,319	21.8%	-543	96
Total	23,268	100.0%	22,722	100.0%	Total	22,855	100.0%	19,820	100.0%	413	2,902

College Enrollments

- In 2013, full-time college enrollment in Vermont was 1,662 higher than in 2007.⁵
- Enrollment of out-of-state undergraduate students increased 1,989 from 2007 to 2013.

	Full-time undergrad	In-state	Out-of-state
2007	27,465	9,870	17,595
2013	29,127	9,543	19,584
Change	1,662	-327	1,989

- The increase in out-of-state students accounted for a significant share of the net increase in young adults ages 18 to 24 from the 2006-2010 annual average (net gain of 751) to the 2010-2014 annual average (net gain of 3,136).

⁴ According to Peterson's, about 3 percent of those out-of-state undergraduates came from other countries.

⁵ Data on college enrollments came from Vermont Higher Education Council, 2007 and 2013 Fall Enrollment Reports. We used 2007 and 2013 as representative years for the two 5-year annual averages.