

# Research Bulletin

No. 6.1 • August 2011

EMPIRE



CENTER

FOR NEW YORK STATE POLICY

A project of the  
Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

## Empire State's Half-Century Exodus: A Population Migration Overview

By E.J. McMahon and Robert Scardamalia

New York lost a net 1.6 million residents to other states between 2000 and 2010, according to 2010 Census data. The domestic migration outflow, coupled with a slowdown in foreign immigration, ensured that New York's share of the nation's population continued to slide in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

But the migration trend is also nothing new.

This paper, first in a series using the latest census data to explore population trends in the Empire State, traces the ebb and flow of migration trends to and from New York in the past 50 years. To fill gaps in the historical statewide data, we rely on a combination of decennial census records, annual population estimates and state vital statistics dating back to 1960. Our findings:

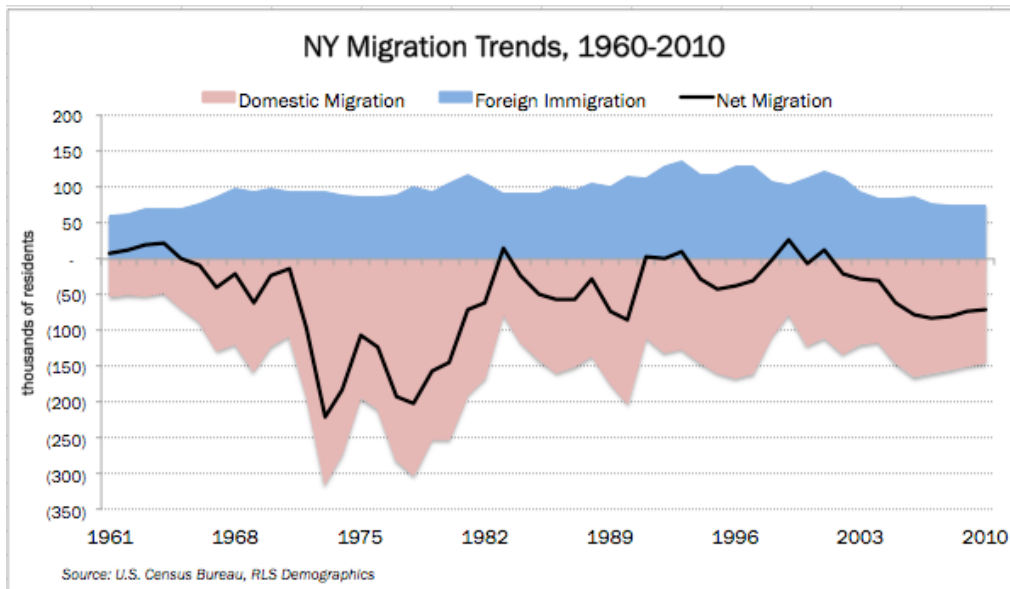
- Since 1960, New York has lost **7.3 million** residents to the rest of the country. This was partially offset by an influx of 4.8 million foreign immigrants, resulting in a net decline of 2.5 million residents.
- New York's average annual domestic migration loss – the difference between people moving in from other states and out to other states -- jumped from about 60,000 people in the 1960s to an all-time high of nearly 237,000 in the 1970s. The state's domestic migration outflows have averaged between 130,000 and 160,000 a year since 1980.
- For a second consecutive decade, New York's net population loss due to domestic migration was **the highest of any state** as a percentage of population.
- New York's net migration loss – the sum of domestic and foreign migration – increased over the last decade to **its highest level since the 1970s**. Thirteen states had negative net migration between 2000 and 2010, and only three (Illinois, Louisiana and Michigan) lost a bigger share of their populations to migration than New York.

*(2010 Census results may be challenged. See Technical Note on bottom of page 4.)*

### New York State Migration, 1960-2010

	Foreign Immigration		Domestic Migration		Net Migration	
	Total	Avg/Yr	Total	Avg/Yr	Total	Avg/Yr
1960-70	784,314	78,431	-598,107	-59,811	186,207	18,621
1970-80	930,179	93,018	-2,367,440	-236,744	-1,437,261	-143,726
1980-90	1,011,862	101,186	-1,501,145	-150,115	-489,284	-48,928
1990-00	1,193,783	119,378	-1,303,173	-130,317	-109,390	-10,939
2000-10	895,150	89,515	-1,570,310	-157,031	-675,160	-67,516
	4,815,288	96,306	-7,340,175	-146,804	-2,524,888	-50,498

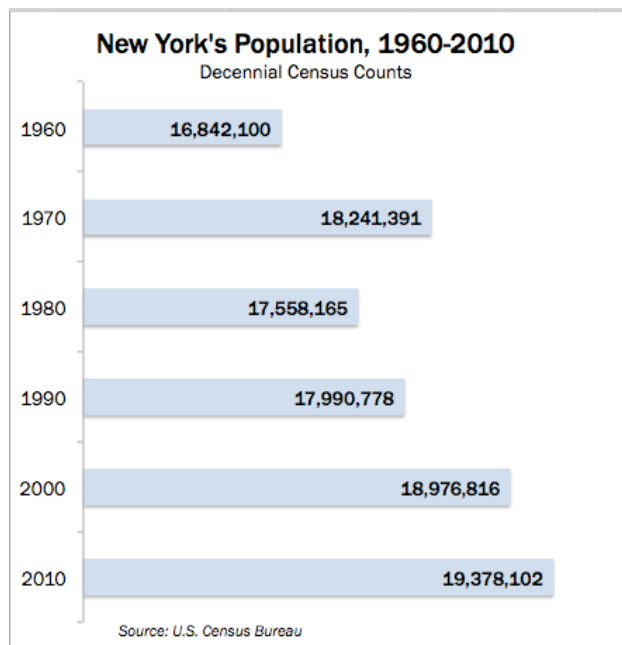
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, RLS Demographics



Immigration to New York from foreign countries peaked at 1.2 million people in the 1990s, balancing out 91 percent of the loss due to the domestic migration of New Yorkers to other states. As a result, New York's net migration loss in the 1990s was the lowest of any decade in the past 50 years – a total of just 109,000 people. But foreign immigration dropped by 25 percent to a total of just 895,150 in the past decade, reaching the lowest level since the 1960s. As a result, between 2000 and 2010, New York sustained its biggest net migration loss since the 1980s. New York's foreign-born population, which had risen sharply in the 1980s through the 1990s, increased only slightly in the past decade. As of 2010, New York's foreign-born population was about 21 percent of the total, second only to California's 27 percent.

As illustrated above, the 1970s was by far New York's worst decade in the past 50 years in terms of domestic migration outflows. This was also the first (and so far only) decade on record in which the Empire State's population actually declined.

The increase of 2 million people in the state's total population since 1980, despite the continuing net outflow of residents to the rest of the country, can be attributed mainly to the "natural increase" of births over deaths. But since New York's population has risen much more slowly than the national average, it has lost 10 congressional seats since 1980, and will lose two more based on 2010 census results.



## Components of Migration, 2000-2010

	Foreign Immigration			Domestic Migration			Net Migration		
	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Rank <sup>2</sup>	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Rank <sup>2</sup>	Total	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Rank <sup>2</sup>
Alabama	54,666	1.23	39	111,040	2.50	18	165,707	3.73	21
Alaska	9,130	1.46	36	-7,591	-1.21	34	1,539	0.25	38
Arizona	292,440	5.70	4	423,710	8.26	5	716,149	13.96	3
Arkansas	39,203	1.47	35	81,971	3.07	16	121,175	4.53	19
California	1,939,185	5.73	3	-1,965,599	-5.80	47	-26,414	-0.08	39
Colorado	154,584	3.59	13	136,288	3.17	15	290,872	6.76	13
Connecticut	121,451	3.57	14	-92,519	-2.72	41	28,932	0.85	32
Delaware	21,028	2.68	23	46,255	5.90	8	67,283	8.59	7
District of Columbia	25,723	4.50	8	-22,851	-3.99	43	2,873	0.50	34
Florida	916,738	5.74	2	1,346,296	8.42	4	2,263,035	14.16	2
Georgia	302,500	3.69	11	393,074	4.80	11	695,575	8.50	9
Hawaii	42,074	3.47	15	5,437	0.45	28	47,511	3.92	20
Idaho	23,751	1.84	27	111,940	8.65	3	135,691	10.49	5
Illinois	430,627	3.47	16	-880,248	-7.09	49	-449,621	-3.62	49
Indiana	100,168	1.65	32	-51,332	-0.84	33	48,837	0.80	33
Iowa	38,692	1.32	38	-45,009	-1.54	36	-6,317	-0.22	40
Kansas	56,138	2.09	25	-64,864	-2.41	40	-8,726	-0.32	41
Kentucky	47,786	1.18	41	74,980	1.85	22	122,767	3.04	24
Louisiana	35,668	0.80	45	-224,845	-5.03	44	-189,177	-4.23	50
Maine	8,704	0.68	48	30,690	2.41	19	39,394	3.09	23
Maryland	205,768	3.88	10	-76,806	-1.45	35	128,961	2.43	27
Massachusetts	263,435	4.15	9	-328,695	-5.18	45	-65,260	-1.03	44
Michigan	180,082	1.81	28	-708,110	-7.12	50	-528,027	-5.31	51
Minnesota	113,817	2.31	24	-90,653	-1.84	37	23,164	0.47	35
Mississippi	19,054	0.67	49	-61,106	-2.15	38	-42,052	-1.48	45
Missouri	68,026	1.22	40	64,900	1.16	25	132,926	2.38	28
Montana	3,310	0.37	50	46,605	5.17	9	49,915	5.53	16
Nebraska	34,277	2.00	26	-40,540	-2.37	39	-6,263	-0.37	42
Nevada	118,782	5.94	1	385,983	19.32	1	504,765	25.26	1
New Hampshire	19,689	1.59	33	10,658	0.86	26	30,347	2.46	26
New Jersey	427,489	5.08	5	-492,878	-5.86	48	-65,390	-0.78	43
New Mexico	50,942	2.80	22	35,235	1.94	21	86,177	4.74	18
<b>New York</b>	<b>895,150</b>	<b>4.72</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-1,570,310</b>	<b>-8.27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-675,160</b>	<b>-3.56</b>	<b>48</b>
North Carolina	230,920	2.87	21	714,548	8.88	2	945,468	11.75	4
North Dakota	4,981	0.78	46	-2,274	-0.35	30	2,707	0.42	36
Ohio	129,215	1.14	42	-412,728	-3.64	42	-283,513	-2.50	46
Oklahoma	57,560	1.67	31	56,879	1.65	24	114,438	3.32	22
Oregon	101,814	2.98	20	128,821	3.77	12	230,635	6.74	14
Pennsylvania	190,322	1.55	34	32,201	0.26	29	222,523	1.81	29
Rhode Island	32,325	3.08	19	-58,947	-5.62	46	-26,622	-2.54	47
South Carolina	71,471	1.78	29	330,099	8.23	6	401,570	10.01	6
South Dakota	7,067	0.94	43	3,764	0.50	27	10,832	1.43	30
Tennessee	98,590	1.73	30	286,499	5.04	10	385,088	6.77	12
Texas	998,690	4.79	6	781,542	3.75	13	1,780,232	8.54	8
Utah	70,371	3.15	17	37,098	1.66	23	107,469	4.81	17
Vermont	5,308	0.87	44	-3,487	-0.57	32	1,821	0.30	37
Virginia	219,986	3.11	18	199,650	2.82	17	419,635	5.93	15
Washington	217,347	3.69	12	197,800	3.36	14	415,147	7.04	11
West Virginia	6,040	0.33	51	39,059	2.16	20	45,099	2.49	25
Wisconsin	75,399	1.41	37	-19,910	-0.37	31	55,489	1.03	31
Wyoming	3,559	0.72	47	33,802	6.85	7	37,360	7.57	10

<sup>1</sup> Rate is percentage of population in previous decennial census.

<sup>2</sup> Rate ranked from highest to lowest

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, RLS Demographics

Between 2000 and 2010, as shown in the table on page 3, New York was one of 22 states (plus the District of Columbia) that lost more residents than they gained due to migration within the United States. The domestic migration losers were concentrated in the northeast and Midwest, while the biggest gains were experienced by states in the southeast and west. Exceptions to this pattern included Maine, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania, all of which gained residents from other states. New York's loss of nearly 1.6 million residents to domestic migration was equivalent to 8.27 percent of its base population at the start of the period, higher than any state or the District of Columbia.

All 50 states registered population gains from foreign immigration between 2000 and 2010. New York ranked fourth in total foreign immigrants, and seventh in foreign immigration as a rate of base population. But combining the two measures, domestic migration and foreign immigration, only 13 states including New York were net migration losers, and New York's 3.56 percent rate of net migration loss was the third highest. Other net migration losers were California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Ohio, Rhode Island and Illinois. As shown below, New York City was the epicenter of migration in and out of New York State.

#### New York Counties, Components of Migration, 2000-2010<sup>1</sup>

	Foreign Immigration	Domestic Migration	Net Migration	Net Rate <sup>2</sup>		Foreign Immigration	Domestic Migration	Net Migration	Net Rate <sup>2</sup>
Albany County	5,604	(364)	5,240	1.8%	Oneida County	5,371	(6,722)	(1,351)	-0.6%
Allegany County	211	(1,866)	(1,656)	-3.3%	Onondaga County	8,071	(15,361)	(7,290)	-1.6%
Broome County	3,035	(3,446)	(411)	-0.2%	Ontario County	706	4,796	5,502	5.5%
Cattaraugus County	107	(5,386)	(5,280)	-6.3%	Orange County	5,729	(1,776)	3,952	1.2%
Cayuga County	222	(3,262)	(3,040)	-3.7%	Orleans County	124	(2,253)	(2,129)	-4.8%
Chautauqua County	587	(6,051)	(5,464)	-3.9%	Oswego County	277	(4,086)	(3,809)	-3.1%
Chemung County	361	(3,925)	(3,564)	-3.9%	Otsego County	150	796	946	1.5%
Chenango County	30	(1,128)	(1,099)	-2.1%	Putnam County	1,894	(2,919)	(1,025)	-1.1%
Clinton County	482	276	759	0.9%	Rensselaer County	2,077	1,743	3,819	2.5%
Columbia County	503	173	676	1.1%	Rockland County	10,941	(11,595)	(654)	-0.2%
Cortland County	221	(629)	(408)	-0.8%	St. Lawrence County	735	(2,679)	(1,944)	-1.7%
Delaware County	100	773	873	1.8%	Saratoga County	1,196	8,783	9,979	5.0%
Dutchess County	5,516	2,361	7,877	2.8%	Schenectady County	2,267	2,840	5,107	3.5%
Erie County	9,369	(46,514)	(37,146)	-3.9%	Schoharie County	10	1,140	1,150	3.6%
Essex County	92	798	890	2.3%	Schuyler County	(2)	(868)	(870)	-4.5%
Franklin County	65	(269)	(204)	-0.4%	Seneca County	194	1,310	1,504	4.5%
Fulton County	322	101	423	0.8%	Steuben County	374	(1,576)	(1,203)	-1.2%
Genesee County	218	(1,401)	(1,183)	-2.0%	Suffolk County	31,446	(35,574)	(4,127)	-0.3%
Greene County	210	1,550	1,760	3.0%	Sullivan County	1,140	542	1,682	2.3%
Hamilton County	(2)	(289)	(291)	-5.4%	Tioga County	135	(2,457)	(2,322)	-4.5%
Herkimer County	134	120	255	0.4%	Tompkins County	5,558	(3,736)	1,822	1.9%
Jefferson County	(863)	(3,263)	(4,127)	-3.7%	Ulster County	1,731	259	1,990	1.1%
Lewis County	(26)	(805)	(831)	-3.1%	Warren County	255	1,891	2,146	3.4%
Livingston County	94	(359)	(265)	-0.4%	Washington County	112	1,556	1,668	2.7%
Madison County	243	2,031	2,275	3.3%	Wayne County	329	(3,567)	(3,238)	-3.5%
Monroe County	13,040	(29,279)	(16,239)	-2.2%	Westchester County	51,118	(76,028)	(24,909)	-2.7%
Montgomery County	192	460	652	1.3%	Wyoming County	66	(2,012)	(1,946)	-4.5%
Nassau County	32,403	(71,907)	(39,504)	-3.0%	Yates County	84	128	212	0.9%
Niagara County	1,429	(5,407)	(3,979)	-3.0%	New York City	689,932	(1,147,437)	(457,506)	-5.7%

1 Data from April 1 Census estimates, which do not match decennial Census figures

2 Net migration as percentage of 2000 estimated population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, RLS Demographics

**Technical note:** The official 2010 Census results for New York City, which are incorporated in the statewide data cited in this report, were 200,000 below the Census Bureau's July 2009 estimate. The Census showed an unexpected increase of 82,000 vacant housing units in New York City, which city officials believe to be inaccurate. As a result, the city may challenge the figures through the Census Bureau's Count Question Resolution program. Any addition to the 2010 Census count for the city would have the effect of reducing the net migration total for New York State during the past decade.