
New Hampshire Led New England in Net Domestic Migration

New Hampshire has consistently held the lead in net domestic migration since 1990.

New Hampshire ranked first in net domestic migration when compared to other New England states during the period July 1998 — July 1999.¹ The state has consistently held this lead since 1990.² Net domestic migration refers to the difference between those migrating into New Hampshire from other parts of the U.S. and those migrating out of New Hampshire to other parts of the U.S. The highest population increase from domestic migration within New England was 9,185 for New Hampshire. Connecticut had the highest decrease in population from domestic migration, -11,447.

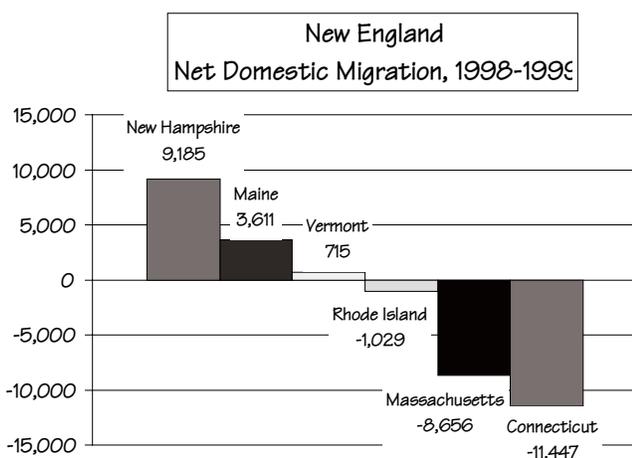
New Hampshire is consistently rated as one of the most child-friendly, safest, healthiest, and most livable states in the country. This has likely played some part in our net domestic migration. When compared to all fifty states, New Hampshire ranked fourteenth in net domestic migration. This by itself is an impressive statistic given New Hampshire is such a small state that it ranked forty-first with

an estimated population of only 1,201,134. Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island ranked twentieth, twenty-third, and twenty-eighth, respectively for domestic migration while Massachusetts and Connecticut ranked thirty-ninth and forty-first respectively.

Net international migration provides a somewhat different story. New Hampshire came in ahead of only two of its neighbors with a total of 1,133. Vermont showed net international migration of 928 and Maine had a total of 527. The other three New England states attracted more international migration than New Hampshire. While Rhode Island was only slightly ahead of us in this category with 1,553, Massachusetts and Connecticut pulled well ahead of us with totals of 14,939 and 8,259 respectively. New Hampshire ranked forty-second in net international migration.

New Hampshire had an average unemployment rate of 2.7 percent in 1999 and a March 2000 rate of 2.1 percent. These were among the lowest in the nation in recent times, and as a result, companies are having difficulty finding new employees. The new jobs available exceed the number of new employees to fill those jobs. This creates a gap in our economic position. One solution that employers may turn to is increased domestic and international in-migration.

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¹ Information in this article is largely attributable to data published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

² 1995-1998 Vital Signs