New Hampshire’s Change in Population and Demographics of Movers

As of July 2012, New Hampshire’s resident population reached 1,320,718, an increase of 4,249, or 0.3 percent from the April 2010 decennial census results. The percentage change ranked 45th among all states including the District of Columbia (1 represents the largest percent change).

New Hampshire’s resident population was the 10th smallest among all the states and the District of Columbia. Because state population counts vary widely, comparing relative size among states can distort the significance of numerical change. Percentage change provides a more representative comparison between all states.

New Hampshire’s 0.3 percent increase (nominal population growth) was not unique among the New England states. Population increase in Maine was a mere 0.1 percent (ranked 48th), while in Vermont, population was nearly unchanged (ranked 49th). Rhode Island’s population declined by 0.2 percent, ranking 51st or last place. Connecticut had a slightly higher percent increase than the Granite State, growing by 0.5 percent (ranked 43rd), and Massachusetts had the highest percent increase in New England at 1.5 percent (ranked 28th). All of the New England states were below the national average increase of 1.7 percent.

There are two dynamic components that contribute to the net change in population — natural increase and net migration. Natural increase, or births minus deaths, added 5,094 residents to New Hampshire’s population. From April 2010 to July 2012, there were 28,428 births and 23,334 deaths among New Hampshire’s residents.

This increase was negated to a degree by the decrease of 389 residents resulting from net migration. Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into the state and the number of people moving out of state. This component also has two factors. International net migration, or the difference between those moving into or out of the state from/to another country, totaled 3,951 new residents. However, the state lost 4,340 residents to domestic net migration, or the difference between those moving into or out of the state from/to another part of the U.S.


New Hampshire Components of Population Change
April 2010 to July 2012
Total Population Change = 4,249

- Natural Increase
  - Births: 28,428
  - Deaths: 23,334

- Net Migration
  - Net International Migration: 3,951
  - Net Domestic Migration: -4,340

Domestic In-Migration to New Hampshire, 2011 (American Community Survey)

In 2011, a total of 159,129 individuals changed residences within or moved to New Hampshire. Of those, 122,129 moved from one residence to another within the state, while 37,000 came from other states.³

Fourteen states each had more than 500 residents moving into New Hampshire, accounting for over 85 percent of domestic in-migrants in 2011. The three bordering states had the largest numbers of in-migrants to New Hampshire. Massachusetts far exceeded other state-to-state in-migrants with over 15,500. The state’s other two neighbors had the next largest in-migration numbers: almost 3,100 from Maine and just over 2,100 from Vermont. The largest number of in-migrants from outside New England came from Florida, with 1,970 people moving to New Hampshire.

Demographics of people moving within and to New Hampshire

Another set of data compiled from the ACS one-year estimates provides demographics of the population of movers one year of age and older. These were sorted into four cohorts:

- Movers within the same county, in state – estimated total population 92,703, age one year and older
- Movers from county to county, in state – estimated total population 30,031 age one year and older
- Movers from different states – estimated total population 36,559 age one year and older
- Movers from abroad – estimated total population 5,223 age one year and older

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² The American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau conducts regular surveys of state populations. These results are from the one-year survey estimates in which participants were asked if they were living in the same residence as they had been 12 months earlier. If the respondent said no, they were then asked to identify the location of the previous residence. The survey includes persons one year of age or older, with parents responding for children.

In 2011, among the population age one year and older, the median age in New Hampshire was estimated as 41.8 years. The four cohorts of movers each had a lower median age. Of individuals moving within the state, those who moved from one county to a residence in another county had the lowest median age, 25.7 years. Those who moved to a different residence within the same county had a median age of 27.5 years. The cohort with the highest median age was those that had moved to New Hampshire from another state. This group had a median age of 30.2 years. The cohort smallest in size, movers from abroad, had a median age of 25.8 years.

Among those moving within or to New Hampshire, the share of females was larger than the share of males in all but one cohort. Those moving within New Hampshire (either within the same county or those moving from one county to another) and those moving in from abroad all had larger shares of females. Only those mov-

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Educational attainment of movers was estimated for the population age 25 years and older. Although movers from abroad had the smallest numbers, this cohort had the largest share of movers at both ends of the educational attainment scale - those with a graduate or professional degree and those with less than a high school diploma. Those moving within the state – county to county or within the same county – were more likely to be high school graduates (including equivalency) or have some college or an associate’s degree. The cohort with the largest share of movers with a Bachelor’s degree was the group from a different state.

Among all persons who moved within or to New Hampshire, most live in renter-occupied units. People changing residence within the state were more likely to be renters – three-quarters of those moving in the same New Hampshire county and two-thirds of those moving between New Hampshire counties lived in rented units. About half of those who moved into the state from outside New Hampshire were renters.

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