Domestic Net Migration in the United States: 2000 to 2004

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By
Marc J. Perry

Migration is playing a larger role in population redistribution within the United States. With birth and death rates currently low and largely similar across the country, natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) exerts less influence than it used to in explaining why some regions, states, or counties have faster population growth than others.

This report describes recent patterns of population redistribution reflected in the domestic net migration component of population estimates data.[1] Analysis will focus on net migration for a number of different kinds of geographic areas, including regions, divisions, states, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, and counties. While limited to domestic net migration, this report is similar to several of the migration reports in the Census 2000 Special Reports series that covered both domestic and international migration.[2] The primary focus of this report is the post-Census 2000 period (July 1, 2000, through July 1, 2004), although annualized migration data for the period 1990 to 2000 are included to provide

Definitions and Explanations

Migration is commonly defined as a move that crosses jurisdictional boundaries. Local moves–for instance, those within a county—are considered residential mobility and are not included in this report. *Domestic* migration is the movement of people within the United States. *International* migration is the migration of people across country borders. *In*migration is movement into an area during a given period, while *out*migration is movement out of an area during a given period.

Net migration for a given geographic area is the difference between inmigration and outmigration during a specified time frame. Net migration can be either positive or negative. Positive net migration indicates net *in*migration, while negative net migration indicates net *out*migration. In this report, the net migration *rate* for a particular period is calculated by dividing total net domestic migration by the average population living in that area over the period and multiplying the resulting figure by 1,000.

[1] The data in this report are from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program and are based largely on administrative records data. The county population estimates covering the period July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2004, are vintage 2004 estimates released to the public in 2005. The population estimates for the period July 1, 1990, to July 1, 2000, are vintage 2000 estimates available at <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>. The population universe is the resident population of the United States (the 50 states and District of Columbia).

[2] See Rachel S. Franklin, 2003, *Domestic Migration Across Regions, Divisions, and States: 1995 to 2000*, Washington, DC, Census 2000 Special Report, CENSR-7, U.S. Census Bureau, available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-7.pdf> and Jason P. Schachter, Rachel S. Franklin, and Marc J. Perry, 2003, *Migration and Geographic Mobility in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan America: 1995 to 2000,* Washington, DC, Census 2000 Special Report, CENSR-9, U.S. Census Bureau, available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-9.pdf>.

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Table 1.
Total and Average Annual Domestic Net Migration for Regions and Divisions: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004

(Rates per 1,000 midpoint population)

Region/division	Total number		Average annual number		Average annual rate	
	1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004
Northeast	**–3,144,570**	**–987,262**	**–314,457**	**–246,816**	**–6.1**	**–4.6**
New England	–495,961	–113,536	–49,596	–28,384	–3.7	–2.0
Middle Atlantic	–2,648,609	–873,726	–264,861	–218,432	–7.0	–5.5
Midwest	**–730,087**	**–644,792**	**–73,009**	**–161,198**	**–1.2**	**–2.5**
East North Central	–844,723	–533,163	–84,472	–133,291	–1.9	–2.9
West North Central	114,636	–111,629	11,464	–27,907	0.6	–1.4
South	**3,801,093**	**1,411,172**	**380,109**	**352,793**	**4.1**	**3.4**
South Atlantic	2,538,633	1,250,540	253,863	312,635	5.4	5.8
East South Central	629,824	78,435	62,982	19,609	3.9	1.1
West South Central	632,636	82,197	63,264	20,549	2.2	0.6
West	**73,564**	**220,882**	**7,356**	**55,221**	**0.1**	**0.8**
Mountain	1,804,226	523,235	180,423	130,809	11.6	6.9
Pacific	–1,730,662	–302,353	–173,066	–75,588	–4.1	–1.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004. For additional information, see <www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2004-04.html> and <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

a historical perspective on the migration patterns discussed. All migration figures in this report refer to *domestic* migration and do not include migration exchanges between the United States and other countries or U.S. territories, possessions, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The domestic migration figures may include people who are native or foreign born. For readability, domestic net migration in the text of this report will be termed *net migration*.

Migration Patterns for Regions and Divisions

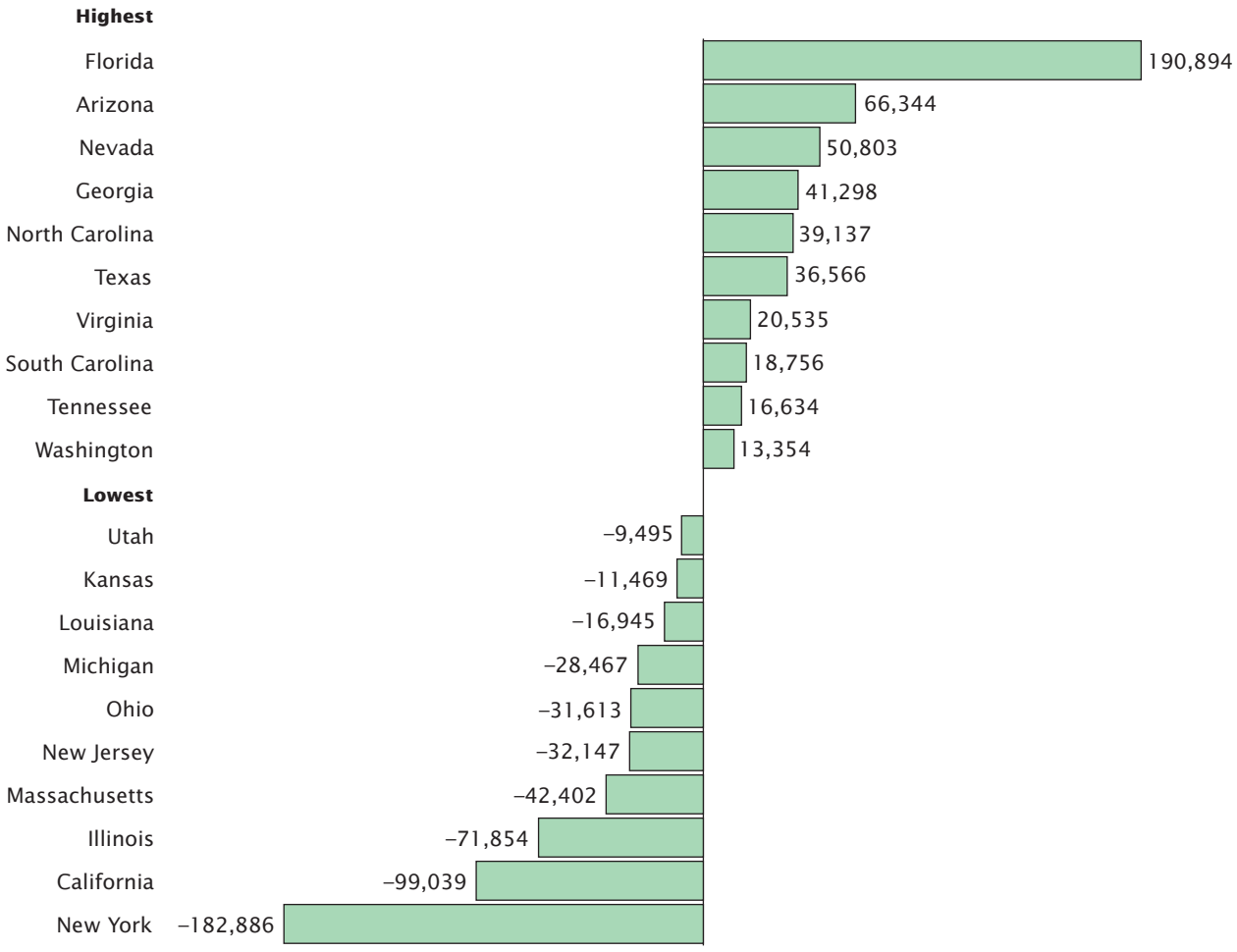
At the broadest geographic levels—the four regions and their nine divisions—differences in migration patterns are apparent (Table 1). Net outmigration from the Northeast region has moderated in recent years, dropping from an average of 314,000 per year in the 1990s (an outmigration rate of 6.1 per 1,000) to 247,000 per year (a rate of 4.6 per 1,000) between 2000 and 2004.[3] In the Northeast's New England division, average annual net outmigration fell from 50,000 to 28,000. Net outmigration from the Middle Atlantic division also declined, from 265,000 to 218,000, but its net outmigration rate of 5.5 per 1,000 remained the highest of the nine divisions.

Net outmigration from the Midwest, which averaged about 73,000 per year in the 1990s, increased to 161,000 per year in the post-2000 period. This increase in net outmigration reflects both the East North Central division's increase in average annual net outmigration from 84,000 to 133,000 and the West North Central division's reversal from net inmigration in the 1990s to outmigration in the later period.

The South remained the primary destination for migrants within the United States, with average net inmigration of 353,000 annually (a rate of 3.4 per 1,000) between 2000 and 2004. While these were the highest figures of any region, they reflect a modest decline from even higher migration figures for the 1990s, when net inmigration averaged 380,000 per year (a rate of 4.1 per 1,000). This decline was due entirely to steep declines in net inmigration for the East and West South Central divisions. In the East South Central division,

[3] The Northeast region includes the New England division (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) and the Middle Atlantic division (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania). The Midwest region includes the East North Central division (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin) and the West North Central division (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas). The South region includes the South Atlantic division (Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida), the East South Central division (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi), and the West South Central division (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas). The West region includes the Mountain division (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada) and the Pacific division (Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, and Hawaii).

Figure 1.
Highest and Lowest Average Annual Levels of Net Domestic Migration for States: 2000–2004



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004.

average annual net inmigration dropped from 63,000 per year in the 1990s to 20,000 per year between 2000 and 2004, while average annual net inmigration in the West South Central division dropped from 63,000 per year to 21,000 per year. In contrast, the South Atlantic division, the most populous of the region's three divisions, saw its net inmigration increase from an average of 254,000 per year in the 1990s (5.4 per 1,000) to 313,000 per year (5.8 per 1,000) in 2000–2004.

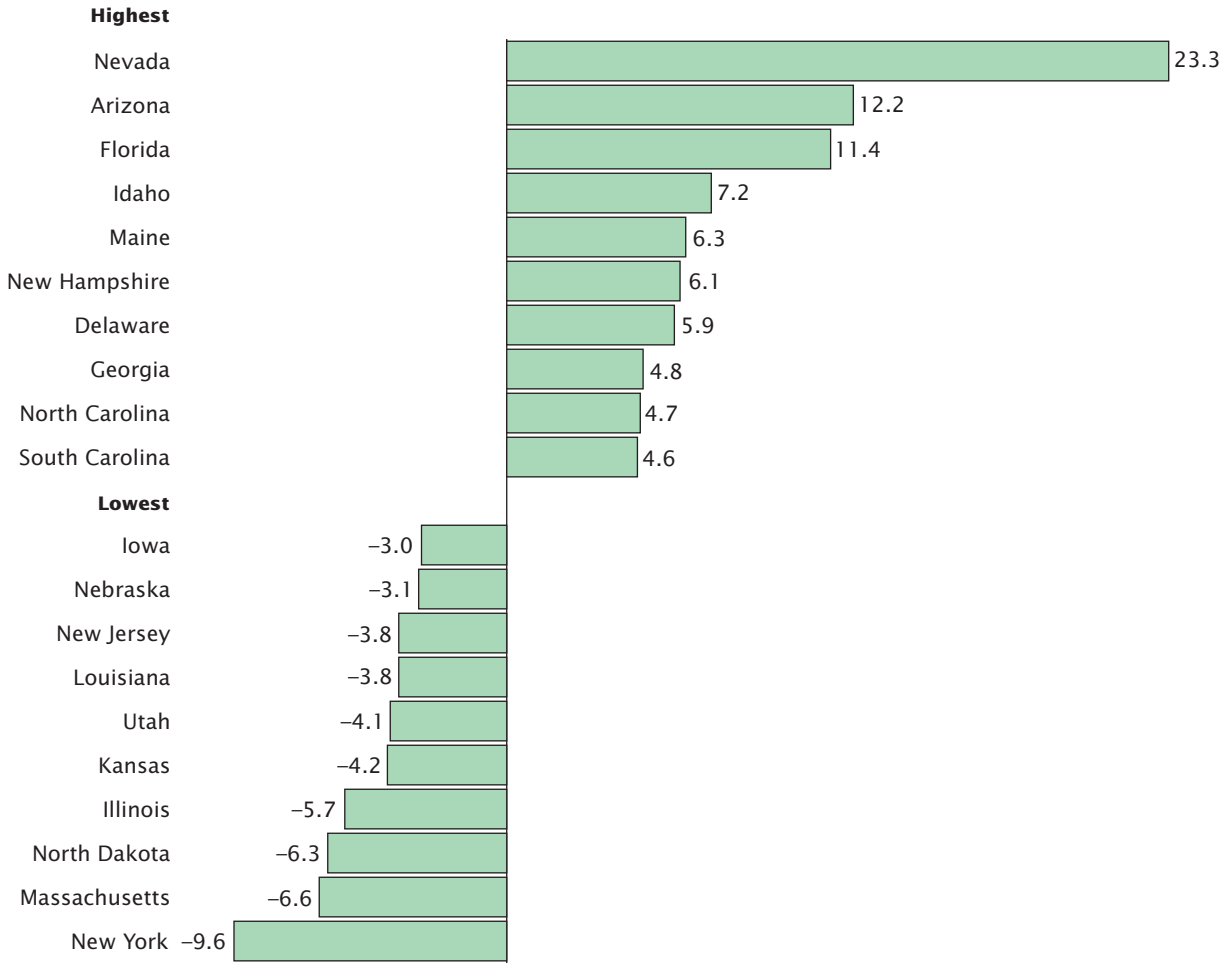
Net inmigration to the West averaged 55,000 per year (a rate of 0.8 per 1,000) for the period 2000 to 2004, up from an average net inmigration of 7,000 per year (a rate of 0.1) in the 1990s. The region's two divisions continued to follow different migration patterns. The rapidly growing Mountain division averaged net inmigration of 131,000 per year (a rate of 6.9) for 2000–2004, compared with 180,000 per year (11.6 per 1,000) in the 1990s. The Pacific division continued to experience net outmigration in the period 2000–2004 (76,000 per year, a net outmigration rate of 1.6), but at lower levels than the 1990s, when net outmigration averaged 173,000 per year, for a net outmigration rate of 4.1.

The migration story at this broad geographic level is one of net outmigration from the Northeast and the Midwest and net inmigration to the South. Within the Northeast, New England continued to experience net outmigration between 2000 and 2004, but at lower levels than during the 1990s. Within the West, net inmigration continued to

Figure 2.

Highest and Lowest Average Annual Rates of Net Domestic Migration for States: 2000–2004

(Rates per 1,000 average population based on population estimates for July 1, 2000, and July 1, 2004)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004.

the Mountain division and net outmigration occurred from the Pacific division; in both cases, these trends moderated from the 1990s' pace. The South continued to have the most net inmigration of any region, due to the continued higher levels of net inmigration to the South Atlantic division. Net inmigration to the East South Central and West South Central divisions dropped from their respective average annual levels in the 1990s.

State-Level Migration

Migration patterns for the individual states varied for the period 2000 to 2004. Florida had the largest annualized amount of net inmigration during 2000–2004, averaging 191,000 per year (Figure 1). Arizona (66,000) and Nevada (51,000) were second and third, respectively. Of the 10 states with the largest annualized net migration amounts for the period, 7 are located in the South and 3 are located in the West.

New York, in contrast, had the largest annualized net outmigration during the period, averaging 183,000. California (99,000) and Illinois (72,000) were ranked second and third, respectively. Three of the 10 states with the most net outmigration between 2000 and 2004 are located in the Northeast, 4 are in the Midwest, 1 is in the South, and 2 are in the West.

Nevada had the highest annualized net migration rate of any state,

23.3 per 1,000 average population for the period, with Arizona (12.2) a distant second (Figure 2). New York (–9.6) and Massachusetts (–6.6) had the lowest rates of any states, that is, the highest rates of net outmigration. The rate for the District of Columbia was –18.1.

Comparison With the State-Level Patterns of the 1990s

Domestic migration patterns by state were different in the period 2000 to 2004 than they were in the 1990s (Table 2). Hawaii and Rhode Island registered the largest rate increases among the states. Hawaii's rate went from –10.3 to –1.7, while Rhode Island switched from net outmigration (–6.1) to net inmigration (1.3). In the period 2000–2004, the average annual rate of net outmigration for the District of Columbia declined to 18.1 from a rate of 26.1 in the 1990s.

Nevada's net migration rate, which dropped from 29.8 to 23.3, remained highest in the country, while Colorado's rate fell from 11.7 to 1.9. Other large declines occurred in Utah (from 3.5 to –4.1), Idaho (12.4 to 7.2), and Georgia (10.0 to 4.8).

Compared with the 1990s, 21 states and the District of Columbia had higher average annual levels of net migration in 2000–2004, while 29 states had lower levels. California experienced the largest numerical change in average annual net migration between the 1990s and the 2000–2004 period. While the state continued to experience net outmigration between 2000 and 2004, the average annual net outmigration of 99,000 was smaller than the comparable figure of 221,000 per year during the 1990s. Florida had the second-largest numerical change in average net migration, going from 112,000 per year to 191,000 per year.

One consequence of the drop in net outmigration from California is the corresponding drop in the number of potential inmigrants to other states from California. During the 1990s, outmigration from California led to substantial migration gains for many western states. As California's net outmigration has lessened in recent years, so too has net inmigration to many of these states.

Most states that experienced net inmigration in both periods are in the South and the West, but the pattern is not geographically uniform (Figure 3). Two southern states (Mississippi and Oklahoma), two midwestern states (Indiana and Minnesota), and one western state (Utah) switched from net inmigration states in the 1990s to net outmigration states in 2000–2004. In the Northeast, Maine and Rhode Island reversed from net outmigration states in the 1990s to net inmigration states during 2000–2004, as did Maryland in the South and Wyoming in the West.

Table 2.
Total and Average Annual Domestic Net Migration for States: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004

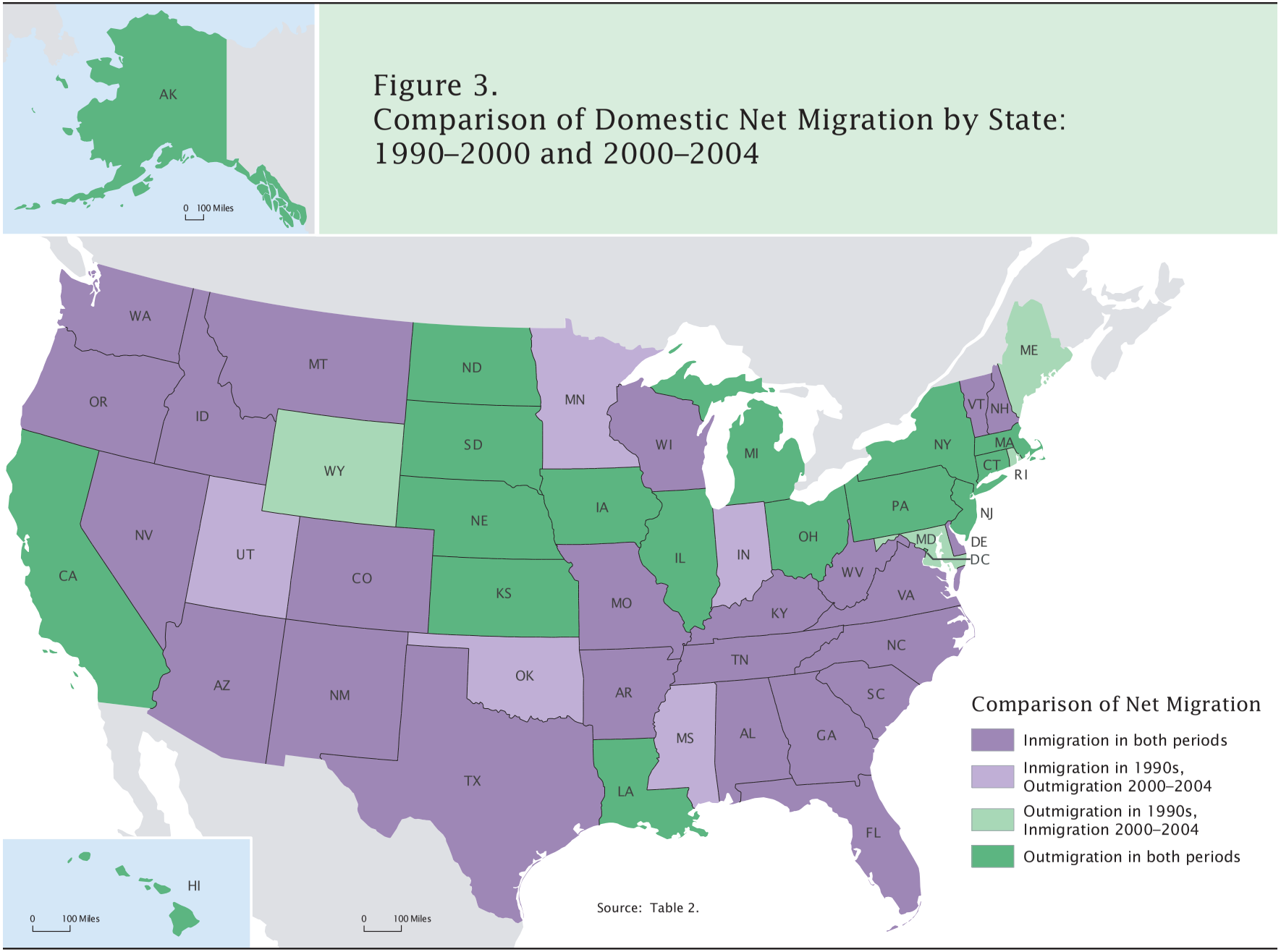
(Rates per 1,000 midpoint population)

State	Total number		Average annual number		Average annual rate	
	1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004
Alabama	106,027	394	10,603	99	2.5	0.0
Alaska	–30,354	–2,918	–3,035	–730	–5.2	–1.1
Arizona	620,256	265,376	62,026	66,344	14.5	12.2
Arkansas	120,940	19,493	12,094	4,873	4.9	1.8
California	–2,208,709	–396,156	–220,871	–99,039	–6.9	–2.8
Colorado	435,184	33,120	43,518	8,280	11.7	1.9
Connecticut	–227,982	–16,682	–22,798	–4,171	–6.9	–1.2
Delaware	36,708	19,059	3,671	4,765	5.1	5.9
District of Columbia	–146,480	–40,703	–14,648	–10,176	–26.1	–18.1
Florida	1,124,535	763,576	112,454	190,894	7.9	11.4
Georgia	723,338	165,192	72,334	41,298	10.0	4.8
Hawaii	–118,201	–8,213	–11,820	–2,053	–10.3	–1.7
Idaho	141,657	38,524	14,166	9,631	12.4	7.2
Illinois	–617,856	–287,417	–61,786	–71,854	–5.2	–5.7
Indiana	78,783	–19,030	7,878	–4,758	1.4	–0.8
Iowa	–19,409	–34,938	–1,941	–8,735	–0.7	–3.0
Kansas	–21,993	–45,876	–2,199	–11,469	–0.9	–4.2
Kentucky	103,319	21,614	10,332	5,404	2.7	1.3
Louisiana	–155,312	–67,781	–15,531	–16,945	–3.6	–3.8
Maine	–4,406	32,637	–441	8,159	–0.4	6.3
Maryland	–57,067	21,680	–5,707	5,420	–1.1	1.0
Massachusetts	–248,356	–169,606	–24,836	–42,402	–4.1	–6.6
Michigan	–205,397	–113,867	–20,540	–28,467	–2.1	–2.8
Minnesota	102,106	–10,348	10,211	–2,587	2.2	–0.5
Mississippi	48,792	–10,110	4,879	–2,528	1.8	–0.9
Missouri	107,617	19,008	10,762	4,752	2.0	0.8
Montana	50,902	12,717	5,090	3,179	6.0	3.5
Nebraska	–9,201	–21,779	–920	–5,445	–0.6	–3.1
Nevada	462,329	203,211	46,233	50,803	29.8	23.3
New Hampshire	38,666	31,082	3,867	7,771	3.3	6.1
New Jersey	–395,066	–128,588	–39,507	–32,147	–5.0	–3.8
New Mexico	29,789	6,565	2,979	1,641	1.8	0.9
New York	–1,964,488	–731,543	–196,449	–182,886	–10.8	–9.6
North Carolina	580,687	156,547	58,069	39,137	8.1	4.7
North Dakota	–41,783	–15,995	–4,178	–3,999	–6.6	–6.3
Ohio	–195,627	–126,452	–19,563	–31,613	–1.8	–2.8
Oklahoma	50,625	–15,777	5,063	–3,944	1.6	–1.1
Oregon	262,897	51,519	26,290	12,880	8.5	3.7
Pennsylvania	–289,055	–13,595	–28,906	–3,399	–2.4	–0.3
Rhode Island	–60,941	5,337	–6,094	1,334	–6.1	1.3
South Carolina	154,225	75,022	15,423	18,756	4.2	4.6
South Dakota	–2,701	–1,701	–270	–425	–0.4	–0.6
Tennessee	371,686	66,537	37,169	16,634	7.1	2.9
Texas	616,383	146,262	61,638	36,566	3.3	1.7
Utah	67,544	–37,981	6,754	–9,495	3.5	–4.1
Vermont	7,058	3,696	706	924	1.2	1.5
Virginia	120,548	82,141	12,055	20,535	1.8	2.8
Washington	363,705	53,415	36,371	13,354	6.8	2.2
West Virginia	2,139	8,026	214	2,007	0.1	1.1
Wisconsin	95,374	13,603	9,537	3,401	1.9	0.6
Wyoming	–3,435	1,703	–344	426	–0.7	0.9

Note: The Population Estimates Program data include Puerto Rico among all movers from abroad. Because this report focuses solely on domestic migration, Puerto Rico has been excluded from this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004.

Figure 3.
Comparison of Domestic Net Migration by State: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004



Source: Table 2.

Table 3.
Average Annual Domestic Net Migration for the Most Populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004

(Metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, November 2004. Rates per 1,000 midpoint population)

2004 Population size rank	Metropolitan statistical area	Average annual number		Average annual rate	
		1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	–190,939	–211,014	–11.1	–11.4
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	–180,025	–117,780	–15.3	–9.3
3	Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	–57,216	–63,249	–6.7	–6.8
4	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	–27,739	–8,647	–5.1	–1.5
5	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	25,450	17,119	5.7	3.1
6	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	2,768	–5,745	0.6	–1.1
7	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	10,058	12,212	2.4	2.5
8	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	–12,386	–4,124	–2.8	–0.8
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	58,131	31,026	16.1	6.9
10	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	–24,466	–26,696	–5.6	–6.0
11	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	–20,356	–41,851	–4.8	–9.5
12	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	–21,587	–60,984	–5.5	–14.7
13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	18,981	81,460	6.4	23.0
14	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	42,832	48,598	16.1	13.9
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	9,147	–7,793	3.3	–2.5
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	7,609	–3,053	2.8	–1.0
17	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	–13,766	–14,797	–5.1	–5.1
18	St. Louis, MO-IL	–6,730	–2,966	–2.5	–1.1
19	Baltimore-Towson, MD	–5,292	–222	–2.2	–0.1
20	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	17,645	36,395	8.1	14.6
21	Pittsburgh, PA	–8,840	–5,720	–3.6	–2.4
22	Denver-Aurora, CO	19,203	–3,103	10.3	–1.4
23	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	–11,643	–12,306	–5.5	–5.7
24	Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	17,388	8,350	10.2	4.2
25	Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	2,586	–2,239	1.3	–1.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004. For additional information, see <www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2004-04.html> and <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

Net Migration for Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas[4]

Eighteen of the country's 25 largest metropolitan statistical areas experienced average annual net outmigration during the period 2000 to 2004 (Table 3). Four areas (New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont) each had average net outmigration of more than 60,000. One area (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario) had average net inmigration of more than 60,000.

Levels of domestic net migration for some of the largest metropolitan statistical areas are different from their corresponding levels in the 1990s. Average annual net outmigration from Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, for instance, declined from 180,000 in the 1990s to 118,000 between 2000 and 2004. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, on the other hand, saw its average annual net outmigration increase from 22,000 in the 1990s to 61,000 annually between 2000 and 2004.

Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, known locally as southern California's "Inland Empire," had the largest average annual rate of net inmigration (23.0 per 1,000) of the 25 largest metropolitan statistical areas between 2000 and 2004, up from 6.4 per 1,000 during the 1990s. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (14.6) and Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale (13.9) ranked second and third, respectively. In contrast, San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont had the largest average annual rate of net outmigration

[4] Analysis in this report uses the November 2004 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions. These 2004 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are based on application of 2000 standards to 2000 decennial census data as well as to July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2003, population estimates. Definitions also reflect local opinion in specified circumstances. More information about metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area definitions and concepts is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>.

Table 4.
Average Annual Domestic Net Migration for the Most Populous Micropolitan Statistical Areas: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004

(Micropolitan statistical areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, November 2004. Rates per 1,000 midpoint population)

2004 Population size rank	Micropolitan statistical area	Average annual number		Average annual rate	
		1990–2000	2000–2004	1990–2000	2000–2004
1	Torrington, CT	298	1,242	1.7	6.7
2	Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ	3,950	5,718	34.0	34.0
3	Seaford, DE	2,407	3,059	18.8	18.6
4	Lebanon, NH-VT	385	606	2.4	3.6
5	Hilo, HI	873	1,988	6.6	12.7
6	East Stroudsburg, PA	2,987	4,284	26.1	28.7
7	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC	1,453	1,899	12.4	12.7
8	Daphne-Fairhope, AL	3,574	3,311	30.0	22.2
9	Thomasville-Lexington, NC	1,055	663	7.8	4.4
10	Ottawa-Streator, IL	41	–157	0.3	–1.0
11	Pottsville, PA	9	60	0.1	0.4
12	Concord, NH	549	1,649	4.4	11.7
13	Traverse City, MI	1,679	1,446	14.3	10.6
14	Kahului-Wailuku, HI	494	746	4.4	5.6
15	Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	–784	–633	–5.6	–4.6
16	Statesville-Mooresville, NC	2,121	2,270	19.8	17.4
17	Chambersburg, PA	398	881	3.2	6.7
18	Salisbury, NC	1,342	211	11.3	1.6
19	Homosassa Springs, FL	3,088	4,147	29.1	33.3
20	Tupelo, MS	844	356	7.3	2.8
21	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA	–429	222	–3.6	1.7
22	Lumberton, NC	248	–546	2.2	–4.4
23	Sierra Vista-Douglas, AZ	255	540	2.4	4.5
24	Augusta-Waterville, ME	–237	775	–2.0	6.5
25	New Bern, NC	–147	–770	–1.4	–6.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004. For additional information, see <www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2004-04.html> and <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

(14.7 per 1,000), followed by New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (11.4), Boston-Cambridge-Quincy (9.5), and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (9.3).

Twenty-one of the country's 25 largest micropolitan statistical areas had net inmigration between 2000 and 2004 (Table 4). Five areas—Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ; East Stroudsburg, PA; Homosassa Springs, FL; Daphne-Fairhope, AL; and Seaford, DE—had average annual net inmigration of more than 3,000 during the period, as well as the highest net migration rates among the 25 largest micropolitan statistical areas, with Lake Havasu City-Kingman, AZ, (34.0) edging out Homosassa Springs, FL, (33.3) and East Stroudsburg, PA (28.7) to take the top spot.

New Bern, NC, (6.7 per 1,000) had the largest average annual net outmigration rate between 2000 and 2004 among the 25 largest micropolitan statistical areas. Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY, (4.6) and Lumberton, NC, (4.4) were ranked second and third, respectively.

Of the 10 micropolitan statistical areas in Table 4 that are located in the Northeast or the Midwest, 8 had average annual net inmigration between 2000 and 2004. In contrast, all 10 metropolitan statistical areas in Table 3 located in the Northeast or Midwest had net outmigration during that time.[5]

County-Level Migration Patterns

Migration trends that are invisible at larger levels of geography can come into focus when a smaller geographic unit is analyzed. Continuing a decades-long outmigration trend, many counties of the Great Plains, stretching from western Texas to North Dakota, experienced net outmigration between 2000 and 2004, some with net outmigration rates of 20.0 or more (Figure 4). A smaller band

[5] The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington metropolitan statistical area and the Cincinnati-Middletown metropolitan statistical area both extend into the South, but the majority of their populations are in the Northeast and the Midwest, respectively.

of counties, most with net outmigration rates of 10.0 to 19.9, is seen in the lower Mississippi River valley. Other counties with high rates of net outmigration are found across the country, including in states with overall high net inmigration such as Nevada or Arizona.

Nearly every state includes counties with high rates of net inmigration. Large numbers of counties with high net inmigration rates are seen in Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Texas. Counties surrounding the larger cities in Texas present a distinctive pattern of high net inmigration. In the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan statistical area, a solid band of high net inmigration counties entirely surrounds its two central counties. Similar patterns are seen in the counties surrounding Atlanta, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Washington, DC.

While a number of counties in Figure 4 had net migration rates in the highest and lowest categories, in most cases these large rates were associated with relatively small populations and resulted in comparatively low amounts of net in- or outmigration (Figure 5). Among the country's 3,141 counties and county equivalents, 117 had annualized net in- or outmigration of 5,000 or more people in 2000–2004. A few bands of counties with relatively high or low levels of net migration exist nationwide. Groups of counties with high levels of net inmigration are found in Florida, the desert Southwest, and east of the San Francisco Bay area. Clusters of counties with large amounts of net outmigration are seen in New York and coastal California.

Nearly all of the 25 counties with the most net inmigration between 2000 and 2004 are located in the South or the West (Table 5), with seven in Florida and five each in California and Texas. Ocean County, NJ, and Will County, IL, are the only two such counties in Table 5 not located in the South or West.

Migration within a particular metropolitan statistical area from a central county to an outlying county is also seen in Figure 5, where counties with sizable net inmigration are frequently adjacent to counties with sizable net outmigration. In Figure 5, this pattern is seen in the geographic pairing of a net outmigration county with one or more counties with net inmigration.

Will County, IL, southwest of Chicago, illustrates that contrasting migration patterns can occur within a particular state. While Illinois had an average annual net outmigration of 72,000 people during 2000–2004, and the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet metropolitan statistical area averaged net outmigration of 63,000 each year, Will County—an outlying county of that metropolitan statistical area—had net domestic inmigration of more than 20,000 each year, the sixth-largest amount of any county (Table 5). Neighboring Kendall County, IL, had the fifth-highest average annual rate of net domestic migration of any county, at 54.5 per 1,000. Other high net inmigration counties located in net outmigration states include: Lincoln County, SD (south of Sioux Falls); Delaware County, OH (north of Columbus); and Scott County, MN (south of Minneapolis). These net inmigration counties often are outlying counties within metropolitan statistical areas, and their net inmigration is sometimes the result of suburbanization and outmigration from the major city of the area.

Many of the 25 counties with the highest average levels of net outmigration between 2000 and 2004 are home to slow-growing or declining cities in the Northeast or the Midwest, such as Cook County (containing Chicago), Wayne County (containing Detroit), and Cuyahoga County (containing Cleveland) (Table 6). Thirteen of the 25 counties with the largest levels of net outmigration are located in the South or the West, including seven in California and two in Texas.

Figure 4.
Average Annual Rate of Domestic Net Migration by County: 2000–2004

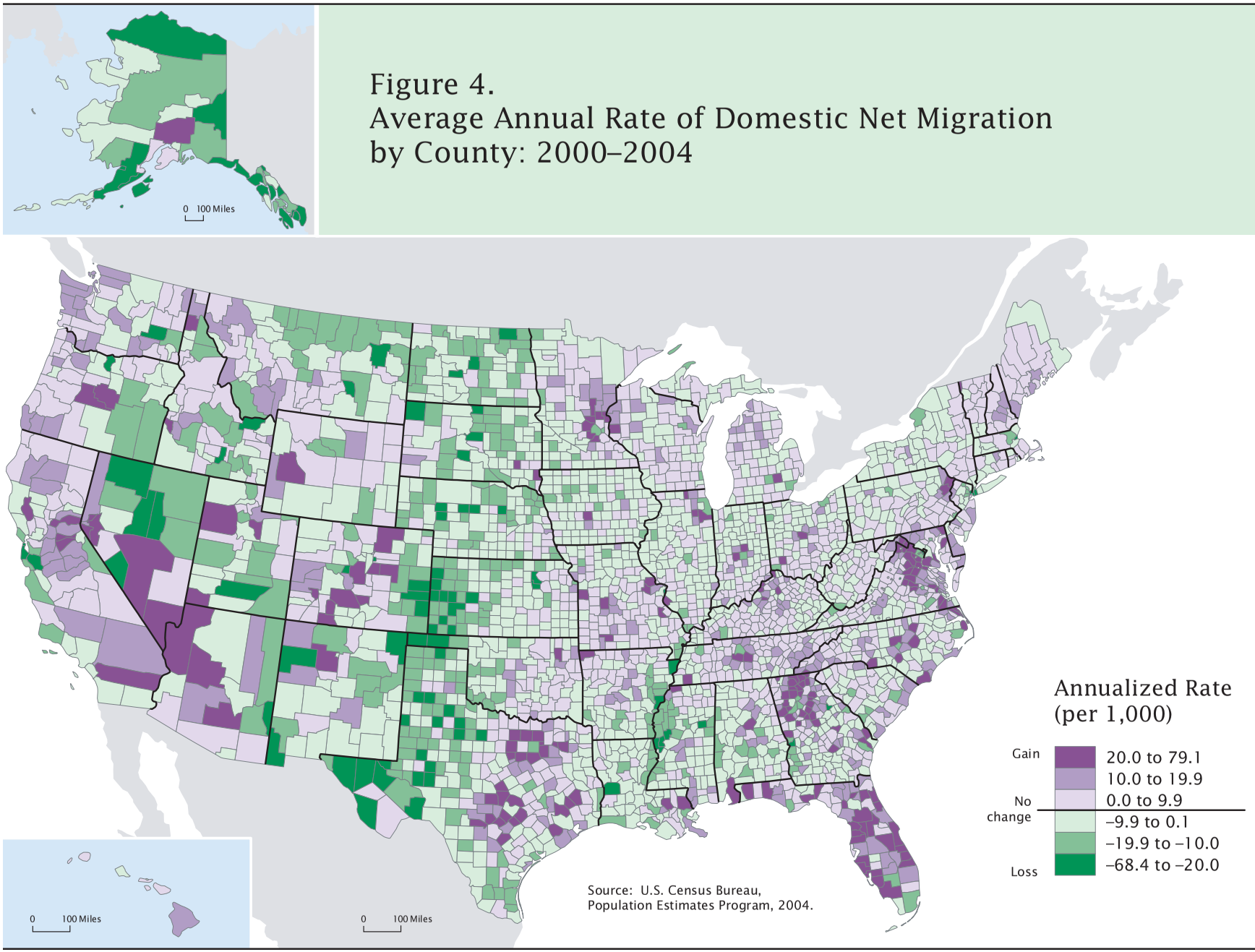


Figure 5.
Average Annual Domestic Net Migration by County: 2000–2004

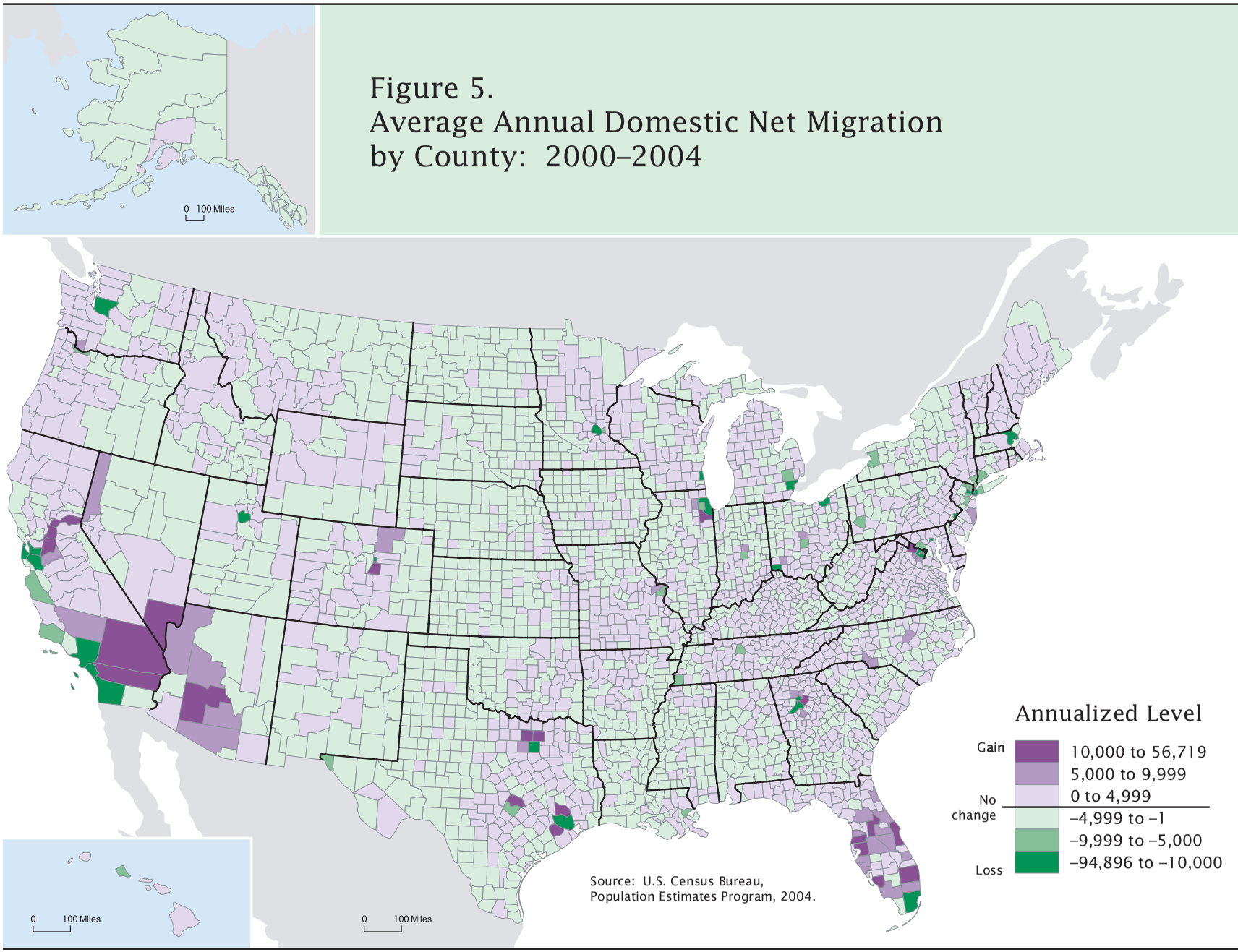


Table 5.
Highest Average Annual Numbers and Rates of Net Domestic Inmigration for Counties: 2000–2004

(Rates per 1,000 midpoint population. Limited to counties with midpoint populations of 10,000 or more. Ranks based on unrounded values)

Numerical rank	County	Average annual number	Rate rank	County	Average annual rate
1	Riverside, CA	56,719	1	Flagler, FL	79.1
2	Clark, NV	42,116	2	Rockwall, TX	60.1
3	Maricopa, AZ	42,066	3	Loudoun, VA	58.7
4	San Bernardino, CA	24,742	4	Henry, GA	56.4
5	Collin, TX	21,048	5	Kendall, IL	54.5
6	Will, IL	20,333	6	Newton, GA	53.4
7	Palm Beach, FL	18,106	7	Lincoln, SD	51.7
8	Pasco, FL	15,934	8	Forsyth, GA	51.4
9	Lee, FL	15,654	9	Lake, FL	51.2
10	Fort Bend, TX	14,928	10	Douglas, CO	50.9
11	Denton, TX	14,678	11	Lyon, NV	50.7
12	Sacramento, CA	13,608	12	St. Johns, FL	48.4
13	Hillsborough, FL	12,978	13	Paulding, GA	47.5
14	Montgomery, TX	12,177	14	Delaware, OH	44.6
15	Placer, CA	12,177	15	Spencer, KY	44.2
16	Loudoun, VA	12,135	16	Placer, CA	43.6
17	Lake, FL	12,124	17	Rains, TX	43.3
18	San Joaquin, CA	11,521	18	Currituck, NC	43.3
19	Williamson, TX	11,380	19	Pasco, FL	42.2
20	Gwinnett, GA	11,214	20	Scott, MN	41.9
21	Douglas, CO	10,648	21	Walton, FL	40.9
22	Brevard, FL	10,283	22	Stafford, VA	40.7
23	Ocean, NJ	9,225	23	Spotsylvania, VA	40.0
24	Volusia, FL	8,953	24	Hernando, FL	39.8
25	Wake, NC	8,702	25	Williamson, TX	39.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004. For additional information, see <www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2004-04.html> and <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

Comparison to County-Level Patterns of the 1990s

The basic in- and outmigration patterns for counties shown in Figure 4 are not a departure from the pattern for the 1990s. Figure 6 shows that a majority of counties experienced either inmigration for both periods or outmigration for both periods. Of the 740 counties nationwide that switched course, 579 went from net inmigration in the 1990s to net outmigration in the 2000–2004 period, while 161 went in the reverse direction. Many of the counties that transitioned from outmigration to inmigration are located in the Northeast or in California, which reflects the migration rebound that has occurred in these two areas since the 1990s.

SUMMARY

Domestic migration continues to redistribute the country's population. The longstanding pattern of net outmigration from the Northeast and the Midwest and net inmigration to the South and the West continued between 2000 and 2004 with modest change from the regional patterns in the 1990s. Among individual states, Florida continued to be the largest migration destination in the South, while Arizona and Nevada were the primary destinations in the West. Net outmigration from California between 2000 and 2004 contracted from the high levels in the 1990s, leading to less net inmigration to many other states in the West.

At the county level, a variety of migration patterns often exists within a state, as seen in several of the figures. Many states with overall net outmigration between 2000 and 2004 contained one or more counties, usually outer counties of metropolitan statistical areas, with sizable net inmigration. Future analysis of annual migration data will reveal whether these current migration patterns continue.

Table 6.
Highest Average Annual Numbers and Rates of Net Domestic Outmigration for Counties: 2000–2004

(Rates per 1,000 midpoint population. Limited to counties with midpoint populations of 10,000 or more. Ranks based on unrounded values)

Numerical rank	County	Average annual number	Rate rank	County	Average annual rate
1	Los Angeles, CA	–94,896	1	Chattahoochee, GA	–40.5
2	Cook, IL	–94,499	2	Geary, KS	–40.5
3	Kings, NY	–55,074	3	Reeves, TX	–35.3
4	Queens, NY	–54,631	4	Finney, KS	–35.0
5	Santa Clara, CA	–43,167	5	Charlottesville, VA	–31.9
6	Dallas, TX	–40,528	6	Kodiak Island, AK	–31.5
7	Miami-Dade, FL	–31,537	7	Alexandria city,[1] VA	–31.1
8	Wayne, MI	–27,382	8	Arlington, VA	–30.8
9	Alameda, CA	–26,030	9	Suffolk, MA	–28.2
10	Harris, TX	–23,193	10	Vernon, LA	–27.7
11	Orange, CA	–22,883	11	Seward, KS	–26.0
12	Philadelphia, PA	–21,822	12	Santa Clara, CA	–25.6
13	New York, NY	–21,579	13	Phillips, AR	–24.7
14	Bronx, NY	–21,199	14	San Francisco, CA	–24.6
15	Suffolk, MA	–19,147	15	Queens, NY	–24.5
16	San Francisco, CA	–18,684	16	Hudson, NJ	–24.1
17	Middlesex, MA	–18,292	17	Denver, CO	–23.4
18	Cuyahoga, OH	–15,783	18	Texas, OK	–23.3
19	San Mateo, CA	–15,198	19	St. Louis city,[1] MO	–23.1
20	San Diego, CA	–14,797	20	Humboldt, NV	–22.7
21	Hudson, NJ	–14,669	21	Mississippi, AR	–22.4
22	Hennepin, MN	–14,538	22	Kings, NY	–22.3
23	Fulton, GA	–14,528	23	Minidoka, ID	–22.2
24	Fairfax, VA	–14,082	24	Prowers, CO	–21.6
25	King, WA	–14,021	25	San Mateo, CA	–21.6

[1] Independent cities such as St. Louis city, MO, and Alexandria city, VA, are considered county equivalents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2004. For additional information, see <www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2004-04.html> and <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

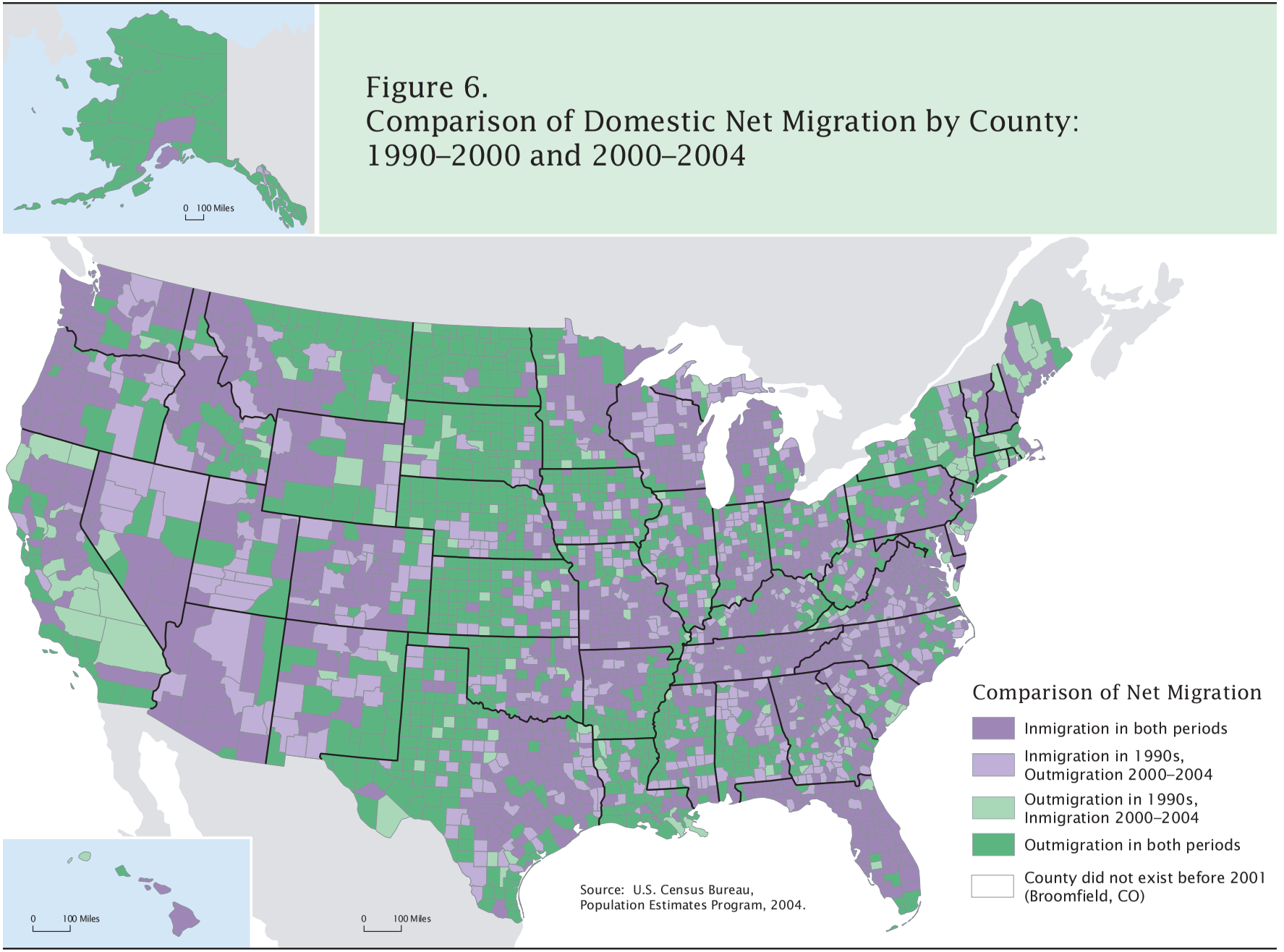
METHODOLOGY AND SOURCE OF DATA

The data in this report are from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program and are based largely on administrative records data. The county population estimates covering the period July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2004, are vintage 2004 estimates released to the public in 2005. The population estimates for the period July 1, 1990, to July 1, 2000, are vintage 2000 estimates available at <www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/county/c8/county-2000c8.html>.

The methodology used by the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program to produce population estimates for counties is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/2004_st_co_meth.html>. Each component of population change, including domestic net migration, is estimated separately for each county. Estimates for counties were aggregated to create estimates for all of the geographic areas included in this report, including the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. The population universe is the resident population of the United States (the 50 states and District of Columbia).

This report uses average annual rates of domestic net migration, expressed per 1,000 average population.

Figure 6.
Comparison of Domestic Net Migration by County: 1990–2000 and 2000–2004



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Population estimates at the national, state, county, and city and town levels are produced each year by the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program and are available at <www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>. The Population Estimates Program publishes total population estimates each year for the nation, states, counties, and subcounty units (cities and minor civil divisions). For the nation, states, and counties, population estimates also include demographic components of change (births, deaths, and migration) and, later in the year, estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The reference date for population estimates is July 1.

For more information on migration in the United States, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/migrate.html>.

To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

CONTACTS

Information and
Research Services Branch
pop@census.gov
301-763-2422

Marc J. Perry
marc.j.perry@census.gov
301-763-2419

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The Census Bureau welcomes the comments and advice of users of our data and reports. Please send suggestions or comments to:

Chief, Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

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