

PA Residents Migrating to Southern States

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In May, the Internal Revenue Service released the latest state-level migration data. The dataset uses income tax returns to track the migration of filers (and dependents) between states for returns filed and processed during calendar years 2019 and 2020.¹ The dataset only includes those who filed tax returns (including dependents) and will not reflect certain individuals who migrated but were exempt from filing due to income limits or other factors.

Table 1 ranks states based on the ratio of net domestic migration (inflows into the state less outflows) to state population. The data show that:

- Idaho recorded the strongest relative growth, as net migration increased the state population by 1.99% (36,655).
- Two other western states also recorded domestic migration gains that exceeded 1.00% of the state population, while South Carolina and Delaware rounded out the top five states.
- For Pennsylvania, net domestic migration was -4,866 (-0.04% of state population) which ranked 31st across all states.
- The border states of Ohio, New Jersey and Maryland all recorded larger relative net outflows.
- California recorded the largest net outflow in absolute terms (-263,344) and 46th highest in relative terms (-0.67% of state population).
- New York had the largest relative net outflow, as net migration reduced the state population by 1.23% (-248,305).

Table 2 shows detail for Pennsylvania only and top and bottom states based on net inflows or outflows. The data show that:

- The largest net inflows were from the border states of New York (19,196), New Jersey (4,752) and Maryland (2,977).
- The largest net outflows were to Florida (-11,173) and North Carolina (-4,086).
- Five of the top six states for net outflows from Pennsylvania were southern states.

The dataset also includes breakouts based on the age and adjusted gross income (AGI) of the primary filer. For Pennsylvania, the data show:

- A net inflow of individuals where the primary filer was between the ages of 26 to 34 (3,172) and 35 to 44 (2,995).
- A net outflow of individuals where the primary filer was between the ages of 45 to 54 (-1,233), 55 to 64 (-3,048) and 65 or older (-5,206).
- A net outflow of individuals for returns that reported more than \$100,000 of AGI (-4,821) or AGI between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (-2,363), but a net inflow for returns that reported \$10,000 to \$50,000 of AGI (2,988).

¹ These data generally correspond to tax years 2018 and 2019, when income was earned or received. See <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data-2019-2020>.

Table 1
Net Domestic Migration Using IRS Tax Data: 2019 to 2020

	Net Migration	Share of Population	Rank
Idaho	36,655	1.99%	1
Montana	12,189	1.12%	2
Arizona	80,033	1.12%	3
South Carolina	53,992	1.05%	4
Delaware	9,913	1.00%	5
West Virginia	-335	-0.02%	30
Pennsylvania	-4,866	-0.04%	31
Ohio	-8,204	-0.07%	33
New Jersey	-23,272	-0.25%	41
Maryland	-20,309	-0.33%	42
California	-263,344	-0.67%	46
North Dakota	-5,484	-0.70%	47
Illinois	-100,921	-0.79%	48
Alaska	-7,118	-0.97%	49
New York	-248,305	-1.23%	50

Note: Flows reflect number of individuals, not tax returns.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Division, SOI Tax Stats, Migration Data 2019-2020.

Table 2
Flows To and From Pennsylvania: Top Net Migration States

	Inflow	Outflow	Net Flow
<u>Net Inflows</u>			
New York	36,880	17,684	19,196
New Jersey	30,876	26,124	4,752
Maryland	15,054	12,077	2,977
California	10,070	9,317	753
Massachusetts	4,629	3,929	700
Connecticut	2,846	2,185	661
<u>Net Outflows</u>			
Georgia	4,644	6,549	-1,905
Texas	8,069	10,435	-2,366
Delaware	6,332	9,791	-3,459
South Carolina	3,278	7,133	-3,855
North Carolina	7,480	11,566	-4,086
Florida	16,426	27,599	-11,173

Note: Flows reflect number of individuals, not tax returns.

Source: IRS Statistics of Income Division, SOI Tax Stats, Migration Data 2019-2020.