

# Connecticut Migration Patterns

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**E**xamining interstate migration patterns provides an interesting view of where new Nutmeggers are coming from and where former Connecticut residents are going.

Table 1 shows the ten largest sources of Connecticut inflow migration. The bordering states of New York and Massachusetts had the largest combined share of total inflow to the state at 39 percent of total inflows. Together with the third largest inflow state of Florida, those three states totaled 45 percent of flows into Connecticut. These three states since 2005 have consistently comprised the top three inflow origins to Connecticut. Overall inflow to the state in 2011 was 73,607 new residents. From 2005 through 2011 inflow peaked in 2006 at 88,518 new residents.

Table 1. CT Migration By State - 2011

States/Territories	CT Inflow	Outflow	Net Flows
NY	20,015	15,123	4,892
MA	8,691	9,445	-754
FL	4,771	11,704	-6,933
NJ	3,809	1,924	1,885
CA	3,699	3,073	626
PA	3,668	4,150	-482
VA	2,555	5,376	-2,821
WA	2,255	1,026	1,229
PR	2,105	1,849	256
GA	2,000	709	1,291
Total	73,607	93,144	-19,537

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey

The three largest inflow states also have the largest outflow from Connecticut. The top three states had a combined 39 percent share of total outflow from Connecticut.

Net migration is the difference between outflows and inflows to and from a particular state. From 2005 through 2011, Connecticut annual net migration averaged -15,982 residents per year, the smallest negative net of -6,622 occurred in 2005 and the largest occurred in 2006 with -24,235 residents. In 2011 Connecticut had total net migration of -19,537 residents, having negative net migration with 33 of 52 states and territories. The largest were Florida, Virginia, and Alabama with -6,933, -2821, and -2,820, respectively. The largest positive net migration states were New York, New Jersey, and Georgia, with net flows

into Connecticut of 4,892, 1,885, and 1,291, respectively.

Graph 1 shows Connecticut inflow and outflow by Census Region from 2005 through 2011. The Western region in 2005 had a significant outmigration from the state, but in/outmigration has closely matched each other from 2008 onward. The Southern Census region was the only geographic region that has consistently had a pronounced net-outmigration from Connecticut, driven in large part by the high number of Connecticut residents relocating to Florida.

Examining the annual percent share of inflows to Connecticut by state shows where the largest changes in migration have occurred. From 2005 to 2011, Massachusetts, Washington State, and Puerto Rico had the three largest increases in percent share of net migration to Connecticut. Those geographies had respective shares of total inflows to Connecticut of 11.8% (+2.4 pts), 3.1% (+2.3pts), and 2.9% (+1.9pts) in 2011.

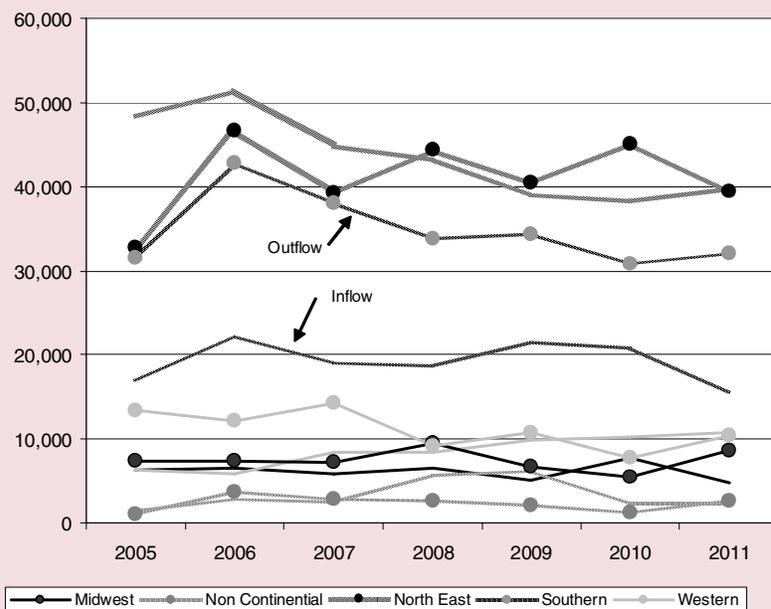
The three states with the largest share decreases were New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. It's interesting to note that two of our geographic neighbors had the largest

declines. Those three states respectively comprised 27.2% (-5.9pts), 2.0% (-2.6pts), and 0.8% (-1.8pts) of total inflows to Connecticut in 2011. Overall annual inflow to Connecticut was down 7.4 percentage points from 2005 to 2011.

The relation between interstate inflows and outflows isn't the sole variable impacting Connecticut population change, which increased 2.1 percent during the examined seven year span. Other components include birth/death rates and international migration. In 2011, 18,681 new residents immigrated to the state from abroad, up 541 from a year before. Foreign migration has ranged between 0.5 and 0.7 percent of the state population from 2005 through 2011.

Connecticut migration patterns have certainly changed in the past few years. Fewer people are leaving the state for the West Coast and more New Yorkers and New Jerseyans are calling Connecticut home, albeit fewer than before the recession. And when Connecticut residents get tired of the four seasons, they're most likely to head south to Florida. ■

Graph 1: Connecticut In/Outmigration by Census Region



Note: Non Continental includes Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico