

POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS

P2011-2: Migration Patterns in Washington State: 2005-2009

Research Brief No. 64
November 2011

By Erica Gardner

The American Community Survey (ACS) collects information about where people lived a year ago. Data from one year ACS PUMS files from 2005 to 2009 are processed to examine the migration patterns during this period. The period examined includes both a time when the economy was doing well (2005-2007) and a time when the economy was not doing as well (2008-2009). Reported results are intended to give the reader a general picture of migration patterns in Washington State. The reader should keep in mind that all numbers listed in this paper are not exact counts, obtained from observed or reported moves, but results from a survey.

The migration behavior is categorized as follows:

1. Non-movers: residents who live in the same home a year ago;
2. In-movers: residents who moved from another state (interstate) or country ;
3. Intrastate movers: residents who moved within Washington counties;
4. Out-movers: residents who moved from Washington to another state.

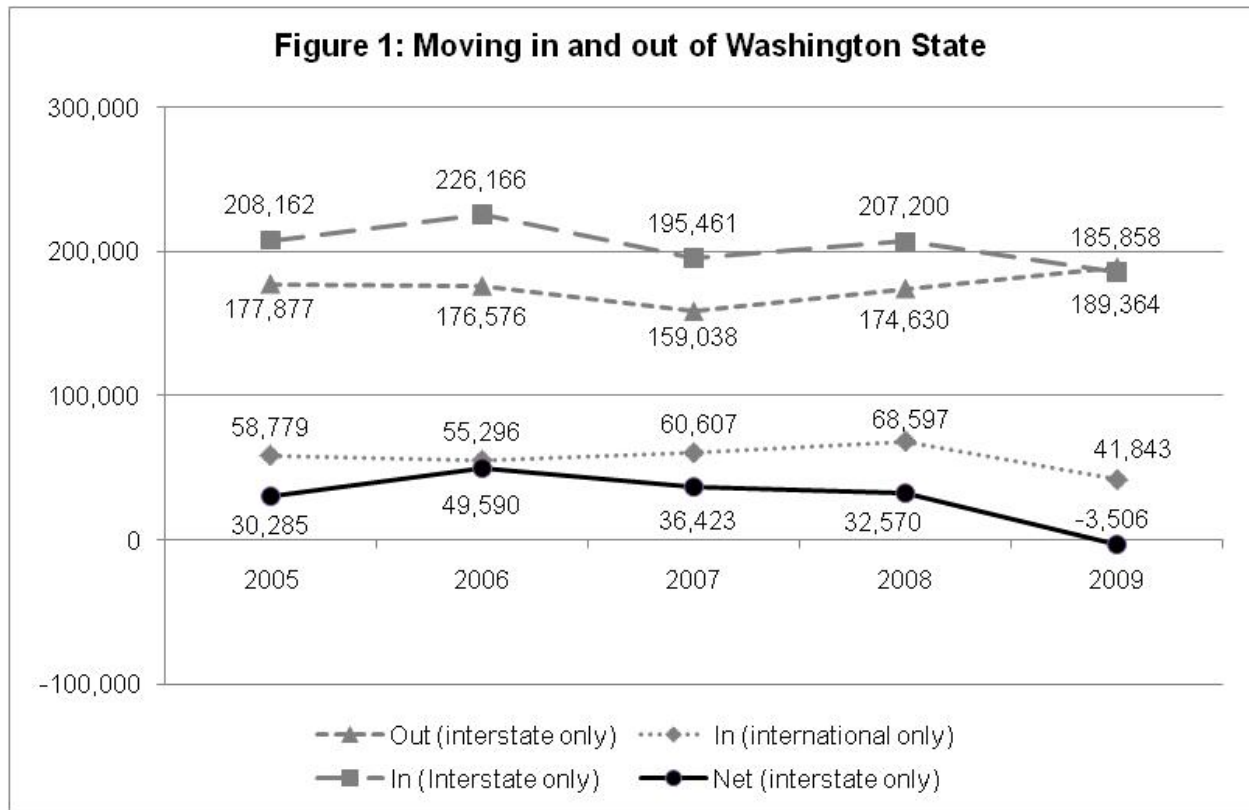
Overall trends

Table 1. Washington's population by move status

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Current WA residents					
Non-movers	80.0%	79.4%	81.6%	81.9%	83.0%
In-movers	4.4%	4.5%	4.0%	4.3%	3.5%
Interstate movers	3.4%	3.6%	3.1%	3.2%	2.8%
International movers	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	0.6%
Intrastate movers	15.6%	16.2%	14.3%	13.8%	13.5%
Non-WA residents					
WA out-movers*	2.9%	2.8%	2.5%	2.7%	2.9%

* Rate calculated as number moving out of Washington divided by Washington's population

Over the five year period between 2005 and 2009 the percentage of non-movers in Washington increased from a low of 79 percent in 2006 to 83 percent in 2009. Intrastate movers declined from a high of just over 16 percent in 2006 to 14 percent in 2009 and in-movers declined by one percentage point over the same period. The percentage of out-movers remained relatively constant across the five years.



Over the five year period, those entering Washington from other states declined from a high of 226,000 in 2006 to 186,000 in 2009 (see Figure 1). According to the ACS, the numbers of people moving to Washington from other countries peaked in 2008 and dropped to their lowest levels in 2009. Those leaving Washington for other states increased from a low of 159,000 in 2007 to 189,000 in 2009. Net migration was highest in 2006 when roughly 50,000 more people moved into Washington from other states than left and lowest in 2009 when 3,500 more people left Washington for other states than moved into Washington.

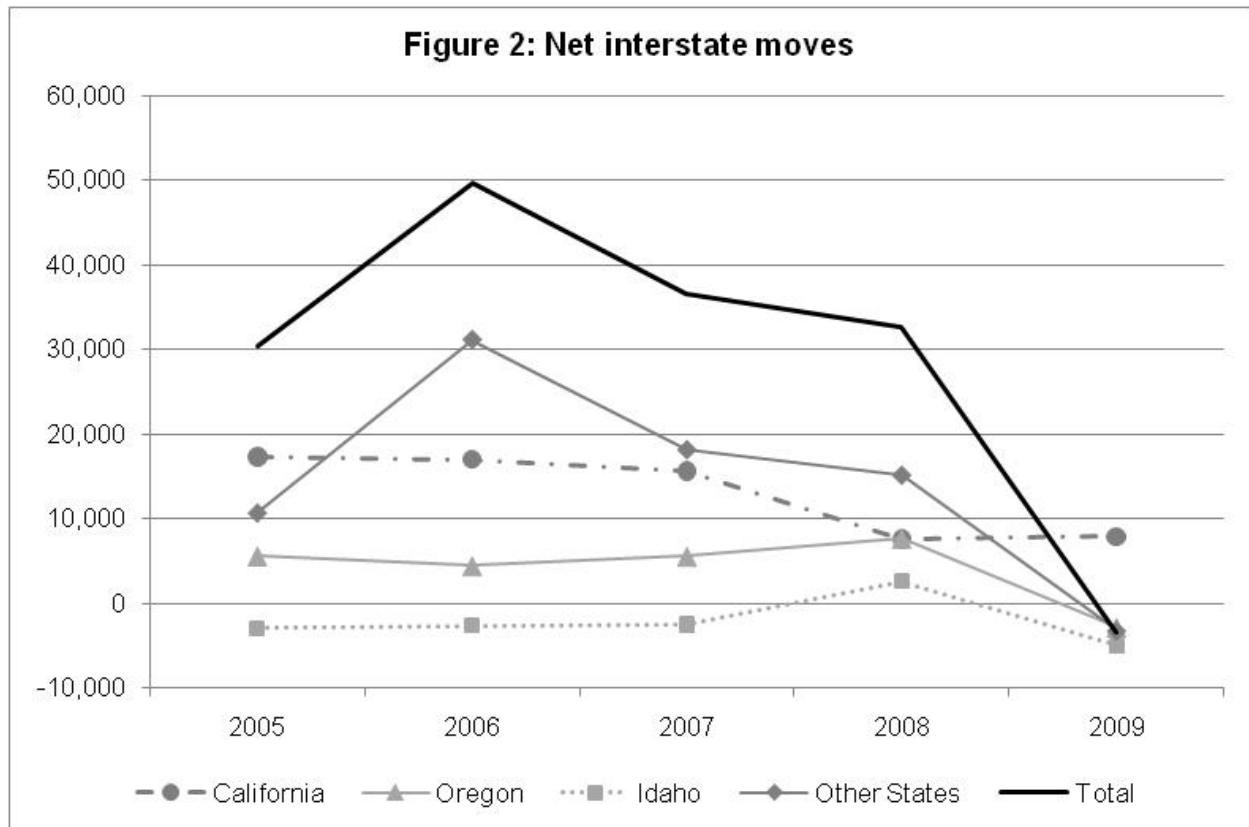


Figure 2 shows the net interstate moves from California, Oregon, Idaho, and remaining states to Washington. Neighboring states California, Oregon, and Idaho have relatively steady net migration from 2005 to 2007. In 2008, net migration from Oregon and Idaho increased slightly before dropping to negative values in 2009. Net migration from California to Washington dropped in 2008 and held steady at the new level in 2009. Net migration from other states peaked in 2006 and declined steadily from 2007, reaching negative values in 2009. Total net migration mirrors the pattern of migration from other states, peaking in 2006 and declining from 2007 to 2009.

Interstate destination details

Table 2: Interstate movers: Where are they moving to in Washington?

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
King	29.0%	30.5%	28.9%	29.9%	28.6%
Pierce	13.4%	13.5%	13.4%	12.6%	12.2%
Clark	11.1%	9.0%	11.4%	8.2%	8.3%
Thurston/ Kitsap	10.6%	8.0%	6.5%	8.3%	9.9%
Southwestern Balance	6.6%	5.7%	6.4%	7.3%	5.9%
Snohomish	6.3%	8.2%	9.3%	6.5%	7.5%
Whatcom/ Island/ San Juan/ Skagit	5.9%	6.2%	6.1%	6.7%	6.1%
Benton/Franklin	5.7%	3.1%	3.1%	2.7%	6.0%
Spokane	4.9%	7.0%	7.6%	8.7%	7.3%
Eastern Balance	4.9%	6.7%	5.6%	6.9%	5.0%
Yakima	1.6%	2.2%	1.6%	2.3%	3.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

King County draws the largest minority of people moving to Washington from out of state (see Table 2). Across all of the years King County draws between 29 percent and 31 percent of Washington's interstate movers. Pierce consistently followed as the next most likely destination for interstate movers. The third most likely place for people to move depends on the year. Over the five year period Clark, Spokane, and Thurston/Kitsap alternate in this position.

Table 3: Net interstate movers

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Clark	9,134	4,733	8,004	2,855	3,723
Benton/Franklin	8,654	2,422	870	3,064	5,634
Pierce	6,510	3,880	5,681	4,013	-4,061
Thurston/ Kitsap	6,244	3,189	-1,909	-39	1,992
Southwestern Balance	4,463	2,360	497	1,593	-534
King	4,357	25,937	6,123	10,215	-5,183
Yakima	1,790	-83	-352	2,248	-2,456
Eastern Balance	1,515	2,532	608	435	-2,061
Whatcom/ Island/San Juan/ Skagit	-1,398	4,526	3,055	4,337	1,070
Snohomish	-4,160	-2,439	8,992	208	-840
Spokane	-6,824	2,533	4,854	3,641	-790
Total	30,285	49,590	36,423	32,570	-3,506

In 2005, the net interstate migration was highest in Clark followed by Benton/Franklin, and Pierce (see Table 3). Three county or county groupings had negative interstate migration in 2005 including: Snohomish, Spokane, and Whatcom/Island/San Juan/Skagit. In 2009, most of the county or county groupings examined had negative interstate migration except: Benton/Franklin, Clark, Thurston/Kitsap, and Whatcom/ Island/ San Juan/Skagit.

International destination details

Table 4: Destination of those moving to Washington from another country

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
King	40.1%	40.4%	47.8%	39.9%	42.0%
Pierce	15.2%	18.2%	13.7%	16.1%	19.0%
Whatcom/ Island/ San Juan/ Skagit	8.2%	8.5%	5.1%	5.3%	5.6%
Eastern Balance	7.6%	8.1%	2.9%	4.6%	4.2%
Snohomish	7.0%	6.7%	11.2%	7.0%	6.5%
Spokane	6.7%	3.7%	2.2%	4.7%	4.3%
Clark	5.5%	5.2%	3.2%	2.3%	3.3%
Thurston/Kitsap	5.1%	3.1%	7.1%	8.4%	10.1%
Southwestern Balance	1.9%	3.1%	2.0%	1.1%	2.5%
Benton/Franklin	1.4%	2.2%	2.8%	3.2%	0.9%
Yakima	1.4%	0.8%	1.9%	7.3%	1.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The top destination for international migrants in Washington is King County (see Table 4). Depending on the year between 40 and 48 percent of Washington's international migrants move to King County. Pierce is the second most popular destination for international migrants in

Washington. In 2005 and 2006 Whatcom/Island/San Juan/Skagit counties and Eastern Balance counties were the third and fourth ranked destinations. However, Snohomish and Thurston/Kitsap hold those roles in 2007, Thurston/Kitsap and Yakima in 2008, and Thurston/Kitsap and Snohomish in 2009.

Intrastate destination details

Table 5: Net intrastate movers

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
King	-17,898	-18,556	-19,795	-16,918	-4,683
Eastern Balance	-4,103	-152	4,687	-1,001	-534
Whatcom/ Island/ San Juan/ Skagi	-2,590	6,759	2,175	1,899	-1,954
Thurston/Kitsap	-1,507	4,040	4,583	2,718	-636
Benton/ Franklin	-712	193	412	3,044	311
Spokane	828	1,433	1,662	5,813	-197
Yakima	1,651	-333	-179	-1,362	-899
Southwestern Balance	3,862	1,267	-3,457	-3,677	2,877
Pierce	3,865	1,648	3,204	5,216	3,313
Clark	4,222	-2,325	-1,390	-1,182	1,449
Snohomish	12,382	6,026	8,098	5,450	953
Total	0	0	0	0	0

Between 2005 and 2009 between 14 and 16 percent of Washington's population moved within the state (see Table 1). Many of these intrastate moves occur within the same county or group of counties. Other intrastate moves occur across counties or county groupings. Table 5 shows the net gain or loss by county or county grouping from these intrastate moves. Looking at Table 5, one finds that King lost population in all years to other county and county groupings. In addition, Pierce and Snohomish gained population in all years from other WA counties.

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