Those who Come and Those who Leave: A Profile of Migration

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Migration is an important component of population growth
Boston’s child and college student populations have remained stable, contributing to growth in the adult non-student population as they age.

Source: 2006-2019 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Average annual migration flows to and from Boston (2010-2019):

- **Domestic In-migration** = 58,049
- **Domestic Out-migration** = 60,578
- **Net International Migration** = 8,526

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 & 2015-2019 American Community Surveys & 2010-2019 1-year American Community Surveys, PUMS, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Migration flows are strongest with Northeastern and other East Coast states, and larger states like California, Texas, and Illinois.
Net migration is positive with Northeast states but negative with many southern and western states.
Migration flows are strongest within the metro region.

Even though Boston has negative net migration (~-6,000) with the state, 29% of these people work in Suffolk County.
Domestic in-migration averaged ~59,000 and out-migration ~61,000 from 2007 to 2019.

However, similar to other major cities, Boston’s out-migration increased in 2018 and 2019.

Source: 2007-2019 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Similar to domestic migration, net international migration increased during the last decade until 2018 and 2019.

Each year, Boston gains population through the arrival of college students while experiencing a net loss from migration of non-student adults and children.

**Migration Flows**

- College Students
- Non-Student Adults 18+
- Children 17 & Under

Data for International Out-Migration are not available

Those Who Come:
Domestic and International In-Migration
Approximately 40% of new migrants are college students, 53% are non-student adults, and 7% are children.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2019 one-year American Community Surveys, PUMS, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Each year almost 28,000 college students migrate to Boston to attend school. New migrants represent about 26% of college students living in Boston.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2019 one-year American Community Surveys, PUMS, BPDA Research Division Analysis
Map by Bill Rankin - http://www.radicalcartography.net/?boston_campus
Migration is primarily undertaken by young adults: 75% of in-migrants are aged 18-34, compared to 39% of the Boston population.

61% of in-migrants are White, compared to 45% of the overall Boston population. 29% of in-migrants are foreign born and 22% are noncitizens.

In-migrants are highly educated: 55% of those aged 18+ have a Bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 45% of all adults in Boston.

![Diagram showing Education Attainment of Adult Migrants in Boston](image)

Adult in-migrants work in a variety of occupations at similar rates to the Boston population

- 11% work in computer, engineering and science
- 8% work in food preparation and serving

In-migrants have lower incomes: 26% have personal income $50,000 or higher, compared to 32% for all adults in Boston.

In-migrants are less likely to be homeowners:
Only 12% of in-migrants live in owner-occupied housing, compared to 34% of all Boston residents

Those Who Leave: Domestic Out-Migration
Each year approximately 52,500 adults and 6,300 children leave Boston to live elsewhere in the U.S.

Compared to Boston’s in-migrants, out-migrants are more likely to be children or adults over 30.

Domestic out-migrants are more likely to be White (60%) and native-born (76%), compared to Boston’s overall population.

Adult out-migrants are highly educated: 64% have a Bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 45% of all Boston adults.

Of adult out-migrants from Boston work in a variety of occupations, at similar rates to the Boston population:

- 11% work in management occupations
- 6% work in food preparation and serving occupations

Out-migrants tend to have higher incomes: 35% have personal income above $50,000, compared to 32% of all Boston adults.
• 33% of domestic out-migrants own their new home - a similar homeownership rate to Boston residents
• 24% of domestic out-migrants are rent-burdened, compared to 34% of Boston residents

Conclusion & Discussion Questions

Approximately 68,000 new Bostonians arrive every year

● How can the city help them settle in and get involved?

Almost as many Boston residents choose to leave each year

● How can the city limit the number of residents who feel “forced out”?
  ○ Affordable housing options
  ○ Educational opportunities and workforce development
  ○ Transportation