

Births and International Migrants Fuel Population Growth

From 1990 to 1998, 171,000 more residents moved out of the Washington area to other parts of the country than moved in from the rest of the country. This outward flow of domestic migration reversed in 1998 when 565 more people moved into the area, than moved out. While the Washington area did not attract domestic migrants during most of the 1990s, it more than compensated by attracting 233,000 migrants from foreign countries. The pace of international migration in the Washington area increased from an average 22,000 annually in the first half of the decade to an average of 31,000 in the later years.

The population growth pattern resulting from international and domestic migration varied between

Washington Metropolitan Area Population Change by Component, 1990-1998

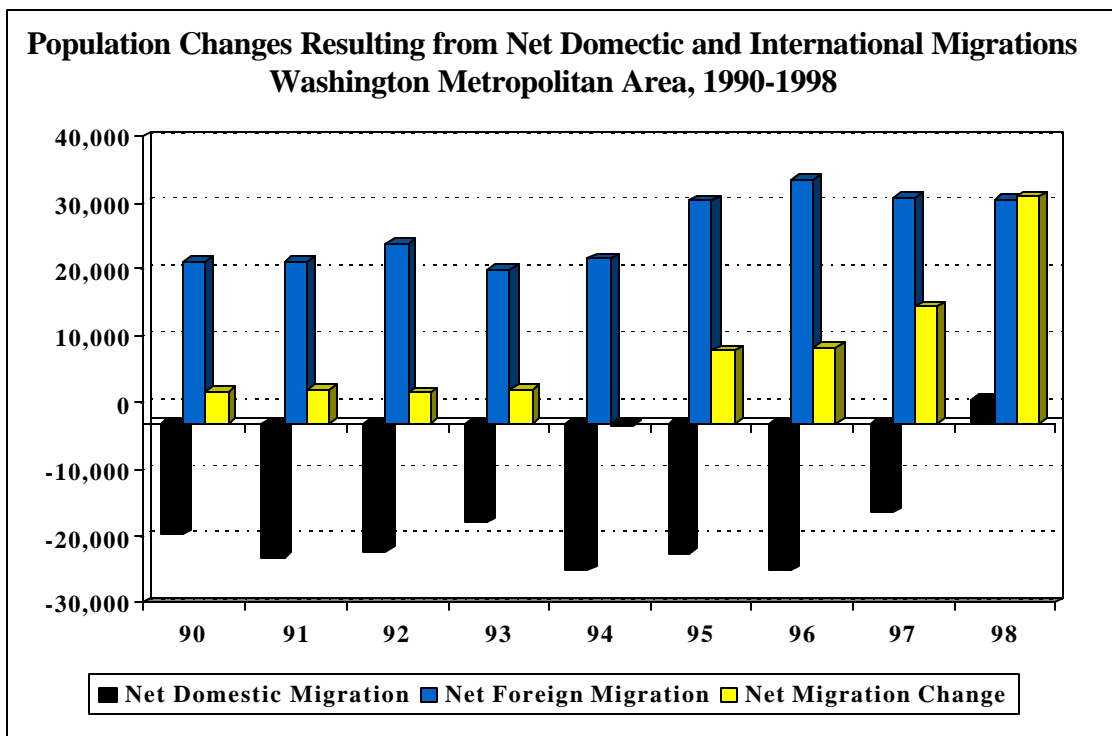
Net Domestic Migration ¹	-171,370
Net International Migration ²	232,986
Births	591,521
Deaths	-232,262
Net Federal Movement ³	24,251
Population Increase	445,126

¹Difference in migration to and out of an area where the origin and destination are within the United States.

²Difference in migration to and out of an area where the origin or destination is outside the United States.

³Difference in the movement of federal employees (both military and civilian) and their dependents into and out of the United States.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Changes in Population Components
Washington Metropolitan Area, 1990-1998**

	Net Domestic Migration	Net Int'l Migration	Births	Deaths	Net Federal Movement	Totals
District	-141,469	29,137	84,427	-58,177	2,776	-83,306
Alexandria	-15,309	10,691	17,297	-7,123	847	6,403
Arlington County	-32,564	21,475	23,796	-10,078	1,796	4,425
Fairfax County*	-31,134	66,974	120,483	-34,734	6,886	128,475
Loudoun County	50,309	3,468	19,333	-4,394	95	68,811
Prince William County**	12,404	7,600	46,075	-9,118	4,386	61,347
Stafford	21,817	498	9,999	-3,014	1,164	30,464
Northern Virginia	5,523	110,706	236,983	-68,461	15,174	299,925
Calvert County	17,004	142	8,019	-3,371	89	21,883
Charles County	8,752	649	14,829	-5,617	762	19,375
Frederick County	24,546	1,451	23,431	-9,961	375	39,842
Montgomery County	-39,316	61,817	109,669	-44,262	1,521	89,429
Prince George's County	-46,410	29,084	114,163	-42,413	3,554	57,978
Suburban Maryland	-35,424	93,143	270,111	-105,624	6,301	228,507
Washington Area	-171,370	232,986	591,521	-232,262	24,251	445,126

*Fairfax County figures include Fairfax City and Falls Church.

**Prince William County figures include Manassas City and Manassas Park City.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

jurisdictions. In the District, Prince George's County, Arlington, and Alexandria the inflow of international migrants did not fully offset the net loss of domestic migrants while the opposite occurred in Fairfax and Montgomery Counties. The outer suburbs gained residents from both domestic and international migrants.

The largest source of population growth in the area was births, not domestic or international immigrations. The 591,000 area births from 1990 to 1998 far exceeded the deaths in the area and resulted in an average natural growth of 40,000

annually. Every area jurisdiction, except the District, had births that were more than twice the number of deaths and in some Virginia suburbs births exceeded deaths by three to five times. In contrast, the Baltimore metropolitan area had a ratio of 1.60 births to deaths compared to 2.55 for the Washington area.

The rapid rate of population growth experienced at the end of the 1990s should continue in the next decade, if domestic migration into the area continues to be positive and international migration continues to increase.