

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, which aims to inform and educate school administrators on the process of performing enrollment projections and other topics related to school demography.

In our last newsletter, I explored the relationship between birth rates and enrollment at the county level in New Jersey. At the end of the discussion, I mentioned how families moving into the state (migration) can change the tide of declining enrollment that many school districts are experiencing.

When considering what variables cause population change in a community, there are three: births, deaths, and migration. There are also two different kinds of migration: domestic and international.

To help further explain migration, I will discuss it in terms of the county level, as this will be the frame of reference in this article. In domestic (also known as internal) migration, people are either moving into a county from other parts of the United States or people are leaving the county to reside in other United States locations. Negative net domestic migration indicates that more people are moving out of a county to other parts of the United States than are coming into the county from other parts of the country.

For international migration, the concept is the same except people are leaving the country to reside abroad, or are entering the United States to live here.

Total Net Migration is the sum of the domestic and international migration.

The formula for population change is quite simple: $\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Total Net Migration}$

In our industrialized society with quality medical care, people are living longer resulting in an annual number of births that exceeds the number of deaths. This positive addition to population change is known as **natural increase**. Therefore, if population change is to be negative, it is usually due to negative net migration.

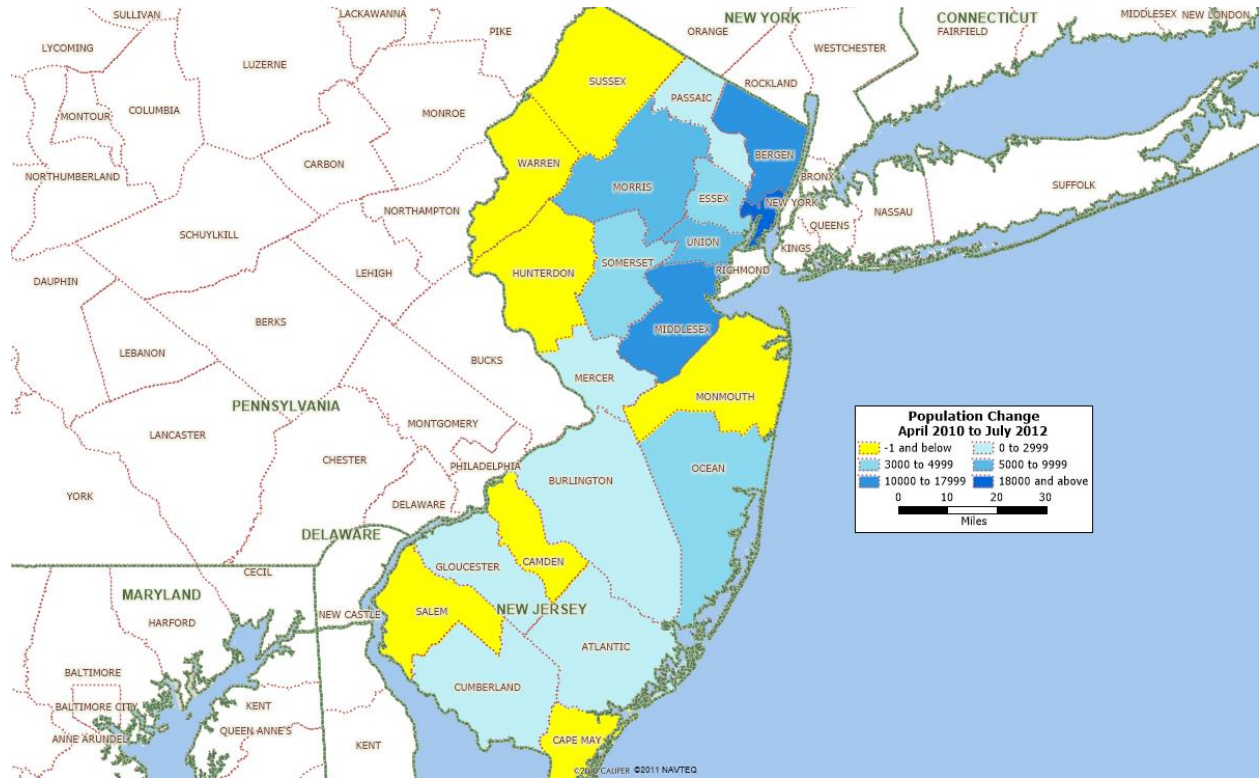
Let's look at the population change by county in New Jersey from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012. If you use the formula above to compute population change by county, you will get slightly different numbers than the ones reported by the U.S. Census in the table below. Their values also include a residual, which represents a change that cannot be attributed to a specific demographic component.

The table below rank orders the population change by county. Statewide, New Jersey gained nearly 73,000 people over the two-year period. However, most of it was due to natural increase. There is a small negative net migration, as nearly 1,600 people left the state. Interestingly, the county which had the largest increase in public school enrollment since 2008, Hudson County, also has had the greatest increase in its population.

Since natural increase occurred in each county, much of the population change is dependent upon net migration. Hudson, Bergen, and Middlesex counties had the largest gains of people due to migration, while Essex, Passaic, and Camden counties lost the most people.

County	Births	Deaths	Total Net Migration	Population Change
Hudson	20,150	8,423	+6,061	+18,036
Bergen	19,578	15,020	+9,497	+13,772
Middlesex	21,668	12,583	+4,316	+13,179
Union	15,214	8,821	+970	+7,477
Morris	10,474	7,814	+3,341	+5,720
Somerset	7,647	4,898	+1,377	+4,269
Ocean	17,552	15,472	+2,263	+3,905
Essex	23,018	13,034	-6,503	+3,775
Burlington	10,564	8,217	+455	+2,605
Mercer	9,548	6,295	-1,516	+1,792
Passaic	15,665	7,774	-6,284	+1,661
Gloucester	7,049	5,326	-406	+1,298
Cumberland	4,982	3,114	-922	+887
Atlantic	7,658	5,675	-1,038	+873
Camden	14,663	9,897	-4,856	-127
Salem	1,672	1,586	-416	-309
Cape May	2,069	2,822	-138	-961
Monmouth	13,739	11,820	-2,694	-994
Warren	2,284	2,006	-1,351	-1,039
Hunterdon	2,053	1,860	-1,487	-1,299
Sussex	2,975	2,525	-2,263	-1,828
State Total	230,222	154,982	-1,594	72,692

The figure below shows the population change by county over the two-year period. Counties shaded yellow lost people over the last two years. Counties shaded blue gained people, with the darker shading indicating larger gains. As you can see, the largest gains appeared in counties with close proximity to New York City.



One thing that is not shown in the table is the breakdown of domestic and international migration. That topic will be explored in the next newsletter.

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