

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.

Why are some counties around the state growing while others are declining? As I explained in a previous newsletter (December 2013), the formula for population change is quite simple:

$$\text{Population Change} = \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Total Net Migration}$$

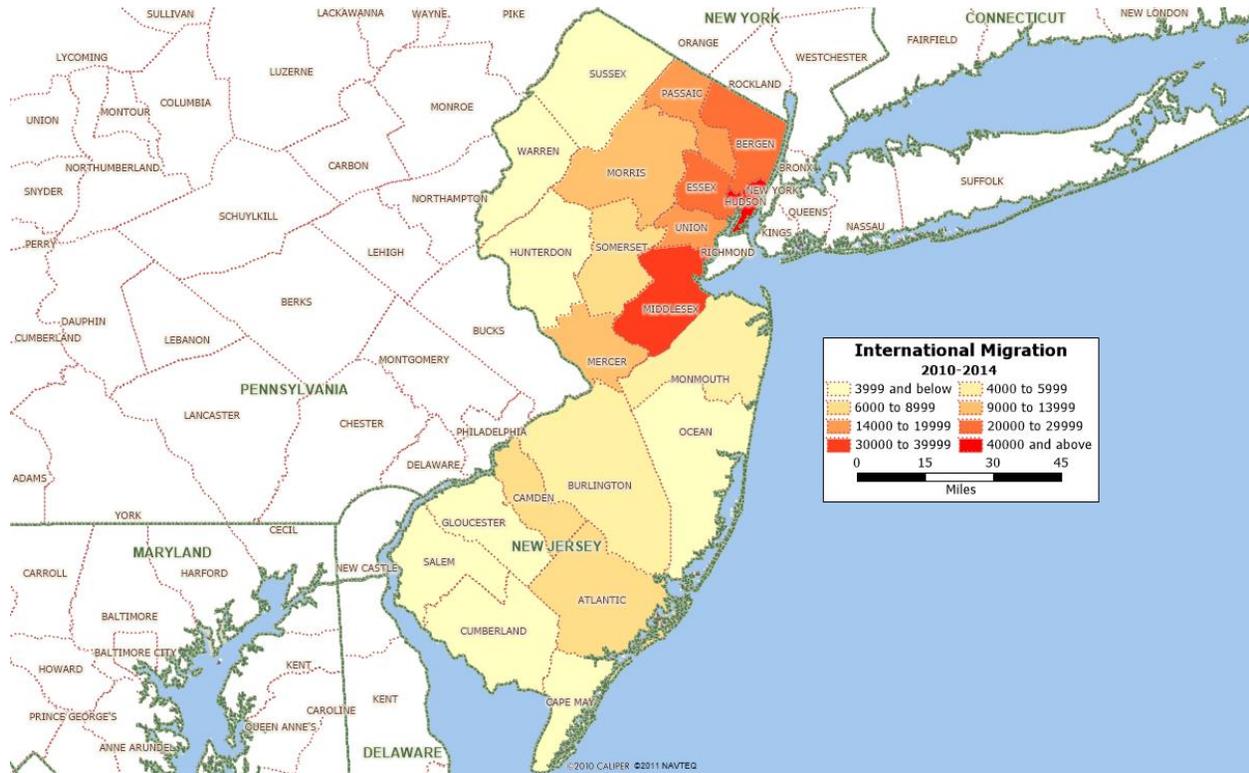
This newsletter will explore the two components of Total Net Migration: Domestic and International Migration.

In domestic (also known as internal) migration, people are either moving into a county from other parts of the United States or are leaving the county to reside in other United States locations (maybe even the county right next door!). Negative net domestic migration indicates that more people are leaving than coming in from other parts of the country. Positive net domestic migration is the reverse process.

For international migration, the concept is the same except that people are leaving the country to reside abroad, or are entering the United States to live here. Some places in New Jersey are more prone to positive international migration (e.g., Hudson County) because there is already a strong base of immigrants, which attract additional foreign-born persons.

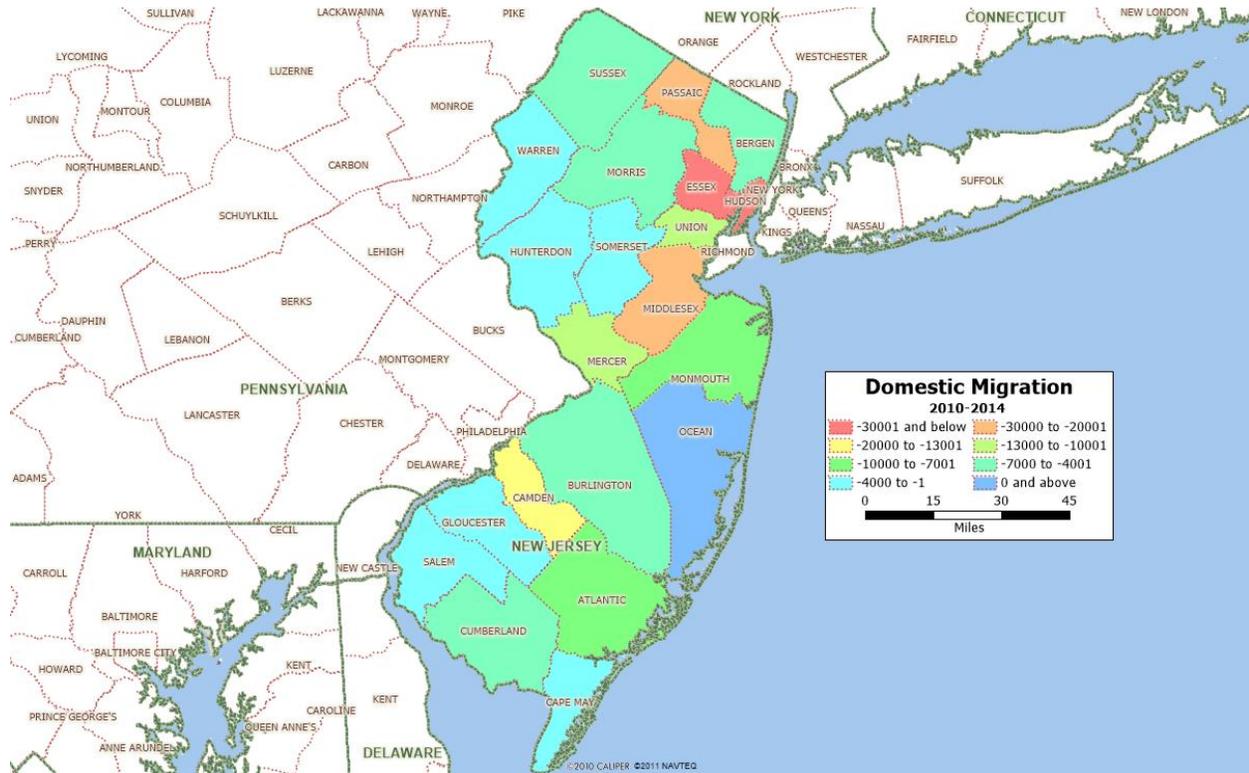
International Migration

The figure below shows the total number of people gained due to international migration by county from 2010 to 2014. Each county had a net gain, indicating more people are entering from abroad than are leaving to live outside the U.S. Where are the biggest gains occurring? In order of magnitude, the largest gains are in Hudson (+40,328), Middlesex (+31,598), and Bergen (+25,150).



Domestic Migration

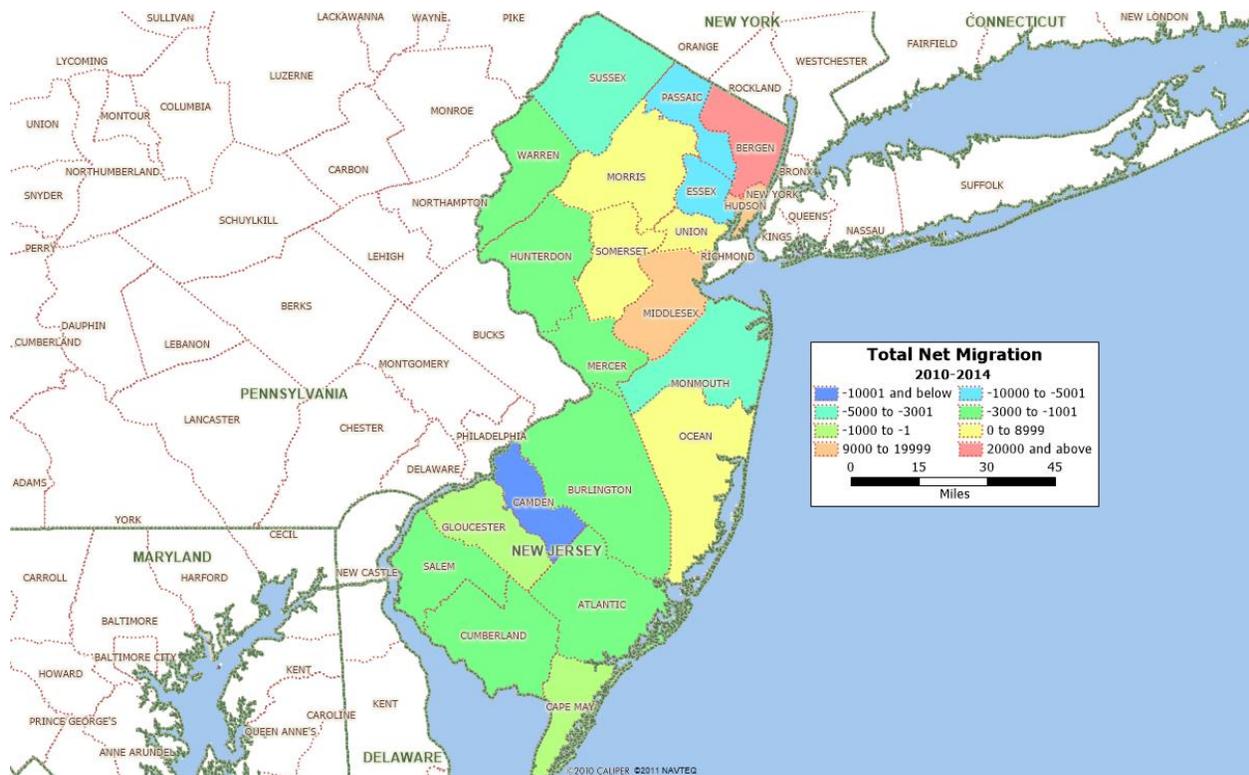
While all 21 counties in the state gained people due to international migration, all but one county (Ocean) lost persons due to domestic migration in the last four years. As shown below, Essex lost the most (-31,870), followed by Hudson (-30,539) and Middlesex (-22,578).



Total Net Migration

When the international and domestic net migrations are summed, the result is total net migration, as shown below. Only one-third of the counties gained people due to migration, with the largest being in Bergen (+20,841), Hudson (+9,789), and Middlesex (+9,020). These are also the counties with the largest gains due to international migration, although some of the gains were offset by negative domestic migration.

On the flip side, the biggest losses were in Camden (-10,593), Essex (-7,524), and Passaic (-7,497). Where are people coming from and what are their personal characteristics (race, socio-economic status, etc.)? There are resources that help to answer these questions, (e.g., IRS Migration dataset and Census PUMS data) but we will have to look at those issues in a future newsletter.



Richard S. Grip Ed.D.
Executive Director
Statistical Forecasting LLC
www.statforecast.com

Statistical Forecasting LLC is an educational consulting firm specializing in school demography based in Secaucus, NJ. If you have any comments or questions, feel free to email or call us toll-free at 1-877-299-6412.

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