



MIGRATION'S IMPACT ON THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF NC'S WORKFORCE

North Carolina Average Annual Migration Flows, 2010-2014 ACS

	All Ages	18-64 Only
In-Migrants	327,779	242,744
Out-Migrants	239,329	174,978
Net Migrants	88,450	67,766

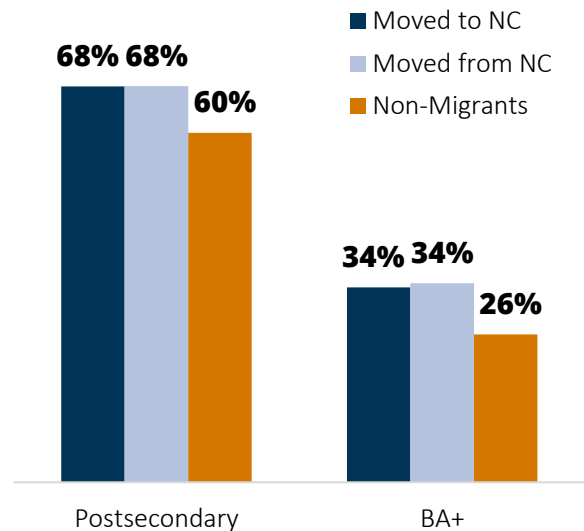
Each year between 2010 and 2014, more than 239,000 individuals moved from North Carolina to another state. At the same time, nearly 328,000 individuals moved into North Carolina from another state or country, an average annual gain of nearly 88,500 individuals from net migration.ⁱ

Working-age adults (18-64) comprise the majority of migrants into and out of the state. On average, nearly 243,000 working-age adults move into North Carolina each year and 175,000 move away, a net gain of nearly 68,000 working-age adults annually.

Individuals with higher education more likely to move across state lines

The likelihood of moving to a new state increases with educational attainment. Nationally, only 2.7% of working-age adults (18-64) with a high school diploma or less moved across state lines each year between 2010 and 2014 compared to 3.9% of individuals with any postsecondary attainment.

Working-age adults who move into or out of North Carolina have higher educational attainment than non-migrants.ⁱⁱ Sixty-eight percent of migrants have some form of postsecondary attainment compared to 60% of non-migrants.



Net Impact of Migration on North Carolina Workforce

Migration grows North Carolina's workforce

Every year in recent history, North Carolina has more people move into the state than move away. The majority of these migrants are prime working-age adults, growing the state's potential workforce by nearly 68,000 individuals each year.

Migration increases educational attainment of North Carolina's workforce

Migrants moving into the state look very similar to migrants leaving the state: both groups are more educated than individuals who are not moving across state boundaries. Because North Carolina has net gains from migration, the overall impact of migration is to increase the educational attainment of the state's workforce. Every year, North Carolina gains an average of 46,000 working-age individuals with some form of postsecondary education, including nearly 22,000 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Suggested citation: Carolina Demography. 2016. "Migration's Impact on the Educational Attainment of NC's Workforce." Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina.

ⁱ Data presented are Carolina Demography tabulations of 2010-2014 American Community Survey five-year data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS-USA). Because the American Community Survey only includes individuals currently residing in the United States, it cannot capture individuals who moved from North Carolina to foreign country or U.S. territory. The absence of this outflow causes the ACS data to slightly overestimate the total volume of net migration.

ⁱⁱ Non-migrant includes individuals who did not move in the prior year or moved within the state.