

Release Notes

Vintage 2017 Population Estimates

Net International Migration

The Vintage 2017 net international migration estimates reflect the following methodological changes since the Vintage 2016 release:

We updated the foreign-born emigration component in two ways: 1) we replaced the 5-year ACS input files with files containing five consecutive 1-year ACS data to calculate residuals; 2) life tables used to estimate mortality now include Hispanic origin. The combined updates produce lower estimates of foreign-born emigration compared to Vintage 2016.

We updated the net native-born migration estimate using new foreign census and population register data. This update increases the net native-born migration estimate from 45,228 (based on the 2008 update) to 95,493 per year.

We replaced the 3-year ACS files with three years of pooled 1-year ACS data to estimate national and state-level characteristics of net international migration. We continue to use 5-year ACS files to estimate county-level characteristics of net international migration.

Net Domestic Migration

The Vintage 2017 net domestic migration estimates reflect the following methodological changes since the Vintage 2016 release:

In the Vintage 2016 methodology, we used IRS tax return data to allocate domestic migrants of all ages to state and county demographic groups. We have revised this method to use Medicare enrollment data instead of IRS data for the age 65 and above population.

For net domestic migration for the age 65 and above population, we moved from a residual method to person-based method. Rather than estimating net migration rates derived from annual change in county-level Medicare enrollment, we now compare Medicare enrollee mailing address information from one year to the next to identify the number of enrollees that moved across county lines. Migrant and non-migrant enrollees are then aggregated by county to derive net migration rates for the population age 65 and above.

We identified a very limited but highly influential number of tax preparer offices and P.O. Boxes with a large number of tax returns filed to a single address (address clusters). We used a conservative approach to mitigate these address clusters from influencing migration pattern.