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DC's population grew for the 9th straight year in 2014, but growth was the slowest in 6 years

Growth slowed in 2014 because net domestic migration was 82% less than the annual average of the prior three years.

According to US Census Bureau data released in December, DC's population as of July 1, 2014 stood at 658,893, an increase of 9,782 (1.5%) from 2013. This is the 9th straight year of population growth, during which time population increased 91,757 (16.2%). DC's population is now the largest it has been since 1978. Population growth in 2014 was, however, the slowest annual increase in 6 years.

The main reason for the 2014 slowdown was a sharp decline in net domestic in-migration. From 2013 to 2014, net domestic in-migration was just 1,173, a reduction of 5,267 (-82%) from the annual average (6,440) of the prior three years.

The other principal components of population change—natural increase and net international migration—increased in 2014 by approximately the same amounts as the annual average of the prior three years. In 2014 natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 45% of the overall increase in DC population.

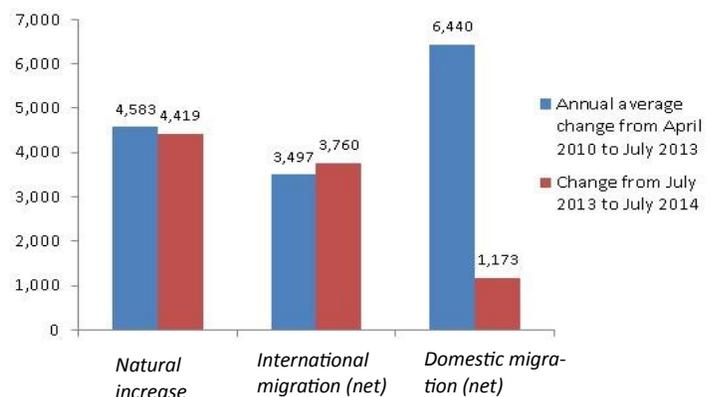
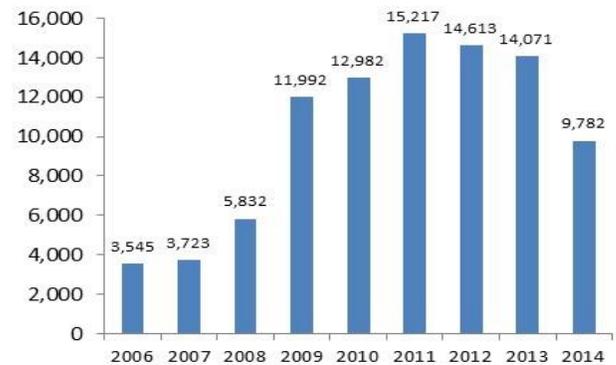
Census does not say what accounted for the sharp decline in (Continued on p. 2)

Principal components of DC population change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014.

(Amount of change in 2014 compared to the annual average of the prior three years.)

Source: US Census Bureau

Annual change in DC population: 2006 to 2014



This briefing document was prepared by Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis

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net domestic migration in 2014. Are more people moving out? Fewer moving in? We know from income tax data that there is considerable change in the composition of DC tax filers each year. Net migration is the result of decisions made by thousands of residents, or potential residents, taking into consideration such things as demographic factors (age, family formation, children), housing prices, incomes, schools, other city services, and job availability. Learning more about the nature of the decisions being made to enter or leave DC is important for understanding how the city may change over the next few years.

One should be cautious about drawing firm conclusions about DC population trends based solely on the most recent Census estimate because data is revised as more information becomes available. But it is fair to conclude at this point that population cannot be assumed to continue to increase in the future as it has in the recent past. Changes in net migration can cause fairly sharp changes in annual population growth.

Even with the slower overall growth in 2014, however, DC's rate of population growth in 2014 was twice that of the US (1.51% v 0.75%). In addition to positive net domestic migration, DC's share of US births and international migration in 2014 was significantly greater than DC's share of the 2013 population (which was 0.21%).

—Stephen Swaim, DC Office of Revenue Analysis

Components of change in DC population: April 2010 to July 2014

time period	Total	Natural increase	Vital events		Net migration		
			births	deaths	Total	Internat'l	Domestic
Population change: April 2010 to July 2014	57,126	19,313	39,983	20,670	37,229	15,126	22,103
Population change: July 2013 to July 2014	9,782	4,419	9,647	5,228	4,933	3,760	1,173
Population change: April 2010 to July 2013*	47,344	14,894	30,336	15,442	32,296	11,366	20,930
Average annual change: April 2010 to July 2013**	14,567	4,583	9,334	4,751	9,937	3,497	6,440

*equals population change from April 2010 to July 2014 minus that from July 2013 to July 2014.

**equals population change from April 2010 to July 2013 divided by 3.25 years

Source: US Census Bureau

DC population: 2004 to 2014

year	total	1 year change	
		amount	%
2004	567,754		
2005	567,136	-618	-0.1
2006	570,681	3,545	0.6
2007	574,404	3,723	0.7
2008	580,236	5,832	1.0
2009	592,228	11,992	2.1
2010	605,210	12,982	2.2
2011	620,427	15,217	2.5
2012	635,040	14,613	2.4
2013	649,111	14,071	2.2
2014	658,893	9,782	1.5

Source: US Census Bureau. Yearly data as of July 1.

Major components contributing to the change in DC population: April 2010 to July 2014

Component	Annual average change from April 2010 to July 2013	Change from July 2013 to July 2014	Difference: most recent year over prior 3 year average	
			Amount	%
Natural increase	4,583	4,419	-164	-3.6
International net migration	3,497	3,760	263	7.5
Domestic net migration	6,440	1,173	-5,267	-81.8

Source: US Census Bureau

Selected comparisons of DC and US population in 2013 and 2014

% change in population from 2013 to 2014	
US	0.75
DC	1.51
DC % share of US 2013 population	
	0.21
DC % share of change in US population from 2013 to 2014	
DC share of US population change	0.41
DC share of net international migration	0.38
DC share of natural increase	0.32
births	0.24
deaths	0.20

Source: US Census Bureau

Natural increase and vital events contributing to change in DC population: April 2010 to July 2014

component	Annual average change from April 2010 to July 2013	Change from July 2013 to July 2014	Difference: most recent year over prior 3 year average	
			Amount	%
Births	9,334	9,647	313	3.4
Deaths	4,751	5,228	477	10.0
Natural increase	4,583	4,419	-164	-3.6

Source: US Census Bureau