

## POPULATION ESTIMATES & PROJECTIONS

Research Brief No. 24  
April 2004

## Characteristics of In-Migrants to Washington State: 1990 and 2000 Censuses

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This Research Brief reports selected characteristics of persons migrating to Washington state as revealed by data from the 1990 and 2000 censuses. A report on characteristics of persons moving out of the state will appear in a later Research Brief.

Starting in 1940, all U.S. censuses save one (the 1950 census) reported migration in terms of where respondents lived five years before the date of the census. For example, the date of the 2000 census was April 1, 2000, so respondent John Doe would have to note where he lived on April 1, 1995. Obviously, this five-year interval omits some of the movements of persons who change address fairly often. And it completely misses the movement of people living at the same address in 1995 and 2000 who were someplace else at some point in the interval. Nevertheless, the migration question yields data in a consistent manner, permitting historical research useful in making population estimates and projections.

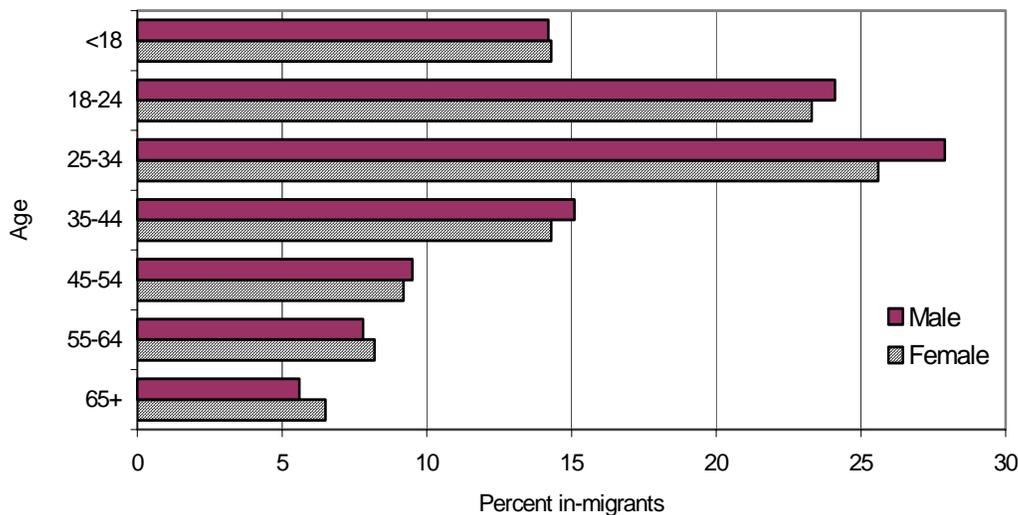
The data reported here come from the federal Census Bureau's five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). PUMS files contain both household and person records formatted so that a user with appropriate software is free to create cross-tabulations at will.

### In-Migration by Sex and Age

The percentage of Washington's population reported migrating to the state between 1985 and 1990 and between 1995 and 2000 is shown in Table 1, at the end of this report. Data are shown for seven age groups. The under-18 group does not include the population under age five, who were not alive five years before the census and, therefore, ineligible to be counted as migrants.

Migration is broken into three categories for each census: (1) all migrants, (2) migrants from the other 49 states and the District of Columbia, and (3) migrants from elsewhere, including foreigners, persons from overseas U.S. possessions, and Americans living abroad.

Figure 1: Percent in-migrants by age and sex, Washington: 2000 census.



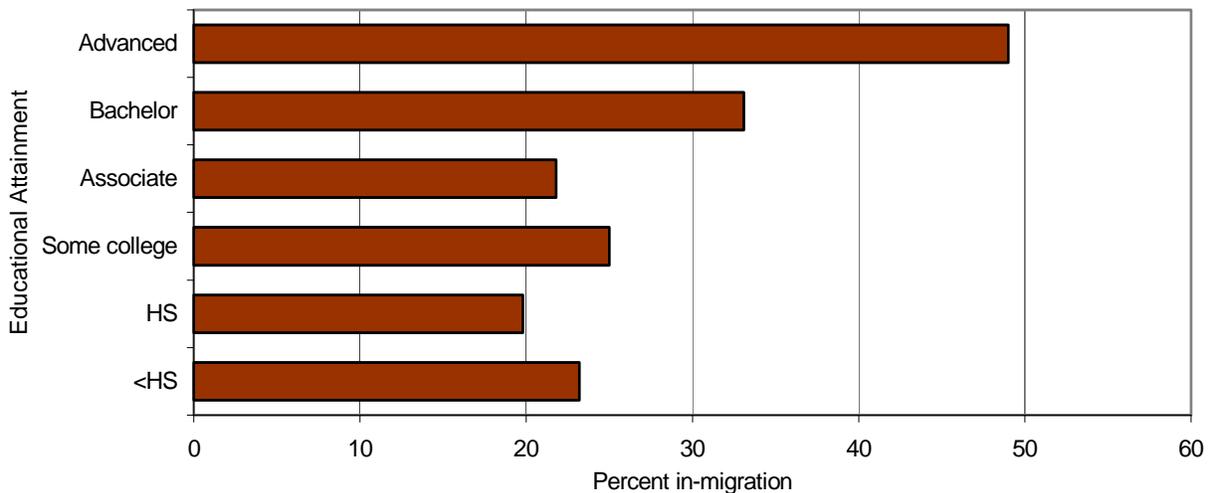
Data in the table indicate:

- Shares of Washington population reported as in-migrants fell two percentage points for males and slightly less than one percentage point for females between the two censuses. Some groups experienced increases and others declines: there was no clear pattern to the data.
- The proportion comprised of domestic (from elsewhere in the U.S.) migrants declined from 1990 to 2000 while the percentage living outside the U.S. rose for all groups.
- Recent migrants tended to be concentrated in the youngest age groups (see Figure 1). This is consistent with expectations based on demographic research: younger people have fewer economic restrictions and family commitments and therefore are more free to move.

### In-Migration by Sex and Educational Attainment

Table 2 has the same format as the first table, except that age is replaced by a person's highest educational attainment. The six attainment categories shown are: (1) less than high school, (2) high school diploma or equivalent, (3) attended college, but no degree received, (4) Associate, or two-year degree, (5) Bachelor, or four-year degree, and (6) one or more advanced degrees.

Figure 2: In-migration percentage by educational attainment, Washington population ages 25-34, 2000 census.



The data indicate:

- The greatest shares of in-migrants are for groups holding at least a four-year college degree.
- In-migration percentages fell between 1990 and 2000 for all educational attainment levels except the very lowest.
- Migration from outside the U.S. followed the classical “U” shaped pattern, where the greatest migration occurs at the extremes of the educational attainment range. This pattern was less distinct for domestic in-migration at the lower end of the range.

### In-Migration by Age and Educational Attainment

Table 3 presents in-migration percentages cross-tabulated by age and educational attainment. Sex detail was omitted in order to keep the size of the table manageable.

Data worth noting are:

- Almost half of the state's population aged 25-34 holding advanced degrees were in-migratory in 2000 (see Figure 2).
- These percentages decline for older age groups because older people migrate less and because the state's highly educated population was augmented by previous in-migrants.

## Relative Personal Income of In-Migrants and Non-Migrants

Income of in-migrants and non-migrants is compared in Table 4. Income data are total personal income for employed persons at each census. Mean incomes were calculated for each age-education group for each class of employed migrant and for the employed population not reported as having migrated to Washington. The analytical benefit of using such ratios is that there is no need to correct income data for inflation occurring between the two censuses. In the table, ratios less than 1.0 indicate that in-migrants in that group had lower average incomes than comparable non-migrants. Ratios greater than 1.0 mean higher average income for the migrants.

Findings include:

- For most age-education groups, in-migrants tended to have lower average personal income than non-migrants. However, the 1990-2000 trend for in-migrants was upward.
- Higher average incomes for migrants generally prevailed in age group 18-24.
- Migrants tended to fare worst if their educational attainment was at the high school or some-college levels. This might have to do with seniority practices for the jobs they hold; newer employees (migrants) earning less than established employees (non-migrants).
- Domestic migrants tend to have higher average incomes than non-U.S. migrants for each age-education group. Speculative reasons might include migrants having less familiarity with the U.S. job market than do domestic counterparts, as well as a lesser command of English.

Note that a few cells for older people with Associate degrees have zero as an entry. One possible reason for this is that the Associate degree was uncommon before 1960, so people born before 1940 holding such degrees might have been missed in the census sample.

## Conclusions

Although the proportion of Washington's population the Census Bureau classed as in-migrants declined between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of migrants from outside the 50 states and District of Columbia grew. Otherwise, the expected patterns of migration by age and educational attainment held: migrants tended to be young adults coming from the ends of the attainment range. Employed migrants from outside the U.S. and those with a high school diploma but no four-year college degree tended to have less personal income than their employed counterparts who had not migrated.

## Tables

Table 1: Percent of Washington Population by Sex and Age That In-Migrated, 1990 and 2000 Censuses.

Sex	Age	1990			2000		
		All	Domestic	Non-USA	All	Domestic	Non-USA
Males	Total	17.4	15.0	2.4	15.4	12.0	3.4
	<18	17.2	14.6	2.6	14.2	10.8	3.4
	18-24	26.3	22.2	4.2	24.1	17.7	6.5
	25-34	26.4	22.6	3.8	27.9	21.5	6.4
	35-44	17.1	15.1	2.1	15.1	12.2	3.0
	45-54	11.1	9.6	1.4	9.5	8.0	1.5
	55-64	7.8	6.9	0.9	7.8	6.4	1.5
	65+	6.6	6.1	0.5	5.6	4.8	0.8
Females	Total	15.3	13.2	2.1	14.5	11.5	3.0
	<18	16.5	14.0	2.5	14.3	11.1	3.2
	18-24	22.1	18.0	4.0	23.3	17.8	5.5
	25-34	24.1	20.6	3.5	25.6	19.9	5.7
	35-44	15.3	13.4	1.8	14.3	11.6	2.7
	45-54	9.8	8.6	1.2	9.2	7.6	1.6
	55-64	7.6	6.8	0.8	8.2	6.8	1.4
	65+	6.4	6.0	0.4	6.5	5.6	0.9

Table 2: Percent of Washington Population by Sex and Educational Attainment That In-Migrated, 1990 and 2000 Censuses.

Sex	Attainment	1990			2000		
		All	Domestic	Non-USA	All	Domestic	Non-USA
Males	Total	17.4	15.0	2.4	15.7	12.3	3.4
	<HS	13.9	10.7	3.2	14.9	9.0	6.0
	HS	15.3	13.6	1.8	13.0	10.3	2.7
	Some college	18.1	15.9	2.2	15.6	13.1	2.6
	Associate	16.8	14.3	2.5	13.8	11.1	2.8
	Bachelor	21.7	19.5	2.2	18.5	15.3	3.2
	Advanced	21.9	18.9	3.0	21.3	16.7	4.5
Females	Total	15.0	13.0	2.0	14.5	11.6	2.9
	<HS	13.1	10.2	2.9	14.5	9.5	5.1
	HS	12.3	10.7	1.5	11.6	9.1	2.5
	Some college	15.4	13.6	1.8	13.8	11.7	2.1
	Associate	15.0	13.0	2.0	13.0	10.4	2.6
	Bachelor	20.3	17.9	2.4	18.4	15.3	3.1
	Advanced	22.0	19.4	2.6	20.1	16.5	3.7

Table 3: Percent of Washington Population by Age and Educational Attainment That In-Migrated  
1990 and 2000 Censuses.

Age	Education	1990			2000		
		All	Domestic	Non-USA	All	Domestic	Non-USA
18-24	Total	24.3	20.2	4.1	23.7	17.7	6.0
	<HS	21.1	15.1	6.0	19.6	10.9	8.8
	HS	26.4	23.3	3.1	23.8	18.8	5.0
	Some college	23.0	19.4	3.6	24.6	19.9	4.7
	Associate	21.1	16.3	4.8	18.5	13.4	5.1
	Bachelor	34.5	30.6	3.9	37.3	30.5	6.8
	Advanced	34.3	20.9	13.5	44.7	30.0	14.7
25-34	Total	25.2	21.6	3.6	26.7	20.7	6.1
	<HS	22.5	17.1	5.4	23.2	13.8	9.5
	HS	19.2	16.3	2.9	19.8	14.9	4.9
	Some college	24.9	21.5	3.4	25.0	20.7	4.3
	Associate	21.5	18.4	3.2	21.8	16.9	4.9
	Bachelor	33.8	30.2	3.5	33.1	27.1	6.1
	Advanced	46.4	39.6	6.8	49.0	37.2	11.8
35-44	Total	16.2	14.2	2.0	14.7	11.9	2.8
	<HS	17.4	13.3	4.1	15.4	11.0	4.5
	HS	12.9	11.5	1.5	11.3	8.8	2.5
	Some college	15.2	13.9	1.3	13.5	11.6	1.9
	Associate	14.5	12.6	1.9	12.4	10.0	2.4
	Bachelor	18.2	16.0	2.1	17.0	14.0	3.0
	Advanced	23.3	20.4	2.9	24.3	19.7	4.5
45-54	Total	10.4	9.1	1.3	9.3	7.8	1.6
	<HS	11.5	9.2	2.3	11.6	7.6	4.0
	HS	8.8	7.7	1.0	8.1	6.4	1.7
	Some college	10.7	9.8	1.0	8.5	7.5	1.0
	Associate	9.3	8.3	1.0	8.4	7.4	1.0
	Bachelor	11.4	9.9	1.5	9.3	7.9	1.4
	Advanced	12.3	10.7	1.7	12.5	10.7	1.8
55-64	Total	7.7	6.8	0.9	8.0	6.6	1.4
	<HS	7.7	6.0	1.7	9.9	5.9	4.0
	HS	6.5	6.0	0.5	5.9	4.9	1.0
	Some college	7.2	6.8	0.4	7.3	6.6	0.7
	Associate	9.3	8.6	0.7	7.8	6.8	1.1
	Bachelor	9.7	8.8	0.9	9.3	8.2	1.1
	Advanced	10.3	9.0	1.3	10.7	8.6	2.1
65+	Total	6.5	6.0	0.4	6.1	5.2	0.9
	<HS	6.4	5.7	0.7	7.3	5.3	1.9
	HS	5.3	5.1	0.2	5.0	4.5	0.5
	Some college	6.3	6.1	0.2	5.3	4.9	0.4
	Associate	8.8	8.4	0.4	6.4	5.8	0.5
	Bachelor	7.8	7.3	0.5	6.5	5.8	0.6
	Advanced	11.5	10.9	0.5	9.4	8.0	1.4

**Table 4: Ratio of In-Migrant to Non-Migrant Mean Personal Income for Employed Persons in Washington by Age and Educational Attainment, 1990 and 2000 Censuses.**

Age	Education	1990			2000		
		All	Domestic	Non-USA	All	Domestic	Non-USA
18-24	Total	1.07	1.09	0.89	1.10	1.13	0.98
	<HS	0.99	1.06	0.83	1.31	1.36	1.25
	HS	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.98	0.71
	Some college	1.10	1.12	0.90	1.04	1.07	0.83
	Associate	0.99	1.05	0.71	1.11	1.13	1.00
	Bachelor	1.19	1.19	1.17	1.10	1.09	1.14
	Advanced	1.55	1.66	1.26	1.89	1.22	3.41
25-34	Total	0.96	0.99	0.72	1.02	1.06	0.87
	<HS	0.79	0.85	0.61	0.83	0.96	0.62
	HS	0.84	0.87	0.66	0.87	0.91	0.70
	Some college	0.85	0.87	0.73	0.92	0.95	0.77
	Associate	0.87	0.90	0.66	0.91	0.93	0.78
	Bachelor	0.99	1.01	0.81	0.99	0.99	1.00
	Advanced	0.96	1.00	0.74	0.98	1.01	0.86
35-44	Total	0.98	1.00	0.80	1.05	1.08	0.86
	<HS	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.77	0.75	0.79
	HS	0.87	0.89	0.76	0.93	0.97	0.78
	Some college	0.88	0.89	0.79	0.89	0.91	0.73
	Associate	0.98	0.99	0.89	0.93	0.94	0.88
	Bachelor	1.01	1.03	0.80	1.09	1.13	0.84
	Advanced	0.91	0.94	0.71	0.93	0.95	0.84
45-54	Total	0.98	1.00	0.82	0.98	1.01	0.80
	<HS	0.74	0.83	0.36	0.85	0.97	0.55
	HS	0.88	0.91	0.6	0.78	0.84	0.52
	Some college	0.92	0.93	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.88
	Associate	1.08	1.07	1.11	1.03	1.01	1.13
	Bachelor	1.00	1.00	0.95	1.01	1.05	0.81
	Advanced	0.97	1.00	0.79	0.95	0.96	0.85
55-64	Total	0.94	0.95	0.88	1.04	1.10	0.70
	<HS	0.66	0.75	0.37	0.63	0.74	0.42
	HS	0.80	0.84	0.50	0.87	0.90	0.68
	Some college	0.94	0.92	1.36	1.01	1.02	0.92
	Associate	1.02	1.02	0	0.99	1.06	0.52
	Bachelor	1.20	1.10	2.34	1.12	1.14	0.91
	Advanced	0.76	0.79	0.55	1.00	1.07	0.63
65+	Total	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.78	0.86	0.31
	<HS	0.79	0.80	0.66	0.55	0.67	0.34
	HS	0.96	0.93	1.09	0.79	0.86	0.14
	Some college	0.62	0.66	0.14	1.04	1.12	0.38
	Associate	0.71	0.83	0.04	1.54	1.54	0
	Bachelor	0.80	0.72	2.53	0.67	0.70	0.35
	Advanced	0.55	0.57	0.36	0.64	0.69	0.35

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