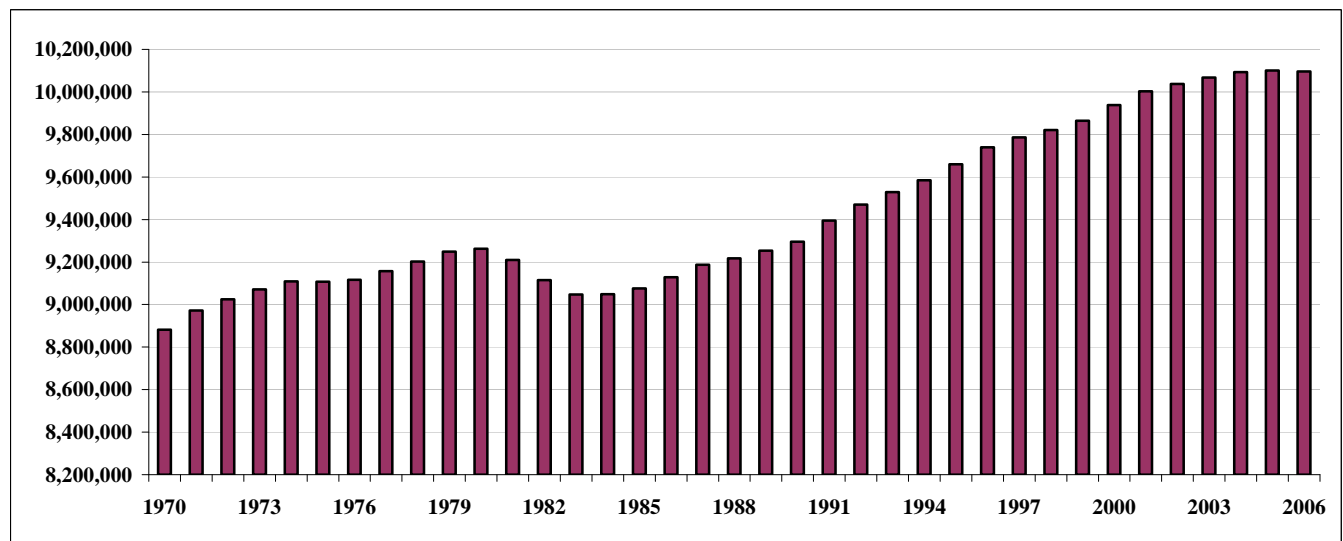


We Know They Are Leaving Michigan, But Where Are They Going?

Michigan experienced its first population loss between 2005 and 2006¹ since the early 1980s, when the economic recession led to population declines between 1980 and 1983 (see Figure 1). The primary reason for this loss was the large outmigration (over 65,000) of residents looking for jobs, in addition to the usual retirement movers and recent college graduates (detailed historical tables appear later). In spite of the loss, Michigan held its 8th place ranking though Georgia closed its 9th place gap by over 230,000 persons.

Figure 1. Michigan's Population, 1970 - 2006



Michigan's year-to-year population is driven by 2 primary factors:

1. **Natural Increase** – The difference between the number of births and the number of deaths, and
2. **Net Migration** – The difference between the number of people entering the state, either domestically or internationally, and the number leaving.

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau – 12/22/06

<http://www.census.gov/PressRelease/www/releases/archives/population/007910.html>

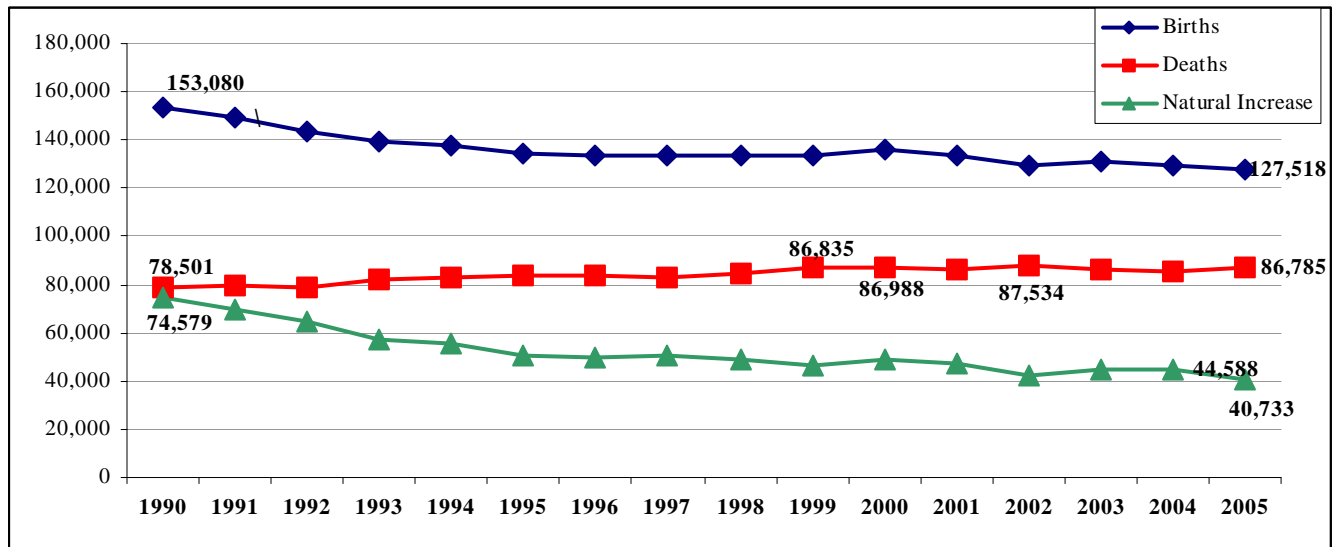
Natural Increase

While Michigan's growth, attributable to natural increase (see Table 2 and Figure 2), has been decreasing steadily since 1990, and international migration (immigration) has been strong since 2000 (see Figure 3), the primary factor governing change has been the level of domestic outmigration (see Figure 4).

Table 1. Michigan's Vital Statistics, 1990 – 2005

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
1990	153,080	78,501	74,579
1991	149,478	79,738	69,740
1992	143,827	78,916	64,911
1993	139,560	82,286	57,274
1994	137,844	82,644	55,200
1995	134,169	83,405	50,764
1996	133,231	83,496	49,735
1997	133,549	82,994	50,555
1998	133,649	84,906	48,743
1999	133,429	86,835	46,594
2000	136,048	86,988	49,060
2001	133,247	86,250	46,997
2002	129,518	87,534	41,984
2003	130,850	86,306	44,544
2004	129,710	85,122	44,588
2005	127,518	86,785	40,733

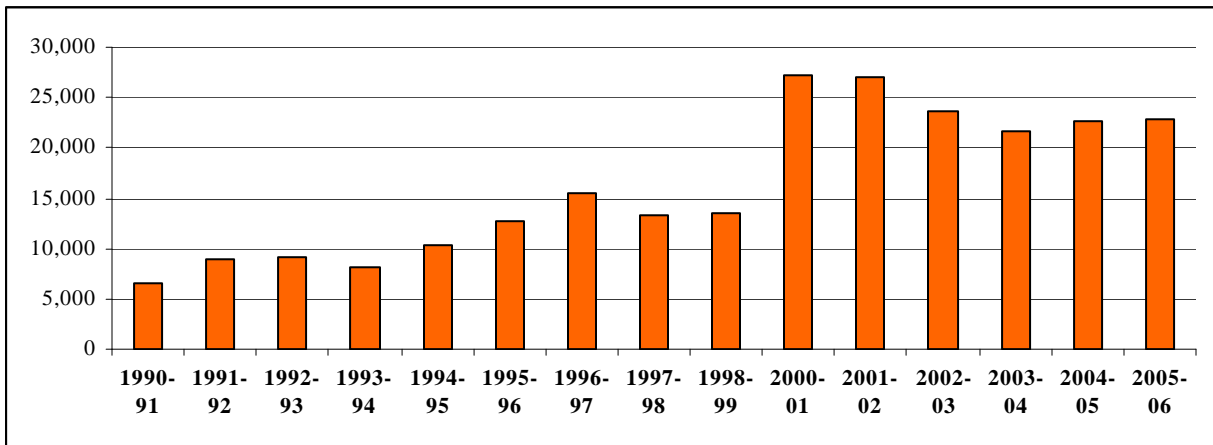
Figure 2. Births, Deaths and Natural Increase in Michigan, 1990 – 2005



Net Migration

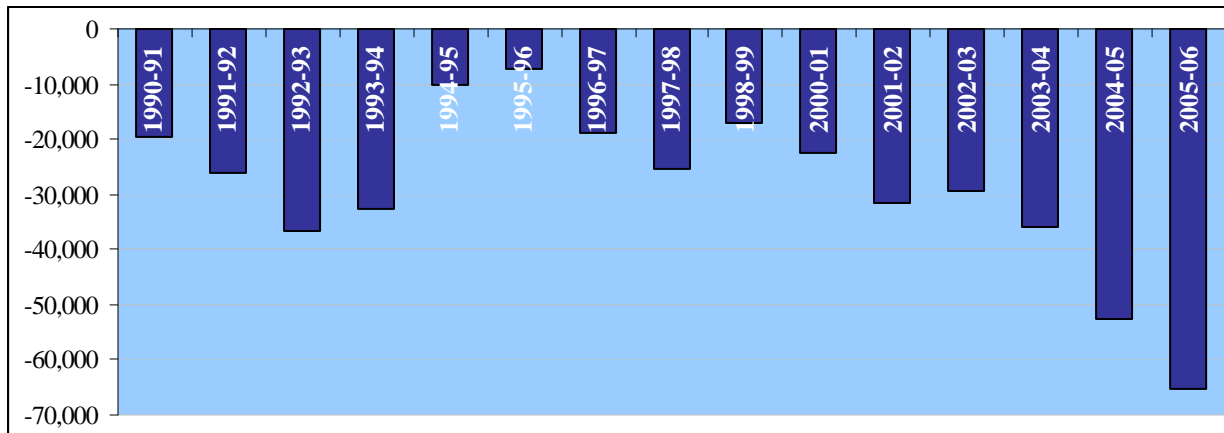
Michigan has benefited greatly from the national trend of increased immigration since 2000. Annual estimates of immigration into Michigan have averaged consistently over 20,000 since 2000, representing a doubling (or more) of the numbers coming in during the previous decade (see Figure 3). This increase has been critical as a cushion for the large numbers of internal (domestic) migrants who have chosen to leave the State for other parts of the country in recent years. A number of factors, ranging from the state economy to national immigration policy, will affect these numbers in the coming years, making it difficult to forecast whether we will continue to experience the trend of this decade, or return to the lower numbers of previous decades.

Figure 3. International Migration to Michigan, 1990 – 2006



As stated earlier, the future of Michigan's population growth is becoming more and more tied to trends in domestic migration. While the numbers of late leaving the state have not been quite as high as was experienced in the early 1980's, the trend has been an increasing number of outmigrants each year since September 2001, with the 2005-06 estimate reaching a loss of over 65,000 residents (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Domestic Migration to Michigan, 1990 – 2006



The question is... *“Where are Michiganians going when they leave the State?”*

In order to answer this question we acquired data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that tracks, through the analysis of individual tax returns, state-to-state movement by tax year. Using these data one can determine, for example, the number of households, and individuals living within, who left Michigan in 2005 to take up residence in North Carolina in 2006, as well as those that chose to move in the opposite direction. In this way we can determine how many states were net “takers” of Michigan residents, and how many “contributed” to Michigan’s population.

The current analysis looks at the years 2000 through 2006, incorporating the tax years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06. While the 2000-01 period found 18 States sending more residents to Michigan than they received, the number dropped to 10 in 2001-02, back up to 12 in the 2002-03 period, down to 9 for 2003-04, and down once again to 5 during the last 2 years.

The only states that have been consistent contributors for each year have been New Jersey and Nebraska. Both showed significant drops from recent trends, as Nebraska only contributed 8 new residents, well below its previous 5-year average of 42 per year, and New Jersey sent 44 new residents, after averaging 245 per year from 2000 through 2005. Ohio, which had averaged sending Michigan 644 more residents than they received during the first four years of the decade, became a net recipient of 586 Michiganians during 2004-05 and 1,391 for 2005-06.

Florida held the #1 recipient position of each of the 6 years, with the 2005-06 flow of 10,521 Michiganians being the largest of the six years. The other three states that ranked in the Top 5 for each of the 6 years were Arizona, Georgia and Tennessee.

Figure 5 provides a visual of the 2005-06 period for the Top 10 recipient states.

Figure 5. Top 10 Net Recipient States for Michigan Out-Migrants, 2005 – 2006

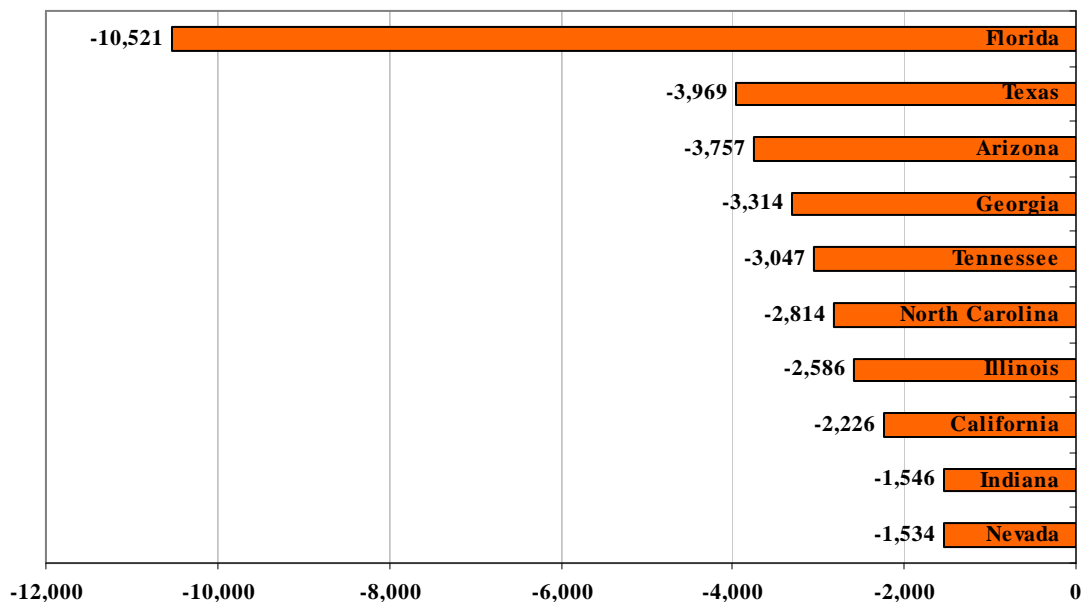
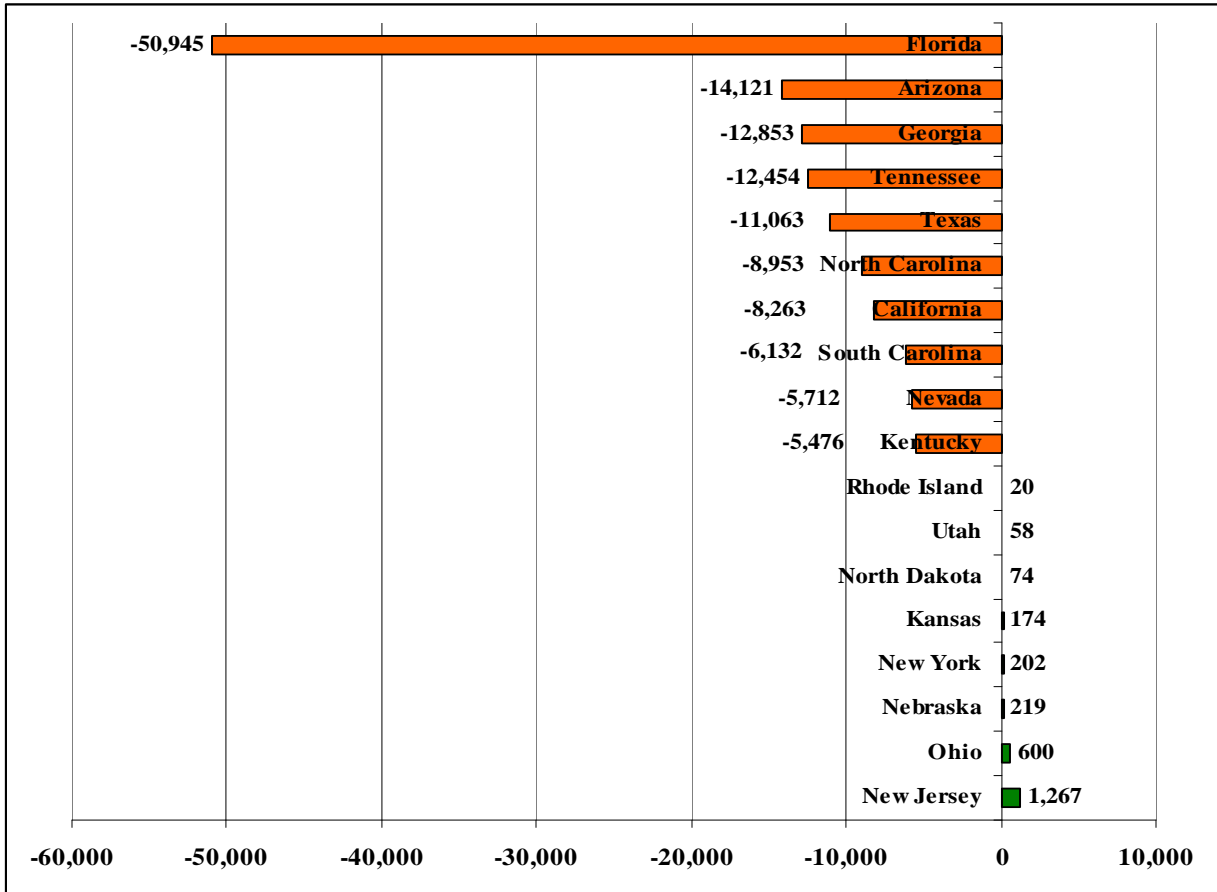


Figure 6 provides the same view of population loss but now aggregates these losses across the full six-year period. In addition to the top 10 “gainers” of Michigan residents, the table also provides data for the 8 States that contributed to Michigan’s population between 2000 and 2006.

Figure 6. Michigan’s Top Net Recipient and Contributor States, 2000 – 2006



Florida has received a net gain of almost 51,000 Michigan residents since 2000. This far outdistances Arizona which ranked #2 by picking up just over 14,000 Michigianians. Eight other states – all southern or western – had net gains of over 5,000 former Michigan residents. Of the eight states that sent more residents to Michigan than received, only Ohio and New Jersey exceeded 500. Only New Jersey and Nebraska have been contributors during each of the six years, while Ohio, New York and Utah have all turned their fortunes around during the last two years to become recipient states.

Further Information is available from:

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