

DENVER REGION DATA BRIEF

Migration

November 2019

MOVING TO AND FROM THE DENVER REGION

More people are moving to the Denver region. Estimates based on the American Community Survey indicate that 165,000 people moved to the region from 2013 to 2017, representing a 13% increase over the previous five-year period. However, more people are also moving out of the region. For 2013 to 2017, an estimated 130,000 people moved away – a 21% increase over the previous five-year period. Consequently, the region’s net gain due to migration dropped from more than 39,000 to less than 35,000.

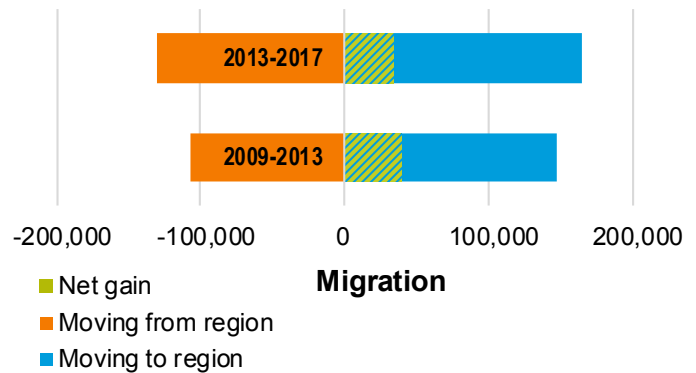
Just the numbers

- More than 165,000 people moved to the region from 2013 to 2017, which was up from more than 146,000 from 2009 to 2013.
- For 2013 to 2017, an increase in the number of people moving out of the region resulted in a net migration gain of less than 35,000, down from more than 39,000 from 2009 to 2013.
- Over three quarters of those moving to the region during 2013 to 2017 came from other metro areas in the U.S.
- On net, the region lost more than 10,000 people to other metro areas in Colorado during 2013 to 2017. That same net loss to other Colorado metro areas was less than 1,000 people from 2009 to 2013.

Analysis geography

For the purposes of this analysis, the Denver region corresponds with the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan statistical area combined with the Boulder metropolitan statistical area. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget labels all of Weld County, including a portion of DRCOG, as the Greeley metropolitan statistical area.

Denver region migration



Data source: "Metro Area-to-Metro Area Migration Flows" 2013-2017 and 2009-2013 American Community Surveys.

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/geographic-mobility/2017/metro-to-metro-migration/metro-to-metro-2013-2017.xlsx>

and <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/geographic-mobility/2013/metro-to-metro-migration/metro-to-metro-2009-2013.xlsx>

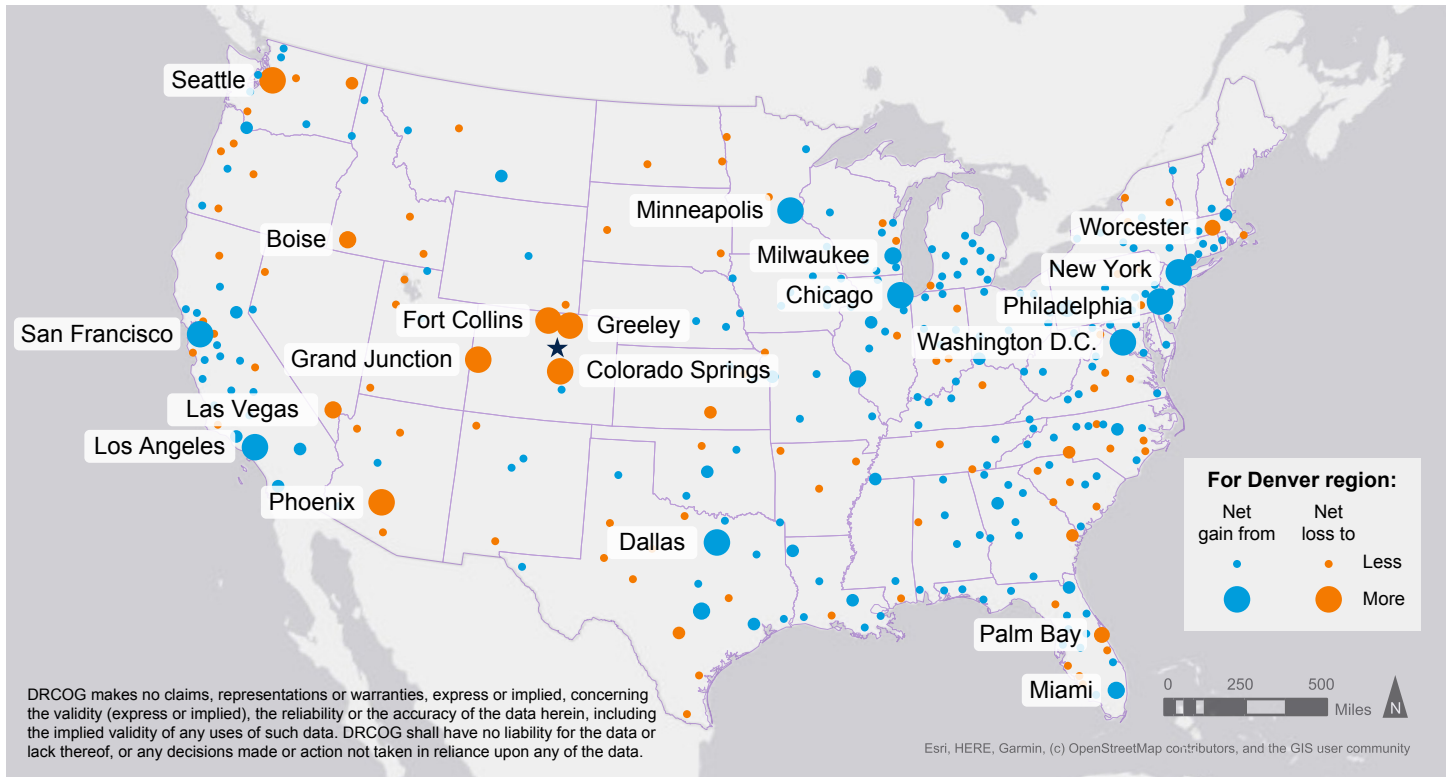
Accessed Oct 2019.

MIGRATION FROM, AND TO, OTHER METRO AREAS

The origins and destinations of people moving to and from the Denver region are most likely to be other metro areas in the U.S. More than three quarters of those moving to the region from 2013 to 2017 came from other metro areas in the U.S. Nearly 85% of people moving away from the region moved to other metro areas in the U.S.

The Denver region exchanged migrants with 314 of the other 388 metro areas in the U.S. from 2013 to 2017. For more than 80% of metro areas where there was an exchange, people moved in both directions. To make sense of this two-way exchange, demographers calculate net migration – the number of movers to an area, minus the number of movers from an area – to understand patterns of net loss and net gain.

Metro area net migration with the Denver region, 2013-2017



Data source: "Metro Area-to-Metro Area Migration Flows" 2013-2017 American Community Survey. <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/geographic-mobility/2017/metro-to-metro-migration/metro-to-metro-2013-2017.xlsx>. Accessed Oct 2019.

STAYING IN COLORADO

Colorado is home to four of the top ten metro areas to which people from the Denver region moved, resulting in a net migration loss. The Denver region experienced a net loss of more than 10,000 people to other Colorado metro areas from 2013 to 2017, up from less than a 1,000-person net loss during the previous five-year period. However, further analysis may be warranted to estimate how much of the migration to the Greeley metro area involves Weld County communities near to, or with significant economic associations with, the Denver region.

Top metro areas from which the Denver region had a net migration gain from 2013 to 2017

Metro area	Net gain
Chicago	3,235
New York	3,020
Los Angeles	2,183
DC	1,677
Dallas	1,470
San Francisco	1,447
Philadelphia	1,195
Minneapolis	1,021
Milwaukee	622
Miami	575

Top metro areas to which the Denver region had a net migration loss from 2013 to 2017

Metro area	Net loss
Greeley	-3,474
Fort Collins	-3,212
Colorado Springs	-2,972
Seattle	-1,207
Phoenix	-1,098
Grand Junction	-1,009
Boise City	-511
Las Vegas	-510
Palm Bay	-424
Worcester	-372

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a forum where local governments collaborate to make the region a great place to live, work and play. To support decision-making, DRCOG staff maintains and analyzes various data sets. This briefing is an opportunity to highlight insights from the data sets.

Questions? Ideas for topics? Contact Andy Taylor at ataylor@drcog.org. For more data, visit data.drcog.org.

