

Release Notes

Vintage 2016 Population Estimates

Net International Migration

The Vintage 2016 net international migration estimates reflect the following changes to the methodology since the release of the Vintage 2015 estimates:

We updated the foreign-born emigration subcomponent in two ways: 1) we modified the emigrant group definitions used to calculate estimates of foreign-born emigration; 2) we applied averaged rates from multiple 5-year ACS files for non-recent arrivals (Mexican born who arrived more than 10 years ago, Asian born who arrived more than five years ago, and Non-Mexican born who arrived more than 10 years ago). These changes resolve negative rates produced by the previous residual method, which had resulted in zero emigration for certain emigrant groups. Consequently, foreign-born emigration will be higher and net international migration will be lower than the previous vintage.

Our current methodology uses data from the 3-year ACS to estimate state-level characteristics of net international migration. In response to cancellation of the 3-year ACS after 2013, we obtained internal-use survey weights to construct an input file that approximates a 2014 3-year file.

Net Domestic Migration

The Vintage 2016 net domestic migration estimates reflect the following changes to the methodology since the release of the Vintage 2015 estimates:

We changed the way we handle tax records from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for people ages 0-17. When duplicate records are found for children, we now select the dependent record instead of the primary filer record. This selection changes the under 18 net migration rates and the population by demographic characteristics in some states and counties.

We also changed how we assign race and Hispanic origin to IRS tax records. This vintage, we began allocating race and Hispanic origin using country of birth, family characteristics, filing status, and geography for individuals without a 2000 or 2010 Census record. Most of the records affected by this change include children born after 2010 and foreign-born individuals who arrived after 2010. The revisions may affect race and Hispanic origin distributions by single year of age in some states and counties. Prior to this vintage, we used a combination of modelling (holding rates and proportions constant for ages 0-4) and exclusions to assign race and Hispanic origin for individuals without a 2010 Census record.