

Where They Come From; Where They Go

by Jack Hoffman

The 1040 forms that people file every year with the Internal Revenue Service provide a lot of information beyond income statistics and tax collections. By tracking Social Security numbers and the addresses from which taxpayers file, the IRS can follow people moving from one state to another. They also can track people moving in or out of the country — at least those who file income tax returns. And the IRS has data on how much income moves as people migrate from one place to another.

According to the latest information published by the IRS, more people moved out of Vermont in 2006 than moved in. However, the new arrivals had more income than those who left — on average about 18¹ percent more per exemption.

The tables below show the movement in and out of Vermont. They include aggregate figures as well as migration to and from each of the other states. The IRS tracks the number of returns filed and the number of exemptions represented by those returns, which is an approximation of the number of people who moved.

It appears that many Vermonters who left didn't go far away or headed for warmer weather. About a quarter of those who emigrated went to New Hampshire or New

¹ The original report said that new arrivals to Vermont had, on average, 15 percent more income per exemption than those who left the state. Their total income was 15 percent greater than those who left, but the income per exemption was 18 percent greater.

York. The next most popular destination was Florida. Much of the movement into Vermont also was from neighboring states. New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts accounted for about 40 percent of the newcomers in 2006.

What the IRS data don't show are the age or income brackets of the people coming and going. For a time, the IRS reported the median income of those migrating, which was a better indicator of the income of the average person or family coming to Vermont or moving away.

Knowing the age and income of families would help to answer some important questions about demographic changes affecting Vermont. There has been anecdotal information — and considerable worry — about young Vermonters leaving the state. It would be useful to have hard data to test that assumption. It also would be good to know who the people are who are moving to Vermont. Even more important would be to learn why they are coming to the state. (A new study done by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, *Is New England Experiencing A "Brain Drain"?* offers new information about young professionals in the region.)

Here are the migration figures for Vermont for 2006. **Figure 1** shows total figures for movement in and out of the state. **Figures 2** and **3** provide a breakdown of where Vermonters went after they left the state and where the newcomers had lived previously.

Figure 1. 2006 Aggregate Migration Data

	To Vermont			From Vermont		
	Number of Exemptions	Aggregate Adjusted Gross Income	Average AGI Per Exemption	Number of Exemptions	Aggregate Adjusted Gross Income	Average AGI Per Exemption
Total -- US and Foreign	16,279	\$ 473,281,000	\$ 29,073	16,637	\$ 410,448,000	\$ 24,671
Total – US	15,706	465,858,000	29,661	16,306	402,607,000	24,691
Total – Foreign	573	7,424,000	12,956	331	7,841,000	23,689
Non-Migrating filers	493,363	12,503,709,000	25,344	493,363	12,503,709,000	25,344

Source: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division; Public Assets Institute

2006 Aggregate Migration Data

Figure 2.

From	To Vermont		
	Number of Exemptions	Aggregate Adjusted Gross Income	Average AGI Per Exemption
New York	2,226	\$ 91,328,000	\$ 41,028
New Hampshire	2,223	46,740,000	21,026
Massachusetts	2,028	59,899,000	29,536
Florida	1,194	29,745,000	24,912
Connecticut	976	34,992,000	35,852
California	638	19,969,000	31,299
New Jersey	597	27,206,000	45,571
Foreign	573	7,424,000	12,956
Pennsylvania	503	13,755,000	27,346
Maine	462	12,407,000	26,855
Virginia	419	14,853,000	35,449
North Carolina	337	8,201,000	24,335
Colorado	297	6,610,000	22,256
Maryland	252	8,634,000	34,262
Texas	244	6,607,000	27,078
Ohio	241	7,238,000	30,033
Arizona	225	4,746,000	21,093
Georgia	206	5,876,000	28,524
Washington	180	4,800,000	26,667
South Carolina	166	6,000,000	36,145
Michigan	160	4,594,000	28,713
Rhode Island	159	4,412,000	27,748
Illinois	155	5,146,000	33,200
Wisconsin	141	3,958,000	28,071
Oregon	133	2,603,000	19,571
Indiana	127	2,887,000	22,732
Tennessee	120	1,793,000	14,942
Utah	102	1,676,000	16,431
Minnesota	97	3,082,000	31,773
Alaska	90	1,891,000	21,011
Louisiana	75	2,554,000	34,053
Alabama	72	1,166,000	16,194
District Of Columbia	70	2,644,000	37,771
Montana	65	1,210,000	18,615
Kentucky	63	1,564,000	24,825
Kansas	61	2,138,000	35,049
Hawaii	58	935,000	16,121
Missouri	57	1,425,000	25,000
New Mexico	55	1,207,000	21,945
Mississippi	54	1,066,000	19,741
Oklahoma	51	1,023,000	20,059
Iowa	45	1,110,000	24,667
Nevada	44	972,000	22,091
Idaho	43	1,134,000	26,372
West Virginia	42	776,000	18,476
Nebraska	36	639,000	17,750
Delaware	33	1,219,000	36,939
Arkansas	24	229,000	9,542
South Dakota	9	436,000	48,444
North Dakota	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wyoming	N/A	N/A	N/A

Figure 3.

To	From Vermont		
	Number of Exemptions	Aggregate Adjusted Gross Income	Average AGI Per Exemption
New Hampshire	2,295	\$ 52,924,000	\$ 23,061
New York	2,087	48,023,000	23,011
Florida	1,640	44,273,000	26,996
Massachusetts	1,553	46,717,000	30,082
North Carolina	805	15,035,000	18,677
California	650	16,670,000	25,646
Maine	578	12,705,000	21,981
Connecticut	573	16,966,000	29,609
Virginia	533	14,615,000	27,420
Pennsylvania	452	11,048,000	24,442
Colorado	385	8,878,000	23,060
Arizona	355	8,591,000	24,200
South Carolina	338	7,623,000	22,553
Foreign	331	7,841,000	23,689
Texas	323	8,795,000	27,229
Georgia	266	5,436,000	20,436
Maryland	265	6,570,000	24,792
New Jersey	262	7,762,000	29,626
Washington	205	7,669,000	37,410
Ohio	194	4,645,000	23,943
Illinois	188	4,186,000	22,266
Oregon	179	3,489,000	19,492
Tennessee	170	4,341,000	25,535
Rhode Island	142	3,203,000	22,556
Utah	141	3,955,000	28,050
Wisconsin	141	4,086,000	28,979
Michigan	135	4,477,000	33,163
Kentucky	113	1,963,000	17,372
Nevada	99	2,584,000	26,101
Montana	92	1,534,000	16,674
Minnesota	91	2,611,000	28,692
New Mexico	87	1,860,000	21,379
Missouri	87	1,937,000	22,264
Indiana	82	1,592,000	19,415
Hawaii	67	1,672,000	24,955
District of Columbia	64	1,405,000	21,953
Alaska	59	948,000	16,068
Idaho	59	1,439,000	24,390
Wyoming	58	1,112,000	19,172
Alabama	58	1,403,000	24,190
Arkansas	57	1,222,000	21,439
Kansas	56	876,000	15,643
Louisiana	55	1,009,000	18,345
Delaware	46	1,178,000	25,609
West Virginia	38	595,000	15,658
Iowa	37	673,000	18,189
Oklahoma	35	627,000	17,914
Mississippi	34	555,000	16,324
South Dakota	27	384,000	14,222
North Dakota	27	235,000	8,704
Nebraska	23	510,000	22,174

Source: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division; Public Assets Institute

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