

Abstract

Texas long has been characterized by its rapid growth. It is the second fastest growing states in the United States, especially when considering its large population. An important component of this prevailing population is net migration gains (number of individuals moving into minus individuals moving out of the state). This study examines domestic and international migration trends to Texas from 2000 to 2009 using two data sources: 1) the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and 2) individual income tax returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The objectives of this study include: 1) assessing comparability in the estimation of gross and net migration flows between these data sources, 2) providing estimates of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of migrants coming to Texas, and 3) discussing potential economic impact implications.

DRAFT

An Analysis of Texas Migration Patterns and Economic Impact Implications

The 2010 decennial census demonstrated that Texas added more individuals to its population than any other state in the U.S. Texas also had one of the highest rates of growth of any state in the nation. As a border state, migration has long played a significant role in the Texas population. The Texas State Data Center estimates that nearly half, or 45%, of the population growth seen in the last decade can be attributed to net migration. This report briefly describes recent migration trends in the state of Texas for the period between 2000 through 2009. We evaluate the effectiveness of the American Community Survey 1-year estimates as a source for estimating yearly migration flows into the State. We also use the American Community Survey to analyze the demographic characteristics of immigrants to Texas and evaluate if there are compositional differences from year to year. Additionally, we compare migration estimates drawn from the ACS 1-year estimates to migration estimates derived from individual tax returns administered by the Internal Revenue Service. Lastly, we consider possible economic implications related to changes in the demographic profiles of in-migrants to Texas.

Data and Methods

Data Sources

Migration behaviors are drawn from two main sources: 1) the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates and 2) individual tax returns filed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides data relating to multiple demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. In light of the elimination of the U.S. Census Bureau long form, many migration researchers now use the ACS and IRS tax return data to estimate migration. Both of these sources are available on a yearly basis and at a state-level,

adding to their appeal. Migrant characteristics are also drawn from the ACS, as this survey includes many of the demographic and socioeconomic variables that have been shown to be related to migration. Specifically, we examine changes across years in the sex, age group, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, and class of work of migrants to Texas. Additionally, we stratify migrants by their migration origin in order to examine differences in these characteristics among domestic migrants as well as international migrations.

Preliminary Results

Differences between ACS and IRS Estimates

While generally, the ACS and IRS data seem to follow a similar pattern, some clear differences in the estimates from the two sources can be seen. For instance, the IRS estimates seem to produce more stable estimates, as can be seen by the smoother trend line in Figures 1 and 2. Additionally, the IRS estimates are consistently lower relative to the ACS estimates. While it is well documented that ACS estimates are deemed to be more robust post 2005, the ACS and IRS estimates are most similar prior to 2005.

Figure 1. ACS and IRS Estimates of State to State Total Outflow of Migrants, Texas 2001-2008

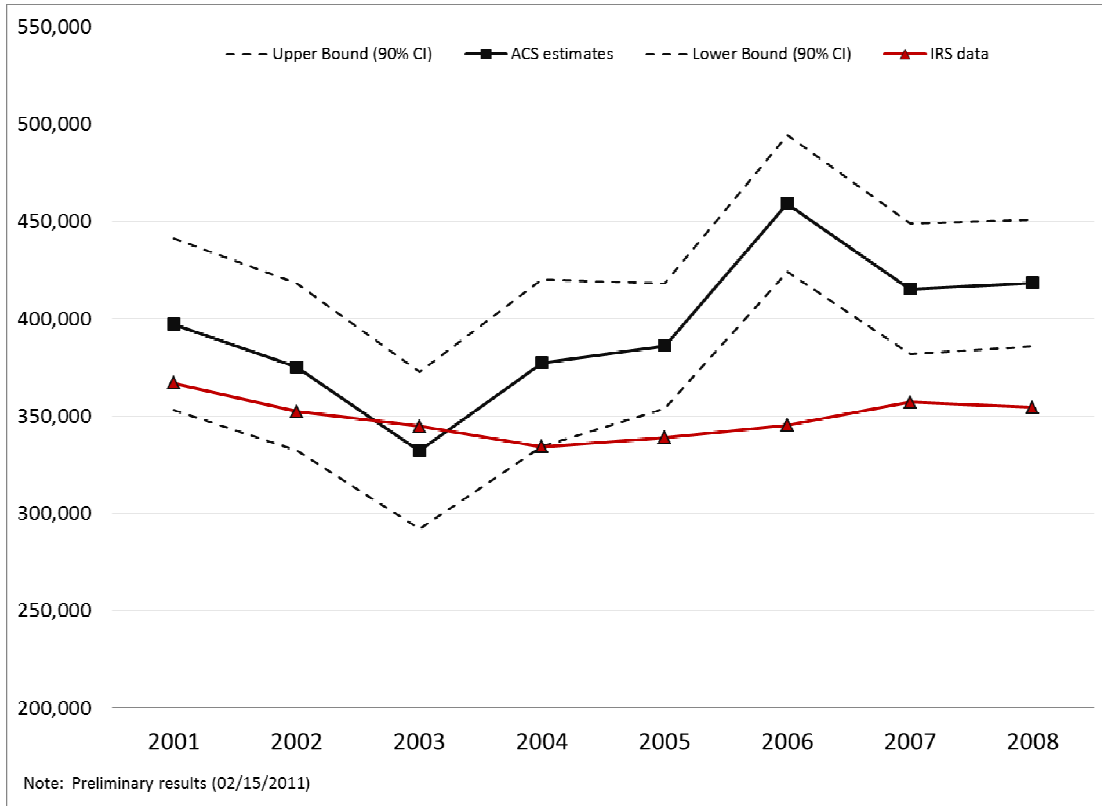
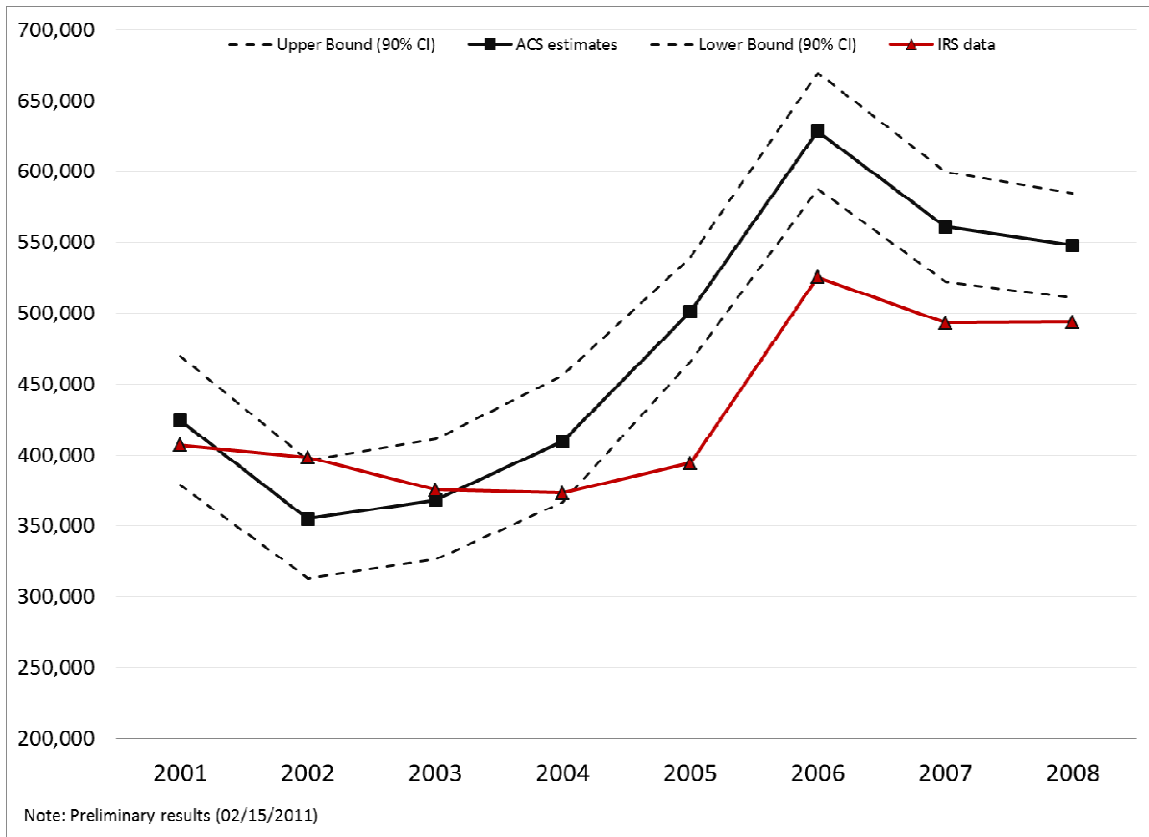


Figure 2. ACS and IRS Estimates of State to State Inflows of Migrants, Texas 2001-2008



Differences in Migrant Characteristics

We evaluated differences in the demographic composition of domestic and international migrants coming to Texas between 2005 and 2009. Specifically, we looked at differences in sex, age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, and class of work across time. Table 1 includes differences in these characteristics for international migrants in 2006 and 2009. Table 2 depicts these differences for domestic migrants during this time period.

Table 1. Differences in Demographic Composition of International Migrants to Texas, 2006 and 2009

	2009		2006		Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total	170,938		182,992		-6.6%

Sex						
Female	73,711	43.1%	74,948	41.0%	-1.7%	
Male	97,227	56.9%	108,044	59.0%	-10.0%	
Age						
Under 18	33,607	19.7%	43,153	23.6%	-22.1%	*
18 to 24	36,449	21.3%	38,744	21.2%	-5.9%	
25 to 34	42,158	24.7%	45,769	25.0%	-7.9%	
35 to 44	23,651	13.8%	28,088	15.3%	-15.8%	
45 to 54	17,043	10.0%	13,043	7.1%	30.7%	*
55 to 64	10,279	6.0%	8,949	4.9%	14.9%	
65 plus	7,751	4.5%	5,246	2.9%	47.8%	*
Race/Ethnicity						
NH White	47,748	27.9%	39,460	21.6%	21.0%	*
NH Black	12,020	7.0%	14,170	7.7%	-15.2%	
Hispanic	81,078	47.4%	103,442	56.5%	-21.6%	*
NH Asian	28,293	16.6%	25,064	13.7%	12.9%	
NH Other	1,799	1.1%	856	0.5%	110.2%	
Educational Attainment (25 and over)						
No high school diploma	67,563	72.5%	80,884	84.4%	-16.5%	*
High School diploma or GED	26,511	28.5%	29,761	31.0%	-10.9%	
Some college	31,241	33.5%	26,913	28.1%	16.1%	*
College grad	26,546	28.5%	25,431	26.5%	4.4%	
Graduate or Professional degree	19,077	20.5%	20,003	20.9%	-4.6%	
Class of work (16 to 64 years of age)						
Private sector	64,161	49.5%	75,030	55.7%	-14.5%	
Government	24,129	18.6%	17,815	13.2%	35.4%	
Self-employed	8,201	6.3%	11,274	8.4%	-27.3%	*
Working w/out pay	646	0.5%	369	0.3%	75.1%	
Unemployed	4,443	3.4%	3,272	2.4%	35.8%	*
Other/Missing	32,544	25.1%	33,944	25.2%	-4.1%	

*p < .05

Table 2. Differences in Demographic Composition of Domestic Migrants to Texas, 2006 and 2009

	2009		2006		Percent Change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Total	499,416		628,514		-20.5%	

Sex						
Female	236,788	47.4%	299,861	47.7%	-21.0%	
Male	262,628	52.6%	328,653	52.3%	-20.1%	
Age						
Under 18	114,526	22.9%	156,462	24.9%	-26.8%	*
18 to 24	91,409	18.3%	113,134	18.0%	-19.2%	
25 to 34	122,552	24.5%	125,757	20.0%	-2.5%	*
35 to 44	71,679	14.4%	95,544	15.2%	-25.0%	
45 to 54	45,140	9.0%	62,801	10.0%	-28.1%	
55 to 64	28,419	5.7%	40,109	6.4%	-29.1%	
65 plus	25,691	5.1%	34,707	5.5%	-26.0%	
Race/Ethnicity						
NH White	275,802	55.2%	317,772	50.6%	-13.2%	*
NH Black	66,533	13.3%	135,794	21.6%	-51.0%	*
Hispanic	116,400	23.3%	137,260	21.8%	-15.2%	
NH Asian	36,087	7.2%	31,366	5.0%	15.1%	
NH Other	4,594	0.9%	6,322	1.0%	-27.3%	
Educational Attainment (25 and over)						
No high school diploma	141,220	52.7%	203,203	62.7%	-30.5%	*
High School diploma or GED	96,987	36.2%	122,955	37.9%	-21.1%	
Some college	123,131	46.0%	142,870	44.1%	-13.8%	
College grad	77,973	29.1%	83,798	25.8%	-7.0%	*
Graduate or Professional degree	60,105	22.4%	75,688	23.3%	-20.6%	
Class of work (16 to 64 years of age)						
Private sector	249,582	69.5%	290,143	66.3%	-14.0%	
Government	63,753	17.7%	81,021	18.5%	-21.3%	*
Self-employed	17,576	4.9%	25,104	5.7%	-30.0%	
Working w/out pay	496	0.1%	438	0.1%	13.2%	
Unemployed	2,708	0.8%	4,287	1.0%	-36.8%	
Other/Missing	36,333	10.1%	53,914	12.3%	-32.6%	