

# Trends in Migration & the Population of College Graduates

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# Outline

Why are migration and postsecondary graduate flight concerning?

What the research says about migration and postsecondary graduate flight.

Policy considerations and future steps.

# Why do these issues matter?

*Keeping Virginians is crucial. Virginians are the workforce, tax base, voters, and future of the Commonwealth. It is especially important to keep those with postsecondary skills and education.*

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Loss of workforce, particularly the highly-skilled and highly-educated workforce.



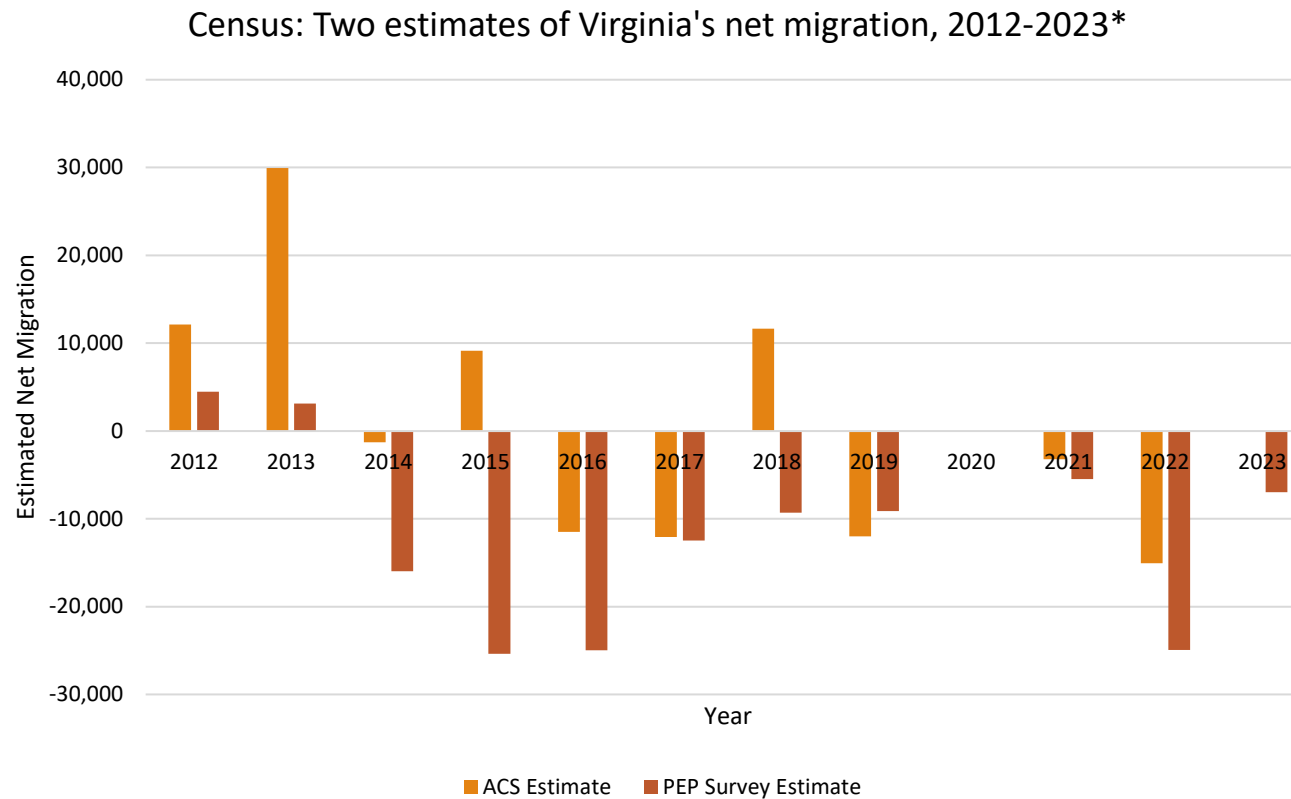
Subsequent decline in income tax revenue.



Changes to the dependency ratio, with a higher rate of dependents than those in the workforce.

# Census Bureau migration estimates:

*Data suggests that it is likely more people leave Virginia every year, with a general downward trend.*



\*The Census did not report migration estimates for 2020. ACS data for 2023 have not been released.

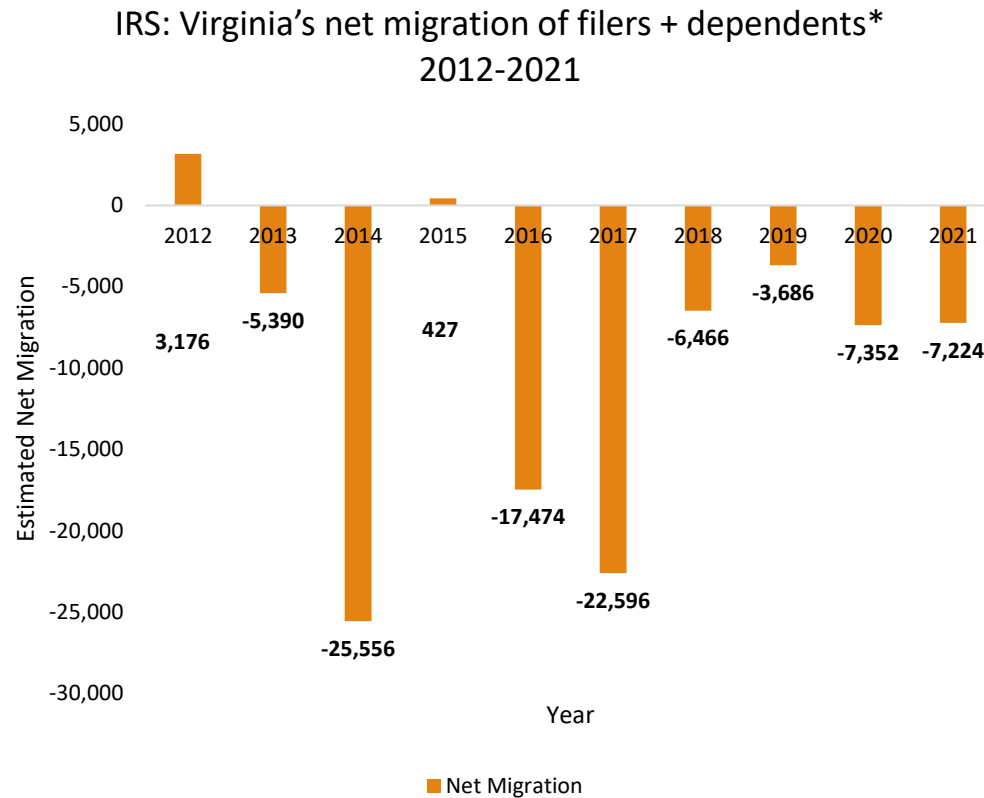
Sources:

US Census Bureau – American Community Survey, State-to-state migration 2012-2022 & US Census Bureau – Population Estimates Program (PEP), Components of Change 2010-2023

- Two surveys from the Census Bureau both suggest that Virginia has likely lost more people to domestic migration in recent years, though estimates differ and fluctuate.
- These data are estimates and true net migration in many years could be either positive or negative.

# IRS migration data:

*More filers and dependents have left Virginia.*



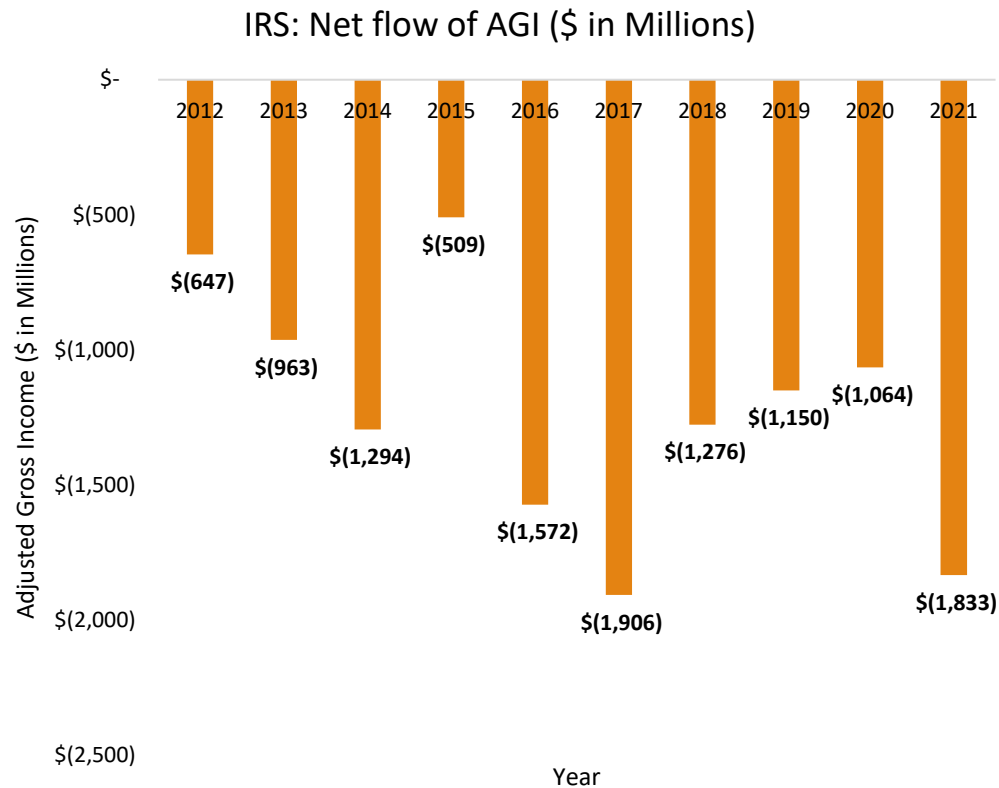
- The IRS uses change of address data to report on migration between states each year but **does not include those who do not file.\***
- IRS data suggest that **more people have moved out of Virginia in recent years**, though the amount fluctuates.

\*IRS data includes a total of ~6.6 million filers + dependents, not including ~2 million non-filers or those otherwise not included in their data.

Source: IRS, SOI Migration Data, <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data>

# IRS income of movers data:

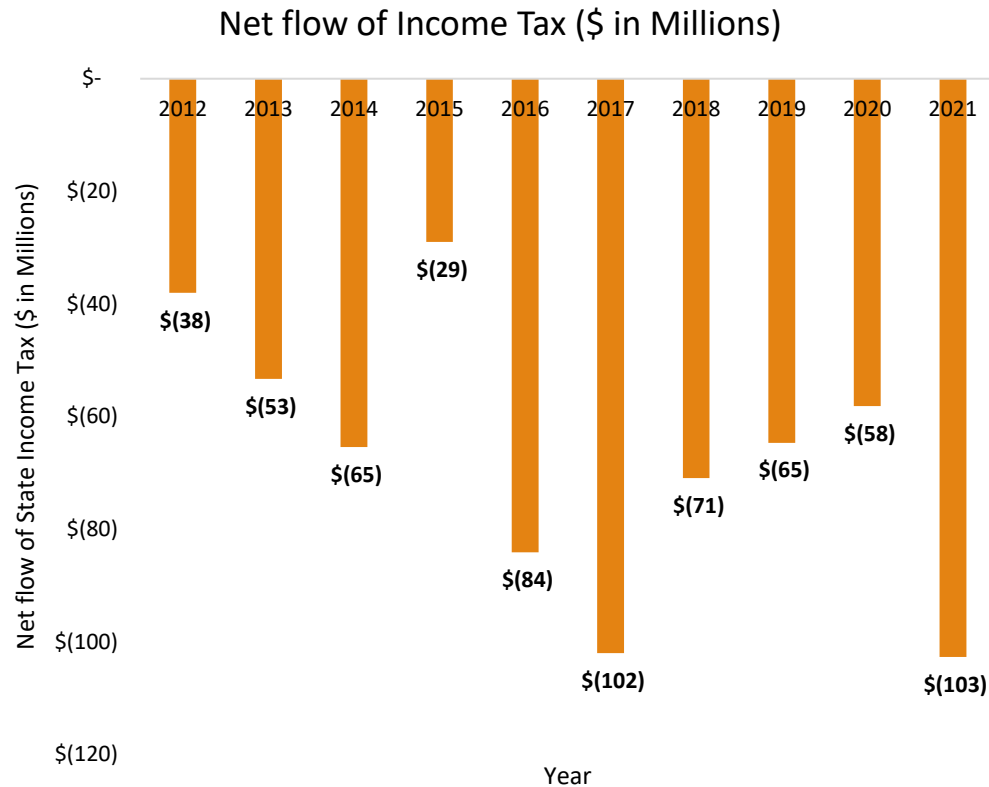
*The net flow of income from Virginia has been negative.*



- The IRS reports the adjusted gross income of all movers who filed taxes.
- Every year between 2012 and 2021, **more adjusted gross income flowed out of Virginia than in, though total state AGI has still grown.**
- The average income per filing moving *into* Virginia was \$82,000 in 2021, and the average income per filing moving *away from* Virginia was \$94,000 in 2021.

Source: IRS, SOI Migration Data, <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data>

# IRS income of movers data (continued): *Virginia has lost out on potential revenue due to migration.*



- The loss of adjusted gross income impacts Virginia's State income tax.
- Assuming the standard deduction and personal deductions were always taken, and that the average household income was adjusted gross income ÷ the number of filers, Virginia has seen a **loss of potential income tax receipts each year** since 2012. **The total compounded loss totals ~\$668 million in lost state income tax receipts** between 2012 and 2021.
- This is a very rough estimate and does not factor in additional deductions that may have been taken, nor whether a mover took a higher or lower-paying job in a different state, or retired from the workforce and no longer earns any income.

Source: IRS, SOI Migration Data, <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data>

# U-Haul and United Van Lines mover data:

*In 2022, more people may have moved to Virginia.*

U-Haul: Migration Growth States		
2021 Ranking	2022 Ranking	State
1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Texas
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Florida
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	South Carolina
19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	North Carolina
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Virginia</b>

United Van Lines: Moves in/out of Virginia		
Year	2021	2022
In-bound movers	49%	52%
Out-bound movers	51%	48%

- U-Haul and United Van Lines report moving trends for their customers every year.
- Both report that **before 2022, more people were moving away from Virginia than in.**
- In the 2022 reports, **more people moved into Virginia than out, and Virginia was classified as a top 5 “Growth State”.**
- Though positive indicators, these data are only representative of the company’s customers.

Source: U-Haul, Growth States Report, 2022, <https://www.uhaul.com/Articles/About/U-Haul-Growth-States-Of-2022-Texas-Florida-Top-List-Again-28337/>, & United Van Lines, National Movers Study, 2022, <https://www.unitedvanlines.com/newsroom/movers-study-2022>



Virginia is still growing,  
*but not as fast as other states.*

Regardless of whether more people leave Virginia, **the population is still growing**, though slightly below the national average.

Virginia's population growth is driven by **births and immigration**.

Southern states saw the largest percent and numeric population growth since 2020, while many Northeastern and Midwestern states saw population declines.

Select states and territories, 2023 estimated population change since 2020			
Rank	Geography	% Change since 2020	# Change since 2020
-	United States (total)	1.0%	3,387,962
1	Idaho	6.2%	115,387
2	Florida	4.7%	1,019,427
3	South Carolina	4.7%	241,404
8	North Carolina	3.7%	381,679
11	Tennessee	2.9%	200,398
20	Washington, D.C.	1.2%	88,314
 25	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>78,505</b>
32	Kentucky	0.4%	17,999
35	Maryland	0.1%	6,564
47	West Virginia	-1.2%	(21,491)
52	New York	-2.7%	(533,494)

Source: US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, 2023



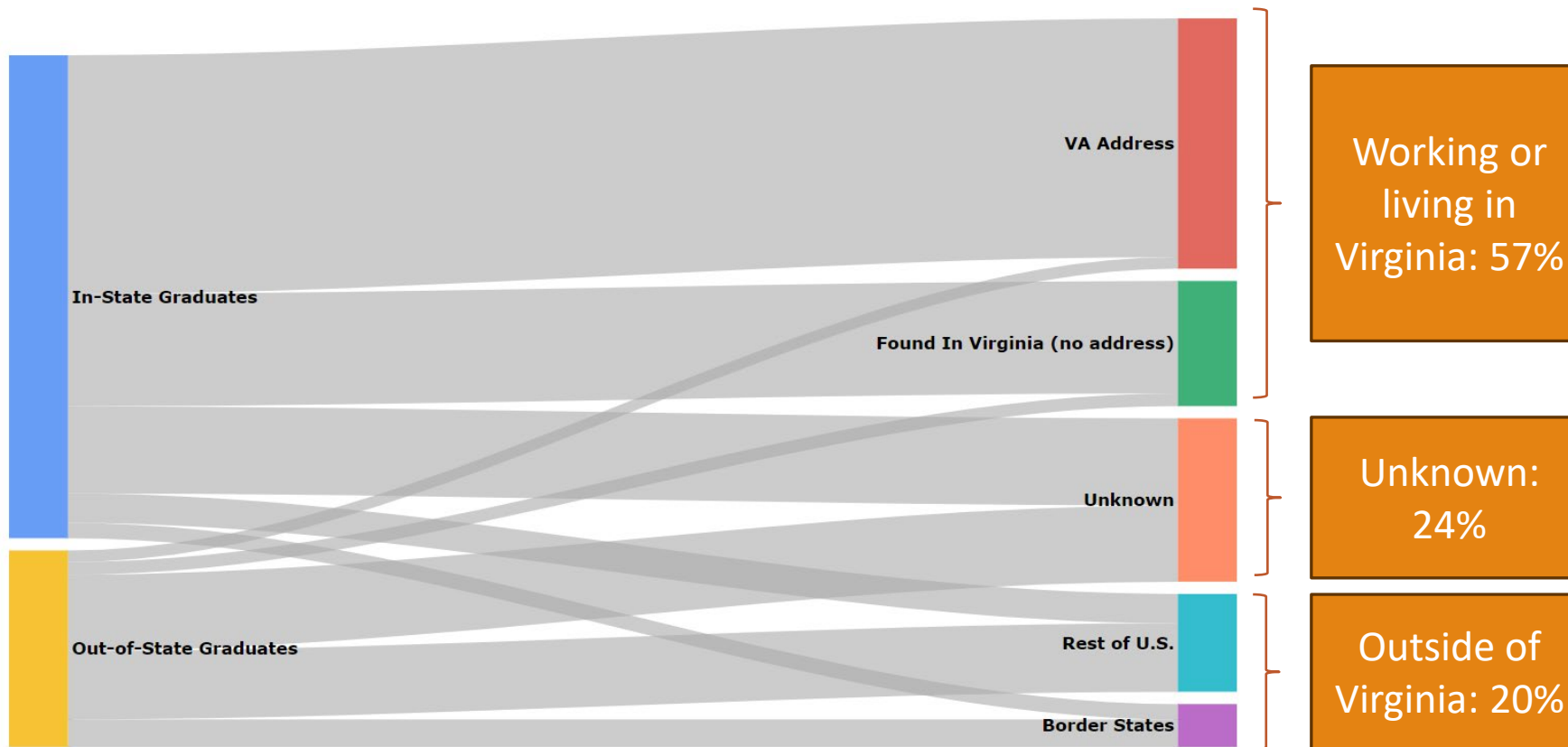
Loss of postsecondary graduates:

Virginia may be losing more **post-secondary** graduates every year, but there is enough **evidence to cause concern.**

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# SCHEV graduate mobility report:

*The majority of graduates remain in Virginia.*



- SCHEV found that **the majority of post-secondary graduates** from Virginia institutions between 2008 and 2018 were **living or working in Virginia.**
- **Of in-state graduates, more than 70%** were still in Virginia.

Working or living in Virginia: 57%

Unknown: 24%

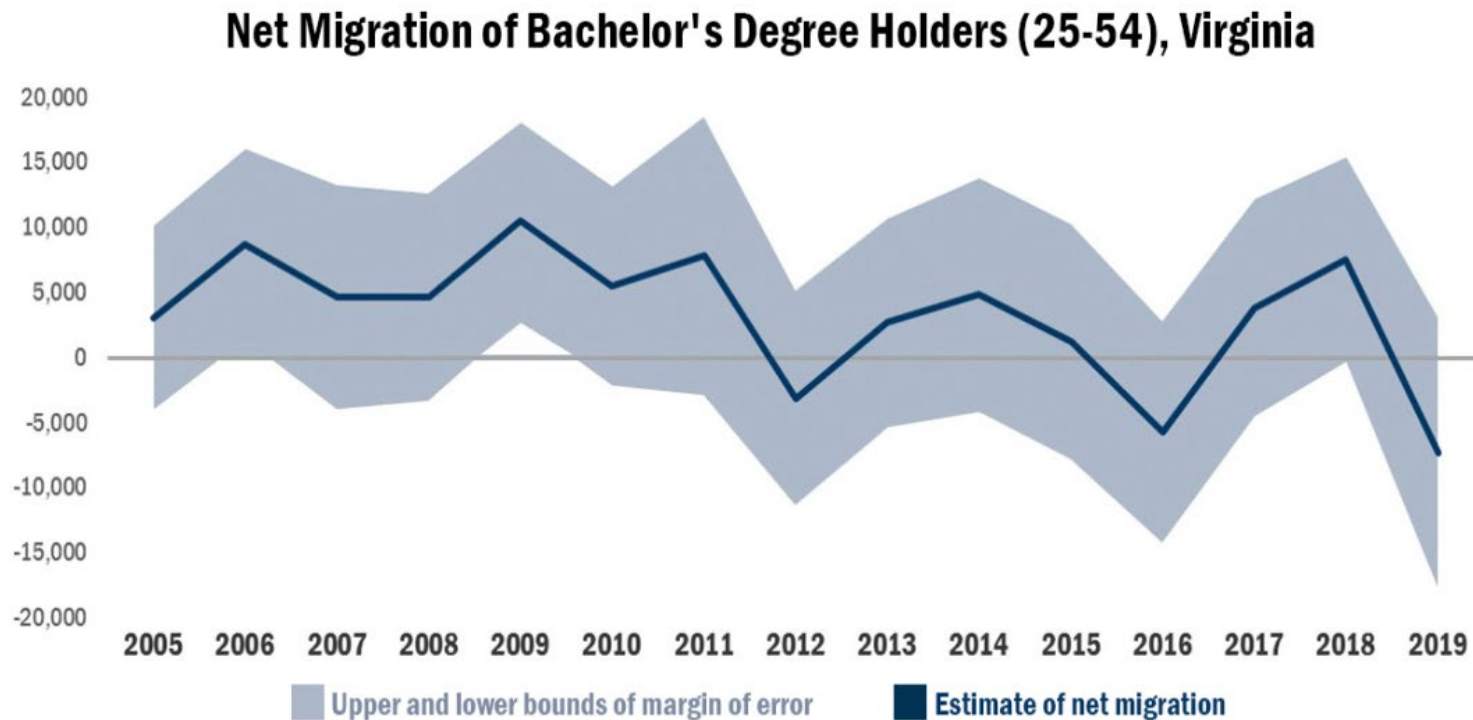
Outside of Virginia: 20%

Source: *The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Graduate Mobility Report, 2018.*

Totals do not add up to 100 due to rounding.

# VEDP analysis of Census data:

*The net migration of bachelor's degree holders fluctuates.*



Source: VEDP Analysis of American Community Survey. Estimates at 90% confidence interval.

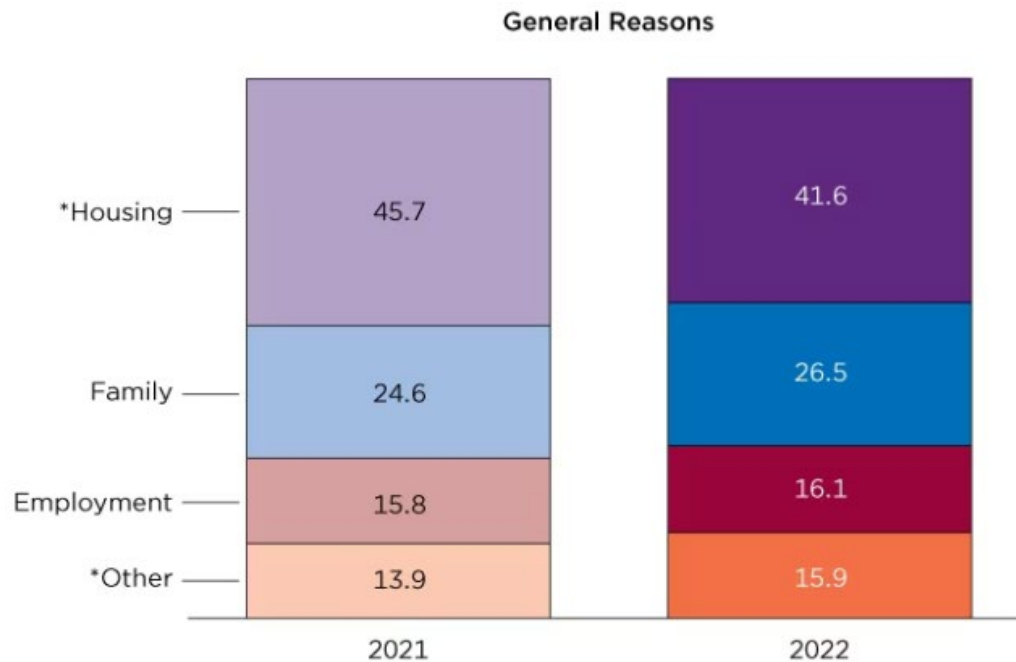
- The Virginia Economic Development Partnership found that the estimated net migration of bachelor's degree holders was **positive until 2011** and **has fluctuated since then**.
- However, the **margin of error** means that the true net difference **could have been positive or negative** most every year.



# Policy Considerations and Future Steps.

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# Policies to keep and attract Virginians:



- The Census Bureau found that the **top three reasons why individuals move** are for **housing, family, or employment** reasons. Other reported reasons for moving include personal relationships, health reasons, or better weather.
- Addressing housing quality, availability, and affordability could encourage more people to move to or stay in Virginia.
- Continued investment in jobs, particularly high-paying and stable jobs, could attract or retain more individuals.

Source: US Census Bureau, *Why People Move*, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/09/why-people-move.html>

# Future Steps:

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Continue to observe research and data as it becomes available. Consider creating a workgroup to monitor migration and *Postsecondary Graduate Flight*. This could include entities such as the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, or the Weldon Cooper Center.



Review policies that may keep or attract Virginians, including those that attract highly skilled and highly educated individuals.



Invest in job growth and job training, ensuring that Virginians have the education, skills, and jobs they need to succeed in Virginia.



Questions?

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