

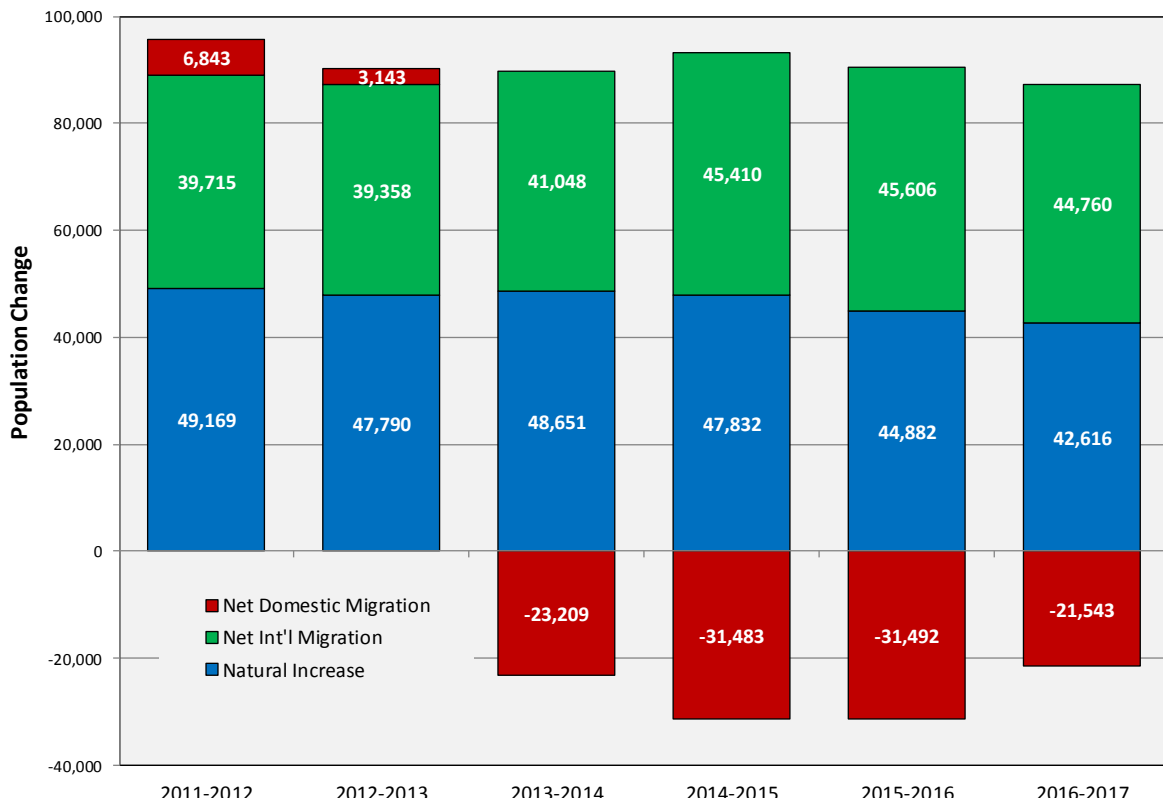


### Population Growth in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area, 2016-2017

The US Census Bureau released the 2017 Population County and Metro/Micro Area Population Estimates. Between 2016 and 2017, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (Hence forth, the Washington Metro Area), increased its population by 65,908 between July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017.<sup>1</sup> This represents an increase of 1.1 percent, and continues the trend of relatively stable regional population growth; the region grew 1.0 percent between 2014 and 2015, and 1.0 percent between 2015 and 2016.

Figure 1 shows that the region declined in two of the three components of population change. The region had less natural increase and less international migration between 2016 and 2017, than it did between 2015 and 2016. Perhaps most noteworthy for the region is the continued net domestic outmigration for the fourth consecutive year. Although not as large as in previous years, over 21,000 more domestic migrants left the Washington Metro Area than moved to the area.

**Figure 1: Components of population growth in the Washington Metro Area**



<sup>1</sup> The region includes Washington, DC; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s County in Maryland, Alexandria, Arlington County, Clarke County, Culpeper County, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William County, Rappahannock County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Fredericksburg, and Warren County in Virginia, and Jefferson County in West Virginia.



Several different trends emerged among the metro area's sub-regions (DC, Maryland Suburbs, Northern Virginia). These trends (shown in Figure 2) include:

- The District of Columbia added 9,636 net new residents and grew 1.4 percent between 2016 and 2017.
  - The District had positive growth for all three components of population growth.
  - DC was the only sub-region with net positive domestic in-migration, as it had 1,152 net new domestic in-migrants. While still positive, this is approximately 1,795 fewer new in-migrants than there was between 2015 and 2016.
  
- The Washington Metro Area's Maryland Suburbs (Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties) were the slowest growing sub-region. Combined, these five counties grew 0.8 percent between 2016 and 2017 and their population grew by 18,894 people.
  - Growth in Charles, Frederick and Montgomery counties occurred at a quicker rate between 2016 and 2017, than it did between 2015 and 2016.
  - Growth in Prince George's County slowed from 0.3 percent between 2015 and 2016 when the county added 2,872 net new residents, to 0.2 percent between 2016 and 2017 when it added only 1,602.
  
- Northern Virginia grew at approximately the same rate (1.2 percent) as the overall metro area (1.1 percent), and added 36,888 net new residents between 2016 and 2017.
  - This growth was consistent with the previous year.
  - Much like the broader Washington metro area, population growth in Northern Virginia was the result of natural increase and net international migration.
    - Northern Virginia has experienced net domestic out-migration since 2013, thereby mirroring the trend in the broader region.
  - The fastest annual growth between 2015 and 2016 occurred in the City of Falls Church (5.2 percent), Loudoun County (3.1 percent), Alexandria (2.0 percent), Fairfax City (1.8 percent), Stafford County (1.8 percent), and Culpeper County (1.7 percent).
  - The greatest net population increases occurred Loudoun County (+11,801), Prince William County (+6,463), Fairfax County (+3,797), Arlington (+3,355), and Stafford County (+3,172).
    - Although its population is only a third of the size of Fairfax County, Loudoun County added over three times more net new residents (+11,801) than Fairfax County (+3,797) did between 2016 and 2017.

The Washington metro area remains the nation's 6<sup>th</sup> largest MSA. Its 1.1 percent population growth between 2016 and 2017 was faster than the national population growth rate of 0.7 percent. Among the nation's 15 largest metro areas, the Washington metro area had the 7<sup>th</sup> fastest growth rate between 2016 and 2017 (see Figure 3). It trailed Sunbelt cities such as Dallas, Phoenix, Atlanta, and Houston, as well as Seattle and Minneapolis. Regardless, the Washington metro area grew at a faster rate between 2016 and 2017 than did many other large Northeastern (e.g., New York, Boston, Philadelphia) and Midwestern cities (e.g., Chicago, Detroit).



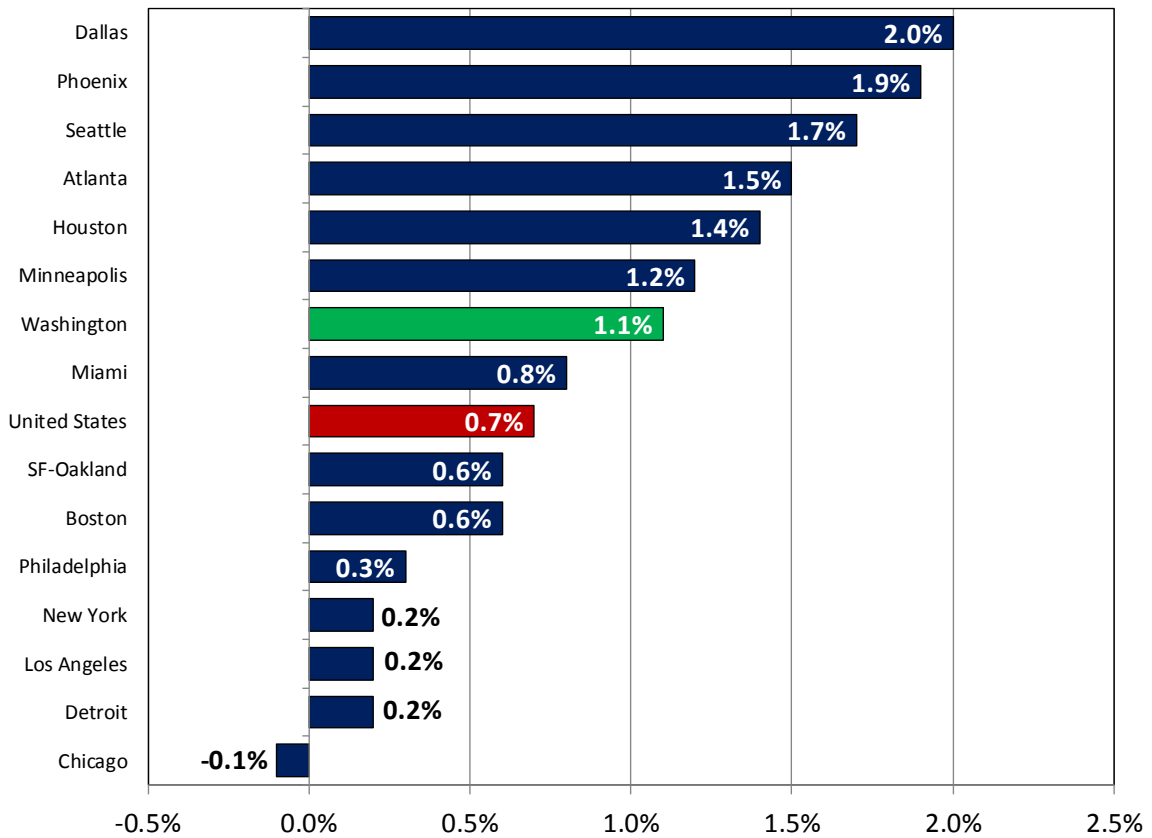
Figure 2: Population change within the Washington Metro Area

Jurisdiction	2017 Population	Change from 2016 - 2017		Percent Change 2015-2016
		Population	Percent	
<b>District of Columbia</b>	693,972	9,636	1.4%	1.7%
Calvert	91,502	403	0.4%	0.7%
Charles	159,700	2,270	1.4%	1.1%
Frederick	252,022	4,141	1.7%	1.0%
Montgomery	1,058,810	10,478	1.0%	0.9%
Prince George's	912,756	1,602	0.2%	0.3%
<b>Suburban Maryland</b>	2,474,790	18,894	0.8%	0.7%
Arlington	234,965	3,355	1.4%	1.2%
Clarke	14,508	186	1.3%	0.5%
Culpeper	51,282	949	1.9%	1.7%
Fairfax	1,148,433	3,797	0.3%	0.2%
Fauquier	69,465	681	1.0%	0.5%
Loudoun	398,080	11,801	3.1%	3.1%
Prince William	463,023	6,463	1.4%	1.2%
Rappahannock	7,321	-12	-0.2%	-0.7%
Spotsylvania	133,033	1,628	1.2%	1.1%
Stafford	146,649	3,172	2.2%	1.8%
Warren	39,563	497	1.3%	0.4%
Alexandria City	160,035	2,747	1.7%	2.0%
Fairfax City	24,097	270	1.1%	1.8%
Falls Church City	14,583	715	5.2%	-0.1%
Fredericksburg City	28,360	89	0.3%	1.0%
Manassas City	41,501	44	0.1%	-0.2%
Manassas Park City	16,591	506	3.1%	0.4%
<b>Northern Virginia</b>	2,991,489	36,888	1.2%	1.1%
Jefferson	56,338	490	0.9%	-0.1%
<b>Washington DC Region</b>	6,216,589	65,908	1.1%	1.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, V2017



**Figure 3: Population change in large metro areas (2015-2016)**



Source: US Census Bureau, Metro/Micro Population Estimates, V2017

**Relevant links:**

- George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis: <http://cra.gmu.edu/>
- Census Population Estimates Program: <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/demo/popest.html>
- County Population Totals Datasets: 2010-2017: <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/demo/popest/counties-total.html>
- Metro/Micro Area Population Totals Datasets: 2010-2017: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2017/demo/popest/total-metro-and-micro-statistical-areas.html>

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