

*This memo is preliminary in nature and subject to revision and review. Any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or the Federal Reserve System.*

To: Aaron Wasserman, Reporter, Sentinel and Enterprise  
From: Matthew Nagowski, Research Assistant  
Re: Worcester County population migration  
Date: October 26, 2006

You requested population migration data for Worcester County, Massachusetts, based on our recent discussion paper, "New England migration trends." The tables below report the number of personal tax exemptions moving from one county to another between 2003 and 2004, as reported by the Internal Revenue Service. More information on the study methodology is available in the original discussion paper, available at <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/neppc/dp/2006/neppcdp0601.pdf>.

#### Flows into and out of Worcester County in 2003-2004

|                                       | <b>Number<br/>entering</b> | <b>Number<br/>leaving</b> | <b>Net<br/>migrants</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| To/from elsewhere in Massachusetts    | 13,588                     | 9,181                     | 4,407                   |
| To/from elsewhere in New England      | 2,620                      | 4,239                     | -1,619                  |
| To/from rest of the U.S. (outside NE) | 6,262                      | 11,177                    | -4,915                  |
| To/from foreign countries             | 518                        | 445                       | 73                      |
| <i>Total</i>                          | <i>22,988</i>              | <i>25,042</i>             | <i>-2,054</i>           |

Worcester County overall lost 2,054 net residents in 2003-2004. The county saw gains from people moving there from elsewhere in Massachusetts, but it lost residents to other parts of New England and the nation. The number of residents moving to and from foreign countries was about even.

Top ten counties sending residents to Worcester County

| County                | Gross inflow |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Middlesex County, MA  | 7,767        |
| Norfolk County, MA    | 1,661        |
| Suffolk County, MA    | 1,021        |
| Providence County, RI | 746          |
| Essex County, MA      | 668          |
| Bristol County, MA    | 558          |
| Hampden County, MA    | 557          |
| Plymouth County, MA   | 350          |
| Hampshire County, MA  | 317          |
| Franklin County, MA   | 310          |

Note that all of these top ten are in New England. Most of the top non-New England counties sending migrants from Worcester County were in New York, Florida, and California; however, none of these counties placed in the top ten.

Top ten counties receiving residents moving from Worcester County

| County                | Gross outflow |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Middlesex County, MA  | 4,097         |
| Norfolk County, MA    | 928           |
| Windham County, CT    | 877           |
| Hampden County, MA    | 841           |
| Providence County, RI | 697           |
| Suffolk County, MA    | 684           |
| Essex County, MA      | 549           |
| Hampshire County, MA  | 479           |
| Barnstable County, MA | 477           |
| Franklin County, MA   | 400           |

All of the top ten counties receiving former residents of Worcester County were in New England. Counties in Florida were the most popular non-New England destinations for those moving out of Worcester County; seven of the top ten receiving counties outside of New England were in Florida. Similar to the incoming population, however, no county outside of New England cracked the top ten receiving former Worcester County residents.

If it weren't for net in-migration from Boston-area counties (as defined by Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex Counties), Worcester County would have experienced an even larger net outflow of population. Worcester County attracted a net inflow of 4,859 migrants from Boston-area counties in 2003.