

On average, how many people move to Austin each day?

A better way to ask this question might be: how many net-migrants does Austin receive on an average day?

Roughly speaking, about one-third of our annual metropolitan population growth comes from “natural increase,” or, births minus deaths. The remaining two-thirds comes from the combined sources of domestic migration and international immigration. It is worth noting that this one-third to two-thirds division of overall population growth experiences some year-to-year variation but remains rather durable.

Over the past several years metropolitan Austin has gained an increment of population between 55,000 to 60,000 total persons. Let’s take the growth from 2015 to 2016 of 58,301 persons as an example.

So, using the calculus described above, we got 19,239 “new Austinites” ( $58,301 * .33$ ) from natural increase while the remaining 39,062 ( $58,301 * .67$ ) individuals got here by moving here. Simplistically, that pencils out to 107 net migrants per day. But this method is indeed simplistic because we do not know the full magnitude of the variation on each side of the in-migrant and out-migrant equation. For example, are approximately 500 people moving in while 400 move out, or is something closer to 200 move in and 100 move out?

Either way, in my professional opinion, I believe that the 100 to 110 figure is more than likely within the range of what we’re actually experiencing but is somewhat difficult to quantitatively and solidly prove.

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