

# Some 4,700 more people left Shelby than moved in during five-year period, census figures show

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**POSTED:** 4:19 PM, Sep 13, 2014

**UPDATED:** 5:18 PM, Sep 13, 2014

**TAG:** [local news \(/topic/local+news\)](#)

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Shelby County lost about 4,700 more people than it gained through domestic migration during the five-year period ending in 2012, with DeSoto and Davidson counties among the main destinations for local residents, new Census Bureau estimates show.

A total of 36,452 people moved from Shelby to other counties and states, compared to 31,722 moving in from elsewhere in the U.S., according to the estimates. An additional 3,766 people moved into the county from abroad, but the census estimates don't contain figures on how many Shelby residents migrated to other countries.

Despite the losses to domestic migration, the county's population has continued to increase, largely as a result of a much greater number of births than deaths. Shelby grew an estimated 1.3 percent, to 939,465, between April 2010 and July 2013, according to census figures.

Researchers said the latest estimates reflect a persistent loss of population, and wealth, from the urban core of Memphis.

"The people who are leaving are middle-class and above," said Elena Delavega, assistant professor of social work at the University of Memphis. "The poor are staying."

The migration statistics show a significant number of the people who left Shelby moved across the Mississippi line to neighboring DeSoto. An estimated 3,630 people moved from Shelby to DeSoto, compared to 2,131 making the opposite migration, for a net loss of 1,499.

Davidson County attracted 1,304 Shelby residents, compared to the 757 moving in the opposite direction, for a net loss of 547.

There were several counties from which Shelby drew more migrating residents than it lost. An estimated 1,119 people moved from Fayette County to Shelby during the period, compared to the 759 making the opposite move. The county also enjoyed large net gains in population from Rutherford County, Tennessee, and Marshall County, Mississippi.

Despite his county's net loss of residents to Shelby, Rhea "Skip" Taylor, mayor of Fayette County, said recent increases in housing starts in communities such as Oakland and Rossville could signal a reversal of that trend. "Things are picking up a little bit," Taylor said.

The census data also shows the employment status and occupations of migrating residents. Of the people 16 and above who moved into Shelby, 16,560 were employed, 2,835 were unemployed and 9,444 were retired or otherwise out of the labor force. Of those 16 and older who moved out, 14,630 had jobs, 3,262 were unemployed and 11,173 were out of the labor force.

Among the residents who moved into the county, the largest number — 8,613 — work in management, business and arts occupations, according to the census figures. Another 4,488 are employed in the service industry, while 6,191 work in sales and office jobs. An estimated 1,837 of the newcomers are employed in natural resources, construction and maintenance, while 3,078 work in production, transportation and material-moving occupations.

Of those who moved away, 8,000 work in management business and arts, 4,539 in service occupations, 6,068 in sales and office jobs, 2,034 in natural resources, construction and maintenance and 3,265 in production, transportation and material-moving occupations.

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