

Commuting Patterns in the Fifth District

This issue of *5th District Footprint* focuses on commuting patterns across Fifth District counties. Nationwide, an average of 27 percent of people worked outside their county of residence. Seventy-nine percent of Fifth District counties exceed the national average. Manassas Park City, Va. (91 percent) and Horry County, S.C. (8 percent) have the District's highest and lowest share of people who work outside their county of residence.

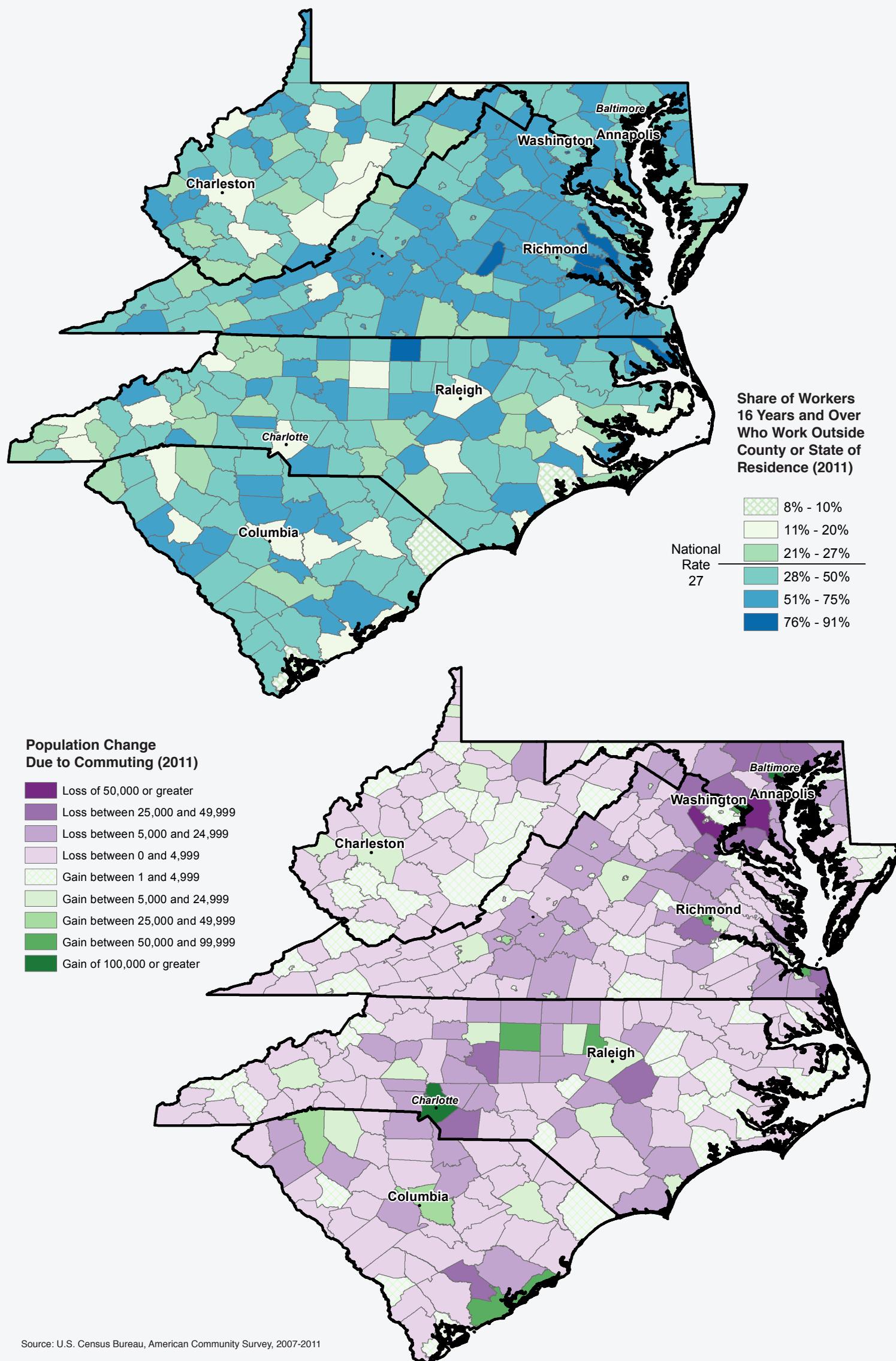
Seventy percent of Fifth District counties lose population to commuting, at an average of 6,340 people. Counties attracting commuters gain an average of 15,353 people.

These daily population shifts are particularly prominent in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The daytime population of the District of Columbia increases by 476,005 people. At the same time, there are large population declines in the surrounding counties such as Prince George's County, Md. (-117,129) and Prince William County, Va. (-79,758).

Overall, counties with major cities appear to retain more of their residents during the day as well as attract commuters from other localities. A distinct example is Mecklenburg County, N.C., home to the city of Charlotte, where only 12 percent of its labor force works outside of the county. At the same time, more than 100,000 people commute daily into Mecklenburg.

In some regions, employment centers have spread to the suburban counties. For example, 42 percent of the city of Richmond, Va.'s labor force works outside of the city. Henrico County, Va., which surrounds the city of Richmond on three sides, gains roughly 10,000 people daily from commuting.

[richmondfed.org/publications/
community_development](http://richmondfed.org/publications/community_development)



¹ All data reported is from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2011