Migration patterns over the past seven years show that Rust Belt states continue to experience out-migration. The largest net loss, however, occurred in California, where nearly 2 million more people left the state than entered. The other big losers were New York, Illinois, and New Jersey. The Southeast and Southwest were the biggest population gainers. The state with the largest in-migration was Florida, which gained nearly 800,000 more people than it lost.

It is interesting to note that the four states listed above as big net migration losers had higher-than-average unemployment rates. The states with the lowest unemployment rates, however (which are mainly in the Midwest) were not the biggest gainers of net migration.

In the Fourth Federal Reserve District, both Ohio and Pennsylvania have seen more people leave than enter since the beginning of the decade, while for Kentucky and West Virginia the reverse was true. Ohio and Pennsylvania also experienced the largest manufacturing sector declines, with employment shares in manufacturing industries falling 3.0 and 1.8 percentage points, respectively. West Virginia gained employment in wholesale and retail trade, and all the Fourth District states increased their shares of employment in the service sector. Government was the only other sector to show any substantial employment gains, but these were limited to Ohio and Pennsylvania.