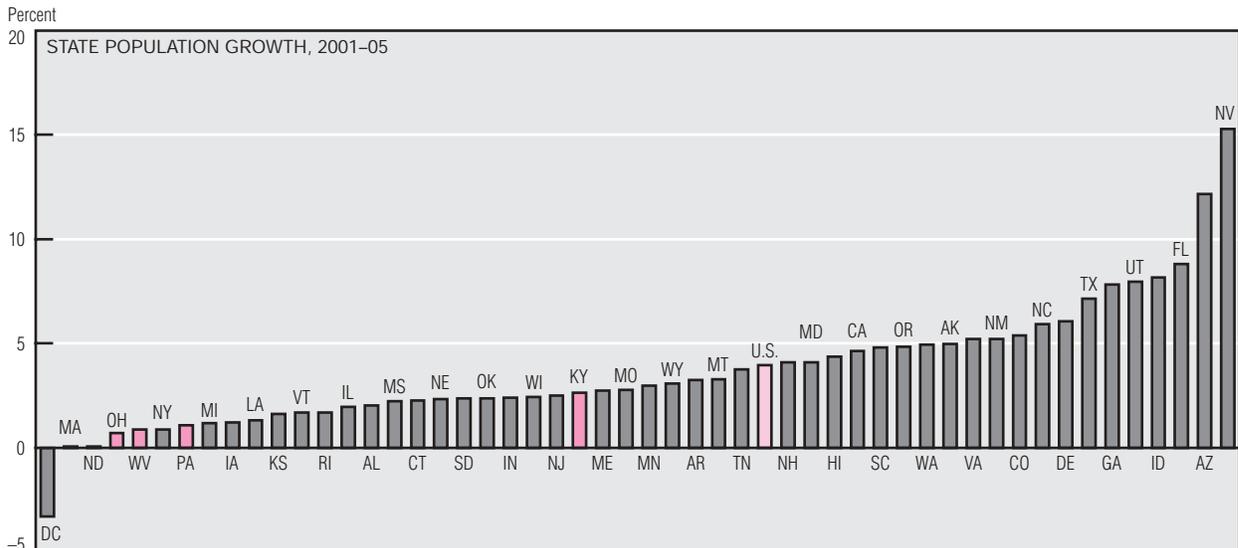
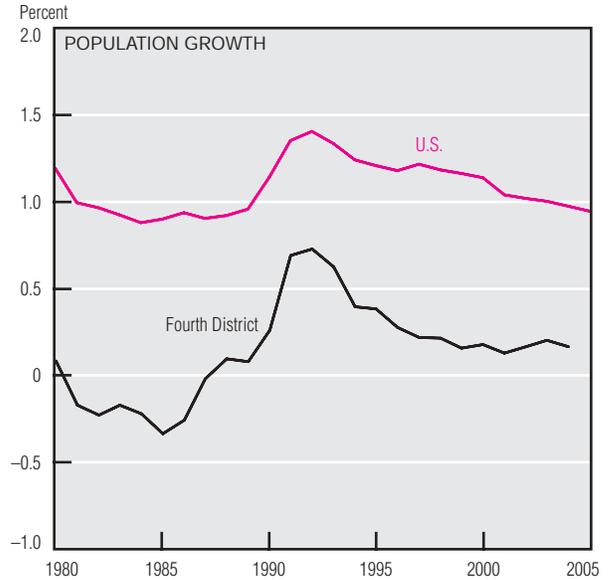
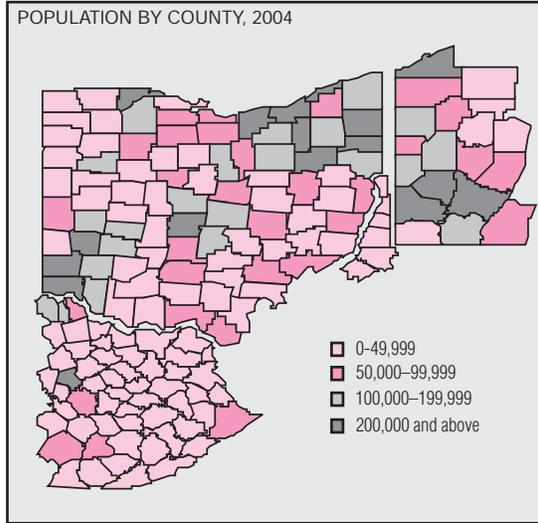


Fourth District Population



NOTE: Annual population estimates are for July. Similarly, changes in population are calculated from one July to the next.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

In 2004, 16.9 million people—or 5.7% of the U.S. population—called the Fourth District home. The majority of District residents (77.5%) lived in metropolitan areas. Of the 169 District counties, Cuyahoga had the largest population (nearly 1.4 million) and Kentucky’s Robertson County had the smallest (2,300). Like many counties in Fourth District Kentucky, Robertson’s relatively low population resulted from its slight dimensions and its rural nature.

For the past 25 years, the District’s rate of population growth has been trailing the nation’s by about 1%. In fact, the District’s population actually posted a net loss in the early 1980s. In each of the last several years, however, its population grew at an average rate of 0.2%.

This low population growth affects every District state. Ohio’s 0.7% total growth over the last four years has been the third-smallest of any state, and rates in West Virginia and Pennsylvania were similarly low. Kentucky’s

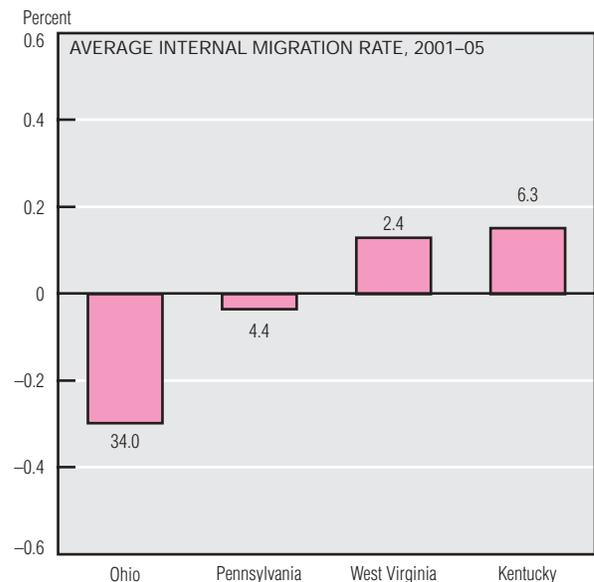
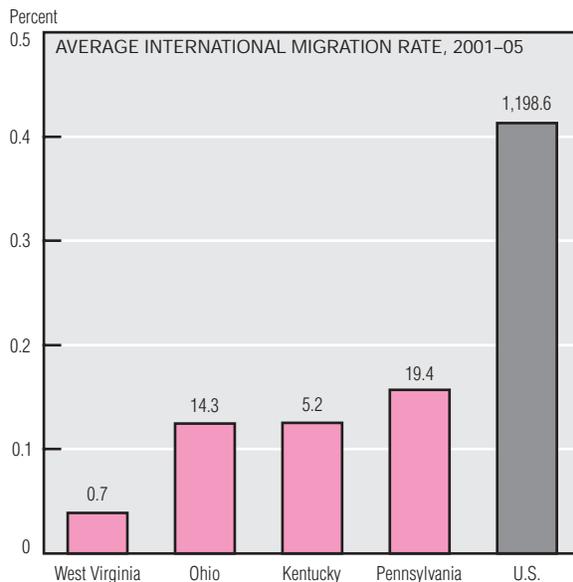
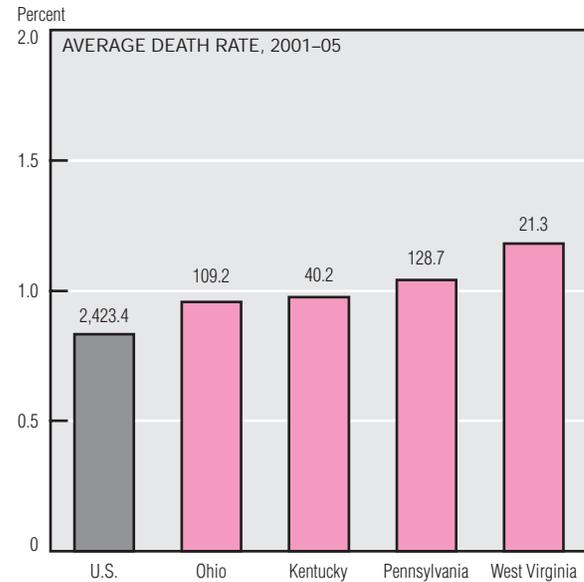
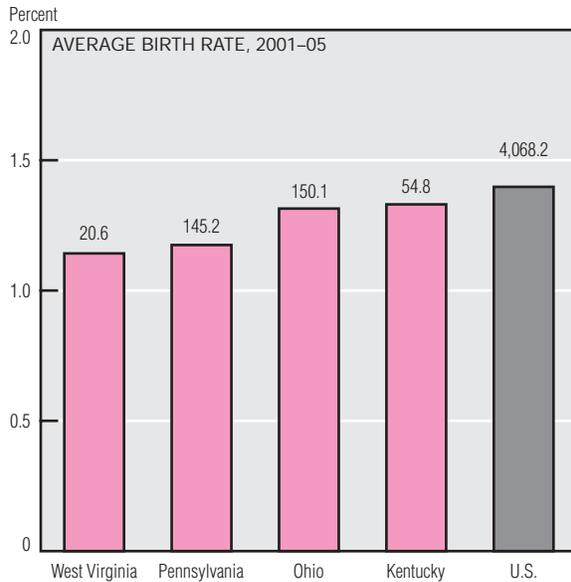
population growth, although higher than other District states, was still well below the national average.

Why has population growth in the District been slower than in many other areas of the country? We can explore this question by individually examining four components: births, deaths, net international migration, and net internal migration (that is, net migration within the U.S.).

There are a number of reasons for the Fourth District states’ low population growth. Because their residents

(continued on next page)

Fourth District Population (cont.)



NOTE: Annual population estimates are for July. Similarly, changes in population are calculated from one July to the next. The numbers above or below the bars represent the average population change in thousands.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

are older, they have relatively low numbers of births and high numbers of deaths. The U.S. as a whole added an average of 1.4% to its population over the last few years as a result of births. By comparison, West Virginia added 1.1% and Pennsylvania added 1.2%; Ohio and Kentucky each added 1.3%. Birth rates in West Virginia and Pennsylvania were the fourth- and fifth-lowest of any state in the nation.

Deaths have caused the loss of about 0.8% of the U.S. population

every year since 2001. Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania each lost about 1.0% of their population because of deaths; West Virginia lost almost 1.2%, making its death rate the highest in the U.S.

Birth and death rates are not the only contributors to lagging state population growth in the Fourth District; international migration is also a factor. Although net international migration has been positive for every state, the District states are adding residents from abroad at slower rates than the U.S. as a whole.

West Virginia had the lowest average international migration rate of any state, with movement to and from other countries adding just 0.04% to its population each year.

Internal migration, however, shows a different pattern. Ohio has lost about 0.3% of its residents to other states in each of the past four years, and Pennsylvania has lost 0.04%. However, on net, West Virginia and Kentucky have gained population from other states.