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Fitch: Trajectory Matters When Assessing Demographics for U.S. States

Fitch Ratings-New York-25 July 2018: While demographics play a pivotal role in the overall health and growth of regions throughout the United States, a new report by Fitch Ratings says that how demographic and economic growth occur is also crucial.

A state's ability to attract and retain residents ultimately can have significant implications for the strength of the region's economy. And trajectory in key indicators matters. "Two state economies may grow at a similar rate over time, but one may have grown more abruptly, possibly with some significant retrenchment in between," said Senior Director James Batterman. "While narrower economies can exhibit solid demographics and growth over extended periods, more diversified economies can sometimes be less volatile over the cycle and more predictable." Consequently, Fitch seeks to measure not just the strength of key demographic indicators but also the stability of these over time.

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