

**Demographic Estimating Conference**  
**Executive Summary**  
December 5, 2017

The Demographic Estimating Conference met on December 5, 2017, to adopt a new population forecast. The new estimates reflect recent demographic and economic-related data, including an estimate of the impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria on the state’s population. In the short-term, the population projections were revised upward, mostly due to the influx of Puerto Ricans migrating to the state as a result of Maria’s extensive damage to the US territory.

Florida’s April 1, 2017 population increased by 10,372 over last conference. In total, population grew by 335,448 (1.67%) between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2017. This level of increase is slightly more than what was experienced in the prior year.

In the new forecast, changes in population growth from the last conference are due almost entirely to net migration. No significant changes were made to natural increase, which is comprised of both births and deaths. The Conference first approved a baseline forecast that included typical natural increase and net migration, using the assumption that Floridians displaced by Hurricane Irma would remain within the state. The Conference then layered in a hurricane effect for migration from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. As part of this adjustment, the Conference assumed that an average level of in-migration that normally would have taken place would be displaced by the hurricane-induced migration, and that no out-migration would occur between Florida and Puerto Rico. The result was a net permanent increase in population of 53,137 persons due to Hurricane Maria. The key elements of this portion of the estimate are:

Estimate of Puerto Ricans and US Virgin Islanders Moving to Florida Permanently	69,056
<i>-minus- Average Net Migration from Puerto Rico and US Island Area Previously Built Into the Forecast</i>	(21,156)
<i>-plus- Typical Out-Migration from FL to Puerto Rico that Will Not Occur</i>	5,234
<b>Net Incremental Change to the Baseline Estimate</b>	<b>53,134</b>

This adjustment has been included in the final adopted forecast shown in the table below. Annual population change is expected to remain above 308,000 net new residents per year through 2023.

April 1	Population	Percent Change	Change
2012	19,074,434	0.90%	169,364
2013	19,259,543	0.97%	185,109
2014	19,507,369	1.29%	247,826
2015	19,815,183	1.58%	307,814
2016	20,148,654	1.68%	333,471
2017	20,484,142	1.67%	335,488
<i>Forecast</i>			
2018	20,869,919	1.88%	385,777
2019	21,199,435	1.58%	329,516
2020	21,526,547	1.54%	327,112
2021	21,848,648	1.50%	322,101
2022	22,164,683	1.45%	316,035
2023	22,472,887	1.39%	308,204

Between April 1, 2017 and April 1, 2023, population growth is expected to average 331,458 net new residents per year, representing a compound growth rate of 1.56% over this six-year time horizon. These increases are analogous to adding a city slightly smaller than Tampa every year.

Of note, the population estimates developed by the U.S. Census Bureau continue to be higher than the official state estimates adopted by the Demographic Estimating Conference. As of July 1, 2016, this difference was over 379,000 persons. The Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research is continuing its efforts to identify how the differing underlying methodologies contribute to the gap between the two sets of estimates.