Florida’s Population

**Florida Population — April 1, 2018**

Florida’s population on April 1, 2018 was estimated to be 20,840,568, a gain of 2,039,236 residents (10.8 percent) since the 2010 Census. During the decades of the 1980s Florida grew by 32.7 percent; the 1990s by 23.5 percent; and the 2000s by 17.6 percent.

**Population by County**

Twelve Florida counties have over half a million residents. These 12 counties represent 66.3 percent of Florida’s population. Florida’s three southeast counties (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach) are the three most populous counties in the state and account for almost 29.3 percent of Florida’s population.

Table 1 shows number of counties by population size. Thirty-six counties (53.7%) have at least 100,000 residents.

**Population by City**

Since April 1, 2010, the top five cities that have added the most population were: Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, and Cape Coral. These cities accounted for 13.9 percent of the total population change during this time period.

Among cities with a population greater than 50,000 and a growth rate above 20 percent, the areas growing the fastest were: Doral, Fort Myers, Apopka, North Port, Homestead, Kissimmee, and Miami. Among all Florida’s cities, those with the fastest growth rates were: Lake Buena Vista, Fruitland Park, Freeport, Davenport, and Groveland.

**Florida’s Growth**

Between 2010 and 2018, the majority of Florida growth was due to net migration (86.7%), while natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) accounted for 13.3% of the growth in the state. In comparison, between 2000 and 2010, 81.6 percent of the state’s growth was due to net migration. For the period from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, the Census Bureau estimates that about 48.0 percent of Florida’s net migration was international and the remainder was domestic.

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**Table 1 - Number of Counties by Population Range**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 1, 2018 Population</th>
<th>Number of Florida Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One million or more</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500,000 to 999,999</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250,000 to 499,999</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 to 249,999</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 50,000</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miami-Dade is Florida’s most populous county; followed by Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, and Orange counties. Between 2000 and 2010, Orange County moved into the number five spot, supplanting Pinellas County. Florida’s counties range in population from Miami-Dade (2,779,322) to Lafayette (8,501) (Table 2).

The top five counties adding the most population since April 1, 2010 were: Miami-Dade (282,865), Orange (203,641), Hillsborough (179,638), Broward (149,910), and Palm Beach (113,283). The counties with population growth rates at or above 17.0% were: Sumter (33.7%), Osceola (31.2%), St. Johns (25.6%), Walton (22.9%), Orange (17.8%) and Manatee (17.0%). (Figures 1 & 2).
The Census Bureau and Florida use different methodologies to produce population estimates. Since the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau estimates have been consistently higher than the results from the Florida Demographic Estimating Conference (most recently by almost 374,000). The different methodologies and procedures account for the variation in the estimates. Florida’s official estimates incorporate local population dynamics and a variety of data and techniques. Florida’s methodology has historically produced more accurate estimates than other methodologies.

**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**

Beginning with Census 2000 respondents were given the option of selecting more than one racial category. Figure 3 displays the racial composition of the state, based on the results of the 2000 and 2010 Census.

Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin may be of any race. The percentage of Floridians that were of Hispanic origin increased from 12.2 percent in 1990 to 16.8 percent in 2000 and to 22.5 percent in 2010. This percentage is forecast to increase to 30.1 percent by 2030. Florida’s Hispanic population grew at a faster rate than total population (57.4% versus 17.6%) between 2000 and 2010.
In 2000, Florida’s prime working age population (ages 25-54) accounted for 41.5 percent of total population. With the aging baby boom generation, this percentage was estimated to represent 37.4 percent of Florida’s total population in 2018 and is expected to represent 35.9 percent in 2030.

In 2010, 17.3 percent of Florida’s population was aged 65 and older. Between 2010 and 2030, this segment of the population will account for most of Florida’s population growth, representing 47.9 percent of the gains. This age group is forecast to represent 24.3 percent of Florida’s population in 2030 (Figure 5).

Data in this report are from various sources including the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; University of Florida, Bureau of Business and Economic Research; and the Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research. All projections are based on April 1, 2010 Census counts. Additional data are on our website at: http://edr.state.fl.us or contact us at: 850.487.1402.