



## Newsroom

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### Maricopa County Added Over 222 People Per Day in 2016, More Than Any Other County

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**MARCH 23, 2017** — Maricopa County, Ariz., replaced Harris County, Texas, as the county with the nation's highest annual population growth, according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released today. Harris County was the largest numeric gainer for eight years in a row. Maricopa County gained 81,360 people between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016, or about 222 people per day, while the nation's second-largest population gainer, Harris County, gained 56,587 people, or about 155 people per day on average.



Maricopa County, home to Phoenix, primarily grew through the addition of 43,189 residents from net domestic migration, a measure of how many people move to or from an area versus other parts of the United States. The county also added 25,428 people from natural increase (more births than deaths) and 10,188 people from net international migration.

Harris County, Texas, home to Houston, saw changes in net domestic migration, going from a net gain of more than 17,000 to a net loss of more than 16,000. Despite this, Harris County had the second largest gain in population due to high natural increase (46,412) and net international migration (27,922).

"In the early 2000s, Maricopa County was in the top one or two counties by numeric growth. From 2009-2011, Maricopa County saw much lower net migration than in the years before or after, which caused the county to drop out of the top population-gaining counties," explained Peter Borsella, a demographer in the Census Bureau's population division. "While net international migration has not reached prior levels, net domestic migration and natural increase have continued to rise, making Maricopa County this year's largest numeric gainer."

In addition, Maricopa grew the fastest among the top 10 largest counties at 1.95 percent, an increase from 1.90 percent from the previous year. Harris County remained the third-largest county with 4.6 million people, and Maricopa County remained the fourth-largest county with 4.2 million people. Los Angeles County and Cook County, Ill., remained the largest and second-largest counties, respectively.

The statistics released today provide population estimates and components of change for our nation's 382 metropolitan statistical areas, 551 micropolitan statistical areas, and 3,142 counties, as well as Puerto Rico's metropolitan statistical areas, micropolitan statistical areas and municipios.

Find more highlights from this year's release below and local-level statistics on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

In the coming months, the Census Bureau will release 2016 population estimates for cities and towns, as well as national, state and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

#### **Some High-Population Counties or County-Equivalents Continued to Experience Population Loss**

These notable high-population counties continued to see population loss:

- Cook County, Ill. (Chicago): -21,324.
- Wayne County, Mich. (Detroit): -7,696.
- Baltimore city, Md.: -6,738.

Baltimore city saw an increase in population loss this year primarily due to a doubling of its net domestic out-migration.

#### **Fastest-Growing Areas in Utah**

Three of the 20 fastest-growing metro areas between 2015 and 2016 were located either partially or completely in Utah (St. George, Utah; Provo-Orem, Utah; and Logan, Utah-Idaho).

- Provo-Orem, Utah, and Logan, Utah-Idaho, saw natural increase as a larger component of growth than either net international migration or net domestic migration, while St. George, Utah, saw net domestic migration as a larger component of growth than either net international migration or natural increase.
- Also, San Juan County, Utah, was the fastest-growing county in the United States among counties with populations of 10,000 or more in 2015. It grew by 7.6 percent.

#### **Second-Fastest-Growing U.S. County in 2015 Fell to 2,858th in 2016**

North Dakota counties no longer top the list of fastest-growing counties by percentage change.

- McKenzie County fell from second-fastest growing by percentage change to 2,858th.
- Williams County fell from third to 3,105th.
- Mountrail County fell from sixth to 2,375th.
- Stark County fell from eighth to 3,103rd.

All of these counties lost population due to people moving away to other parts of the United States (negative net domestic migration). Formerly fast-growing North Dakota counties have been replaced in the top 10 by counties in Iowa, Oregon and Washington. Other top 10 counties once again are in Utah, Texas and Florida.

### County Highlights

- Eight of the 10 counties with the most natural decrease (more deaths than births) were in Florida. Four of the top 10 counties with the most natural increase were in California, and 3 of the 10 were in Texas.
- St. Louis County, Mo., dropped below 1 million for the first time since 2011, largely due to a rise in net domestic out-migration.
- Three counties reached a population milestone of 100,000 or higher: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska; Highlands County, Fla., and Carver County, Minn.
- Pasco County, Fla., reached a population of 500,000, and Tarrant County, Texas, reached 2 million.

### Metropolitan Statistical Area Highlights

- The nation's 382 metro areas contained approximately 277.1 million people in 2016, representing approximately 86 percent of the nation's population. This was an increase of approximately 2.3 million people from 2015.
- For the fourth year in a row, The Villages, Fla., a metro area west of the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla., metro area, was the nation's fastest-growing metro area, with a 4.3 percent population increase between 2015 and 2016.
- The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, and Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, Texas, metro areas were the two largest numeric-gaining metro areas between 2015 and 2016, increasing by more than 100,000 each.
- Four metro areas were among both the 25 fastest growing and the 25 largest numeric gaining between 2015 and 2016: Austin-Round Rock, Texas; Raleigh, N.C.; Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla.; and Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, Nev. For all four areas, net domestic migration was a larger component of change than either net international migration or natural increase
- Among the 10 largest metro areas, the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., metro area was the only metro area that did not grow in population between 2015 and 2016.

### Micropolitan Statistical Area Highlights

- The nation's 551 micro areas contained approximately 27.7 million people in 2016, representing approximately nine percent of the nation's population. This is an increase of approximately 16,000 people from 2015.
- Micro areas in the West grew the most.
  - Heber, Utah, was the fastest-growing micro area, with an increase of 4.7 percent between 2015 and 2016. The five fastest-growing micro areas were in the West: Heber, Utah; Prineville, Ore.; Ellensburg, Wash.; Bozeman, Mont.; and Cedar City, Utah. Among these five areas, net domestic migration was a larger component of change than either net international migration or natural increase.
  - Bozeman, Mont., had the largest numeric gain among micro areas between 2015 and 2016, increasing by approximately 3,800 people. Four of the five largest numeric-gaining micro areas between 2015 and 2016 were in the West: Bozeman, Mont.; Hilo, Hawaii; Kalispell, Mont.; and Oak Harbor, Wash.

### Puerto Rico

- Overall, Puerto Rico's population has been decreasing since 2010. The Commonwealth total resident population decreased by 314,850 (or 8.4 percent) since 2010 to 3,411,307 on July 1, 2016.
- San Juan experienced the largest numeric decrease in population of any municipio, losing 8,497 residents between July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016, followed by Bayamón (-4,448 residents) and Ponce (-3,748 residents).
- Of Puerto Rico's 78 municipios, only Gurabo experienced growth between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016, gaining 56 residents (an increase of 0.1 percent).
- All other municipios experienced a decline in population. The fastest-declining municipios were Peñuelas, Lares and Guánica, featuring a decline of 2.7 percent each.

To find where people are leaving from and moving to, visit [Census Flows Mapper](#).

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**The Census Bureau develops county, metro area and micro area population estimates by measuring population change since the most recent census. The Census Bureau uses births, deaths, administrative records and survey data to develop estimates of population. For more detail regarding the methodology, see [www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html).**

The Office of Management and Budget's statistical area delineations (for metro and micro areas) are those issued by that agency in July 2015. Metro areas contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, and micro areas contain at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population. Both metro and micro areas consist of one or more whole counties or county equivalents. Some metro and micro area titles may be abbreviated in the text of the news release. Full titles are shown in the tables.

**Top 10 Largest-Gaining Counties (Numeric Change): July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016**

County	Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Births	Deaths	Domestic Migration	International Migration
Maricopa County, Arizona	4,242,997	81,360	1.95	56,073	30,645	43,189	10,188
Harris County, Texas	4,589,928	56,587	1.25	73,072	26,660	-16,225	27,922
Clark County, Nevada	2,155,664	46,375	2.20	27,352	16,501	27,735	6,566
King County, Washington	2,149,970	35,714	1.69	25,905	13,580	8,511	15,500
Tarrant County, Texas	2,016,872	35,462	1.79	28,682	12,903	13,411	6,348
Riverside County, California	2,387,741	34,849	1.48	30,845	17,092	16,961	3,099
Bexar County, Texas	1,928,680	33,198	1.75	28,283	13,458	13,077	5,361
Orange County, Florida	1,314,367	29,503	2.30	16,721	8,198	10,083	11,078
Dallas County, Texas	2,574,984	29,209	1.15	40,063	16,407	-6,193	12,133
Hillsborough County, Florida	1,376,238	29,161	2.16	17,345	11,179	14,806	7,774

**Top 10 Fastest-Growing Counties (Percent Change, Counties With a Population of 10,000 or More): July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016**

County	Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Births	Deaths	Domestic Migration	International Migration
San Juan County, Utah	16,895	1,188	7.56	240	112	1,038	13
Kendall County, Texas	42,540	2,088	5.16	391	389	1,844	77
Hays County, Texas	204,470	9,896	5.09	2,553	1,011	7,932	171
Wasatch County, Utah	30,528	1,363	4.67	475	126	891	77
Dallas County, Iowa	84,516	3,739	4.63	1,268	433	2,500	296
Comal County, Texas	134,788	5,675	4.40	1,597	1,085	4,760	109
Sumter County, Florida	123,996	5,114	4.30	501	1,742	4,873	55
Crook County, Oregon	22,570	923	4.26	240	236	886	7
Juab County, Utah	11,010	444	4.20	185	74	319	-1
Kittitas County, Washington	44,866	1,809	4.20	391	286	1,563	72

**Top 10 Largest-Declining Counties or County Equivalents (Numeric Change): July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016**

County	Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Births	Deaths	Domestic Migration	International Migration
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County	Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Births	Deaths	Domestic Migration	International Migration
Cook County, Illinois	5,203,499	-21,324	-0.41	68,049	42,297	-66,244	18,434
Wayne County, Michigan	1,749,366	-7,696	-0.44	23,209	18,231	-17,346	4,279
Baltimore city, Maryland	614,664	-6,738	-1.08	8,654	6,871	-11,008	2,195
Cuyahoga County, Ohio	1,249,352	-5,673	-0.45	14,941	13,563	-10,122	3,402
Suffolk County, New York	1,492,583	-5,320	-0.36	15,446	12,793	-11,278	4,327
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin	951,448	-4,866	-0.51	13,675	8,176	-13,186	2,505
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	1,225,365	-3,933	-0.32	13,193	13,995	-5,821	3,479
San Juan County, New Mexico	115,079	-3,622	-3.05	1,703	1,026	-4,341	42
St. Louis City, Missouri	311,404	-3,471	-1.10	4,547	3,070	-6,189	981
Jefferson County, New York	114,006	-3,254	-2.78	2,000	945	-4,674	345

### Top 25 Fastest-Growing Metro Areas (Percent Change): July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016

Rank by Percent Change	Metro Area	2015 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Net Migration	Domestic Migration	International Migration
1	The Villages, FL	118,882	123,996	5,114	4.3	-1,241	501	1,742	4,928	4,873	55
2	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	432,493	449,295	16,802	3.9	-488	4,214	4,702	15,308	14,881	427
3	Bend-Redmond, OR	174,942	181,307	6,365	3.6	398	1,853	1,455	5,698	5,695	3
4	Greeley, CO	285,053	294,932	9,879	3.5	2,381	4,106	1,725	7,300	6,991	309
5	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	700,285	722,336	22,051	3.1	-658	6,666	7,324	20,780	17,769	3,011
6	St. George, UT	155,450	160,245	4,795	3.1	1,026	2,232	1,206	3,285	3,267	18
7	Provo-Orem, UT	585,362	603,309	17,947	3.1	10,004	12,347	2,343	7,765	6,893	872
8	Punta Gorda, FL	173,194	178,465	5,271	3.0	-1,614	1,044	2,658	6,154	5,800	354
9	Austin-Round Rock, TX	1,998,104	2,056,405	58,301	2.9	17,071	27,375	10,304	40,273	33,395	6,878
10	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	768,013	788,457	20,444	2.7	-3,227	6,545	9,772	21,138	18,913	2,225
11	Coeur d'Alene, ID	150,364	154,311	3,947	2.6	480	1,834	1,354	3,169	3,123	46
12	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	649,425	666,149	16,724	2.6	892	7,678	6,786	15,061	12,152	2,909
13	Sebastian-Vero Beach, FL	147,792	151,563	3,771	2.6	-766	1,284	2,050	3,828	3,530	298
14	Raleigh, NC	1,271,381	1,302,946	31,565	2.5	8,414	15,893	7,479	22,607	18,510	4,097
15	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	2,382,132	2,441,257	59,125	2.5	10,798	28,849	18,051	46,922	29,441	17,481

Rank by Percent Change	Metro Area	2015 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Natural Increase	Births	Deaths	Net Migration	Domestic Migration	International Migration
16	Port St. Lucie, FL	454,111	465,208	11,097	2.4	-890	4,357	5,247	10,724	9,759	965
17	Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	356,570	365,136	8,566	2.4	-220	3,270	3,490	7,434	5,292	2,142
18	Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL	203,690	208,563	4,873	2.4	161	2,274	2,113	4,289	4,046	243
19	Boise City, ID	675,777	691,423	15,646	2.3	4,157	8,753	4,596	10,757	9,950	807
20	Logan, UT-ID	133,093	136,159	3,066	2.3	1,991	2,578	587	1,052	728	324
21	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	623,378	637,674	14,296	2.3	-2,437	5,714	8,151	15,419	13,981	1,438
22	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	513,449	525,032	11,583	2.3	3,660	7,266	3,606	7,845	6,564	1,281
23	Olympia-Tumwater, WA	269,183	275,222	6,039	2.2	1,000	3,172	2,172	4,725	4,060	665
24	Charleston-North Charleston, SC	744,603	761,155	16,552	2.2	3,710	9,662	5,952	12,377	11,471	906
25	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV	2,109,289	2,155,664	46,375	2.2	10,851	27,352	16,501	34,301	27,735	6,566

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