



Newsroom

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The South Is Home to 10 of the 15 Fastest-Growing Large Cities

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Texas Cities Continue to Top the Charts

MAY 25, 2017 — Ten of the 15 fastest-growing large cities were located across the South in 2016, with four of the top five in Texas, according to new population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Conroe, Texas (near Houston), was the fastest-growing large city (population of 50,000 or more) between 2015 and 2016 at 7.8 percent, making its growth rate more than 11 times the nation's growth rate of 0.7 percent. Some of the other fastest-growing cities were: Frisco, Texas (6.2 percent); McKinney, Texas (5.9 percent); Greenville, S.C. (5.8 percent); and Georgetown, Texas (5.5 percent).

“Overall, cities in the South continue to grow at a faster rate than any other U.S region,” said Amel Toukabri, a demographer in the Census Bureau's population division. “Since the 2010 Census, the population in large southern cities grew by an average of 9.4 percent. In comparison, cities in the West grew 7.3 percent, while cities in the Northeast and Midwest had much lower growth rates at 1.8 percent and 3.0 percent respectively.”

Four cities in the West — Bend, Ore.; Buckeye, Ariz.; Lehi, Utah; and Meridian, Idaho — were among the top 15 fastest growing. Only one city in the Midwest, Ankeny, Iowa, topped the list while no cities in the Northeast were among the nation's fastest growing.

The statistics released today cover all local governmental units, including incorporated places (such as cities and towns), minor civil divisions (such as townships) and consolidated cities (government units for which the functions of an incorporated place and its parent county have merged).



Later this summer, the Census Bureau will release additional population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for the nation, states and counties.

Find more highlights from this year's release below and local-level statistics on census.gov. Tag [@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau) in stories and email [<pio@census.gov>](mailto:pio@census.gov) to interview a subject expert.

Columbus, Ohio, Surpasses Indianapolis to Become the 14th Most Populous U.S. City

While the overall list of the 15 largest U.S. cities did not change since 2015, Columbus, Ohio, surpassed Indianapolis, Ind., becoming the 14th largest city in the United States with a population of 860,090. Indianapolis has a population of 855,164.

- New York remains America's largest city by a wide margin. Its July 1, 2016, population of 8.5 million makes it more than twice as large as the next largest city, Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles remains the second-largest city, with a population of about 4 million. Despite a population loss of 8,638, Chicago remains the third-largest city, with a population of 2.7 million.
- Phoenix, Ariz., had the largest numeric increase of any city, by adding 32,113 (about 88 people per day on average) between 2015 and 2016.

Population Change in Small Towns and Regional Differences

Of the 19,510 incorporated places in the United States, around 76 percent (14,801) had fewer than 5,000 people in 2015, whereas only 3.9 percent (752) of cities had a population of 50,000 or more. Since 2015, on average, these small towns have seen uneven growth across U.S. regions:

- Northeast small towns declined by 0.5 percent.
- Midwest small towns declined by 0.3 percent.
- Small towns in the South grew by 0.2 percent.
- Western small towns saw the largest growth with an increase of 0.8 percent.

Midsized cities in the Northeast, places with populations between 5,000 and less than 10,000, experienced relative stability, seeing a small average decline of 0.1 percent since the 2010 Census. Midsized cities in the other regions experienced population growth, on average.

Crossing Population Milestones

- League City, Texas, was the only city to cross over the 100,000 population mark in 2016, reaching 102,010.
- Five cities crossed the 50,000 population mark between 2015 and 2016. All five areas are in the West:
 - Aliso Viejo, Calif. (51,424)
 - Parker, Colo. (51,163)
 - Logan, Utah (50,676)
 - Cerritos, Calif. (50,555)
 - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (50,285)

Housing Unit Growth Remained Below Pre-2007 Levels in Nearly All States

The nation's housing stock grew by 911,000 last year to reach 135.7 million. The growth rate of 0.7 percent last year was roughly half of what it was in 2007 (1.4 percent). Housing unit growth last year remained below pre-2007 levels in nearly all states except North

Dakota (up 1.6 percent last year, compared to a 0.9 percent increase in 2007), the District of Columbia (up 1.4 percent, compared to a 0.9 percent increase in 2007) and Iowa (returning to the 2007 level of 0.7 percent growth).

The 15 Fastest-Growing Large Cities between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016 (Populations of 50,000 or more in 2015)				
Rank	City Name (Metro area title in parentheses)	State	Percent Increase	2016 Total Population
1	Conroe city (Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land)	Texas	7.8	82,286
2	Frisco city (Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington)	Texas	6.2	163,656
3	McKinney city (Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington)	Texas	5.9	172,298
4	Greenville city (Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin)	South Carolina	5.8	67,453
5	Georgetown city (Austin-Round Rock)	Texas	5.5	67,140
6	Bend city (Bend—Redmond)	Oregon	4.9	91,122
7	Buckeye city (Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale)	Arizona	4.8	64,629

8	Bonita Springs city (Cape Coral-Fort Myers)	Florida	4.8	54,198
9	New Braunfels city (San Antonio-New Braunfels)	Texas	4.7	73,959
10	Murfreesboro city (Nashville-Davidson—Murfreesboro—Franklin)	Tennessee	4.7	131,947
11	Lehi city (Provo-Orem)	Utah	4.6	61,130
12	Cedar Park city (Austin-Round Rock)	Texas	4.5	68,918
13	Meridian city (Boise City)	Idaho	4.5	95,623
14	Ankeny city (Des Moines-West Des Moines)	Iowa	4.5	58,627
15	Fort Myers city (Cape Coral-Fort Myers)	Florida	4.5	77,146

The 15 Cities With the Largest Numeric Increase Between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016 (Populations of 50,000 or more in 2015)

Rank	Area Name	State	Numeric Increase	2016 Total Population
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1	Phoenix city	Arizona	32,113	1,615,017
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1	Phoenix city	Arizona	32,113	1,013,017
2	Los Angeles city	California	27,173	3,976,322
3	San Antonio city	Texas	24,473	1,492,510
4	New York city	New York	21,171	8,537,673
5	Seattle city	Washington	20,847	704,352
6	Dallas city	Texas	20,602	1,317,929
7	Fort Worth city	Texas	19,942	854,113
8	Houston city	Texas	18,666	2,303,482
9	Austin city	Texas	17,738	947,890
10	San Diego city	California	15,715	1,406,630
11	Charlotte city	North Carolina	15,656	842,051
12	Jacksonville city	Florida	13,455	880,619
13	Denver city	Colorado	13,028	693,060
14	Miami city	Florida	12,715	453,579
15	Washington city	District of Columbia	10,793	681,170

The 15 Most Populous Cities: July 1, 2016

Rank	Area Name	State	2016 Total Population
1	New York city	New York	8,537,673
2	Los Angeles city	California	3,976,322
3	Chicago city	Illinois	2,704,958
4	Houston city	Texas	2,303,482
5	Phoenix city	Arizona	1,615,017
6	Philadelphia city	Pennsylvania	1,567,872
7	San Antonio city	Texas	1,492,510
8	San Diego city	California	1,406,630
9	Dallas city	Texas	1,317,929
10	San Jose city	California	1,025,350
11	Austin city	Texas	947,890
12	Jacksonville city	Florida	880,619
13	San Francisco city	California	870,887
14	Columbus city	Ohio	860,090
15	Indianapolis city (balance)	Indiana	855,164

**Population Change Between July 1, 2015,
and July 1, 2016**

Population Less Than 5,000 as of 2015

Region	Number of Areas	Average Numeric Change	Average Percent Change
(1)Northeast	1,440	-7	-0.5
(2)Midwest	7,019	-1	-0.3
(3)South	4,999	6	0.2
(4)West	1,343	12	0.8

Population With 5,000 to 9,999 as of 2015

Region	Number of Areas	Average Numeric Difference	Average Percent Difference
(1)Northeast	298	-11	-0.2
(2)Midwest	543	13	0.2
(3)South	579	64	0.9
(4)West	249	104	1.4

Population With 50,000 or More as of 2015

Region	Number of Areas	Average Numeric Difference	Average Percent Difference
(1)Northeast	78	368	0.0
(2)Midwest	158	337	0.3




(3)South	234	1,989	1.3
(4)West	282	1,678	1.1

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