Analysis of U.S. and State Population Estimates, July 1, 2010-July 1, 2020

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On December 22, the Census Bureau posted tables showing annual population estimates for the United States, each state, and the District of Columbia as of July 1, 2020, along with revised estimates back to 2010. These estimates are based on births, deaths, and migration information dating back to the **2010** census, **not the 2020** census estimates, which will be issued sometime in 2021 and will be used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives, allocate federal spending for scores of programs, and other purposes. Nevertheless, these annual estimates are a useful indicator of population change.

Population changes over time are a major contributor to demand for numerous types of construction, funding for public construction, and supply of potential construction workers.

U.S. population growth slowed for the fifth year in a row to an all-time low of 0.35% between July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2020, from 0.46% (initially estimated at 0.48%) the year before. The slowing in the growth rate resulted from a continuing slowdown in the number of births; an increase in deaths (due both to rising numbers of very old people and more deaths of younger adults from suicide and drug overdoses, with a small increment as of July 1 attributable to covid-affected deaths); and a decline in net immigration.

Idaho was the **fastest-growing state in 2020** for the third time in four years, with a growth rate each time of about 2.1%, as it added 37,853 residents. **Arizona** was the second-fastest growing state in 2020 (1.78%, 129,558 more residents). **Texas** had the **largest numerical increase in 2020** (637,965; 1.29%, third-fastest). **Florida** added the second-largest number of residents in 2020 (241,256; 1.12%, seventh-fastest).
D.C. and 16 states had larger population growth in 2020 than in 2019. **Texas** added 11,735 more residents in 2020 than in 2019, the **largest acceleration in residents** of any state. **Wyoming** had the **largest acceleration in its growth rate** (0.20 percentage points) for the second year in a row.

A record 16 states lost population in 2020, compared to 14 in 2019 (previously estimated as 10). **New York lost population for the fifth year in a row and had the steepest percentage loss** (-0.65%) and the **largest numerical decline** (-126,355). New York and Illinois are the only states to experience slower growth (or steeper loss) of population each year this decade.

A total of 34 states had smaller growth or larger losses in 2020 than in 2019. The **largest numerical decline in growth** occurred in **California**, which lost population for the first time in its history (-69,532, -0.18%). California's growth rate in the years 2011-2015 was slightly above the national rate (approximately 0.8% vs. 0.7%) each year. But the state's growth has slowed for the past six consecutive years.
Nevada's growth rate slowed the most this year, from 1.98% in 2019 to 1.54% in 2020, a decline of 0.44 percentage points (**more than any state**) this year. Nevertheless, Nevada's growth rate exceeded every state except Idaho and Arizona (1.78%).

Two states in addition to California lost population in 2020 for the first time in the past decade: **Massachusetts** (-1,309 residents, -0.02%) and **Ohio** (-3,290 residents, -0.03%).
Kansas was the only state to add residents in 2020 (1,170, 0.04%) after losing residents in 2019 (-113, -0.004%).

For the decade, **D.C. grew faster than any state** (17.77%, 107,534 more residents). However, D.C.'s growth rate has slowed from around 2.5% annually in 2011-2013 (first in the nation in 2011 and 2012, second in 2013-2015) to around 0.6% in 2019 and 2020.
Among states, **Utah was the fastest-growing state from 2010 to 2020** (17.10%, 474,466 more residents), followed by **Texas** (16.32%, 4,118,862 more residents). **Texas had the largest numerical increase from 2010 to 2020**, followed by **Florida** (2,887,169, 15.32%).

Illinois had the largest numerical decline over the decade (-253,015, -1.97%) and lost population in each of the past seven years. **West Virginia had the largest percentage decline over the decade** (-3.75% -10,476 residents) and lost population in each of the past eight years.
Three states in addition to New York, Illinois, and West Virginia lost population over the decade: **Connecticut** (-22,167 residents, -0.62%, seven consecutive declines), **Mississippi** (3,829 residents, -0.13%, three consecutive declines), and **Vermont** (-2,539 residents, -0.41%, three consecutive declines).