

Newsroom

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New Census Bureau Population Estimates Show Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Has Largest Growth in the United States

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MARCH 22, 2018 — The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area’s 146,000-population increase last year was the most of any metro area and Maricopa County, Ariz., saw a population increase of nearly 74,000 — the most of any county last year — according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s July 1, 2017, population estimates released today. The statistics provide population estimates and components of change for the nation’s 382 metropolitan statistical areas, 551 micropolitan statistical areas and 3,142 counties.

“Historically, the Dallas metro area attracts large numbers from both international and domestic migration. Many of the other largest metro areas in the country rely mostly on international migration and natural increase for growth,” said Molly Cromwell, a demographer at the Census Bureau.

Among the nation's counties, the top 10 with the largest numeric growth are all located in the South and the West. The 10 largest counties in the country all maintained their rank compared to last year.

From July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2017, six of the top 10 largest-gaining counties were in Texas — Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Harris and Tarrant. The remaining four counties on the list were Maricopa County, Ariz.; Clark County, Nev.; Riverside County, Calif.; and King County, Wash. Most of the nation's 3,142 counties grew, with 57 percent gaining in the last year.

Counties

Gaining and losing population

- Between 2016 and 2017, 1,790 counties (57.0 percent) gained population and 1,342 counties (42.7 percent) lost population. This compared to 2015-2016, when 1,655 counties (52.7 percent) gained population and 1,480 counties (47.1 percent) lost population.
- Among counties with a population of 10,000 or more in 2016 and 2017, Falls Church City, Va. (a county equivalent), was the fastest-growing county with a 5.2 percent increase, adding 715 people. The rapid growth was mostly due to an increase in net domestic migration, with 492 more people moving in than out of the area between 2016 and 2017.
- The primary driver behind the growth of the 10 fastest-growing counties, 2016-2017, was net domestic migration.

Natural Increase and Decrease

- Between 2016 and 2017, 1,907 counties (60.7 percent) experienced natural increase, meaning there were more births than deaths. This compares to 2015-2016, when 1,942 counties (61.8 percent) experienced natural increase.
- Also between 2016 and 2017, 1,200 counties (38.2 percent) experienced natural decrease, meaning more people died in the county than were born. This compares to 2015-2016 when 1,164 counties (37.0 percent) experienced natural decrease.

Net Migration

- Between 2016 and 2017, the number of counties that showed a positive net migration was 1,661 (52.9 percent), meaning more people moved into the county than moved out, and 1,470 (46.8 percent) counties showed negative net migration, meaning more people moved out of the county than moved into the county.
- Between 2015 and 2016, 1,469 counties (46.8 percent) showed positive net migration, and 1,660 counties (52.8 percent) showed negative net migration.

Metropolitan Areas

Growth

- Many of the top 10 metro areas with the largest numeric increases in 2015-2016 were also in the top 10 in 2016-2017, with the following notable exceptions: Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-Va.-Md.-W.Va., climbed to 5th in 2017 from 11th in 2016, and Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, Calif., jumped to 7th in 2017 from 13th in 2016.
- In 2017, the Baltimore metro area was now the 20th most populous metro area, up from 21st place in 2016.
- Net domestic migration is the driving factor behind all of the top 10 fastest-growing metro areas that rose in rank — St. George, Utah; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Greeley, Colo.; Lakeland, Fla.; and Boise, Idaho.

Decrease

- Out of 382 metro areas, 87 (22.8 percent) saw population decreases between 2016 and 2017.
- The metro areas that dropped in rank within the top 10 fastest-growing metro areas, between 2016 and 2017, did so because of decreases in net domestic migration. Those areas are Bend-Redmond, Ore.; Provo-Orem, Utah; The Villages, Fla.; Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla.; and Austin-Round Rock, Texas.
- The St. Louis, Mo.-Ill. metro area dropped out of the top 20 most populous metro areas and swapped places with Baltimore to its new 2017 standing of the 21st most populous area in the nation. In 1960, St. Louis was the 9th largest metro area.
- A decrease in net domestic migration, meaning less of a gain from movement within the United States, was the primary factor in the Tampa metro area's drop in rank from 7th in 2016 to 10th in 2017.
- The metro area with the largest percentage decrease in population last year was Casper, Wyo., down by 1.7 percent.

Puerto Rico

- The estimates show that Puerto Rico had an estimated population of 3.3 million in 2017, a decrease from 3.4 million in 2016. Puerto Rico's population loss is attributed to a large migration of Puerto Ricans to the mainland United States.
- All municipios in Puerto Rico decreased in population in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- The municipio with the largest numeric decrease between 2016 and 2017 was San Juan Municipio (-9,246; -2.7 percent), followed by Bayamón Municipio (-4,648; -2.5 percent), and Ponce Municipio (-4,140; -2.9 percent).
- The municipio with the largest percentage decrease between 2016 and 2017 was Lares Municipio (-792; -3.0 percent), followed by Peñuelas Municipio (-628; -3.0 percent), and Guánica Municipio (-501; -3.0 percent).

Find more tables from this year's release below.

Counties

Table 1

Top 10 Most Populous Counties: 2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	County	2017 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change
1	1	Los Angeles County, CA	10,163,507	10,150,558	12,949	0.1
2	2	Cook County, IL	5,211,263	5,231,356	-20,093	-0.4
3	3	Harris County, TX	4,652,980	4,617,041	35,939	0.8
4	4	Maricopa County, AZ	4,307,033	4,233,383	73,650	1.7
5	5	San Diego County, CA	3,337,685	3,317,200	20,485	0.6
6	6	Orange County, CA	3,190,400	3,177,703	12,697	0.4
7	7	Miami-Dade County, FL	2,751,796	2,736,543	15,253	0.6
8	8	Kings County, NY	2,648,771	2,650,859	-2,088	-0.1
9	9	Dallas County, TX	2,618,148	2,587,462	30,686	1.2
10	10	Riverside County, CA	2,423,266	2,386,522	36,744	1.5

Table 2

Top 10 Largest-Gaining Counties (Numeric Increase): 2016-2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	County	2017 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change
1	1	Maricopa County, AZ	4,307,033	4,233,383	73,650	1.7
2	3	Clark County, NV	2,204,079	2,156,724	47,355	2.2
3	6	Riverside County, CA	2,423,266	2,386,522	36,744	1.5
4	2	Harris County, TX	4,652,980	4,617,041	35,939	0.8
5	5	Tarrant County, TX	2,054,475	2,021,746	32,729	1.6
6	4	King County, WA	2,188,649	2,155,962	32,687	1.5
7	8	Bexar County, TX	1,958,578	1,927,747	30,831	1.6
8	7	Dallas County, TX	2,618,148	2,587,462	30,686	1.2
9	12	Denton County, TX	836,210	808,299	27,911	3.5
10	14	Collin County, TX	969,603	942,453	27,150	2.9

Table 3

Top 10 Fastest-Growing Counties (Percentage Increase): 2016-2017*

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	County	2017 Population	2016 Population	Percent Change	Numeric Change
1	1473	Falls Church city, VA	14,583	13,868	5.2	715
2	7	Comal County, TX	141,009	134,142	5.1	6,867
3	5	Wasatch County, UT	32,106	30,571	5.0	1,535
4	1	Hays County, TX	214,485	204,345	5.0	10,140
5	2	Kendall County, TX	44,026	41,964	4.9	2,062

6	21	Walton County, FL	68,376	65,440	4.5	2,936
7	41	Tooele County, UT	67,456	64,599	4.4	2,857
8	44	Morgan County, UT	11,873	11,373	4.4	500
9	805	Lumpkin County, GA	32,873	31,528	4.3	1,345
10	9	Osceola County, FL	352,180	337,990	4.2	14,190

*Among counties with a population of 10,000 or more in 2016 and 2017.

Table 4

Top 10 Counties With Numeric Decrease: 2016-2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	County	2017 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change	Percent Change
1	1	Cook County, IL	5,211,263	5,231,356	-20,093	-0.4
2	2	Baltimore city, MD	611,648	616,958	-5,310	-0.9
3	5	Cuyahoga County, OH	1,248,514	1,253,454	-4,940	-0.4
4	7	St. Louis city, MO	308,626	313,144	-4,518	-1.4
5	10	Allegheny County, PA	1,223,048	1,227,553	-4,505	-0.4
6	71	Honolulu County, HI	988,650	992,761	-4,111	-0.4
7	6	Milwaukee County, WI	952,085	955,369	-3,284	-0.3
8	124	Anchorage Municipality, AK	294,356	297,376	-3,020	-1.0
9	3	Wayne County, MI	1,753,616	1,756,598	-2,982	-0.2
10	19	Kanawha County, WV	183,293	186,097	-2,804	-1.5

Table 5

Top 10 Counties by Percentage Decrease: 2016-2017*

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	County	2017 Population	2016 Population	Percent Change	Numeric Change
1	219	Campbell County, WY	46,242	48,800	-5.2	-2,558
2	14	Martin County, KY	11,452	11,947	-4.1	-495
3	6	Geary County, KS	33,855	35,208	-3.8	-1,353
4	13	McDowell County, WV	18,456	19,139	-3.6	-683
5	54	Dimmit County, TX	10,418	10,784	-3.4	-366
6	5	Richland County, MT	11,039	11,408	-3.2	-369
7	21	Washita County, OK	11,134	11,474	-3.0	-340
8	4	Uintah County, UT	35,150	36,194	-2.9	-1,044
9	3	Beckham County, OK	21,793	22,432	-2.8	-639
10	17	Coahoma County, MS	23,154	23,820	-2.8	-666

*Among counties with a population of 10,000 or more in 2016 and 2017.

Metro Areas

Table 6

Top 10 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Metropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population
1	1	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	20,320,876	20,275,179
2	2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	13,353,907	13,328,261
3	3	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	9,533,040	9,546,326
4	4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	7,399,662	7,253,424
5	5	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	6,892,427	6,798,010

6	6	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	6,216,589	6,150,681
7	7	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	6,158,824	6,107,433
8	8	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	6,096,120	6,077,152
9	9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	5,884,736	5,795,723
10	10	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	4,836,531	4,805,942

Table 7

Top 10 Largest-Gaining Metropolitan Areas (Numeric Increase): 2016-2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Metropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change
1	1	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	7,399,662	7,253,424	146,238
2	2	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	6,892,427	6,798,010	94,417
3	3	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	5,884,736	5,795,723	89,013
4	4	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	4,737,270	4,648,498	88,772
5	11	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	6,216,589	6,150,681	65,908
6	6	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3,867,046	3,802,660	64,386
7	13	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	4,580,670	4,523,653	57,017
8	8	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	2,509,831	2,453,333	56,498
9	9	Austin-Round Rock, TX	2,115,827	2,060,558	55,269
10	7	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3,091,399	3,036,525	54,874

Table 8

Top 10 Fastest-Growing Metropolitan Areas (Percentage Increase): 2016-2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Metropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population	Percent Change
1	9	St. George, UT	165,662	159,237	4.0
2	2	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	464,165	447,793	3.7
3	4	Greeley, CO	304,633	294,243	3.5
4	3	Bend-Redmond, OR	186,875	180,675	3.4
5	15	Coeur d'Alene, ID	157,637	153,144	2.9
6	10	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	686,483	667,018	2.9
7	17	Boise City, ID	709,845	690,810	2.8
8	7	Provo-Orem, UT	617,675	601,478	2.7
9	8	Austin-Round Rock, TX	2,115,827	2,060,558	2.7
10	1	The Villages, FL	125,165	122,121	2.5

Micro Areas

Table 9

Top 10 Most Populous Micropolitan Areas: 2017

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Micropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population
1	1	Claremont-Lebanon, NH-VT	216,537	216,458
2	2	Hilo, HI	200,381	198,681
3	3	Torrington, CT	182,177	183,097
4	6	Concord, NH	149,216	148,133
5	4	Ottawa-Peru, IL	149,037	149,657
6	5	Traverse City, MI	148,671	148,231
7	7	Pottsville, PA	142,569	143,335
8	8	Tupelo, MS	140,081	139,656
9	9	Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA	136,754	136,449

Table 10**Top 10 Largest-Gaining Micropolitan Areas (Numeric Increase): 2016-2017**

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Micropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population	Numeric Change
1	1	Bozeman, MT	107,810	104,072	3,738
2	9	Jefferson, GA	67,519	64,978	2,541
3	3	Kalispell, MT	100,000	97,693	2,307
4	5	Twin Falls, ID	108,751	106,793	1,958
5	11	Pinehurst-Southern Pines, NC	97,264	95,392	1,872
6	2	Dunn, NC	132,754	130,899	1,855
7	4	Hilo, HI	200,381	198,681	1,700
8	20	Cookeville, TN	111,363	109,703	1,660
9	17	Shelton, WA	63,710	62,123	1,587
10	16	Centralia, WA	78,200	76,630	1,570

Table 11**Top 10 Fastest-Growing Micropolitan Areas (Percentage Increase): 2016-2017**

2017 Rank	2016 Rank	Micropolitan Area	2017 Population	2016 Population	Percent Change
1	1	Heber, UT	32,106	30,571	5.0
2	6	Jefferson, GA	67,519	64,978	3.9
3	4	Bozeman, MT	107,810	104,072	3.6
4	3	Prineville, OR	23,123	22,344	3.5
5	7	Los Alamos, NM	18,738	18,152	3.2
6	42	Lewisburg, TN	32,931	31,973	3.0
7	17	Sandpoint, ID	43,560	42,343	2.9
8	2	Ellensburg, WA	46,205	44,928	2.8
9	53	Mountain Home, ID	26,823	26,090	2.8
10	48	Arcadia, FL	36,862	35,925	2.6

In the coming months, the Census Bureau will release 2017 population estimates for cities and towns, as well as national, state and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

To find out to what counties people are leaving from and moving into, visit the Census Flows Mapper. The mapper displays information from the American Community Survey, collected over five-year periods between 2006 and 2015.

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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 administrative records on births, deaths and

migration to develop estimates of population. For more detail regarding the methodology, see <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.

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Detailed tables



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