

Population Distribution and Diversity in New York State

The U.S. Census Bureau has completed the release of small area data from the 2010 Census for use in Congressional reapportionment and state redistricting. New York's data was released on March 24, 2011 and provides the first detailed look at both geographic redistribution of the population and the expected growth in the State's already highly diverse population.

New York continues to show only moderate growth in population. Between 2000 and 2010, the State grew by just over 400,000 or 2.1 percent compared to the national rate of 9.7%. Between 1990 and 2000, New York grew by 5.5 percent indicating a slowdown in this most current decade. States in the South and West continue to see faster growth rates and that differential means New York will continue to lose Congressional representation. After the 1980 Census, New York lost five seats in Congress, another three seats after the 1990 Census, two more after the 2000 Census and the 2010 Census shows another loss of two seats. With this continued loss, New York and Florida will have the same number of representatives in Washington.

Population change has not been uniform across the State. Downstate (New York City, Long Island, Putnam, Westchester, and Rockland Counties) grew by 2.5 percent while Upstate New York grew by only 1.5 percent. By Economic Development Region, the Mid-Hudson region ranked first in growth rate at 5.1 percent followed closely by the Capital Region at 4.8 percent. Western New York was the only region to decline over the decade losing 44,000 people or nearly 3.1 percent. Erie County accounted for the greatest loss in the region declining by 31,000. New York City grew by just over 2 percent and Long Island's population increased by 2.9 percent with most of the growth occurring in Suffolk County.

Population Change by Region, 2000 to 2010

| Region | April 1, | | Change 2000 to 2010 | | Change Rank: | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | 2000 ¹ | 2010 | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| New York State | 18,976,811 | 19,378,102 | 401,291 | 2.1% | | |
| Capital | 1,029,921 | 1,079,207 | 49,286 | 4.8% | 4 | 2 |
| Central New York | 780,716 | 791,939 | 11,223 | 1.4% | 6 | 7 |
| Finger Lakes | 1,199,593 | 1,217,156 | 17,563 | 1.5% | 5 | 6 |
| Long Island | 2,753,918 | 2,832,882 | 78,964 | 2.9% | 3 | 3 |
| Mid-Hudson | 2,179,145 | 2,290,851 | 111,706 | 5.1% | 2 | 1 |
| Mohawk Valley | 497,937 | 500,155 | 2,218 | 0.4% | 8 | 8 |
| New York City | 8,008,686 | 8,175,133 | 166,447 | 2.1% | 1 | 4 |
| North Country | 425,855 | 433,193 | 7,338 | 1.7% | 7 | 5 |
| Southern Tier | 657,302 | 657,909 | 607 | 0.1% | 9 | 9 |
| Western New York | 1,443,738 | 1,399,677 | -44,061 | -3.1% | 10 | 10 |
| Upstate | 6,908,242 | 7,009,577 | 101,335 | 1.5% | | |
| Downstate ² | 12,068,569 | 12,368,525 | 299,956 | 2.5% | | |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population.

¹ Revised Census counts include corrections made subsequent to the original Census release.

² Downstate New York includes: New York City, and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

By county, the fastest growing county in New York was Saratoga increasing by nearly 10 percent followed by Orange (+9.2 percent) and Rockland (+8.7 percent) counties. Hamilton County, the State's least populated county, ranked last with a loss of more than 10 percent though only 541 people in absolute number.

Growth and Decline of New York State Counties, 2000 to 2010

| Top 10 Percentage Gainers | | | | | Top 10 Percentage Losers | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| County | April 1, | | Change 2000 to 2010 | | County | April 1, | | Change 2000 to 2010 | |
| | 2000 ¹ | 2010 | Number | Percent | | 2000 ¹ | 2010 | Number | Percent |
| Saratoga | 200,635 | 219,607 | 18,972 | 9.5 | Allegany | 49,927 | 48,946 | -981 | -2.0 |
| Orange | 341,371 | 372,813 | 31,442 | 9.2 | Cayuga | 81,961 | 80,026 | -1,935 | -2.4 |
| Rockland | 286,761 | 311,687 | 24,926 | 8.7 | Chemung | 91,072 | 88,830 | -2,242 | -2.5 |
| Ontario | 100,224 | 107,931 | 7,707 | 7.7 | Orleans | 44,173 | 42,883 | -1,290 | -2.9 |
| Dutchess | 280,153 | 297,488 | 17,335 | 6.2 | Wyoming | 43,424 | 42,155 | -1,269 | -2.9 |
| Madison | 69,441 | 73,442 | 4,001 | 5.8 | Erie | 950,265 | 919,040 | -31,225 | -3.3 |
| Seneca | 33,342 | 35,251 | 1,909 | 5.7 | Chautauqua | 139,747 | 134,905 | -4,842 | -3.5 |
| Richmond | 443,729 | 468,730 | 25,001 | 5.6 | Cattaraugus | 83,955 | 80,317 | -3,638 | -4.3 |
| Schenectady | 146,551 | 154,727 | 8,176 | 5.6 | Schuyler | 19,222 | 18,343 | -879 | -4.6 |
| Tompkins | 96,502 | 101,564 | 5,062 | 5.2 | Hamilton | 5,377 | 4,836 | -541 | -10.1 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population.

¹ Revised Decennial Census counts include corrections made subsequent to the original Census release.

New York's population growth lags many states and the Nation as a whole and the results of the 2010 Census did not meet the expectations based on the Census Bureau's own population estimates though the decade. The annual Population Estimates Program reported a July 1, 2009 estimate of 19,541,453, almost a percent higher than the actual Census result. The estimates also led to the expectation of increased population loss in upstate counties to the benefit of growth in New York City, the Hudson Valley and Long Island. While all of those areas did show growth over the last decade, the estimates overstated the redistribution of population. Based on the 2009 estimates, 35 Upstate New York counties would have seen population loss but the Census results show a loss in only 17 counties. The estimates also pointed to a population in New York City nearly 220,000 higher than was actually reported in the Census. In general, losses in Upstate were not as bad as expected while gains in Downstate were not as extreme.

This difference in geographic distribution plays an important role in the redistribution of political power also. The Public Law 94-171 data file just released is the basis for the drawing of new Congressional districts, as well as, state and local legislative districts. While these new Census numbers indicate that the political shifts may not be as great as had been expected from a geographic standpoint, there is another important dimension to the data. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed racial discrimination in voting practices and set the stage for later Justice Department requirements for minority representation.

Demographic shifts in the diversity of New York's population exhibited in the Census results show changes in community characteristics across the State. The White, Non-Hispanic population has declined statewide by nearly 500,000 and makes up just over 58 percent of the

Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000 and 2010

| New York State | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Race/Hispanic Origin | April 1, | | | | Change | |
| | 2000 ¹ | | 2010 | | Number | Percent |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| Total Population | 18,976,457 | | 19,378,102 | | 401,645 | 2.1% |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 11,760,981 | 62.0% | 11,304,247 | 58.3% | -456,734 | -3.9% |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 2,812,623 | 14.8% | 2,783,857 | 14.4% | -28,766 | -1.0% |
| Asian, Non-Hispanic | 1,035,926 | 5.5% | 1,406,194 | 7.3% | 370,268 | 35.7% |
| Other, Non-Hispanic | 133,228 | 0.7% | 140,848 | 0.7% | 7,620 | 5.7% |
| Multi-race, Non-Hispanic | 366,116 | 1.9% | 326,034 | 1.7% | -40,082 | -10.9% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2,867,583 | 15.1% | 3,416,922 | 17.6% | 549,339 | 19.2% |
| Upstate ² | | | | | | |
| Race/Hispanic Origin | April 1, | | | | Change | |
| | 2000 ¹ | | 2010 | | Number | Percent |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| Total Population | 6,908,309 | | 7,009,577 | | 101,268 | 1.5% |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 5,970,960 | 86.4% | 5,804,364 | 82.8% | -166,596 | -2.8% |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 470,544 | 6.8% | 515,885 | 7.4% | 45,341 | 9.6% |
| Asian, Non-Hispanic | 100,793 | 1.5% | 154,168 | 2.2% | 53,375 | 53.0% |
| Other, Non-Hispanic | 38,519 | 0.6% | 43,686 | 0.6% | 5,167 | 13.4% |
| Multi-race, Non-Hispanic | 82,439 | 1.2% | 119,698 | 1.7% | 37,259 | 45.2% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 245,054 | 3.5% | 371,776 | 5.3% | 126,722 | 51.7% |
| Downstate ² | | | | | | |
| Race/Hispanic Origin | April 1, | | | | Change | |
| | 2000 ¹ | | 2010 | | Number | Percent |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | | |
| Total Population | 12,068,148 | | 12,368,525 | | 300,377 | 2.5% |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 5,790,021 | 48.0% | 5,499,883 | 44.5% | -290,138 | -5.0% |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 2,342,079 | 19.4% | 2,267,972 | 18.3% | -74,107 | -3.2% |
| Asian, Non-Hispanic | 935,133 | 7.7% | 1,252,026 | 10.1% | 316,893 | 33.9% |
| Other, Non-Hispanic | 94,709 | 0.8% | 97,162 | 0.8% | 2,453 | 2.6% |
| Multi-race, Non-Hispanic | 283,677 | 2.4% | 206,336 | 1.7% | -77,341 | -27.3% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2,622,529 | 21.7% | 3,045,146 | 24.6% | 422,617 | 16.1% |

¹ Revised Census counts include corrections made subsequent to the original Census release.

² Downstate New York includes: New York City, and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

population. Two-thirds of the decline came from the Downstate area. While the Upstate region is still overwhelmingly White, Non-Hispanic (nearly 83 percent), this population still declined by nearly 3 percent over the decade. The Black, Non-Hispanic population comprises about 14 percent of the State's population but it also declined though only by 1 percent. Upstate this population grew by nearly 10 percent while Downstate saw the loss of nearly 75,000 or 3.2 percent.

The Asian, Non-Hispanic population makes up a small proportion of the total population Upstate but it grew by more than 50 percent between 2000 and 2010. Downstate this group grew by more than a third to make up 10 percent of the population and statewide the increase was more than 370,000. The Other Races total includes American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Other races. This group represents only less than 1 percent of the State's population, less than one-third of which live in Upstate New York.

The Census Bureau is required by law to deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting data to the Governor and legislative leaders of every state by April 1st of the year following the Census. This is the dataset that will be used by each state to redraw the Congressional district boundaries that will serve for the next 10 years. New York will lose two Congressional seats as a result of the national redistribution of population but the question of how the new districts will be configured will be the topic of debate and computer manipulation in the coming year. New district lines are to be in place for the 2012 election.

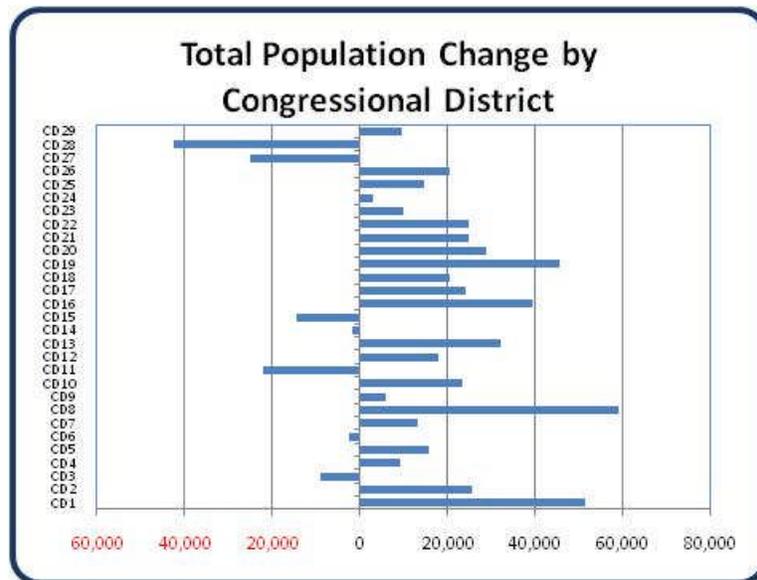
While PL94-171 only requires the Census Bureau to provide total counts of population, the Census Bureau delivers detailed race and Hispanic Origin counts for the total population and the voting age population (18 and over). These race and Hispanic Origin categories are consistent with the Statistical Programs and Standards Office of the Office of Management and Budget Directive 15 (as issued in 1977 and revised in 1997). They have been provided since the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program's inception in 1980.

The data file contains population counts for 63 combinations of responses to the 2010 Census questions on race and Hispanic Origin. These combinations of race response are cross-tabulated by Hispanic Origin providing a very rich dataset describing the Nation's diverse population. In concert with the U.S. Department of Justice, individual state requirements, and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, the PL94-171 data become the basis for ensuring equitable representation in Congress, state, and local legislative bodies.

However, drawing legislative district boundaries is inherently a political process and one which seeks to balance the needs for equal representation with the distribution of political power. For this reason, Congressional district boundaries are often odd shaped configurations. In the best of cases, the process attempts to respect changes in the geographic and racial distribution of population.

With the completion of the 2010 Census, the process of state redistricting begins and the changing race/Hispanic Origin of New York’s population becomes an important factor in what is much more than a mathematical process.

Seven of New York’s 29 Congressional Districts lost population between 2000 and 2009. Congressional District 3 is in Suffolk County, districts in New York City include 6, 11, 14, and 15. The largest loss of population (- 67,612) was in districts 27 and 28 which are largely made up of Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, and part of Monroe counties.



Changes in the geographic distribution and racial composition changes will definitely impact the redistricting process. Twenty-two districts have lost White, Non-Hispanic population while at the same time gaining in some component of the minority population. Ten New York districts are now minority-majority. The Black, Non-Hispanic population grew in 19 districts while every district saw gains in the Asian, Non-Hispanic population. Gains for the Other Race and Multi-race, Non-Hispanic population occurred in 18 and 13 districts, respectively. The Hispanic/Latino population saw gains in 26 of New York’s 29 districts.

Census results for the last few decades have confirmed how the Nation’s diversity continues to expand beyond traditional locations. New York City has long been the destination of foreign immigrants and is well known for an array of minority groups and immigrants from foreign countries. But these data also show that even rural communities across New York State have grown more diverse – a trend that is unlikely to change in the future.

