

Every ten years, the census records everyone living in this country. The United States Constitution requires the census. Article 1, Section 2 mandates that the government conduct a population count once every ten years. The 2020 Census is now official, marking the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790. The count was conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency.

Total U.S. Population - 331,449,281

According to the Census Bureau results, the total population of the United States is now 331,449,281 -- up 7.4% or 22,703,743 more people since the last census in 2010. This has reset the balance of power for the next decade in the House of Representatives and the Electoral College, where each state's share of votes is tied to its census numbers.

This is the second-smallest decade-long growth rate since the first Census was taken in 1790—only slightly higher than the 7.3% growth rate from the 1930s in the aftermath of the Great Depression. The first-ever census in 1790 recorded a population of just over 3.9 million.

Among all 50 states, 37 grew more slowly in the 2010s than in the previous decade, and three states lost population—the largest number of such states since the 1980s. The states that gained the most people in the last 10 years were Texas, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, North Dakota, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

The new resident population statistics for the United States, each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are available on census.gov. Some interesting facts from the census include:

- The South and West's 2010s population growth of 10.2% and 9.2%, respectively, far outpaced the Midwest (3.1%) and Northeast (4.1%).
- The most populous state was California (39,538,223); the least populous was Wyoming (576,851).
- California will lose one seat in Congress for the first time ever.
- The state that gained the most numerically since the 2010 census was Texas (up 3,999,944 to 29,145,505).
- The fastest-growing state since the 2010 census was Utah (up 18.4% to 3,271,616).
- Florida overtook New York to become the third-largest state.
- Illinois and Pennsylvania will lose a congressional district for the fifth straight census.
- Montana is going to have more than one Congressional seat for the first time since 1993.

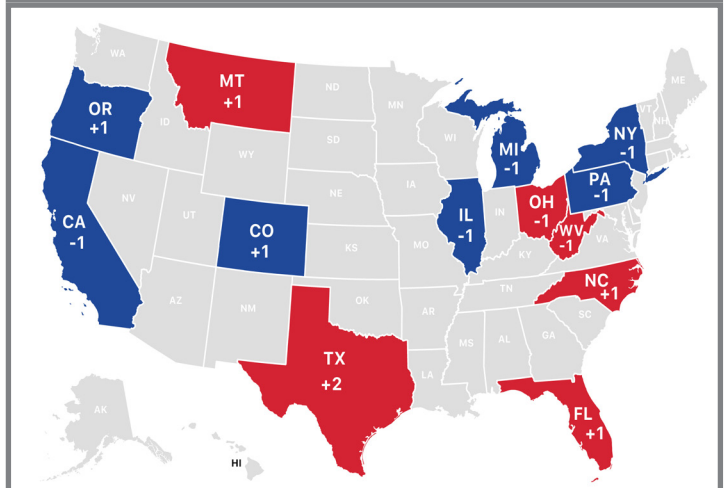
Despite the nation's slowing growth, projections by the Census Bureau and the United Nations show it is expected to continue growing at least through the middle of the century, approaching 400 million people by 2060. By comparison, Japan and many European countries have begun to shrink, including Germany, Poland, Portugal, and Russia. China's population is expected to peak before 2030.

House Changes from the 2020 Census

The 2020 US Census will result in the House of Representatives being *reapportioned*. Apportionment determines which states gain or lose congressional districts based on their total population. Losing one seat each are the states of California, New York, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, while Texas gained two seats due to rapid population growth. Also gaining one seat, each are Florida, Montana, North Carolina, Colorado, and Oregon.

Each seat in the House represents around 761,000 people, with the reapportioned Congress to convene in January 2023 as the 118th Congress. New York missed out on retaining its congressional seat by just 89 people. Those changes appear likely to shift more power to Republicans, but the exact implications are far from clear. For instance, rapid change in Texas, where Democrats have made some inroads in recent years, makes that state less reliably Republican.

Changes in the U.S. House of Representatives for the 118th Congress (2023)



"It's still more promising for Republicans than Democrats," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) said in an interview. Democrats currently hold a 218-212 House majority, and that razor-thin margin gives both parties more incentive to push for politically favorable maps. "It could be a tougher fight because people are more prepared for it," he said.

Electoral College

The map below shows the changes in membership to the Electoral College. You will remember that the number of electoral votes per state equals the number of U.S. House of Representatives members plus the two U.S. Senators.

Will large, Republican-leaning states that gained electoral votes, like Texas and Florida, become more important than they already are? While will the big Democratic states like — New York and California — become somewhat less so? Of the states Biden won in 2020, California, New York, Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania will each lose a vote, while Oregon and Colorado will both gain one. Of the states Trump won in 2020, only West Virginia and Ohio lost an Electoral College vote. But Florida, North Carolina, and Montana each gained one. And Texas picked up two.

What's Next?

In August 2021, the Census Bureau plans to release detailed population counts that state legislatures and commissions will use to redraw congressional and legislative districts to balance their populations, as required by law. Local officials will do the same in many cities and counties. That data will also be used to guide federal funding, private investment decisions, and analyses of everything from segregation to suburban sprawl.

As we digest these and later results of the 2020 census, it is apparent that the United States is becoming a more demographically stagnant nation. How we adapt in the post-pandemic period in terms of child birth, movement across states, and immigration policies will

impact the population, both demographically and economically, in the decade ahead.

QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ___ 1. A census is taken every 25 years.
- ___ 2. Midwestern states continue lose population.
- ___ 3. The population of the United States is expected to decrease by the next census.
- ___ 4. Population changes effect the number of U.S. Senators each state receives.
- ___ 5. West Virginia gained population and an extra seat in the House.
- ___ 6. The changes to the U.S. House will go in effect for the 118th Congress in 2023.

IDENTIFY THE STATE. Choose the correct state and two-letter abbreviation that matches the statement.

States: CA, FL, IL, OR, TX, UT

- ___ Gained two seat is the U.S. House
- ___ Fastest growing state in the last 10 years based upon percentage gained
- ___ First time losing a seat in Congress
- ___ Is now the 3rd-largest state
- ___ Midwest state that lost a seat for the fifth straight census
- ___ West coast state that gained a seat

Answers: True or False - 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, Identify the State - TX, UT, CA, FL, IL, OR

