

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 country conduct a population count once every ten years. The 2020 Census was just completed, 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. The census counts the people in the United States and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home received an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, phone, or by mail.

### Anticipated Results from the 2020 Census

While lawmakers have not begun the process to redistribute seats in the House of Representatives, preliminary data has been released by the Census Bureau. These new population estimates show how Southern and Western states are poised to gain political power when the United States reshuffles congressional seats and Electoral College votes in 2021. Many midwestern and northeastern states continue to see their populations shrink while large southern states draw in residents. It also appears that California's population declined for the first time since at least 1900, as the state lost nearly 70,000 residents since the annual estimate released last year.

### States Impacted by the 2020 Census

State	Projections for Seat Changes			
	+3	+2	+1	-1
Texas	X			
Florida		X		
Arizona			X	
Colorado			X	
Montana			X	
North Carolina			X	
Oregon			X	
Alabama				X
California				X
Illinois				X
Michigan				X
Minnesota				X
New York				X
Ohio				X
Pennsylvania				X
Rhode Island				X
West Virginia				X

### Reapportionment

As you can see from the chart, ten seats in the House of Representatives are expected to move among states during reapportionment next year, based on the new population estimates. New York and Alabama appear in a neck-and-neck fight for the 435th congressional seat. New York could lose a second seat if the actual decennial results shift slightly from early projections.

Taken together, those changes are 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.

### Census and Citizenship

Everyone living in the United States is supposed to be counted by the census, whether they are citizens or not. Late in 2020, the Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the Trump's Administration's plan to exclude immigrants in the United States illegally from the counts used to determine congressional seats because it wasn't clear the outgoing administration could implement the change.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

### Total U.S. Population

When the U.S. Census Bureau releases the results of the 2020 census, it is estimated that the population has grown by as much as 8.7 percent since the 2010 census (which produced a count of 308.7 million people). If the projections are proved out in the official numbers, it would be the slowest growth rate the United States has seen since the 1940 census. The bureau estimates the number of people living in the country as of 2020 Census Day, April 1, could fall within the range of 330.7 million to 335.5 million.

### 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 census is based on how many people live in your household as of April 1, 2020.
4. Population changes will effect the number of U.S. Senators each state receives.
5. Non-citizens did not participate in the census.
6. Ten seats will be split between Texas and Florida.