



Population Keeps Growing in the Most Densely Populated State

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This report is the first in a new series designed to keep you up to date on the pulse of New Jersey's labor market. Labor Market Views will be published periodically and cover a wide range of economic topics.

What's new in New Jersey since 2000? About 4.5 percent more people live in the Garden State and Census data released recently shows that New Jersey:

- Total population is nearing 9 million, rising to 8,791,894
- Ranked 11th among all states for total population
- Remains the most densely populated state with 1,195 persons per square mile

Gloucester is New Jersey's Fastest Growing County

According to the 2010 Census, Gloucester County had the highest rate of population growth in New Jersey from 2000 to 2010 with a 13.2 percent increase, which was substantially greater than the 4.5 percent rate of growth recorded statewide. The population of nine other New Jersey counties grew faster than the state during the 2000-2010 period: Ocean (12.8%), Somerset (8.7%), Atlantic (8.7%), Middlesex (8.0%), Cumberland (7.1%), Warren (6.1%), Burlington (6.0%), Hunterdon (5.2%) and Morris (4.7%).

Ocean County Adds the Most Residents

Ocean County had the largest net population increase (+65,651) in the state from 2000 to 2010, followed by Middlesex (+59,696), Gloucester (+33,615), Somerset (+25,954), Burlington (+25,340), and Hudson (+25,291) counties. Together, these six counties

accounted for more than 62 percent of the state's total population growth.

Somerset County led the state's population growth during the 1990s (+23.8%), while Middlesex County had the largest numeric gain (+78,382). Population growth rates for all counties in the 1990-2000 and 2000-2010 periods are summarized in the map at the end of this article.

Bergen County Remains New Jersey's Most Populous

With 905,116 residents, Bergen County still had the largest population in the state. Salem County remained the least populated county, with 66,083 residents. Cape May became the only other county with less than 100,000 residents in 2010, due to a population decline (-5,061). Cape May and Essex (-9,664) were the only New Jersey counties to experience a population decline in the last decade.

Between 2000 and 2010, Middlesex replaced Essex as the state's second largest county in terms of population. Other population ranking changes include: Hudson (ranked 4th in 2010) and Monmouth swapped their fifth and fourth positions, and Ocean advanced to the sixth place, edging out Union (ranked 7th in 2010).

Slow Population Growth Continued in the Industrialized Northeastern Counties

Population in the six industrialized counties

New Jersey's distinctive status as the nation's most densely populated state remains unchallenged.



