

## NJ Labor Market Views

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# New Jersey - Older on Average

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The latest data on age and gender from the 2010 Census show that the median age of New Jersey's population was higher that year than it was in 2000 when the last census was conducted. The figure is up because more people are living longer at the same time that the state experienced a lower birth rate. The data show that, overall, women continued to outnumber men; however, when it comes to residents age 18 and under, boys outnumber girls.

Here are just some of the highlights from the 2010 Census:

- The median age in New Jersey in 2010 was 39.0 years.
- The state was home to more senior citizens (persons age 65 and over) in 2010 than in 2000.
- The age cohort with the greatest percentage of growth was residents age 85 and over.
- More people were living to age 100 than in any previous Census.
- There were fewer births in New Jersey from 2000 to 2010.
- Statewide, the gender ratio (of men to women) was relatively unchanged.



### Aging and the Boomers

In 2010, the median age for New Jerseyans rose to 39.0 years of age, up by 2.3 years from 36.7 in 2000. Some of the credit goes to the baby boom generation which remained the largest age cohort of New Jersey's population. The oldest baby boomers began to

reach age 60 in 2006 and these boomers started turning 65 in 2011. Another factor is that there were fewer births between 2000 and 2010 than in the previous decade.

While the median age in 2000 was above forty years in only two counties the latest Census showed that the median age was above age 40 in 11 counties with the oldest being Cape May at 47.1; Hunterdon at 43.5 and Ocean at 42.6. The 2010 median age was lowest in Hudson County at 34.2 years.

### Senior Power

The 2010 Census showed that elderly or senior citizens (65 years and older) made up approximately 13.5 percent of New Jersey's total population. That was up slightly from 13.2 percent in 2000. In 2010 Hudson County had the lowest percentage of senior

population (10.4%) and Cape May had the highest at 21.6 percent. In 2000, the state's lowest percentage of senior citizens (9.1%) lived in Sussex County and Ocean County had the highest percentage (22.2%).

The largest increase in the number of senior residents from 2000 to 2010 occurred in Morris County where the number of seniors increased by 13,625. Two other counties also had substantial increases: Monmouth (+9,768) and Burlington (+8,972). Together, these three

*Data from the decennial census show that New Jersey's median age increased from 36.7 in 2000 to 39.0 in 2010.*

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counties accounted for 44.0 percent of the state's total increase in the number of elderly residents. By contrast, three counties experienced declines in the number of senior citizens living there: Essex (-4,093); Hudson (-3,205); and Union (-4,280). Numerically, Bergen and Ocean counties continued to have the largest numbers of senior citizens in the state, and Salem still had the smallest number of seniors in 2010.

The elderly population increased in 340 municipalities between 2000 and 2010. Six municipalities had gained more than 2,000 senior citizens in the decade: Jackson township (+4,114), Tinton Falls borough (+2,940), Franklin township (in Somerset County, +2,708), Barnegat township (+2,307), Galloway township (+2,294), and Evesham township (+2,211).

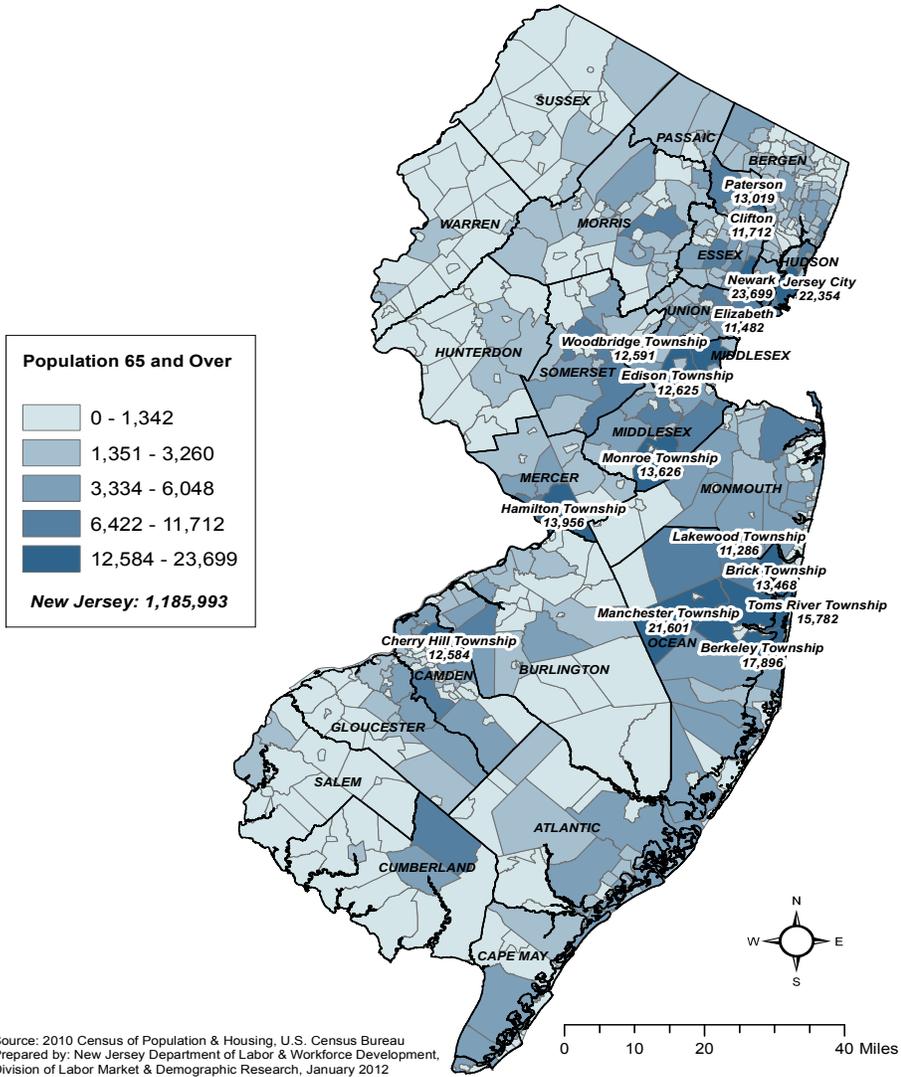
Just three municipalities lost more than 2,000 senior residents: Berkeley township (-2,910), Trenton city (-2,274) and Clifton city (-2,117).

Attesting that New Jerseyans are living longer, the age cohort of residents age 85 and over increased by 32.1 percent from 2000 to 2010. While the number of "older seniors" rose in every county, Burlington (+58.7%), Middlesex (+57.8%), Gloucester (+56.6%) and Morris (+55.6%) counties had the steepest increases. Among New Jer-

sey municipalities, the most substantial growth of "older seniors" were found in Tinton Falls borough (+1,460), Monroe township (+1,390), Berkeley township (+1,305), Pequannock township (+963), and Edison township (+791).

New Jersey also was home to 1,769 centenarians (people 100 years old and over) in 2010, up from 1,514 in 2000. Bergen had the largest number of centenarians (232) among the state's 21 counties, while

## Population 65 and Over New Jersey Municipalities 2010 Census



**According to the 2010 Census, New Jersey was home to 1,769 residents 100 years old or over**

Newark city and West Orange township had the most centenarians among the state's municipalities (33 each).

### Fewer Younger Residents

At the other end of the age spectrum, New Jersey's population under age 18 was smaller in 2010 than reported in the 2000 Census. Overall, the number of school age and younger residents was 1.1 percent lower (-22,344) in 2010 compared to 2000. The number of New Jersey residents less than five years old was four percent lower in 2010 than in 2000.

And while statewide the school-age population (5 to 17 years old) was virtually unchanged, nine counties saw an increase in this age cohort between 2000 and 2010, led by Somerset (+14.5%) and Ocean (+10.5%). Among the 12



counties with declining school-age population, Cape May (-21.6%) and Hudson (-10.3%) had the largest percentage decreases.

The school-age population more than doubled in Woolwich township (+288%) and Teterboro (+233%) in the last decade. Ten other municipalities also experienced hefty growth (more than 50%) in the number of school-age children: Mansfield township, Lakewood

township, Chesterfield township, Upper Freehold township, Robbinsville township, East Greenwich township, Monroe township, Greenwich township, Far Hills borough, and Hainesport township. This growth was fueled in part by new homebuilding which attracted families.

### Factors Affecting the Data

Population size and make-up can result in some outliers in the overall data.

At the municipal level, large percentage changes can occur in very small towns like Teterboro, Pine Valley and Tavistock where small numerical changes translate into large percentage changes. For example, in Teterboro the number of residents age 65 and over changed from one in 2000 to nine in 2010 but that change resulted in an 800 percent increase in the borough.

**Changes in Children and Elderly Population by County:  
New Jersey, 2000 to 2010**

County	Change in population of children under 18		Change in population 65 and over		Change in Median Age (years)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
New Jersey	-22,344	-1.1%	72,857	6.5%	2.3
Atlantic	33	0.1%	4,465	13.0%	2.9
Bergen	1,351	0.7%	2,283	1.7%	2.0
Burlington	-2,278	-2.1%	8,972	16.9%	3.3
Camden	-11,031	-8.1%	1,956	3.1%	2.1
Cape May	-4,510	-19.7%	296	1.4%	4.8
Cumberland	502	1.3%	708	3.7%	0.9
Essex	-12,032	-5.8%	-4,093	-4.3%	1.7
Gloucester	3,132	4.7%	6,021	20.3%	2.6
Hudson	-6,336	-4.6%	-3,205	-4.6%	0.6
Hunterdon	-1,157	-3.7%	4,116	33.7%	4.7
Mercer	-1,355	-1.6%	2,207	5.0%	1.8
Middlesex	7,829	4.4%	6,872	7.4%	1.5
Monmouth	-10,043	-6.3%	9,768	12.7%	3.6
Morris	857	0.7%	13,625	25.0%	3.5
Ocean	15,873	13.3%	7,844	6.9%	1.6
Passaic	-2,873	-2.3%	1,291	2.2%	1.3
Salem	-940	-5.7%	606	6.5%	2.8
Somerset	4,844	6.4%	6,621	19.8%	3.0
Sussex	-4,445	-11.1%	4,698	35.7%	4.7
Union	1,317	1.0%	-4,280	-5.9%	1.4
Warren	-1,082	-4.1%	2,086	15.8%	3.9

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing  
Prepared by: NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research

County and municipal level data also can be affected by the location of certain educational, military or correctional facilities. The only county in 2010 with more male than female residents was Cumberland County (gender ratio 106 men per 100 women) which includes large correctional facilities with substantially more male than female inmates. Ocean County had the lowest sex ratio (92 men per 100 women) in the state, due partly to the abundance of retirement communities and long term care facilities located within the county. At the municipal level the correctional facility for women located in Union Township has made the township's gender ratio one of the lowest in the state.

Since students attending colleges and universities are included in the Census for the towns in which they reside for school, the concentration of younger people can affect the age data for these municipalities. Princeton borough and New Brunswick city house major universities and also had the state's lowest



median age (22.9 and 23.3, respectively) due to the concentration of college students in those towns.

### Data Availability

The 2010 Census data for New Jersey are available on the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Market Information web page - [2010 Census Data for New Jersey](#). Specific tabulations of data prepared for this report are available upon request. The author can be reached at 609-292-0077 (telephone) or [sywu@dol.state.nj.us](mailto:sywu@dol.state.nj.us) (e-mail).

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