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Fastest-Growing Cities Primarily in the South and West

Ten Places Exceed Population of 50,000 in Latest Census Bureau Estimates

MAY 23, 2019 — The South and West continue to have the fastest-growing cities in the United States, according to new [population estimates for cities and towns](#) released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among the 15 cities or towns with the largest numeric gains between 2017 and 2018, eight were in the South, six were in the West, and one was in the Midwest.

Phoenix, Ariz., was at the top of the list with an increase of 25,288 people. Rounding out the top five with the largest population increases were San Antonio, Texas (20,824); Fort Worth, Texas (19,552); Seattle, Wash. (15,354); and Charlotte, N.C. (13,151).

Cities in the South that experienced a surge in population growth were Austin, Texas (12,504); Jacksonville, Fla. (12,153); Frisco, Texas (10,884); McKinney, Texas (9,888); and Miami, Fla. (8,884). Cities in the West were San Diego, Calif. (11,549); Denver, Colo. (11,053); Henderson, Nev. (10,759); and Las Vegas, Nev. (9,016). Columbus, Ohio (10,770), was the only city from the Midwest on the top 15 list.

Ten incorporated places exceeded the 50,000 population mark in 2018 — seven in the South, two in the West, and one in the Midwest. These cities and towns were Madison, Ala. (50,440); Maricopa, Ariz. (50,024); Bentonville, Ark. (51,111); Newark, Ohio (50,029); Stillwater, Okla. (50,391); Smyrna, Tenn. (50,775); Leander, Texas (56,111); Little Elm, Texas (50,314); Wylie, Texas (51,585); and Lacey, Wash. (50,718).

Additionally, three cities crossed the 100,000 population mark in 2018. They were Vacaville, Calif. (100,154); San Angelo, Texas (100,215); and Kenosha, Wis. (100,164).

Big City and Small Town America

The United States is a nation of both big cities and small towns. While only 4.0% (775) of all cities had a population of 50,000 or more in 2018, collectively they contained 127.1 million people — nearly 39 percent of the U.S. population. On the other hand, of the 19,495 incorporated places in the United States, around 76% (14,768) had fewer than 5,000 people.

Housing Unit Growth Remained Steady in Nearly All States

The nation's housing stock grew by 1.2 million units between 2017 and 2018, reaching 138.5 million housing units in total. The growth rate of 0.8% from 2017 to 2018 remained the same as from the previous year.

Four states gained more than 50,000 housing units between 2017 and 2018: Texas (172,000), Florida (108,000), California (104,000) and North Carolina (63,000).

Utah was the fastest-growing state in terms of housing units, with an increase of 2.2% between 2017 and 2018. Idaho had an increase of 1.9%, and Colorado and Texas had an increase of 1.6% each.

Housing Unit Growth Since Census Day (April 1, 2010)

The nation’s housing stock increased by 6.8 million units (5.2%) since April 1, 2010. North Dakota was the fastest-growing state in terms of housing units, with an increase of 18.9% during the same period. Rounding out the top five states in percentage gain were Utah (13.2%), Texas (11.3%), Idaho (10.2%) and Colorado (9.5%).

Twelve states added more than 150,000 housing units between April 1, 2010, and July 1, 2018. In terms of the largest numeric increase, the top six were Texas (1.1 million), California (597,000), Florida (558,000), North Carolina (357,000), Washington (262,000) and New York (256,000).

Table 1.

The 15 Fastest-Growing Large Cities Between July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018, With Populations of 50,000 or More on July 1, 2017

Rank	Area name	State name	Percent increase	2018 total population
1	Buckeye city	Arizona	8.5	74,370
2	New Braunfels city	Texas	7.2	84,612
3	Apex town	North Carolina	6.8	53,852
4	Frisco city	Texas	6.1	188,170
5	Meridian city	Idaho	6.1	106,804
6	McKinney city	Texas	5.4	191,645
7	Georgetown city	Texas	5.2	74,180
8	Rowlett city	Texas	5.1	66,285
9	St. Cloud city	Florida	5.0	54,115
10	Ankeny city	Iowa	4.6	65,284
11	Dublin city	California	4.5	63,445
12	South Jordan city	Utah	4.4	74,149
13	Midland city	Texas	4.4	142,344
14	Castle Rock town	Colorado	4.3	64,827
15	Round Rock city	Texas	4.3	128,739

Table 2.

The 15 Cities With the Largest Numeric Increase Between July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018, With Populations of 50,000 or More on July 1, 2017

Rank	Area name	State name	Numeric increase	2018 total population
1	Phoenix city	Arizona	25,288	1,660,272
2	San Antonio city	Texas	20,824	1,532,233
3	Fort Worth city	Texas	19,552	895,008
4	Seattle city	Washington	15,354	744,955
5	Charlotte city	North Carolina	13,151	872,498
6	Austin city	Texas	12,504	964,254
7	Jacksonville city	Florida	12,153	903,889
8	San Diego city	California	11,549	1,425,976
9	Denver city	Colorado	11,053	716,492
10	Frisco city	Texas	10,884	188,170
11	Columbus city	Ohio	10,770	892,533
12	Henderson city	Nevada	10,759	310,390
13	McKinney city	Texas	9,888	191,645
14	Las Vegas city	Nevada	9,016	644,644
15	Miami city	Florida	8,884	470,914

Table 3.

The 15 Most Populous Cities on July 1, 2018

Rank	Area name	State name	2018 total population
1	New York city	New York	8,398,748
2	Los Angeles city	California	3,990,456
3	Chicago city	Illinois	2,705,994
4	Houston city	Texas	2,325,502
5	Phoenix city	Arizona	1,660,272
6	Philadelphia city	Pennsylvania	1,584,138
7	San Antonio city	Texas	1,532,233
8	San Diego city	California	1,425,976
9	Dallas city	Texas	1,345,047
10	San Jose city	California	1,030,119
11	Austin city	Texas	964,254
12	Jacksonville city	Florida	903,889
13	Fort Worth city	Texas	895,008
14	Columbus city	Ohio	892,533
15	San Francisco city	California	883,305

Table 4.

Total Population Living in Cities and Towns by Population Size as of July 1, 2018

Population size	Number of cities	Total population
Under 5,000	14,768	16,752,328
5,000 to 9,999	1,643	11,740,211
10,000 to 49,999	2,309	50,494,290
50,000 and Over	775	127,108,750

Table 5.

Average Annual Population Change, 2017–2018, by Population Size as of July 1, 2017

Population size	Number of cities	Average numeric change	Average percent change
Under 5,000	14,768	3	0.2
5,000 to 9,999	1,661	48	0.7
10,000 to 49,999	2,300	151	0.7
50,000 and Over	766	988	0.7

Table 6.

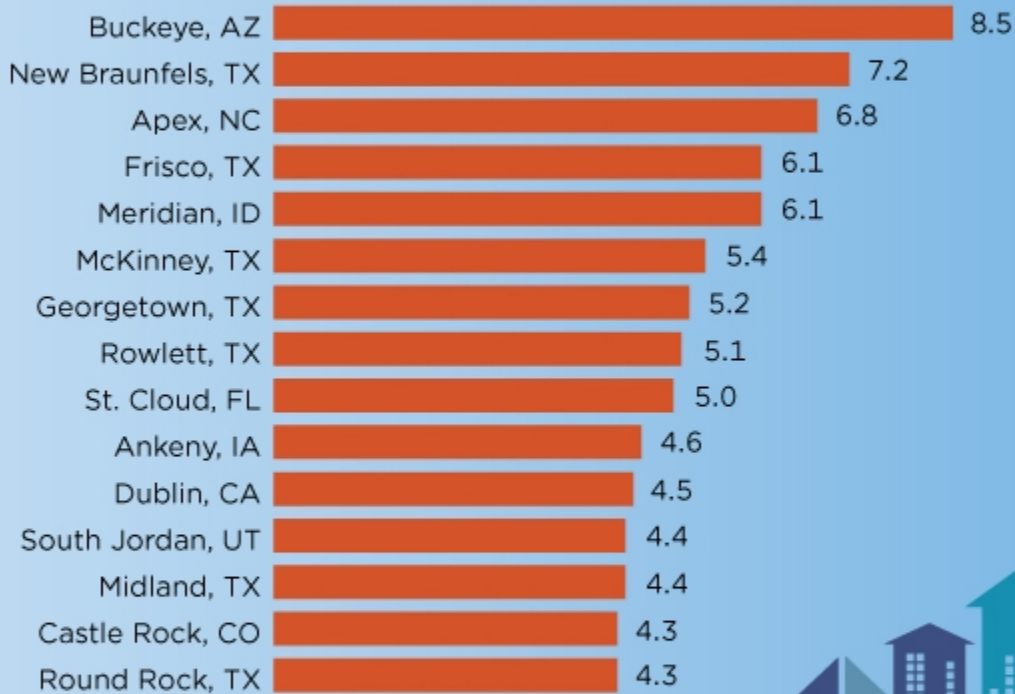
Average Cumulative Population Change, 2010–2018, by Population Size as of July 1, 2010

Population Size	Number of cities	Average numeric change	Average percent change
Under 5,000	14,831	18	0.8
5,000 to 9,999	1,667	307	4.3
10,000 to 49,999	2,278	1,309	5.6
50,000 and Over	719	11,898	7.5

The statistics released today cover all local functioning governmental units, including incorporated places (like cities and towns), minor civil divisions (such as townships), and consolidated cities (government units for which the functions of an incorporated place and its parent county have merged).

The 15 Fastest-Growing Cities

By Percent Change Between July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018
Cities With a Population of 50,000 or More



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Source: Vintage 2018 Population Estimates

The Census Bureau will release [2018 population estimates](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2019/subcounty-population-estimates.html) by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for the nation, states and counties on June 20, 2019. The data will be [embargoed](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2019/subcounty-population-estimates.html) June 18.

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