

Population Change and Distribution

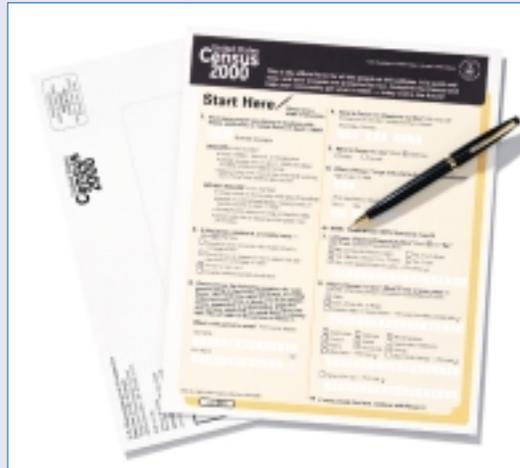
1990 to 2000

Census 2000 Brief

Issued April 2001

C2KBR/01-2

In Census 2000, 281.4 million people were counted in the United States, a 13.2 percent increase from the 1990 census population of 248.7 million. Population growth from 1990 to 2000 varied geographically, with large population increases in some areas and little growth or decline in others. This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, highlights population size and distribution changes between 1990 and 2000 in regions, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and large cities.¹



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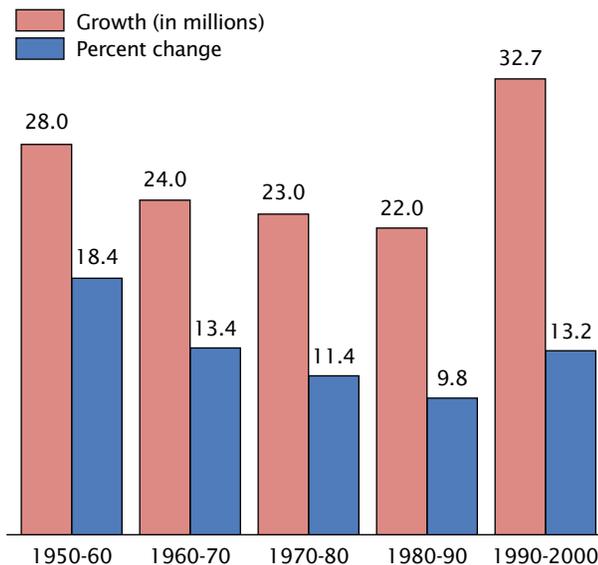
(With Josephine D. Baker,
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The 1990 to 2000 population increase was the largest in American history.

The population growth of 32.7 million people between 1990 and 2000 represents the largest census-to-census increase in American history.² The previous record increase was 28.0 million people between 1950 and 1960, a gain fueled primarily by the post-World War II baby boom (1946 to 1964). Total decennial population growth declined steadily in the three decades following the 1950s' peak before rising again in the 1990s (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.
U.S. Population Growth: 1950-60 to 1990-2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).

¹ 1990 populations shown in this report were originally published in 1990 Census reports and do not include subsequent revisions resulting from boundary or other changes.

² This increase may be caused by changes in census coverage, as well as births, deaths, and net immigration.

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In percentage terms, the population increase of 13.2 percent for the 1990s was higher than the growth rates of 9.8 percent for the 1980s and 11.4 percent for the 1970s. The 1990s growth rate was similar to the 13.4 percent growth in the 1960s and was well below the 18.4 percent growth for the 1950s.

West grew fastest in the 1990s; South reached 100 million.

Population growth varied significantly by region in the 1990s, with higher rates in the West (19.7 percent) and South (17.3 percent) and much lower rates in the Midwest (7.9 percent) and Northeast (5.5 percent).³ The West increased by 10.4 million to reach 63.2 million people, while the South grew by 14.8 million to a population of 100.2 million people. The Midwest gained 4.7 million to reach 64.4 million people, and the Northeast's increase of 2.8 million brought it to 53.6 million people.

Because of differences in growth rates, the regional shares of the total population have shifted considerably in recent decades. Between 1950 and 2000, the South's share of the population increased from 31 to 36 percent and the West increased from 13 to 22 percent. Meanwhile, despite overall population growth in each of the past five decades, the Midwest's share of total population fell from 29 to 23 percent and the

³ The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Table 1.
U.S. Population Change for Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Area	Population		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	April 1, 1990	April 1, 2000	Number	Percent
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	32,712,033	13.2
Region				
Northeast	50,809,229	53,594,378	2,785,149	5.5
Midwest	59,668,632	64,392,776	4,724,144	7.9
South	85,445,930	100,236,820	14,790,890	17.3
West	52,786,082	63,197,932	10,411,850	19.7
State				
Alabama	4,040,587	4,447,100	406,513	10.1
Alaska	550,043	626,932	76,889	14.0
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	1,465,404	40.0
Arkansas	2,350,725	2,673,400	322,675	13.7
California	29,760,021	33,871,648	4,111,627	13.8
Colorado	3,294,394	4,301,261	1,006,867	30.6
Connecticut	3,287,116	3,405,565	118,449	3.6
Delaware	666,168	783,600	117,432	17.6
District of Columbia	606,900	572,059	-34,841	-5.7
Florida	12,937,926	15,982,378	3,044,452	23.5
Georgia	6,478,216	8,186,453	1,708,237	26.4
Hawaii	1,108,229	1,211,537	103,308	9.3
Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	287,204	28.5
Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	988,691	8.6
Indiana	5,544,159	6,080,485	536,326	9.7
Iowa	2,776,755	2,926,324	149,569	5.4
Kansas	2,477,574	2,688,418	210,844	8.5
Kentucky	3,685,296	4,041,769	356,473	9.7
Louisiana	4,219,973	4,468,976	249,003	5.9
Maine	1,227,928	1,274,923	46,995	3.8
Maryland	4,781,468	5,296,486	515,018	10.8
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	332,672	5.5
Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	643,147	6.9
Minnesota	4,375,099	4,919,479	544,380	12.4
Mississippi	2,573,216	2,844,658	271,442	10.5
Missouri	5,117,073	5,595,211	478,138	9.3
Montana	799,065	902,195	103,130	12.9
Nebraska	1,578,385	1,711,263	132,878	8.4
Nevada	1,201,833	1,998,257	796,424	66.3
New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,235,786	126,534	11.4
New Jersey	7,730,188	8,414,350	684,162	8.9
New Mexico	1,515,069	1,819,046	303,977	20.1
New York	17,990,455	18,976,457	986,002	5.5
North Carolina	6,628,637	8,049,313	1,420,676	21.4
North Dakota	638,800	642,200	3,400	0.5
Ohio	10,847,115	11,353,140	506,025	4.7
Oklahoma	3,145,585	3,450,654	305,069	9.7
Oregon	2,842,321	3,421,399	579,078	20.4
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	399,411	3.4
Rhode Island	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.5
South Carolina	3,486,703	4,012,012	525,309	15.1
South Dakota	696,004	754,844	58,840	8.5
Tennessee	4,877,185	5,689,283	812,098	16.7
Texas	16,986,510	20,851,820	3,865,310	22.8
Utah	1,722,850	2,233,169	510,319	29.6
Vermont	562,758	608,827	46,069	8.2
Virginia	6,187,358	7,078,515	891,157	14.4
Washington	4,866,692	5,894,121	1,027,429	21.1
West Virginia	1,793,477	1,808,344	14,867	0.8
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	471,906	9.6
Wyoming	453,588	493,782	40,194	8.9
Puerto Rico	3,522,037	3,808,610	286,573	8.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).

Northeast's proportion declined from 26 to 19 percent.

Every state grew; Nevada's rate was fastest.

State population growth for the 1990s ranged from a high of 66 percent in Nevada to a low of 0.5 percent in North Dakota (see Table 1). This decade was the only one in the 20th Century in which all states gained population. Following Nevada, the fastest growing states were Arizona (40 percent), Colorado (31 percent), Utah (30 percent), and Idaho (29 percent). Following North Dakota, the slowest growing states were West Virginia (0.8 percent), Pennsylvania (3.4 percent), Connecticut (3.6 percent), and Maine (3.8 percent). Puerto Rico's population grew by 8.1 percent to reach 3.8 million, while the District of Columbia declined by 5.7 percent.

California had the largest population increase during the 1990s, adding 4.1 million people to its population. Texas (up 3.9 million), Florida (3.0 million), Georgia (1.7 million), and Arizona (1.5 million) rounded out the top five largest gaining states.

Within the Northeast, New Hampshire grew fastest for the fourth straight decade — up 11 percent since 1990. New York and New Jersey gained the most population, increasing by 986,000 and 684,000 respectively. In the Midwest, Minnesota was the fastest growing state for the third straight decade, growing by 12 percent since 1990. Illinois (up 989,000) and Michigan (up 643,000) had the largest numerical increases.

While no state in the Midwest grew faster than the U.S. rate of 13.2 percent, several states in the region had their fastest growth rates in many decades. Nebraska's 8 percent increase and Iowa's 5 percent

increase were the highest growth rates for those states since their 1910 to 1920 increases of 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Missouri's 9 percent increase was its highest since a 16 percent increase from 1890 to 1900.

In the South, Georgia was the fastest growing state, up by 26 percent since 1990. This was Georgia's most rapid census-to-census population growth rate in the 20th Century, and the 1990s was the only decade in that century when Florida was not the South's fastest growing state.⁴ Texas (up 3.9 million) and Florida (up 3.0 million) had the largest numerical increases.

Growth in the West was led by Nevada, now the country's fastest growing state for each of the past four decades. Of the 13 states in the region, only Wyoming (8.9 percent), Hawaii (9.3 percent), and Montana (12.9 percent) grew slower than the U.S. rate of 13.2 percent.

The majority of Americans lived in the ten most populous states.

The ten most populous states contained 54 percent of the population in 2000. California, with 33.9 million people, was the most populous one, accounting for 12 percent of the nation's population. The second and third most populous states — Texas, at 20.9 million people, and New York, at 19.0 million — together accounted for 14 percent of the U.S. population. The next seven most populous states — Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, and Georgia — contained an additional 28 percent of the population. The ten most populous states are distributed among all four regions: three each in the Northeast,

⁴ Washington, DC, treated as a state equivalent for statistical purposes, had a larger percent gain than Florida in the 1910s and 1930s.

the Midwest, and the South, with one in the West.

The ten least populous states accounted for only 3 percent of the total population. Of the ten, three are in the Northeast (New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), two in the Midwest (North Dakota and South Dakota), one in the South (Delaware) and four in the West (Hawaii, Montana, Alaska, and Wyoming).

Most counties grew, while some lost population.

Figure 2 shows population growth between 1990 and 2000 for the country's 3,141 counties and equivalent areas. Some broad patterns are immediately evident. A band of counties that lost population — in some cases declining more than 10 percent — stretches across the Great Plains states from the Mexican border to the Canadian border. A second band of slow growth counties includes much of the interior Northeast and Appalachia, extending from Maine through western Pennsylvania and West Virginia to eastern Kentucky. Rapid population growth occurred in the interior West and much of the South — particularly in counties in Florida, northern Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, southwestern Missouri, and eastern, central, and southern Texas.

Figure 2 underscores the continued concentration of population growth both within and adjacent to metropolitan areas.⁵ In Texas, for

⁵ This report uses the June 30, 1999, metropolitan areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget for all 1990 and 2000 metropolitan area populations. All metropolitan areas in the text are either metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) or consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs). There are 276 metropolitan areas in the United States—258 MSAs and 18 CMSAs. In some cases, an abbreviated version of the full MSA or CMSA name was used in the text and tables.

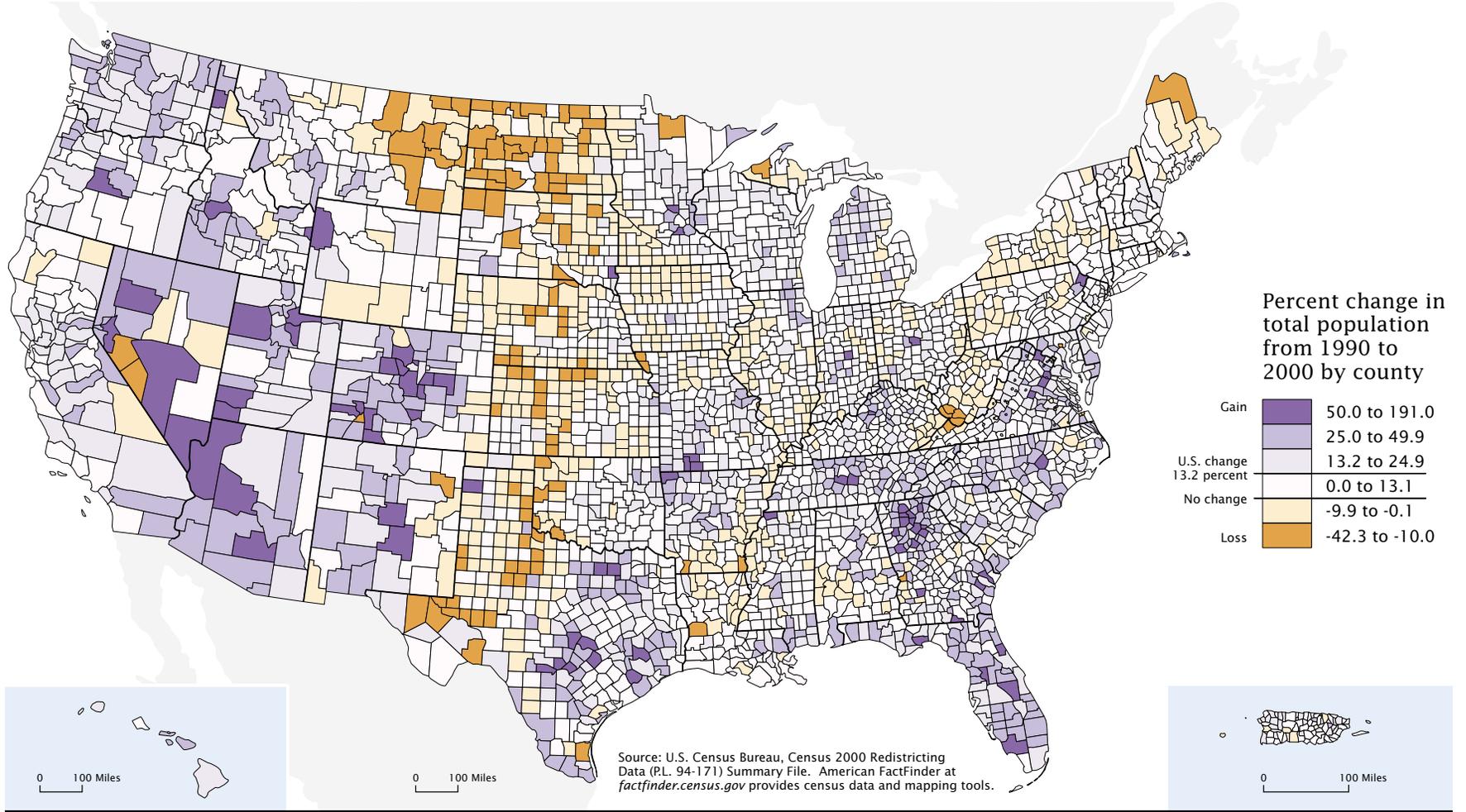
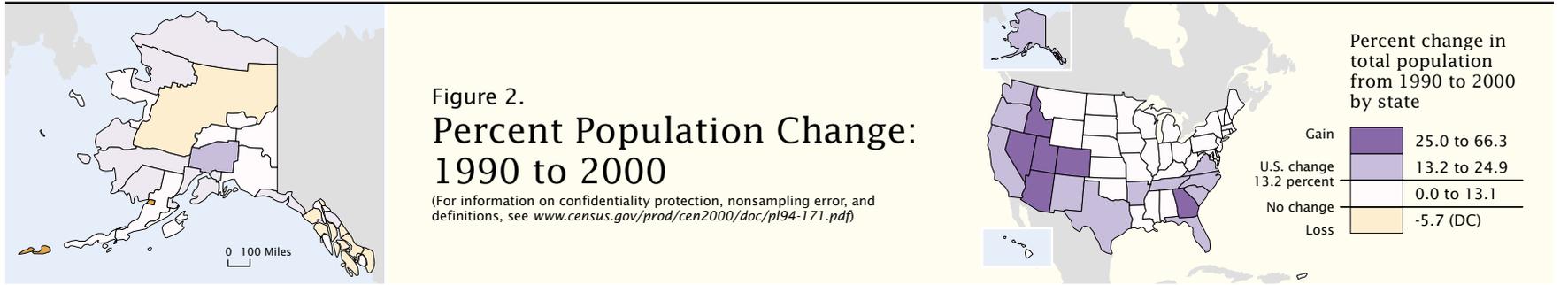


Table 2.
Population Change and 2000 Share by Metropolitan Status and Size Category: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Population size category	Population		Percent change, 1990 to 2000	2000 share of U.S. total
	April 1, 1990	April 1, 2000		
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.2	100.0
Total for all metropolitan areas	198,402,980	225,981,679	13.9	80.3
5,000,000 or more	75,874,152	84,064,274	10.8	29.9
2,000,000 - 4,999,999	33,717,876	40,398,283	19.8	14.4
1,000,000 - 1,999,999	31,483,749	37,055,342	17.7	13.2
250,000 - 999,999	39,871,391	45,076,105	13.1	16.0
Less than 250,000	17,455,812	19,387,675	11.1	6.9
Total nonmetropolitan	50,306,893	55,440,227	10.2	19.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).

instance, the Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio metropolitan areas show up as pockets of fast population growth, while most of the nonmetropolitan counties in the state recorded either slow growth or population decline.

In the slow growing upper Midwest, the rapid growth of counties in the Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota metropolitan areas stands in sharp contrast to the population declines that occurred in most of the region's other counties. The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has a common growth pattern: slow expansion in the central county or counties and faster growth in outlying counties. In the South, the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area also shows this pattern, with a large group of fast growing, primarily outlying, counties surrounding two slower growing central counties.

Population growth also differed between counties bordering Canada and those counties bordering

Mexico.⁶ Between 1990 and 2000, the counties on the Mexican border grew rapidly, up 21 percent. In contrast, the population on the Canadian border remained stable over the period, increasing just 0.8 percent, with many counties experiencing population decline. In 2000, 6.3 million Americans lived in counties that bordered Mexico, while 5.0 million resided in counties bordering Canada.

Growth differences between coastal and noncoastal counties are also evident in Figure 2, particularly in the West, where coastal counties grew more slowly than noncoastal ones.⁷ Nationwide, while some coastal counties grew rapidly in the 1990s, their overall growth rate of 11 percent was exceeded by that of noncoastal counties (up 15 percent). Over one half of all Americans (53 percent or 148.3 million people) lived in a coastal county in 2000.

Five counties more than doubled their populations during the 1990s.

⁶ The United States-Mexico county-based border region includes 25 counties in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The United States-Canada county-based border region includes 64 counties in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska.

⁷ Coastal areas as defined by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, 1992. Covers 673 counties and equivalent areas with at least 15 percent of their land area either in a coastal watershed (drainage area) or in a coastal cataloging unit (a coastal area between watersheds).

Douglas County, Colorado (south of Denver) had the largest rate of population growth between 1990 and 2000, increasing by 191 percent. Following Douglas were Forsyth County, Georgia (north of Atlanta), up 123 percent; Elbert County, Colorado (southeast of Denver, adjacent to the metropolitan area), up 106 percent; Henry County, Georgia (east of Atlanta), 103 percent; and Park County, Colorado (southwest of Denver), up 102 percent.

Large metropolitan areas had strong growth in 1990s.

In 2000, 80.3 percent of Americans (226.0 million people) lived in metropolitan areas, up slightly from 79.8 percent (198.4 million people) in 1990 (see Table 2). The population within metropolitan areas increased by 14 percent, while the nonmetropolitan population grew by 10 percent.

Almost one-third of Americans (30 percent) lived in metropolitan areas of at least 5.0 million people, while those with populations between 2.0 million and 5.0 million contained 14 percent of the population. Metropolitan areas with populations between 1.0 million and 2.0 million contained 13 percent of the population, while those with populations between 250,000 and 1.0 million and those with populations less than 250,000 contained 16 percent and 7 percent of the population, respectively.

Metropolitan areas with populations of 2.0 million to 5.0 million in 2000 grew the fastest, up 20 percent. The largest and smallest metropolitan area size categories, those with populations of 5.0 million or more and those with populations less than 250,000, each grew by about 11 percent.

As shown in Table 3, New York was the most populous metropolitan area, surpassing the 20 million mark with a population of 21.2 million (7.5 percent of the total population). The Los Angeles metropolitan area was the second largest, with a population of 16.4 million (5.8 percent of the total). The third most populous was Chicago, with 9.2 million people and 3.3 percent of the population. The Washington, DC and San Francisco metropolitan areas ranked fourth and fifth – with 7.6 million and 7.0 million people, respectively. Philadelphia ranked sixth, with 6.2 million people. The seventh, eighth, and ninth largest metropolitan areas — Boston, Detroit, and Dallas — each had populations of between 5 million and 6 million. All of the metropolitan areas with populations of at least 5.0 million grew over the period, ranging from 29 percent for the Dallas metropolitan area to 5 percent for Philadelphia.

Between 1990 and 2000, Las Vegas, Nevada-Arizona was the fastest growing metropolitan area (83 percent), as shown in Table 4, followed by Naples, Florida, with a growth rate of 65 percent, and by seven other areas with growth rates between 44 percent and 50 percent: Yuma, Arizona; McAllen, Texas; Austin, Texas; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Boise City, Idaho; Phoenix, Arizona; and Laredo, Texas. The tenth fastest growing area, Provo, Utah, grew by almost 40 percent. Of the ten fastest growing metropolitan areas in 2000, one had a population

Table 3.
Population Change and 2000 Share for the Largest Metropolitan Areas: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Metropolitan area	Population		Percent change, 1990 to 2000	2000 share of U.S. total
	April 1, 1990	April 1, 2000		
Total for metropolitan areas of 5,000,000 or more	75,874,152	84,064,274	10.8	29.9
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	19,549,649	21,199,865	8.4	7.5
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA	14,531,529	16,373,645	12.7	5.8
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	8,239,820	9,157,540	11.1	3.3
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV	6,727,050	7,608,070	13.1	2.7
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	6,253,311	7,039,362	12.6	2.5
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	5,892,937	6,188,463	5.0	2.2
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT	5,455,403	5,819,100	6.7	2.1
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	5,187,171	5,456,428	5.2	1.9
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	4,037,282	5,221,801	29.3	1.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).

Table 4.
Population Change for the Ten Fastest Growing Metropolitan Areas: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Metropolitan area	Population		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	April 1, 1990	April 1, 2000	Number	Percent
Las Vegas, NV-AZ	852,737	1,563,282	710,545	83.3
Naples, FL	152,099	251,377	99,278	65.3
Yuma, AZ	106,895	160,026	53,131	49.7
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	383,545	569,463	185,918	48.5
Austin-San Marcos, TX	846,227	1,249,763	403,536	47.7
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR	210,908	311,121	100,213	47.5
Boise City, ID	295,851	432,345	136,494	46.1
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	2,238,480	3,251,876	1,013,396	45.3
Laredo, TX	133,239	193,117	59,878	44.9
Provo-Orem, UT	263,590	368,536	104,946	39.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).

between 2.0 million and 5.0 million; two had populations between 1.0 million and 2.0 million, five contained populations between 250,000 and 1.0 million, and two had populations less than 250,000.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS ON POPULATION CHANGE AND DISTRIBUTION

How did the population change in the ten largest American cities?

Eight of the ten largest cities in 2000 gained population in the 1990s; only Philadelphia and Detroit declined in size. New York remained the country's largest city, passing the 8 million threshold for the first time. Phoenix was the fastest growing of the 10 largest cities, up by 34 percent over the decade.

New York also had the largest numerical increase of any city, gaining 686,000 people. The 1990s

was the first decade since the 1930s that New York City led in city population growth.

Los Angeles gained the most population in each of the decades from the 1940s through the 1980s, with the exception of the 1970s, when Houston gained the most.

Have any more counties crossed the 1 million population threshold?

Four counties exceeded the 1 million mark for the first time in Census 2000: Clark County, Nevada (1.4 million); Palm Beach County, Florida (1.1 million); Franklin County, Ohio (1.1 million); and St. Louis County, Missouri (1.0 million).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Census 2000 data for state and local areas are available on the Internet via *factfinder.census.gov* and for purchase on CD-ROM and eventually on DVD. For information on population change and distribution, as well as information on the post-censal population estimates program, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at *www.census.gov* and click on Estimates. For more information on metropolitan areas, including concepts, definitions, and maps, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html*.

Information on other population and housing topics will be presented in the Census 2000 Brief Series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html*. This series will present information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 301-457-4100 or e-mail *webmaster@census.gov*.

Table 5.
Population Change for the Ten Largest Cities: 1990 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf*)

City and state	Population		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	April 1, 1990	April 1, 2000	Number	Percent
New York, NY.....	7,322,564	8,008,278	685,714	9.4
Los Angeles, CA.....	3,485,398	3,694,820	209,422	6.0
Chicago, IL.....	2,783,726	2,896,016	112,290	4.0
Houston, TX.....	1,630,553	1,953,631	323,078	19.8
Philadelphia, PA.....	1,585,577	1,517,550	-68,027	-4.3
Phoenix, AZ.....	983,403	1,321,045	337,642	34.3
San Diego, CA.....	1,110,549	1,223,400	112,851	10.2
Dallas, TX.....	1,006,877	1,188,580	181,703	18.0
San Antonio, TX.....	935,933	1,144,646	208,713	22.3
Detroit, MI.....	1,027,974	951,270	-76,704	-7.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; 1990 Census, *Population and Housing Unit Counts, United States* (1990 CPH-2-1).