U.S. demographic trends so far, and in the possible future

D’Vera Cohn
Senior writer/editor
@allthingscensus
U.S. population growth has slowed

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*, Census Bureau population estimates and population projections
South and West outpace other regions

County Population Change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018

- Loss
- Gain of up to 5.9 percent
- Gain of 6 percent to 9.9 percent
- Gain of 10 percent or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, vintage 2018 population estimates.

Population increasingly concentrated in metropolitan areas

% of total U.S. population

Note: Counties consistently classified over time.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census and 2018 Census population estimates
Metro population increasingly concentrated in the 53 metro areas with at least a 1 million in population

% of total U.S. metropolitan population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Large metro</th>
<th>Medium metro</th>
<th>Small metro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>65.3</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Counties consistently classified over time. Counties classified using NCHS urban-rural classification scheme. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census and 2018 Census population estimates
### Urban and suburban counties growing most rapidly

*Population (in millions)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2012-16</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 decennial census SF3 data and 2012-2016 American Community Survey data.
Shrinking share of Americans in rural counties

% of total U.S. population living in each county type

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 decennial census SF3 data and 2012-2016 American Community Survey data
Most rural counties in the Midwest have lost population

Population gain or loss since 2000 among rural U.S. counties

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 decennial census SF3 data and 2012-2016 American Community Survey data.
Most counties with more deaths than births are in the interior of the US

Number of births minus number of deaths, 2000-2014

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.
More people moving out than moving in to a majority of rural counties and about half of urban counties

% of counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>... losing population since 2000</th>
<th>... with more deaths than births since 2000</th>
<th>... with more people moving out than moving in since 2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2000 and 2014 county population estimates.
Suburbs gain from domestic and international migration

Total international migration by county type, 2000-2014, in millions
- Urban: 7.0
- Suburban: 5.4
- Rural: 0.6

Total domestic migration by county type, 2000-2014, in millions
- Urban: -5.4
- Suburban: -1.0
- Rural: -0.4

Net international and domestic migration by county type, 2000-2014, in millions
- Urban: 1.6
- Suburban: 6.4
- Rural: -0.4

Note: County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.
“What Unites and Divides Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities”

Continued decline in the share of Americans who move

Annual rate of geographic mobility

*Mobility rate is defined as the percent of the population changing residences over the 12 month period ending in March of the year shown.

IMMIGRATION
Immigrants and their descendants and U.S. population growth

% of U.S. Population

1965-2015

Actual population

193

200

252

324

Estimate without 1965-2015 immigration

500 million

400

300

200

100

0


2015-2065

Projected population

338

441

103 million difference due to 2015-2065 immigration

Projection without 2015-2065 immigration

500 million

400

300

200

100

0

2015 2025 2035 2045 2055 2065

Source: Pew Research Center population estimates based on adjusted census data.
Working-age population will rise due to immigration

Immigration projected to drive growth in U.S. working-age population through at least 2035. [Link](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/03/08/immigration-projected-to-drive-growth-in-u-s-working-age-population-through-at-least-2035/)
Mexico, China and India are top birthplaces for immigrants in the U.S.

Top five countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. in 2017, in millions

- Mexico: 11.2
- China: 2.9
- India: 2.6
- Philippines: 2.0
- El Salvador: 1.4

Note: China includes Taiwan and Hong Kong.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2017 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).
Among new immigrant arrivals, Asians outnumber Hispanics

% of immigrants arriving to the U.S. in each year who are ...

Note: Figures for 2001-2004 based on household population, excluding group quarters. 2017 figure includes arrivals from Jan. 1-Apr. 1, 2016. Race and ethnicity based on self-reports. Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2001-2016 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)
Mexican immigrant population in the U.S. is in decline; Mexican-origin is on the rise

Mexican immigrant decline driven by fall in Mexican unauthorized immigrant population

Number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. declined over the past decade

Note: Shading shows range of estimated 90% confidence interval. Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data. See Methodology for details. “U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Total Dips to Lowest Level in a Decade”
RACE AND ETHNICITY
Asian and Hispanic populations have grown most sharply

% of total U.S. population

Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Other races not shown.
Source: Pew Research Center population estimates and projections (2015)
Hispanic population growth has leveled off since the Great Recession

Annual percentage change in U.S. population, by race/ethnicity

Racial and ethnic change to continue in future decades

% of total U.S. population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2045</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2055</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2065</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Other races not shown.
Source: Pew Research Center population estimates and projections (2015)
Counties where white population share fell below 50% between 2000 and 2018

[Map showing U.S. counties with non-Hispanic white population share below 50%]

Note: Non-Hispanic whites became a minority in 138 counties between 2000 and 2018. Among this group, the 29 counties with fewer than 10,000 people in 2018 are not displayed on the map.


https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/21/u-s-counties-majority-nonwhite/
As a group, urban counties have no racial or ethnic majority

% of total population in each county type who are...

- **Urban**: 44% White, 27% Hispanic, 17% Other
- **Suburban**: 68% White, 14% Hispanic, 11% Other
- **Rural**: 79% White, 8% Hispanic, 8% Other

Note: Racial groups include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. County categories based on the National Center for Health Statistics Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2012-2016 American Community Survey data.
Hispanics projected to become second largest voter group

% of eligible voters by racial and ethnic group

76.4

7.4%
11.5
2.5

Hispanic 13.3
Black 12.5
Asian 4.7

White 66.7

Note: Figures do not sum to 100% because other single-race categories and multiracial are not shown. Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Whites, blacks and Asians are single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders.

Turnout makes a difference in voting representation

Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Data for non-Hispanic Asians were not available in 1988.


https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/12/black-voter-turnout-fell-in-2016-even-as-a-record-number-of-americans-cast-ballots/
New 2020 census options for white and black responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is this person’s race?</td>
<td>White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayen, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Some other race – Print race or origin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOUSEHOLDS
Homeownership rate ticks up

Households ( Millions)  Percent


Change in Owner Households  Homeownership Rate (Right scale)

Note: Change in owner households is year-over-year.
Source: JCHS tabulations of US Census Bureau, Housing Vacancy Surveys.

https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/state-nations-housing-2019
Since 2010, household growth has trailed population growth

Growth in number of households and population per decade (%)

Note: Data labels are for 1860 and 2018. Population growth refers to the population residing in households.
This decade will likely be the first in at least 160 years in which American households have more people

Average number of people per household

Note: Data labels are for 1790, 1850, 2010 and 2018. Average household size is not available for the years between 1790 and 1850.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Household formation increases with age

Households per 100 people

- 15-34: 30
- 35-44: 53
- 45-54: 54
- 55-64: 58
- 65-74: 63
- 75 and older: 68

Source: 2017 American Community Survey (IPUMS)
One-in-five Americans lives in a multigenerational home

% of population in multigenerational households

Number (in millions)

Note: Multigenerational households include at least two adult generations or grandparents and grandchildren younger than 25.

Whites less likely than other racial and ethnic groups to live in multigenerational households

% of population in multigenerational households

Note: Multigenerational households include at least two adult generations or grandparents and grandchildren younger than 25. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites, blacks and Asians are single-race only and include only non-Hispanics. “Other” includes non-Hispanics in remaining single-race groups or multiracial groups.


PEW RESEARCH CENTER
More than a third of young adults live with their parent(s)

% of 18- to 34-year-olds residing in parent(s)’ home

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Decennial Census and American Community Survey (IPUMS)
Marriage rate declines, with education gap growing

Long-term decline in marriage rate

...and a rise in the education gap

As U.S. marriage rate hovers at 50%, education gap in marital status widens [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/14/as-u-s-marriage-rate-hovers-at-50-education-gap-in-marital-status-widens/]
Since 1967, a steady rise in intermarriage in the U.S.

Key facts about race and marriage, 50 years after Loving v. Virginia https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/12/key-facts-about-race-and-marriage-50-years-after-loving-v-virginia/
About two-thirds of children live with married parents

% of children living with ...

Married parents 65%

Solo moms 21

Cohabiting parents 7

Solo dads 4

Unmarried parents 32%

Note: “Children” are all U.S. children younger than 18. Children who are not living with any parents are not shown.

Cohabiting up most sharply among adults 50 and older

Number of U.S. adults cohabiting with a partner continues to rise, especially among those 50 and older

After decades of decline, motherhood and family size up

“Thay’re waiting longer, but U.S. women today more likely to have children than a decade ag” [https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/01/31/theyre-waiting-longer-but-u-s-women-today-more-likely-to-have-children-than-a-decade-agp/]

October 23, 2019

42
By 2034, more older adults than children

America’s changing Population, Population Reference Bureau, 2019
Older voters still a sizeable share of the electorate

As male life expectancy grows, smaller share of older women live alone

Note: Data labels are for 1900, 1990 and 2014. Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1900-2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

Smaller share of women ages 65 and older are living alone https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/02/18/smaller-share-of-women-ages-65-and-older-are-living-alone/
Now that it’s legal, same-sex marriage on 2020 census form

2020 census will ask about same-sex marriages for the first time https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/10/2020-census-will-ask-about-same-sex-marriages-for-the-first-time/