

2009 State Population Estimates

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According to the latest population estimates, New Jersey had 8,707,739 residents as of July 1, 2009, a net gain of 44,341 residents from a year ago. The 0.51 percent growth rate between 2008 and 2009 was slower than 37 other states in the nation. Total population increased by 0.86 percent nationally between 2008 and 2009.

The recent national economic recession has somewhat altered domestic migration patterns among states. Comparing with previous years, the net out-migration from traditional “exporting” states like California, New York and Illinois has slowed from 2008 to 2009, while the “housing boom” states including Florida and Nevada have turned from “importing” to “exporting” states. Other states like Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina, although still gaining population, received far less migrants from other states than in previous years.

Parallel to the population trend in the nation’s Northeast Region (includes six New England and three Middle Atlantic states), New Jersey gained population at an increasing rate since 2006, a turnaround from its declining growth rate between 2000 and 2006. Population growth in New Jersey had decelerated gradually from 0.69 percent per annum in 2000-2001 to 0.02 percent per annum in 2005-2006. The deceleration of growth resulted mainly from the state’s estimated net losses in migration. Although New Jersey has the nation’s third highest proportion of foreign born population, after 2003, the state’s net gains in international immigration were not large enough to offset its net losses due to domestic migration. However, the state’s flow of domestic out-migrants has subsided after reaching its peak in 2006. The 2008-2009 period marks the first one-year period since 2003 that the state’s gain from international immigration again surpassed its loss from domestic migration. New Jersey’s numeric gain of 1,884 residents from 2005 to 2006 ranked 44th in the nation, while its 44,341 numeric gain in 2008-2009 was the 16th largest among the 50 states. Consequently, the state’s population growth rate has accelerated to 0.32 percent and 0.51 percent per annum during the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 periods.

New Jersey was the nation’s eleventh most populous state in 2009, unchanged from its 2008 status. New Jersey’s population ranked ninth nationally in 2000. The state’s rank descended to tenth and eleventh in 2002 and 2005, respectively. California continued to be the nation’s most populous state with 36,961,664 residents in 2009, while Wyoming had the smallest 2009 population (544,270).

New Jersey’s distinctive status as the nation’s most densely populated state remained unchallenged in 2009 with 1,174 persons per square mile. Rhode Island (population density:

Table 1

New Jersey Population: 1980 to 2009		
Year	Resident Population	Annualized Growth Rate
<u>Census on April 1,</u>		
1980	7,365,011	
1990	7,730,188	0.49%
2000	8,414,378	0.85%
<u>Estimates as of July 1,</u>		
2000	8,430,921	
2001	8,489,469	0.69%
2002	8,544,115	0.64%
2003	8,583,481	0.46%
2004	8,611,530	0.33%
2005	8,621,837	0.12%
2006	8,623,721	0.02%
2007	8,636,043	0.14%
2008	8,663,398	0.32%
2009	8,707,739	0.51%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division

1,008) was the only other state with more than 1,000 persons per square mile as of 2009. The nation's 2009 population density was 86.8 persons per square mile. Alaska remained the most sparsely populated state in the nation (1.2 residents per square mile).

The Western and Southern states have continued to dominate the nation's population growth in this decade. The ten fastest growing states during the 2008-2009 period were Wyoming (2.12%), Utah (2.10%), Texas (1.97%), Colorado (1.81%), Alaska (1.50%), Washington (1.49%), Arizona (1.48%), North Carolina (1.45%), Georgia (1.35%), and South Carolina (1.29%). Only three states — Michigan (-0.33%), Maine (-0.11%) and Rhode Island (-0.03%) — experienced population declines between 2008 and 2009 due, at least partly, to their relatively high unemployment rates and the severe economic downturn. Texas had the largest numeric population gain (478,012) between 2008 and 2009.

Population grew slowly among New Jersey's Middle Atlantic neighbors. New York ranked 43rd nationally with 0.38 percent growth (73,664 residents) between 2008 and 2009, while Pennsylvania's 0.31 percent growth (38,399 residents) ranked 44th among the 50 states. In comparison, New Jersey's 0.51 percent growth rate ranked 38th in the nation. Its 44,341 net gain of population was the 16th largest numeric growth among the 50 states.

Paralleling a national trend, New Jersey's 3.5 percent post-2000 Census growth rate (0.37% per annum, on average) was slower than its rate of population growth during the 1990s (0.85% per annum). In comparison, the nation's total population increased by 13.2 percent (1.24% per annum) during the 1990s and 9.1 percent from 2000 to 2009 (0.95% per annum).

Table 2

Time period	Total Change	Births	Deaths	Net Migration	
				International	Domestic
				4/1/00 to 7/1/00	16,543
7/1/00 to 7/1/01	58,548	112,168	72,782	54,557	-32,125
7/1/01 to 7/1/02	54,646	112,854	74,829	50,551	-30,918
7/1/02 to 7/1/03	39,366	115,968	73,374	42,990	-42,316
7/1/03 to 7/1/04	28,047	116,468	73,662	40,207	-51,304
7/1/04 to 7/1/05	10,307	112,046	72,187	41,207	-67,216
7/1/05 to 7/1/06	1,884	109,251	69,486	42,691	-76,853
7/1/06 to 7/1/07	12,322	111,339	69,823	38,252	-67,751
7/1/07 to 7/1/08	27,355	111,094	69,914	37,446	-51,234
7/1/08 to 7/1/09	44,341	110,471	71,676	37,360	-31,690
4/1/00 to 7/1/09	268,301	1,038,937	664,523	399,803	-459,803

Note: A minor difference exists between total change and the sum of individual components, which results from the application of a national population control to state estimates.

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division

Table 3

State	Total Change		Components of Change	
	Number	Percent	Natural	Net
			Increment	Migration
<i>7/1/08 to 7/1/09</i>				
New Jersey	44,341	0.51	38,795	5,670
New York	73,664	0.38	95,016	-23,079
Pennsylvania	38,399	0.31	19,712	19,826
<i>4/1/00 to 7/1/09</i>				
New Jersey	293,361	3.49	374,414	-60,000
New York	564,642	2.98	905,882	-846,993
Pennsylvania	323,696	2.64	166,796	136,359

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division

New Jersey's net population gain from international migration (399,803) in this decade was the sixth largest in the nation. However, the state lost 459,803 residents to other states due to domestic migration during this ten-year period. Natural increment (374,414 more births than deaths) was another major source of the state's population growth between 2000 and 2009.

Data Availability

The annual series of state population estimates are available on the Labor Market Information Web site: <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/dmograph/Demographics_Index.html>. For more information about population estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, PO Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388. Telephone: (609) 292-0076 or e-mail: Sen-Yuan.Wu@dol.state.nj.us.