

KENTUCKY: AN OLDER, DIVERSE, URBAN STATE

2010 CENSUS
TELLS US WHAT
WE LOOK LIKE

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“You can plan for the future you want, or you can plan for the future you have,” said Ron Crouch, director of research and statistics in the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development, shortly after the latest census results were released for Kentucky.

“Census tells us what we look like, and patterns of movement since 2000 show what things have changed,” Crouch said.

The pattern shows movement toward the central part of the state, while areas in the far western, eastern and southeastern parts have had declines.

The census count shows that the Golden Triangle and urbanized areas along the interstates continue strong growth, while many eastern and western cities and counties are falling behind. These population counts can affect everything from federal funding to legislative redistricting to the classification of a city.

Kentucky’s population now totals more than 4.3 million, which is an increase of almost 300,000 from the 2000 count. Just over 54 percent of the state’s residents live in one of Kentucky’s 418 incorporated and active cities.

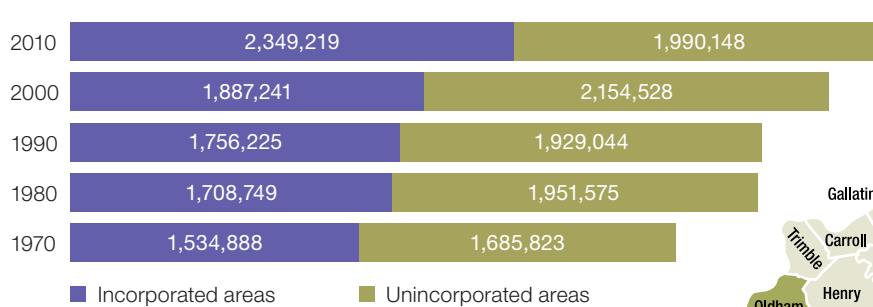
While Kentucky grew by 7.36 percent from 2000 to 2010, the commonwealth added population at a slower rate than 27 other states and less than the national growth rate of 9.55 percent. The total population living in a Kentucky city grew by 7.70 percent during the same 10 years. Unincorporated areas grew by 6.97 percent.

An Urban State

“The demographic information actually favors people living in cities instead of rural areas now,” Crouch said. That’s because Kentucky, like the rest of the country, is becoming more urbanized.

Demographers often compare population changes in metropolitan statistical areas to

Kentucky City and Unincorporated Population: 1970 to 2010

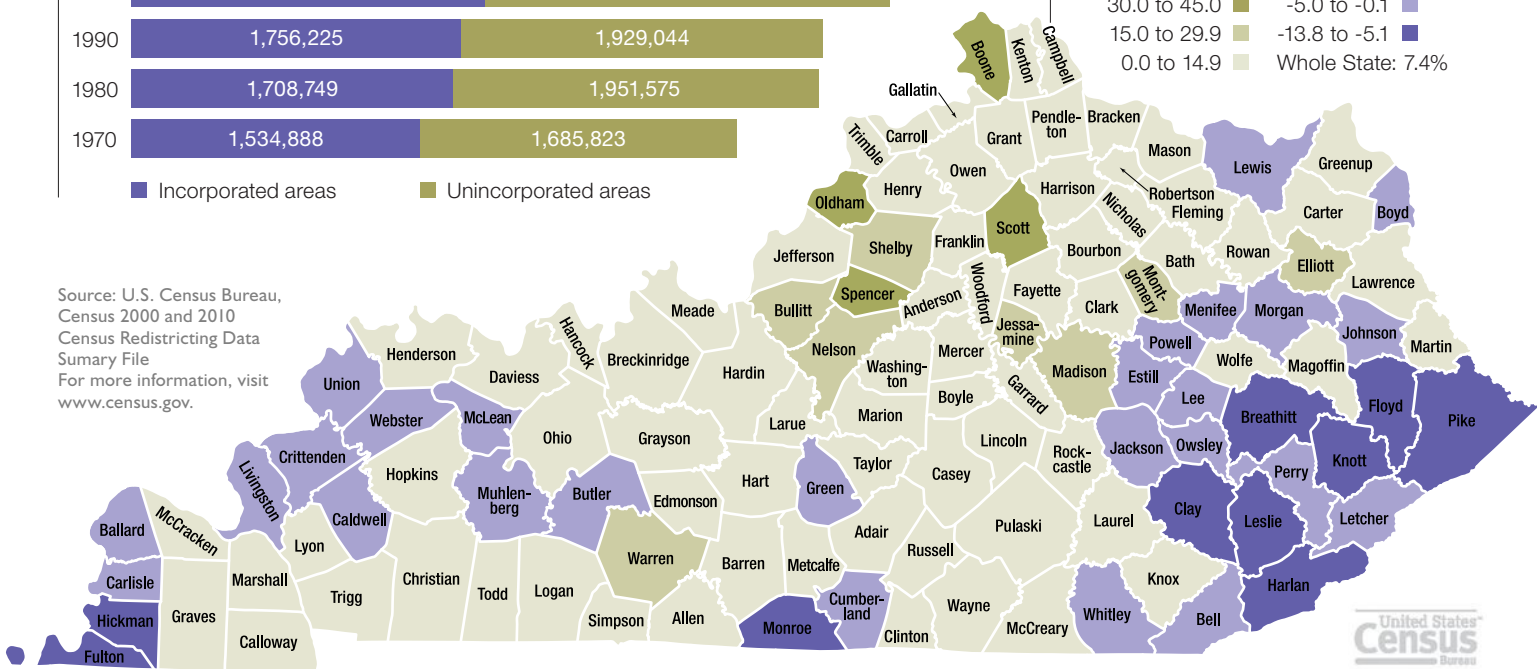


2010 Census Results

Percent Change in Population by County: 2000 to 2010

- 30.0 to 45.0
- 15.0 to 29.9
- 0.0 to 14.9
- 5.0 to -0.1
- 13.8 to -5.1
- Whole State: 7.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File. For more information, visit www.census.gov.



20 Most Populous Kentucky Cities

Rank	City	County	2010 Pop.	2000 Pop.	# Change	% Change
1	Louisville*	Jefferson	597,337	553,599	43,738	7.90%
2	Lexington	Fayette	295,803	260,512	35,291	13.55%
3	Bowling Green	Warren	58,067	49,296	8,771	17.79%
4	Owensboro	Daviess	57,265	54,067	3,198	5.91%
5	Covington	Kenton	40,640	43,370	-2,730	-6.29%
6	Hopkinsville	Christian	31,577	30,089	1,488	4.95%
7	Richmond	Madison	31,364	27,152	4,212	15.51%
8	Florence	Boone	29,951	23,551	6,400	27.18%
9	Georgetown	Scott	29,098	18,080	11,018	60.94%
10	Henderson	Henderson	28,757	27,373	1,384	5.06%
11	Elizabethtown	Hardin	28,531	22,542	5,989	26.57%
12	Nicholasville	Jessamine	28,015	19,680	8,335	42.35%
13	Jeffersontown	Jefferson	26,595	26,633	-38	-0.14%
14	Frankfort	Franklin	25,527	27,741	-2,214	-7.98%
15	Paducah	McCracken	25,024	26,307	-1,283	-4.88%
16	Independence	Kenton	24,757	14,982	9,775	65.24%
17	Radcliff	Hardin	21,688	21,961	-273	-1.24%
18	Ashland	Boyd	21,684	21,981	-297	-1.35%
19	Madisonville	Hopkins	19,591	19,307	284	1.47%
20	Winchester	Clark	18,368	16,724	1,644	9.83%

* The 2010 total population of Louisville Metro is 741,096. The 597,337 figure does not include the populations of the other incorporated cities in Jefferson County.

Editor's Note: Visit www.klc.org for a list of all cities and their 2000 and 2010 populations.

rural changes. Metro areas are defined as a collection of small cities and suburbs centered around an urban core of at least 50,000 people. Metro areas include the population of an entire county, regardless of whether residents live in an incorporated city. Nationwide, counties in metro areas grew by 10.8 percent.

Kentucky has 35 counties designated as part of a metro area. From 2000 to 2010, these metro counties grew by 11.1 percent. The state's eight fastest-growing counties (Spencer, Scott, Boone, Oldham, Shelby, Jessamine, Warren and Bullitt) are all located in a metro area. Of the 36 counties that declined in population, only three (Boyd, McLean and Webster) are located in metro areas.

The rest of the state grew by 4.6 percent, which almost equals the non-metro-area growth rate of 4.5 percent nationwide. Twenty-six Kentucky counties are located in micropolitan statistical areas. Micro areas are defined as regions containing an urban core of 10,000 to 50,000 people. These counties grew by 5.6 percent.

The 61 of Kentucky's 120 counties that are not included in either a metro or micro area grew by only 0.4 percent, or fewer than 4,000 people combined. Of the 36 counties that experienced a population decline, 25 are not located in either a metro or micro area.

"Kentucky has historically been considered a rural state, but the census data shows that more people live and work within city limits," Rep. Rita Smart (D-Richmond) said. "As a former city official, I know firsthand that cities serve as the economic engines for the state."

Regional Changes

The gains in the urban areas played a significant role in the regional changes throughout the state. For instance, the most population gains occurred in the northern Kentucky, Bluegrass and Louisville areas — the anchors of the so-called Golden Triangle. The Kentucky counties in the metro anchors of the Golden Triangle — Louisville, Lexington and Cincinnati metro areas — grew by 208,260 people, or 12.1 percent. Not a single county in these three

metro areas has experienced a population decline since 2000.

The largest percentage increase for a metro area occurred with Bowling Green. That area grew by 21,787 people, or 20.9 percent. In fact, Bowling Green (58,067) officially passed Owensboro (57,265) as the third-largest city in Kentucky, behind Louisville and Lexington.

"We're seeing a lot of people living in suburban counties and commuting to the central areas for jobs," Crouch said. The urban cores still hold most of the jobs in the area, and people are driving "two or three counties over for jobs," he said.

The worst population losses occurred predominantly in rural eastern and far western Kentucky, where there are no metro areas. In eastern Kentucky, seven of the eight counties in the Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) declined in population, for a total loss of 5,894 people. However, half of the KRADD cities gained residents, and the total city population in the region had a net increase. Three of the five counties in the Big Sandy Area Development District declined, for a net loss of 6,439 residents. In the same region, seven of the 12 cities gained population, for a net increase of 1,054 people.

In the Purchase Area Development District in western Kentucky, losses in Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton counties were offset by gains in Calloway (mostly in Murray) and Marshall counties. Similarly, losses by Livingston and Muhlenberg counties were more than offset by gains elsewhere in the Pennyryle Area Development District, particularly in Trigg and Christian (mostly by gains in Hopkinsville and Oak Grove) counties. Trigg and Christian counties are the only Kentucky counties that are a part of the Clarksville, Tennessee, metro area.

In the more rural parts of the state, Crouch said that people are living longer, but they are not increasing their birth numbers. In other words, the decrease is more a trend in having smaller families, not necessarily fewer families. "A lot of households may have just one or two people in them," Crouch said. "Certainly, there is some out-migration, but you see a dramatic drop in large-sized families."

Increase in Diversity

Throughout the country, the ethnic and racial makeup changed significantly since 2000. Most notably, the number of Hispanic

2011 KLC Conference

Do you want more information? Ron Crouch will be providing the keynote luncheon on October 5 at the Kentucky League of Cities Conference & Expo in Lexington. For more information and to register, please contact Lynda Schwendeman at 800.876.4552 or lschwendeman@klc.org.

or Latino residents increased from 12.5 percent of the total population to 16.3 percent. This growth is mostly due to immigration.

“If you don’t have immigration, you have a decline in population,” Crouch said, indicating that our growth in jobs will be centered on the minority population during the next few decades. “There’s very little growth in the youth population.”

Although Kentucky pales in comparison to the national statistics, the Hispanic makeup in Kentucky has grown from 1.5 percent in 2000 to 3.1 percent in 2010. The proportion of Hispanic residents in cities — where three in four of the state’s Hispanic or Latino residents live — has increased to 4.2 percent of city populations.

The state is also becoming more racially diverse, although Kentucky’s cities are leading these movements. The African-American population has increased from 7.3 percent to 7.8 percent statewide. Almost nine in 10 of the state’s African-American residents live in a Kentucky city. Some of the cities with the largest proportion of African-American residents include Shively (48.6 percent), West Buechel (38.1 percent), Hickman (34.1 percent) and Hopkinsville (31.9 percent). Statewide, 12.8 percent of city residents describe themselves as African-American.

The statewide Asian population slightly increased from 0.7 percent in 2000 to 1.1 percent in 2010. Although the proportion of city residents who are Asian is only 1.7 percent, 82 percent of the state’s Asian population lives in a Kentucky city. The cities with the largest proportion of Asian residents include Hurstbourne Acres (17.8 percent), Hurstbourne (11.3 percent), Union (5.7 percent), Glenview (5.5 percent) and Langdon Place (5.4 percent).

“The growth in our population is [in] minority [groups],” Crouch said.

“Communities will need to be open to and accepting of minorities.”

Elected city leaders in Kentucky are fairly representative of their diverse residents, according to a recent demographic survey of more than 400 elected city officials. About 92 percent of mayors, council members and commissioners are white, while 6 percent are African-American. Although the survey questions did not explicitly align with the census questions, elected city officials are roughly as racially representative of their constituents as state legislators are. This is in distinct contrast to elected county officials, of which fewer than 1 percent are racial minorities.

Aging Population

As state and city residents are becoming more diverse, they are also growing older. The fertility revolution of the baby boomers has been replaced by the longevity revolution. The populations in cities are maturing, while the youth populations are not increasing.

“Many of the boomers turn 75 and older in 10 years from now,” Crouch said. “There’s going to be a huge increase in the elderly population.”

This increase is not without its implications, from city services to economic development. For instance, transportation modes and city planning will need to serve a population that is typically less mobile. As residents age and retire, city revenues will be impacted, particularly by homestead exemptions and losses in payroll-tax revenues.

Despite the increase in elderly population, Crouch pointed out that cities have to serve both the young and old populations, and they likely will need to retain a mature workforce for a longer period of time. “As we live longer,” he said, “we’re going to have to work longer.”

Lasting Implications

The state has grown and evolved considerably during the past two centuries. In 1900, the state’s population of urban residents was only 22 percent. Today, a majority of the state’s population is urban. Kentucky’s rural roots are blossoming into urban centers, and cities and their economies are leading the evolution.

“There will be no room for ‘throwaways’ among our minority or younger workforce age populations — in fact all of our workforce, as Kentucky faces its future demographic opportunities and challenges and hopefully makes the needed investments for a prosperous future,” Crouch said.

“Cities need to provide the services that people will need in the future,” Crouch said. Cities will have to deal with increasing demands in a state that currently favors rural policies. Crouch suggested that there may be more of a push for higher-density housing, more public transit options and even regional planning and coordination among local governments.

Even taxes could be on the table. “Maybe we need to reform our tax structure, because it may not be fair,” Crouch said, “so that we have enough revenue to make sure government works. Sometimes you pay taxes as an investment in your future.”

And right now, that future will be a much older, more diverse, more urban state. **KYC**

Editor’s Note: The Kentucky League of Cities served as a regional partner of the 2010 U.S. Census and is an affiliated state organization of the Kentucky State Data Center. Also, financial information supplied on the city uniform financial information reports (UFIRs) is provided from KLC to the Census Bureau for their annual state and local government finances service.

Disagree with the Census Counts?

The U.S. Census Bureau has established a process by which elected officials may challenge their jurisdiction’s 2010 census count. The Count Question Resolution program was created to specifically address three types of instances where a state, local or tribal government feels an error was made in the 2010 census results for its area. The U.S. Census Bureau began accepting challenges on June 1, 2011. Although the U.S. Census Bureau will not collect any additional data or conduct additional surveys during this challenge process, some jurisdictions may receive a revised population count. If you would like to find out more information about challenging the population count for your community, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>, and enter “Count Question Resolution” in the search bar in the upper right-hand corner.