BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Statistical Brief

Where the Growth Will Be —

State Population Projections: 1993 to 2020

Look 30 years into the future and you may find a Nation that looks quite a bit different demographically. This Brief presents the Census Bureau's population projections for selected States for the 1993 to 2020 period. Included are our first-ever State projections for several racial and ethnic groups.

Most of the growth should occur in the South and West.

Between 1993 and 2020, the Nation's population is projected to climb from 258 million to 326 million. The South and West combined should account for 56 million of the 68 million persons added. Consequently, the South should remain the most populous region in the 1993-2020 period, with the West moving past the Midwest into second place shortly after the turn of the century.

The expected large gains for the South and West reflect the big gains in store for eight of their States (see chart). California, the most populous State during the period, alone should add over 16 million persons. This would boost its share of the Nation's population from 12 percent to 15 percent. Texas and Florida are expected to be the next-biggest gainers. As a result, New York should be replaced by Texas in 1994 as the second most populous State, then supplanted by Florida after 2015 as third largest.

Meanwhile, Nevada should have the most rapid *rate of growth* during the remainder of the 1990's (3.2 percent per year); after 2000, California would be tops (1.8 percent). The slowest growth rates over the respective periods should belong to the District of Columbia (−1.0 percent) and West Virginia (zero).

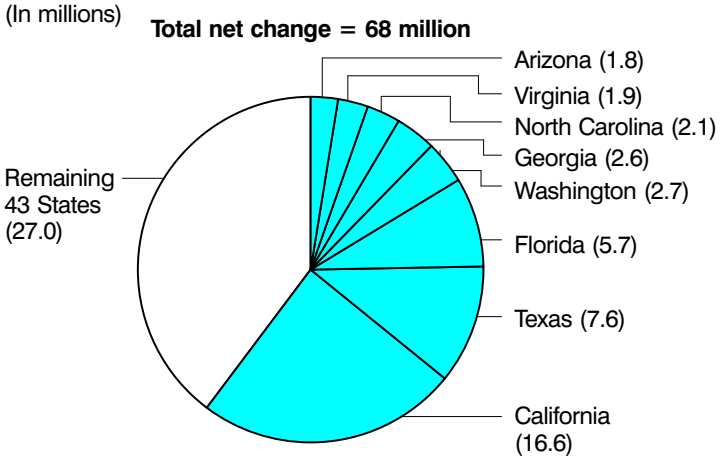
States take different paths to population growth.

A State's net population change equals the number of persons added to (or subtracted from) its starting population due to the combination of births, deaths, net internal migration (the difference between the number of people moving in from and out to other States), and international migration (immigration). Just because two States are both expected to add a lot of people doesn't mean they will both add them the same way. For example, between 1990 and 2020:

- California is projected to suffer a net *loss* of 4 million internal migrants to other States. (New York, Illinois, and Michigan should also lose at least 1 million). But this huge loss would be more than balanced out by projections which indicate it will add 10 million international migrants (39 percent of the Nation's total) and have more than twice as many births as deaths (20 million versus 8 million).

Eight States Should Account for Most of the Nation's Projected Growth

Projected net population change, by State: 1993 to 2020
(In millions)



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▪ Florida is projected to add 2 million via immigration, joining California, New York, Texas, New Jersey, and Illinois in adding at least 1 million. But the similarities to California end there. Florida should see a net gain of nearly 4 million from other States; only Washington, North Carolina, and Georgia are also expected to add over a million through net internal migration. And about as many Floridians should die as will be born (6 million each).

Asian and Hispanic populations should zoom.

Among all racial and ethnic groups, Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are projected to experience the most rapid growth between 1993 and 2020. Here is a look at how each group is expected to fare:

▪ *Whites*, whose population should rise from 215 million to 255 million, would be the slowest-growing group. Among the five most populous States for Whites over the period, California, Texas, and Florida are projected to have large increases in their White population (30 percent or more), while Pennsylvania would have almost no gain (under 1 percent), New York a small loss (−4 percent).

▪ The *Black* population should rise from 32 million to 45 million. New York and California would contain the largest shares of the Nation's Blacks over the period, with 9 percent each in 2020. Florida, however, should have the biggest net gain. Its Black population should rise 1.5 million to over 3 million, moving it from fourth to third. Texas and Georgia (with roughly 3 million each) would complete the top five States in 2020.

▪ The *Asian and Pacific Islander* population should more than double, from 9 million to 23 million. California is projected to have by far the largest share of the Nation's Asians and Pacific Islanders (more than 3 million in 1993, almost 10 million in 2020). By 2020, New York and Texas should also have more than 1 million in this group.

▪ *American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts* are expected to see their numbers rise to just over 3 million, up nearly 1 million from 1993. The West would be responsible for nearly three-quarters of this growth. Arizona's American Indian population should nearly double over the period, making it the most populous State for this group (415,000). Arizona, California, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Alaska combined should contain 48 percent of this group's population in 1993, 52 percent in 2020.

▪ It is anticipated that there will be 51 million *Hispanics* in 2020, double 1993's total. Thus, more than 1 in every 3 persons added to the Nation's population would be of Hispanic origin. The percent of the population that is Hispanic should rise substantially in each region. Statewise, California would not only have the most Hispanics (over 8 million in 1993, more than 17 million in 2020), but also the largest gain. Texas (10 million−up 5 million), Florida (4 million), New York (3 million) and Illinois (2 million) would round out the top five States in 2020.

Dependency ratios — 2020
(projections)

Highest

Florida	89
Utah	89
Arizona	87
South Dakota	85
New Mexico	83

Lowest

District of Columbia	52
Nevada	65
Alaska	66
Colorado	68
Virginia	68

Note: The dependency ratio indicates the number of youth (persons under age 20) and elderly there would be for every 100 people of working ages (20-64 years).

While the proportion of youth should drop ...

The proportion of the Nation's population that is below age 20 should dip from 29 percent to 27 percent. Each State should show a decline. In 2020, Utah would have the highest percentage (35 percent), the District of Columbia the lowest (21 percent).

... the proportion of elderly is expected to climb.

The elderly are projected to comprise 16 percent of the Nation's population (53 million) in 2020, up from 13 percent (33 million) in 1993. Eight States — Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Washington, Georgia, Utah, Alaska, and California — would see a doubling in their number of elderly. Nonetheless, Florida, which should alone add over 2 million elderly (a near-doubling), would continue to have the highest proportion (19 percent in 1993, 26 percent in 2020).

More information:

Population Projections for States, by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1993 to 2020, Current Population Reports, Series P25-1111. Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Stock No. 803-004-00120-6. $5.

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