Methodology: Resident Population Estimates of the United States

Resident Population Universe Definition

Estimates of the United States resident population include persons resident in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. They exclude residents of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and residents of the outlying areas under United States sovereignty or jurisdiction (principally American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The definition of residence conforms to the criterion used in Census 2000 which defines a resident of a specified area as a person "usually resident" in that area. Estimates of resident population exclude the United States Armed Forces overseas, as well as civilian United States citizens whose usual place of residence is outside the United States.

Postcensal Estimation of Resident Population

Estimates of the United States population were derived quarterly by updating the resident population enumerated in Census 2000 through the components of population change. The following formula was applied to update each group:

1. 2000 enumeration of resident population,
2. + births to U.S. resident women,
3. - deaths to U.S. residents,
4. + net international migration,
5. + net movement of U.S. Armed Forces.

1. The 2000 enumerated resident population comes from the April 1, 2000 Decennial Census. For vintage 2004, the estimates base reflects modifications processed through May 2004, to the Census 2000 population as documented in the Count Question Resolution program.
2. Registered births to United States resident women are estimated from data supplied by the National Center for Health Statistics. The primary source for this birth data can be found in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics Reports, Volume 52, Number 10, "Births: Final Data for 2002," and similar publications of NCHS.
3. Registered deaths to United States residents are also estimated from data supplied by the National Center for Health Statistics. The primary source for this death data can be found in the National Center for Health Statistics National Vital Statistics Report, Volume 53, Number 5, "Deaths: Final Data for 2002," and similar NCHS publications.
4. International migration, in its simplest form, is defined as any movement across U.S. (50 states and District of Columbia) borders. The U.S. Census Bureau makes estimates of net international migration for the nation, states, and counties. The net international component combines three parts: (1) net migration of the foreign-born, (2) emigration of natives, and (3) net movement from Puerto Rico to the United States. In an effort to maximize the use of available data, we used the American Community Survey (ACS) as the basis for the level of net migration of the foreign born between 2000 and 2003 because it provided annually updated data. After determining the net change of the foreign born, we accounted for deaths to the entire foreign-born population during the

periods of interest to arrive at the final estimate of net migration of the foreign born. In order to account for variability due to small sample sizes of the foreign born, we used a moving average for the period changes to get the final net foreign-born migration estimate. We applied the age-sex-race-Hispanic origin-county distribution of the non-citizen foreign born from Census 2000 who entered in 1995 or later to the national-level estimate of net migration of the foreign born.

The remaining two smaller parts of the net international migration component, the net movement from Puerto Rico to the United States and the emigration of natives, were produced in similar ways. For both parts, we do not have current annually updated information. Therefore, we used the levels of movement used in the previous year.[1] For both parts, we applied the age-sex-race-Hispanic origin-county distributions from Census 2000 that were most similar to the population of interest. For the net movement from Puerto Rico, the underlying distribution was based on those who indicated that their place of birth was Puerto Rico and had entered the United States in 1995 or later. We assumed that natives who emigrated were likely to have the same distributions as natives who currently reside in the United States. Therefore, the characteristics of natives who emigrated was assumed to be the same age-sex-race Hispanic origin-county distribution as natives residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in Census 2000.

Once the net migration of the foreign born, net movement from Puerto Rico, and emigration of natives were estimated, all three parts were combined to estimate a final net international migration component. In other words, net international migration is equal to the net migration of the foreign born plus the net migration from Puerto Rico minus the net emigration of natives.

5. Armed Forces overseas strength statistics are supplied by the five branches of the Armed Forces in the Departments of Defense (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force) and Transportation (Coast Guard).

Notes

Population estimates are subject to revision, as revised input data become available. These revisions normally occur once a year.

Independent estimates of each of the components of international migration are not available.

[1] For more information on the estimate of 11,133 for the net movement from Puerto Rico see Christenson, M. "Evaluating Components of International Migration: Migration Between Puerto Rico and the United States," Population Division Technical Working Paper No. 64. For information on estimates of native emigration see Gibbs, J. G. Harper, M. Rubin, and H. Shin, "Evaluating Components of International Migration: Native-Born Emigrants," Population Division Technical Working Paper No. 63.