

SLOWING STATE POPULATION DECLINE PUTS
LATEST POPULATION AT 39,185,000

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SACRAMENTO— California's population dipped slightly by 117,552 residents last year, bringing the state's total to 39,185,605 people as of January 1, 2022, according to new population estimates and housing data released today by the California Department of Finance.

The 0.3-percent decline represents a slowing compared to the 0.59-percent decline over the nine-month period between the April 2020 Census date and the year's end.

As Baby Boomers age, and fertility declines among younger cohorts, the continuing slowdown in natural increase -- births minus deaths -- underlies the plateauing of the state's population growth. The addition of COVID-19-related deaths, federal policies restricting immigration, and an increase in domestic out-migration further affected population totals. Overall growth was also affected by continuing federal delays in processing foreign migration: while last year saw positive immigration (43,300), the level was below the average annual rate of 140,000 before the pandemic.

The report contains preliminary year-over-year January 2022 and revised January 2021 population data for California cities, counties, and the state. These estimates are based on information through January 1, 2022. Significant changes over the year include:

- While population growth remained strong in the interior counties of the Central Valley and the Inland Empire, the majority of counties saw declines, including every coastal county except San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz (due in part to college students returning to campus).
- Only two counties had growth above one percent: Yolo (1.8 percent), due to increases in college group quarters (dorms), and San Benito (1.1 percent), due to housing gains. Following in percentage growth were Modoc (1.0 percent), Tuolumne (0.9 percent), and Merced (0.9 percent) counties.
- Thirty-four of the state's fifty-eight counties lost population. The ten largest percentage decreases occurred in Plumas (-3.2 percent), Lassen (-2.8 percent), Butte (-2.4 percent), Del Norte (-1.4 percent), Napa (-1.0 percent), San Mateo (-0.9 percent), Marin (-0.9 percent), Shasta (-0.8 percent), San Francisco (-0.8 percent), and Ventura (-0.8 percent).
- The state's three most populous counties all experienced population loss: Los Angeles declined by 70,114 persons (-0.7 percent), San Diego by 1,197 persons (-0.04 percent), and Orange by 7,297 persons (-0.2 percent).

Also of note in the report:

- 361 cities lost population, while 118 gained population and 3 had no change.
- Of the ten largest cities in California, Bakersfield had the largest percentage gain in population (0.7 percent, or 2,736), followed by San Diego (0.2 percent, or 2,958).
- Group quarters represent 2.3 percent (907,000) of the total state population. This population includes those living in college dormitories (240,000) and in correctional facilities (172,000). Between April 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021, California's group quarters population decreased by 165,000 people or 17 percent, due principally to policies associated with COVID-19. The dormitory population dropped by 109,000 (45.0 percent). In 2021, however, college group quarters populations have returned to 98.9 percent of their 2020 Census levels with 240,000 students in dormitories, which restored populations in many college towns. Areas most affected by the pandemic-driven shift in college dormitory population between 2020 and 2021 based on total population growth include: Unincorporated Yolo County (26.5 percent), Santa Cruz (11.3 percent), Albany (5.4 percent), Unincorporated Santa Barbara County (4.5 percent), Seaside (3.1 percent), and Irvine (3.0 percent).
- State prisons are generally located in remote areas; as a result, increases or decreases can account for significant changes in their respective area populations. For example, prison declines led to population decreases in Taft (-4.7 percent) in Kern County, Susanville (-9 percent) in Lassen County, and Crescent City (-4.1 percent) in Del Norte County.

Background Information:

These population estimates are produced annually by the Department of Finance for use by local areas to calculate their annual appropriations limit. The State Controller's Office uses Finance's estimates to update their population figures for distribution of state subventions to cities and counties, and to comply with various state codes. Additionally, estimates are used for research and planning purposes by federal, state, and local agencies, the academic community, and the private sector.

These estimates reflect a state and county level revision of the preliminary January 1, 2021 estimates that were released in May 2021 and reflected a state population at 39,466,855 versus this year's revised estimate of 39,303,157; a downward revision of 163,698. The primary causes are the change to a new Census 2020 benchmark, and higher migration estimates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes to the housing stock are used in the preparation of the annual city population estimates. Estimated occupancy of housing units and the number of persons per household further determine population levels. Changes in city housing stock result from new construction, demolitions, housing unit conversions, and annexations. The sub-county population estimates are then adjusted to be consistent with independently produced county estimates.

Comparing Census Bureau's recently released July 1, 2021 estimates with Finance's January 1, 2022 estimates should generally be avoided since they refer to different points in time. In addition, there are numerous differences between the two series including the effects of the wildfires, changes in migration patterns, accelerating slowdown in births, and excess deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic that make comparisons difficult.

All Finance population and housing estimates are benchmarked to a decennial census. The estimates in this report are benchmarked to the 2020 decennial census.

Related population reports are available on the Department's website:

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/>

E-1: City/County/State Population Estimates with Annual Percent Change January 1, 2021 and 2022

JURISDICTION	Total Population		Percent Change	JURISDICTION	Total Population		Percent Change
	1/1/21	1/1/22			1/1/21	1/1/22	
Humboldt	135,553	135,168	-0.3	Lassen	31,132	30,274	-2.8
Arcata	17,633	18,059	2.4	Susanville	14,514	13,212	-9.0
Blue Lake	1,165	1,151	-1.2	Balance of County	16,618	17,062	2.7
Eureka	27,134	26,768	-1.3				
Ferndale	1,376	1,367	-0.7	Los Angeles	9,931,338	9,861,224	-0.7
Fortuna	12,523	12,432	-0.7	Agoura Hills	19,975	19,771	-1.0
Rio Dell	3,380	3,342	-1.1	Alhambra	82,182	81,834	-0.4
Trinidad	300	296	-1.3	Arcadia	56,240	55,934	-0.5
Balance of County	72,042	71,753	-0.4	Artesia	16,347	16,226	-0.7
				Avalon	3,428	3,394	-1.0
Imperial	179,488	179,329	-0.1	Azusa	50,191	49,704	-1.0
Brawley	26,648	26,952	1.1	Baldwin Park	71,455	70,855	-0.8
Calxico	38,906	38,711	-0.5	Bell	33,962	33,624	-1.0
Calipatria	6,465	6,367	-1.5	Bellflower	78,107	77,359	-1.0
El Centro	44,871	44,508	-0.8	Bell Gardens	39,265	38,861	-1.0
Holtville	5,504	5,565	1.1	Beverly Hills	32,565	32,265	-0.9
Imperial	20,755	21,513	3.7	Bradbury	914	904	-1.1
Westmorland	2,017	2,004	-0.6	Burbank	106,268	105,451	-0.8
Balance of County	34,322	33,709	-1.8	Calabasas	23,151	22,926	-1.0
				Carson	92,912	92,362	-0.6
Inyo	18,982	18,978	0.0	Cerritos	49,163	48,634	-1.1
Bishop	3,868	3,869	0.0	Claremont	37,364	37,072	-0.8
Balance of County	15,114	15,109	0.0	Commerce	12,273	12,140	-1.1
				Compton	95,261	94,233	-1.1
Kern	907,324	909,813	0.3	Covina	50,933	50,449	-1.0
Arvin	19,833	19,639	-1.0	Cudahy	22,526	22,318	-0.9
Bakersfield	406,129	408,865	0.7	Culver City	40,330	40,135	-0.5
California City	14,942	14,952	0.1	Diamond Bar	54,782	54,204	-1.1
Delano	50,045	51,258	2.4	Downey	113,525	112,584	-0.8
Maricopa	1,028	1,018	-1.0	Duarte	21,473	21,258	-1.0
McFarland	14,034	13,902	-0.9	El Monte	108,728	107,706	-0.9
Ridgecrest	28,059	28,061	0.0	El Segundo	17,244	17,084	-0.9
Shafter	19,950	20,486	2.7	Gardena	60,382	59,947	-0.7
Taft	7,355	7,011	-4.7	Glendale	194,618	193,116	-0.8
Tehachapi	12,260	12,375	0.9	Glendora	52,316	51,821	-0.9
Wasco	25,235	26,689	5.8	Hawaiian Gardens	13,755	13,619	-1.0
Balance of County	308,454	305,557	-0.9	Hawthorne	87,722	86,841	-1.0
				Hermosa Beach	19,382	19,171	-1.1
Kings	151,059	152,023	0.6	Hidden Hills	1,736	1,738	0.1
Avenal	12,750	13,186	3.4	Huntington Park	54,519	53,942	-1.1
Corcoran	20,807	22,047	6.0	Industry	440	438	-0.5
Hanford	58,544	58,299	-0.4	Inglewood	107,143	106,481	-0.6
Lemoore	27,225	27,058	-0.6	Irwindale	1,482	1,490	0.5
Balance of County	31,733	31,433	-0.9	La Canada			
				Flintridge	20,291	20,081	-1.0
Lake	67,651	67,407	-0.4	La Habra Heights	5,655	5,594	-1.1
Clearlake	16,671	16,509	-1.0	Lakewood	81,681	80,876	-1.0
Lakeport	4,898	4,999	2.1	La Mirada	49,074	48,696	-0.8
Balance of County	46,082	45,899	-0.4	Lancaster	176,166	175,164	-0.6
				La Puente	37,626	37,587	-0.1
				La Verne	32,608	32,304	-0.9