

Nevada components of population change

Nevada's growth slowed during the recession years but has recently regained momentum. For the year 2018 the Census Bureau estimated that Nevada and Idaho tied for the fastest growing state with a 2.1% growth rate.ⁱ This report examines the components driving estimated population growth since 2010 for the state of Nevada and for its counties.ⁱⁱ

Summary of Census Bureau estimated population change for Nevada and its counties

Table 1 summarizes the estimated changes in population for Nevada and its counties. It is sorted so that the region with the largest percentage increase is at the top of the table. Clark County was estimated to increase by 14% from the time of the Census count in April of 2010 to July of 2018. Average increase for the state as a whole was 12%. Washoe, Lyon and Elko County percentage increases were larger than the estimated 6% increase in population for the United States. The Census Bureau estimated a total population loss from 2010 to 2018 for six rural counties: Churchill, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Pershing and White Pine. The largest loss in number and percent was White Pine County with an estimated loss of 551 people, over 5% of the population in 2010. However, the state demographer estimated a gain in population for many of these counties.ⁱⁱⁱ

Table 1. Summary of estimated population change for the United States, Nevada and Nevada counties, 2010 to 2018

Region	April 1 2010 Census	July 2018 population estimate	Population Change, 2010 to 2018	% increase
Clark Co.	1,951,271	2,231,647	280,376	14%
Nevada	2,700,679	3,034,392	333,713	12%
Washoe Co.	421,425	465,735	44,310	11%
Lyon Co.	51,980	55,808	3,828	7%
Elko Co.	48,942	52,460	3,518	7%
United States	308,758,105	327,167,434	18,409,329	6%
Esmeralda Co.	784	826	42	5%
Nye Co.	43,945	45,346	1,401	3%
Douglas Co.	46,997	48,467	1,470	3%
Humboldt Co.	16,521	16,786	265	2%
Eureka Co.	1,987	2,003	16	1%
Storey Co.	4,014	4,029	15	0%
Carson City	55,274	55,414	140	0%
Pershing Co.	6,752	6,666	(86)	-1%
Churchill Co.	24,877	24,440	(437)	-2%
Lincoln Co.	5,339	5,201	(138)	-3%
Lander Co.	5,775	5,575	(200)	-3%
Mineral Co.	4,770	4,514	(256)	-5%
White Pine Co.	10,026	9,475	(551)	-5%

Births, Deaths and Net Migration

The Census Bureau divides population change into natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (domestic plus international). Most of the population growth in Nevada from 2010 to 2018, about two thirds, was estimated to have occurred because of the net migration of 221,704 people. Most of those people migrated into Nevada from other states. About 30,000 of those people migrated to Nevada from other countries. The remaining third of the growth occurred because births (294,505) exceeded deaths (183,602) over the period for a net natural increase of 110,903. Table 1 gives the comparable statistics for all of Nevada's counties as well as the U.S.

Both Washoe and Clark County followed the general pattern described above for the state. Patterns for the rural counties were quite varied. In Lyon County births almost equaled deaths for very little natural increase. Almost all the estimated growth was due to positive net migration. In Carson City, Douglas and Nye County negative natural increase (more deaths than births) was outweighed by positive domestic migration. Median ages are relatively high in these counties. For Carson City 2017 American Community Survey estimate of median age was 43 years of age, for Douglas County 51 and for Nye about 52.

In Elko and Humboldt County negative net migration was outweighed by natural increase (more births than deaths). Not surprisingly these two counties have relatively low median ages at 34 and 36 respectively compared to about 38 for the state as a whole.

Six counties were estimated by the Census Bureau to have lost population from 2010 to 2018. For these Churchill, Lander, Pershing and White Pine counties were estimated to have had negative net migration that outweighed positive natural increase. Lincoln and Mineral County had negative natural increase and negative net migration. The state demographer estimated losses in Lincoln and Mineral but an increase in population for Churchill, Lander, Pershing and White Pine Counties from 2010 to 2018.

Table 2. U.S. Census Bureau Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018

Geography	Total Population Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events - Births	Vital Events - Deaths	Net Migration - Total	Net Migration - International	Net Migration - Domestic
Churchill Co.	-437	387	2,560	2,173	-844	281	-1,125
Clark Co.	280,376	96,269	221,151	124,882	183,271	29,132	154,139
Douglas Co.	1,470	-1,168	2,685	3,853	2,674	36	2,638
Elko Co.	3,518	3,520	5,865	2,345	-78	-72	-6
Esmeralda Co.	42	-45	43	88	81	-4	85
Eureka Co.	16	26	143	117	-19	0	-19
Humboldt Co.	265	1,066	2,093	1,027	-828	-3	-825
Lander Co.	-200	389	716	327	-597	59	-656
Lincoln Co.	-138	-137	285	422	-9	-14	5
Lyon Co.	3,828	44	4,687	4,643	3,754	-209	3,963
Mineral Co.	-256	-226	405	631	-37	72	-109
Nye Co.	1,,401	-2,532	3,068	5,600	3,904	-169	4,073
Pershing Co.	-86	49	440	391	-150	-4	-146
Storey Co.	15	-72	152	224	81	-2	83
Washoe Co.	44,310	14,037	44,453	30,416	30,233	1,131	29,102
White Pine Co.	-551	91	861	770	-648	-10	-638
Carson City	140	-795	4,898	5,693	916	-121	1,037
Nevada	333,713	110,903	294,505	183,602	221,704	30,103	191,601
United States	18,409,329	10,714,959	32,514,580	21,799,621	7,694,370	7,694,370	(X)

Endnotes

ⁱ U.S. Census Bureau. 12-19-2018. "Nevada and Idaho are the Nation's Fastest Growing States."

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/estimates-national-state.html> accessed 5-31-2018.

ⁱⁱ The source of statistics presented in this report unless stated otherwise is United States Census Bureau Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2018, both "PEPANRES, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, 2018 Population Estimates", and "PEPTCOMP Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, 2018 Population Estimates."

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/tables.html> accessed 5-31-2019 and calculations by the author.

ⁱⁱⁱ State of Nevada Department of Taxation, 2018 Governor's Certified Series, Population of Nevada's Counties and Incorporated Cities, https://tax.nv.gov/Publications/Population_Statistics_and_Reports/ accessed 6-5-2019.