

Nevada components of population change

Nevada's growth slowed during the recession years but has recently regained momentum. For the year 2019 the Census Bureau estimated that Nevada was the second fastest growing state with a 1.7% 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 16% from the time of the Census count in April of 2010 to July of 2019. Average increase for the state as a whole was 14%. Washoe, Esmeralda, Lyon, and Elko County percentage increases were greater than the estimated 6% increase in population for the United States. The Census Bureau estimated a total population loss from 2010 to 2019 for five rural counties: Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Pershing, and White Pine. The largest loss in number was White Pine County with an estimated loss of 450 people, over 4% of the population in 2010. However, the state demographer estimated a gain in population of 6% for Lander, 3% for Pershing, and 8% for White Pine Counties. The state demographer estimated a loss of 2% population in Eureka County.ⁱⁱⁱ

Table 1. Summary of estimated population change for the United States, Nevada, and Nevada counties, 2010 to 2019

Region	April 1, 2010 Census	July 2019 population estimate	Population Change, 2010 to 2019	% increase
Clark Co.	1,951,269	2,266,715	315,446	16%
Nevada	2,700,551	3,080,156	379,605	14%
Washoe Co.	421,407	471,519	50,112	12%
Esmeralda Co.	783	873	90	11%
Lyon Co.	51,980	57,510	5,530	11%
Elko Co.	48,818	52,778	3,960	8%
United States	308,758,105	328,239,523	19,481,418	6%
Nye Co.	43,946	46,523	2,577	6%
Douglas Co.	46,997	48,905	1,908	4%
Storey Co.	4,010	4,123	113	3%
Eureka Co.	1,987	2,029	42	2%
Humboldt Co.	16,528	16,831	303	2%
Carson City	55,274	55,916	642	1%
Churchill Co.	24,877	24,909	32	0%
Pershing Co.	6,753	6,725	-28	0%
Lincoln Co.	5,345	5,183	-162	-3%
Lander Co.	5,775	5,532	-243	-4%
White Pine Co.	10,030	9,580	-450	-4%
Mineral Co.	4,772	4,505	-267	-6%

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 2019, about two thirds, was estimated to have occurred because of the net migration of 256,952 people. Most of those people migrated into Nevada from other states. An estimated 22,000 of those people migrated to Nevada from other countries. The remaining third of the growth occurred because births (330,058) exceeded deaths (209,080) over the period for a net natural increase of 120,978. For the United States as a whole, 60% of the population increase of over 19 million was estimated to be due to natural increase and 40% to net migration. Table 2 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. Eureka County was estimated to have gained population both through net migration and natural increase like Washoe and Clark counties. 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, Esmeralda, Nye, and Storey 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 2018 American Community Survey estimate of median age was 43 years of age, for Douglas County, 51, Esmeralda County, 48, Nye County, 53, and Storey County, 53. This compares to Nevada's median age of 38.^{iv}

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. Churchill County also saw a small increase in population (34) due to positive natural increase outweighing negative net migration.

Five counties were estimated by the Census Bureau to have lost population from 2010 to 2019. For these 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.

Incomes of Migrants to Nevada

Given the importance of net migration to population growth in Nevada, knowledge about the income levels of these migrants might be of value to planners. The Internal Revenue Service's Statistics of Income Division publishes migration data that includes age of primary taxpayer and adjusted gross income category of the return.^v Table 3 displays IRS migration data for Nevada for 2017 and 2018. Income categories are for calendar year 2017. Comparing the outflowing migrants' returns to the non-migrants', there were proportionally more tax-filers in the adjusted gross income categories under \$25,000 who left the state, and fewer in the income categories above \$25,000. Similarly, returns for inflowing migrants were proportionally more for tax-filers in categories under an adjusted gross income of \$25,000. However, there were proportionally more tax-filers with an adjusted gross income of \$200,000 or more amongst inflowing migrants than amongst non-migrants. It is possible that wealthier tax-filers are attracted to Nevada because there is no state income tax. In net, filers



migrating into the state were in wealthier adjusted gross income categories than those leaving the state. It should be noted that some lower income households do not file taxes and would not be accounted for in the IRS data.

Table 2. U.S. Census Bureau Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019

Geography	Total Population Change	Natural Increase	Vital Events - Births	Vital Events - Deaths	Net Migration - Total	Net Migration - International	Net Migration - Domestic
Churchill Co.	34	484	2,941	2,457	-474	302	-776
Clark Co.	315,447	105,372	247,787	142,415	208,889	23,319	185,570
Douglas Co.	1,905	-1,368	3,041	4,409	3,304	-23	3,327
Elko Co.	3,836	4,094	6,757	2,663	-347	-209	-138
Esmeralda Co.	89	-47	49	96	129	-2	131
Eureka Co.	42	24	149	125	10	0	10
Humboldt Co.	310	1,160	2,304	1,144	-879	2	-881
Lander Co.	-243	424	795	371	-679	31	-710
Lincoln Co.	-156	-105	362	467	-60	-20	-40
Lyon Co.	5,528	129	5,424	5,295	5,375	-293	5,668
Mineral Co.	-265	-224	484	708	-45	58	-103
Nye Co.	2,578	-2,948	3,443	6,391	5,505	-328	5,833
Pershing Co.	-27	73	509	436	-117	-3	-114
Storey Co.	110	-115	153	268	219	-20	239
Washoe Co.	50,090	14,927	49,456	34,529	35,047	-287	35,334
White Pine Co.	-446	116	977	861	-566	43	-609
Carson City	647	-1,018	5,427	6,445	1,641	-181	1,822
Nevada	379,479	120,978	330,058	209,080	256,952	22,389	234,563
United States	19,481,418	11,621,558	36,275,313	24,653,755	7,859,860	7,859,860	0

Table 3. Individual Income Tax Returns: Gross Migration for Selected Income Items, Size of Adjusted Gross Income, 2017-2018

Adjusted Gross Income of Tax Return	# of returns	Non-migrant returns	Outflow returns	Inflow Returns	Same State returns	Same State Plus Non-migrant
\$1 under \$10,000	78,857	70,562	5,657	7,362	933	71,495
\$10,000 under \$25,000	241,280	220,342	13,339	18,479	2,459	222,801
\$25,000 under \$50,000	346,219	325,412	12,588	17,716	3,091	328,503
\$50,000 under \$75,000	181,371	170,980	6,344	8,879	1,512	172,492
\$75,000 under \$100,000	111,744	105,505	3,902	5,405	834	106,339
\$100,000 under \$200,000	148,624	140,105	4,934	7,578	941	141,046
\$200,000 or more	49,508	45,826	1,671	3,434	248	46,074
All returns	1,157,603	1,078,732	48,435	68,853	10,018	1,088,750
Percent of total	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total	% of total
\$1 under \$10,000	7%	7%	12%	11%	9%	7%
\$10,000 under \$25,000	21%	20%	28%	27%	25%	20%
\$25,000 under \$50,000	30%	30%	26%	26%	31%	30%
\$50,000 under \$75,000	16%	16%	13%	13%	15%	16%
\$75,000 under \$100,000	10%	10%	8%	8%	8%	10%
\$100,000 under \$200,000	13%	13%	10%	11%	9%	13%
\$200,000 or more	4%	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%
All returns	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Endnotes

ⁱ U.S. Census Bureau. 12-30-2019. "2019 U.S. Population Growth Estimates Continue to Show the Nation's Growth is Slowing." <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2019/popest-nation.html> accessed 8-13-2020.

ⁱⁱ The source of statistics presented in this report unless stated otherwise are United States Census Bureau Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2019, "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019", "Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change for the United States, Regions, States and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019", "Annual Estimates for the Resident Population for Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2019", and "Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change for Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2019", <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/tables.html> accessed 8-13-2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ State of Nevada Department of Taxation, 2019 Governor's Certified Series, Population of Nevada's Counties and Incorporated Cities, https://tax.nv.gov/Publications/Population_Statistics_and_Reports/ accessed 8-14-2020 and calculations by the author.

^{iv} U. S. Census Bureau. "Table S0101. Age and Sex." Accessed 8-14-2020.

^v SOI Tax Stats – Migration Data – 2017-2018. <https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-migration-data-2017-2018> Accessed 8-14-2020.