

July 2007 Feature Article

2006 Municipal Population Estimates for New Jersey

by Sen-Yuan Wu, Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research

According to the latest population estimates prepared by the US Bureau of the Census, New Jersey's resident population increased from 8,414,350 on April 1, 2000 to 8,724,560 as of July 1, 2006. Gloucester was the fastest growing county between 2000 and 2006 while Ocean added more population than any other counties in the state. An analysis of the state's 2006 county population estimates was published in the April 2007 issue of the New Jersey Economic Indicators. This article focuses on the population changes in the state's municipalities during the 2000 to 2006 and 2005 to 2006 periods.

Small Municipalities Grew Faster Than Their Larger Counterparts

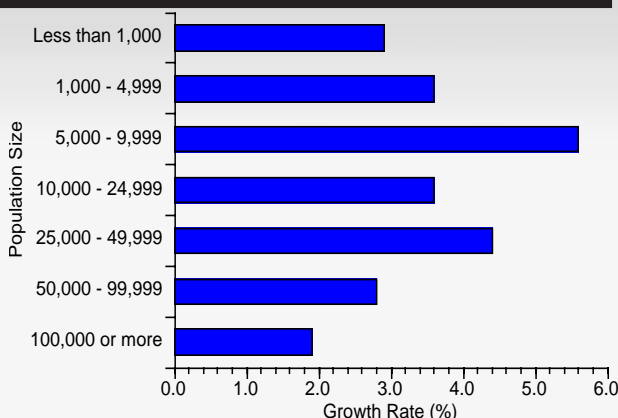
When grouped by size, municipalities with 5,000-9,999 residents (139) had the highest growth rate (+5.6%) from 2000 to 2006, while municipalities with 25,000-49,999 population (64) added more residents (92,800) than other groups. The slow growing 50,000-99,999 group (29) experienced a moderate population decline between 2005 and 2006. Since the 2000 Census, resident population has increased in 385 municipalities and declined in 180 municipalities. Bergen County's Teterboro Borough was the only municipality in New Jersey experienced no change in population.

On average, a New Jersey municipality had 14,866 residents in 2000 and 15,414 in 2006. And the median population was 8,079 in 2006, up from 7,660 in 2000. Approximately 9.1 percent New Jerseyans resided in the state's four largest municipalities (with 100,000 resident population or more), as of 2006. Between 2000 and 2006, population in these four large municipalities increased by 1.9 percent – about one-half of the state's average growth rate (+3.7%).

Between 2005 and 2006, municipalities with 5,000-9,999 residents were still the leader of population growth in New Jersey with a 0.4 percent annual growth rate. The 1,000-4,999 size group (includes 157 municipalities) was also growing at the same 0.4 percent annual rate during the 2005-2006 period.

Chart 1

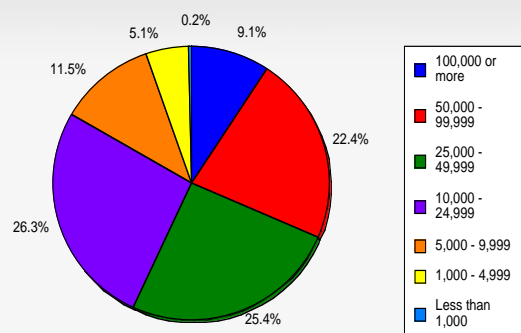
Population Growth by Size of Municipality: New Jersey 2000 to 2006



Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Chart 2

Share of Population by Size of Municipality: New Jersey 2006



Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Table 1

Municipalities with the Largest Population Gains: 2000-2006 and 2005 - 2006

A. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Gains: 2000-2006						B. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Gains: 2005-2006					
Municipality	County	Census	Estimates	Change: 2000-2006		Municipality	County	Estimates	Estimates	Change: 2005-2006	
		4/1/00	7/1/06	Number	Rank			7/1/05	7/1/06	Number	Rank
Jackson township	Ocean	42,816	52,305	9,489	1	Jersey City city	Hudson	239,395	241,789	2,394	1
Franklin township	Somerset	50,903	60,273	9,370	2	Franklin township	Somerset	58,438	60,273	1,835	2
Lakewood township	Ocean	60,352	69,606	9,254	3	Englewood city	Bergen	26,200	27,824	1,624	3
Newark city	Essex	272,530	281,402	8,872	4	Newark city	Essex	280,007	281,402	1,395	4
Egg Harbor township	Atlantic	30,726	38,793	8,067	5	Winslow township	Camden	37,371	38,612	1,241	5
Monroe township	Middlesex	28,005	34,907	6,902	6	Woolwich township	Gloucester	7,518	8,612	1,094	6
Barneгат township	Ocean	15,270	21,192	5,922	7	West Deptford township	Gloucester	20,837	21,763	926	7
Montgomery township	Somerset	17,481	23,243	5,762	8	Monroe township	Middlesex	33,997	34,907	910	8
Elizabeth city	Union	120,568	126,179	5,611	9	Barneгат township	Ocean	20,314	21,192	878	9
Woolwich township	Gloucester	3,021	8,612	5,591	10	Old Bridge township	Middlesex	64,835	65,661	826	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Jackson and Franklin Townships Posted the Largest Population Gains

With a net gain of 9,500 residents, Ocean County’s Jackson Township led the state’s population growth between 2000 and 2006, followed closely by Somerset County’s Franklin Township (+9,400). Another eight New Jersey municipalities had numeric growth of 5,500 or more from 2000 to 2006. With the exception of Newark City and Elizabeth City, they were all suburban townships located mostly in the state’s fast growing counties (i.e., Atlantic, Gloucester, Middlesex, Ocean and Somerset counties). Together, these 10 municipalities accounted for more than 24 percent of the state’s total population gains. Newark and Elizabeth have enjoyed moderately steady population growth since the 2000 Census due largely to the revival of the state’s residential construction activities in selected urbanized areas.

Few Demographic Shifts Took Place Recently

Jackson Township’s growth has slowed since 2004. In fact, five of these top ten municipalities were no longer on the top ten numeric growth list during the most recent one-year (2005-2006) period. They were replaced by Hudson County’s Jersey City, Bergen County’s Englewood City, Camden County’s Winslow Township, Gloucester County’s West Deptford Township and Middlesex County’s Old Bridge Township, as the new leaders of population growth between 2005 and 2006. These five new growth leaders were not among the top 10 municipalities when the entire 2000-2006 period is counted. Jersey City and Englewood City experienced population losses earlier in this decade but turned around in recent years.

Seven Municipalities Lost More Than 2,000 Residents

Seven New Jersey municipalities experienced population declines of 2,000 or more between 2000 and 2006. They consisted of three municipalities in each of Essex and Hudson counties, and one in Cape May County. The rest of the top 10 declining municipalities (two in Essex County and one in Mercer County) had lost about 1,5000 residents each during this six-year period.

From 2000 to 2006, Union City and Bayonne City of Hudson County had the largest net loss of residents (-3,200 and -3,000, respectively). The net loss of housing units was mainly responsible for their population declines.

Table 2

Municipalities with the Largest Numeric Losses of Population: 2000-2006 and 2005 - 2006

A. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Losses 2000 - 2005

Municipality	County	Census	Estimates	Change: 2000-2006	
		4/1/00	7/1/06	Number	Rank
Union City	Hudson	67,096	63,930	-3,166	1
Bayonne city	Hudson	61,842	58,844	-2,998	2
Irvington township	Essex	60,695	58,024	-2,671	3
East Orange city	Essex	69,824	67,247	-2,577	4
Kearny town	Hudson	40,513	38,008	-2,505	5
Bloomfield township	Essex	47,683	45,372	-2,311	6
Lower township	Cape May	22,945	20,785	-2,160	7
Belleville township	Essex	35,926	34,444	-1,482	8
West Orange township	Essex	45,012	43,536	-1,476	9
Trenton city	Mercer	85,397	83,923	-1,474	10

B. Top 10 Municipalities in Numeric Loses: 2005-2006

Municipality	County	Estimates	Estimates	Change: 2005-2006	
		7/1/05	7/1/06	Number	Rank
Woodbridge township	Middlesex	100,548	99,208	-1,340	1
Union City	Hudson	65,076	63,930	-1,146	2
Bayonne city	Hudson	59,931	58,844	-1,087	3
Edison township	Middlesex	100,471	99,523	-948	4
East Orange city	Essex	68,026	67,247	-779	5
Kearny town	Hudson	38,737	38,008	-729	6
Irvington township	Essex	58,734	58,024	-710	7
Trenton city	Mercer	84,591	83,923	-668	8
Bloomfield township	Essex	46,034	45,372	-662	9
East Brunswick township	Middlesex	48,241	47,649	-592	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

The majority of the state's top ten municipalities with the largest population declines over the 2005-2006 period was similar to those on the 2000-2006 list. Only three municipalities (Cape May County's Lower Township and Essex County's Belleville and West Orange townships) were no longer on the list due to their relatively moderate population losses after 2004. Middlesex County's Woodbridge, Edison and East Brunswick townships joined this group recently due to their substantial numeric declines after 2005.

Woolwich Township Has Almost Tripled Its Population Size Since 2000

With a 185 percent rate of growth, Gloucester County's Woolwich Township was the fastest growing municipality in New Jersey from 2000 to 2006. Lebanon Borough's (Hunterdon County) 72 percent was the distant second.

Table 3

Municipalities with the Highest Population Growth: 2000-2006 and 2005-2006

A. Top 10 Fastest Growing Municipalities: 2000-2006

B. Top 10 Fastest Growing Municipalities: 2005-2006

Municipality	County	Census	Estimates	Change: 2000-2006		Municipality	County	Estimates	Estimates	Change: 2005-2006	
		4/1/00	7/1/06	Percent	Rank			7/1/05	7/1/06	Percent	Rank
Woolwich township	Gloucester	3,021	8,612	1.9	1	Woolwich township	Gloucester	7,518	8,612	14.6	1
Lebanon borough	Hunterdon	1,065	1,830	0.7	2	Tavistock borough	Camden	24	26	8.3	2
Mansfield township	Burlington	5,090	8,047	0.6	3	Mount Arlington borough	Morris	5,326	5,708	7.2	3
Upper Freehold township	Monmouth	4,282	6,573	0.5	4	Delanco township	Burlington	3,951	4,224	6.9	4
Hainesport township	Burlington	4,126	6,161	0.5	5	East Greenwich township	Gloucester	6,358	6,788	6.8	5
Lopatcong township	Warren	5,765	8,439	0.5	6	Englewood city	Bergen	26,200	27,824	6.2	6
Barneget township	Ocean	15,270	21,192	0.4	7	Wanaque borough	Passaic	10,573	11,171	5.7	7
White township	Warren	4,257	5,825	0.4	8	Maurice River township	Cumberland	7,662	8,083	5.5	8
Harrison township	Gloucester	8,788	11,849	0.3	9	Ocean township	Ocean	7,822	8,241	5.4	9
Hardyston township	Sussex	6,171	8,283	0.3	10	Harrison township	Gloucester	11,261	11,849	5.2	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Resident population grew by at least 34 percent in ten New Jersey municipalities during the first six years of this decade. These top ten fastest growing municipalities were scattered in seven counties: two each in Burlington, Gloucester and Warren counties, and one each in Hunterdon, Monmouth, Ocean and Sussex counties.

Eight Localities Constitute a New List of Fastest Growing Municipalities

After 2003, Lebanon Borough has gained very little or no population. In fact, only two of the 2000-2006's ten fastest growing municipalities (Gloucester County's Woolwich and Harrison townships) were still the growth leaders over the recent one year (2005-2006) period. The other eight were replaced by these new fast growing municipalities: Camden County's Tavistock Borough, Morris County's Mt. Arlington Borough, Burlington County's Delanco Township, Gloucester County's East Greenwich Township, Bergen County's Englewood City, Passaic County's Wanaque Borough, Cumberland County's Maurice River Township and Ocean County's Ocean townships.

Most Rapidly Declining Municipalities Were Found In Cape May County

Cape May County's lower Township experienced the steepest rate of population decline (9.4%) in the state between 2000 and 2006. Six more municipalities in Cape May County also experienced rapid population declines. These seven Cape May County localities plus two municipalities in Hudson County and one in Monmouth County rounded out the top 10 list of municipalities with the highest rate of population decline since the 2000 Census. Population declines in Cape May County municipalities resulted mainly from the natural decreases (more deaths than births) and net out-migration (fewer people moved in from abroad and other counties than moved out).

Table 4

Top 10 New Jersey Municipalities with the Highest Rate of Population Decline: 2000-2006 and 2005-2006

A. Top 10 Rapid Declining Municipalities: 2000-2006					B. Top Ten Rapidly Declining Municipalities: 2005-2006						
Municipality	County	Census	Estimates	Change: 2000-2006		Municipality	County	Estimates	Estimates	Change: 2005-2006	
		4/10/06	07/01/06	Percent	Rank			7/1/05	7/1/06	Percent	Rank
Lower township	Cape May	22,945	20,785	-9.4	1	Lower township	Cape May	21,336	20,785	-2.6	1
Dennis township	Cape May	6,492	5,907	-9.0	2	West Cape May borough	Cape May	1,033	1,007	-2.5	2
West Wildwood borough	Cape May	448	408	-8.9	3	Walpack township	Sussex	41	40	-2.4	3
West Cape May borough	Cape May	1,095	1,007	-8.0	4	Dennis township	Cape May	6,050	5,907	-2.4	4
Stone Harbor borough	Cape May	1,128	1,039	-7.9	5	Upper township	Cape May	11,638	11,363	-2.4	5
Woodbine borough	Cape May	2,716	2,508	-7.7	6	Weehawken township	Hudson	12,914	12,649	-2.1	6
East Newark borough	Hudson	2,377	2,217	-6.7	7	Woodbine borough	Cape May	2,559	2,508	-2.0	7
Weehawken township	Hudson	13,493	12,649	-6.3	8	East Newark borough	Hudson	2,260	2,217	-1.9	8
Highlands borough	Monmouth	5,318	4,987	-6.2	9	Kearny town	Hudson	38,737	38,008	-1.9	9
Upper township	Cape May	12,115	11,363	-6.2	10	Bayonne city	Hudson	59,931	58,844	-1.8	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Among the 2000-2006's top ten rapid declining municipalities, Monmouth County's Highlands Borough and Cape May County's West Wildwood and Stone Harbor boroughs saw their population decline slowed in recent years, and were no longer on the list of the state's top ten rapid declining municipalities between 2005 and 2006. However, five other Cape May County's townships and boroughs were still included in the state's top 10 rapid declining municipalities for the recent one-year (2005-2006) period, together with four Hudson County's and one Sussex County's municipalities.

Newark Remains The State's Most Populous City

With a moderate yet steady population growth so far in this decade, Newark City's most populous status in the state remained unchallenged as of 2006. Newark ranked 64th among the nation's 258 incorporated places with 100,000 or more population. Hudson County's Jersey City (ranked 73rd nationally), Passaic County's Paterson City (ranked 155th nationally) and Union County's Elizabeth City (ranked 188th nationally) also had more than 100,000 residents in 2006.

Table 5

New Jersey's Ten Most Populous Municipalities: 2000 and 2006

Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/06	Rank	
				2000	2006
Newark city	Essex	272,530	281,402	1	1
Jersey City city	Hudson	240,055	241,789	2	2
Paterson city	Passaic	149,222	148,708	3	3
Elizabeth city	Union	120,568	126,179	4	4
Edison township	Middlesex	97,591	99,523	5	5
Woodbridge township	Middlesex	97,203	99,208	6	6
Dover township	Ocean	89,706	94,889	7	7
Hamilton township	Mercer	87,109	90,559	8	8
Trenton city	Mercer	85,397	83,923	9	9
Clifton city	Passaic	79,062	79,606	11	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Middlesex County's Edison and Woodbridge townships fell off the nation's "100,000 or more" list in 2006 due to their estimated population decline between 2005 and 2006. Ocean County's Dover Township, Mercer County's Hamilton Township and Trenton city, and Passaic County's Clifton City made up the rest of the state's ten most populous municipalities. For the first time, Clifton City moved into the tenth place ahead of Camden city. Camden city was New Jersey's tenth largest municipality until 2005, but had experienced population decline in recent years. The top ten municipalities' share of the state's total population declined somewhat to 15.4 percent in 2006, from 15.7 percent in 2000.

There were nine large cities with one million or more population in the nation. New York City continued to be the nation's most populous incorporated place with 8,214,426 residents as of 2006, while Phoenix (Arizona) moved into the fifth place ahead of Philadelphia city for the first time in history. Among the nation's largest 258 incorporated places, 66 experienced population declines from 2000 to 2006 while 192 gained population. McKinney City (Texas) was the fastest growing place (+97.6%) while New Orleans city (Louisiana) had the highest rate (-53.9%) of population decline due, at least partly, to the effect of hurricane Katrina.

Eleven Municipalities Had Less Than 500 Residents

The state's least populated municipality – Teterboro Borough (in Bergen County) – had 18 residents in 2006, unchanged from its 2000 Census count. Three more municipalities had less than 100 residents: Camden County's Pine Valley Borough (population: 23) and Tavistock Borough (population: 26), and Sussex County's Walpack Township (population: 40).

Table 6

Ten Least Populous Municipalities: 2000 and 2006

Municipality	County	Census 4/1/00	Estimates 7/1/06	Rank	
				2000	2006
Teterboro borough	Bergen	18	18	1	1
Pine Valley borough	Camden	20	23	2	2
Tavistock borough	Camden	24	26	3	3
Walpack township	Sussex	41	40	4	4
Cape May Point borough	Cape May	241	230	5	5
Loch Arbour village	Monmouth	280	274	6	6
Harvey Cedars borough	Ocean	359	389	7	7
Rockleigh borough	Bergen	391	393	8	8
West Wildwood borough	Cape May	448	408	11	9
Millstone borough	Somerset	410	431	9	10

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Six other municipalities with population counts ranged from 230 to 431 rounded out the state's ten least populous municipalities list. Ocean County's Mantoloking Borough (population: 451) outgrew the list in 2006 due to its continued population growth in this decade.

Guttenberg Town Was the State's Most Densely Populated Municipality

With 1,176 persons per square mile as of 2006, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation. Population density in New Jersey ranged from two persons per square mile in Sussex County's Walpack Township to more than 55,000 persons per square mile in Hudson County's Guttenberg Town. The state's seven most densely populated municipalities (with at least 20,000 persons per square mile) included five in Hudson County, and one each in Bergen and Passaic counties.

Table 7

Most and Least Densely Populated Municipalities, 2000 and 2006

Municipality	County	Persons per square mile		Rank	
		2000	2006	2000	2006
Guttenberg Town	Hudson	56,012	55,546	1	1
Union City	Hudson	52,978	50,484	2	2
West New York Town	Hudson	44,995	45,614	3	3
Hoboken City	Hudson	30,239	31,239	4	4
Cliffside Park Borough	Bergen	23,848	23,809	5	5
Passaic City	Passaic	21,805	21,841	7	6
East Newark Borough	Hudson	23,330	21,760	6	7
Pine Valley Borough	Camden	21	24	561	561
Bass River Township	Burlington	20	21	562	562
Teterboro Borough	Bergen	16	16	563	563
Woodland Township	Burlington	13	14	564	564
Washington Township	Burlington	6	7	565	565
Walpack Township	Sussex	2	2	566	566

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Six New Jersey municipalities still had less than 25 persons per square mile as of 2006. They include three municipalities in Burlington County, and one each in Bergen, Camden and Sussex counties.

Data Availability

The 2000-2006 municipal population estimates for New Jersey, including population density data, are available online at the Labor Planning and Analysis Web site <http://www.nj.gov/labor/lra>. For information regarding population estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388, Telephone: 609-292-0076, e-mail: sywu@dol.state.nj.us.