

# January Feature Article

## 2007 State Population Estimates

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New Jersey's total population reached 8,685,920 as of July 1, 2007, a gain of 19,845 residents (or 0.23%) from a year ago. New Jersey's growth rate between 2006 and 2007 ranked it 43rd among the nation's 50 states. Total population increased by 0.96 percent nationally between 2006 and 2007.

The 2006-2007 growth represents a moderate rebound of the state's decelerating population growth so far in this decade. Population growth in New Jersey had decelerated from 0.8 percent per annum between 2000 and 2001 to 0.4 percent per annum between 2003 and 2004; and slowed further to below 0.2 percent per annum during the years of 2004-2006. The deceleration of growth resulted mainly from the state's estimated net losses in migration. Although New Jersey is still a magnet of foreign immigrants, after 2003, the net gains in international migration were no longer large enough to offset net losses due to domestic migration. However, the state's flow of domestic out-migrants has subdued after reaching its peak in 2006.

Table 1.

### New Jersey Population: 1980 — 2007

Date	Resident Population	Annualized Growth Rate
<i>Census:</i>		
April 1, 1980	7,365,011	—
April 1, 1990	7,730,188	0.49%
April 1, 2000	8,414,347	0.85%
<i>Estimate:</i>		
July 1, 2000	8,431,951	—
July 1, 2001	8,495,644	0.76%
July 1, 2002	8,558,327	0.74%
July 1, 2003	8,604,990	0.55%
July 1, 2004	8,641,235	0.42%
July 1, 2005	8,657,445	0.19%
July 1, 2006	8,666,075	0.10%
July 1, 2007	8,685,920	0.23%

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

New Jersey was the nation's eleventh most populous state in 2007, unchanged from its 2006 status. New Jersey's population ranked ninth nationally in 2000. Its rank descended to the tenth and eleventh in 2003 and 2006, respectively.

New Jersey's distinctive status as the nation's most densely populated state (with 1,171 persons per square mile in 2007) remains unchallenged. Rhode Island (population density: 1,012) was the only other state with more than 1,000 persons per square mile as of 2007. The nation's 2007 population density was 85.3 persons per square mile.

States in the West and South monopolized the nation's list of fastest-

growing states, while the only two states to experience population decline were found in the Northeast and Midwest regions. Between 2006 and 2007, Nevada (2.9%), Arizona (2.8%), Utah (2.6%), Idaho (2.4%), Georgia (2.2%), North Carolina (2.2%), Texas (2.1%), Colorado (2.0%), Wyoming (2.0%), and South Carolina (1.8%) led population growth in the nation. In contrast, states of Rhode Island (-0.4%) and Michigan (-0.3%) experienced moderate population decline from 2006 to 2007.

Population of New Jersey's Middle Atlantic neighbors, New York and Pennsylvania increased by 15,700 and 30,000, respectively, between 2006 and 2007, ranking them 32nd and 24th respectively, in the nation. In comparison, New Jersey added 19,800 residents be-

Table 2.

### Components of Population Change: New Jersey, 2000 to 2007

Time Period	Total		Net Migration		
	Change	Births	Deaths	International	Domestic
4/1/00 to 7/1/00	17,604	27,265	16,790	15,451	-8,396
7/1/00 to 7/1/01	63,693	112,158	72,782	59,861	-32,054
7/1/01 to 7/1/02	62,683	112,827	74,829	57,947	-30,805
7/1/02 to 7/1/03	46,663	115,943	73,374	50,092	-41,905
7/1/03 to 7/1/04	36,245	116,463	73,662	47,253	-50,739
7/1/04 to 7/1/05	16,210	111,945	72,320	47,585	-67,809
7/1/05 to 7/1/06	8,630	109,967	72,020	49,386	-76,291
7/1/06 to 7/1/07	19,845	112,983	72,514	48,944	-69,160
4/1/00 to 7/1/07	271,573	819,551	528,291	376,519	-377,159

Notes: A minor difference exists between total change and sum of individual components, resulting from the application of a national population control to state population estimates.

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division.

Table 3.

### Population Change: Mid-Atlantic States, 2000 to 2007

State	Total Change		Components of Change	
	Number	Percent	Natural Increment	Net Migration
7/1/06 to 7/1/07				
New Jersey	19,845	0.23	40,469	-20,216
New York	15,741	0.08	95,473	-78,158
Pennsylvania	29,975	0.24	18,676	9,452
4/1/00 to 7/1/07				
New Jersey	271,573	3.23	291,260	-640
New York	320,908	1.69	698,971	-589,175
Pennsylvania	151,738	1.24	114,795	83,889

Source: US Bureau of the Census, Population Division, 12/27/07.

tween 2006 and 2007, the 29th largest numerical increase in the nation. With an influx of international immigrants and a substantial loss in domestic migration, New York State had a similar population growth pattern as New Jersey, but Pennsylvania's population change was less dynamic (relatively unimpressive natural increase and net migration). In spite of its slower growth rate in recent years, New Jersey's 3.2 percent population growth so far in this decade was still substantially faster than New York (1.7%) and Pennsylvania (1.2%).

Paralleling a national trend, New Jersey's post-2000 Census growth rate (0.44% per annum, on average) was slower than its rate of population growth during the 1990s (0.85% per annum). The nation's total population increased by 13.2 percent (1.24% per annum) during the 1990s and 7.2 percent from 2000 to 2007 (0.96% per annum).

As a major destination of foreign immigrants, the net gain from international migration (+376,500) was the largest source of population growth in New Jersey during the first seven years of this decade. Natural increment (surplus of births over deaths) was another major source (+291,300) of the state's population growth between 2000 and 2007. However, the state experienced a net loss of 377,200 residents due to domestic migration during the same time period.

## Data Availability

The annual series of state population estimates are available on the Labor Market Information Web site <[http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/LMI\\_index.html](http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/LMI_index.html)>. For more information about population estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, PO Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388. Telephone: (609) 292-0076 or e-mail: Sen-Yuan.Wu@dol.state.nj.us.