

# 2010 CENSUS RESULTS FOR ARIZONA

## A Report from the Office of the University Economist

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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

Arizona's numeric increase in population between the 2000 and 2010 censuses was 1.26 million, a lesser gain than the 1.47 million between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, which likely will be the highest ever recorded in Arizona. A strong economy from the early 1990s through the mid-2000s, coupled with a surge in undocumented immigration that was stimulated by a shortage of American-born workers to fill the jobs being created, accounted for the strong population growth during this period. Beginning in 2007, growing anti-immigrant sentiment — reflected particularly in the passage of the employer sanctions law — and the onset of the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s caused population growth to slow dramatically (and likely turn negative for a time), accounting for the lesser gain in population between 2000 and 2010.

Just more than 80 percent of the state's nearly 6.4 million residents in 2010 lived in the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas — Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima counties. This contiguous area accounted for 85 percent of the state's numeric population gain during the 2000s.

The 2010 census verified that a substantial increase in the number of housing vacancies occurred between 2000 and 2010, the result of some degree of overbuilding during the mid-2000s housing boom followed by the out-migration of some Arizonans due to the recession and the employer sanctions law. The number of vacant units jumped 175,674 between 2000 and 2010 — equivalent to 27 percent of the net increase in the number of housing units in the last decade.

Population growth in Arizona between 2000 and 2010 was overestimated and overprojected. Estimates made by the U.S. Census Bureau and by the Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics, and projections issued in the middle of the decade by both groups, were substantially too high. Overbuilding, the employer sanctions law, and the length and depth of the recession that began late in 2007 all contributed to the overstatement.

The Hispanic proportion of the state's population rose considerably during the 2000s, though not by as much as in the prior decade or by as much as had been anticipated. Even the slower increase between 2000 and 2010 is not indicative of what the growth of this group is likely to be in the future. The employer sanctions law and other legislative measures passed in recent years likely caused the number of undocumented immigrants to drop in recent years and probably will greatly limit growth in number in coming years. Fertility rates of Hispanics also dropped considerably. Further, changing demographics in both Mexico and the United States are likely to considerably reduce undocumented immigration in the future.

In addition to lesser undocumented immigration reducing the state's population growth in the future, population growth is likely to be very slow for the next few years due to the large number of unemployed Arizonans and relatively slow employment growth. As of October 2011, employment still was approximately 270,000 less than at the peak in 2007. Nonworking Arizona residents will be filling most of the jobs that are created over the next few years. Only after those Arizonans are reabsorbed into the workforce will net in-migration to the state, which has accounted for most of the population growth historically, accelerate substantially. Thus, the population change during the 2010-to-2020 decade likely will be less than during the last decade. It may be a little less than 1 million, as during the 1970s and again during the 1980s.

The 2010 census questionnaire was one of the shortest ever. The form sent to housing units asked for two pieces of information about the housing unit: the number of people living there on April 1, 2010 and the “tenure” of the unit — whether it was owned with a mortgage, owned without a mortgage, rented, or occupied without rent being paid. For each person living in the household, the following information was requested:

- Gender
- Age and date of birth
- Ethnicity (Hispanic or not Hispanic)
- Race
- Relationship to householder

For housing units that were vacant, the Census Bureau ascertained the reason for the vacancy (e.g. for sale or used only seasonally). In addition to those living in households, similar information was collected for those living in group quarters, such as prisons, nursing homes, and college dormitories.

In prior censuses, a “long form” that included many detailed questions on housing and socioeconomic characteristics was sent to approximately one-in-six households. The long form questions were shifted from the decennial census to the annual American Community Survey (ACS) that began nationwide in 2005. Substantial survey error limits the usefulness of the annual ACS data.

Thus, the topics included in this paper are limited. In addition to the total population, the population living in households, and the population living in group quarters, the following topics are discussed:

- Household type (based on the relationship to householder question)
- Race and ethnicity
- Age
- Housing units and vacancies
- Homeownership

For each topic, the 2010 results for Arizona are compared to the national figures and to the results for other states. A summary is then provided for Arizona counties and places. The change in each measure between 2000 and 2010 also is discussed; in some cases the change is compared to that between 1990 and 2000.

Since Arizona’s population in 2010 was considerably overprojected and overestimated, the census results by state and for Arizona counties and places are compared to the estimates and projections. Results from the ACS for two key indicators of the population size also are compared to the 2010 census.

In addition to this paper, two Excel files that provide census data by state, Arizona county, and Arizona place for 2010 and preceding decennial censuses are available online at <http://economist.asu.edu/arizona-demographics>.

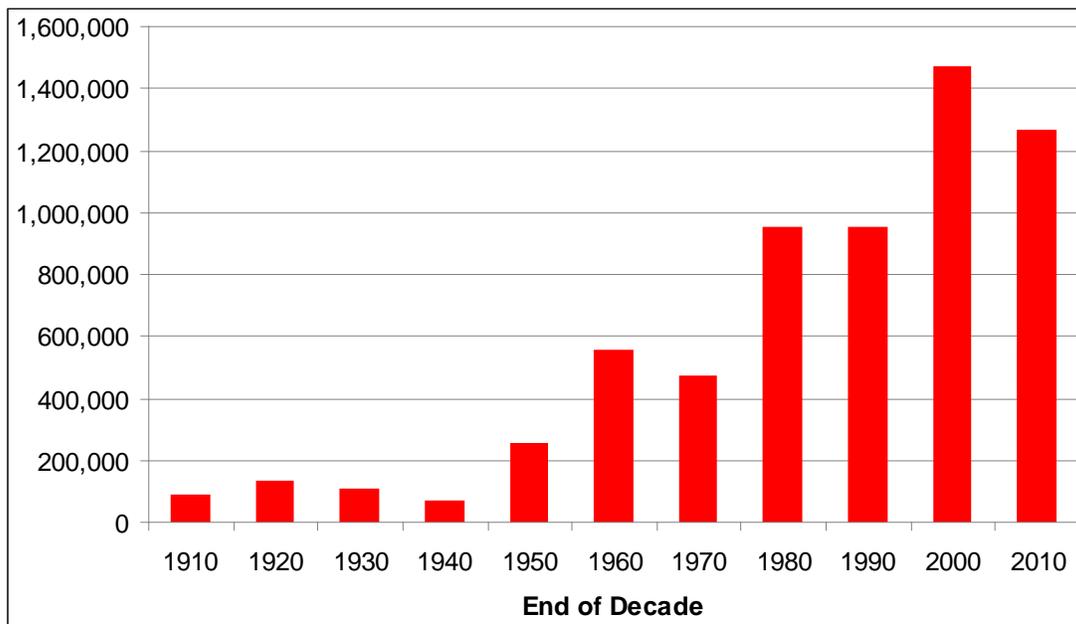
## TOTAL POPULATION

Arizona's population count on April 1, 2010 was 6,392,017, an increase of 1,261,385 (24.6 percent) from April 1, 2000. The numeric population gain was less than in the preceding decade, but more than in earlier decades (see Chart 1). The state's population gain accounted for 4.6 percent of the national total between 2000 and 2010, a marginally higher share than in the three preceding decades.

Even if numeric population change remains constant, the percentage change decreases due to the increasing base, making it difficult to interpret the percentage change over time. For example, the numeric increase in Arizona during the 1980s was nearly identical to that of the 1970s, but the percentage change dropped from 54 percent during the 1970s to 35 percent during the 1980s. Arizona's percentage change between 2000 and 2010 was the lowest since the 1930s and only one-third the figure from the 1950s. Relative to the nation's percentage change, Arizona's figure in the last decade was 2.5 times as great. This too is the lowest ratio since the 1930s; the highest ratio came during the 1970s at 4.7.

The state's greater numeric population change after 1990 was in part due to an increase in the number of undocumented immigrants settling in Arizona. Immigrants moved to Arizona and the rest of the United States in greater numbers because the number of American-born individuals entering the workforce was inadequate to fill the number of jobs being created. The number of Americans born during the "baby bust" — from the mid-1960s into the 1980s — was considerably less than in the preceding (and subsequent) decades, yet the need for workers

**CHART 1  
NUMERIC POPULATION CHANGE BY DECADE, ARIZONA**



Note: As of April 1.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

remained at baby-boom levels. Since the United States did not adjust its immigration quotas to reflect this increased need for labor, more immigrants had to cross the border illegally.

Once the increase in undocumented immigration began, the United States began to toughen its border security. Until then, it had been common for young males to cross the border from Mexico, work in the United States for a time, then return to their families in Mexico. Once it became difficult and expensive to cross the border, the entire family immigrated and remained in the United States, raising demand for certain goods and services that allowed even more immigrants to find work in the United States. Thus, the increase in the number of undocumented immigrants was larger than what would have been expected simply due to the shortage of American-born individuals entering the workforce.

In interpreting the population gain by decade calculated from the decennial censuses, it is important to understand that the state's annual population gain is far from consistent due to the economic cycle. Job availability varies widely with the economic cycle and most of the state's population gain results from the net in-migration of working-age people. Due to the extreme cyclicity of the economy during the last decade — an unprecedented boom in the middle of the decade followed by the longest and deepest recession since the 1930s — the annual population gains between 2000 and 2010 varied more substantially than is typical.

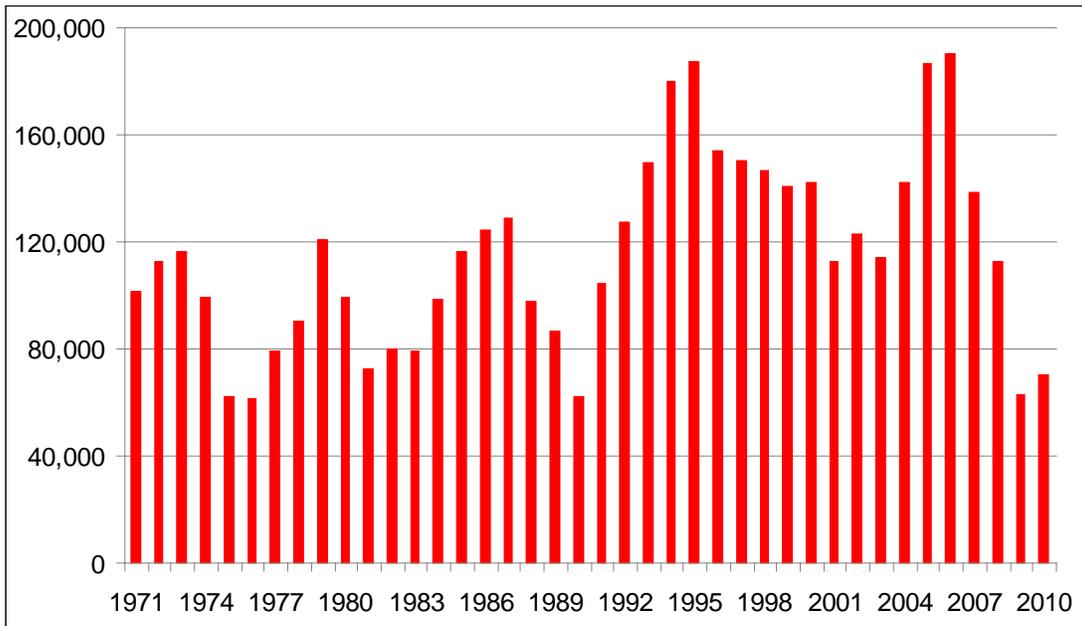
An additional factor affected population growth in recent years. Arizona unilaterally passed an “employer sanctions” law in mid-2007 that went into effect January 1, 2008. Employer penalties for hiring an undocumented immigrant were stiffened, making it difficult for undocumented immigrants to find work. As a result, the out-migration of undocumented immigrants from Arizona after mid-2007 was greater than what would have occurred due to the onset of the recession, which occurred simultaneously with the implementation of the employer sanctions law.

Annual estimates of the population, expressed as of July 1, are produced by the Census Bureau. The estimated annual changes in population over the last four decades are shown in Chart 2. The relatively large gains from early 1990s through 2007 as well as the cyclicity of the numeric increases are readily apparent.

Estimates produced before the 2010 census count was available showed substantially higher gains over the decade than what really occurred. The Census Bureau has revised their estimates from 2000 to 2010 to incorporate the 2010 census results. However, since the Census Bureau uses a standard methodology for the entire country, unusual events such as the passage of Arizona's employer sanctions law are not captured in the methodology. Thus, even the revised estimates shown in Chart 2 arguably present an inaccurate annual pattern of population gains between 2000 and 2010.

In Chart 3, the Census Bureau's estimates of annual population change between 2000 and 2010 are compared to an alternative series, produced by the author, that incorporates the effects of the employer sanctions law. Relative to the Census Bureau's figures, the alternative shows greater population growth in each year from 2001 through 2007, but lesser growth thereafter, with wide differences in the estimates for 2009 and 2010.

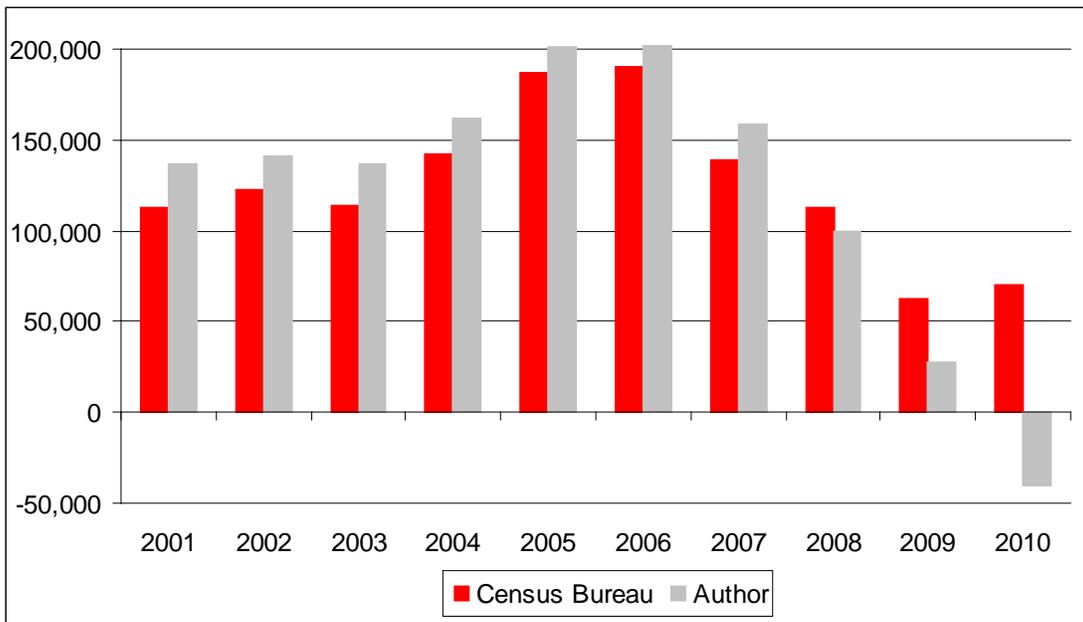
**CHART 2  
NUMERIC POPULATION CHANGE BY YEAR, ARIZONA**



Note: As of July 1.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (population estimates).

**CHART 3  
ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATES OF NUMERIC POPULATION CHANGE  
BY YEAR, ARIZONA**



Note: As of July 1.

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (population estimates), and author.

In the alternative series, the annual population gain in Arizona from mid-2004 through mid-2005 set a record that was barely eclipsed in the following year. The combination of the recession and the employer sanctions legislation resulted in steep declines in population growth, culminating in a drop in population between mid-2009 and mid-2010. For the last three years of the decade, the population growth figures are far lower than the original estimates.

Since employment in Arizona began to rise in late 2010, a return to population growth likely occurred between mid-2010 and mid-2011. However, the estimated increases were modest at less than 30,000, with in-migrating retirees disproportionately accounting for the gain.

### **All States**

Nationally, population growth in the last decade was less than in the prior decade, with the percentage change slipping from 13.2 to 9.7 and the numeric change dropping from 32.7 million to 27.3 million. The nation by far experienced its largest numeric increase during the 1990s, as immigration, much of it undocumented, soared. Immigration dropped back during the last decade.

Arizona was the 16th most populous state in 2010. If the annual average numeric population growth between 2000 and 2010 were to continue in each state, Arizona's population would surpass that of Indiana, Massachusetts, and Washington before 2020 and rank 13th. It would be nearly 2040 before Arizona's rank changed further.

The numeric population increase in Arizona between 2000 and 2010 was sixth largest in the nation, considerably less than in Texas, California, and Florida and somewhat less than in Georgia and North Carolina. Arizona's percentage change in population over the decade was second highest behind Nevada. Utah, Idaho, and Texas also experienced population growth in excess of 20 percent.

Like Arizona and the nation, most states experienced a lesser numeric population increase between 2000 and 2010 than in the prior decade. However, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia had the largest decadal gain on record.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

Arizona's population is heavily concentrated (81 percent of the total) in three counties in the south-central part of the state; the population of this three-county area grew faster than the rest of the state, accounting for 85 percent of the numeric increase between 2000 and 2010. The Phoenix metropolitan area, which consists of Maricopa and Pinal counties, was home to 66 percent of the state's residents in 2010, with nearly 60 percent of the state's population living in Maricopa County alone. The Phoenix metro area accounted for nearly three-fourths of the state's population increase in the decade. The Tucson metropolitan area (Pima County) was home to 15 percent of the state's residents; it accounted for 11 percent of the state's population increase between 2000 and 2010. The numeric gains in the decade were approximately 745,000 in Maricopa County, 196,000 in Pinal County, and 137,000 in Pima County. The next highest figure was 45,000 in Mohave County.

Pinal County by far posted the greatest percentage growth in population over the 2000-to-2010 decade at 109 percent. Mohave County was second at 29 percent, followed by Yavapai (26 percent), Maricopa (24 percent), Santa Cruz (24 percent), and Yuma (22 percent). In contrast, Greenlee County lost population and the gain was less than 5 percent in Apache, Gila, and La Paz counties.

Except Pinal, every county experienced lesser percentage growth in the 2000-to-2010 decade than during the 1990s. Numeric growth between 2000 and 2010 was much greater than in the prior decade in Pinal County, but the only other county with a (barely) greater gain was Santa Cruz. The numeric increase was at least 20 percent lower in the last decade in 11 of the other counties, with a substantially lesser gain in Apache, Gila, Graham, La Paz, and Navajo.

For the 2010 census, 451 places were defined in Arizona. Ninety were incorporated cities and towns. Within the unincorporated area of the state, 361 Census Designated Places (CDPs) were defined for the 2010 census. (One of these, Tusayan, incorporated just prior to the census date, too late to be included in the census count as an incorporated place.) Most of the CDPs are small: two-thirds had a population of less than 1,000 and nearly 95 percent had less than 10,000 residents. Many of the CDPs were newly defined for 2010 and others had a change in geographic boundaries between 2000 and 2010 — making it difficult to determine the rate of growth.

The focus in this paper is incorporated cities and towns (hereafter referred to as cities), which ranged in size in 2010 from less than 1,000 to 1.45 million residents. Similarly, the percentage change in population between 2000 and 2010 varied widely, from more than 100 percent in 10 to negative in 10. In general, those cities with very large percentage increases had few residents in 2000 and/or grew in part by annexing surrounding land into the city. The 2010 census count and the 2000-to-2010 change in population are included in Table 1, beginning on page 11.

## COMPARISON TO ESTIMATES

The U.S. Census Bureau makes annual population estimates, as of July 1, for states, counties, and incorporated places. In Arizona, the Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics (OEPS, now a part of the Arizona Department of Administration) also issues annual estimates as of July 1 for counties and places. Both agencies substantially overestimated Arizona's population relative to the 2010 census count.

The Census Bureau's estimate of the Arizona population on the census date of April 1, 2010 was approximately 262,000 (4.1 percent) higher than the census count. The OEPS did not issue an estimate of the state's population as of the census date, but their estimate for July 1, 2009 was some 87,000 higher than the Census Bureau's estimate for the same date.

Most of the differential between the census count and the estimates likely result from a true overestimate of the number of people living in Arizona. While the Census Bureau reports that Hispanics and other minority groups are consistently undercounted in the decennial censuses, there is little evidence that these groups were undercounted in Arizona by an unusual degree in the 2010 census.

The accuracy of population estimates is greatly restricted by the unavailability or late availability of data for key indicators of population size. These data limitations affect each of the several methods that can be used to estimate the population. Historically, two or three methods have been used by the OEPS to estimate state and county populations, including the housing unit method (HUM). Due to the greater data limitations at the place level (cities, towns, and unincorporated areas), the HUM has been the only method used to estimate the population at the place level.

The HUM provides an estimate of the population living in housing units; an estimate of the population living in group quarters is added to it to produce an estimate of the entire population. The HUM has three components: the number of housing units, the vacancy rate, and the average number of people living in a housing unit. A reasonably accurate estimate of the number of housing units can be produced based on the count of housing units in the prior census and the number of new housing units permitted or completed since then, less the number of units demolished. However, there is no source of accurate annual information on housing vacancy rates or persons per household. Lacking any current data, the OEPS assumed that the vacancy rate and household size throughout the 2000-to-2010 decade was equivalent to the figure from the 2000 census.

Based on the 2000 vacancy rate and persons per household and the OEPS's estimate of the number of housing units on April 1, 2010, the estimate of household population in Arizona was about 221,000 higher than the census count. The 2000 vacancy rate of 13.15 percent was considerably less than the 2010 census figure of 16.3 percent. Thus, the number of occupied housing units was estimated; this component of the HUM produced an overestimate of the state's population of around 235,400.

The average household size for Arizona in 2010 was a little less than 2.63, which is slightly less than the just more than 2.64 figure from the 2000 census. Thus, by holding the average

household size equal to the 2000 figure, this component of the HUM overestimated the population by about 32,200. These overestimates of the population were partially offset by an underestimate of the number of housing units; this component of the HUM underestimated the population by approximately 46,700.

### **All States**

The Census Bureau overestimated Arizona's 2010 population by more than in any other state, on both a numeric and percentage basis. The percentage overestimate of 4.1 was more than double that of any other state. In contrast, in most states and for the nation as a whole, the Census Bureau's estimate for April 1, 2010 was slightly *less* than the census count.

No geographical pattern is seen in the differences between the Census Bureau estimates and the census counts. States with an overestimate include Arizona's neighboring states of Utah and Colorado, but also Georgia, Massachusetts, and New York. The population was underestimated in California, New Mexico, and Texas (the other states sharing a border with Mexico), and other western states were split between being over- or underestimated.

Of particular interest is the comparison between Arizona and Nevada. Following a long period of the two states leading the nation in percentage population growth, Arizona and Nevada were among the three states that were hardest hit by the 2008-09 economic recession. In contrast to the overestimate of Arizona's population, Nevada's population was *underestimated* by the Census Bureau by 1.8 percent.

Two factors that have been cited as explanations why Arizona's census count was lower than the estimates are equally applicable in Nevada:

- Population growth during the real estate boom in the mid-2000s may have been overestimated. A higher-than-normal proportion of the buyers of new homes in both states appear to have never moved into the house or to have occupied it only on a seasonal basis.
- The severity of the recent recession could have resulted in net migration from other states to Arizona and to Nevada to be lower than estimated. However, the Census Bureau's original estimates of net domestic migration included a reduction in the year ending June 30, 2009 to near zero in Arizona and to a slight negative in Nevada. (The revised estimates for 2000-to-2010 do not include detail on the cause of population change, such as net domestic migration.)

Thus, another factor must explain why Arizona's census count is (a) so much lower than the estimate relative to Nevada and to other neighboring states, and (b) why Arizona's differential between the census count and the estimate is the largest in the nation. The most likely explanation is that the estimates did not take into account Arizona's unique laws intended to deter undocumented immigration. The employer sanctions law that was signed into law in early July 2007 became effective at the beginning of 2008. It appears to have caused many undocumented immigrants to leave Arizona. A study by the Public Policy Institute of California indicated that around 92,000 undocumented immigrants left Arizona in 2008 and 2009 due to this law. Like other groups, undocumented immigrants were affected by the loss of jobs during the recession. The total number of undocumented immigrants leaving Arizona during this period

exceeded 100,000. Senate Bill 1070 may have caused additional undocumented immigrants to leave Arizona. It received considerable publicity prior to the April 1, 2010 census date and was signed into law shortly thereafter.

Immigration is the weakest part of the Census Bureau's population estimates since so little information on the number of undocumented immigrants is available. The Census Bureau's original estimates display little downward trend in net immigration in recent years in Arizona, despite the unavailability of jobs during the deep recession and the implementation of the employer sanctions law. Thus, the estimates of net immigration in recent years could be considerably overstated; Arizona likely experienced a substantial net outflow of undocumented immigrants, beginning in the year starting on July 1, 2007.

Most of the error in the population estimates for Arizona likely occurred after mid-2007. The onset of a long and severe recession combined with the implementation of the employer sanctions law almost certainly caused the net number of people moving to the state to swing from a large net inflow to a net outflow. Net migration likely was negative from 2008 into 2010; during the latter stages of the recession net out-migration probably more than offset net natural increase (the greater number of births than deaths), resulting in a drop in population.

#### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The Census Bureau and the Arizona OEPS significantly underestimated the 2010 population of Pinal County, Arizona's most rapidly growing county, relative to the 2010 census count. In contrast, the Arizona OEPS overestimated the population in each of the other counties, by more than 5 percent in nine of the counties, including populous Maricopa County. The Census Bureau's estimates for the most populous counties (Maricopa and Pima) were too high by more than 4 percent. However, the Census Bureau's estimates for most of the other Arizona counties were a little too low.

Most of the July 1, 2009 estimates of population by place (incorporated cities and towns and the unincorporated area in each county) that were made by the OEPS were higher than the April 1, 2010 census count, even in Pinal County. On a percentage basis, some of the errors were quite large, as seen in Table 1. The most notable underestimates of the number of residents occurred in the unincorporated portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties. While some fast-growing cities west of Phoenix were underestimated, others were overestimated.

#### **American Community Survey**

The American Community Survey (ACS) began nationwide in 2005. This survey replaces the long form of the decennial census that was used through 2000 to provide information on a broad range of socioeconomic and housing indicators, including the vacancy rate and average household size (key components of the HUM). The ACS is conducted on an ongoing basis, providing data annually (calendar year annual average) and for three-year and five-year averages.

Estimates from the ACS include survey error. The magnitude of the error is small for annual estimates of very populous areas (those with a population of more than several million), but

**TABLE 1  
POPULATION IN ARIZONA BY COUNTY AND PLACE**

	Decennial Census			2009 Estimate	
	2010	2000-10 Change		Difference From Census	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
ARIZONA	6,392,017	1,261,385	24.6	291,112	4.6
APACHE	71,518	2,095	3.0	5,150	7.2
Eagar	4,885	852	21.1	-71	-1.4
St. Johns	3,480	211	6.5	728	20.9
Springerville	1,961	-11	-0.6	260	13.3
Unincorporated	61,192	1,043	1.7	4,232	6.9
COCHISE	131,346	13,591	11.5	8,917	6.8
Benson	5,105	394	8.4	57	1.1
Bisbee	5,575	-515	-8.5	848	15.2
Douglas	17,378	3,066	21.4	380	2.2
Huachuca City	1,853	102	5.8	102	5.5
Sierra Vista	43,888	6,113	16.2	2,709	6.2
Tombstone	1,380	-124	-8.2	340	24.6
Willcox	3,757	24	0.6	169	4.5
Unincorporated	52,410	4,531	9.5	4,313	8.2
COCONINO	134,421	18,101	15.6	2,314	1.7
Flagstaff	65,870	12,976	24.5	-348	-0.5
Fredonia	1,314	278	26.8	-189	-14.4
Page	7,247	438	6.4	200	2.8
Sedona (part)	2,842	-121	-4.1	345	12.1
Williams	3,023	181	6.4	137	4.5
Unincorporated	54,125	4,349	8.7	2,169	4.0
GILA	53,597	2,262	4.4	3,607	6.7
Globe	7,532	46	0.6	221	2.9
Hayden	662	-230	-25.8	173	26.1
Miami	1,837	-99	-5.1	47	2.6
Payson	15,301	1,681	12.3	1,941	12.7
Star Valley*	2,310			-141	-6.1
Winkelman (part)	353	-86	-19.6	68	19.4
Unincorporated	25,602			1,297	5.1
GRAHAM	37,220	3,731	11.1	2,572	6.9
Pima	2,387	398	20.0	55	2.3
Safford	9,566	334	3.6	528	5.5
Thatcher	4,865	843	21.0	954	19.6
Unincorporated	20,402	2,156	11.8	1,035	5.1
GREENLEE	8,437	-110	-1.3	251	3.0
Clifton	3,311	715	27.5	-693	-20.9
Duncan	696	-116	-14.3	161	23.1
Unincorporated	4,430	-709	-13.8	783	17.7

	Decennial Census			2009 Estimate	
	2010	2000-10 Change		Difference From Census	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
LA PAZ	20,489	774	3.9	1,127	5.5
Parker	3,083	-57	-1.8	304	9.9
Quartzsite	3,677	323	9.6	54	1.5
Unincorporated	13,729	508	3.8	769	5.6
MARICOPA	3,817,117	744,968	24.2	206,214	5.4
Apache Junction (part)	294	21	7.7	-18	-6.1
Avondale	76,238	40,355	112.5	662	0.9
Buckeye	50,876	44,339	678.3	1,888	3.7
Carefree	3,363	436	14.9	595	17.7
Cave Creek	5,015	1,287	34.5	193	3.8
Chandler	236,123	59,542	33.7	8,964	3.8
El Mirage	31,797	24,188	317.9	1,813	5.7
Fountain Hills	22,489	2,254	11.1	3,618	16.1
Gila Bend	1,922	-58	-2.9	-22	-1.1
Gilbert	208,453	98,756	90.0	9,068	4.4
Glendale	226,721	7,909	3.6	22,476	9.9
Goodyear	65,275	46,364	245.2	-3,359	-5.1
Guadalupe	5,523	295	5.6	479	8.7
Litchfield Park	5,476	1,666	43.7	-354	-6.5
Mesa	439,041	42,666	10.8	22,061	5.0
Paradise Valley	12,820	-844	-6.2	1,866	14.6
Peoria (part)	154,058	45,695	42.2	4,651	3.0
Phoenix	1,445,632	124,587	9.4	129,791	9.0
Queen Creek (part)	25,912	21,715	517.4	-986	-3.8
Scottsdale	217,385	14,680	7.2	26,116	12.0
Surprise	117,517	86,669	281.0	-8,035	-6.8
Tempe	161,719	3,094	2.0	13,114	8.1
Tolleson	6,545	1,571	31.6	378	5.8
Wickenburg	6,363	1,281	25.2	88	1.4
Youngtown	6,156	3,146	104.5	357	5.8
Unincorporated	284,404	73,354	34.8	-29,190	-10.3
MOHAVE	200,186	45,154	29.1	6,577	3.3
Bullhead City	39,540	5,771	17.1	2,069	5.2
Colorado City	4,821	1,487	44.6	-788	-16.4
Kingman	28,068	7,999	39.9	1,121	4.0
Lake Havasu City	52,527	10,589	25.2	2,975	5.7
Unincorporated	75,230	19,308	34.5	1,199	1.6
NAVAJO	107,449	9,979	10.2	7,971	7.4
Holbrook	5,053	136	2.8	556	11.0
Pinetop-Lakeside	4,282	700	19.5	476	11.1
Show Low	10,660	2,965	38.5	1,708	16.0
Snowflake	5,590	1,130	25.3	-62	-1.1
Taylor	4,112	936	29.5	414	10.1
Winslow	9,655	135	1.4	781	8.1
Unincorporated	68,097	3,977	6.2	4,098	6.0

	Decennial Census			2009 Estimate	
	2010	2000-10 Change		Difference From Census	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
PIMA	980,263	136,517	16.2	37,749	3.9
Marana	34,961	21,405	157.9	-770	-2.2
Oro Valley	41,011	11,311	38.1	2,510	6.1
Sahuarita	25,259	22,017	679.1	-291	-1.2
South Tucson	5,652	162	3.0	163	2.9
Tucson	520,116	33,417	6.9	23,450	4.5
Unincorporated	353,264	48,205	15.8	12,686	3.6
PINAL	375,770	196,043	109.1	-19,467	-5.2
Apache Junction (part)	35,546	4,005	12.7	2,042	5.7
Casa Grande	48,571	23,347	92.6	-2,578	-5.3
Coolidge	11,825	4,039	51.9	334	2.8
Eloy	16,631	6,256	60.3	2,374	14.3
Florence	25,536	8,482	49.7	258	1.0
Kearny	1,950	-299	-13.3	329	16.9
Mammoth	1,426	-336	-19.1	357	25.0
Maricopa*	43,482			-4,053	-9.3
Queen Creek (part)	449	330	277.3	54	12.0
Superior	2,837	-417	-12.8	537	18.9
Winkelman (part)	0	-4	-100.0	4	100.0
Unincorporated	187,517			-19,126	-10.2
SANTA CRUZ	47,420	9,039	23.6	480	1.0
Nogales	20,837	-41	-0.2	796	3.8
Patagonia	913	32	3.6	21	2.3
Unincorporated	25,670	9,048	54.4	-337	-1.3
YAVAPAI	211,033	43,516	26.0	17,461	8.3
Camp Verde	10,873	1,422	15.0	730	6.7
Chino Valley	10,817	2,982	38.1	2,263	20.9
Clarkdale	4,097	675	19.7	-77	-1.9
Cottonwood	11,265	2,086	22.7	-75	-0.7
Dewey-Humboldt*	3,894			605	15.5
Jerome	444	115	35.0	-117	-26.3
Peoria (part)	7	6	600.0	-4	-60.9
Prescott	39,843	5,905	17.4	3,730	9.4
Prescott Valley	38,822	15,287	65.0	136	0.4
Sedona (part)	7,189	4,226	142.6	1,018	14.2
Unincorporated	83,782			9,252	11.0
YUMA	195,751	35,725	22.3	10,189	5.2
San Luis	25,505	10,183	66.5	2,124	8.3
Somerton	14,287	7,021	96.6	-2,574	-18.0
Wellton	2,882	1,053	57.6	-519	-18.0
Yuma	93,064	15,549	20.1	1,297	1.4
Unincorporated	60,013	1,919	3.3	9,861	16.4

\* Incorporated between 2000 and 2010

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census, as of April 1), and Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics (2009 estimate, as of July 1).

increases substantially with declining population size. Survey error is less for the three-year and five-year averages, but still is substantial for less populous areas.

It was hoped that the ACS results for the vacancy rate and average household size could be used in the HUM instead of holding the decennial census figures constant. Actual average household size changes only slowly and abrupt changes in the vacancy rate also are unlikely. However, a review of the annual ACS results for states reveals year-to-year fluctuations in these two measures in a number of states that are unlikely to have a basis in reality. The time series is even more erratic for less populous areas such as counties and places.

In addition to the ACS survey error, the timing of the release of ACS data limits its usefulness in preparing population estimates. Arizona statute requires that the OEPS prepare estimates each fall. For example, in making the estimates for July 1, 2011 during fall 2011, the latest ACS data were for calendar year 2010, released in September 2011.

ACS results for 2009 and 2010 for the vacancy rate and average household size have been compared to the decennial census figures for April 1, 2010 in Table 2. (Single-year ACS results are not available for five Arizona counties, which are excluded from the table.) Two conclusions can be made from this comparison:

- In some counties, the ACS results for 2010 are considerably different from those for 2009; the difference likely largely reflects sampling error.
- The ACS estimates for household size in 2009 and/or 2010 are significantly different from the decennial census figure in all counties. The vacancy rate estimates from the ACS are substantially different from the decennial census figure in most counties.

**TABLE 2  
COMPARISON OF DECENNIAL CENSUS AND AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY,  
ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	Vacancy Rate (%)					Persons Per Household				
	A09	A10	C10	A09D	A10D	A09	A10	C10	A09D	A10D
Arizona	17.3	18.0	16.3	1.0	1.7	2.84	2.69	2.63	0.21	0.06
Apache	41.9	42.6	30.0	11.9	12.6	3.67	3.82	3.10	0.57	0.72
Cochise	16.0	15.7	13.8	2.2	1.9	2.53	2.55	2.46	0.07	0.09
Coconino	27.6	30.2	26.2	1.4	4.0	2.85	2.84	2.69	0.16	0.15
Maricopa	14.5	15.6	13.9	0.6	1.7	2.93	2.73	2.67	0.26	0.06
Mohave	28.3	25.9	25.6	2.4	0.3	2.61	2.41	2.39	0.22	0.02
Navajo	36.3	38.7	37.4	-1.1	1.3	3.18	3.00	2.95	0.23	0.05
Pima	14.1	13.3	11.9	2.2	1.4	2.71	2.49	2.46	0.25	0.03
Pinal	23.7	25.6	21.1	2.6	4.5	2.83	2.99	2.78	0.05	0.21
Yavapai	17.8	18.0	17.7	0.1	0.3	2.41	2.25	2.28	0.13	-0.03
Yuma	19.3	23.0	26.3	-7.0	-3.3	2.67	2.84	2.93	-0.26	-0.09

Abbreviations: 'A09'=ACS 2009; 'A10'=ACS 2010; 'C10'=Census 2010; 'A09D'=difference between ACS 2009 and Census 2010; 'A10D'=difference between ACS 2010 and Census 2010

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census and 2009 and 2010 American Community Survey).

Given that average household size is applied to all households, even a small error can make a big difference in the population estimate: a discrepancy of 0.01 amounts to 24,000 people statewide. Similarly, a 0.5 discrepancy in the vacancy rate causes an error in the Arizona population estimate of 37,000 people. Substituting the ACS vacancy rate for the actual rate in Arizona, the household population would be 127,000 lower based on the 2010 rate and 75,000 lower based on the 2009 rate. Substituting the ACS household size for the actual persons per household in Arizona, the household population would be 152,000 higher based on the 2010 rate and 509,000 higher based on the 2009 rate. In most counties, the direction of the errors in the ACS vacancy rates and persons per household was the same as the state total. In Yuma County, the direction was reversed.

Another way of looking at the ACS errors is to consider the change between 2000 and 2010. According to the decennial censuses, the average household size in Arizona fell by 0.01. In contrast, using the 2009 ACS, the size increased by 0.20; using the 2010 ACS, the increase was 0.05. The state's vacancy rate rose 3.2 percentage points according to the decennial censuses; the ACS estimates equate to an increase of 4.2 percentage points using the 2009 estimate and 4.9 percentage points using the 2010 estimate.

ACS results for the vacancy rate and persons per household also were compared to the 2010 census for the nation and the other states. Nationally, the ACS vacancy rates were higher than the rate from the 2010 census, by 1.2 percentage points in 2009 and 1.7 percentage points in 2010. The differences in Arizona (1.0 and 1.7 percentage points) were nearly identical to the national average. In 43 states in 2009 and 47 states in 2010, the ACS vacancy rate was higher than that from the decennial census.

As with the vacancy rate, the estimate of persons per household from the ACS was substantially in error nationally and in most states. In 42 states in 2009 and 46 states in 2010, the ACS average household size was higher than that from the decennial census.

In nearly all of the states, the ACS errors in the vacancy rate and household size were of opposite direction. Generally, a vacancy rate higher than the decennial census figure understated the population but an average household size larger than the decennial census figure overstated the population.

## COMPARISON TO PROJECTIONS

The OEPS periodically issues population projections for the state, counties, and subcounty areas. (In some cases, the subcounty projections are made by the local Council of Governments.) The last set of projections was issued in 2006. In addition, the U.S. Census Bureau occasionally has made projections by state; the latest figures were released in 2005.

The Census Bureau's national population projection for 2010 (as of July 1) was just 0.1 percent higher than the April 1 census count; adjusting for three months of population change between April 1 and July 1, the projection was slightly low. A significant geographic bias is present in the projections, with the projections higher than the census count in nearly all of the northeastern and Great Lakes states but lower in most of the rest of the states. The projections were particularly low in most of the western states. However, the Census Bureau overprojected Arizona's population by nearly 250,000 (4 percent).

The projections for Arizona made by the OEPS also were too high — by more than 600,000 (nearly 10 percent). These projections were based in part on the estimated population change between 2000 and 2005; an overestimate of the historical growth would cause the projected growth to be too high. The magnitude of the overprojection is in part due to the long and deep recession later in the decade and the implementation of the employer sanctions law that could not have been foreseen. However, the projections would have been too high even if the recession had been of typical length and depth. Going back decades, the accuracy of projections for Arizona has been affected by the economic conditions at the time the projections were made. (In the case of the projections issued in 2006, an unprecedented economic boom was still in progress.)

The population of most of the counties was overprojected by a magnitude similar to the state total, as seen in Table 3. However, the very rapid growth experienced in Pinal County was slightly underprojected. The population was overprojected in most places around the state. The most notable exceptions were the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy, and Maricopa in Pinal County and Somerton and Wellton in Yuma County.

In summary, despite a geographic bias to underproject population growth in the West, the Census Bureau overprojected growth in Arizona. As with the overestimates, the most likely cause of the error is the implementation of Arizona's employer sanctions law. The projections made by the OEPS were even higher. The additional error resulted in part because the projections were created during a period of unusually rapid growth and in part due to the severity of the recession.

**TABLE 3  
COMPARISON OF DECENNIAL CENSUS AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS,  
ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	<b>Projection in Thousands: July 1, 2010</b>	<b>Census Count in Thousands: April 1, 2010</b>	<b>Number Difference: Thousands</b>	<b>Percent Difference</b>
ARIZONA	6,999.8	6,392.0	607.8	10%
Apache	78.2	71.5	6.7	9
Cochise	146.0	131.3	14.7	11
Coconino	141.5	134.4	7.1	5
Gila	57.8	53.6	4.2	8
Graham	37.4	37.2	0.2	1
Greenlee	8.2	8.4	-0.2	-2
La Paz	22.6	20.5	2.1	10
Maricopa	4,217.4	3,817.1	400.3	10
Mohave	221.4	200.2	21.2	11
Navajo	123.2	107.4	15.8	15
Pima	1,070.7	980.3	90.4	9
Pinal	364.6	375.8	-11.2	-3
Santa Cruz	50.2	47.4	2.8	6
Yavapai	241.7	211.0	30.7	15
Yuma	218.8	195.8	23.0	12

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census), and Arizona Office of Employment and Population Statistics (projections, issued in 2006).

## POPULATION GROWTH PATTERNS BY COUNTY

The change in population between 2000 and 2010 shown in Table 1 does not adjust for annexations by incorporated cities and towns. An annexation of existing housing units shifts existing residents from being counted in an unincorporated area to being included in an incorporated place. The OEPS maintains a list of annexations and the number of existing housing units annexed.

### Major Urban Areas

All of the fastest-growing places in Arizona between 2000 and 2010 were suburbs of either Phoenix or Tucson. In the large urban areas, population growth moves outward from the core as the development of inner and older areas forces new home development to the fringes of the urban area. Since both the Phoenix and Tucson areas consist of multiple cities, city growth is heavily dependent on the location of the city relative to the fringe of the highly developed area.

The fastest-growing cities and towns between 2000 and 2010, such as Buckeye and Maricopa, were largely outside the fringe in the 1990s but substantially within the development ring during the 2000s. Portions of a few of the larger cities, such as Gilbert, were at the fringe in both decades and thus these cities experienced substantial population growth in both decades. In contrast, several cities whose area was largely developed by 2000 experienced substantially less growth during the 2000s than in the 1990s. The numeric gain in Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tucson each was at least 48,000 less than in the prior decade.

The population of **Maricopa** County in 2010 (3,817,117) accounted for 60 percent of the state total. Phoenix was the most populous city with 1,445,632 residents (38 percent of the county total). Only Phoenix and Tucson had more residents than Mesa's 439,041. Seven other cities had between 100,000 and 250,000 residents: Chandler, Glendale, Scottsdale, Gilbert, Tempe, Peoria, and Surprise (presented in order of size). Unlike the other counties, the share of the population living in the unincorporated area was small at just 7 percent.

Maricopa County's population rose 744,968 (24 percent) between 2000 and 2010. Nine cities plus the unincorporated part of the county posted population gains between 2000 and 2010 in excess of 40,000. While Phoenix had the largest numeric increase of 124,587, its percentage gain was only 9. Other large cities — Glendale, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe — also experienced relatively slow growth of 11 percent or less. In contrast, Gilbert's population increased 90 percent and its gain of 98,756 residents ranked second to Phoenix. Peoria and Chandler also had percentage gains above the county total.

Seven cities experienced at least a doubling in population. Some cities had a significant increase in population on both a numeric and percentage basis:

- Surprise ranked third on numeric growth (86,669 residents) and fourth on percentage growth (281).
- Buckeye had a gain of 44,339 (eighth) and 678 percent (first).
- Goodyear ranked sixth on numeric gain and fifth on a percentage basis.
- Avondale ranked 10th on numeric gain and sixth on a percentage basis.

Annexations were significant in a few cities in Maricopa County. In Gilbert, 22 percent of the increase in housing units between 2000 and 2010 resulted from annexations. The share was 10 percent in Mesa. More than half of the additional units in Wickenburg resulted from annexations.

In rapidly developing **Pinal** County, the northern part of the county is at the fringe of the Phoenix area and the southern part is not far from the Tucson urban area. Much greater population growth occurred in the county in the 2000s (196,043) than in the 1990s, pushing the 2010 population to 375,770. The population gain exceeded that in the much more populous Pima County. The percentage increase of 109 greatly exceeded the next highest county figure of 29 in Mohave County.

Half of the county's population in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area. The San Tan Valley CDP's population of 81,321 greatly exceeded the number of residents in the largest cities (48,571 in Casa Grande and 43,482 in Maricopa).

Growth was particularly rapid in the city of Maricopa, which incorporated during the decade and added more than 42,000 residents from a 2000 base estimated at about 1,000, and in unincorporated areas such as the San Tan Valley. More than three-fourths of the county's numeric increase occurred in Maricopa or the unincorporated area; the combined population of Maricopa and the unincorporated area rose 187 percent. Percentage gains also were substantial in Casa Grande, Eloy, and Florence. In contrast, the population dropped in three mining communities in the eastern part of the county.

**Pima** County's population rose 136,517 (16 percent) between 2000 and 2010, reaching 980,263. For a populous county, a large share (53 percent) of the residents in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area. Much of what is thought of as Tucson actually is unincorporated; two CDPs with a population of more than 50,000 and six others of more than 10,000 were identified. Sahuarita's population rose 679 percent (22,017) and the increase in Marana was 158 percent (21,405) between 2000 and 2010. The largest numeric gain (48,205) occurred in the unincorporated portion of the county; the increase in Tucson was 33,417 (only 7 percent).

### **Balance of State**

In the balance of the state, population growth during the 2000s varied widely — both geographically and relative to the 1990s — but in all cases was small relative to that in the large urban areas. A few generalities apply: all counties except Greenlee experienced population growth between 2000 and 2010 and the change was less than in the prior decade in all counties except Santa Cruz. These patterns, however, did not extend to the place level.

**Apache** County is dominated by the Navajo Reservation; 86 percent of the 2010 population of 71,518 lived in the unincorporated area. Population growth slowed considerably during the 2000s, primarily in the unincorporated portion of the county, but the numeric gain in the unincorporated area still accounted for half of the county's gain of 2,095 (3 percent). Eager experienced fast growth of 21 percent, but adjacent Springerville had a slight loss in population.

In neighboring **Navajo** County, which also has a significant portion of its land area in Native American reservations, 63 percent of the 107,449 residents lived in the unincorporated area in

2010. Show Low was the largest city, with 10,660 residents. More than two-thirds of the county's numeric increase in population of 9,979 between 2000 and 2010 occurred in Show Low and the unincorporated area. Compared to the county's 10 percent population growth between 2000 and 2010, four incorporated areas posted gains of 20 percent or more: Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Snowflake, and Taylor. As in Apache County, Navajo County also grew more slowly during the 2000s, with the numeric gain barely more than half that of the 1990s. This slowing occurred primarily in the unincorporated area and in Winslow; numeric growth in most towns was similar in the two decades.

The Navajo Reservation extends into **Coconino** County, but Coconino also has a significant population center off the reservation: nearly half of the county's 134,421 residents lived in Flagstaff in 2010. Of the county's population gain of 18,101 between 2000 and 2010, more than 70 percent occurred in Flagstaff. Flagstaff and Fredonia posted a growth rate of around 25 percent during the 2000s, compared to the county's 16 percent. In the 1990s, the population gain in Coconino County's unincorporated area exceeded that in Flagstaff, but during the 2000s the increase in Flagstaff was nearly three times as high as in the unincorporated area. Numeric growth accelerated in Flagstaff while slowing considerably in the unincorporated area.

Only a small portion of **Yavapai** County residents live on reservations; 40 percent of the county's 211,033 residents in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area. A larger number lived in incorporated cities in the Prescott-Prescott Valley-Chino Valley area. Prescott Valley's population in 2010 was nearly as high as that of Prescott. These three cities accounted for 56 percent of Yavapai County's numeric population increase of 43,516 between 2000 and 2010. The population of the portion of Sedona that is in Yavapai County more than doubled during the decade. Prescott Valley and Chino Valley also had percentage gains in excess of the county's 26 percent. Numeric growth was less in the 2000s than the 1990s in most of the county, with the slowdown greatest in the unincorporated area.

**Mohave** County's numeric population gain also was less during the 2000s, with significantly slower growth in Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City, and the unincorporated area. In contrast, Kingman and Colorado City added more residents than during the 1990s. Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu City each were sizable population centers in 2010, but 38 percent of the county's 200,186 residents lived in the unincorporated area. Of the county's numeric gain of 45,154 between 2000 and 2010, the unincorporated area was responsible for 42 percent. Percentage growth was greatest in Colorado City and Kingman and lagged behind the county figure of 29 percent in Bullhead City.

In **La Paz** County, the percentage gain during the 2000s was much lower at 4 percent. Two-thirds of the county's 20,489 residents in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area, which accounted for nearly two-thirds of the county's 2000-to-2010 numeric gain of 774 residents. Numeric population growth fell sharply from the 1990s to 2000s.

Nearly half of the 195,751 residents of **Yuma** County lived in the city of Yuma in 2010. Most of the county's numeric gain of 35,725 between 2000 and 2010 occurred in Yuma, San Luis, and Somerton. Numeric population growth during the 2000s fell sharply in the unincorporated portion of the county and moderately in the city of Yuma, but dropped only a little in the border

community of San Luis and rose significantly in Somerton. Percentage growth in Yuma County between 2000 and 2010 ranged from only 3 percent in the unincorporated area to 97 percent in Somerton and 67 percent in San Luis.

**Santa Cruz** County also shares a border with Mexico. More than half of its 2010 population of 47,420 lived in the unincorporated area, with nearly three-fourths of these residents in the Rio Rico CDP, located just north of Nogales. Combining Rio Rico's count of 18,962 residents with the 20,837 in Nogales, 84 percent of the county's residents lived in the Nogales area. Santa Cruz was the only rural county to have a larger population increase in the 2000s (9,039) than in the 1990s, though only by a small margin. Nogales, which is on the border, experienced a marginal loss of population during the 2000s after gaining during the 1990s. The unincorporated area experienced faster growth during the 2000s, with much of it occurring in the Rio Rico area. The population increase in the unincorporated area of 54 percent compares to 4 percent in Patagonia and no change in Nogales.

**Cochise** is the other border county. Forty percent of its 131,346 residents in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area. One-third of the county total lived in Sierra Vista. The county experienced lesser growth during the 2000s (13,591) than in the 1990s, especially in the unincorporated part of the county. In contrast, Sierra Vista and the border city of Douglas added more residents in the 2000s than in the 1990s, though the population gains resulted in part from annexations. Sierra Vista's numeric gain accounted for 45 percent of the county total. The fastest population growth in Cochise County between 2000 and 2010 was 21 percent in Douglas; Bisbee and Tombstone each had a loss of population of around 8 percent. The county's population increased 12 percent.

More than half of **Graham** County's 37,220 residents in 2010 lived in the unincorporated area; Safford was the largest population center. The unincorporated area also was responsible for more than half of the county's 2000-to-2010 population gain of 3,731, though Pima and Thatcher had faster population growth of 20-to-21 percent (compared to the county total of 11 percent). Most of the increase in the town of Pima was due to annexations. The county's numeric population gain was considerably less during the 2000s than in the 1990s, though Thatcher had a larger gain.

**Greenlee** County, Arizona's least populous, had only 8,437 residents in 2010; it was the only county to lose population (110 residents, 1 percent) during the 2000s. During the 1990s, the county's population had increased. The pattern by community reversed over the two decades: Clifton lost residents in the 1990s but gained during the 2000s, while the rest of the county gained residents during the 1990s but lost population during the 2000s.

**Gila** County's population in 2010 was 53,597, an increase of 2,262 (4 percent) between 2000 and 2010. All of the growth was in the northern part of Gila County. Payson alone accounted for three-fourths of the county's numeric gain, though the increase was less than in the 1990s. The population dropped during the 2000s in the mining communities in the southern part of the county, except for a slight increase in Globe.

## **HOUSEHOLD AND GROUP QUARTERS POPULATION**

Nationally, 97.4 percent of the people counted in the 2010 census lived in households. The remaining 2.6 percent — a slightly lesser share than in the two prior censuses — lived in group quarters. Half of the group quarters population lived in institutions — 28 percent in correctional facilities, 2 percent in juvenile facilities, 19 percent in nursing facilities, and 1 percent in other institutions. The other half lived in noninstitutional facilities — 32 percent in university housing, 4 percent in military quarters, and 14 percent in other facilities (including homeless shelters and group homes).

A lesser share of Arizona's population — 2.2 percent — lived in group quarters in 2010. The distribution also was different from the U.S. average, with nearly half of Arizona's group quarter's population incarcerated in prisons. Arizona had lesser-than-average shares living in university dormitories and nursing facilities.

Of those living in households, the average number of persons per household nationally fell from more than 2.59 to less than 2.58 between 2000 and 2010, a slightly smaller decrease than during the 1990s. Arizona's household size was less than 2.63 in 2010, down marginally from the 2000 figure of 2.64. A small increase in the figure had occurred during the 1990s.

In 2010, the average household size in Arizona was nearly identical in owner-occupied households and renter-occupied households. However, between 2000 and 2010, the average size of owner-occupied households fell while the average size of renter-occupied households increased. In part, this related to the decline in homeownership, which in turn was affected by the large number of foreclosures occurring after the real estate boom.

### **All States**

Only six states had a lower percentage living in group quarters than Arizona in 2010, but five of those states were other western states. The largest single factor for the variation in the group quarters share across the states was the percentage living in university dormitories. Variations also occurred in the percentage living in nursing facilities.

The majority of states experienced a decrease in household size during the last decade that was a little smaller than the decline that occurred during the 1990s. However, nine states experienced a small increase in household size between 2000 and 2010. Most western states experienced either a greater decline in size, a decrease in size following an increase in the prior decade, or a lesser increase in size between 2000 and 2010.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The share of the population living in group quarters in 2010 varied widely by county, from less than 1 percent in Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties to 10 percent in Graham County (see Chart 4). The share also exceeded 4.5 percent in Cochise, Coconino, and Pinal counties. The primary reason for the high shares in Graham and Pinal counties was the large number counted in correctional facilities; military quarters and correctional facilities contributed to the high share in Cochise County; and university housing was mostly responsible for the high share in Coconino County.

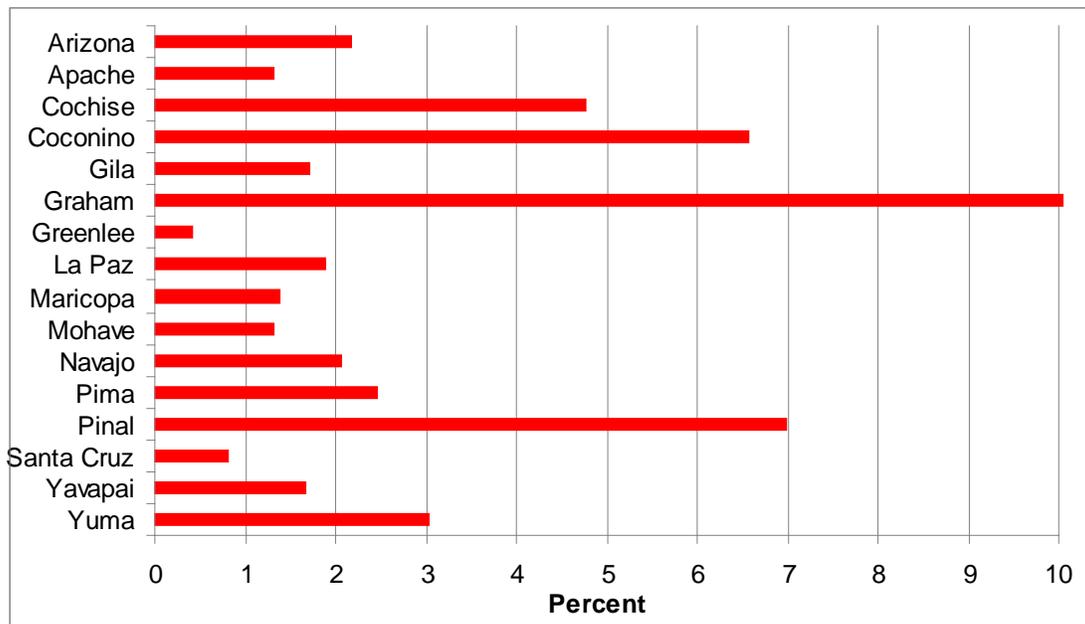
The factors contributing to a low share of group quarters population in Apache, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, and Santa Cruz counties varies. In most of these counties, correctional facilities are limited. Low shares in nursing facilities, university dormitories, and other noninstitutional facilities contributed in some of these counties.

The average household size in 2010 varied widely across Arizona’s counties, from 2.19 in La Paz County and 2.28 in Yavapai County to just more than 3 in Apache, Graham, and Santa Cruz counties. Among the three counties in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas, the figure in Pima (2.46) was less than that in Maricopa (2.67) and Pinal (2.78).

Like the nation, the change in average household size in several counties in the last decade was a smaller decrease than during the 1990s. However, average household size between 2000 and 2010 rose in Graham, Pinal, and Yuma counties, and fell more than in the prior decade in Gila, Mohave, and Yavapai counties.

In six Arizona communities, more than one-in-10 residents lived in group quarters in 2010, including 69 percent of the population in Florence and 44 percent in Eloy. Large prisons are primarily responsible for the high shares. Less than 1 percent of the population lived in group quarters in many places. Average household size ranged from 2 or less in Bisbee, Carefree, Jerome, Prescott, Quartzsite, and Sedona to more than 4 in San Luis and Guadalupe, and more than 8 in Colorado City. Between 2000 and 2010, the average household size jumped by at least 0.7 in Colorado City and Youngtown. The average fell by 0.3 or more in several of the state’s smaller communities.

**CHART 4  
SHARE OF POPULATION LIVING IN GROUP QUARTERS IN 2010,  
ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census).

## HOUSEHOLD TYPE

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies households into one of five types. Three types are considered families: (1) households with both a husband and wife present, (2) male-headed households in which relatives, but not the wife, of the household head live, and (3) households headed by a female without a husband present but with other relatives of the female living in the household. The other two types are considered to be nonfamily households: (4) households consisting of one person living alone, and (5) households with unrelated people living together.

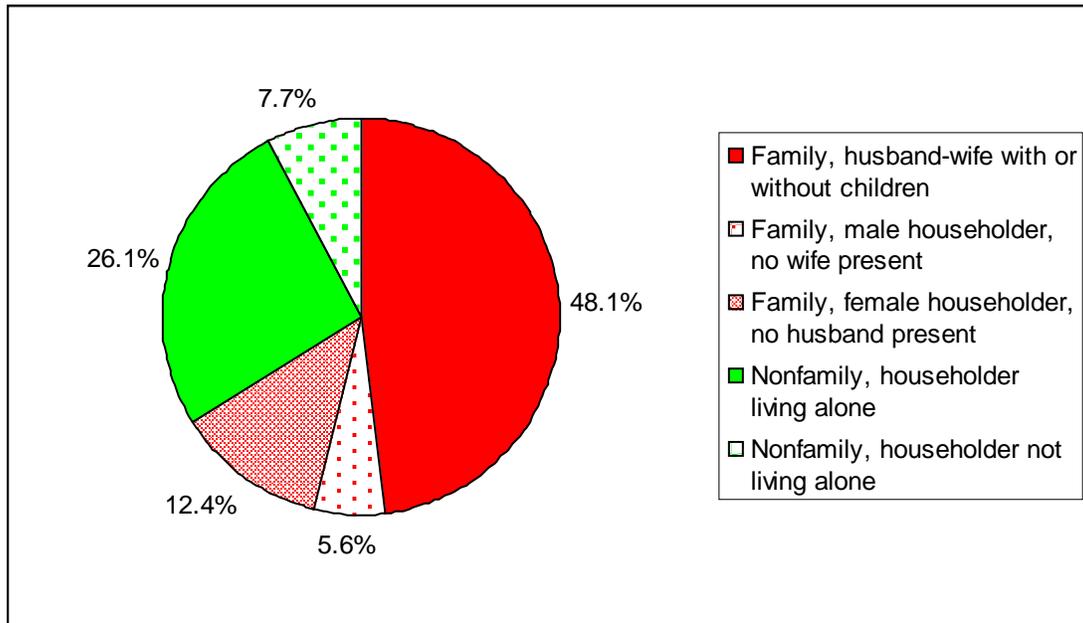
Nationally in 2010, husband-wife households made up 48 percent of all households. Male-headed families (no wife present) accounted for 5 percent, and female householders (no husband present) 13 percent, of the total. Nearly 27 percent of occupied housing units consisted of only one person, while unrelated individuals living together accounted for 7 percent of all households. Arizona's shares were similar to the national average (see Chart 5).

The husband-wife share nationally dropped 3 percentage points between 2000 and 2010. Shares rose in each of the other four household types. The changes were similar in Arizona.

### All States

Few states varied much from the national average distribution of household types, though the District of Columbia's figures were much different. Utah and Idaho were the only states in which husband-wife households accounted for more than 53 percent of the total. In three states (Louisiana, New York and Rhode Island), the share was a little less than 45 percent.

**CHART 5**  
**HOUSEHOLD TYPE IN 2010 AS A SHARE OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS, ARIZONA**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census).

Male-headed households (no wife present) accounted for between 4.1 and 6.2 percent of the total in every state. The percentage of households headed by a female (no husband present) exceeded 15 percent in several southern states while several northern Plains-northern Rocky Mountain states had shares around 9 percent.

The percentage of households consisting of a person living alone was more than 29 percent in a few states in the northern part of the country; a few states, including Utah and Idaho, had shares under 25 percent. Households consisting of unrelated individuals were most common (9 percent of the total) in Nevada, Oregon, and Vermont and least prevalent (around 5 percent of the total) in several of the southern states.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The distribution of household types varied more substantially by Arizona county than by state. Husband-wife households accounted for about 56 percent of all households in 2010 in Santa Cruz and Yuma counties; these counties had relatively few people living alone. In Apache County, only 43 percent of households consisted of a husband and wife and few households consisted of unrelated people. Instead, both male- and female-headed households (no spouse present) were disproportionately numerous. In Gila, La Paz, and Yavapai counties, each of which has a high proportion of elderly, at least 29 percent of households consisted of a person living alone.

The distribution of household types varied somewhat across the three populous urban counties. While Maricopa County's percentages were close to the national average, Pima County had relatively few husband-wife households and disproportionately many nonfamily households of both types. In contrast, husband-wife households were disproportionately numerous in Pinal County, offset by a low percent of people living alone.

By place, the husband-wife percentage ranged from more than 70 in Colorado City, Paradise Valley, and Queen Creek to less than 33 in Bisbee, Jerome, South Tucson, and Tempe. More than 10 percent of households were male-headed families (wife not present) in Guadalupe and Clifton, but the percentage in Quartzsite and Carefree was 2 percent or less. Female-headed families (husband not present) accounted for about 30 percent of the total in Guadalupe and Tolleson, but only 3 percent in Carefree and Quartzsite. The percentage of households consisting of a single person ranged from more than 40 in Bisbee, Cottonwood, Jerome, and Patagonia down to 6 percent in San Luis and Quartzsite. The percentage of other nonfamily households was highest in Tempe at 20 percent; the percentage also was high in the other university towns and in Jerome. In contrast, nonrelated people accounted for less than 2 percent of households in Colorado City, Pima, and San Luis.

The overall distribution of household type was considerably different from the national and state norms in some Arizona places. Colorado City and San Luis had many husband-wife families and few nonfamilies of either type. Paradise Valley had a high share of husband-wife families and low shares of other families and of people living alone. Quartzsite had a high percentage of people living alone and few male- or female-headed families (no spouse present). Few husband-wife families lived in Jerome, with many nonfamilies of both types. South Tucson had few husband-wife families but many headed by either a man or a woman without a spouse present.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

The 2010 census reports race for several categories: white, black, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other. Respondents could specify more than one race, as in the 2000 census. (In 1990, the option to enter more than one race was not provided.)

The census results are presented in two ways: “race alone” and “race in combination.” In the race-alone tabulations, a category for two or more races without specifying those races is included; the sum of the categories equals the population total. Race in combination counts each of the races specified for those indicating two or more races and thus sums to more than the population count. The 1990 census results cannot be exactly compared to subsequent figures, though as a share of the total population the 1990 figures are conceptually closer to race in combination than race alone.

The racial groups are reported in total and by ethnicity (Hispanic versus non-Hispanic). The varying ways of reporting race/ethnicity are shown in Table 4 for Arizona; the Asian and Pacific Islander groups were combined because of the small number of Pacific Islanders.

**TABLE 4  
RACE AND ETHNICITY AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION, ARIZONA**

	2010		2000-to-2010 Change	
	Alone	In Combination	Alone	In Combination
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	0.0	0.0
White	73.0	73.2	-2.5	-2.4
Black	4.1	4.8	1.0	1.3
American Indian	4.6	5.3	-0.3	-0.2
Asian & Pacific Islander	3.0	3.9	1.0	1.4
Other	11.9	12.8	0.3	0.0
Two or More Races	3.4	-	0.6	-
NOT HISPANIC	70.4	69.7	-4.4	-4.4
White	57.8	57.3	-6.0	-5.9
Black	3.7	4.3	0.8	1.1
American Indian	4.0	4.4	-0.5	-0.5
Asian & Pacific Islander	2.8	3.5	1.0	1.2
Other	0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.3
Two or More Races	1.8	-	0.3	-
HISPANIC	29.6	30.3	4.4	4.4
White	15.2	16.0	3.5	3.5
Black	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2
American Indian	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.3
Asian & Pacific Islander	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
Other	11.8	12.5	0.3	0.2
Two or More Races	1.6	-	0.3	-

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

Expressed in the race-alone format, Hispanics constituted 29.6 percent of Arizona's population in 2010, up 4.4 percentage points from 2000. On a race-combined basis, the increase also was 4.4 percentage points — less than the 7.1 percentage point rise during the 1990s.

Given the events of the last few years of the last decade, particularly the passage of the employer sanctions law and other anti-immigrant legislation, it is misleading to focus on the large gain in the Hispanic share during the 2000s. The share probably rose at a pace similar to that of the 1990s from 2000 through mid-2007 but may have declined since then and is unlikely to increase rapidly in the future.

In the 1990 and 2000 censuses, a nearly even number of Hispanics identified themselves racially as white and as “other” (small percentages identified themselves as black or one of the other races). Between 2000 and 2010, however, the white Hispanic category's percentage of the total population rose from 12.5 to 16.0 percent, while the increase in the “other” Hispanic category was only from 12.3 to 12.5 percent.

The percentage of Arizonans identifying themselves as non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander also has increased, but these groups are much smaller in number than Hispanics. In contrast, the non-Hispanic American Indian share of the population continued to fall between 2000 and 2010. The non-Hispanic white proportion again fell substantially, though not by as much as in the 1990s.

#### **All States**

This subsection is based on the race-in-combination data so that the changes in racial/ethnic composition between 2000 and 2010 can be more directly compared to those during the 1990-to-2000 decade.

Nationally, 63.4 percent of the population in 2010 indicated that they were entirely or partially non-Hispanic white. Each of the top 10 states had a percentage of at least 84.5, with the percentage greater than 90 in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and West Virginia. Northern Plains states also were among the top 10. In contrast, the non-Hispanic white share was 57.6 percent or less in 10 states. The share was only 27.5 percent in Hawaii and was less than 50 percent in California, District of Columbia, New Mexico, and Texas. Some East Coast states also had a low percentage. Arizona's share of 57.3 percent was ninth lowest.

The non-Hispanic white share nationally did not fall as much between 2000 and 2010 (a decrease of 5.2 percentage points) as in the prior decade (a drop of 7.0 percentage points). The decline in Arizona was greater than the national average in each decade, ranking fourth largest in the 1990s and 11th in the 2000s. Several other western states experienced relatively large drops, as did several states on the East Coast.

The Hispanic proportion of the population in 2010 was 16.9 percent nationally. Only nine states had a proportion this high, but the nine included the highly populous states of California, Florida, New York, and Texas. Arizona's proportion of 30.3 (based on the race-in-combination tally) was fourth highest, behind each of the other three states bordering Mexico. Hispanics may become the majority of New Mexico's population during the current decade. In contrast, in 15 states, the

Hispanic proportion in 2010 was less than 5 percent, with the lowest figures in northern New England, some of the northern Plains states, and in some southern states.

Nationally, the Hispanic share rose nearly as much in the 2000s (3.9 percentage points) as in the 1990s (4.0 percentage points). In most states in the eastern two-thirds of the country, the Hispanic proportion rose more during the 2000s than the 1990s. While most western states remained among the leaders on the increase of the Hispanic proportion, the shares did not rise as much in the last decade as in the prior decade. Arizona's slowing in the proportion — from a gain of 7.1 percentage points in the 1990s to 4.4 percentage points between 2000 and 2010 — was the most substantial in the nation.

The non-Hispanic black share nationally was 12.6 percent in 2010, only 0.3 percentage points higher than in 2000. The share was at least 19.5 percent in 10 states; other than the nearly 50 percent share in the District of Columbia, the highest figure was 36.9 percent in Mississippi. Arizona's share of 4.3 percent ranked 36th. In 10 states, mostly northern tier states, the share was less than 2 percent. The largest increase in share occurred in some of the East Coast states.

Non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders accounted for 5.6 percent of the national population. This group accounts for the majority of Hawaii's population. Only nine other states — along the Middle-Atlantic seaboard or in the West — had a share greater than the U.S. average, led by California's 14.2 percent. Arizona's share of 3.5 percent ranked 21st. The share was less than 2 percent in 16 states. The non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander share nationally rose a bit less during the 2000s than in the 1990s (1.3 versus 1.5 percentage points). Nevada had the largest increase in share during the 2000s.

Non-Hispanic American Indians accounted for only 1.3 percent of the national population in 2010; the share was barely higher than in 2000. The Native American population is highly concentrated in a few states: Alaska, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. Arizona's proportion of 4.4 percent was seventh highest. The percentage was less than 1 in 24 states.

Overall, Arizona's racial/ethnic composition was moderately different from the national average. The largest differences in composition were in Hawaii (high percentage non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander), New Mexico (high percentage Hispanic), the District of Columbia (high percentage non-Hispanic black), and in Maine and Vermont (high percentage non-Hispanic white). The composition in Illinois was very close to the national average, with Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York also having compositions similar to the U.S. total.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

Based on the race-alone tabulations, shares by race/ethnicity in 2010 were similar in Maricopa and Pinal counties and were close to the state totals, with non-Hispanic whites accounting for nearly 60 percent of the population and Hispanics for nearly another 30 percent. In Pima County, the Hispanic proportion was a little higher, with the non-Hispanic white share lower (see Table 5). The racial/ethnic makeup varies across the rest of Arizona.

**TABLE 5**  
**HISPANIC AND RACE ALONE AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION,**  
**ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	Non-Hispanic						
	Hispanic	White	Black	Amer- ican Indian	Asian & Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More
<b>2010 Share</b>							
Arizona	29.6%	57.8%	3.7%	4.0%	2.8%	0.1%	1.8%
Apache	5.8	20.4	0.2	71.8	0.3	0.0	1.5
Cochise	32.4	58.5	3.8	0.8	2.1	0.2	2.3
Coconino	13.5	55.2	1.1	26.5	1.4	0.1	2.1
Gila	17.9	65.9	0.4	14.2	0.5	0.1	1.1
Graham	30.4	52.3	1.7	13.6	0.7	0.1	1.2
Greenlee	47.9	48.1	0.9	1.7	0.6	0.0	0.8
La Paz	23.5	62.7	0.6	10.7	0.5	0.1	2.0
Maricopa	29.6	58.7	4.6	1.6	3.5	0.1	1.9
Mohave	14.8	79.6	0.9	1.9	1.2	0.1	1.6
Navajo	10.8	43.9	0.8	42.4	0.6	0.0	1.5
Pima	34.6	55.3	3.2	2.4	2.6	0.1	1.8
Pinal	28.5	58.7	4.3	4.6	2.0	0.1	1.8
Santa Cruz	82.8	16.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
Yavapai	13.6	82.0	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.1	1.6
Yuma	59.7	35.3	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.1	1.1
<b>2000-to-2010 Change in Share</b>							
Arizona	4.4	-6.0	0.8	-0.5	1.0	0.0	0.3
Apache	1.3	2.7	0.0	-4.6	0.1	0.0	0.5
Cochise	1.7	-1.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
Coconino	2.6	-2.4	0.1	-1.5	0.6	0.0	0.5
Gila	1.2	-3.1	0.0	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0
Graham	3.4	-2.9	-0.1	-0.8	0.1	0.0	0.3
Greenlee	4.8	-5.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.2
La Paz	1.0	-1.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
Maricopa	4.7	-7.5	1.1	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.3
Mohave	3.7	-4.4	0.3	-0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2
Navajo	2.5	1.6	0.0	-4.6	0.2	0.0	0.3
Pima	5.2	-6.2	0.3	-0.2	0.6	0.0	0.3
Pinal	-1.4	-0.1	1.7	-2.3	1.4	0.0	0.7
Santa Cruz	2.0	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Yavapai	3.8	-4.6	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
Yuma	9.3	-9.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

The non-Hispanic white proportion in 2010 was at least 80 percent in Mohave and Yavapai counties, and was above the state's figure of 57.8 percent in Gila and La Paz counties. Less than half of the residents of Apache, Greenlee, Navajo, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties were non-Hispanic whites. The non-Hispanic white proportion rose between 2000 and 2010 in Apache and Navajo counties, but it fell in the other 13 counties, with especially large declines in Greenlee, Maricopa, Pima, and Yuma counties. Statewide, the share dropped 6.0 percentage points.

In 2010, the Hispanic proportion was highest in Santa Cruz and Yuma counties at considerably above 50 percent. The Hispanic share was half or less of the statewide figure of 29.6 percent in the five northern counties. Between 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic share jumped in Yuma County and rose more than the state total of 4.4 percentage points in Greenlee, Maricopa, and Pima counties. Pinal was the only county with a decline in the Hispanic share, as the outward spread of development of the Phoenix area attracted non-Hispanic whites and others to the county's new housing developments.

The non-Hispanic American Indian proportion in 2010 was 4.0 percent in Arizona but was less than 2.5 percent in eight counties. In contrast, the share was 27 percent in Coconino, 42 percent in Navajo, and 72 percent in Apache. The share fell between 2000 and 2010 by 0.5 percentage points statewide; it dropped in 11 counties, with the largest declines in Apache, Coconino, and Navajo counties. The slight increase in share in Maricopa County despite the county's large net in-migration of other racial/ethnic groups suggests that the Phoenix area received net in-migration of Native Americans, probably in large part from the northeastern portion of the state.

Non-Hispanic blacks were concentrated in the Phoenix and Tucson areas and in Cochise County in 2010, with the shares between 3.2 and 4.6 percent in each of these counties; the state's figure was 3.7 percent. The proportion was less than 2 percent in each of the other 11 counties. The state's increase in share of 0.8 percentage points between 2000 and 2010 occurred primarily in the Phoenix area, with little change in most of the other counties.

Non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders accounted for 2.8 percent of the state's residents in 2010. The share was less than 1.5 percent in 12 counties but ranged from 2.0 to 3.5 percent in the three highly urbanized counties. In most counties, the proportion rose a little between 2000 and 2010. The increase exceeded the state figure of 1.0 percentage points only in Maricopa and Pinal counties.

By place, more than 90 percent of the residents in 2010 were non-Hispanic whites in Carefree, Colorado City, Fountain Hills, and Jerome. The non-Hispanic white proportion was less than 5 percent in Guadalupe, Nogales, San Luis, and Somerton. These figures are largely reversed for Hispanics. More than 90 percent of the residents of Nogales, San Luis, and Somerton were Hispanic; the Hispanic share was at least 50 percent in 14 additional cities. In five communities — Carefree, Colorado City, Fountain Hills, Fredonia, and Paradise Valley — the Hispanic share was less than 5 percent; in eight other incorporated places, the share was between 5 and 10 percent.

Non-Hispanic blacks made up 9 percent of the residents of Avondale and Maricopa in 2010 and more than 5 percent in three other communities, including Phoenix. One-third of Guadalupe's

residents, and nearly one-fourth of the residents of Holbrook and Winslow, were non-Hispanic American Indians. The Native American share also exceeded 10 percent in Parker and Flagstaff. The percentage of non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders exceeded 5 percent in Chandler, Gilbert, and Tempe. Non-Hispanics of more than one race made up 4 percent of the population in Page and Huachuca City, and 3 percent in Jerome.

### **Compared to Estimates**

As part of its annual population estimates, the Census Bureau includes estimates by race and ethnicity for states and counties. Race/ethnicity estimates from the ACS are similar to the Census Bureau estimates. In the estimates issued prior to the release of the 2010 census count, the estimated non-Hispanic white population share nationally on July 1, 2009 was 1.3 percentage points higher than the April 1, 2010 census. Most of the other racial/ethnic groups were underestimated by small amounts, with the difference for Hispanics at 0.6 percentage points. In most of the groups, the direction of the difference was the same in most or all of the states.

The non-Hispanic white proportion was overestimated in 48 states. However, Arizona was one of three exceptions, along with the District of Columbia and Montana. The Hispanic proportion was underestimated in 40 states; Arizona had the largest overestimate in the country. This reflects the Census Bureau estimates not considering the effects of the employer sanctions law.

The non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic American Indian shares were overestimated in more states than there was an underestimate. In the non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander and two or more races categories, the Census Bureau underestimated the shares in all states.

For Arizona, the estimated non-Hispanic white proportion was 0.6 percentage points less than the census. The estimate was too low by more than 1 percentage point in three counties, including Maricopa, and was too high by at least 1.5 percentage points in three counties.

The estimates overstated the Hispanic proportion by 1.2 percentage points statewide, with nearly all of the overstatement occurring in Maricopa and Pinal counties. In contrast, the estimate was too low in 11 counties, including two with an error of more than 2.5 percentage points. Looking at annual figures for the state from the ACS, the Hispanic proportion continued to rise at a nearly steady pace even after the passage of the employer sanctions law and the onset of the recession, revealing some of the shortcomings of the methodology used to estimate population by race and ethnic group.

The statewide estimate of the non-Hispanic American Indian share almost matched the decennial census figure. The estimates were too high in Coconino and Yavapai counties, but too low in Apache County.

Relative to the small actual share of the population, the estimate of non-Hispanic blacks was significantly too high in each of the state's 12 less populous counties. However, the estimates were a little too low in Maricopa and Pinal counties, resulting in the statewide estimate matching the census. The differences between the estimates and census for the other racial groups were small. The percentage of people naming two or more races was underestimated in nearly all counties.

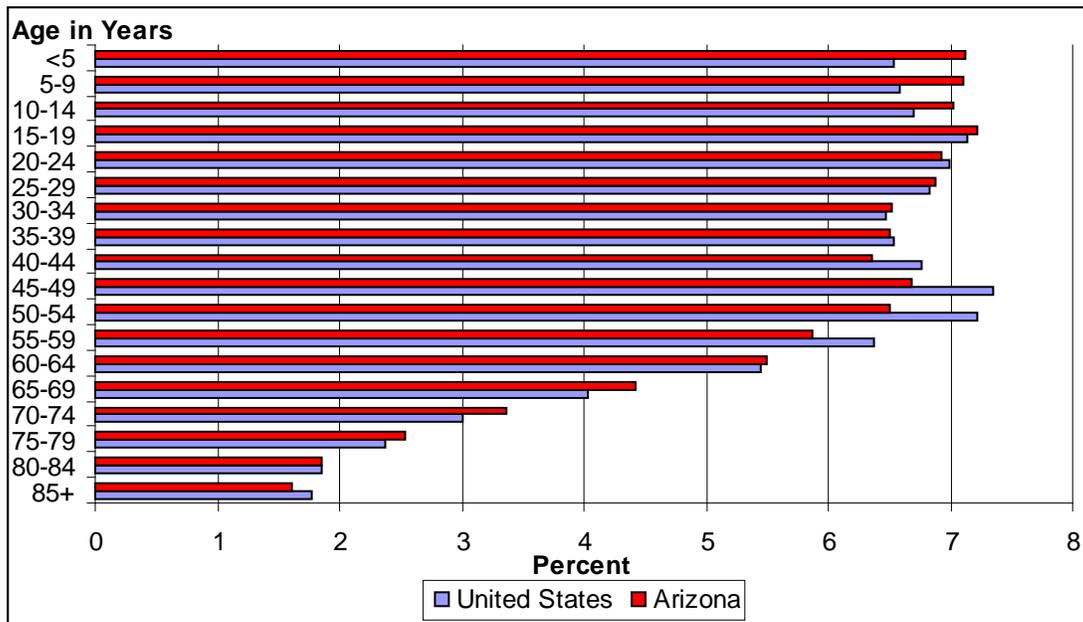
## AGE

Arizona's median age in 2010 was 35.9 years, lower than the national figure of 37.2. The median age rose between 2000 and 2010 nationally and in Arizona, largely due to the aging of the sizable baby-boom generation; baby boomers were between the ages of 45 and 64 as of the census date. Arizona's increase in the median age of 1.7 years was slightly less than the U.S. average of 1.9 years.

Looking at five-year age groups in 2010, the most numerous groups in Arizona were each of the age groups under the age of 30; the least numerous were each group age 55 or older. This age distribution varies from the national average — the baby-boom age groups of 45-to-49 and 50-to-54 years of age were the most numerous. As a share of the population, each age group under the age of 15 and those between the ages of 65 and 79 were at least 5 percent larger in Arizona than the national average (see Chart 6). Arizona's shares were at least 5 percent below average in the 40-to-59 age group and among those 85 or older.

Thus, Arizona had relatively few working-age people supporting larger shares of children and retirees under the age of 80. In particular, Arizona's age distribution did not display any bulge for the baby-boom generation. Instead, higher-than-average birth rates and in-migration of young people caused each of the age groups under age 30 to be more numerous than the age groups of the baby-boom generation. In Mexico and Central American countries, the number of births steadily rose over the last several decades; Arizona has received strong immigration from these countries.

**CHART 6**  
**AGE DISTRIBUTION AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL IN 2010,**  
**ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census).

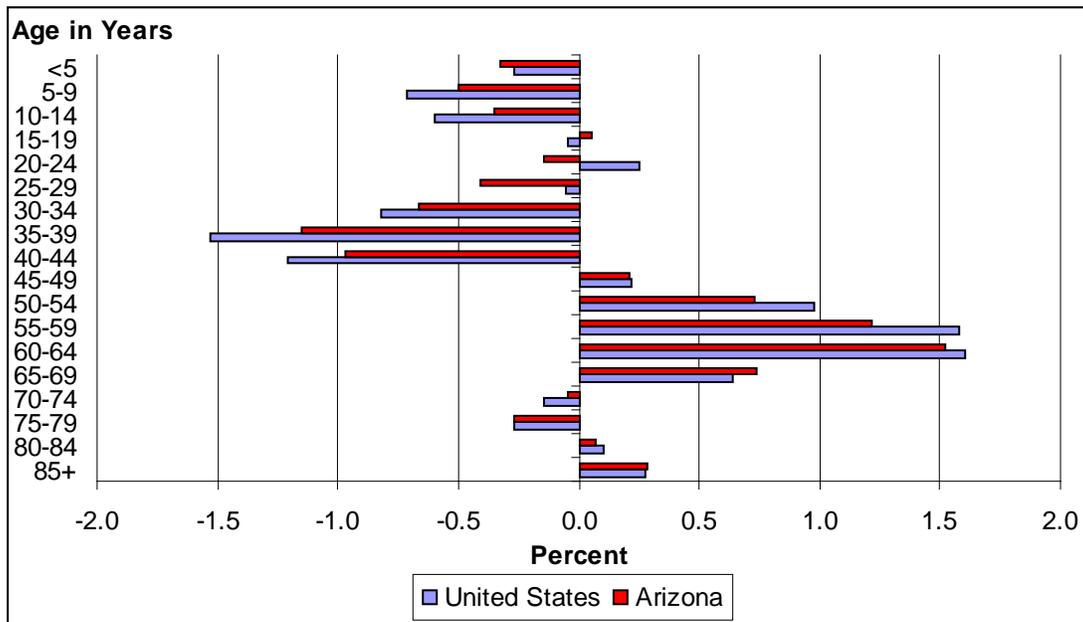
Nationally and in Arizona between 2000 and 2010, the share of the population fell in nearly every age group under age 45 and among those 70-to-79 years old. Gains occurred among those 45 to 69 and 80 or older. The largest gains were among the baby-boomer age groups of 50 to 64. The changes in share were somewhat different in Arizona than the national average, with smaller declines occurring in Arizona among those 5 to 14 and 30 to 44. Decreases were larger among those 20 to 29 and increases were smaller among those 50 to 59 (see Chart 7).

Arizona’s population by single year of age in 2000 and 2010 is shown in Chart 8. The 2010 population was more numerous at every age, with the differential the largest from age 48 through 63 — which includes most of the baby-boom generation in 2010. The least differential between 2000 and 2010 occurred between ages 34 and 44 — part of the baby-boom generation in 2000 — and among those 72 or older.

The age distribution varies considerably by race and ethnicity. The median age was higher among non-Hispanic whites (44.5 years in Arizona in 2010) than among the other racial/ethnic groups, all of which had a median age less than 35. The median age of Hispanics was 25.4, of “other” races 25.1, and of those of two or more races 18.6. The median age in Arizona was between 1 and 3 years younger than the national average in every group except non-Hispanic whites, for which it was 2.5 years older.

Using five-year age groups relative to the age distribution of the overall population, national and state shares for non-Hispanic whites were higher in the 50-or-older age groups and lower in the

**CHART 7  
CHANGE IN AGE DISTRIBUTION AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL  
BETWEEN 2000 AND 2010, ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES**

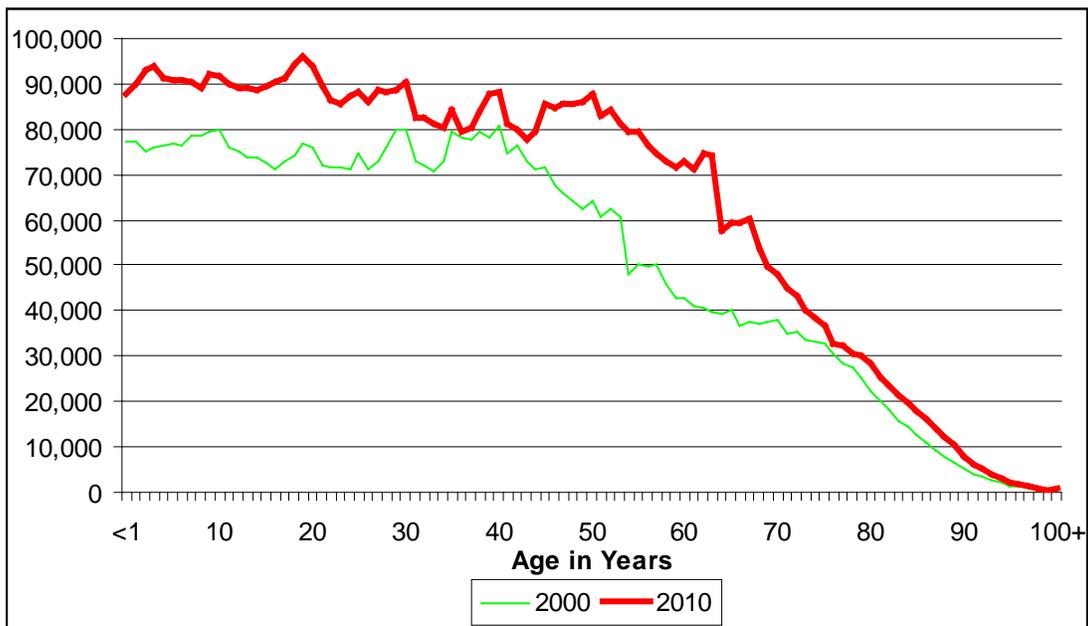


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

less-than-35 age groups. The reverse was true in the other racial/ethnic groups, with shares above the total in the younger age groups and lower in the older age groups.

Arizona’s age distribution by race/ethnicity relative to the national average is summarized in Table 6. The non-Hispanic white population in Arizona in 2010 was more aged than the national average due to the in-migration of retirees (which includes those retiring prior to age 65). The other race/ethnic groups in Arizona were younger than the national average, due to higher birth rates and/or strong in-migration of young adults (and their children).

**CHART 8  
POPULATION BY SINGLE YEAR OF AGE, ARIZONA**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

**TABLE 6  
SHARE OF THE POPULATION IN ARIZONA BY AGE GROUP RELATIVE TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP IN 2010**

	Higher	Lower
Non-Hispanic White	60-84	<25 and 40-54
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	25-44 and <10	>=55 and 15-24
Non-Hispanic Black	<45, especially 20-39	>=50
Non-Hispanic American Indian	<35	40-74
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	5-34	40-59 and <5
Hispanic	<20	20-59, especially 25-49

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census).

The remainder of this subsection focuses on those less than 18 years old. Nationally, 24 percent of Americans were less than 18 years old in 2010. This share varied across the racial/ethnic groups. It was relatively small among non-Hispanic whites (20 percent) and non-Hispanic Asians/Pacific Islanders (22 percent) and higher among Hispanics (34 percent) and non-Hispanic “other” (37 percent). These high shares in the latter groups could be the result of several factors: relatively high birth rates, a large proportion of the population of child-bearing age, and the immigration of young adults and their children. The share was even higher (47 percent) among those reporting more than one race; the primary factor likely is the increase in the number of marriages of individuals of differing racial/ethnic groups.

In Arizona, a somewhat higher share (25.5 percent) than the U.S. average of the total population in 2010 was younger than 18. The state’s higher share primarily occurred in the Hispanic and non-Hispanic American Indian groups (see Table 7). Among non-Hispanic whites, the Arizona proportion under 18 (18 percent) was less than the national figure; this likely is the result of the net in-migration of retirement-age non-Hispanic whites.

The less-than-18 population as a proportion of the total population fell between 2000 and 2010 nationally and in Arizona. Though the number of births nationally had by the late 1980s returned to the level of the baby-boom generation (1946-64) and has remained at this level since then, this number is an increasingly smaller proportion of the ever-expanding total population.

Nationally and in Arizona, the decline in the under-18 proportion of the population occurred in all racial/ethnic groups except for those reporting two or more races. In most of the groups, the drop in Arizona was about the same or less than the national figure. The exception was a larger decrease in the non-Hispanic American Indian group.

#### **All States**

The median age of Arizona residents in 2010 was among the 10 lowest in the country — despite a larger-than-average share of the population between the ages of 65 and 79. Most of the western states had a young population, with Arizona’s median age ranking in the middle of the states in

**TABLE 7  
SHARE OF THE POPULATION LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD,  
ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES**

	2010		Change from 2000 to 2010	
	United States	Arizona	United States	Arizona
TOTAL	24.0%	25.5%	-1.7	-1.2
Hispanic	33.9	37.1	-1.0	-0.9
Non-Hispanic:				
White	20.2	18.3	-2.5	-2.4
Black	27.5	28.0	-3.8	-3.2
American Indian	28.8	31.9	-4.3	-6.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	22.2	22.6	-2.0	-0.3
Other	36.9	35.3	-4.2	-4.3
Two or More Races	46.8	47.3	5.3	2.9

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

this region. The median age was lowest in Texas (33.6) and Utah (29.2). Maine had the oldest population, with a median age of 42.7.

Between 2000 and 2010, the increase in the median age of Arizona residents was a little less than the national average and also less than the typical western state. Every state (but not the District of Columbia) experienced an increase in median age, ranging from 4.1 years in Maine to 0.6 years in Wyoming.

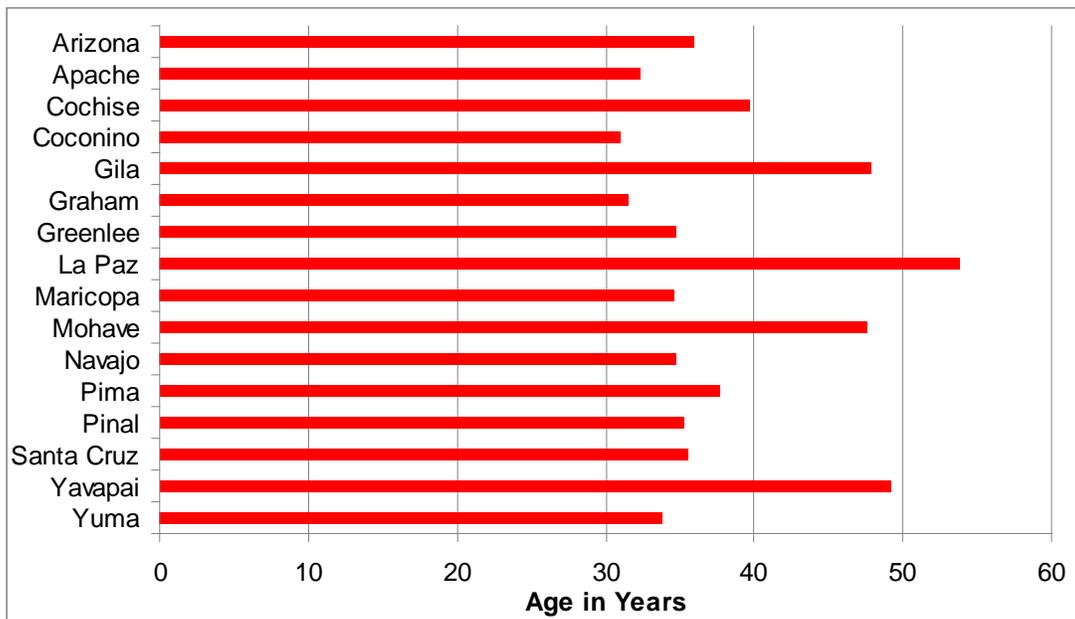
In each five-year age group under the age of 15 and between ages 65 and 74, the share of the population in Arizona in 2010 was among the 10 highest of the states. Arizona’s share was among the lowest in each age group between 45-and-59 years of age. In terms of the change in share between 2000 and 2010, Arizona was among the 10 highest states in the 10-to-14 and 35-to-44 age groups, and among the lowest in the 20-to-29 and 55-to-59 age groups.

### Arizona Counties and Places

The age distribution in 2010 varied widely across Arizona’s counties. The biggest variations occurred among children and young adults (less than 30 years old) and among those 65-to-74 years old. Not much variation existed across counties in the proportion who were middle aged (particularly 40-to-54 years old).

The median age in 2010 is shown by county in Chart 9. It varied from 31 in Coconino County, which has a high proportion of residents of college age and a low proportion of retirement age, to 54 in La Paz County, which has a high proportion 55 or older and a low proportion under the age of 50. Though still relatively low in 2010, the median age rose considerably in Apache and

**CHART 9  
MEDIAN AGE IN 2010, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census).

Navajo counties between 2000 and 2010. The median age also rose substantially in the four counties with the oldest median in 2010: Gila, La Paz, Mohave, and Yavapai.

The age distribution in the three populous counties was similar to the state total in 2010, especially in Pima County. Maricopa County had a higher-than-average share 25-to-49 years old; Pinal County had high proportions between ages 25 to 39 but low shares among those of college age. In four of the less populous counties — Gila, La Paz, Mohave, and Yavapai — a below-average share of the population was younger than age 45 and an above-average share was 50 or older. In Apache, Graham, Navajo, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties, shares were high in age groups younger than 20. The offsetting low proportions varied by county: Apache and Navajo had low shares 25-to-39 years old, Graham had below-average shares in every age group above age 35, Santa Cruz had low shares between the ages of 20 and 34, and Yuma County's shares were relatively low among those 30-to-64 years old.

The median age in 2010 exceeded 55 in four incorporated places in Arizona: Carefree, Quartzsite, Sedona, and Wellton. Retirement communities that are not incorporated also had high medians. In Colorado City, the median age was less than 13. Flagstaff, Guadalupe, San Luis, Somerton, Thatcher, and Tolleson had the next-lowest medians at 26-to-27 years.

The percentage of the population under the age of 15 in 2010 was 56 percent in Colorado City. The next highest shares of 30-to-32 percent were in El Mirage, Guadalupe, Pima, Queen Creek, Snowflake, Somerton, Taylor, and Tolleson. Children under 15 made up less than 10 percent of the residents of Carefree, Jerome, Quartzsite, and Sedona.

In only one incorporated place, Quartzsite, did retirement-age people (age 65 or older) make up the majority of the population. The next-highest percentages of 30-to-35 were in Benson, Carefree, Payson, Prescott, Wellton, and Wickenburg. Only one place, Colorado City, had a retirement-age share less than 5 percent. The percentage was between 5 and 6 in Avondale, Queen Creek, and San Luis.

The remainder of this subsection focuses on those less than 18 years old. By county in Arizona, the percentage of the total population under the age of 18 ranged widely. The lowest percentages in 2010, as low as 18 percent in La Paz, occurred in counties with many retirement-age immigrants: La Paz, Mohave, and Yavapai. In contrast, in most counties in which Hispanics or American Indians accounted for a large share of the total population — Apache, Greenlee, Navajo, and Santa Cruz — a much higher proportion of the population was under the age of 18 (as high as 32 percent in Apache).

As a share of the total population, those under 18 declined between 2000 and 2010 in each county except Pinal. The counties with the largest decreases — Apache, Coconino, and Navajo — were those with the highest shares of Native Americans. American Indians experienced the greatest aging of its population. The very rapid population growth in Pinal County (a more than doubling of its population) transformed the demographics of the county. Many of its new residents were families with children living at home.

Among the non-Hispanic white population, the percentage under 18 years old in 2010 ranged widely by county, from 23-to-25 percent in Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo counties down to less than 12 percent in La Paz and Santa Cruz counties. The reasons for the variation vary by county. For example, Santa Cruz County is predominantly Hispanic, but also attracts non-Hispanic whites older than child-bearing age. In most counties, a large decline in the non-Hispanic white percentage occurred between 2000 and 2010. However, the percentage rose in Pinal County, as the suburban growth that began in earnest early in the 2000s attracted many non-Hispanic white families.

The percentage of the population under age 18 was more consistent across the counties among Hispanics, ranging from 31 to 39. Compared to 2000, this share was down considerably in Mohave and Yuma counties but was up in Apache, Pinal, and Yavapai counties. Among the other racial/ethnic groups, the number of residents was relatively small in many counties. Percentages and changes in percentages over time naturally range widely when population size is small.

## **HOUSING UNITS AND VACANCIES**

The decennial census counted 2,844,526 housing units in Arizona on April 1, 2010. This was an increase of 655,337 units (30 percent) from 10 years earlier. The increase was up from the nearly 530,000 gain during the 1990s, though the percentage change was slightly less than in the 1990s.

In contrast, the number of occupied units rose less (479,663) in the last decade than in the prior decade (about 533,000). The number of vacant units jumped 175,674 between 2000 and 2010 after dropping marginally during the 1990s. The increase in the number of vacant units was equivalent to 27 percent of the net increase in the number of housing units in the last decade. The increase in vacant units was due to multiple causes, including overbuilding during the mid-2000s and out-migration late in the decade due to the recession and the employer sanctions law.

However, the number of vacant units as defined by the Census Bureau is not the same as the real estate definition of vacancy. Seasonal homes, though not on the market for sale or lease, are counted as vacant in the census. (The owners of these seasonally used properties are counted at the location of their primary home.) In addition, the Census Bureau counts structures not normally intended for habitation as vacant housing units; an example is a hogan on the Navajo Reservation that is used for ceremonial purposes.

The Census Bureau classifies vacant units into several categories. The combination of four of these categories — vacant for rent, rented but not occupied, for sale, and sold but not occupied — roughly equates to the definition of vacant unit used by the real estate industry. In addition, the Census Bureau classifies units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional purposes as vacant, and miscellaneous other types of structures may be counted as vacant housing units. The “real estate” vacancy rate in Arizona in 2010 was 7.1 percent, 2.4 percentage points higher than in 2000. Units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use accounted for 6.5 percent of all housing units in both 2000 and 2010. Other vacant units made up 2.8 percent of the housing stock in 2010, compared to 2.0 percent in 2000. The state’s overall vacancy rate of 16.3 percent was 3.2 percentage points higher than in 2000.

### **All States**

The overall vacancy rate rose between 2000 and 2010 in all but three states (Hawaii, New Mexico, and Wyoming). Nationally, the increase was 2.4 percentage points, from 9.0 percent to 11.4 percent. The 3.2 percentage point increase in Arizona (from 13.1 percent to 16.3 percent) tied for seventh largest in the nation. The states with the largest increases primarily were Sunbelt states that participated in the housing boom in the mid-2000s, including Florida, Georgia, and Nevada. However, a few states with very weak economies during the decade, particularly Michigan and Rhode Island, also experienced a large increase in vacancy rate.

In 2010, the “real estate” vacancy rate was highest in Sunbelt states. Nevada had the highest rate, followed by Arizona. Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina also had high rates. The lowest real estate vacancy rates were in states across the northern tier of the country.

The states with the highest proportion of units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional purposes were in northern New England. Also ranking high were Alaska, Delaware, Florida,

Montana, and Wisconsin. Arizona's proportion was ninth highest. States in the Great Plains and the southern portion of the Great Lakes region had the lowest shares of seasonal housing units.

The highest rates of "other" vacancies were in southern states. Utah and some New England states had the lowest rates. Arizona's figure was nearly equal to the U.S. average.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The vacancy rate varies widely across Arizona, primarily due to seasonal housing units and units held for other purposes. The results from the 2010 census, with comparisons to the 2000 census, are shown in Table 8 by county. In 2010, the "real estate" vacancy rate was between 5.1 percent and 6.8 percent in most counties. However, it was higher in populous Maricopa and Pinal counties, as well as in Greenlee County. The lowest rates were in Apache and Coconino counties (each of which had among the highest overall vacancy rates).

The percentage of housing units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use ranged widely, from less than 4 percent in populous Maricopa and Pima counties, and in Cochise and Graham, to more than 20 percent of the units in Gila, La Paz, and Navajo counties. The highest percentages in the "other" category were in Apache, Greenlee, and Navajo counties.

The change in vacancy rate between 2000 and 2010 also varied by county. The real estate rate rose by more than 3 percentage points in Maricopa and Greenlee counties, but fell in Apache and Cochise counties. Though the state's seasonal vacancy rate was unchanged, the rate rose by more than 2 percentage points in Gila, Greenlee, Mohave, and Yuma counties but dropped by more than 2 percentage points in Apache and Pinal counties. Changes in the "other" vacancy rate also varied across the counties.

The real estate vacancy rate in 2010 was highest in scattered small towns across the state. In the Phoenix area, the rate was highest at 10 percent in Buckeye and Avondale. Real estate vacancy rates were less than 5 percent in some communities, including San Luis and Somerton in Yuma County and Marana and Oro Valley north of Tucson.

Several cities in Maricopa County, including Glendale and Phoenix, experienced an increase in the real estate vacancy rate of at least 5 percentage points between 2000 and 2010. A few smaller towns across the state bucked the trend of rising real estate vacancy rates, experiencing decreases of several percentage points.

The vacancy rate due to units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use exceeded 20 percent in several towns across the state. Pinetop-Lakeside had the highest rate at 39 percent; neighboring Show Low's rate was 31 percent. These units are used primarily in the summer. The other towns with the highest rates have housing units used by winter visitors: Apache Junction, Florence, Lake Havasu City, Quartzsite, and Wellton. Some unincorporated areas had even higher rates. In contrast, less than 1 percent of the housing units were held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use in a number of cities across Arizona, both within the Phoenix area and in rural communities.

Several towns, in rural and urban settings, had an increase of more than 4 percentage points between 2000 and 2010 in the share of units held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, including Buckeye, Florence, Lake Havasu City, Sahuarita, Sedona, and Wellton. Most of these communities attract winter visitors. In contrast, the percentage held for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use fell by more than 5 points in some cities in the Phoenix area in which the fringe of urban growth reached the communities during the decade, including Apache Junction, Coolidge, El Mirage, and Surprise. Benson and Willcox, both in Cochise County, also had large declines in the seasonal rate.

**TABLE 8  
VACANCY RATES BY TYPE, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	TOTAL	For Rent	For Sale	Rented or Sold, Not Occupied	Total "Real Estate"	Seasonal or Rec-reational	Other
<b>2010 CENSUS</b>							
Arizona	16.3%	4.2%	2.3%	0.6%	7.1%	6.5%	2.8%
Apache	30.0	2.2	0.7	0.3	3.2	17.3	9.5
Cochise	13.8	3.2	1.9	0.5	5.7	3.1	5.1
Coconino	26.2	2.0	1.3	0.4	3.7	19.0	3.5
Gila	32.7	2.5	2.2	0.6	5.3	22.8	4.7
Graham	14.3	3.9	2.4	0.5	6.8	2.4	5.1
Greenlee	27.1	10.7	0.8	2.4	13.9	6.2	7.0
La Paz	42.7	3.7	2.3	0.6	6.5	33.1	3.0
Maricopa	13.9	4.9	2.4	0.6	7.8	3.9	2.1
Mohave	25.6	3.2	2.7	0.5	6.5	14.7	4.4
Navajo	37.4	2.6	2.0	0.5	5.1	25.8	6.5
Pima	11.9	4.0	1.7	0.5	6.2	3.4	2.2
Pinal	21.1	3.1	3.6	0.8	7.4	9.7	4.0
Santa Cruz	14.3	3.6	2.1	0.4	6.1	4.2	3.9
Yavapai	17.7	2.7	2.5	0.5	5.7	8.4	3.5
Yuma	26.3	2.9	1.4	0.8	5.1	18.4	2.8
<b>CHANGE, 2000-10</b>							
Arizona	3.2	1.4	1.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.8
Apache	-6.8	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.8	-3.4	-2.7
Cochise	-0.3	-0.6	0.2	-0.4	-0.8	-0.7	1.2
Coconino	1.9	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1	1.9	-0.1
Gila	4.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.9	2.5	0.9
Graham	2.8	1.1	0.6	-0.3	1.4	-0.1	1.6
Greenlee	10.4	5.5	-0.7	0.6	5.4	2.9	2.1
La Paz	-2.0	1.6	0.6	0.1	2.2	-1.5	-2.9
Maricopa	4.5	2.1	1.3	0.1	3.4	-0.1	1.1
Mohave	4.1	1.1	0.5	-1.0	0.7	2.3	1.1
Navajo	0.8	1.0	0.6	-0.1	1.5	-1.6	0.9
Pima	2.5	0.7	0.6	-0.1	1.2	0.5	0.7
Pinal	-3.3	-0.3	1.1	0.2	0.8	-4.8	0.7
Santa Cruz	4.9	1.0	0.8	-0.3	1.5	1.7	1.6
Yavapai	3.6	0.8	0.7	-0.2	1.4	1.0	1.1
Yuma	-1.1	-0.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	2.7	-3.8

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses).

## **HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Nationally, 65.1 percent of the occupied housing units were owned in 2010. Arizona's 66.0 percent rate was marginally higher. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate of homeownership slipped 1.1 percentage points nationally. Arizona's decline was larger at 2.0 percentage points.

In 2010 nationally, 30 percent of owner-occupied units, and 20 percent of all occupied units, were owned free and clear. The figures in Arizona were lower at 28 and 18 percent.

### **All States**

Most states had a homeownership rate in 2010 between 65 and 70 percent. The highest rate in the country was in West Virginia at 73 percent. A few states, including populous California and New York, had rates below 60 percent. Arizona's 66 percent was 36th highest in the nation and in the middle of the western states.

Arizona's change in the homeownership rate between 2000 and 2010 ranked 41st in the nation, but three western states experienced a slightly larger drop. All of the other states with the largest declines were in the South. In contrast, the homeownership rate increased in most of New England and in Alaska and Hawaii.

The percentage of units owned free and clear in Arizona ranked 35th in the country but was marginally above the mid-point of the western states. The lowest percentages were in Maryland and the District of Columbia and in western states. The highest figures were in a few southern states and in North Dakota.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

In 2010, the highest homeownership rates in Arizona were in Gila, La Paz, and Pinal counties, each with a figure between 76 percent and 77 percent. The lowest rates were in Greenlee (50 percent) and Coconino (61 percent) counties. Rates were between 64 percent and 65 percent in the state's two most populous counties.

Between 2000 and 2010, the homeownership rate rose in Apache and Cochise counties, but fell in the rest of the state. The largest declines, of more than 3 percentage points, occurred in Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, and Yuma counties.

The percentage of units owned free and clear ranged widely by county. More than half of the owner-occupied units were owned without debt in five of the less populous counties. In contrast, the free-and-clear percentage was 30 percent or less in the three most populous counties, and in Santa Cruz County. The figure was lowest in Maricopa County.

By place, homeownership was highest in affluent suburbs of Phoenix and Tucson, but also in some rural communities with low incomes. The percentage was lowest in university towns. The homeownership percentage rose between 2000 and 2010 in several communities scattered across the state, but fell by 10 percentage points or more in others, primarily in western suburbs of Phoenix (but Buckeye had the largest increase in the state). A few rural communities had the highest percentage of units owned free and clear; all of the lowest percentages were in the Phoenix area.

## OUTLOOK

In late 2011, more than two years after the official end of the recession, large numbers of Arizonans remain out of work and the housing market is still out of equilibrium. Until those problems are resolved, the rapid employment and population growth that has historically characterized Arizona will be slow to redevelop. Even after job growth strengthens, nonworking Arizona residents will be filling many of the jobs that are created over the next few years. Only after those Arizonans are reabsorbed into the workforce will net in-migration to the state, which has accounted for most of the population growth, accelerate substantially.

Even after the economy has fully recovered, population growth is likely to be less than it was from the mid-1990s through mid-2000s. That period is likely to go down in history as an aberration, mostly due to the surge in young undocumented immigrants that were attracted to the state (and the entire nation) due to a shortage of young U.S.-born individuals entering the workforce. The annual number of births was more than 20 percent less during the mid-1970s than during most of the baby boom.

Even if Arizona's employer sanctions law ceases to have its deterrent effect and the current anti-immigrant sentiment wanes, it is unlikely that undocumented immigration would return to levels at all close to those from the mid-1990s through mid-2000s. The number of young Americans entering the workforce is now substantially higher than during that period, and will remain at that higher level for at least another 20 years. In addition, the number of births in Mexico is leveling off, which will result in less pressure on young Mexicans to leave Mexico in order to find reasonably paying work.

During the middle of this decade, annual population growth in Arizona is likely to be near 150,000 (up from less than 30,000 in 2011), comparable to the expansion years of the last two cycles though less than at the peaks of those economic cycles. Later in the decade, the aging economic cycle almost certainly will cause population growth to slow.

Thus, for the entire 2010-to-2020 decade, the population gain in Arizona is almost certain to be less than the 1.26 million experienced in the last decade (and far less than the 1.46 million of the 1990s). The 10-year change may be similar to the roughly 947,000 recorded in the 1970s and repeated in the 1980s.