

# 2020 CENSUS RESULTS FOR ARIZONA: PART 1

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## SUMMARY

This paper analyzes the initial 2020 decennial census results, focusing on Arizona and its metropolitan areas, counties, and places.

### Arizona

Arizona's population count on April 1, 2020 was 7,151,502, an increase of 759,485 from April 1, 2010. The numeric population gain was at least 20 percent less than in each of the four preceding decades. The state's population increase between 2010 and 2020 accounted for 3.35 percent of the national total — a lesser share than in the four preceding decades.

The rate of change between 2010 and 2020 in the number of residents in Arizona was 11.9 percent, the lowest of any decade on record. The percent change in Arizona was only 1.6 times the national average, also the lowest ratio on record.

Arizona was the 14th-most-populous state in 2020, having made a steady climb up the national rankings since 1940, when its population ranked 44th. It passed Indiana and Massachusetts between 2010 and 2020. However, Arizona's rank is unlikely to climb higher for a considerable period of time, given that the more populous states are either much more populous and/or are also growing rapidly.

The numeric population increase in Arizona between 2010 and 2020 was eighth largest in the nation, considerably less than in Texas, Florida, and California, and less than in Georgia, Washington, North Carolina, and New York. Arizona's rate of change in population of 11.9 percent ranked 10th nationally. Utah, Idaho, Texas, North Dakota, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, Washington, and the District of Columbia each experienced population growth of between 14.6- and-18.4 percent.

The change in population consists of two components:

- Net natural change: the difference between births and deaths.
- Net migration: the number of people moving into an area minus the number moving out.

Net natural change in Arizona rose considerably in number during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, but was 38 percent less in the 2010s than in the 2000s, reflecting an aging population and declines in fertility rates. The number of births in Arizona in the 2010s was 10 percent less than in the 2000s. In contrast, the number of deaths was 22 percent higher.

Net migration to Arizona decreased at a similar rate (41 percent) as net natural change from the 2000s to the 2010s. Net migration to Arizona between 2010 and 2020 was less than in each of the four prior decades and 58 percent less than in the peak decade of the 1990s.

The numeric population change in Arizona in the 2010s was 501,900 less than in the 2000s. Net migration accounted for 62 percent of the total drop, with births and deaths each contributing 19 percent.

### **Metro Areas in Arizona**

Metro Phoenix was the 11th-most-populous metro area in 2020, with 4,845,832 residents. Those metro areas with a greater number of residents were New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Miami, Atlanta, and Boston. During the 2010s, Metro Phoenix passed the Riverside, Detroit, and San Francisco metro areas. Metro Phoenix is likely to pass Metro Boston in population in the next few years, but probably will not move higher in the rankings for some time, given that the more populous metro areas are either much more populous and/or are also growing rapidly.

The population change in Metro Phoenix between 2010 and 2020 of 652,945 was the sixth most of the metro areas, behind Dallas, New York, Houston, Atlanta, and Washington D.C. The rate of change over the decade was 15.6 percent in Metro Phoenix, ranking 51st among all 384 metro areas and eighth among the nation's 16 metro areas in the Sun Belt and West with a population of at least 2.5 million. The Orlando, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Charlotte, Seattle, and Denver metro areas had a greater percent gain.

With 1,043,433 residents in 2020, Metro Tucson was the 53rd-most-populated metro area. Its population change during the 2010s of 63,170 ranked only 75th. The rate of change in Metro Tucson of 6.4 percent ranked just 20th of the 25 metro areas in the Sun Belt and West with a population between 750,000 and 1.5 million.

Net natural change was less during the 2010s than the 2000s in both Metro Phoenix and Metro Tucson. Net migration to Metro Phoenix was less than in each of the four prior decades, barely half that of the 1990s and nearly one-third less than in the 2000s. Net migration to Metro Tucson during the 2010s was less than one-half as much as in each of the four prior decades.

### **Arizona Counties**

Arizona's population in 2020 was heavily concentrated (82.4 percent of the total) in three counties in two metropolitan areas in the south-central part of the state. Metro Phoenix consists of Maricopa County (population of 4,420,568 — 61.8 percent of the state's total) and Pinal County (population of 425,264 — 5.9 percent of the total). The population of Pima County (the Tucson metro area) of 1,043,433 accounted for 14.6 percent of the state's residents. Among the state's other 12 counties, Yavapai was the most populous with 236,209 residents.

The population of the three-county area grew faster than the rest of the state between 2010 and 2020, accounting for 94.3 percent of the state's numeric increase. The numeric gains in the decade were 603,451 in Maricopa County (79.5 percent of the state's total), 49,494 in Pinal County (6.5 percent of the total), and 63,170 in Pima County (8.3 percent of the total). The next-highest change in population was 25,176 in Yavapai County.

Four Arizona counties experienced an increase in population over the 2010-to-2020 decade at least equal to the state's 11.9 percent: Maricopa (15.8 percent), Greenlee (13.3 percent), Pinal (13.2 percent), and Yavapai (11.9 percent). The number of residents decreased in five counties: La Paz (-19.2 percent), Apache (-7.7 percent), Cochise (-4.5 percent), Navajo (-0.7 percent), and Gila (-0.6 percent).

In several counties, the numeric population change in the 2010s was among the lowest of the 12 decades dating back to 1900. In most counties, the 2010-to-2020 numeric change was less than in at least the four prior decades (1970s through 2000s); the primary exceptions were Maricopa and Pinal counties.

In Pinal County, the numeric population increase was less than 26,000 in each decade prior to the 1990s. The gain rose to 63,348 during the 1990s, then exploded to 196,043 during the 2000s, with about 139,000 occurring in just four years from 2005 through 2008. However, the numeric population change between 2010 and 2020 fell to 49,494 — a level less than that of the 1990s.

Net natural change was less during the 2010s than the 2000s in 13 counties. The decrease in net natural change was only 12 percent in Pinal County and 19 percent in Maricopa County, but was 54 percent in Pima County and 68 percent in the 12 less-populous counties taken together. Deaths outnumbered births in Gila, Mohave, and Yavapai counties.

While net migration to Maricopa County fell only 8 percent between the 2000s and 2010s, the decline was 82 percent in Pinal County to a figure less than in the 1990s. The decrease was 53 percent in Pima County to a figure less than in each of the six prior decades and 81 percent in the balance of the state. In six of the 12 less-populous counties, net migration was negative in the 2010s.

#### **Arizona Cities**

Ten incorporated places, nine of which are in the Phoenix area, had more than 100,000 residents in 2020: Phoenix (1,608,139), Tucson (542,629), Mesa (504,258), Chandler (275,987), Gilbert (267,918), Glendale (248,325), Scottsdale (241,361), Peoria (190,985), Tempe (180,587), and Surprise (143,148).

All of the fastest-growing incorporated places were suburbs of Phoenix or Tucson: Queen Creek (126 percent), Buckeye (80 percent), Marana (49 percent), Goodyear (46 percent), Sahuarita (35 percent), and Maricopa (34 percent). In the large urban areas, population growth moves outward from the core as the development of inner and older areas forces new home construction to the fringes of the urban area. Since both the Phoenix and Tucson areas consist of multiple cities, city growth rates in any decade are heavily dependent on the location of the city relative to the fringe of the highly developed area.

Thirty-three incorporated places (36 percent of the total) in Arizona experienced a loss in population between 2010 and 2020. The largest incorporated places to experience a reduction in the number of residents were Nogales (2020 population of 19,770), Douglas, Eloy, Somerton, and Paradise Valley.

#### **Comparison of 2020 Census Counts to Population Estimates and Projections for 2020**

Both the U.S. Census Bureau and the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) overestimated Arizona's population relative to the 2020 census count; each had also overestimated the 2010 count. In contrast, in most states and for the nation as a whole, the Census Bureau's estimate for April 1, 2020 was *less* than the census count.

The magnitude of the overestimate for 2020 by the OEO (116,693, or 1.6 percent) was less than half that of the Census Bureau. Expressed relative to the actual population change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses of 759,485, the estimate error is much larger at 31.9 percent for the Census Bureau's estimate and 15.4 percent for the OEO's estimate.

The number of incorporated places and the unincorporated portion of each county in Arizona whose 2020 population was overestimated was double the number underestimated by both the Census Bureau and the OEO. In most places, the direction of the error was the same for the OEO and the Census Bureau.

The OEO's estimate was more accurate than the Census Bureau's estimate in each of Arizona's three populous counties. The Census Bureau overestimated the population of Maricopa County but the OEO's estimate was nearly identical to the census count. Estimates were too high, especially by the Census Bureau, for some cities in the core of the county (Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe) and for the small communities that lost population. In contrast, estimates were too low for a few of the rapidly growing suburbs (Buckeye, Goodyear, and Peoria).

The Census Bureau and the OEO significantly overestimated the 2020 population of Pinal County. The population was considerably overestimated in most of the county's places, but the number of residents in the city of Maricopa was underestimated.

Pima County's population was slightly overestimated by each agency. The population of South Tucson was considerably overestimated but the estimates for the suburbs were too low.

The OEO overestimated the number of residents in 11 of the 12 less-populous counties, with errors of more than 5 percent in Apache, Navajo, La Paz, Yuma, Santa Cruz, and Greenlee counties. The Census Bureau overestimated the population in nine of the 12 counties, with errors in excess of 5 percent in Apache, La Paz, and Yuma counties. The Census Bureau's estimate was closer to the census count than the OEO's estimate in nine counties.

The projection made by the OEO in 2012 of the population in Arizona in 2020 was 299,100 (4.2 percent) too high. The magnitude of the overprojection narrowed to 165,100 (2.3 percent) for the series issued in 2015 and to 109,000 (1.5 percent) for the series released in 2018. Even for the projections released in 2018, this represents a 14 percent overprojection of the actual population change between 2010 and 2020.

Each of the OEO's projections issued in 2012, 2015, and 2018 was higher than the census count in nearly all counties. Expressed as a percentage, the magnitude of the error was consistently quite small for Maricopa County, and small for Pima County except in the 2012 projection series. In contrast, the projected population was considerably too high in most of the less-populous counties.

## INTRODUCTION

The 2020 census questionnaire was quite short, similar to the 2010 census questionnaire. The form sent to each housing unit asked for two pieces of information about the housing unit: the number of people living there on April 1, 2020 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 housing unit (household), the following information was requested:

- Sex
- Age and date of birth
- Ethnicity (Hispanic<sup>1</sup> or not Hispanic)
- Race
- Relationship to householder

Similar information was collected for those living in group quarters, such as prisons, nursing homes, and college dormitories.

The COVID-19 epidemic interrupted the data collection efforts such that most of the follow-up was not conducted until some months after the April 1 date of the census. Another factor affecting the results is that the U.S. Census Bureau implemented a new method of ensuring the privacy of all respondents (“disclosure avoidance”), known as “differential privacy.”<sup>2</sup> This process infuses statistical noise and may have changed even the total population figure for substate jurisdictions.

The Census Bureau is releasing the 2020 census results in two parts:

- The 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File. This file provides the data necessary for the redistricting of the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and other elected offices. The initial release of these data occurred on August 12, 2021. The redistricting data were released in an easier-to-use format on September 16, 2021. The data generally are limited to totals, though race/ethnic detail also is provided.
- A complete summary file of all 2020 census data will be released by the Census Bureau at a date not yet determined, but not before 2022.

In this paper, the 2020 census counts and the change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses are reported for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas. Arizona is compared to the nation, to all states, and to 10 Western states.<sup>3</sup> Totals for Arizona counties and places also are presented. Since Arizona’s population in 2020 was considerably overprojected and overestimated (as it was in 2010), the census results for Arizona and its counties and places are compared to estimates and projections issued before the release of the decennial census redistricting file.

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<sup>1</sup> “Hispanic” is synonymous with “Latino” and “Spanish origin.”

<sup>2</sup> For more information, go to [https://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/statistical\\_safeguards.html](https://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/statistical_safeguards.html).

<sup>3</sup> Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

## TOTAL POPULATION

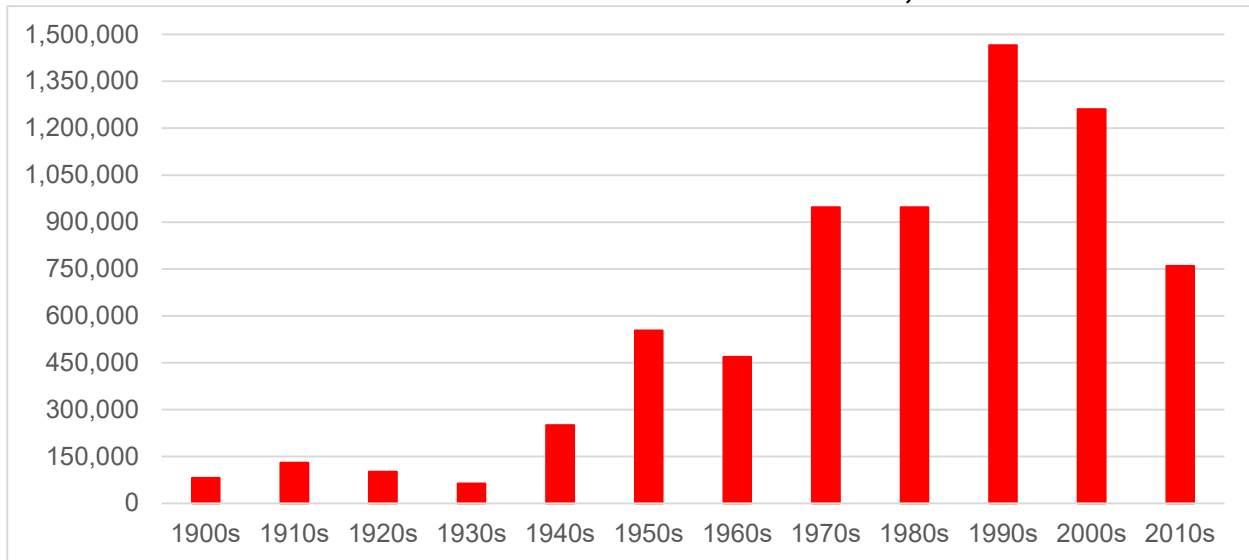
The population of the United States on April 1, 2020 was 331,449,281, as counted by the decennial census. The population change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses was 22,703,743 (7.4 percent). The numeric and percentage change between 2010 and 2020 was less than in the prior decade (27.3 million, 9.7 percent). The numeric change also was less than in the 1950s and 1990s; it was similar (within 5 percent) to the change of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The percentage change was second lowest on record, barely more than in the Depression-wracked 1930s.<sup>4</sup>

### States

Arizona's population count on April 1, 2020 was 7,151,502, an increase of 759,485 (11.9 percent) from April 1, 2010. The numeric population gain was less than in the four preceding decades (see Chart 1): 48 percent less than the number during the 1990s, 40 percent less than the change during the 2000s, and 20 percent less than the figures of the 1970s and 1980s. The state's population increase between 2010 and 2020 accounted for 3.35 percent of the national total — a lesser share than in the four preceding decades (see Chart 2).

The rate of change in population in Arizona between 2010 and 2020 of 11.9 percent was the lowest decadal change on record, even less than in the 1930s. The percent change in Arizona was only 1.6 times the national average, also the lowest ratio on record.

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

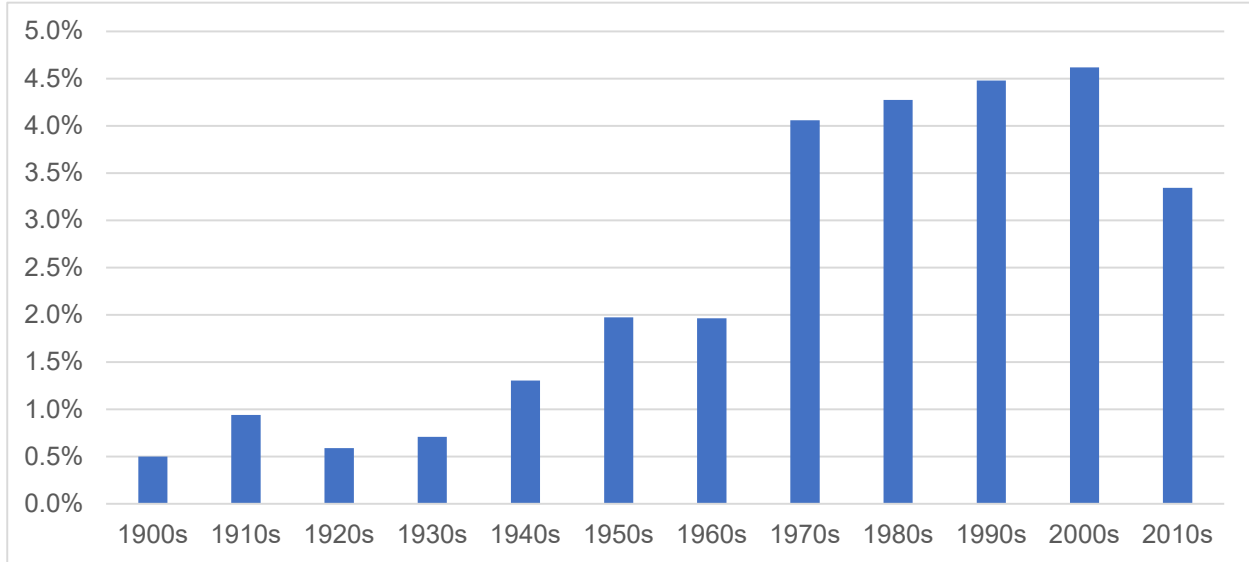


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1).

<sup>4</sup> Caution is urged in interpreting the percent change over time. If the population is increasing, the percent change decreases even if the numeric population change remains constant, due to the increasing base. For example, the numeric increase in Arizona during the 1980s was nearly identical to that of the 1970s, but the rate of change dropped from 54 percent during the 1970s to 35 percent during the 1980s.



**CHART 2  
NUMERIC POPULATION CHANGE BY DECADE,  
ARIZONA AS A SHARE OF THE NATIONAL TOTAL**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1).

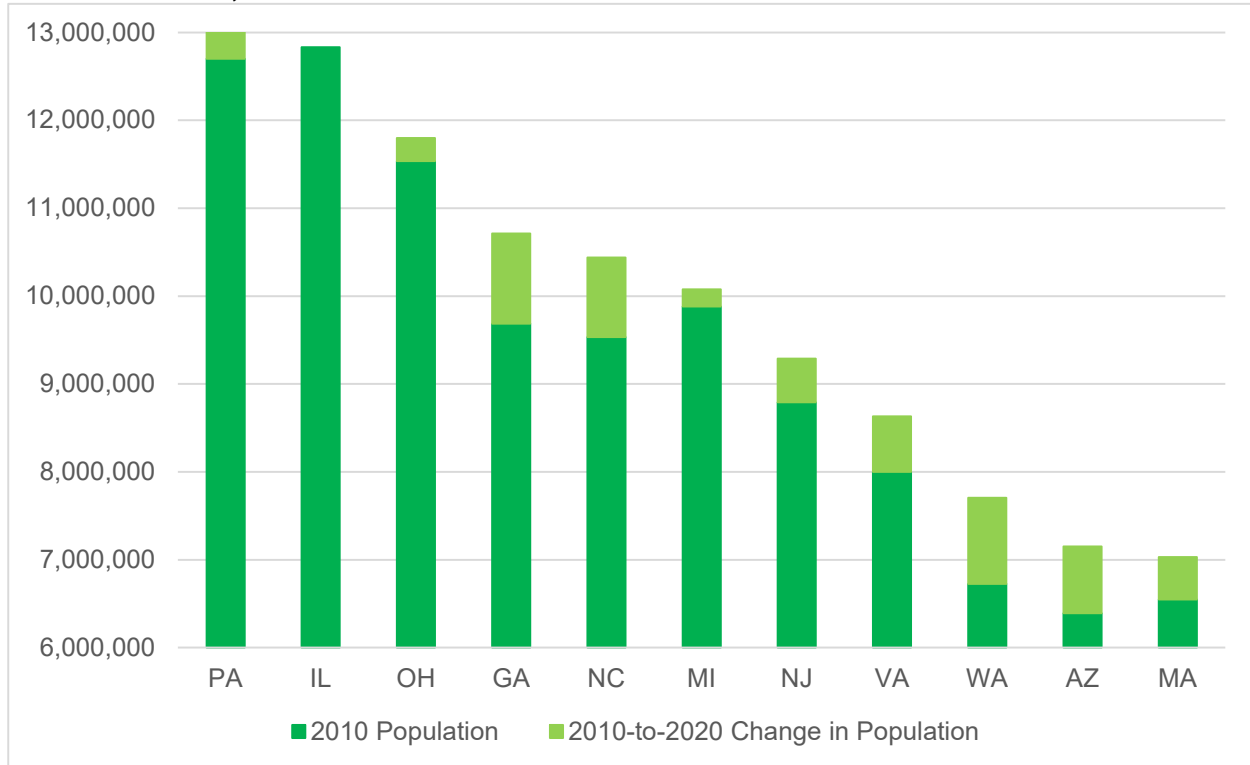
Arizona was the 14th-most-populous state in 2020 and ranked fourth among the 10 Western states. The more-populous states were California (39.5 million), Texas (29.1), Florida (21.5), New York (20.2), Pennsylvania (13.0), Illinois (12.8), Ohio (11.8), Georgia (10.7), North Carolina (10.4), Michigan (10.1), New Jersey (9.3), Virginia (8.6), and Washington (7.7).

Arizona has made a steady climb up the national rankings since 1940, when its population ranked 44th. It passed Indiana and Massachusetts during the 2010s. However, Arizona's rank is unlikely to climb higher for a considerable period of time given that the more-populous states are either much more populous and/or are also growing rapidly (see Chart 3). Washington, ranked 13th in 2020, had 550,000 more residents than Arizona in 2020 and had a greater numeric change between 2010 and 2020. Virginia, ranked 12th, had a population 1.5 million higher and had a numeric change not much less than Arizona. New Jersey, ranked 11th, had 2.1 million more residents than Arizona in 2020.

The numeric population increase in Arizona between 2010 and 2020 was eighth largest in the nation and fourth highest among the 10 Western states, considerably less than in Texas (4.0 million), Florida (2.7), and California (2.3), and less than in Georgia (1.0), Washington (nearly 1), North Carolina (0.9), and New York (0.8). Arizona's rate of change in population ranked 10th nationally, but only seventh among the 10 Western states. Utah, Idaho, Texas, North Dakota, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, Washington, and the District of Columbia each experienced population growth of between 14.6-and-18.4 percent.

Eleven additional states experienced population growth between 2010 and 2020 that exceeded the national average. In contrast, 17 states had a gain of less than half the national average. Three

**CHART 3**  
**POPULATION, STATES WITH BETWEEN 7-AND-13 MILLION RESIDENTS IN 2020**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1).

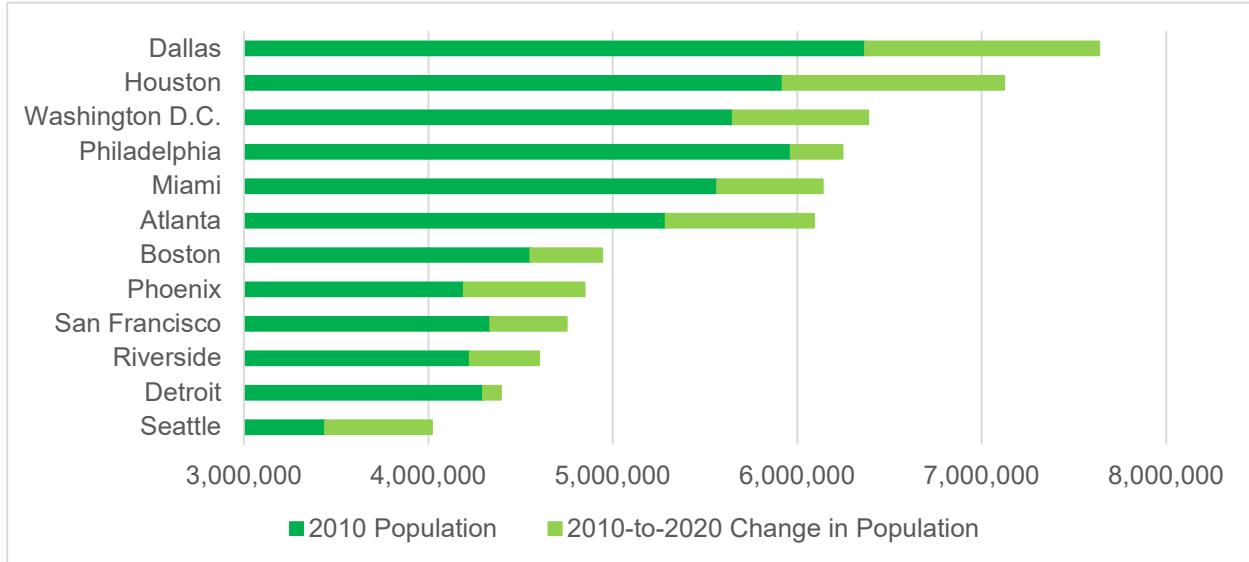
states lost population between 2010 and 2020: Illinois (-0.1 percent), Mississippi (-0.2 percent), and West Virginia (-3.2 percent).

As in the nation, most states experienced a lesser numeric population increase between 2010 and 2020 than in the prior decade. However, 17 states scattered across the country had a larger increase in the 2010s than the 2000s, including Nebraska, which had its largest decadal gain since the 1880s. In no state was the numeric change between 2010 and 2020 the greatest on record.

### **Metropolitan Areas**

Metro Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler (Maricopa and Pinal counties) was the 11th-most-populous metro area in 2020, with 4,845,832 residents. Those metro areas with a greater number of residents were New York (20.1 million), Los Angeles (13.2), Chicago (9.6), Dallas (7.6), Houston (7.1), Washington D.C. (6.4), Philadelphia (6.2), Miami (6.1), Atlanta (6.1), and Boston (4.9). Between 2010 and 2020, Metro Phoenix passed the Riverside, Detroit, and San Francisco metro areas. Metro Phoenix is likely to pass Metro Boston in population in the next few years, but probably will not move higher in the rankings for some time, given that the more-populous metro areas are either much larger and/or are also growing rapidly (see Chart 4).

**CHART 4  
POPULATION, METROPOLITAN AREAS WITH  
BETWEEN 4-AND-8 MILLION RESIDENTS IN 2020**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1).

The population change in Metro Phoenix between 2010 and 2020 of 652,945 was the sixth most of the metro areas, behind Dallas (1.27 million), New York (1.24), Houston (1.20), Atlanta (0.80), and Washington D.C. (0.74). The rate of change over the decade was 15.6 percent in Metro Phoenix, ranking 51st among all 384 metro areas and eighth among the nation’s 16 metro areas in the Sun Belt and West with a population of at least 2.5 million. The Orlando (25.3 percent), Houston (20.3), Dallas (20.0), San Antonio (19.4), Charlotte (18.6), Seattle (16.8), and Denver (16.5) metro areas had a greater percent gain.

With 1,043,433 residents in 2020, Metro Tucson (Pima County) was the 53rd-most-populated metro area. Its population change during the 2010s of 63,170 ranked only 75th. The rate of change in Metro Tucson of 6.4 percent ranked just 20th of the 25 metro areas in the Sun Belt and West with a population of between 750,000 and 1.5 million.

Of the 56 metro areas with a population of more than 1 million, 32 had a percent increase in the number of residents between 2010 and 2020 in excess of the national average. Eleven of the highly populous metro areas — six of which are located on one of the Great Lakes — had a population increase of less than half the U.S. average.

Five less-populous metro areas are located in Arizona: Flagstaff (Coconino County), Lake Havasu City-Kingman (Mohave County), Prescott Valley-Prescott (Yavapai County), Sierra Vista-Douglas (Cochise County), and Yuma (Yuma County). Their populations and population changes are shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 1  
POPULATION, METROPOLITAN AREAS IN ARIZONA**

	2020 Census		Change Between 2010 and 2020 Censuses			
	Rank*	Number	Numeric Rank*	Number	Percent Rank*	Percent
Phoenix	11	4,845,832	6	652,945	51	15.6%
Tucson	53	1,043,433	75	63,170	182	6.4
Prescott	196	236,209	140	25,176	85	11.9
Lake Havasu City	213	213,267	193	13,081	177	6.5
Yuma	222	203,881	233	8,130	234	4.2
Flagstaff	290	145,101	207	10,680	148	7.9
Sierra Vista	319	125,447	363	-5,899	367	-4.5

\* Rank among 384 metro areas (1 = highest).

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1)

### Reservations in Arizona

Twenty-one American Indian reservations are located wholly or partially in Arizona. The Navajo Nation was by far the most populous in 2020 with 94,511 residents. Three reservations had between 10,000 and 15,000 residents: Fort Apache, Gila River, and San Carlos. The total population in Arizona of those living on reservations was 173,499. However, not all of those are Native Americans.

The number living on reservations in Arizona declined by 4,632 (2.6 percent) between 2010 and 2020, though only eight of the 21 reservations lost population. The Navajo Nation lost 7,324 residents (7.2 percent) but the Gila River Reservation gained 2,341 residents (20.0 percent).

### Arizona Counties and Places

Arizona's population in 2020 was heavily concentrated (82.4 percent of the total) in three counties in two metropolitan areas in the south-central part of the state. Metro Phoenix consists of Maricopa County (population of 4,420,568 — 61.8 percent of the state's total) and Pinal County (population of 425,264 — 5.9 percent of the total). Pima County (the Tucson metro area) had a population of 1,043,433, accounting for 14.6 percent of the state's residents. Among the state's other 12 counties, Yavapai was the most populous with 236,209 residents.

The population of the three-county area grew faster than the rest of the state between 2010 and 2020, accounting for 94.3 percent of the state's numeric increase. The numeric gains in the decade were 603,451 in Maricopa County (79.5 percent of the state's total), 49,494 in Pinal County (6.5 percent of the total), and 63,170 in Pima County (8.3 percent of the total). The next-highest change in population was 25,176 in Yavapai County.

Four Arizona counties experienced a rate of increase in population over the 2010-to-2020 decade at least equal to the state's 11.9 percent: Maricopa (15.8 percent), Greenlee (13.3), Pinal (13.2), and Yavapai (11.9). The rate of change in Pima County was only 6.4 percent. The population decreased in five counties: La Paz (-19.2 percent), Apache (-7.7), Cochise (-4.5), Navajo (-0.7), and Gila (-0.6).

In several counties, the numeric population change in the 2010s was among the lowest of the last 12 decades dating back to 1900.<sup>5</sup> In most counties, the 2010-to-2020 numeric change was less than in at least the four prior decades (1970s through 2000s); the primary exceptions were Maricopa and Pinal counties:

- Apache: lowest on record.
- Navajo: lowest on record.
- Coconino: sixth highest, less than in each of the four prior decades.
- Yavapai: fifth highest, less than in each of the four prior decades.
- Mohave: sixth highest, less than in each of the five prior decades.
- La Paz/Yuma: ninth highest, less than in each of the seven prior decades.<sup>6</sup>
- Santa Cruz: ninth highest, less than in each of the six prior decades.
- Cochise: second lowest, less than in each of the seven prior decades.
- Greenlee: second highest of last 10 decades.<sup>7</sup>
- Graham: seventh highest of last 10 decades, less than in each of the five prior decades.
- Gila: second lowest, less than in each of the seven prior decades.
- Maricopa: fourth highest, less than in each of the three prior decades.
- Pinal: third highest, less than in each of the two prior decades.
- Pima: eighth highest, less than in each of the seven prior decades.

In Pinal County, the numeric population increase was less than 26,000 in each decade prior to the 1990s. The decadal gain rose to 63,348 during the 1990s, then exploded to 196,043 during the 2000s, with about 139,000 occurring in just four years from 2005 through 2008. However, the numeric population change between 2010 and 2020 fell to 49,494 — a level less than that of the 1990s.

For the 2020 census, 469 places were defined in Arizona: 91 were incorporated cities and towns and 378 were unincorporated census-designated places (CDPs). The incorporated places ranged in size in 2020 from less than 1,000 residents to 1.61 million residents. Ten incorporated places, nine of which are in Maricopa County, had more than 100,000 residents: Phoenix (1,608,139), Tucson (542,629), Mesa (504,258), Chandler (275,987), Gilbert (267,918), Glendale (248,325), Scottsdale (241,361), Peoria (190,985), Tempe (180,587), and Surprise (143,148).

Most of the CDPs are not very populous: two-thirds had a population of less than 1,000 and 94 percent had fewer than 10,000 residents in 2020. The most-populous CDP in 2020 was San Tan Valley (99,894), located in Pinal County between Queen Creek and Florence. In Pima County, two CDPs near Tucson each had more than 50,000 residents: Casas Adobes (70,973) and Catalina Foothills (52,401).

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<sup>5</sup> For most counties, consistent data are not available prior to 1900 due to multiple changes in county boundaries.

<sup>6</sup> The original Yuma County was split into La Paz County and a smaller Yuma County in 1983.

<sup>7</sup> Greenlee County was split from Graham County in 1909, but a separate census count was not produced for 1910.

The rate of change in population between 2010 and 2020 varied widely by incorporated place, from 126 percent to -49 percent. Thirty-three incorporated places (36 percent of the total) experienced a loss in population during the 2010s — most of these were small, with 24 having a population of less than 5,000 in 2020. The largest incorporated places to experience a loss in population were Nogales (2020 population of 19,770), Douglas (16,534), Eloy (15,635), Somerton (14,197), and Paradise Valley (12,658).

All of the fastest-growing incorporated places were suburbs of Phoenix or Tucson: Queen Creek (126 percent), Buckeye (80 percent), Marana (49 percent), Goodyear (46 percent), Sahuarita (35 percent), and Maricopa (34 percent). In the large urban areas, population growth moves outward from the core as the development of inner and older areas forces new home construction to the fringes of the urban area. Since both the Phoenix and Tucson areas consist of multiple cities, city growth in any decade is heavily dependent on the location of the city relative to the fringe of the highly developed area.

The 2020 census count and the 2010-to-2020 change in population for counties and places are included in Table 3, beginning on page 27. The change in population between 2010 and 2020 shown in Table 3 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. Based on the database of annexations maintained by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), which includes the number of existing housing units annexed and the estimated number of residents in those housing units, only a few incorporated places annexed enough housing units from 2010 through 2019 to materially affect the interpretation of the census results; these are specified below.

### **Population Trends in the Phoenix and Tucson Areas**

The population of **Maricopa** County in 2020 was 4,420,568. Phoenix (1,608,139) was the most-populous incorporated place, accounting for a high 36.4 percent of the county total, followed by Mesa (504,258), which was home to 11.4 percent of the county's residents. Four incorporated places had a population of between 240,000 and 280,000: Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, and Scottsdale. Three others had more than 100,000 residents: Peoria, Tempe, and Surprise. The most-populous CDPs were Sun City (39,931) and Sun City West (25,806). The share of the population living in an unincorporated area was quite small at 7.2 percent, as was the share not living in an incorporated place or a CDP (4.1 percent).

Maricopa County's population rose 603,451 (15.8 percent) between 2010 and 2020. Six incorporated places posted population gains between 2010 and 2020 in excess of 35,000. While Phoenix had the largest numeric increase of 162,507, its rate of gain of 11.2 percent was less than the county total. Mesa's increase was 65,217, but its 14.9 percent rate of growth also was below the county total. Of the other seven incorporated places with a population exceeding 100,000, the growth rate was highest in Gilbert at 28.5 percent and lowest in Glendale at 9.5 percent. Of the four incorporated places with a population of between 50,000 and 99,999, three experienced rapid growth: Queen Creek (93.7 percent in the portion of the city in Maricopa County), Buckeye (79.9 percent), and Goodyear (46.0 percent). In contrast, four smaller incorporated places lost population: Cave Creek, Gila Bend, Guadalupe, and Paradise Valley. The growth rate in the portion of Wickenburg that is in Maricopa County was only 1.5 percent

after adjusting for annexations. While the population rose in the unincorporated portion of the county, only 11 of the 19 CDPs defined in both 2010 and 2020 experienced an increase in population.

In **Pinal** County, the 2020 population count was 425,264. Nearly half of the county's inhabitants lived in an unincorporated area, with close to half of these noncity residents living in the San Tan Valley CDP. Its population of 99,894 greatly exceeded the number of residents in the largest incorporated places: 58,125 in Maricopa and 53,658 in Casa Grande. Apache Junction (38,106) and Florence (26,785) also accounted for more than 5 percent of the county's inhabitants.

Between 2010 and 2020, the numeric increase in population in Pinal County was greatest in the San Tan Valley CDP at 18,573 (a growth rate of 22.8 percent). The city of Maricopa added 14,643 residents (33.7 percent) and the Pinal County portion of Queen Creek added 8,880, but 97 percent of this population gain was due to annexations. These three communities accounted for 85 percent of the county's increase. In contrast, the population dropped in three incorporated mining communities in the eastern part of the county as well as in Eloy. Of the 10 incorporated places, six posted a gain in population. Of the 30 CDPs, 21 posted an increase. However, excluding the San Tan Valley CDP, the number of inhabitants in unincorporated areas declined.

**Pima** County's population reached 1,043,433 in 2020. More than half of the population lived in Tucson (542,629). Yet much of what is thought of as Tucson actually is unincorporated; two CDPs with a population of more than 50,000 and eight others of more than 10,000 were identified near the city limits. The unincorporated portion of the county was home to 35 percent of the residents.

The population of Pima County rose 63,170 (6.4 percent) between 2010 and 2020. Tucson had the largest numeric gain at 22,513, but its growth rate of 4.3 percent was less than the county total. Excluding annexations, the increase was only 3.0 percent. The increase in Marana was 48.5 percent (16,947). Sahuarita's population rose 35.1 percent (8,875), but approximately 700 of the gain resulted from annexations. Some of the CDPs near Tucson also experienced strong growth, including Corona de Tucson, Valencia West, and Vail. Only 15 of 47 CDPs had a population gain; the population not living in incorporated places or CDPs decreased.

### **Population Trends in the Balance of State**

**Apache** County is dominated by Native American reservations, especially the Navajo Nation, which have no incorporated places. Thus, a very high 86 percent of the county's 66,021 inhabitants in 2020 lived in an unincorporated area. Chinle (4,573) and Fort Defiance (3,541) were the most-populous CDPs. The largest of the incorporated places were Eager (4,395) and St. Johns (3,417). A very high 48 percent of the county's inhabitants did not live either in an incorporated place or a CDP.

Apache County's population fell considerably during the 2010s, by 5,497 (7.7 percent). Each of the three incorporated places and the unincorporated area experienced a loss in population. The population declined in 25 of 35 CDPs, most of which are located on American Indian reservations.

In neighboring **Navajo** County, which also has a significant portion of its land area in Native American reservations, a high 63 percent of the county's 106,717 residents lived in an unincorporated area in 2020. Kayenta (4,670) and Whiteriver (4,520) were the most-populous CDPs. Show Low was the largest incorporated place, with 11,732 residents. Winslow (9,005) and Snowflake (6,104) each accounted for more than 5 percent of the county's inhabitants.

The population of Navajo County dropped by 732 (-0.7 percent) between 2010 and 2020. The number of residents fell in four of the six incorporated places — Show Low and Snowflake experienced population gains of between 9-and-10 percent — and in the unincorporated portion of the county. Of the 40 CDPs defined in both 2010 and 2020, 24 lost population.

The Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation extend into **Coconino** County, but unlike Apache and Navajo counties, Coconino County also has a significant off-reservation population center: more than half (76,831) of the county's 145,101 residents lived in Flagstaff in 2020. Of the other five incorporated places, Page was the most populous at 7,440, but it was eclipsed in number by the Tuba City CDP (8,072). The proportion of the county's residents living in an unincorporated area was 37 percent.

Coconino County experienced a population gain of 10,680 (7.9 percent) between 2010 and 2020. The numeric increase was larger in Flagstaff at 10,961 (16.6 percent). The city's outlying CDPs of Doney Park and Fort Valley also saw a rise in population. In contrast, the portion of Sedona located in Coconino County lost population, as did 12 of the 17 CDPs defined in both 2010 and 2020. Most of the CDPs with a decline in number are located on the Navajo Nation.

The number of **Yavapai** County residents in 2020 totaled 236,209. Prescott Valley (46,785) was more populous than Prescott (45,827); combined they housed 39 percent of the county's residents. Also accounting for more than 5 percent of the county total were Chino Valley (13,020), Camp Verde (12,147), and Cottonwood (12,029). The unincorporated portion of the county was home to 38 percent of the county's residents; the Verde Village CDP housed 12,019.

Between 2010 and 2020, Yavapai County gained 25,176 residents, a growth rate of 11.9 percent. Prescott Valley (7,963; 20.5 percent) and Prescott (5,984; 15.0 percent) led the growth. Of the 17 CDPs defined in both 2010 and 2020, seven lost population, as did the Yavapai County portion of Sedona.

The 2020 population of **Mohave** County was 213,267, of which 37 percent lived in an unincorporated area. Three of the four incorporated places were sizable: Lake Havasu City (57,144 residents), Bullhead City (41,348), and Kingman (32,689). Two CDPs had a population of more than 10,000: Fort Mohave (16,190) and New Kingman-Butler (12,907).

The population of Mohave County rose 13,081 (6.5 percent) during the 2010s. Each of the three populous incorporated places and the largest CDPs had an increase, led by a 16.5 percent rise in Kingman. Colorado City, the other incorporated place, lost nearly half of its population. Of the 42 CDPs, 20 had fewer residents in 2020 than in 2010.



The population of **La Paz** County was only 16,557 in 2020; a high 65 percent lived in an unincorporated area. Only two places are incorporated: Parker had 3,417 residents and Quartzsite 2,413. The most populous CDPs were Cienega Springs (1,690), outside Parker, and Salome (1,162) in the eastern portion of the county.

La Paz County's population dropped 19.2 percent (-3,932) between 2010 and 2020. Quartzsite's population fell 34.4 percent (-1,264). The number living in the unincorporated portion dropped 21.9 percent (-3,002), with each of the 15 CDPs losing population. However, Parker had a gain of 10.8 percent (334).

Nearly 47 percent of the 203,881 residents of **Yuma** County lived in the city of Yuma (95,548) in 2020. The border city of San Luis had 35,257 residents and Somerton had 14,197. The Fortuna Foothills CDP east of Yuma had 27,776 residents, accounting for nearly half of the county's residents who lived in an unincorporated area.

Yuma County's population rose only 4.2 percent (8,130) during the 2010s. San Luis led the growth with a gain of 7,348 (26.3 percent). The only other communities to experience a population gain were Yuma and Fortuna Foothills CDP, each between 5-and-6 percent. The other 15 CDPs lost population.

**Santa Cruz** County also shares a border with Mexico. More than half of its 2020 population of 47,669 lived in an unincorporated area. The Rio Rico CDP, located just north of Nogales, surpassed Nogales in population (20,549 versus 19,770). These two communities combined for 85 percent of the county's residents.

The population of Santa Cruz County rose by just 249 (0.5 percent) between 2010 and 2020. The Rio Rico CDP gained 1,587 residents (8.4 percent) but Nogales lost 1,067 residents (-5.1 percent). The Tubac CDP posted a large percentage increase (32.7 percent, 390 residents) but Patagonia and four of the eight CDPs had fewer residents in 2020 than in 2010.

**Cochise** is the other border county; it had 125,447 residents in 2020. Sierra Vista (45,308) and the adjacent Sierra Vista Southeast CDP (14,428) accounted for 48 percent of the county's inhabitants. Douglas (16,534) was the most populous of the other six incorporated places. Nearly 39 percent of the county's residents lived in an unincorporated area.

Cochise County experienced a sizable loss of population during the 2010s (-5,899; -4.5 percent). Five of the seven incorporated places and 12 of the 14 CDPs defined in both 2010 and 2020 lost population, including the Sierra Vista Southeast CDP (a decline of 369 residents; 2.5 percent). Sierra Vista's population rose 1,420 (3.2 percent), but more than 1,000 of the gain was due to annexations. Otherwise, the greatest increase in population (619; 23.7 percent) was in the Whetstone CDP located north of Sierra Vista.

**Greenlee** County, Arizona's least populous, had only 9,563 residents in 2020. Its largest communities were Clifton (3,933) and the Morenci CDP (2,028), which were home to 62 percent of the county's residents. These two communities gained population between 2010 and 2020, summing to more than the county's gain of 1,126 (13.3 percent).

**Graham** County had 38,533 residents in 2020. Safford was the largest population center at 10,129. The other two incorporated places were Thatcher (5,231) and Pima (2,847). More than half of Graham County's residents lived in an unincorporated area, with the Swift Trail Junction CDP east of Safford the largest with 2,810 residents. A high 31.4 percent of the inhabitants lived outside an incorporated place or CDP.

The increase in population in Graham County between 2010 and 2020 was 1,313 (3.5 percent). Each of the three incorporated cities had an expansion in the number of residents, led by Pima with a 19.3 percent rise. In contrast, six of the eight CDPs suffered a loss in population.

**Gila** County's population in 2020 was 53,272. Payson was the largest population center with 16,351 residents. Globe (7,249) and the San Carlos CDP (3,987) were the next-largest communities. Close to half of the county's population lived in an unincorporated area.

The population of Gila County fell by 325 (-0.6 percent) during the 2010s. The number of inhabitants declined in most of the county: in four of six incorporated places and in 27 of 42 CDPs that were defined in both 2010 and 2020. All of the incorporated places and CDPs in the southern portion of the county that are tied to mining suffered a population decrease. In the northern portion of the county, Payson and adjacent Star Valley each had a gain of about 7 percent.

## **HOUSEHOLD POPULATION AND GROUP QUARTERS POPULATION**

Group quarters include institutions, such as correctional facilities and nursing homes, and noninstitutional settings, such as college dormitories and military quarters. Nationally, 97.5 percent (323,210,265) of the people counted in the 2020 census lived in households. The remaining 2.5 percent (8,239,016) lived in group quarters. Between 2010 and 2020, the household population rose by 22,452,050 (7.5 percent) while the group quarters population increased by only 251,693 (3.2 percent). The group quarters share of the total population of 2.49 percent in 2020 was slightly less than in the three prior censuses: 2.69 percent in 1990, 2.76 in 2000, and 2.59 in 2010.

Approximately 46 percent of the group quarters population nationally lived in institutions — 24 percent in correctional facilities, 1 percent in juvenile facilities, 20 percent in nursing facilities, and 1 percent in other institutions. The other 54 percent of group quarters dwellers lived in noninstitutional settings — 34 percent in university housing, 4 percent in military quarters, and 17 percent in other places (including homeless shelters and group homes for the elderly and handicapped).

### **States**

In 2020 in Arizona, 6,991,233 individuals dwelled in households and 160,269 lived in group quarters. The 2.2 percent share of Arizonans who lived in group quarters was less than the national average. The distribution also was different from the U.S. average, with 40 percent of those Arizonans living in group quarters incarcerated in prisons. Arizona had lesser-than-average shares living in nursing facilities, university dormitories, and military housing.

The percentage of the total population living in group quarters in Arizona in 2020 ranked 40th among the 51 “states,” but most Western states had a below-average share — Arizona ranked fourth among 10 Western states. Arizona ranked sixth nationally in the share living in correctional facilities, but only 47th in nursing facilities and 44th in college dormitories. Washington, D.C. had the highest group quarters share at 5.9 percent, while Nevada had the lowest share at 1.2 percent.

Between 2010 and 2020, the increase in Arizona’s household population of 738,600 ranked eighth in the nation and fourth among the 10 Western states. The 11.8 percent change ranked 10th nationally but only seventh among the 10 Western states.

The 2010-to-2020 increase in the group quarters population of 20,885 in Arizona ranked sixth in the nation and third among the 10 Western states. The 20.9 percent change ranked third both nationally and among the 10 Western states. Arizona’s group quarters share of 2.24 percent in 2020 was slightly higher than in the three prior censuses — 2.20 percent in 1990, 2.14 in 2000, and 2.18 in 2010.

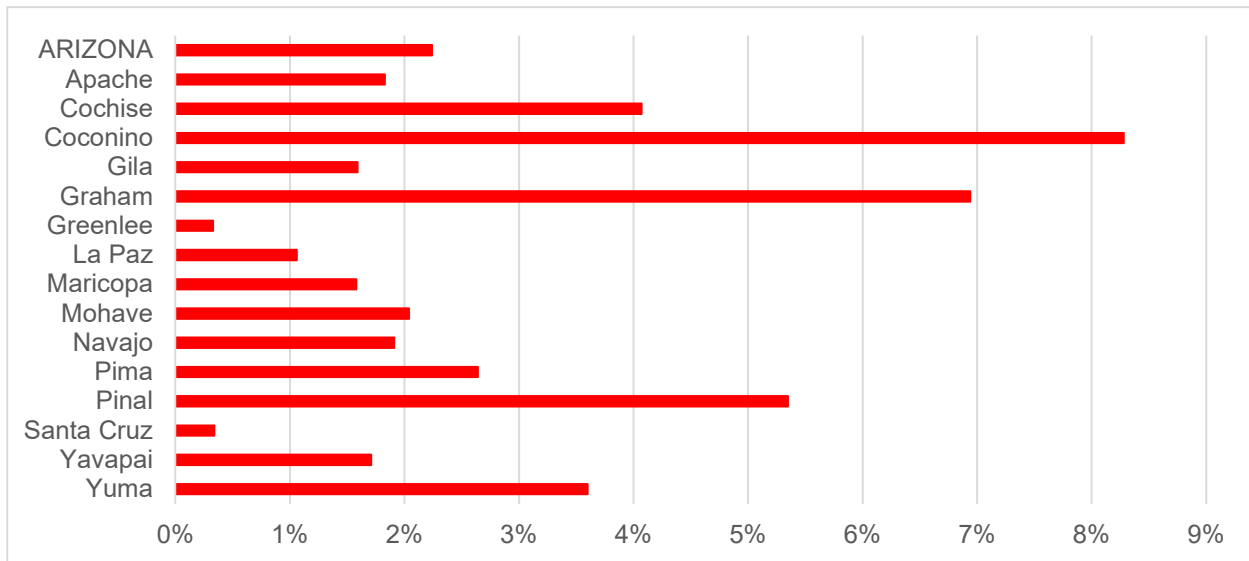
### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The share of the population living in group quarters in 2020 varied widely by county in Arizona, from less than 0.5 percent in Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties to 8 percent in Coconino County (see Chart 5). The share was between 4-and-7 percent in Cochise, Graham, and Pinal counties.

The high group quarters share in Coconino County largely was the result of college dormitories, though the share living in “other noninstitutional facilities” also was high. In contrast, the relatively high shares in Graham and Pinal counties largely resulted from a large correctional population, while the high share in Cochise County was mostly due to military housing.

In eight incorporated places or unincorporated portion of a county in Arizona, more than one-in-10 residents lived in group quarters in 2020. Correctional facilities accounted for all or nearly all of the high share in Florence (57 percent of its residents lived in group quarters), Eloy (38 percent), San Luis (15 percent), Douglas (13 percent), Winslow (13 percent), and unincorporated Graham County (12 percent). In Flagstaff, most of the 14 percent of residents living in group quarters lived in college dormitories, but the share living in “other noninstitutional facilities” also was above average. In the small community of Tusayan, all of the 21 percent of residents living in group quarters lived in “other noninstitutional facilities.” In contrast, less than 1 percent of the population lived in group quarters in many places.

**CHART 5  
SHARE OF POPULATION LIVING IN GROUP QUARTERS IN 2020,  
ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**



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

## **HOUSING UNITS AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

The household population is the product of the number of occupied housing units and the average household size (number of persons per household).

Nationally, the total number of housing units in 2020 was 140,498,736, of which 126,817,580 were occupied and 13,681,156 (9.7 percent) were vacant. The average household size was 2.549. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of housing units increased 6.7 percent, half the rate of the two prior decades. The rate of increase in the number of occupied units did not fall quite as much, from 14.7 percent during the 1990s to 10.7 percent during the 2000s to 8.7 percent during the 2010s.

The national vacancy rate has fluctuated by census, from 10.1 percent in 1990 to 9.0 percent in 2000 to 11.4 percent in 2010 to 9.7 percent in 2020. The number of vacant units changed little during the 1990s, rose by 4.6 million during the 2000s, and decreased by 1.3 million during the 2010s.

The vacancy rate as defined by the Census Bureau is much broader than the real estate vacancy rate. The greatest definitional difference is due to seasonal homes, which are not on the market for sale or lease, but are counted as vacant in the census since the owners of these seasonally used properties are counted at the location of their primary home.

Average household size has been declining nationally since the founding of the country, though the rate of the decrease has varied by decade. The average number of persons per household was 2.632 in 1990, 2.594 in 2000, 2.577 in 2010, and 2.549 in 2020. While the decreases may seem small, when multiplied by the large number of occupied housing units, these declines have had a noticeable effect on the counted population.

### **States**

The decennial census counted 3,082,000 housing units in Arizona on April 1, 2020, of which 2,705,878 were occupied and 376,122 (12.2 percent) were vacant. The average household size was 2.584. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of housing units climbed by 237,474 (8.3 percent). The increase was much less than in the 1990s and 2000s; the percent change during the 2010s was barely more than one-fourth that of the two prior decades. The increase in the number of occupied units fell from 38.9 percent during the 1990s to 25.2 percent during the 2000s to 13.6 percent during the 2010s.

The vacancy rate in Arizona has fluctuated over the decades similarly to the national rate, but has consistently been considerably higher than the U.S. rate at 17.5 percent in 1990, 13.1 percent in 2000, 16.3 percent in 2010, and 12.2 percent in 2020. The number of vacant units in Arizona changed little during the 1990s, rose by 176,000 during the 2000s, and decreased by 87,000 during the 2010s.

The average number of persons per household in Arizona rose during the 1990s then resumed its long-term decline, dropping below the 1990 figure in 2020. The average household size in Arizona was less than the U.S. average in 1990 but has been higher since. The figure was 2.619 in 1990, 2.641 in 2000, 2.626 in 2010, and 2.584 in 2020.

The vacancy rate declined between 2010 and 2020 in all but six states. Arizona’s decrease of 4.1 percentage points was the second largest among the states to Nevada.

In 2020, Utah had the greatest average household size at 3.042; the lowest figure was 2.077 in the District of Columbia. Arizona ranked 11th highest, but only sixth highest among the 10 Western states. Only eight states experienced an increase in household size during the last decade, with three of these Western states. Arizona ranked 35th nationally and seventh among the 10 Western states on the change in size between 2010 and 2020.

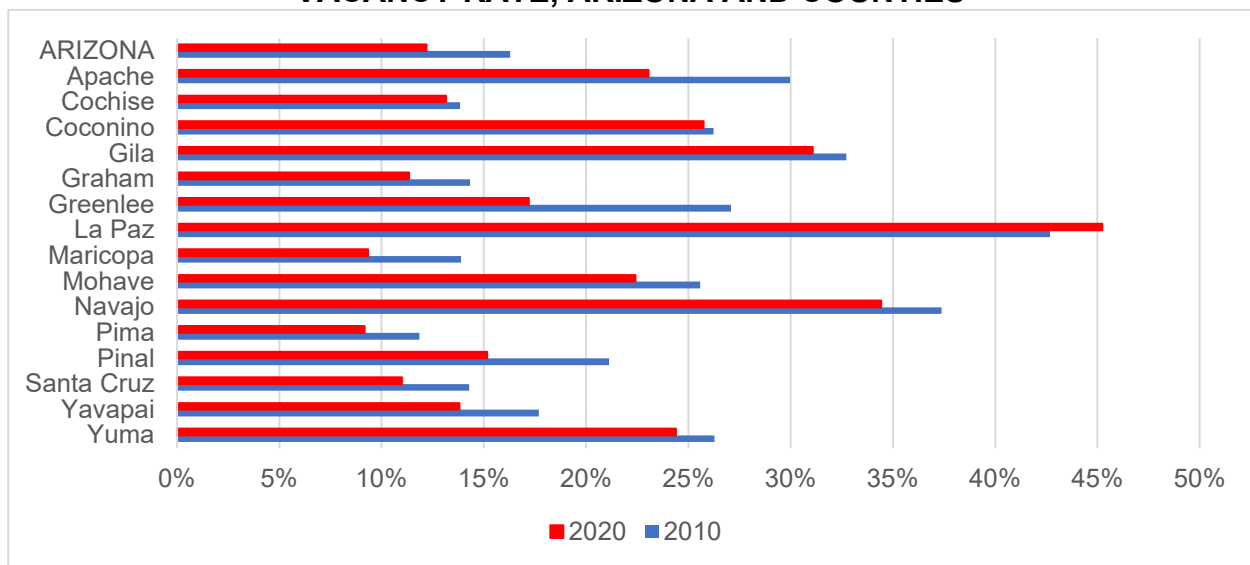
### Arizona Counties and Places

The vacancy rate varies widely across Arizona, primarily due to seasonal housing. The results from the 2020 census, with comparisons to the 2010 census, are shown in Chart 6 by county. Only La Paz County experienced an increase in the vacancy rate between 2010 and 2020. The largest declines were in Apache and Greenlee counties.

The vacancy rate in 2020 exceeded 40 percent in six jurisdictions (incorporated places or the unincorporated portion of a county), most of which are popular second-home locations. In contrast, the vacancy rate was less than 5 percent in five jurisdictions, including Gilbert. The decrease in vacancy rate between 2010 and 2020 exceeded 10 percentage points in five places, including Buckeye. Though all but one county had a decrease in the vacancy rate, a number of jurisdictions had an increase, with the vacancy rate rising more than 9 percentage points in Colorado City and Wellton.

The household population, the number of occupied housing units, and the average household size in 2020, along with the change in these measures between 2010 and 2020, are displayed in Table 2 by county. The number of persons per household in 2020 ranged from 2.22 in La Paz and

**CHART 6  
VACANCY RATE, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census, as of April 1).

**TABLE 2  
HOUSEHOLD POPULATION, OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS, AND  
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	2020 Census			Change Between 2010 and 2020		
	Household Population	Occupied Housing Units	Persons Per Household	Household Population	Occupied Housing Units	Persons Per Household
ARIZONA	6,991,233	2,705,878	2.584	738,600	324,888	-0.042
Apache	64,814	22,103	2.932	-5,763	-668	-0.167
Cochise	120,344	50,936	2.363	-4,731	71	-0.096
Coconino	133,091	51,320	2.593	7,504	4,609	-0.095
Gila	52,427	22,312	2.350	-253	312	-0.045
Graham	35,860	12,150	2.951	2,391	1,030	-0.058
Greenlee	9,531	3,634	2.623	1,129	446	-0.013
La Paz	16,381	7,370	2.223	-3,720	-1,828	0.037
Maricopa	4,350,538	1,643,579	2.647	586,598	231,996	-0.019
Mohave	208,927	91,270	2.289	11,370	8,731	-0.104
Navajo	104,677	36,836	2.842	-545	1,178	-0.109
Pima	1,015,933	427,021	2.379	59,809	38,361	-0.081
Pinal	402,494	146,663	2.744	52,969	21,073	-0.039
Santa Cruz	47,509	16,670	2.850	473	1,233	-0.197
Yavapai	232,174	104,425	2.223	24,666	13,522	-0.059
Yuma	196,533	69,589	2.824	6,703	4,822	-0.107

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses, as of April 1).

Yavapai counties to 2.93 in Apache County and 2.95 in Graham County. The change in average household size between 2010 and 2020 varied from a decrease of 0.17 in Apache County to an increase of 0.04 in La Paz County.

Among the incorporated places and the unincorporated area of each county, nine had an average household size of less than 2 in 2020, while 17 had an average of at least 3. The highest figure was in Colorado City at 5.25, followed by San Luis at 3.90. The lowest figure was in Quartzsite at 1.68. While average household size dropped between 2010 and 2020 in all but one county, 23 jurisdictions had an increase, though most were slight. The largest increases were 8.3 percent in Litchfield Park and 7.7 percent in Youngtown. The largest decrease was 37.4 percent in Colorado City.

Of those geographic areas that experienced an increase in the household population, each county and 77 percent of the incorporated places and the unincorporated portion of a county had an increase in the number of occupied housing units and a decrease in the average household size. In the other places with an increase in population, both the number of occupied units and the average household size rose.

Among the five counties that had a decrease in the number living in households between 2010 and 2020, three had a gain in the number of occupied units but a loss in average household size that more than offset the positive effect of the increase in occupied units. One county had a decline in the number of households but an increase in average household size. The other county

experienced a decrease in each component, with the drop in household size the larger contributor to the decline in household population.

Among the incorporated places and the unincorporated portion of a county that lost population between 2010 and 2020, half experienced a decline in both the number of occupied units and average household size, with the latter accounting for more than half of the population loss in the majority of cases. Among the other half of places that lost population, a gain in the number of occupied units that was more than offset by a decrease in average household size was more common than an increase in household size that was more than offset by a decrease in the number of households.



## **COMPARISON OF 2020 POPULATION COUNTS TO ESTIMATES**

Annual estimates of the population, expressed as of July 1, are produced by the Census Bureau for the nation, states, counties, and incorporated places. Estimates for Arizona, its counties, and its incorporated places as of July 1 also are produced by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

The accuracy of the estimates for 2020 is discussed in this section. In order to make comparisons between the estimates and the April 1 census count, the Census Bureau has provided estimates for April 1, 2020. To compare the OEO's estimates to the census count, the author of this report produced April 1, 2020 estimates by assuming that three-fourths of the annual change between the July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2020 estimates had occurred by April 1, 2020.

The Census Bureau's estimate of the nation's population on April 1, 2020 was 2,050,539 too low. This represents an error of 0.6 percent relative to the 2020 count but 9 percent relative to the change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses. Thus, the magnitude of the slowdown in the nation's population growth was not as large as the Census Bureau had estimated.

Both the Census Bureau and the OEO overestimated Arizona's population relative to the census count in both 2010 and 2020. 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 2020 population estimate was 242,398 (3.4 percent) higher than the count. The overestimate for Arizona in 2020 was the largest of any state.

The magnitude of the overestimate of Arizona's population in 2020 by the OEO — 116,693, or 1.6 percent — was less than half that of the Census Bureau. Expressed relative to the actual population change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses of 759,485, the error was 31.9 percent for the Census Bureau's estimate and 15.4 percent for the OEO's estimate. Thus, the slowdown in population growth that occurred in the state between 2010 and 2020 was greater than either agency had expected.

### **Methodologies and Data Used to Produce Population Estimates**

In general, the percentage error of the estimates is least for highly populous jurisdictions and highest for areas with a small number of residents. The accuracy of population estimates at the state and substate level 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.

The Census Bureau and the OEO each estimate the population by county; the Census Bureau controls the sum of its county estimates for the entire nation to the national population estimate previously produced. The estimated population by state is the sum of the counties. Each agency separately estimates the household population and the group quarters population. The method used for group quarters by the OEO and the Census Bureau is similar. However, the two agencies use different methods to estimate the household population by county.

The OEO uses a "composite method" that uses indicator data to estimate the population in each of four age groups:

- Ages 0 to 4: based on the number of births and the number of deaths in this age group.
- Ages 5 to 17: school enrollment is the indicator used.
- Ages 18 to 64: driver's licenses is the indicator used.
- Ages 65 and older: based on Medicare and Social Security enrollments.<sup>8</sup>

The Census Bureau uses births, deaths, and net international migration to estimate the population of the nation. Net international migration consists of the immigration and emigration of the foreign born, net migration between the United States and Puerto Rico, net movement of armed forces personnel, and the net movement of other native-born Americans. For counties, births, deaths, net domestic migration, and net international migration are used. The estimate of net domestic migration uses data from the Internal Revenue Service, Medicare, and Social Security.<sup>9</sup>

Estimates for incorporated places and the unincorporated portion of the county are controlled to the county estimate by each agency, separately for the household and group quarters populations. The method used by the Census Bureau and the OEO for the subcounty household estimates is essentially the same: the housing unit method (HUM), which has three components: the number of housing units, the vacancy rate, and the average number of people living in an occupied housing unit.

An 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, the accuracy of the permit/completion and demolition data varies by jurisdiction.

The only source of information on housing vacancy rates and persons per household is the last decennial census. Lacking any current data, each agency assumes that the vacancy rate and household size was the same throughout the 2010-to-2020 decade as in the 2010 census. However, as discussed in the prior section, the vacancy rate and average household size each dropped between 2010 and 2020 in most jurisdictions.

For places, the error in the 2020 estimate versus the census count can derive from an error in the HUM estimate, due to an inaccurate estimate of the number of housing units, outdated data on the occupancy rate, and outdated data on average household size. In addition, since the place estimates are controlled to the county estimate, any error in the county estimate affects the accuracy of the place estimates.

### **States**

The Census Bureau overestimated the 2020 population of 14 states. The error for Arizona of 3.4 percent was the most of any state, followed by the District of Columbia (3.3 percent), South Carolina (1.7 percent), and North Carolina (1.4 percent). Most of the states that were overestimated are located in the Sun Belt.

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<sup>8</sup> For more information on the OEO's methodology, go to <https://www.azcommerce.com/media/1546587/pop-estimates2020-az-oEO-method.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Detail on the Census Bureau's methodology is available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/methodology.html>.

In contrast, in most states and for the nation as a whole, the Census Bureau's estimate for April 1, 2020 was *less* than the census count. The largest underestimates were in New Jersey (-4.3 percent) and New York (-4.1 percent). Most of the other states with a large underestimate are in the northeastern portion of the country.

### **Arizona Counties and Places**

The number of incorporated places and unincorporated portion of counties in Arizona whose 2020 population was overestimated was double the number underestimated by both the Census Bureau and the OEO. In most places, the direction of the error was the same for the OEO and the Census Bureau (see Table 3).

#### **Estimate Errors in the Phoenix and Tucson Areas**

The OEO's estimate was more accurate than the Census Bureau's estimate in each of Arizona's three populous counties. The Census Bureau overestimated the population of Maricopa County but the OEO's estimate was nearly identical to the census count. Estimates were too high, especially by the Census Bureau, for some cities in the core of the county (Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe) and for the small communities that lost population. In contrast, estimates were too low for a few of the rapidly growing suburbs (Buckeye, Goodyear, and Peoria).

The Census Bureau and the OEO significantly overestimated the 2020 population of Pinal County. In most of the county's places the population was considerably overestimated, but the number of residents in the city of Maricopa was underestimated.

Pima County's population was slightly overestimated by each agency. The population of South Tucson was considerably overestimated but the estimates for the suburbs were too low.

#### **Estimate Errors in the Balance of State**

The OEO overestimated the number of residents in 11 of the 12 less-populous counties, with errors of more than 5 percent in Apache, Navajo, La Paz, Yuma, Santa Cruz, and Greenlee counties. The Census Bureau overestimated the population in nine of the 12 counties, with errors in excess of 5 percent in Apache, La Paz, and Yuma counties. The Census Bureau's estimate was closer to the census count than the OEO's estimate in nine counties.

In Apache and Navajo counties, the OEO overestimated the population in each place, with the Census Bureau's estimate too high in most places. The percentage magnitude of the error was large in Eager, Springerville, Holbrook, Pinetop-Lakeside, Taylor, Winslow, and unincorporated Navajo County.

For Coconino and Yavapai counties, the estimates of each agency were quite accurate. The direction of the error by place was mixed. Estimates were a little high for Mohave County, with a large overestimate for Colorado City.

The estimates for Yuma and especially La Paz County were far too high. Each place except Parker was overestimated.

The OEO's estimate for Santa Cruz County was considerably too high, with each place overestimated, but the Census Bureau slightly underestimated the county's population. For Cochise County, the estimates were too high, though not by a substantial amount by the Census Bureau. Huachuca City, Willcox, and the unincorporated area were overestimated, but the population of Benson was underestimated.

The Census Bureau's estimate for Greenlee County was a little low but the OEO's estimate was considerably high, with the differential largely occurring in the estimate for Clifton. The estimates for Graham County were close to the census count, with the direction of error varying by place. The estimates were a little high for Gila County, with the mining towns of Hayden, Miami, and Winkelman overestimated, but the populations of Star Valley and Payson were underestimated.

**TABLE 3  
POPULATION, ARIZONA, COUNTIES, AND PLACES**

	Decennial Census Change Between 2010 and 2020*			Difference in Estimate From Decennial Census, 2020			
	2020	Number	Percent	Office of Economic Opportunity		Census Bureau	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
ARIZONA	7,151,502	759,485	11.9%	116,693	1.6%	242,398	3.4%
APACHE	66,021	-5,497	-7.7	6,414	9.7	5,908	8.9
Eagar	4,395	-490	-10.0	582	13.2	561	12.8
St. Johns	3,417	-63	-1.8	106	3.1	108	3.2
Springerville	1,717	-244	-12.4	283	16.5	269	15.7
Unincorporated	56,492	-4,700	-7.7	5,443	9.6	4,970	8.8
COCHISE	125,447	-5,899	-4.5	6,026	4.8	2,068	1.6
Benson	5,355	250	4.9	-281	-5.2	-458	-8.6
Bisbee	4,923	-652	-11.7	408	8.3	240	4.9
Douglas	16,534	-844	-4.9	348	2.1	-52	-0.3
Huachuca City	1,626	-227	-12.3	170	10.5	111	6.8
Sierra Vista	45,308	1,420	3.2	-212	-0.5	-1,342	-3.0
Tombstone	1,308	-72	-5.2	38	2.9	3	0.2
Willcox	3,213	-544	-14.5	439	13.7	302	9.4
Unincorporated	47,180	-5,230	-10.0	5,116	10.8	3,264	6.9
COCONINO	145,101	10,680	7.9	712	0.5	-2,172	-1.5
Flagstaff	76,831	10,961	16.6	-1,332	-1.7	-2,737	-3.6
Fredonia	1,323	9	0.7	-31	-2.3	-43	-3.3
Page	7,440	193	2.7	143	1.9	113	1.5
Sedona (part)	2,547	-295	-10.4	293	11.5	258	10.1
Tusayan	603	45	8.1	-22	-3.7	-24	-4.0
Williams	3,202	179	5.9	170	5.3	118	3.7
Unincorporated	53,155	-412	-0.8	1,492	2.8	143	0.3
GILA	53,272	-325	-0.6	1,988	3.7	1,027	1.9
Globe	7,249	-283	-3.8	274	3.8	139	1.9
Hayden	512	-150	-22.7	133	25.9	122	23.8
Miami	1,541	-296	-16.1	270	17.5	255	16.5
Payson	16,351	1,050	6.9	-131	-0.8	-424	-2.6
Star Valley	2,484	174	7.5	-120	-4.8	-158	-6.4
Winkelman (part)	294	-59	-16.7	61	20.7	55	18.7
Unincorporated	24,841	-761	-3.0	1,501	6.0	1,038	4.2
GRAHAM	38,533	1,313	3.5	86	0.2	607	1.6
Pima	2,847	460	19.3	-300	-10.5	-264	-9.3
Safford	10,129	563	5.9	-226	-2.2	-191	-1.9
Thatcher	5,231	366	7.5	54	1.0	18	0.3
Unincorporated	20,326	-76	-0.4	558	2.7	1,044	5.1

(continued)

**TABLE 3 (continued)**  
**POPULATION, ARIZONA, COUNTIES, AND PLACES**

	Decennial Census Change Between 2010 and 2020*			Difference in Estimate From Decennial Census, 2020			
	2020	Number	Percent	Office of Economic Opportunity		Census Bureau	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
GREENLEE	9,563	1,126	13.3%	949	9.9%	-200	-2.1%
Clifton	3,933	622	18.8	588	14.9	-284	-7.2
Duncan	694	-2	-0.3	87	12.5	82	11.8
Unincorporated	4,936	506	11.4	275	5.6	2	0.0
LA PAZ	16,557	-3,932	-19.2	5,871	35.5	4,887	29.5
Parker	3,417	334	10.8	-9	-0.3	-149	-4.4
Quartzsite	2,413	-1,264	-34.4	1,586	65.7	1,399	58.0
Unincorporated	10,727	-3,002	-21.9	4,294	40.0	3,637	33.9
MARICOPA	4,420,568	603,451	15.8	806	0.0	139,692	3.2
Apache Jct (part)	393	99	33.7	-67	-16.9	-52	-13.2
Avondale	89,334	13,096	17.2	-4,354	-4.9	-584	-0.7
Buckeye	91,502	40,626	79.9	-5,486	-6.0	-7,793	-8.5
Carefree	3,690	327	9.7	98	2.7	276	7.5
Cave Creek	4,892	-123	-2.5	1,022	20.9	1,065	21.8
Chandler	275,987	39,864	16.9	-5,278	-1.9	-11,642	-4.2
El Mirage	35,805	4,008	12.6	-1,073	-3.0	537	1.5
Fountain Hills	23,820	1,331	5.9	845	3.5	2,088	8.8
Gila Bend	1,892	-30	-1.6	132	7.0	224	11.8
Gilbert	267,918	59,465	28.5	-5,476	-2.0	-11,142	-4.2
Glendale	248,325	21,604	9.5	-3,960	-1.6	6,598	2.7
Goodyear	95,294	30,019	46.0	-3,428	-3.6	-5,596	-5.9
Guadalupe	5,322	-201	-3.6	1,071	20.1	1,367	25.7
Litchfield Park	6,847	1,371	25.0	62	0.9	-304	-4.4
Mesa	504,258	65,217	14.9	-1,591	-0.3	21,930	4.3
Paradise Valley	12,658	-162	-1.3	1,569	12.4	2,158	17.0
Peoria (part)	190,985	36,927	24.0	-7,593	-4.0	-12,083	-6.3
Phoenix	1,608,139	162,507	11.2	21,743	1.4	94,852	5.9
Queen Creek (part)	50,190	24,278	93.7	-954	-1.9	-2,377	-4.7
Scottsdale	241,361	23,976	11.0	8,802	3.6	20,464	8.5
Surprise	143,148	25,631	21.8	-2,985	-2.1	3,472	2.4
Tempe	180,587	18,868	11.7	10,573	5.9	18,792	10.4
Tolleson	7,216	671	10.3	-25	-0.3	306	4.2
Wickenburg (part)	6,614	251	3.9	412	6.2	680	10.3
Youngtown	7,056	900	14.6	-445	-6.3	-147	-2.1
Unincorporated	317,335	32,931	11.6	-2,811	-0.9	16,603	5.2

(continued)

**TABLE 3 (continued)  
POPULATION, ARIZONA, COUNTIES, AND PLACES**

	Decennial Census Change Between 2010 and 2020*			Difference in Estimate From Decennial Census, 2020			
	2020	Number	Percent	Office of Economic Opportunity		Census Bureau	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
MOHAVE	213,267	13,081	6.5%	5,667	2.7%	3,272	1.5%
Bullhead City	41,348	1,808	4.6	130	0.3	291	0.7
Colorado City	2,478	-2,343	-48.6	2,445	98.6	2,428	98.0
Kingman	32,689	4,621	16.5	-872	-2.7	-1,053	-3.2
Lake Havasu City	57,144	4,617	8.8	139	0.2	-46	-0.1
Unincorporated	79,608	4,378	5.8	3,825	4.8	1,652	2.1
NAVAJO	106,717	-732	-0.7	6,446	6.0	5,169	4.8
Holbrook	4,858	-195	-3.9	353	7.3	231	4.8
Pinetop-Lakeside	4,030	-252	-5.9	529	13.1	473	11.7
Show Low	11,732	1,072	10.1	99	0.8	-192	-1.6
Snowflake	6,104	514	9.2	97	1.6	-27	-0.4
Taylor	3,995	-117	-2.8	459	11.5	358	9.0
Winslow	9,005	-650	-6.7	694	7.7	648	7.2
Unincorporated	66,993	-1,104	-1.6	4,215	6.3	3,678	5.5
PIMA	1,043,433	63,170	6.4	7,017	0.7	15,572	1.5
Marana	51,908	16,947	48.5	-1,102	-2.1	-1,124	-2.2
Oro Valley	47,070	6,059	14.8	-890	-1.9	-497	-1.1
Sahuarita	34,134	8,875	35.1	-2,136	-6.3	-1,995	-5.8
South Tucson	4,613	-1,039	-18.4	1,089	23.6	1,128	24.5
Tucson	542,629	22,513	4.3	5,777	1.1	10,233	1.9
Unincorporated	363,079	9,815	2.8	4,279	1.2	7,827	2.2
PINAL	425,264	49,494	13.2	39,488	9.3	51,085	12.0
Apache Jct (part)	38,106	2,560	7.2	3,497	9.2	5,030	13.2
Casa Grande	53,658	5,087	10.5	4,743	8.8	6,940	12.9
Coolidge	13,218	1,393	11.8	-126	-0.9	406	3.1
Eloy	15,635	-996	-6.0	1,976	12.6	1,647	10.5
Florence	26,785	1,249	4.9	625	2.3	1,258	4.7
Kearny	1,741	-209	-10.7	386	22.2	457	26.2
Mammoth	1,076	-350	-24.5	480	44.6	635	59.0
Maricopa	58,125	14,643	33.7	-1,104	-1.9	-4,140	-7.1
Queen Creek (part)	9,329	8,880	1977.7	1,015	10.9	1,609	17.2
Superior	2,407	-430	-15.2	679	28.2	811	33.7
Winkelman (part)	2	2	-	-2	-100.0	1	50.0
Unincorporated	205,182	17,665	9.4	27,319	13.3	36,431	17.8

(continued)

**TABLE 3 (continued)**  
**POPULATION, ARIZONA, COUNTIES, AND PLACES**

	Decennial Census Change Between 2010 and 2020*			Difference in Estimate From Decennial Census, 2020			
	2020	Number	Percent	Office of Economic Opportunity		Census Bureau	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
SANTA CRUZ	47,669	249	0.5%	5,920	12.4%	-845	-1.8%
Nogales	19,770	-1,067	-5.1	3,233	16.4	354	1.8
Patagonia	804	-109	-11.9	205	25.5	78	9.7
Unincorporated	27,095	1,425	5.6	2,482	9.2	-1,277	-4.7
YAVAPAI	236,209	25,176	11.9	-793	-0.3	3,135	1.3
Camp Verde	12,147	1,274	11.7	-1,050	-8.6	-896	-7.4
Chino Valley	13,020	2,203	20.4	-861	-6.6	-279	-2.1
Clarkdale	4,424	327	8.0	132	3.0	78	1.8
Cottonwood	12,029	764	6.8	555	4.6	618	5.1
Dewey-Humboldt	4,326	432	11.1	-142	-3.3	-104	-2.4
Jerome	464	20	4.5	-15	-3.2	-5	-1.1
Prescott	45,827	5,984	15.0	-2,357	-5.1	-1,136	-2.5
Prescott Valley	46,785	7,963	20.5	439	0.9	870	1.9
Sedona (part)	7,137	-52	-0.7	342	4.8	408	5.7
Wickenburg (part)	860	860	-	48	5.6	147	17.1
Unincorporated	89,190	5,408	6.5	2,116	2.4	3,434	3.9
YUMA	203,881	8,130	4.2	30,099	14.8	13,193	6.5
San Luis	35,257	7,348	26.3	4,019	11.4	735	2.1
Somerton	14,197	-90	-0.6	3,757	26.5	2,477	17.4
Wellton	2,375	-507	-17.6	954	40.2	772	32.5
Yuma	95,548	4,888	5.4	11,801	12.4	3,930	4.1
Unincorporated	56,504	-3,509	-5.8	9,568	16.9	5,279	9.3

\* The change is calculated between the original 2010 census count and the 2020 count and thus does not reflect minor corrections to the 2010 count.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census and population estimate as of April 1), and Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (interpolated population estimate as of April 1).



## COMPARISON OF 2020 POPULATION COUNTS TO PROJECTIONS

The OEO issued population projections for the state, counties, incorporated places, and larger CDPs in 2012, 2015, and 2018.<sup>10</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau has not produced projections by state since 2005, but does make projections for the nation.

The Census Bureau issued national population projections seven times between 2000 and 2017. In some years, multiple projection series were produced, including low, middle, and high scenarios. Focusing on the middle scenario, the projection for 2020 made in 2000 was too low. Subsequent projections for 2020 were too high, particularly those issued in 2004 and 2008. Projections made in 2012, 2014, and 2017 interpolated to April 1 were between 0.2 percent (0.6 million) in 2017 to 0.7 percent (2.4 million) in 2014 higher than the April 1, 2020 census count.

Another way of evaluating the accuracy of the projections is to compare the change between the 2010 and 2020 censuses to the projected change. The actual U.S. population change was 22,703,743. The projected change was 8.0 percent too high for the projections issued in 2012, 10.6 percent too high for the projections released in 2014, and 2.6 percent too high for the series circulated in 2017.

The OEO issues three projection series: high, middle, and low. Using the middle series, the projection made by the OEO in 2012 of the population in Arizona in 2020 (interpolated to April 1) was 299,100 (4.2 percent) too high. The magnitude of the overprojection narrowed to 165,100 (2.3 percent) for the series issued in 2015 and to 109,000 (1.5 percent) for the series released in 2018. Even for the projections released in 2018, this represents a 14 percent overprojection of the actual population change between 2010 and 2020.

Each of the OEO's projections issued in 2012, 2015, and 2018 was higher than the census count in nearly all counties, as seen in Table 4. Expressed as a percentage, the magnitude of the error was consistently quite small for Maricopa County, and small for Pima County except in the 2012 projection series. In contrast, the projected population was considerably too high in most of the less-populous counties.

The numeric error of the projection for 2020 was consistently large in Pinal and Yuma counties. Using the 2018 projection series by place, the projections were too high for most places, including Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Eloy, Florence, the mining towns of Kearny, Mammoth, and Superior, and the unincorporated area. In contrast, the projections for Coolidge and Maricopa were quite accurate, and the projected population in the Pinal County portion of Queen Creek was too low. The projections issued in 2018 for Yuma County were too high for every community, including each of the larger CDPs.

For Maricopa and Pima counties, the projections made in 2018 were quite accurate at the county level. Some cities were overprojected while others were underprojected. In Maricopa County, the projections were too high for some of the larger and older cities, including Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Tempe. The projections were too low for most of the rapidly growing cities in the West Valley and Southeast Valley. This pattern also was present in Pima County, with an

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<sup>10</sup> In some parts of the state, the subcounty projections are made by the local Council of Governments.

overprojection for Tucson and South Tucson and an underprojection for Marana, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita.

For the less-populous counties, the population projection was too high in nearly every community in Apache, Cochise, Gila, La Paz, Navajo, and Santa Cruz counties. In Mohave County, the projection was too high for most communities, but Kingman and Lake Havasu City were exceptions. In Yavapai County, the population projection was too low for most of the incorporated cities, but too high for most of the unincorporated communities.

**TABLE 4**  
**COMPARISON OF DECENNIAL CENSUS COUNT AND POPULATION**  
**PROJECTIONS FOR 2020, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**  
 (Numbers in Thousands as of April 1)

	Census Count	Population Projection Less Census Count by Year Projection Issued					
		Number			Percent		
		2012	2015	2018	2012	2015	2018
ARIZONA	7,151.5	299.1	165.1	109.0	4.2%	2.3%	1.5%
Maricopa	4,420.6	64.7	39.7	-1.2	1.5	0.9	-0.0
Pinal	425.3	63.9	35.3	37.7	15.0	8.3	8.9
Pima	1,043.4	52.9	18.0	5.4	5.1	1.7	0.5
Apache	66.0	7.5	6.7	7.6	11.3	10.1	11.5
Navajo	106.7	9.8	6.2	7.4	9.2	5.8	7.0
Coconino	145.1	-1.1	4.3	3.0	-0.8	3.0	2.0
Yavapai	236.2	10.5	-2.4	-2.4	4.5	-1.0	-1.0
Mohave	213.3	26.5	6.6	4.4	12.4	3.1	2.1
La Paz	16.6	5.0	4.9	5.4	30.3	29.7	32.9
Yuma	203.9	31.3	28.0	27.1	15.3	13.7	13.3
Santa Cruz	47.7	7.8	6.1	5.9	16.4	12.7	12.3
Cochise	125.4	16.6	6.8	5.9	13.2	5.4	4.7
Greenlee	9.6	-1.1	1.1	1.1	-11.1	11.9	11.6
Graham	38.5	2.5	1.9	-0.0	6.6	5.0	-0.0
Gila	53.3	2.4	1.8	1.8	4.4	3.4	3.4

Notes:

- The population projections from the OEO are expressed as of July 1. A value for April 1 was interpolated.
- Counties are listed geographically.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial census as of April 1), and Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (projections interpolated to April 1).

## COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE IN ARIZONA

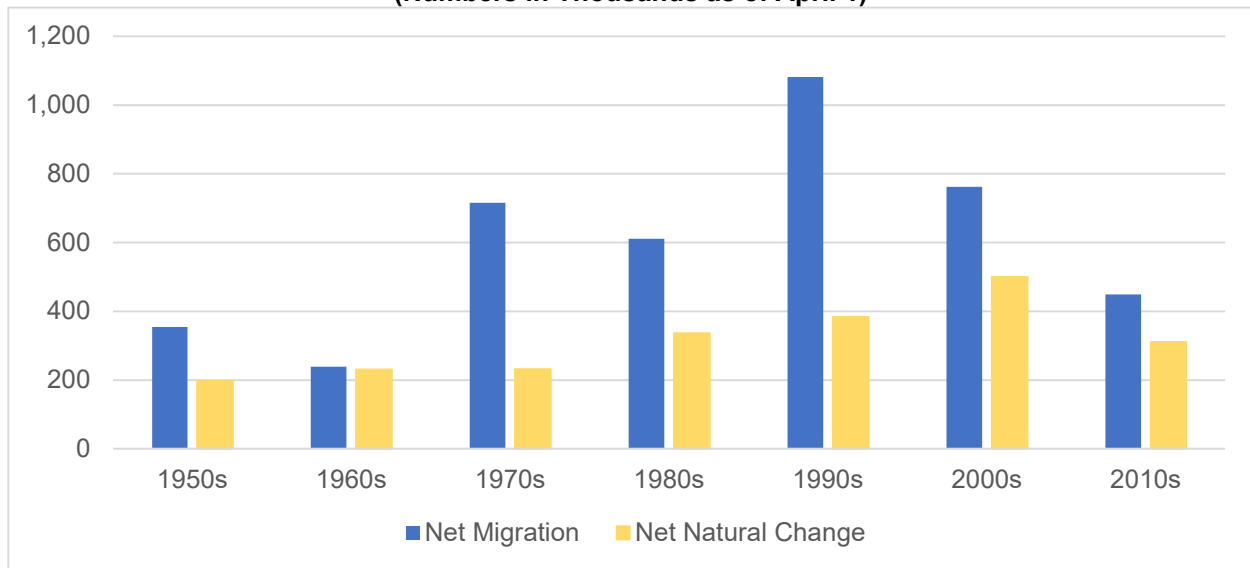
The change in population consists of two parts:

- Net natural change: the difference between births and deaths.
- Net migration: the number of people moving into an area minus the number moving out. Total net migration in a county consists of net intrastate migration, net interstate migration, and net international migration.

Using the change in population between decennial censuses and the number of births and deaths reported by the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), total net migration over a decade can be estimated. Such estimates have been made for the last seven decades in Arizona by county.<sup>11</sup>

Net natural change and net migration in each of the last seven decades are shown in Chart 7 for Arizona. Net migration peaked in the 1990s and net natural increase peaked in the 2000s.

**CHART 7**  
**NET MIGRATION AND NET NATURAL CHANGE BY DECADE, ARIZONA**  
(Numbers in Thousands as of April 1)



Note: The population change is as of April 1, while net natural increase is as of December 31 of the prior year. Thus, estimates of total decadal net migration — the difference between the population change and the net natural change — are not precise.

Sources: Calculated from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses as of April 1) and Arizona Department of Health Services (births and deaths as of December 31).

<sup>11</sup> Monthly birth and death figures are not readily available from the DHS except for recent years. Therefore, the annual figures from January through December are used. The calculated net natural increase for 2010 through 2019 is three months different from that implied in the decennial census counts. In addition, since some births and deaths are not assigned to a specific county, the figures for Arizona do not exactly equal the sum of the 15 counties. Thus, the estimates of total decadal net migration are not precise.

The decadal population change, net natural change, and net migration are displayed in Table 5 for various geographies in Arizona, rounded to the nearest 100. Relative to the prior decade, net natural change rose considerably in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s in Arizona. However, in Arizona and in 13 of its counties, net natural change was less in the 2010s than in the 2000s, reflecting an aging population and declines in fertility rates. The number of births in Arizona in the 2010s was 10 percent less than in the 2000s. In contrast, the number of deaths was 22 percent higher.<sup>12</sup> The decrease in net natural change between the 2000s and 2010s was 38 percent in the state but 54 percent in Pima County and 68 percent in the 12 less-populous counties taken together. Deaths outnumbered births in Gila, Mohave, and Yavapai counties.

Net migration to Arizona decreased at a similar rate (41 percent) as net natural change from the 2000s to the 2010s. Net migration to Arizona between 2010 and 2020 was less than in each of the four prior decades and 58 percent less than in the peak decade of the 1990s. While net migration to Maricopa County fell only 8 percent between the 2000s and 2010s, the decline was 82 percent in Pinal County to a figure less than in the 1990s. Net migration fell 53 percent in Pima County to a figure less than in the six prior decades, and 81 percent in the balance of the state. In six of the 12 less-populous counties, net migration was negative in the 2010s.

The numeric population change in Arizona in the 2010s was 501,900 less than in the 2000s. Net migration accounted for 62 percent of the total drop, with births and deaths each contributing 19 percent.

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<sup>12</sup> The rise in the number of deaths does not include the sharp increase in the number of deaths in 2020 due to the pandemic.

**TABLE 5**  
**POPULATION CHANGE, NET NATURAL CHANGE, AND NET MIGRATION BY DECADE, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**  
 (Numbers in Thousands)

	<b>ARIZONA</b>	<b>Metro Phoenix</b>	<b>Maricopa</b>	<b>Pinal</b>	<b>Pima</b>	<b>Balance of State</b>
<b>Population Change</b>						
1950s	552.6	351.2	331.7	19.5	124.4	76.9
1960s	468.7	313.6	307.7	5.9	86.0	73.6
1970s	947.3	560.4	538.0	22.3	179.8	202.9
1980s	947.0	638.3	612.8	25.5	135.4	173.1
1990s	1,465.4	1,013.4	950.0	63.3	176.9	275.1
2000s	1,261.4	941.0	745.0	196.0	136.5	183.9
2010s	759.5	652.9	603.5	49.5	63.2	43.4
<b>Net Natural Change</b>						
1950s	198.1	103.2	89.3	13.8	39.8	55.1
1960s	230.3	124.2	113.1	11.1	38.4	66.7
1970s	231.3	124.8	114.6	10.2	38.6	67.8
1980s	335.7	202.0	190.7	11.3	52.6	81.2
1990s	383.7	261.0	252.0	9.1	49.0	75.8
2000s	499.8	382.1	361.8	20.3	52.3	65.6
2010s	310.3	267.8	249.9	17.9	23.9	20.9
<b>Net Migration</b>						
1950s	354.5	248.1	242.4	5.7	84.6	21.8
1960s	238.4	189.4	194.6	-5.2	47.6	6.9
1970s	716.0	435.5	423.4	12.1	141.2	135.1
1980s	611.3	436.3	422.1	14.2	82.9	91.9
1990s	1,081.7	752.3	698.1	54.3	127.9	199.3
2000s	761.6	558.9	383.2	175.7	84.2	118.3
2010s	449.2	385.1	353.5	31.6	39.2	22.5

Note: Metropolitan Phoenix consists of Maricopa and Pinal counties.

(continued)

**TABLE 5 (continued)**  
**POPULATION CHANGE, NET NATURAL CHANGE, AND NET MIGRATION BY DECADE, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**  
(Numbers in Thousands)

	Apache	Navajo	Coco- nino	Yavapai	Mohave	Yuma + La Paz	Santa Cruz	Cochise	Graham	Green- lee	Gila
<b>Population Change</b>											
1950s	2.7	8.5	17.9	3.9	-0.8	18.2	1.5	23.6	1.1	-1.3	1.6
1960s	1.9	9.6	6.5	8.1	18.1	14.6	3.2	6.9	2.5	-1.2	3.5
1970s	19.8	20.1	26.7	31.1	30.0	29.7	6.5	23.8	6.3	1.1	7.8
1980s	9.5	10.0	21.6	39.6	37.6	30.2	9.2	11.9	3.7	-3.4	3.1
1990s	7.8	19.8	19.7	59.8	61.5	59.0	8.7	20.1	6.9	0.5	11.1
2000s	2.1	10.0	18.1	43.5	45.2	36.5	9.0	13.6	3.7	-0.1	2.3
2010s	-5.5	-0.7	10.7	25.2	13.1	4.2	0.2	-5.9	1.3	1.1	-0.3
<b>Net Natural Change</b>											
1950s	8.0	8.0	7.7	1.9	1.0	8.7	1.8	7.1	2.6	3.1	5.0
1960s	12.0	11.8	11.6	0.8	1.6	8.7	2.2	9.9	2.2	1.4	4.5
1970s	11.4	12.0	11.8	0.5	1.8	9.9	2.6	9.7	2.5	2.0	3.5
1980s	14.7	14.6	15.2	0.8	3.0	13.1	3.9	9.1	2.6	1.2	2.9
1990s	10.5	11.9	13.7	-1.4	2.8	20.0	6.1	7.9	2.0	0.9	1.4
2000s	7.2	10.2	13.6	-1.3	-0.3	20.9	5.4	6.6	2.4	0.5	0.3
2010s	3.6	5.6	8.4	-9.9	-10.4	15.6	3.5	2.7	2.7	0.7	-1.6
<b>Net Migration</b>											
1950s	-5.4	0.5	10.2	2.0	-1.8	9.6	-0.4	16.5	-1.5	-4.4	-3.5
1960s	-10.1	-2.2	-5.2	7.3	16.5	5.9	1.0	-3.1	0.4	-2.6	-1.0
1970s	8.4	8.1	14.8	30.7	28.2	19.8	3.9	14.1	3.8	-0.9	4.3
1980s	-5.2	-4.6	6.4	38.8	34.6	17.1	5.3	2.8	1.1	-4.6	0.3
1990s	-2.7	7.9	6.0	61.2	58.7	39.0	2.6	12.2	4.9	-0.3	9.7
2000s	-5.1	-0.3	4.5	44.8	45.4	15.6	3.6	7.0	1.3	-0.6	2.0
2010s	-9.1	-6.3	2.3	35.1	23.5	-11.4	-3.3	-8.6	-1.4	0.4	1.2

Notes:

- Counties are listed geographically.
- The original Yuma County was split into La Paz County and a smaller Yuma County in 1983.
- The population change is as of April 1, while net natural increase is as of December 31 of the prior year. Thus, estimates of total decadal net migration — the difference between the population change and the net natural change — are not precise.

Sources: Calculated from U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses as of April 1) and Arizona Department of Health Services (births and deaths as of December 31).

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

The Census Bureau defines two ethnicities — Hispanic and non-Hispanic — and six races: white, black, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other. Respondents to the decennial census could specify more than one race. For the analysis in this paper, three categories were defined: Hispanic, non-Hispanic of one race, and non-Hispanic of two or more races. The non-Hispanic-of-one-race category is divided into the six races.

Most of this section focuses on the ethnic/racial composition as a share of the total population, both in 2020 and the change between 2010 and 2020. The national figures are shown in Table 6. The change can also be examined using percent changes in the number of people in each racial/ethnic classification.

### States

#### 2020

Arizona is compared to the nation in Table 6. In 2020, Arizona had a much higher proportion of Hispanics and a larger proportion of non-Hispanic American Indians, but lesser shares of non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and non-Hispanic Asians. Arizona’s Hispanic proportion was fourth highest among both the 51 “states” and the 10 Western states. Its non-Hispanic American Indian proportion was seventh highest in the nation and second highest among the 10 Western states. In contrast, Arizona’s non-Hispanic white share ranked 40th nationally and seventh among the 10 Western states.

The Hispanic share in 2020 was highest in the four states that share a border with Mexico, with Arizona’s 30.7 percent less than the shares in New Mexico (47.7 percent), California (39.4 percent), and Texas (39.3 percent). Four other states had a share in excess of 20 percent: Nevada, Florida, Colorado, and New Jersey. In contrast, the Hispanic share was less than 5 percent in 11 states, as low as 1.9 percent in West Virginia.

**TABLE 6  
RACE AND ETHNICITY AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION,  
ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES**

	2020			2010-20 Percentage-Point Change		
	United States	Arizona	Rank*	United States	Arizona	Rank*
Hispanic	18.7%	30.7%	4	2.4	1.0	46
Non-Hispanic One Race	77.2	65.6	48	-4.5	-2.9	4
White	57.8	53.4	40	-5.9	-4.4	11
Black	12.1	4.4	34	-0.2	0.7	8
American Indian	0.7	3.7	7	-0.0	-0.3	49
Asian	5.9	3.5	21	1.2	0.8	23
Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	10	0.0	0.0	16
Other	0.5	0.4	21	0.3	0.3	19
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	4.1	3.7	35	2.2	1.9	42

\* Arizona’s rank among the 51 “states” (including the District of Columbia); 1 = highest.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses as of April 1).

The non-Hispanic white share in 2020 was highest primarily in states across the northern tier of the country, led by Maine's 90.2 percent. Eight other states had a share in excess of 80 percent. In contrast, the share was less than 50 percent in eight states, as low as 21.6 percent in Hawaii.

The non-Hispanic black share in 2020 was highest in southern states, stretching as far north as Delaware and Maryland. The highest shares were in the District of Columbia (40.9 percent) and Mississippi (36.4 percent). Seven other states had a share in excess of 20 percent. In contrast, the share was less than 2 percent in 10 states, mostly located across the northern tier of the country. The share was as low as 0.5 percent in Montana.

The non-Hispanic American Indian share in 2020 was highest in Western and Plains states. The highest shares were in Alaska (14.8 percent) and New Mexico (8.9 percent). Seven other states had a share in excess of 1 percent. In contrast, the share was less than 0.5 percent in half of the states, as low as 0.1 percent in four states.

The non-Hispanic Asian share in 2020 was highest in the Pacific region and along the Mid-Atlantic Coast. The highest shares were in Hawaii (36.5 percent) and California (15.1 percent). Seven other states had a share in excess of 6 percent. In contrast, the share was 1.5 percent or less in eight states scattered across the country, as low as 0.7 percent in Montana.

Little geographic pattern was present in the share of non-Hispanics of two or more races in 2020. All but five states had a share between 2.8-and-5.4 percent. States with a higher share were Hawaii (20.1 percent), Alaska (9.8 percent), Oklahoma (9.4 percent), Washington (6.6 percent), and Oregon (6.1 percent).

The Census Bureau created a diversity index that provides the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different race and ethnicity groups. A value of zero indicates no diversity and a value of 100 means complete diversity. The national average in 2020 was 61.1. Arizona's figure was similar at 61.5, but the state ranked 13th most diverse — only 13 states, including several of the most-populous states, were more diverse than the national average. The most-diverse states were Hawaii (76.0), California (69.7), and Nevada (68.8). Generally, the Mid-Atlantic region had high diversity while the northern tier of states had the least diversity. The states with the least diversity were Maine (18.5), Vermont (20.2), West Virginia (20.2), and New Hampshire (23.6).

### **Change Between 2010 and 2020**

Compared to the nation on the change in share between 2010 and 2020, Arizona had a larger gain in non-Hispanic blacks, a lesser decline in non-Hispanic whites, and a lesser increase in Hispanics. Arizona's increase in the Hispanic proportion was sixth lowest among the 51 "states" and the lowest among the 10 Western states. Its change in the non-Hispanic American Indian proportion was third lowest in the nation and lowest among the 10 Western states. In contrast, despite the decrease in the non-Hispanic white share, Arizona ranked 11th nationally and second among the 10 Western states on the change in share. The change in Arizona's non-Hispanic black share ranked eighth nationally and second among the 10 Western states.



All states experienced an increase in the Hispanic share between 2010 and 2020. Ten states had an increase of more than 2.5 percentage points. Most of the states with the largest increase are located along the Atlantic Coast, with Rhode Island highest at 4.2 percentage points. Six states had an increase of 1.0 percentage point or less. Most of the states with the least increase were states with a low percentage of Hispanics in 2020. However, Arizona and Colorado were exceptions.

All states experienced a decrease in the non-Hispanic white share between 2010 and 2020 except for the District of Columbia, which had a gain of 3.2 percentage points. Otherwise, the change ranged from -1.1 percentage points in Hawaii to -8.7 points in Washington. Six states had a decrease of 4.0-or-fewer percentage points; nine states saw a loss of more than 7 percentage points. There was no regional pattern to the magnitude of the changes, nor were the changes related to the non-Hispanic white share.

The states were split in the direction of the change in the non-Hispanic black share between 2010 and 2020, but the magnitude of the change generally was small. The only states with an increase of more than 1 percentage point were North Dakota (2.2), Minnesota (1.8), Nevada (1.7), and Iowa (1.2). The only states with a decrease of more than 1 percentage point were the District of Columbia (-9.1) and South Carolina (-2.9). States with the largest decrease in share were states that still had a high share of non-Hispanic blacks in 2020. The states with the largest decline were contiguous: South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Four of the five largest increases in share were in the contiguous states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

In 45 states, the 2010-20 change in the share of non-Hispanic American Indians was either 0.0 or -0.1 percentage points. The exceptions were Alaska and New Mexico (each +0.4) and North Dakota, Oklahoma, Arizona, and North Carolina, which had losses between 0.2-and-0.5 percentage points. The states losing share generally still were highly ranked on the 2020 share.

Other than Hawaii, which had a loss in share of 1.2 percentage points during the 2010s, every state experienced an increase in the share of non-Hispanic Asians. The increase ranged from 2.3 percentage points in Washington and California to 0.1 in Montana and Wyoming. A positive correlation is present between the change in share and the 2020 share.

Every state experienced an increase in the share of non-Hispanics of two or more races. The increase ranged from 4.3 percentage points in Oklahoma to 0.7 in Hawaii. A positive correlation is present between the change in share and the 2020 share, though Hawaii is an exception.

Nationally, the population became more diverse between 2010 and 2020, with the diversity index rising by 6.2. The diversity index rose in all states, but the range was broad, from 0.9 in Hawaii to 12.0 in North Dakota. In general, the states with the largest increase in the diversity index still did not rank that highly in 2020. In contrast, the states with the least increase between 2010 and 2020 still ranked relatively high in 2020. Arizona's 4.1 increase in the diversity index was the eighth lowest in the nation.

## Arizona Counties and Places

The racial and ethnic breakdown by county is shown in Table 7 for 2020 and for the 2010-to-2020 change. Because of the small numbers in some counties, the non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander races have been combined, as have the non-Hispanic other race and two-or-more-races categories.

### Counties

The Hispanic proportion in 2020 varied widely by county, from 5.8 percent in Apache County to 83.1 percent in Santa Cruz County. In the three populous counties, the share ranged from 28.6-to-35.7 percent. Between 2010 and 2020, the Hispanic share rose in 11 counties, including the three populous counties, and fell in four counties. The largest increase was in Yuma County.

The non-Hispanic white proportion also varied widely by county in 2020, from 14.9 percent in Santa Cruz County to 77.6 percent in Yavapai County. The share was between 51.5-and-56.4 percent in the three populous counties. The non-Hispanic white share dropped between 2010 and 2020 in 13 of the 15 counties, including decreases of 8.0 percentage points in La Paz County and 5.4 points in Maricopa County. The share also fell in Pima and Pinal counties.

In 2020, the non-Hispanic black proportion varied from 0.2 percent in Santa Cruz County to 5.5 percent in Maricopa County. Other counties with a share greater than 2 percent were Cochise, Pima, and Pinal. Between 2010 and 2020, the non-Hispanic black share increased in eight counties, was unchanged in three counties, and fell in four counties. The largest increases were in the three populous counties.

The non-Hispanic Native American proportion in 2020 was 4.0 percent or less in nine counties, including the three populous counties, but was 70.4 percent in Apache County, 43.6 percent in Navajo County, and 24.2 percent in Coconino County. Between 2010 and 2020, the non-Hispanic American Indian share increased in five counties, was unchanged in two counties, and fell in eight counties, including each of the three populous counties.

In 2020, the non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander proportion was less than 2.5 percent in each county except Maricopa and Pima. Between 2010 and 2020, the non-Hispanic Asian and Pacific Islander share increased in 12 counties, including Maricopa and Pima, was unchanged in one county, and fell in two counties, including Pinal.

Combing the non-Hispanic other race alone and non-Hispanic two-or-more-races categories, the highest share in 2020 was 5.1 percent in Cochise County. The three populous counties had shares between 4.0-and-4.3 percent. The lowest share was 0.9 percent in Santa Cruz County. Each county experienced an increase in share between 2010 and 2020, led by Mohave (2.9 percentage points) and Yavapai (2.8) counties; the smallest increase was 0.4 percentage points in Apache County.

The 2010-to-2020 percent change in population by race/ethnicity is shown in Table 8. Though the non-Hispanic white and non-Hispanic Native American shares in Arizona fell between 2010 and 2020, each of these groups did experience an increase in the number of residents. However,

**TABLE 7  
RACE AND ETHNICITY AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION,  
ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

		Non-Hispanic of One Race				Non-Hispanic Other & Two or More Races
	Hispanic	White	Black	Amer- ican Indian	Asian & Pacific Islander	
<b>2020</b>						
Arizona	30.7%	53.4%	4.4%	3.7%	3.7%	4.2%
Apache	5.8	20.9	0.3	70.4	0.5	2.0
Cochise	34.0	54.4	3.5	0.6	2.4	5.1
Coconino	15.0	53.0	1.2	24.2	2.0	4.6
Gila	17.4	61.5	0.4	16.2	0.9	3.5
Graham	29.7	52.9	1.2	13.3	0.5	2.4
Greenlee	45.8	46.5	0.8	2.9	0.7	3.3
La Paz	25.3	54.7	0.6	14.2	0.9	4.2
Maricopa	30.6	53.3	5.5	1.5	4.7	4.3
Mohave	16.0	75.1	1.0	1.9	1.4	4.6
Navajo	10.2	42.0	0.6	43.6	0.6	3.0
Pima	35.7	51.5	3.5	2.3	3.0	4.0
Pinal	28.6	56.4	4.9	4.0	1.7	4.3
Santa Cruz	83.1	14.9	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.9
Yavapai	14.6	77.6	0.6	1.4	1.3	4.5
Yuma	63.8	30.0	1.7	0.9	1.2	2.4
<b>Percentage-Point Change Between 2010 and 2020</b>						
Arizona	1.0	-4.4	0.7	-0.3	0.8	2.2
Apache	0.1	0.5	0.1	-1.4	0.2	0.5
Cochise	1.6	-4.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.3	2.6
Coconino	1.5	-2.2	0.1	-2.3	0.6	2.4
Gila	-0.5	-4.4	0.0	2.0	0.4	2.4
Graham	-0.7	0.6	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	1.1
Greenlee	-2.1	-1.6	-0.1	1.2	0.1	2.4
La Paz	1.8	-8.0	0.0	3.5	0.4	2.2
Maricopa	1.0	-5.4	0.9	-0.1	1.2	2.3
Mohave	1.2	-4.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.9
Navajo	-0.6	-1.9	-0.2	1.2	0.0	1.4
Pima	1.1	-3.8	0.3	-0.1	0.4	2.0
Pinal	0.1	-2.3	0.6	-0.6	-0.3	2.4
Santa Cruz	0.3	-1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6
Yavapai	1.0	-4.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	2.8
Yuma	4.1	-5.3	0.1	-0.1	0.1	1.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses as of April 1).

the percent change was far less than for non-Hispanic other or two or more races, non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders, and non-Hispanic blacks, and also less than for Hispanics.

In Maricopa and Pima counties, as well as Greenlee, Mohave, and Yavapai counties, each racial/ethnic group had an increase in population between 2010 and 2020. The non-Hispanic other or two-or-more-races category did not see a decrease in population during the 2010s in any county. In contrast, the non-Hispanic white number decreased in eight counties and the number of non-Hispanic Native American residents dropped in six counties.

The lowest diversity indexes in 2020 were 28.6 in Santa Cruz County (most residents are Hispanic), 37.5 in Yavapai County, 40.8 in Mohave County (most residents of Yavapai and Mohave counties are non-Hispanic white), and 45.6 in Apache County (most residents are non-Hispanic American Indian). Seven counties, including the three most populous counties, had a diversity index of between 59.4 and 63.6, not much different from the state’s figure of 61.5.

Twelve counties experienced an increase in diversity between 2010 and 2020; the exceptions were Graham, Santa Cruz, and Yuma. The index rose by more than 6 points in the western counties of La Paz, Mohave, and Yuma.

**TABLE 8  
PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020  
BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, ARIZONA AND COUNTIES**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic of One Race</b>				<b>Non-Hispanic Other &amp; Two or More Races</b>
			<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>American Indian</b>	<b>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</b>	
Arizona	12%	16%	3%	33%	3%	45%	142%
Apache	-8	-6	-5	17	-9	56	22
Cochise	-5	0	-11	-11	-23	8	96
Coconino	8	20	4	19	-1	47	125
Gila	-1	-3	-7	23	14	63	205
Graham	4	1	5	-28	1	-24	98
Greenlee	13	8	10	1	94	41	334
La Paz	-19	-13	-30	-11	7	60	65
Maricopa	16	20	5	38	15	54	149
Mohave	7	15	1	20	7	27	191
Navajo	-1	-6	-5	-20	2	1	88
Pima	6	10	-1	17	1	23	119
Pinal	13	14	9	29	-2	-3	154
Santa Cruz	1	1	-6	28	-32	17	223
Yavapai	12	20	6	28	19	63	202
Yuma	4	11	-11	10	-4	13	98

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau (decennial censuses as of April 1).

## **Places**

Among the 91 incorporated places, the Hispanic share in 2020 ranged from 1.0 percent in Colorado City to 97.0 percent in Somerton. The share also exceeded 90 percent in Nogales and San Luis. Among the 64 CDPs with a population of at least 2,500, the Hispanic share ranged from 0.6 percent in Whiteriver to 87.6 percent in Rio Rico.

The non-Hispanic white share in 2020 exceeded 90 percent in Colorado City, Carefree, and four retirement CDPs: Sun City West, Sun Lakes, Sun City, and Green Valley. The share was less than 10 percent in five incorporated places, including just 2.1 percent in Somerton. Among the CDPs, the proportion was less than 2.5 percent in five communities located on Indian reservations.

In 2020, the non-Hispanic black share was highest in the city of Maricopa (11.9 percent), Avondale (9.3 percent), and Coolidge (8.4 percent). The highest share among the CDPs was 4.7 percent in San Tan Valley. In a number of incorporated places and CDPs, the share was 0.1 percent or less.

The non-Hispanic Native American share exceeded 90 percent in 2020 in several CDPs located on Indian reservations. In incorporated places, the share was between 30-and-40 percent in Page, Guadalupe, Holbrook, and Winslow. A number of incorporated places and CDPs had shares of 0.2 percent or less.

Five incorporated places in Maricopa County — Chandler, Tempe, Paradise Valley, Gilbert, and Scottsdale — had a 2020 share of non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders of at least 5 percent. Only one CDP (Catalina Foothills) had a share this high. A number of incorporated places and CDPs had shares of 0.2 percent or less.

The highest share in 2020 of non-Hispanic other and non-Hispanic two or more races was 7.1 percent in Huachuca City. Three other incorporated places and three CDPs had shares between 6-and-7 percent. Three incorporated places and three CDPs had shares of less than 1 percent.