



The State of Wisconsin's 2010 Census Population: A First Look

State Resident Population, 4/1/2010: 5,686,986
Numeric Change from Census 2000: 323,271
Percentage Change from Census 2000: 6.03%

The U.S. Census Bureau released the first results of the April 1, 2010 enumeration on December 21, 2010. This release contains the state population counts, upon which the apportionment of seats for the House of Representatives is based.

For each state, the apportionment count includes two values:

- The resident population of each state, as enumerated for April 1, 2010;
- U.S. military service personnel, federal employees, and their families stationed in foreign countries, assigned to their respective home states.

Wisconsin's **resident** population grew from 5,363,715 in April 2000 to **5,686,986** in April 2010, a numeric increase of **323,271** and a percentage increase of **6.03%** for the past decade.

Based on its **apportionment** population of **5,698,230**, Wisconsin will continue to hold eight seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. The boundaries of the districts will change based on geographically detailed population counts that will be released in the next three months.

How does Wisconsin's Growth in the 2000s Compare with Recent Decades?

In the 2000s, the state's numeric and percentage growth was lower than the 1990s. For comparison, the United States' resident population grew 13.2% in the 1990s and 9.7% in the 2000s.

Census	Resident Pop.	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Annual Pct. Chg.
1960	3,951,777	517,202	15.1%	1.4%
1970	4,417,821	466,044	11.8%	1.1%
1980	4,705,642	287,821	6.5%	0.6%
1990	4,891,769	186,127	4.0%	0.4%
2000	5,363,715	471,946	9.6%	0.9%
2010	5,686,986	323,271	6.0%	0.6%

Wisconsin's annualized growth rate for 1960 to 2000 was **0.8%**, while it was **0.6%** last decade.

The population change in each decade has varied based on the mix of births, deaths and migration, described in greater detail below.

How does Wisconsin's Growth in the 2000s Compare with Its Neighbors?

Compared to its Midwest and Northern Plains neighbors, Wisconsin's growth rate (a more fair measure of comparison because of differences in states' population sizes) ranked **4th** in the past ten years. In the 1990s, the state's growth rate ranked **3rd** among this same group.

State	Census 2000	Census 2010	Decadal Percent Change	Annual Percent Change	Rank
Illinois	12,419,658	12,830,632	3.3%	0.33%	7
Indiana	6,080,520	6,483,802	6.6%	0.64%	3
Iowa	2,926,380	3,046,355	4.1%	0.40%	6
Michigan	9,938,492	9,883,640	-0.6%	-0.06%	9
Minnesota	4,919,492	5,303,925	7.8%	0.75%	2
N. Dakota	642,195	672,591	4.7%	0.46%	5
Ohio	11,353,150	11,536,504	1.6%	0.16%	8
S. Dakota	754,835	814,180	7.9%	0.76%	1
Wisconsin	5,363,708	5,686,986	6.0%	0.59%	4

How does Wisconsin's Natural Increase in the 2000s Compare with Recent Decades?

Natural increase is a basic demographic measure: the number of births minus the number of deaths across the same time period.

Decade	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Crude Nat. Inc. Rate
1960s	855,152	395,537	459,615	20.4	9.5	10.9
1970s	681,953	404,262	277,691	14.9	8.9	6.0
1980s	727,812	414,739	313,073	15.2	8.6	6.6
1990s	689,186	445,252	243,934	13.4	8.7	4.7
2000s	707,669	463,372	244,297	12.8	8.4	4.4

Note: crude rates are annualized, per 1,000 persons.

The last five decades have included the end of the Baby Boom (early 1960s), a "birth dearth" (late '60s - early '70s) an "Echo Boom" (late '70s - early '90s), and a period of varying but gradually increasing births for the past 15 years. As measured against the total population, Wisconsin's birth rate for the 2000s did not decline as sharply as it did from the 1980s to the 1990s.

Numerically, deaths have increased gradually across the years, but because the state's population has grown and health care and life expectancy have improved, the crude rate has fallen.

How does Wisconsin's Net Migration in the 2000s Compare with Recent Decades?

Net migration is another basic demographic measure: the total population change minus natural increase across the same time period. In actuality, net migration is the difference between total in-migrants and total out-migrants.

Decade	Total Pop. Change	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Crude Net Mig. Rate
1960s	466,044	459,615	6,429	0.2
1970s	287,821	277,691	10,130	0.2
1980s	186,127	313,073	-126,946	-2.6
1990s	471,946	243,934	228,012	4.4
2000s	323,271	244,297	78,974	1.4

Note: crude rates are annualized, per 1,000 persons.

No one can be a net migrant *per se*, but net migration is a useful construct when more detailed data is unavailable.

Net migration depends principally on socioeconomic conditions, such as labor force factors and the age structure of the population, and—as can be seen when compared historically to the natural increase rates—shows far more variability.

The economic recession of the late 1970s and early 1980s that struck the Upper Midwest particularly hard generated extensive out-migration in the 1980s. However, by the late 1980s, Wisconsin began showing a reversal in the migration flow, and the 1990s was a period of strong net growth. This pattern continued into the early 2000s, but the recession of 2007-09 again slowed the migration pattern.

How does Wisconsin’s Net Migration in the 2000s Compare with Its Neighbors?

In the last ten years, Wisconsin had a favorable migration rate when compared to its Midwest and Northern Plains neighbors. In relation to population size, Wisconsin’s migration rate was ranked 2nd among nine states.

Based on Census Bureau estimates of domestic and international migration in the past decade, it appears that Wisconsin experienced a slight gain in interstate migration. On top of this net increase, the positive flow of international migrants in the past decade produced a solid net migration gain.¹

State	Total Net Migrants	Net Migration Rate	Rank
Illinois	-370,089	-2.93	8
Indiana	80,762	1.29	3
Iowa	3,927	0.13	6
Michigan	-477,655	-4.82	9
Minnesota	52,717	1.03	4
N. Dakota	4,771	0.73	5
Ohio	-235,948	-2.06	7
S. Dakota	14,506	1.85	1
Wisconsin	78,550	1.42	2

Note: crude rates are annualized, per 1,000 persons.

¹ This table makes use of Census Bureau estimates of demographic components of change (i.e., births, deaths, natural increase and migration). Hence, Wisconsin’s net migrant total and rate vary slightly from the Demographic Services Center's calculations. In addition, births and deaths for 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 are estimated. This paper will be revised when final data for these vital events are available.