



Demographic Services Center’s 2022 Population Estimates: Wisconsin’s Moderate Population Growth Continues

State Population Estimate, 1/1/2022: 5,949,155

Change from Census 2020: 55,437 or 0.94%

The Demographic Services Center develops annual population estimates for each Wisconsin municipality and county. Wisconsin’s population estimate continued to grow in calendar year 2021, reaching a total population of 5,949,155 by January 1, 2022.

- In calendar year 2021, Wisconsin added roughly 26,773 housing units, reflecting a healthy rate of housing unit increase (+1.0%).

Net Change in Housing Units	
CY 2021:	26,773 or 1.0%
CY 2020:	22,059 or 0.8%

- The estimated average household size continues to ebb slightly, in keeping with a long-term trend, although this decrease may seem modest compared to prior decades’ decreases in household sizes. This decrease slightly dampens the estimated population increase.

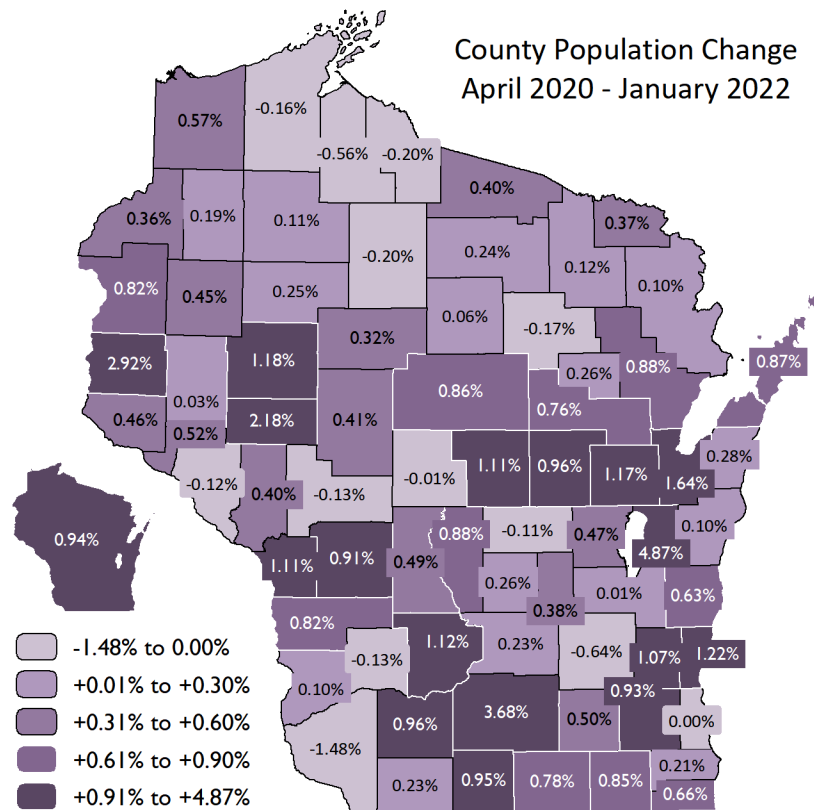
Average Household Size	
January 2022 Est.	2.353
April 2020 Census	2.365
April 2010 Census	2.429
April 2000 Census	2.498
April 1990 Census	2.611
April 1980 Census	2.770
April 1970 Census	3.224

County Estimates

- From April 2020 (the reference census) to January 2022, it is estimated that 59 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties gained population. Only three counties experienced population loss faster than -0.5% over that period. Losses in two counties were estimated to be so minor – less than one tenth of one percent – that, in estimation terms, their population change was nearly neutral.
- Counties estimated to have gained more than 2,000 residents since the 2020 Census are Brown (+ 4,420), Calumet (+ 2,555), Dane (+ 20,661), Eau Claire (+2,309), Outagamie (+2,233), St. Croix (+2,733) and Waukesha (+3,791).
- Change rates of 1.5% or more were estimated in the counties of Brown (+1.64%), Calumet (+4.87%), Dane (3.68%), Eau Claire (+2.18%) and St. Croix (+2.92%).

- Counties with estimated population decrease exceeding one-half of one percent are Ashland (-0.56%), Dodge (-0.64%) and Grant (-1.48%). Decreases in Dodge and Grant counties were driven by group quarters population change (not household population change). Ashland County's decrease was fewer than 100 residents.
- Eight of Wisconsin's nine most populous counties gained population since April 2020. In Milwaukee, Racine, and Rock counties, population change was modest.

Most Populous Counties (more than 150,000 residents)				
County Name	Final Estimate Jan 2022	Census Apr 2020	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Brown	273,160	268,740	4,420	1.64%
Dane	582,165	561,504	20,661	3.68%
Kenosha	170,272	169,151	1,121	0.66%
Milwaukee	939,487	939,489	- 2	0.00%
Outagamie	192,938	190,705	2,233	1.17%
Racine	198,138	197,727	411	0.21%
Rock	164,959	163,687	1,272	0.78%
Waukesha	410,769	406,978	3,791	0.93%
Winnebago	172,542	171,730	812	0.47%



Municipal Estimates

- Roughly sixty-five percent of the state's 1,851 municipalities are estimated to have added population from April 1, 2020 to January 1, 2022. Of the 509 municipalities that are estimated to have lost population, 424 have decreased by less than one percent.

Municipalities that	Census 2010 to 1/1/2021
gained population	1,205
had no change	137
lost population	509

- Among municipalities with over 40,000 residents, population change after the 2020 Census was generally modest to moderate. A city could have relatively few sites for cost-effective housing starts, while supporting development in nearby suburban or exurban areas.

Wisconsin's Most Populous Cities (over 40,000 residents)					
Municipality Name	County	Final Est. 2022	Census 2020	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Appleton	Multiple Counties	75,605	75,644	- 39	- 0.05%
Brookfield	Waukesha	41,430	41,464	- 34	- 0.08%
Eau Claire	Multiple Counties	70,587	69,421	1,166	1.68%
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac	44,470	44,678	- 208	- 0.47%
Green Bay	Brown	107,369	107,395	- 26	- 0.02%
Janesville	Rock	66,206	65,615	591	0.90%
Kenosha	Kenosha	100,051	99,986	65	0.07%
La Crosse	La Crosse	52,160	52,680	- 520	- 0.99%
Madison	Dane	279,012	269,840	9,172	3.40%
Milwaukee ⁵	Multiple Counties	577,309	577,922	- 613	- 0.11%
New Berlin	Waukesha	40,426	40,451	- 25	- 0.06%
Oshkosh	Winnebago	66,929	66,816	113	0.17%
Racine	Racine	77,240	77,816	- 576	- 0.74%
Sheboygan	Sheboygan	50,139	49,929	210	0.42%
Waukesha	Waukesha	71,146	71,158	- 12	- 0.02%
Wausau	Marathon	40,199	39,994	205	0.51%
Wauwatosa	Milwaukee	48,638	48,387	251	0.52%
West Allis	Milwaukee	60,068	60,325	- 257	- 0.43%

Among the state's most populous cities, the City of Madison was estimated to have the fastest proportional change (+3.40%) and the largest numeric change (+9,172).