



**Great Cities
Institute**

**Fact Sheet:
Population Change
in Illinois**

July 2019

**Great Cities Institute
University of Illinois at Chicago**

Contacts

Matthew D. Wilson

Economic Development Planner
mwilso25@uic.edu

Alex Linares

Economic Development Planner
alinares@uic.edu

The population loss experienced by the state of Illinois in recent years has been of interest to policy makers, researchers, Illinois residents, and the media, all of whom have sought explanations for why the state is losing population in recent years. Among the most often cited explanations for the state's declining population are:

- The tax burdens of Illinois residents, ranking ninth highest out of 50 states.¹
- The business taxation schemes that result in an "unfriendly" business climate.
- The deterioration of the physical condition and social fabric of neighborhoods.
- An underfunded educational system.
- Changes in the types and locations of jobs, with few middle-income employment options, that have limited opportunity across the state.

While these explanatory factors have been debated, few have examined where within Illinois the population loss is occurring and compared the recent population trend of Illinois to other states. This fact sheet seeks to provide recent data to further our understanding of where the population loss in Illinois is occurring and compare Illinois to other states in the U.S. This fact sheet provides yearly population figures from 2010 to 2018, comparing population change in Illinois to other states, examining population change in individual counties in Illinois, and examining population change in all the counties in the continental U.S.

Population Loss in Illinois, 2010-2018

- Illinois lost 99,682 residents from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, a decline of .78%.
- The Illinois population loss of 99,682 residents from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 was larger than any other state in absolute number, but trailed West Virginia in the percent of population lost. During that period, the population of West Virginia declined -2.61% while the population of Illinois declined .78%.
- In the period from 2010 to 2018, Illinois largest population loss occurred from 2013 to 2018 when the state lost 157,189 residents. The population in Illinois grew slightly from 2010 to 2013, peaking in 2013 at 12,898,269.
- The population loss in Illinois from 2013 to 2018 of 157,189 amounted to a loss of 1.22% of the state's population. During that same period, the only other states to lose population were Connecticut (-.62%) and West Virginia (-2.59%)

Population Gain by State, 2010-2018

- California, Florida, and Texas had the largest population increases from 2010 to 2018, with California increasing by 2,236,142, Florida increasing by 2,453,540, and Texas increasing by 3,459,166. Those increases amounted to 5.99% in California, 13.02% in Florida, and 13.70% in Texas.
- Nine states and the District of Columbia had population percent increases of more than 10%. The District of Columbia increased 16.09% (+97,360), Utah increased 13.90% (+385,771), Texas increased 13.70% (+3,459,166), Florida increased 13.02% (+2,453,540), Colorado increased 12.82% (+647,283), North Dakota increased 12.65% (+85,367), Nevada increased 12.28% (+331,928), Arizona increased 11.92% (+763,872), Washington increased 11.76% (+792,689), and Idaho increased 11.68% (+183,435).

¹ <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-highest-lowest-tax-burden/20494/>

Table 1: Total Population and Population Change from 2010 to 2018 and 2013 to 2018 by State

Geographic Area	Population Estimate (as of July 1)						# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015				
Alabama	4,735,448	4,798,834	4,815,564	4,830,460	4,842,481	4,853,160	4,864,745	4,875,120	4,887,871	102,423
Alaska	713,906	722,038	730,399	737,045	736,307	737,547	741,504	739,786	737,438	2,14%
Arizona	6,407,774	6,473,497	6,556,629	6,634,999	6,733,840	6,833,596	6,945,452	7,048,876	7,171,646	763,872
Arkansas	2,921,978	2,940,407	2,952,109	2,959,549	2,967,726	2,978,407	2,990,410	3,002,967	3,013,825	91,847
California	37,320,903	37,641,823	37,960,782	38,280,824	38,625,139	38,953,142	39,209,127	39,399,349	39,557,045	2,236,142
Colorado	5,048,281	5,121,771	5,193,721	5,270,482	5,351,218	5,452,107	5,540,921	5,615,902	5,695,564	647,283
Connecticut	3,579,125	3,588,023	3,594,395	3,594,915	3,594,783	3,587,509	3,578,674	3,573,880	3,572,665	-6,460
Delaware	899,595	907,316	915,188	923,638	932,596	941,143	949,216	957,078	967,171	67,576
District of Columbia	605,085	619,602	634,725	650,431	662,513	675,254	686,575	695,691	702,455	97,370
Florida	18,845,785	19,093,352	19,326,230	19,563,166	19,860,330	20,224,249	20,629,982	20,976,812	21,299,325	2,453,540
Georgia	9,711,810	9,801,578	9,901,496	9,973,326	10,069,001	10,181,111	10,304,763	10,413,055	10,519,475	807,665
Hawaii	1,333,963	1,379,252	1,394,905	1,408,453	1,414,862	1,422,484	1,428,105	1,424,203	1,420,491	56,528
Idaho	1,570,773	1,583,828	1,595,441	1,611,530	1,631,479	1,651,523	1,682,930	1,718,904	1,754,208	183,435
Illinois	12,840,762	12,867,291	12,884,119	12,898,269	12,888,962	12,864,342	12,826,895	12,786,196	12,741,080	-99,682
Indiana	6,490,436	6,516,045	6,537,640	6,568,367	6,593,533	6,608,296	6,633,344	6,660,082	6,691,878	201,442
Iowa	3,050,767	3,066,054	3,076,097	3,093,078	3,109,504	3,121,460	3,131,785	3,143,637	3,156,145	105,378
Kansas	2,858,213	2,869,035	2,885,361	2,893,510	2,900,896	2,909,502	2,911,263	2,910,689	2,911,505	53,292
Kentucky	4,348,200	4,369,488	4,386,381	4,404,817	4,414,483	4,425,999	4,438,229	4,453,874	4,468,402	120,202
Louisiana	4,544,532	4,575,184	4,600,814	4,624,577	4,644,204	4,664,851	4,678,215	4,670,818	4,659,978	115,446
Maine	1,327,632	1,328,150	1,327,691	1,328,196	1,330,760	1,331,370	1,335,063	1,338,404	10,772	8,1%
Maryland	5,738,642	5,838,991	5,887,072	5,923,704	5,958,165	5,986,717	6,004,692	6,024,891	6,042,718	254,076
Massachusetts	6,566,431	6,613,149	6,663,158	6,713,944	6,763,652	6,795,891	6,826,022	6,863,246	6,902,149	335,718
Michigan	9,877,535	9,881,521	9,896,930	9,913,349	9,930,589	9,932,573	9,951,890	9,976,447	9,995,915	118,380
Minnesota	5,310,843	5,345,668	5,376,550	5,413,693	5,451,522	5,482,503	5,523,409	5,568,155	5,611,179	300,336
Mississippi	2,970,536	2,983,767	2,988,797	2,990,623	2,988,693	2,988,298	2,989,663	2,986,530	15,994	0.54%
Missouri	5,995,976	6,009,641	6,024,081	6,040,658	6,056,293	6,071,745	6,087,203	6,108,612	6,126,452	130,476

Geographic Area	Population Estimate (as of July 1)						# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
Montana	990,722	997,221	1,003,754	1,013,564	1,021,891	1,030,503	1,040,863	1,053,090	1,062,305	71,583	7.23%
Nebraska	1,839,536	1,840,538	1,853,323	1,865,414	1,879,522	1,891,507	1,905,924	1,917,575	1,929,268	99,732	5.45%
Nevada	2,702,464	2,712,799	2,744,566	2,776,972	2,819,012	2,868,666	2,919,772	2,972,405	3,034,392	331,928	12.28%
New Hampshire	1,316,777	1,319,815	1,323,962	1,326,408	1,333,223	1,336,294	1,342,373	1,349,767	1,356,458	39,681	3.01%
New Jersey	8,799,624	8,827,783	8,845,483	8,858,362	8,866,780	8,870,869	8,874,516	8,888,543	8,908,520	108,896	1.24%
New Mexico	2,064,588	2,080,395	2,087,549	2,092,792	2,090,342	2,090,211	2,092,789	2,093,355	2,095,428	30,840	1.49%
New York	19,400,080	19,498,514	19,574,549	19,628,043	19,656,330	19,661,411	19,661,589	19,590,719	19,542,209	142,129	0.73%
North Carolina	9,574,293	9,656,754	9,749,123	9,843,599	9,933,944	10,033,079	10,156,679	10,270,800	10,383,620	809,327	8.45%
North Dakota	674,710	685,136	701,116	721,999	737,382	754,022	755,176	760,077	85,367	12.65%	38,078
Ohio	11,539,327	11,543,463	11,548,369	11,576,576	11,602,973	11,617,850	11,635,003	11,664,129	11,689,442	150,115	1.30%
Oklahoma	3,759,632	3,787,821	3,818,600	3,853,205	3,878,367	3,909,831	3,926,769	3,943,079	183,447	48,89%	89,874
Oregon	3,837,532	3,871,728	3,899,118	3,922,908	3,964,106	4,016,918	4,091,404	4,146,552	4,190,713	353,181	9.20%
Pennsylvania	12,711,158	12,744,583	12,766,827	12,776,621	12,789,101	12,785,759	12,783,538	12,790,447	12,807,060	95,902	0.75%
Rhode Island	1,053,938	1,053,536	1,054,601	1,055,122	1,056,017	1,056,173	1,057,063	1,056,486	1,057,315	3,377	0.32%
South Carolina	4,635,656	4,671,422	4,717,112	4,764,153	4,823,793	4,892,253	4,958,235	5,021,219	5,084,127	448,471	9.67%
South Dakota	816,165	823,484	833,496	842,270	849,088	853,933	862,890	873,286	882,235	66,070	8.10%
Tennessee	6,355,301	6,397,410	6,451,281	6,493,432	6,540,826	6,590,808	6,645,011	6,708,794	6,770,010	414,709	6.53%
Texas	25,242,679	25,646,227	26,089,620	26,489,464	26,977,142	27,486,814	27,937,492	28,322,717	28,701,845	3,459,166	13.70%
Utah	2,775,334	2,814,216	2,853,467	2,897,927	2,937,399	2,982,497	3,042,613	3,103,118	3,161,105	385,771	13.90%
Vermont	625,880	626,979	626,063	626,212	625,218	625,197	623,644	624,525	626,299	419	0.07%
Virginia	8,033,680	8,100,469	8,185,229	8,253,053	8,312,076	8,362,907	8,410,946	8,465,207	8,517,685	494,005	6.16%
Washington	6,742,902	6,821,655	6,892,876	6,962,906	7,052,439	7,163,543	7,294,680	7,425,432	7,535,591	792,689	11.76%
West Virginia	1,834,214	1,856,074	1,856,764	1,853,873	1,849,467	1,841,996	1,830,929	1,817,048	1,805,832	-48,382	-2.61%
Wisconsin	5,690,479	5,704,755	5,719,855	5,736,952	5,751,974	5,761,406	5,772,958	5,792,051	5,813,568	123,089	2.16%
Wyoming	564,483	567,224	576,270	582,123	582,548	585,668	584,290	578,934	577,737	13,264	-0.75%

Data Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, U.S. Census Bureau.

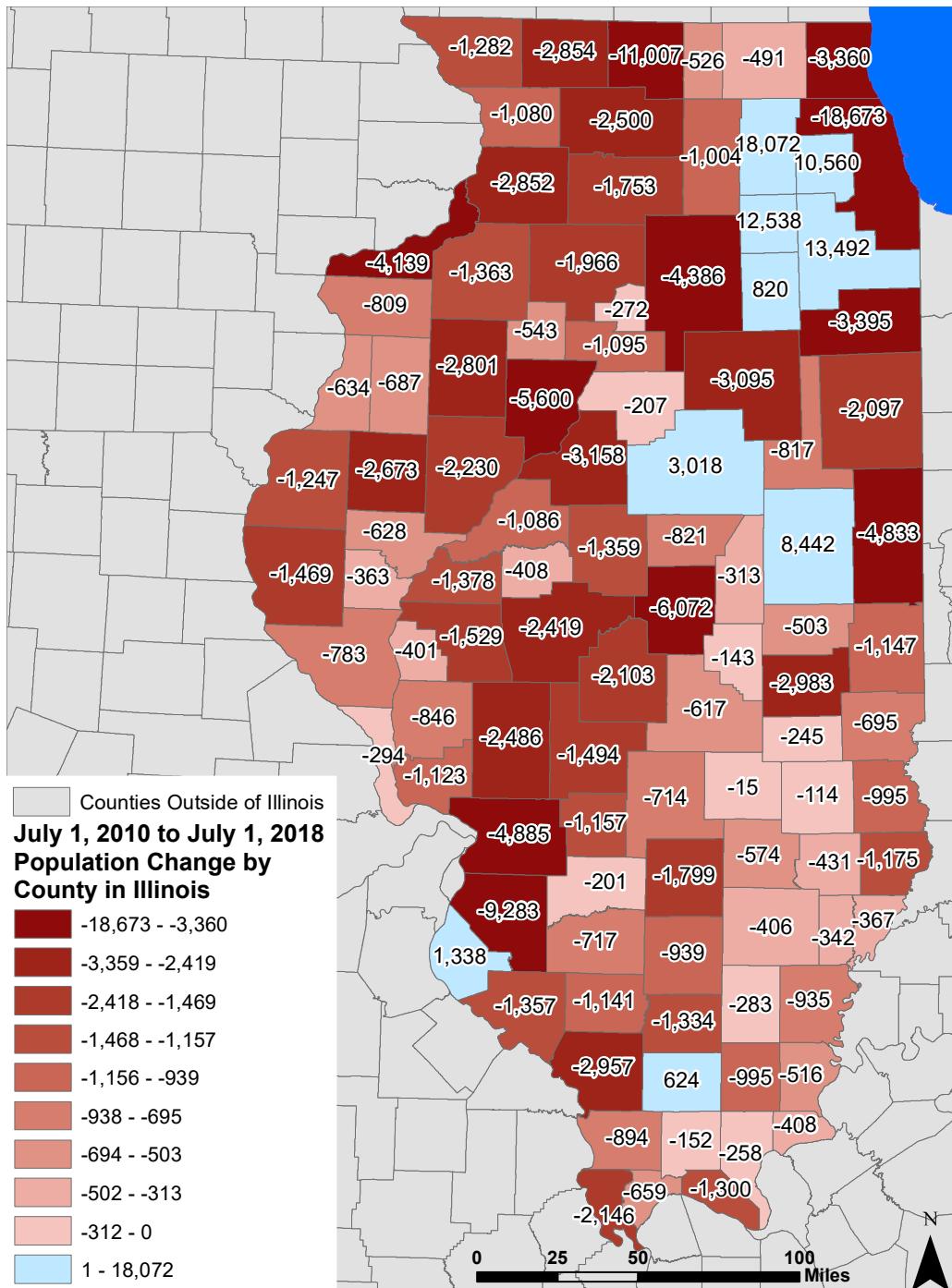
Population Change in Illinois by County, 2010-2018

- Nine of 102 Counties in Illinois had population increases from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. Five of those counties were located in the Chicago metropolitan area, two in central Illinois, and two in southern Illinois.
- From July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, Kane County increased 18,072, Will County increased 13,492, Kendall County increased 12,538, DuPage County increased 10,560, Champaign County increased 8,442, McLean County increased 3,018, Monroe County increased 1,338, Grundy County increased 820, and Williamson County increased 624.
 - Those population increased amounted to a 10.87% increase in Kendall County, a 4.19% increase in Champaign County, a 4.05% increase in Monroe County, a 3.50% increase in Kane County, a 1.99% increase in Will County, a 1.78% increase in McLean County, a 1.63% increase in Grundy County, a 1.15% increase in DuPage County, and a .94% increase in Williamson County.
- The 10 counties that lost the largest number of population from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 were Cook County (-18,673), Winnebago County (-11,007), St. Clair County (-9,283), Macon County (-6,072), Peoria County (-5,600), Madison County (-4,885), Vermillion County (-4833), LaSalle County (-4,386), Rock Island County (-4,139), and Kankakee County (-3,395).
- Of those 10 counties that lost the largest number of population from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, 8 of those counties contained small to large Illinois cities. These counties, and cities contained in them include:
 - Cook County, which contains Chicago.
 - Winnebago County, which contains Rockford.
 - St. Clair County, which contains East St. Louis and Bellville.
 - Macon County, which contains Decatur.
 - Peoria County, which contains Peoria.
 - Madison County, which contains Edwardsville.
 - Rock Island County, which contains Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline.
 - Kankakee County, which contains Kankakee
- The 10 counties that lost the largest percent of population from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 were primarily in southern and western Illinois and included Alexander County (-26.15%), Pulaski County (-10.76%), Cass County (-10.10%), Hardin County (-9.45%), Gallatin County (-9.26%), Stark County (-9.10%), Marshall County (-8.67%), Henderson County (-8.63%), Massac County (-8.45%), and Schuyler County (-8.33%).
 - Alexander County's population loss of 26.15% is the highest in the United States.

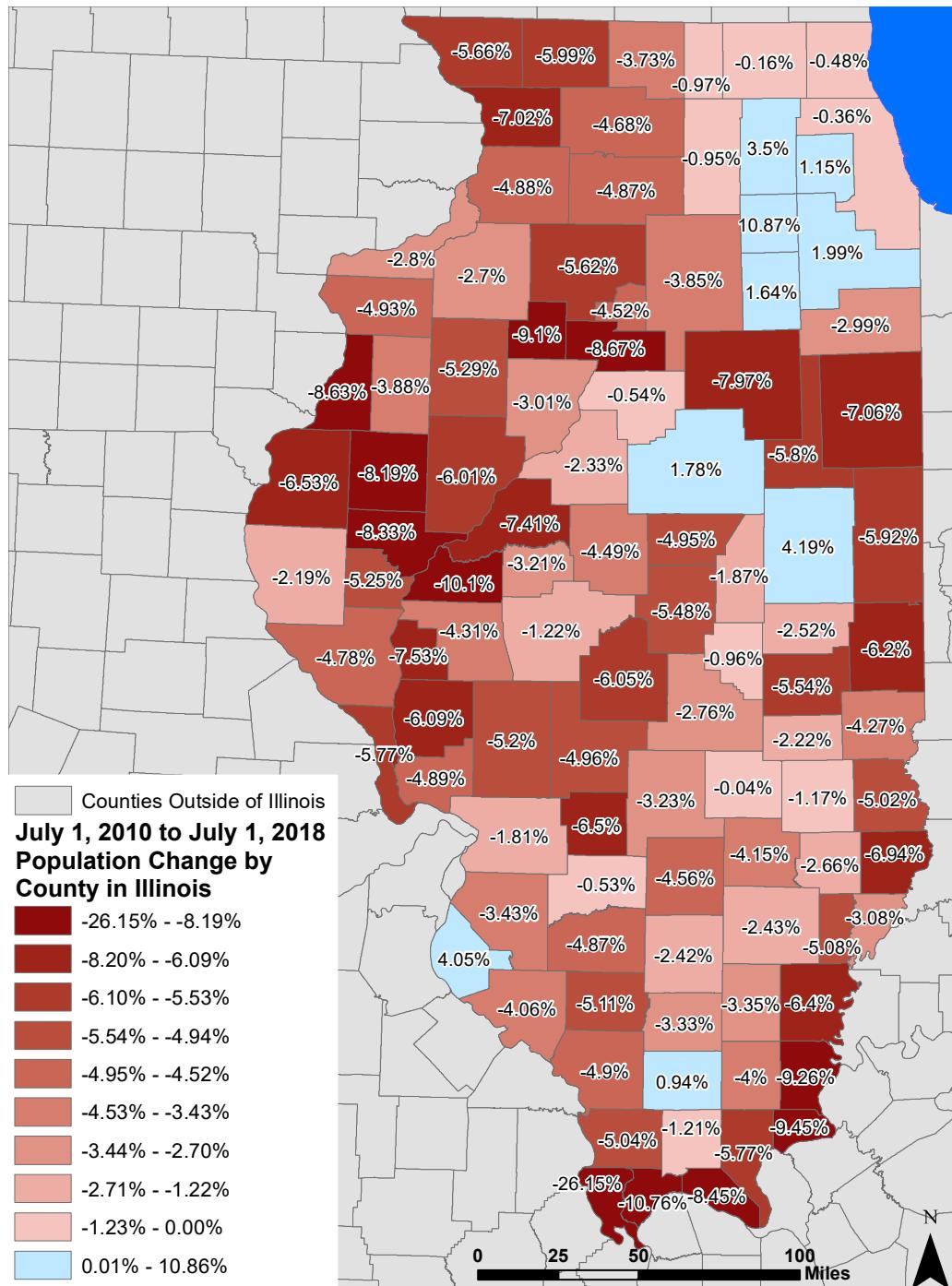
July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 Population Change by County in Illinois



July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 Population Change by County in Illinois



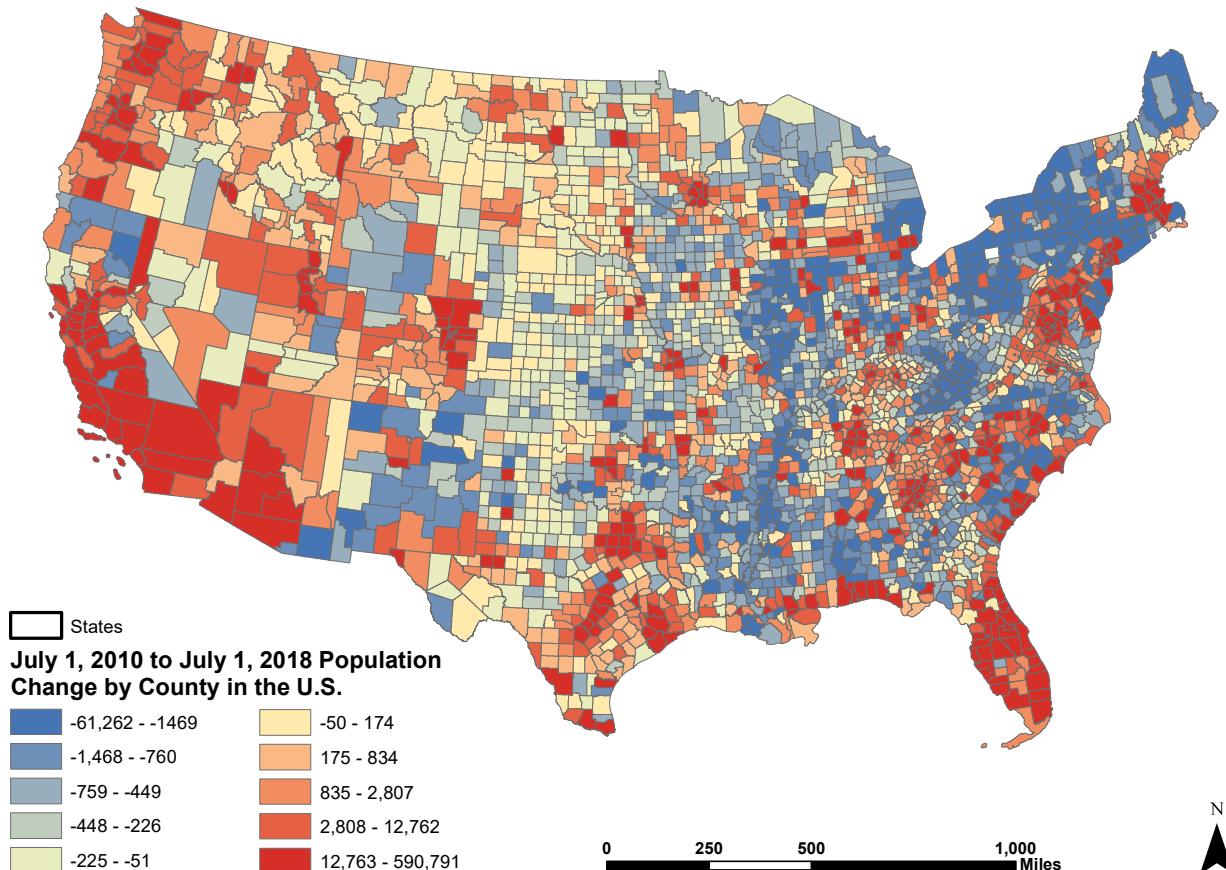
July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 Percent Population Change by County in Illinois



Population Change by County in the U.S., 2010-2018

- Illinois had three of the top 16 counties that lost the largest number of residents from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. Those counties were Cook County (-18,672, 3rd most in the U.S.), Winnebago County (11,007, 15th), and St. Clair County (9,283, 16th).
- The top 6 counties that lost the most population from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 contained notable large and mid-sized ‘rust belt’ cities that experienced substantial deindustrialization. Those counties and the cities contained in them include:
 - Wayne County, Michigan, which lost the most population (-61,262) of any U.S. county and contains Detroit, Michigan;
 - Cuyahoga County, Ohio lost the second most population (-34,239) and contains Cleveland, Ohio;
 - Cook County, Illinois lost the third most population (-18,673) and contains Chicago, Illinois;
 - The city of Baltimore, which is considered a county equivalent in Maryland lost the 4th most population (-18,510);
 - Genesee County lost the fifth most population (18,059) and contains Flint, Michigan; and
 - The city of St. Louis, which is considered a county equivalent in Missouri lost the 6th most population (-16,480).

July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018 Population Change by County in the U.S.



Data Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, U.S. Census Bureau.

Population Change by Census Region in the U.S., 2010-2018

- The U.S. population increased 11,109,707 from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018.
- All four census regions in the continental U.S. gained population from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018.
 - The Northeast had the smallest population increase and percent population increase, increasing 203,256 or .4%.
 - The Midwest grew the third most by population count and percent increase, growing 744,609 or 1.1%
 - The West grew the second most by population and percent increase, growing 3,801,138 or 5.1%
 - The South grew the most by population and percent increase, growing 6,360,704 or 5.4%

Census Regions of the Continental U.S.

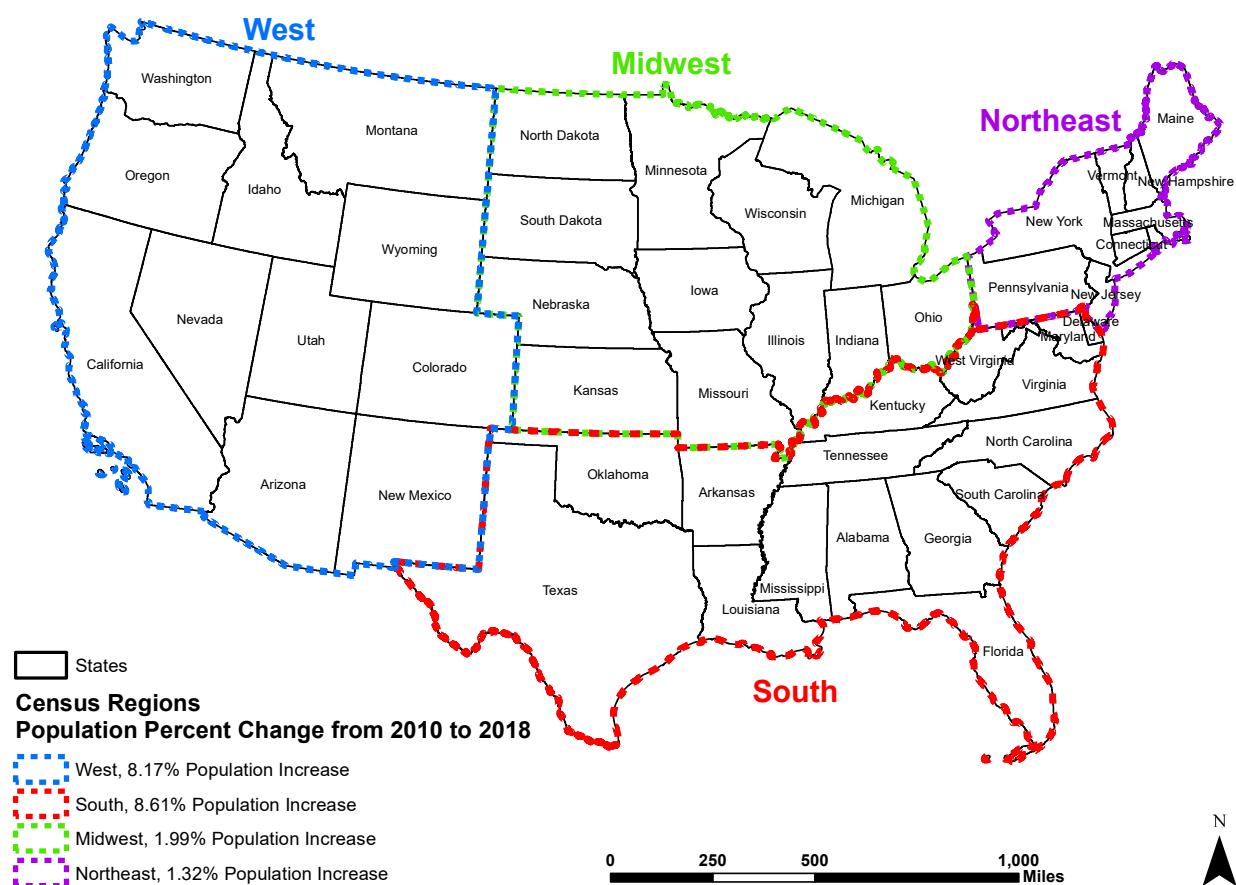


Table 2: Total Population for the United States, and Regions, July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018

Geographic Area	Population Estimate (as of July 1)						# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change	
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
United States	309,326,085	311,580,009	313,874,218	316,057,727	318,386,421	320,742,673	323,071,342	325,147,121	327,167,434	17,841,349	5.77%
Northeast	55,380,645	55,600,532	55,776,729	55,907,823	56,015,864	56,047,587	56,058,789	56,072,676	56,111,079	730,434	1.32%
Midwest	66,974,749	67,152,631	67,336,937	67,564,135	67,752,238	67,869,139	67,996,917	68,156,035	68,308,744	1,333,995	1.99%
South	114,867,066	116,039,399	117,271,075	118,393,244	119,657,737	121,037,542	122,401,186	123,598,424	124,753,948	9,886,882	8.61%
West	72,103,625	72,787,447	73,489,477	74,192,525	74,960,582	75,788,405	76,614,450	77,319,986	77,993,663	5,890,038	8.17%
										3,801,138	5.1%

Data Source: Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, U.S. Census Bureau.



Great Cities Institute (MC 107), 412 South Peoria Street, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60607-7067
Phone (312) 996-8700 • Fax (312) 996-8933 • greatcities.uic.edu • gcities@uic.edu