

## **Maryland's Population Growth Decreases During 2020s, Consistent with Trends in the U.S.**

Maryland's population decreased for the first time according to U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates.<sup>1</sup> As of July 1, 2021, according to the latest Census report, Maryland's total resident population is 6,165,129 persons. This is the first time since the federal population estimates program began that Maryland's annual population estimate has been reported less than the previous year's estimate.<sup>2</sup>

The 2021 estimate is 7,550 persons less than the July 1, 2020, estimate of 6,172,679 persons. This population decrease occurs after years of falling growth and is consistent with demographic trends occurring throughout the United States.

There are three main causes of population change: births; deaths; and migration. Natural change is the measure of the relationship between births and deaths. Natural Increase happens when there are more births than deaths. The reverse is Natural Decrease, meaning there are more people dying than babies born in a particular population. Migration is the movement of people in and out of an area.

The United States has experienced slower population growth for several years. This is the result of an aging population facing increased mortality and decreased fertility, combined with the reduced volume from net international migration.

The U.S. population grew at a slower rate in 2021 (0.12 percent), than in any other year since the founding of the nation, based on historical decennial censuses and annual population estimates. Since the middle of the 2010s, natural increase and net international migration have been declining at the same time deaths have been increasing.

The joint effect of which is slower population growth that has only been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The result being the nation's historically low population increase in 2021.

Apart from the last few years, when population growth slowed to these low levels, the country's slowest rate of growth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was from 1918 – 1919 amid the Spanish Influenza pandemic and World War I.

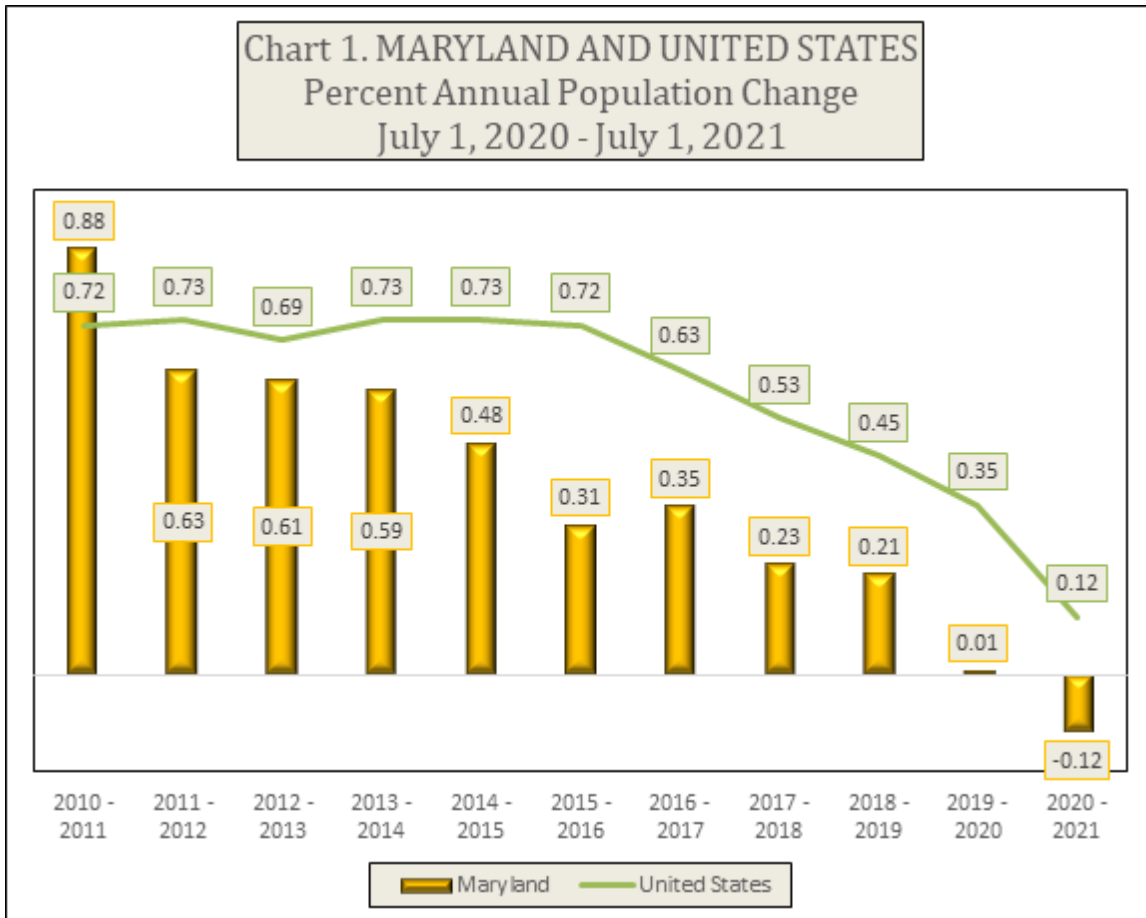
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<sup>1</sup> Release date, December 2021

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 1. Containing the following tables - *Table 1. United States, Regions, and States Population Estimates: 2010 – 2021; Table 2. United States, Regions, and States Natural Change: 2010 – 2021; Table 3. United States, Regions, and States Births: 2010 – 2021; Table 4. United States, Regions, and States Deaths: 2010 – 2021; Table 5. United States, Regions, and States Domestic Migration: 2010 – 2021; Table 6. United States, Regions, and States International Migration: 2010 – 2021.*

Areas with large aging populations often experience Natural Decrease and shrinking populations in the absence of migration. While widespread, Natural Decrease was more common in some regions in 2021.

Half of all states experienced more deaths than births in their populations between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, according to the population estimates.



- Seven out of nine states (78 percent) in the Northeast had more deaths than births, making this the region with the most widespread Natural Decrease in 2021.
- The West had the lowest share of states with Natural Decrease — three out of 13 (23 percent).
- More states in the South had Natural Decrease than increase (65 percent); the reverse was true in the Midwest, where 33 percent of states had more deaths than births.

The highest count of states experiencing Natural Decrease in a single year within the 2011 to 2020 period was eight. That high occurred in the 2019-2020 period, which included four months of COVID-19 exposure.

Aside from 2020, the number of states experiencing more deaths than births annually between 2011 and 2020 ranged from one to four. Relatively few states experienced recurring Natural Decrease in the previous decade. Those that did, all had on average, older populations. Natural Decrease occurred annually in West Virginia for the past eleven years, and 10 of the last 11 years in Maine. New Hampshire and Vermont faced more deaths than births the last five years.

Overall, the United States population gain through Natural Increase from April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2021, is 12.4 million persons. The largest absolute gains were concentrated in three states – California, Texas, and New York (2.4 million more births, 2.1 million births, and 830 thousand more births, respectively). These three states reported 45 - percent of the Nation's net population increase due to natural change.

Meanwhile, across the rest of the country, the net population gain due to Natural Increase declined for seven consecutive years. On top of this, COVID related deaths had a pronounced impact on population change.

The U. S. reports deaths increased nearly 12 - percent during 2021 compared to 2020 (3,433,943 deaths compared to 3,070,859 deaths). Deaths increased in all jurisdictions, and well over 10 – percent in 45 states (including Maryland), and the District of Columbia. The highest increase occurred in the Midwest Region (13.4 percent), followed by the South (12 percent), West (10.9 percent) and Northeast Regions (10.5 percent).

All of this is in contrast with what was seen in the previous decade. This is likely an outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic was declared in March 2020. The 2020-2021 period was unique because it was the first time the COVID-19 pandemic affected both births and deaths.

The first births conceived and carried to full-term during the pandemic were born in December 2020. This means that just over half of the July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, estimates period includes births conceived during the pandemic.

There was much speculation about how the pandemic will impact fertility, provisional data suggest that births declined between 2020 and 2021 in all states.

With some exceptions, births in most states had been declining since 2016. Between 2020 and 2021, all states experienced a drop in births. For most states, that one-year slide was larger than any that occurred in the previous decade.

Nationwide there were 166,014 fewer births from July 2020 to June 30, 2021, or 4.4 percent less than the 3,748,000 births during the previous year. Relative to other U. S.

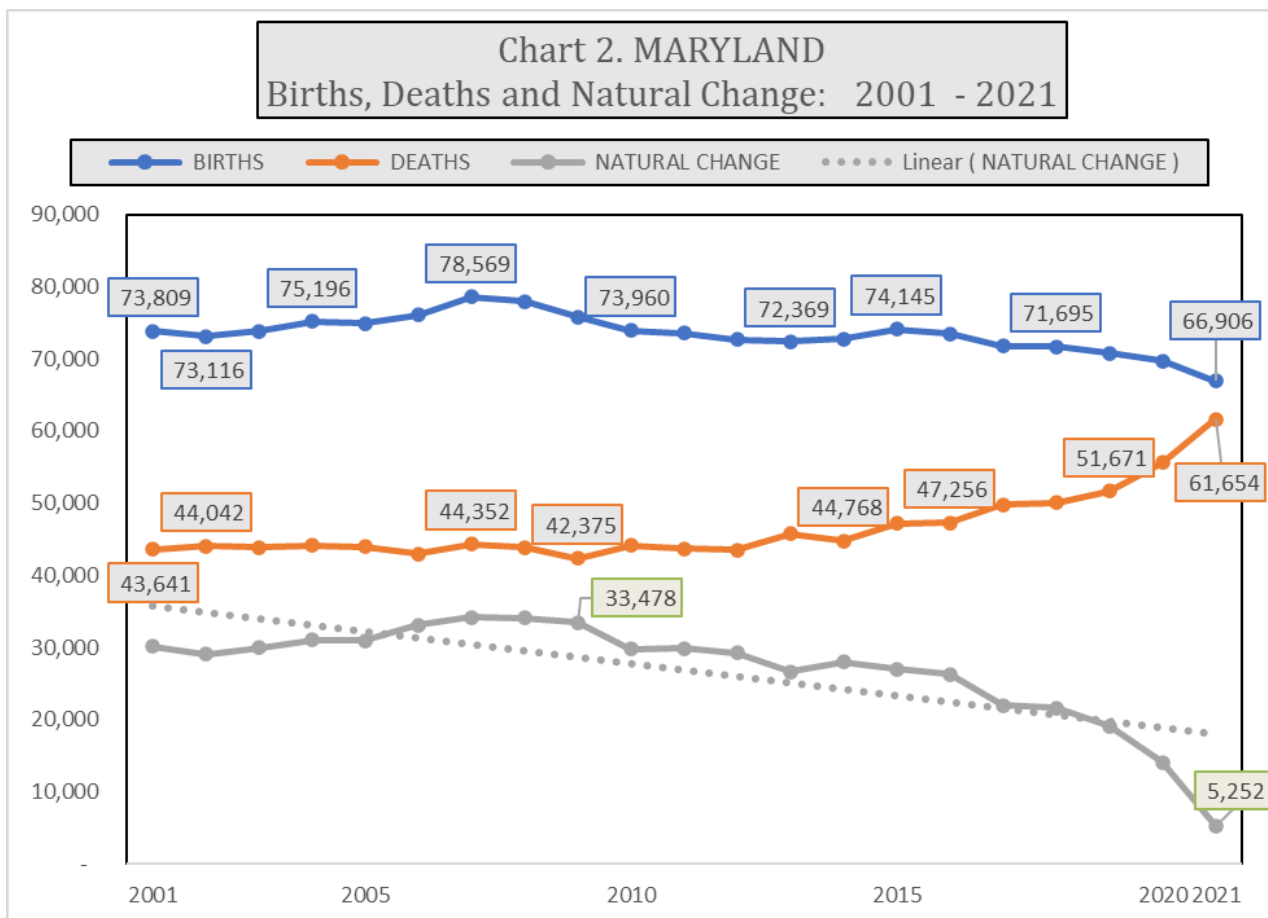
regions, the number of births in Western states declined the most (just over five - percent) and the Southern states declined the least (3.9 percent).

The number of births fell by five percent or more in 19 states, led by Maine (-7.52 percent), South Dakota (-7.21 percent), Montana (-7.18 percent), and Rhode Island (-7.0 percent). Births declined by less than two percent in just four states, Alabama, Idaho, West Virginia, and Delaware (-0.74 percent, -1.57 percent, -1.93 percent, and -1.95 percent, respectively).

The pattern of annual change in the count of deaths was less consistent across states in the years prior to the pandemic; with a few exceptions, states fluctuated between increasing and decreasing mortality with no obvious trend.

The pattern changed during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 periods, when deaths increased in all states. The biggest numeric increases occurred in 2021, which included an entire year of pandemic deaths.

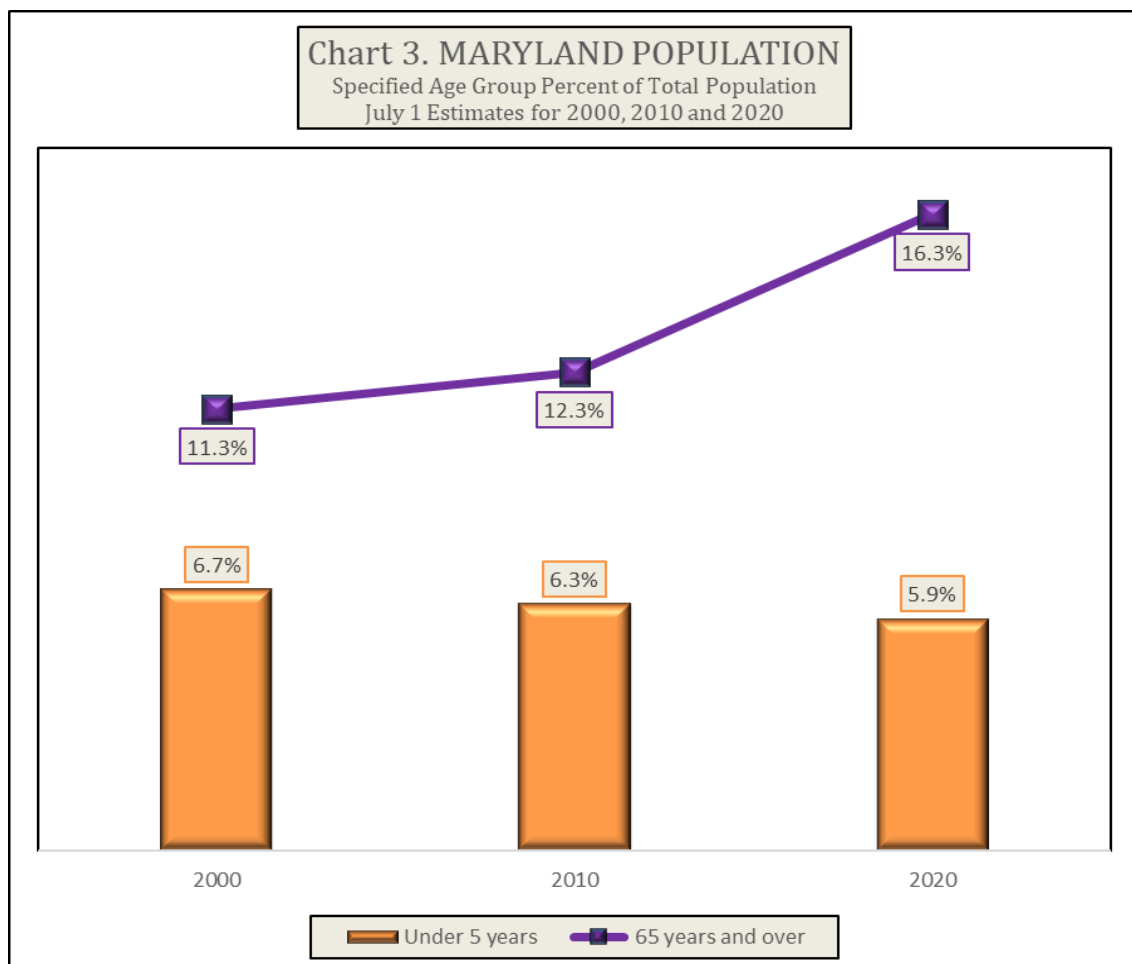
In Maryland, Natural Increase declined nine of the last 10 years. Most recently, there were 66,906 births and 61,654 deaths in the State of Maryland from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. The resulting net Natural Increase of 5,252 persons is the lowest of any annual account since 2011.



Net natural change peaked in the July 1, 2006, through July 1, 2007, period with 34,217 persons. Maryland experienced its highest number of births during this interval. That year 78,569 births were reported, compared to 44,352 deaths. Since that time births have decreased every year except one. Not only are there fewer births, but there is also a substantial rise in the number of deaths.

The number of reported deaths during the July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, period is 61,654. This is the highest number of deaths reported over the last 20 years, and 6,019 higher than the number of deaths reported in 2020 (55,635). The increase from 2020 to 2021 is substantial (10.8 percent increase), particularly when compared to the last five years. The recent exponential rise in the State deaths figures may be attributable to the current global pandemic, nonetheless, mortality was also increasing as the population continued to age.

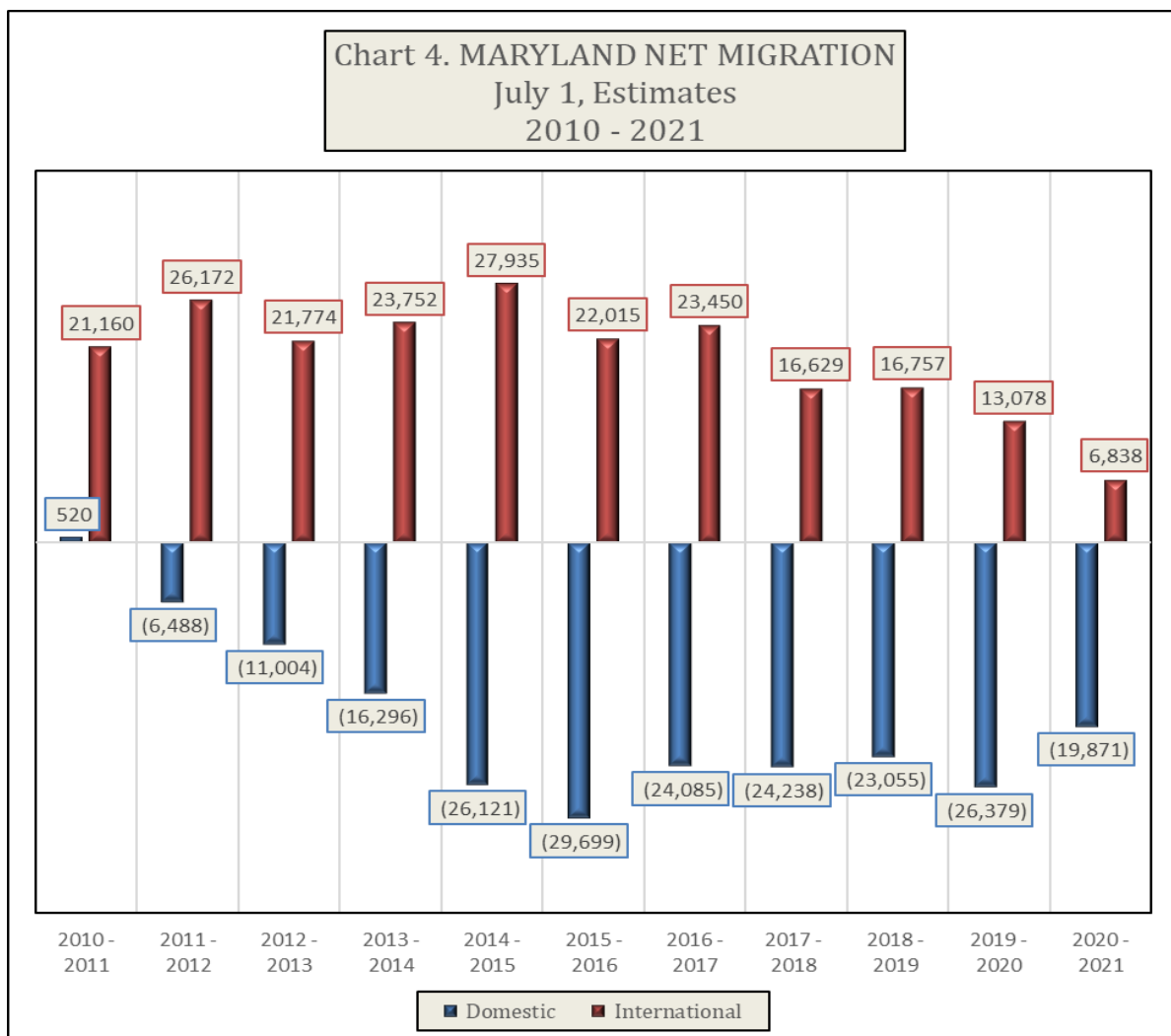
The increase of an aging population means a smaller share of the female population is of childbearing age, and at the same time, a higher proportion of the State's population is older and therefore at greater risk of dying.



In 2020, persons aged 65 and over made up approximately 16.3 percent of Maryland’s population, up by four percentage points since 2010.

Persons born in the “Baby Boom” generation (between 1946 and 1964), accounts for nearly one – quarter of the State’s population. The youngest of these are in their late fifties, while most are in their sixties and seventies. Due to the size and the aging of Maryland’s “Baby Boom,” deaths in the State have increased annually since 2014. As is the case in areas with an aging population, Maryland’s future population growth is likely to be impeded by net Natural Decrease.

The other traditional element of Maryland’s population growth is migration. Under ordinary circumstances, Maryland owes a good deal of its population growth to net international immigration. Since 2011, Maryland has had a total net gain of 219,560 persons from international immigration. This accounts for over two – thirds of the State’s total population growth (324,888 persons) over the period.



However, from July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, annual increase in population from this factor is just 6,838 persons. It is down nearly 48 - percent from the previous year when the State's population increase due to net international migration was 13,078 persons. This is the lowest figure since 2000 and makes four consecutive years that Maryland's annual net international migration is reported below 20,000 persons.

Historically, Natural Increase and net international in – migration have been Maryland's principal drivers of population growth. However, these factors have been insufficient to offset the decline in population growth.

Since July 1, 2016, domestic out migration has also become a critical element of Maryland's population change. Over the past five years, out – movers have outstripped in - movers by 147,327 persons.

The U. S. Bureau of the Census reports that over the past year, Maryland out – movers outnumbered Maryland in – movers by 19,871 persons. Although this is less than during 2020, when there were 26,379 more out - movers, it is the State's tenth consecutive year of negative net domestic migration.

In all, 22 states and the District of Columbia experienced population gains through domestic migration from 2010 to 2021. The largest absolute gains were concentrated in two states - Florida and Texas (1.7 million new residents and 1.5 million new residents, respectively). These two States received 41 percent of all domestic interstate movers.

The following are overall highlights of the recently released annual population estimates for Maryland and the states.

- The annual population change in the United States between July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2021, is 392,665 persons. The annual increase in the Nation's population has declined for most of the last five years, and currently stands as less than one - fifth of the average annual population increase experienced since 2010.
- The year 2021 is the first time since 1937 that the U.S. population grew by fewer than one million people. It is the lowest numeric growth since at least 1900, when the Census Bureau began annual population estimates.
- The annual percentage population increase between July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2021, in the United States is 0.12 percent. Twenty-eight state equivalent areas currently have higher annual percent population increases than the United States.
- The total population of the United States is 331,893,745 persons as of July 1, 2021. Since the 2010 population estimate, the country's population increased by 22.6

million persons. There are 57,159,838 persons living in the Northeast Region, the Midwest accounts for 68,841,444 persons, the South contains 127,225,329 persons and the West Region holds 78,667,134 residents.

- Since the July 1, 2010 estimate, Maryland has grown faster than all Northeastern states, and all Midwestern states except for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.
- Maryland's population has increased by 376,345 persons, or 6.5 percent since 2010. Its numeric gain since then is the 19th largest in the United States. Its percentage population gain ranks 22nd. The percentage gain remains below the national overall population increase of 7.3 percent.
- Most of the Nation's annual population growth occurred in the South (816,322 persons) and West (35,868 persons) Regions. While the Northeast and Midwest Regions experienced significant population losses (365,795 persons and 93,730 persons, respectively). During this time Maryland also suffered population losses, and our population relative to other States, fell from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in size.
- In comparison with other States, Maryland's annual net population loss of 7,550 from 2020 to 2021 ranks 40<sup>th</sup>. The population decrease by percent (-0.12 percent), from July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, ranks 38th nationwide. The percentage loss is the fifth smallest among the fifty states and the District of Columbia
- The total population of the South Region is estimated at 127.2 million persons. Maryland and 16 other states comprise the region, accounting for 38 – percent of the United States' population. Since July 1, 2020, the number of persons living in the South has increased by 816,322 persons (0.65 percent). Twelve states increased in population compared to the previous year. The highest population increases took place in Texas (310,288 persons), Florida (211,196 persons), and North Carolina (93,985 persons).
- Maryland is one of the five states in the South Region to lose residents over the period, falling by 7,550 persons (-0.12 percent). Maryland's net loss was the third smallest of these states, as Louisiana and the District of Columbia experienced a higher net loss of residents (-27,156 persons and -20,043 persons, respectively).
- The July 1, 2021, population estimate for states in the United States West Region is 78.7 million persons. This is nearly 24 – percent of the total U. S. population. Since



July 1, 2020, the number of persons living in the West has increased by 35,868 persons (0.05 percent).

- Of the 13 States comprising the West Region, Arizona's population increased the most (98,330 persons), followed by Utah, Idaho, and Nevada (56,291 persons, 53,151 persons, and 29,920 persons, respectively). Only three states in the region experienced population loss. California had the largest population decline (-261,902 persons). This is also the second highest annual population loss nationwide.
- Among the country's four regions, the Northeast Region is the smallest in terms of the number of states (nine), and total population (57.2 million residents). The Region accounts for just over 17 – percent of the country's total population. Since July 1, 2020, the Northeast experienced the highest net decrease in population of all U. S. Regions, falling by 365,795 persons (-0.47 percent).
- The populations of five states in the Northeast region declined over the period, but one had the most impact. Nearly all (over 80 – percent) of the Northeast Region's annual population decline is due to New York. New York's one year population decrease (-319,020 persons) is also the largest net population loss among the 51 state equivalent areas. The other states in the region experiencing population loss include the Commonwealths of Massachusetts (-37,497 persons) and Pennsylvania (-25,569 persons), and the states of New Jersey and Rhode Island (-12,613 persons and -619 persons, respectively).
- Apart from Rhode Island, the New England portion of the Northeast experienced a measure of population growth, as New Hampshire (11,144 persons), Maine (9,967 persons), Connecticut (5,337 persons) and Vermont (3,075 persons) added residents.
- There are twelve states that comprise the Midwest Region. The Region's July 1, 2021, population estimate is 68.8 million persons, or just under one - fifth of that of the Nation as a whole. Since July 1, 2020, the number of persons living in the Midwest decreased -0.12 percent for a population loss of 93,730 persons.
- The three largest states in the Midwest are Illinois (12.7 million persons), Ohio (11.9 million persons), and Michigan (10.1 million persons). These three account for most of the Region's population decline. Compared to the July 1, 2020, population estimate reported by the Census Bureau, Illinois' population dropped by 113,776 persons (- 0.89 percent), followed by Michigan (- 16,853 persons or -0.17 percent) and Ohio (-10,570 persons or -0.09 percent).

- Seven Midwestern states increased population compared to the previous year. The largest net increase took place in Indiana, as 20,341 new residents increased its population to 6.8 million. The largest percent increase occurred in South Dakota. Inhabitants of this State increased 0.93 percent from 887,099 to 895,376 residents (8,277 persons).
- Among all states, California's July 1, 2021, population estimate is the largest with 39.2 million inhabitants. This is followed by Texas (29.5 million), Florida (21.8 million) New York (19.8 million), and Pennsylvania (13 million).
- Since July 1, 2020, the five states with the largest annual numeric gains in populations are Texas (310,288), Florida (211,196), Arizona (98,330), North Carolina (93,985) and Georgia (73,766).
- Since 2010, California and Texas have maintained their rank as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest populated states. New York (3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010), flipped with Florida to rank 4<sup>th</sup> in 2021; Illinois (5<sup>th</sup> in 2010), flipped with Pennsylvania to become the 6<sup>th</sup> most inhabited state. Ohio maintained its spot at seventh, and Michigan (8<sup>th</sup> in 2010), moved down two spots to 10<sup>th</sup>, replaced by Georgia at eight and passed by North Carolina at nine.
- The number of residents in Idaho increased 21 – percent since the 2010 estimate, tops in the United States. Utah (20.3 percent), Texas (17 - percent), Nevada (16.3 percent), Florida (15.6 percent), and Colorado (15.2 percent), also saw more than 15 - percent gains in new residents over the period.
- The highest annual percentage increase in population from July 1, 2020, through July 1, 2021, is also reported for Idaho (2.9 percent). Utah (1.72 percent), Montana (1.66 percent), Arizona (1.37 percent), South Carolina (1.17 percent), Delaware (1.16 percent) and Texas (1.3 percent) round out the top five fastest growing states over the most recent year.

Access supplemental tabular data in the [Appendix](#) (xlsx format)

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