

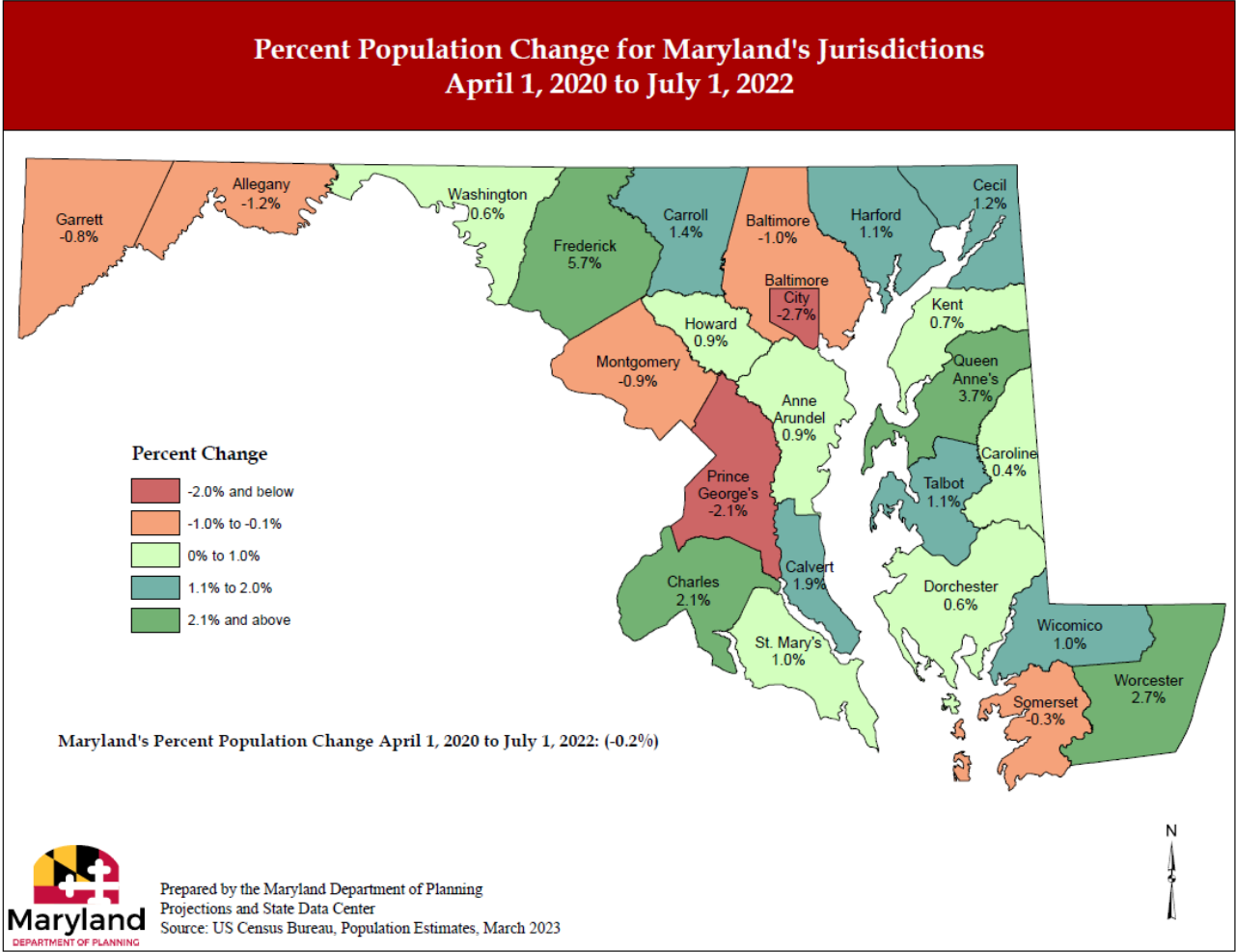
Update: Census Bureau releases Population Estimates for Maryland Jurisdictions (2022)

Maryland’s largest counties experience little to no growth.

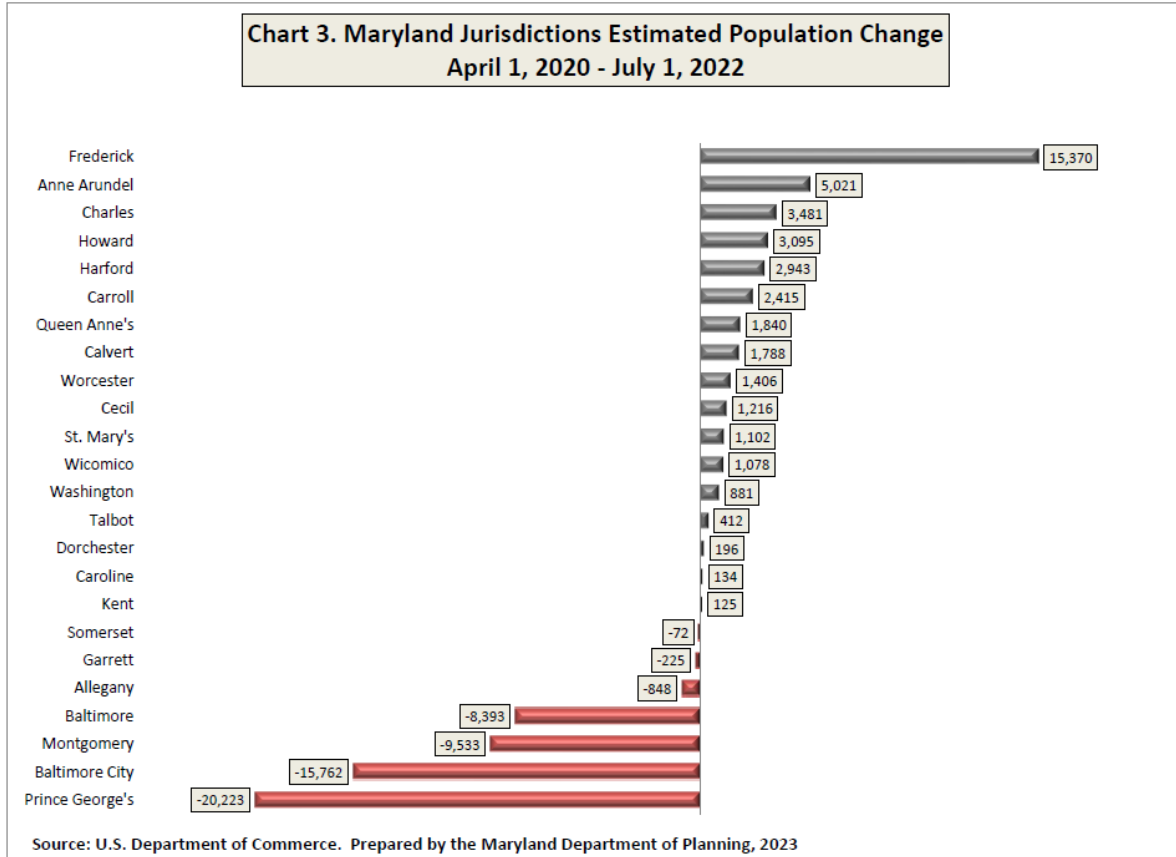
2022 population growth and rankings in Maryland

The state of Maryland, in 2022, reported a population of 6,164,660— a loss of 12,553 since April 2020. Between July 2021 and July 2022, the state’s population declined by 9,950 persons ([See 2022 Estimates for Maryland and States](#)).

The top five jurisdictions in the state by percent change are Frederick (+5.7%), Queen Anne’s (+3.7%), Worcester (+2.7%), Charles (+2.1%), and Calvert (+1.9%) counties. Four of the five jurisdictions had population increases of 2 percent or more between April 2020 and July 2022.



The top five jurisdictions by numeric change in the state are Frederick, Anne Arundel, Charles, Howard, and Harford. Population increases among these jurisdictions ranged from 2,400 to 15,370. The most populous counties in the state however showed no positive growth between April 2020 and July 2022.



Montgomery County is the most populous among Maryland's 24 jurisdictions with over one million residents (1,052,521) as of July 1, 2022. Rounding out the top 5 jurisdictions by population are Prince George's (946,971), Baltimore County (846,161), Baltimore City (569,931), and Anne Arundel County (593,286).

Since April 2020, Montgomery County's population declined by 9,533 or nine-tenths of a percent while Prince George's County lost over 20,000 residents or 2.1 percent. Baltimore City continues to experience population loss; just in the 27 months from April 2020 to July 2022 the City's population declined by 2.7 percent (-15,762). In the 12 months completed, July 2021 to July 2022, Baltimore City declined by 7,050 persons. In contrast to these bigger counties, Anne Arundel County added 1,234 persons (+0.2 percent) this year and since April 2020 gained 5,000 new residents (+0.9 percent). [See Maps [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Frederick County posts fifth consecutive population increase

Frederick County's population increased 5.7 percent (+15,370) since April 2020— the largest jurisdictional gain of any Maryland county in the last few years. Over the same time frame, April 2020 to July 2022, Queen Anne's County increased 3.7 percent (+1,840) and Worcester County increased 2.7 percent (+1,406). Numerically, however, as shown in the chart above, Queen Anne's with 1,840 new residents ranked lower than Howard (+0.9 percent), and Harford (+1.1 percent) counties as they added more people: 3,095 and 2,943 respectively.

This year (July 2021- July 2022) Frederick County added 6,699 (+2.4%) residents. Anne Arundel County had the second largest numeric increase (+1,234, +0.2 percent) followed by Charles (+1,232, +0.7%), and Carroll (+1,097, +0.6%) counties. In percentage terms Queen Anne's had the second largest population increase at +1.6 percent (+811) followed by Worcester (+0.9%, +496) and Cecil (0.8%, +846) counties. [See Charts [1](#), [2](#)].

Fastest and Slowest growing regions in Maryland

Among the state's six regions (Baltimore, Suburban Washington, Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, Upper and Lower Eastern Shore), Population in the Eastern Shore region rose 1.5 percent from 243,611 in April 2020 to 247,338 in July 2022; however, in the past year (2021-2022), it rose eight-tenths of a percent becoming the largest regional population increase for the state. About 45 percent of this region's new residents live in Cecil County and it makes up 42 percent of the region's total population. Cecil County population increased by 0.8 percent. The region's second most populous county is Queen's Anne County which increased 1.6 percent from 50,900 to 51,711.

Southern Maryland's population increased by five-tenths of a percent (adding 1,792 new residents) in the last year. The region's population as of 2022 was 2.286 million. About 69 percent of this region's new residents live in Charles County although the county represents 45 percent of the region's population. Charles county's population climbed by almost 1,232 from 168,870 in 2021 to 170,102 in 2022.

The Western Maryland region lost 209 people (-0.1%). The three-county region saw population loss in all but one county, Washington County. Washington County's population gain made up for greater loss in the region: Washington gained 393 persons compared to the combined 602-person decline in Allegany and Garrett counties.

The Baltimore region declined by 0.3 percent last year, a loss of 8,493 persons. Baltimore County (-4,473) and Baltimore City (-7,050) had the only declines but no other jurisdiction in the region had sufficient population increase to reverse the trend. [See Table [1B](#) and Table [1C](#)].

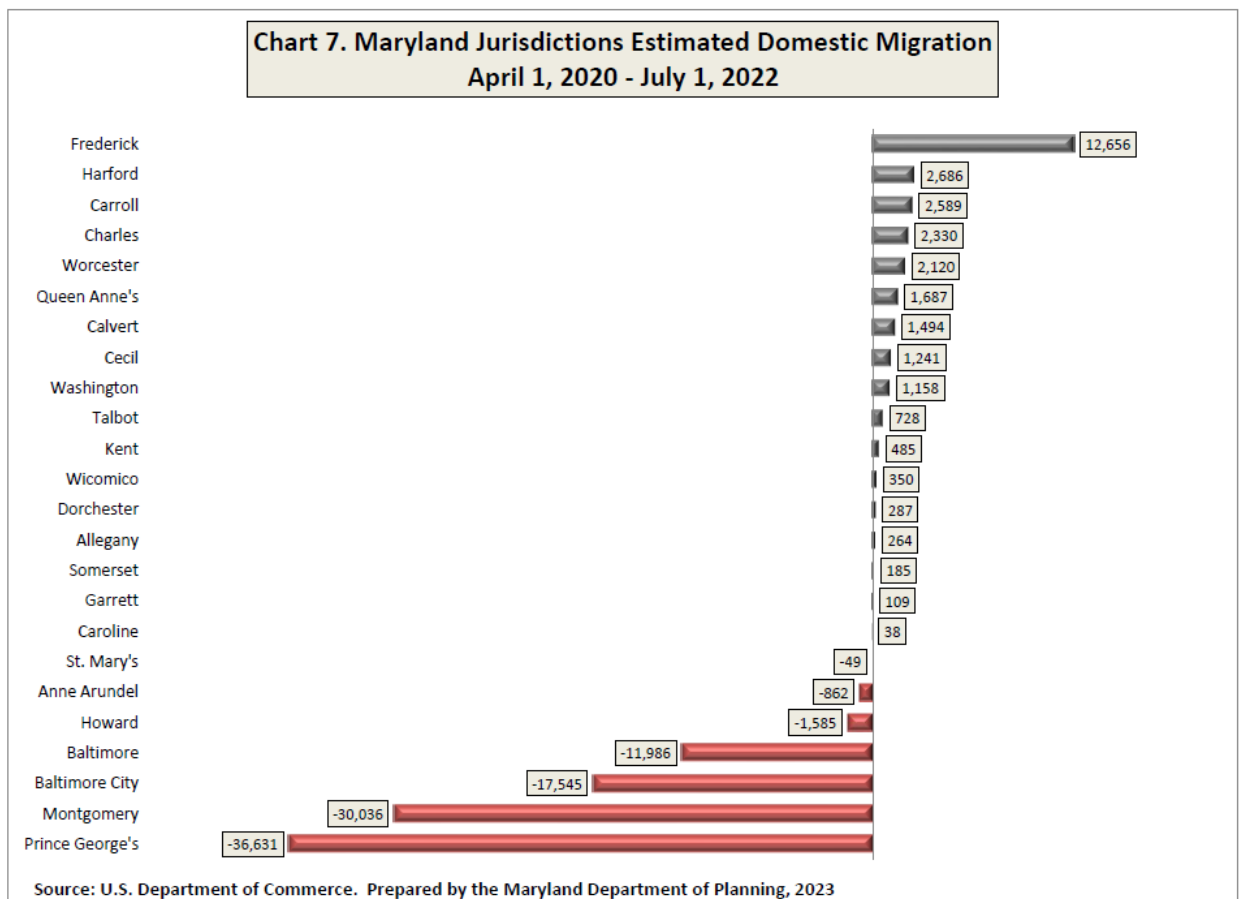
The suburban Washington region which covers the jurisdictions of Montgomery, Prince George's and Frederick declined by 0.6 percent (-14,386) from April 2020 to July 2022. In the one year from July to July, the suburban Washington region lost (-6,017) residents most likely due to domestic outmigration from the two larger jurisdictions.

Components of Population Growth

The Census Bureau's Population and Housing Estimates program uses a cohort component method to produce annual estimates. This method captures net natural change (data on births and deaths from administrative records) and net migration (data on the movement of people, both foreign born and native, into and out of an area). [See [Table 5](#)].

Net natural increase, the other component of population growth, was a positive 20,341 persons: there were 153,727 births and 133,386 deaths. A county-by-county analysis of natural increase shows that there were a larger number of births compared to deaths in Montgomery County (+8,964), Prince George's (+6,641), Anne Arundel (+4,130) and Howard (+2,856) counties. In Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore regions more deaths than births: -2,044 and -2,046 respectively.

Maryland's population loss, between April 2020 and July 2022, appears to be attributed to net out-migration. Domestic net migration was down by 68,287 while the state's international migration was up by only 33,300: total net migration since April 2020 was a deficit of 34,987 persons who left the state.



It appears that international migration does not play as important a role as it did in prior decades for Maryland and its jurisdictions. For example, in the suburban Maryland counties of the Washington region, domestic out-migration was higher (-54,011) than international migration (+21,602). The size of domestic out-migration in Montgomery (-30,036) and Prince George's counties (-36,631) combined dwarfs the international migration (+20,525) into those respective counties. In Frederick County, on the other hand, domestic in-migration (+12,656) increased as did international migration (+1,077). [See Charts [6](#) and [7](#)]

The Baltimore region lost 26,703 residents to outmigration. Jurisdictions in the Baltimore region which lost the most residents were Baltimore City (-17,545) and Baltimore County (-11,986). Howard County experienced fewer (+1,496) international migrants than domestic out-migrants (-1,585). Other counties in the region report small gains in total net migration: Anne Arundel County (+545), Carroll County (+2,785), and Harford County (+2,859). [See [Table 5](#)].

Notes

The Census Bureau's Population and Housing Unit Estimates program developed a methodology in response to technical issues related to release of the 2020 Census. See the document [here](#).

While population has declined in the larger counties or what may be termed the inner suburbs of the DC metropolitan region and Baltimore metropolitan region, population has increased in Frederick, Queen Anne's, Charles, and Calvert counties. These counties are what the [Brookings Institution](#) calls exurban— counties located at the edge of metro areas and defined by fast-paced low density growth and development.