Introduction

According to the recent release of 2010 census counts U.S. population has increased from 281,421,006 in 2000 to 308,745,538 in 2010, an increase of 27,323,632 or 9.7 percent. During the 1990s, U.S. population increased from 248,709,873 in 1990 to 281,421,006 in 2000. This is an increase of 32,712,033 persons or 13.2 percent between April 1, 1990 and April 1, 2000. The growth of U.S. population has slowed during the 2000s compared to the 1990s. The population of the Northeast has increased from 53,994,378 in 2000 to 55,317,240 in 2010, a change of 1,722,862 persons or 3.2 percent. During the same time the Midwest population increased by 2,885,018 persons or 3.9 percent. The population of the South grew from 100,236,820 in 2000 to 114,555,744 in 2010, an increase of 14,318,924 persons or 14.3 percent. The population of West grew from 61,197,932 in 2000 to 71,945,553 in 2010, an increase of 8,747,621 persons or 13.8 percent. In this paper we examine the change in size, composition, and distribution of U.S. population from 2000-2010.

Change in Size, 2000-2010

The size of the U.S. population has more than doubled in the past 60 years, increasing from 150.7 million persons in 1950 to 308.7 million in 2010. The population growth of 27,323,632 persons between 2000 and 2010 represents the third largest annualized increase of 2,792,362 persons per year in U.S. history. The increase of 27,323,632 persons during the 2000-2010 period was equal to the total 2010 census populations of Texas and New Mexico. Almost 63 percent of the growth of U.S. population was due to natural increase while 37 percent was due to international migration.

Change in Composition, 2000-2010

The populations of 2000 and 2010 by race/ethnicity were derived by the authors from PL94-171 for each respective census year [1, 2]. During 2000-2010, the Non-Hispanic White population increased from 144,551,774 to 196,817,532 the Non-Hispanic Black population increased from 33,947,837 to 37,685,848 the Non-Hispanic Asians increased from 10,123,169 to 14,465,124. The Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiians and Non-Hispanic Other Pacific Islanders increased from 353,599 to 483,176, the Non-Hispanic Some Other Race group increased from 467,770 to 604,265, and the Non-Hispanic Two or More Race groups increased from 4,602,146 to 5,966,481. The Hispanic or Latino ethnic group can be of any race, increased from 35,305,818 to 50,797,594.

In terms of percent change, the Hispanic or Latino grouped gained the most (43.0); they were followed by Asians (42.9), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (36.2), and Some Other Race group (29.2). As a result of these changes, the proportion of the Anglo (Non-Hispanic White) population decreased from 69.2 percent of the U.S. population in 2000 to 63.8 percent in 2010. The proportion of Black population increased from 11.0 percent in 2000 to 12.0 percent in 2010. The Hispanic proportion increased from 1.5 percent in 2000 to 16.3 percent in 2010. The proportion of Asian population increased from 3.6 percent in 2000 to 4.7 percent in 2010. The proportion of Other (the sum of all other Non-Hispanic) group population increased from 2.6 percent in 2000 to 3.0 percent in 2010.

Change in Distribution, 2000-2010

Population growth has not been distributed evenly throughout the nation. Some parts of the nation have grown rapidly, some have grown slowly and others have grown steadily. The following sections examine the patterns of population growth for regions and divisions.


In this section we examine the patterns of population growth by regions. There are 4 regions in the U.S. (see Figure 1). All four regions experienced population growth during the 1990s and also during the 2000s. During the 1990s, the South gained the most population (14,790,890), followed by the West (10,411,805). The Northeast region gained the least population (2,785,149). A similar pattern of change has been observed during 2000-2010. The population of the South region increased from 100,236,820 in 2000 to 114,555,744 in 2010. The population of the West region increased from 63,197,932 in 2000 to 71,945,553 in 2010. The population of the Midwest region increased from 64,392,776 in 2000 to 66,927,001 in 2010. The population of the Northeast region increased from 53,994,378 in 2000 to 55,317,240 in 2010. In terms of numerical increase, the South Region gained 14,318,924 persons, the West Region gained 8,747,621 persons, the Midwest Region gained 2,534,225 persons, and the Northeast Region gained 1,722,862 from 2000 to 2010.

In terms of percent population change, the fastest growing regions during 2000-2010 have been the South with a 14.3 percent increase, followed by the West with an increase of 13.8 percent. The slowest growing regions have been the Northeast with a 3.2 percent increase, followed by Midwest with an increase of 3.9 percent.

Population change results either from natural increase or net migration. If these factors are examined in conjunction with the data on total population change, several important patterns are evident. An examination of the data in Table 1 indicates that the Northeast and the Midwest regions have experienced net outmigration while the South and West experienced net immigration.

References