



UF study traces county's sharp population increase

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A recent population study says the population of St. Johns County has increased by almost 50,000 residents since 2010.

The Population Program produced by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida puts the county's population at 238,742 as of April 2018. That's up from about 190,000 in 2010.

The number for 2018 differs slightly from the estimate of the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau's latest estimate, which is for July 2017, puts the county population at 243,812. The 2010 total uses the Census Bureau data.

Population estimates by the UF study refer only to permanent residents of Florida and do not include seasonal or other temporary residents.

According to the website for the project, the estimates are produced using the housing unit method, in which changes in population are based on changes in occupied housing units (or households). The researchers for the population study say the method "can produce estimates that are at least as accurate as those produced by any other method."

St. Johns County's growth over the last eight years is about 25 percent, which is more than double the overall growth rate of 9 percent for the state over the same time period.

The study also breaks down municipalities. In this county, St. Augustine added about 1,000 residents to 14,021, and St. Augustine Beach added more than 600 residents to 6,713.

Since, 2010, most counties around St. Johns also saw significant growth, according to the new study. But Putnam County actually lost more than 1,300 residents. Increases for the surrounding counties since 2010 were: 11,800 for Flagler County, 21,000 for Clay County and 88,000 for Duval County.

The state population was estimated at 20,484,142. The projection for 2020 is 21,526,50.

For St. Johns County, the UF study projects its population to be 255,000 by 2020, which would be more than double its population of 124,478 in 2000.