



Census estimates show county growth continues

Population up over 28 percent since 2010 count

By Jake Martin
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The latest population estimates are in from the U.S. Census Bureau and to probably no one's surprise St. Johns County continues to grow, and grow fast.

By the bureau's estimation, the county's population was 243,812 as of July 1, 2017, up from 235,046 in 2016 and 226,576 in 2015. The county eclipsed the 200,000 mark only in 2012, with an estimated population of 202,077.

At 3.7 percent, the county's percentage of population growth year to year ranked third highest in the state, lagging behind only Walton County (at 4.5 percent) and Osceola County (at 4.2 percent). Only seven Florida counties, none of which are in close proximity to St. Johns County, saw decreases in their population from 2016 to 2017.

St. Johns County is still only the 24th most populated Florida county, the same as it was last year. It was ranked 25th at the time of the 2010 Census.

The bureau's annual estimates are based on the 2010 Census, which counted a population of just 190,039 at the time. The latest data, released in late March, indicates St. Johns County has seen a roughly 28.3 percent climb in its population since 2010.

According to the bureau's assessment of the components of population change, the county's 53,788 climb in population since 2010 can be partially attributed to a natural increase in population of 2,197 (from 14,597 births and 12,400 deaths). However, the bulk of the increase comes from an estimated net migration into the county over this time of 50,865, which consists of 49,257 domestic newcomers and 1,608 international newcomers.

The county's increase in estimated population of 8,766 from 2016 to 2017 can be attributed to a natural increase of 235 (from 2,169 births and 1,934 deaths) and a net migration into the county of 8,505 (including 8,230 of domestic origin and 275 of international origin).

More than 18.8 million Floridians were counted by the bureau in 2010. That number has grown with each annual estimate, reaching just under 21 million as of last July, which was up from more than 20.6 million in July of the previous year. The state eclipsed the 20 million mark in 2015.

The state's 2,179,806 climb in population since 2010, according to the bureau's estimates, can be attributed to a natural increase of 235,054 (from 1,582,037 births and 1,346,983 deaths) and a net migration into the state of 1,936,102 (including 1,025,261 of domestic origin and 910,841 of international origin).

The state's increase in estimated population of 327,811 from 2016 to 2017 can be attributed to a natural increase of 22,019 (from 225,447 births and 203,428 deaths) and a net migration into the state of 305,019 (including 160,854 of domestic origin and 144,165 of international origin).

At the national level, the bureau estimated a population of about 325.7 million as of July 2017, which is up from more than 323.1 million in July of the previous year.