

Population- Part 2: Change ^[1]

Population

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Part 2: Change

US Census population estimates for 2009 indicate that North Carolina continues to be one of the fastest growing US states. Between the 2000 Census and July 1, 2009 the state's population grew by 16.5%, compared with the US growth rate of 8.1% (Table). As a result, the state's share of the national total rose from 2.77% to 3.06% during that period. The North Carolina total population of 9,380,884 in 2009 was enough to rank it as the 10th largest in the US, passing New Jersey in population between 2000 and 2009.

The state's vigorous growth was led by its largest urban counties. The 10 most populous, all parts of metro areas, grew from a total of 3,257,372 in 2000 to 4,069,906 in 2009, thereby increasing their share of the statewide

total from 40.5% to 43.3%. This strong growth was led by the state's two largest counties, [Mecklenburg](#) ^[12] and [Wake](#) ^[13]. These two counties together saw their collective population increase by 36.8%, more than double the statewide rate. This led to their share of the statewide total rising from 16.4% to 19.3%.

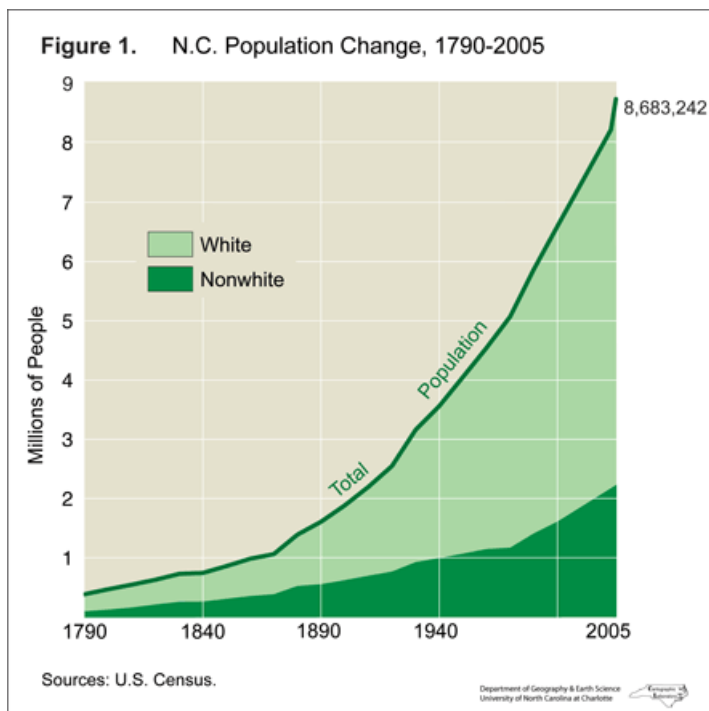
By contrast, 17 of the smaller, mostly rural counties in eastern North Carolina, lost population during the nine-year period. Thus, the state's vigorous growth is being led by its larger urban counties.

Changes since 1790

North Carolina continues its vigorous growth, as shown by estimates prepared by the US Census Bureau (Figure 1). Total population reached an estimated total of over 8.7 million by July 1, 2005, a gain of 633,929 since the last census was taken in 2000. The 2000-2005 gain was the sixth largest among all US states and most of the other five states with greater increases had larger populations to begin with, including California, Florida and Texas. As a result of this growth, the state's share of the national total continued to rise, as noted in the North Carolina Atlas, rising from 2.67 percent of the national total in 1990 to 2.93 percent in 2005.

POPULATION TRENDS			
Largest Counties			
County	Population 2009	Population 2000	% Change
Mecklenburg	913,639	695,454	31.4
Wake	897,214	627,846	42.9
Guilford	480,362	421,048	14.1
Forsyth	359,638	306,067	17.5
Cumberland	315,207	302,963	4.0
Durham	269,706	223,314	20.8
Buncombe	231,452	206,330	12.2
Gaston	208,958	190,365	9.8
Union	198,645	123,677	60.6
New Hanover	195,085	160,307	21.7
Total	4,069,906	3,257,371	24.9
NC	9,380,884	8,049,313	16.5
Top 10 %NC	43.4	40.5	
US	307,006,550	281,421,906	8.1
NC % US	3.06	2.77	

Source: US Census <<http://factfinder.gov/>>



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