

2014 Population Overview

Total State Change and U.S. Comparison

The July 2013 Colorado population is estimated by the State Demography Office to be 5,264,890. This is an increase of 76,386 or 1.5% since 2012. Population change is comprised of net migration (those moving in minus those moving out) and natural increase (births minus deaths). Net migration is estimated at 45,275 and natural increase is estimated at 31,111. Colorado was 4th fastest in percentage change behind North Dakota, DC, and Utah. Despite Colorado's relative fast growth, a total increase of 76,000 is not unusual.

Change by County

Eighty three percent of Colorado's population live in the 12 counties that comprise the Front Range, 11% live in the 21 counties that comprise the Western Slope, 3% live in the 16 counties that comprise the Eastern Plains, 2% live in the 9 counties that comprise the Central Mountains, and 1% live in the 6 counties that comprise the San Luis Valley.

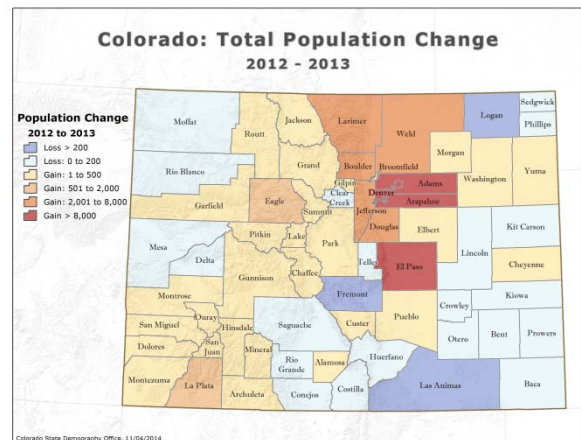
Colorado's 2013 county population ranges in population size from El Paso with 655,812 to San Juan County with 687. Twenty-six or 40% of Colorado's counties have fewer than 10,000 people. Eleven or 17% of the counties have greater than 100,000 residents.

Despite the high ranking population growth nationally, growth throughout the state has been disparate. Forty counties gained and twenty-four lost population between 2012 and 2013. The table and map to the side show the fastest growing and declining counties in total amounts and in percent change between 2012-2013. The counties with the largest total growth and in percentage change are along the Front Range. Douglas County has returned to the fastest growing county in percentage growth. Denver continues to rank in the top 5 fastest growing counties for both total and percentage change. The North Front Range and Denver Metro Regions lead the state growing at 1.9% followed by the South Front Range (El Paso and Pueblo) growing at 1.2%.

Births and Deaths

Statewide births and deaths between 2012 and 2013 were 64,700 and 33,600 respectively. Eleven counties had natural decline (more deaths than births) between 2012-13. The counties experiencing natural decline are primarily along the Central Mountains and Southeast Colorado. Births in the state have been slowing annually since 2007 but were flat this last year. The fertility rate has continued to slow since peaking in 2006. There were approximately 6,000 fewer births (an 8% decline) between 2006-07 and 2012-13. The Denver Metro area has had the largest slowing in births but in percentage terms the largest slowing has primarily been in mountain counties. Research shows that during a recession and for

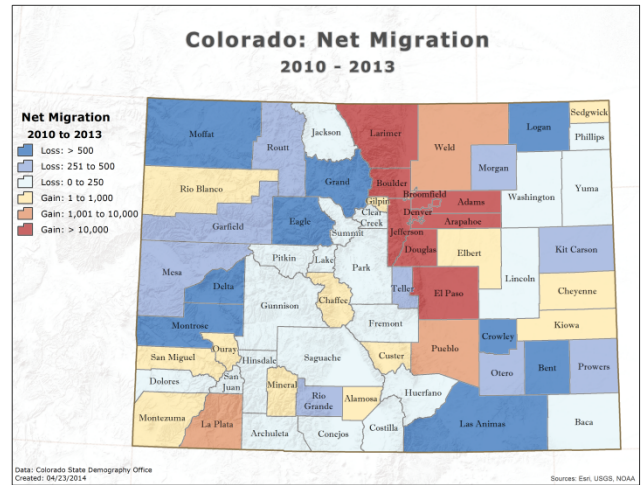
Top 5 Counties for Population Growth and Decline 2012-2013			
Increase	Absolute		Percentage
DENVER	14,034	DOUGLAS	2.6%
ARAPAHOE	11,250	WELD	2.3%
EL PASO	9,415	DENVER	2.2%
ADAMS	8,951	BROOMFIELD	2.1%
DOUGLAS	7,699	GILPIN	2.0%
Decline			
FREMONT	-682	LAS ANIMAS	-4.0%
LAS ANIMAS	-596	CROWLEY	-2.2%
LOGAN	-228	BACA	-1.8%
RIO GRANDE	-153	COSTILLA	-1.8%
OTERO	-137	SAGUACHE	-1.7%



several years following, births will slow due to lack of confidence in the economy. Additionally, a statewide health initiative to reduce teen birth rates has been in place since 2009 and has helped to decrease teen births by 40%. The recession has had little impact on deaths and they have steadily increased over time as the state's older population has increased.

Migration

From 2010 through 2013 thirty-nine counties have experienced total net out-migration (see map). However, net out migration seems to be slowing - down from 37 counties between 2010-2011 to thirty of the sixty-four counties between 2012-13. The counties with out migration are diverse ranging from mountain counties still struggling with the recession to the Eastern Plains to the San Luis Valley. The out migration has not been large in numbers, however, in the small counties, a loss of 500 people can be a large share of its total population. The declines in Fremont and Logan were due in part to declines in the prison population.



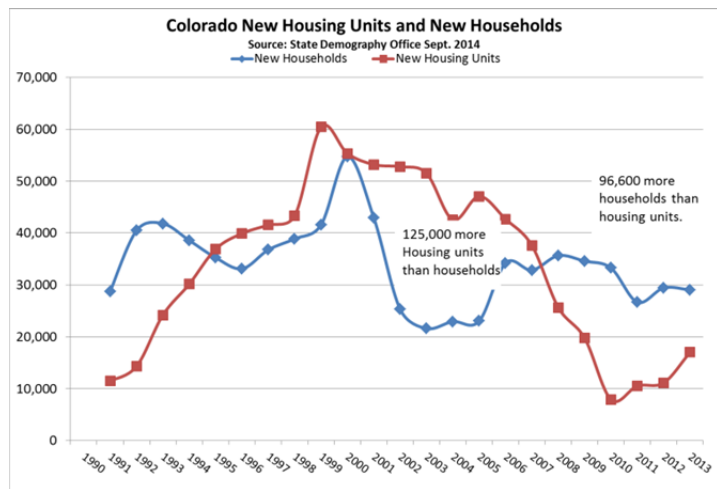
In-migration to Colorado was estimated at 206,500 and out-migration was 166,300 using the ACS 2013 State to State Migration Flows (not the same source the SDO uses for creating estimates) The top 5 donor and receiver states are listed below as well as the largest net donor and receiver states. Four of the top 5 states receiving Colorado migrants were also top donor states and include: Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida. In terms of net migrants, three of the top donor states are also top net migrant states (California, Texas and New York).

State to State Migration Flows ACS 2013 1 Year

In		Out	
California	23,714	Texas	18,979
Texas	23,490	California	16,151
Florida	9,448	Arizona	8,325
Arizona	8,798	Florida	7,608
New York	7,848	Utah	7,051
Net In		Net Out	
California	7,563	Oregon	(3,231)
Illinois	4,536	Hawaii	(1,587)
Texas	4,511	South Carolina	(1,258)
New York	3,790	Nebraska	(1,213)
Virginia	2,932	Indiana	(832)

Housing Units

Colorado housing units increased by slightly over 17,000 from July 2012 to June 2013 while households increased by over 29,000. The larger growth in households vs. housing units continued to help decrease the oversupply of housing units which have been present since the mid-2000s. Estimates indicate that state-wide vacancy rates have fallen from 10.6 in 2010 to 8.35 in 2013.



Population Forecast

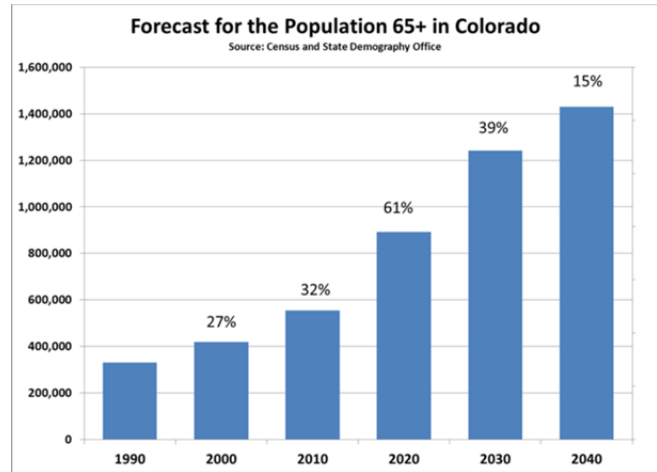
The short run population growth forecast for Colorado is an increase of 85,000 or 1.6% for 2014, 88,000 or 1.7% for 2015, and increasing to 92,000 or 1.7% for 2016. The total population is forecast to be 5,440,000 in July of 2015. Growth rates of 1.7% are similar to what Colorado experienced prior to the recession. Over the next five years, annual growth rates are forecast to vary from a high of 1.9% per year along the North Front Range to less than 1% on the Eastern Plains. The forecast is for Colorado to reach six million by 2020.

Year	Population and Growth			Components of Change			
	Annual Change			Resident	Resident	Natural	Net
	July 1	Number	Percent	Births	Deaths	Increase	Migration
2013	5,264,890	76,386	1.47	64,735	33,624	31,111	45,275
*2014	5,350,240	85,350	1.62	66,100	33,750	32,350	53,000
*2015	5,438,790	88,550	1.66	67,300	34,750	32,550	56,000
*2016	5,531,490	92,700	1.70	68,600	35,400	33,200	59,500

*Forecasts

In the longer run, Colorado is forecast to grow at a slower rate, age rapidly and become more racially and ethnically diverse. Colorado is currently growing around 1.6% per year, forecast to increase to 1.7% per year, and then slow to around 1% per year by 2040. Although Colorado's growth rate is forecast to slow, total population change is forecast to increase to approximately 100,000 per year through 2025 and then slow to around 75,000 per year by 2040. The Colorado 2013 forecast for 2040 is 7.77 million.

Colorado's 65+ population is forecast to increase from 555,000 to 900,000 between 2010 and 2020. Colorado's median age is expected to continue to increase from 36.1 in 2010 to 39.4 by 2040. The increasing share of the state's older population will be most significant this decade increasing by 61%. A continued slowing in the labor force growth rate is expected as a result of the shift of population to older age groups with lower participation rates.



Colorado will also become more racially and ethnically diverse by 2040 due to the aging of the more diverse younger population in Colorado. Over 40% of the population under 18 is non-white compared to less than 20% for the population over 55. The Hispanic population is forecast to increase 1.5 million from 20% of the population in 2010 to 33% in 2040.

