

2013 Population Overview

Total State Change and U.S. Comparison

The July 2012 Colorado population is estimated by the State Demography Office to be 5,188,683. This is an increase of 70,157 or 1.37%. 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 38,187 with 28,705 from net domestic migration and 9,482 from net international migration. Natural increase is estimated at 31,970. Colorado's growth rate is very close to what it was between 2010 and 2011. Colorado was 7th fastest in percentage change behind North Dakota, DC, Texas, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada. Colorado was 9th fastest in the U.S. for absolute change and is 22nd in the U.S. for total population.

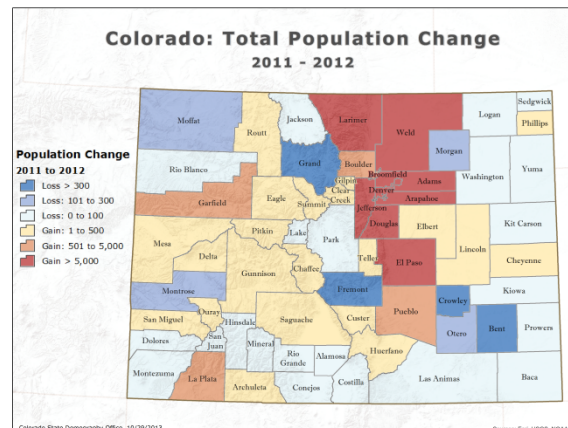
Change by County

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 2012 county population ranges from El Paso with a population of 646,160 to San Juan County with a population of 691. Twenty-six or 40% of Colorado's counties have fewer than 10,000 people. Eleven or 17% of the counties had greater than 100,000 residents. Between 2011 and 2012 thirty-four counties gained population and thirty counties lost population. The previous year 34 counties lost population. The table below shows the fastest growing and declining counties in absolute terms and in percent change. The counties with the largest growth in absolute terms are along the Front Range. The faster growing counties in percentage change are split between smaller rural and Front Range counties. Denver ranks in the top 5 fastest growing counties for both absolute and percentage change. The North Front Range is the fastest growing region at 1.9% followed by the Denver Metro Region at 1.8%

Many of Colorado's counties continue to lose population. Most of the decline is driven by out migration compared to negative natural increase. Only Sedgwick and Kiowa experienced declines from negative natural increase. The counties experiencing decline are diverse ranging from mountain counties still struggling with the recession to the Eastern Plains to the San Luis Valley. The population declines were not large numbers, however, in the small counties, a loss of 500 people can be a large share of its total population as can be seen for both Bent and Crowley Counties. The declines in Bent, Crowley and Fremont were primarily driven by declines in the prison population or prison closures as is the case for Bent. The declines in Bent should be reversed slightly with the opening of the Ft. Lyons Transitional/Therapeutic Residential Community.

Top 5 Counties for Population Growth and Decline			
Increase	Absolute		Percentage
DENVER	13,702	OURAY	2.5%
ARAPAHOE	10,028	DENVER	2.2%
EL PASO	8,858	SAGUACHE	2.1%
ADAMS	7,979	WELD	2.0%
JEFFERSON	6,630	DOUGLAS	2.0%
Decline			
BENT	(536)	BENT	-8.5%
CROWLEY	(447)	CROWLEY	-7.7%
FREMONT	(364)	GRAND	-2.5%
GRAND	(362)	HINSDALE	-4.0%
MOFFAT	(280)	JACKSON	-2.9%



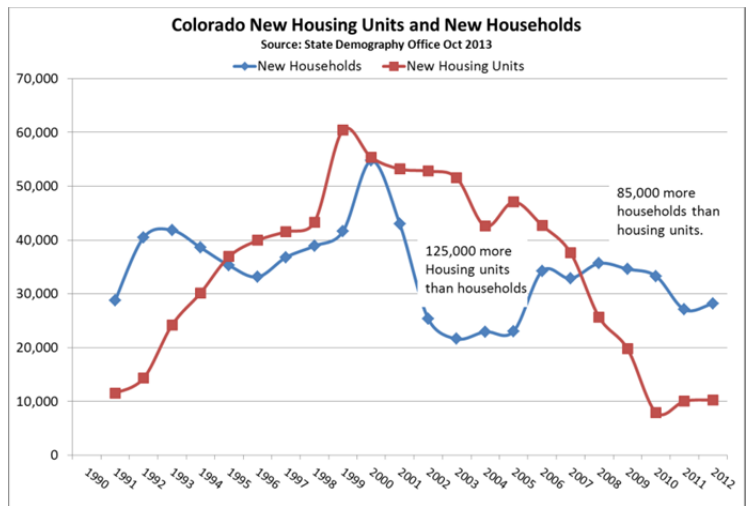
Migration

Gross in-migration to Colorado was estimated at 205,000 and out-migration was 161,500 using the ACS 2012 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, only two of the top donor states are also top net migrant states (California and New York). Even though Arizona donates the third largest amount of migrants to Colorado, Colorado out migrates an even larger number to Arizona and in fact tops the list for destinations for Colorado’s net out migration.

State to State Migration Flows ACS 2012 1 year			
In		Out	
California	22,152	Texas	16,616
Texas	17,355	California	15,150
Arizona	10,589	Arizona	13,790
Florida	8,615	Florida	8,766
New York	7,250	Nevada	6,402
Net In		Net Out	
California	7,002	Arizona	(3,201)
Massachusetts	4,959	Nevada	(2,613)
New York	3,654	Oregon	(2,053)
Louisiana	3,615	Virginia	(1,556)
Illinois	3,338	South Dakota	(988)

Housing Units

Colorado housing units increased by slightly over 10,000 from July 2011 to June 2012 while households increased by over 28,000. 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 9.78 in 2011 to 8.94 in 2012.



Population Forecast

The short run population forecast for Colorado is an increase of 85,000 or 1.6% for 2013 and 90,000 or 1.7% for 2014 increasing to 92,000 or 1.7% for 2015. The total population is forecast to be 5,456,000 in 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 1.0% on the Eastern Plains. The forecast is for Colorado to reach six million by 2020. Colorado’s median age is expected to continue to increase from 36.1 in 2010 to 38.3 by 2040. The increasing share of the state’s older population will be most significant this decade. 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.