

2015 County Population Estimates

Highlights

- ✓ Eleven counties gained population between 2014 and 2015, led by Bergen (5,670) and Hudson (5,334). Among the ten counties with population declines, the numeric losses ranged from -44 in Camden to -1,331 in Sussex.
- ✓ Hudson County's 0.8% annual growth rate was the fastest in the state between 2014 and 2015. The annual rates of growth were also substantial in Bergen (0.6%), Union (0.5%) and Ocean (0.5%). The over-the-year population declines were most severe in Sussex (-0.9%), Cumberland (-0.8%) and Salem (-0.8%) counties.
- ✓ Hudson County gained more residents (40,559) than any other counties in New Jersey, during the first half of this decade. Other urbanized counties in the state, such as Bergen (33,389), Middlesex (31,040) and Union (19,287), also experienced substantial numeric gains in resident population during the past five years.
- ✓ With a 6.4% growth of population since the 2010 Census, Hudson was the state's fastest growing county so far in this decade, followed by Middlesex (3.8%), Bergen (3.7%), Union (3.6%) and Somerset (3.2%).
- ✓ Nine counties experienced population declines between 2010 and 2015. Rapid declines were found in less urbanized counties like Sussex (-3.5%), Salem (-2.9%), Cape May (-2.6%), and Warren (-1.7%).
- ✓ The numeric decreases of resident population were most severe in Sussex (-5,196), Camden (-2,755), Cape May (-2,538) and Salem (-1,903) counties, so far in this decade.
- ✓ The hefty population growth in Hudson County was due to substantial natural increment and migration. The county's 31,150 natural increment (surplus of births over deaths) was the largest in the state. However, its 10,270 net migration (more in-migration from abroad and other counties than out-migration) was the third largest in the state, next to Bergen's 24,017 and Middlesex's 10,811.
- ✓ Natural increments were also substantial in Essex (23,744), Middlesex (20,911) and Passaic (18,364) counties, while Cape May was the only county to suffer from natural decrease (2,068 more deaths than births) between 2010 and 2015.
- ✓ Every county in the state gained population from international migration. With more than 20,000 net gains, Hudson (52,065), Middlesex (41,929), Bergen (31,169), Essex (29,493) and Union (20,754) were the state's major destinations of international immigrants.
- ✓ Almost every county in New Jersey lost population due to domestic migration between 2010 and 2015, except Ocean. However, Ocean County's net gain from domestic migration (3,258) was relatively low compared with its gains in the past two decades. Counties with large (20,000 or

more) net losses due to domestic migration were Hudson (-41,795), Essex (-38,769), Middlesex (-31,118), Passaic (-28,264) and Camden (-20,595).

- ✓ Bergen (population 938,506) was still the most populous county in New Jersey as of July 1, 2015, followed by Middlesex (840,900) and Essex (797,434). The state's two least populated counties—Salem (64,180) and Cape May (94,727) still had less than 100,000 residents.

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