Nebraska’s Three Major Population Trends

Jerry Deichert

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Three Major Trends in Population

1. Nebraska’s population is becoming more and more concentrated in its most populous counties.

2. The state’s population is getting older and will continue to age.

3. The state’s population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse
State Population Summary

- In 2016, Nebraska’s estimated population was 1,907,116.
  - Record high; first time above the 1.9 million mark
  - Up 4.4% since 2010 (ranks 24th highest)
  - Compares to 4.7% national growth rate

- In 2010, Nebraska had a population count of 1,826,341 persons, an increase of 115,076 or 6.7% from the 2000 count of 1,711,265.
  - Nebraska ranked 30th highest in percentage change in population (an increase from 37th highest in 1990s).

- Nebraska’s growth rate of 6.7% in the 2000s was not as strong as the 8.4% rise seen in the 1990s.
  - However, it did exceed the average decade growth rate between 1950 and 2000 (5.3%).
  - The growth rate in the 1990s was the highest since the 1910s.
Nebraska Population Change Rate by Decade: 1900s to 2000s with 2010s Extrapolated from 2016

Sources: Decennial Censuses, 2016 Vintage Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: the 2010s decade rate is extrapolated based upon what is estimated to have occurred between 2010 and 2016.
County Population Summary

- 30 Nebraska counties gained population while 63 lost population between 2010 and 2016.
  - Compares to 24 growing counties in the 2000s, 40 in the 1990s, and only 10 in the 1980s.

- Nebraska’s 3 most populous counties, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties are among the state’s fastest growing
  - In 2016, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy surpassed 1 million residents, accounting for 54.7% of Nebraska’s population, up from 52.6% in 2010 and 48.9% in 2000.
  - These 3 counties grew 8.2% between 2010 and 2016 while the remaining 90 counties fell 0.2%.
  - These 3 counties grew 14.9% between 2000 and 2010 while the remaining 90 counties lost 1.1%.
County Population Summary (Continued)

• Between 2000 and 2010 and between 2010 and 2016 metropolitan counties (2013 definitions) added population, but nonmetropolitan counties lost population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-2016</th>
<th>2000-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonmetropolitan</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micropolitan</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest city 2,500 to 9,999 persons</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest city under 2,500 persons</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Nebraska’s legislative districts were redrawn after the 2010 Census with metro areas gaining more representation.
  – Average legislative district size based on 2010 Census is 37,272 persons.
  – Legislative district 49 was moved from Northwest Nebraska to Sarpy County.
Population Change in Nebraska Counties: 2000-2010 and 2010-2015

Note: State of Nebraska Increased in Both Time Periods
- Increased 2000-2010 and Increased 2010-2015 (16 counties)
- Increased 2000-2010 and Decreased 2010-2015 (8 counties)
- Decreased 2000-2010 and Increased 2010-2015 (15 counties)
- Decreased 2000-2010 and Decreased 2010-2015 (54 counties)

Prepared by: David Drozd, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha - March 30, 2016
Total Population for Nebraska Metro and Nonmetro Counties (2013 Definitions): 1890 - 2010

Sources: Decennial Censuses, U.S. Census
Compiled and Prepared by: UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
Impact of the 2010 Census on redistricting

- **Douglas**: 14 districts fully within its borders
- **Lancaster**: 7 fully in, 2 partially in
- **Sarpy**: 4 fully in, 1 partially in

Prior to redistricting

- **Douglas**: 11 districts fully within its borders, 4 partially in
- **Lancaster**: 6 fully in, 2 partially in
- **Sarpy**: 3 fully in, 4 partially in
July 1, 2016 Nebraska Estimated Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Group


Green lines depict the depression cohort; red checker shows the "baby boom"; pink represents the "baby boom echo"; pink crosshatch shows the "3rd wave"
Percentage Change for 5-Year Age Groups in Nebraska: 2000 to 2010

Source: 2000 and 2010 Censuses, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Censuses; Projections by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Aug. 2013
Population and Population Projections for the Nebraska Population Aged Under 18 Years: 1950 to 2050

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 to 2010 Decennial Censuses; Projections by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Aug. 2013
Population and Population Projections for the Nebraska Population Aged 18 to 64 Years: 1950 to 2050

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 to 2010 Decennial Censuses; Projections by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Aug. 2013
Population and Population Projections for the Nebraska Population Aged 65 Years or Older: 1950 to 2050

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 to 2010 Decennial Censuses; Projections by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Aug. 2013

Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin

• Nebraska’s population growth is predominately in its minority racial and ethnic groups.

• In 2016, the minority population was 20.4% of the state’s population
  – Up from 17.9% in 2010, 12.7% in 2000 and 7.4% in 1990

• Minority population is much younger
  – Relatively more under age 45
  – Relatively fewer age 45+
Nebraska Population by Race and Ethnicity with Percentage of Total Population: 2016

Number of Persons

- White, NH alone: 1,517,526 (79.6%)
- Black, NH alone: 89,218 (4.7%)
- American Indian and Alaska Native, NH alone: 15,922 (0.8%)
- Asian or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, NH alone: 46,975 (2.5%)
- 2 or more races, NH: 34,155 (1.8%)
- Hispanic or Latino: 203,320 (10.7%)
- All Minority Groups: 389,590 (20.4%)

Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
### Race and Hispanic/Latino % Change
#### 2010-2016 and 2000-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010-16</th>
<th>2000-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Total population</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Not Hispanic/Latino Origin</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– White alone</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– African American or Black alone</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– American Indian &amp; Alaska Native alone</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Asian alone</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Nat. Hawaiian, Pac. Islander alone</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Some other race alone</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Two or more races</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hispanic/Latino Origin</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minority</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July 1, 2015 Nebraska Estimated Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Group: Non-White or Hispanic (Minority) Population


Green lines depict the depression cohort; red checker shows the "baby boom"; pink represents the "baby boom echo"; pink crosshatch shows the "3rd wave"
July 1, 2016 Nebraska Estimated Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Group:
White non-Hispanic Population

Source: 2016 Vintage Population

Green lines depict the depression cohort; red checker shows the "baby boom"; pink represents the "baby boom echo"; pink crosshatch shows the "3rd wave"
July 1, 2016 Nebraska Population by Five-Year Age Group:
Non-White or Hispanic/Latino (Minority Population) as a Percent of State Total

Prepared by: David Drozd, CPAR @ UNO
Percent of Nebraska Population by Race/Ethnicity: 1980 to 2010 with 2020 to 2050 Projection

Source: Decennial Censuses; CPAR projections, June 2013
Nebraska Counties Categorized by Similar Characteristics for County Population Projections

Prepared by: UNO Center for Public Affairs Research

Note: the purpose of these classifications is to group similar counties so that more accurate aggregated birth, death, and net migration rates can be applied consistently to the age structure of the specific counties.

Counties that are not grouped and have their own specific rates (3):
Douglas   Lancaster   Sarpy

Counties with high levels of commuting or local jobs (7):
Cass       Cheyenne   Dodge   Gage   Otoe   Saunders   Washington

Counties that are a "regional center" in Nebraska (7):
Dakota     Dawson     Hall    Lincoln   Madison   Platte   Scotts Bluff

Counties that have a "major college" (3):
Buffalo    Dawes      Wayne

Counties that have a "minor college" (4):
Adams      Nemaha     Saline   Seward

Counties that have a city of at least 5,000 residents (5):
Box Butte   Colfax     Phelps   Red Willow   York

Counties without a city of 5,000 that had a "relatively high" level of migration in the 2000s (32):
Arthur      Butler     Chase   Custer   Deuel   Franklin   Furnas   Garden
Garfield    Gosper     Greeley  Hamilton   Harlan   Hitchcock   Hooker   Howard
Jefferson   Johnson    Keith    Kimball   Knox    Logan       McPherson  Merrick
Nance       Nuckolls   Pawnee   Perkins   Polk    Sherman     Valley   Webster

Counties without a city of 5,000 that had a "relatively low" level of migration in the 2000s (32):
Antelope    Banner     Blaine   Boone     Boyd     Brown      Burt       Cedar
Cherry      Clay       Cuming   Dixon     Dundyl   Fillmore    Frontier   Grant
Hayes       Holt       Kearney  Keya Paha  Loup     Morrill     Pierce     Richardson
Rock        Sheridan   Sioux    Stanton   Thayer   Thomas     Thurston   Wheeler
Population and Percentage Change for Nebraska:
1950 to 2010 with Projections 2020 to 2050

Percentage Change from Previous Decade
- 1950: 6.5%
- 1960: 5.2%
- 1970: 5.7%
- 1980: 0.6%
- 1990: 8.4%
- 2000: 6.7%
- 2010: 6.0%
- 2020: 5.3%
- 2030: 5.2%
- 2040: 5.2%
- 2050: 4.7%

Total Population
- 1950: 500,000
- 1960: 1,000,000
- 1970: 1,500,000
- 1980: 2,000,000
- 1990: 2,500,000
- 2000: 3,000,000
- 2010: 3,500,000
- 2020: 4,000,000
- 2030: 4,500,000
- 2040: 5,000,000
- 2050: 5,500,000
Population for Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties:
1950 to 2010 with Projections 2020 to 2050
Population for County Groups with Growing or Relatively Stable Populations:
1950 to 2010 with Projections 2020 to 2050

- Commuting or Local Jobs
- Regional Center
- Major College
- Small College
Population for County Groups with Declining Populations:
1950 to 2010 with Projections 2020 to 2050

Other with City over 5,000
No City of 5,000--High Migration
No City of 5,000--Low Migration