



Illinois sees second-largest population loss of U.S. states

About the data

The datasets used to develop this analysis are products of the U.S. Census Bureau. Although some of the datasets extend into 2020, none of them are based on the yet-to-be-released 2020 census. As of the publication of this piece, the Bureau has not released any results from the 2020 census. The 2020 state-level population estimates are instead the final state-level population estimates based on the 2010 census.

For county-level and metropolitan statistical area-level analyses, CMAP relied on five-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS datasets, based on monthly surveys, provide a statistical estimate of various demographic, socioeconomic, and other population characteristics. ACS datasets are available in both one-year (e.g., 2019) and five-year (e.g., 2015-19) windows, with the five-year datasets providing more reliable and granular data for analysis. As a result, however, the five-year datasets also lag behind trends highlighted in one-year ACS data and point-in-time estimates, such as the 2020 Population Estimates. Readers should thus be cautious when evaluating trends identified in one-year estimates against those of five-year estimates, as the two are not directly comparable.

To complete this analysis, CMAP used application programming interfaces to directly download state- and county-level demographics and then used R, a free open source statistical package, to analyze the data. The R script used to perform this analysis is available on CMAP's [GitHub page](#). Others are encouraged to use and build on this analysis.



Supplementary tables

Only one state (West Virginia) saw its population decline by more than Illinois' between 2010 and 2020.

Rank	State	2010 pop.	2020 pop.	Diff.	Pct. change
1	Utah	2,763,885	3,249,879	485,994	17.58%
2	Texas	25,145,561	29,360,759	4,215,198	16.76%
3	Idaho	1,567,582	1,826,913	259,331	16.54%
4	Nevada	2,700,551	3,138,259	437,708	16.21%
5	Arizona	6,392,017	7,421,401	1,029,384	16.10%
6	Florida	18,801,310	21,733,312	2,932,002	15.59%
7	Colorado	5,029,196	5,807,719	778,523	15.48%
8	Washington	6,724,540	7,693,612	969,072	14.41%
9	North Dakota	672,591	765,309	92,718	13.79%
10	South Carolina	4,625,364	5,218,040	592,676	12.81%
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41	New Jersey	8,791,894	8,882,371	90,477	1.03%
42	Michigan	9,883,640	9,966,555	82,915	0.84%
43	Pennsylvania	12,702,379	12,783,254	80,875	0.64%
44	Rhode Island	1,052,567	1,057,125	4,558	0.43%
45	Mississippi	2,967,297	2,966,786	-511	-0.02%
46	New York	19,378,102	19,336,776	-41,326	-0.21%
47	Vermont	625,741	623,347	-2,394	-0.38%
48	Connecticut	3,574,097	3,557,006	-17,091	-0.48%
49	Illinois	12,830,632	12,587,530	-243,102	-1.89%
50	West Virginia	1,852,994	1,784,787	-68,207	-3.68%

Table 1: State-level population change, 2010 vs. 2020 (highlighting Illinois).

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and the District of Columbia: April 1, 2010 (Census Count) to July 1, 2020 (Population Estimate).¹

¹ 2010 census population figures were used as base year, and Washington, D.C. was excluded from the ranking.



Five of the top ten counties in Illinois by population change over the last decade are in the CMAP region, with the remaining CMAP counties in the top fifteen.

Rank	County	Pop. (2010-14)	Pop. (2015-19)	Change (pop.)	Change (pct.)
1	Kendall	118,194	126,054	7,860	6.65%
2	Champaign	204,214	209,922	5,708	2.80%
3	Monroe	33,373	34,168	795	2.38%
4	Kane	521,874	531,376	9,502	1.82%
5	Will	682,108	689,315	7,207	1.06%
6	Grundy	50,173	50,666	493	0.98%
7	Williamson	66,808	67,102	294	0.44%
8	DuPage	926,485	929,060	2,575	0.28%
9	McLean	172,390	172,578	188	0.11%
10	McHenry	307,888	307,714	-174	-0.06%
-	City of Chicago	2,712,608	2,709,534	-3,074	-0.11%
11	Lake	703,170	701,473	-1,697	-0.24%
14	Cook	5,227,827	5,198,275	-29,552	-0.57%
-	Suburban Cook ²	2,515,219	2,488,741	-26,478	-1.05%
93	McDonough	32,388	3,0479	-1,909	-5.89%
94	Massac	15,148	14,219	-929	-6.13%
95	Livingston	38,476	36,040	-2,436	-6.33%
96	Schuyler	7,454	6,953	-501	-6.72%
97	Hardin	4,226	3,939	-287	-6.79%
98	Gallatin	5,439	5,064	-375	-6.89%
99	Cass	13,440	12,493	-947	-7.05%
100	Stark	5,888	5,447	-441	-7.49%
101	Pulaski	5,967	5,510	-457	-7.66%
102	Alexander	7,821	6,260	-1,561	-19.96%

Table 2: Population change by county in Illinois, 2010-14 vs. 2015-19 (highlighting the seven counties in the CMAP region).

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2010-14 and 2015-19 5-Year American Community Survey data.

² If suburban Cook County were its own jurisdiction, its growth rate would fall between Cumberland County (21st) and Madison County (22nd).



Recent population declines in Illinois have been driven almost entirely by counties outside the CMAP region.

Region	Pop. (2010-14)	Pop. (2015-19)	Change (pop.)	Change (pct.)
CMAP (7 counties)	8,487,546	8,483,267	-4,279	-0.05%
Rest of Illinois	4,381,201	4,287,364	-93,837	-2.14%
<i>Illinois Total</i>	<i>12,868,747</i>	<i>12,770,631</i>	<i>-98,116</i>	<i>-0.76%</i>

Table 3: Population change by region in Illinois, 2010-14 vs. 2015-19.

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2010-14 and 2015-19 5-Year American Community Survey data.



The Chicago region has among the lowest overall population growth rates of the fifty largest metropolitan regions in the U.S.

Rank	Metropolitan Statistical Area	Pop. (2010-14)	Pop. (2015-19)	Diff.	Pct. change
1	Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX	1,835,016	2,114,441	279,425	15.23%
2	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	2,226,835	2,508,970	282,135	12.67%
3	Raleigh-Cary, NC	1,189,579	1,332,311	142,732	12.00%
4	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	6,204,141	6,884,138	679,997	10.96%
5	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	2,239,222	2,468,193	228,971	10.23%
6	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	6,642,098	7,320,663	678,565	10.22%
7	Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	4,337,542	4,761,603	424,061	9.78%
8	Nashville-Davidson--Murfreeseboro--Franklin, TN	1,706,161	1,871,903	165,742	9.71%
9	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	2,325,224	2,545,560	220,336	9.48%
10	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	2,651,392	2,892,066	240,674	9.08%
41	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,328,441	1,339,623	11,182	0.84%
42	Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI	1,565,368	1,575,223	9,855	0.63%
43	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	4,292,647	4,317,848	25,201	0.59%
44	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	19,193,139	19,294,236	101,097	0.53%
45	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,797,737	2,805,190	7,453	0.27%
46	CMAP region³	8,487,546	8,483,267	-4,279	-0.05%
47	Buffalo-Cheektowaga, NY	1,135,667	1,130,175	-5,492	-0.48%
48	Cleveland-Elyria, OH	2,067,490	2,056,898	-10,592	-0.51%
49	Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT	1,215,159	1,207,677	-7,482	-0.62%
50	Pittsburgh, PA	2,358,793	2,331,447	-27,346	-1.16%

Table 4: Population growth in the CMAP region compared to the fifty largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2010-14 vs. 2015-19 (highlighting the CMAP region).

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2010-14 and 2015-19 American Community Survey data for the fifty largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 2019 (not including Puerto Rico).⁴

³ This table includes data for the seven county CMAP region and *not* the larger Chicago-Naperville-Elgin IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area of which it is a part. Other MSA figures rely on MSA boundary definitions as of March 6, 2020 (downloaded from <https://apps.bea.gov/regional/docs/msalist.cfm>).

⁴ Because Metropolitan Statistical Area boundaries change over time to include or exclude additional counties, totals for 2014 may not match MSA-level figures for those geographies from other data sets of that vintage. 2010-14 totals were used as the base year for percentage calculations.



While its Hispanic population is still growing, the Chicago region has among the slowest Hispanic population growth rates of the 50 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Rank	Metropolitan Statistical Area	Hispanic pop. (2010-14)	Hispanic pop. (2015-19)	Diff.	Pct. change (Hispanic)	Pct. change (MSA total)
1	Jacksonville, FL	102,986	133,467	30,481	29.60%	8.88%
2	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	595,064	770,199	175,135	29.43%	12.67%
3	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	485,845	606,344	120,499	24.80%	8.65%
4	Columbus, OH	71,725	87,076	15,351	21.40%	6.65%
5	Pittsburgh, PA	33,873	41,075	7,202	21.26%	-1.16%
46	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	4,521,261	4,752,947	231,686	5.12%	0.53%
47	CMAP region⁵	1,879,867	1,952,500	72,633	3.86%	-0.05%
48	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	47,570	49,276	1,706	3.59%	1.50%
49	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	5,851,262	5,967,160	115,898	1.98%	1.45%
50	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	525,203	527,059	1,856	0.35%	4.71%

Table 5: Hispanic population growth in the CMAP region compared to the fifty largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2010-14 vs. 2015-19 (highlighting the CMAP region).

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2010-14 and 2015-19 American Community Survey data for the fifty largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 2019 (not including Puerto Rico).⁶

⁵ This table includes data for the seven county CMAP region and *not* the larger Chicago-Naperville-Elgin IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area of which it is a part. Other MSA figures rely on MSA boundary definitions as of March 6, 2020 (downloaded from <https://apps.bea.gov/regional/docs/msalist.cfm>).

⁶ Because Metropolitan Statistical Area boundaries change over time to include or exclude additional counties, totals for 2014 may not match MSA-level figures for those geographies from other data sets of that vintage. 2010-14 totals were used as the base year for percentage calculations.



Neighboring and high-population states represent the highest share of out-migration destinations for former Illinois residents.

Destination for out-migration from Illinois	Total	Percent
1. Indiana	36,328	12%
2. Florida	24,425	8%
3. California	24,085	8%
4. Texas	23,747	8%
5. Wisconsin	22,402	7%
<i>Total out-migration to other states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico</i>	<i>308,831</i>	<i>100%</i>

Table 6: States with the highest number of migrants from Illinois between 2018 and 2019.

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2019 1-Year American Community Survey State-to-State Migration Flows.

In-migration is concentrated in similar states, but does not offset out-migration, even when including significant levels of international in-migration.

Source of in-migration to Illinois	Total	Percent
1. Indiana	17,156	7%
2. California	14,692	6%
3. Florida	14,534	6%
4. Missouri	13,389	5%
5. Wisconsin	12,021	5%
<i>Total in-migration from other U.S. states</i>	<i>190,627</i>	<i>77%</i>
U.S. territories (all)	977	<1%
Foreign country (all)	56,785	23%
<i>All in-migration</i>	<i>248,389</i>	<i>100%</i>

Table 7: States and other jurisdictions that represent the greatest source of in-migrants to Illinois between 2018 and 2019.

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning analysis of 2019 1-Year American Community Survey State-to-State Migration Flows.

