Population Trends in Incorporated Places: 2000 to 2013

Population Estimates and Projections

Current Population Reports

By Darryl T. Cohen
(With Geoffrey W. Hatchard and Steven G. Wilson)

INTRODUCTION

Nearly two-thirds of Americans live in incorporated places, commonly referred to as cities. As the majority of the nation's population lives in cities, patterns of population change among cities and the social and economic conditions affecting them often represent national trends. Using data from the 2000 and 2010 censuses and 2013 population estimates, this report examines the population in cities and highlights how city populations changed between 2000 and 2010, and between 2010 and 2013. The report discusses the distribution of the population in cities by region, state, and city population size. It also highlights the fastest-growing cities, city population densities, annexation, and new incorporations between 2010 and 2013.

Incorporated places are local governmental entities with powers to collect taxes and provide services within legally defined geographic boundaries. State laws govern how such places are established (incorporation), how they may modify their boundaries (annexation or deannexation), and how they may be dissolved (disincorporation). The population size, geographic extent, and population density of these places vary considerably.

The U.S. Census Bureau produces estimates of the population of all governmentally active incorporated places in the United States each year. While cities, towns, boroughs, villages, and other types of municipalities are included in these estimates, for readability, the term "city" is used interchangeably with "incorporated place" throughout this report as a generic term to refer to incorporated places of all types. Though some unincorporated settlements (those without legally formed municipal governments) may colloquially be referred to as cities, such unincorporated settlements are generally not included in this report.
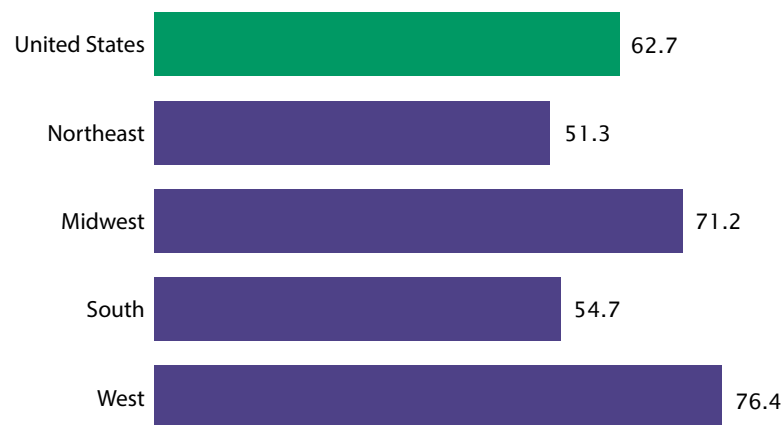
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCORPORATED PLACE POPULATION

Over 198.2 million people lived in incorporated places in 2013, constituting 62.7 percent of the U.S. population (Table 1, Figure 1). This was a slight increase from 62.3 percent of the U.S. population in 2010, and 61.9 percent in 2000 (Table 2). Between 2000 and 2013, the population inside incorporated places increased by 24.1 million, or about 13.9 percent. The population inside incorporated places grew faster than the total U.S. population (up 12.3 percent) over the same period (Table 1). Similar to the total population, the incorporated place population increased in every region from 2000 to 2013, and did so at faster rates in the South and West than in the Northeast and Midwest. The Northeast was the only region in which the population inside cities increased at a slower rate than the total population between 2000 and 2013, even though the Northeast's city population grew faster than the total population during the 3-year period from 2010 to 2013.

There were 19,508 incorporated places in 2013 (Table 2). The Midwest had the largest number of incorporated places of any region (8,502), followed by the South (6,576), the West (2,310), and the Northeast (2,120).

Variation in the number of incorporated places, as well as in their population, area, and density results in a

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Figure 1.
Percentage of Population in Incorporated Places by Region: 2013

Region	Percentage
United States	62.7
Northeast	51.3
Midwest	71.2
South	54.7
West	76.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

different profile of the incorporated place population for each census region. For example, while the Northeast and the West had relatively similar numbers of incorporated places in 2013, the population of incorporated places in the West was roughly twice that of incorporated places in the Northeast. This can be explained in part by the West's larger total population, as well as a higher proportion of its population living in incorporated places. Large expanses of arid and federally held land in Western states contribute to population concentration in cities. The Northeast, in contrast, contains many more smaller-sized incorporated places, as well as a large population living in densely settled unincorporated areas adjacent to large cities.

The West had the highest percentage of its population living in incorporated places (76.4 percent, Figure 1). The South, however, had the largest number of people living in incorporated places in 2013 (64.7 million, Table 1). The South also had the largest total population of any region (118.4 million), of which about 54.7 percent lived inside incorporated places. The Northeast had the lowest percentage (51.3) of population living in incorporated places. This is partly due to the fact that towns in New England are not treated as incorporated places in Census Bureau data products. (See text box "Incorporated Places vs. Unincorporated Places.")

POPULATION IN INCORPORATED PLACES BY STATE

Reflecting the pattern exhibited at the regional level, the states with the highest percentages of their population in incorporated places tended to be located in the Midwest

and West (Figure 2).[1] Utah had the highest percentage (88.4), followed by Illinois (86.9), California (83.1), Kansas (82.7), and Minnesota (82.2).[2] Vermont had the lowest percentage (24.6).

This strong regional pattern reflects varying levels of urbanization, as well as differences in the total population and the number of incorporated places in each region. The West, for example, with 89.8 percent of its population living in urban areas (not to be confused with cities) in 2010, was the most urbanized of the four regions. (See text box "City vs. Urban vs. Metropolitan.") The relatively small number of incorporated places in the West reflects this greater degree of population concentration compared with the other regions. Montana stands out as an exception among Western states. A larger percentage of its population lived in rural areas (44.1 percent) compared with other states in the region, and with the region as a whole, whose population was only 10.2 percent rural. The lower percentages of population living in cities in Northeastern states such as Maine and New Hampshire, as well as Southern states such as West Virginia, are consistent with the larger proportions of their populations living in rural areas. Maine's population was 61.3 percent rural in 2010, New Hampshire's 61.1 percent, and West Virginia's 51.3 percent.

While the Midwest and South had similar rural population percentages

[1] Although there are no incorporated places in Hawaii, the Census Bureau typically includes the census designated place (CDP) of Urban Honolulu in its annual population estimates per special agreement with the state of Hawaii. Urban Honolulu CDP accounted for 24.8 percent of the state's population in 2013. (See text box "Incorporated Places vs. Unincorporated Places.")

[2] The District of Columbia is coextensive with the city of Washington, and is thus completely incorporated.

Table 1.
Total Population and Population in Incorporated Places by Region: 2000 to 2013

Area	April 1, 2000, Census	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Change, 2000 to 2013		Change, 2000 to 2010		Change, 2010 to 2013	
				Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent
TOTAL POPULATION									
United States	**281,421,906**	**308,745,538**	**316,128,839**	**34,706,933**	**12.3**	**27,323,632**	**9.7**	**7,383,301**	**2.4**
Northeast.	53,594,378	55,317,240	55,943,073	2,348,695	4.4	1,722,862	3.2	625,833	1.1
Midwest	64,392,776	66,927,001	67,547,890	3,155,114	4.9	2,534,225	3.9	620,889	0.9
South	100,236,820	114,555,744	118,383,453	18,146,633	18.1	14,318,924	14.3	3,827,709	3.3
West	63,197,932	71,945,553	74,254,423	11,056,491	17.5	8,747,621	13.8	2,308,870	3.2
POPULATION IN INCORPORATED PLACES									
United States	**174,073,290**	**192,326,392**	**198,207,340**	**24,134,050**	**13.9**	**18,253,102**	**10.5**	**5,880,948**	**3.1**
Northeast.	27,754,296	28,261,471	28,673,356	919,060	3.3	507,175	1.8	411,885	1.5
Midwest	45,461,284	47,471,807	48,074,818	2,613,534	5.7	2,010,523	4.4	603,011	1.3
South	53,859,905	62,089,090	64,749,890	10,889,985	20.2	8,229,185	15.3	2,660,800	4.3
West	46,997,805	54,504,024	56,709,276	9,711,471	20.7	7,506,219	16.0	2,205,252	4.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2010 Census, and 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 2.
Number of Incorporated Places, Population, and Percent of United States Population by Size of Incorporated Place: 2000 to 2013

Population size category	Number of incorporated places[1]			Population			Percent of United States total population		
	2000	2010	2013	April 1, 2000, Census	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	2000	2010	2013
All incorporated places . .	**19,454**	**19,541**	**19,508**	**174,073,290**	**192,326,392**	**198,207,340**	**61.9**	**62.3**	**62.7**
1,000,000 or more	9	9	9	22,947,966	23,567,066	24,293,963	8.2	7.6	7.7
500,000 to 999,999	20	24	25	12,905,864	16,109,233	17,308,113	4.6	5.2	5.5
250,000 to 499,999	38	41	43	13,702,659	14,289,341	15,019,117	4.9	4.6	4.8
100,000 to 249,999	173	200	216	25,725,127	30,167,988	32,377,424	9.1	9.8	10.2
50,000 to 99,999	363	432	450	24,876,466	30,143,643	31,148,753	8.8	9.8	9.9
25,000 to 49,999	644	723	718	22,607,919	25,167,442	24,933,757	8.0	8.2	7.9
10,000 to 24,999	1,435	1,542	1,553	22,570,012	24,179,643	24,482,834	8.0	7.8	7.7
Less than 10,000	16,772	16,570	16,494	28,737,277	28,702,036	28,643,379	10.2	9.3	9.1

[1] The number of incorporated places is as of January 1 of the calendar year. The numbers of incorporated places for the census years 2000 and 2010 include places with inactive governments that are not included in the population estimates for 2013. There were 24 inactive incorporated places in 2010. These 24 places had a combined 2010 census population of 2,984.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2010 Census, and 2013 Population Estimates.
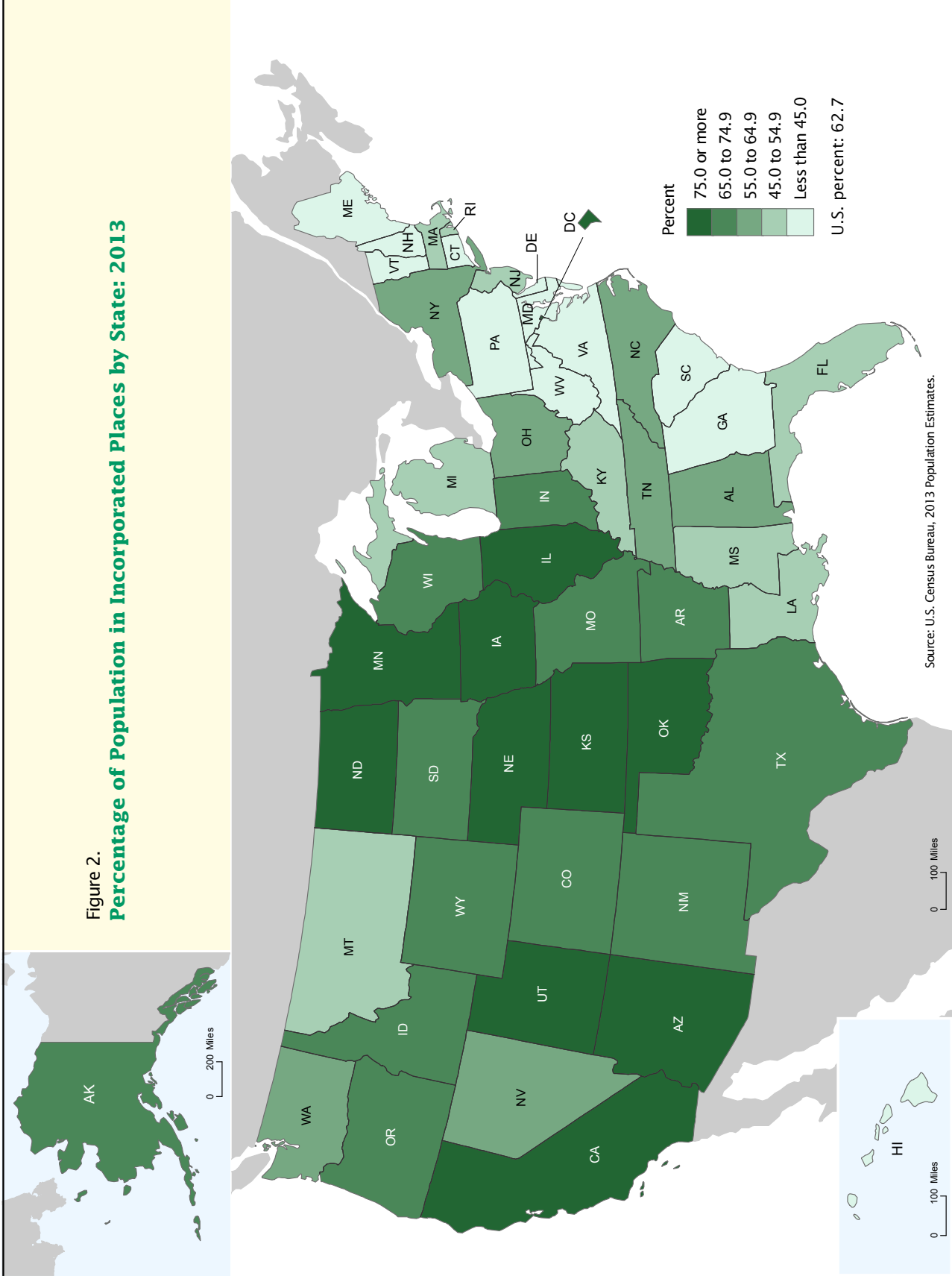
(24.1 and 24.2, respectively), the Midwest had a greater number of incorporated places, and a higher percentage of its population living in incorporated places (Figure 1). This pattern can be seen in Figure 2, which shows Midwestern states such as Iowa and Nebraska with higher percentages of their populations living in incorporated places compared to Southern states such as South Carolina and West Virginia.

POPULATION BY SIZE OF INCORPORATED PLACE

Incorporated places ranged in population from zero to more than 8 million in 2013.[3] Though most of the incorporated place population (60.6 percent) lived in places of 50,000

[3] While some states require a minimum population for the establishment of an incorporated place, others do not. It is therefore possible for a place to be legally incorporated even if there is no population living within its boundaries. Some such places may include only nonresidential territory, while others may have experienced population decline. A place will typically remain legally incorporated, even if its government is inactive, until the legal process of disincorporation is completed.

or more residents, the majority of incorporated places were relatively small. In 2013, 16,494 incorporated places—about 85 percent of all incorporated places—had fewer than 10,000 people (Table 2). These small places accounted for about 14 percent of the total incorporated place population, or 9.1 percent of the total U.S. population. By contrast, in 2000, cities of less than 10,000 accounted for 16.5 percent of the incorporated place population, and more than 10 percent of the total U.S. population—a higher

Figure 2.
Percentage of Population in Incorporated Places by State: 2013

Percent

- 75.0 or more
- 65.0 to 74.9
- 55.0 to 64.9
- 45.0 to 54.9
- Less than 45.0

U.S. percent: 62.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

INCORPORATED PLACES VS. UNINCORPORATED PLACES

Incorporation is the legal procedure by which a previously unincorporated settlement forms its own municipal government, thereby creating a new incorporated place or city. These cities typically provide not only housing, but also employment, education, recreation, transportation, and other amenities. Cities also often provide police, fire, medical emergency, water, sanitation, and other such services for their residents. While some people who do not live in a city may receive such services from their township, county, or other unit of local government, many rely on a nearby incorporated place for such services. Though numerous political arrangements exist between cities and other units of local government, a city is often governmentally dependent within (i.e., legally subordinate to and overlapping in territorial jurisdiction with) a larger parent county, and in some states, a parent township (or town) within the county. The level of local government services (and taxation) provided within a city is typically higher than that of the unincorporated portions of a township or county, though this varies to some degree from state to state, and in some instances, from county to county within a state.

While the data in this report are generally limited to incorporated places (with the exception of Urban Honolulu, HI), the Census Bureau has long recognized populated settlements that are not legally incorporated. The boundaries for these unincorporated settlements are delimited by state and local officials using Census Bureau criteria, and are reviewed by Census Bureau staff for use in Census Bureau data products. These areas are referred to as census designated places, or CDPs. When interpreting the results and analysis of incorporated places presented in this report, it is important to note that these unincorporated settlements are not included.

INCLUSION OF URBAN HONOLULU CDP

The Census Bureau is legally required to produce postcensal population estimates for general purpose governmental units, such as states, counties, minor civil divisions (towns and townships), and incorporated places. Postcensal estimates, such as the 2013 estimates used in this report, are generally not produced for CDPs. The chief exception to this convention is Urban Honolulu CDP, HI, which is included in the Census Bureau's postcensal estimates products under a special agreement with the state of Hawaii.

TREATMENT OF TOWNS IN NEW ENGLAND

Due to their often rural character, towns in New England are not regarded as incorporated places in Census Bureau data products (though some CDPs are coextensive with towns). Instead, they are recognized as minor civil divisions, much like townships in some Midwestern states. Cities, villages, and boroughs in New England are included as incorporated places in Census Bureau data products, including the 2013 estimates used in this report. When interpreting the results and analysis of incorporated places presented in this report, it is important to note that towns in New England are not included.

percentage than any other size category. The number of incorporated places with fewer than 10,000 people decreased between 2000 and 2013. The number of incorporated places of 1 million or more remained at nine, while the number of incorporated places of all other size categories increased.

Overall, the population in incorporated places grew between 2000 and 2010, and again between 2010 and 2013 (Table 3). Although the rate of population growth varied by size of place, most size categories experienced growth over both periods, with two exceptions. The population in cities of less than 10,000 decreased over both periods, and the population in cities of 25,000 to 49,999 decreased over the 3-year period between 2010 and 2013. The population in cities of 500,000 to 999,999 grew faster than any other size category for both the 10-year and 3-year periods, as well as the 13-year period between 2000 and 2013.

MOST POPULOUS INCORPORATED PLACES

New York city remained the nation's most populous incorporated place in 2013 with 8.4 million people (Table 4), followed by Los Angeles (3.9 million), Chicago (2.7 million),

Table 3.
Population Change by Size of Incorporated Place: 2000 to 2013

Population size category	Population change					
	2000 to 2013		2000 to 2010		2010 to 2013	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All incorporated places	**24,134,050**	**13.9**	**18,253,102**	**10.5**	**5,880,948**	**3.1**
1,000,000 or more	1,345,997	5.9	619,100	2.7	726,897	3.1
500,000 to 999,999	4,402,249	34.1	3,203,369	24.8	1,198,880	7.4
250,000 to 499,999	1,316,458	9.6	586,682	4.3	729,776	5.1
100,000 to 249,999	6,652,297	25.9	4,442,861	17.3	2,209,436	7.3
50,000 to 99,999	6,272,287	25.2	5,267,177	21.2	1,005,110	3.3
25,000 to 49,999	2,325,838	10.3	2,559,523	11.3	−233,685	−0.9
10,000 to 24,999	1,912,822	8.5	1,609,631	7.1	303,191	1.3
Less than 10,000	−93,898	−0.3	−35,241	−0.1	−58,657	−0.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2010 Census, and 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 4.
Population and Population Change for the 25 Most Populous Incorporated Places in 2013: 2010 to 2013

Population rank		Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2010 to 2013	
2010	2013		April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Number	Percent
1	1	New York city, New York	8,175,133	8,405,837	230,704	2.8
2	2	Los Angeles city, California	3,792,621	3,884,307	91,686	2.4
3	3	Chicago city, Illinois	2,695,598	2,718,782	23,184	0.9
4	4	Houston city, Texas	2,099,451	2,195,914	96,463	4.6
5	5	Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	1,526,006	1,553,165	27,159	1.8
6	6	Phoenix city, Arizona	1,445,632	1,513,367	67,735	4.7
7	7	San Antonio city, Texas	1,327,407	1,409,019	81,612	6.1
8	8	San Diego city, California.	1,307,402	1,355,896	48,494	3.7
9	9	Dallas city, Texas	1,197,816	1,257,676	59,860	5.0
10	10	San Jose city, California	945,942	998,537	52,595	5.6
14	11	Austin city, Texas	790,390	885,400	95,010	12.0
12	12	Indianapolis city (balance), Indiana	820,445	843,393	22,948	2.8
11	13	Jacksonville city, Florida	821,784	842,583	20,799	2.5
13	14	San Francisco city, California.	805,235	837,442	32,207	4.0
15	15	Columbus city, Ohio.	787,033	822,553	35,520	4.5
17	16	Charlotte city, North Carolina.	731,424	792,862	61,438	8.4
16	17	Fort Worth city, Texas.	741,206	792,727	51,521	7.0
18	18	Detroit city, Michigan	713,777	688,701	−25,076	−3.5
19	19	El Paso city, Texas	649,121	674,433	25,312	3.9
20	20	Memphis city, Tennessee.	646,889	653,450	6,561	1.0
23	21	Seattle city, Washington.	608,660	652,405	43,745	7.2
26	22	Denver city, Colorado.	600,158	649,495	49,337	8.2
24	23	Washington city, District of Columbia	601,723	646,449	44,726	7.4
22	24	Boston city, Massachusetts	617,594	645,966	28,372	4.6
25	25	Nashville-Davidson metropolitan government (balance), Tennessee	601,222	634,464	33,242	5.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

CITY VS. URBAN VS. METROPOLITAN

The terms city, urban, and metropolitan are often used interchangeably in popular media and common discourse. These terms, however, have very different and specific meanings when used in Census Bureau data products. Users of these products should be mindful that the territory and population denoted by these terms often overlap but are not identical.

CITY/INCORPORATED PLACE

A city is a type of incorporated place and, as noted earlier in the text, the term "city" is used generically throughout this report to refer to incorporated places of all types. A city can be partly urban and partly rural, and may be inside or outside of a metropolitan statistical area. The area and population included in a city reflect its legal corporate limits, which often do not include all of the densely settled territory of which the city forms the center. About 62.3 percent of the U.S. population lived in cities in 2010.

URBAN

An urban area as defined by the Census Bureau is a cluster of densely settled census blocks that together have a population of at least 2,500 people. These census blocks (usually the same as city blocks) generally have an aggregate population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. Since urban areas do not conform to political boundaries, they can contain multiple incorporated places, either in part or in their entirety. They generally include a city (or in some cases, a CDP) and its adjacent, densely settled suburbs, including both incorporated and unincorporated territory. About 80.7 percent of the U.S. population lived in urban areas in 2010.

METROPOLITAN

Metropolitan statistical areas, or metro areas, are delineated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Each metro area consists of one or more counties that contain a core urban area of 50,000 or more population, plus additional counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. They are typically partly urban and partly rural, and can contain many cities, in whole or in part. Each metro area generally includes a large city and its nearby suburbs, as well as some sparsely settled territory that is in some degree reliant on the urban core for employment. About 83.7 percent of the U.S. population lived in metro areas in 2010 (based on OMB's metro area definitions as of 2009).


Houston (2.2 million), and Philadelphia (1.6 million). While the ten largest cities remained the same as in 2010, Austin, TX, rose from 14th largest to 11th largest, moving past San Francisco (14th), Jacksonville (13th), and Indianapolis (12th). Columbus remained ranked 15th, while Charlotte rose from 17th to 16th, moving past Fort Worth (17th). The cities ranked 18th through 20th remained the same, while Seattle moved up to 21st most populous from 23rd. Denver, which was not among the 25 most populous in 2010 (26th) ranked 22nd in 2013. Washington moved up one rank from 24th to 23rd, while Boston moved down two spots from 22nd to 24th. Nashville remained the 25th most populous. Baltimore, which ranked 21st in 2010, fell out of the top 25 to the 26th spot in 2013. Among the 25 largest cities in 2013, Austin, TX, was the fastest-growing between 2010 and 2013, followed by Charlotte, Denver, Washington, and Seattle. Consistent with the broad population growth trend exhibited at the regional level, all five of these fastest-growing large cities were in the South or the West. All five were also in the 500,000 to 1 million population size category, which was the fastest-growing between 2010 and 2013 (Table 3). Detroit was the only city among the 25 most populous that lost population between 2010 and 2013 (Table 4).

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE FASTEST-GROWING INCORPORATED PLACES

The fastest-growing large cities— those with populations of 100,000 or more—tended to be located in the South and West (Figure 3, Table 5a, Table 5b). While all cities in this size category were located in metropolitan statistical areas (metro areas) due to their population size, many of the fastest-growing were near a larger principal city of a metro area, and some were principal cities themselves. Between 2000 and 2010, the fastest-growing large city was Gilbert, AZ (near Phoenix), with an increase of 90.0 percent; followed by North Las Vegas, NV, which grew by 87.9 percent;

Figure 3.

Percentage Change in Population for Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More: 2000 to 2010
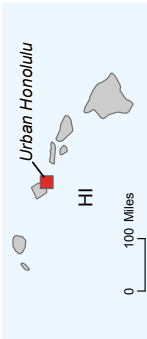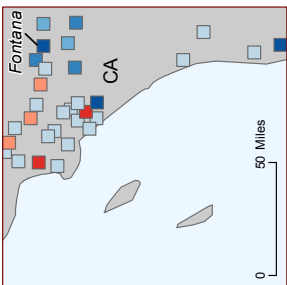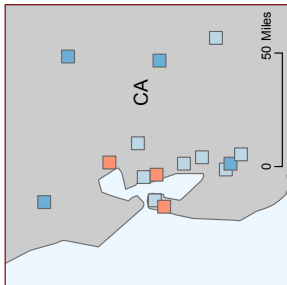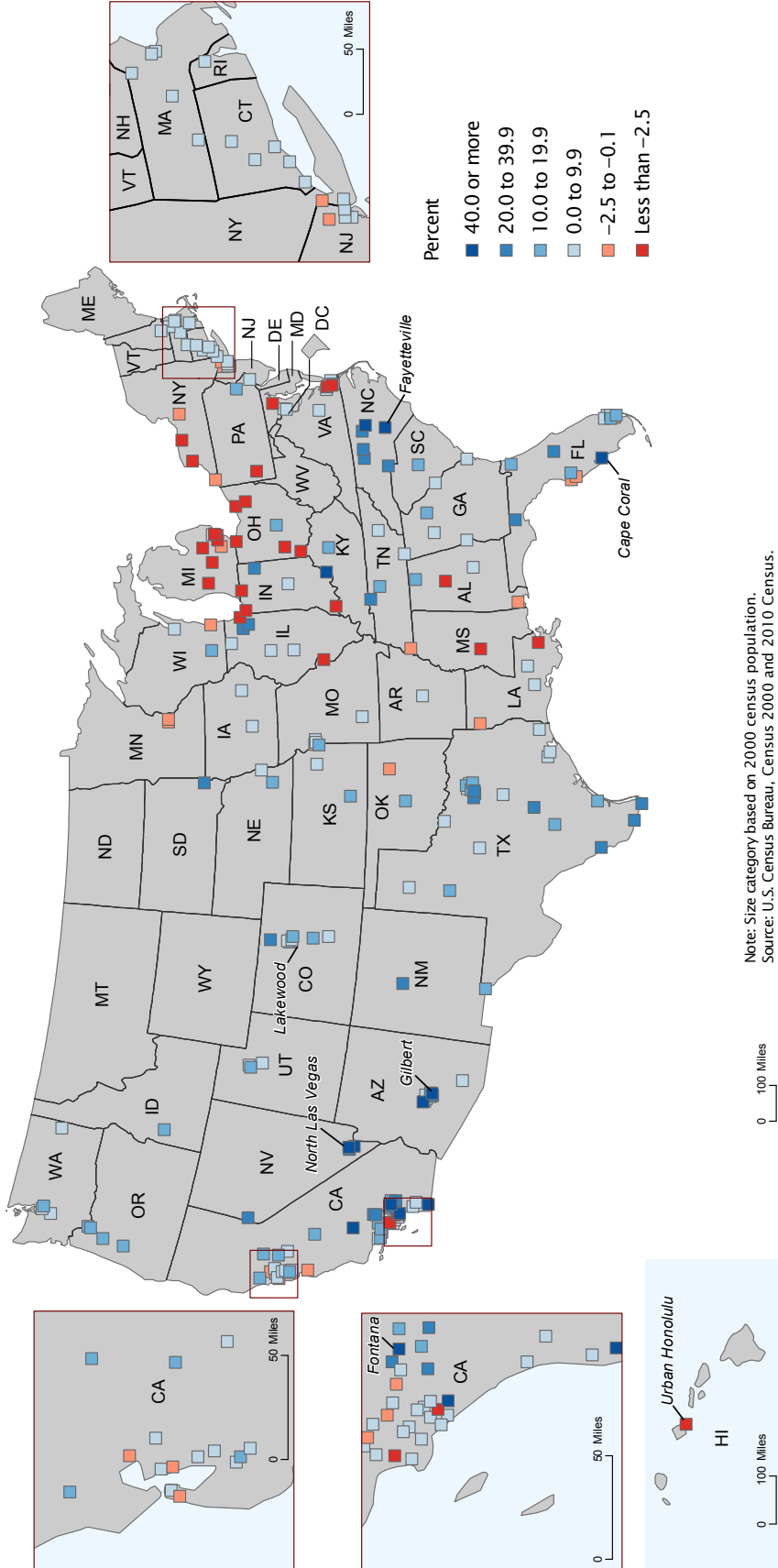
Percent

- 40.0 or more
- 20.0 to 39.9
- 10.0 to 19.9
- 0.0 to 9.9
- −2.5 to −0.1
- Less than −2.5

Note: Size category based on 2000 census population.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census.

Table 5a.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More Population: 2000 to 2010

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	April 1, 2000, Census	April 1, 2010, Census	Number	Percent
Gilbert town, Arizona	109,697	208,453	98,756	90.0
North Las Vegas city, Nevada	115,488	216,961	101,473	87.9
Fayetteville city, North Carolina	121,015	200,564	79,549	65.7
Fontana city, California	128,929	196,069	67,140	52.1
Cape Coral city, Florida	102,286	154,305	52,019	50.9
Irvine city, California	143,072	212,375	69,303	48.4
Henderson city, Nevada.	175,381	257,729	82,348	47.0
Raleigh city, North Carolina.	276,093	403,892	127,799	46.3
Peoria city, Arizona	108,364	154,065	45,701	42.2
Bakersfield city, California	247,057	347,483	100,426	40.6

Note: Size category based on 2000 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census.

Table 5b.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More Population: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2010 to 2013	
	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Number	Percent
Frisco city, Texas	116,989	136,791	19,802	16.9
McKinney city, Texas	131,117	148,559	17,442	13.3
Austin city, Texas	790,390	885,400	95,010	12.0
Cary town, North Carolina.	135,234	151,088	15,854	11.7
Midland city, Texas.	111,147	123,933	12,786	11.5
Irvine city, California	212,375	236,716	24,341	11.5
Gilbert town, Arizona.	208,453	229,972	21,519	10.3
New Orleans city, Louisiana	343,829	378,715	34,886	10.1
Bellevue city, Washington	122,363	133,992	11,629	9.5
Denton city, Texas	113,383	123,099	9,716	8.6

Note: Size category based on 2010 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

Fayetteville, NC, which grew by 65.7 percent; Fontana, CA (near Riverside), which grew by 52.1 percent; and Cape Coral, FL, which grew by 50.9 percent.[4]

Large cities that lost population over the same period were found in every region, with a noticeable concentration in the states bordering the Great Lakes (Figure 3). Of the 52 large cities that lost population

between 2000 and 2010, 7 were in the Northeast, 21 were in the Midwest, 13 were in the South, and 11 were in the West. Nine were in California, more than any other state. The other two in the West region were Lakewood, CO, and Urban Honolulu, HI, which declined due to a substantial reduction in territorial extent, as the territory of the former Honolulu CDP was split into the newly created Urban Honolulu and East Honolulu CDPs in 2010 (the 2000 data used in this report are for the former, larger Honolulu CDP).

Four of the five fastest-growing large cities between 2010 and 2013 were

in Texas. Frisco, TX, topped the list of fastest-growing large cities (16.9 percent); followed by McKinney, TX (13.3 percent); Austin, TX (12.0 percent); Cary, NC (11.7 percent); and Midland, TX (11.5 percent). Of the ten fastest-growing large cities over this period, seven were in the South and three were in the West. Cary, NC, was the only city of 100,000 or more east of the Mississippi that was among the ten fastest-growing between 2010 and 2013.

A number of large cities that lost population between 2000 and 2010 saw their populations rise between 2010 and 2013, most notably New Orleans, which grew by

[4] Louisville city, Kentucky consolidated its government with Jefferson County in 2003. The 2010 population of the balance of the consolidated city (not including the smaller incorporated places that continue to exist within the county) was 597,337, which represents an increase of 341,106 or 133.1 percent from the 2000 population (256,231) of the former Louisville city.
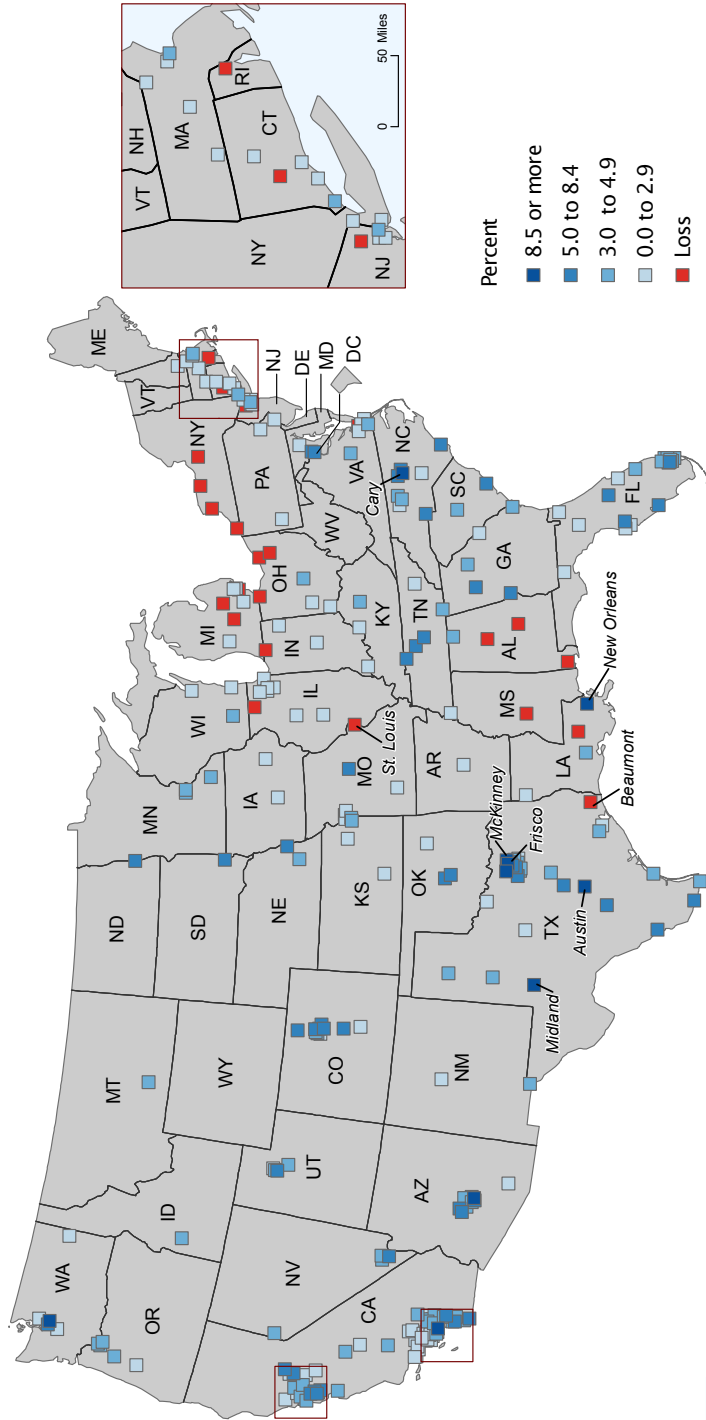
Figure 4.

Percentage Change in Population for Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More: 2010 to 2013
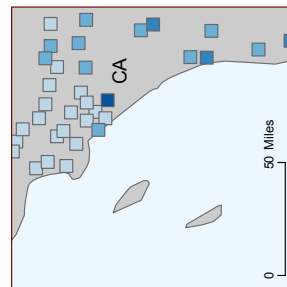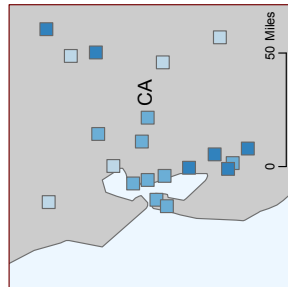
Percent
- 8.5 or more
- 5.0 to 8.4
- 3.0 to 4.9
- 0.0 to 2.9
- Loss
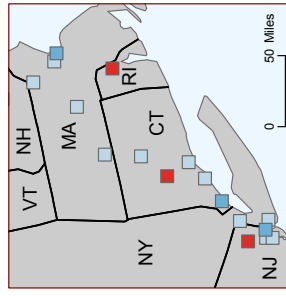
Note: Size category based on 2010 census population.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 6a.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 50,000 to 99,999 Population: 2000 to 2010

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	April 1, 2000, Census	April 1, 2010, Census	Number	Percent
Elk Grove city, California	59,984	153,015	93,031	155.1
McKinney city, Texas	54,369	131,117	76,748	141.2
Port St. Lucie city, Florida	88,769	164,603	75,834	85.4
Renton city, Washington	50,052	90,927	40,875	81.7
Victorville city, California	64,029	115,903	51,874	81.0
Temecula city, California	57,716	100,097	42,381	73.4
Rio Rancho city, New Mexico	51,765	87,521	35,756	69.1
Miramar city, Florida	72,739	122,041	49,302	67.8
Round Rock city, Texas	61,136	99,887	38,751	63.4
Murfreesboro city, Tennessee	68,816	108,755	39,939	58.0

Note: Size category based on 2000 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census.

Table 6b.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 50,000 to 99,999 Population: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2010 to 2013	
	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Number	Percent
Kent city, Washington.	92,411	124,435	32,024	34.7
South Jordan city, Utah	50,418	59,366	8,948	17.7
Pasco city, Washington	59,781	67,599	7,818	13.1
Conroe city, Texas	56,207	63,032	6,825	12.1
Goodyear city, Arizona.	65,275	72,864	7,589	11.6
Buckeye town, Arizona	50,876	56,683	5,807	11.4
Meridian city, Idaho	75,092	83,596	8,504	11.3
Lake Elsinore city, California	51,821	57,525	5,704	11.0
Odessa city, Texas.	99,940	110,720	10,780	10.8
Mount Pleasant town, South Carolina	67,843	74,885	7,042	10.4

Note: Size category based on 2010 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

10.1 percent (Table 5b, Figure 4).[5] In fact, nearly all large cities west of the Mississippi grew between 2010 and 2013. Only two—Beaumont, TX, and St. Louis, MO—lost population during that period (Figure 4).

The ten fastest-growing cities of 50,000 to 99,999 were all in the South or West for both the 10-year period from 2000 to 2010, and the 3-year period from 2010 to 2013. Three of the ten fastest-growing over the 10-year period were in California, more than any other state (Table 6a). For the 3-year period, Washington, Texas, and Arizona each had two cities among the ten fastest-growing in this size category (Table 6b).

Plainfield, IL, a suburb of Chicago, stood out as the only Midwestern city among the ten fastest-growing of 10,000 to 49,999 between 2000 and 2010 (Table 7a). The other nine fastest-growing cities in this size category for the 10-year period were all in the South or West. Two Midwestern cities—Zionsville, IN (near Indianapolis), and Williston, ND—were among the ten fastest growing in this size category for the 3-year period between 2010 and 2013 (Table 7b). Zionsville, which grew by 77.4 percent, was the fastest growing overall in this size category over the 3-year period.[6] Williston was one of the few cities among the fastest-growing that was not in a metro area.

LAND AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY

While incorporated places included a majority of the U.S. population, only a small fraction of the U.S. land area (about 3.5 percent) was in incorporated places in 2013. Due to their nature as areas of population

[5] New Orleans had lost a considerable percentage of its population between 2000 and 2010 due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

[6] Princeton borough, New Jersey, consolidated its government with Princeton township in 2013. The 2013 population of the consolidated borough and township was 29,008, which represents an increase of 16,701 or 135.7 percent from the 2010 population (12,307) of the former Princeton borough.

Table 7a.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 10,000 to 49,999 Population: 2000 to 2010

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	April 1, 2000, Census	April 1, 2010, Census	Number	Percent
Lincoln city, California	11,205	42,819	31,614	282.1
Surprise city, Arizona.	30,848	117,517	86,669	281.0
Frisco city, Texas	33,714	116,989	83,275	247.0
Goodyear city, Arizona.	18,911	65,275	46,364	245.2
Beaumont city, California.	11,384	36,877	25,493	223.9
Plainfield village, Illinois.	13,038	39,581	26,543	203.6
Pflugerville city, Texas	16,335	46,936	30,601	187.3
Indian Trail town, North Carolina	11,905	33,518	21,613	181.5
Wylie city, Texas.	15,132	41,427	26,295	173.8
Issaquah city, Washington	11,212	30,434	19,222	171.4

Note: Size category based on 2000 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census.

Table 7b.
Fastest Growing Incorporated Places of 10,000 to 49,999 Population: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	Population		Change, 2010 to 2013	
	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Number	Percent
Zionsville town, Indiana	14,160	25,115	10,955	77.4
Kirkland city, Washington.	48,787	84,430	35,643	73.1
Cibolo city, Texas	15,349	23,890	8,541	55.6
Sweetwater city, Florida.	13,499	20,575	7,076	52.4
Burien city, Washington	33,313	49,858	16,545	49.7
Williston city, North Dakota	14,716	20,850	6,134	41.7
Hutto city, Texas.	14,698	19,728	5,030	34.2
Lone Tree city, Colorado	10,218	13,267	3,049	29.8
Saratoga Springs city, Utah	17,781	22,749	4,968	27.9
Little Elm city, Texas.	25,898	32,701	6,803	26.3

Note: Size category based on 2010 census population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 8.
Land Area and Population Density by Size of Incorporated Place: 2013

Population size category	January 1, 2013, land area in square miles	July 1, 2013, population estimate	Population density per square mile of land area
United States	**3,531,924.9**	**316,128,839**	**89.5**
In incorporated place.	124,388.6	198,207,340	1,593.5
1,000,000 or more	3,377.8	24,293,963	7,192.3
500,000 to 999,999	5,945.0	17,308,113	2,911.4
250,000 to 499,999	6,205.0	15,019,117	2,420.5
100,000 to 249,999	12,779.0	32,377,424	2,533.6
50,000 to 99,999	13,282.2	31,148,753	2,345.1
25,000 to 49,999	16,578.8	24,933,757	1,504.0
10,000 to 24,999	17,813.9	24,482,834	1,374.4
Less than 10,000	48,406.9	28,643,379	591.7
Not in incorporated place	3,407,536.3	117,921,499	34.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 9.
Top 25 Incorporated Places in Land Area: 2013

Incorporated place	January 1, 2013, land area in square miles	July 1, 2013, population estimate	Population density per square mile of land area
Sitka city and borough, Alaska	2,870.4	9,020	3.1
Juneau city and borough, Alaska	2,702.0	32,660	12.1
Wrangell city and borough, Alaska	2,541.5	2,400	0.9
Anchorage municipality, Alaska.	1,704.8	300,950	176.5
Greeley County unified government (balance), Kansas	777.4	450	0.6
Jacksonville city, Florida	747.3	842,583	1,127.5
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Montana	736.5	9,329	12.7
Butte-Silver Bow (balance), Montana	716.2	33,854	47.3
Oklahoma City city, Oklahoma.	606.7	610,613	1,006.5
Houston city, Texas	599.7	2,195,914	3,661.5
Phoenix city, Arizona	517.5	1,513,367	2,924.4
Nashville-Davidson metropolitan government (balance), Tennessee	476.2	634,464	1,332.5
Los Angeles city, California	468.7	3,884,307	8,288.0
San Antonio city, Texas	461.0	1,409,019	3,056.5
Suffolk city, Virginia	400.2	85,728	214.2
Buckeye town, Arizona	392.1	56,683	144.6
Indianapolis city (balance), Indiana.	361.5	843,393	2,333.3
Dallas city, Texas	341.4	1,257,676	3,684.2
Chesapeake city, Virginia.	340.8	230,571	676.6
Fort Worth city, Texas.	340.7	792,727	2,326.7
San Diego city, California.	325.2	1,355,896	4,169.5
Louisville/Jefferson County metro government (balance), Kentucky.	325.2	609,893	1,875.6
Memphis city, Tennessee.	315.1	653,450	2,074.1
Kansas City city, Missouri	314.9	467,007	1,482.9
Austin city, Texas	310.2	885,400	2,854.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

concentration, incorporated places are much more densely populated (1,593.5 people per square mile, in aggregate) than the territory outside incorporated places (34.6 people per square mile). As Table 8 shows, population density was generally higher among the largest cities, and lower among the smallest ones. In particular, cities of 1 million or more population were considerably more dense (by a difference of more than 4,000 people per square mile, in aggregate) than cities of less than 1 million. Similarly, cities of fewer than 10,000 were considerably less dense (by a difference of more than 1,600 people per square mile, in aggregate) than cities of 10,000 or more.

While most incorporated places were less than 50 square miles in land area, a few were more than ten times that size. Cities that were largest in land area in 2013 tended to be located in Western states (particularly Alaska), and to a lesser extent, the South. Four of the five largest were located in Alaska, each with an area of over 1,700 square miles (Table 9).[7]

Several cities that have consolidated governments with their parent counties also rank among the largest in land area. Of the 11 cities of 500 square miles or more, 8 of them (also the eight largest in land area, each being over 700 square miles) were city/county consolidations, or—in the case of Anchorage—county equivalents. Oklahoma City, at 606.7 square miles, was the largest city in land area that was not a city/county consolidation or

county equivalent. Phoenix and Houston were the only other cities of 500 or more square miles that were not city/county consolidations or county equivalents. Houston had the largest population of any city of more than 500 square miles. Of the 25 largest cities in land area, only 4 had a 2013 population estimate of fewer than 10,000 people. Fifteen of the 25 had population density values of more than 1,000 people per square mile. Only one, Los Angeles, had a population density of more than 5,000 people per square mile (Table 9).

New York, with a population density of 27,781.2 people per square mile, was the nation's densest large city by a considerable margin, followed by San Francisco (17,858.9); Jersey City, NJ (17,396.0); Paterson, NJ (17,316.5); and Cambridge, MA (16,790.7) (Table 10). These dense

[7] Much of Alaska's very large area is sparsely populated, and the relatively few units of local government that exist are responsible for administering services for relatively large territories. Note the large area compared to the relatively small population size and low population density levels in cities such as Juneau, Sitka, and Wrangell (Table 9).

Table 10.
Densest Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More Population: 2013

Incorporated place	January 1, 2013, land area in square miles	July 1, 2013, population estimate	Population density per square mile of land area
New York city, New York	302.6	8,405,837	27,781.2
San Francisco city, California	46.9	837,442	17,858.9
Jersey City city, New Jersey	14.8	257,342	17,396.0
Paterson city, New Jersey	8.4	145,948	17,316.5
Cambridge city, Massachusetts	6.4	107,289	16,790.7
Daly City city, California	7.6	104,739	13,708.6
Boston city, Massachusetts	48.4	645,966	13,355.9
Santa Ana city, California	27.1	334,227	12,314.0
Inglewood city, California	9.1	111,542	12,300.7
El Monte city, California	9.6	115,708	12,100.4
Chicago city, Illinois	227.7	2,718,782	11,942.2
Miami city, Florida	35.9	417,650	11,636.7
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	134.1	1,553,165	11,581.4
Newark city, New Jersey	24.2	278,427	11,508.7
Berkeley city, California	10.5	116,768	11,157.2
Yonkers city, New York	18.0	199,766	11,090.7
Norwalk city, California	9.7	106,589	10,978.3
Hialeah city, Florida	21.4	233,394	10,889.4
Washington city, District of Columbia	61.1	646,449	10,573.5
Elizabeth city, New Jersey	12.3	127,558	10,353.3
Alexandria city, Virginia	15.0	148,892	9,903.4
Garden Grove city, California	18.0	175,140	9,753.5
Providence city, Rhode Island	18.4	177,994	9,673.6
Long Beach city, California	50.3	469,428	9,332.4
Bridgeport city, Connecticut	16.1	147,216	9,167.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

large cities include older port cities and their nearby suburbs. Cities in California also feature prominently among the most dense, accounting for 9 of the 25 densest large cities, more than any other state. Of the 25 densest large cities, 11 were in the Northeast, 1 (Chicago) was in the Midwest, 4 were in the South, and 9 were in the West (Table 10).

Table 11 shows large cities that had the largest increases or decreases in population density between 2010 and 2013. Increases in density result from population gains unaccompanied by a commensurate gain in land area. Infill development, conversion of nonresidential land for residential use, and redevelopment from low-rise to high-rise residential

structures are common processes that can increase population density. Older coastal cities (e.g., New York, San Francisco, Boston) were among the large cities whose population density values increased the most between 2010 and 2013. Most of these cities had stable land area over the period.

Decreases in density result from either population loss or from gains in land area that outpace gains in population. Several Midwestern cities (Des Moines, IA; Detroit; Evansville, IN; Lansing, MI; and Rockford, IL) were among those with the largest decreases in population density (Table 11). While some cities' density levels declined due to

population loss (e.g., Detroit and Rockford, IL), others (e.g., Modesto, CA, and Spokane, WA) lost density due to increases in land area. Of the ten cities of 100,000 or more with the largest declines in population density, only Detroit did not have an increase in land area.

ANNEXATION

Though expansion of municipal boundaries via annexation is uncommon in the Northeast, it is a fairly common practice in the South and the West, and in some parts of the Midwest. Not surprisingly, Southern, Western, and Midwestern cities topped the lists of incorporated places that had the largest annexations between 2010 and

Table 11.

Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More Population With Largest Increase and Decrease in Population Density: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	Land area in square miles[1]			Population			Population density per square mile of land area		
	2010	2013	Change, 2010 to 2013	April 1, 2010, Census	July 1, 2013, estimate	Change, 2010 to 2013	2010	2013	Change, 2010 to 2013
Largest increase									
New York city, New York	302.6	302.6	−0.1	8,175,133	8,405,837	230,704	27,012.4	27,781.2	768.7
Washington city, District of Columbia . . .	61.0	61.1	0.1	601,723	646,449	44,726	9,856.5	10,573.5	717.0
San Francisco city, California.	46.9	46.9	Z	805,235	837,442	32,207	17,179.2	17,858.9	679.7
Jersey City city, New Jersey	14.8	14.8	Z	247,597	257,342	9,745	16,736.6	17,396.0	659.3
Alexandria city, Virginia	15.0	15.0	Z	139,966	148,892	8,926	9,314.3	9,903.4	589.1
Boston city, Massachusetts	48.3	48.4	0.1	617,594	645,966	28,372	12,792.7	13,355.9	563.2
Seattle city, Washington.	83.9	83.8	−0.1	608,660	652,405	43,745	7,250.9	7,781.8	530.9
Daly City city, California.	7.7	7.6	Z	101,123	104,739	3,616	13,195.0	13,708.6	513.6
Miami city, Florida	35.9	35.9	Z	399,457	417,650	18,193	11,135.9	11,636.7	500.7
Hialeah city, Florida	21.5	21.4	Z	224,669	233,394	8,725	10,474.2	10,889.4	415.3
Largest decrease									
Modesto city, California	36.9	44.4	7.5	201,165	204,933	3,768	5,456.5	4,618.9	−837.6
Spokane city, Washington	59.2	68.7	9.5	208,916	210,721	1,805	3,526.2	3,065.7	−460.5
Temecula city, California	30.2	37.2	7.1	100,097	106,780	6,683	3,319.8	2,869.6	−450.3
Roseville city, California.	36.2	42.2	6.0	118,788	127,035	8,247	3,279.5	3,009.1	−270.3
Lansing city, Michigan	36.0	39.0	2.9	114,297	113,972	−325	3,170.6	2,924.2	−246.4
Des Moines city, Iowa	80.9	89.0	8.1	203,433	207,510	4,077	2,515.6	2,332.2	−183.4
Detroit city, Michigan	138.8	138.8	Z	713,777	688,701	−25,076	5,144.3	4,963.6	−180.7
Rockford city, Illinois	61.1	63.3	2.3	152,871	150,251	−2,620	2,502.7	2,371.8	−130.9
Evansville city, Indiana.	44.2	47.3	3.2	117,429	120,310	2,881	2,659.6	2,541.0	−118.6
Arvada city, Colorado.	35.1	38.3	3.2	106,433	111,707	5,274	3,028.6	2,914.2	−114.4

Z Rounds to zero.

[1] Land area data are as of January 1 of the calendar year.

Note: Size category based on 2010 census population. Figures for land area and population density are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

Table 12.

Incorporated Places With Largest Increase in Land Area: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	Land area in square miles[1]			July 1, 2013, population estimate
	2010	2013	Change, 2010 to 2013	
Caliente city, Nevada	1.9	57.6	55.7	1,169
Akutan city, Alaska.	13.8	66.0	52.1	1,028
Zionsville town, Indiana	10.3	49.7	39.5	25,115
Show Low city, Arizona	40.9	65.1	24.2	10,730
Bristol village, Wisconsin	8.9	33.0	24.1	4,903
Yorktown town, Indiana	8.8	31.9	23.2	11,270
Page city, Arizona	16.6	38.2	21.6	7,326
Rogers city, Minnesota	8.1	25.5	17.4	11,983
Buckeye town, Arizona	375.3	392.1	16.8	56,683
Uniontown town, Alabama	1.3	15.2	13.8	2,529

[1] Land area data are as of January 1 of the calendar year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.

2013. Caliente, NV, (a small city in Lincoln County), had the largest increase in land area (Table 12), while Kirkland, WA, annexed the area with the largest 2010 population (Table 13). Zionsville, IN (a suburb of Indianapolis), stood out as having annexed territory that was among the largest in both land area and population. As Table 13 shows, in some cities (e.g., Kokomo, IN), annexation appeared to be a major contributor to population growth, as suggested by a 2013 population that was not much higher than the 2010 population in the 2013 boundary. In other cities (e.g., Austin, TX), demographic components of population change (i.e., natural increase or migration) contributed to population growth in addition to annexation—as evidenced by a 2013 population that was notably higher than the 2010 population in the 2013 boundary.

Among cities of 100,000 or more population, those with the largest percentage increases in land area between 2000 and 2013 tended to be located in the South and West, and in some parts of the Midwest (Figure 5). With the exception of Louisville, KY, which consolidated its government with Jefferson County in 2003, the cities of 100,000 or more with the largest percentage gains in land area between 2000 and 2013 were: Fayetteville, NC (149.1 percent); Brownsville, TX (64.7 percent); Joliet, IL (64.7 percent); Gilbert, AZ (57.9 percent); and Reno, NV (55.1 percent).

Most cities in the Northeast and in the Midwestern states of Ohio and Michigan had relatively stable boundaries between 2000 and 2013. This regional pattern partly reflects variation in annexation laws by state. While some states allow cities to annex unilaterally (without consent of the population living in the area to be annexed), others require multilateral consent, often in the form of a referendum voted on by the residents of the area being annexed.

NEW INCORPORATIONS

While the number of incorporated places was relatively stable from 2010 to 2013, there were 16 new incorporations during the period (Table 14), and 1 place (Jane, MO) that newly reported its existence to the Census Bureau, despite having incorporated several years earlier.[8] Collectively, these incorporated places had a total 2013 population of 307,191. Their individual 2013 populations ranged from 208 (Sandy Point, TX) to 98,030 (Jurupa Valley, CA). Four were in the West, eight in the South (three in Texas alone), four (including Jane, MO) in the Midwest, and one (Mastic Beach, NY) in the Northeast. One new entity (Greeley County unified government, KS) formed from the consolidation of a previously existing incorporated place with its parent county.

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[8] There were 3 incorporated places that became inactive between 2010 and 2013, and 24 that disincorporated, including 1 (Foster city, Kentucky) that was inactive in 2010.

Table 13.
Incorporated Places With Largest Increase in 2010 Population Due to Boundary Change: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	April 1, 2010, Population			July 1, 2013, population estimate
	In 2010 boundary (census)	In 2013 boundary (estimates base)[1]	Increase due to boundary change	
Kirkland city, Washington.	48,787	80,583	31,796	84,430
Kent city, Washington.	92,411	118,590	26,179	124,435
Austin city, Texas	790,390	810,759	20,369	885,400
Burien city, Washington	33,313	48,072	14,759	49,858
Kokomo city, Indiana	45,468	56,842	11,374	56,895
Zionsville town, Indiana	14,160	23,319	9,159	25,115
Omaha city, Nebraska	408,958	416,969	8,011	434,353
San Jose city, California	945,942	952,576	6,634	998,537
Sweetwater city, Florida.	13,499	19,958	6,459	20,575
Norcross city, Georgia	9,116	15,174	6,058	16,131

[1] The estimates base population reflects legal boundary changes such as annexations, as well other enhancements to the Census Bureau's geographic and address database. Official corrections to the 2010 Census processed via the Count Question Resolution program are also included. (See text box "Measuring the Impact of Annexation.")

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2013 Population Estimates.
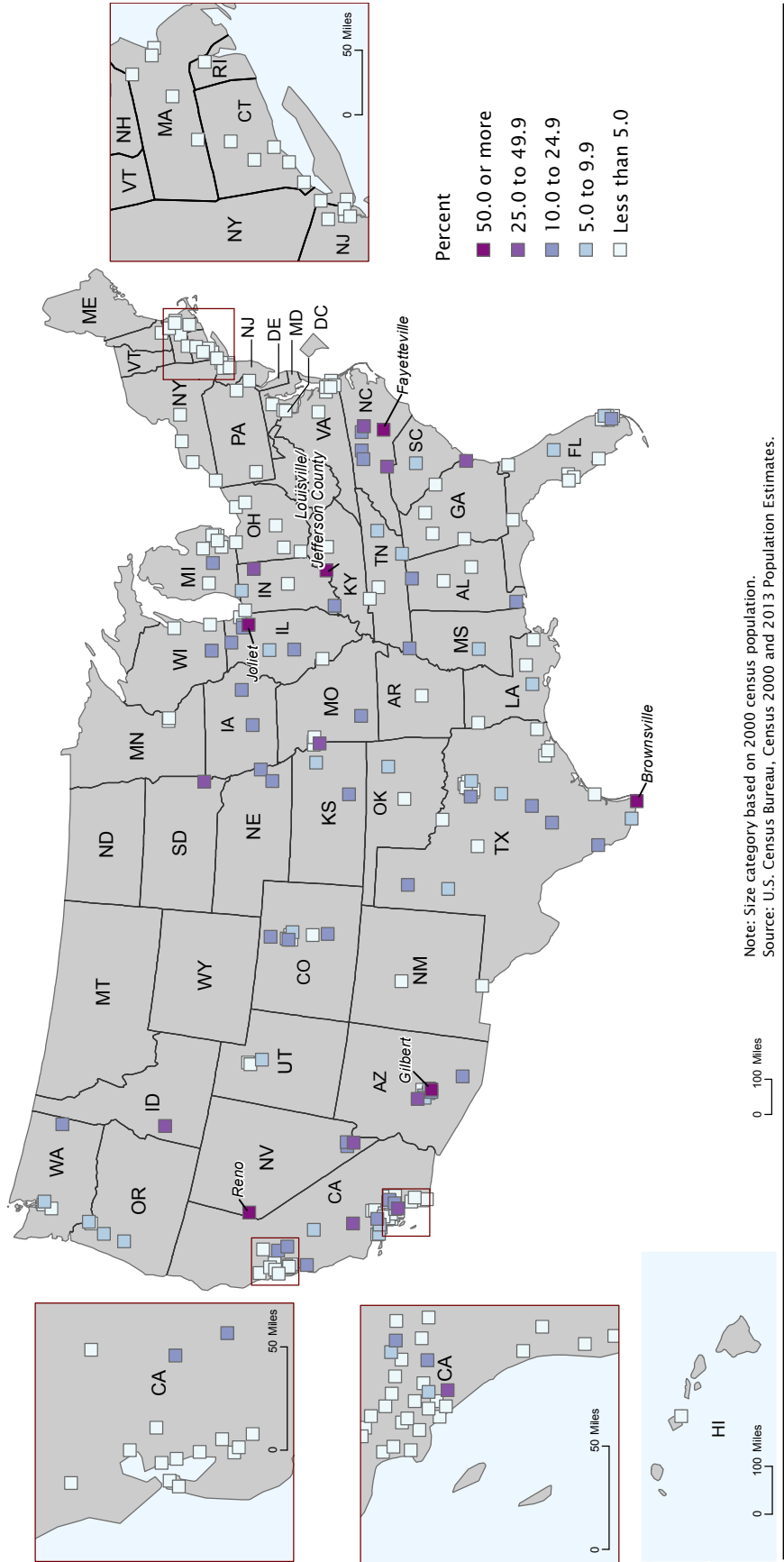
Table 14.
New Incorporations: 2010 to 2013

Incorporated place	July 1, 2013, population estimate	January 1, 2013, land area in square miles	Population density per square mile of land area
Jurupa Valley city, California	98,030	42.9	2,283.5
Eastvale city, California	55,191	12.7	4,358.4
Brookhaven city, Georgia.	50,603	11.2	4,499.7
Peachtree Corners city, Georgia	40,059	16.2	2,475.8
Mastic Beach village, New York.	14,860	4.0	3,693.2
James Island town, South Carolina.	11,542	4.7	2,433.4
Anthony city, New Mexico	9,378	2.7	3,495.6
Diamondhead city, Mississippi.	8,279	10.1	819.0
Providence Village town, Texas	4,941	1.1	4,361.8
Summit village, Wisconsin.	4,711	21.2	222.2
Bloomfield village, Wisconsin	4,644	12.5	372.2
Semmes city, Alabama	3,123	3.6	861.4
Tusayan town, Arizona.	573	16.8	34.1
Greeley County unified government (balance), Kansas	450	777.4	0.6
Coyote Flats city, Texas	312	3.3	93.7
Jane town, Missouri[1]	287	3.0	96.5
Sandy Point city, Texas	208	1.5	143.0

[1] Jane town, Missouri was legally incorporated in 2005, but was not reported to the Census Bureau until 2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Population Estimates.

Figure 5.
Percentage Change in Land Area for Incorporated Places of 100,000 or More: 2000 to 2013

Percent
- 50.0 or more
- 25.0 to 49.9
- 10.0 to 24.9
- 5.0 to 9.9
- Less than 5.0

Note: Size category based on 2000 census population.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2013 Population Estimates.

SUMMARY

The U.S. population remains increasingly concentrated in incorporated places, more so in the West than in any other region. Incorporated places are as diverse in their characteristics as the United States, varying considerably in population size, geographic extent, and patterns of growth and decline. These patterns can be affected by physical geographic conditions, demographic trends, and legal or political factors, such as the ability to annex additional territory.

Incorporated places grew faster than the United States as a whole from 2000 to 2010, and from 2010 to 2013. Cities in the South and West grew faster than those in the Midwest and Northeast. Larger cities (of 100,000 or more population) grew faster than smaller ones between 2000 and 2013, with cities of 500,000 to 999,999 growing the fastest. Cities among the ten fastest-growing across all size categories tended to be located in metro areas.

Cities with larger populations tended to be more dense than smaller cities. Several large cities with stable boundaries (e.g., New York, Washington, San Francisco)

experienced population growth between 2010 and 2013, resulting in increased density levels. While density levels in some cities fell due to population decline (e.g., Detroit), some cities that experienced population growth saw their density levels decline due to increased land area via expansion of their municipal boundaries (e.g., Modesto, CA).

Expansion of city boundaries via annexation was more common in the South, West, and Midwest, but almost nonexistent in the Northeast, as was the establishment of new incorporated places. More cities incorporated in the South between 2010 and 2013 than in any other region. Three new cities incorporated in Texas, more than any other state. While more than one-third of the U.S. population lives outside incorporated places, America continues to be mainly a nation of cities.

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES OF DATA

The data used in this report include 100 percent counts of the total population from the 2000 and 2010 censuses, as well as postcensal estimates of the total population for July 1, 2013. For information about the Census Bureau's methodology

for producing the 2013 population estimates for incorporated places, see <www.census.gov/popest /methodology/2013-su-meth.pdf>.

Potential sources of nonsampling error in the population estimates process include: (1) potential errors (such as differential undercoverage or overcoverage by demographic characteristics) in the enumeration (e.g., the previous decennial census) that serves as the base of the postcensal estimates; and (2) potential errors in the components of change (such as births, deaths, domestic migration, and net international migration) used to carry forward the population estimates.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions for decennial census data, see <www.census.gov/prod /cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.