NEW POPULATION PROJECTIONS: CALIFORNIA TO SURPASS 50 MILLION IN 2049

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SACRAMENTO—California’s population will cross the 50 million mark in 2049 and grow to nearly 52.7 million by 2060, according to new population projections released today by the Department of Finance.

This population gain – nearly 15.4 million between 2010 and 2060 – would exceed the current populations of either Illinois or Pennsylvania, and would represent enough new residents to currently rank as the fifth largest state in the Union. The 2060 population will be 39 percent higher than the state’s most recent 2012 population estimate.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

By 2060, California will have 13 counties of one million or more, with eight of those with 2 million or more residents. Six of the counties with at least one million will be inland counties. The four new counties reaching one million will be Fresno, Kern, San Joaquin, and Ventura.

Other State highlights of the latest projection series include:

- The latest projection series indicates that the Hispanic population will be even with the number of non-Hispanic Whites by mid-2013. Early in 2014, the Hispanic population will become the plurality in California for the first time since California became a state.

- By 2060, both the Black and the White populations will have increased in size, but decreased in proportion to the total population. Hispanics will comprise nearly half (48 percent) of all Californians. Asians will also grow significantly in population, but only marginally relative to the total population (just over 13 percent). Asians are currently just under 13 percent. The non-Hispanic White population will decline to 30 percent from the current 39 percent and the Black population from 6 percent to 4 percent.

- For the population as a whole, the median age will increase from 35.2 to 41.9 years old. Whites have the highest median age in 2010 (44.5) while Asians have the highest in 2060 (47.0). Hispanics’ median age (27.2 in 2010 and 39.0 in 2060) is consistently lower than all other race groups other than Multi-Race.

- In 2030, there will be 9.6 million Hispanics in the prime working ages of 25 to 64; Whites will have 7.2 million and Asians 3.1 million. By 2060, Hispanics will be the largest group in the working ages by a considerable margin: 12.1 million Hispanics to 7.4 million Whites and 3.2 million Asians.

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An important conclusion shown from this projection series is how the age of each of the race groups will change over time. There were nearly 10 million baby-boomers in 1990, the majority being White. The White baby-boomer population is now aging into retirement and all will likely retire in the next two decades. As this happens, a lower percentage of the working-age population will be White and a larger percentage will be Hispanic and Asian. These younger and more diverse cohorts will help maintain the potential for the growth of the labor force and the economy in California. This projection series shows that by 2030, more of the White population will be 65 and older (4.1 million) than will be less than 25 years of age (3.8 million). In comparison, the Asian population will have somewhat fewer 65 years or older (1.4 million) than there will be under 25 years of age (1.6 million). The major contrast is with the Hispanic population: there will be 7.2 million Hispanics under 25 years of age compared to 2.2 million who will be 65 and older.

By the end of the projection period in 2060, there will be more Hispanics over age 65 (5.1 million) than Whites over 65 years (4.1 million). Asians in this age group will number 2.1 million.

The percentage of women in the state will continue to slightly outnumber the percentage of men as a result of longer female life expectancies.

California will remain one of the younger states in the Union for the next twenty years. Due to California’s diversity and because of its role as the primary gateway state for immigration, California will not age as rapidly in the coming twenty years as many other states. The White population is older and is not replenished by high levels of immigrants or birth rates. The Asian population structure is older than the Hispanic population and has low fertility rates. However, due to higher rates of immigration from Asia than from European or other countries with a predominately White population, it is anticipated that the Asian population will grow in numbers and slightly in proportion to the total population. This will moderate the aging of the Asian population, producing a less dramatic effect of the baby boom during the projection’s horizon.

County and Regional Highlights
California’s population will go through aging phases and renewal during the course of the projection period. This process will be variable according to race and ethnicity and geography. The patterns are related to the baby-boom and to various waves of domestic and international migration. Some of the more rural counties will see an older population gradually replaced, but growth will tend to be more limited. In other areas closer to metropolitan areas, populations are likely to become more diverse, with younger populations moving in and contributing to more rapid growth. Sutter County for example, just north of Sacramento County, will have strong growth, with the White population doubling, but Asian and Hispanic populations growing even faster.
Other county and regional highlights for 2010 to 2060 include:

- Southern California will lead the State’s growth over the next 50 years (2010 to 2060), growing by 8.3 million to 31 million in population. For this report, in the interest of geographic simplicity, Southern California includes San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern, San Bernardino, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties.

- Riverside County will have the largest growth (approximately 2 million) of any county in the state. Riverside will become the second most populated county in the state at 4.2 million, trailing only Los Angeles at 11.6 million. The Inland Empire, including Riverside and San Bernardino counties, will grow by 3.4 million.

- Other Southern California counties with large growth include Los Angeles (growing 1.7 million); San Diego, growing 1 million (reaching 4.2 million in 2060); and Kern growing by 1.2 million and reaching 2.1 million.

- The San Joaquin Valley will add 3 million new Californians, growing from 3.1 million to 6.2 million. Valley gains will be led by San Joaquin County (growing by 852,000), and Fresno County (growing by 683,000). For the purpose of this report, the San Joaquin Valley includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties. Please note, for this report Kern County was included in the Southern California region and not the San Joaquin Valley region.

- The San Francisco Bay Area will grow significantly, adding 1.8 million new residents, led by Contra Costa County, which will gain about 533,000, and Santa Clara County, with 412,000. Santa Clara will continue to be the most populated county in the Bay Area with a population of 2.2 million. San Francisco is expected to continue to grow, but at a slower pace and will achieve a population of just over 926,000 by 2060.

- The Sacramento area will add 1.5 million, reaching 3.8 million, with Sacramento County growing by 771,000, approaching a population of 2.2 million. Sacramento area counties include: Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Yuba and Sutter. Yuba will more than double to reach 169,000, and Sutter will surpass 250,000, increasing by 160,000. Placer will continue as one of the fastest growing counties in California growing by 229,000. El Dorado will add 117,000 and Yolo County will gain 104,000.

- Further north in the Sacramento Valley, Butte, Shasta, and Tehama counties will all reach new population milestones. Butte will grow to 342,000, from their current 220,000. Shasta will surpass 265,000 and Tehama 109,000. Other northern California counties will tend to have an increasingly aging population and tend to grow at a slower pace than the rest of the state.

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The Monterey Bay counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito will generally follow the trends of central coastal counties. Monterey will however remain somewhat younger than its neighbors (approximately 2 years younger in median age) and San Benito will experience a more rapid rate of growth (57.1 percent) than other area counties.

These population projections are used by state and local government agencies to anticipate and plan for future population needs and to measure incidence rates and program effectiveness. Agencies may also use projections as an input factor in models of future water, transportation and resource demand. The Department of Finance uses a baseline cohort-component method to project population by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. A cohort-component method traces people born in a given year through their lives. As each year passes, cohorts change due to the mortality and migration assumptions. Applying the fertility assumptions to the women of childbearing age forms new cohorts.

The U.S. Census Bureau provided the 2000 and 2010 Census Modified Race files. The California Department of Public Health provided the vital statistics (births and deaths) used to develop these projections. In response to a 2012 survey, planning experts of several counties and councils of government contributed assessments of future migration and population for their jurisdictions.

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NOTE TO EDS: Additional projection data are available from the Department's website: www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/projections/
## Total Population Projections for California and Counties: July 1, 2015 to 2060 in 5-year Increments

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Projections Prepared by Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance, January 2013
California Race and Ethnicity Distribution

2010
- Hispanic or Latino: 38%
- White: 40%
- Asian: 13%
- Black: 6%
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander: 0.4%
- American Indian: 0.4%
- Multi-Race: 3%

2060
- Hispanic or Latino: 48%
- White: 30%
- Asian: 13%
- Black: 4%
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander: 0.4%
- American Indian: 0.4%
- Multi-Race: 4%

California Projected Population Growth 2010 to 2060
Numeric Change

Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and its Counties, 2010 Baseline Series.
Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2013.
California Projected Population Growth 2010 to 2060

Percent Change

-2.2 to -0.1
0.0 to 49.9
50.0 to 99.9
100.0 to 169.1

Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and its Counties, 2010 Baseline Series.
Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2013.
California 2010 Median Age

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.
Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2013.
California Projected 2030 Median Age

Median Age

- 31.9 to 34.9
- 35.0 to 39.9
- 40.0 to 44.9
- 45.0 to 49.9
- 50.0 to 58.4

Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and its Counties, 2010 Baseline Series.
Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2013.