



Texas cities lead nation's fastest-growing list, Census reports

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Texas cities dominated the latest population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau, with eight of the 15 fastest growing cities in the country located in the Lone Star State, including five in the fast-growing counties north of Dallas.

But as dramatic as those numbers appear, they don't begin to match the growth rates seen between 2000 and 2010, a sign that even Texas isn't fully immune to the sagging national economy.

The population estimates released Thursday show that cities and suburbs across North Texas far outdistanced national growth trends. Plano, McKinney and Frisco each grew by about 3.8 percent, ranking fourth, fifth and sixth, with Denton up 3.4 percent to rank seventh and Carrollton growing by 3 percent to rank 14^{+h}.

In numerical growth, Dallas and Fort Worth joined Houston, San Antonio, Austin and El Paso in the Top 15, with Dallas adding 25,413 people between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2011, far more than it added in the decade ending in 2010.

In the Dallas area, the fastest growth rates remained in the suburban counties, with Collin and Rockwall counties growing by about 3.8 percent, and Denton by 3.6 percent. Both Tarrant and Dallas counties grew by more than 2 percent.

But those rates don't come close to the stratospheric suburban growth seen in the last decade, when Denton County grew by 51 percent, Collin by 59 percent and Rockwall County by a staggering 81 percent.

Mike Cline, associate director for the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University, said the latest data from the Census Bureau show the impact of the economy on growth.

"This shows a continuation of the growth we saw over the last decade," he said, "and it is dramatic relative to everything else. But it's still slower growth than we saw recently."

It was the growth in Texas' large cities that Cline found most intriguing.

According to the current Census estimate, the city of Dallas' population increased by 25,413 over the last 15 months – more than two and a half times its total growth in the decade between the 2000 and 2010 censuses.

Are the 2011 Census estimates overly optimistic, he wondered, or do the numbers signal a return to urban living?

"I drove through Dallas recently, and you could see a lot of apartment development," Cline said. "Maybe these number reflect that."

Nationally, resurgent New Orleans led the list of fastest growing cities, its estimated population increasing by 4.9 percent, followed by Round Rock and Austin in second and third, up 4.8 and 3.8 percent respectively, with McAllen 13^{+h}, growing by 3 percent.

Nationally, large cities grew faster than smaller ones, 1.3 percent to about 1 percent, with large cities in the South growing the fastest at about 1.8 percent. In North Texas, the city of Dallas grew by 2.1 percent, Fort Worth by almost 2.4 percent and Arlington by almost 2.3 percent.

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Dallas 'doughnut hole' filling in as five D-FW cities make fastest-growing list

When running for mayor, former Dallas PD Chief David Kunkle often called Dallas the hole in the middle of the doughnut, referring to [2010 Census figures](#) that revealed Dallas had grown by a mere .8 percent (or, [around 9,000 new residents](#)) whilst [surrounding cities experienced a massive population boom](#) during the 10 years since the last count-em-up. [Said Kunkle in our voter guide](#), "All around us good things are happening, but our city has not maximized that prosperity."

But things are looking up — way up, according to [this morning's Census Bureau update](#), which reveals that a handful of North Texas cities sit high atop the fastest-growing list.

And Dallas's growth is no longer stagnant: Says the release, from April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2011, Dallas added 25,413 newcomers, putting us at No. 6 on the list of The 15 Cities With the Largest Numeric Increase — right between No. 5'er Los Angeles and Phoenix, where today the high will be 111 degrees. Dallas is now the ninth-most populous city in the U.S., with 1,223,229.

And the area surrounding the city continues to blossom: Eight of the fastest-growing "large" cities in the U.S. are in Texas, and five of those are in North Texas. They are, in order:

- No. 4 Plano (which has seen a 3.8 percent increase between '10 and '11, putting its population at 269,776).
- No. 5 McKinney (also a 3.8 bump, its pop at 136,067), No. 6 Frisco (3.8 increase, pop at 121,387).
- No. 7 Denton (3.4 increase, pop at 117,187).
- No. 14 Carrollton (its increase sitting at 3 percent, its population now at 122,640).

Says Census Bureau Director Robert Groves, "These numbers provide further evidence of a continuation of the trend of rapid population growth in Texas we observed between the 2000 and 2010 censuses."