



Bruins 3, Penguins 4, Final

How population numbers in Boston and Massachusetts changed over the past 8 years

By [Jaclyn Reiss](#) Globe Staff, April 22, 2019, 6:15 p.m.



Part of Boston's skyline. MARCIO JOSE BASTO/SHUTTERSTOCK/FILE

Many areas in [Massachusetts](#) saw their populations increase from 2010 to 2018, with Greater Boston ranking as the 10th most populous in the nation — but three counties saw a net loss of residents, according to new Census Bureau

estimates.

The new data show that the population in Suffolk County, which includes Boston, increased from 722,190 in 2010 to 807,252 in 2018. Worcester County also saw a sizeable jump, from 798,383 to 830,839, as did Essex County, from 743,081 to 790,638.

And Middlesex County — the most populous in the state — saw its population rise from 1.503 million in 2010 to 1.614 million in 2018, data show.

Geography	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)								
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Barnstable County, Massachusetts	215,888	215,875	215,893	215,333	214,783	214,520	214,299	213,811	213,446	213,482	213,413
Berkshire County, Massachusetts	131,219	131,275	131,319	130,531	130,268	129,473	128,845	127,857	127,106	126,485	126,348
Bristol County, Massachusetts	548,285	548,254	549,177	549,292	551,151	552,454	555,206	556,878	557,848	560,571	564,022
Dukes County, Massachusetts	16,535	16,535	16,572	16,695	16,829	17,162	17,299	17,275	17,316	17,321	17,352
Essex County, Massachusetts	743,159	743,081	745,479	751,461	757,350	764,640	771,778	777,175	780,367	785,160	790,638
Franklin County, Massachusetts	71,372	71,377	71,366	71,679	71,678	71,355	71,295	70,902	70,728	70,787	70,963
Hampden County, Massachusetts	463,490	463,625	464,256	466,137	466,959	467,778	469,507	469,230	468,168	468,268	470,406
Hampshire County, Massachusetts	158,080	158,056	159,320	160,127	160,408	160,848	160,924	160,768	161,510	161,238	161,355
Middlesex County, Massachusetts	1,503,085	1,503,123	1,507,693	1,524,746	1,542,905	1,560,347	1,575,237	1,585,775	1,595,238	1,604,994	1,614,714
Nantucket County, Massachusetts	10,172	10,172	10,167	10,130	10,311	10,567	10,839	10,945	11,124	11,270	11,327
Norfolk County, Massachusetts	670,850	670,907	673,039	677,732	682,891	688,440	692,399	694,787	697,353	701,317	705,388
Plymouth County, Massachusetts	494,919	494,937	495,930	498,152	499,501	502,825	506,565	509,146	511,865	514,969	518,132
Suffolk County, Massachusetts	722,023	722,190	725,819	737,126	751,175	762,627	773,839	782,962	793,322	801,455	807,252
Worcester County, Massachusetts	798,552	798,383	800,401	804,008	806,949	810,908	815,620	818,380	820,631	825,929	830,839

SCREENSHOT VIA CENSUS.GOV

The Greater Boston metropolitan area (defined by the census as Boston-Cambridge-Newton) also grew — from 4.55 million in 2010 to 4.875 million — and came in as the [10th most populous](#) in the nation. (Unsurprisingly, the top spot went to the New York City area, with nearly 20 million residents in 2018, followed by Los Angeles at nearly 13.3 million.)

However, not all areas of Massachusetts saw a net gain of residents: Barnstable, Berkshire, and Franklin counties all saw population losses from 2010 to 2018.

For some, that might not come as a surprise. For instance, the dwindling number of school-aged children on Cape Cod recently captured headlines in a [Boston Globe article](#) that paints a picture of a region struggling to fend off threats to its labor force and economy.

Looking at it from a more overall view, though, Massachusetts as a state saw its population increase: from 6.56 million in 2010 to 6.9 million in 2018.

Nationwide, counties in the south and west led in population growth.

The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area of Texas led American metropolises in new residents, according to the census data, growing by 131,767 residents since 2017 and gaining more than 1 million residents since 2010. (The Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land area also gained more than 1 million people over the eight years.)

“One interesting trend we are seeing this year is that metro areas not among the most populous are ranked in the top 10 for population growth,” Sandra Johnson, a demographer in the Census Bureau’s Population Division, said [in a statement](#).

“Though no new metro areas moved into the top 10 largest areas, Phoenix, Seattle, Austin, Texas, and Orlando all experienced numeric increases in population since 2010, rivaling growth in areas with much larger populations. This trend is consistent with the overall growth we are seeing in the South and the West.”

The recent statistics are just the first part of an ongoing data release by the Census Bureau. In the coming months, the organization also plans to deliver 2018 population estimates for specific cities and towns; national, state, and county housing unit estimates; and national, state, and county population estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin.

Matt Rocheleau of the Globe staff contributed to this report.

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