

STATE'S POPULATION INCREASES WHILE HOUSING GROWS
PER NEW STATE DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

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SACRAMENTO—For the first time since 2020, California has once again experienced positive population growth in 2023: driven by decreased mortality and a rebound in legal foreign immigration, California's population in 2023 grew by just over 67,000 (an annual rate of 0.17 percent) to 39,128,162, according to new data released today by the California Department of Finance.

The State's return to growth results from the combination of several factors:

- Foreign legal immigration continued to rebound from the pandemic, with a net gain of 114,200 persons in 2023 compared to 90,300 in 2022 -- near pre-pandemic levels.
- Greater domestic in-migration and slowed domestic out-migration. Net domestic migration no longer offsets the population gains from natural increase and international migration. Net migration from California in 2023 dropped in two years to roughly one-fourth of its rate in 2021.
- Natural increase – the net result of births minus deaths -- increased from 106,700 in 2022 to 118,400 in 2023 as the number of deaths decline from their pandemic peak.

With immigration processing backlogs largely eliminated and deaths returning to long-term trends, a stable foundation for continued growth has returned. As net domestic migration has receded to its lower rates of the 2010s, California is likely to experience slower but positive growth for the near future.

Reinforcing the growth in population, statewide housing growth increased to 0.79 percent in 2023. California added 115,933 housing units on net, including 22,802 accessory dwelling units (ADUs), to bring total housing in the state to 14,824,827 units. New construction represents 109,391 housing units with 55,242 single family housing units, 52,937 multi-family housing units, and 1,212 mobile homes.

The report contains preliminary year-over-year January 2024 and revised January 2021 through January 2023 population data for California cities, counties, and the state. These estimates are based on information through January 1, 2024. Significant changes over the year include:

- The population increased in 31 counties, largely in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and the Inland Empire. Los Angeles County and Orange County grew by 0.05 and 0.31 percent in population, respectively.
- Five counties had growth above one percent: Sutter (1.9 percent), Imperial (1.8 percent), Glenn (1.4 percent), Yuba (1.1 percent), and San Benito (1.1 percent), due to housing gains. The next largest in percentage growth were San Joaquin (0.96 percent), Madera

(0.9 percent), Tulare (0.9 percent), Monterey (0.8 percent), and Merced (0.7 percent) counties.

- Nine of the ten Counties with populations over 1 million saw increases in population comprising 72 percent of the state's total population. Riverside County led with an increase of 13,800.
- The top five cities where housing production drove population growth include: Paradise (16.1 percent) in Butte County, Lathrop (5.4 percent) in San Joaquin County, Emeryville (5.0 percent) in Alameda County, Orland (4.9 percent) in Glenn County, and Shafter (4.3 percent) in Kern County.

County housing highlights include:

- Yuba had the highest housing growth (2.0 percent) of all counties, followed by: Placer, Madera, Butte, San Benito, Glenn, Tulare, Yolo, Riverside, and Solano.
- Eleven counties gained housing at or above 1.0 percent.
- Ranked by net housing gains, Los Angeles (21,698), San Diego (5,720), Unincorporated Riverside County (2,458), San Francisco (2,277), and Oakland (1,972) added the most housing units in 2023.
- Larger densely populated urban areas built most of the multi-family housing throughout the state. Los Angeles led the state gaining 14,207 multi-family units, comprising 65.5 percent of their net housing growth, followed by San Diego (4,255 for 74.4 percent), San Francisco (2,019 for 88.7 percent), and Oakland (1,674 for 84.9 percent).
- Conversely, single family housing is more likely to be built further inland in typically more suburban cities. Cities with a high proportion of single-family growth include Roseville (1,315 for 96.3 percent), Menifee (1,180 for 100 percent), Bakersfield (1,074 for 89.4 percent), and Fresno (963 for 65.8 percent). Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are included in the single-family category of housing and comprised 19.7 percent of the state's new housing, adding 22,802 units.

Also of note in the report:

- 254 jurisdictions gained population, while 283 lost population, and two had no change.
- Of the ten largest cities in California, seven gained population: Led by Bakersfield (0.8 percent, or 3,274) and Fresno (0.7 percent, or 3,884).
- Accessory dwelling unit production increased by 10.3 percent, with the state adding 22,802 ADUs in 2023.
- Group quarters represent 2.4 percent (926,900) of the total state population. This population includes those living in college dormitories (275,000) and in correctional facilities (164,000). In 2023, California's group quarters population decreased by 469 people or 0.05 percent. The college dormitory population grew by 4,800 (1.8 percent). Correctional facilities declined in population in 2023 by 4,300 people (-2.6 percent) across federal, state, and local facilities. Due to significant increases in the college dormitory population, several jurisdictions saw gains in population due to this population. The City of Marina in Monterey County grew by 1.9 percent due to a 1.0 percent increase at California State University at

Monterey Bay. The City of San Marcos in San Diego County grew by 1.2 percent due to a 3.4 percent increase at CSU San Marcos.

State prisons are generally located in remote areas; as a result, increases or decreases can account for significant changes in their respective area populations. For example, prison declines led to population decreases in California City (-11.8 percent) in Kern County, Tehachapi (-7.4 percent) in Kern County, and Crescent City (-3.5 percent) in Del Norte County. Other cities saw increases in their populations due to changes in this population. For example, Calipatria (4.6 percent) in Imperial County, Avenal (4.4 percent) in Kings County, and Folsom (2.7 percent) in Sacramento County.

Background Information:

These population estimates are produced annually by Finance for use by local areas to calculate their annual appropriations limit. The State Controller's Office uses Finance's estimates to update their population figures for distribution of state subventions to cities and counties, and to comply with various state codes. Additionally, estimates are used for research and planning purposes by federal, state, and local agencies, the academic community, and the private sector.

Changes to the housing stock are used in the preparation of the annual city population estimates. Estimated occupancy of housing units and the number of persons per household further determine population levels. Changes in city housing stock result from new construction, demolitions, housing unit conversions, and annexations. The sub-county population estimates are then adjusted to be consistent with independently produced county estimates.

Comparing Census Bureau's recently released July 1, 2023 estimates with Finance's January 1, 2024 estimates should generally be avoided since they refer to different points in time. In addition, there are numerous differences between the two series including the effects of natural disasters, changes in migration patterns, and accelerating slowdown in births.

All Finance population and housing estimates are benchmarked to a decennial census. The estimates in this report are benchmarked to the 2020 decennial census.

To explore the data interactively, click on the following link:

[Population and Housing 2024 Dashboard](#)

Related population reports are available on the Department's website:
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/>

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Department of Finance
Demographic Research Unit
Population Estimates for California Cities

10 Largest Cities

City	Population January 1, 2024	Percent Change 23-24
1. Los Angeles	3,814,318	0.3
2. San Diego	1,385,379	0.1
3. San Jose	969,491	-0.1
4. San Francisco	843,071	0.1
5. Fresno	546,971	0.7
6. Sacramento	520,407	0.2
7. Long Beach	458,813	-0.2
8. Oakland	425,093	-0.5
9. Bakersfield	411,109	0.8
10. Anaheim	340,160	0.3

10 Fastest Growing Cities with Populations Over 30,000

City	Population January 1, 2024	Percent Change 23-24
1. Lathrop	37,033	5.4
2. Stanton	40,297	3.6
3. Folsom	88,023	2.7
4. Manteca	90,917	2.7
5. Mountain View	86,535	2.5
6. Coachella	43,173	2.4
7. Beaumont	57,416	2.0
8. Menifee	111,560	2.0
9. Merced	91,837	1.9
10. Yuba City	70,256	1.8

10 Cities Under 300,000 with the Largest Numeric Change

City	Population January 1, 2024	Numeric Change 23-24
1. Manteca	90,917	2,365
2. Folsom	88,023	2,325
3. Menifee	111,560	2,159
4. Mountain View	86,535	2,072
5. Garden Grove	171,024	1,978
6. Chico	109,589	1,950
7. Lathrop	37,033	1,895
8. Victorville	138,202	1,856
9. Clovis	126,133	1,772
10. California City	13,079	-1,743