

## Projections of Florida Population by County, 2006–2030

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Florida is a rapidly growing state. Its population grew by around three million residents during each decade between 1970 and 2000. Since 2000, its population growth has been even greater. However, this growth has not been distributed evenly throughout the state. Some areas have grown rapidly while others have grown slowly or even declined. How much will Florida grow during the next few decades? How will this growth vary from one county to another?

These are important questions because many decisions—affecting schools, roads, houses, shopping centers, hospitals, amusement parks, and countless other projects—require some assessment of future population trends. In fact, the success or failure of those plans may depend in large part on the degree to which projected growth is realized over time. Yet the future is essentially unknowable. No matter how accurate our data, how powerful our computers, and how sophisticated our techniques, we still cannot “see” into the future.

We are not completely lost, of course. We can observe population trends that have occurred in the past. We can collect data and build models showing what would happen if past trends continued or varied in some particular way. Since the future is intimately tied to the past, these projections will often provide reasonably accurate forecasts of future population change. If constructed and interpreted properly, population projections—although incapable of providing perfect predictions of the future—can be extremely useful tools for planning and analysis.

Since the future cannot be predicted with absolute certainty, we publish three series of population projections: high, medium, and low. We believe the medium projection is more likely to provide an accurate forecast of future population growth than either the high or low projections, but the high and low projections provide alternative scenarios that will be useful for some purposes. These alternative scenarios—along with information from other data sources—should be considered when using projections for planning purposes. Although the projections published here provide useful benchmarks, they should not be interpreted as the only possible scenarios for future population change.

### State projections

State-level projections were made using a cohort-component methodology in which births, deaths, and migration were projected separately for each age-sex cohort in Florida, by race (white, nonwhite) and ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic). The starting point was the population of Florida on April 1, 2005, as estimated by BEBR (Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Population Projections by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for Florida and Its Counties, 2005–2030*, Gainesville: University of Florida). Survival rates were applied to each age-sex-race/ethnicity cohort to project future deaths in the population. These rates were based on Florida Life Tables for 2000, published by the Office of Vital Statistics in the Florida Department of Health. The survival rates were adjusted upward in 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, and

2025 to account for projected increases in life expectancy (U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Division Working Paper No. 38, Series NP-05*, 2000).

Domestic migration rates by age, sex, and race/ethnicity were based on data for 1995–2000 as reported in the 2000 Census. Domestic in-migration rates were calculated by dividing the number of persons moving to Florida from other states by the mid-decade population of the United States (minus Florida). Domestic out-migration rates were calculated by dividing the number of persons leaving Florida by Florida’s mid-decade population. In both instances, rates were calculated separately for males and females by race and ethnicity for each five-year age group up to 85+.

The domestic in-migration rates were weighted to provide three different scenarios of future population growth. For the high series, the weights ranged between 1.3 and 1.4; for the medium series, between 1.0 and 1.25; and for the low series the weight was 0.95. The domestic out-migration rates were not weighted. For each of the three series, projections of domestic in-migration were made by applying weighted in-migration rates to the projected population of the United States (minus Florida), using the most recent set of national projections produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. Projections of out-migration were made by applying the 1995–2000 out-migration rates to the Florida population.

Projections of foreign immigration were also based on data from the 2000 Census. For the high projections, foreign immigration was projected to exceed the 1995–2000 level by 40% during each five-year interval. For the medium projections, foreign immigration was projected to exceed the 1995–2000 level by 20% during each five-year interval. For the low projections, foreign immigration was projected to remain the same as between 1995 and 2000 for each five-year interval. Foreign emigration was assumed to equal 22.5% of foreign immigration for each series of projections. The distribution of foreign immigrants by age, sex, race, and ethnicity was based on the patterns observed between 1995 and 2000.

Net migration is the difference between the number of in-migrants and the number of out-migrants during a particular time period. The medium projections produce net migration levels (including both domestic and foreign migration) of 355,000 per year between 2005 and 2010. The levels decline gradually over time, reaching 264,000 between 2025 and 2030. The low projections produce net migration levels that average between 200,000 and 220,000 per year between 2005 and 2030, while the high projections produce net migration levels that average between 356,000 and 428,000. To put these numbers into perspective, net migration averaged 260,000–280,000 per year during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s and has averaged 350,000 per year since 2000. Since 1990, annual net migration levels have ranged between 181,000 and 400,000.

Projections were made in five-year intervals, with each projected population serving as the base for the following projection. Projected in-migration for each five-year interval was added to the survived Florida population at the end of the interval and projected out-migration was subtracted, giving a projection of the population age five and older. Births were projected by applying age-specific birth rates (adjusted for child mortality) to the projected female population of each race/ethnicity group. These birth rates were based on Florida birth data for 1999–2001 and imply a total fertility rate of approximately 1.8 births per woman for non-Hispanic whites, 2.3 for non-Hispanic nonwhites, and 2.2 for Hispanics. In the medium and low series, birth rates were projected to decline gradually over time; in the high series, they were projected to remain at their 1999–2001 levels.

As a final step, projections for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic nonwhites, and Hispanics were added together to provide projections of the total population. The medium projection of total population for 2010 was adjusted to be consistent with the state population forecast produced by the State of Florida’s Consensus Estimating Conference. None of the projections after 2010 had any additional adjustments.

## County projections

The cohort-component method is a good way to make population projections at the state level, but is not necessarily the best way to make projections at the county level. Many counties in Florida are so small that the numbers of persons in each age-sex-race/ethnicity category are inadequate for making reliable cohort-component projections. Even more important, county growth patterns are so volatile that a single technique based on migration data from only one or two time periods may provide misleading results. We believe more useful projections of total population can be made by using several different techniques and historical base periods.

For counties, we made eight projections using four simple extrapolation techniques and three different historical base periods. The four techniques were:

1. Linear – the population will change by the same number of persons in each future year as the average annual change during the base period.
2. Exponential – the population will change at the same percentage rate in each future year as the average annual rate during the base period.
3. Share of growth – each county’s share of state population growth in the future will be the same as its share during the base period.

4. Shift share – each county’s share of the state population will change by the same annual amount in the future as the average annual change during the base period.

For the linear and share-of-growth techniques we used base periods of five, ten, and fifteen years, yielding three sets of projections for each technique. For the exponential and shift-share techniques we used a single base period of ten years, yielding one set of projections for each technique.

The starting point for each county’s projection was the population estimate produced by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research for April 1, 2006. These estimates were based on 2000 Census counts and a variety of data and techniques showing population changes since 2000 (Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Estimates of Population: April 1, 2006*, Gainesville: University of Florida). The techniques described above provided eight projections for each county for each projection year (2010, 2015, 2020, 2025, and 2030). In order to moderate the effects of extreme projections, the highest and lowest projections for each county were excluded. The medium projection was then calculated by taking an average of the six remaining projections and adjusting the sum of the county projections to be consistent with the total population change implied by the state projections for each projection interval.

We made adjustments to the underlying population data in a number of counties before applying the techniques described above. This was done to account for special events and institutional populations such as university students and prison inmates. Adjustments were made for counties in which institutional populations account for a large proportion of total population and where changes in those populations have been substantially different from changes in the rest of the population. In the present set of projections, adjustments for institutional populations were made for Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okeechobee, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington counties. We also made adjustments in Charlotte, DeSoto, Escambia, and Hardee counties to account for the impact of the 2004 hurricanes on population growth in those four counties.

## Range of projections

The techniques described above were used to make the medium series of county projections. This is the series we believe will generally provide the most accurate forecasts of future population growth. We have also made a series of low and high projections to provide an indication of the uncertainty surrounding the medium projections. The low and high projections were based on analyses of past population forecast errors for counties throughout the United States.

The low and high projections indicate the range into which approximately half of future county populations will fall, if the future distribution of forecast errors in Florida is similar to the past distribution in the United States. Given Florida’s population size and growth characteristics, we believe the future populations of at least half of Florida’s 67 counties will fall between the low and high projections. The high and low projections themselves, however, do not have equal probabilities of occurring. In Florida, the probability that a county’s future population will be above the high projection is greater than the probability that it will be below the low projection.

The range between the low and high projections varies according to the county’s population size in 2006 (less than 25,000; 25,000 or more), rate of population growth between 1996 and 2006 (less than 15%; 15–29%; 30–49%; and 50% or more) and the length of the projection horizon (forecast errors grow about linearly with the length of the projection horizon). Our studies have found that the distribution of absolute percent errors tends to remain fairly stable over time, leading us to believe that the low and high projections provide reasonable alternative scenarios. It must be emphasized, however, that the actual future population of any given county could be above the high projection or below the low projection.

For the medium series of projections, the sum of the county projections equals the state projection for each year (except for slight differences due to rounding). For the high and low series, however, the sum of the county projections does not equal the state projection. This occurs because potential variation around the medium projection is greater for counties than for the state as a whole. Thus, the sum of the low projections for counties is lower than the state’s low projection and the sum of the high projections is higher than the state’s high projection.

**Note:** The projections published in this bulletin refer solely to permanent residents of Florida; they do not include tourists or seasonal residents.

## Florida State and County Population Estimates, April 1, 2006, and Projections for 2010–2030

County and state	Estimate April 1, 2006	Projections, April 1				
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
ALACHUA	243,779					
Low		249,300	255,500	258,000	258,700	257,800
Medium		259,800	277,300	291,800	304,700	316,800
High		270,100	299,900	328,400	357,200	386,700
BAKER	25,004					
Low		25,800	26,700	27,400	27,700	27,900
Medium		26,900	29,000	30,900	32,600	34,100
High		28,000	31,400	34,800	38,300	41,800
BAY	165,515					
Low		170,200	175,700	179,600	182,000	183,100
Medium		177,400	190,600	202,900	214,000	224,200
High		184,300	206,200	228,600	251,400	274,700
BRADFORD	28,551					
Low		28,900	29,300	29,700	29,900	29,900
Medium		29,800	31,200	32,500	33,700	34,700
High		30,700	33,100	35,600	38,000	40,500
BREVARD	543,050					
Low		562,200	585,500	602,100	613,200	619,700
Medium		586,100	635,200	679,700	720,000	757,500
High		609,000	687,300	766,300	846,900	929,600
BROWARD	1,753,162					
Low		1,793,900	1,848,400	1,886,400	1,904,100	1,907,400
Medium		1,869,900	2,005,700	2,131,200	2,239,800	2,339,000
High		1,943,400	2,169,800	2,400,900	2,629,500	2,861,000
CALHOUN	14,113					
Low		14,200	14,300	14,400	14,400	14,300
Medium		14,800	15,600	16,300	16,900	17,500
High		15,400	16,800	18,300	19,800	21,400
CHARLOTTE	160,315					
Low		168,200	177,700	185,000	190,000	193,500
Medium		175,400	192,800	208,600	222,700	235,900
High		182,200	208,600	235,400	262,400	290,200
CITRUS	136,749					
Low		143,200	150,700	156,500	160,400	163,100
Medium		149,300	163,500	176,600	188,100	198,900
High		155,100	177,000	199,200	221,500	244,600
CLAY	176,901					
Low		190,800	207,000	219,500	227,900	233,100
Medium		201,100	229,400	255,600	279,100	300,900
High		210,900	253,100	296,900	341,900	388,600
COLLIER	326,658					
Low		355,900	388,700	412,600	427,100	434,700
Medium		379,200	440,100	497,500	549,200	598,500
High		401,400	494,700	593,800	696,900	807,300
COLUMBIA	63,538					
Low		66,000	68,400	70,100	71,100	71,500
Medium		68,800	74,200	79,200	83,500	87,600
High		71,500	80,300	89,200	98,200	107,300
DESOTO	33,164					
Low		34,300	36,700	37,800	38,400	38,600
Medium		35,700	39,900	42,600	45,100	47,300
High		37,100	43,100	48,100	53,000	58,000
DIXIE	15,677					
Low		15,900	16,200	16,300	16,100	15,700
Medium		16,900	18,400	19,700	20,900	22,000
High		17,900	20,600	23,400	26,300	29,200

## Florida State and County Population Estimates, April 1, 2006, and Projections for 2010–2030 (continued)

County and state	Estimate April 1, 2006	Projections, April 1				
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
DUVAL	879,235					
Low		906,000	938,000	960,100	973,300	980,300
Medium		944,500	1,017,700	1,084,400	1,143,900	1,199,900
High		981,500	1,101,100	1,221,900	1,344,100	1,470,400
ESCAMBIA	309,647					
Low		313,900	320,400	325,000	328,000	329,600
Medium		323,800	340,400	355,700	369,300	382,000
High		333,400	361,300	389,300	417,400	445,900
FLAGLER	89,075					
Low		106,100	124,900	139,900	150,700	157,800
Medium		113,100	141,300	168,000	192,200	215,100
High		119,700	159,000	201,300	245,800	293,100
FRANKLIN	11,916					
Low		11,900	12,000	12,100	12,100	12,000
Medium		12,400	13,100	13,700	14,200	14,700
High		12,900	14,100	15,400	16,600	17,900
GADSDEN	48,195					
Low		48,800	49,100	49,200	49,200	48,900
Medium		50,300	52,200	53,900	55,500	56,900
High		51,800	55,400	59,000	62,600	66,200
GILCHRIST	16,703					
Low		17,100	17,400	17,400	17,000	16,300
Medium		18,600	20,700	22,700	24,600	26,300
High		20,000	24,100	28,400	33,000	37,900
GLADES	10,796					
Low		11,100	11,200	11,100	11,000	10,800
Medium		11,600	12,100	12,600	13,000	13,400
High		12,100	13,100	14,200	15,200	16,200
GULF	16,509					
Low		16,300	16,000	15,600	15,100	14,500
Medium		17,300	18,200	19,000	19,700	20,400
High		18,300	20,400	22,500	24,600	26,900
HAMILTON	14,517					
Low		14,400	14,200	14,100	13,800	13,600
Medium		15,000	15,500	16,000	16,400	16,800
High		15,600	16,700	17,900	19,100	20,300
HARDEE	27,186					
Low		27,500	27,900	28,300	28,500	28,700
Medium		28,400	29,700	30,900	32,100	33,200
High		29,200	31,500	33,900	36,300	38,800
HENDRY	38,678					
Low		39,700	41,100	42,200	42,900	43,200
Medium		41,400	44,600	47,600	50,400	52,900
High		43,000	48,300	53,700	59,300	64,800
HERNANDO	157,006					
Low		165,100	174,900	182,000	186,000	188,000
Medium		174,000	193,800	212,300	228,500	243,700
High		182,500	213,800	246,300	279,000	313,300
HIGHLANDS	96,672					
Low		99,500	103,200	106,000	107,700	108,600
Medium		103,700	112,000	119,700	126,500	132,800
High		107,800	121,200	134,900	148,700	162,900
HILLSBOROUGH	1,164,425					
Low		1,220,300	1,285,900	1,336,500	1,370,700	1,392,300
Medium		1,272,300	1,394,600	1,507,600	1,607,000	1,698,600
High		1,322,000	1,509,500	1,701,000	1,892,900	2,088,500

## Florida State and County Population Estimates, April 1, 2006, and Projections for 2010–2030 (continued)

County and state	Estimate April 1, 2006	Projections, April 1				
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
HOLMES	19,502					
Low		19,400	19,400	19,300	19,100	18,800
Medium		20,200	21,100	21,900	22,600	23,300
High		21,000	22,800	24,600	26,400	28,300
INDIAN RIVER	135,262					
Low		142,300	150,500	156,300	159,700	161,100
Medium		150,000	166,800	182,400	196,200	209,000
High		157,300	183,900	211,500	239,600	268,500
JACKSON	50,246					
Low		52,400	52,900	53,000	53,000	52,800
Medium		54,100	56,200	58,100	59,800	61,400
High		55,700	59,600	63,500	67,400	71,400
JEFFERSON	14,353					
Low		14,300	14,300	14,300	14,100	13,900
Medium		14,900	15,600	16,100	16,700	17,200
High		15,500	16,800	18,100	19,500	20,900
LAFAYETTE	8,060					
Low		8,100	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,100
Medium		8,400	8,900	9,300	9,600	10,000
High		8,800	9,600	10,400	11,300	12,200
LAKE	276,783					
Low		299,700	325,400	343,800	354,600	358,900
Medium		319,300	368,500	414,700	456,200	495,000
High		338,000	414,100	494,700	578,500	666,500
LEE	585,608					
Low		641,800	706,700	757,800	794,300	818,900
Medium		676,500	782,600	881,700	970,700	1,053,900
High		709,300	863,800	1,025,300	1,191,500	1,364,800
LEON	272,497					
Low		279,800	288,500	293,400	296,100	296,500
Medium		291,700	313,100	331,600	348,300	363,700
High		303,200	338,700	373,400	408,900	444,800
LEVY	38,981					
Low		40,800	43,000	44,700	45,900	46,800
Medium		42,500	46,600	50,400	53,800	57,000
High		44,200	50,500	56,900	63,500	70,200
LIBERTY	7,772					
Low		7,700	7,600	7,400	7,200	6,900
Medium		8,200	8,600	9,000	9,400	9,700
High		8,700	9,700	10,700	11,700	12,800
MADISON	19,814					
Low		19,700	19,600	19,500	19,200	18,900
Medium		20,500	21,300	22,000	22,700	23,300
High		21,300	23,000	24,800	26,500	28,300
MANATEE	308,325					
Low		324,400	343,300	358,000	368,200	374,900
Medium		338,300	372,300	403,700	431,400	457,000
High		351,500	403,000	455,600	508,500	562,400
MARION	315,074					
Low		335,600	359,100	376,800	388,100	394,300
Medium		353,700	398,000	439,200	476,000	510,200
High		370,900	439,000	509,800	582,200	657,100
MARTIN	142,645					
Low		147,800	153,900	158,500	161,600	163,400
Medium		154,100	167,000	179,000	189,700	199,700
High		160,100	180,700	201,800	223,200	245,100

## Florida State and County Population Estimates, April 1, 2006, and Projections for 2010–2030 (continued)

County and state	Estimate April 1, 2006	Projections, April 1				
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
MIAMI-DADE	2,437,022					
Low		2,464,700	2,506,100	2,529,900	2,534,900	2,524,900
Medium		2,568,800	2,720,200	2,860,900	2,986,500	3,103,000
High		2,670,100	2,941,900	3,219,800	3,500,600	3,787,400
MONROE	80,510					
Low		78,200	76,000	73,700	71,500	69,200
Medium		80,700	80,800	81,000	81,200	81,300
High		83,100	85,700	88,300	91,000	93,600
NASSAU	68,188					
Low		71,900	76,300	79,400	81,400	82,500
Medium		75,800	84,500	92,700	100,000	106,900
High		79,500	93,200	107,500	122,100	137,500
OKALOOSA	192,672					
Low		199,400	207,400	213,200	216,800	219,000
Medium		207,900	225,000	240,700	254,600	267,700
High		216,100	243,500	271,300	299,400	328,400
OKEECHOBEE	38,666					
Low		39,100	39,800	40,300	40,700	40,900
Medium		40,300	42,300	44,100	45,900	47,400
High		41,500	44,900	48,300	51,900	55,300
ORANGE	1,079,524					
Low		1,143,000	1,216,200	1,270,400	1,304,100	1,321,100
Medium		1,204,500	1,347,800	1,481,400	1,600,500	1,711,100
High		1,263,300	1,486,500	1,718,800	1,956,100	2,201,900
OSCEOLA	255,903					
Low		290,100	328,000	357,200	377,000	388,700
Medium		309,200	371,200	429,800	482,800	532,600
High		327,100	417,500	514,000	615,000	721,900
PALM BEACH	1,287,987					
Low		1,347,500	1,418,800	1,475,000	1,514,800	1,541,400
Medium		1,404,900	1,538,800	1,663,700	1,775,500	1,879,400
High		1,459,800	1,665,500	1,877,200	2,091,800	2,312,000
PASCO	424,355					
Low		450,400	481,600	504,300	518,600	526,100
Medium		474,600	533,600	587,900	636,200	681,100
High		497,800	588,600	682,300	777,900	876,900
PINELLAS	948,102					
Low		939,400	933,700	926,200	916,600	905,500
Medium		968,600	992,700	1,015,500	1,036,400	1,056,200
High		997,500	1,052,900	1,109,400	1,166,600	1,225,000
POLK	565,049					
Low		592,300	624,200	648,800	665,300	675,800
Medium		617,500	677,000	731,800	780,100	824,500
High		641,600	732,700	825,700	918,800	1,013,700
PUTNAM	74,416					
Low		74,600	75,200	75,500	75,500	75,300
Medium		77,000	79,900	82,700	85,200	87,500
High		79,300	84,800	90,500	96,100	101,900
ST. JOHNS	165,291					
Low		181,500	199,700	213,100	221,500	225,700
Medium		193,400	226,100	256,800	284,500	310,500
High		204,700	254,100	306,600	361,400	419,100
ST. LUCIE	259,315					
Low		283,500	312,700	335,600	351,600	362,400
Medium		298,800	346,200	390,400	429,700	466,400
High		313,300	382,100	454,000	527,400	603,900

## Florida State and County Population Estimates, April 1, 2006, and Projections for 2010–2030 (continued)

County and state	Estimate April 1, 2006	Projections, April 1				
		2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
SANTA ROSA	141,428					
Low		151,300	161,300	168,900	174,100	177,100
Medium		159,500	178,800	196,900	213,500	229,000
High		167,200	197,200	228,500	261,100	295,100
SARASOTA	379,386					
Low		396,100	416,100	431,200	441,100	446,900
Medium		413,000	451,400	486,500	517,400	545,700
High		429,100	488,500	548,800	609,100	670,400
SEMINOLE	420,667					
Low		439,300	461,300	478,300	490,400	498,200
Medium		458,000	500,300	539,600	575,000	607,800
High		475,900	541,500	608,700	677,200	747,400
SUMTER	82,599					
Low		93,500	105,700	115,100	121,600	125,500
Medium		99,700	119,600	138,500	155,700	171,900
High		105,400	134,500	165,700	198,400	233,100
SUWANNEE	38,799					
Low		41,800	43,700	44,800	45,500	45,900
Medium		43,500	47,400	50,600	53,500	56,200
High		45,300	51,300	57,100	62,900	68,800
TAYLOR	21,471					
Low		21,500	21,600	21,600	21,400	21,200
Medium		22,400	23,400	24,400	25,300	26,100
High		23,300	25,300	27,400	29,600	31,800
UNION	15,028					
Low		15,200	15,000	14,700	14,200	13,600
Medium		16,200	17,000	17,800	18,500	19,100
High		17,200	19,100	21,100	23,100	25,300
VOLUSIA	503,844					
Low		521,800	543,000	558,300	568,100	573,900
Medium		544,000	589,100	630,400	667,100	701,700
High		565,300	637,500	710,600	784,500	860,900
WAKULLA	28,393					
Low		32,400	34,600	36,400	37,700	38,400
Medium		34,100	38,400	42,400	46,100	49,600
High		35,800	42,300	49,300	56,500	64,000
WALTON	55,786					
Low		61,700	68,200	73,000	76,100	77,800
Medium		65,700	77,200	88,000	97,800	106,900
High		69,500	86,700	105,100	124,200	144,500
WASHINGTON	23,073					
Low		24,500	24,400	23,900	23,300	22,400
Medium		26,100	27,600	29,100	30,300	31,500
High		27,700	31,000	34,500	38,000	41,700
FLORIDA	18,349,132					
Low		19,144,200	20,409,900	21,692,500	22,948,400	24,132,300
Medium		19,974,200	21,831,500	23,552,100	25,086,000	26,513,300
High		20,384,200	22,634,600	24,876,000	27,054,200	29,119,300

Note: Funding for these projections was provided by the Florida Legislature.