

WELCOME to the *Florida Economic Brief*, a series prepared by Enterprise Florida's Marketing & Strategic Intelligence Division that helps monitor Florida's economy by analyzing new data releases. This series is based on data compiled from U.S. government sources, leading economic and business publications, consulting firms, and other authoritative sources. We welcome readers' comments to information@eflorida.com.



Florida's Population

Florida's Population: Still Growing

After several years of very rapid growth, Florida's population continues to expand. However, its growth has moderated to a pace more in line with the national average. Growing by 1.1% over the year, Florida's population reached 18.25 million in 2007, and remained the 4th largest in the nation. Due in part to a struggling real estate industry, net domestic migration – which traditionally accounts for the largest share of Florida's population increase – dropped by a whopping 79% from its 2006 level. In both Florida and the U.S. as a whole, international migration patterns tend to fluctuate significantly from year to year. From 2006 to 2007, net international migration fell by 3.4% in Florida (and by 4.8% in the U.S.), but still accounted for the largest number of net residents (88,111) added to the state.

Population of The 10 Most Populous States

State	2007 Population	Numerical Growth 2006-2007	% Growth 2006-2007
California	36,553,215	303,343	0.8%
Texas	23,904,380	496,751	2.1%
New York	19,297,729	15,741	0.1%
Florida	18,251,243	193,735	1.1%
Illinois	12,852,548	75,506	0.6%
Pennsylvania	12,432,792	29,975	0.2%
Ohio	11,466,917	3,404	0.0%
Michigan	10,071,822	-30,500	-0.3%
Georgia	9,544,750	202,670	2.2%
North Carolina	9,061,032	191,590	2.2%
United States	301,621,157	2,866,338	1.0%

Florida's Total Population

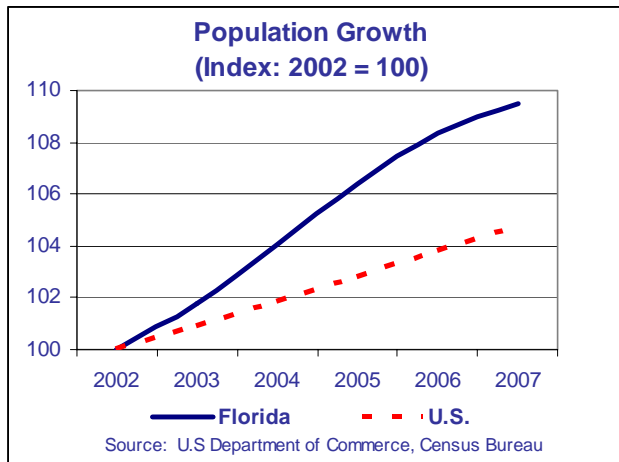
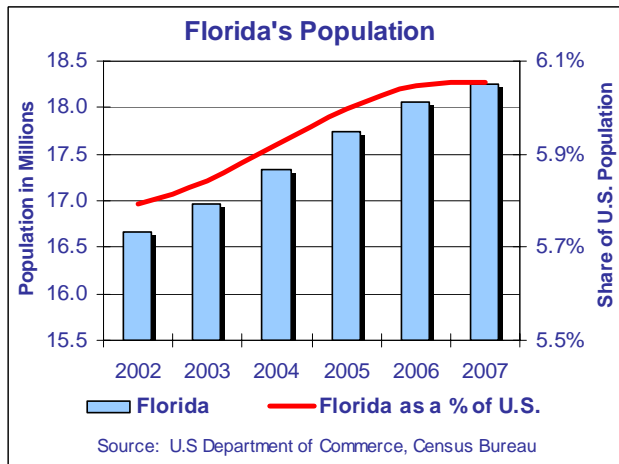
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida's population reached **18,251,243** in 2007 – an increase of about **194,000 people** from 2006. Florida remained the fourth largest U.S. state in terms of population in 2007.

From 2006 to 2007, Florida's total population grew by **1.1%** – the **19th fastest growth rate** among all U.S. states. Of the 10 most populous states, only Georgia (2.2%), North Carolina (2.2%), and Texas (2.1%) grew at faster rates than Florida in 2007.

Florida's 1.1% growth was slower than the 1.8% (2005-06) and 2.3% (2004-05 and 2003-04) growth rates seen in previous years, but was still slightly higher than the nation's **1.0%** growth over the same period.

Over the five-year period from 2002 to 2007, Florida's population grew by **9.5%** – nearly double the **4.8%** growth of the nation as a whole, and faster than 43 other states.

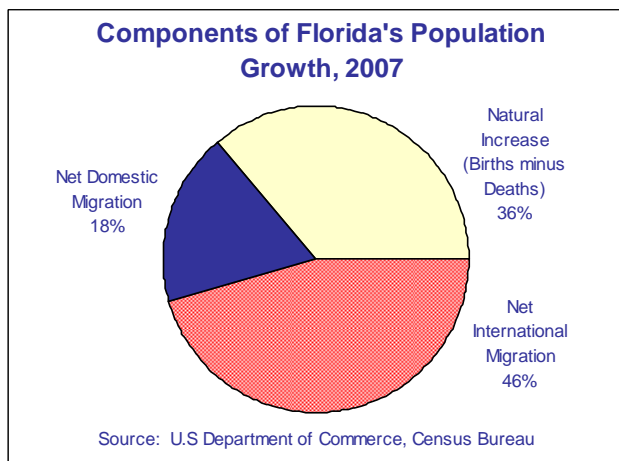
Florida's share of the total U.S. population continued to grow in 2007, reaching **6.1%** (up from 5.8% in 2002 and 6.0% in 2006).



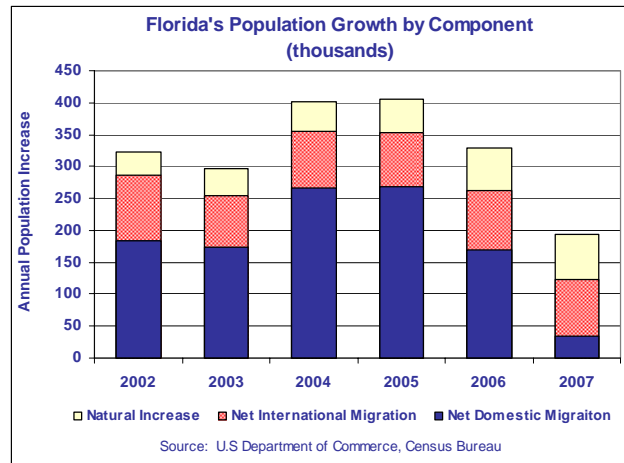
Components of Florida's Population Growth

In 2007, nearly half of Florida's population growth was attributed to **net international migration**. Net migration (the number of people moving into an area minus the number of people moving out) reflects the absolute change in total population.

Net international migration increased Florida's population by **88,111** in 2007. Florida's natural increase, the difference between births (239,282) and deaths (169,830), added another **69,452** to the state's population in 2007.



Net domestic migration, or movement from one state to another within the United States, has traditionally accounted for the largest share of Florida's population growth. Amidst a weaker real estate industry, the number of net domestic migrants to Florida dropped by 79% to just **35,300** in 2007 – the **8th highest** in the nation.



Migration Patterns

The Internal Revenue Service publishes detailed state-to-state migration data that show patterns of movement within and among U.S. states. Because these data come from information reported on tax returns, the most recent figures are for calendar year 2006.

In 2006, Florida attracted well **over half a million new residents** – less than half as many as in 2005, but still the **highest number of in-migrants** to any U.S. state in 2006. IRS data also reveal that more than 400,000 residents moved out of Florida, for a net gain of about 130,000 taxpayers.

Of the **545,329** new residents that moved to Florida in 2006, the largest share (14.1%) came from **New York**. New Jersey and Georgia followed in distant second and third places, contributing 6.3% and 6.0% of Florida's new residents, respectively.

Georgia was the top destination for people moving out of Florida in 2006. Of the **416,366** residents that left the state, 11.6% moved to Georgia, 7.4% moved to North Carolina, and 7.0% moved to Texas.

Where are they coming from?

Top 10 States for Migration Into Florida in 2006

New York	76,947
New Jersey	34,398
Georgia	32,599
Ohio	24,323
California	24,303
Pennsylvania	23,738
Texas	23,014
Virginia	21,716
Massachusetts	21,698
Michigan	19,895

Source: IRS Statistics of Income, 2007

Where are they going?

Top 10 States for Migration Out of Florida in 2006

Georgia	48,427
North Carolina	30,691
Texas	29,246
New York	24,874
Tennessee	20,654
California	18,541
Virginia	18,117
Alabama	14,920
South Carolina	14,152
Ohio	13,771

Source: IRS Statistics of Income, 2007

In Perspective

There is growing speculation about the movement of people into and out of the state of Florida, but the fact remains that Florida is not losing population – its recent growth is just less sizable than in previous years. Florida continued to post gains in both total population and in its share of the total U.S. population in 2007.

When analyzing changes in Florida's population, the absolute number of residents should be kept in perspective. At 1.1% in 2007, Florida's population growth rate ranked a less than impressive 19th among U.S. states, but the absolute increase of new residents (nearly 194,000) was more than two and a half times the 72,955 residents added in Nevada – the state with the #1 growth rate – over the same period.

Florida has experienced multiple decades of rapid population growth. With net increases adding hundreds of thousands of people to the state's population base each year, it is only logical that Florida's rate of population growth must eventually slow. In 2007, California, the most populous state in the nation, grew by just 0.8%, while New York, the nation's third most populous state, added less than 16,000 people – an increase of 0.08%.

It is yet to be determined whether the moderate slowdown of Florida's population growth is a temporary blip or the beginning of a more substantial trend, but most forecasters predict that the state's population will increase by more than 10 percent (surpassing 20 million) within the next decade.