State Population Forecast: 2020–2050

Office of Financial Management Forecasting and Research Division
Highlights of November 2021 Forecast

• Forecast Re-based*
  • New Forecast Baseline: 2020.
  • New Forecast Horizon: 2050.
  • Detailed 2020 Census age and sex data are not yet available.
  • The 2020 Census population was 49,000 higher than OFM estimated.

• Changes from the 2020 forecast
  • Migration
    o 30-year average: 61,300; used for last 10 years of forecast.
    o 2021 migration revised upward due to data updates.
  • Natural Increase
    o 2021 births revised down by 2,800.
    o 2021 deaths revised up by 3,900.
    o Long-term total fertility rate revised down by 5.5% in 2040, transitioning to 1.77 in 2050.
  • COVID-19
    o Life expectancy at birth was adjusted downward in 2022 by 1.44 years for females and 2.25 years for males based on analysis of total excess mortality in 2021.
    o Unemployment-based adjustment of short-term fertility continued.
Comparison to Prior Forecast – Migration

![Graph comparing estimated values to forecasts for migration from 1990 to 2050. The graph shows three lines: the estimate, the 2020 forecast, and the 2021 forecast. The estimate shows significant fluctuations, while the forecasts are more stable and projected to increase over time.](image-url)
Comparison to Prior Forecast – Total Population

- **2025:** 8M
- **2039:** 9M
Population growth in specific subgroups will impact major budget areas although the magnitude will depend on policy choices, economic factors, and social conditions.

- **K-12 Education**
  - Ages 5-17: 0.4%

- **Higher Education**
  - Ages 17-29: -0.3%

- **Juvenile Rehabilitation**
  - Ages 12-17: 1.9%

- **Corrections**
  - Male Ages 18-39: 0.7%

- **TANF**
  - Ages 0-17: 0.2%

- **Medicaid - Children**
  - Ages 0-19: 0.5%

- **Medicaid - Adults**
  - Ages 20-64: 0.6%

- **Medicaid - over 65**
  - Ages 65+: 7.6%

- **Long-Term Care**
  - Ages 75+: 13.1%

- **Medical Assistance**
  - General Population: 1.8%
Closing Remarks

- The 2021 forecast extends the horizon to 2050 starting from a new base in 2020.
- Migration will continue to be the main contributor to state population growth between 2020 and 2050.
  - Net migration: 1.67M persons.
  - Natural increase: 378K persons.
- The state’s older population is increasing rapidly.
  - Almost 2.3M residents will be 65 or older by 2050. This is about 985K more than today.
  - The 85 and over population will nearly quadruple between now and 2050 from 141K to 558K.
- 2020 Census:
  - More adjustments coming. The detailed 2020 Census data needed for a full re-base may not be available until the end of 2022.
  - We are still assessing the accuracy of 2020 census data.
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