

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

New estimates released by the Census Bureau provide the estimated resident population as of July 1, 2016 for all counties. This data reveals continued patterns of demographic change in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Between 2015 and 2016, half of Kentucky's 120 counties experienced population loss, while 59 counties showed population gain; in Casey County the population was unchanged. The largest percentage gains in population were exhibited by suburban counties in the Louisville and Lexington areas. Warren County – which includes the city of Bowling Green – also showed significant population gain between 2015 and 2016. Jefferson, Fayette, and Kenton counties remain Kentucky's most populous counties, respectively.

Large population declines were primarily found in rural counties in eastern and western Kentucky. Of the 60 Kentucky counties that lost population between 2015 and 2016, 37 exhibited negative natural increase, where deaths outnumbered births. Only 5 of the shrinking counties had positive net migration, which was more than offset by negative natural increase.

Of the 60 counties that gained population or remained unchanged between 2015 and 2016, 18 had negative natural increase, but gained population through net migration. Only 4 of the growing counties had negative net migration. This includes Jefferson County, the state's most populous, which gained population only through positive natural increase. The small (-28) negative net migration exhibited by Jefferson County was a combination of large positive international net migration (+2,460) and equally large negative net domestic migration (-2,488).

Although the majority of Kentucky's rural counties lost population between 2015 and 2016, a few counties were exceptions. Marshall, Ohio, Hart, and Garrard Counties all gained more than 100 people over the period, the largest population gains among counties not part of a metropolitan area.

Since the 2010 Decennial Census, Scott, Warren, and Shelby Counties have been Kentucky's fastest growing, registering total growth rates of 14.4%, 10.3%, and 10.3%, respectively. Excepting Lee County, which experienced a significant drop in its prison population during this time, Fulton County has been the state's fastest shrinking county, having lost an estimated 9.3% of its population.

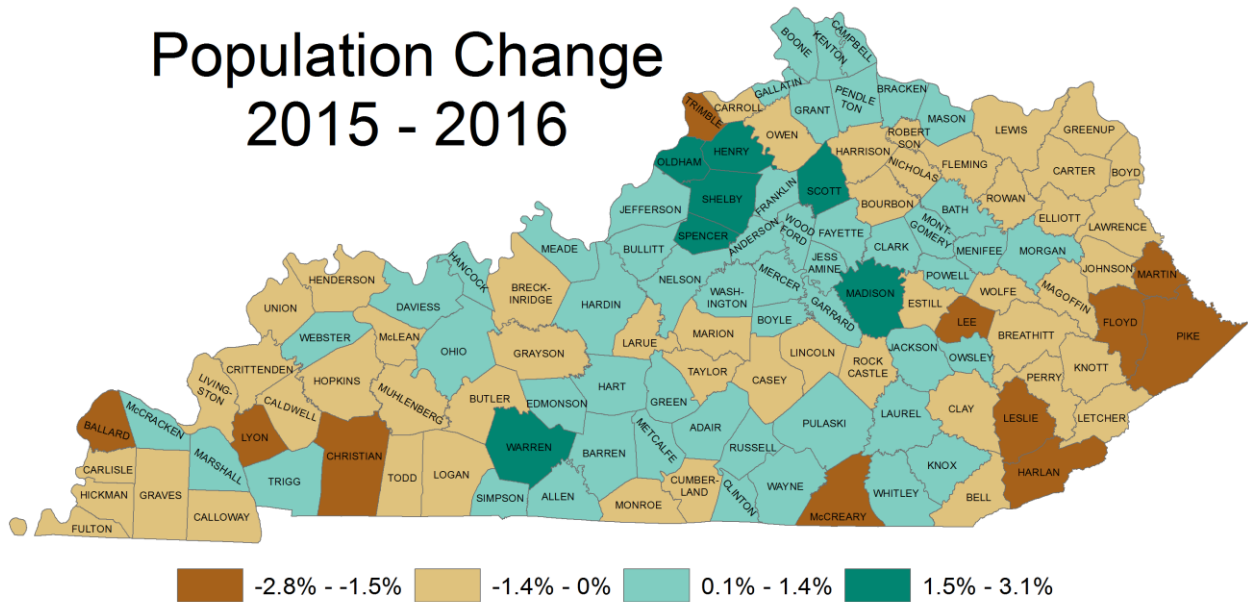
The Census Bureau produces annual estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, and cities and towns, as well as for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its municipios. Additional information on the Population Estimates Program can be found at <https://www.census.gov>.

Downloadable files of the 2016 Population Estimates can be accessed here: <http://factfinder.census.gov>. The Kentucky State Data Center can be reached at 502-852-7990 or <http://ksdc.louisville.edu>.

Change in Total Population: 2015 - 2016

Rank	Largest Numeric Gain		Largest Percentage Gain		Largest Numeric Loss		Largest Percentage Loss	
1	Fayette	3,682	Scott	3.1%	Pike	-1,249	Martin	-2.8%
2	Warren	2,373	Warren	1.9%	Christian	-1,133	Lyon	-2.7%
3	Jefferson	1,843	Shelby	1.8%	Floyd	-569	Lee	-2.3%
4	Scott	1,645	Henry	1.8%	Harlan	-445	Pike	-2.0%
5	Boone	1,373	Spencer	1.6%	Hopkins	-377	Ballard	-2.0%
6	Madison	1,271	Oldham	1.4%	Boyd	-356	McCreary	-2.0%
7	Oldham	934	Madison	1.4%	McCreary	-350	Trimble	-1.6%
8	Hardin	830	Fayette	1.2%	Martin	-350	Harlan	-1.6%
9	Shelby	817	Hancock	1.1%	Letcher	-318	Leslie	-1.6%
10	Kenton	603	Boone	1.1%	Clay	-281	Christian	-1.5%

Population Change 2015 - 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates