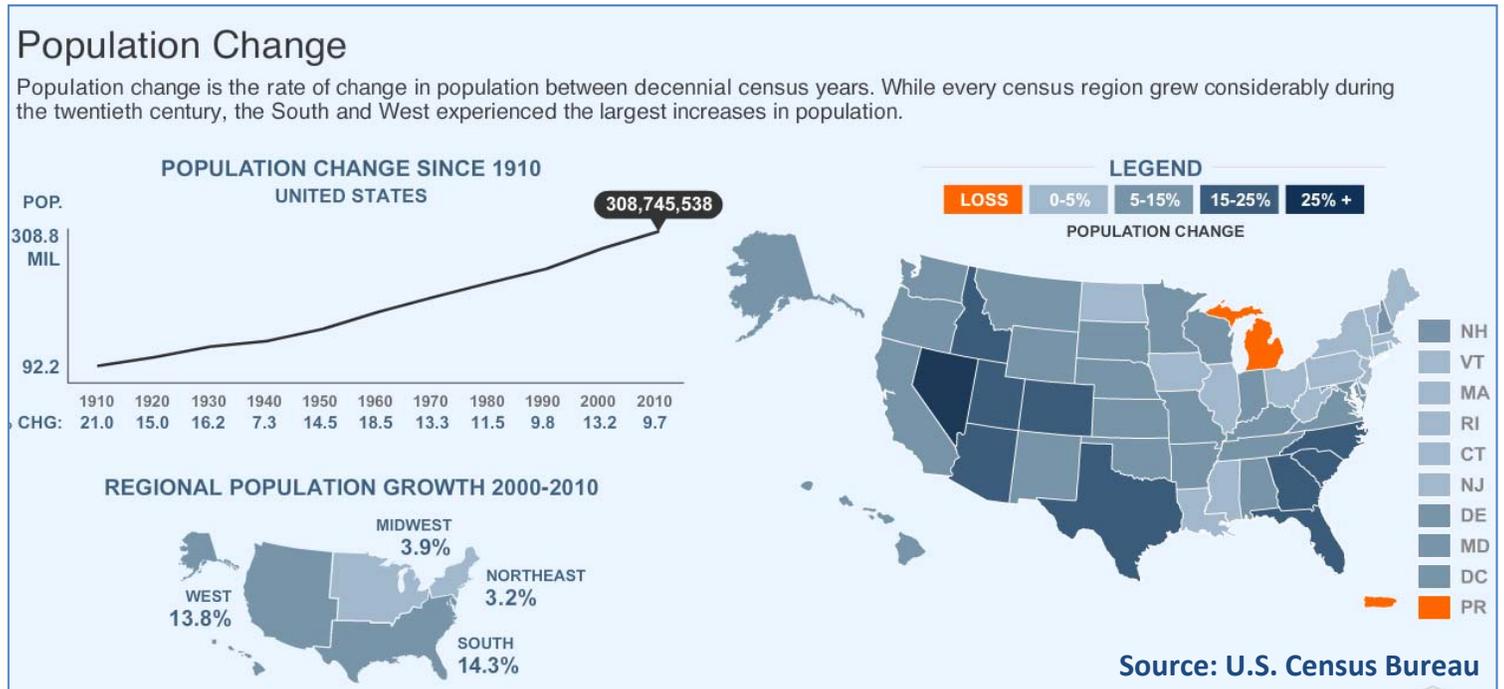


Stan D. Clark, *Chair* • Dwight L. Farmer, *Executive Director/Secretary* • John M. Carlock, *Deputy Executive Director*

On December 21, 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2010 was 308,745,538. The data release came as part of the 2010 Census apportionment counts that are due to President Obama by December 31, 2010. The apportionment counts included population information for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Census release revealed that the nation's population grew 9.7% from 2000 to 2010; the lowest decennial growth rate since 1940. Comparatively, the Commonwealth of Virginia grew 13.0% between 2000 and 2010, numbering 8,001,024 residents. National and state population counts are the first set of data to be released from the 2010 Census. Population figures will be used to apportion congressional seats and to appropriate over \$400 billion in federal spending on highways, schools, social services, and more.

| Region | 10 - Year Growth |
|--------|------------------|
| U.S. | 9.7% |
| South | 14.3% |
| VA | 13.0% |
| D.C. | 5.2% |
| NC | 18.5% |
| KY | 7.4% |
| WV | 2.5% |
| MD | 9.0% |
| DE | 14.6% |



A significant difference in the 2010 Census emanates from its lack of the Census Long Form. The American Community Survey (ACS) is now used to estimate population characteristics traditionally found in the Census Long Form. The result is that socio-economic data is now released annually, rather than every ten years. Information for areas with a population greater than 65,000 is provided for every year; populations between 20,000 and 65,000 are reported as 3-year averages; populations less than 20,000 are reported as 5-year averages. ACS 5-year estimates were released on December 14th. The New York Times has provided a powerful tool for viewing ACS data at the census block level. This tool is available at: <http://projects.nytimes.com/census/2010/explorer>

Information on 2010 Census release dates is available at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/glance/>

For questions or comments, please contact Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC Chief Economist, ggrootendorst@hrpdvca.gov