

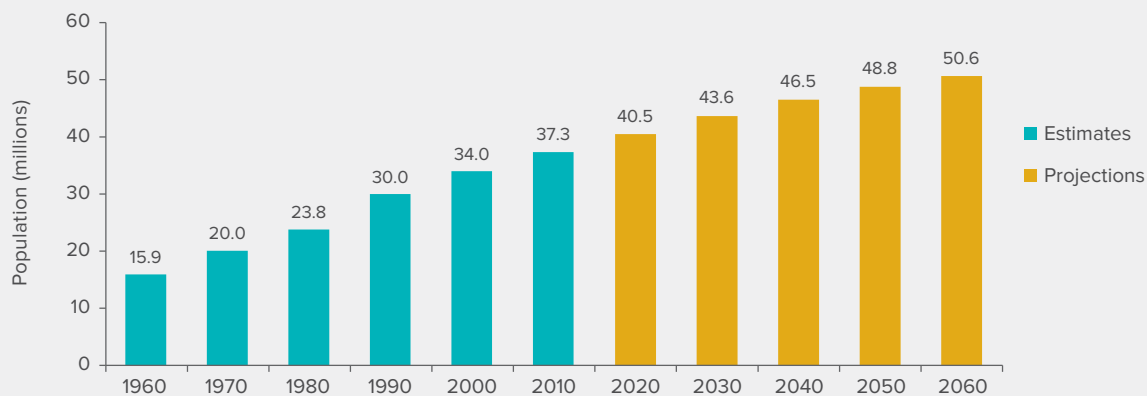
An accurate 2020 Census is important for California

California has long been known for, and even defined by, its tremendous population growth. In 2019, the state reached another demographic milestone, becoming the first state with 40 million residents. (Texas, the state with the second-largest population, has not yet reached 30 million.) Equally remarkable is California's diversity: its population includes large groups of immigrants from more than 60 countries, and no single race or ethnic group constitutes a majority. The rate of growth has slowed in recent decades, but the number of people added to the state's population has been substantial—300,000 each year, on average, from 2010 through 2019.

California has invested significantly in preparations for the 2020 decennial census. An accurate count is crucial, as the census is used to allocate billions in federal funding and determine the number of congressional districts in each state. The state, local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders are making extra efforts to ensure that all Californians are counted. California has long had disproportionate shares of populations that are difficult to count, including young adults, renters, and immigrants. The challenge is particularly acute this year. Not only has the 2020 Census been underfunded by the federal government, but federal rhetoric and actions on border security, deportation, and immigrant rights could dampen participation. PPIC research shows that a poor count would cost California a seat in the House of Representatives; with an accurate count, the state might gain a seat.

Population projections suggest that California will gain millions of new residents in each of the next two decades. These gains will support a growing economy and require new incentives to improve infrastructure and public services—including education, transportation, housing, water, and health care.

CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION IS PROJECTED TO GROW



SOURCE: California Department of Finance estimates and 2016 baseline projection series (with 2019 revision).

NOTE: Population as of July of each year.

Regional populations will shift and immigration will remain important

California's population is projected to be almost 44 million by 2030, with annual growth at 0.8 percent—lower than 20th-century rates but higher than rates over the past several years. Average annual increases are projected to exceed 300,000—between 2020 and 2030, the state could add about 4 million residents. However, if the recent slowdown in growth continues, gains could be substantially lower.

- **Natural increase and international migration account for all of California's growth.**

Before 1990, most of California's population growth came from migration, primarily from other states. Since then, most of the state's growth has resulted from natural increase—that is, a greater number of births than deaths.

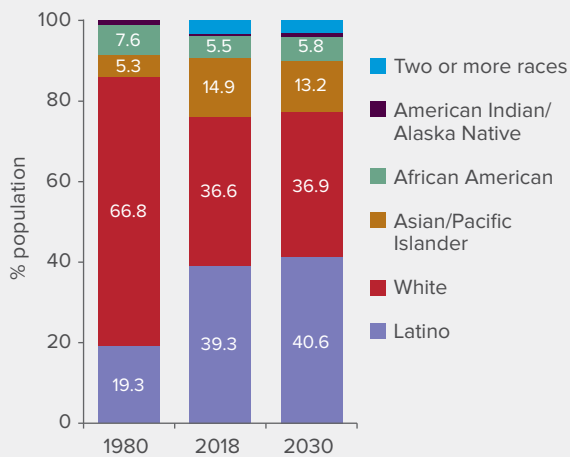
Migration still adds to the state's population, but inflows of international migrants have been partially offset by

domestic outflows. In the past decade, birth rates have fallen to the lowest levels ever recorded and the number of births has declined by 100,000. Department of Finance population projections assume an increase in migration and a continued slowdown of natural increase—as the population ages, births will continue to decline and deaths will increase. By 2025, migration is expected to account for more growth than natural increase.

- **Inland areas are growing at higher rates—though most Californians still live in coastal regions.**

The Inland Empire, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Sacramento metropolitan area will be the fastest-growing regions of the state over the next several decades, according to Department of Finance projections. Inland areas have experienced faster growth than coastal areas for many decades, but inland growth has slowed since 2010, while coastal growth has accelerated. The fastest-growing regions have been the Inland Empire, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Sacramento metropolitan area. Coastal (and bay) counties are still home to 69 percent of the state’s population.

LATINOS ARE CALIFORNIA’S LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP



SOURCES: 1980 Census; 2016 American Community Survey; and California Department of Finance projections.

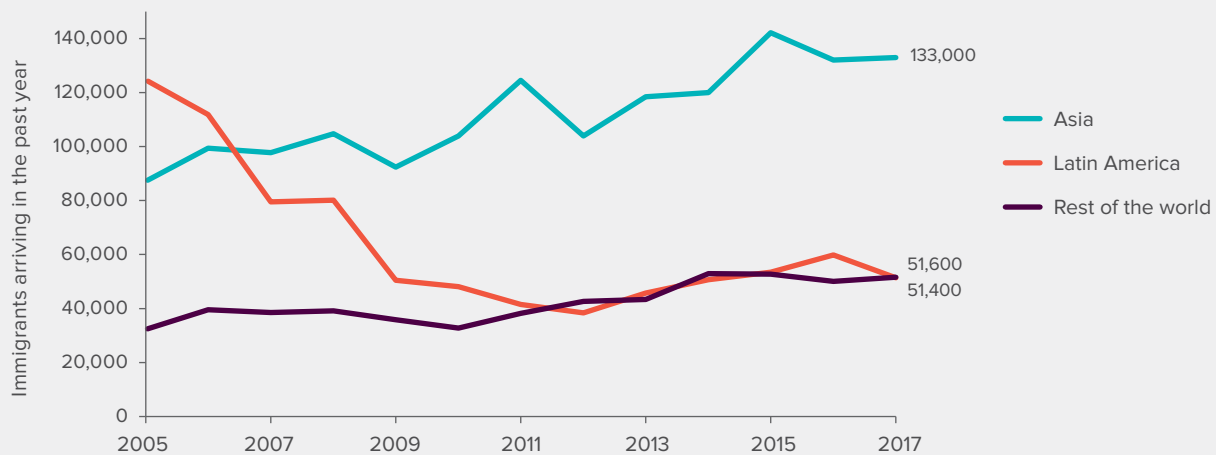
- **Latinos have become the state’s largest ethnic group.**

No ethnic group makes up a majority of the state’s population. Latinos became the state’s largest ethnic group in 2015. By 2030, 41 percent of the state’s population will be Latino and 37 percent will be white. Latinos already make up 52 percent of children age 17 and younger.

- **Immigration from Latin America has slowed, while immigration from Asia has increased.**

Asia replaced Latin America as the largest source of new immigrants in California in 2006. By 2015, almost three times as many immigrants were arriving from Asia as from Latin America, and China had replaced Mexico as the leading country of origin. Immigrants from Asia tend to be highly educated. About 60 percent of newly arrived adults (aged 25 to 64) from Asia have at least a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30 percent of Latin American immigrants and 35 percent of Californians born in the United States. Immigrants from India are the most likely to be highly educated: 85 percent of newly arrived adults have earned at least a bachelor’s degree.

ASIA HAS SURPASSED LATIN AMERICA AS CALIFORNIA’S LEADING SOURCE OF NEW IMMIGRANTS



SOURCE: American Community Survey.

- **Three-quarters of California immigrants are legal residents of the United States.**

California is home to almost 11 million immigrants—about a quarter of the US foreign-born population. In 2018, the most recent year of data, 27 percent of California’s population was foreign born—about twice the US percentage. This share is projected to hold steady over the next few decades. According to estimates by the Center for Migration

Studies, the vast majority of immigrants in California are legal US residents: 53 percent are naturalized citizens and another 26 percent have green cards, visas, or some other legal status. Still, more than 2 million immigrants in California are undocumented—nearly a quarter of the nation’s undocumented population and more than 6 percent of the state’s overall population. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that California is home to more “dreamers” (undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children and have temporary legal status) than any other state. In August 2018, about 200,000 dreamers lived in California, 29 percent of the nationwide total.

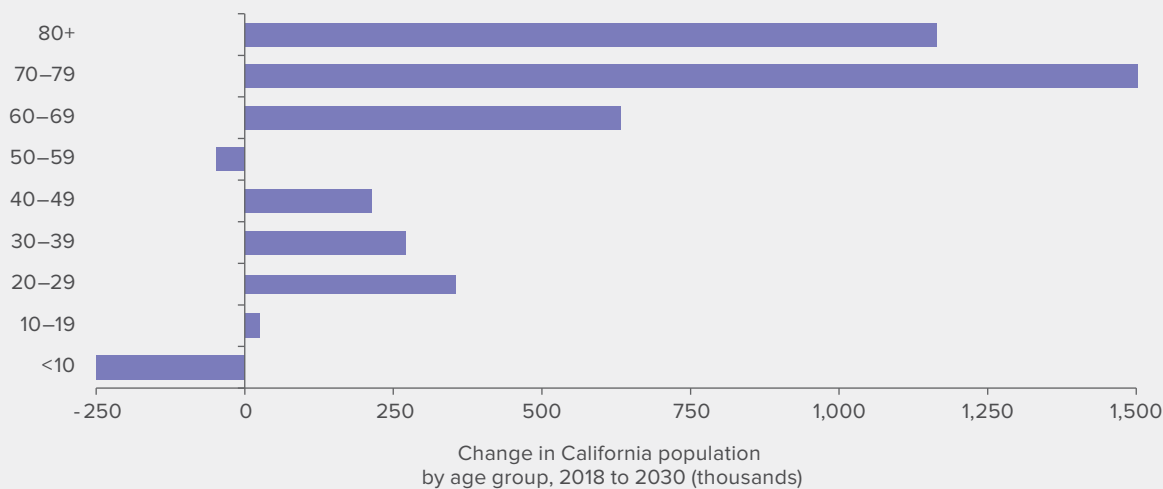
California’s population is aging

Even though California’s population is the seventh-youngest in the country, it is aging rapidly. In 2018, 14 percent of Californians were 65 and older, compared with only 9 percent in 1970. By 2030, that share will be 19 percent. The total number of adults 65 and older is projected to grow from 5.7 million in 2018 to 9.1 million in 2030.

- **By 2030, no ethnic group will compose a majority of the senior population.**

The number of seniors in every major racial/ethnic group will increase by 2030. Whites will remain the largest group—projected to grow by 39 percent (or 1,330,000 people) between 2018 and 2030. But the most dramatic growth will occur among nonwhite populations, especially Latinos (by 94%, or 1,115,000) and Asians (by 52%, or 450,000). The African American senior population will increase by 73 percent, but this translates to only 218,000 people.

CALIFORNIA’S POPULATION IS AGING



SOURCE: California Department of Finance projections, circa 2019.

- **The number of children will decrease.**

From the 2017–18 to the 2027–28 school year, the number of children enrolled in public schools is projected to fall by 4 percent, according to the California Department of Finance. This is a consequence of declining birth rates and small increases in the number of women of childbearing age (15 to 44). During the 1990s, by contrast, the number of school-age children grew more than 20 percent.

Looking ahead

The state’s growing, changing population continues to support economic growth; it also reinforces the need for improved housing, infrastructure, and public services. In the national context, California has a big stake in both an accurate census and comprehensive immigration reform. There are several key areas to watch.

2020 Census. California has taken measures to encourage full participation in the census, budgeting almost \$200 million to improve outreach and prevent or minimize an undercount. PPIC has produced a series of maps that show the locations of California’s large number of hard-to-count residents. Trusted messengers, including community-based organizations, are playing a key role in reaching households that are hard to find or might be reluctant to participate.

Immigration reform. Immigration policy at the national level has enormous implications for states like California. Comprehensive reform efforts have long been stymied by a partisan divide, and a recent uptick in executive orders and court rulings has created additional discord and uncertainty. PPIC Statewide Surveys consistently find that most Californians believe undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay in the United States if they meet certain requirements. Most support state and local policymaking to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants, and a majority oppose a wall along the Mexican border. A comprehensive solution should benefit California—it has the world’s fifth-largest economy and relies on a large and relatively young immigrant population to fuel growth and innovation.

Housing. From 2008 to 2018, the state gained about 2.8 million people, while the net increase in housing units was less than 900,000. Continued population growth will put even more pressure on housing. California’s largest population group is young adults in their 20s. By 2030, this group will have reached the ages at which adults typically establish their own households.

Education. The slight decline in the number of school-age children is likely to lead to increases in per student funding as the state budget grows. However, because costs do not fall in lockstep with enrollment, many districts will face budget and operational challenges as enrollment declines. Some districts will also face difficult decisions about which schools to close.

Health and human services. Meeting the needs of a large, rapidly growing, and increasingly diverse senior population poses challenges. For example, although senior adults are not the largest group of Medi-Cal enrollees (the share of children is far larger), they account for a much higher share of expenditures: annual costs per enrollee are at least five times higher for adults older than 50 than for children. Finding alternatives to nursing home care, which is especially expensive, will be critical.

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