



PRESS RELEASE

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## US Census Releases First Cut of 2020 Count Data

*Data provides totals for state populations and maps for changes in county populations across the country.*

*New York State grew by 4.2%, now tops 20 million residents.*

*Adirondack Park counties see minor changes.*

### **For more information:**

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North Creek, NY. The [US Census released its first cut at the 2020 decennial census](#) last week. This data is limited, delivered for the purpose of redistricting for statewide and federal elected representatives. Much more detailed data will be released to the public at the end of September with population data at the town and county level. In 2022, the Census will release more data on age and race as well as economic data.

The big news is that New York State gained population at a rate of 4.2% from 2010 to 2020, topping 20 million residents for the first time in the state's history. In 2020, New York State residents totaled 20,201,249, up from 19,378,102 in 2010, a gain of 823,147 new residents. See chart attached for county totals and changes 2010-2020.

The limited US Census data released so far tells us a few things that are important for the Adirondack Park and New York. For instance, of New York's 62 counties, US Census data provided tells us that 23 counties saw modest population gains, while 39 counties saw losses. The 10 Downstate counties in the lower Hudson Valley (Orange, Rockland, Westchester), New York City (New York, Richmond, Bronx, Queens, Kings), and the Long Island (Nassau, Suffolk) all gained, reaping 828,352 new residents between them. The five counties in New York City gained 628,682 new residents.

While New York State gained 823,147 people, the 10 downstate counties gained some 828,352 new residents, exceeding the state's overall growth. That means that

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in the 52 counties spread through Upstate New York, there was a total net loss of over 5,000 residents from 2010 to 2020. Throughout Upstate, 13 counties saw population gains and 39 experienced losses.

“Across Upstate New York, population growth was basically flat, yet New York City and the surrounding counties in the Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island grew by over 800,000 residents. Downstate saw major growth, but Upstate was flat,” said Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks.

Protect the Adirondacks tracks US Census data and in 2019 published *The Adirondack Park and Rural America: Economic and Population Trends 1970 to 2010*.

In the Adirondacks, we do not yet have town data, just county data, which doesn't tell us a lot, since 10 of 12 Adirondack counties are split by the Park boundary. Saratoga County gained over 15,000 people, while Hamilton County gained 271 people, and Warren County gained just 30. Nine other Adirondack Park counties lost population. The 12 Adirondack Park counties together had 1,013,109 residents in 2020, down from 1,020,422 in 2010, a loss of 7,313 or -0.07%. It's important to note that of the 1 million residents who live in the 12 Adirondack Park counties, somewhere around 130,000 live within the Adirondack Park Blue Line, while nearly 90% live outside the Park.

The biggest drops among Adirondack counties were Franklin and Herkimer counties, each of which saw losses of more than 4,000 people. “One note of caution is that the prison population in New York State has sharply decreased in recent years and the Census counts inmates as residents in the community where they are imprisoned. The 12 Adirondack Park counties are home to a number of state and federal prisons, so there needs to be some adjustments for the prison population changes in these numbers. Nevertheless, a regional loss of -0.07%, some 7,300 people out of 1.013 million, is basically flat,” said Peter Bauer.

### **Number of US Counties that Lost Population is Unprecedented**

The number of counties that saw population declines from 2010 to 2020 rose dramatically from prior censuses. For the 2020 US Census it appears that 1,640 counties saw population losses, compared with 1,082 counties across the U.S. that saw losses from 2000 to 2010. That's a huge increase in areas of the country experiencing population loss.

“The US Census reported that around 1,640 counties out of the roughly 3,100 counties in the U.S. lost population from 2010 to 2020, around 53% of all counties in the country. This number is unprecedented and is something that we've never seen before in American history,” said Peter Bauer.

In 2000, the US Census told us that 84.3% of the 282 million Americans, some 237.7 million people, lived in metropolitan areas. In 2020, the rate increased to 86.3% of the 331 million Americans, 285.6 million people, lived in metropolitan areas. This was an increase of nearly 48 million people, while rural areas grew by just 1.1 million people. In the last 20 years, for every 1 person that decided to move to, or

get born in, a rural area in the U.S., 48 others made the opposite choice and aimed for life in a metropolitan area. That marks a continued intensification of the number of Americans choosing to live in metropolitan areas in the U.S.

Three states experienced a net loss of population. These are Illinois, Mississippi and West Virginia.

### **Protect the Adirondacks**

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park's wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, education, and legal action. Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Park, The Resident's Committee to Protect the Adirondacks and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 22-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsbury in the central Adirondacks. For more information see [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org) and @ProtectAdkPark.

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