State of Ohio Population Projections Overview: 2020 to 2050

Ohio

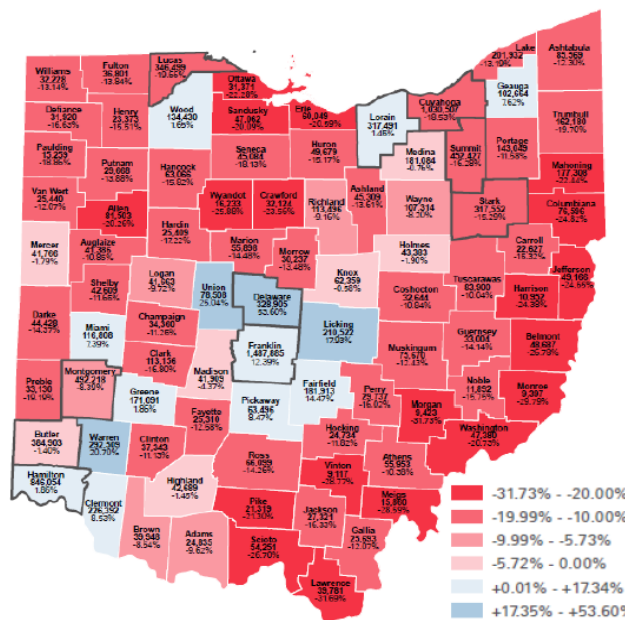| Geographic Area	2020 Population	Projected 2050 Population	Projected Numeric Growth	Projected Percent Growth
Ohio	11,799,448	11,123,896	-675,552	-5.7%
United States	331,449,281	388,922,000	57,472,719	17.3%

Population change: Ohio's population is projected to decline by approximately 675,000 (5.7%) by 2050 if current rates of fertility, mortality, and migration remain unchanged.

Ohio is currently the seventh most populous state. Georgia and North Carolina will likely surpass Ohio in total population by 2030 or shortly thereafter. Ohio is expected to remain the ninth most populous state for many years beyond the scope of these projections.

2020 to 2050 County Population Change

Fertility: Ohio's total fertility rate (TFR) has fallen during the past decade, as it has in the United States. Ohio's 2020 rate equates to approximately 1.7 total births, on average, per Ohio resident female. Ohio's TFR is slightly higher than the national rate, which has also declined by about 15% from a decade earlier. In Ohio and in the United States, women are delaying childbirth and having fewer children overall.

Mortality: Current data trends in mortality are highly unstable. From 2019 to 2020, Ohio's age-adjusted mortality rate increased by approximately 15% and was also 15% higher than the national rate. In 2020, Ohio ranked 38th of all states in life expectancy.

Migration: The results of Census 2020 indicated that Ohio gained approximately 65,000 (net) new residents through domestic and international migration over the past decade. Continued, modest net in-migration is projected to partially offset losses because of negative natural change. If net migration to Ohio does not remain positive in the years to come, overall population loss will likely exceed figures presented here.

While the population of some Ohio counties will continue to grow in the short term, 14 are projected for overall growth by 2050.

State of Ohio Population Projections Overview: 2020 to 2050

Ohio

Summary of Projected Changes to Ohio Age Cohorts, 2020 to 2050						
Age Cohort	2020	2050	# Change	% Change	% of 2020 Pop	% of 2050 Pop
0-to-14	2,170,245	1,987,475	-182,770	-8.4%	18.4%	17.9%
15-to-24	1,515,496	1,384,137	-131,359	-8.7%	12.8%	12.4%
25-to-64	6,065,987	5,792,462	-273,525	-4.5%	51.4%	52.1%
65-to-74	1,228,376	1,030,175	-198,201	-16.1%	10.4%	9.3%
75-to-84	586,511	641,020	54,509	9.3%	5.0%	5.8%
85+	232,833	288,627	55,794	24.0%	2.0%	2.6%
Total Population	11,799,448	11,123,896	-675,552	-5.7%	X	X

Ohio's Changing Population: Because of overall population loss, most Ohio age cohorts will decline in absolute terms. However, Ohio's 2050 population structure will not be fundamentally different from today.

Natural change: The numeric difference between resident births and resident deaths is the "natural change" of the population. Ohio's total population has increased exclusively from the natural increase. The largest annual natural increase was 152,338, recorded in 1957 during the height of the post-WWII baby boom. While there are short-term fluctuations, the natural increase has steadily declined since the baby boom, with declines accelerating since 2007.

In 2020, annual resident deaths outnumbered births for the first time in Ohio's recorded demographic history (since at least 1950).

Ohio may briefly return to an annual natural increase because of short-term fertility and mortality fluctuations, but the natural decline will persist through at least 2050 because of low fertility rates and the increase in resident deaths related to the aging of Ohio's 2.6 million baby boomers. The baby boomers (aged 59 to 77 years old, as of 2023) will reach the end of their life cycles in the decades to come.

By 2045, if current fertility and mortality rates remain unchanged, Ohio's annual natural decline will reach its peak of about 37,000, with about 124,000 births and 161,000 deaths annually. The natural decline, rather than out-migration, will be the driver of overall population loss in Ohio.