



Most New Jerseyans Call Smaller Municipalities Home

by Sen-Yuan Wu

Where we live makes a great deal of difference to us and to our families. Each municipality in the Garden State has its own personality and character and that has an impact on many things from the makeup of the people we call neighbors; the schools our children attend; transportation and amenities ranging from city settings, to small town charm, to spread-out suburban townships. Data from the 2010 Census shows that:

- Just over half of us reside in smaller towns with populations between 10,000 and 50,000
- Another quarter of Garden State residents live in towns of 50,000 to 100,000 residents
- Newark remained New Jersey's most populous city while Tavistock has the smallest population

Municipalities with Populations of 50,000 to 100,000 Grew Fastest

The 2010 Census results showed that the fastest rate of population growth in the state came in municipalities with populations greater than 50,000 but less than 100,000 residents. The rate of growth for these municipalities was 5.4 percent. The pace of population increases (5.2%) was slightly slower in municipalities with 10,000-50,000 residents, however, more New Jerseyans live in these smaller municipalities. Approximately 51 percent of New Jersey residents live in the 210 municipalities that count more than 10,000 but less than 50,000 residents. Approximately 23 percent of New Jerseyans resided in the 30 municipalities with 50,000-100,000 residents in 2010. In comparison, population declined by 7.7 percent in the state's smallest municipalities, or the 32

municipalities in the Garden State with less than 1,000 residents.

Population Growth Continues in Three Major Cities

Total population in the state's four largest cities (with 100,000 residents or more) increased 1.7 percent during the most recent decade. Newark's net gain of 4,706 residents (1.7%) between 2000 and 2010 represented a turnaround from its 1990s' loss (-2,787 or -1.0%). As a result of this moderate population gain Newark maintained its status as the state's most populous municipality. Jersey City and Elizabeth (New Jersey's 2nd and 4th largest cities, respectively) also saw moderate population growth in the past decade. Paterson experienced a decline in its population (-2.0%) but maintained its ranking as the state's third most populous city.



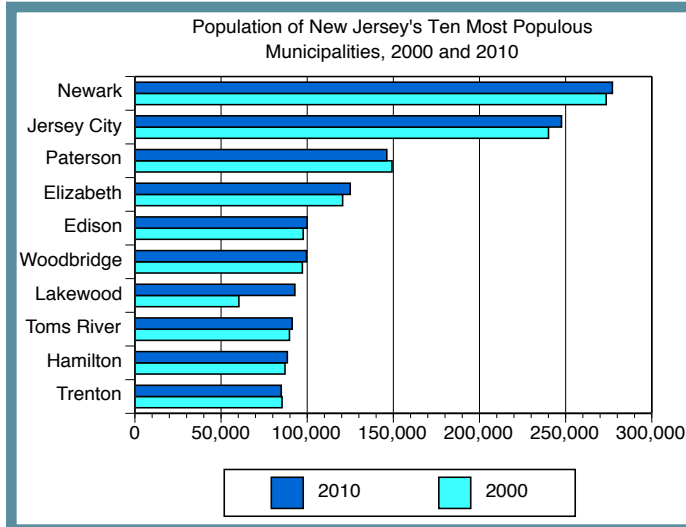
New Jersey's ten most populous municipalities include those four large cities as well as Edison and Woodbridge townships in Middlesex County, Lakewood and Toms River townships in Ocean County, and Hamilton Township and Trenton City in Mercer County. Trenton experienced a continuing decline in its population (-0.6%). Robust population growth of 53.8 percent between 2000 and 2010 ranked Ocean County's Lakewood Township the state's seventh largest municipality in 2010 while Camden City was edged out of the top

With 277,140 residents, Newark remains the state's most populous municipality

ten due to continued population decline (-3.2% between 2000 and 2010).

growing municipalities (4 out of 5) were small townships with less than 10,000

residents. Lakewood Township was the only exception in this group. Lakewood's population increased 53.8 percent from 60,352 in 2000 to 92,843 in 2010.



Nine Municipalities Each Lost more than 2,000 Residents

Irvington Township (Essex County) felt the state's largest population decline during the past last decade (-6,804) after a moderate

Lakewood Township Leads Population Growth

population decline of 288 during the 1990s. Similarly, East Orange (Essex County), Camden (Camden County) and Ocean City (Cape May County) experienced population declines in the most recent two decades. Five municipalities which had population growth in the 1990's saw substantial population declines of 2,000 or more residents in the 2000-2010 decade. These municipalities are Brigantine and Ventnor (Atlantic County), New Hanover Township (Burlington County), the City of Orange Township (Essex County) and Paterson (Passaic County).

With an increase of 32,491 residents, Lakewood Township added more population than any other municipality in New Jersey during the decade. Five other municipalities: Atlantic County's Egg Harbor Township, Jackson Township in Ocean County, Hoboken in Hudson County, Somerset County's Franklin Township, and Monroe Township in Middlesex, also gained more than 10,000 residents since 2000. Another 12 municipalities recorded a population increase of 5,000 or more; most of these were suburban townships in Atlantic, Gloucester and Middlesex counties.

Lakewood Township gained the most residents (+32,491) since 2000.

Teterboro Was the Fastest Growing Municipality

Increasing by more than 272 percent (from 18 residents in 2000 to 67 in 2010), Bergen County's Teterboro Borough was the fastest growing municipality during that period. Gloucester County's Woolwich Township was a close second with a 237.9 percent growth rate in the last decade and population increased more than 50 percent in five other municipalities. Most of the fast-

Eight Municipalities Lost More Than Thirty Percent of Residents

The majority of the municipalities that lost more than 30 percent of their residents are small boroughs and villages located in coastal counties including Cape May's Avalon Borough, Monmouth's Allenhurst and Loch Arbour boroughs, and Ocean's Mantoloking and Seaside Park boroughs. The other three municipalities with such shrinking popu-

Population Change by Municipal Size Class, New Jersey: 2000 to 2010

Population Size Category	Number of Municipalities	Population		Change 00 to 10	
		2000	2010	Number	Percent
100,000+	4	782,279	795,905	13,626	1.7%
50,000 - 99,999	30	1,940,568	2,044,964	104,396	5.4%
10,000 - 49,999	210	4,291,434	4,516,734	225,300	5.2%
5,000 - 9,999	134	932,709	965,098	32,389	3.5%
1,000 - 4,999	156	447,689	451,005	3,316	0.7%
Less than 1,000	32	19,699	18,188	-1,511	-7.7%
Total	566	8,414,378	8,791,894	377,544	4.5%

Source: US Census Bureau

lations are Camden County's Pine Valley and Tavistock boroughs and Sussex County's Walpack Township. Tavistock Borough had the most significant rate of population decline (-79.2%) going from 24 residents in 2000 to five in 2010.

Mid-Sized Cities Fare Well in the 2000-2010 Decade

Twenty municipalities had at least 60,000 residents but less than 100,000 in 2010; the majority (14 out of 20) enjoyed population growth. Ocean County's Lakewood Township (+53.8%) and Somerset County's Franklin Township (+22.4%) were the growth leaders in the group. The population of six municipalities in this group declined since 2000, and the rate of decline ranged from 0.6 percent in Trenton (Mercer County) to 8.0 percent in East Orange (Essex County).

Four Smallest Municipalities Still Have Less Than 100 Residents

When you talk about small-town America, New Jersey has four municipalities that qualify. Bergen County's Teterboro Borough (population: 67), Sussex County's Walpack Township

(population: 16) and Camden County's Pine Valley Borough (population: 12) and Tavistock Borough (population: 5) have been the state's smallest municipalities for decades. Population in each of these municipalities remains below 100. Together with Atlantic County's Corbin City (population: 492), Cape May County's Cape May Point borough (population: 291), Monmouth County's Loch Arbour village (population: 194), Ocean County's Harvey Cedars borough (population: 337) and Mantoloking borough (population: 296), and Somerset County's Millstone borough (population: 418), they constituted the state's ten least populous municipalities as of April 2010.

Data Availability

State, county and municipal population counts from the 2010 Census are available on the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Market Information web page - [2010 Census Data for New Jersey](#). For more information, contact New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0388.

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