

US Census Bureau Estimates of New York State Population County Estimates from Vintage 2006

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In order to keep track of multiple estimates for the same year, the Census Bureau refers to annual sets of estimates by vintage. The estimates that the Census Bureau released on March 22, 2007 are referred to as Vintage 2006 because the series ends in 2006. The estimate series produced the previous year are referred to as Vintage 2005. The Census Bureau's estimates of county population from Vintage 2006—the most current batch released in March 2007—provide initial estimates for 2006 and revised estimates for prior years back to 2000. The estimates are based on data available to the Census Bureau at the time they are produced and are the most accurate estimates given the methods and input data used. Input data is more complete for prior years than the latest year, and in some cases the Census Bureau benefits from additional information provided by local governments when initial estimates are in error. Therefore any trend analysis should be based on estimates of similar completeness. Comparing this year's initial estimates with last year's revised estimates is often misleading. The best trend data are those beginning with the year 2000 and ending with the immediate prior year's estimate, in this case year 2005 from Vintage 2006. A better comparison for the direction and magnitude of population change for the current year is to take the initial estimate produced a year earlier. Using the population estimate for year 2005 from Vintage 2005 and comparing it with year 2006 from Vintage 2006 is more appropriate if looking at trends. The rationale is that the same factors that made the previous year's estimate high or low are likely at work in this year's estimate. It is a very shaky assumption, but far better than comparing a revised number for last year against an initial estimate for this year and being misled.

In Figure 1 estimates of population for New York State are displayed for the years 2000 through 2006 produced in Vintages 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. Focus on the differences between estimates for the same year produced in the different vintages. Note that the differences are very slight for July 1, 2000 and increasingly pronounced with each subsequent year. On a percentage basis the differences are still slight and narrowing the range of the vertical scale to vary between 18.85 million and 19.35 million has accentuated the differences. The greatest difference is between the Vintage 2005 and Vintage 2006 estimates for 2005. The numerical difference is 61,091 which is only a difference of 0.32 percent. What makes this small difference meaningful is the difference it makes in the trend line. It is the difference between continued growth and a downward decline. The rest of this analysis focuses on trends in population growth for the interval between 2000 and 2005, using the revised numbers from Vintage 2006. The new

estimates for 2006 are going to be the subject of challenges and revisions in the coming months and are likely to make 2006 look slightly different in the Vintage 2007 estimates.

Economic Development Regions

According to the most recent population estimate series for counties released by the U.S. Census Bureau on March 22, 2007 the State of New York grew by 1.8 percent over the five years between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2005. That is an increase of 338,900 persons. The economic development regions experiencing the greatest growth were New York City whose population increased by 205,163 (2.6 percent), the Mid-Hudson Region growing by 89,543 (4.1 percent), and Long Island with an increase of 49,815 (1.8 percent). The Capital District is the other region that grew at a rate above the statewide rate, increasing its population by 26,830 (2.6 percent). A slower rate of growth was experienced by the North Country at 4,377 (1.0 percent). The other five regions are estimated to have lost population. The population of the Finger Lakes declined by -1,237 (-0.1 percent), Central New York declined by -427 (-0.1 percent), the Southern Tier by -2,479 (-0.3 percent), the Mohawk Valley by -2,319 (-0.5 percent) and Western New York declined by -30,366 (-2.1 percent).

Counties

Ten of the state's counties had population increases greater than 10,000 between 2000 and 2005, and eight of these are in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area. Five of these top ten counties for population growth are the five counties making up New York City. The county with the greatest population growth was New York County (Manhattan) with an increase of 68,903 (4.5 percent), followed by Suffolk County at 52,734 (3.7 percent), and then Kings County (Brooklyn) at 45,883 (1.9 percent), Bronx County at 31,916 (2.4 percent), and Orange County at 31,383 (9.2 percent). Completing the list of top ten counties are Richmond County (Staten Island) at 31,286 (7.1 percent), Queens County at 27,175 (1.2 percent), Westchester County at 24,358 (2.6 percent), Dutchess County at 14,359 (5.1 percent), and Saratoga County at 13,486 (6.7 percent).

Nineteen of the state's counties had population losses greater than -500 over this interval. The greatest loss was experienced by Erie County at -22,050 (-2.3 percent). Beside Erie County there were five other counties with population losses greater than -2,500; and they were Broome County at -3,989 (-2.0 percent), Chautauqua County at -3,648 (-2.6 percent), Monroe County at -3,286 (-0.4 percent), Niagara County at -3,263 (-1.5 percent), and Nassau County at -2,919 (-0.2 percent).

Estimates for 2006

For prior years we have used an alternative method for estimating population, the housing unit method, to successfully challenge the Census Bureau's estimates of population for several counties. The Census Bureau's primary methodology does not work well for counties with concentrations of military personnel, young adults in college or launching

their careers, and recent immigrants from overseas. The method is called the Administrative Records method because of it relies on federal tax returns and Medicare enrollments to estimate domestic migration and used to use data from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to allocating immigration from abroad to counties. The nature of INS changed and left a gap in data on immigration.

In previous years we have worked with the county and city planning departments to successfully challenge estimates for Bronx, Jefferson, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland and Westchester Counties. We believe that challenges to the 2006 estimates will be submitted to the Census Bureau for these counties. We will also work with the other counties in New York State to determine if they have reasonable grounds for challenging the estimates.

Figure 1: Estimates Are Subject To Revision

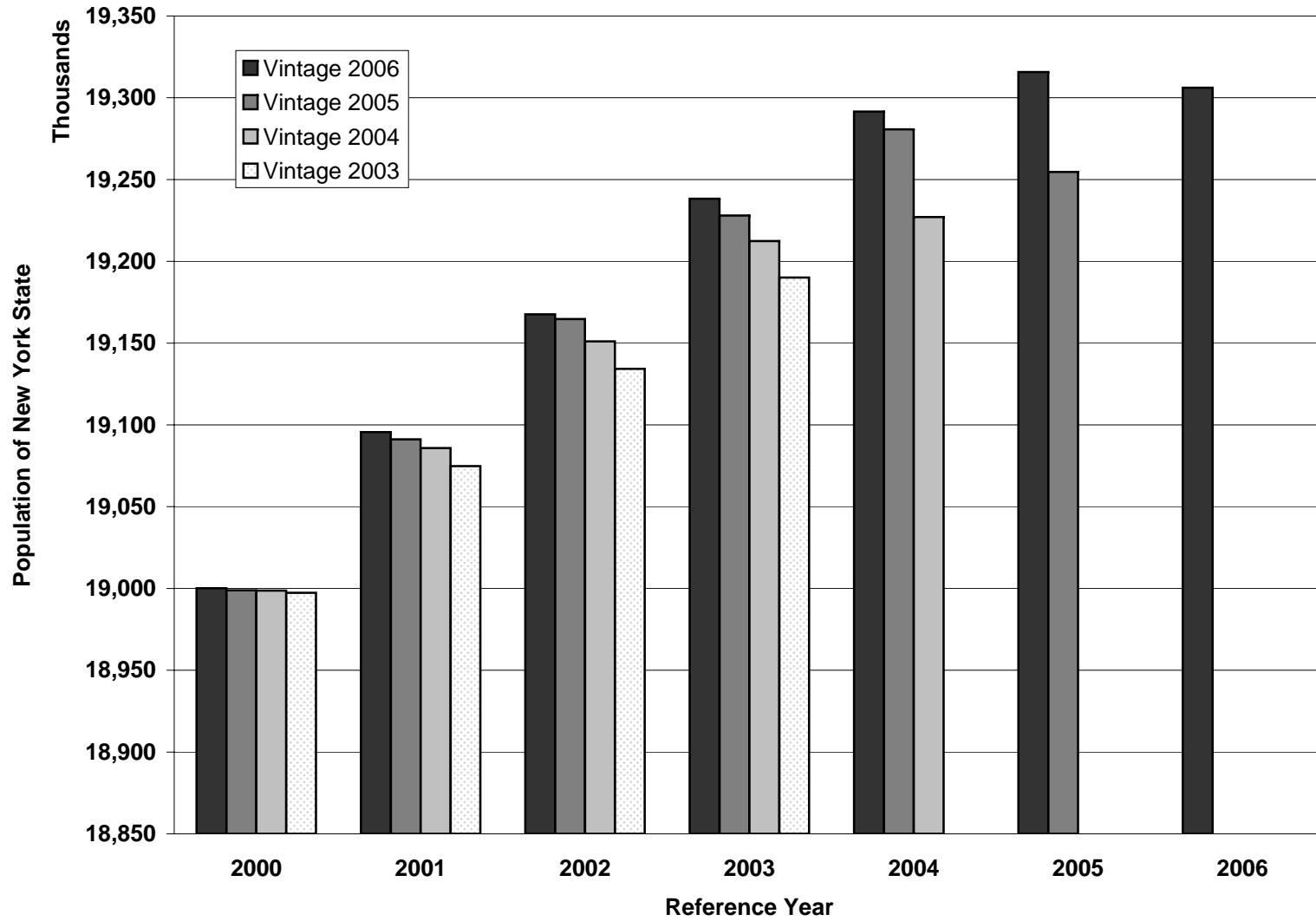


Table 1: US Census Bureau Estimates of New York State Population, Vintage 2006

	Population		Difference	Population Change		Rank
	2005	2000		Rank	Percentage	
State						
New York State	19,315,721	18,976,821	338,900		1.8%	
Economic Development Regions						
New York City	8,213,839	8,008,676	205,163	1	2.6%	3
Long Island	2,803,706	2,753,891	49,815	3	1.8%	4
Mid-Hudson Region	2,268,730	2,179,187	89,543	2	4.1%	1
Capital Region	1,056,757	1,029,927	26,830	4	2.6%	2
Mohawk Valley	439,319	441,638	-2,319	8	-0.5%	9
North Country	424,857	420,480	4,377	5	1.0%	5
Central New York	780,288	780,715	-427	6	-0.1%	6
Finger Lakes	1,198,353	1,199,590	-1,237	7	-0.1%	7
Southern Tier	716,497	718,976	-2,479	9	-0.3%	8
Western New York	1,413,375	1,443,741	-30,366	10	-2.1%	10
Counties						
Albany County	297,598	294,570	3,028	17	1.0%	27
Allegany County	50,365	49,927	438	30	0.9%	29
Bronx County	1,364,566	1,332,650	31,916	4	2.4%	20
Broome County	196,547	200,536	-3,989	61	-2.0%	56
Cattaraugus County	82,112	83,955	-1,843	55	-2.2%	58
Cayuga County	81,365	81,963	-598	44	-0.7%	46
Chautauqua County	136,102	139,750	-3,648	60	-2.6%	61
Chemung County	89,005	91,070	-2,065	56	-2.3%	59
Chenango County	51,676	51,401	275	32	0.5%	34
Clinton County	82,104	79,894	2,210	20	2.8%	16
Columbia County	63,327	63,094	233	33	0.4%	35
Cortland County	48,489	48,598	-109	36	-0.2%	38
Delaware County	47,360	48,057	-697	47	-1.5%	51
Dutchess County	294,509	280,150	14,359	9	5.1%	4
Erie County	928,215	950,265	-22,050	62	-2.3%	60
Essex County	38,543	38,851	-308	40	-0.8%	47
Franklin County	50,910	51,134	-224	39	-0.4%	41

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Fulton County	55,425	55,073	352	31	0.6%	31
Genesee County	59,173	60,370	-1,197	53	-2.0%	55
Greene County	49,559	48,195	1,364	25	2.8%	15
Hamilton County	5,196	5,379	-183	38	-3.4%	62
Herkimer County	63,597	64,437	-840	50	-1.3%	49
Jefferson County	115,536	111,738	3,798	15	3.4%	12
Kings County	2,511,408	2,465,525	45,883	3	1.9%	21
Lewis County	26,506	26,944	-438	43	-1.6%	53
Livingston County	64,192	64,328	-136	37	-0.2%	36
Madison County	70,011	69,441	570	28	0.8%	30
Monroe County	732,057	735,343	-3,286	59	-0.4%	42
Montgomery County	49,006	49,708	-702	48	-1.4%	50
Nassau County	1,331,620	1,334,539	-2,919	57	-0.2%	37
New York County	1,606,275	1,537,372	68,903	1	4.5%	6
Niagara County	216,581	219,844	-3,263	58	-1.5%	52
Oneida County	233,969	235,459	-1,490	54	-0.6%	44
Onondaga County	457,279	458,336	-1,057	52	-0.2%	39
Ontario County	104,218	100,224	3,994	14	4.0%	8
Orange County	372,750	341,367	31,383	5	9.2%	1
Orleans County	43,265	44,173	-908	51	-2.1%	57
Oswego County	123,144	122,377	767	27	0.6%	32
Otsego County	62,750	61,676	1,074	26	1.7%	22
Putnam County	100,528	95,843	4,685	12	4.9%	5
Queens County	2,256,576	2,229,401	27,175	7	1.2%	26
Rensselaer County	154,601	152,538	2,063	22	1.4%	25
Richmond County	475,014	443,728	31,286	6	7.1%	2
Rockland County	294,636	286,753	7,883	11	2.7%	17
St. Lawrence County	111,258	111,919	-661	46	-0.6%	43
Saratoga County	214,121	200,635	13,486	10	6.7%	3
Schenectady County	148,975	146,550	2,425	18	1.7%	24
Schoharie County	32,126	31,582	544	29	1.7%	23
Schuyler County	19,340	19,224	116	35	0.6%	33
Seneca County	34,746	33,342	1,404	24	4.2%	7

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Steuben County	98,366	98,726	-360	41	-0.4%	40
Suffolk County	1,472,086	1,419,352	52,734	2	3.7%	10
Sullivan County	76,155	73,964	2,191	21	3.0%	14
Tioga County	51,349	51,784	-435	42	-0.8%	48
Tompkins County	100,104	96,502	3,602	16	3.7%	9
Ulster County	182,433	177,749	4,684	13	2.6%	19
Warren County	65,571	63,303	2,268	19	3.6%	11
Washington County	63,005	61,042	1,963	23	3.2%	13
Wayne County	93,158	93,765	-607	45	-0.6%	45
Westchester County	947,719	923,361	24,358	8	2.6%	18
Wyoming County	42,697	43,424	-727	49	-1.7%	54
Yates County	24,847	24,621	226	34	0.9%	28

Source: CO-EST2006-ALLDATA.CSV, U.S. Census Bureau

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