

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho's Population Shift from Rural to Urban Slowed in 2013

The steady shift of Idaho's population from rural to urban counties slowed in 2013 as the 33 rural counties saw their combined population increase for the first time in three years.

Estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Thursday showed the population of the rural counties rising two-tenths of a percent from mid-2012 to mid-2013 - about 1,200 people - while the population of the 11 urban counties increased 1.5 percent.

That resulted in a two-tenths of a percentage point increase to 65.7 percent of the population living in the urban counties, but that was just half the increase recorded between mid-2011 and mid-2012.

Statewide, Idaho's population rose 1 percent to just over 1.6 million, resuming a growth rate higher than the national rate of seven-tenths of a percent in 2013.

Twenty-one counties lost population in 2013 including the urban counties of Bannock and Power, which make up the Pocatello metropolitan area, and Boise and Gem, which are two of the five counties in the Boise metro area. Canyon County, the second largest in the state at nearly 200,000 and part of the Boise metro area, led all counties in growth at 2.6 percent.

The Pocatello metro area was the only one of the five metro areas to lose population between mid-2012 and mid-2013. Bannock County's population dropped a half percent as more than 1,100 people moved elsewhere in the state or nation. Power County lost 1.1 percent of its population due to the exodus of 150 people. It was the third straight year of declining population for the county that from 2007 to 2010 led all counties in population growth.

Adams County was another that lost population in 2013 after leading the state in growth in 2004 and 2005.

Butte County posted the largest population loss at 3.5 percent followed by Camas County at 3.2 percent. It was the third straight annual population loss for Butte and the fifth for Camas. Washington, Fremont, Clark, Clearwater and Custer each recorded their fourth straight annual population losses.

Bear Lake County broke a string of 10 years of declining population with a gain of 39 people, or 0.7 percent.

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Idaho 2013 Population Components By County

	Population	Change from 2012	Births	Deaths	Net Migration
State	1,612,136	1.0%	22,187	11,250	6,142
Ada	416,464	1.9%	5,162	2,442	5,224
Adams	3,828	-2.2%	24	20	-55
Bannock	83,249	-0.5%	1,285	617	-1,128
Bear Lake	5,943	0.7%	70	57	30
Benewah	9,044	-1.1%	106	100	-102
Bingham	45,290	-0.4%	706	306	-580
Blaine	21,329	0.9%	212	83	52
Boise	6,795	-0.4%	35	44	-13
Bonner	40,699	0.6%	369	363	194
Bonneville	107,517	0.6%	1,899	744	-536
Boundary	10,853	0.2%	129	117	20
Butte	2,642	-3.5%	30	15	-102
Camas	1,042	-3.2%	7	1	-41
Canyon	198,871	2.6%	3,000	1,264	3,313
Caribou	6,808	0.4%	83	72	34
Cassia	23,331	0.3%	398	172	-108
Clark	867	-0.8%	11	6	-7
Clearwater	8,577	-0.1%	61	98	32
Custer	4,249	-2.1%	37	27	-96
Elmore	26,170	-0.5%	463	157	-417
Franklin	12,854	0.4%	186	78	-62
Fremont	12,927	-0.4%	193	89	-153
Gem	16,686	-0.1%	184	171	-31
Gooding	15,080	-0.8%	186	112	-163
Idaho	16,116	-1.3%	158	158	-172
Jefferson	26,914	0.8%	505	123	-175
Jerome	22,514	0.2%	389	145	-182
Kootenai	144,265	1.4%	1,661	1,211	1,655
Latah	38,078	0.1%	435	202	-174
Lemhi	7,712	-0.6%	65	83	-41
Lewis	3,902	0.2%	43	27	1
Lincoln	5,315	0.8%	74	32	-5
Madison	37,450	-0.5%	993	113	-1,092
Minidoka	20,292	1.0%	337	163	31
Nez Perce	39,915	0.8%	462	445	304
Oneida	4,275	1.0%	49	28	21
Owyhee	11,472	0.1%	145	84	-55
Payette	22,610	-0.3%	315	187	-187
Power	7,719	-1.1%	130	58	-154
Shoshone	12,690	-0.1%	110	173	58
Teton	10,275	2.0%	148	21	98
Twin Falls	79,957	1.8%	1,156	704	943
Valley	9,606	0.9%	85	52	58
Washington	9,944	-1.0%	91	86	-95

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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