Census Surprise: Stability

2010 count shows the population drain has nearly stopped in a more diverse community.

By Mark Weiner
Washington bureau

After decades of steep population losses, Syracuse and Central New York appear to have halted the decline and turned a corner with some emerging pockets of growth, according to 2010 U.S. Census results released Thursday.

In a stunning surprise to government leaders who expected new losses, Central New York’s population grew by 1.4 percent in the past decade to reach an all-time high of 742,603 in the four-county Syracuse area, the 2010 Census showed.

The population total for Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego and Madison counties topped the previous record of 742,177 set in 1990, according to Census Bureau records dating to 1820.

Fueling the growth were Madison County — whose 5.8 percent population gain to 73,442 ranked as the sixth-highest increase among New York counties — and parts of Oneida County such as the fast-growing towns of Cicero, Lysander and Pompey.

The Central New York region also benefited from a smaller-than-projected loss in Syracuse, the region’s urban core.

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Census count a pleasant surprise

The 2010 population of the entire United States and its territories in the four central counties of New York is listed below, ranked by population. Each county's population is based on the 2010 Census. Villages are not included for population counts are counted in the appropriate city or town figures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
<td>94,863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulster</td>
<td>93,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan</td>
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The 2010 census results for these counties are as follows:

- Dutchess County: 94,863
- Ulster County: 93,849
- Putnam County: 92,464
- Sullivan County: 46,464

JESSICA ROTH, of Fulton, a lobbyist for Upstate Mason, unlikely 2-kayboards to be used Thursday in a housing task force home in the Albany's Landish development in Lynnder. The northern Onondaga County township was among the leaders in growth during the past decade, according to the 2010 Census.

UPSTATE HIGHLIGHTS

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- Brockport: 20,365 (10.2% growth)
- Watertown: 20,365 (10.2% growth)
- Schenectady: 62,235 (4.2% growth)
- Troy: 50,189 (2.2% growth)

In addition to the population growth, the 2010 census also revealed that the Syracuse-Northside-North project area, which covers 16 cities and towns in central and western New York, had increased its population by 2.3%. This growth is significant, as it has been one of the slowest growing areas in the state. The population of the project area increased from 1,074,232 in 2000 to 1,078,784 in 2010, a gain of 4,552 people.

The 2010 census also showed that the city of Syracuse's population increased by 5.8%, from 135,000 in 2000 to 141,500 in 2010. This growth is notable, as Syracuse has been one of the fastest growing cities in the state in recent years. The city's population has increased by 22.6% since 2000, and by 21.7% since 1990.

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