

## Population

In early 2019, the United States Census Bureau (USCB) released its first population estimates for July 1, 2018. Kansas total population was estimated at 2,911,505, a decrease of 1,618 (0.1%) from the estimate of Kansas total population for July 1, 2017 (2,913,123) released in 2018. (Table B4).

### Population Density and Peer Groups

The population density of Kansas was 35.6 inhabitants per square mile in 2018, a 9.9 percent increase from 32.4 persons per square mile in 1999. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. increased from 73.1 to 92.6 persons per square mile from 1999 to 2018, a 26.7 percent increase (Figure B4).

In 2018, 36 of the state's 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated counties were Greeley and Wallace, each with a density of 1.6 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Johnson, with 1,262.3 persons per square mile (Figure B6).

Kansas counties are assigned to peer groups based on population density. (See the Technical Notes, Appendix 2 for peer group composition.) During the 2014-2018 period, the population of the urban peer group increased by 2.4 percent, while the frontier, rural, densely-settled rural, and semi-urban peer groups decreased by 4.3, 2.9, 2.0, and 2.1 percent, respectively (Table B4).

### Natural Increase

In 2018, the rate of natural increase (the birth rate minus the death rate) was 3.2 persons per 1,000 population, a decrease of 3.0 percent from 3.3 per 1,000 population in 2017, and the lowest rate of natural increase in the past twenty years. Over the past 20 years (1999-2018), the rate of natural increase has fluctuated between a maximum of 6.3 persons per 1,000 population (2007) and a minimum of 3.2 persons per 1,000 population (2018) (Figure B2).

The population of Kansas increased about 211,000 from the 1990 Census to the 2000 Census, and by about 165,000 from the 2000 Census to the 2010 Census. Natural increase accounted for about 68 percent (144,000) of the increase in population in the 1990s, but it accounted for almost 96 percent (158,000) of the increase in population in the 2000s. Net in-migration accounted for about 32 percent (67,000) of the population increase in the 1990s, but it accounted for only about 4 percent (7,000) in the 2000s. (From 2011 Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, will be updated after the 2020 Census.)

### Median Age

The median age of Kansans in 2018 was 36.9 years, a 4.2 percent increase from the median age of 35.4 in 1999. The median ages of Kansas males and females in 2018 were 35.7 and 38.1 respectively (Figure B3, Table B2).

### Population Characteristics

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1999-2018 was 9.7 percent, including a 11.1 percent increase for Kansas males and an 8.3 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1999 to 2018 included a decrease in the 35-44 age group of 16.6 percent. This decrease, and another of 2.0 percent in residents 45-54 years of age, and increases of 69.5 percent in residents 55-64 years of age, and 49.7 percent in residents 65-74 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, there were 2.7, 2.6, 3.8, 12.6, and 11.2 percent increases in the 0-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, and 75 and over age-groups respectively (Figure B5, Table B2).

According to the 2018 Census Bureau estimates, 75.7 percent of Kansans were White non-Hispanic, and 5.7 percent were Black non-Hispanic. Hispanics made up 12.1 percent of Kansas' population (Tables B3 and B5).

3. The common definition of 1946-1964 for the baby boom years implies that in 2018, baby boomers were between 54 and 72 years of age.