

ON THE MONEY

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By Bill LaFayette, PhD, owner, Regionomics® LLC

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Population Changes in Ohio's Metropolitan Areas

This is a special issue of *On the Money*. The April issue typically focuses on population and employment changes in Ohio's 12 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The April 12 issue analyzed employment growth, but the month-long government shutdown earlier in the year delayed the Census Bureau release of population estimates as of July 1, 2018. These estimates were finally released on April 18.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

MSAs are collections of counties defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and are intended to give federal agencies a consistent geographical basis for statistical analysis and reporting. MSAs are centered on an urban core (one or more cities) with a population of at least 50,000.

The county or counties containing the urban core are "central counties" and are automatically included in the MSA. Adjacent counties are included if they have what OMB terms, "a high degree of social and economic interaction with the core as measured by commuting ties." Specifically, outlying counties are included in the MSA if at least one of two conditions applies: (1) at least 25 percent of the employed residents of the outlying county commute to one of the central counties for work; and/or (2) at least 25 percent of the jobs in the outlying county are filled by workers who live in a central county. These areas are home to 79 percent of the state's population and 71 percent of the state's jobs.

There are 12 MSAs with urban cores in Ohio. These MSAs and their component counties are listed in Table 1.¹

¹ Belmont County is an outlying county of the Wheeling MSA and Lawrence County is an outlying county of the Huntington-Ashland MSA. These MSAs are not included in this analysis because their urban cores are outside of Ohio.

**Table 1
Component Counties of Ohio MSAs**

<p>Akron, OH MSA Portage County, OH Summit County, OH</p> <p>Canton-Massillon, OH MSA Carroll County, OH Stark County, OH</p> <p>Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN MSA Dearborn County, IN Ohio County, IN Union County, IN Boone County, KY Bracken County, KY Campbell County, KY Gallatin County, KY Kenton County, KY Pendleton County, KY Brown County, OH Butler County, OH Clermont County, OH Hamilton County, OH Warren County, OH</p>	<p>Cleveland-Elyria, OH MSA Cuyahoga County, OH Geauga County, OH Lake County, OH Lorain County, OH Medina County, OH</p> <p>Columbus, OH MSA Delaware County, OH Fairfield County, OH Franklin County, OH Hocking County, OH Licking County, OH Madison County, OH Morrow County, OH Pickaway County, OH Union County, OH</p> <p>Dayton, OH MSA Greene County, OH Miami County, OH Montgomery County, OH</p>	<p>Lima, OH MSA Allen County, OH</p> <p>Mansfield, OH MSA Richland County, OH</p> <p>Springfield, OH MSA Clark County, OH</p> <p>Toledo, OH MSA Fulton County, OH Lucas County, OH Wood County, OH</p> <p>Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH Jefferson County, OH Brooke County, WV Hancock County, WV</p> <p>Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA MSA Mahoning County, OH Trumbull County, OH Mercer County, PA</p>
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Population Changes in Ohio and Its MSAs

The Census Bureau publishes annual population estimates for the U.S., states, counties, and places (e.g., cities, villages, and townships). The just-released county estimates are aggregated to produce estimates for MSAs. City, village, and township population estimates are scheduled to be released in May.

The population estimates are based on the most recent census totals (2010 in this case). The approach relies on the fact that the population in 2018 must be equal to the population in 2010 plus births, less deaths, plus movers into the area, less movers out between 2010 and 2018. The problem is that these changes, especially mobility changes, are measured with imperfect data. This means that the resulting population estimates have an error component that increases as the time between the census and the estimation date increases. As a result, the estimates not only add a more recent year, they also revise previous years.

Table 2 shows census totals for Ohio, the 12 MSAs, and the U.S. for 2000 and 2010, estimates for 2016 and 2017, and percentage changes in population between each of the three earlier dates and 2017. The totals include population in adjoining states for the three multi-state MSAs, but the table also shows the portion of the total population in Ohio. Because the population and employment growth of Columbus is so much greater than that of the rest of the state, Ohio totals are also calculated excluding the 10-county Columbus MSA. Totals for 2000 and 2010 are shown for the MSAs as they are currently configured. As discussed in the April 5, 2013, edition of *On the Money* (Vol. 130, No. 7) MSAs nationwide went through their once-a-decade comprehensive redelineation in February 2013. As a result, the Cincinnati MSA lost one county in Indiana and gained another, the Columbus MSA gained two counties, and Dayton and Toledo

each lost one. But all population totals in Table 2 are calculated assuming the 2013 boundaries rather than the 1993 delineations effective in 2000 and the 2003 delineations effective in 2010.

Table 2
Ohio, MSA, and U.S. Population and Population Changes

Area	Census		Estimates		Percentage change		
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2000-18	2010-18	2017-18
Ohio	11,353,336	11,536,504	11,664,129	11,689,442	3.0%	1.3%	0.2%
Excluding Columbus	9,678,110	9,634,530	9,581,654	9,582,901	-1.0%	-0.5%	0.0%
Akron	694,975	703,200	704,367	704,845	1.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Canton	406,966	404,422	399,418	398,655	-2.0%	-1.4%	-0.2%
Cincinnati	1,994,818	2,114,580	2,179,858	2,190,209	9.8%	3.6%	0.5%
Ohio share	1,556,764	1,625,406	1,672,074	1,680,303	7.9%	3.4%	0.5%
Cleveland	2,148,041	2,077,240	2,058,549	2,057,009	-4.2%	-1.0%	-0.1%
Columbus	1,675,226	1,901,974	2,082,475	2,106,541	25.7%	10.8%	1.2%
Dayton	805,971	799,232	803,713	806,548	0.1%	0.9%	0.4%
Lima	108,464	106,331	103,069	102,663	-5.3%	-3.4%	-0.4%
Mansfield	128,932	124,475	120,543	121,099	-6.1%	-2.7%	0.5%
Springfield	144,742	138,333	134,649	134,585	-7.0%	-2.7%	0.0%
Toledo	618,216	610,001	603,830	602,871	-2.5%	-1.2%	-0.2%
Steubenville	131,995	124,454	118,181	117,064	-11.3%	-5.9%	-0.9%
Ohio share	73,886	69,709	66,366	65,767	-11.0%	-5.7%	-0.9%
Youngstown	603,061	565,773	541,875	538,952	-10.6%	-4.7%	-0.5%
Ohio share	482,693	449,135	430,324	428,269	-11.3%	-4.6%	-0.5%
U.S. (000)	281,425	308,746	325,147	327,167	16.3%	6.0%	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Statewide growth in 2018 was close to that in 2017. Further, the new estimates revised Ohio's 2017 population upward by 5,520. Ohio's 2018 growth was 0.22 percent compared to the 0.25 percent registered in 2017. However, the recent growth of the Columbus MSA ebbed: 1.16 percent in 2018 but 1.49 percent in 2017. Mansfield's population increase of 556 was its first net growth since 2002, and Springfield's population has stabilized over the past two years. Dayton's growth has been steadily strengthening since 2016. Its net gain of 6,350 since 2015 has completely offset the previous 15 years of losses. Akron's population increased slightly. The other MSAs lost population. Canton's and Cleveland's losses continued, but at a slower rate than in previous years. Toledo's net loss tied that in 2017.

The only other MSAs with positive population growth between 2000 and 2018 were Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. Only Cincinnati and Columbus grew faster than the state average over the 18 years, and only Columbus grew faster than the national average. Between 2000 and 2017, Ohio population increased less than 305,300, while the Columbus MSA population increased 403,500. Thus, the population outside the Columbus MSA declined 98,200, or 1.0 percent, between 2000 and 2017.

Table 3 explores the role of the core county in the growth of Ohio's four largest MSAs, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton. It is a positive sign for the overall health of the region if the core county is growing along with the MSA. Conversely, core county population declines in a growing MSA may indicate a flight to the suburbs, a declining core city and inner-ring suburbs, and increasing sprawl. Table 3 shows that Hamilton County has reversed its declines during the 2000s and is now contributing positively to the Cincinnati MSA's growth. In contrast to a net loss of more than 45,000 between 2000 and 2008, Hamilton County's

population has steadily increased since then, amounting to a net gain of more than 16,800 between 2008 and 2018. Cuyahoga County, however, has suffered a steady population loss since 1970, while the balance of the Cleveland MSA has enjoyed moderate growth. Franklin County's growth noticeably strengthened in the mid-2000s and until 2017 was growing faster than the MSA as a whole. Montgomery County suffered a population loss of 24,000 (4.3 percent) during the 2000s. These losses continued, but at a much slower rate, during the early years of this decade. Population stabilized in 2015.

In general, demographic changes bode well for Ohio's core counties and cities. Families with children will comprise a smaller share of Ohio's population in coming years, and the population of empty-nest seniors will comprise a larger share. With that, the demand for large-lot suburban developments will decrease, and the need for more density, nearby services, and transit will increase. Cities that position themselves to respond to these needs will be in a good position to capture this growing population.

**Table 3
Large MSA and Core County Population and Population Changes**

Area	Census		Estimates		Percentage change		
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2000-18	2010-18	2017-18
Cincinnati	1,994,818	2,114,580	2,179,858	2,190,209	9.8%	3.6%	0.5%
Hamilton	845,289	802,374	814,671	816,684	-3.4%	1.8%	0.2%
Pct. of total	42.4%	37.9%	37.4%	37.3%			
Balance	1,149,529	1,312,206	1,365,187	1,373,525	19.5%	4.7%	0.6%
Cleveland	2,148,041	2,077,240	2,058,549	2,057,009	-4.2%	-1.0%	-0.1%
Cuyahoga	1,393,871	1,280,122	1,248,371	1,243,857	-10.8%	-2.8%	-0.4%
Pct. of total	64.9%	61.6%	60.6%	60.5%			
Balance	754,170	797,118	810,178	813,152	7.8%	2.0%	0.4%
Columbus	1,675,226	1,901,974	2,082,475	2,106,541	25.7%	10.8%	1.2%
Franklin	1,068,736	1,163,414	1,295,706	1,310,300	22.6%	12.6%	1.1%
Pct. of total	63.8%	61.2%	62.2%	62.2%			
Balance	606,490	738,560	786,769	796,241	31.3%	7.8%	1.2%
Dayton	805,971	799,232	803,713	806,548	0.1%	0.9%	0.4%
Montgomery	559,141	535,153	531,669	532,331	-4.8%	-0.5%	0.1%
Pct. of total	69.4%	67.0%	66.2%	66.0%			
Balance	246,830	264,079	272,044	274,217	11.1%	3.8%	0.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

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