

California Demographic Futures

Third In a Series of Projections

GENERATIONAL PROJECTIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION BY NATIVITY AND YEAR OF IMMIGRANT ARRIVAL

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Executive Summary

This report provides uniquely detailed projections of California’s population numbers and characteristics. In addition to the standard content of age, gender and race or Hispanic origin, the Pitkin-Myers/USC projections describe foreign-born and California-born components. The new projections also provide detail on immigrant generations and the length of residence in the U.S. for the first generation. Projections of the total population are carried through 2050, while the detailed characteristics are reported through 2030.

These projections are the third edition in the California Demographic Futures series carried out through the Population Dynamics Research Group in the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. A substantial track record has been accumulated, most notably by the 2001 edition that projected the substantial leveling off of foreign-born growth that now has occurred.

The following major findings emerge from the 2012 edition of these Generational Projections.

1. Less Population Growth. Much slower population growth is foreseen in these projections than was

indicated by the official state population projections issued in 2007 by the state Department of Finance (DOF). The population level previously expected for 2020 is not reached until 2028 (44.1 million). And the 50-million population mark previously anticipated for January 2032 is now expected in January 2046, fully 14 years later. (Once the DOF projections are revised to take account of the 2010 census and recent trends, they also will likely show slower growth.)

2. A Return to Normal Growth. In fact, the anticipated growth in each of the coming decades is very similar to what was recorded in 4 of the last 5 census decades, the lone exception being the 1980s’ growth of 6.1 million added persons. See EXHIBIT A.

Along with the slower growth have come several important changes in population characteristics. The largest projected shifts involve the aging of the population and residents’ place of birth.

3. A Soaring Senior Ratio. Population growth among seniors ages 65 and older is projected to quadruple in the coming 20 years (4.2 million, amounting to 57% of the total growth in 20 years) compared to the gains in the last 20 years (1.1 million, accounting for only

Exhibit A

California Population				Population Growth Each Decade			
	Census	DOF-07	Pitkin-Myers CDF 12		Census	DOF-07	Pitkin-Myers CDF 12
1950	10,586,223			1950-60	5,130,981		
1960	15,717,204			1960-70	4,253,865		
1970	19,971,069			1970-80	3,696,695		
1980	23,667,764			1980-90	6,092,257		
1990	29,760,021			1990-00	4,111,632		
2000	33,871,648			2000-10	3,382,303	5,264,023	3,457,002
2010	37,253,956	39,135,676	37,328,528	2010-20		5,000,247	3,491,673
2020		44,135,923	40,820,201	2020-30		5,104,968	3,936,103
2030		49,240,891	44,756,304	2030-40		5,025,224	3,560,267
2040		54,266,115	48,316,571	2040-50		5,241,761	2,853,429
2050		59,507,876	51,170,000				

Source: Census, California Department of Finance, Pitkin-Myers CDF 2012

15% of total growth). Driven by aging of the large baby boom generation, the ratio of seniors ages 65 and older to prime working ages (25 to 64), is projected to soar to 36.0 seniors per 100 working age in 2030, compared to 21.6 in 2010, a two-thirds increase in just 20 years. The impact of the increase is amplified because it follows four decades of no change in the senior ratio.

4. Faltering Growth in Children. An opposite trend is occurring among children. Whereas children under age 18 were rapidly increasing in number between 1990 and 2010 (+ 1.6 million), in the coming 20 years (2010 to 2030) the growth of children virtually halts (-31 thousand). Given the continued growth of the rest of the population, the share made up by children is projected to slowly decline, from 24.9% in 2010 to 20.7% in 2030.

5. Foreign-Born Share Holding Constant. The generational projections contain rich detail on nativity or place of birth not found in other population projections. The total foreign-born share of the state population has leveled off at 27% after decades of increase. Projected foreign-born shares of the total population are 27.0% in 2020 and 27.0% in 2030. (The foreign-born share stood at 8.6% in 1970, 15.1% in 1980, 21.7% in 1990, 26.2% in 2000, and 27.2% in 2010).

6. Longer Immigrant Settlement. The growing number of foreign-born residents in the California population includes cumulative increases in the share of long-settled immigrants. As the number of foreign born who are newcomers is declining, the share of the foreign-born who are long settled (entered the U.S. 20 or more years earlier) is increasing. It is projected to rise to 62.2% of all foreign-born in 2030, compared to 45.7% in 2010 and 22.0% in 1990. Conversely, the share of foreign-born that arrived in the U.S. less than 10 years earlier is projected to fall from 27.8% in 2010 to 21.3% in 2030 compared to 50.4% in 1990.

7. Growing Majority California-Born. The 2012 edition of California Demographic Futures goes beyond previous editions to describe new detail on the number of residents who are native Californians, as opposed to residents born in other states or abroad.

These homegrown sons and daughters form a rapidly growing majority of California's population.

The native Californian (or homegrown) share of the state population became a majority of the population in the last decade, reaching 53.9% in 2010, and will continue to slowly rise. The homegrown share is far higher among children and young adults than older adults. In 2010, over 90% of children under 10 already were homegrown, native Californians, but major increases in homegrown status are now expected among adults ages 25 to 34 (62.1% in 2030 compared to 50.6% in 2010) and for adults ages 35 to 44 (57.2% in 2030 compared to 38.5% in 2010).

8. Changing Sources of Future Workforce. Growth in California's working age population is projected to change dramatically in the coming 20 years compared to the preceding 20 years. Whereas the main working age population (ages 25 to 64) increased 4.2 million from 1990 to 2010, it is expected to grow moderately less (3.3 million) from 2010 to 2030. Virtually all the projected growth is comprised of native-born who are the children of immigrants (98%). This contrasts to the earlier growth period, when immigrants themselves accounted for 80% of the growth. In fact, in the coming period, 112% of the 3.3 million working age increase is projected to be from California-born residents (a 3.7 million increase that exceeds losses in other groups).

9. A New Recognition of Training Ages. Youths and young adults are technically able to be working, but those who are ages 18 to 24 more often are enrolled in extended education or training programs, or they may be serving in part-time or apprentice positions that are preparing them to join the main workforce. They are the workforce of the future. The California born already dominated growth in this age group in the last 20 years and are projected to continue to do so in the coming period as well. Latinos predominate among the homegrown population in training ages, but all racial groups contribute. Those raised in California are, of course, educated at the expense of California taxpayers and likely to remain in the state to the benefit of California businesses and other employers. And they will become future taxpayers themselves, as well as possible home buyers to strengthen the housing market.