



Demographics Bulletin

Zachary Community Schools

Charles M. Tolbert, Ph.D.

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Zachary finishes decade as Louisiana's fastest growing city:

- Latest Census population estimate is 15,168
- Up 35% since 2000
- Fastest growing city of 10,000 or more in the state again in 2009
- Cities of Baton Rouge and Baker are losing population

Watch for the next bulletin:

- Update on real estate sales during the peak housing sales season

Contact:

Charles M. Tolbert



StrategicDemographics.com

(254) 722-2306

ctolbert@hotmail.com

We welcome your input and tips on developments that may impact the school-age population in the Zachary Community Schools.

Census Bureau: City of Zachary Population Topped 15,000 in 2009

While we wait for official results from the 2010 Census to be released late this year and next year, the Census Bureau continues its annual population estimates program between decennial censuses. Each summer, the Census Bureau releases population estimates for incorporated places (cities, towns, villages). The estimate is for the population as of the previous July 1. Those closely watched numbers are just out, and Zachary continues to set the pace among larger Louisiana incorporated places. With an estimated population on July 1, 2009, of 15,168, Zachary has gained almost 4,000 persons since the Census of 2000. That is a red-hot growth rate of 35.5 percent. To put the growth here since 2000 in perspective, no other Louisiana city of 10,000 or more persons even comes close. The runners up are Mandeville at 19 percent and Denham Springs at 18 percent growth. The year-over-year growth in Zachary is also impressive. The Census Bureau estimates annual growth from 2007 to 2008 at 884 more persons--a growth rate of almost 6.2 percent in just one year.



Zachary's experience also continues to diverge from the balance of East Baton Rouge Parish. Separate 2009 estimates were previously published by the Bureau for parishes and counties. Those numbers showed East Baton Rouge Parish growing by 5.3 percent since 2000. The cities of Baker and Baton Rouge were estimated to have lost population in that same period (down 2.5 and 1.1 percent respectively).

The Census Bureau continues to readjust population estimates across Louisiana to compensate for the impacts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. So, some declines in population can be attributed to technical adjustments. Adjustments are also clearly being made as the Bureau tries to play catch up with the Zachary population. This underscores the importance of having a 2010 base for future estimates. From a Zachary perspective, 2000 looks like ancient history.

U.S. Census Bureau Annual Estimates of Population				
Geographic Area	Population Estimates			Percent Change 2000-2009
	April 1, 2000	July 1, 2008	July 1, 2009	
Baker city	13,793	13,408	13,442	-2.5
Baton Rouge city	227,818	224,987	225,390	-1.1
Zachary city	11,275	14,284	15,168	35.5
East Baton Rouge Parish	412,852	431,024	434,633	5.3

Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Resident Population for Incorporated Places in Louisiana, Listed Alphabetically: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009 (SUB-EST2009-04-22) Release Date: June 22, 2010

Population estimates are our best guess between decennial censuses. The Census Bureau relies heavily on changes in housing unit counts in preparing population estimates. In our next bulletin, we will report winter and spring 2010 real estates sales in the area. Though those results may be somewhat slower than the peak years of 2005-06, fundamental community conditions remain quite favorable for continued growth in the longer term. We remain bullish on the Zachary community and its schools.

Access this bulletin and all others in this series by referring to the Zachary Community Schools web page at: <http://www.strategicdemographics.com/zachary-community-schools/>