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Columbus Metro Growth Doubles National Rate, Strengthening Position as Midwest Leader

New Census data shows continued momentum as metro climbs national rankings

Columbus, Ohio — The population of the Columbus metro area grew by over 21,000 the past year, reaching a population of 2,242,028 in 2025, according to newly released U.S. Census data. That rate of growth is double the national growth rate, reinforcing the Columbus metro's position as one of the fastest-growing in the country.

Among the nation's large metro areas, Columbus is ranked 32nd in total population and is tied with Atlanta for the 13th fastest growth rate, joining a group dominated by Sun Belt markets. Among the top 15 fastest growing metros, Columbus, Seattle and Indianapolis are the only metros outside Sun Belt, underscoring our metro's ability to compete nationally while being a leader of growth in the Midwest.

"To be one of the fastest-growing metro populations in the U.S. means we are doing a lot of things right to create economic opportunities and offer an outstanding quality of life," said Jason Hall, CEO of the Columbus Partnership. "The census is the voting box that tallies where people want to live. People are consistently choosing the Columbus metro in record numbers. We must continue to stay focused on the fundamentals, work together across the public and private sectors in our unique Columbus Way and continue to build a region where people and companies can succeed."

Numbers You Need to Know:

- The population growth rate in Columbus (1.0%) doubled the national rate (0.5%).
- The Columbus metro continues to drive Ohio's growth, outperforming its 19% share of the state population and accounting for 53% of the state's total population growth.
- The metro is also becoming more global, adding 10,968 new residents through international migration, accounting for 51% of total population growth.
- Columbus captured 38% of Ohio's net international migration, further strengthening its role as a global gateway for the state.

- 35% of the Columbus metro's growth came from natural growth, otherwise known as net births and deaths. The national rate was only 30%, indicating more young people are choosing to build their families in the Columbus metro.

- More than 25,000 births were recorded, reinforcing the Region's attractiveness for families and long-term population stability.

- Columbus ranks #16 in the U.S. among large metros for births per 1,000 residents, one of the strongest indicators of sustained demographic momentum.

- 6 of Ohio's 10 fastest-growing counties are in the Columbus Region

"What stands out in this data is the consistency across multiple indicators," said Jay Knox, director of research at the Columbus Partnership. "Columbus is growing faster than the nation, climbing in national rankings and continuing to lead population gains within Ohio. Strong natural population growth also signals a region where families are choosing to grow and thrive, which is a powerful indicator of long-term strength."

Long-term Momentum in Columbus

The latest data builds on a sustained trend of growth that has positioned Columbus among a select group of high-performing U.S. metros. Since 2020, Columbus is one of just 21 metropolitan areas nationwide to add more than 100,000 residents.

Within the Midwest, only Indianapolis and Minneapolis join Columbus on that list, underscoring the Region's leadership. According to the Census, the Midwest also saw positive net domestic migration for the first time this decade, with several states that went from net losers to net gainers, including Ohio with a positive net domestic migration of +11,926 in 2025.

Over the past decade, Columbus has moved from 26th to 15th in population growth rate among the nation's largest metro areas, a steady rise that reflects its ability to attract residents, retain talent and compete nationally over time.

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About the Columbus Partnership

The Columbus Partnership brings together civic-minded business leaders to advance a shared vision to make Columbus the most prosperous region in the country. Columbus Partnership member CEOs are committed to the future of the Columbus metropolitan area through high-impact civic and philanthropic engagement. Through our One Columbus and Smart Columbus brands and investor support, our team works to help create jobs and attract capital investment, expand access to opportunity, and improve the economic competitiveness of the Columbus Region. Learn more at columbusregion.com.