

Revised July 1, 2020 Population Estimates – Methodology

When the Provisional July 1, 2020 population estimates were published in December 2020, the 2020 Census results had not been released; therefore, the July 1, 2020 estimates were still based on the 2010 Census. This document describes the method used to update the July 1, 2020 population estimates so that they are based on the 2020 Census.

The Housing Unit Method (HUM) is used to estimate July 1, 2020 population from the 2020 Census population.

The following steps are taken:

1. Assume no change in Group Quarters (GQ) population.
2. Find the number of new housing units added in Q2 of 2020 for each county part of incorporated places and the unincorporated balance of each county. If residential completions are available, use them directly. If not, use residential building permits issued in a previous quarter (assuming a 6-month lag for 1-4 unit permits and a 12-month lag for 5+ unit permits). Permit completion rate is assumed to be 98%. Mobile homes are assumed to be in place the same quarter they are permitted with a 100% placement rate.
3. Find the number of demolitions in Q2 of 2020.
4. Add the newly built or placed units to and subtract the demolitions from the 2020 Census housing unit stock.
5. Pre-annexation household population is calculated by multiplying the new housing unit stock by Census 2020 persons per housing unit.
6. For annexations that contain housing units, the number of occupants is determined from field information. If that is not possible, census block-level information is used. The corresponding numbers of housing units and persons are subtracted from the jurisdiction that de-annexed the housing units. Because the 2020 Census uses the boundary as of January 1, 2020, it is determined that Q1 2020 annexations need to be included in this calculation.
7. Adding up the numbers from steps 5 and 6 results in the household population for each jurisdiction.
8. Census 2020 GQ population is added back to make the total population estimate.
9. Place level estimates sum to county and state estimates.