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## Despite recession, Central Valley population surges

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- **Almost all metro areas see gains**
- **Estimates are the last before the 2010 numbers are released**

The U.S. Census Bureau has released population estimates as of July 1, 2009 for each of the nation's counties and metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

They show that despite the Great Recession and the housing meltdown, most of the metropolitan areas of the Central Valley showed population growth over the previous year.

Visalia-Porterville showed the largest percentage increases – 1.7 percent – while Hanford-Corcoran showed an increase of 18 people, giving it a 0.0 percent movement.

Here are the Census Bureau's estimated for the Central Valley, as of July 1, 2009, with the 2009 numbers first followed by the estimate for July 1, 2008 and then the percentage change:

- Bakersfield: 807,407; 797,145, up 1.3 percent
- Chico: 220,577; 219,503, up 0.5 percent
- Fresno: 915,267; 903,133, up 1.3 percent
- Hanford-Corcoran: 148,764; 148,746, up 0.0 percent
- Madera: 148,632; 147,577, up 0.7 percent
- Merced: 245,321; 244,356, up 0.4 percent
- Modesto: 510,386; 507,450, up 0.6 percent
- Sacramento: 2,127,355; 2,101,138, up 1.2 percent
- Stockton: 674,860; 668,753, up 0.9 percent
- Visalia-Porterville: 429,668; 422,343, up 1.7 percent

The estimates are based on 2000 Census data and updated by using administrative records to estimate components of population change — namely births, deaths, and domestic and international migration.

The new estimates are not 2010 Census population counts. They are, however, the last estimates to use 2000 Census results as a base. The 2011 population estimates will be the first in the estimates series to be based on the 2010 Census population counts, which are currently underway.

"In December, we will release the official population counts for the nation and states," says Census Bureau Director Robert Groves.

The 2010 Census population totals will be used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. By April 1, 2011, the Census Bureau must release data for counties, cities and other small geographic areas so that states can proceed with redistricting.

"Census numbers govern the distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year and serve as the baseline for future post-census population estimates," says Mr. Groves. "It is critical that every U.S. household complete and mail back their questionnaire so that our counts are as accurate as possible."

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