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2020 Census and the State of Mississippi

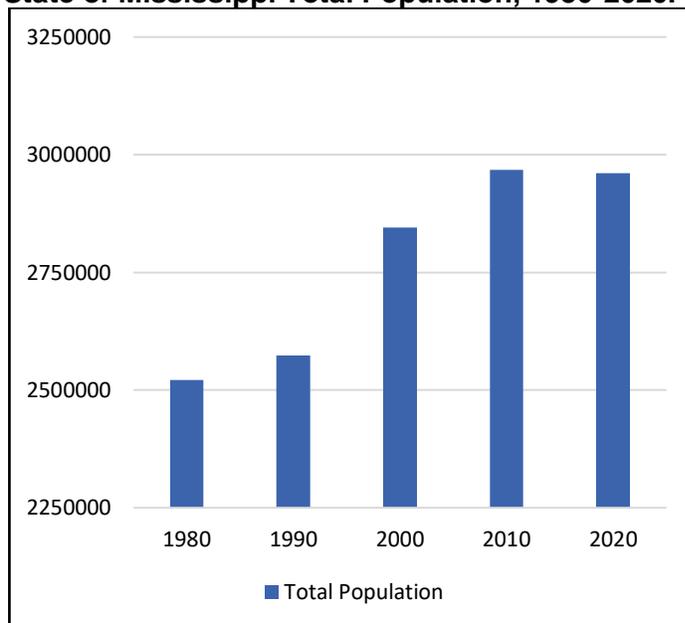
Jamiko Deleveaux, Ph.D.
Population Brief April 30, 2021



Monday's release of the 2020 Census marks the culmination of work done by local civic and social organizations in partnership with the United Census Bureau to ensure an accurate count of the United States and Mississippi population. The United States Census is a constitutionally mandated count to provide information on the size, composition, and distribution of the population at the national, state, and local levels. Conducting the Census occurs every ten years in the United States. Results from the Census are used for various purposes such as apportionment, allocation of federal funds, and survey design. The 2020 Census was historically significant for two reasons: respondents could complete their census online for the first time, and the Census was conducted during a global pandemic.

The national self-response rate for the 2020 Census was 67.0%, down 1.46% from the 2010 Census [1]. Mississippi's self-response rate of 60.4% ranked 47th out of 52nd states and territories (including Puerto Rico and Washington D.C.). However, when including the Census Bureau Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU), 99.9% of Mississippi households were enumerated in the 2020 Census. Nearly 40% (37.2%) of Mississippi residents used the internet to complete their 2020 Census [1].

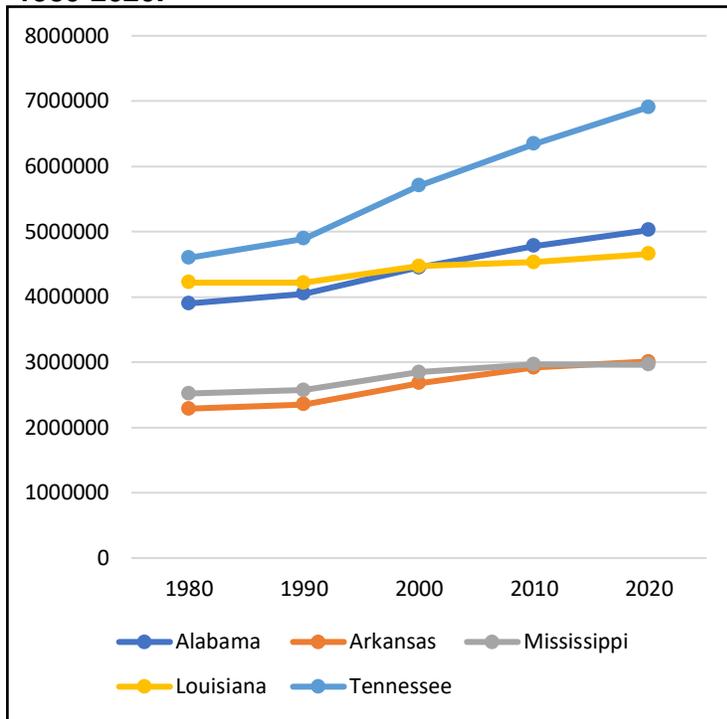
State of Mississippi Total Population, 1980-2020.



Source: United States Census Bureau

In 2010 the total population for the state of Mississippi was 2,967,297 [2]. The 2020 Census total population for the state of Mississippi is 2,961,279, a population decline of 0.2 % between 2010 and 2020. Mississippi was one of three states (along with Illinois and West Virginia) to lose residents [2]. From 1980 to 2020 the state of Mississippi has seen a 14.8% population growth. As of 2020 Mississippi is the 34th most populated state in the United States [2].

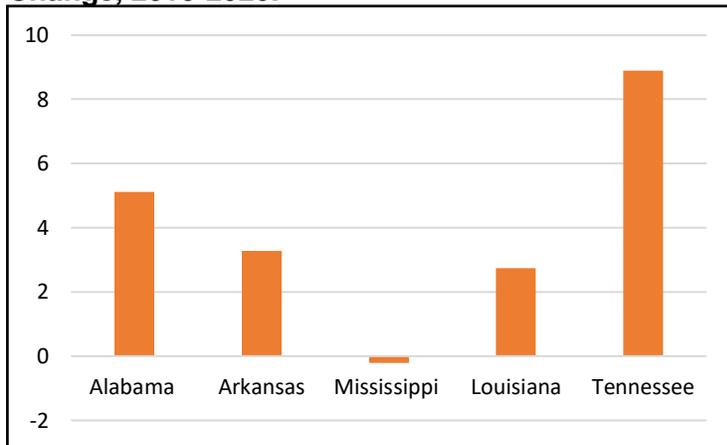
Comparison of Mid-South States Total Population, 1980-2020.



Source: United States Census Bureau

Comparing Mississippi’s 2020 Census results to that of neighboring states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee) can provide an interesting analysis. Between the period of 1980 to 2020, all states in the mid-south region have experienced varying forms of population growth. In the five state region the state of Mississippi in 2020 was the only state to see a population decrease while Tennessee saw the largest population growth. Additionally, Mississippi was the only state in the southeast to lose residents while other states in the region gained residents. New economic opportunities are fueling population growth in the mid-south region.

Comparison of Mid-South States Population Percent Change, 2010-2020.



Source: United States Census Bureau

As the state of Mississippi seeks to actively attract businesses to the Magnolia state, accurate demographic information about the potential workforce is important. The release of Monday’s data showing the changing population dynamics of Mississippi will play a critical role in long-term planning as the state and counties invest in services like education, healthcare, and transportation.

Access to Monday’s Census release can be found at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/dec/2020-apportionment-data.html>. Although Monday’s release focuses on the national and state total population, future releases by the Census Bureau will provide details at local levels (county, district, etc.) on a variety of topics including but not limited to, race and ethnicity, age, poverty, and sex. As those

releases are made available the State Data Center of Mississippi will provide information and trainings to understand the demographic changes occurring within the state of Mississippi. For the most up-to-date information on these releases and the new 2020 data as it relates to Mississippi, please visit our website <https://sdc.olemiss.edu/>.

References

[1] U.S. Census Bureau. 2021. *2020 Response Rate*. Washington, DC. (<https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>).

[2] U.S. Census Bureau. 2021. *2020 Census Population Counts for Apportionment*. Washington, DC: Author