US States - Ranked by Population 2018
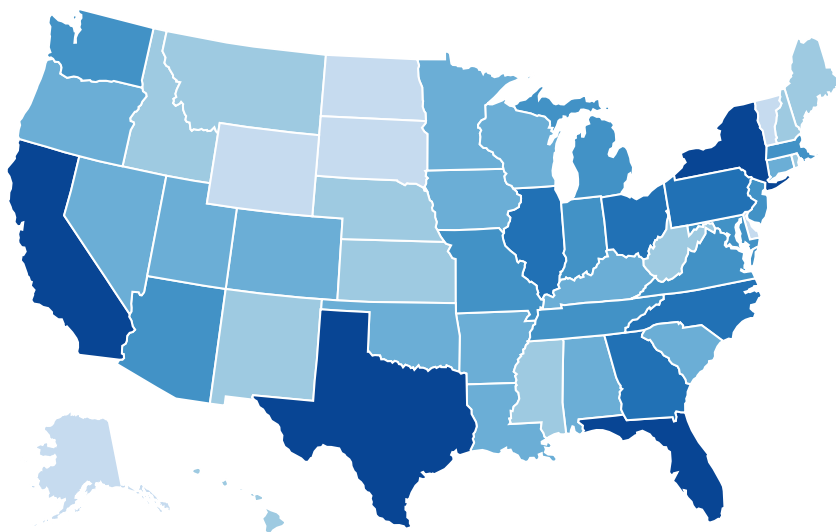
California (/states/california-population/) is the most populous state in the US by several percentage points, representing 12% of the total population. Texas (/states/texas-population/), while larger geographically, comes in second with around 23 million residents, making up 8.69% of the population. However, in 2017, population growth in Texas was at 1.43%, while in California it was just 0.61%.

The smallest state, Rhode Island (/states/rhode-island-population/), is actually more populous than a number of much larger states, including Montana (/states/montana-population/), Alaska (/states/alaska-population/) and Wyoming (/states/wyoming-population/). In fact, Wyoming has the smallest population in the US, with just over half a million residents. Montana, with its famous Big Sky, has almost ten thousand fewer residents than comparatively tiny Rhode Island.

Interestingly, a number of the larger states showed negative population growth in 2017, and Wyoming had the highest negative growth of all at almost 1%. Other states with negative population growth in 2017 included Louisiana (/states/louisiana-population/), Mississippi (/states/mississippi-population/), and Hawaii (/states/hawaii-population/). Perhaps surprisingly, despite Chicago (/us-cities/chicago-population/) being one of the largest cities in the US, the population of Illinois (/states/illinois-population/) dropped by 0.26% in 2017.

There were also a few states with significant population growth. Nevada (/states/nevada-population/)'s population increased by 2%, while Idaho (/states/idaho-population/)'s was up by 2.20%. States typically popular with young people, such as Washington (/states/washington-population/) and Oregon (/states/oregon-population/) - home to

Seattle (/us-cities/seattle-population/) and Portland (/us-cities/portland-population/), respectively - continued to attract growth, with Washington's population increasing by 1.71%, and Oregon's by 1.39%.

Rank	State	2018 Population ▼	2018 Growth	% of US ≡
1	California (/states/california-population/)	39,776,830	0.61%	12.13%
2	Texas (/states/texas-population/)	28,704,330	1.41%	8.75%
3	Florida (/states/florida-population/)	21,312,211	1.56%	6.50%
4	New York (/states/new-york-population/)	19,862,512	0.07%	6.06%
5	Pennsylvania (/states/pennsylvania-population/)	12,823,989	0.14%	3.91%
6	Illinois (/states/illinois-population/)	12,768,320	-0.26%	3.89%
7	Ohio (/states/ohio-population/)	11,694,664	0.31%	3.57%
8	Georgia (/states/georgia-population/)	10,545,138	1.11%	3.21%
9	North Carolina (/states/north-carolina-population/)	10,390,149	1.14%	3.17%
10	Michigan (/states/michigan-population/)	9,991,177	0.29%	3.05%
11	New Jersey (/states/new-jersey-population/)	9,032,872	0.30%	2.75%
12	Virginia (/states/virginia-population/)	8,525,660	0.66%	2.60%
13	Washington (/states/washington-population/)	7,530,552	1.69%	2.30%
14	Arizona (/states/arizona-population/)	7,123,898	1.53%	2.17%
15	Massachusetts (/states/massachusetts-population/)	6,895,917	0.53%	2.10%
16	Tennessee (/states/tennessee-population/)	6,782,564	0.99%	2.07%
17	Indiana (/states/indiana-population/)	6,699,629	0.49%	2.04%
18	Missouri (/states/missouri-population/)	6,135,888	0.37%	1.87%
19	Maryland (/states/maryland-population/)	6,079,602	0.45%	1.85%
20	Wisconsin (/states/wisconsin-population/)	5,818,049	0.39%	1.77%
21	Colorado (/states/colorado-population/)	5,684,203	1.37%	1.73%
22	Minnesota (/states/minnesota-population/)	5,628,162	0.92%	1.72%
23	South Carolina (/states/south-carolina-population/)	5,088,916	1.28%	1.55%

Rank	State	2018 Population ▾	2018 Growth	% of US ☰
24	Alabama (/states/alabama-population/)	4,888,949	0.29%	1.49%
25	Louisiana (/states/louisiana-population/)	4,682,509	-0.04%	1.43%
26	Kentucky (/states/kentucky-population/)	4,472,265	0.41%	1.36%
27	Oregon (/states/oregon-population/)	4,199,563	1.37%	1.28%
28	Oklahoma (/states/oklahoma-population/)	3,940,521	0.25%	1.20%
29	Connecticut (/states/connecticut-population/)	3,588,683	0.01%	1.09%
30	Iowa (/states/iowa-population/)	3,160,553	0.47%	0.96%
31	Utah (/states/utah-population/)	3,159,345	1.85%	0.96%
32	Nevada (/states/nevada-population/)	3,056,824	1.96%	0.93%
33	Arkansas (/states/arkansas-population/)	3,020,327	0.53%	0.92%
34	Mississippi (/states/mississippi-population/)	2,982,785	-0.04%	0.91%
35	Kansas (/states/kansas-population/)	2,918,515	0.19%	0.89%
36	New Mexico (/states/new-mexico-population/)	2,090,708	0.13%	0.64%
37	Nebraska (/states/nebraska-population/)	1,932,549	0.65%	0.59%
38	West Virginia (/states/west-virginia-population/)	1,803,077	-0.70%	0.55%
39	Idaho (/states/idaho-population/)	1,753,860	2.15%	0.53%
40	Hawaii (/states/hawaii-population/)	1,426,393	-0.08%	0.43%
41	New Hampshire (/states/new-hampshire-population/)	1,350,575	0.58%	0.41%
42	Maine (/states/maine-population/)	1,341,582	0.42%	0.41%
43	Montana (/states/montana-population/)	1,062,330	1.13%	0.32%
44	Rhode Island (/states/rhode-island-population/)	1,061,712	0.20%	0.32%
45	Delaware (/states/delaware-population/)	971,180	0.96%	0.30%
46	South Dakota (/states/south-dakota-population/)	877,790	0.93%	0.27%
47	North Dakota (/states/north-dakota-population/)	755,238	-0.02%	0.23%

Rank	State	2018 Population ▼	2018 Growth	% of US ≡
48	Alaska (/states/alaska-population/)	738,068	-0.23%	0.22%
49	District of Columbia (/states/district-of-columbia-population/)	703,608	1.39%	0.21%
50	Vermont (/states/vermont-population/)	623,960	0.05%	0.19%
51	Wyoming (/states/wyoming-population/)	573,720	-0.97%	0.17%
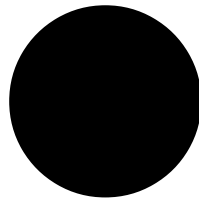
(/states/state-quiz/)

States Quiz

(/states/state-quiz/)

States Quiz - How Many States do You Know?
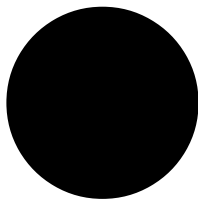
(/states/state-capitals/)

State Capitals

(/states/state-capitals/)

State Capitals for each state in the US, along with each city's current population
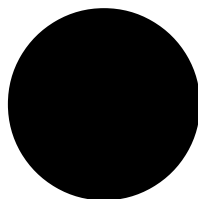
(/states/states-by-statehood/)

States by Statehood

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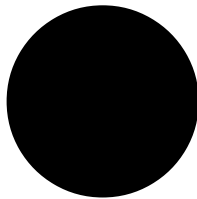
The Statehood Year of every US State
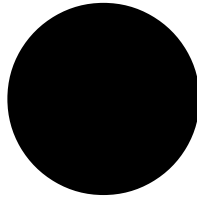
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States by Area

(/states/states-by-area/)
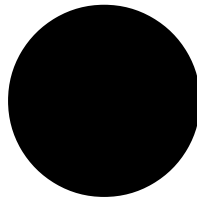
The area of each state in the US

(/states/state-densities/)

States by Densities

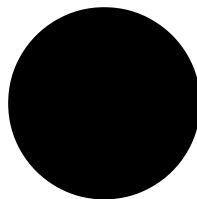(/states/state-densities/)

The density of each state in the US

(/states/states-by-first-letter/)

States by First Letter

(/states/states-by-first-letter/)
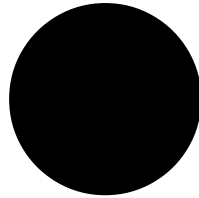
States listed by first letter

(/states/states-by-race/)

States by Race

States by Race

13 Colonies

Populations of the Original 13 Colonies

Data Sources

1. US Census 2017 State Estimates (https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2017/estimates-idaho.html)

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