

HIGHWAY STATISTICS

2010 Delaware Travel and Demographic

The 2010 population data was obtained from the October 2010 Population Consortium. The Delaware Land Area remains at 1954 square miles, conforming to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Population: The yearly change in population by county is tabulated below:

County	Area (Square Miles)	Population				
		2000 Census	2007	2008	2009	2010
New Castle	427	500,265	525,624	528,536	532,083	538,479
Kent	589	126,697	151,505	155,142	157,430	162,310
Sussex	938	156,638	187,952	188,597	192,019	197,145
Total State	1954	783,600	865,081	872,275	881,532	897,934

County	Population by Year		
	2009	2010	% Change
New Castle	532,083	538,479	1.20%
Kent	157,430	162,310	3.10%
Sussex	192,019	197,145	2.67%
Total State	881,532	897,934	1.86%

The change in population between 2009 and 2010 was 1.8% for the state as a whole. New Castle County had the smallest rate of increase at only 1%. Kent County had the largest increase at 3.0% while Sussex County still was above the state average for the year growing by 2.6%.

There are several reasons for the slight growth which mainly include the several years of recession, major bank mergers, transfers of credit card operations to other states, and outsourcing work assignments for certain Delaware businesses to other countries. There is a strong relationship between job growth and population increases, so the modest increases in population shown in the table above are connected to the relatively small increase in total jobs.

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The City of Wilmington, which is the financial hub of banking operations in Delaware, has a wage tax. There continues a general shift of jobs to lower tax area states offering other incentive packages. In comparison to the other two counties of Delaware, the property prices are higher in New Castle County. Early-retirement opportunity, buyout offers, and elimination of

salaried positions in automobile assembly plants created a migration of some labor force from Delaware. The General Motors assembly plant near Elsmere went from three shifts to only one by the end of 2008 and closed in 2009. The Daimler-Chrysler assembly plant in Newark closed in November 2008 after experiencing shift reductions in prior months. Despite these factors, there was still a slight growth of population in New Castle County.

In 2010, like most other states, Delaware still is faced with a high foreclosure rate especially as compared to historical averages. With a decline in the housing industry, there is a problem for the new immigrants who were employed in the construction. Low salaries and sporadic employment in this sector have also contributed to the high foreclosure rate within the state.

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