

2009 State and County Housing Units Estimates

The US Census Bureau released its 2000-2009 state and county housing unit estimates on June 16, 2010. According to the estimates, New Jersey had the nation's eleventh largest number of housing units — 3,526,741, as of 2009. Its net gain of 216,454 housing units since the 2000 Census ranked 23rd among the nation's 50 states. New Jersey's 6.5 percent increase between 2000 and 2009 was faster than most northeastern states. The number of total housing units grew by 5.1 percent and 4.4 percent in Pennsylvania and New York, respectively; and by 12.1 percent in the nation as a whole during the past nine years.

New Jersey's 2008-2009 annual increase of 10,248 units was the lowest so far in this decade, reflecting the current national economic recession which began in December 2007. The state's annual increase in housing units peaked during the 2005-2006 period, with a gain of 30,404 units. Nationally, the 656,000 unit increase in 2008-2009 was also lower than any other single-year increase in this decade.

Ocean County added more housing units (27,044) than any other county in New Jersey between 2000 and 2009. The numeric growth of housing units in Hudson, Monmouth and Middlesex counties were also substantial (more than 15,000 units). Together, these four counties accounted for 36.2 percent of the state's total housing unit increase. Salem County had the state's least numeric gain in housing units (1,609) during this decade, from its small base.

Gloucester (13.0%) and Cape May (12.7%) were the fastest growing counties in terms of the rate of housing unit increase¹. Passaic County's 1.4 percent growth rate since 2000 was the state's slowest.

The Census Bureau estimates housing unit change since the last census annually based on building permits, mobile home shipments, and estimates of housing unit loss.

The 2000-2009 housing unit estimates for the nation's 50 states and New Jersey's 21 counties are available online on the New Jersey Labor Market Information web site: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/dmograph/est/est_index.html. For information about housing unit estimates for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0388, telephone 609-292-0076, e-mail Sen-Yuan.Wu@dol.state.nj.us.

Footnote: ¹A portion of the new housing units in counties of Cape May, Ocean and other shore areas were for seasonal or occasional uses only. For instance, seasonal housing accounted for 47.0% of Cape May County's total housing units, according to the 2000 Census.