

Data from the U-S Census Bureau show central Arkansas' population growth is concentrating in suburban and lower-density areas. That's according to analysis in the 2021 Demographic Review and Outlook report from Metroplan, central Arkansas' regional planning agency. The report shows the central Arkansas region is growing at a slower pace than the U-S average, but slightly faster than Arkansas as a whole. Jonathan Lupton, senior planner for publications with Metroplan, says steady growth is to be expected in the central Arkansas area.

News01

0:25

"...being some growth."

Some of the fastest growing parts of central Arkansas are smaller "satellite" communities, like Ward, Austin and Vilonia. Despite that, Lupton says larger urban areas continue to be the centers of population growth in the region.

News02

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"...start growing fast."

Saline County saw the most growth in the region in the last decade, adding about 16-thousand people. While Arkansas' population grew by about 3%, rural areas saw the highest decline with about 57-thousand fewer residents compared to ten years ago.

A new report looking at Census data shows a sharp decline in population in rural parts of Arkansas. The 2021 Demographic Review and Outlook report from Metroplan, which is central Arkansas' regional planning agency, looks at population trends over the past 10 years. Jonathan Lupton, senior planner for publications at Metroplan, says population growth was almost exclusively centered around the state's largest metropolitan areas.

News03

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"...grown at all."

Despite losses in rural areas, Arkansas' population grew by 3.3% in the past decade. Lupton says urban areas of the state could also start feeling the effects of a declining rural population.

News04

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"...fewer rural people."

Lupton says fewer people migrate to Arkansas from out-of-state and internationally, which could lead to stagnating population growth in the future. The report says Little Rock, North Little Rock and Conway account for nearly half of central Arkansas' population, and about 70% of its jobs.