



Monday, December 22, 2008, 10:51am MST

Arizona maintains rank as second-fastest growing state

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Adam Kress](#)

Arizona held its position in 2008 as the second-fastest growing state in the country.

From July 1, 2007, to July 1, 2008, Arizona's population grew by 2.3 percent, or about 147,000 people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The year before, Arizona also was the second-fastest growing state, but at a higher rate, 2.8 percent.

Utah's population grew 2.5 percent from 2007-2008, taking over the top spot on the list from Nevada. After Arizona at No. 2, Texas, North Carolina and Colorado rounded out the top five, each increasing 2 percent.

Nevada has seen its growth rate cut nearly in half in the past two years. The state's population grew by 1.8 percent between 2007 and 2008, down from 3.5 percent two years earlier. Nevada was the nation's fastest growing state from 2006 to 2007, with population increasing 2.9 percent, but ranked No. 8 in the most recent 12-month period. Nevada had been among the four fastest-growing states each of the previous 23 years.

Texas was the biggest numerical gainer, adding 484,000 people between 2007 and 2008 followed by California, 379,000; North Carolina, 181,000; Georgia, 162,000; and Arizona, 147,000.

Michigan and Rhode Island -- suffering from one of the nation's highest unemployment rates -- were the only states to lose population. Michigan had a net loss of 46,000 people, or 0.5 percent, and Rhode Island lost 2,000, 0.2 percent.

California remained the most populous state with 36.8 million residents followed by Texas at 24.3 million, New York at 19.5 million, Florida with 18.3 million and Illinois at 12.9 million.

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