

Charlotte metro posts population surge among highest in U.S., new Census Bureau estimates show

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The Charlotte metro posted the nation's sixth-largest increase in population count last year, new data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows.

The Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia region grew by 50,458 residents during the one-year span between July 1, 2022 and 2023 to reach a population of about 2.8 million, according to the newest set of Census estimates, released today.

The five metro areas with higher increases in population count during that time are all in the South. They are Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up by 152,598 people to reach a total population of about 8.1 million; Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, up by 139,789 people with 7.51 million residents; Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, up by 68,585 people with 6.3 million residents; Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, up by 54,916 people with 2.81 million residents; and Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, up by 51,622 people with 3.34 million residents.

From a growth percentage, the Charlotte metro's population rose 1.8% over the year span, ranking 35th out of nearly 400 metros, the Census figures show.

With an estimated population now topping 2.8 million, Charlotte has the 22nd-largest metro in the nation — the same as in 2021. It [fell to No. 23 in 2022](#).

Mecklenburg County added some 19,626 residents between July 2022 and 2023, accounting for a population of about 1.16 million. *CBJ* will provide a more detailed look at local county population growth tomorrow.

Three metros in the Carolinas notched top-10 growth rates for population last year: Myrtle Beach, Spartanburg and Wilmington. Myrtle Beach's population rose 3.7% to reach an estimated 397,478 people as of July 2023, ranking it third highest. Spartanburg's 2.9% growth rate (population of 383,327) placed at No. 8, while Wilmington's 2.8% increase (population of 467,337) landed at No. 9.

Elsewhere in North Carolina, the Census estimates show that Raleigh-Cary added about 29,151 people (15th highest), growing 2% over the year (30th highest) to reach a population of nearly 1.51 million; Durham-Chapel Hill added 6,052 people (61st), growing 1% (88th) for a population of 608,879; Greensboro-High Point added 5,223 people (68th), growing 0.7% (135th) for a population of 789,842; and Winston-Salem added 6,831 people (54th), growing 1% (89th) for a population of 695,630.

And just northeast of Charlotte, the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton metro added 2,228 people (126th) between 2022 and 2023 to reach an estimated population of 370,030, up 0.6% (144th).

The Census Bureau said about 73% of the nation's 387 metro areas recorded population growth from 2022 to 2023. That compares with about 58% for the nation's 538 micro areas.