

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

Florida



Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996): Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (2,199,231), Miami (2,076,175), Fort Lauderdale (1,438,228)

Mexico



Largest urban areas by population (1995): Mexico City (16,562,000), Guadalajara (3,430,000), Monterrey (2,994,000)



Comparison at same scale

Florida
Area: 58,664 sq. miles
Population: 14.7 million

Mexico
Area: 756,066 sq. miles
Population: 95.7 million

Forming opposite rims of the Gulf of Mexico, Florida and Mexico have similar climates and coastal resources. These resources have helped to sustain growing populations and produced major changes in the natural environment.

Much of Florida's agricultural and urban development has been on drained wetlands, while Mexico City, the world's second largest urban area, is situated on the drained bed of a former lake and its wetlands. Today both areas face rapid population growth that threatens two of the most fundamental needs of humans and wildlife: water and air.

Florida's landscape is mostly low, flat and moist, with the longest coastline in the 48 contiguous states. Mexico, on the other hand, is much more topographically diverse and is

dominated by high plateaus and rugged mountains, with land cover ranging from deserts to tropical forests. But Mexico is also flanked by two oceans, with a coastline more than four times as long as Florida's. Oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is important to Mexico's economy and a serious environmental issue in Florida.

Once claimed by Spain, Mexico and Florida have both been significantly influenced by Hispanic culture. Mexico's native Amerindians remain a prominent part of the population, with people of mixed Indian and Spanish ancestry in the majority; while in Florida, Native American populations were largely eliminated or forced to move elsewhere. Today the subtropical climate and beaches attract large numbers of tourists and retirees to both Florida and Mexico.

Mexico's and Florida's high growth rates are driven by different forces. Mexico, which is the second most populous Latin American country, is growing because of its high fertility rate, which is much higher than that of the United States. With rapid population growth threatening its economy, Mexico is working to bring its fertility down. Today women have an average of 3.1 children—less than one-half of the 1960s rate. But with more than one-third of the population under the age of 15, population momentum will fuel continued high growth because large numbers of young people will reach childbearing ages each year.

By contrast, net in-migration from other parts of the United States, as well as from other countries, is fueling Florida's rapid growth rate—which is *continued on back page*

FLORIDA

Demographic and Health Trends

- Since World War II, Florida has transformed itself from the least populous state of the old Confederacy to the fourth most populous state in the country. The “Sunshine State” is expected to grow an additional 41 percent by 2025, causing it to pass New York as the nation’s third largest state.
- Net migration from other states accounted for more than one-half of the 1.7 million persons Florida gained between 1990 and 1997. Immigration from other countries—mostly from Latin America—accounted for an additional one-fourth.
- Florida has more elderly persons than any other state except California—2.7 million in 1996. By 2025,

that number is expected to more than double to 5.5 million.

- About 57 percent of Florida’s residents are located in its five largest demographic centers: Miami and Fort Lauderdale in the Southeast; Tampa-St. Petersburg on the Gulf Coast; Orlando in the central part of the state; and Jacksonville in the Northeast.
- Central Florida, the Panhandle, and the Southwest Gulf Coast are among the fastest growing areas. The suburbs surrounding Naples, Ocala, Punta Gorda, Orlando, and Fort Walton Beach all increased their populations by at least 15 percent since 1990.

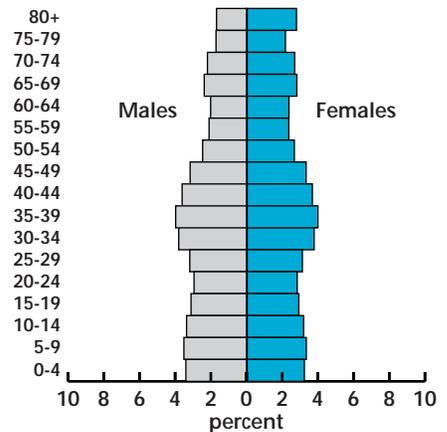
Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Between the mid-1950s and the mid-1970s, Florida lost an average of nearly 72,000 acres of wetland per year, mainly because of agricultural and residential use.
- South Florida’s residents depend on more than 1,400 miles of canals and levees crisscrossing the Everglades region for their freshwater needs and for flood control. This system is a poor substitute for the Everglades’ natural water rhythms and exacts a high cost to the Everglades watershed and its wildlife.
- In 1996, the number of Florida manatees declined from 2,600 to 2,229. Collisions with water vehicles account for about one-half of manatee deaths.
- Florida has the third highest number of endangered and threatened species in the country—92. This number includes the well-known Florida panther, the American crocodile, the Everglade snail kite, the Florida manatee, and the pygmy fringe-tree.

Socioeconomic Factors

- Tourism has long been the state’s largest industry, generating \$41 billion dollars in 1997.
- Although tourism and agriculture form the bedrock of Florida’s economy, high technology enterprises, such as space exploration research in Cape Canaveral and laser production around Orlando, are becoming increasingly important to the state.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

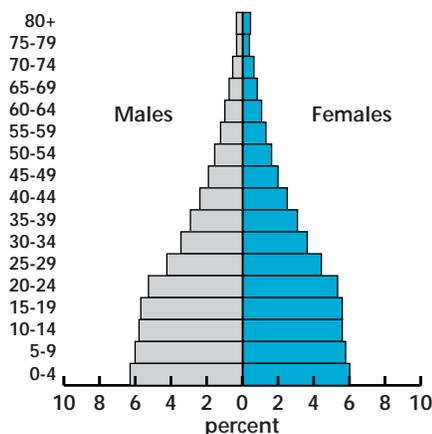


FLORIDA FACTS

Population, 1997:	14.7 million
Projected population, 2025:	20.7 million
Annual growth rate:	1.6%
Doubling time (at current rate):	44 years
Average number of children per woman:	2.1
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:	7.5
Life expectancy:	72 (male), 80 (female)
Persons per square mile:	272
Percent urban:	85
Endangered/threatened animals:	38 species
Endangered/threatened plants:	54 species
Percent of land protected:	10
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980:	46%
Daily water use per capita:	1,282 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes:	13%
Water use for agriculture:	19%
Water use for industry:	4%
Water use for energy production:	64%
Cropland per capita:	1.0 acres
Energy use per capita:	42.8 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle:	1.4
Adults who are high school graduates:	82%
Elected officials who are women:	22%
Labor force in agriculture:	3%
Labor force in industry:	13%
Labor force in services:	84%
Gross State Product, 1994:	\$22,759 per capita

MEXICO

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



MEXICO FACTS

Population, 1997: 95.7 million

Projected population, 2025: 140.8 million

Annual growth rate: 1.8%

Doubling time (at current rate): 39 years

Average number of children per woman: 3.1

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 34

Life expectancy: 70 (male), 76 (female)

Persons per square mile: 130

Percent urban: 71

Threatened animals: 247 species

Threatened plants: 1,048 species

Percent of land protected: 5.0

Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.

Percent with access to safe water: 83

Percent with adequate sanitation: 72

Daily water use per capita: 649 gallons

Water use for domestic purposes: 6%

Water use for agriculture: 86%

Water use for industry: 8%

Cropland per capita: 0.7 acres

Energy use per capita: 9.0 barrels of oil equiv.

Persons per motor vehicle: 7

Percent of girls in secondary school: 58

Percent of boys in secondary school: 57

Women as % of national legislature: 14

Labor force in agriculture: 27%

Labor force in industry: 22%

Labor force in services: 50%

GDP per capita, 1995: US\$2,669

Demographic and Health Trends

■ The rate of population growth in Mexico declined steadily from 1965 to 1997. Women now have 3.1 children on average, compared to seven in the late 1950s. Despite these trends, the population is projected to increase nearly 50 percent by 2025 as large numbers of young people enter their childbearing years. Thirty-six percent of the population is under the age of 15.

■ Urban areas are growing the fastest. The percentage of the population residing in urban areas grew from 50 percent in 1960 to 75 percent in 1995. Mexico City is the world's second largest urban area with nearly 17 million people. Only Tokyo has more people.

■ The likelihood of a child in Mexico dying before reaching the age of 5 has decreased to less than one-fourth of its 1960 level.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Air quality is poor in and around Mexico's industrial areas. Mexico City and the surrounding region experience temperature reversals that trap pollutants, worsening the effects of severe smog, high levels of lead, and other toxic materials.

■ Rivers are polluted by industrial effluents and inadequately treated sewage. Water pollution is worst in urban areas and the industrial areas along the U.S.-Mexico border.

■ Water is scarce in much of Mexico, partially because most water resources are lower in elevation than one-half of the country's population and industry.

■ Mexico has the largest number of known species of mammals of any country—450. Five percent of these are threatened. There are 1,026 known species of birds (3 percent are threatened) and 25,000 known species of plants (4 percent are threatened).

Socioeconomic Factors

■ The poorest 40 percent of households in Mexico now receive 12 percent of total household income, and the wealthiest 20 percent receive 55 percent of total household income. Yet these figures represent a more equitable distribution of income than other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean on average.

■ Accompanying the income distribution problem is unemployment. Given Mexico's young population, the economy needs to grow by over 3 percent annually to absorb potential

new workers. The economy did not reach adequate growth rates from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, resulting in high unemployment rates.

■ While virtually all children attend primary school, about one-half of the children of secondary school age do not attend secondary school. The rate of illiteracy among adults is estimated to be 10 percent. Women are 50 percent more likely to be illiterate than are men. These illiteracy rates are lower than the average for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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nearly four times the rate for the country as a whole during the last 25 years—making it America’s fourth most populous state. Florida’s elderly population (second only to California in size) is growing even faster and now accounts for almost 20 percent of its residents.

In Mexico, population growth and industrial development have produced hazardous levels of air and water pollution in Mexico City and along the U.S.-Mexico border. Mexico City is considered the most polluted city in the Americas. Auto emissions contribute significantly to air so poisonous that birds have reportedly fallen dead from the sky. Agriculture and logging have also affected wildlife habitat through overgrazing and forest clearing that have led to desertification. Nearly one-half of the country’s 25 million hectares (one hectare equals 10,000 square meters) of tropical dry and humid forests have been cleared for agriculture and cattle raising.

Florida’s population growth has threatened forest and marine resources through pollution and overharvesting. The overriding threat, however, is to wetlands. The vast Everglades wetland system dominates much of South Florida, but its size has been reduced by one-half for sugar cane cultivation and residential use. As a result, wading

bird populations have declined 90 percent and the capacity to recharge the aquifer that provides drinking water for Floridians has been reduced. With tourism as its primary industry, Florida has launched significant efforts to protect its wetlands, coastal areas, and wildlife, but continuing population growth makes progress difficult.

Responding to Challenges

Florida has formed the Governor’s Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, which advises the state on environmental policy issues. This broad stakeholder group includes representatives of government, environmental groups and other citizens organizations, Native American tribes, industries, agriculture, and universities. It is reviewing water issues affecting the Everglades, including proposals to restore natural water flows.

The Rio Laja Habitat Protection Project aims to protect a million-acre watershed in central Mexico. The human population in this important mi-

gratory bird habitat is expected to double in the next 25 years. The project is addressing population growth and habitat restoration by teaching local people about resource conservation while delivering health services. Partners in the project include the family

People in Florida and Mexico, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth’s resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

planning organization CASA, the Sociedad Audubon de Mexico, Save the Children, the University of Michigan, and the U.S. Forest Service. This effort is financed in part with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation’s GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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