

Roy Romer  
Governor

## DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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To: Persons Interested in Demographic Matters

From: Reid T. Reynolds, State Demographer 

Subject: New State Population Estimates

Date: December 31, 1987

The Census Bureau has just released new population estimates for all states. The provisional July 1, 1987 estimate for Colorado is 3,296,269--30,120 or 0.9 percent above the revised July 1, 1986 estimate of 3,266,149. The difference between births and deaths for the mid-86 to mid-87 period is 33,761. This implies negative net migration of 3,641 for the period.

Table 1 adds the most recent figures to a historical series extending back to 1960. If these figures hold up after subsequent revisions this will be the first time since 1960 (and perhaps since the Great Depression) that the state has experienced two consecutive years of negative net migration. These estimates also indicate that the state has experienced its fourth year of relatively slow growth (less than 1.5 percent per year). As can be seen in Chart A, there have been two previous periods of slow growth--1964-66 and 1975-76. Both of these periods were followed by rapid recoveries due to a resumption of net migration. The current slowdown is distinctive because it has lasted longer than the two previous slowdowns and there is no evidence of an impending return to historic migration levels.

The "big picture" given by these estimates is that the state has departed from its traditional pattern of growth through net migration. A substantial surplus of births over deaths offsets the current low levels of net outmigration, yielding a growth rate similar to that of the nation as a whole.

Given the age structure of the state's population a slight decline in the number of births is expected for the next decade or more. If net migration continues at its current low level, the arrival of fewer young adults would further depress future births. Deaths, on the other hand, are likely to increase slowly as the population ages. Even if net migration remains near zero for the remainder of the century, however, births are likely to exceed deaths and the state will continue to grow, albeit at an increasingly slower rate.

The principal determinant of the volatile component of population growth, net migration, is the demand for labor. Historically, the demand for labor has exceeded the local supply, bringing tens of thousands of new residents to the state each year for most of the postwar period. Today the number of state residents available to work is growing by about 20,000 per year even with near zero net migration. The failure of the state's economy to produce this many jobs in recent years has led to increases in unemployment, decreases in labor force participation rates and a slowdown in net migration.

Two other factors also contribute to the slowdown in net migration. Labor markets elsewhere are stronger vis-a-vis Colorado's than they have been in most of the recent past. From 1975 to 1983 employment nationwide increased 2.0 percent per annum versus 4.8 percent in Colorado. From 1983 to 1986 national employment grew 2.8 percent per annum vs. 0.2 percent in Colorado. Also, the age structure of the nation's population is becoming less favorable to migration. From 1975 to 1983 the U.S. population 20-34 grew 2.5 percent per annum it has grown by 0.7 percent per annum from 1983 to 1986. (From 1975 to 1980 51 percent of the migrants to Colorado were 20-34.)

Many users of demographic statistics prefer data for calendar years rather than the mid year data shown in Table 1 and Chart A. Table 2 and Chart B are designed to meet their needs. Year end population estimates are prepared from midyear estimates by linear interpolation; the last estimate is extrapolated using the last annual percent change. Calendar year births and deaths are compiled from monthly data; data for the last six months of 1987 are estimated.

Estimates for recent years are subject to change. Table 3 shows that past revisions of the provisional state population estimate have been substantial, especially in the early part of the decade. The revision for 1986 is the smallest in this decade and the first downward revision. The large revisions in the early part of the decade are due to the use of estimating equations calibrated on the 1970 census for the provisional estimates and new equations calibrated to the 1980 census for the revised estimates. It is reasonable to expect that annual revisions in the second half of the decade will be smaller than in the first half. However, following the 1990 census the 1980 estimate series will be revised once again. (The 1980 state estimate was revised upward by 2.5 percent following the 1980 census.) Revisions such as these are troubling to those who expect exactitude in population estimation. However, the Census Bureau's state population estimates provide reasonably accurate reflections of recent demographic change.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

TABLE 1

COLORADO POPULATION GROWTH  
Components of Change, 1960-1987  
Mid-Year

POPJULYB.WK1

Year	Population July 1	Total Pop. Growth	Annual Percent Growth	Resid. Births	Resid. Deaths	Natural Incr.	Net Migrat.	Pct of Growth fr Mig
1960	1,771,158			42,106	15,096	27,010		
1961	1,840,000	68,842	3.9%	43,770	14,855	28,915	39,927	58.0%
1962	1,900,000	60,000	3.3%	44,530	15,980	28,550	31,450	52.4%
1963	1,940,000	40,000	2.1%	42,945	16,012	26,933	13,067	32.7%
1964	1,970,000	30,000	1.5%	41,393	16,265	25,128	4,872	16.2%
1965	1,990,000	20,000	1.0%	38,865	16,110	22,755	-2,755	-13.8%
1966	2,010,000	20,000	1.0%	35,435	16,278	19,157	843	4.2%
1967	2,050,000	40,000	2.0%	35,018	16,321	18,697	21,303	53.3%
1968	2,120,000	70,000	3.4%	35,354	16,990	18,364	51,636	73.8%
1969	2,170,000	50,000	2.4%	38,532	17,479	21,053	28,947	57.9%
1970	2,224,610	54,610	2.5%	40,145	17,326	22,819	31,791	58.2%
1971	2,284,660	60,050	2.7%	41,795	17,477	24,318	35,732	59.5%
1972	2,378,318	93,658	4.1%	38,934	18,019	20,915	72,743	77.7%
1973	2,489,591	111,273	4.7%	38,771	18,377	20,394	90,879	81.7%
1974	2,543,764	54,173	2.2%	38,276	18,288	19,988	34,185	63.1%
1975	2,576,902	33,138	1.3%	40,124	17,518	22,606	10,532	31.8%
1976	2,618,311	41,409	1.6%	40,083	17,798	22,285	19,124	46.2%
1977	2,676,220	57,909	2.2%	42,434	17,669	24,765	33,144	57.2%
1978	2,766,084	89,864	3.4%	43,201	18,283	24,918	64,946	72.3%
1979	2,850,234	84,150	3.0%	45,719	18,033	27,686	56,464	67.1%
1980	2,908,563	58,329	2.0%	48,159	18,790	29,369	28,960	49.6%
1981	2,983,873	75,310	2.6%	51,161	19,268	31,893	43,417	57.7%
1982	3,071,614	87,741	2.9%	53,597	19,570	34,027	53,714	61.2%
1983	3,148,475	76,861	2.5%	55,028	19,495	35,533	41,328	53.8%
1984	3,189,651	41,176	1.3%	53,942	19,873	34,069	7,107	17.3%
1985	3,234,340	44,689	1.4%	54,811	20,524	34,287	10,402	23.3%
1986	3,266,149	31,809	1.0%	55,544	20,458	35,086	-3,277	-10.3%
1987	3,296,269	30,120	0.9%	54,219	20,458	33,761	-3,641	-12.1%

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of the Census (Population)  
Colorado Department of Health (Births and Deaths)

NOTE: 1987 population estimate (Preliminary, released on 12-31-87)  
1987 births & deaths (Jan.- June, preliminary as 12-16-87)

Prepared by COLORADO DIV. OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (12-16-87) YRL

TABLE 2

COLORADO POPULATION GROWTH  
Components of Change, 1960-1988  
Calendar Year

POPDEC.WK1

Year	Population Dec. 31	Total Pop. Growth	Annual Percent Growth	Resid. Births	Resid. Deaths	Natural Incr.	Net Migrat.	Pct. of Growth fr. Mig.
1960	1,805,579			42,905	15,351	27,554		
1961	1,870,000	64,421	2.9%	44,648	15,128	29,520	34,901	54.2%
1962	1,920,000	50,000	2.7%	43,594	15,992	27,602	22,398	44.8%
1963	1,955,000	35,000	1.8%	42,179	16,106	26,073	8,927	25.5%
1964	1,980,000	25,000	1.3%	40,537	16,400	24,137	863	3.5%
1965	2,000,000	20,000	1.0%	36,851	16,206	20,645	- 645	-3.2%
1966	2,030,000	30,000	1.5%	34,899	16,325	18,574	11,426	38.1%
1967	2,085,000	55,000	2.7%	35,166	16,321	18,845	36,155	65.7%
1968	2,145,000	60,000	2.9%	36,842	17,705	19,137	40,863	68.1%
1969	2,197,305	52,305	2.4%	39,189	17,081	22,108	30,197	57.7%
1970	2,254,635	57,330	2.6%	41,480	17,439	24,041	33,289	58.1%
1971	2,331,489	76,854	3.4%	40,360	17,892	22,468	54,386	70.8%
1972	2,433,954	102,465	4.4%	38,585	17,856	20,729	81,736	79.8%
1973	2,516,677	82,723	3.4%	38,507	18,633	19,874	62,849	76.0%
1974	2,560,333	43,656	1.7%	39,035	17,849	21,186	22,470	51.5%
1975	2,597,606	37,273	1.5%	40,145	17,398	22,747	14,526	39.0%
1976	2,647,265	49,659	1.9%	40,975	17,965	23,010	26,649	53.7%
1977	2,721,152	73,887	2.8%	43,053	17,871	25,182	48,705	65.9%
1978	2,808,159	87,007	3.2%	44,063	18,325	25,738	61,269	70.4%
1979	2,876,659	68,500	2.4%	47,179	18,408	28,771	39,729	58.0%
1980	2,946,218	69,559	2.4%	49,716	18,925	30,791	38,768	55.7%
1981	3,027,744	81,526	2.8%	52,104	19,360	32,744	48,782	59.8%
1982	3,110,045	82,301	2.7%	54,786	19,638	35,148	47,153	57.3%
1983	3,169,063	59,018	1.9%	54,643	19,531	35,112	23,906	40.5%
1984	3,211,996	42,933	1.4%	54,339	20,356	33,983	8,950	20.8%
1985	3,250,729	38,733	1.2%	55,115	20,234	34,881	3,852	9.9%
1986	3,281,209	30,480	0.9%	55,142	20,768	34,374	-3,894	-12.8%
1987	3,311,468	30,259	0.9%	54,000	20,700	33,300	-3,041	-10.0%

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of the Census (Population)  
Colorado Department of Health (Births and Deaths)

NOTE: 1987 estimates (Preliminary, 12-31-86)

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TABLE 3

Provisional and Revised Estimates of Population  
Colorado, 1981-1987

POPULATION

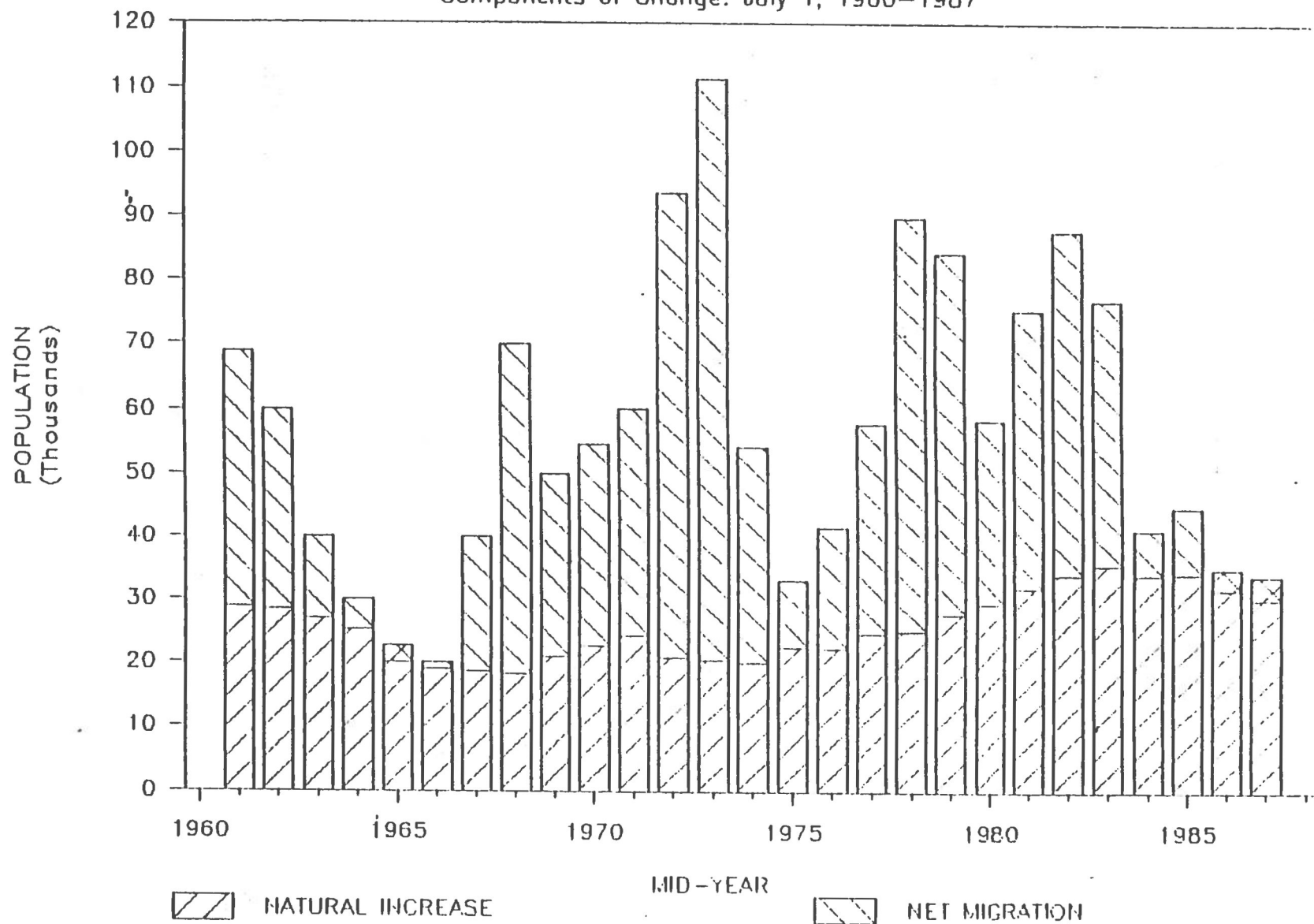
	<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Difference</u>	
			<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
July 1, 1981	2,965,262	2,983,873	18,611	0.63
July 1, 1982	3,044,508	3,071,614	27,106	0.89
July 1, 1983	3,139,138	3,148,475	9,337	0.30
July 1, 1984	3,177,952	3,189,651	11,699	0.37
July 1, 1985	3,231,128	3,234,340	3,212	0.10
July 1, 1986	3,267,118	3,266,149	-969	-0.03
July 1, 1987	3,296,269			

SOURCE: Bureau of the Census

Table Prepared by Colorado Division of Local Government

# CHART A COLORADO POPULATION CHANGE

Components of Change: July 1, 1960-1987



# CHART B COLORADO POPULATION CHANGE

Components of Change, 1960-1987

