

Preface

This is the 17th edition of the Hernando County Statistical Abstract. The data herein has been collected by different entities both private and public, from local, state, and federal levels. This annual abstract and the Monthly Demographics Update (MDU) are available online at:

<http://www.hernandocounty.us/plan/PlanningStats.htm>

A Subject Index to Hernando County Webpage Demographics can also be found at:

<http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/plan/abstr2007/subjects.htm>

Now Available: Three consecutive years of Census data for Hernando County:

Communities with a population of 65,000 or more are now part of the data collection system for the American Community Survey (ACS) from the U.S. Census Bureau. The ACS takes the place of the 'long form' data which used to be tabulated only once every 10 years. The ACS is mailed nationwide to 250,000 residential addresses each month. This equates to about 1 in every 480 residential addresses. The data is compiled into 1,200 tables including such topics as educational attainment, income, journey to work, migration, and occupation. The data releases occur in August, September, and now December of each year.

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>

Size of Local Government by population served: Hernando County is # 30 of 478:

Since budget size is often related to the size of the population served it is noteworthy that of 478 city and county governments in Florida, Hernando County ranked # 30 as of April 1, 2008 . This is the top 6%—or put another way, 94% of Florida governments serve fewer people. (See Table 1.02B) Many counties in Florida with larger populations are subdivided among numerous small city governments. With few sizable cities, the budget for Hernando County government serves 157,260 residents in the **unincorporated** area of the County. (See Table 1.09) Also, in the United States, 89% of the counties have a smaller overall population than Hernando County. (2007 Rank: # 353 of 3,141 counties)

Is the Hernando County population still growing??

Among other factors, foreclosures, unsold homes, and declines to the local construction industry have apparently stifled population growth in Hernando County. Various data sources are in concurrence as to the number of existing Dwelling Units (DU) in Hernando County. But estimating how many people live in those dwelling units is quite another matter. The population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Florida Bureau of Economic & Business Research (BEBR) show significant discrepancies. The census data is derived in part from IRS Tax-Return-Addresses and Medicare Enrollments. The BEBR data is based upon **Active** Electrical Connections and building industry activity. The April 1, 2010 Census should provide some definitive answers. <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>

<http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/plan/abstr2008/stat106.pdf> <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/>

<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables/CO-EST2007-08.xls>

Hernando County is part of the 9-County “Nature Coast”:

The vision for the Hernando County community includes a distinctive effort to capitalize on the “Close to Home, Room to Roam” aspects of this transitional rural/suburban county. More than 27% of Hernando County lands are in conservation land-use including the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, three tracts of the Withlacoochee State Forest, the State of Florida’s Annuteliga Hammock, “PK Ranch”, and the Weeki Wachee Preserve. At the local level, in 1988 voters said yes to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands program to purchase additional “lands and habitats for endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern.”

Hernando County is also part of the 4-county Tampa Bay MSA:

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Hernando County is part of the 4-county Tampa-St.Petersburg-Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area. (MSA) The Tampa Bay MSA checked in with an April 2008 population of 2,742,577 up from 820,443 in 1960. [Table 1.02A] The Tampa Bay MSA ranked as the 21st largest metro area in the nation at the time of the Census 2000. Hernando County’s rate of growth was even faster for that time period--a jump of 1,372% from 1960 to 2006. [Table 1.02A]

Urbanized Area (UA) nearly doubles and has a new name:

As of Census 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau has designated the Brooksville Urbanized Area with a population of 102,193. This replaces the former Spring Hill UA (1990 Census population of 52,056) as per naming criteria published in the Federal Register giving priority to incorporated cities. Urbanized Areas require a minimum population of 50,000 people as well as densities exceeding 500 per square mile. The Brooksville UA includes a Pasco County portion in the Shady Hills area with a population of 5,377. The Census 2000 balance-of-population in the UA lying within Hernando County was 96,816 and through June 2008 has increased to 122,712.

Hernando County growth is “perpetually” due to In-migration:

For more than 25 years, 100% of the County’s population growth has been attributed to those moving in--since the number of deaths each year exceeds the number of births. [Table 1.90] That trend also occurred in 2005 for the Florida counties of Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Glades, Gulf, Highlands, Indian River, Jefferson, Lake, Levy, Marion, Martin, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Sumter, Union, Volusia, and Washington. In addition, the migration from other states into Florida can be tracked via the 2006 Florida motor vehicle registrations. In order, the five leading exit states into Florida were: Georgia-52,759; New York-50,041; New Jersey-29,087; Ohio-27,184; and North Carolina-26,011.

Further information is available at the back of this abstract under “Links For Further Reference”. The Planning Department homepage can be found at:

<http://www.hernandocounty.us/plan/>