

Census Bureau Says St. Croix is 81st Fastest-Growing County

Based on growth statistics from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 released by the Census Bureau on March 22, St. Croix County, Wis. is the 81st fastest-growing county in the U.S. Over this time frame, an estimated 16,860 new residents were added to the county, for a 26.7 percent increase. The Census Bureau estimates St. Croix's population on July 1, 2006 at 80,015.

The 26.7 percent increase since 2000 made St. Croix the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin and the third fastest by numeric increase. Juneau County, with a 10.44% increase, is the second fastest growing county in the state, but by adding only 2,539 new residents since 2000, ranks 22nd numerically. Dane County has added an estimated 37,300 new residents since 2000 to rank first numerically and sixth by percentage increase (8.7%).

Over a 1-year period (from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006) the Census Bureau lists St. Croix as the fastest-growing county in the state by percentage increase (3.6%) and the second-fastest by numeric increase (2,749 new residents). Green County (second), followed by Washington (third), Walworth (fourth), and Dane (fifth) counties are listed behind St. Croix as the state's percentage leaders. By numeric increase (2005-2006), Dane (first; +5,493 new residents), St. Croix (second; +2,749) and Waukesha (third; +2,181) counties are the top gainers.

St. Croix (at 81st; 26.7% increase) was the only Wisconsin county to make the Census Bureau's list of the 100 Fastest Growing Counties in the U.S.

Three other counties attached to the Twin Cities metro area also made the list, including Scott County MN (at 21st; 38.7% increase), Sherburne County MN (38th; 31.9%) and Wright County MN (73rd; 27.6%).

Flagler County Florida, with a 66.7 percent population increase, is the fastest-growing county in the U.S. Three counties from Georgia, and one each from Illinois, Texas, Virginia, Arizona, and Colorado comprised the top 10. Among the 20 fastest-growing counties from 2000 to 2006, 13 were in the South, four in the West, and three in the Midwest.

To make the Top 100 fastest-growing list, a county needed a population gain of at least 25.0%. Livingstone Parish in Louisiana was listed as the 100th fastest-growing county and its increase was 25 percent.

From April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006, the Census Bureau estimated the state of Wisconsin grew 3.6%. In the 9-county region of west central Wisconsin, the Census Bureau estimated the following population gains over the same time period:

St. Croix County	26.70%
Chippewa County	9.20%
Polk County	8.38%
Pierce County	6.98%
Dunn County	5.30%
Barron County	2.10%
Eau Claire County	1.73%
Pepin County	1.60%
Clark County	1.60%