

Victorville second fastest growing city

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VICTORVILLE — The City of Victorville has been named the second fastest growing city in the nation, second only to New Orleans, the U.S. Census Bureau reported Thursday.

Victorville wasted no time in taking the No. 2 spot after exceeding 100,000 in population in 2007.

The population rose by 9.5 percent to 107,221 in the year ending July 1, 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

“The city is a pro-growth city,” said Victorville Mayor Terry Caldwell. “All five members of the council have stated that as a position and so we’ve embarked on building a prosperous city to create jobs and this ranking is simply a validation of the success of our pro-growth policy.”

The increase in growth has also brought an increase in traffic and a need to build, maintain and repair roads.

This is one of the biggest problems associated with the growth, Councilwoman Jo Ann Almond said, adding it’s a problem that can be managed.

“You are going to have growing pains whenever a city experiences growth, that’s for sure,” commented Councilman Bob Hunter. “But nothing happens overnight.”

Almond said she expects the growth to continue and the city is currently looking to create opportunities for all the people who have moved here for more affordable housing.

“We are working really hard to bring in jobs for those that do live here instead of them having to go down the hill,” she said.

Councilman Rudy Cabriales has seen a slight slowdown and feels that this is the perfect time to try to catch up with all of the infrastructure needs of the city, especially dealing with the roads and traffic.

“We are putting more money into the budget to build more fire stations, hire more police officers and to build more roads and more parks,” said Caldwell. “Yes, its a challenge, but it’s a good challenge.”

New Orleans' population rose 13.8 percent to 239,124. That was the fastest growth rate for any city with a population of 100,000 or more.

Victorville was the only California city that made the top 10 list, but a total of five were on the Top 25. The city's population exceeded the 100,000 mark for the first time in 2007.

The numbers show that New Orleans continues to recover after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Houston led in numerical increase. New Orleans was number five for numerical growth.

Between 2000 and 2006, Apple Valley has seen a growth of 27 percent to 68,886. Hesperia experienced a 33 percent growth in the same time period and Adelanto saw the most dramatic population increase at nearly 50 percent from 18,130 to 27,105, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

New York still reigns as the nation's most populous city, with 8.3 million residents. This is more than twice the population of second place Los Angeles at 3.8 million. Chicago, with 2.8 million, was third, followed by Houston and Phoenix with 1.6 million each.

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Highlights from the report:

2006-2007

- California and Texas each placed five cities on the listing of the 25 fastest-growing and on the list of the 25 biggest numerical gainers between 2006 and 2007.
- Other cities making both lists of the 25 largest numerical gainers and the 25 fastest-growing from 2006 to 2007: New Orleans; Victorville; North Las Vegas; Port St. Lucie; Gilbert; Fort Worth; Raleigh; Atlanta; Henderson, Nev.; and Bakersfield.
- Columbus, Ga., had the largest percentage decrease from 2006 to 2007. Its population decline is attributable to a decline in the population living in military barracks. Columbus was followed by Baton Rouge, La.; Hollywood, Fla.; Jackson, Miss.; and Coral Springs, Fla. Six of the 25 fastest-losing cities were in Florida.
- Cleveland suffered the largest numerical decline in population from 2006 to 2007, followed by Columbus, Ga.; Baton Rouge; Philadelphia; and Baltimore.

2000-2007

- McKinney, Texas, was the nation's fastest-growing city between April 1, 2000, and July 1, 2007, as its population more than doubled to 115,620. North Las Vegas was second, as its population rose 83.6 percent to 212,114. Eight of the top 25 were in California: Victorville, Elk Grove, Irvine, Roseville, Rancho Cucamonga, Moreno Valley, Bakersfield and Fontana.
- New Orleans experienced both the largest rate of loss and largest numerical decline during the period, as its population fell 50.7 percent, from 484,674 to 239,124.

Source: www.census.gov/popest/geographic

Top 10 fastest growing large cities

City State Population Growth

New Orleans La. 239,124 13.8 percent
Victorville Calif. 107,221 9.5 percent
McKinney Texas 115,620 8.0 percent
N. Las Vegas Nev. 212,114 7.4 percent
Cary N.C. 121,796 7.3 percent
Killeen Texas 112,434 6.5 percent
Port St. Lucie Fla. 151,391 6.3 percent
Gilbert Ariz. 207,550 5.8 percent
Clarksville Tenn. 119,284 4.8 percent
Denton Texas 115,506 4.7 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau