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Victorville tops county in population growth

FROM STAFF REPORTS

If things seem a little more crowded in Victorville these days, there's a reason.

The city grew the most in San Bernardino County last year, gaining 2,829 residents, for a 2.6 percent gain. The city started off the year at 109,268 residents and finished off 2009 with a population of 112,097, according to the California Department of Finance.

Only one other city in the county, Grand Terrace, hit the 2 percent growth mark.

Among High Desert cities and towns:

- Adelanto grew 1.1 percent, to 28,540 residents from 28,221 in 2009.
- Apple Valley grew from 69,748 to 70,040, for a 0.4 percent gain.
- Barstow also saw 0.4 percent growth, moving from 24,174 residents to 24,281.
- Hesperia increased from 88,041 to 88,479 residents, for a 0.5 increase.

Twentynine Palms was the only city to lose population in San Bernardino County, dropping 146 residents from 30,795 to 30,649.

And what about all that talk about people leaving the Golden State? Not everyone's headed for the exits as the state added 393,000 residents, to post a population of 38,648,000 by the end of 2009.

The city of Colfax in Placer County grew the fastest at 5.7 percent. The next four fastest-growing cities in the state were Beaumont in Riverside County at 5.5 percent, Sand City in Monterey County at 5.4 percent, Coachella in Riverside County at 3.8 percent and Oakley in Contra Costa County at 3.3 percent, according to the Department of Finance.