

Population Characteristics

The City of Monterey's population grew steadily between 1890-1990 with the most significant increases in 1910, 1930 and 1950. In 2000, the City experienced its first decline in population in over a century. The Census reported a population of 29,674 persons in 2000, representing a 7% decrease between 1990-2000.

The City's Building Department reported an increase of 420¹ housing units between 1990 and 2000, which should have correlated to a population increase. However, the population decreased in the past decade by 7 percent. The increase in housing was offset by the removal of 277 housing units on Federal property at the La Mesa Village which serves students attending the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey and an additional 200 units converted from permanent housing to vacation housing. This removal in housing units contributed to the population decrease.

**TABLE 7
CITY OF MONTEREY
HISTORICAL POPULATION TRENDS**

Year	Population	% Increase
1890	1,662	
1900	1,748	5%
1910	4,928	182%
1920	5,479	11%
1930	9,141	67%
1940	10,084	10%
1950	16,205	61%
1960	22,618	40%
1970	26,302	16%
1980	27,558	5%
1990	31,954	16%
2000	29,674	-7%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

In comparison to the City's negative population growth, Monterey County is growing. The majority of growth is occurring in the unincorporated County area and communities along Highway 101 in the Salinas Valley. In contrast, most communities on the Monterey Peninsula are either experiencing population decreases or minimal growth.
