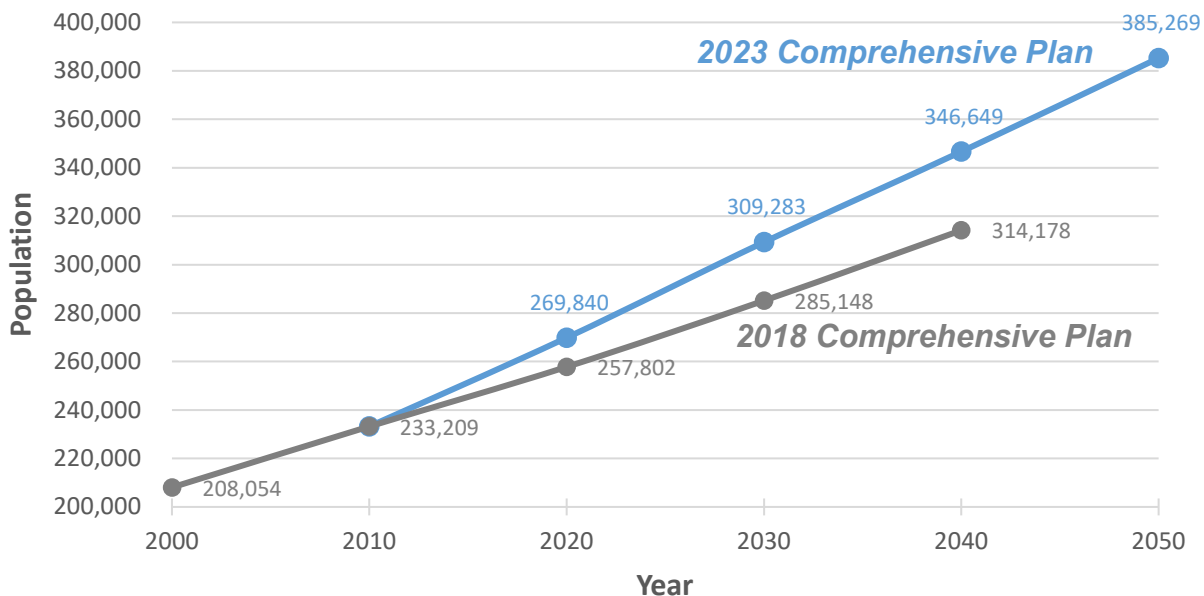


City of Madison Population Projections Through 2050

The City of Madison projects Madison's 2050 population to be approximately 385,269, an increase of 115,269 from the 2020 Decennial Census count of 269,840.



Why do we need population projections?

Madison has consistently been the fastest growing city in Wisconsin based on numerical increase and amongst the fastest growing by growth rate. The housing shortages and housing costs faced by Madison residents are well documented. It is important for the City to understand how much growth is anticipated to plan for housing, jobs, and to guide public sector and private sector investments in infrastructure and services.

Why has the City produced this particular population projection?

The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration's (DOA) Demographic Services Center previously produced population projections on a regular basis for all Wisconsin municipalities. However, DOA's most recent projections [are from 2013](#) and significantly underestimate Madison's growth. DOA projected Madison's 2020 population to be 251,550 and its 2030 population to be 270,350. As noted above, the 2020 Census count was 269,840.

Given the inaccuracy of DOA's projection, the City produced its own projections for the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. These projections anticipated a 2025 population estimate of 270,631, less than 1,000 residents above the 2020 Census count. Following the release of the 2020 Census count, the City produced new projections in 2023 that are more responsive to actual growth.

What is the City's projection based on?

The projection is an unweighted average of two components:

- Madison's past 20-year growth rate per the [Decennial Census \(2000-2020\)](#).
- A modification to the population projections prepared by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) for the [2050 Regional Development Framework \(RDF\)](#).

The first component, Madison's 20-year growth rate, is a 1.31% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) based on the 2000 Census count (208,054) and the 2020 Census count (269,840). This is a more conservative assumption than the City's 10-year growth rate (1.47% CAGR for 2010-2020), but a faster growth rate than the 30-year trend (1.16% CAGR for 1990-2020).

The second component is a modification to the population projections prepared by CARPC for its 2050 RDF. CARPC employed consulting firm [Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.](#) to prepare detailed projections for Dane County and its individual municipalities. See Appendix B of the RDF report for the CARPC population projection methodology. The CARPC projections, found on page 77 of the Framework report, were also created prior to the publication of the 2020 Census counts and missed Madison's actual 2020 population by 12,254 persons. Planning Division staff used the [Wisconsin DOA 2022 population estimate](#) for Madison (279,012) as a base year to forecast out subsequent years with the annual compound growth rates for 2020-2035 (1.17%) and 2035-2050 (0.80%) as derived from the CARPC tables. Minor adjustments to include portions of the Town of Madison and other town areas that will be attached to the City of Madison through intergovernmental agreements after 2022 were based on the 2020 Census count for these areas.