

**Dothan Eagle**  
July 19, 2008

# Dothan saw population boom in '06, '07

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Dothan experienced rapid growth last year, adding more residents than several cities with a greater population.

Census estimates released last week show Dothan grew from 63,822 residents to 65,447 — an increase of 1,625 — from July 1, 2006, to July 1, 2007. Only two other cities, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa,

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added more.

"We grew faster than we were projected to grow, and that's a good thing, as long as

the growth doesn't outpace infrastructure," said Steve Turkoski, work force development director with the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Historically, our growth has outpaced the projections," he said.

Turkoski said several factors could account for the growth. Dothan continues to benefit from Florida residents seeking to relocate to avoid

high insurance premiums, property taxes and hurricanes. The city has also gained some businesses from Florida, and some of their employees have relocated. Dothan also continues to attract retirees, he said.

Also, Turkoski said there is a trend of residents moving from more rural areas to more urban areas.

Census counts are taken each decade. Projections and

estimates in between are calculated from a variety of data, including birth and death numbers, school enrollment, income tax filings and address changes for Social Security checks.

Enterprise also experienced significant growth during the same time period. Its population is estimated to have grown almost a thousand residents, from 23,494 to 24,420.

Two of the state's three

largest cities are believed to have lost residents. Birmingham's population is believed to have decreased from 230,914 to 229,800. Mobile's population decreased from 191,966 to 191,411. Montgomery grew slightly from 203,762 to 204,086.

Turkoski said conditions are in place for Dothan to continue seeing steady growth.

"I don't see it slowing down at all," he said.

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## Populations of local communities and cities

| Town           | 2006 population | 2007 population |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Abbeville      | 2,929           | 2,944           |
| Ariton         | 745             | 746             |
| Ashford        | 1,943           | 2,019           |
| Black          | 206             | 206             |
| Brundidge      | 2,323           | 2,299           |
| Coffee Springs | 253             | 253             |
| Columbia       | 824             | 833             |
| Cottonwood     | 1,167           | 1,175           |
| Cowarts        | 1,597           | 1,613           |
| Daleville      | 4,487           | 4,526           |
| Dothan         | 63,822          | 65,447          |
| Enterprise     | 23,494          | 24,420          |
| Geneva         | 4,395           | 4,401           |
| Gordon         | 414             | 416             |
| Grimes         | 451             | 452             |
| Haleburg       | 108             | 109             |
| Hartford       | 2,386           | 2,404           |
| Headland       | 3,971           | 4,009           |
| Level Plains   | 1,505           | 1,507           |
| Madrid         | 329             | 332             |
| Malvern        | 1,208           | 1,209           |
| Midland City   | 1,809           | 1,847           |
| Napier Field   | 395             | 395             |
| New Brockton   | 1,212           | 1,229           |
| Newville       | 539             | 545             |
| Ozark          | 14,607          | 14,639          |
| Newton         | 1,656           | 1,654           |
| Pinckard       | 628             | 627             |
| Rehobeth       | 1,197           | 1,229           |
| Samson         | 2,022           | 2,013           |
| Slocumb        | 2,032           | 2,035           |
| Taylor         | 1,950           | 1,971           |
| Troy           | 14,383          | 14,482          |
| Webb           | 1,341           | 1,354           |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates