



Ohio Population News: Why did Ohio lose a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives?

Early results from the 2000 Census indicate that Ohio's population grew from 10,847,115 in 1990 to 11,353,140 in 2000. This gain of 506,025 persons represents a 4.7% increase from the 1990 population. Despite this increase, Ohio will lose one seat in the US House of Representatives in 2002, reducing the state's delegation in the House to 18. In fact, Ohio is one of five midwestern states that will lose a congressional district.

How is the number of congressional seats determined?

The number of seats allotted each state in the U.S. House of Representatives is determined through the process of *apportionment*. Apportionment is the primary legal justification for conducting the decennial census. It ensures that each state has representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, which reflects the relative size of its population as compared with that of the other states. Every ten years, census population counts are used to allocate the 435 seats in the House of Representatives among the 50 states, through the method of equal proportions. Roughly speaking, populous states have more representatives than less populous states. However, regardless of its size, the U.S. Constitution guarantees each state at least one seat in the House. For example, in the 108th Congress the most populous state California, has 53 representatives, while the least populous state, Wyoming has just one.

Table 1: Resident Population* as of April 1, 1990 and 2000

	2000	1990	Percent Change
Ohio	11,353,140	10,847,115	4.7%
Northeast	53,594,378	50,809,229	5.5%
Midwest	64,392,776	59,668,632	7.9%
South	100,236,820	85,445,930	17.3%
West	63,197,932	52,786,082	19.7%
United States	281,421,903	248,709,873	13.2%

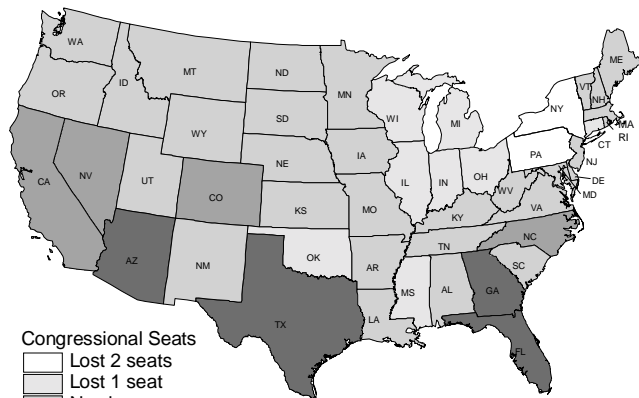
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

* Includes the population of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Congressional Apportionment: Some Details

- The apportionment calculation is based upon the total resident population, including citizens and noncitizens, in each of the 50 states. In Census 2000, the apportionment population also includes U.S. Armed Forces personnel and federal civilian employees stationed outside the United States (and their dependents living with them) that can be allocated back to a home state. Consistent with the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the resident population counts do not reflect the use of statistical sampling to correct for any over or under count.

Changes in Congressional Seats Resulting from the 2000 Census



Congressional Seats
 □ Lost 2 seats
 □ Lost 1 seat
 □ No change
 □ Gained 1 seat
 □ Gained 2 seats

**Alaska and Hawaii- no change

- Congressional seats are assigned on the basis of *priority values*. A set of priority values is determined for each state by dividing the state's population by the geometric mean of its current and next House seats. Since all states begin with one seat, the next seat to be received by any state is seat number '2'. The geometric mean in this context can be thought of as an average that changes according to the last seat received. Thus, for each state the priority value for seat number 2 is the highest, decreasing with each successive seat to be assigned.

- Initially, each state is assigned one seat out the total 435 seats as is provided by the U.S. Constitution. The 51st seat goes to the state with the highest priority value and becomes that state's second seat. This process is continued until all of the 435 available seats are assigned to a state.

- Once the 435 seats are assigned to the states, the apportionment process is over and it is now up to the individual legislatures of each state to begin the task of redrawing the new congressional districts in a procedure known as *redistricting*. The redistricting process varies by state. The Census Bureau must provide each state's governor and legislative leaders with redistricting data by April 1, 2001. These data must reflect corrections due to overcounts and undercounts.

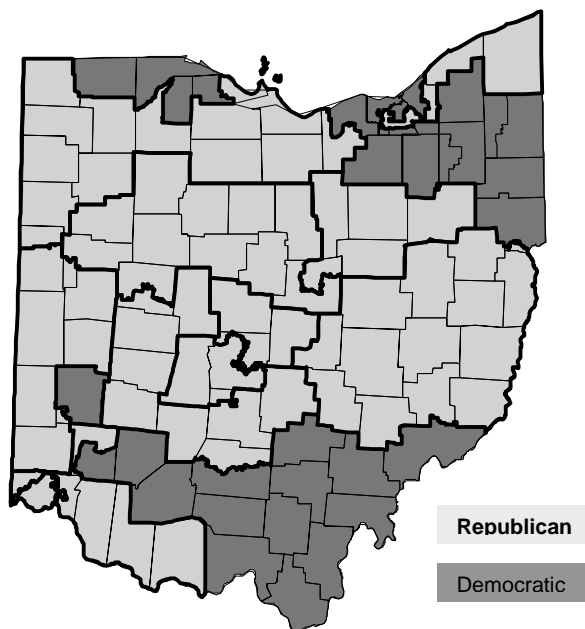
Where was Ohio in the Ranking?

The basis of the congressional seat assignments is on the *priority values*. For example, in computing the apportionment totals based on the 2000 Census the 51st seat (the first seat assigned since each state automatically gets one seat) went to California, who had the highest priority value with 23,992,697. The next seat went to Texas with a second-seat priority value of 14,781,356; California received seat number 53 with the priority value of 13,852,190; and New York received seat number 54 with a priority value of 13,438,545.

After each state received its first and mandatory House seat, Ohio was 10th in line; receiving its second House seat with a priority value of 8,043,014. The third House seat for Ohio was the 76th seat awarded with 4,643,637; the fourth received was the 100th seat awarded. Table 2 details the 2000 and 1990 apportionment priority rank values for Ohio.

Ohio received its 18th and last House seat with 79,688 people to spare, missing receiving the 19th seat by 570,815 people.

107th Congress, Ohio Congressional Districts



Ohio lost a seat because its growth rate of 4.7% was low compared to the growth in Sun Belt and Mountain States such as Nevada, Arizona, Georgia and Colorado which all experienced growth rates over 25% and gained two House seats.

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 For more information on Census 2000, apportionment, or redistricting, visit the Census Bureau web site <http://www.census.gov/>

Table 2: Ohio Apportionment Priority Value Ranking, 1990 and 2000

House Seat Number	Priority Value Rank	
	2000	1990
2*	60	59
3	76	74
4	100	94
5	118	114
6	144	137
7	170	159
8	193	177
9	213	198
10	238	221
11	265	244
12	285	268
13	313	291
14	338	309
15	361	333
16	390	359
17	410	378
18	433	403
19**	460**	422

Source: US Census Bureau and Election Data Services, Inc.

* The first House seat is not dependent upon priority values, it is assigned automatically

**The priority value rank of the next possible seat

By reapportioning the House seats every 10 years, the number of constituents in each congressional district are kept as evenly as possible. In the 2000 Apportionment the number of constituents in each district will match as closely as possible to the national average of 646,947 people per district. (The number of seats in the House, 435, divided by the 2000 resident population of the U.S. 281,421,903).

Prior to the 2000 Apportionment, Ohio had 19 congressional districts. Currently, the task will be to redraw the boundaries to create 18 districts, each with roughly 630,730 people in each (11,353,140 divided by 18).

The map at the left details the 1990 congressional district boundaries as well as the 107th Congress affiliation.

Table 3: Ohio Resident Population and Number of Representatives, 1800-2000

Year	Resident Population	Number of Representatives
2000	11,353,140	18
1990	10,847,115	19
1980	10,797,603	21
1970	10,657,423	23
1960	9,706,397	24
1950	7,946,627	23
1940	6,907,612	23
1930	6,646,697	24
1920	5,759,394	22
1910	4,767,121	22
1900	4,157,545	21
1890	3,672,329	21
1880	3,198,062	21
1870	2,665,260	20
1860	2,339,511	19
1850	1,980,329	21
1840	1,519,467	21
1830	937,903	19
1820	581,434	14
1810	230,760	6
1800	45,365	1