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State Population Up Nine Percent In Latest Census Numbers

State Will Retain All Four Congressional District Seats

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According to new census estimates released Tuesday there are over 309 million people living in the United States, and 2.9 million of them are in the Natural State. Arkansas population grew nearly 10 percent from 2000.

One thing this means is that Arkansas will keep all four of its congressional district seats. The change wasn't enough to add any or take any away, but there could be changes coming to the districts themselves.

The once a decade report says nationwide population grew by 9.7 percent, and Arkansas is just behind at 9.1 percent.

Kathy Deck of the University of Arkansas says, "When we look at Arkansas continuing to grow it reflects that we are part of the 21st century economy and we can attract people here for economic opportunities and I think that's a really positive thing to come out of these numbers."

In total there are 2.9 million people in the Natural State. That makes Arkansas the 32nd most populous state, up one spot from the 2000 census. Experts say that growth has been seen in certain parts of the state.

Deck says, "We have seen a shift in the growth rates in the population of this state it's been a long trend particularly in the eastern part in the delta region of the state we've seen that area lose population and we've seen Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas really grow in population."

The growth was not enough to affect the state's number of congressional district seats. Arkansas will stay steady with four, but will still have to make changes to its districts based on the new numbers.

Deck says, "Next year they will have to redraw the borders see which people and which counties different congressional districts and that balance of power those things depend on how those borders are drawn."

Starting in February the census bureau says it will start releasing more detailed data, demographic data to help Arkansas and other states redraw those district lines. According to the Census Bureau the most populous state was California and the least populous was Wyoming.