

## Syracuse slides to 170 in national population ranking

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By **Paul Riede / The Post-Standard**

While Syracuse seems to be stabilizing its population after a long decline, it has continued its slide down the list of the nation's largest cities.

Over the last 10 years, Syracuse dropped from the 140th largest city in the country to the 170th, according to a ranking compiled by the **US 2010 Census Project** at Brown University.

The drop in the rankings continues a long trend. In 1900, Syracuse was the 30th largest city in the country, above such developing towns as Los Angeles, Atlanta and Seattle. Now it is far below them. With 145,170 residents, it is nestled between Torrance, Calif., and Bridgeport, Conn. While Syracuse is larger than Dayton, Ohio; Savannah, Ga; and Topeka, Kan; it is smaller than such towns as Springfield, Mass.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

The greater Syracuse region — officially known as the metropolitan statistical area of Madison, Onondaga and Oswego counties — also fell in the rankings, although not as much as the city itself. At 662,577 residents, it ranked 108th in the country, between the Charleston, S.C., and Toledo, Ohio, regions. The Syracuse region's ranking had been 100th in the country in 2000.

Syracuse, which remains New York's fifth largest city, wasn't the only town in the state to plummet in the rankings as people fled to the South and West. Buffalo dropped from No. 57 in 2000 to No. 70 in 2010. Rochester went from 77 in 2000 to 99 last year. And Yonkers declined from 93 to 116.

New York City remained by far the nation's most populous city, with nearly 8.2 million people, towering above No. 2 Los Angeles, which had about 3.8 million.

While Syracuse's declining ranking might be a hit to civic pride, it does not appear to have any direct economic impact, said Paul Driscoll, the city's commissioner of neighborhood and business development. Federal grants, for example, are based in part on the number of residents in a community but not on its relative ranking.

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