



Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama®

Cities

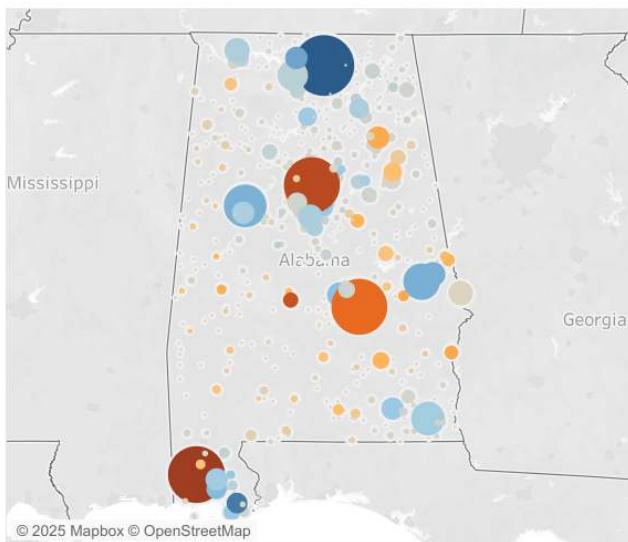
By [Thomas Spencer](#) - May 22nd, 2025

New population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau place Mobile as the state's second-largest city, behind booming Huntsville and ahead of Birmingham and Montgomery, both of which saw population declines according to the most recent estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Population Change in Incorporated Places 2024

Population 2024	Population Rank and Change, cities over 2023-2024	% Change	Alabama Numeric Change Explorer	Cummulative Population Change Since 2010	Alabama's Big Four	Cities over 100,000
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Population and Change in Incorporated Places, 2023-2024



2024 Change
-553 4,174

2024 Population and Rank in Alabama

Name	Popestimate2024	Rank of Popestimate2024 along Table (Down)
Huntsville city	230,402	1
Mobile city	201,367	2
Birmingham city	196,357	3
Montgomery city	195,818	4
Tuscaloosa city	114,288	5
Hoover city	93,013	6
Auburn city	83,757	7
Dothan city	71,650	8
Madison city	64,029	9
Decatur city	57,974	10
Florence city	42,716	11
Prattville city	40,139	12
Phenix City city	38,509	13
Vestavia Hills city	38,151	14
Opelika city	35,005	15
Alabaster city	34,460	16
Gadsden city	33,086	17
Athens city	32,587	18
Northport city	31,492	19

Mobile's new status takes into account the city's 2023 annexations of neighborhoods in Mobile County that were expected to add about 20,000 to the city's population. According to revised Census estimates, the city jumped from less

than 190,000 before 2020 to almost 210,000, pushing it well ahead of Birmingham which, for 2024, had an estimated population of 196,818.

However, despite its annexation bump, Census estimates show Mobile is still losing population, dropping by over 500 over the past year to an estimated 201,367. Birmingham and Montgomery are also continuing to see population declines. If current trends prevail, the three cities seem destined to continue jockeying back and forth. Currently, the population estimates have Birmingham in third, just in front of Montgomery, at 195,818.

Population Change in Incorporated Places 2024

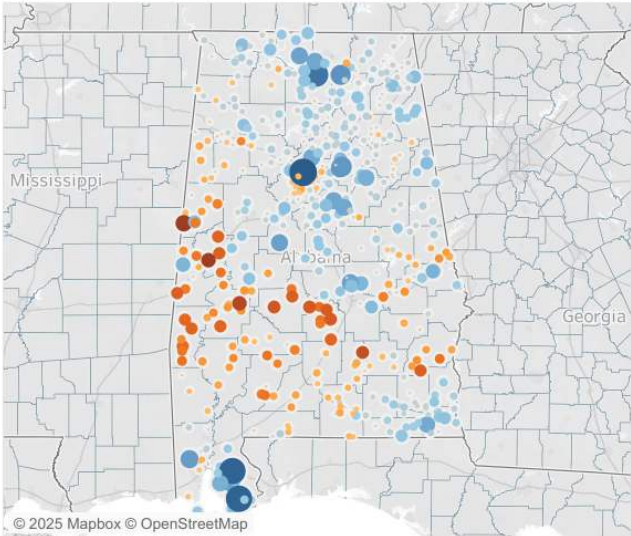


The biggest surprise of the estimates was the small Jefferson County hamlet of Brookside, which had the highest population growth rate of any municipality in the state at 13.2%. The town added 158 residents, bringing its total to 1,357 residents. The town has a new neighborhood under construction that appears to be drawing new residents. Small towns and cities around Huntsville and in Shelby and St. Clair counties, outside of Birmingham, saw higher rates of growth in percentage terms, as did suburban cities around Montgomery. Small towns in Wiregrass surrounding Dothan and Enterprise also showed growth in percentage terms. And several Baldwin County communities ranked near the top in terms of percentage growth.

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% Population Change in Incorporated Places 2023-2024



% Change 2023-2024
-4.0%



2024 Population and Rank in Alabama

Name	Popestimate2024	% Change 2023-2024
Brookside town	1,357	13.2%
Loxley city	5,176	12.0%
Foley city	28,043	12.0%
Triana city	4,936	10.2%
Owens Cross Roads city	3,164	7.0%
Odenville city	5,711	6.6%
Margaret city	6,654	6.4%
Semmes city	6,193	5.9%
Silverhill town	2,030	5.7%
Brent city	4,074	5.5%
Athens city	32,587	5.3%
Elmore town	1,356	5.3%
Westover town	2,010	5.0%
Madison city	64,029	4.9%
Harpersville town	1,925	4.9%
Kimberly city	4,699	4.8%

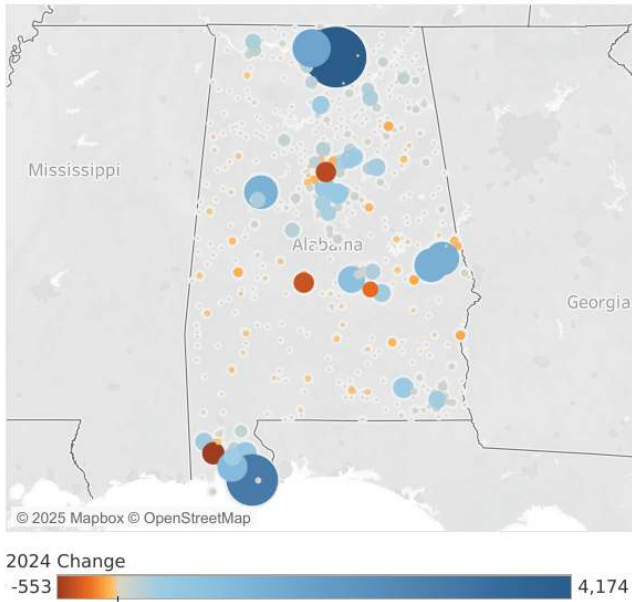
In terms of growth in numbers, the city of Huntsville is the state champ, drawing in another 4,174 new residents in 2024. The City of Madison, Huntsville’s suburban neighbor, added 3,007, ranking third in the state in numeric growth, and Athens, which also borders Huntsville, added 1,641, ranking fourth.

The City of Foley in Baldwin County grew by 3,012, ranking second in the state in numeric terms and tying for second in percentage growth at 12%. Foley’s fellow Baldwin County city of Loxley also grew 12%. Fairhope added 1,011 according to the estimates, ranking 8th in the state. Gulf Shores and Daphne also ranked in the state’s top 20 in the number of residents added.

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Population and Change in Incorporated Places, 2023-2024



2024 Population and Rank in Alabama

Name	2024 Change	Rank of 2024 Change along Table (Down)
Huntsville city	4,174	1
Foley city	3,012	2
Madison city	3,007	3
Athens city	1,641	4
Opelika city	1,313	5
Auburn city	1,310	6
Tuscaloosa city	1,272	7
Fairhope city	1,011	8
Prattville city	803	9
Loxley city	556	10
Chelsea city	467	11
Triana city	455	12
Gulf Shores city	454	13
Enterprise city	430	14
Hoover city	426	15
Margaret city	400	16
Cullman city	370	17
Daphne city	360	18
Odenville city	352	19

Cross state rivals Tuscaloosa and Auburn continue to grow with Auburn adding 1,310 to edge out Tuscaloosa’s gain of 1,272 new residents. Auburn also has the secret weapon of Opelika next door, which added 1,313 new residents in 2024. That far outpaces Northport which grew by 280. Together, Tuscaloosa and Northport have about 150,00 residents compared to Auburn and Opelika’s 120,000.

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