

Wisconsin Coastal Fact Sheet: Coastal Population Change

Coastal vs. Inland Population

The coastal zone in Wisconsin, as defined by law, consists of the 15 counties that border Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Coastal counties account for 19 percent of the area of the state, yet make up 36 percent of the population (see Table 1). Approximately 68 percent of the coastal population in Wisconsin resides in the four southeastern counties of Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. Over 46 percent of the coastal population resides in Milwaukee County alone.

Table 1. Population Summary, 2010

Region	Area (sq mi)	Percent	Population	Percent
Inland	43,785	81%	3,637,052	64%
Coastal	10,525	19%	2,049,934	36%
Total	54,310	100%	5,686,986	100%

Coastal Population Change

Population in Wisconsin coastal counties increased by a total of 57,541 residents between 2000 and 2010. This translates to an increase of 2.9 percent (see Table 2). Population decreased in five of the 15 coastal counties. Two of the four Lake Superior counties (Ashland, and Iron) experienced declines, as did Door, Manitowoc, and Marinette counties on Lake Michigan (see Table 3). Population rate increases were modest in the remaining counties, except Kenosha (11.3 percent) and Brown (9.4 percent). Inland counties increased at a rate of 7.9 percent, significantly faster than the rate for coastal counties.

Table 2. Population Change, 2000 to 2010

Region	'00 Population	'10 Population	Percent Change
Inland	3,371,282	3,637,052	7.9%
Coastal	1,992,393	2,049,934	2.9%
Total	5,363,675	5,686,986	6.0%

Coastal Population Density

Population densities range from 3,923 people per square mile in highly urban Milwaukee County to 8 people per square mile in rural Iron County (see Table 3). In some cases, adjacent counties have similar population densities. Racine and Kenosha have densities of approximately 600 people per square mile. Door and Kewaunee densities are approximately 60 people per square mile. Marinette and Oconto have densities of about 30 people per square mile. Iron, Ashland and Bayfield have densities around 10 people per square mile. Densities in coastal counties generally decrease from south to north.

Data Sources

- Population: 2000 and 2010 Census of Population, U.S. Census Bureau.
- Area: State of Wisconsin Blue Book: 2013-2014.
- Shoreline: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. 1976. Public Access to the Great Lakes.

Coastal GIS in Wisconsin

Support for development of coastal geographic information systems in Wisconsin is a cooperative venture of the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For additional information about the application of geospatial technologies to support Great Lakes coastal management, contact David Hart at (608) 262-6515 or visit the Wisconsin Coastal Atlas (<http://wicoastalatlans.net>).

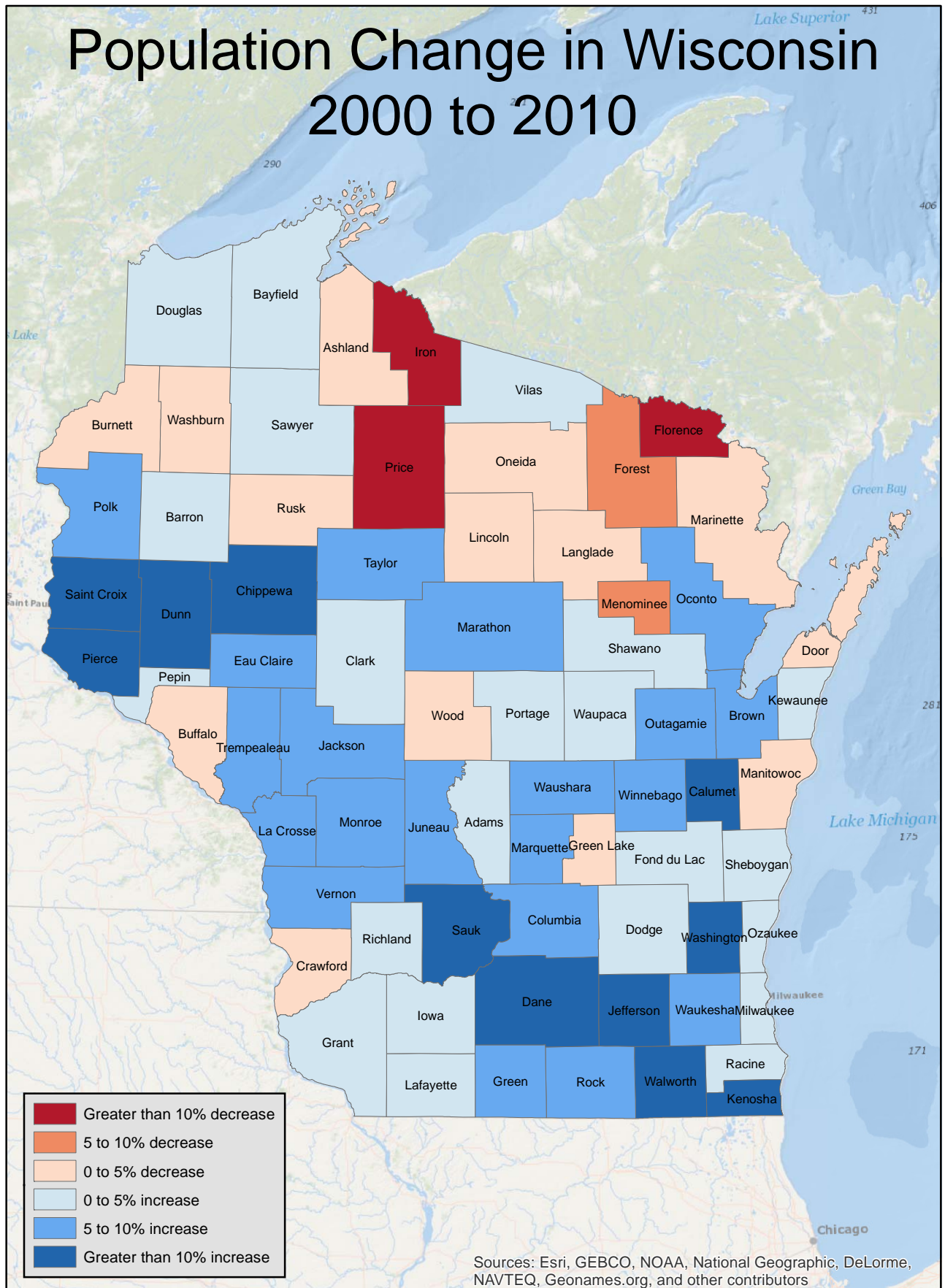
University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute

Goodnight Hall, 2nd Floor
1975 Willow Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Land Information & Computer Graphics Facility

University of Wisconsin-Madison
B102 Steenbock Library
550 Babcock Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Population Change in Wisconsin 2000 to 2010



Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, Geonames.org, and other contributors

County Name	Great Lakes Shoreline (mi.)	Land Area (sq. mi.)	1980-1990 1990-2000 2000-2010							
			1980 Population	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	Population Change	Population Change	Population Change	2010 Population Density (sq. mi.)
Ashland County	194.27	1,043.8	16,783	16,307	16,866	16,157	-2.8%	3.4%	-4.2%	15.5
Bayfield County	104.89	1,476.3	13,822	14,008	15,013	15,014	1.3%	7.2%	0.0%	10.2
Brown County	41.71	528.7	175,280	194,594	226,778	248,007	11.0%	16.5%	9.4%	469.1
Door County	240.41	482.7	25,029	25,690	27,961	27,785	2.6%	8.8%	-0.6%	57.6
Douglas County	48.71	1,309.1	44,421	41,758	43,287	44,159	-6.0%	3.7%	2.0%	33.7
Iron County	6.96	757.2	6,730	6,153	6,861	5,916	-8.6%	11.5%	-13.8%	7.8
Kenosha County	12.46	272.8	123,137	128,181	149,577	166,426	4.1%	16.7%	11.3%	610.1
Kewaunee County	25.63	342.6	19,539	18,878	20,187	20,574	-3.4%	6.9%	1.9%	60.1
Manitowoc County	34.28	591.5	82,918	80,421	82,887	81,442	-3.0%	3.1%	-1.7%	137.7
Marinette County	18.40	1,401.8	39,314	40,548	43,384	41,749	3.1%	7.0%	-3.8%	29.8
Milwaukee County	29.40	241.6	964,988	959,275	940,164	947,735	-0.6%	-2.0%	0.8%	3922.7
Oconto County	28.78	998.0	28,947	30,226	35,634	37,660	4.4%	17.9%	5.7%	37.7
Ozaukee County	25.73	232.0	66,981	72,831	82,317	86,395	8.7%	13.0%	5.0%	372.4
Racine County	14.42	333.1	173,132	175,034	188,831	195,408	1.1%	7.9%	3.5%	586.6
Sheboygan County	26.09	513.6	100,935	103,877	112,646	115,507	2.9%	8.4%	2.5%	224.9
Coastal Totals	852.14	10,524.8	1,881,956	1,907,781	1,992,393	2,049,934	1.4%	4.4%	2.9%	194.8
Inland Totals	-	43,785.3	2,823,686	2,983,988	3,371,282	3,637,052	5.7%	13.0%	7.9%	83.1
State Totals	852.14	54,310.1	4,705,642	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	4.0%	9.6%	6.0%	104.7

Great Lakes shoreline miles from Table D-3 of Public Access: A Policy Study/1976 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource.
County area in square miles from Wisconsin Blue Book 2013-2014 p. 729 (land area determined by 2010 Census).