While much of Appalachia has lost population since 2010, both Southern and South Central Appalachia have seen growth.

Among Appalachia’s minority populations, African Americans are the largest group, while Hispanics/Latinos are the fastest-growing.

Population growth in 49 Appalachian counties exceeded the national average between 2010 and 2018. This growth is likely due to:

- Diversified economies
- “Retirement Destination” designations
- Proximity to major research universities

Minorities make up a small but growing share of Appalachia’s population.

APPALACHIA: 19.0% (Up from 16.4% in 2010)

U.S.: 39.6% (Up from 36.2% in 2010)

Use The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2014–2018 American Community Survey—also known as the Chartbook—to discover more about income and poverty in Appalachia. Authored by the Population Reference Bureau with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Chartbook features data on income, employment, education, and other indicators at the regional, subregional, state, and county levels, and examines data change over recent years to show trends. The Chartbook draws on data collected before the COVID-19 crisis to provide benchmarking for when new information becomes available. The Chartbook’s population analysis compares data from 2018 and 2010 U.S. Census Bureau estimates.