

Population Change in the Pittsburgh Region

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released its latest population estimates, reflecting the population of states, metropolitan areas, and counties as of July 1, 2025. This report summarizes the key findings for the Pittsburgh region, drawing on those estimates to examine overall population change, the components driving growth or decline, and how trends vary across the counties that make up the Pittsburgh metropolitan area.

The Metropolitan Area

The Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is an eight-county region in southwestern Pennsylvania comprising Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. Lawrence County was added to the MSA definition in 2023. As of July 1, 2025, the Pittsburgh MSA had a total population of **2,421,992**, ranking it the **28th largest MSA** in the United States.

The region declined by 3,160 people — 0.13% — between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025. Pittsburgh was one of only four metros among the 40 largest in the nation to record an outright population loss, alongside Los Angeles, San Diego, and Miami.

Since the 2020 Census, the Pittsburgh MSA has experienced a cumulative population decline. The region is one of only five large MSAs in the country currently losing population to natural decrease, alongside Tampa, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Providence.

About Census Population Estimates

Between each decennial census (conducted every ten years), the U.S. Census Bureau produces annual population estimates for states, counties, and metropolitan areas through its Population Estimates Program (PEP). These estimates begin with the most recent decennial census count as a baseline and add or subtract estimated births, deaths, and migration — both domestic and international — to arrive at a population figure for July 1 of each year. The estimates are later revised when new census or survey data become available. They are widely used by federal agencies to allocate funding, by researchers to track demographic trends, and by planners and policymakers at the local and regional level.

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Components of Population Change, 2024–2025

Population change results from three sources: natural change (births minus deaths), domestic migration (movement within the U.S.), and international migration (movement from abroad).

Natural change: –7,796 The Pittsburgh region has recorded more deaths than births every year since the mid-1990s — a condition known as natural population decline. This reflects the region's older-than-average age structure. In 2025, there were just 21,462 births in the region, against 29,258 deaths. Among the 40 largest MSAs, Pittsburgh has the most severe rate of natural decline at –3.2 per 1,000 residents, ahead of only St. Louis and Cleveland among large metros with negative natural population change.

Domestic migration: +1,659 In a notable reversal from recent years, the Pittsburgh region recorded a small net domestic migration gain in 2025 — more residents arrived from other parts of the United States than departed. This is a meaningful shift from the consistent domestic outmigration the region experienced through the early 2020s.

International migration: +2,894 International migration continued to contribute positively to the region's population, though at a significantly lower level than in recent years. The region netted just under 2,900 new residents from abroad — well below the 6,000–10,000 range seen in prior years — and was insufficient to offset the ongoing natural decline.

County-Level Change across Southwestern Pennsylvania, 2024–2025

Every county in the region experienced natural population decline in 2024–2025, reflecting the area's aging population and persistently low birth rates. **Butler County** remained the region's growth leader at +0.44%, driven primarily by strong domestic in-migration (+1,200). **Beaver and Washington counties** also recorded modest gains, each buoyed by positive domestic migration that more than offset natural losses. **Fayette and Greene counties** posted the steepest declines at –0.76% and –0.75% respectively, with Fayette's natural decline of –1,226 the most severe outside of Allegheny County in absolute terms. **Allegheny County**, the region's largest county, lost 2,139 residents despite attracting the largest international migration gain (+2,485) of any county — domestic outmigration of –2,785 more offset those gains. International migration was modest across most of the smaller counties, ranging from negligible to a few hundred residents. Allegheny County accounted for over 85% of all net international migration across the Pittsburgh MSA.

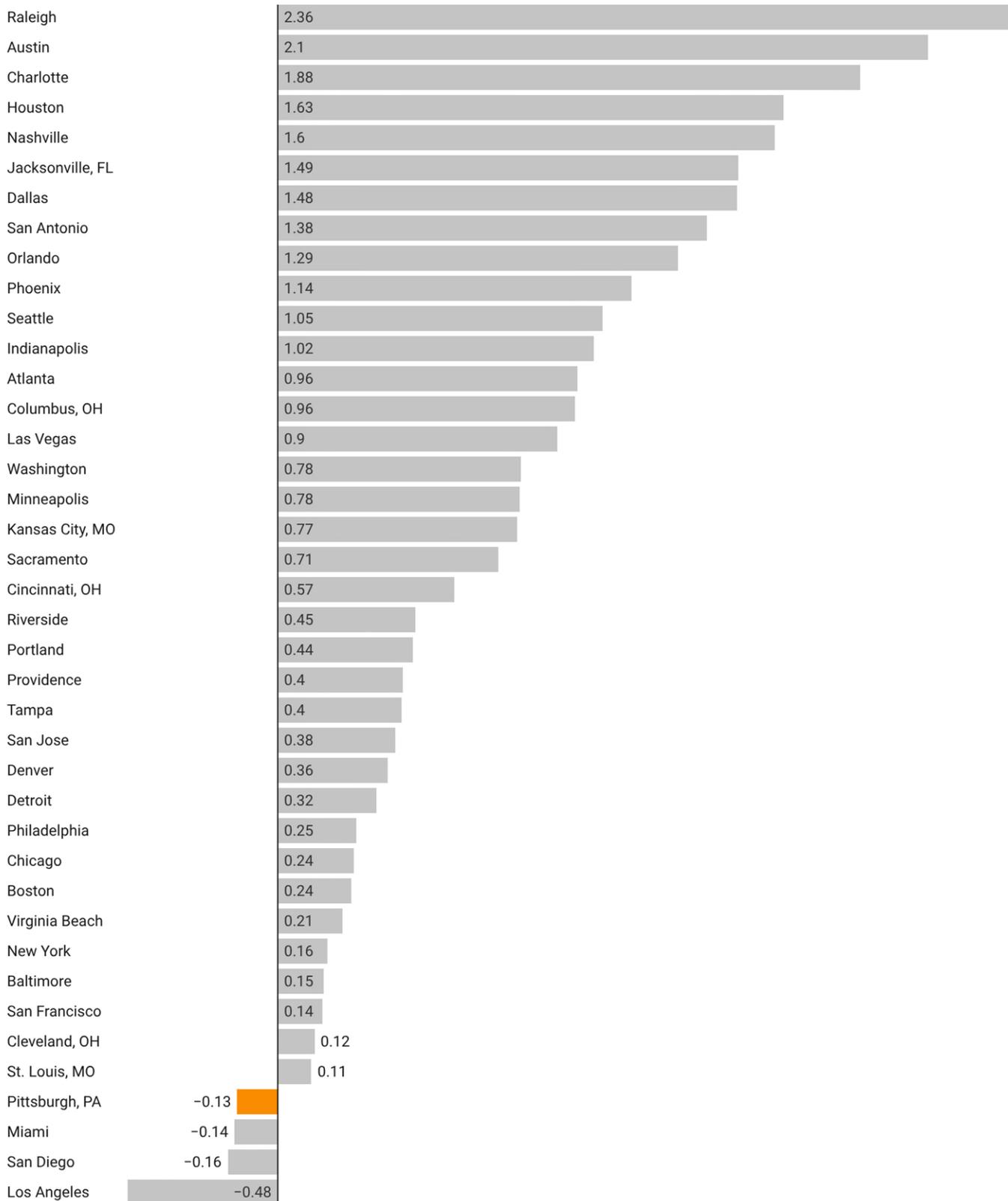
Demographic Components of Population Change – Southwestern Pennsylvania Counties

County	2024 Population	2025 Population	Total Change	% Change	Natural Change	Net Domestic Migration	Net International Migration
Allegheny	1,227,174	1,225,035	-2,139	-0.17%	-1,922	-2,785	+2,485
Armstrong	63,755	63,698	-57	-0.09%	-344	+274	+17
Beaver	165,769	166,032	+263	+0.16%	-737	+966	+41
Butler	199,300	200,169	+869	+0.44%	-454	+1,200	+115
Fayette	123,959	123,021	-938	-0.76%	-1,226	+230	+54
Lawrence	84,087	83,911	-176	-0.21%	-473	+287	+11
Washington	210,635	210,802	+167	+0.08%	-809	+867	+106
Westmoreland	350,473	349,324	-1,149	-0.33%	-1,831	+620	+65
Pittsburgh MSA Subtotal	2,425,152	2,421,992	-3,160	-0.13%	-7,796	+1,659	+2,894
Greene†	34,142	33,885	-257	-0.75%	-266	+10	-3
Indiana†	83,257	82,878	-379	-0.46%	-292	-172	+80
Southwestern Pennsylvania Total	2,542,551	2,538,755	-3,796	-0.15%	-8,354	+1,497	+2,971

†Outside the Pittsburgh MSA definition.

Estimated Population Change (%) - July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025

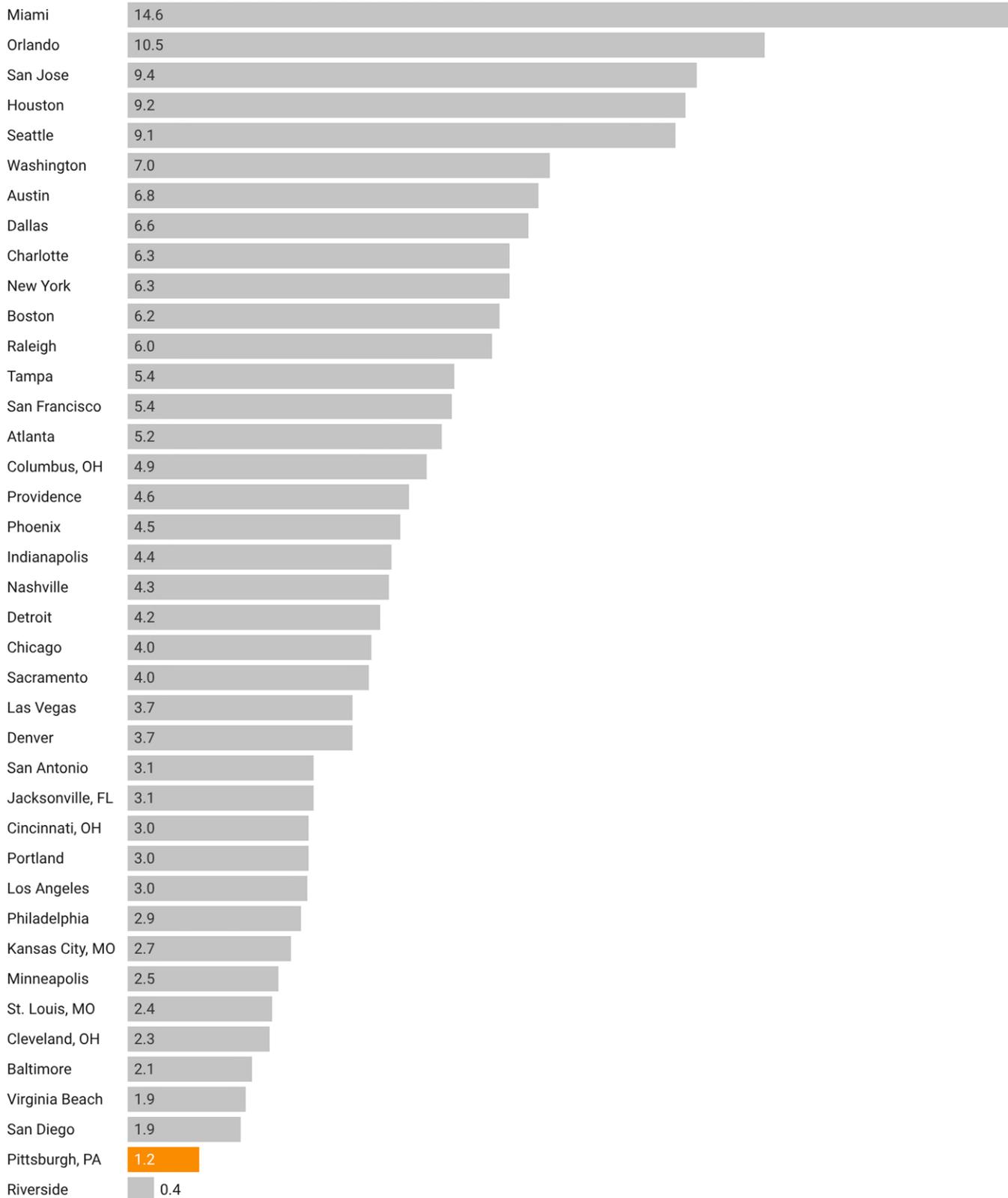
Forty Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States



Source: Compiled from Census Bureau Population Estimates Program Vintage 2025 data. • Created with Datawrapper

Estimated Net International Migration Per 1,000 Population - July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025

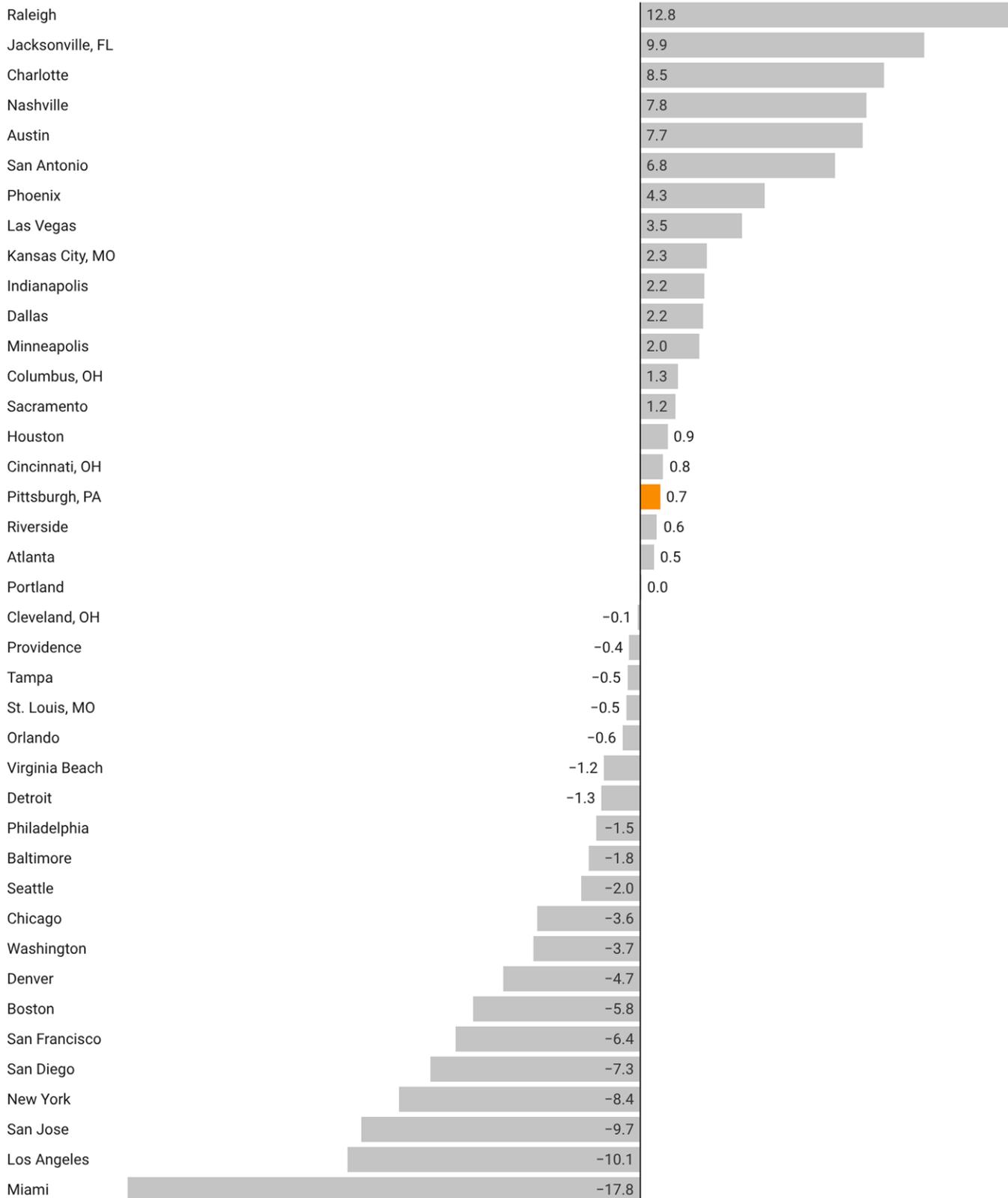
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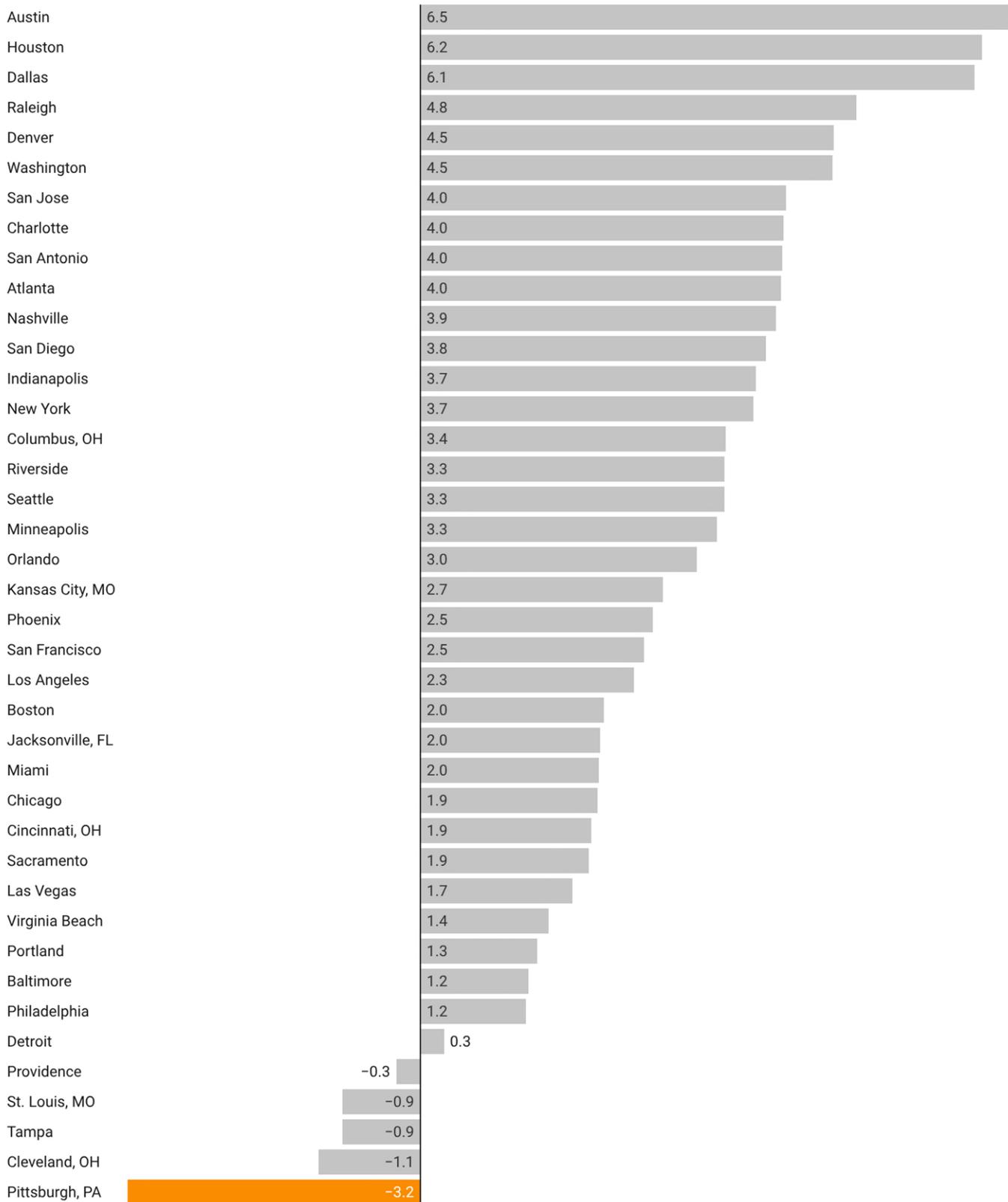
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Estimated Natural Population Change (Births minus deaths) Per 1,000 Population - July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2025

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