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BUSINESS COURIER

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Census: Cincinnati metro largest in Ohio

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Cincinnati-Middletown is the largest metro area in Ohio, having gained about 162,000 people between 2000 and 2009, according to preliminary estimates released Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau, which is currently conducting its decennial census, won't be releasing official numbers until December.

Cincinnati-Middletown, with a population of 2.2 million, is the 24th-largest metro in the U.S., according to the preliminary numbers, the rank it occupied in 2000. It edged out Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, which fell from 23rd in 2000 to 26th in 2009, with its population dropping from 2.15 million to 2.1 million.

Like the Cincinnati metro, Columbus gained population over the decade, to 1.8 million from 1.6 million, but dropped one place in the rankings, to 32nd. Dayton's population went from 848,000 to 835,000, and its ranking fell to 61 from 54. Indianapolis ranked at 34, unchanged from 2000, with its population rising to 1.7 million from 1.5 million. Louisville was the 42nd-largest metro in 2009, up from 43 in 2000, with its population rising to 1.26 million from 1.16 million.

The largest U.S. metro is New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, with a population of 18.3 million, followed by Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana at 12.4 million, and Chicago-Naperville-Joliet at 9.1 million.

For the complete list, compiled by *Buffalo Business First*, a *Business Courier* sister paper, [click here](#).

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