

Pickens grows a bit

Anderson also trailed statewide growth

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Pickens County grew at less than half the state's growth rate during the first decade of the 21st century, while Anderson County also trailed the state and Greenville County in growth, according

to new Census figures released Tuesday.

Pickens grew by 7,387 to reach a population of 118,144 — a growth rate of 6.7 percent, while the state added 549,230 people to reach a total of 4,561,242 — an increase of 13.7 percent, the American Community Survey shows.

Greenville County grew by 18.9 percent, reaching a population of 451,428, remaining the state's most populous county by far.

The report is from data gathered over the past five years that gives local governments the first updated figures since the 2000 Census, according to the Census Bureau.

Public officials use the estimates on education, housing, jobs, veteran status and commuting patterns to help them make decisions on such things as where to build new schools, hospitals and emergency services.

"The survey represents the first time such a massive compilation of data estimates for small geographic areas is available,"

slower

said Census Bureau Director Robert Groves. "These estimates deliver on our commitment to Congress to provide timely statistics on our communities and our economy, allowing for a more efficient government."

The figures were derived by using a "rolling annual survey"

See CENSUS on page 5A

CENSUS

FROM PAGE 1A

mailed to about 3 million addresses between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2009.

Population counts from the 2010 Census are scheduled to be released next week, but detailed demographic information from it like that released Tuesday won't be available until February.

Much of the information from the new survey comes as little surprise.

Between 2000 and 2009, the number of foreign born residents of Pickens County grew from 3,168 to 4,574, and the number of people who speak a language other than English at home grew from 4,942 to 5,718.

Median household income rose by 15.9 percent, from \$36,214 to \$41,969, while the percentage of residents 25 or older with at least a bachelor's degree edged upward from 19.1 to 22.9.

