

State census numbers due this week

Data should confirm historic growth

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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COLUMBIA — Officials expect to confirm historic growth in the Palmetto State over the past 10 years when the state's 2010 U.S. Census numbers are released this week.

Population estimates point to

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The state's census tab is already starting to mount.
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South Carolina adding about 600,000 residents since

the last census in 2000. The almost 14 percent surge in population already has guaranteed that South Carolina will

gain a congressional seat.

State demographer Michael McFarland said Monday that the census document to be delivered later this week would finally clear up discrepancies found between the 2009 and 2010 estimates.

McFarland said the 2009 population estimates for 10 counties were higher than were projected in 2010. He said Oconee and Pickens were not among those counties but Spartanburg was one of them.

"We don't know the variance," McFarland said. "It'll be interesting to see what the actual numbers are."

Aside from the total count, McFarland said he would be particularly interested to see the increase in population by age group, which he said is important for government to gauge different need and wants.

McFarland said he would also be interested in seeing whether the recession and loss of jobs in the state impacted the Hispanic population, which is the fastest growing segment of the population in the U.S.

Growth along the Interstate 85 corridor is expected to remain strong with Oconee and Pickens expected to pick up their share of newcomers. Census estimates show that since 2000 the region's three biggest counties — Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg — grew more than 15 percent combined to nearly 925,000.

Grant Gibson with the state Budget and Control Board said the office hasn't a clue on when the 2010 census results will be delivered this week.