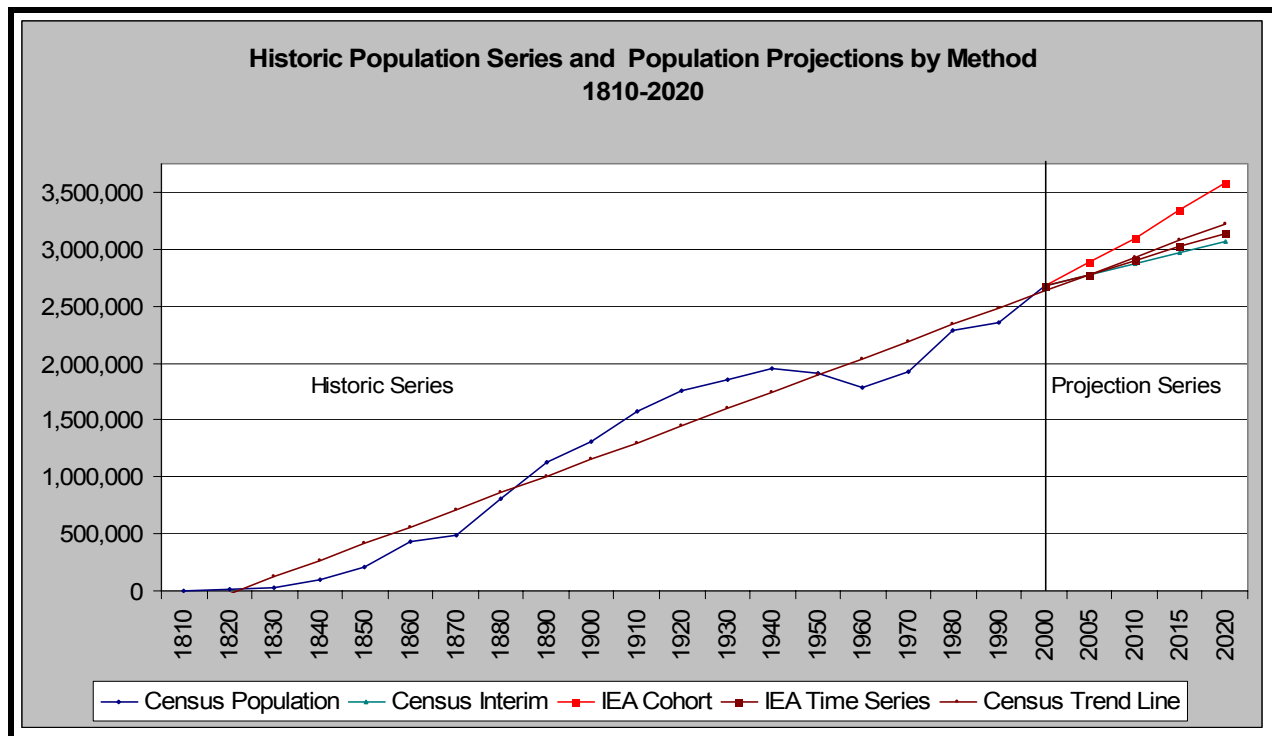


According to the Interim State population Projections, by 2020, Arkansas' ranking is expected to rise to 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation, with a total population of 3,060,219. Its percentage of the U.S. population is expected to decline slightly, to 0.91%. The increase in its ranking is a result of a population growth rate higher than many other states, but slightly less than the nation as a whole. Between 2000 and 2020 population in Arkansas is anticipated to grow at an annualized rate of 0.68%, while the U.S. grows at a rate of 0.89% (281,421,906 persons in 2000 to 335,804,546 persons in 2020).

Population projections vary according to the methods used to construct them. The methods used by the Census Bureau and the Institute for Economic Advancement are somewhat different. While both methods are equally correct from a technical standpoint, the choice of method depends upon the use of the projections and the assumptions underlying them. The Census Bureau does not issue population projections for substate geographic areas, so the projections for Arkansas referred to from this point on in the text were constructed using the IEA Cohort-Component Method.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1



<sup>1</sup> Hamilton, Gregory "Cohort-Component Population Projections for Arkansas By County, Race, and Gender 2005-2030. Demographic Research, Institute for Economic Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, February 2005. (<http://www.demography.ualr.edu/population/Proj.pdf>)