

Update of
Arizona Data Estimates and Projections Task Force (ADEPT) activities

Provided to members of the
MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee

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- The draft final report identifies 28 specific recommendations, ranging from needs for additional expertise and staff for completing population estimates and projections to investigating new data sources for incorporation in producing annual estimates. Several proposed recommendations have been key consideration of the MAG and the state's other Councils of Governments, including:
 - Improving the knowledge and abilities of those charged with producing population estimates and projections. In particular, a recommendation for a new position of State Demographer, who will have formal training and experience as a demographer.
 - Development of a process for local communities to challenge population estimates to ensure accurate and credible annual estimates.
 - Revise the current technical advisory group and establishment of a policy commission to provide oversight and advice to the assigned staff responsible for the development of data, methods, and final estimates and projections.
 - Establishment of a timetable and priorities for these recommendations to improve the demographic, labor force, and economic estimates and projections programs.

- Both a Task Force and a Technical Committee meeting are being schedule for early November to consider the draft final report and recommendations.

- Governor Napolitano has requested the Directors of the Departments of Commerce and Economic Security to investigate and facilitate moving current Labor Market Information and Population Unit staff into a new work unit with researchers from the Department of Commerce.

- Several of the proposed recommendations may require additional budget authorizations from the Legislature, while others are work approaches or communication improvements. Early indications are that the state budget may be tight, due to weaken transaction privilege and use tax collections, which may mean the implementation of some of the recommendations may be delayed.