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Report: Recession slows Va. population growth

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Shifting populations in U.S.

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The recession and housing market slump appear to have slowed population growth in Virginia, the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service said today.

The University of Virginia's Cooper Center released final 2007 population estimates and provisional 2008 estimates.

Between 2000 and 2005, the state averaged growth about 1.2 percent, but growth has been less than 1 percent the past two years, according to a news release from the Cooper Center.

The volume of people moving to Virginia compared to the volume of people moving out is now half of what it was between 2000 and 2005, the release said.

The Cooper Center said its demographers think the slower growth is a result of worsening economic conditions and a housing market that discourages moving.

Virginia's population reached 7.8 million on July 1, a 9.7

percent increase over 2000.

Here's a look at growth in Hampton Roads (provisional 2008 figures):

- Chesapeake: 216,622, an 8.8 percent increase since 2000
- Hampton: 144,204, a 1.5 percent decrease since 2000
- Newport News: 180,978, a 0.2 percent increase since 2000
- Norfolk: 235,092, a 0.3 percent increase since 2000
- Portsmouth: 97,599, a 2.9 percent decrease since 2000
- Suffolk: 81,907, a 28.6 percent increase since 2000
- Virginia Beach: 431,451, a 1.5 percent increase since 2000

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