



“A Population Projection for Albertville, AL,

Using Known Housing Units and US Census Data.”

There has been a concern raised during the past several years by the leadership of the city of Albertville about the apparent difference between the total population count from the U. S. Census-2000 and the anecdotal evidence in Albertville that would seem to indicate that significant growth has occurred above and beyond the indicated growth projections such as increased traffic flow counts and the growth of class room size.

To obtain an estimation of the current level of population, a tentative projection can be produced using existing, verifiable demographic statistics obtained during the U. S. Census-2000 and the current level of housing units in Albertville. This method of projection has the value of using statistics that are easily verified.

The calculation for the projected population would first compute the number of housing units that are currently vacant of the total housing units available in Albertville. The total number of housing units in Albertville provided for use in the Albertville Census is 10,042.* This total is provided by the city of Albertville from a current mainframe computer utility listing of addresses. This total would then be reduced by the number of vacant housing units. (It is important to note that the total housing unit list should not include commercial or industrial addresses as the calculation is based on occupied housing units in the effort to project a population estimate.)

The Vacancy Rate Percent for the City of Albertville is 7.2 percent. This figure is obtained from the US Census 2000-Table DP-1-Albertville, Alabama. When the Vacancy Rate Percent of 7.2 percent is multiplied by the total number of Albertville housing units of 10,042, the vacant unit total obtained is 723 housing units. The 723 vacant units would then be subtracted from the total of the housing units in Albertville of 10,042.* After the subtraction of the vacant housing units, the projected total of occupied housing units in Albertville is computed to be 9,319. (As a note, two other figures are available from the U.S. Census-2000 are Average Household Size of Owner-Occupied Units-2.52, and Average Household Size of Renter-Occupied Units-2.74 but the Vacancy Rate Percent of 7.2 percent is used in this calculation.)

The next step in the calculation is to multiply the Projected Occupied housing units in Albertville of 9,319 by the Average Household Size from the U.S. Census-2000 from Table P17 of 2.59. When the Projected Occupied housing units in Albertville of 9,319 is multiplied by this figure, a total tentative Projected Population of Albertville can be computed with an approximate value of 24,136.

*The list of housing units used in this calculation should not include commercial or industrial addresses as the calculation is based on occupied housing units in the effort to project a population estimate. Prior to the producing a final population calculation, Albertville should review and update their current housing unit listing and produce a new listing that does not contain any commercial or industrial addresses. This new total would then be used to obtain a projected population total.

A tentative example of the calculation follows:

Total number of housing units in Albertville	10,042	(Source: Albertville Utility Listing)
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Vacancy Rate Percent	x	7.2%	(Source: US Census-2000*)
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Total Number of Vacant housing units	723
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Total number of housing units in Albertville	10,042
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Less

Total Number of Vacant housing units	723
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Projected Occupied housing units in Albertville	9,319
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Average Household Size	2.59	(Source: US Census-2000-Table P17)
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(Average Household Size of Owner-Occupied Units	2.52	(Source: US Census-2000*)
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(Average Household Size of Renter-Occupied Units	2.74	(Source: US Census-2000*)
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Projected Occupied housing units in Albertville	9,319
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X

Average Household Size: 2.59 (Source: US Census-2000-Table P17)

Projected Population of Albertville 24,136

*Source-US Census 2000-Table DP-1-Albertville, Alabama

This computation suggested by Annette Watters, a Project Manager at the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Culverhouse College of Commerce at the University of Alabama.