The DOF issued a press release dated December 9, 2010, that summarized population trends during the State fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 through July 1, 2010, and was based on population estimates. California’s growth rate during this fiscal year was less than 1 percent, continuing the pattern of slower growth rates each year since 2000. The only years of lower growth rates since 1900 were in the years 1994 through 1996. With a growth rate of 1.28 percent between 2009 and 2010, Kern County was the fifth fastest growing county in California and continues to be the thirteenth-most populated county. (DOF, 2010b)

Population trends in Kern County have been historically volatile and are expected to be the same in the future. Variability in population can be attributed to historic energy cycles and, recently, to increased construction and associated in-migration. The increase in population during the past years is largely driven by the significant amount of construction and to housing that is still affordable, relative to the coastal areas of California. As a result, between the years of 2001 through 2006, Kern County was experiencing significant migratory growth with an average of three percent growth per year. However, due to current economic conditions, population trends have decreased to one percent growth per year. Current projections estimate that Kern County total populations will be 1,080,000 by 2020 (DOF, 2007).

### Regional and Local Housing Trends

Housing as a whole in Kern County has grown and continues to grow at a fairly rapid pace. Table 4.13-3 provides housing data based on DOF estimates, which indicate that housing has increased in incorporated areas of Kern County since 2000 more than in unincorporated areas of Kern County (DOF, 2010a). Housing units include single-family residences, multiple-family residences, and mobile homes.