

# Fall 2003 Enrollment

## *Summary Points*

### **National and Regional Population Projections for 18- to 24-Year Olds**

- The national rate of population growth of 18- to 24-year olds is expected to be approximately 16.1% between 2000 and 2015.
- In the SREB states, growth of the traditional college-age population is expected to be similar to the U.S. average at about 15.5%. The southern states with the largest expected growth of this group between 2000 and 2015 are Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.
- Between 2000 and 2015, the population of 18- to 24-year olds in Tennessee is predicted to grow about 9.5%, significantly less than the SREB average.

### **The University of Tennessee System**

- Following a 4.3% decrease in the fall of 2002, the lower division undergraduate enrollment at Knoxville dropped another 4.1% for the fall 2003 semester. A lower than expected yield for freshmen accepted for enrollment contributed to the reduced headcount with the number of first-time freshmen enrolling dropping by 2.5%. A 3.2% decrease in upper division enrollment resulted in an overall decrease of enrolled undergraduates of 3.7%. There was evidence that the retention of upper level students over the past year has not been as stable as previous years. Growth of graduate enrollment was essentially flat at the Knoxville and Memphis campuses.
- UT Chattanooga's first-time freshman enrollment grew by 17.5%. This continued a very positive trend evidenced by an 11.1% increase for this group last year. The overall lower division undergraduate numbers were up 6.5%, indicating good retention of these students. However, upper division totals slipped 4.3%. Enrollment in master's level programs dipped 8.1%, but was offset somewhat by enrollment in a new doctoral program that yielded 52 enrollees. As a result, graduate enrollment overall decreased only 4.3%.
- UT Martin undergraduate enrollment grew slightly by 1.2%. Lower division undergraduate enrollment remained relatively stable overall, despite an entering freshman class that was 10.8% smaller than that of fall 2002. This is a result of improving retention rates at UTM. The upper division undergraduate numbers rose 3.2% and is also an indicator of positive progression/retention trends at these levels since growth in transfers remained relatively unchanged.

### **Tennessee Board of Regents System**

- Four-year institutions in the TBR system posted headcount increases that ranged from 0.6% at the University of Memphis to 2.7% at Middle Tennessee State University. About a fourth of the community colleges posted slight decreases in enrollment; however, another fourth of them posted at least five percent increases. Growth at the other 2-year institutions ranged from 0.0% to 6.4%.