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608
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GROWTH OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES and CITIES 1950 TO 1960

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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STATE COLLEGE

MISSISSIPPI

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HIGHLIGHTS OF MISSISSIPPI POPULATION

Mississippi's population, 1960: 2,178,141, a decrease of 0.03 percent since 1950.

Twenty-one of the 82 counties in the state increased in population.

County with the highest rate of increase: Jackson County, 76 percent.

County with the highest numerical increase: Hinds County, 44,881.

Congressional Districts 4 and 6 increased.

Large incorporated places (1,000 or more population) grew by 178,433.

One Hundred and eleven of the state's 124 incorporated places of 1,000 or more grew during the decade.

Gulf Coast area increased by 73,185.

Delta area lost 57,250.

Eighteen largest cities increased a total of 124,740.

GROWTH OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES AND CITIES 1950 TO 1960

By GEORGE L. WILBER and ELLEN BRYANT

Mississippi's total population has changed little since 1940. The natural increase that might be expected from a high birth rate has been offset by migration of people from the state.

There are, however, a number of important population changes taking place within the state. The average age of people in Mississippi is increasing. Their income and amount of schooling are also increasing. More people live in towns, fewer in rural areas. More live in the Gulf Coast counties and fewer in the Delta and the hills. More are engaged in manufacturing jobs, fewer in farming.

These changes, which affect agriculture as well as the entire economy of the State, become apparent when one studies 1960 census figures. As of April 1960, Mississippi's population numbered 2,178,141, a decrease of 0.03 percent from 1950. The full picture of population changes will not be drawn for another couple of years, after detailed census reports are out. But the figures on size of population do reflect changes in Mississippi's agriculture, and the changing role of agriculture in the State's social and economic life.

Differential Growth Trends

County Differences: About one quarter of Mississippi's counties gained population during the 1950's and half of these increased by 10 percent or more. Of the counties losing population, 38 lost at least 10 percent. Fifty-three of the 61 counties losing population in the 1950's also lost during the 1940's. A similar persistency is shown in growing counties where 17 grew both in the 1940's and 1950's.

Hinds County gained the most people during the 1950's with an increase of nearly 45,000. At the other extreme, Sunflower County showed the largest loss with a

decrease of over 10,000.

Large Incorporated Places Grow: While many counties and large areas of the state lost population, cities were the exception. Mississippi's cities of 10,000 and over increased by about 20 percent.

In incorporated places of 1,000 or more population in 1960, a net increase of 178,433 people took place for the decade of the 1950's as compared with gains of 176,891 for the 1940's and 85,084 for the 1930's. A large majority, 111 out of 124, of the state's incorporated places of 1,000 or more gained population in the 1950's and 97 places had gains over both the past two decades.

All incorporated places of 5,000 and over in 1960 increased population.

Coastal Counties Increase: Nine of the ten counties along the Gulf Coast showed an increase between 1950 and 1960. As a whole they increased 73,185, about 30 percent. Numerically Harrison County led the way with an increase of 35,416 or 42.1 percent. However, percentagewise, Jackson County was first, its 24,121 increment representing a 76.8 percent increase, the highest rate of growth in any Mississippi County.

Most of the population expansion around the Gulf Coast is probably the result of in-migration rather than natural increase. The region has had a heavy influx of military personnel. Also, expanding industrial operations and the booming tourist industry have attracted thousands into the area.

Delta Counties Lose: Fifteen counties lost population in the 18-county area served by the Delta Council. The net loss for the area was 57,250 persons, or 9.4 percent. The Delta Area as a whole has lost population consistently since 1940. During

the 1940's alone it lost 42,685 persons bringing the total net loss during the 20-year period to about 100,000 individuals. Warren and Washington counties were exceptions. Both have had a steady increase in inhabitants since 1930. In the 1930 depression decade widespread gains augmented the area's total population by nearly five percent.

Urban Centers of Growth: The pattern of population loss which nearly blankets the state, except for the coastal area, is broken also by growth in scattered counties containing large and expanding industrial centers. Adams County with Natchez; Lauderdale with Meridian; the Lowndes - Oktibbeha - and - Clay area containing Columbus, Starkville, and West Point; Lee County with Tupelo; and Washington with Greenville all con-

tribute to Mississippi's uneven pattern of growth.

The largest nucleus of growing counties in the state consists of Warren, Hinds, and Rankin counties, which embrace both metropolitan Jackson and urban Vicksburg. Jones and Forrest Counties containing Laurel and Hattiesburg, respectively, are two more areas of growth. Almost all the counties which showed substantial growth have cities with at least 25,000 population in 1960. A few cities approach 50,000 and Jackson is close to 150,000.

The eighteen Mississippi cities of 10,000 or more population in 1960 together marked up a growth of 124,740 during the 1950's. Moreover, these eighteen largest cities grew continuously since 1930, with the exception of McComb which had a slight loss in the decade of the 1930's.

Table 1. Population change of highest income and lowest income counties in Mississippi, 1950-1960.

County	Population ¹		Median family income, 1949 ²
	Number, 1960	Percent change, 1950-1960	
Highest-Income Ranking Counties			
Hinds	187,045	31.6	2,293
Harrison	119,489	42.1	2,291
Jackson	55,522	76.8	2,131
Adams	37,730	17.0	2,128
Forrest	52,722	17.0	1,990
Warren	42,206	6.5	1,835
Lauderdale	67,119	4.6	1,835
Jones	59,542	4.0	1,657
Pike	35,063	0.2	1,592
Pearl River	22,411	8.6	1,581
Lowest-Income Ranking Counties			
Tallahatchie	24,081	-21.0	690
Humphreys	19,093	-17.4	672
Sharkey	10,738	-16.8	664
Tate	18,138	0.7	650
De Soto	23,891	- 2.9	643
Issaquena	3,576	-28.0	627
Kemper	12,277	-22.8	613
Marshall	24,503	- 2.4	580
Holmes	27,096	-18.6	553
Noxubee	16,826	-16.0	549

¹Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Advance Reports, Final Population Counts, PC(A1)-26, November 7, 1960.

²Bureau of the Census, *City and County Data Book*, 1956, Col. 15, pp. 154 and 162.

Factors of Population Change

An attempt was made to determine the relationship of county population growth to certain variables. Groups of counties ranked "high" on particular factors were compared as to their growth rates. Data for these variables were obtained from 1950 Census figures, since 1960 reports on population characteristics are not yet available. The variables were: (1) Percent of population with urban residences, (2) Percent employed in agriculture, (3) Percent employed in manufacturing, and (4) Median family income in 1949.

Urban vs Rural: The predominant trend in the most urban counties is growth and in those most rural toward a contracting population. Counties ranked highest on the rurality scale also had the highest percents of population loss. On the basis of this data, it seems reasonable to predict that any county with a high proportion of farm people among its residents will be subject to out-migration.

The degree of urbanization among the fifteen top-ranking urban counties covers a relatively wide range, with from 34.9

to 82.7 percent of the populations having urban residences in 1950. But 12 of 15 most urban counties gained population in the 1950's.

Industrialization: Counties were ranked according to proportion of their labor force employed in manufacturing in 1950, and the top fifteen were checked for population loss and gain. No consistent pattern of population growth was found, but this result is not necessarily illogical. Existing factories would not necessarily attract new residents, unless there were sufficient expansion to absorb a larger labor force.

Income: The ten counties with the highest and the ten counties with the lowest incomes in 1949 were cross tabulated with percent gain or loss of inhabitants. High median family incomes are associated with population increases; low ones with diminishing populations. The extremely low average incomes of the ten counties at the bottom of the scale indi-

Humphreys	19,093	23,115
Issaquena	3,576	4,966
Itawamba	15,080	17,216
Jackson	55,522	31,401
Jasper	16,909	18,912
Jefferson	10,142	11,306
Jefferson Davis	13,540	15,500
Jones	59,542	57,235
Kemper	12,277	15,893
Lafayette	21,355	22,798
Lamar	13,675	13,225
Lauderdale	67,119	64,171
Lawrence	10,215	12,639
Leake	18,660	21,610
Lee	40,589	38,237
Leflore	47,142	51,813
Lincoln	26,759	27,899
Lowndes	46,639	37,852
Madison	32,904	33,860
Marion	23,293	23,967
Marshall	24,503	25,106
Monroe	33,953	36,543
Montgomery	13,320	14,470
Neshoba	20,927	25,730
Newton	19,517	22,681
Noxubee	16,826	20,022
Oktibbeha	26,175	24,569
Panola	28,791	31,271
Pearl River	22,411	20,641
Perry	8,745	9,108
Pike	35,063	35,137
Pontotoc	17,232	19,994
Prentiss	17,949	19,810
Quitman	21,019	25,885
Rankin	34,322	28,881
Scott	21,187	21,681
Sharkey	10,738	12,903
Simpson	20,454	21,819
Smith	14,303	16,740
Stone	7,013	6,264
Sunflower	45,750	56,031
Tallahatchie	24,081	30,486
Tate	18,138	18,011
Tippah	15,093	17,522
Tishomingo	13,889	15,544
Tunica	16,826	21,664
Union	18,904	20,262
Walthall	13,512	15,563
Warren	42,206	39,616
Washington	78,638	70,504
Wayne	16,258	17,010
Webster	10,580	11,607
Wilkinson	13,235	14,116
Winston	19,246	22,231
Yalobusha	12,502	15,191
Yazoo	31,653	35,712
State Total	2,178,141	2,178,914

¹Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Advance Reports, Final Population Counts, PC(A1)-26, November 7, 1960.

²Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of the Population, Vol. II, Part 24. Table 12.

Table 2. Population Mississippi counties, 1950 and 1960.

County	Population	
	1960 ¹	1950 ²
Adams	37,730	32,256
Alcorn	25,282	27,158
Amite	15,573	19,261
Attala	21,335	26,652
Benton	7,723	8,793
Bolivar	54,464	63,004
Calhoun	15,941	18,369
Carroll	11,177	15,499
Chickasaw	16,891	18,951
Choctaw	8,423	11,009
Claiborne	10,845	11,944
Clarke	16,493	19,362
Clay	18,933	17,757
Coahoma	46,212	49,361
Copiah	27,051	30,493
Covington	13,637	16,036
De Soto	23,891	24,599
Forrest	52,722	45,055
Franklin	9,286	10,929
George	11,098	10,012
Greene	8,366	8,215
Grenada	18,409	18,830
Hancock	14,039	11,891
Harrison	119,489	84,073
Hinds	187,045	142,164
Holmes	27,096	33,301

cate a great deal of underemployment. Rates of out-migration should be high for these counties. Aside from economic development within the regions, outmigration is the only solution which can relieve such areas.

Table 3. Population of incorporated places of 1,000 or more persons, 1960.

Incorporated place	Population		Percent change 1950-1960				
	1960 ¹	1950 ²					
Aberdeen	6,450	5,290	22.0	Holly Springs	5,621	3,276	71.6
Ackerman	1,382	1,463	- 5.5	Houston	2,577	1,664	54.9
Amory	6,474	4,990	30.0	Indianola	6,714	4,369	53.4
Baldwyn	2,023	1,567	29.0	Inverness	1,039	1,010	2.9
Batesville	3,284	2,463	33.0	Itta Bena	1,914	1,725	11.0
Bay St. Louis	5,073	4,621	9.8	Iuka	2,010	1,527	31.6
Bay Springs	1,544	1,302	18.6	Jackson	144,422	98,271	47.0
Belzoni	4,142	4,071	1.7	Kosciusko	6,800	6,753	.7
Biloxi	44,053	37,425	17.7	Lambert	1,181	1,023	15.5
Booneville	3,480	3,295	5.6	Laurel	27,889	25,038	11.4
Brandon	2,139	1,827	17.1	Leakesville	1,014	893	13.5
Brookhaven	9,885	7,801	26.7	Leland	6,295	4,736	32.9
Bruce	1,698	1,719	- 1.2	Lexington	2,839	3,198	-11.2
Bude	1,185	1,195	- .8	Long Beach	4,770	2,703	76.5
Calhoun City	1,714	1,319	29.9	Louisville	5,066	5,282	- 4.1
Canton	9,707	7,048	37.7	Lucedale	1,977	1,631	21.2
Carthage	2,442	1,925	26.9	Lumberton	2,108	1,803	16.9
Centreville	1,229	2,025	-39.3	McComb	12,020	10,401	15.6
Charleston	2,528	2,629	- 3.9	Macon	2,432	2,241	8.5
Clarksdale	21,105	16,539	27.6	Magee	2,039	1,738	17.3
Cleveland	10,172	6,747	50.8	Magnolia	2,083	1,984	5.0
Clinton	3,438	2,255	52.5	Marks	2,572	2,209	16.4
Coldwater	1,264	949	33.2	Mendenhall	1,946	1,539	26.4
Collins	1,537	1,293	18.9	Meridian	49,374	41,893	17.9
Columbia	7,117	6,124	16.2	Monticello	1,432	1,382	3.6
Columbus	24,771	17,172	44.3	Moorhead	1,754	1,749	.3
Corinth	11,453	9,785	17.0	Morton	2,260	1,664	35.8
Crenshaw	1,382	740	86.8	Moss Point	6,631	3,782	75.3
Crystal Springs	4,496	3,676	22.3	Mound Bayou	1,354	1,328	2.0
Decatur	1,340	1,225	9.4	Natchez	23,791	22,740	4.6
Drew	2,143	1,681	27.5	Nettleton	1,389	1,204	15.4
Durant	2,617	2,311	13.2	New Albany	5,151	3,680	40.0
Edwards	1,206	1,002	20.4	Newton	3,178	2,912	9.1
Ellisville	4,592	3,579	28.3	Ocean Springs	5,025	3,058	64.3
Eupora	1,468	1,338	9.7	Okolona	2,622	2,167	21.0
Fayette	1,626	1,498	8.5	Oxford	5,283	3,956	33.5
Forest	3,917	2,874	36.3	Pascagoula	17,139	10,805	58.6
Friars Point	1,029	916	12.3	Pass Christian	3,881	3,383	14.7
Fulton	1,706	1,343	27.0	Pelahatchie	1,066	867	23.0
Gloster	1,369	1,467	- 6.7	Philadelphia	5,017	4,472	12.2
Greenville	41,502	29,936	38.9	Picayune	7,834	6,707	16.8
Greenwood	20,436	18,061	13.1	Pontotoc	2,108	1,596	32.1
Grenada	7,914	7,388	7.1	Poplarville	2,136	1,852	15.3
Gulfport	30,204	22,659	33.3	Port Gibson	2,861	2,920	- 2.0
Hattiesburg	34,989	29,474	18.7	Prentiss	1,321	1,212	9.0
Hazlehurst	3,400	3,397	.1	Purvis	1,614	1,270	27.1
Heidelberg	1,049	863	21.6	Quitman	2,030	1,817	11.7
Hernando	1,898	1,206	57.4	Raymond	1,381	1,259	9.7
Hollandale	2,646	2,346	12.8	Richton	1,089	1,158	- 6.0
				Ripley	2,668	2,383	12.0
				Rolling Fork	1,619	1,229	31.7
				Rosedale	2,339	2,197	6.5
				Ruleville	1,902	1,521	25.0
				Sardis	2,098	1,913	9.7
				Senatobia	3,259	2,108	54.6
				Shaw	2,062	1,892	9.0
				Shelby	2,384	2,148	11.0
				Starkville	9,041	7,107	27.2
				Summit	1,663	1,558	6.7
				Taylorsville	1,132	1,116	1.4
				Tunica	1,445	1,354	6.7

Tupelo	17,221	11,527	49.4
Tutwiler	912	939	— 2.9
Tylertown	1,532	1,331	15.1
Union	1,726	1,559	10.7
Vicksburg	29,130	27,948	4.2
Water Valley	3,206	3,213	— .2
Waveland	1,106	793	39.5
Waynesboro	3,892	3,442	13.1
Wesson	1,157	1,235	— 6.3
West Point	8,550	6,432	32.9
Wiggins	1,591	1,436	10.8
Winona	4,282	3,441	24.4
Woodville	1,856	1,609	15.4
Yazoo City	11,236	9,746	15.3
Total	889,276	710,843	25.0

¹Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Advance Reports, Final Population Counts P C(A1)-26, November 7, 1960.

²Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of the Population, Vol. II, Part 24.

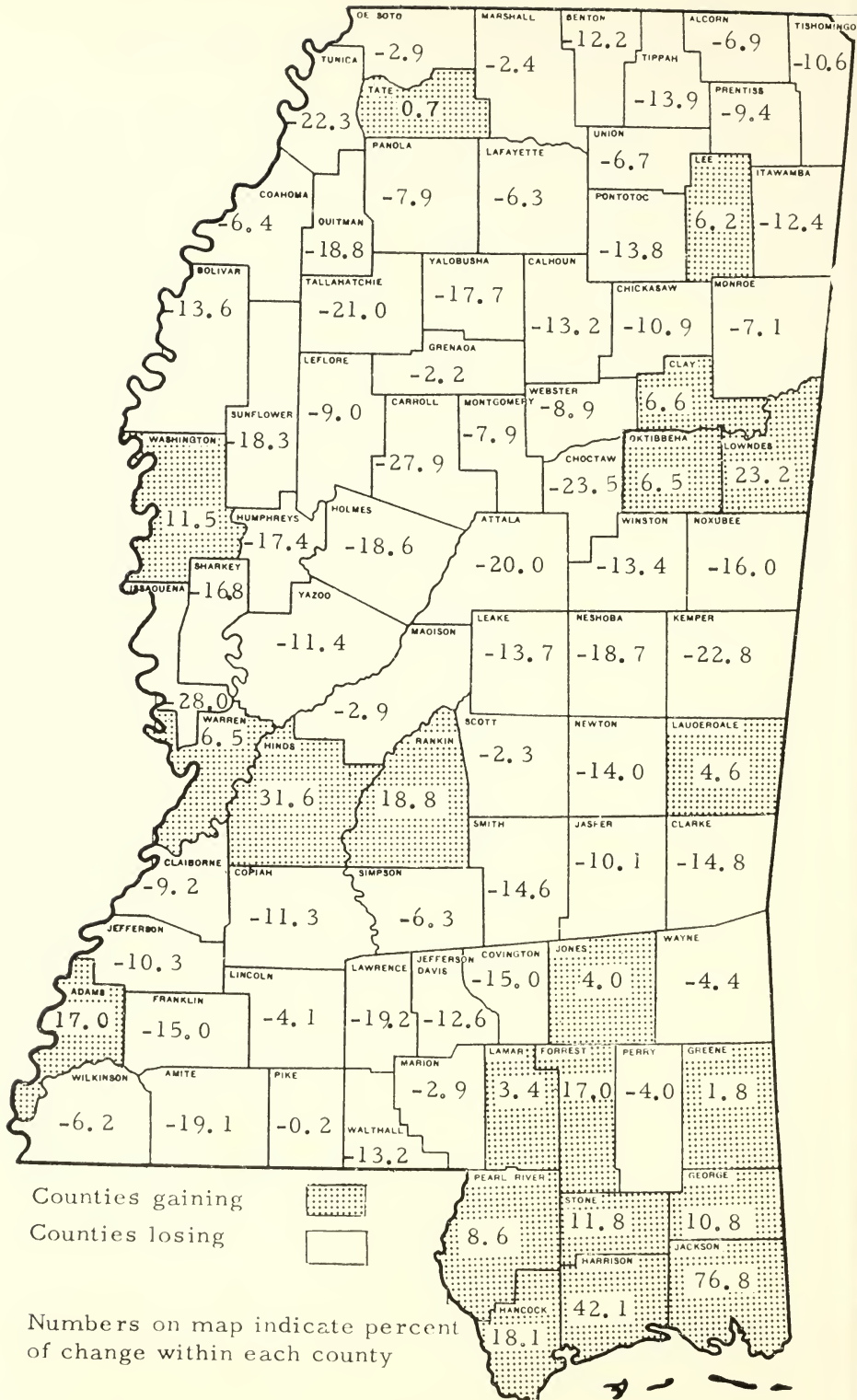


Figure 1. Population changes of Mississippi counties, 1950 to 1960.