

V · I · S · I · O · N · S

Newsletter of McLean County Regional Planning Commission

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The preliminary population projections presented in this newsletter represent the first step in updating and extending the population projections previously developed through various planning studies prepared for McLean County jurisdictions. These preliminary figures include projections for all McLean County townships and municipalities and are based on an assessment of historical growth trends as well as the 2000 Census data. The projections are also based on a series of assumptions designed to reflect current development trends and policies.

The preliminary projections are being published at this time in order to provide an opportunity for review and comment by respective local government leaders. Comments received will be considered in the refinement of the projections for use in long range planning in McLean County.

Please provide any questions or comments in writing or via E-mail. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Russell, AICP
Executive Director

McLEAN COUNTY GROWTH TRENDS AND PRELIMINARY POPULATION PROJECTIONS

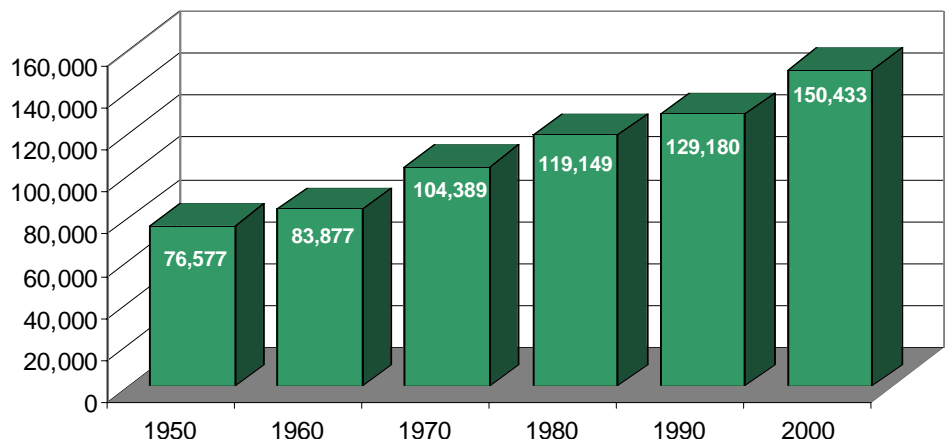
Consideration of population trends and projections is fundamental to planning for the long range needs of a jurisdiction or region. Population projections provide the basis for determining future land use and service requirements and for providing physical improvements to streets, parks, water and sewer systems and other community facilities and services. Reliable estimates of future population levels are therefore essential for purposes of planning and capital improvements programming.

Population projections are usually developed and

periodically updated as part of the comprehensive planning process undertaken for communities, counties and other jurisdictions. Periodic updates help ensure the projections reflect the most recent data and information on local growth trends and policies, thus increasing the level of reliability.

This newsletter presents information on historical and recent growth trends and identifies a series of assumptions on which preliminary population projections were based. The projections were developed in five-year increments to the year 2025 for McLean

Figure 1
McLean County Population Growth
1950-2000



Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1950-2000

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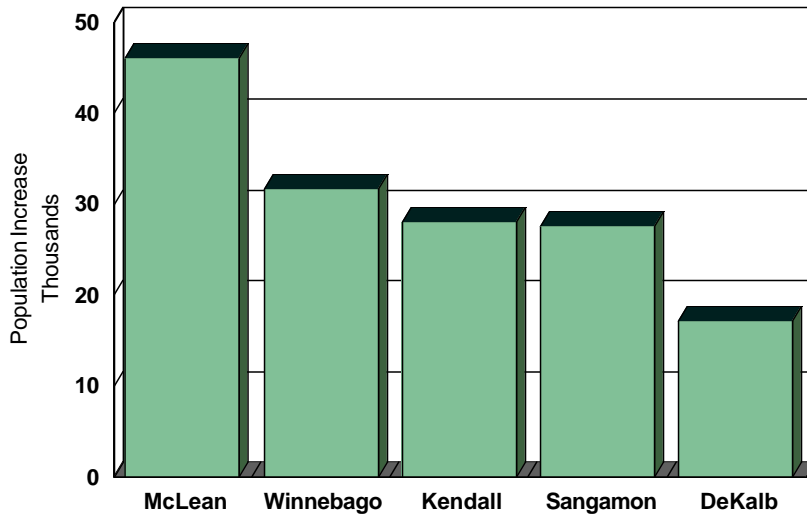
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Table 1
McLean County Population Trends and Preliminary Projections
for Metro and Non-Metro Townships and Municipalities
1970-2025

PLACE	YEAR									
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	
McLean County Total	104,389	119,149	129,180	150,433	159,960	169,910	178,320	187,210	196,480	
Bloomington/Normal Metro Area	66,388	79,861	91,995	110,194	118,900	128,300	135,700	143,500	151,800	
City/Township of Bloomington	39,992	44,189	51,972	64,808	70,700	77,100	81,900	87,000	92,500	
Town of Normal	26,396	35,672	40,023	45,386	48,200	51,200	53,800	56,500	59,300	
Non-Metro Area	38,001	39,288	37,185	40,239	41,060	41,610	42,620	43,710	44,680	
Allin Township	1,053	1,057	970	1,047	1,050	1,000	1,000	995	990	
Village of Stanford	657	720	614	670	660	650	645	640	635	
Anchor Township	528	441	439	376	355	330	310	285	265	
Village of Anchor	200	192	184	175	170	165	160	155	150	
Arrowsmith Township	646	566	512	569	535	500	490	475	460	
Village of Arrowsmith	305	292	331	298	300	300	300	300	300	
Bellflower Township	952	794	716	682	625	565	520	500	500	
Village of Bellflower	400	421	412	408	410	415	420	420	420	
Bloomington Township	4,896	4,939	3,699	3,176	2,850	2,600	2,250	1,950	1,600	
Blue Mound Township	685	616	483	473	425	370	335	300	300	
Village of Cooksville	241	259	192	213	200	200	200	200	200	
Cheney's Grove Township	1,192	1,223	1,079	1,069	1,050	1,000	985	960	935	
Village of Saybrook	814	882	747	764	745	730	715	700	685	
Chenoa Township	2,440	2,368	2,183	2,305	2,250	2,200	2,150	2,100	2,075	
City of Chenoa	1,860	1,847	1,732	1,845	1,810	1,780	1,755	1,765	1,755	
Cropsey Township	341	288	269	256	240	220	205	195	180	
Dale Township	943	1,018	1,221	1,276	1,350	1,400	1,475	1,550	1,600	
Danvers Township	1,486	1,595	1,687	1,953	2,000	2,050	2,150	2,200	2,300	
Village of Danvers	854	921	1,008	1,183	1,220	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,400	
Dawson Township	756	688	631	668	640	610	590	475	555	
Village of Ellsworth	259	244	217	271	260	250	250	250	250	
Downs Township	1,170	1,014	1,028	1,079	1,850	2,500	3,300	4,050	4,300	
Village of Downs	651	561	613	776	1,550	2,300	3,100	3,900	4,050	
Dry Grove Township	993	1,501	1,458	1,649	1,750	1,900	2,000	2,050	2,150	
Empire Township	2,957	3,473	3,352	3,845	3,950	4,050	4,150	4,300	4,400	
City of LeRoy	2,435	2,870	2,777	3,332	3,400	3,500	3,650	3,750	3,900	
Funk's Grove Township	425	358	297	293	260	230	205	185	160	
Gridley Township	1,628	1,805	1,878	1,914	1,950	2,050	2,050	2,130	2,200	
Village of Gridley	1,007	1,246	1,304	1,411	1,500	1,550	1,650	1,700	1,750	
Hudson Township	1,619	1,766	1,882	2,318	2,390	2,450	2,550	2,650	2,800	
Village of Hudson	802	929	1,006	1,510	1,550	1,600	1,700	1,850	1,950	
Lawndale Township	357	273	177	227	180	140	140	140	140	
Lexington Township	2,206	2,441	2,400	2,331	2,380	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,500	
City of Lexington	1,615	1,806	1,809	1,912	2,100	2,250	2,450	2,650	2,900	
Martin Township	1,287	1,180	1,157	1,229	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	
Village of Colfax	935	920	856	989	970	950	955	960	965	
Money Creek Township	780	780	819	1,084	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	
Mount Hope Township	1,276	1,170	1,169	1,172	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	
Village of McLean	820	836	803	808	800	800	800	800	800	
Normal Township (unincorporated)	1,136	491	567	251	300	200	100	100	100	
Old Town Township	960	1,570	1,651	2,692	2,850	3,050	3,300	3,550	3,850	
Randolph Township	2,700	3,010	2,945	3,856	3,950	4,000	4,150	4,300	4,500	
Village of Heyworth	1,441	1,598	1,627	2,431	2,850	3,300	3,750	4,150	4,350	
Towanda Township	1,031	1,375	1,138	1,024	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	
Village of Towanda	578	630	543	493	535	575	580	590	595	
West Township	424	318	280	278	240	210	180	180	180	
White Oak Township	647	761	803	807	845	885	910	940	965	
Village of Carlock	373	410	391	456	460	465	480	490	500	
Yates Township	477	409	295	340	295	250	225	200	175	

Source: U.S. Census of Population 1970-2000; McLean County Regional Planning Commission, 2000-2025

Figure 2
Top Ranked Illinois Counties in Absolute Growth
 Counties Outside Chicago Metro Area: 1970-2000



Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1970-2000

County and its townships and municipalities. (See Table 1.) These preliminary projections will be refined to reflect local input and will be used for long range planning purposes in the region.

GROWTH TRENDS

McLean County has nearly doubled in population over the past fifty years. The county's population increased from 76,577 in 1950 to 150,433 in 2000—an increase of over ninety-six percent. (See Figure 1.) Since 1970, the County has experienced more absolute growth than any other Illinois County outside the Chicago region. (See Figure 2.)

This growth has been the result of a number of important factors. Some of the world's most productive farmland have helped give rise to a

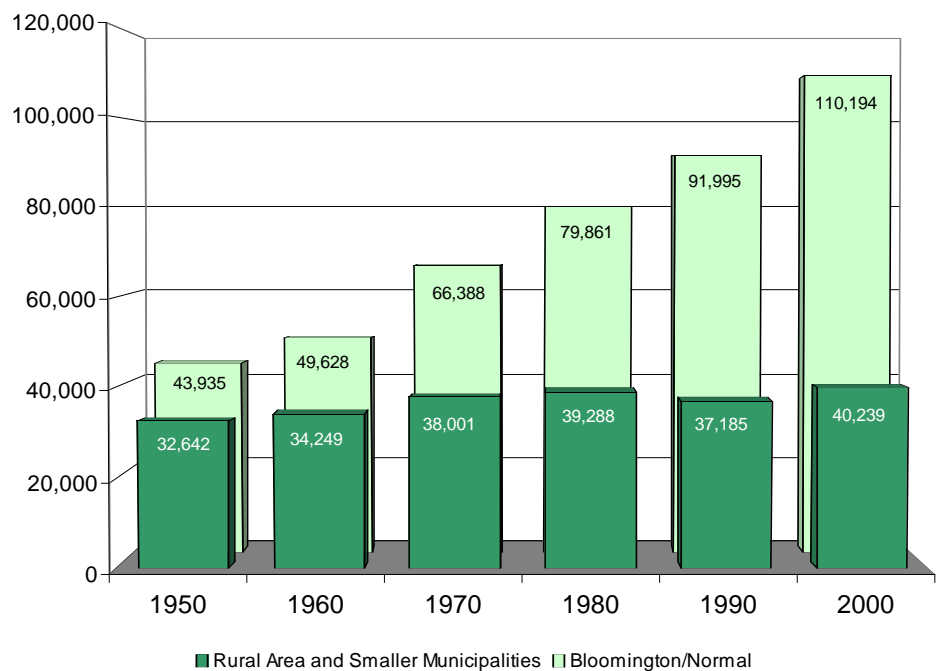
healthy agribusiness industry, which along with manufacturing and insurance, have contributed to a diversified and vibrant area economy. Other contributing factors include

outstanding transportation facilities (highway and air), two universities, excellent school systems and many other quality of life amenities, including cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities. The Region's population and economic growth has also benefited from its location approximately midway between Chicago and St. Louis, as well as its proximity to a number of other metropolitan areas.

Urban Vs. Rural Growth

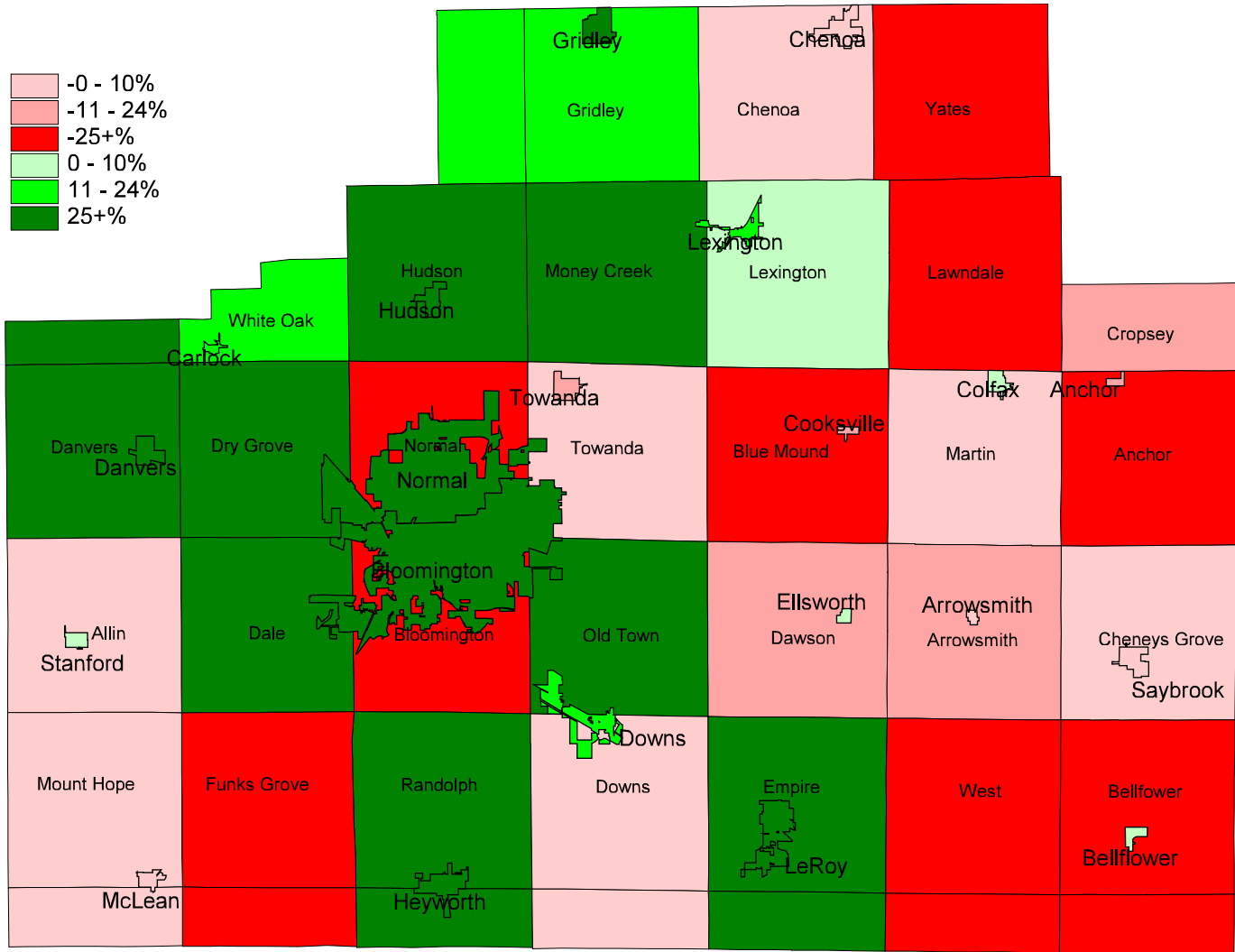
The major portion of McLean County's growth has been in the Bloomington-Normal urban area. (See Figure 3.) In 1950, the Bloomington-Normal metro area population accounted for

Figure 3
Urban-Rural Population Growth, 1950-2000
 McLean County, Illinois



Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1950-2000

Figure 4
Percent Change in Population, 1970 - 2000
McLean County Municipalities and Townships



Source: U. S. Census of Population, 1970-2000

just over fifty-seven percent of the county's population. By 2000, the urban area population more than doubled, increasing its share of the county's population to more than seventy-three percent.

While not to the same degree, the county's population growth outside Bloomington-Normal was nevertheless substantial at nearly 8,000 residents, or over twenty-three percent, during this same fifty-year period.

However, this rural area growth was far from uniform throughout the county as illustrated by the discussions which follow.

Population Trends of Area Municipalities

In general, municipalities in the western two-thirds of the county with easy access to the Bloomington-Normal urban area have experienced sustained growth, particularly

in recent decades. Carlock, Danvers, Downs, Heyworth, Hudson, LeRoy and Lexington have all grown, while most of the other municipalities have remained stable or declined in population.

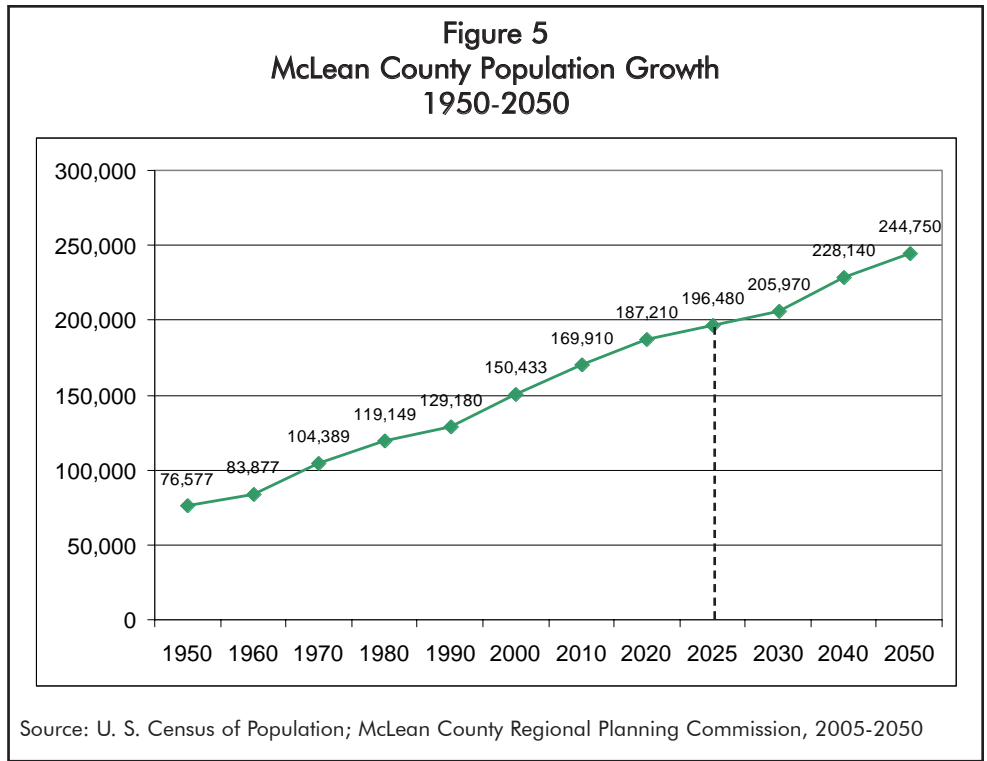
The communities more distant from the urban area and the interstate highway system have, not surprisingly, generally shown greater declines in population. (See Figure 4.) Also contributing to these declines are the nation-

wide trends toward urbanization and a reduction in the number of farms. Fewer farms mean fewer people requiring goods and services, and consequently, fewer businesses, people and tax base in the farming communities.

Township Population Trends

The distribution of population change among the county's townships is similar to but more pronounced than those of the municipalities. Not only are many of the more distant townships losing populations, but they are experiencing more significant losses than their municipalities, due to the rural to urban shift in population and the corresponding need for easy access to the urban area as noted above.

While the less distant

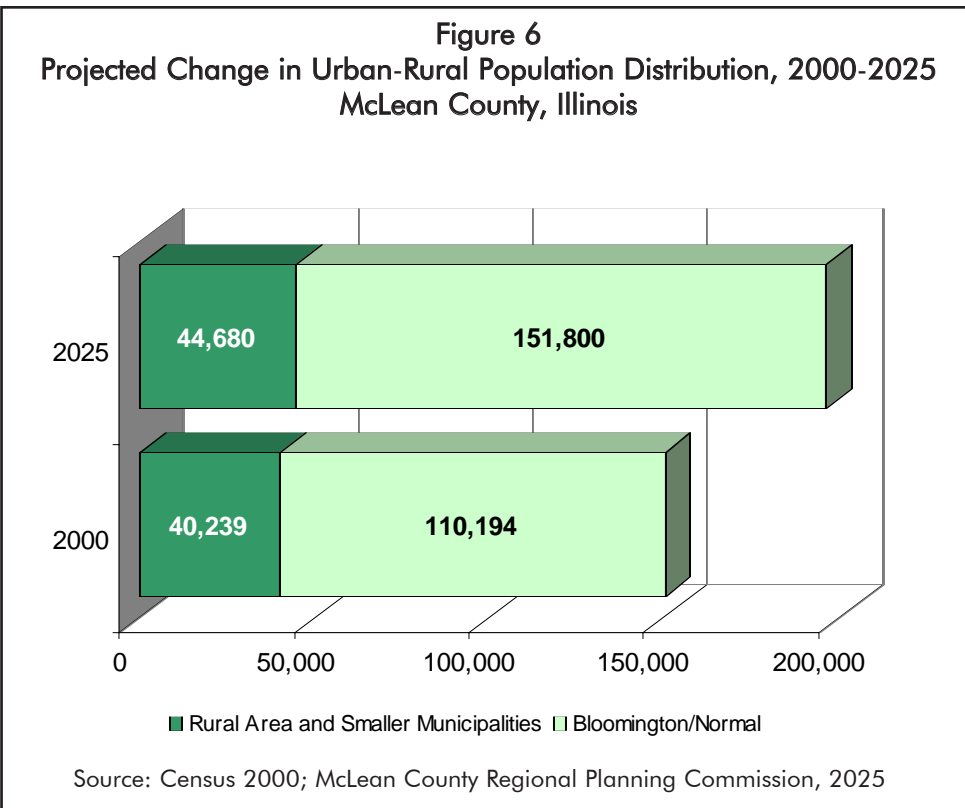


townships have not escaped the trend toward fewer farms, the loss of farming population is usually more than offset by the in-migration of those wishing to reside closer to but not within the urban area itself.

Population growth in townships on the urban fringe sometimes reaches the point of being urbanized and in need of urban services. Growing areas within these townships can also be subject to annexation by municipalities. Annexation increases the land area and populations of the municipalities while decreasing those of the affected townships, as is occurring in Bloomington and Normal Townships. (See Figure 4.)

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

This section presents the assumptions and resulting preliminary population projections developed for McLean County and its townships and municipalities through the year 2025, as well as the projected urban-rural distribution of population.



Assumptions

The preliminary population projections were based upon the following assumptions regarding future trends in population growth in McLean County:

- The location, economic and quality of life factors which have shaped the county's growth over the last several decades will continue to sustain a robust rate of growth well into the future.
- The diversified local economy will not be adversely impacted to any significant degree by national or state economic recessions.
- Future growth trends in McLean County will not be significantly impacted by natural or manmade disasters.
- Reductions in employment levels and/or reductions in the rate of employment growth in one economic sector or industry will be partially offset by gains in other sectors or industries, but will nevertheless result in a slightly lower rate of population growth in the urban area through the year 2010 and somewhat lower yet beyond 2010.
- Local governments in McLean County will not institute regulatory controls

aimed at limiting population growth.

- Rural growth will continue, but at a lower rate than that of the Bloomington-Normal urban area.
- Communities in the western two-thirds of the County will continue to experience higher rates of growth than those located greater distances from the urban area and the interstate highway system.

Additional assumptions of a more specific nature are stated or implied in the following discussions.

Total County Population

The County population is projected at 196,480 in the year 2025. (See Figure 5.) This is an increase of over 46,000 people or nearly thirty-one percent. Although significant, this projected rate of County growth is actually somewhat below the approximately thirty-four percent experienced during the previous twenty-five year period. The total county population projections were derived by totaling the township and municipal projections as applicable. The municipal and township projections are summarized in the following sections.

Continued Urbanization

Bloomington-Normal will undoubtedly experience

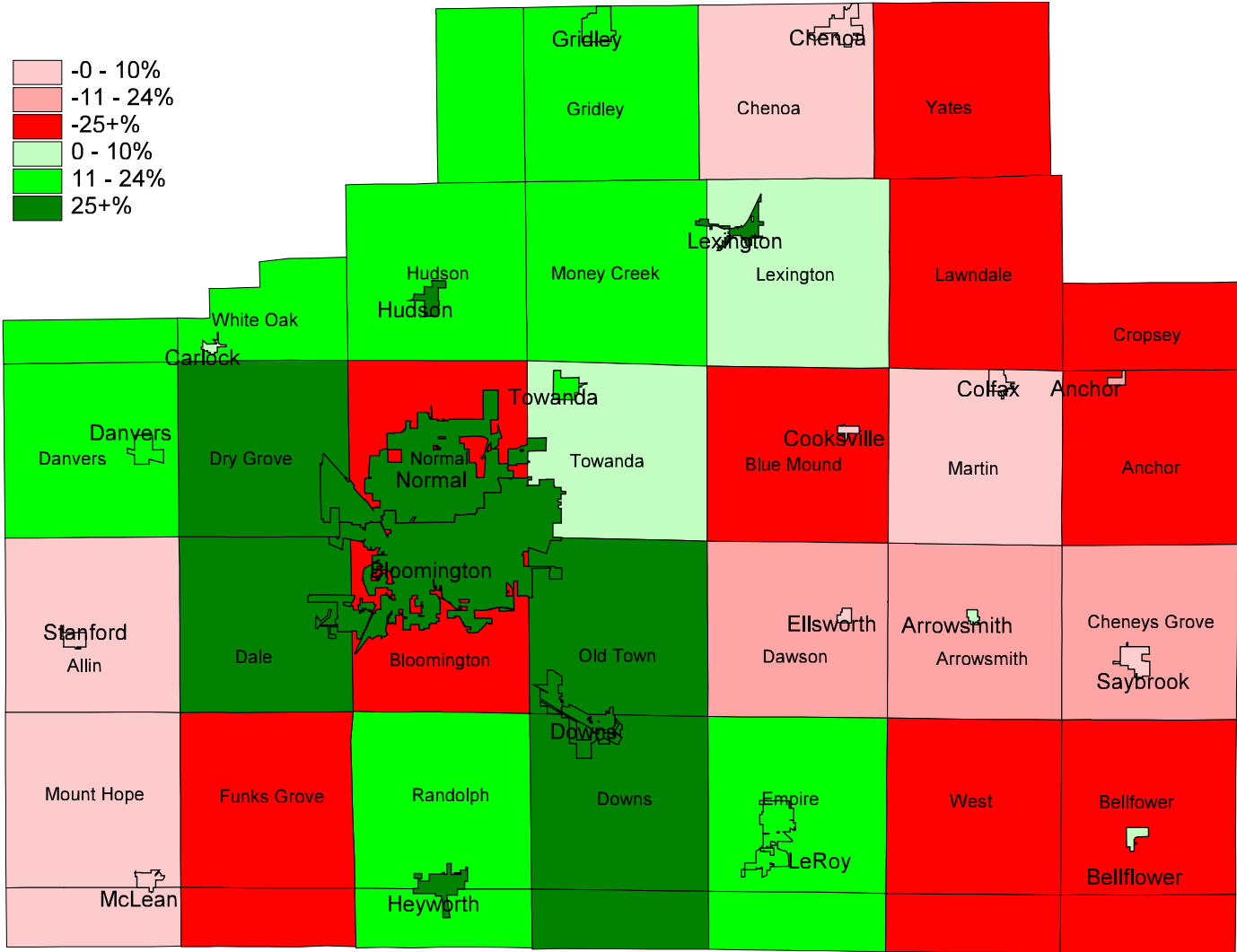
the bulk of the county's future growth and will thus increase its proportion of the total County population as illustrated in Figure 6. This is despite the significant growth projected for outside the Bloomington-Normal urban area. The County's population outside the Bloomington-Normal urban area is projected to reach 44,680 by 2025, an increase of eleven percent over the 2000 population of 40,239.

The 2025 urban area population is projected to reach 151,800. This represents an increase of more than one-third over the 2000 population of 110,194. Although quite robust, this projection reflects a declining growth rate from the peaks which occurred in both Bloomington and Normal during the 1990's. The Bloomington projections reflect an annual population increase of 1.75 percent from 2000 to 2010, and 1.25 percent from 2010 to 2025, as compared to an annual increase of 2.75 percent from 1990 to 2000. Similarly, the Normal projections reflect an annual increase of 1.25 percent from 2000 to 2010, and one percent from 2010 to 2025, as compared to 1.37 percent during the 1990's.

Growth of Other Municipalities

A number of other municipalities within the county are also expected to experience growth. Carlock,

Figure 7
Percent Change in Projected Population, 2000-2025
McLean County Municipalities and Townships



Source: Census 2000; McLean County Regional Planning Commission, 2025

Danvers, Downs, Heyworth, Hudson, LeRoy and Lexington will continue to grow as depicted in Table 1. Projections developed for these communities were based on a continuation of the trend line from 1970, with adjustments made to reflect those trends, such as the major annexation which occurred in the Village of Downs and the likelihood of sewer system construction in both Downs and Lexington.

As has been the case in the past, the municipalities more distant from the urban area and the interstate highway system are expected to remain relatively stable or experience moderate growth, if not declining populations. This projected trend is graphically illustrated in Figure 7. For communities which have experienced declining populations in the past, the projections reflect a moderating rate of decline as the impacts of the declining number of farms

on those communities is expected to "bottom out".

Township Populations

With some exceptions, future trends in township populations are projected to mirror those of the municipalities outside the Bloomington-Normal urban area. (See Figure 7.) The townships in the western two-thirds of the County generally have better access to the interstate highway system and the

This publication presents information on planning and development issues that impact the quality of life in the Community of McLean County. We can be reached by mail at 211 West Jefferson Street, Bloomington, IL 61701, by phone at (309) 828-4331, by fax at (309) 827-4773, or by e-mail at visions@mcplan.org.

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urban area, and are projected to experience relatively stable to fairly significant growth as compared to other townships in the County, especially those in the eastern part of the County. Notable exceptions include Bloomington and Normal townships which are likely to be significantly impacted by future annexations resulting in loss of land area and corresponding population in these townships.

FUTURE UPDATES

It is anticipated that the population projections presented in this newsletter will be continually refined and updated to reflect the most recent information available. In the short term, any feed-

back received regarding the preliminary projections will be considered for possible use in refining the preliminary figures. In the long term, another comprehensive, county-wide update will most likely occur following the next decennial Census of Population, sometime shortly after the year 2010. During the interim period, other updates and refinements are likely to occur as comprehensive plans and other special purpose planning studies are undertaken for McLean County and its jurisdictions. This continuing process of refining and updating will serve to increase the reliability of area population projections and thus contribute to more effective planning for the region. ♦

VISIONS

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