

Idaho Population Growth and Migration:

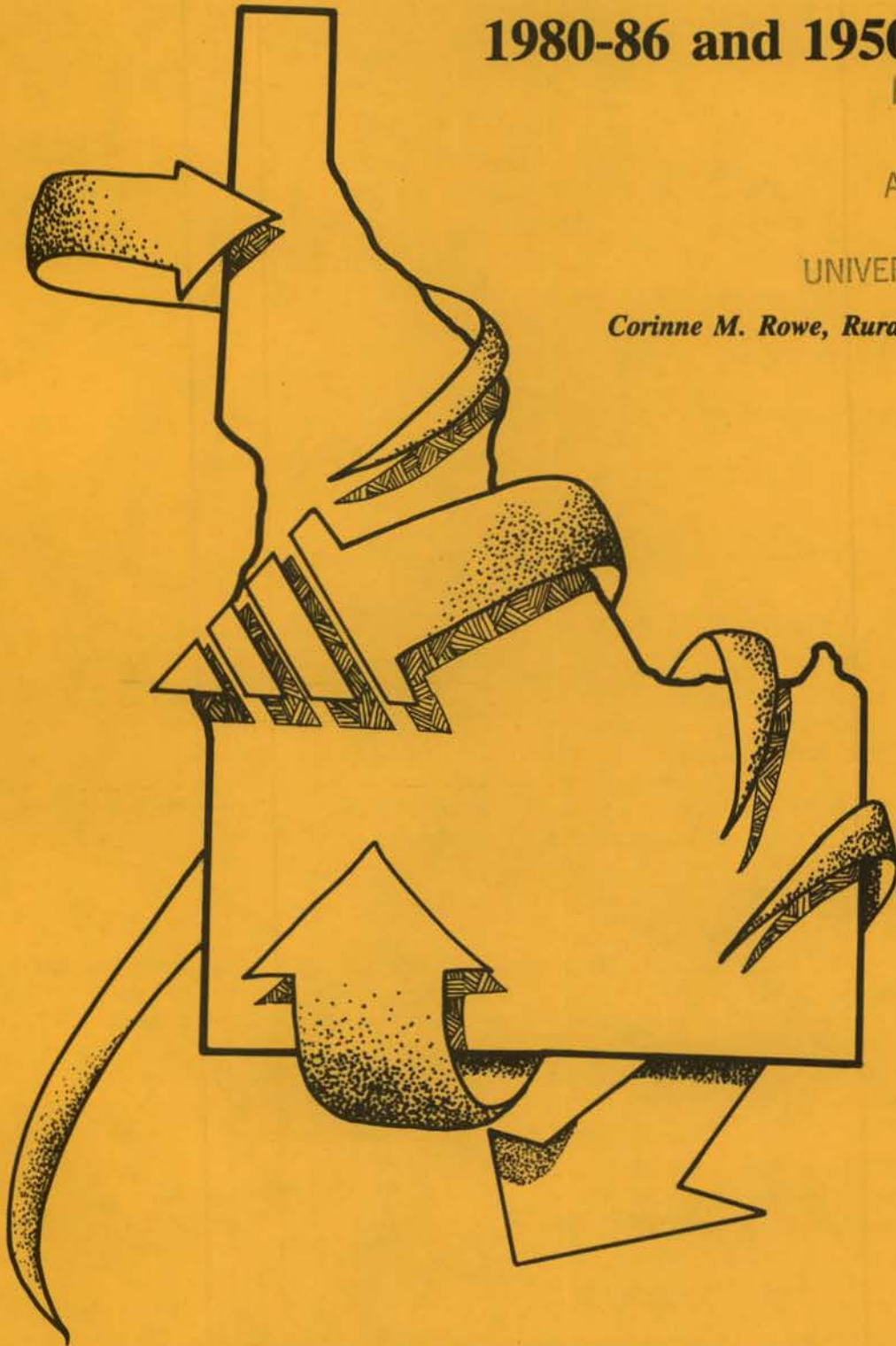
1980-86 and 1950-86

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Idaho Population Growth and Migration: 1980-86 and 1950-86

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- Population growth in Idaho has slowed and become more concentrated within or near five regional trade/service centers.
- Migration patterns have resumed pre-1970 trends except in Blaine, Custer and Valley counties which have continued high rates of immigration.
- Since 1950, 10 of Idaho's 44 counties have experienced growth at or above state levels; 10 others had fewer residents in 1986 than in 1950.

Change in Population Trends

Between 1984 and 1986, Idaho's population topped 1 million, up from 944,127 in 1980. Nearly two-thirds of the state's 44 counties increased in population.¹ A sharp decline in the rate of increase, however, indicated a substantial slowing of the 1970-80 pattern of rapid population growth. Since 1980, the number of people living in Idaho increased 6.1 percent (an annualized rate of 1 percent) compared with 32.4 percent (annualized, 3.2 percent)² in the previous decade.

Population estimates for Idaho counties between 1980 and 1986 indicate that while continued growth occurred statewide, the general trend in four out of five counties once again has become one of net outmigration. State population figures appear to be reflecting a return to pre-1970 population patterns rather than the continuation of 1970-80 trends.

Population growth occurs both as a result of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and from net immigration. Net migration patterns provide greater insight into changes resulting from the movement of peo-

ple into and out of an area than does total population growth, which includes natural increase. Net migration also tends to reflect the level of economic well-being of an area.

This publication provides a mid-decade analysis of population change and migration in Idaho, comparing 1980-86 county trends with growth and migration during the 1970-80 boom and with patterns before 1970.

1980-86: The Current Decade

Between 1980 and 1986, overall population growth in Idaho slowed to a moderate rate of 1 percent per year, down from the rapid annual growth rate of 3.2 percent that occurred during the 1970's. Net migration declined to -0.3 percent per year compared to the annual +1.8 percent rate for 1970-80. County population growth rates, however, have exhibited greater extremes from high to low (Custer 8.3 percent; Camas -2.6 percent) than were experienced during the previous decade (Blaine 7.1 percent; Clearwater -0.4 percent). County figures for 1980-86 are in Table 1; for 1970-80, in Table 2.

Overall, 15 counties grew at or above the state annualized rate of 1 percent. The Boise metropolitan area had the greatest increase in absolute numbers of people, followed closely by the Coeur d'Alene area. In

¹Note: In 1987, U.S. Census Bureau estimates placed state population at 998,000. Projections over 1,000,000 have been given for 1988. County data are not yet available.

²Figures will be given as annualized rates where necessary for comparison across partial decades.

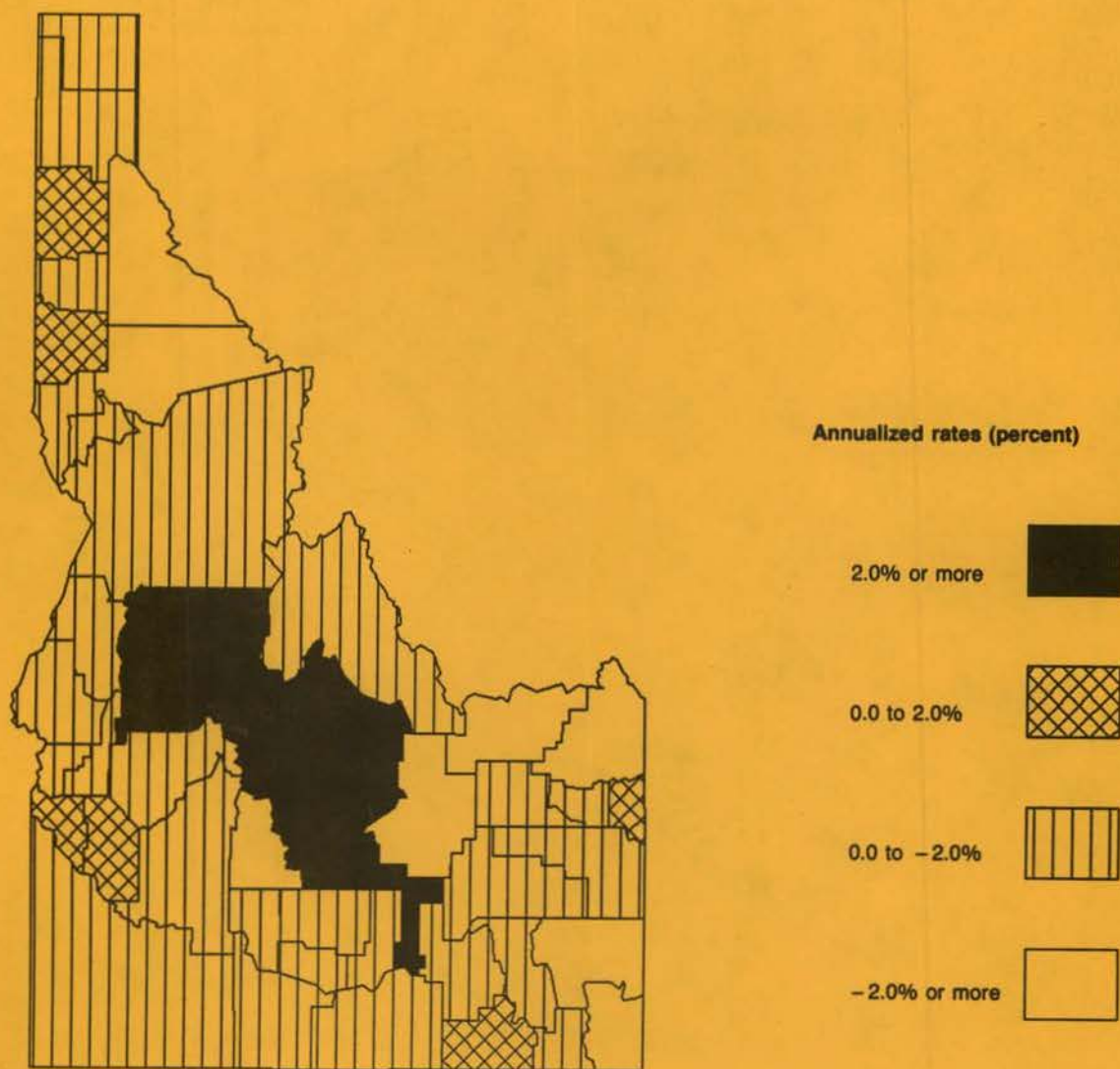


Fig. 1. Idaho county net migration rates, 1980-86 (State average -0.3 percent).

terms of growth rates, however, extremely high growth (above 2.5 percent annually) occurred in just three counties: Custer, 8.3 percent; Blaine, 5.7 percent; and Valley, 3.8 percent.

Net migration figures for these three counties were 6.5 percent, 4.1 percent and 2.4 percent respectively. The growth in Custer County can be attributed to the start of a molybdenum mining operation. In Blaine and Valley counties, growth appeared to be continuation of recreation and retirement immigration.

Another 12 counties experienced slow growth (less than 1 percent per year) and 17 experienced no growth or loss of population between 1980 and 1986, compared to just two that had declining populations between 1970 and 1980.³ These 17 are mostly smaller counties dependent on farming, food processing and/or wood products manufacturing, all highly stressed industries during this period.

Of greater significance, however, was an increase over the previous decade in the number of counties experiencing net outmigration — 35 in 1980-86 vs. 7 in 1970-80 (Fig. 1). Gains above 2 percent per year occurred in Blaine, Custer and Valley, the three counties

that also showed overall population gains between 1980 and 1986. Greatest losses were in 7 counties — Bear Lake, Butte, Camas, Caribou, Clark, Clearwater, Fremont and Shoshone, each with net migration figures greater than -2.0 percent per year. This continued a long term pattern of outmigration for Butte, Clark and Shoshone counties. Bear Lake, Camas, Caribou and Fremont counties experienced an abrupt shift from gain to loss (Fig. 1). Migration rates for the remaining counties varied from -1.9 percent to +1.3 percent per year, with most showing outmigration.

Net outmigration has been especially true of single industry counties, such as those dependent on agriculture, mining or wood products manufacturing, faced

³Much of the 1980-86 slowdown occurred after 1983, coinciding with the states' slow recovery from the 1981-82 recession (data not shown). After 1983, net outmigration outpaced net immigration. Dividing the 6 years between 1980 and 1986 into two periods, the state as a whole attracted 4,000 more people than left between 1980 and 1983 but by 1986 had lost 15,000 more than entered the state. Overall net migration for 1980-83 was 0.4 percent. By 1986, however, this figure had shifted to -1.6 for the 1980-86 period.

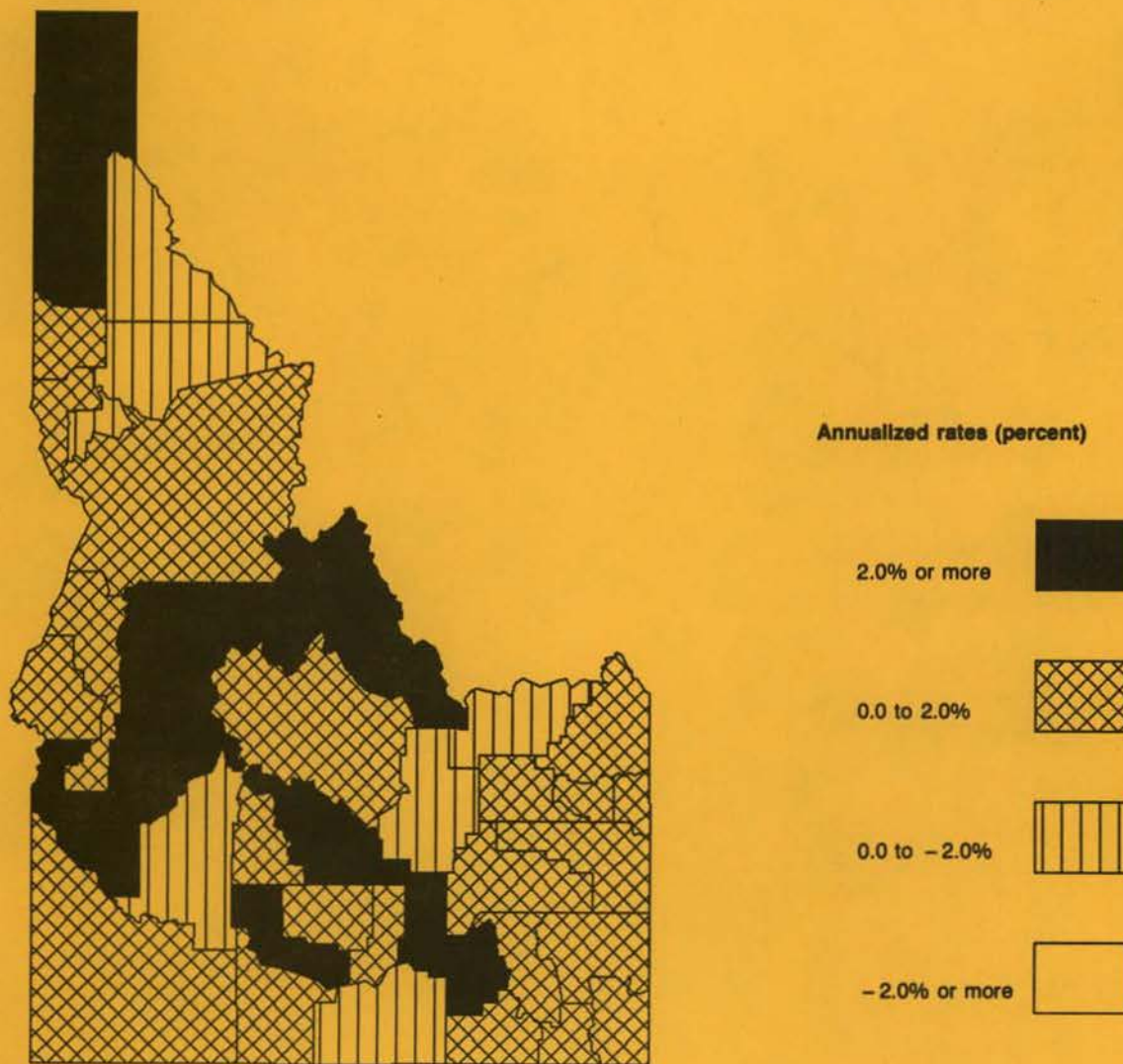


Fig. 2. Idaho county net migration rates, 1970-80 (State average 1.8 percent).

with the need to provide alternative sources of income for families faced with job displacement. While migration is not an exact indicator of the economic viability of an area, counties with an expanding job base tend to attract people while those unable to provide jobs lose population. The situation in this decade is quite different from the experiences of the previous 10 years.

1970-80: Population Boom

During the 1970's, Idaho joined other rapidly growing western states at the forefront of the population turnaround. Between 1970 and 1980, following decades of slow growth, Idaho's population reached 944,127, a 32.4 percent increase that is five times the rate of growth in 1970. Growth throughout Idaho contributed to the national pattern of deconcentration from urban to rural areas. Ada County, which had a population of 173,125 in 1980, is the only Idaho county classified as metropolitan.

All but two Idaho counties gained population in this decade. Over half of the increase was due to net immigration (1.8 percent annually) rather than to natural increase. Migration figures showed that 129,000 more

people moved into the state than out during this period (Table 2).

Just two counties, Clearwater and Shoshone, experienced population decline over the decade. Three others — Clark, Lewis and Nez Perce — grew less than 1 percent annually. Of the rest, 18 counties showed moderate growth of 1.2 to 2.5 percent average annual increase; 12 had rapid growth rates of 2.6 to 4 percent annually; and 9 counties grew very rapidly, with rates exceeding 4.1 percent per year.

Areas of greatest growth tended to center on or be within a 60-mile radius of regional trade centers with urban populations of 20,000 or more — Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Nampa, Pocatello and Twin Falls. Only Lewiston was not included among the high growth regional trade centers. Blaine, Boise, Lemhi and Valley counties, all fairly remote, recreational- or retirement-oriented counties with no town or city over 10,000, also gained significantly. However, even remotely located rural agricultural counties shared in the growth.

In terms of net migration, 7 counties (Butte, Cassia, Clark, Clearwater, Elmore, Lewis and Shoshone) lost more people to other areas than were attracted to the

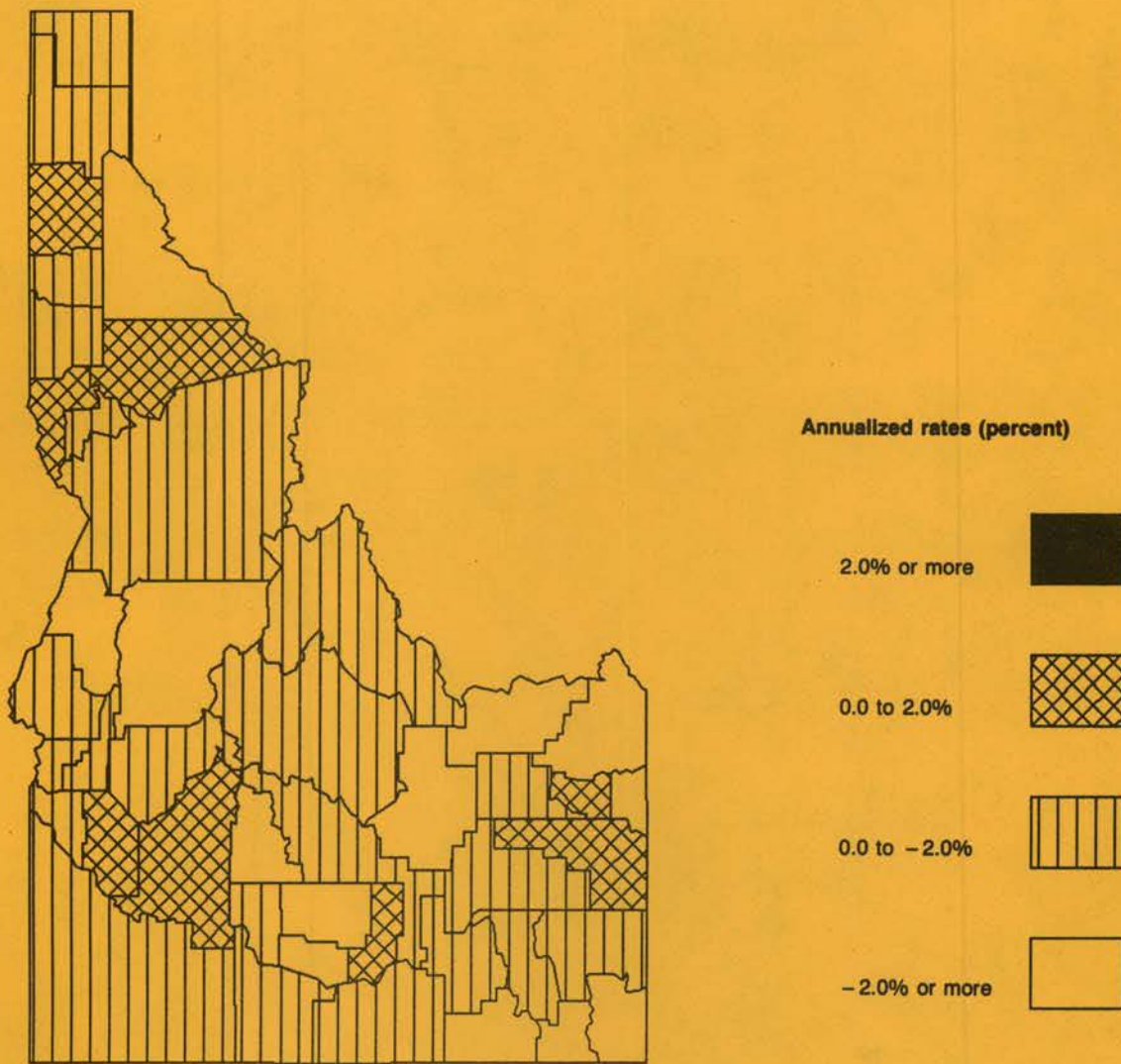


Fig. 3. Idaho county net migration rates, 1950-70 (State average -0.7 percent).

county during the decade, although no county experienced outmigration rates above 2 percent per year (Fig. 2). Another 22 counties experienced only modest immigration, at or below the state average. The remaining 14 counties accounted for most of the 1970-80 growth through net immigration. These 14 counties were Benewah, Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai in the northern Panhandle; Ada, Canyon and Payette in the Treasure Valley; Gooding and Jerome in the Magic Valley; Power in the southeast, and 4 fairly remote counties in the central part of the state — Blaine, Boise, Lemhi and Valley — all of which added sizeable numbers of senior citizens.

Has Idaho's population growth pattern returned to the pre-1970's pattern? Such would seem to be the case.

1950-70: Population Trends Before Turnaround

Comparing the pre-1970 period with post-1980 figures reveals striking similarities as well as important differences. Both total population change and migration rates for the two periods were similar. Ap-

proximately the same number of counties grew and declined. Primary differences are the type of counties experiencing rapid growth and, for those counties with declining populations, an increase in rates of decline.

During both periods, the state's population increased slowly at a rate of just over 1 percent per year (see Tables 1 and 3). Between 1950 and 1970, 25 counties gained population, and 4 — Ada, Bonneville, Elmore and Minidoka — increased more than 2.5 percent annually. Between 1980 and 1986, 28 counties gained population. Three different counties — Blaine, Custer and Valley — grew at this rapid rate while the pace for the previously rapidly growing four dropped to a more moderate growth rate.

Statewide, growth during both time periods was due largely to natural increase. Just eight counties showed net immigration between 1950 and 1970 with the state net migration figure at -0.7 percent per year (Fig. 3). Those counties were Ada, Bonneville, Clearwater, Elmore, Kootenai, Madison, Minidoka and Nez Perce, and none had rates above 2 percent per year. The state net migration figure was -0.3 percent per year between 1980 and 1986, and nine counties had net immigration (Ada, Blaine, Canyon, Custer, Kootenai, Latah, Onei-

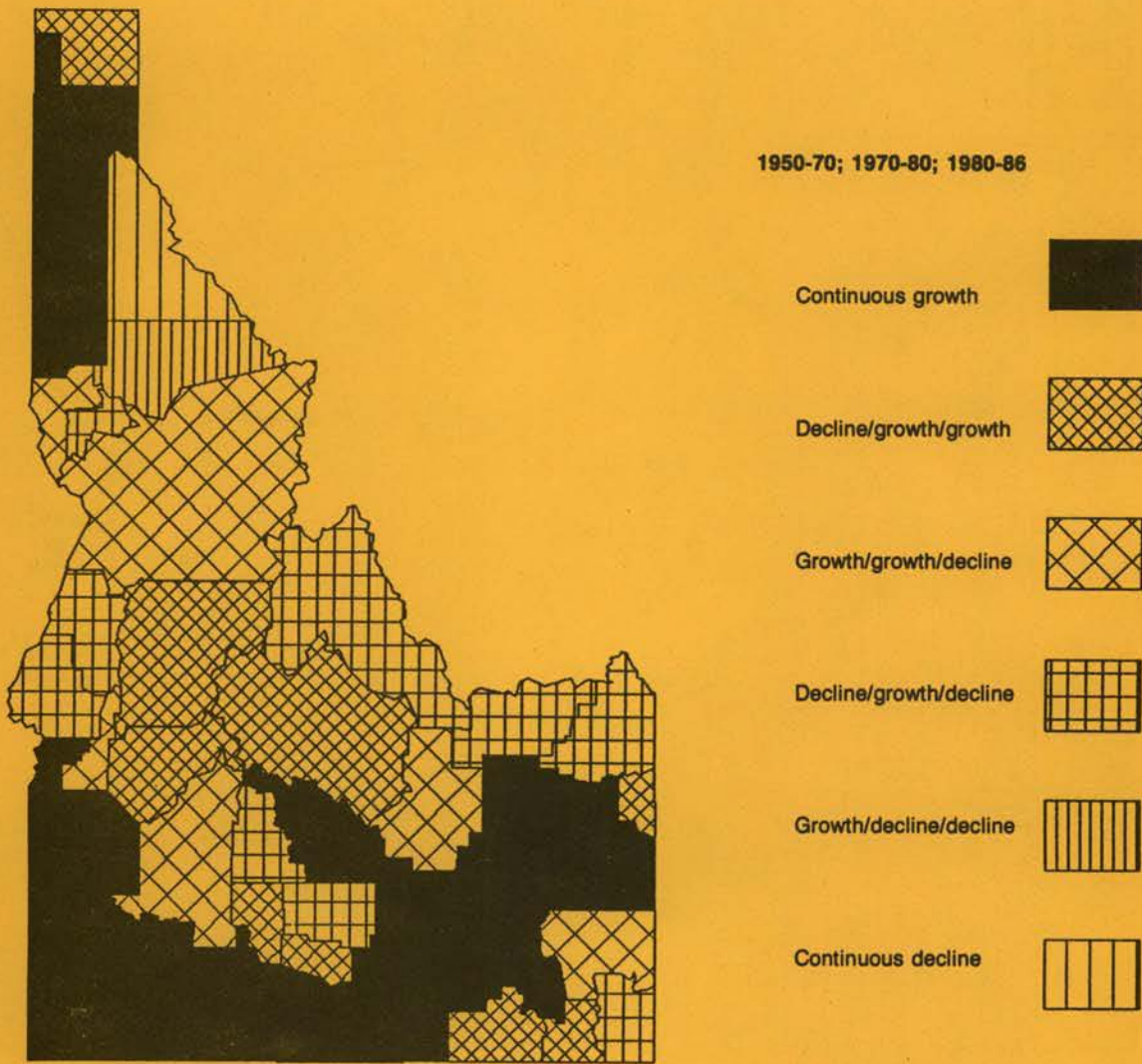


Fig. 4. Patterns of population change, 1950-86.

da, Teton and Valley). Blaine, Custer and Valley counties had annualized rates above 2 percent. Only Ada and Kootenai counties showed net immigration during both time periods.

Several of the pre-1970's immigration counties were those where federal activity stimulated growth during the post-war period (Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory). Rapid immigration growth during the 1980's can be attributed to economic activity that was more locally induced. Custer County was the site of a large molybdenum mining development. Other immigrant counties tended to be either part of the trade and services growth of the Boise and Coeur d'Alene areas or locations of recreation and retirement activity. Three of the net immigration counties — Oneida, Teton and Valley — had experienced high outmigration before 1970.

At the extreme end of the migration index are counties with high outmigration, -2 percent or greater. Thirteen counties were in this category before 1970; eight since 1980. Six of the eight post-1980 counties with high net outmigration were included on the pre-1970 list — Bear Lake, Butte, Camas, Clark, Fremont and Shoshone. In all cases, the 1980-86 annualized out

migration rate in these counties has increased from pre-1970 levels. Prominent characteristics of nearly all net outmigration counties are their remoteness and high dependence upon farming or mining.

For the 27 counties with net outmigration rates between zero and -2 for 1980-86, 9 have experienced an increased rate of outmigration over pre-1970 figures (Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Lewis, Madison, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Power and Washington). These nine counties also are highly dependent on farming. Thus, resumption of outmigration at an increasing rate appears to be a characteristic of remotely located counties dependent on a single industry. Overall, however, just 2,500 people left Idaho each year between 1980 and 1986 compared with nearly 4,000 per year, 1950-70.

These comparisons do indicate that population growth and migration patterns in Idaho during the 1980's closely parallel those before 1970 but with important differences. Population growth has been largely within counties that have urbanized areas with diversified economies while losses have resumed within counties highly dependent on a single extractive industry.

Within the state, county by county variation is significant. To examine this variation, we will look at

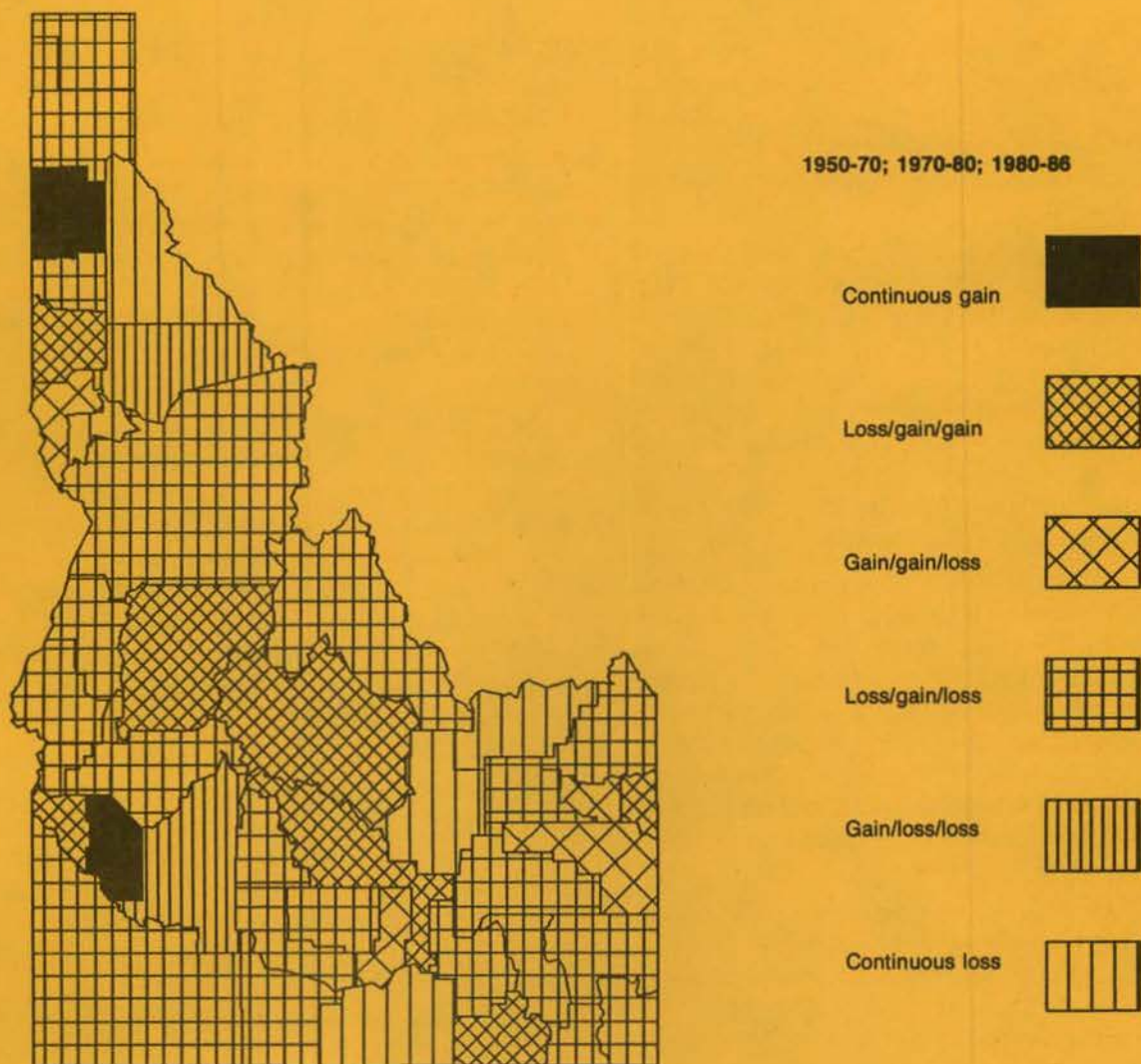


Fig. 5. Patterns of migration change, 1950-86.

county trends in terms of continuous growth or continuous decline and variations within these patterns.

1950-86: Patterns of Growth

Since 1950, 18 counties have experienced continuous population growth through a combination of natural increase and immigration (Fig. 4, Table 4). These counties are Benewah, Bonner, Kootenai and Latah in the Panhandle; metropolitan Ada County and adjacent, non-metropolitan Canyon, Owyhee and Payette in the southwest, and the central and eastern counties of Bannock, Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Cassia, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka, Power and Twin Falls. Most of this growth has been through natural increase. Only Ada and Kootenai have continuously maintained a magnetic pull of migrants throughout the four decades. Only 6 of the other 16 counties in this category have experienced immigration since 1970 (Fig. 5).

A group of 18 counties can be termed nonmetropolitan turnaround counties. These counties lost population before 1970 and grew between 1970 and 1980. Since 1980, however, only 9 have continued to grow — Boundary in the Panhandle; Gooding and Jerome in the

Magic Valley; Franklin and Oneida in the southeast, and Boise, Custer, Teton and Valley. The other 9 — Adams, Bear Lake, Camas, Clark, Fremont, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln and Washington — are all sparsely populated, fairly remote counties that have lost population since 1980. When natural increase is taken out of growth figures, only 4 of these 18 counties — Custer, Oneida, Teton and Valley — have not lost population to outmigration in the current decade. Net migration rates are low, however, except for Custer and Valley counties (Table 1).

Six counties that grew in absolute numbers both before 1970 and during the 1970's declined in population between 1980 and 1986. These are Butte, Caribou, Elmore, Gem, Idaho and Nez Perce counties. Two counties, Clearwater and Shoshone, have experienced continuous overall population declines since 1970, with Shoshone declining since 1950. Five have experienced continuous outmigration since 1950 (Butte, Cassia, Clark, Lewis and Shoshone) and two, Clearwater and Elmore, since 1970 (Fig. 5).

Placing counties in rank order according to their overall 1950-86 growth rate allows us to compare what has been happening throughout the state during the past 36

years (Table 4). "Continuous Growth" counties rank generally, but not always, at the top of the list, and counties with the "Decline-Growth-Decline" pattern or "Continuous Decline" rank at the bottom with the exception of Oneida County, which has continued to grow during the 1980's.

Counties growing at or above the state level throughout the 36 years generally tend to be regional trade and/or service centers with highly diversified economies — Ada, Bonneville, Kootenai and Madison, or areas attractive to retirement and/or recreation industry migration — Blaine, Boise and Bonner. The exceptions are Minidoka and Power, farming counties with growing food processing and chemical manufacturing industries, and Elmore, a high-growth county before 1970 whose growth has since waned.

In the mid ranks are the 24 slow-growing counties, 19 of which are currently showing population loss. Only Canyon, Custer, Latah, Teton and Valley show net immigration for 1980-86 (Table 1). Whether this pattern can be reversed will depend largely on the national economy as well as local economic developments. A resumption in economic growth throughout the Intermountain West might stimulate increased local growth if counties are prepared to take advantage of economic development to expand job availability.

At the lowest end of the scale are the 10 counties whose populations have for the most part declined in absolute numbers over the 36-year period — Lewis and Shoshone in the north; Adams and Washington in the southwest; Camas and Lincoln in the southcentral; Bear Lake, Clark, Franklin and Oneida in the southeast. Adams, Bear Lake, Franklin, Lincoln, Oneida and Washington gained population through immigration during the 1970's, but only Oneida has continued to at-

tract a higher number of people than have moved away since 1980.

Counties experiencing rapid outmigration since 1980 are all remotely located counties primarily dependent on extractive economies with little or no industry diversity. Those that are dependent upon farming to a large measure exemplify the continuing loss of farm population numbers seen throughout the state. Idaho's farm population numbered 102,000 in 1970 and declined 48 percent to 69,000 in 1980 despite an overall increase in the state's total population.

Even for those who continue in farming, access to off-farm job opportunities has become increasingly important. Nationally, approximately 60 percent of total farm family income has been from off-farm sources since 1981, up from 40 percent in 1960. Over half of Idaho farmers depend on off-farm work to supplement or support their farm income. Figures on the number of Idaho farm wives holding off-farm jobs are not available, but national studies show that at least one in three farm wives work off the farm.

Exceptions to farm dependent counties within this outmigration category are Shoshone County, with a mining economy, and Bear Lake and Butte counties, both with a larger percentage of personal income from trade and service industries than from farming, manufacturing or any other single area of the economy.

Sources of Data

1980-86: Idaho Department of Commerce, State Census Coordinator Alan Porter, based on Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census estimates.

1950-80: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics of Population, Idaho.

Table 1. Idaho population change and migration, 1980-86.

	Population		Annual % change	Absolute change	County ranked by % change	Annual % change	County ranked by % net migration	Absolute net migration	Annual % net migration
	1980	1986							
1	Ada	173,125	193,800	2.0%	20,675	1	Custer	1,300	6.5%
2	Kootenai	59,770	76,500	2.2%	16,730	2	Blaine	2,400	4.1%
3	Canyon	83,756	90,200	1.3%	6,444	3	Valley	800	2.4%
4	Bonneville	65,980	70,600	1.2%	4,620	4	Kootenai	4,500	1.3%
5	Blaine	9,841	13,200	5.7%	3,359	5	Ada	8,000	0.8%
6	Twin Falls	52,927	55,800	0.9%	2,873	6	Teton	100	0.4%
7	Bannock	65,421	68,100	0.7%	2,679	7	Ada	1,100	0.2%
8	Madison	19,480	22,000	2.2%	2,520	8	Oneida	100	0.1%
9	Latah	28,749	30,600	1.1%	1,851	9	Jefferson	0	0.1%
10	Bingham	36,489	38,300	0.8%	1,811	10	Canyon	(400)	-0.1%
11	Bonner	24,163	25,900	1.2%	1,737	11	Bonner	(200)	-0.2%
12	Custer	3,385	5,100	8.3%	1,715	12	Bonneville	(300)	-0.2%
13	Valley	5,604	6,900	3.8%	1,296	13	Franklin	(300)	-0.3%
14	Jefferson	15,304	16,500	1.3%	1,196	14	Latah	(100)	-0.3%
15	Minidoka	19,718	20,900	1.0%	1,182	15	Minidoka	(200)	-0.4%
16	Cassia	19,427	20,300	0.8%	873	16	Twin Falls	(100)	-0.5%
17	Franklin	8,895	9,500	1.1%	605	17	Bingham	(400)	-0.6%
18	Payette	15,825	16,300	0.6%	475	18	Benewah	(1,300)	-0.6%
19	Jerome	14,840	15,300	0.5%	460	19	Boundary	(2,600)	-0.7%
20	Elmore	21,565	22,000	-0.3%	435	20	Cassia	(300)	-0.7%
21	Benewah	8,292	8,700	0.8%	408	21	Bannock	(400)	-0.7%
22	Teton	2,897	3,300	2.1%	403	22	Owyhee	(900)	-0.7%
23	Owyhee	8,272	8,600	0.6%	328	23	Payette	(200)	-0.8%
24	Boundary	7,289	7,600	0.8%	311	24	Jerome	(700)	-0.8%
25	Oneida	3,258	3,500	1.4%	242	25	Jefferson	(700)	-0.8%
26	Gooding	11,874	12,000	0.2%	126	26	Gooding	(3,800)	-1.0%
27	Boise	2,999	3,100	0.5%	101	27	Power	(1,300)	-1.1%
28	Power	6,844	6,900	0.2%	56	28	Lincoln	(2,400)	-1.1%
29	Lincoln	3,436	3,400	-0.0%	(36)	29	Nez Perce	(500)	-1.2%
30	Adams	3,347	3,300	-0.4%	(47)	30	Elmore	(200)	-1.2%
31	Clark	798	700	-1.4%	(98)	31	Adams	(1,000)	-1.4%
32	Camas	818	700	-2.6%	(118)	32	Fremont	(1,200)	-1.4%
33	Nez Perce	33,220	33,000	-0.1%	(220)	33	Gem	(700)	-1.7%
34	Butte	3,342	3,100	-1.1%	(242)	34	Idaho	(900)	-1.7%
35	Lemhi	7,460	7,200	-0.7%	(260)	35	Lemhi	(500)	-1.9%
36	Fremont	10,813	10,500	-0.5%	(313)	36	Bear Lake	(2,500)	-1.9%
37	Lewis	4,118	3,800	-1.3%	(318)	37	Butte	(1,400)	-2.1%
38	Bear Lake	6,931	6,600	-0.7%	(331)	38	Washington	(1,000)	-2.3%
39	Gem	11,972	11,500	-0.6%	(472)	39	Lewis	(1,500)	-2.4%
40	Idaho	14,769	14,200	-0.6%	(569)	40	Caribou	(500)	-2.4%
41	Washington	8,803	8,200	-1.2%	(603)	41	Clark	(3,500)	-3.0%
42	Caribou	8,695	8,000	-1.3%	(695)	42	Clearwater	(200)	-3.2%
43	Clearwater	10,390	9,400	-1.6%	(990)	43	Shoshone	(1,700)	-3.3%
44	Shoshone	19,226	16,400	-2.5%	(2,826)	44	Camas	(200)	-3.9%
	State	944,127	1,003,000	1.0%	58,873	State	State	(15,000)	-0.3%

Table 2. Idaho population change and migration, 1970-80.

	County ranked by absolute change				County ranked by % change		County ranked by % net migration					
	Population 1970	Population 1980	Annual % change	Absolute change	Annual % change	Absolute net migration	Annual % net migration					
1	Ada	112,230	173,125	5.4%	60,895	1	Blaine	7.1%	1	Kootenai	20,900	5.9%
2	Kootenai	35,332	59,770	6.9%	24,438	2	Boise	7.0%	2	Blaine	3,200	5.6%
3	Canyon	61,288	83,756	3.7%	22,468	3	Kootenai	6.9%	3	Boise	100	5.5%
4	Bonneville	52,457	65,980	2.6%	13,523	4	Bonner	5.5%	4	Bonner	7,200	4.7%
5	Bannock	52,200	65,421	2.5%	13,221	5	Valley	5.5%	5	Valley	1,500	4.2%
6	Twin Falls	41,807	52,927	2.7%	11,120	6	Ada	5.4%	6	Ada	45,800	4.1%
7	Bonner	15,560	24,163	5.5%	8,603	7	Madison	4.5%	7	Jerome	3,000	3.0%
8	Bingham	29,167	36,489	2.5%	7,322	8	Jerome	4.5%	8	Gooding	2,500	2.9%
9	Madison	13,452	19,480	4.5%	6,028	9	Power	4.1%	9	Lemhi	1,400	2.5%
10	Jerome	10,253	14,840	4.5%	4,587	10	Gooding	3.7%	10	Power	1,200	2.4%
11	Blaine	5,749	9,841	7.1%	4,092	11	Canyon	3.7%	11	Canyon	14,300	2.3%
12	Elmore	17,479	21,565	2.3%	4,086	12	Lemhi	3.4%	12	Benewah	1,400	2.2%
13	Minidoka	15,731	19,718	2.5%	3,987	13	Benewah	3.3%	13	Boundary	1,100	2.1%
14	Latah	24,898	28,749	1.5%	3,851	14	Caribou	3.3%	14	Payette	2,400	2.0%
15	Jefferson	11,740	15,304	3.0%	3,564	15	Boundary	3.3%	15	Gem	1,700	1.9%
16	Payette	12,401	15,825	2.8%	3,424	16	Jefferson	3.0%	16	Madison	2,400	1.8%
17	Gooding	8,645	11,874	3.7%	3,229	17	Owyhee	2.9%	17	Twin Falls	6,400	1.5%
18	Nez Perce	30,376	33,220	0.9%	2,844	18	Payette	2.8%	18	Owyhee	900	1.5%
19	Gem	9,387	11,972	2.8%	2,585	19	Gem	2.8%	19	Caribou	700	1.1%
20	Cassia	17,017	19,427	1.4%	2,410	20	Twin Falls	2.7%	20	Jefferson	1,000	0.8%
21	Caribou	6,534	8,695	3.3%	2,161	21	Bonneville	2.6%	21	Idaho	900	0.7%
22	Fremont	8,710	10,813	2.4%	2,103	22	Minidoka	2.5%	22	Bannock	3,800	0.7%
23	Benewah	6,230	8,292	3.3%	2,062	23	Bannock	2.5%	23	Washington	500	0.7%
24	Valley	3,609	5,604	5.5%	1,995	24	Bingham	2.5%	24	Adams	200	0.7%
25	Power	4,864	6,844	4.1%	1,980	25	Fremont	2.4%	25	Oneida	200	0.7%
26	Lemhi	5,566	7,460	3.4%	1,894	26	Elmore	2.3%	26	Custer	200	0.6%
27	Idaho	12,891	14,769	1.5%	1,878	27	Teton	2.3%	27	Fremont	500	0.6%
28	Owyhee	6,422	8,272	2.9%	1,850	28	Franklin	2.1%	28	Teton	100	0.6%
29	Boundary	5,484	7,289	3.3%	1,805	29	Bear Lake	1.9%	29	Bear Lake	300	0.6%
30	Franklin	7,373	8,895	2.1%	1,522	30	Adams	1.6%	30	Latah	1,400	0.6%
31	Boise	1,763	2,999	7.0%	1,236	31	Latah	1.5%	31	Franklin	400	0.5%
32	Washington	7,633	8,803	1.5%	1,170	32	Washington	1.5%	32	Minidoka	800	0.5%
33	Bear Lake	5,801	6,931	1.9%	1,130	33	Idaho	1.5%	33	Bingham	1,300	0.4%
34	Teton	2,351	2,897	2.3%	546	34	Butte	1.4%	34	Bonneville	2,200	0.4%
35	Adams	2,877	3,347	1.6%	470	35	Cassia	1.4%	35	Nez Perce	1,100	0.4%
36	Custer	2,967	3,385	1.4%	418	36	Custer	1.4%	36	Lincoln	100	0.3%
37	Butte	2,925	3,342	1.4%	417	37	Oneida	1.4%	37	Camas	(z)	0.3%
38	Oneida	2,864	3,258	1.4%	394	38	Lincoln	1.2%	38	Elmore	(300)	-0.2%
39	Lincoln	3,057	3,436	1.2%	379	39	Camas	1.2%	39	Butte	(100)	-0.2%
40	Lewis	3,867	4,118	0.6%	251	40	Nez Perce	0.9%	40	Lewis	(100)	-0.3%
41	Camas	728	818	1.2%	90	41	Clark	0.8%	41	Clark	(z)	-0.5%
42	Clark	741	798	0.8%	57	42	Lewis	0.6%	42	Cassia	(900)	-0.5%
43	Clearwater	10,871	10,390	-0.4%	(481)	43	Shoshone	-0.2%	43	Shoshone	(2,300)	-1.1%
44	Shoshone	19,718	19,226	-0.2%	(492)	44	Clearwater	-0.4%	44	Clearwater	(1,500)	-1.4%
	State	713,015	944,127	3.2%	231,112	State	3.2%	State		129,000	1.8%	

Table 3. Idaho population change and migration, 1950-70.

County ranked by absolute change	Population		Annual % change	Absolute change	County ranked by % change	Annual % change	County ranked by % net migration	Absolute net migration	Annual % net migration
	1950	1970							
1 Ada	70,649	112,230	2.9%	41,581	1 Elmore	8.1%	1 Elmore	2,354	1.8%
2 Bonneville	30,210	52,457	3.7%	22,247	2 Bonneville	3.7%	2 Ada	15,929	1.1%
3 Elmore	6,687	17,479	8.1%	10,792	3 Minidoka	3.0%	3 Kootenai	4,967	1.0%
4 Bannock	41,745	52,200	1.3%	10,455	4 Ada	2.9%	4 Minidoka	1,026	0.5%
5 Kootenai	24,947	35,332	2.1%	10,385	5 Madison	2.3%	5 Bonneville	1,718	0.3%
6 Nez Perce	22,658	30,376	1.7%	7,718	6 Kootenai	2.1%	6 Nez Perce	1,079	0.2%
7 Canyon	53,597	61,288	0.7%	7,691	7 Nez Perce	1.7%	7 Madison	281	0.2%
8 Minidoka	9,785	15,731	3.0%	5,946	8 Clearwater	1.6%	8 Clearwater	248	0.2%
9 Bingham	23,271	29,167	1.3%	5,896	9 Bingham	1.3%	9 Latah	(2,430)	-0.6%
10 Madison	9,156	13,452	2.3%	4,296	10 Bannock	1.3%	10 Canyon	(6,719)	-0.6%
11 Latah	20,971	24,898	0.9%	3,927	11 Power	1.1%	11 Power	(514)	-0.6%
12 Clearwater	8,217	10,871	1.6%	2,654	12 Latah	0.9%	12 Bonner	(2,034)	-0.7%
13 Cassia	14,629	17,017	0.8%	2,388	13 Caribou	0.9%	13 Gem	(1,376)	-0.8%
14 Idaho	11,423	12,891	0.6%	1,468	14 Cassia	0.8%	14 Boise	(281)	-0.8%
15 Jefferson	10,495	11,740	0.6%	1,245	15 Canyon	0.7%	15 Payette	(1,897)	-0.8%
16 Caribou	5,576	6,534	0.9%	958	16 Idaho	0.6%	16 Blaine	(939)	-0.9%
17 Power	3,988	4,864	1.1%	876	17 Jefferson	0.6%	17 Idaho	(2,361)	-1.0%
18 Twin Falls	40,979	41,807	0.1%	828	18 Gem	0.4%	18 Benewah	(1,317)	-1.1%
19 Bonner	14,853	15,560	0.2%	707	19 Butte	0.4%	19 Bannock	(9,617)	-1.2%
20 Gem	8,730	9,387	0.4%	657	20 Blaine	0.3%	20 Bingham	(5,444)	-1.2%
21 Payette	11,921	12,401	0.2%	480	21 Bonner	0.2%	21 Twin Falls	(10,261)	-1.3%
22 Blaine	5,384	5,749	0.3%	365	22 Payette	0.2%	22 Caribou	(1,400)	-1.3%
23 Butte	2,722	2,925	0.4%	203	23 Twin Falls	0.1%	23 Cassia	(3,841)	-1.3%
24 Owyhee	6,307	6,422	0.1%	115	24 Owyhee	0.1%	24 Owyhee	(1,690)	-1.3%
25 Benewah	6,173	6,230	0.0%	57	25 Benewah	0.0%	25 Washington	(2,465)	-1.4%
26 Boise	1,776	1,763	-0.0%	(13)	26 Boise	-0.0%	26 Boundary	(1,726)	-1.5%
27 Clark	918	741	-1.0%	(177)	27 Fremont	-0.3%	27	(1,314)	-1.6%
28 Lewis	4,208	3,867	-0.4%	(341)	28 Boundary	-0.4%	28 Custer	(1,062)	-1.6%
29 Custer	3,318	2,967	-0.5%	(351)	29 Lewis	-0.4%	29 Jefferson	(3,663)	-1.7%
30 Camas	1,079	728	-1.6%	(351)	30 Custer	-0.5%	30 Lemhi	(2,354)	-1.9%
31 Boundary	5,908	5,484	-0.4%	(424)	31 Washington	-0.5%	31 Gooding	(4,256)	-1.9%
32 Adams	3,347	2,877	-0.7%	(470)	32 Lemhi	-0.6%	32 Adams	(1,321)	-2.0%
33 Fremont	9,351	8,710	-0.3%	(641)	33 Shoshone	-0.7%	33 Butte	(1,075)	-2.0%
34 Valley	4,270	3,609	-0.8%	(661)	34 Adams	-0.7%	34 Valley	(1,687)	-2.0%
35 Lemhi	6,278	5,566	-0.6%	(712)	35 Bear Lake	-0.8%	35 Fremont	(3,764)	-2.0%
36 Teton	3,204	2,351	-1.3%	(853)	36 Jerome	-0.8%	36 Shoshone	(9,649)	-2.1%
37 Washington	8,576	7,633	-0.5%	(943)	37 Valley	-0.8%	37 Jerome	(5,141)	-2.1%
38 Bear Lake	6,834	5,801	-0.8%	(1,033)	38 Clark	-1.0%	38 Teton	(1,390)	-2.2%
39 Lincoln	4,256	3,057	-1.4%	(1,199)	39 Gooding	-1.1%	39 Bear Lake	(3,063)	-2.2%
40 Oneida	4,387	2,864	-1.7%	(1,523)	40 Franklin	-1.3%	40 Clark	(414)	-2.3%
41 Jerome	12,080	10,253	-0.8%	(1,827)	41 Teton	-1.3%	41 Lincoln	(2,138)	-2.5%
42 Gooding	11,101	8,645	-1.1%	(2,456)	42 Lincoln	-1.4%	42 Oneida	(2,318)	-2.6%
43 Franklin	9,867	7,373	-1.3%	(2,494)	43 Camas	-1.6%	43 Camas	(591)	-2.7%
44 Shoshone	22,806	19,718	-0.7%	(3,088)	44 Oneida	-1.7%	44 Franklin	(5,543)	-2.8%
State	588,637	713,015	1.1%	124,378	State	1.1%	State	(79,453)	-0.7%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census

Table 4. Idaho population change and migration, 1950-86

County ranked by absolute change	Population		Annual % change	Absolute change	County ranked by % change	Annual % change	Absolute net migration	Annual % net migration
	1950	1986						
1 Ada	70,649	193,800	4.8%	123,151	1 Elmore	6.4%	2,054	0.9%
2 Kootenai	24,947	76,500	5.7%	51,553	2 Kootenai	5.7%	25,867	2.9%
3 Bonneville	30,210	70,600	3.7%	40,390	3 Ada	4.8%	61,729	2.4%
4 Canyon	53,597	90,200	1.9%	36,603	4 Blaine	4.0%	2,261	1.2%
5 Bannock	41,745	68,100	1.8%	26,355	5 Madison	3.9%	2,681	0.8%
6 Elmore	6,687	22,000	6.4%	15,313	6 Bonneville	3.7%	3,918	0.4%
7 Bingham	23,271	38,300	1.8%	15,029	7 Minidoka	3.2%	1,826	0.5%
8 Twin Falls	40,979	55,800	1.0%	14,821	8 Boise	2.1%	(181)	-0.3%
9 Madison	9,156	22,000	3.9%	12,844	9 Bonner	2.1%	5,166	1.0%
10 Minidoka	9,785	20,900	3.2%	11,115	10 Power	2.0%	686	0.5%
11 Bonner	14,853	25,900	2.1%	11,047	11 Canyon	1.9%	7,581	0.4%
12 Nez Perce	22,658	33,000	1.3%	10,342	12 Bingham	1.8%	(4,144)	-0.5%
13 Latah	20,971	30,600	1.3%	9,629	13 Bannock	1.8%	(5,817)	-0.4%
14 Blaine	5,384	13,200	4.0%	7,816	14 Valley	1.7%	(187)	-0.1%
15 Jefferson	10,495	16,500	1.6%	6,005	15 Jefferson	1.6%	(2,683)	-0.7%
16 Cassia	14,629	20,300	1.1%	5,671	16 Custer	1.5%	(862)	-0.7%
17 Payette	11,921	16,300	1.0%	4,379	17 Latah	1.3%	(1,030)	-0.1%
18 Jerome	12,080	15,300	0.7%	3,220	18 Nez Perce	1.3%	2,179	0.3%
19 Power	3,988	6,900	2.0%	2,912	19 Caribou	1.2%	(700)	-0.3%
20 Idaho	11,423	14,200	0.7%	2,777	20 Benewah	1.1%	83	0.0%
21 Gem	8,730	11,500	0.9%	2,770	21 Cassia	1.1%	(4,741)	-0.9%
22 Valley	4,270	6,900	1.7%	2,630	22 Payette	1.0%	503	0.1%
23 Benewah	6,173	8,700	1.1%	2,527	23 Owyhee	1.0%	(790)	-0.3%
24 Caribou	5,576	8,000	1.2%	2,424	24 Twin Falls	1.0%	(3,861)	-0.3%
25 Owyhee	6,307	8,600	1.0%	2,293	25 Gem	0.9%	324	0.1%
26 Custer	3,318	5,100	1.5%	1,782	26 Boundary	0.8%	(626)	-0.3%
27 Boundary	5,908	7,600	0.8%	1,692	27 Jerome	0.7%	(2,141)	-0.5%
28 Boise	1,776	3,100	2.1%	1,324	28 Idaho	0.7%	(1,461)	-0.4%
29 Clearwater	8,217	9,400	0.4%	1,183	29 Lemhi	0.4%	(954)	-0.4%
30 Fremont	9,351	10,500	0.3%	1,149	30 Clearwater	0.4%	(1,252)	-0.4%
31 Lemhi	6,278	7,200	0.4%	922	31 Butte	0.4%	(1,175)	-1.2%
32 Gooding	11,101	12,000	0.2%	899	32 Fremont	0.3%	(3,264)	-1.0%
33 Butte	2,722	3,100	0.4%	378	33 Gooding	0.2%	(1,756)	-0.4%
34 Teton	3,204	3,300	0.1%	96	34 Teton	0.1%	(1,290)	-1.1%
35 Adams	3,347	3,300	-0.0%	(47)	35 Adams	-0.0%	(1,121)	-0.9%
36 Clark	918	700	-0.7%	(218)	36 Bear Lake	-0.1%	(2,763)	-1.1%
37 Bear Lake	6,834	6,600	-0.1%	(234)	37 Franklin	-0.1%	(5,143)	-1.4%
38 Franklin	9,867	9,500	-0.1%	(367)	38 Washington	-0.1%	(1,965)	-0.6%
39 Washington	8,576	8,200	-0.1%	(376)	39 Lewis	-0.3%	(1,414)	-0.9%
40 Camas	1,079	700	-1.0%	(379)	40 Lincoln	-0.6%	(2,038)	-1.3%
41 Lewis	4,208	3,800	-0.3%	(408)	41 Oneida	-0.6%	(2,118)	-1.3%
42 Lincoln	4,256	3,400	-0.6%	(856)	42 Clark	-0.7%	(414)	-1.3%
43 Oneida	4,387	3,500	-0.6%	(887)	43 Shoshone	-0.8%	(11,949)	-1.5%
44 Shoshone	22,806	16,400	-0.8%	(6,406)	44 Camas	-1.0%	(591)	-1.5%
State	588,637	1,003,000	2.0%	414,363	State	2.0%	49,547	0.2%

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