



## **Arkansas Population Projections: 2003 - 2025**

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## **Executive Summary**

This report presents population projections for the State of Arkansas, its 75 counties, 7 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and 5 planning areas. Annual, county-level, intercensal population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division are used to project each geographic area's population from 2003 through 2025. The projections are based on the most recent identifiable trend in each county's population growth or decay. In addition to the baseline projection, an interval estimate for the area's projected population is provided.

While the comprehensive report provides a great wealth of information, the following outcomes from the study are of particular note:

- Benton County will likely surpass Washington County as the second most populous county in Arkansas in 2003 and, if the baseline projections are realized, become the most populous county in Arkansas in 2025. The population of Benton County was 165,500 in 2002 and is projected to be between 220,488 and 231,561 in 2010 and between 382,009 and 422,270 in 2025.
- The population of Pulaski County, the state's most populous county in 2002 (364,381), is projected to be between 373,286 and 376,171 in 2010 and between 391,758 and 398,634 in 2025.
- The population of Washington County is projected to be between 191,703 and 205,603 in 2010 and between 255,736 and 299,689 in 2025. Calhoun County is projected to remain the least populous county in Arkansas through 2025.
- From 1969 to 2002, the state's population became increasingly concentrated in metropolitan areas. Based on the definitions in use prior to June 6, 2003, the proportion of the state's population living in an MSA was 44.5 percent in 1969 and 50.2 percent in 2002. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in an MSA will be 52.4 percent in 2010 and 57.0 percent in 2025.

- The proportion of the state's population living in the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA (as defined before June 6, 2003) is projected to increase from 22.0 percent in 2002 to 22.2 in 2010 and 22.3 percent in 2025.
- The proportion of the state's population living in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA (again, as defined before June 6, 2003) is projected to increase from 12.3 percent in 2002 to 14.5 percent in 2010 and 19.5 percent in 2025.
- The proportion of the state's population living in the Central Arkansas planning area is projected to increase from 29.3 percent in 2002 to 29.5 percent in 2025. If the baseline projections area realized, the area's population will exceed 1 million in 2023.
- The proportion living in the Northwest Arkansas planning area is projected to increase from 28.8 percent to 36.0 percent in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the Northwest Arkansas planning area will become the most populous planning area in Arkansas in 2004 and will have a population in excess of 1 million by 2015.
- The population living in the Northeast Arkansas planning area is projected to increase to more than 400,000 people by 2025, but its share of the state's population is projected to decline.
- The population of the Southwest Arkansas planning area is projected to increase to more than 450,000 people by 2018, but its share of the state's population is projected to decline.
- Population losses are projected to continue in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. In 2025, its population is projected to be close to 320,000.
- Finally, from 1969 to 2002, the population of the State of Arkansas increased by a net 797,079 people, or 41.7 percent, from 1,913,000 to 2,710,079. The state's population is projected to increase by 225,029 people, or 8.3 percent, to 2,935,108 by 2010 and by 768,969 people, or 28.4 percent, to 3,479,048 by 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the state's population will exceed 3 million in 2013.

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## **Introduction**

The fundamental issue of economics is how to allocate a finite set of resources among a population with infinite desires. At the core of every economic decision are people who must decide what to produce, how to produce it, how much of it to produce, and when to produce it. People make these decisions by incorporating their beliefs or expectations about the future.

One of the most important aspects about the future that must be taken into consideration by decision-makers, both public and private, is the expected size of the future population. For example, will the future population of a school district be such that construction of an additional middle school is needed? Do the city's streets need to be widened? Will there be enough people to support a new retail establishment? Will the state's population be sufficient to support the labor needs of high-tech firms?

The first step in answering the above questions and ones like them is to project the number of people living within a certain geographic area over a period of time. The purpose of this report is to project the total population of each of Arkansas' 75 counties from 2003 to 2025. Forecasting is necessarily an imperfect enterprise, and as such, the report is meant as a guide to be used by businesses, governments, researchers, and the general public. Care has been taken to refrain from unnecessary technical language and to explain the required technical language in a manner that is likely understood by non-economists or statisticians.

The remainder of the report is structured as follows. Section 2 discusses the data and methodology used in the analysis. Section 3 presents population projections for the 75 counties of Arkansas for the period 2003 through 2025. Section 4 presents population projections for the counties and parishes bordering Arkansas. Section 5 presents population projections for the seven Metropolitan Statistical Areas containing counties in Arkansas. Section 6 presents population projections for the state in aggregate, and Section 7 summarizes and concludes the report.

## Data and Methodology

Changes in an area's population can be attributed to three sets of events: births, deaths, and net migration. The mathematical relationship between population and these three events is intuitively obvious (see equation [1]).

$$Population_{t+1} = Population_t + Births_t - Deaths_t + Net Migration_t \quad [1]$$

An area's population next year equals the area's current population plus the number of births in the area during the year, minus the number deaths in the area during the year, plus the number of people migrating into the area during the year, and minus the number of people migrating out of the area during the year.

The natural and economic processes underlying these events are complicated, but two general methods have been devised to simplify the problem of projecting population levels. Each method has costs and benefits associated with it. The methods and their relative merits are discussed in turn below.

The first method is the cohort-component method. To conduct this sort of analysis, data are needed on the age and sex of each member of the population (cohort) in question at the point in time from which the projections are to be made. Then, using historical rates of birth and death for members of the different age groups, the population is projected into the future.

The second method uses recent, historical trends in an area's population growth (or decay) and projects the population by extrapolating these trends into the future. The extrapolation method nets out the effects of births, deaths, and migration in projecting population for the area in question.

The primary advantage to the cohort-component method is that the projections generated using this method are much more detailed, giving information about the age and sex of the cohort in the future. Clearly, this is highly desirable for those wanting demographic information for the projected population of the cohort. For example, this method would be most useful for those wanting to answer questions such as will the future population of a school district be such that construction of a new middle school is needed?

There are disadvantages associated with the cohort-component method, however. The primary disadvantage of using this method is the significant data requirements. Detailed demographic data are needed for the cohort in question. In addition, historical data are needed on fertility rates, mortality rates, and rates of migration in the area for which the population is to

be projected. Along these lines, it is important to note the caveat that the past is not necessarily indicative of the future; future birth rates, death rates, and rates of migration may differ significantly from those used to construct the population projections.

Second, detailed demographic data for counties are released infrequently (once every ten years by the U.S. Census Bureau). The annual population estimates made by the Census Bureau are only for the county's total population. Thus, refinement of the projections made using the cohort-component method is not generally feasible.

The advantages to using the extrapolation method over the cohort-component method focus on the much less stringent data requirements for the former. The extrapolation method requires a suitably "long" series of population estimates, generally at least five years of observations is needed. Again, the caveat that the past is not necessarily indicative of the future is needed; birth, death, and migration rates may change over time.

Second, because the Census Bureau publishes county-level population estimates on an annual basis, the population projections generated by this method can be revisited and refined frequently using the most recent available data. This is the primary reason for choosing the extrapolation method over the cohort-component method for this analysis.

The disadvantages of the extrapolation method are obvious. First, the projections generated by this method are only for the total population of the geographic region in question. The projections give no information about the changing demographic structure of the population.

Second, the point in time used to begin the extrapolation process is an educated guess made by the person doing the projecting. If the trend in population growth (or decay) is not well defined, radically different projections could be made by choosing one year over another as the starting point for the extrapolation process. In this sense, making forecasts or projections (population or otherwise) is as much an art as it is a science.

Finally, both methods are void of economic assumptions about future employment conditions. For example, all else equal, prolonged high rates of unemployment may induce people, particularly those who are unemployed, to migrate to areas where employment prospects are or are expected to be relatively better. A literary example of this is found in Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, in which the Joad family moves from Oklahoma, stricken by The Dust Bowl during The Great Depression, to what they believe to be a better life as fruit pickers in California.



Such assumptions about future employment conditions could easily be added to either methodology. However, projections generated by incorporating such assumptions would be more difficult to analyze and subject to harsh critique. For example, population growth (or decay) could drive employment growth (or decay), vice versa, or, the most likely case, each feeds the other. Therefore, for the sake of simplicity, assumptions about future employment conditions do not enter the analysis presented below.

For this analysis, the extrapolation methodology discussed above was used to project the population of the state of Arkansas, its 75 counties, and the 7 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) containing counties in Arkansas. Intercensal, annual, county-level population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division were used to project the population of the geographic areas in question from 2003 through 2025.

For each county, the population estimates for the period 1969 through 2002 were plotted and examined for the most recent identifiable trend in the county's population growth or decay. The year in which the trend began was selected to be the starting point for the extrapolation process. At least five years of data were used in the process to incorporate enough information about population movements to ensure more robust projections would result.

The caveat that the past is not necessarily indicative of the future certainly applies to the projections reported in this document. However, recent trends are often decent estimates of what will happen in the future. As such, the projections provided in this report are reasonable but should not be taken as gospel. They are an educated "best guess" about the future population levels of the geographic areas under consideration.

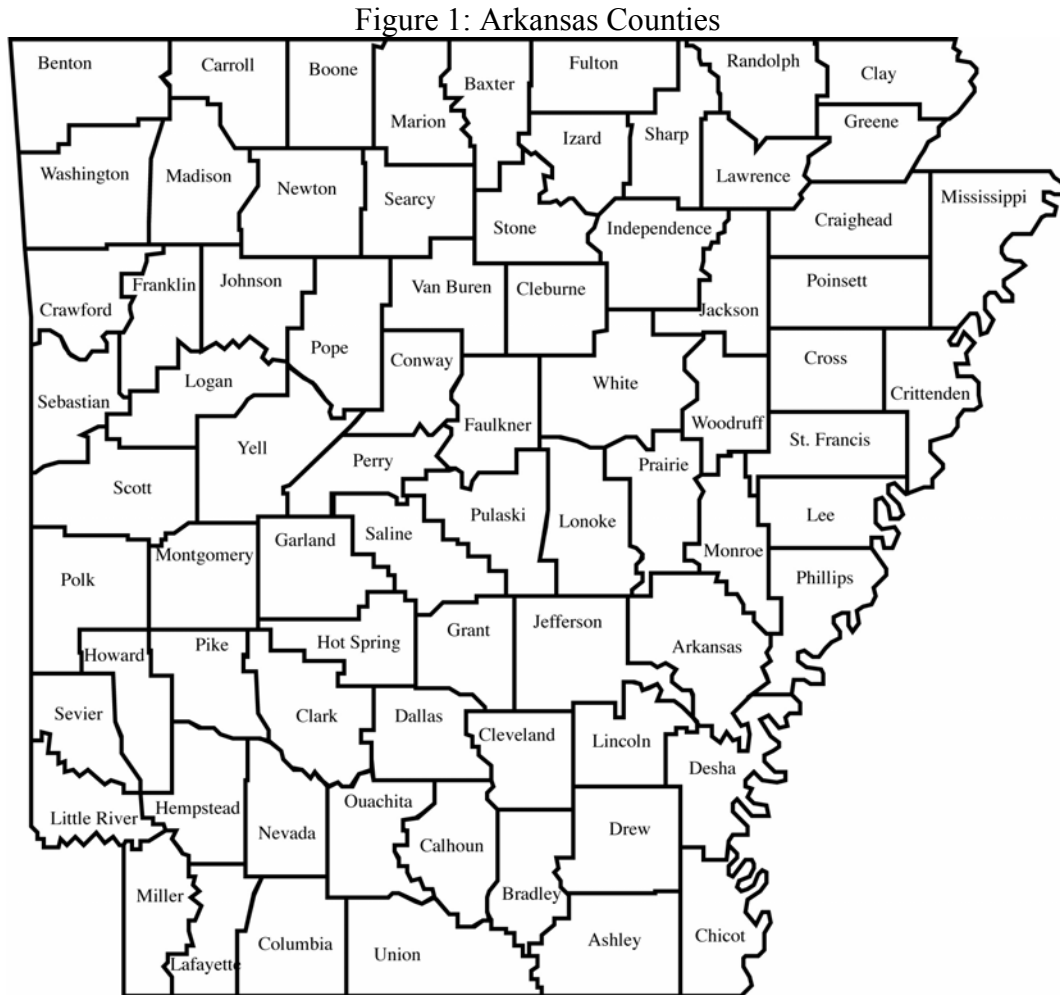
Even the best guesses and predictions necessarily have some degree of uncertainty associated with them. The population projections presented in this report are no different. Therefore, in addition to the baseline projection made for each county, a 95-percent prediction interval is also reported. This interval gives a lower and upper bound that the county's population level, as projected using the methodology outlined above, is projected to fall between with 95 percent confidence.

This is important because the interval gives decision-makers the ability to analyze different scenarios for which to plan. The intervals are especially useful when no clear recent trend in a county's population level is present. In cases where no clear trend is identifiable, the upper bound of the interval may suggest that a county's population may increase during the

forecast period, while the lower bound of the interval may suggest that the county's population may decrease during the period.

## Population Projections, Arkansas Counties

This section presents population projections for Arkansas' 75 counties for the period 2003 through 2025. Each county constitutes a sub-section of this portion of the report. The counties, shown by their geographic location in the state in Figure 1, are ordered alphabetically starting with Arkansas County and ending with Yell County.



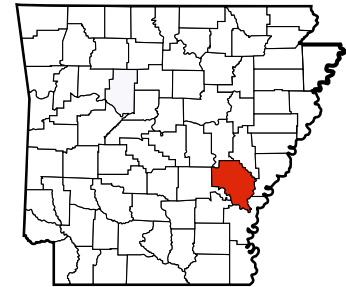
The structure of the narrative for each county is as follows. Identifiable historical trends in the county's population level are discussed and are shown graphically. The baseline population projection is shown as a continuation of the historical population levels (in black on the graphic). The lower and upper bounds of the 95-percent prediction interval are shown on the same graphic as bright red and maroon lines, respectively.

In addition, a table is provided showing historical population estimates for the county for the period 1998 through 2002. The table also provides the baseline population projection, as well as the lower and upper bounds of the prediction interval, for the county for the years 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2025. In addition, for these five years, the table displays the absolute change and the percentage change in the county's population from the 2002 estimate for the baseline projection and for the upper and lower bounds of the prediction interval.

The reader may only be interested in the population projections for one specific county. However, it would behoove the reader to examine the projections for the counties surrounding the one in question to gain a better perspective of regional population trends. As such, for each county, a list of the surrounding counties, and the pages on which their population projections can be found, are provided.

### ***Arkansas County***

Arkansas County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Arkansas County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Stuttgart (9,745), DeWitt (3,552), and Gillett (819).<sup>1</sup>



From 1972 to 1978, the population of Arkansas County increased by 1,255 people, or 5.4 percent, from 23,170 to 24,425. From 1982 to 1989, the county's population decreased 10.0 percent to 21,705 (see Figure 2). From 1990 through 2002, the rate of population decline slowed. In 2002, the population of Arkansas County was 20,355, 6.1 percent less than in 1990. The county was the 37<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1990 to 2002 trend, the population of Arkansas County is projected to decrease by 611 people, or 3.0 percent, to 19,744 by 2010 and by 1,935 people, or 9.5 percent, to 18,420 by 2025 (see Table 1). The county's population is projected to be between 19,503 and 19,986 in 2010 and between 18,055 and 18,790 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Arkansas County will be the 39<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 46<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Source for city-level population data: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Arkansas County are Desha (page 47), Jefferson (page 75), Lincoln (page 85), Lonoke (page 91), Monroe (page 101), Phillips (page 113), and Prairie (page 123). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 2: Arkansas County Historical Population and Population Projections

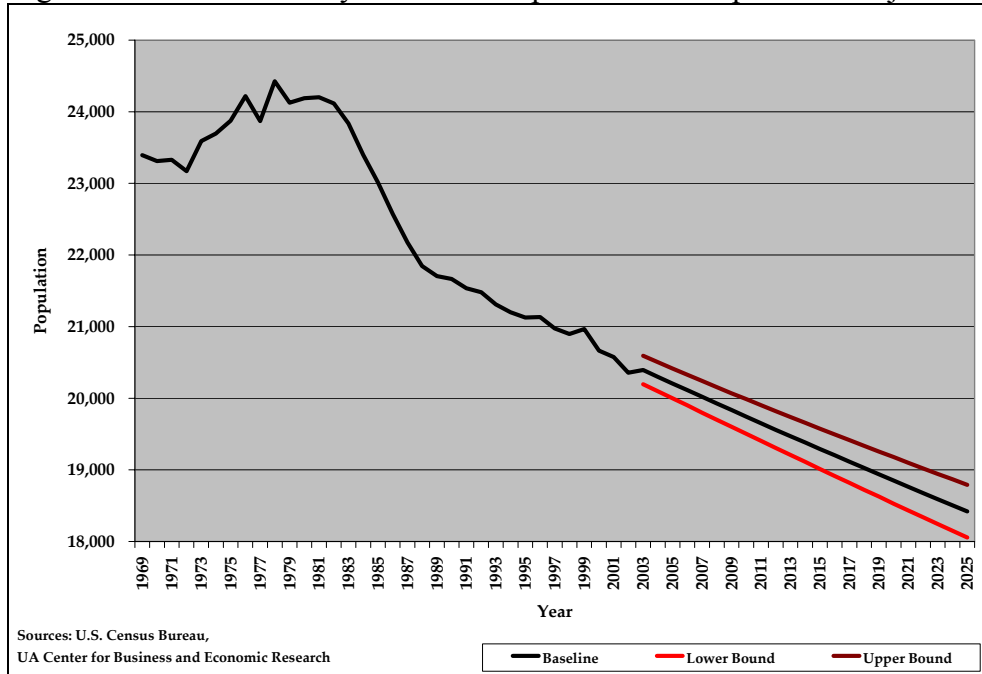


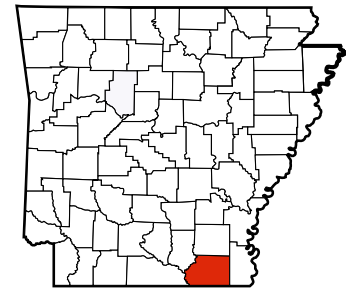
Table 1: Arkansas County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,896   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,966   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 20,664   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 20,576   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 20,355   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 20,205   | (150)                     | -0.7%                    | 19,998      | (357)                     | -1.8%                    | 20,414      | 59                        | 0.3%                     |
| 2010 | 19,744   | (611)                     | -3.0%                    | 19,503      | (852)                     | -4.2%                    | 19,986      | (369)                     | -1.8%                    |
| 2015 | 19,291   | (1,064)                   | -5.2%                    | 19,012      | (1,343)                   | -6.6%                    | 19,575      | (780)                     | -3.8%                    |
| 2020 | 18,851   | (1,504)                   | -7.4%                    | 18,529      | (1,826)                   | -9.0%                    | 19,178      | (1,177)                   | -5.8%                    |
| 2025 | 18,420   | (1,935)                   | -9.5%                    | 18,055      | (2,300)                   | -11.3%                   | 18,790      | (1,565)                   | -7.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Ashley County

Ashley County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Ashley County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Crossett (6,097), Hamburg (3,039), North Crossett CDP<sup>2</sup> (3,581), West Crossett CDP (1,664), and Wilmot (796).



From 1974 to 1978, the population of Ashley County increased by 1,468 people, or 5.8 percent, from 25,478 to 26,946. The population of Ashley County declined each year from 1978 to 1990, save in 1981, 1984, and 1985 (see Figure 3). For the period, the county’s population declined by 2,663 people, or 9.9 percent. The rate of population decline slowed from 1990 to 2002, during which time the county’s population decreased by 408 people, or 1.7 percent, from 24,283 to 23,875. The county was the 30<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Census Designated Place (CDP) – “A geographic entity that serves as the statistical counterpart of an incorporated place for the purpose of presenting census data for an area with a concentration of population, housing, and commercial structures that is identifiable by name, but is not within an incorporated place.” - U.S. Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/hunits/notes.html>

Based on the 1990 to 2002 data, the population of Ashley County is projected to decrease by 176 people, or 0.7 percent, to 23,699 by 2010 and by 835 people, or 3.5 percent, to 23,040 by 2025 (see Table 2). The county's population is projected to be between 23,202 and 24,209 in 2010 and between 22,257 and 23,854 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Ashley county will be the 32<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 33<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Ashley County are Bradley County, Arkansas (page 17); Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23); Drew County, Arkansas (page 49); Union County, Arkansas (page 145); Morehouse Parish, Louisiana (page 163); and Union Parish, Louisiana (page 165). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 3: Ashley County Historical Population and Population Projections

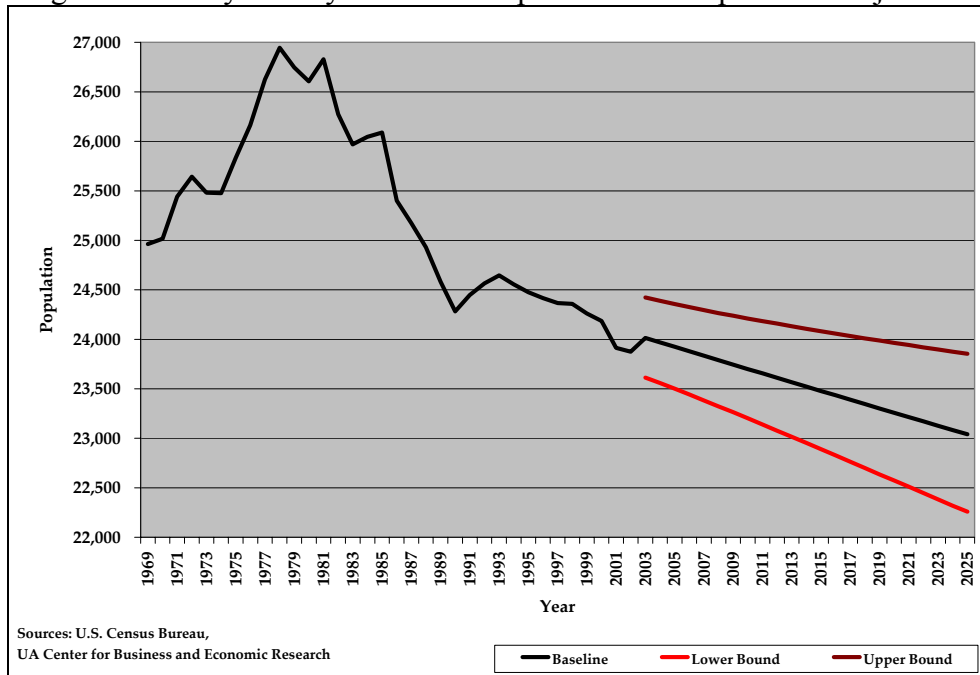


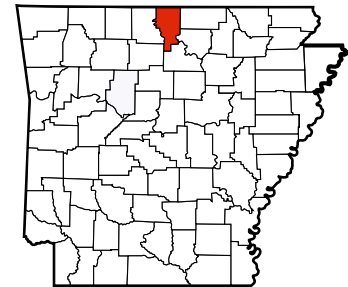
Table 2: Ashley County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 24,359   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 24,261   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 24,184   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 23,913   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 23,875   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 23,925   | 50                        | 0.2%                     | 23,501      | (374)                     | -1.6%                    | 24,358      | 483                       | 2.0%                     |
| 2010 | 23,699   | (176)                     | -0.7%                    | 23,202      | (673)                     | -2.8%                    | 24,209      | 334                       | 1.4%                     |
| 2015 | 23,478   | (397)                     | -1.7%                    | 22,891      | (984)                     | -4.1%                    | 24,082      | 207                       | 0.9%                     |
| 2020 | 23,258   | (617)                     | -2.6%                    | 22,573      | (1,302)                   | -5.5%                    | 23,964      | 89                        | 0.4%                     |
| 2025 | 23,040   | (835)                     | -3.5%                    | 22,257      | (1,618)                   | -6.8%                    | 23,854      | (21)                      | -0.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Baxter County***

Baxter County is located in north-central Arkansas and is a component of the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Baxter County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Mountain Home (11,012), Gassville (1,706), Cotter (921), and Lakeview (763).



From 1969 to 1977, the population of Baxter County increased by 11,299 people, or 76.4 percent, from 14,798 to 26,097. The rate of population growth slowed from 1977 to 1990 (see Figure 4); population gains totaled 5,220 for the period. From 1991 through 1995, the county again experienced relatively strong population growth, during which time the county’s population increased by 4,429 people, or 13.9 percent, to 36,313.

From 1995 through 2002, the rate of population growth in the county slowed. In 2002, the population of Baxter County was 38,672. The county was the 18<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Baxter County is projected to increase by 3,047 people, or 7.9 percent, to 41,719 by 2010 and by 8,905 people, or 23.0 percent, to 47,577 by 2025 (see Table 3). The county’s population is projected to be between 40,599 and 42,869 in 2010 and between 44,999 and 50,297 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized,



Baxter County will be the 19<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 16<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Baxter County are Fulton County, Arkansas (page 55); Izard County, Arkansas (page 71); Marion County, Arkansas (page 95); Searcy County, Arkansas (page 135); Stone County, Arkansas (page 143); and Ozark County, Missouri (page 190). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241 and for the Northeast Arkansas planning area on page 240.

Figure 4: Baxter County Historical Population and Population Projections

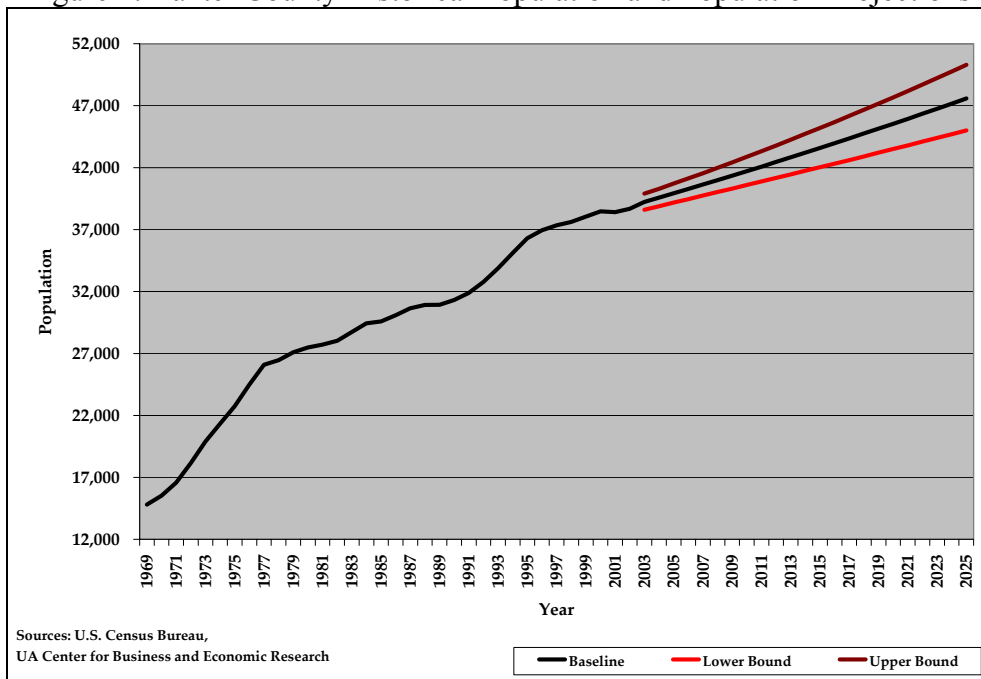


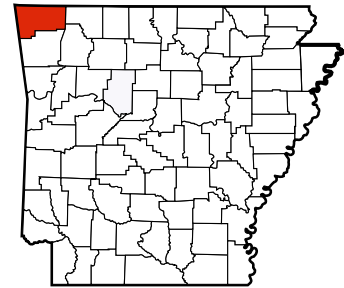
Table 3: Baxter County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 37,619   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 38,055   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 38,460   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 38,417   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 38,672   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 39,931   | 1,259                     | 3.3%                     | 39,171      | 499                       | 1.3%                     | 40,705      | 2,033                     | 5.3%                     |
| 2010 | 41,719   | 3,047                     | 7.9%                     | 40,599      | 1,927                     | 5.0%                     | 42,869      | 4,197                     | 10.9%                    |
| 2015 | 43,586   | 4,914                     | 12.7%                    | 42,033      | 3,361                     | 8.7%                     | 45,198      | 6,526                     | 16.9%                    |
| 2020 | 45,538   | 6,866                     | 17.8%                    | 43,495      | 4,823                     | 12.5%                    | 47,672      | 9,000                     | 23.3%                    |
| 2025 | 47,577   | 8,905                     | 23.0%                    | 44,999      | 6,327                     | 16.4%                    | 50,297      | 11,625                    | 30.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Benton County***

Benton County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. The county is a component of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA. Population centers in Benton County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Rogers (38,829), Bentonville (19,730), Bella Vista CDP (16,582), Siloam Springs (10,843), and Lowell (5,013).



The growth of Benton County’s population and growth in the economic activity taking place within the county during the last three decades is nothing short of remarkable. The county’s population in 2002 (165,500) is roughly 3.4 times greater than in 1969 (49,171). This translates into an annual growth rate of approximately 3.8 percent. Year-on-year population growth in Benton County exceeded 850 people each year from 1969 through 2002.

Much of the growth in Benton County and in Washington County to the south can be directly attributed to the emergence of Wal-Mart, whose corporate headquarters are located in Bentonville, as the world’s largest retailer and the world’s largest private employer. Most impressive has been the population growth the county experienced from 1991 through 2002 (see Figure 5). In 1991, the county’s population stood at 102,583; by 2002, the county’s population had grown by 62,917 people, or roughly 4.4 percent per annum, to 165,500. During this period,

year-on-year population growth exceeded 4,700 people each year and in five of those years exceeded 6,100 people.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Benton County is projected to increase by 60,457 people, or 36.5 percent, to 225,957 by 2010 and by 236,135 people, or 142.7 percent, to 401,635 by 2025 (see Table 4). It is likely that Benton County will surpass Washington County as the second most populous county in Arkansas in 2003. Even more impressive, based on the baseline projections, Benton County will become the state’s most populous county, ahead of Pulaski County, in 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 220,488 and 231,561 in 2010 and between 382,009 and 422,270 in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Benton County are Carroll County, Arkansas (page 21); Madison County, Arkansas (page 93); Washington County, Arkansas (page 149); Barry County, Missouri (page 181); McDonald County, Missouri (page 187); Adair County, Oklahoma (page 198); and Delaware County, Oklahoma (page 199). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 217 and page 241, respectively.

Figure 5: Benton County Historical Population and Population Projections

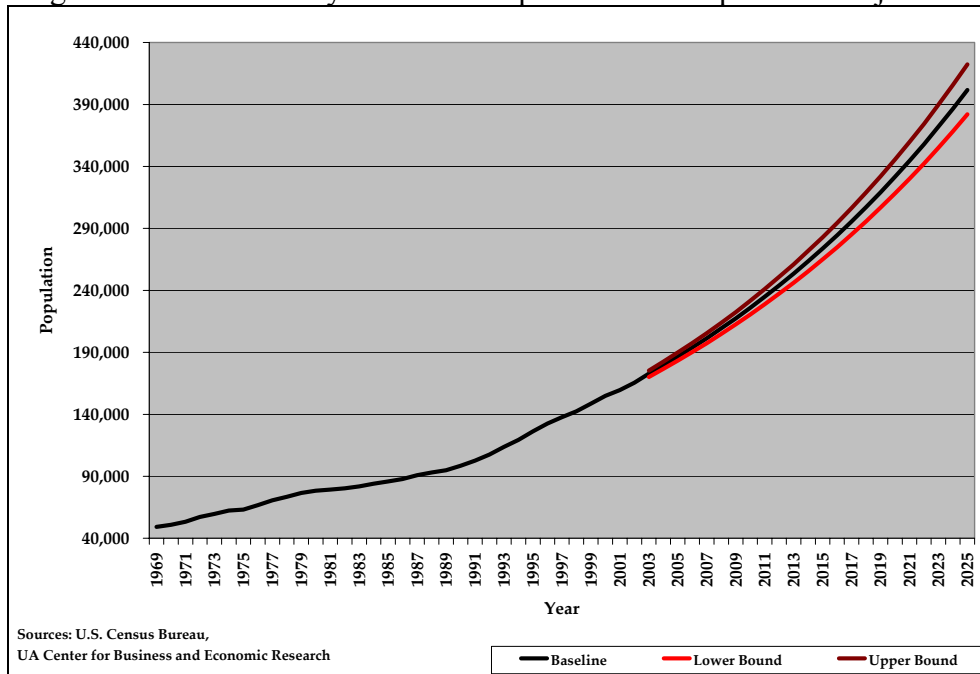


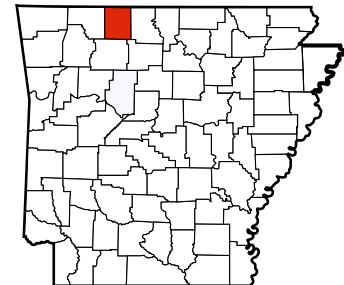
Table 4: Benton County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 142,496  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 148,636  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 154,836  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 159,607  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 165,500  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 186,540  | 21,040                    | 12.7%                    | 183,322     | 17,822                    | 10.8%                    | 189,795     | 24,295                    | 14.7%                    |
| 2010 | 225,957  | 60,457                    | 36.5%                    | 220,488     | 54,988                    | 33.2%                    | 231,561     | 66,061                    | 39.9%                    |
| 2015 | 273,703  | 108,203                   | 65.4%                    | 264,898     | 99,398                    | 60.1%                    | 282,801     | 117,301                   | 70.9%                    |
| 2020 | 331,539  | 166,039                   | 100.3%                   | 318,125     | 152,625                   | 92.2%                    | 345,553     | 180,053                   | 108.8%                   |
| 2025 | 401,635  | 236,135                   | 142.7%                   | 382,009     | 216,509                   | 130.8%                   | 422,270     | 256,770                   | 155.1%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Boone County

Boone County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Boone County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Harrison (12,152), Diamond City (730), Bergman (407), and Bellafonte (400).



Boone County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1971 to 1980, during which time the county's population increased by 6,863 people, or 35.6 percent, from 19,256 to 26,119. The rate of population growth slowed from 1981 through 1991 (see Figure 6); population gains for the period totaled 2,517 people. From 1991 to 1996, Boone County experienced relatively fast population growth. For the period, the population grew by 3,855 people, or 13.4 percent, from 28,788 to 32,643.

Since 1996, the population of the county has grown relatively slowly, increasing by 2,070 people, or 6.3 percent, to 34,713 people in 2002. The county was the 20<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Boone County is projected to increase by 3,092 people, or 8.9 percent, to 37,805 by 2010 and by 9,638 people, or 27.8 percent, to 44,351 by 2025 (see Table 5). The county's population is projected to be between 37,079 and 38,546 in 2010 and between 42,540 and 46,245 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized,

Boone County will be the 20<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 18<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Boone County are Carroll County, Arkansas (page 21); Marion County, Arkansas (page 95); Newton County, Arkansas (page 107); Searcy County, Arkansas (page 135); and Taney County, Missouri (page 196). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 6: Boone County Historical Population and Population Projections

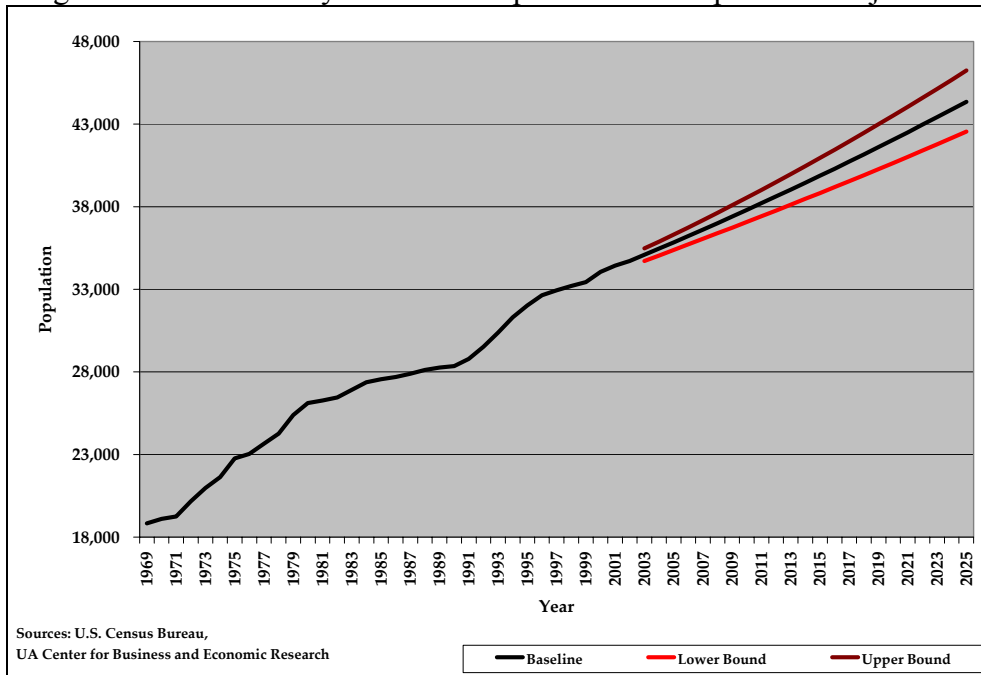


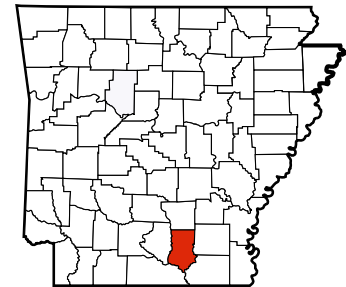
Table 5: Boone County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 33,210   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 33,436   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 34,059   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 34,436   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 34,713   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 35,846   | 1,133                     | 3.3%                     | 35,383      | 670                       | 1.9%                     | 36,312      | 1,599                     | 4.6%                     |
| 2010 | 37,805   | 3,092                     | 8.9%                     | 37,079      | 2,366                     | 6.8%                     | 38,546      | 3,833                     | 11.0%                    |
| 2015 | 39,875   | 5,162                     | 14.9%                    | 38,824      | 4,111                     | 11.8%                    | 40,950      | 6,237                     | 18.0%                    |
| 2020 | 42,054   | 7,341                     | 21.1%                    | 40,644      | 5,931                     | 17.1%                    | 43,512      | 8,799                     | 25.3%                    |
| 2025 | 44,351   | 9,638                     | 27.8%                    | 42,540      | 7,827                     | 22.5%                    | 46,245      | 11,532                    | 33.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Bradley County***

Bradley County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Bradley County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Warren (6,442), Hermitage (769), and Banks (120).



From 1971 to 1979, the population of Bradley County increased by 954 people, or 7.3 percent, from 13,082 to 14,036. The county then experienced 11 consecutive years of population declines totaling 2,228 people, or 15.9 percent, from 1979 to 1990 (see Figure 7). Although the population in the county declined by a total of 75 people in 2001 and 2002, since 1990, the population of Bradley County increased by a net 723 people. Bradley County, with a population of 12,531, was the 58<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the longer term trend from 1990 through 2002, the population of Bradley County is projected to increase by 724 people, or 5.8 percent, to 13,255 by 2010 and by 1,891 people, or 15.1 percent, to 14,422 by 2025 (see Table 6). The county’s population is projected to be between 13,019 and 13,494 in 2010 and between 14,007 and 14,849 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Bradley County will be the 56<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 51<sup>st</sup> most populous in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Bradley County are Ashley (page 9), Calhoun (page 19), Cleveland (page 31), Drew (page 49), and Union (page 145). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 7: Bradley County Historical Population and Population Projections

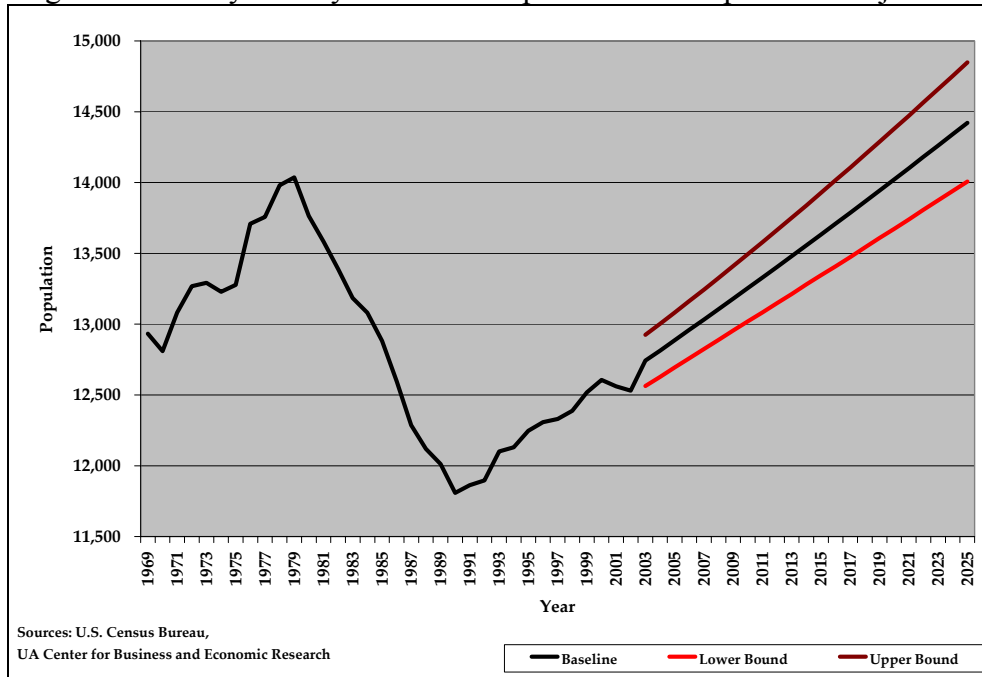


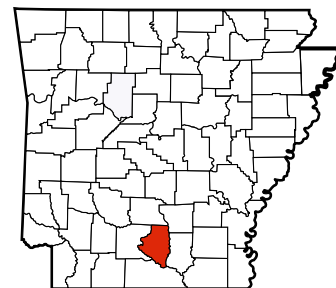
Table 6: Bradley County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 12,388   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 12,518   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 12,606   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 12,561   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 12,531   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 12,887   | 356                       | 2.8%                     | 12,694      | 163                       | 1.3%                     | 13,082      | 551                       | 4.4%                     |
| 2010 | 13,255   | 724                       | 5.8%                     | 13,019      | 488                       | 3.9%                     | 13,494      | 963                       | 7.7%                     |
| 2015 | 13,632   | 1,101                     | 8.8%                     | 13,345      | 814                       | 6.5%                     | 13,927      | 1,396                     | 11.1%                    |
| 2020 | 14,022   | 1,491                     | 11.9%                    | 13,673      | 1,142                     | 9.1%                     | 14,379      | 1,848                     | 14.7%                    |
| 2025 | 14,422   | 1,891                     | 15.1%                    | 14,007      | 1,476                     | 11.8%                    | 14,849      | 2,318                     | 18.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Calhoun County***

Calhoun County is located in south-central Arkansas and is a component of the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Calhoun County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Hampton (1,579), Thornton (517), and Harrell (293).



From 1972 to 1975, the population of Calhoun County increased by 366 people, or 6.6 percent, from 5,540 to 5,906.

Roughly half of the population gain for those years was erased during 1976 and 1977. From 1977 to 1980, the county's population again increased by 366 people, or 6.4 percent, to 6,073. From 1980 to 1987, the population of Calhoun County ranged between 6,000 and 6,125.

The county's population then dropped by 266 people, or 3.7 percent, from 6,047 in 1987 to 5,821 in 1990. Since 1990, the population of Calhoun County has been trending downward, albeit at a slower rate than during the 1987 to 1990 period (see Figure 8). Calhoun County, with a population of 5,681, was the least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1990 to 2002 trend, the population of Calhoun County is projected to decrease by 64 people, or 1.1 percent, to 5,617 by 2010 and by 222 people, or 3.9 percent, to 5,459 by 2025 (see Table 7). The county's population is projected to be between 5,519 and 5,716 in 2010 and between 5,305 and 5,617 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Calhoun County will remain the least populous county in Arkansas through 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Calhoun County are Bradley (page 17), Cleveland (page 31), Dallas (page 45), Ouachita (page 109), and Union (page 145). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area on page 244 and for the Southeast Arkansas planning area on page 242.



Figure 8: Calhoun County Historical Population and Population Projections

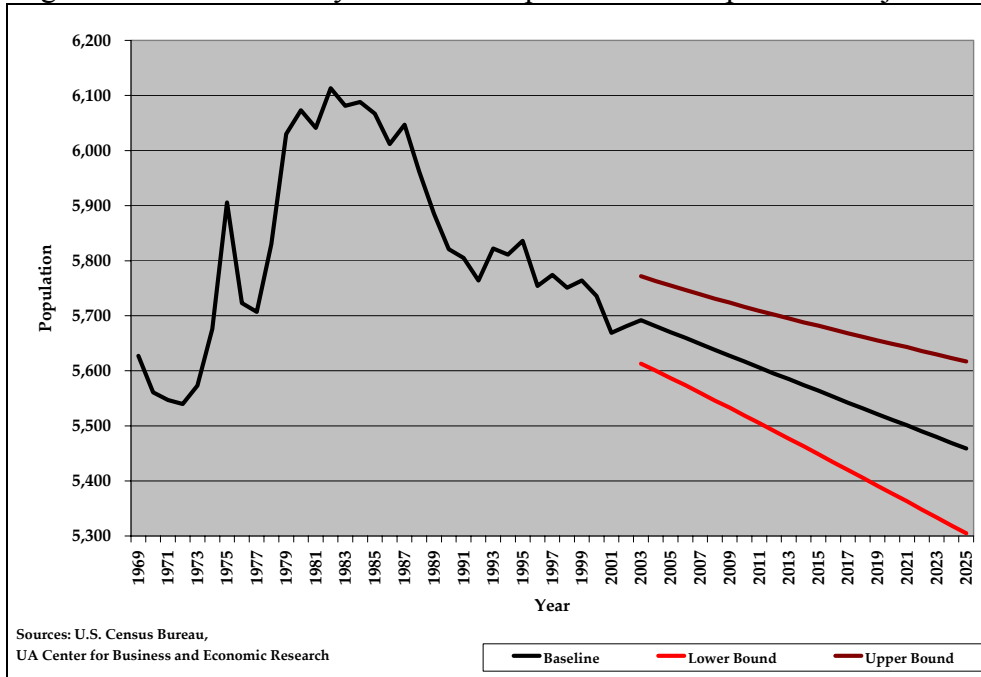


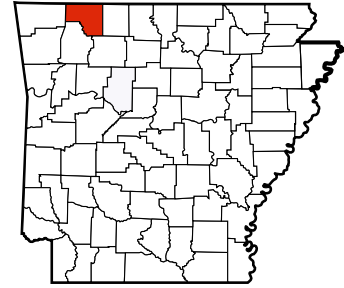
Table 7: Calhoun County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 5,751    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 5,764    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 5,736    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 5,669    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 5,681    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 5,670    | (11)                      | -0.2%                    | 5,587       | (94)                      | -1.7%                    | 5,755       | 74                        | 1.3%                     |
| 2010 | 5,617    | (64)                      | -1.1%                    | 5,519       | (162)                     | -2.9%                    | 5,716       | 35                        | 0.6%                     |
| 2015 | 5,564    | (117)                     | -2.1%                    | 5,449       | (232)                     | -4.1%                    | 5,682       | 1                         | 0.0%                     |
| 2020 | 5,511    | (170)                     | -3.0%                    | 5,377       | (304)                     | -5.4%                    | 5,649       | (32)                      | -0.6%                    |
| 2025 | 5,459    | (222)                     | -3.9%                    | 5,305       | (376)                     | -6.6%                    | 5,617       | (64)                      | -1.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Carroll County***

Carroll County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Carroll County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Berryville (4,433), Green Forest (2,717), and Eureka Springs (2,278).



From 1973 to 1990, Carroll County experienced relatively modest population growth (see Figure 9), during which time the county's population increased by 4,935 people, or 35.7 percent, from 13,835 to 18,770. The county then experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1996. The population of the county grew by 5,300 people, or 28.2 percent, to 24,070 in 1996.

Year-on-year population growth decreased during the 1996 to 2002 period, ranging between 309 and 371 people per year. In 2002, the county's population was 26,166, an increase of 2,096 people, or 8.7 percent, from 1996. The county was the 25<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Carroll County is projected to increase by 3,080 people, or 11.8 percent, to 29,246 by 2010 and by 9,896 people, or 37.8 percent, to 36,062 by 2025 (see Table 8). The county's population is projected to be between 29,144 and 29,349 in 2010 and between 35,793 and 36,334 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Carroll County will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 24<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Carroll County are Benton County, Arkansas (page 13); Boone County, Arkansas (page 15); Madison County, Arkansas (page 93); Newton County, Arkansas (page 107); Washington County, Arkansas (page 149); Barry County, Missouri (page 181); Stone County, Missouri (page 195); and Taney County, Missouri (page 196). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 9: Carroll County Historical Population and Population Projections

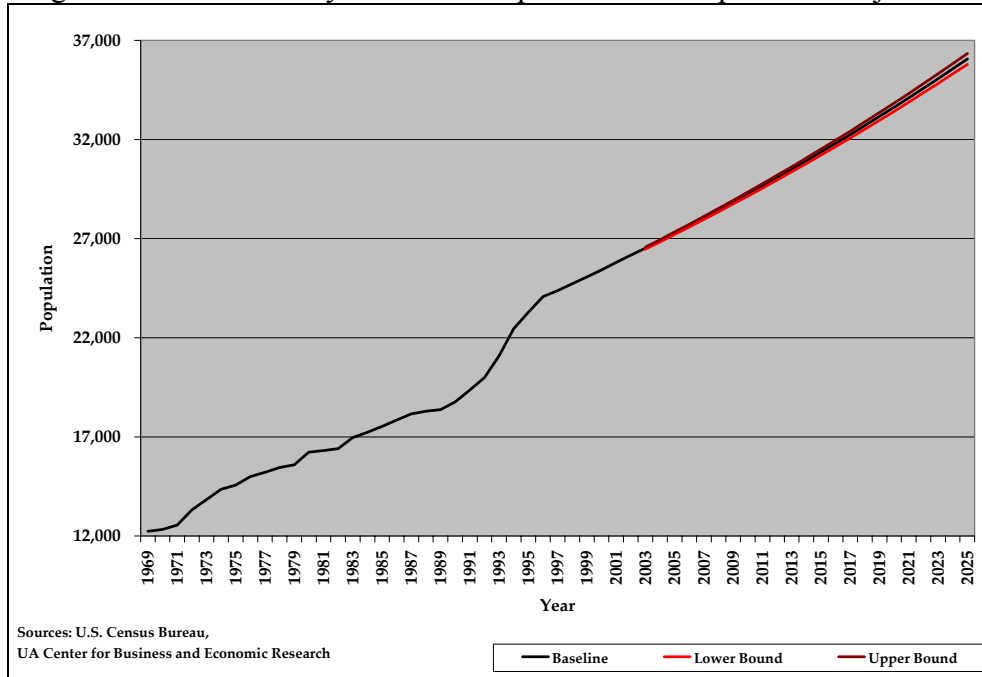


Table 8: Carroll County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 24,730   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 25,062   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 25,425   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 25,795   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 26,166   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 27,272   | 1,106                     | 4.2%                     | 27,209      | 1,043                     | 4.0%                     | 27,337      | 1,171                     | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 29,246   | 3,080                     | 11.8%                    | 29,144      | 2,978                     | 11.4%                    | 29,349      | 3,183                     | 12.2%                    |
| 2015 | 31,360   | 5,194                     | 19.9%                    | 31,210      | 5,044                     | 19.3%                    | 31,511      | 5,345                     | 20.4%                    |
| 2020 | 33,631   | 7,465                     | 28.5%                    | 33,423      | 7,257                     | 27.7%                    | 33,837      | 7,671                     | 29.3%                    |
| 2025 | 36,062   | 9,896                     | 37.8%                    | 35,793      | 9,627                     | 36.8%                    | 36,334      | 10,168                    | 38.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Chicot County*

Chicot County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Chicot County, and their population levels in 2000, include the cities of Dermott (3,292), Lake Village (2,823), and Eudora (2,819).

From 1969 to 1972, the population of Chicot County decreased by 1,081 people, or 5.9 percent, from 18,287 to 17,206.

The county's population increased by 819 people in 1973 and remained relatively stable through 1982 (see Figure 10).

The population of Chicot County has decreased every year since 1982, save in 1992. From 1982 to 1991, the county's population decreased by 2,421 people, or 13.4 percent, from 18,032 to 15,611. From 1992 to 2002, the population of Chicot County decreased by 2,149 people, or 13.6 percent, from 15,772 to 13,623. The county was the 55<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1992 to 2002 trend, the population of Chicot County is projected to decrease by 1,485 people, or 10.9 percent, to 12,138 by 2010 and by 3,910, or 28.7 percent, to 9,713 by 2025 (see Table 9). The county's population is projected to be between 11,984 and 12,294 in 2010 and between 9,496 and 9,935 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Chicot County will be the 60<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 67<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Chicot County are Ashley County, Arkansas (page 9); Desha County, Arkansas (page 47); Drew County, Arkansas (page 49); East Carroll Parish, Louisiana (page 162); Morehouse Parish, Louisiana (page 163); West Carroll Parish, Louisiana (page 168); Issaquena County, Mississippi (page 173); and Washington County, Mississippi (page 179). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

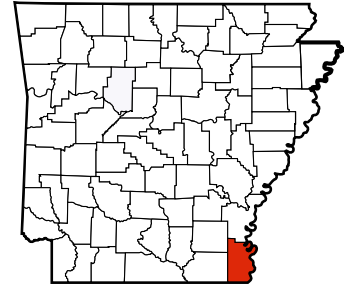


Figure 10: Chicot County Historical Population and Population Projections

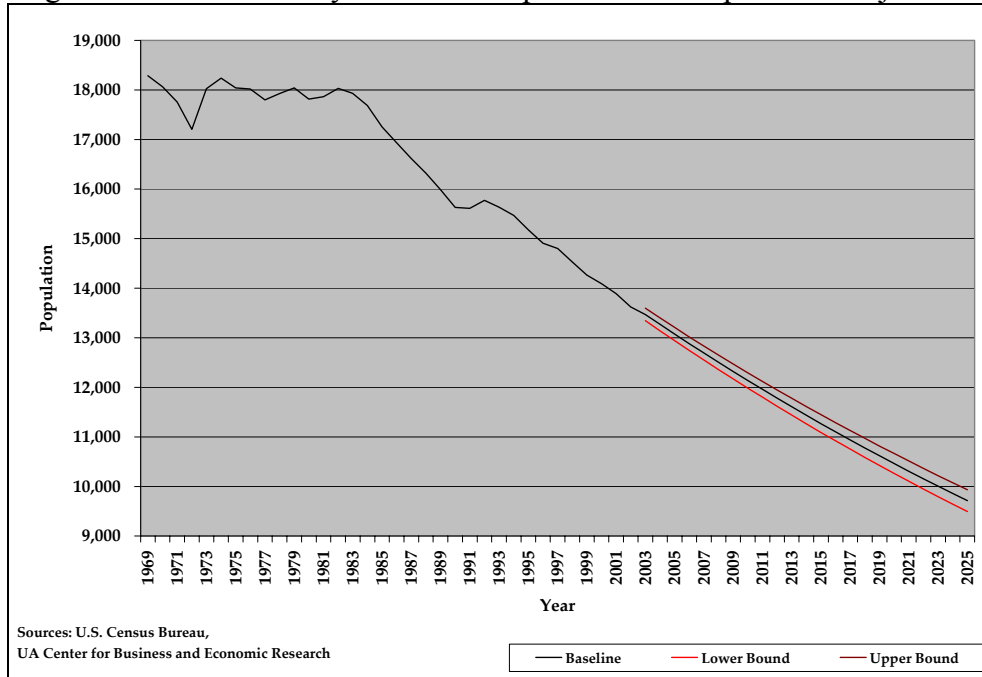


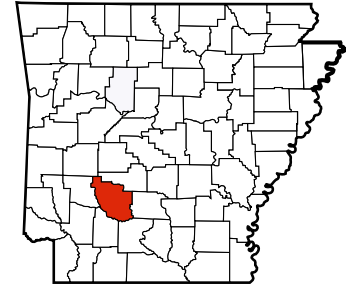
Table 9: Chicot County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 14,528   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 14,265   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 14,089   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 13,893   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 13,623   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 13,074   | (549)                     | -4.0%                    | 12,942      | (681)                     | -5.0%                    | 13,208      | (415)                     | -3.0%                    |
| 2010 | 12,138   | (1,485)                   | -10.9%                   | 11,984      | (1,639)                   | -12.0%                   | 12,294      | (1,329)                   | -9.8%                    |
| 2015 | 11,269   | (2,354)                   | -17.3%                   | 11,092      | (2,531)                   | -18.6%                   | 11,448      | (2,175)                   | -16.0%                   |
| 2020 | 10,462   | (3,161)                   | -23.2%                   | 10,264      | (3,359)                   | -24.7%                   | 10,664      | (2,959)                   | -21.7%                   |
| 2025 | 9,713    | (3,910)                   | -28.7%                   | 9,496       | (4,127)                   | -30.3%                   | 9,935       | (3,688)                   | -27.1%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Clark County***

Clark County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Clark County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Arkadelphia (10,912), Gurdon (2,276), Amity (762), and Caddo Valley (563).



The population of Clark County spiked in 1975, increasing by 1,223 people, or 5.6 percent, from a base of 21,746 in 1974.

From 1975 through 1979, the county experienced more modest population gains (see Figure 11). During the period, the county's population increased by 662 people, or 2.9 percent, to 23,631.

From 1979 to 1990, the population of Clark County decreased every year, save in 1983. For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 2,191 people, or 9.3 percent, to 21,440 in 1990. From 1990 to 2002, the population of the county has been trending upward. Since 1990, the county's population increased by a net 2,095 people, or 9.8 percent, to 23,535 in 2002. The county was the 31<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1994 through 2002 trend, the population of Clark County is projected to increase by 592 people, or 2.5 percent, to 24,127 by 2010 and by 1,467 people, or 6.2 percent, to 25,002 by 2025 (see Table 10). The county's population is projected to be between 23,325 and 24,957 in 2010 and between 23,412 and 26,699 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Clark County will be the 31<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Clark County are Dallas (page 45), Hot Spring (page 65), Montgomery (page 103), Nevada (page 105), Ouachita (page 109), and Pike (page 115). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 11: Clark County Historical Population and Population Projections

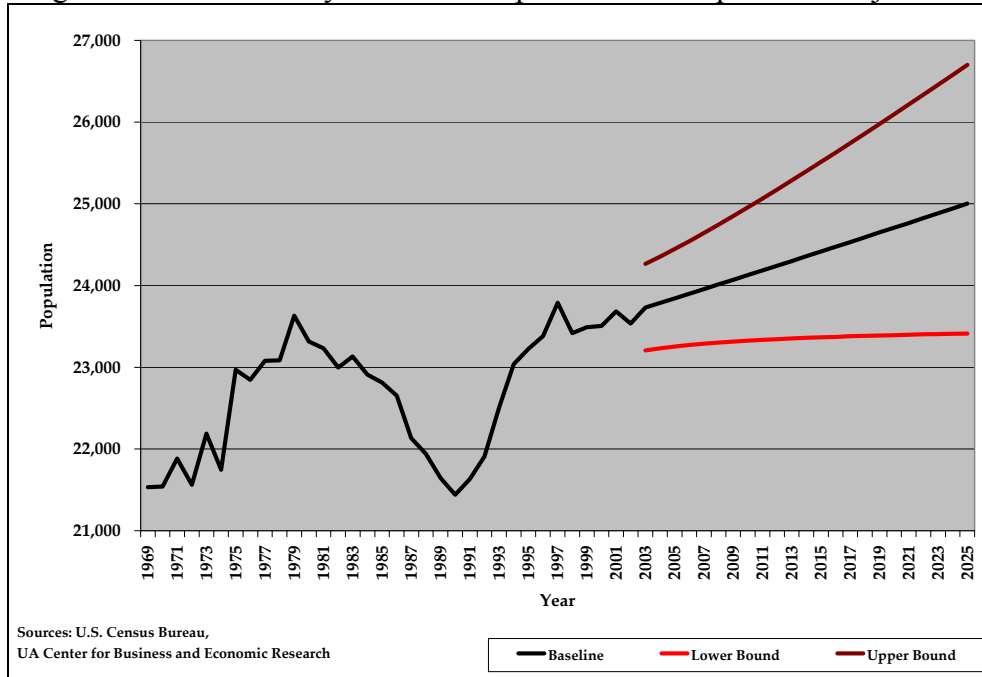


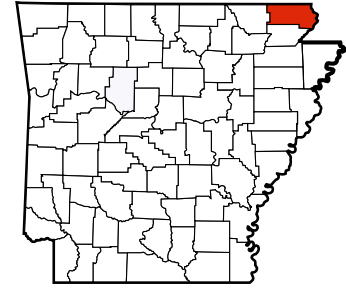
Table 10: Clark County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 23,417   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 23,490   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 23,506   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 23,683   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 23,535   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 23,842   | 307                       | 1.3%                     | 23,253      | (282)                     | -1.2%                    | 24,448      | 913                       | 3.9%                     |
| 2010 | 24,127   | 592                       | 2.5%                     | 23,325      | (210)                     | -0.9%                    | 24,957      | 1,422                     | 6.0%                     |
| 2015 | 24,416   | 881                       | 3.7%                     | 23,367      | (168)                     | -0.7%                    | 25,512      | 1,977                     | 8.4%                     |
| 2020 | 24,706   | 1,171                     | 5.0%                     | 23,393      | (142)                     | -0.6%                    | 26,095      | 2,560                     | 10.9%                    |
| 2025 | 25,002   | 1,467                     | 6.2%                     | 23,412      | (123)                     | -0.5%                    | 26,699      | 3,164                     | 13.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Clay County*

Clay County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Clay County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Piggott (3,894), Corning (3,679), and Rector (2,017).



From 1970 to 1976, the population of Clay County increased by 2,227 people, or 11.8 percent, from 18,928 to 21,155. The county's population was relatively stable from 1976 to 1979 (see Figure 12). Since 1979, however, the population of Clay County has decreased every year, save in 1996 and 1999.

From 1979 to 1990, the county's population declined by 3,069 people, or 14.5 percent, from 21,165 to 18,096. From 1990 through 2002, the rate of population decline slowed in Clay County. For the period, the population decreased by 969 people, or 5.4 percent to 17,127 people in 2002. The county was the 46<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1990 to 2002 trend, the population of Clay County is projected to decrease by 306 people, or 1.8 percent, to 16,821 by 2010 and by 1,284 people, or 7.5 percent, to 15,843 by 2025 (see Table 11). The county's population is projected to be between 16,465 and 17,183 in 2010 and between 15,301 and 16,403 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Clay County will be the 49<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 50<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Clay County are Greene County, Arkansas (page 61); Randolph County, Arkansas (page 127); Butler County, Missouri (page 183); Dunklin County, Missouri (page 184); and Ripley County, Missouri (page 193). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.



Figure 12: Clay County Historical Population and Population Projections

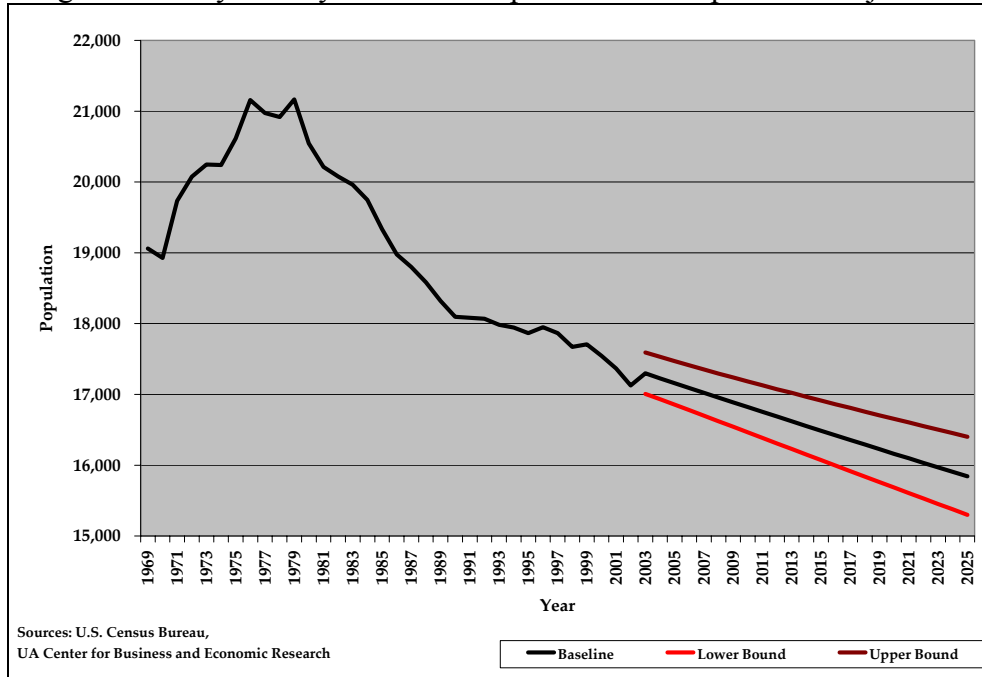


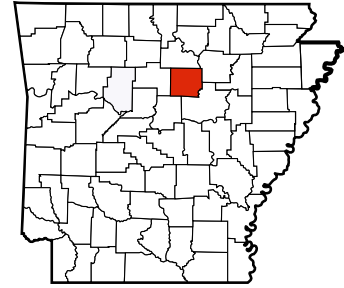
Table 11: Clay County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 17,671   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 17,707   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 17,545   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 17,367   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 17,127   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 17,159   | 32                        | 0.2%                     | 16,855      | (272)                     | -1.6%                    | 17,471      | 344                       | 2.0%                     |
| 2010 | 16,821   | (306)                     | -1.8%                    | 16,465      | (662)                     | -3.9%                    | 17,183      | 56                        | 0.3%                     |
| 2015 | 16,488   | (639)                     | -3.7%                    | 16,073      | (1,054)                   | -6.2%                    | 16,914      | (213)                     | -1.2%                    |
| 2020 | 16,162   | (965)                     | -5.6%                    | 15,686      | (1,441)                   | -8.4%                    | 16,654      | (473)                     | -2.8%                    |
| 2025 | 15,843   | (1,284)                   | -7.5%                    | 15,301      | (1,826)                   | -10.7%                   | 16,403      | (724)                     | -4.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Cleburne County*

Cleburne County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Cleburne County, and their 2000 population levels, include Heber Springs (6,432), Greers Ferry (930), and Quitman (684 of the city's population of 714 in 2000 lived in Cleburne County).



The population of Cleburne County increased every year from 1969 through 2002, save in 1981 when the population decreased by a mere 6 people from a base of 16,916 in 1980 (see Figure 13). Moreover, except for 1981 and 1986, the county's population increased by at least 100 people each year. From 1969 to 1979, the county's population increased by 6,498 people, or 63.6 percent, from 10,216 to 16,714.

The rate of population growth decreased during the 1979 through 1993 period. From 1979 to 1988, the county's population increased by 2,240 people, or 13.4 percent, to 18,954 in 1988. From 1988 to 1993, the population of Cleburne County increased by 2,168, or 11.4 percent, to 21,122.

The county's population growth rate accelerated slightly during the 1993 to 2002 period. The county's population increased by 3,448 people, or 16.3 percent, to 24,570 in 2002. The county was the 29<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1993 to 2002 trend, the population of Cleburne County is projected to increase by 3,894 people, or 15.8 percent, to 28,464 by 2010 and by 12,169 people, or 49.5 percent, to 36,739 by 2025 (see Table 12). The county's population is projected to be between 27,604 and 29,352 in 2010 and between 34,711 and 38,886 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Cleburne County will be the 24<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Cleburne County are Faulkner (page 51), Independence (page 69), Stone (page 143), White (page 151), and Van Buren (page 147). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238 and for the Northeast Arkansas region can be found on page 240.

Figure 13: Cleburne County Historical Population and Population Projections

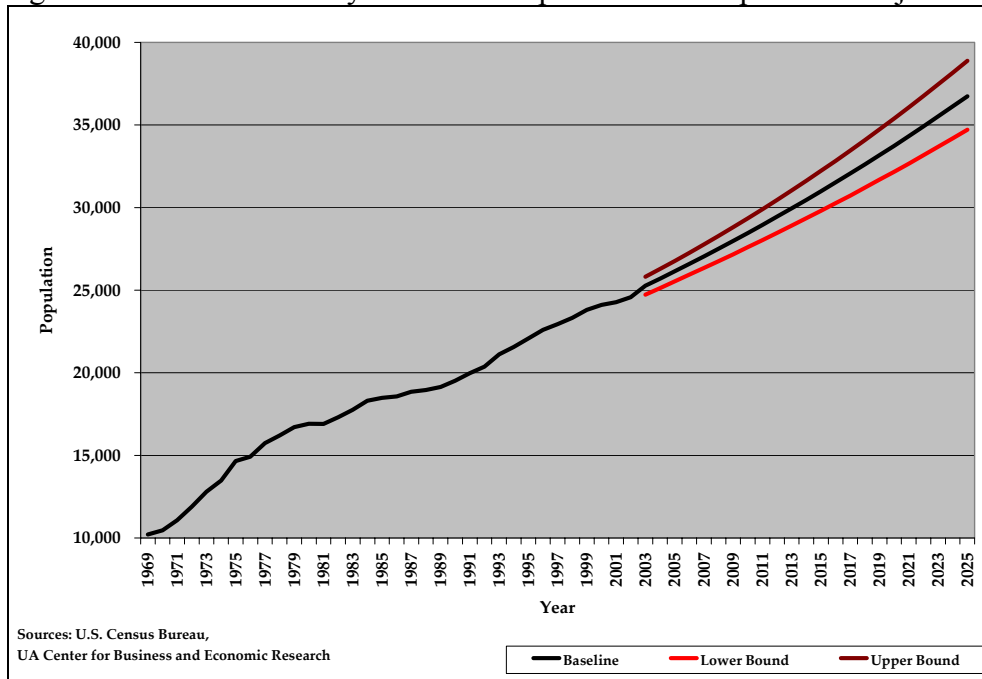


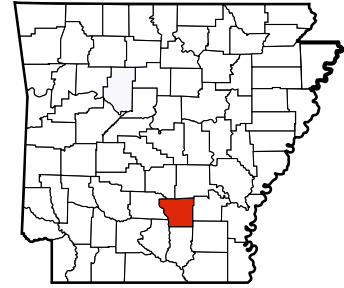
Table 12: Cleburne County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 23,326   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 23,806   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 24,108   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 24,282   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 24,570   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 26,142   | 1,572                     | 6.4%                     | 25,532      | 962                       | 3.9%                     | 26,769      | 2,199                     | 8.9%                     |
| 2010 | 28,464   | 3,894                     | 15.8%                    | 27,604      | 3,034                     | 12.3%                    | 29,352      | 4,782                     | 19.5%                    |
| 2015 | 30,992   | 6,422                     | 26.1%                    | 29,810      | 5,240                     | 21.3%                    | 32,222      | 7,652                     | 31.1%                    |
| 2020 | 33,742   | 9,172                     | 37.3%                    | 32,170      | 7,600                     | 30.9%                    | 35,394      | 10,824                    | 44.1%                    |
| 2025 | 36,739   | 12,169                    | 49.5%                    | 34,711      | 10,141                    | 41.3%                    | 38,886      | 14,316                    | 58.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Cleveland County*

Cleveland County is located in south-central Arkansas and is a component of the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Cleveland County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Rison (1,271) and Kingsland (449). Effective June 6, 2003, Cleveland County is a component of the Pine Bluff MSA.



After increasing by 851 people to 7,256 in 1972, the population of Cleveland County decreased by 222 people in 1973 and remained relatively stable until 1976 (see Figure 14). From 1976 to 1981, the county's population increased by 782 people, or 10.9 percent, to 7,947.

From 1981 to 1990, the county's population remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 7,750 and 8,000. From 1990 to 2002, the county's population increased by 777 people, or 10.0 percent to 8,541. The county was the 5<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1990 to 2002 trend, the population of Cleveland County is projected to increase by 875 people, or 10.2 percent, to 9,416 by 2010 and by 2,342 people, or 27.4 percent, to 10,883 by 2025 (see Table 13). The county's population is projected to be between 9,144 and 9,696 in 2010 and between 10,378 and 11,414 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Cleveland County will be the 66<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 65<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Cleveland County are Bradley (page 17), Calhoun (page 19), Dallas (page 45), Drew (page 47), Grant (page 59), Jefferson (page 75), and Lincoln (page 85). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Pine Bluff MSA can be found on page 232 and for the Southeast, Central, and Southwest Arkansas planning areas on page 242, 238, and 244, respectively.

Figure 14: Cleveland County Historical Population and Population Projections

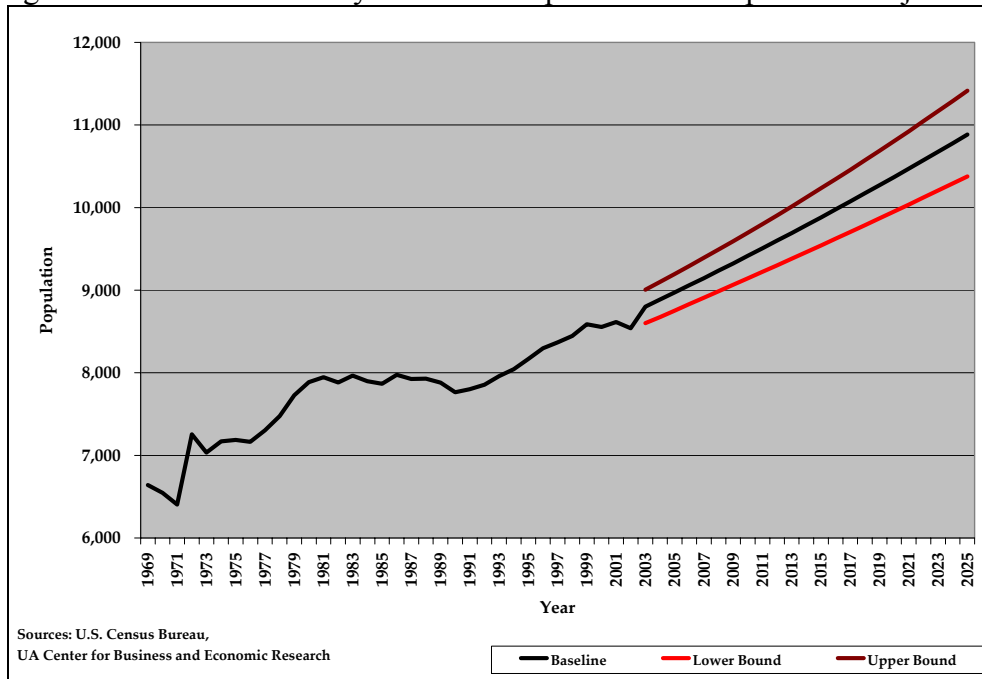


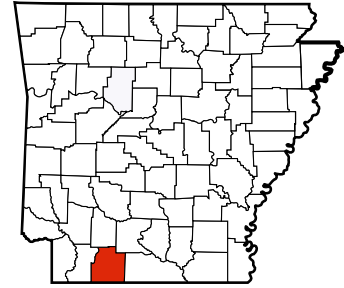
Table 13: Cleveland County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,446    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 8,589    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 8,555    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 8,615    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,541    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,972    | 431                       | 5.0%                     | 8,754       | 213                       | 2.5%                     | 9,196       | 655                       | 7.7%                     |
| 2010 | 9,416    | 875                       | 10.2%                    | 9,144       | 603                       | 7.1%                     | 9,696       | 1,155                     | 13.5%                    |
| 2015 | 9,881    | 1,340                     | 15.7%                    | 9,542       | 1,001                     | 11.7%                    | 10,233      | 1,692                     | 19.8%                    |
| 2020 | 10,370   | 1,829                     | 21.4%                    | 9,953       | 1,412                     | 16.5%                    | 10,805      | 2,264                     | 26.5%                    |
| 2025 | 10,883   | 2,342                     | 27.4%                    | 10,378      | 1,837                     | 21.5%                    | 11,414      | 2,873                     | 33.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Columbia County***

Columbia County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Columbia County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Magnolia (10,858), Waldo (1,594), McNeil (662), Taylor (566), and Emerson (359).



After increasing by 759 people to 26,877 in 1971, the population of Columbia County decreased by 566 in 1972 and by 505 in 1973. From 1973 to 1983, the county's population increased by 1,213 people, or 4.7 percent, from 25,806 to 27,019. The population of Columbia County decreased each year from 1983 to 1990 (see Figure 15). Population declines for the period totaled 1,328 people, or 4.9 percent.

The county's population was relatively stable from 1990 to 1995. From 1995 to 2002, though, the population of Columbia County decreased by 631 people, or 2.4 percent, from 25,974 to 25,343. The county was the 27<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Columbia County is projected to decrease by 763 people, or 3.0 percent, to 24,580 by 2010 and by 2,139 people, or 8.4 percent, to 23,204 by 2025 (see Table 14). The county's population is projected to be between 24,164 and 25,002 in 2010 and between 22,409 and 24,026 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Columbia County will be the 29<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 32<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Columbia County are Lafayette County, Arkansas (page 79); Nevada County, Arkansas (page 105); Ouachita County, Arkansas (page 109); Union County, Arkansas (page 145); Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (page 160); and Webster Parish, Louisiana (page 166). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 15: Columbia County Historical Population and Population Projections

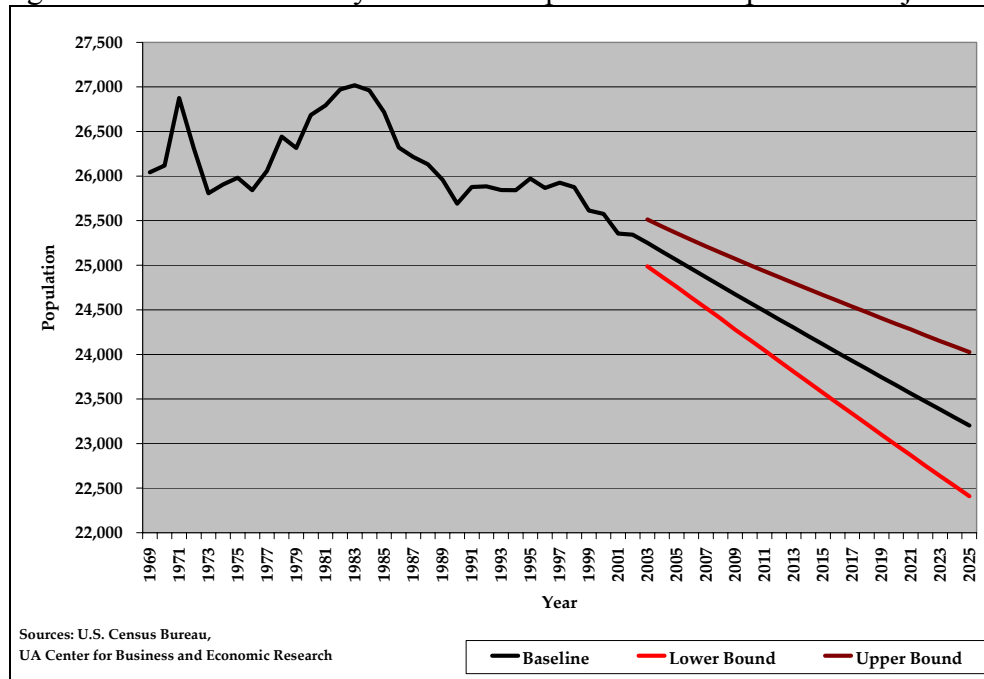


Table 14: Columbia County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 25,876   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 25,614   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 25,576   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 25,356   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 25,343   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 25,057   | (286)                     | -1.1%                    | 24,758      | (585)                     | -2.3%                    | 25,359      | 16                        | 0.1%                     |
| 2010 | 24,580   | (763)                     | -3.0%                    | 24,164      | (1,179)                   | -4.7%                    | 25,002      | (341)                     | -1.3%                    |
| 2015 | 24,113   | (1,230)                   | -4.9%                    | 23,569      | (1,774)                   | -7.0%                    | 24,666      | (677)                     | -2.7%                    |
| 2020 | 23,654   | (1,689)                   | -6.7%                    | 22,985      | (2,358)                   | -9.3%                    | 24,343      | (1,000)                   | -3.9%                    |
| 2025 | 23,204   | (2,139)                   | -8.4%                    | 22,409      | (2,934)                   | -11.6%                   | 24,026      | (1,317)                   | -5.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Conway County*

Conway County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Conway County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Morrilton (6,550), Plumerville (854), Oppelo (725), and Menifee (311).

From 1969 to 1976, the population of Conway County increased by 2,350 people, or 14.1 percent, from 16,621 to 18,971.

The rate of population growth from 1976 to 1980 was considerably lower (see Figure 16). For the period, the county's population grew by 508 people, or 2.7 percent, to 19,479. From 1980 to 1989, the county's population decreased by 350 people, or 1.8 percent, to 19,129.

After growing relatively slowly from 1989 to 1994, the population of Conway County increased by 616 people in 1994 and 1995 to 19,966. From 1995 through 2002, the rate of population growth again slowed. In 2002, the county's population was 20,411, 2.3 percent higher than in 1995. The county was the 36<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Conway County is projected to increase by 579 people, or 2.8 percent, to 20,990 by 2010 and by 1,613, or 7.9 percent, to 22,024 by 2025 (see Table 15). The county's population is projected to be between 20,646 and 21,337 in 2010 and between 21,297 and 22,777 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Conway County will be the 36<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and be the 35<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Conway County are Faulkner (page 51), Perry (page 111), Pope (page 121), Van Buren (page 147), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central and Northwest Arkansas planning areas can be found on page 238 and 241, respectively.

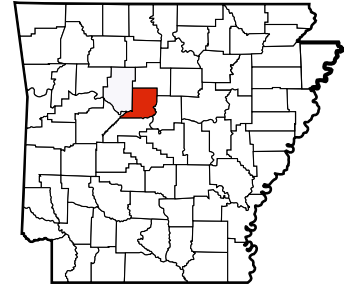




Figure 16: Conway County Historical Population and Population Projections

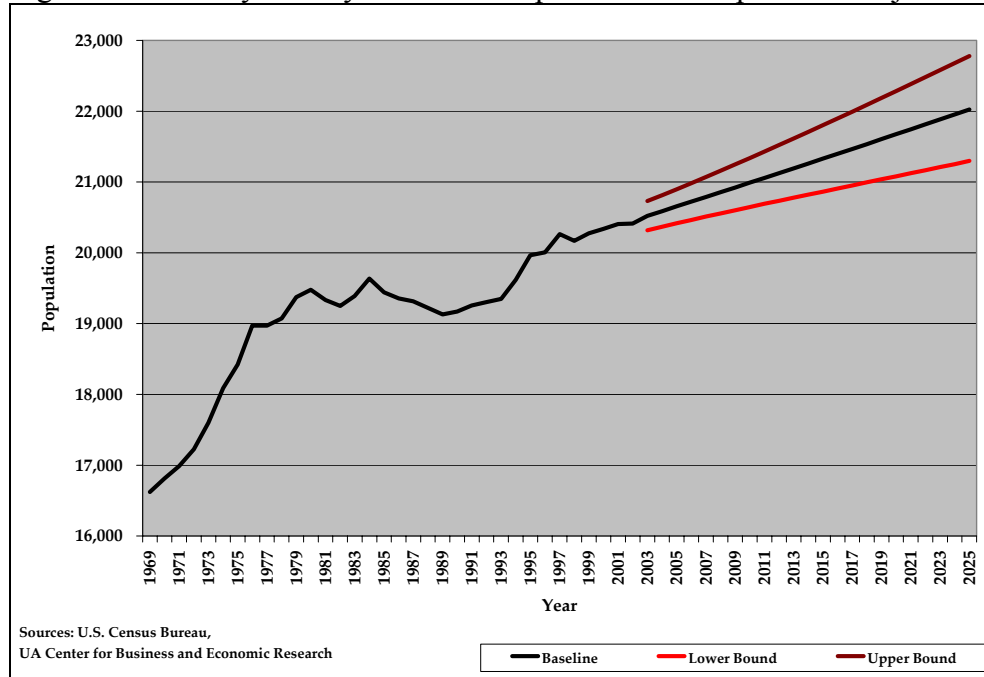


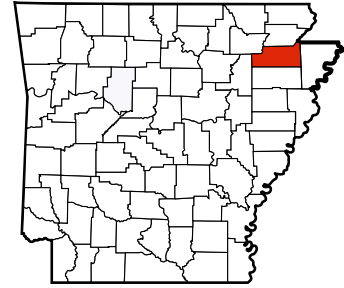
Table 15: Conway County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,168   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,275   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 20,338   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 20,408   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 20,411   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 20,655   | 244                       | 1.2%                     | 20,417      | 6                         | 0.0%                     | 20,898      | 487                       | 2.4%                     |
| 2010 | 20,990   | 579                       | 2.8%                     | 20,646      | 235                       | 1.2%                     | 21,337      | 926                       | 4.5%                     |
| 2015 | 21,329   | 918                       | 4.5%                     | 20,864      | 453                       | 2.2%                     | 21,803      | 1,392                     | 6.8%                     |
| 2020 | 21,675   | 1,264                     | 6.2%                     | 21,080      | 669                       | 3.3%                     | 22,283      | 1,872                     | 9.2%                     |
| 2025 | 22,024   | 1,613                     | 7.9%                     | 21,297      | 886                       | 4.3%                     | 22,777      | 2,366                     | 11.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Craighead County***

Craighead County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Craighead County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Jonesboro (55,515), Lake City (1,956), Bay (1,800), Bono (1,512), Caraway (1,349), Brookland (1,332), and Monette (1,179). Craighead County is a component of the Jonesboro MSA.



From 1969 to 1978, the county's population increased by 11,008 people, or 21.3 percent, from 51,733 to 62,741. Year-on-year population growth in Craighead County exceeded 475 people in each year of the period, exceeded 1,000 people in five years of the period, and exceeded 2,600 people in 1971.

From 1978 to 1986, the county's population increased by 1,557 people, or 2.5 percent. Year-on-year population growth in the county exceeded 1,000 people each year from 1986 to 1998, save in 1991. From 1986 to 1998, the county's population grew by 15,819 people, or 24.6 percent, to 80,117.

From 1998 to 2002, population growth slowed (see Figure 17). For the period, the county's population increased by 3,957 people, or 4.9 percent. Craighead County, with a population of 84,074, was the 8<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the county's population is projected to increase by 8,707 people, or 10.4 percent, to 92,781 by 2010 and by 27,272 people, or 32.4 percent to 111,346 by 2025 (see Table 16). The county's population is projected to be between 90,192 and 95,435 in 2010 and between 104,099 and 119,098 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the county will be the 8<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Craighead County are Greene County, Arkansas (page 61); Jackson County, Arkansas (page 73); Lawrence County, Arkansas (page 81); Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99); Poinsett County, Arkansas (page 117); and Dunklin County, Missouri (page 184). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 17: Craighead County Historical Population and Population Projections

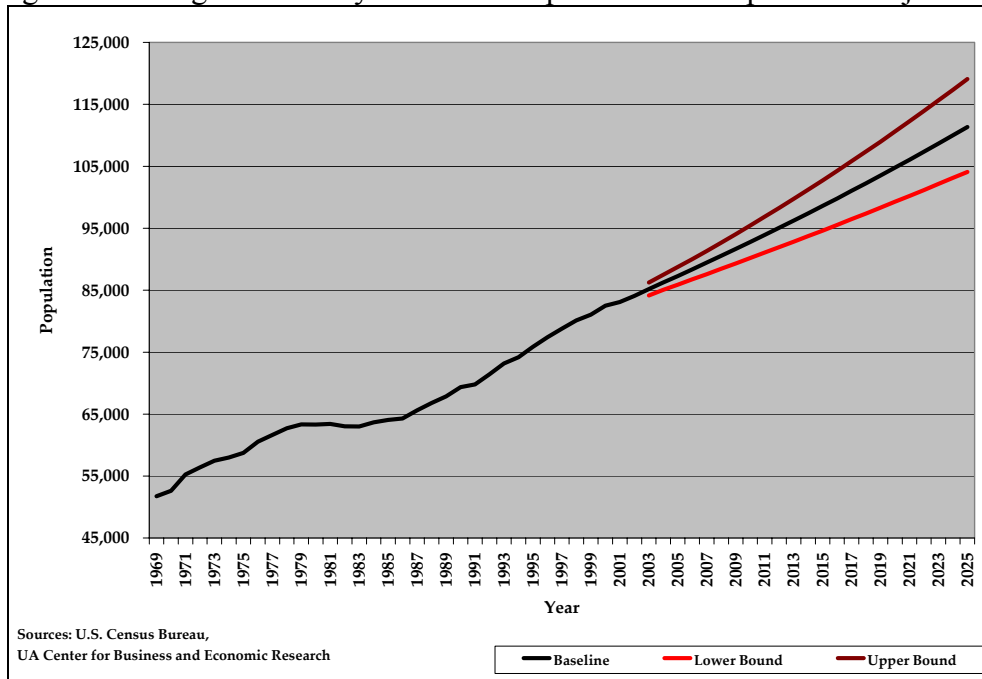


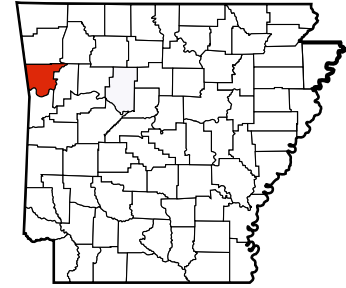
Table 16: Craighead County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 80,117   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 81,038   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 82,486   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 83,107   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 84,074   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 87,299   | 3,225                     | 3.8%                     | 85,897      | 1,823                     | 2.2%                     | 88,734      | 4,660                     | 5.5%                     |
| 2010 | 92,781   | 8,707                     | 10.4%                    | 90,192      | 6,118                     | 7.3%                     | 95,435      | 11,361                    | 13.5%                    |
| 2015 | 98,597   | 14,523                    | 17.3%                    | 94,627      | 10,553                    | 12.6%                    | 102,724     | 18,650                    | 22.2%                    |
| 2020 | 104,778  | 20,704                    | 24.6%                    | 99,260      | 15,186                    | 18.1%                    | 110,603     | 26,529                    | 31.6%                    |
| 2025 | 111,346  | 27,272                    | 32.4%                    | 104,099     | 20,025                    | 23.8%                    | 119,098     | 35,024                    | 41.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Crawford County***

Crawford County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Crawford County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Van Buren (18,986), Alma (4,160), Mulberry (1,627), Cedarville (1,133), and Kibler (969). Crawford County is a component of the Fort Smith MSA.



Crawford County's population increased every year from 1969 to 2002 (see Figure 18). Year-on-year gains exceeded 500 people each year, save in 1981 and 1982; exceeded 1,000 people 11 times; and exceeded 2,100 people in 1977. For the period, the county's population grew by 29,656 people, or 117.1 percent, from 25,317 to 54,973.

From 1969 to 1979, the county's population increased by 11,075 people, or 43.7 percent, to 36,392. From 1979 to 1992, the county's population increased by 8,157, or 22.4 percent, to 44,549. From 1992 to 1996, the county's population increased by 5,097 people, or 11.4 percent. In 2002, the county was the 13<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas, with a population of 54,973, 10.7 percent higher than in 1996.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Crawford County is projected to increase by 8,445 people, or 15.4 percent, to 63,418 by 2010 and by 27,415 people, or 49.9 percent, to 82,388 by 2025 (see Table 17). The county's population is projected to be between 61,951 and 64,926 in 2010 and between 78,339 and 86,656 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Crawford County will be the 12<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 11<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Crawford County are Franklin County, Arkansas (page 53); Sebastian County, Arkansas (page 137); Washington County, Arkansas (page 149); Adair County, Oklahoma (page 198); Le Flore County, Oklahoma (page 200); and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma (page 203). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Fort Smith MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 220 and 241, respectively.

Figure 18: Crawford County Historical Population and Population Projections

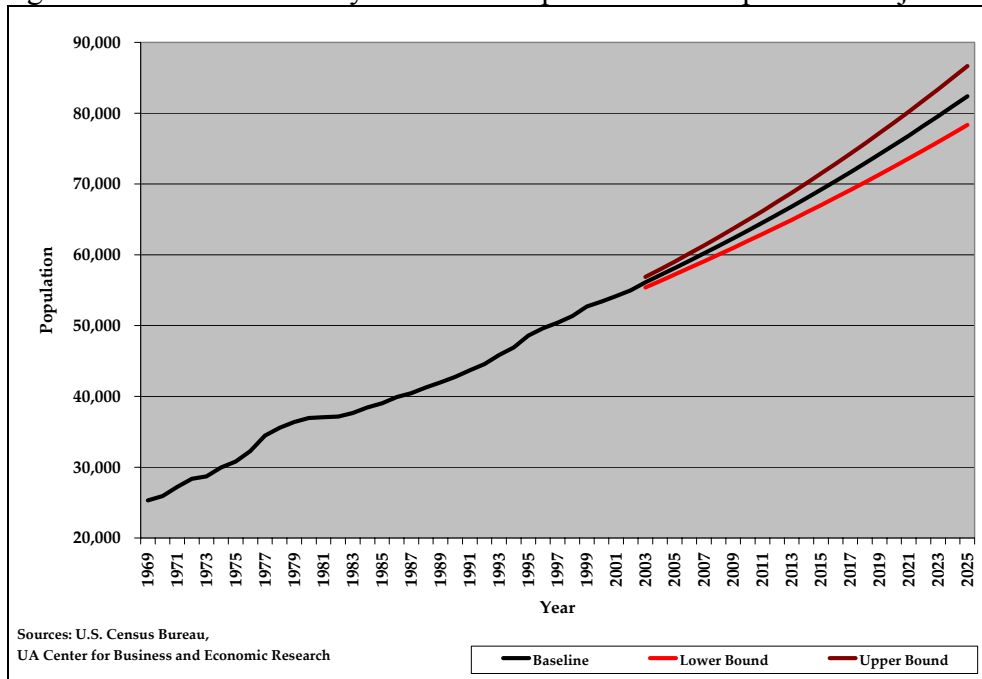


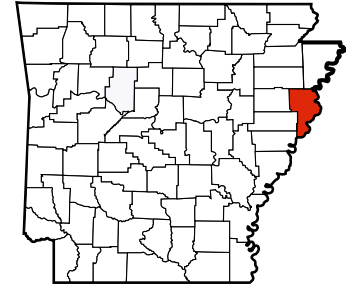
Table 17: Crawford County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 51,343   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 52,708   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 53,389   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 54,167   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 54,973   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 58,122   | 3,149                     | 5.7%                     | 57,222      | 2,249                     | 4.1%                     | 59,036      | 4,063                     | 7.4%                     |
| 2010 | 63,418   | 8,445                     | 15.4%                    | 61,951      | 6,978                     | 12.7%                    | 64,926      | 9,953                     | 18.1%                    |
| 2015 | 69,203   | 14,230                    | 25.9%                    | 67,010      | 12,037                    | 21.9%                    | 71,460      | 16,487                    | 30.0%                    |
| 2020 | 75,508   | 20,535                    | 37.4%                    | 72,461      | 17,488                    | 31.8%                    | 78,684      | 23,711                    | 43.1%                    |
| 2025 | 82,388   | 27,415                    | 49.9%                    | 78,339      | 23,366                    | 42.5%                    | 86,656      | 31,683                    | 57.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Crittenden County*

Crittenden County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Crittenden County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of West Memphis (27,666), Marion (8,901), Earle (3,036), and Turrell (957). The county is a component of the Memphis MSA.



From 1971 to 1973, the population of Crittenden County grew by 2,417 people, or 5.1 percent, from 47,169 to 49,586. From 1973 to 1978, though, the county's population declined by 1,348 people, or 2.7 percent, to 48,238. After increasing by 944 people in 1979, the rate of population growth declined from 1979 to 1989 (see Figure 19). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 875 people, or 1.7 percent, to 50,057.

After decreasing by a net 395 people to 49,662 from 1989 to 1996, the county's population increased steadily to 51,291 in 2001. Population estimates for 2002 show no increase in the county's population over its level in 2001. The county was the 14<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Crittenden County is projected to increase by 2,718 people, or 5.3 percent, to 54,009 by 2010 and by 7,822 people, or 15.3 percent, to 59,113 by 2025 (see Table 18). The county's population is projected to be between 53,221 and 54,803 in 2010 and between 57,280 and 61,004 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Crittenden County will be the 14<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Crittenden County are Cross County, Arkansas (page 43); Lee County, Arkansas (page 83); Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99); Poinsett County, Arkansas (page 117); St. Francis County, Arkansas (page 129); De Soto County, Mississippi (page 172); Shelby County, Tennessee (page 209); and Tipton County, Tennessee (page 211). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Memphis MSA, the Southeast Arkansas planning area, and the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 229, 242, and 240, respectively.

Figure 19: Crittenden County Historical Population and Population Projections

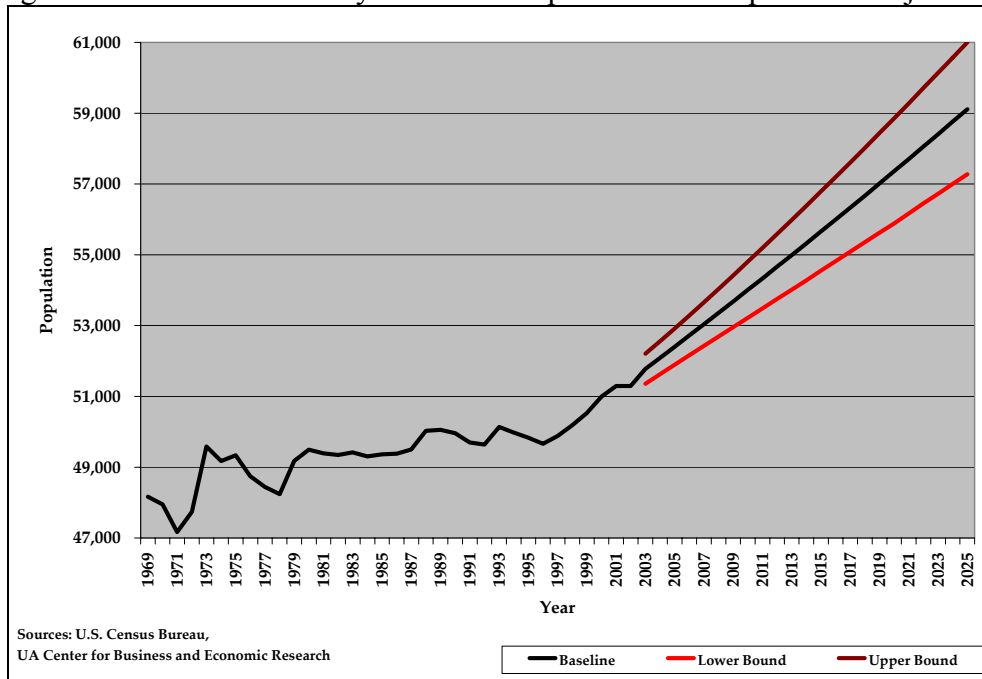


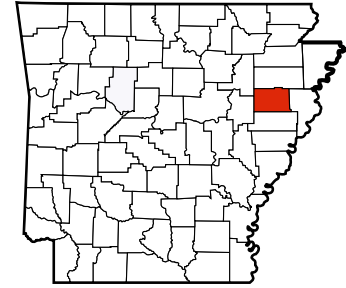
Table 18: Crittenden County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 50,183   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 50,530   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 50,997   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 51,291   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 51,291   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 52,402   | 1,111                     | 2.2%                     | 51,896      | 605                       | 1.2%                     | 52,918      | 1,627                     | 3.2%                     |
| 2010 | 54,009   | 2,718                     | 5.3%                     | 53,221      | 1,930                     | 3.8%                     | 54,803      | 3,512                     | 6.8%                     |
| 2015 | 55,659   | 4,368                     | 8.5%                     | 54,551      | 3,260                     | 6.4%                     | 56,789      | 5,498                     | 10.7%                    |
| 2020 | 57,360   | 6,069                     | 11.8%                    | 55,882      | 4,591                     | 9.0%                     | 58,853      | 7,562                     | 14.7%                    |
| 2025 | 59,113   | 7,822                     | 15.3%                    | 57,280      | 5,989                     | 11.7%                    | 61,004      | 9,713                     | 18.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Cross County***

Cross County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Cross County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Wynne (8,615), Parkin (1,602), Cherry Valley (704), and Hickory Ridge (384).



From 1972 to 1975, the county's population grew by 1,187 people, or 6.1 percent, from 19,611 to 20,798. After declining slightly in 1976, the county's population increased to an historical high of 21,006 in 1978 (see Figure 20). The county's population declined by a net 1,797, or 8.6 percent, from 1978 to 1991.

After increasing slightly in 1992 and 1993, the county's population decreased by 216 people to an historic low of 19,112 in 1994. The population of Cross County then increased by 502 people to 19,614 in 1998. Since 1998, the county's population has decreased by a net 271 people to 19,343 in 2002. The county was the 39<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Cross County is projected to decrease by 407 people, or 2.1 percent, to 18,936 by 2010 and by 1,246 people, or 6.4 percent, to 18,097 by 2025 (see Table 19). The county's population is projected to be between 18,299 and 19,594 in 2010 and between 16,681 and 19,636 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Cross County will be the 41<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 47<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Cross County are Crittenden (page 43), Jackson (page 73), Poinsett (page 117), St. Francis (page 129), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area, the Central Arkansas planning area, and the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242, 238, and 240, respectively.



Figure 20: Cross County Historical Population and Population Projections

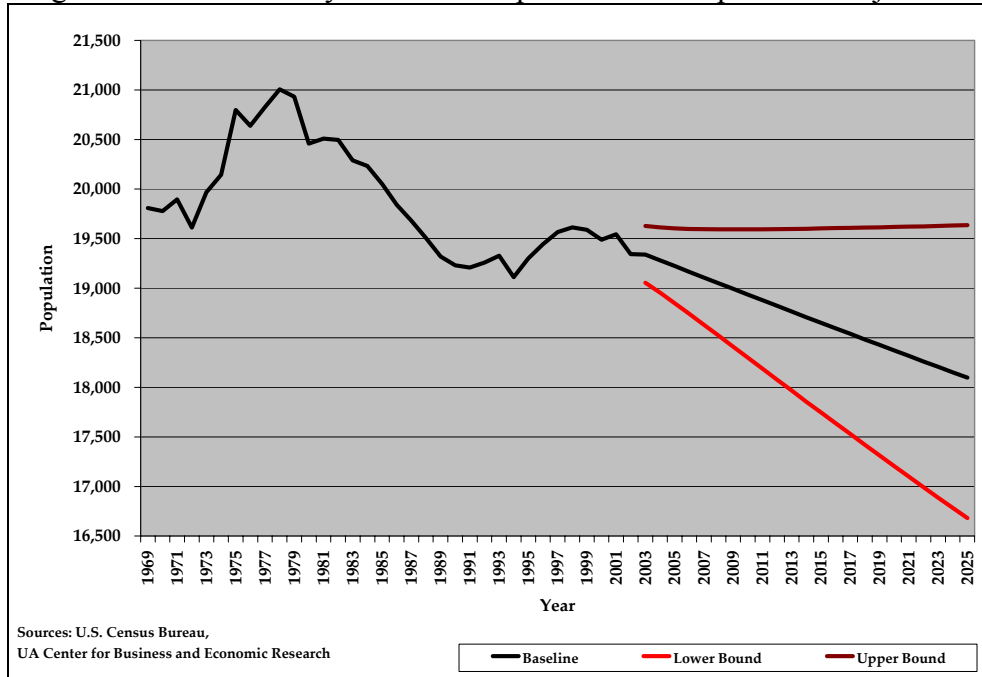


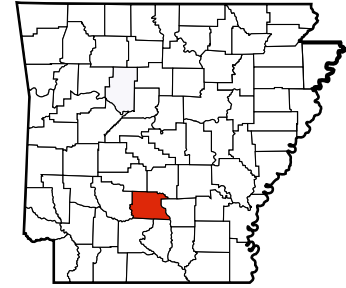
Table 19: Cross County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 19,614   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 19,589   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 19,490   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 19,543   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 19,343   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 19,224   | (119)                     | -0.6%                    | 18,849      | (494)                     | -2.6%                    | 19,604      | 261                       | 1.3%                     |
| 2010 | 18,936   | (407)                     | -2.1%                    | 18,299      | (1,044)                   | -5.4%                    | 19,594      | 251                       | 1.3%                     |
| 2015 | 18,652   | (691)                     | -3.6%                    | 17,748      | (1,595)                   | -8.2%                    | 19,604      | 261                       | 1.3%                     |
| 2020 | 18,372   | (971)                     | -5.0%                    | 17,206      | (2,137)                   | -11.0%                   | 19,618      | 275                       | 1.4%                     |
| 2025 | 18,097   | (1,246)                   | -6.4%                    | 16,681      | (2,662)                   | -13.8%                   | 19,636      | 293                       | 1.5%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Dallas County*

Dallas County is located in south-central Arkansas and is a component of the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Dallas County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Fordyce (4,799), Sparkman (586), and Carthage (442).



The population of Dallas County was relatively stable from 1969 to 1983 (see Figure 21). During this time, the county's population ranged between 10,377 (1974) and its historical high of 10,625 in 1979. In 1983, the county's population was 10,518.

Dallas County experienced population declines each year from 1983 to 1990. For the period, the county's population decreased by 913 people, or 8.7 percent, to 9,605. From 1990 to 1995, the county's population remained relatively stable. Since then, the population of Dallas County has decreased by 875 people, or 9.1 percent, from 9,660 in 1995 to 8,785 in 2002. The county was the 7<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Dallas County is projected to decrease by 730 people, or 8.3 percent, to 8,055 by 2010 and by 2,080 people, or 23.7 percent, to 6,705 by 2025 (see Table 20). The county's population is projected to be between 7,799 and 8,319 in 2010 and between 6,277 and 7,162 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Dallas County will be the 4<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 5<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Dallas County are Calhoun (page 19), Clark (page 25), Cleveland (page 31), Grant (page 59), Hot Spring (page 65), and Ouachita (page 109). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area, the Central Arkansas planning area, and the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244, 238, and 242, respectively.

Figure 21: Dallas County Historical Population and Population Projections

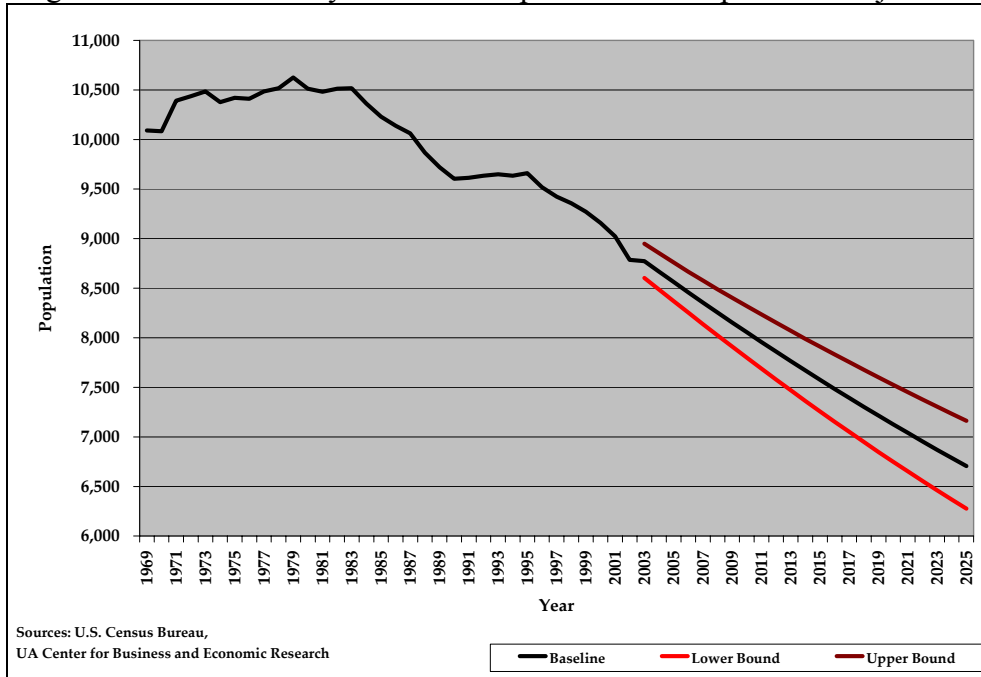


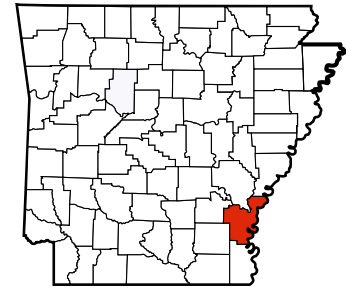
Table 20: Dallas County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 9,357    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,272    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,159    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,022    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,785    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,563    | (222)                     | -2.5%                    | 8,369       | (416)                     | -4.7%                    | 8,760       | (25)                      | -0.3%                    |
| 2010 | 8,055    | (730)                     | -8.3%                    | 7,799       | (986)                     | -11.2%                   | 8,319       | (466)                     | -5.3%                    |
| 2015 | 7,577    | (1,208)                   | -13.8%                   | 7,258       | (1,527)                   | -17.4%                   | 7,911       | (874)                     | -9.9%                    |
| 2020 | 7,127    | (1,658)                   | -18.9%                   | 6,750       | (2,035)                   | -23.2%                   | 7,526       | (1,259)                   | -14.3%                   |
| 2025 | 6,705    | (2,080)                   | -23.7%                   | 6,277       | (2,508)                   | -28.5%                   | 7,162       | (1,623)                   | -18.5%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Desha County***

Desha County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Desha County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Dumas (5,238), McGehee (4,570), Arkansas City (589), and Mitchellville (497).



After decreasing by a net 439 people, or 2.3 percent, from 1969 to 1974, the population of Desha County increased by 1,526 people, or 8.2 percent, from 18,531 in 1974 to an historical high of 20,057 in 1978. The county has experienced year-on-year population declines every year since then (see Figure 22).

Population declines from 1978 through 2002 totaled 5,252 people, or 26.2 percent.

The rate of population decline was fairly moderate from 1979 to 1986 but increased from 1986 to 1988. From 1986 to 1988, the county's population decreased by 871 people, or 4.8 percent, from 18,215 to 17,344. The rate of population decrease moderated from 1988 to 1996, during which time the county's population decreased by 1,544 people, or 8.9 percent, to 15,800. From 1996 to 2002, the county's population decreased by 995 people, or 6.3 percent, to 14,805. The county was the 51<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Desha County is projected to decrease by 1,076 people, or 7.3 percent, to 13,729 by 2010 and by 3,025 people, or 20.4 percent, to 11,780 by 2025 (see Table 21). The county's population is projected to be between 13,356 and 14,114 in 2010 and between 11,102 and 12,501 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Desha County will be the 54<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 61<sup>st</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Desha County are Arkansas County, Arkansas (page 7); Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23); Drew County, Arkansas (page 49); Lincoln County, Arkansas (page 85); Phillips County, Arkansas (page 113); Bolivar County, Mississippi (page 169); and Coahoma County, Mississippi (page 171). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 22: Desha County Historical Population and Population Projections

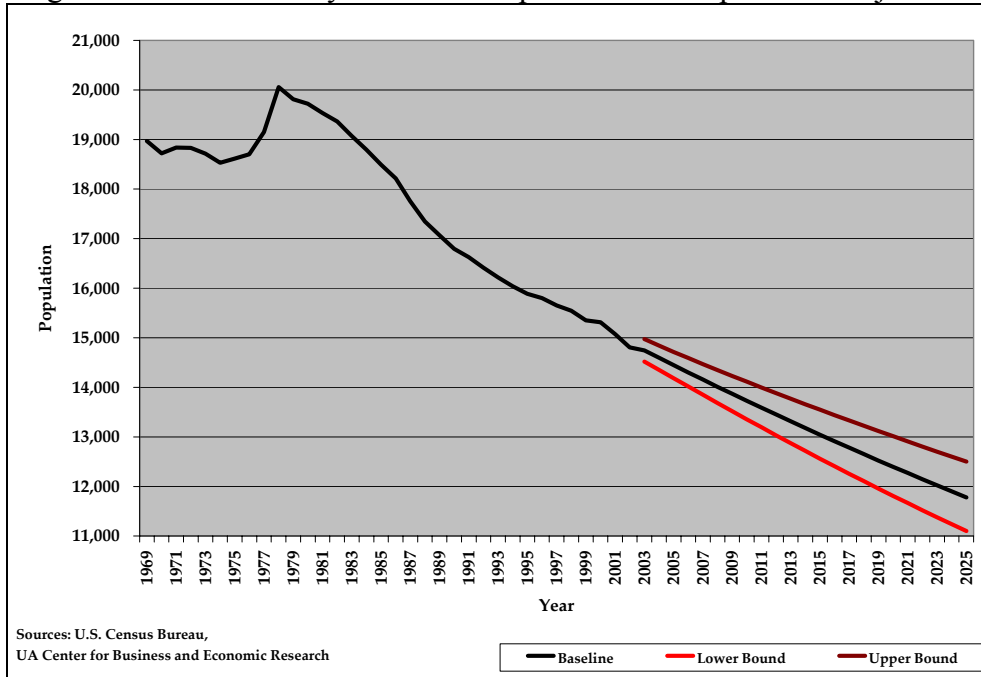


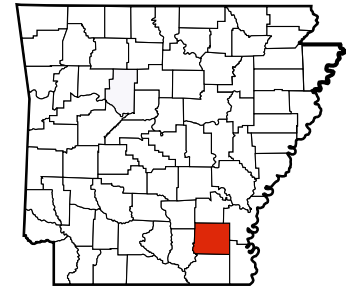
Table 21: Desha County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 15,547   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 15,351   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 15,315   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 15,072   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 14,805   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 14,448   | (357)                     | -2.4%                    | 14,184      | (621)                     | -4.2%                    | 14,716      | (89)                      | -0.6%                    |
| 2010 | 13,729   | (1,076)                   | -7.3%                    | 13,356      | (1,449)                   | -9.8%                    | 14,114      | (691)                     | -4.7%                    |
| 2015 | 13,047   | (1,758)                   | -11.9%                   | 12,562      | (2,243)                   | -15.2%                   | 13,549      | (1,256)                   | -8.5%                    |
| 2020 | 12,397   | (2,408)                   | -16.3%                   | 11,810      | (2,995)                   | -20.2%                   | 13,014      | (1,791)                   | -12.1%                   |
| 2025 | 11,780   | (3,025)                   | -20.4%                   | 11,102      | (3,703)                   | -25.0%                   | 12,501      | (2,304)                   | -15.6%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Drew County*

Drew County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Drew County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Monticello (9,146), Wilmar (571), Tillar (207 of the city's 240 residents in 2000 lived in Drew County), and Winchester (191).



From 1971 to 1979, the county's population increased by 3,090 people, or 20.5 percent, from 15,072 to 18,162. From 1979 to 1992, the population of the county trended downward, although the rate of population decrease was relatively low (see Figure 23). In 1992, the population of the county was 17,469, 3.8 percent less than in 1979.

Since 1992, the county's population has increased by 1,170 people, or 6.7 percent. The population of Drew County reached an historical high in 2001, when it stood at 18,759. In 2002, though, the county's population decreased by 120 to 18,639. The county was the 40<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1992 to 2002 trend, the population of Drew County is projected to increase by 1,234 people, or 6.6 percent, to 19,873 by 2010 and by 3,157, or 16.9 percent, to 21,796 by 2025 (see Table 22). The county's population is projected to be between 19,113 and 20,661 in 2010 and between 20,345 and 23,351 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Drew County will be the 38<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 37<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Drew County are Ashley (page 9), Bradley (page 17), Cleveland (page 31), Desha (page 47), and Lincoln (page 85). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 23: Drew County Historical Population and Population Projections

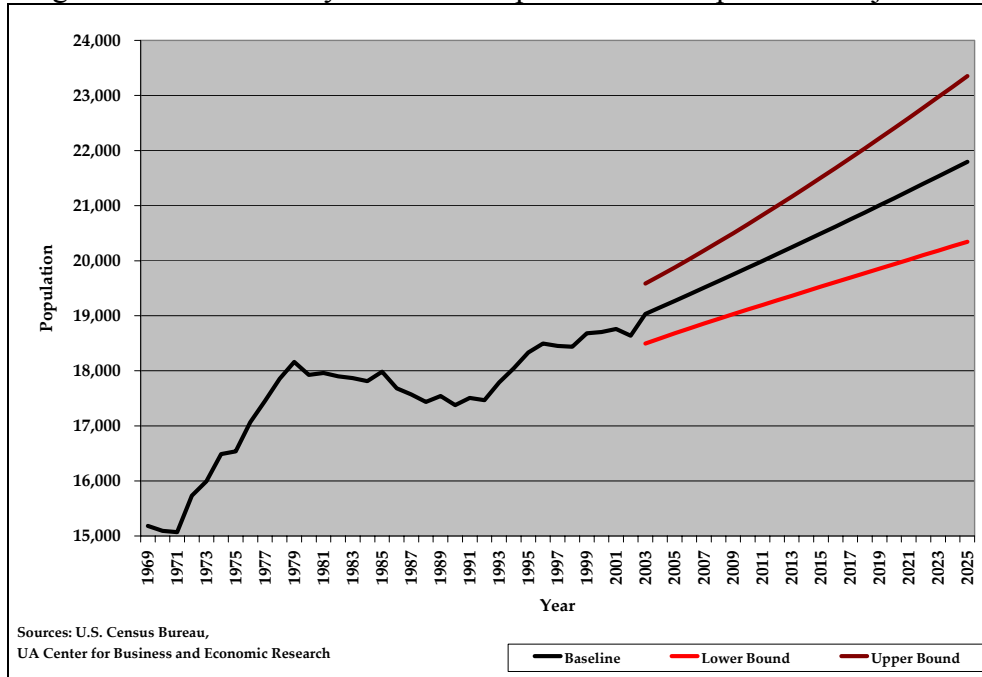


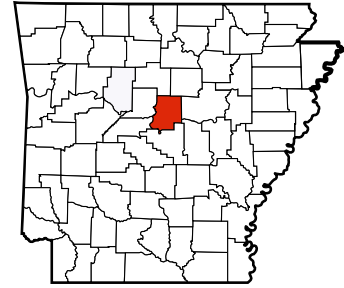
Table 22: Drew County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 18,436   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 18,683   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 18,703   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 18,759   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 18,639   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 19,268   | 629                       | 3.4%                     | 18,680      | 41                        | 0.2%                     | 19,877      | 1,238                     | 6.6%                     |
| 2010 | 19,873   | 1,234                     | 6.6%                     | 19,113      | 474                       | 2.5%                     | 20,661      | 2,022                     | 10.8%                    |
| 2015 | 20,494   | 1,855                     | 10.0%                    | 19,528      | 889                       | 4.8%                     | 21,506      | 2,867                     | 15.4%                    |
| 2020 | 21,135   | 2,496                     | 13.4%                    | 19,936      | 1,297                     | 7.0%                     | 22,404      | 3,765                     | 20.2%                    |
| 2025 | 21,796   | 3,157                     | 16.9%                    | 20,345      | 1,706                     | 9.2%                     | 23,351      | 4,712                     | 25.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Faulkner County***

Faulkner County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Faulkner County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Conway (43,167), Greenbrier (3,042), Vilonia (2,106), and Mayflower (1,631). Faulkner County is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



The county's population increased every year from 1969 to 2002 (see Figure 24), growing by 58,908 people, or 192.0 percent, from 30,682 in 1969 to 89,590 in 2002. Year-on-year population growth exceeded 1,000 people each year, save in 1975, 1981 and 1982; exceeded 2,000 people 11 times; and exceeded 3,000 people in 1996 and 1997.

From 1969 to 1980, the county's population increased by 15,664 people, or 51.1 percent, to 46,346. Population growth moderated in 1981 and 1982. From 1982 to 1991, the county's population increased by 15,014, or 31.7 percent, from 47,338 to 62,652.

Population growth accelerated from 1991 to 1997, during which time the county's population increased by 17,372 people, or 27.9 percent, to 79,724. Population growth moderated slightly thereafter. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population grew by 9,866 people, or 12.4 percent. Faulkner County was the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 89,590.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Faulkner County is projected to increase by 19,551 people, or 21.8 percent, to 109,141 by 2010 and by 66,283 people, or 74.0 percent, to 155,873 by 2025 (see Table 23). The county's population is projected to be between 104,068 and 114,451 in 2010 and between 139,958 and 173,581 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Faulkner County will be the 5<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Faulkner County are Cleburne (page 29), Conway (page 35), Lonoke (page 91), Perry (page 111), Pulaski (page 125), Van Buren (page 147), and White (page 159). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.



Figure 24: Faulkner County Historical Population and Population Projections

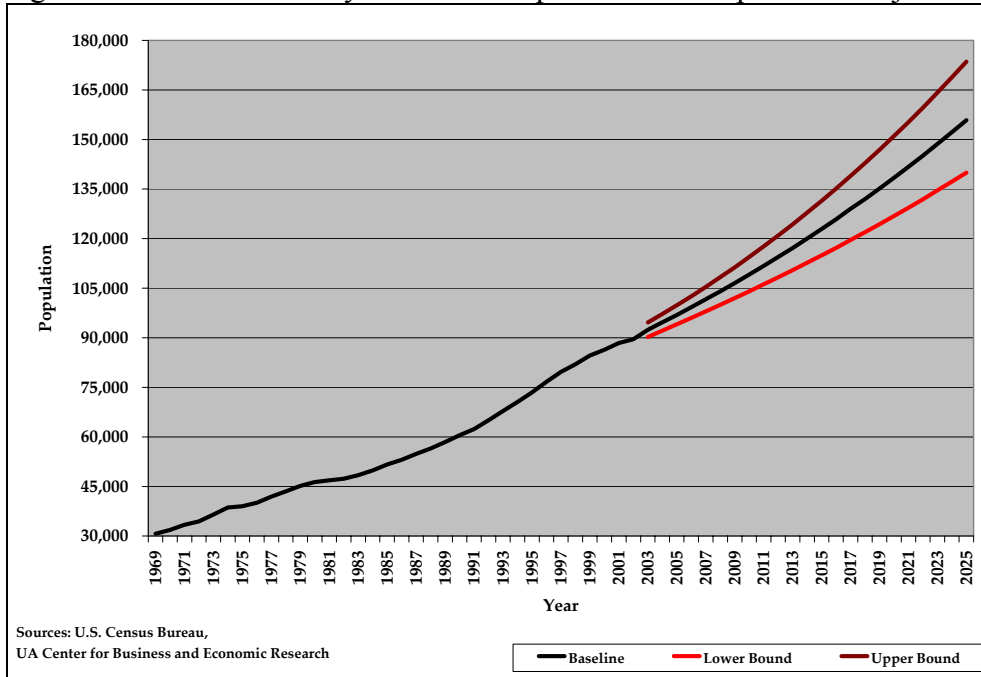


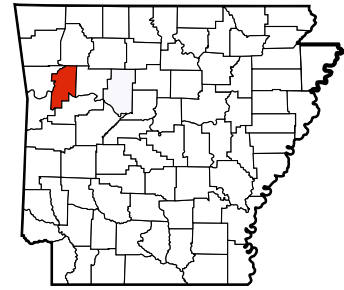
Table 23: Faulkner County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 81,927   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 84,633   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 86,400   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 88,385   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 89,590   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 96,916   | 7,326                     | 8.2%                     | 94,089      | 4,499                     | 5.0%                     | 99,818      | 10,228                    | 11.4%                    |
| 2010 | 109,141  | 19,551                    | 21.8%                    | 104,068     | 14,478                    | 16.2%                    | 114,451     | 24,861                    | 27.7%                    |
| 2015 | 122,909  | 33,319                    | 37.2%                    | 114,921     | 25,331                    | 28.3%                    | 131,439     | 41,849                    | 46.7%                    |
| 2020 | 138,413  | 48,823                    | 54.5%                    | 126,842     | 37,252                    | 41.6%                    | 151,025     | 61,435                    | 68.6%                    |
| 2025 | 155,873  | 66,283                    | 74.0%                    | 139,958     | 50,368                    | 56.2%                    | 173,581     | 83,991                    | 93.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Franklin County***

Franklin County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Franklin County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Ozark (3,525), Charleston (2,965), Altus (817), Branch (357), and Denning (270). Effective June 6, 2003, Franklin County is a component of the Fort Smith MSA.



From 1969 to 1979, the population of Franklin County increased by 3,426 people, or 30.5 percent, from 11,220 to 14,646. From 1979 to 1990, the county's population ranged between 14,600 and 15,100. Population growth in Franklin County accelerated from 1990 to 1996 (see Figure 25). The county's population stood at 17,077 in 1996, a 14.3 percent increase from the county's population of 14,939 in 1990.

Population growth in the county decreased during the 1996 through 2002 period. The population of Franklin County experienced a net increase of 791 people, or 4.6 percent, for the period. Franklin County was the 42<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 17,868.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Franklin County is projected to increase by 1,182 people, or 6.6 percent, to 19,050 by 2010 and by 3,320 people, or 18.6 percent, to 21,188 by 2025 (see Table 24). The county's population is projected to be between 18,068 and 20,086 in 2010 and between 18,909 and 23,744 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Franklin County will be the 40<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Franklin County are Crawford (page 39), Johnson (page 77), Logan (page 89), Madison (page 93), Sebastian (page 137), and Washington (page 149). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Fort Smith MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 220 and 241, respectively.

Figure 25: Franklin County Historical Population and Population Projections

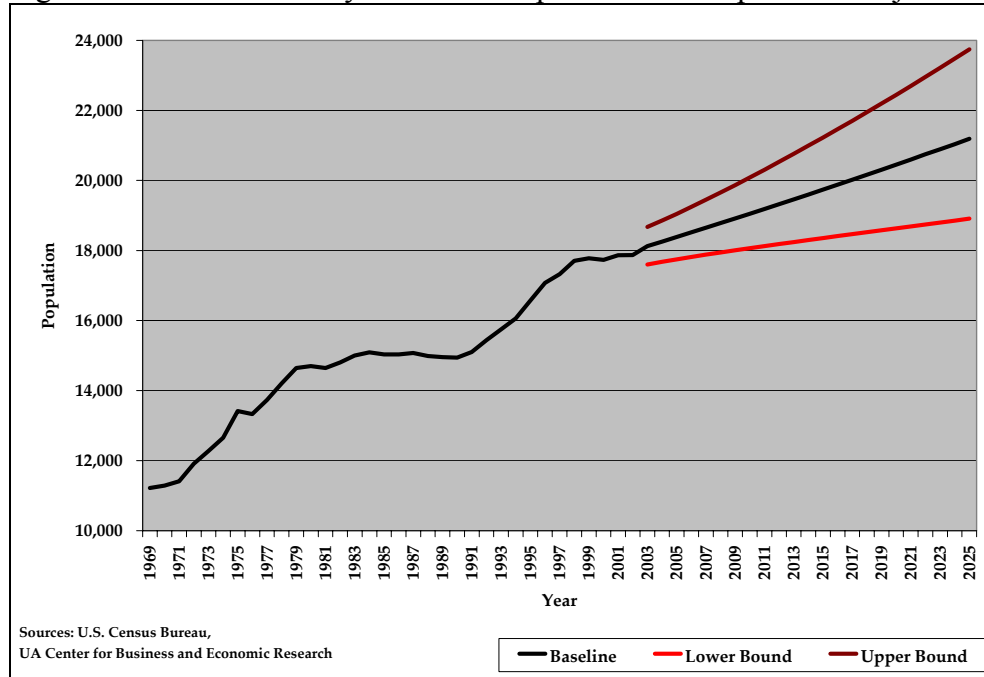


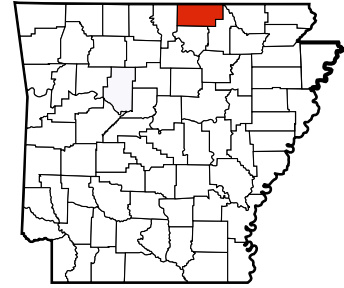
Table 24: Franklin County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 17,708   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 17,779   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 17,731   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 17,867   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 17,868   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 18,387   | 519                       | 2.9%                     | 17,749      | (119)                     | -0.7%                    | 19,046      | 1,178                     | 6.6%                     |
| 2010 | 19,050   | 1,182                     | 6.6%                     | 18,068      | 200                       | 1.1%                     | 20,086      | 2,218                     | 12.4%                    |
| 2015 | 19,738   | 1,870                     | 10.5%                    | 18,356      | 488                       | 2.7%                     | 21,224      | 3,356                     | 18.8%                    |
| 2020 | 20,451   | 2,583                     | 14.5%                    | 18,633      | 765                       | 4.3%                     | 22,444      | 4,576                     | 25.6%                    |
| 2025 | 21,188   | 3,320                     | 18.6%                    | 18,909      | 1,041                     | 5.8%                     | 23,744      | 5,876                     | 32.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Fulton County***

Fulton County is located in north-central Arkansas and is a component of the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Fulton County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Salem (1,591), Mammoth Spring (1,147), and Cherokee Village (809 of the city's population of 4,648 in 2000 lived in Fulton County).



From 1969 to 1976, the population of Fulton County increased by 2,181 people, or 28.7 percent, from 7,588 to 9,769. From 1976 to 1992, the county's population ranged between 9,750 and 10,125 (see Figure 26). In 1992, the population of Fulton County stood at 10,113, a 3.5 percent increase from 1976. Population growth accelerated from 1992 to 1995, with year-on-year population gains exceeding 225 people each year. For the period, the county's population increased by 784 people, or 7.8 percent, to 10,897.

From 1995 to 2002, population growth slow, and the county's population decreased by 135 people from 2000 to 2002. For the 1995 through 2002 period, though, the county's population grew by a net 630 people, or 5.8 percent. Fulton County was the 60<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 11,527.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Fulton County is projected to increase by 1,018 people, or 8.8 percent, to 12,545 by 2010 and by 2,747 people, or 23.8 percent, to 14,274 by 2025 (see Table 25). The county's population is projected to be between 11,856 and 13,276 in 2010 and between 12,716 and 16,023 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Fulton County will be the 58<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 52<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Fulton County are Baxter County, Arkansas (page 11); Izard County, Arkansas (page 71); Sharp County, Arkansas (page 141); Howell County, Missouri (page 186); Oregon County, Missouri (page 189); and Ozark County, Missouri (page 190). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240 and 241, respectively.

Figure 26: Fulton County Historical Population and Population Projections

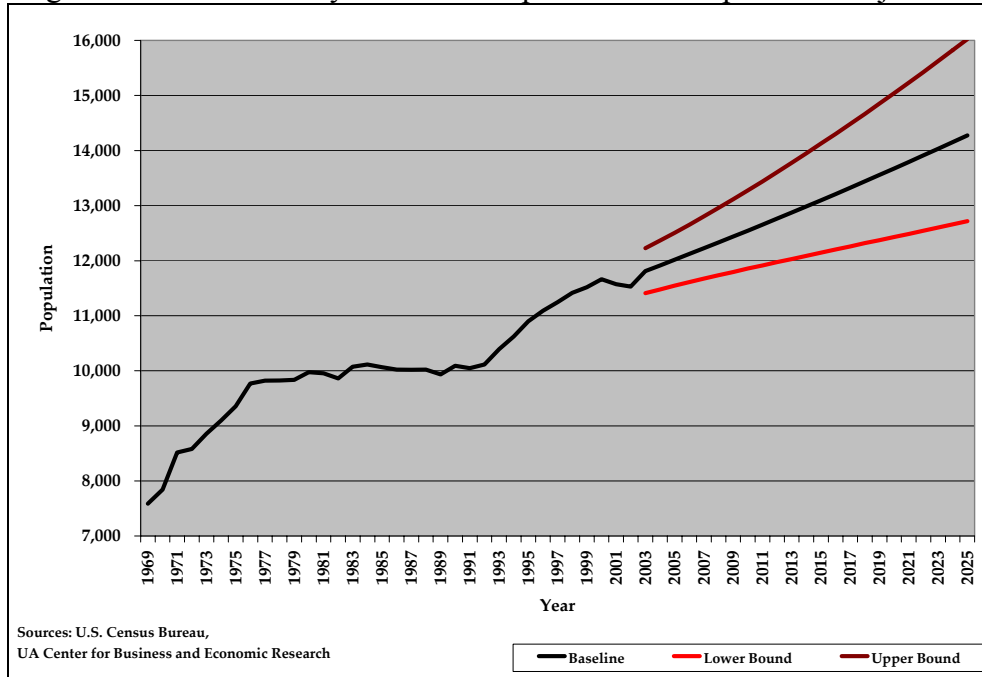


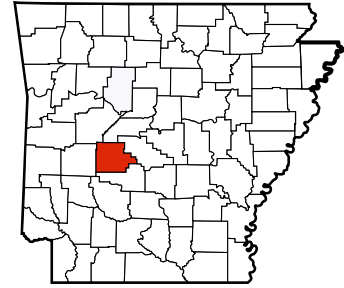
Table 25: Fulton County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 11,415   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 11,519   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 11,662   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 11,571   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 11,527   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 12,017   | 490                       | 4.3%                     | 11,547      | 20                        | 0.2%                     | 12,506      | 979                       | 8.5%                     |
| 2010 | 12,545   | 1,018                     | 8.8%                     | 11,856      | 329                       | 2.9%                     | 13,276      | 1,749                     | 15.2%                    |
| 2015 | 13,096   | 1,569                     | 13.6%                    | 12,145      | 618                       | 5.4%                     | 14,124      | 2,597                     | 22.5%                    |
| 2020 | 13,673   | 2,146                     | 18.6%                    | 12,430      | 903                       | 7.8%                     | 15,040      | 3,513                     | 30.5%                    |
| 2025 | 14,274   | 2,747                     | 23.8%                    | 12,716      | 1,189                     | 10.3%                    | 16,023      | 4,496                     | 39.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Garland County***

Garland County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Garland County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Hot Springs (35,750), Hot Springs Village CDP (6,656 of the CDP's 8,397 population in 2000 lived in Garland County), Piney CDP (3,988), Rockwell CDP (3,024), and Lake Hamilton CDP (1,609).



From 1969 to 1980, the county's population increased by 17,010 people, or 31.8 percent, from 53,535 to 70,545. Population growth moderated from 1980 to 1990, during which time the county's population increased by a net 3,018 people, or 4.3 percent, to 73,563. From 1990 to 1994, the county's population growth increased at an increasing rate (see Figure 27). For the period, the population of Garland County increased by 7,110 people, or 9.7 percent, to 80,673.

Population growth in Garland County slowed from 1994 through 2002. For the period, the county's population grew by 9,386 people, or 11.6 percent, to 90,059. The county was the 5<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1994 to 2002 trend, the population of Garland County is projected to increase by 11,146 people, or 12.4 percent, to 101,205 by 2010 and by 34,421 people, or 38.2 percent, to 124,480 by 2025 (see Table 26). The county's population is projected to be between 99,092 and 103,363 in 2010 and between 119,479 and 129,690 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Garland County will be the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Garland County are Hot Spring (page 65), Montgomery (page 103), Perry (page 111), Saline (page 131), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244 and 238, respectively.

Figure 27: Garland County Historical Population and Population Projections

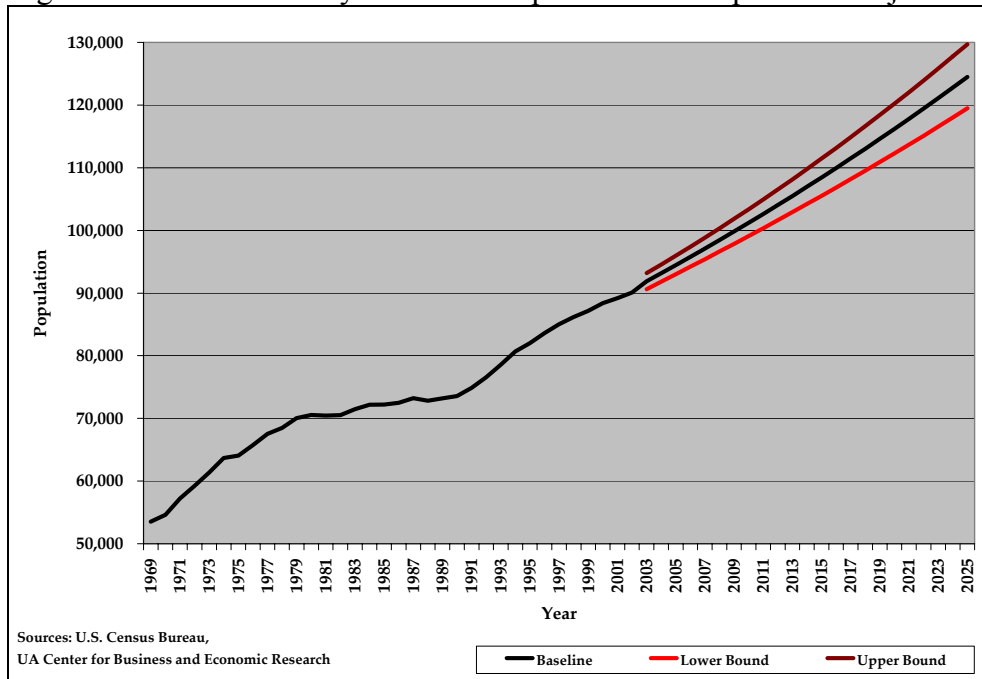


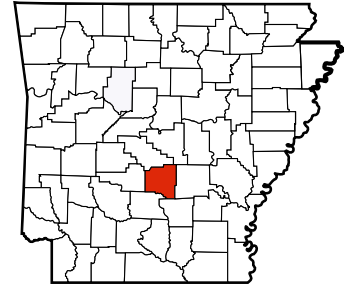
Table 26: Garland County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 86,172   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 87,177   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 88,394   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 89,188   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 90,059   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 94,457   | 4,398                     | 4.9%                     | 92,986      | 2,927                     | 3.3%                     | 95,942      | 5,883                     | 6.5%                     |
| 2010 | 101,205  | 11,146                    | 12.4%                    | 99,092      | 9,033                     | 10.0%                    | 103,363     | 13,304                    | 14.8%                    |
| 2015 | 108,434  | 18,375                    | 20.4%                    | 105,504     | 15,445                    | 17.1%                    | 111,447     | 21,388                    | 23.7%                    |
| 2020 | 116,180  | 26,121                    | 29.0%                    | 112,285     | 22,226                    | 24.7%                    | 120,211     | 30,152                    | 33.5%                    |
| 2025 | 124,480  | 34,421                    | 38.2%                    | 119,479     | 29,420                    | 32.7%                    | 129,690     | 39,631                    | 44.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Grant County***

Grant County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Grant County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Sheridan (3,872), Leola (515), and Tull (358). Effective June 6, 2003, Grant County is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



Grant County's population increased every year from 1969 to 2002, save in 1981 and 1982. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 7,249 people, or 75.5 percent, from 9,599 to 16,848. This translates to an average growth rate of 1.7 percent per annum.

Population growth was relatively strong from 1969 to 1978 (see Figure 28), during which time the county's population increased by 3,180 people, or 33.1 percent, to 12,779 in 1978. From 1978 to 1985, population growth slowed, increasing by a net 352 people, or 2.8 percent, to 13,131. Population growth increased from 1985 to 1991, during which time the county's population increased by 989 people, or 7.5 percent. Population growth accelerated from 1991 to 1997, during which time the county's population grew by 1,785 people, or 12.6 percent, to 15,905.

The rate of population growth has moderated since 1997. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population increased by 943 people, or 5.9 percent. Grant County was the 47<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 16,848.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Grant County is projected to increase by 1,711 people, or 10.2 percent, to 18,559 by 2010 and by 5,278 people, or 31.3 percent, to 22,126 by 2025 (see Table 27). The county's population is projected to be between 18,222 and 18,900 in 2010 and between 21,231 and 23,061 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Grant County will be the 44<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 34<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Grant County are Cleveland (page 31), Dallas (page 45), Hot Spring (page 65), Jefferson (page 75), Pulaski (page 125), and Saline (page 131). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.



Figure 28: Grant County Historical Population and Population Projections

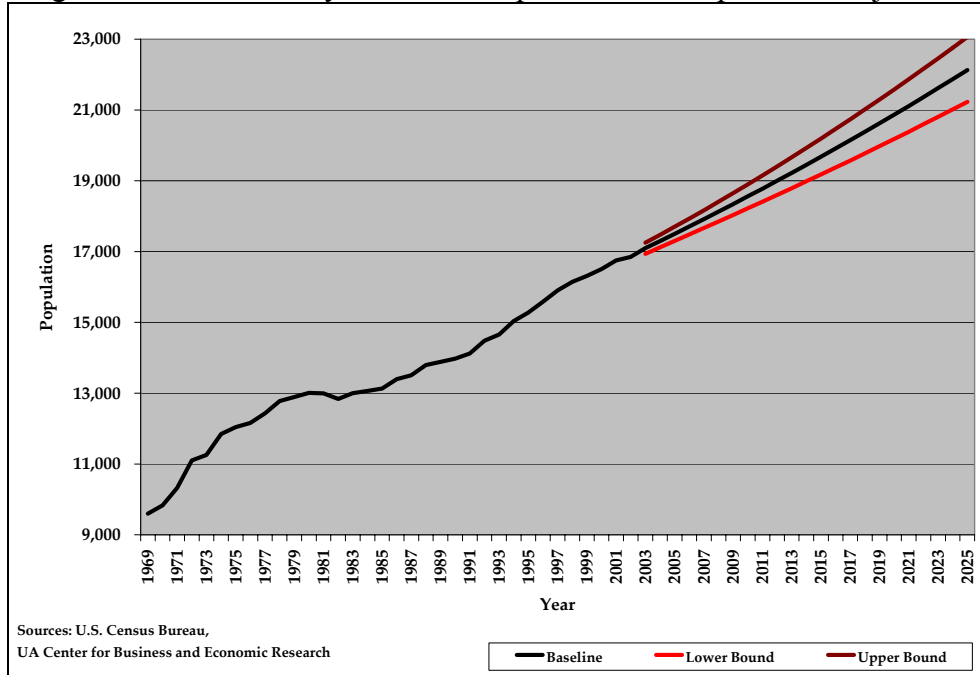


Table 27: Grant County Population Projections, Selected Years

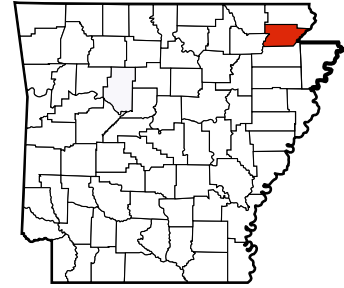
| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 16,145   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 16,312   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 16,507   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 16,751   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 16,848   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 17,501   | 653                       | 3.9%                     | 17,304      | 456                       | 2.7%                     | 17,701      | 853                       | 5.1%                     |
| 2010 | 18,559   | 1,711                     | 10.2%                    | 18,222      | 1,374                     | 8.2%                     | 18,900      | 2,052                     | 12.2%                    |
| 2015 | 19,679   | 2,831                     | 16.8%                    | 19,178      | 2,330                     | 13.8%                    | 20,191      | 3,343                     | 19.8%                    |
| 2020 | 20,866   | 4,018                     | 23.8%                    | 20,179      | 3,331                     | 19.8%                    | 21,577      | 4,729                     | 28.1%                    |
| 2025 | 22,126   | 5,278                     | 31.3%                    | 21,231      | 4,383                     | 26.0%                    | 23,061      | 6,213                     | 36.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Greene County***

Greene County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Greene County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Paragould (22,017), Marmaduke (1,158), Oak Grove Heights (727), and Lafe (385).

The population of Greene County increased every year from 1969 to 2002, save in 1980, 1981, and 1987. For the period, the population of Greene County increased by 13,211 people, or 53.2 percent, from 24,827 to 38,038. This translates to an average growth rate of 1.3 percent per annum.



From 1969 to 1979, the population of Greene County increased by 6,332 people, or 25.5 percent, to 31,159 and remained relatively stable until 1988 (see Figure 29). From 1988 to 1995, population growth totaled 3,451, or 11.0 percent.

From 1995 to 2002, population growth in Greene County moderated slightly; the county's population increased by 3,186 people, or 9.1 percent, from 34,852 to 38,038. The county was the 19<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Greene County is projected to increase by 4,413 people, or 11.6 percent, to 42,451 by 2010 and by 13,501 people, or 35.5 percent, to 51,539 by 2025 (see Table 28). The county's population is projected to be between 41,569 and 43,356 in 2010 and between 49,365 and 53,809 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Greene County will be the 18<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 15<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Greene County are Clay County, Arkansas (page 27); Craighead County, Arkansas (page 37); Lawrence County, Arkansas (page 81); Randolph County, Arkansas (page 127); and Dunklin County, Missouri (page 185). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 29: Greene County Historical Population and Population Projections

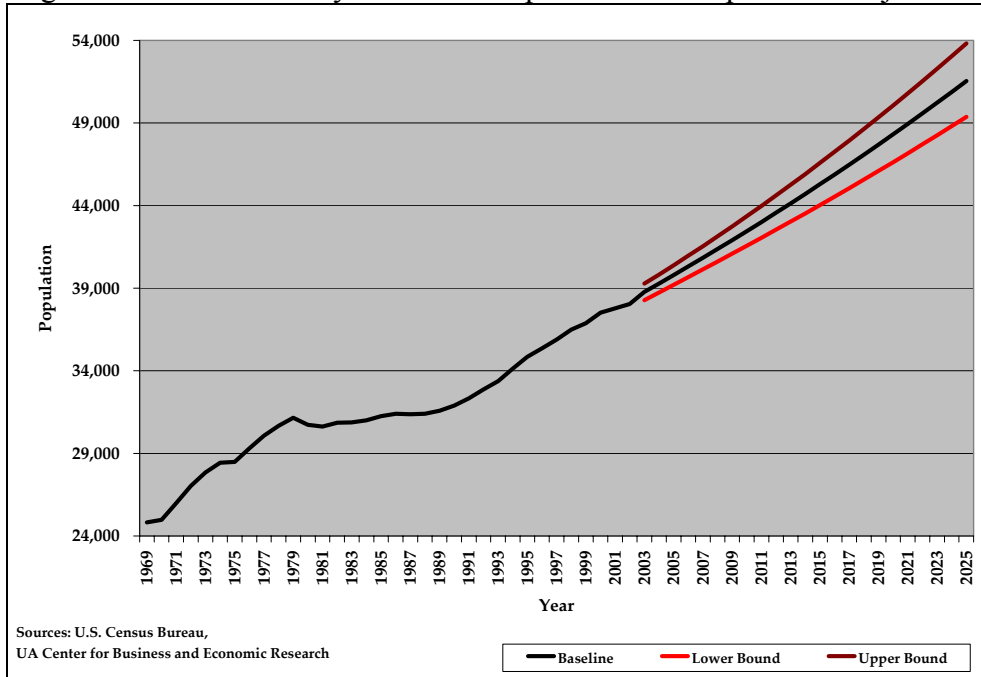


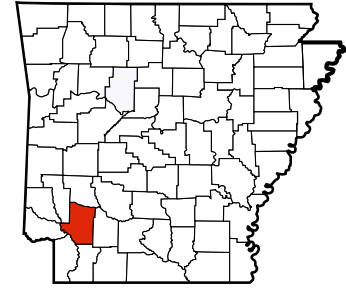
Table 28: Greene County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 36,495   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 36,881   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 37,513   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 37,782   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 38,038   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 39,795   | 1,757                     | 4.6%                     | 39,207      | 1,169                     | 3.1%                     | 40,393      | 2,355                     | 6.2%                     |
| 2010 | 42,451   | 4,413                     | 11.6%                    | 41,569      | 3,531                     | 9.3%                     | 43,356      | 5,318                     | 14.0%                    |
| 2015 | 45,288   | 7,250                     | 19.1%                    | 44,033      | 5,995                     | 15.8%                    | 46,579      | 8,541                     | 22.5%                    |
| 2020 | 48,315   | 10,277                    | 27.0%                    | 46,625      | 8,587                     | 22.6%                    | 50,061      | 12,023                    | 31.6%                    |
| 2025 | 51,539   | 13,501                    | 35.5%                    | 49,365      | 11,327                    | 29.8%                    | 53,809      | 15,771                    | 41.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Hempstead County*

Hempstead County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Hempstead County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Hope (10,616), Blevins (365), Perrytown (255), Fulton (245), and Washington (148).



From 1970 to 1980, the county experienced relatively strong population growth. For the period, the county's population increased by 4,213 people, or 21.7 percent, from 19,378 to 23,591. The county's population declined every year from 1980 to 1989 (see Figure 30), decreasing by 1,943 people, or 8.2 percent, to 21,648. From 1989 to 1993, the county's population increased by 986 people, or 4.6 percent, to 22,634 in 1993.

From 1994 through 2002, population growth in the county moderated. The population of Hempstead County increased by a net 900 people, or 4.0 percent, for the period. In 2002, the population of the county stood at 23,492, 99 people less than the county's historical high in 1980. The county was the 32<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1994 to 2002 trend, the population of Hempstead County is projected to increase by 1,231 people, or 5.2 percent, to 24,723 by 2010 and by 3,296 people, or 14.0 percent, to 26,788 by 2025 (see Table 29). The county's population is projected to be between 24,082 and 25,382 in 2010 and between 25,456 and 28,192 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Hempstead County will be the 28<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 25<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Hempstead County are Howard (page 67), Lafayette (page 79), Little River (page 87), Miller (page 97), Nevada (page 105), Pike (page 115), and Sevier (page 139). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 30: Hempstead County Historical Population and Population Projections

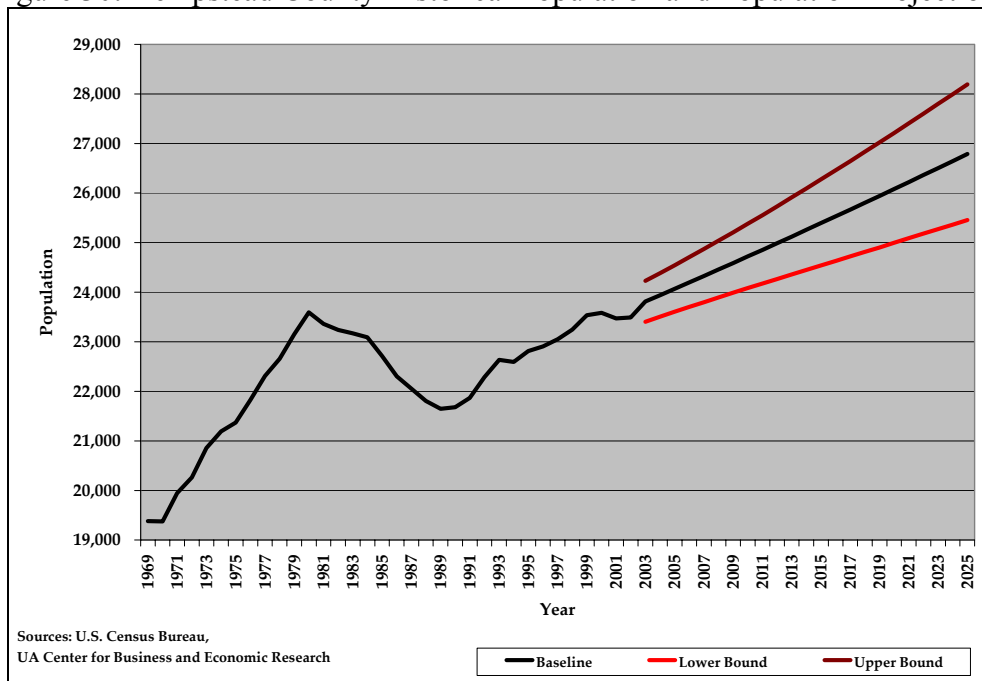


Table 29: Hempstead County Population Projections, Selected Years

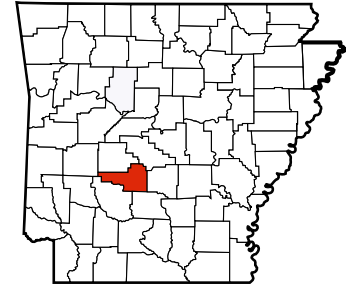
| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 23,244   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 23,536   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 23,586   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 23,472   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 23,492   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 24,069   | 577                       | 2.5%                     | 23,607      | 115                       | 0.5%                     | 24,543      | 1,051                     | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 24,723   | 1,231                     | 5.2%                     | 24,082      | 590                       | 2.5%                     | 25,382      | 1,890                     | 8.0%                     |
| 2015 | 25,392   | 1,900                     | 8.1%                     | 24,541      | 1,049                     | 4.5%                     | 26,276      | 2,784                     | 11.9%                    |
| 2020 | 26,082   | 2,590                     | 11.0%                    | 24,997      | 1,505                     | 6.4%                     | 27,214      | 3,722                     | 15.8%                    |
| 2025 | 26,788   | 3,296                     | 14.0%                    | 25,456      | 1,964                     | 8.4%                     | 28,192      | 4,700                     | 20.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Center

## *Hot Spring County*

Hot Spring County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Hot Spring County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Malvern (9,021), Rockport (792), Donaldson (326), Friendship (206), and Perla (115).



From 1971 to 1979, Hot Spring County experienced relatively strong population growth. For the period, the county's population increased by 4,693 people, or 21.3 percent, from 21,984 to 26,677. From 1979 to 1987, the population of Hot Spring County remained relatively stable, ranging from 26,415 to 26,902.

The county's population decreased three years in a row during 1988 through 1990 (see Figure 31). The population of Hot Spring County decreased by 780 people, or 2.9 percent, from 26,902 in 1987 to 26,122 in 1990. Since 1990, the county has experienced year-on-year population growth each year. The county's population grew by 2,882 people, or 11.0 percent, from 26,122 in 1990 to 29,004 in 1996.

Since 1996, the rate of population growth in Hot Spring County has moderated. From 1996 to 2002, the county's population increased by 1,554 people, or 5.4 percent, to 30,558. The county was the 22<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Hot Spring County is projected to increase by 2,483 people, or 8.1 percent, to 33,041 by 2010 and by 7,217 people, or 23.6 percent, to 37,775 by 2025 (see Table 30). The county's population is projected to be between 31,968 and 34,149 in 2010 and between 35,186 and 40,550 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Hot Spring County will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Hot Spring County are Clark (page 25), Dallas (page 45), Garland (page 57), Grant (page 59), Montgomery (page 103), and Saline (page 131). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244 and 238, respectively.

Figure 31: Hot Spring County Historical Population and Population Projections

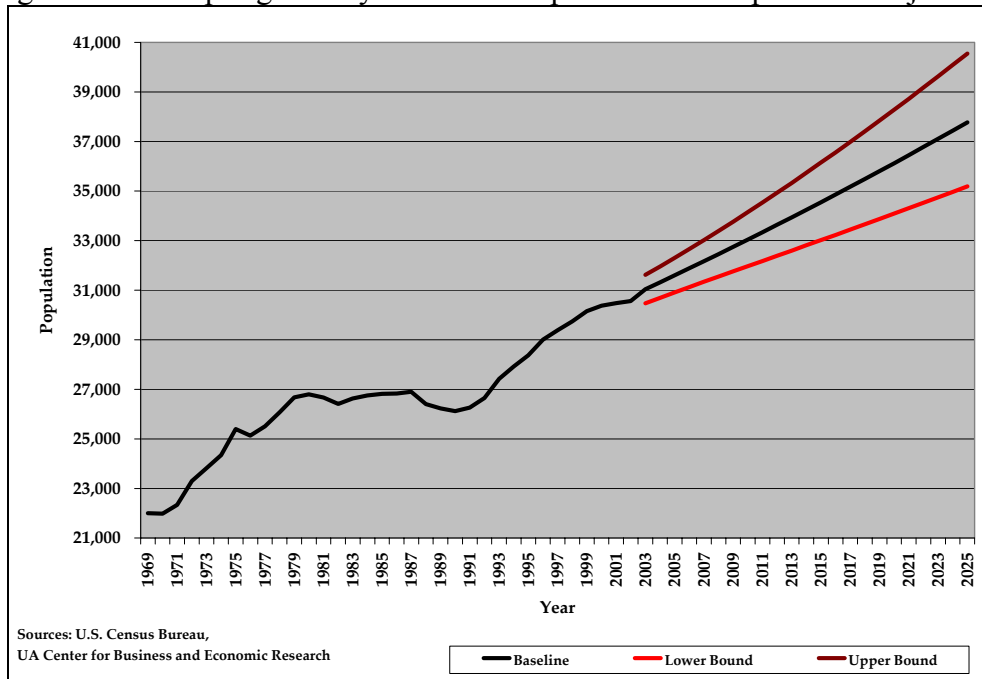


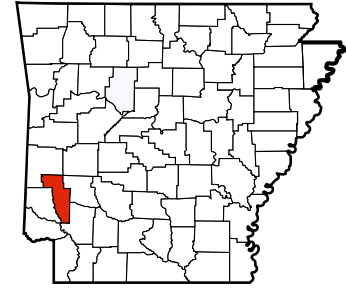
Table 30: Hot Spring County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 29,746   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 30,155   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 30,372   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 30,476   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 30,558   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 31,600   | 1,042                     | 3.4%                     | 30,912      | 354                       | 1.2%                     | 32,303      | 1,745                     | 5.7%                     |
| 2010 | 33,041   | 2,483                     | 8.1%                     | 31,968      | 1,410                     | 4.6%                     | 34,149      | 3,591                     | 11.8%                    |
| 2015 | 34,548   | 3,990                     | 13.1%                    | 33,021      | 2,463                     | 8.1%                     | 36,149      | 5,591                     | 18.3%                    |
| 2020 | 36,124   | 5,566                     | 18.2%                    | 34,091      | 3,533                     | 11.6%                    | 38,281      | 7,723                     | 25.3%                    |
| 2025 | 37,775   | 7,217                     | 23.6%                    | 35,186      | 4,628                     | 15.1%                    | 40,550      | 9,992                     | 32.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Howard County*

Howard County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Howard County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Nashville (4,878), Mineral Springs (1,264), Dierks (1,230), and Tollette (324).



From 1969 to 1972, the county's population increased by 1,441 people, or 12.7 percent, from 11,380 to 12,821. Population growth in Howard County moderated from 1972 to 1976 (see Figure 32), during which time the county's population increased by 165 people to 12,986. From 1976 to 1984, the county's population increased by a net 730 people, or 5.6 percent, to 13,716 in 1984. From 1984 to 1990, the county's population trended downward (albeit very slightly), decreasing by 122 people to 13,594 in 1990.

From 1990 to 1996, the county's population increased by 815 people, or 6.0 percent. The county's population reached an historic high of 14,409 in 1996. Modest population increases in 1998, 1999, and 2001 were offset by historically large decreases in 1997 and 2000 and a moderate decrease in 2002. The county was the 53<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 14,251.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Howard County is projected to decrease by 154 people, or 1.1 percent, to 14,097 by 2010 and by 449 people, or 3.2 percent, to 13,802 by 2025 (see Table 31). The county's population is projected to be between 13,862 and 14,337 in 2010 and between 13,312 and 14,313 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Howard County will be the 53<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 56<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Howard County are Hempstead (page 63), Little River (page 87), Montgomery (page 103), Pike (page 115), Polk (page 119), and Sevier (page 139). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.



Figure 32: Howard County Historical Population and Population Projections

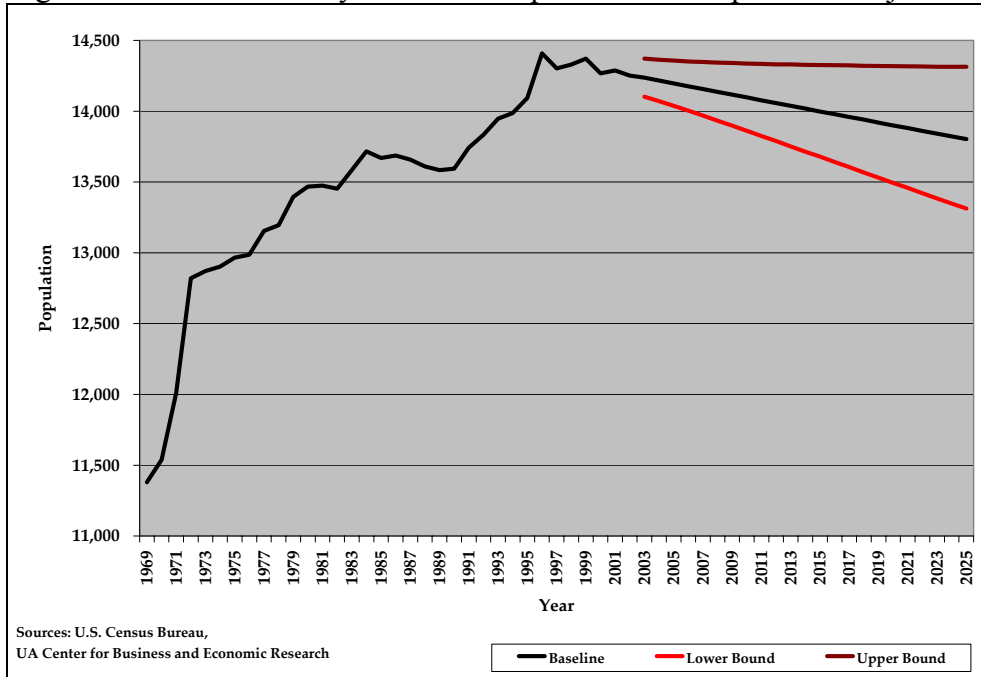


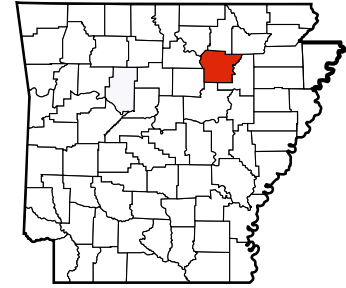
Table 31: Howard County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 14,329   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 14,371   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 14,267   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 14,288   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 14,251   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 14,196   | (55)                      | -0.4%                    | 14,038      | (213)                     | -1.5%                    | 14,357      | 106                       | 0.7%                     |
| 2010 | 14,097   | (154)                     | -1.1%                    | 13,862      | (389)                     | -2.7%                    | 14,337      | 86                        | 0.6%                     |
| 2015 | 13,998   | (253)                     | -1.8%                    | 13,679      | (572)                     | -4.0%                    | 14,326      | 75                        | 0.5%                     |
| 2020 | 13,899   | (352)                     | -2.5%                    | 13,494      | (757)                     | -5.3%                    | 14,318      | 67                        | 0.5%                     |
| 2025 | 13,802   | (449)                     | -3.2%                    | 13,312      | (939)                     | -6.6%                    | 14,313      | 62                        | 0.4%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Independence County*

Independence County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Batesville (9,445), Newark (1,219), Cushman (461), and Sulphur Rock (421).



From 1969 to 1972, the county's population increased by 2,004 people, or 8.9 percent, from 22,500 to 24,504. Population growth in the county moderated from 1972 to 1975 (see Figure 33). Year-on-year population gains exceeded 1,000 people four times from 1975 to 1980, during which time the county's population increased by 5,469 people, or 22.0 percent, to 30,285.

From 1980 to 1983, the county's population increased by 1,370 people, or 4.5 percent, to 31,655. From 1983 to 1990, the county's population decreased by a net 479 people, or 1.5 percent. From 1990 to 1997, the county's population increased by a net 2,129 people, or 6.8 percent, from 31,176 to 33,305.

Population growth moderated from 1997 to 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by 1,126 people, or 3.4 percent, to 34,431. The county was the 21<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Independence County is projected to increase by 2,136 people, or 6.2 percent, to 36,567 by 2010 and by 6,148 people, or 17.9 percent, to 40,579 by 2025 (see Table 32). The county's population is projected to be between 35,465 and 37,703 in 2010 and between 37,862 and 43,491 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Independence County will be the 21<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Independence County are Cleburne (page 29), Izard (page 71), Jackson (page 73), Lawrence (page 81), Sharp (page 141), Stone (page 143), White (page 151). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas and Central Arkansas planning areas can be found on page 240 and 238, respectively.

Figure 33: Independence County Historical Population and Population Projections

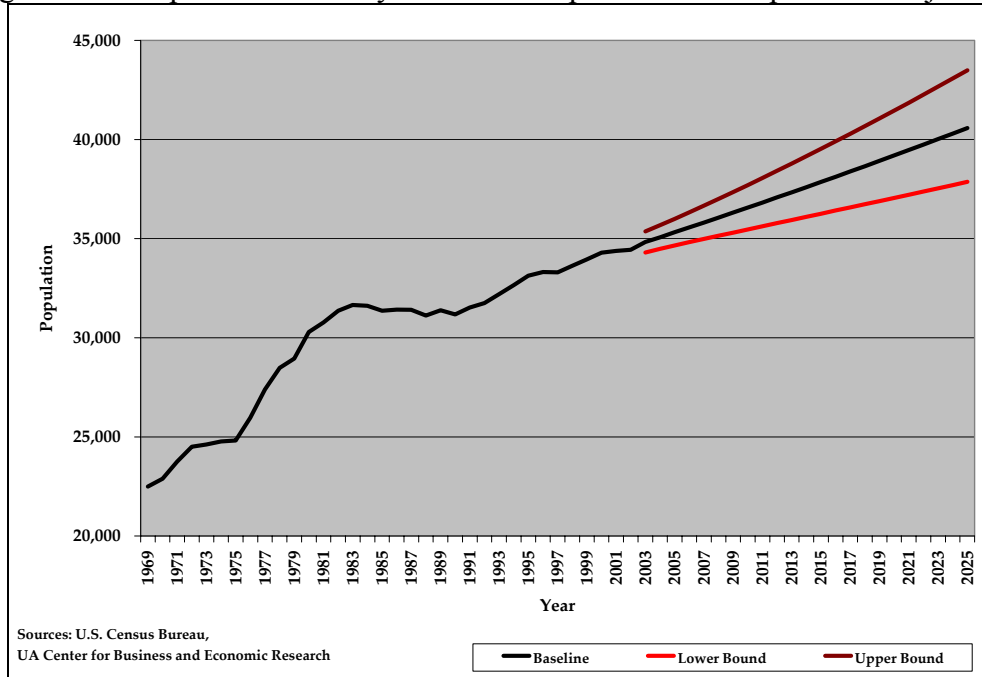


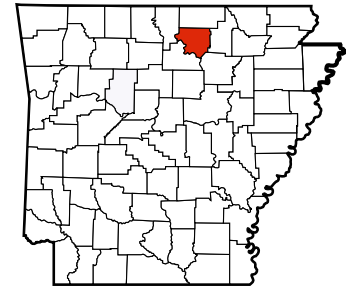
Table 32: Independence County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 33,629   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 33,951   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 34,294   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 34,384   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 34,431   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 35,320   | 889                       | 2.6%                     | 34,652      | 221                       | 0.6%                     | 35,997      | 1,566                     | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 36,567   | 2,136                     | 6.2%                     | 35,465      | 1,034                     | 3.0%                     | 37,703      | 3,272                     | 9.5%                     |
| 2015 | 37,858   | 3,427                     | 10.0%                    | 36,257      | 1,826                     | 5.3%                     | 39,529      | 5,098                     | 14.8%                    |
| 2020 | 39,195   | 4,764                     | 13.8%                    | 37,053      | 2,622                     | 7.6%                     | 41,457      | 7,026                     | 20.4%                    |
| 2025 | 40,579   | 6,148                     | 17.9%                    | 37,862      | 3,431                     | 10.0%                    | 43,491      | 9,060                     | 26.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Izard County*

Izard County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Izard County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Horseshoe Bend (2,266 of the city's 2,278 residents in 2000 lived in Izard County), Melbourne (1,673), Calico Rock (991), Oxford (642), Mount Pleasant (401), Pineville (246), and Franklin (184).



From 1969 to 1980, the county experienced relatively strong population growth (see Figure 34). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 3,440 people, or 46.9 percent, from 7,334 to 10,774. Population growth moderated from 1980 to 1988, during which time the county's population increased by a net 293 people to 11,067.

Population growth in Izard County accelerated from 1988 to 1997. For the period, the county's population increased by 2,008 people, or 18.1 percent, to 13,075. Since 1997, population growth has moderated, and the county's population declined by a total of 85 people in 2001 and 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 117 people to 13,192. The county was the 57<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Izard County is projected to increase by 303 people, or 2.3 percent, to 13,495 by 2010 and by 769 people, or 5.8 percent, to 13,961 by 2025 (see Table 33). The county's population is projected to be between 13,070 and 13,933 in 2010 and between 12,984 and 15,009 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Izard County will be the 55<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Izard County are Baxter (page 11), Fulton (page 55), Independence (page 69), Sharp (page 141), and Stone (page 143). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 34: IZARD COUNTY Historical Population and Population Projections

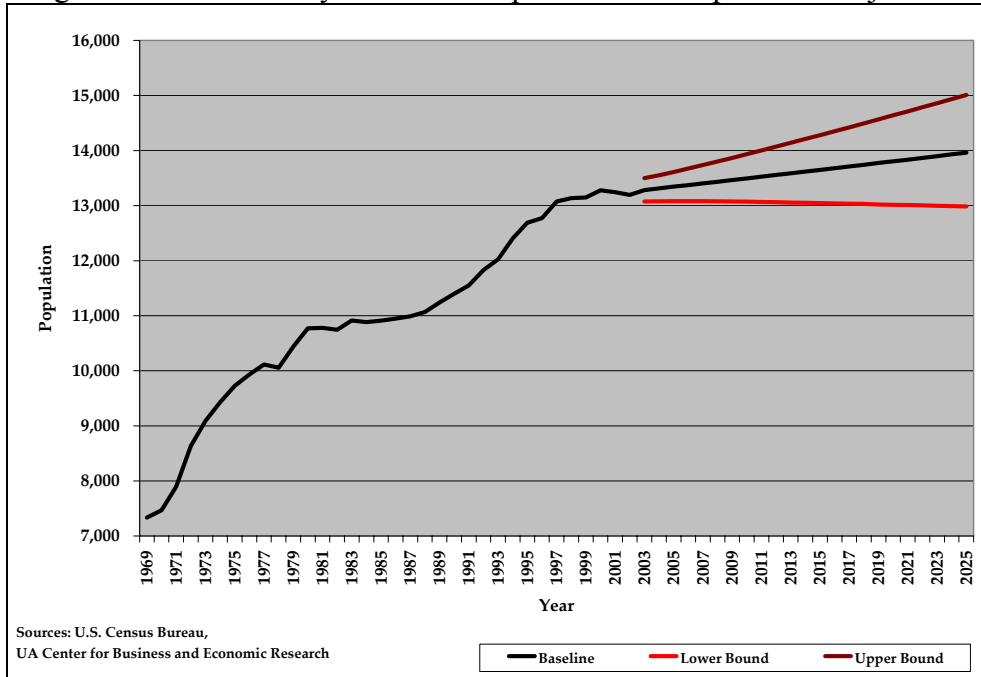


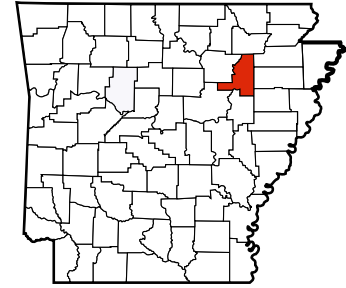
Table 33: IZARD COUNTY Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 13,137   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 13,145   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 13,277   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 13,245   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 13,192   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 13,344   | 152                       | 1.2%                     | 13,079      | (113)                     | -0.9%                    | 13,612      | 420                       | 3.2%                     |
| 2010 | 13,495   | 303                       | 2.3%                     | 13,070      | (122)                     | -0.9%                    | 13,933      | 741                       | 5.6%                     |
| 2015 | 13,649   | 457                       | 3.5%                     | 13,046      | (146)                     | -1.1%                    | 14,278      | 1,086                     | 8.2%                     |
| 2020 | 13,804   | 612                       | 4.6%                     | 13,016      | (176)                     | -1.3%                    | 14,638      | 1,446                     | 11.0%                    |
| 2025 | 13,961   | 769                       | 5.8%                     | 12,984      | (208)                     | -1.6%                    | 15,009      | 1,817                     | 13.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Jackson County*

Jackson County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Jackson County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Newport (7,811), Tuckerman (1,757), Diaz (1,284), Swifton (871), and Grubbs (438).



From 1970 to 1972, the county's population grew by 1,106 people, or 5.4 percent, from 20,615 to 21,721. Population growth slowed from 1972 to 1974 (see Figure 35), during which time the county's population increased by 206 people. After decreasing in 1975, the county's population reached an historic high of 22,032 in 1976. The county's population has decreased every year since 1976, save 1991, 1993, and 1998. From 1976 to 1983, the county's population decreased by 922 people, or 4.2 percent, to 21,110.

From 1983 to 1987, the county's population decreased by 1,728 people, or 8.2 percent, to 19,382. The rate of population loss slowed from 1987 to 1994 but then accelerated from 1994 to 1997. The county's population fell by 937 people, or 5.0 percent, from 18,843 in 1994 to 17,906 in 1997.

After increasing by 1,027 people to 18,933 in 1998, the county's population resumed its decline through 2002. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population decreased by 1,131 people, or 6.0 percent. The county was the 43<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 17,802, an historic low for the county.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Jackson County is projected to decrease by 2,230 people, or 12.5 percent, to 15,572 by 2010 and by 5,595, or 31.4 percent, to 12,207 by 2025 (see Table 34). The county's population is projected to be between 14,828 and 16,354 in 2010 and between 10,863 and 13,718 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Jackson County will be the 51<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 60<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Jackson County are Craighead (page 37), Cross (page 43), Independence (page 69), Lawrence (page 81), Poinsett (page 117), White (page 151), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 35: Jackson County Historical Population and Population Projections

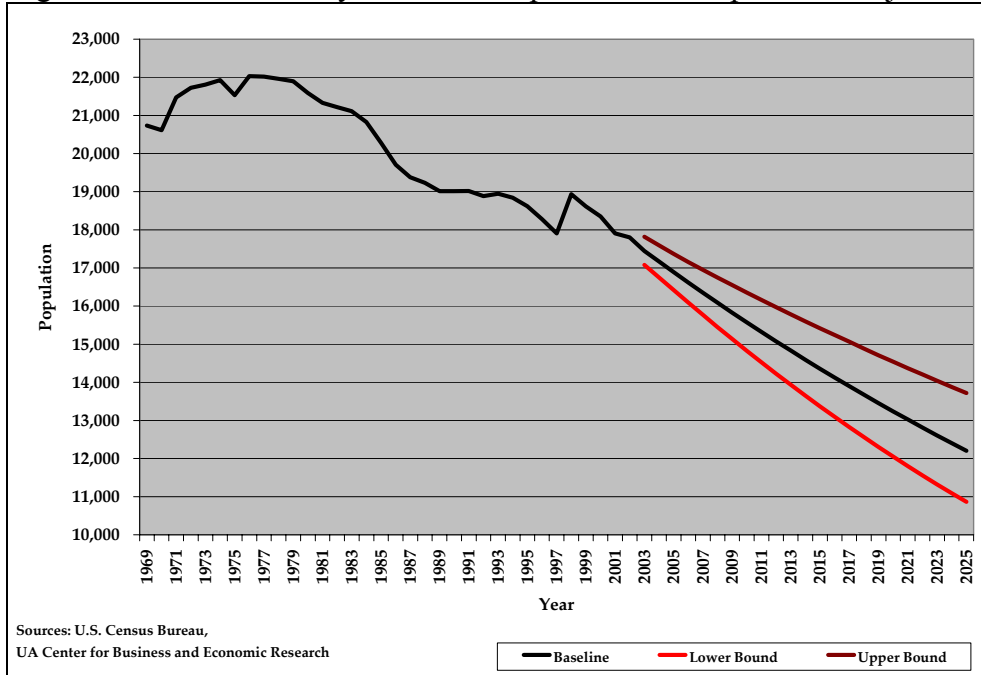


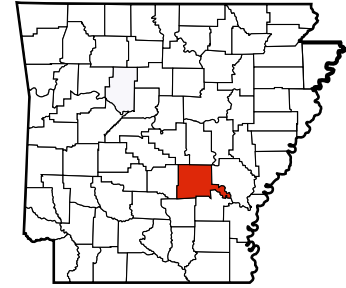
Table 34: Jackson County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 18,933   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 18,617   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 18,351   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 17,903   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 17,802   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 16,889   | (913)                     | -5.1%                    | 16,421      | (1,381)                   | -7.8%                    | 17,370      | (432)                     | -2.4%                    |
| 2010 | 15,572   | (2,230)                   | -12.5%                   | 14,828      | (2,974)                   | -16.7%                   | 16,354      | (1,448)                   | -8.1%                    |
| 2015 | 14,359   | (3,443)                   | -19.3%                   | 13,372      | (4,430)                   | -24.9%                   | 15,418      | (2,384)                   | -13.4%                   |
| 2020 | 13,239   | (4,563)                   | -25.6%                   | 12,053      | (5,749)                   | -32.3%                   | 14,542      | (3,260)                   | -18.3%                   |
| 2025 | 12,207   | (5,595)                   | -31.4%                   | 10,863      | (6,939)                   | -39.0%                   | 13,718      | (4,084)                   | -22.9%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Jefferson County*

Jefferson County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Jefferson County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Pine Bluff (55,085), White Hall (4,732), Altheimer (1,192), and Redfield (1,157). The county is a component of the Pine Bluff MSA.



The county's population was relatively stable from 1969 to 1975 (see Figure 36) and then increased by 5,865 people, or 6.9 percent, from 84,857 in 1975 to an historic high of 90,722 in 1980. The county's population has decreased in 17 of the 22 years since 1980, with a net population loss of 7,348 people. From 1981 to 1986, the county's population declined by 3,075 people, or 3.4 percent, from 90,542 to 87,467. From 1987 to 1990, the county's population fell by 2,052 people, or 2.3 percent, from 87,525 to 85,473.

From 1990 to 1994, the county's population increased by a net 236 people. Population losses resumed in 1995 and continued through 2002, save in 2000. From 1994 to 2002, the county's population fell by a net 2,335 people, or 2.7 percent, from 85,709 to 83,374. The county was the 9<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1994 to 2002 trend, the population of Jefferson County is projected to decrease by 2,050 people, or 2.5 percent, to 81,324 by 2010 and by 5,962 people, or 7.2 percent, to 77,412 by 2025 (see Table 35). The county's population is projected to be between 80,870 and 81,773 in 2010 and between 76,573 and 78,253 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Jefferson County will be the 9<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 12<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Jefferson County are Arkansas (page 7), Cleveland (page 31), Grant (page 59), Lincoln (page 85), Lonoke (page 91), and Pulaski (page 125). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Pine Bluff MSA and the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 232 and 242, respectively.



Figure 36: Jefferson County Historical Population and Population Projections

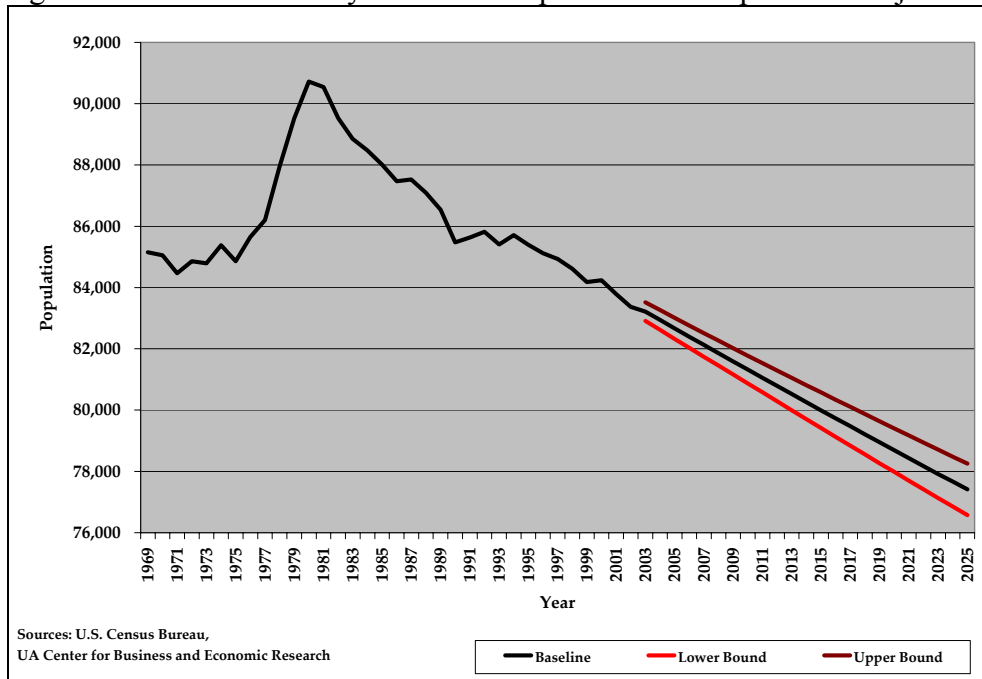


Table 35: Jefferson County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 84,611   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 84,178   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 84,238   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 83,790   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 83,374   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 82,669   | (705)                     | -0.8%                    | 82,323      | (1,051)                   | -1.3%                    | 83,009      | (365)                     | -0.4%                    |
| 2010 | 81,324   | (2,050)                   | -2.5%                    | 80,870      | (2,504)                   | -3.0%                    | 81,773      | (1,601)                   | -1.9%                    |
| 2015 | 79,993   | (3,381)                   | -4.1%                    | 79,420      | (3,954)                   | -4.7%                    | 80,580      | (2,794)                   | -3.4%                    |
| 2020 | 78,692   | (4,682)                   | -5.6%                    | 77,987      | (5,387)                   | -6.5%                    | 79,404      | (3,970)                   | -4.8%                    |
| 2025 | 77,412   | (5,962)                   | -7.2%                    | 76,573      | (6,801)                   | -8.2%                    | 78,253      | (5,121)                   | -6.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Johnson County***

Johnson County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Johnson County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Clarksville (7,719), Lamar (1,415), Coal Hill (1,001), Hartman (596), and Knoxville (511).

Johnson County experienced year-on-year population growth in 29 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. The county experienced relatively strong population growth from 1970 to 1978 (see Figure 37). During the period, the county's population increased by a net 3,786 people, or 27.6 percent, from 13,693 in 1970 to 17,479 in 1978.

From 1978 to 1990, population growth in Johnson County was relatively modest. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 826 people, to 18,305. Population growth accelerated during the 1990 to 1998 period, during which time the county's population increased by 4,268 people, or 23.3 percent, from 18,305 to 22,573.

From 1998 to 2002, the county's population increased by 575 people, or 2.5 percent. The county was the 33<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 23,148 people, an historic high.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Johnson County is projected to increase by 1,129 people, or 4.9 percent, to 24,277 by 2010 and by 3,495 people, or 15.1 percent, to 26,643 by 2025 (see Table 36). The county's population is projected to be between 23,790 and 24,775 in 2010 and between 25,382 and 27,965 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Johnson County will be the 30<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 26<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Johnson County are Franklin (page 53), Logan (page 89), Madison (page 93), Newton (page 107), Pope (page 121), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

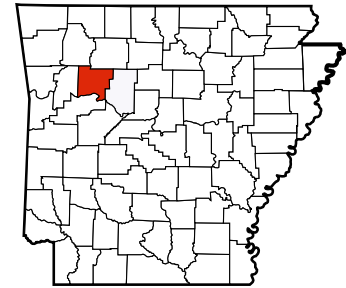


Figure 37: Johnson County Historical Population and Population Projections

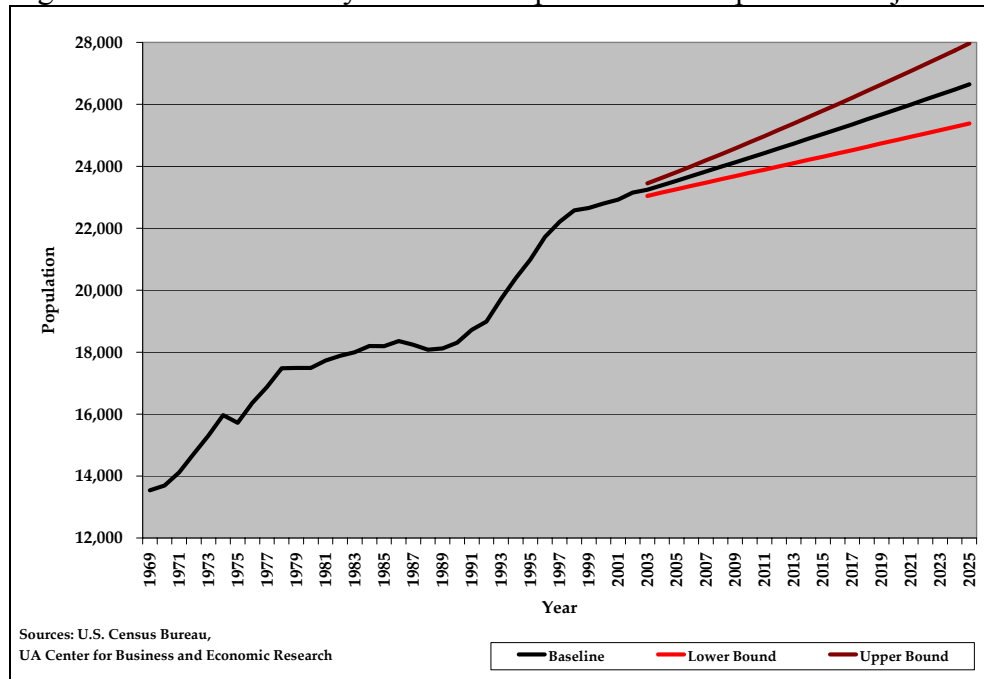


Table 36: Johnson County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 22,573   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 22,656   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 22,796   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 22,922   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 23,148   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 23,536   | 388                       | 1.7%                     | 23,263      | 115                       | 0.5%                     | 23,813      | 665                       | 2.9%                     |
| 2010 | 24,277   | 1,129                     | 4.9%                     | 23,790      | 642                       | 2.8%                     | 24,775      | 1,627                     | 7.0%                     |
| 2015 | 25,042   | 1,894                     | 8.2%                     | 24,311      | 1,163                     | 5.0%                     | 25,794      | 2,646                     | 11.4%                    |
| 2020 | 25,830   | 2,682                     | 11.6%                    | 24,842      | 1,694                     | 7.3%                     | 26,857      | 3,709                     | 16.0%                    |
| 2025 | 26,643   | 3,495                     | 15.1%                    | 25,382      | 2,234                     | 9.7%                     | 27,965      | 4,817                     | 20.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Lafayette County*

Lafayette County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Lafayette County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Stamps (2,131), Lewisville (1,285), Bradley (563), and Buckner (396).

From 1969 to 1972, the county's population decreased by a net 397 people, or 3.9 percent, from 10,119 to 9,722. The county's population then increased by a net 628 people to its historical high of 10,350 in 1978. From 1978 to 1982, the county's population decreased by 219 people to 10,131.

The county experienced year-on-year population declines in 15 of the 18 years since 1984 (see Figure 38). From 1984 to 2002, the county's population decreased by a net 1,914 people, or 18.6 percent. From 1984 to 1995, the population of county's population decreased by a net 1,130 people, or 11.0 percent, from 10,296 to 9,166. The rate of population loss accelerated from 1995 to 2002, during which time the county's population decreased by 784 people, or 8.6 percent. The county was the 3<sup>rd</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 8,382.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Lafayette County is projected to decrease by 919 people, or 11.0 percent, to 7,463 by 2010 and by 2,305 people, or 27.5 percent, to 6,077 by 2025 (see Table 37). The county's population is projected to be between 7,304 and 7,626 in 2010 and between 5,816 and 6,351 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Lafayette County will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Lafayette County are Columbia County, Arkansas (page 33); Hempstead County, Arkansas (page 63); Miller County, Arkansas (page 97); Nevada County, Arkansas (page 105); Bossier Parish, Louisiana (page 157); Caddo Parish, Louisiana (page 159); and Webster Parish, Louisiana (page 166). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

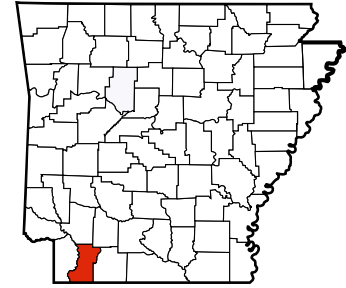


Figure 38: Lafayette County Historical Population and Population Projections

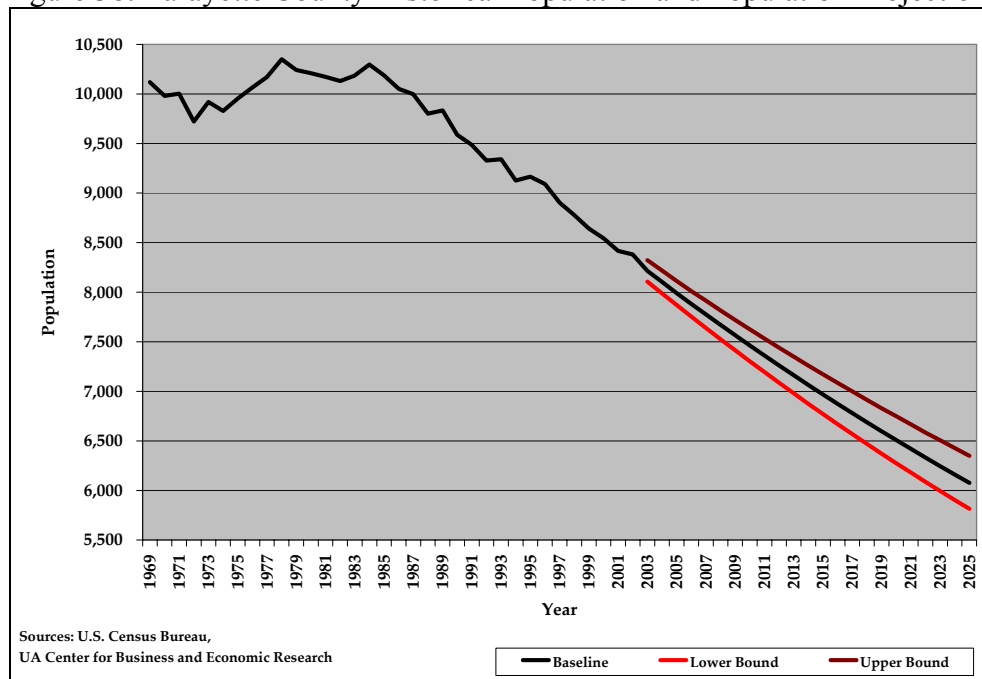


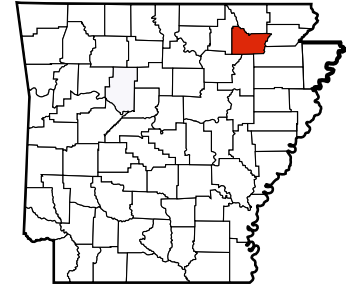
Table 37: Lafayette County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,778    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 8,643    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 8,544    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 8,416    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,382    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 7,992    | (390)                     | -4.7%                    | 7,871       | (511)                     | -6.1%                    | 8,114       | (268)                     | -3.2%                    |
| 2010 | 7,463    | (919)                     | -11.0%                   | 7,304       | (1,078)                   | -12.9%                   | 7,626       | (756)                     | -9.0%                    |
| 2015 | 6,969    | (1,413)                   | -16.9%                   | 6,772       | (1,610)                   | -19.2%                   | 7,172       | (1,210)                   | -14.4%                   |
| 2020 | 6,508    | (1,874)                   | -22.4%                   | 6,276       | (2,106)                   | -25.1%                   | 6,749       | (1,633)                   | -19.5%                   |
| 2025 | 6,077    | (2,305)                   | -27.5%                   | 5,816       | (2,566)                   | -30.6%                   | 6,351       | (2,031)                   | -24.2%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Lawrence County*

Lawrence County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Lawrence County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Walnut Ridge (4,925), Hoxie (2,817), Black Rock (717), Imboden (684), and Ravenden (511).



From 1970 to 1976, the county's population increased by 2,053 people, or 12.5 percent, from 16,407 to 18,460. The county's population decreased by a net 225 people from 1976 to 1979 and then increased by 372 people to an historical high of 18,607 in 1981. The county's population then decreased for 11 consecutive years from 1981 to 1992 (see Figure 39). For the period, the county's population decreased by 1,106 people, or 5.9 percent, to 17,501.

From 1992 to 1997, the county experienced modest population growth. For the period, the county's population increased by 423 people, or 2.4 percent, to 17,924. Since 1997, the county's population has decreased by a net 337 people. The county was the 44<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 17,587.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Lawrence County is projected to decrease by 481 people, or 2.7 percent, to 17,106 by 2010 and by 1,406 people, or 8.0 percent, to 16,181 by 2025 (see Table 38). The county's population is projected to be between 16,339 and 17,912 in 2010 and between 14,583 and 17,956 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Lawrence County will be the 48<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 49<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Lawrence County are Craighead (page 37), Greene (page 61), Independence (page 69), Jackson (page 73), Randolph (page 127), and Sharp (page 141). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 39: Lawrence County Historical Population and Population Projections

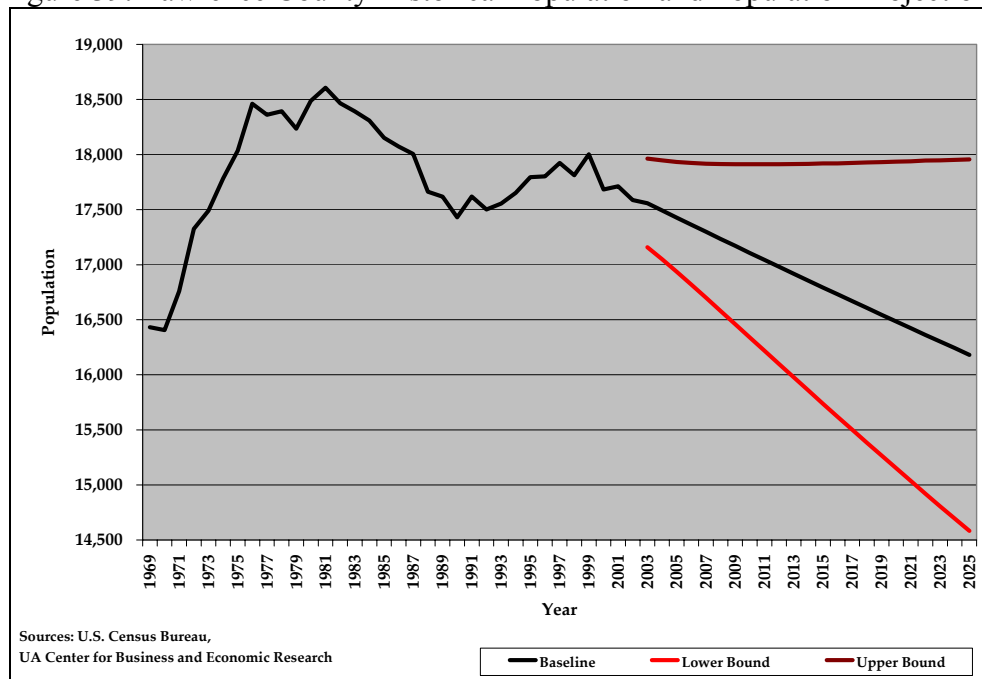


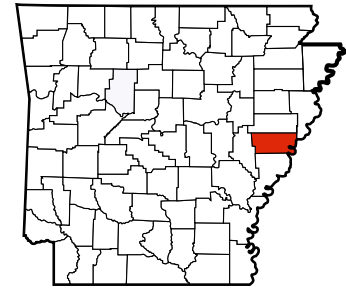
Table 38: Lawrence County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 17,811   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 18,003   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 17,683   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 17,711   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 17,587   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 17,427   | (160)                     | -0.9%                    | 16,936      | (651)                     | -3.7%                    | 17,933      | 346                       | 2.0%                     |
| 2010 | 17,106   | (481)                     | -2.7%                    | 16,339      | (1,248)                   | -7.1%                    | 17,912      | 325                       | 1.8%                     |
| 2015 | 16,793   | (794)                     | -4.5%                    | 15,739      | (1,848)                   | -10.5%                   | 17,919      | 332                       | 1.9%                     |
| 2020 | 16,485   | (1,102)                   | -6.3%                    | 15,152      | (2,435)                   | -13.8%                   | 17,935      | 348                       | 2.0%                     |
| 2025 | 16,181   | (1,406)                   | -8.0%                    | 14,583      | (3,004)                   | -17.1%                   | 17,956      | 369                       | 2.1%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Lee County*

Lee County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Lee County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Marianna (5,181), Moro (241), Rondo (237), Aubrey (221), Haynes (214), and La Grange (122).



The population of Lee County decreased in 27 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 40). For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 6,909 people, or 36.1 percent, from 19,126 in 1969 to 12,217 in 2002. This translates to an average growth rate of negative 1.3 percent per annum.

From 1969 to 1974, the county's population decreased by 2,370 people, or 12.4 percent, to 16,756. After increasing by 314 people in 1975, Lee County's population decreased by 1,523 people, or 8.9 percent from 1975 to 1980. In 1980, the county's population stood at 15,547 people.

The rate of population loss slowed during the 1981 to 1992 period, during which the county's population declined by 2,746 people, or 17.7 percent, from 15,550 to 12,804. Despite three years of modest population gains from 1996 to 1999, the population of Lee County has been generally decreasing since 1993. For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 807 people, or 6.2 percent, from 13,024 in 1993 to 12,217 in 2002. The county was the 59<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1993 to 2002 trend, the population of Lee County is projected to decrease by 366 people, or 3.0 percent, to 11,851 by 2010 and by 1,209 people, or 9.9 percent, to 11,008 by 2025 (see Table 39). The county's population is projected to be between 11,320 and 12,408 in 2010 and between 10,111 and 11,984 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Lee County will be the 61<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 64<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Lee County are Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41); Monroe County, Arkansas (page 101); Phillips County, Arkansas (page 113); St. Francis County, Arkansas (page 129); and Tunica County, Mississippi (page 178). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.



Figure 40: Lee County Historical Population and Population Projections

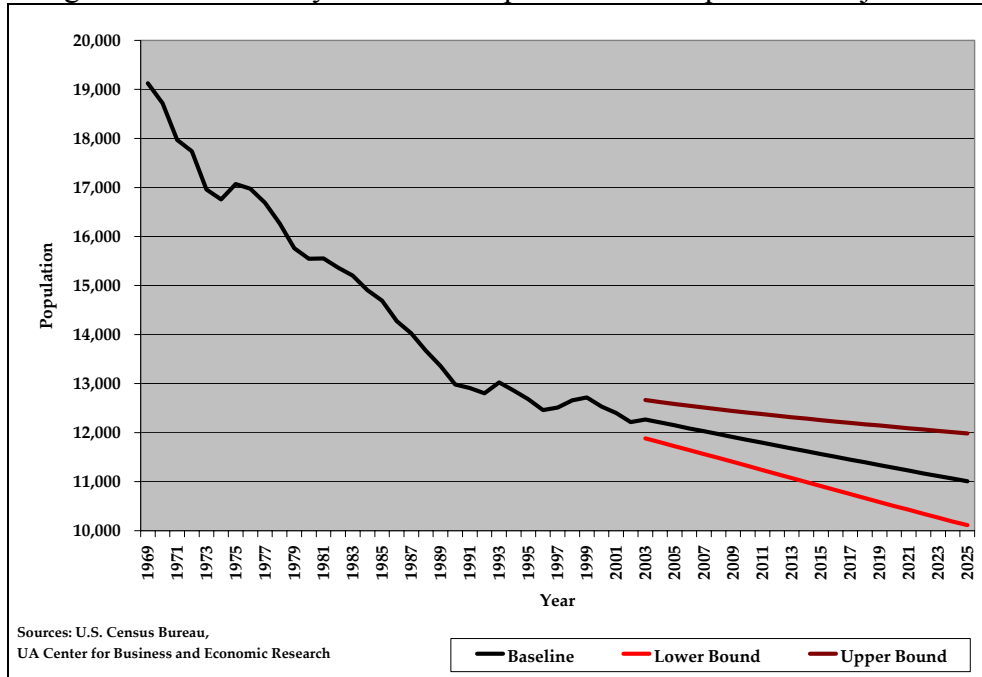


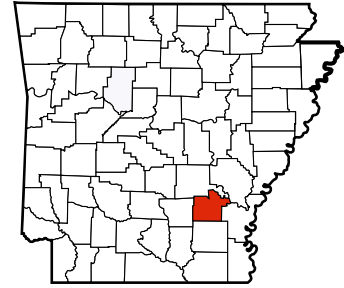
Table 39: Lee County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 12,658   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 12,719   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 12,532   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 12,402   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 12,217   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 12,147   | (70)                      | -0.6%                    | 11,724      | (493)                     | -4.0%                    | 12,584      | 367                       | 3.0%                     |
| 2010 | 11,851   | (366)                     | -3.0%                    | 11,320      | (897)                     | -7.3%                    | 12,408      | 191                       | 1.6%                     |
| 2015 | 11,563   | (654)                     | -5.4%                    | 10,910      | (1,307)                   | -10.7%                   | 12,256      | 39                        | 0.3%                     |
| 2020 | 11,282   | (935)                     | -7.7%                    | 10,505      | (1,712)                   | -14.0%                   | 12,116      | (101)                     | -0.8%                    |
| 2025 | 11,008   | (1,209)                   | -9.9%                    | 10,111      | (2,106)                   | -17.2%                   | 11,984      | (233)                     | -1.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Lincoln County*

Lincoln County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Lincoln County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Star City (2,471), Gould (1,305), and Grady (523). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Pine Bluff MSA.



The population of Lincoln County decreased by 653 people, or 5.0 percent from 13,056 in 1969 to an historic low of 12,403 in 1973 (see Figure 41). From 1973 to 1975, the county's population increased by 888 people, or 7.2 percent, to 13,291. The county's population ranged from 12,995 to 13,394 between 1976 and 1986.

From 1986 to 1988, the county's population increased by 543 people, or 4.2 percent. From 1988 to 1997, the county's population increased by 881 people, or 6.5 percent, from 13,538 to 14,419.

The trend in population growth is less clear in the 1997 to 2002 period than in previous years. The county's population decreased by 36 people in 1998; increased by 91, 6, and 4 people in 1999, 2000, and 2001, respectively; and decreased by 237 people in 2002. The county was the 54<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 14,247.

Based on the 1997 through 2002 trend, the population of Lincoln County is projected to increase by 1 person to 14,248 by 2010 and decrease by 232 people, or 1.6 percent, to 14,015 by 2025 (see Table 40). The county's population is projected to be between 13,540 and 14,994 in 2010 and between 12,485 and 15,731 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Lincoln County will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 53<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Lincoln County are Arkansas (page 7), Cleveland (page 31), Desha (page 47), Drew (page 49), and Jefferson (page 75). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Pine Bluff MSA and the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 232 and 242, respectively.

Figure 41: Lincoln County Historical Population and Population Projections

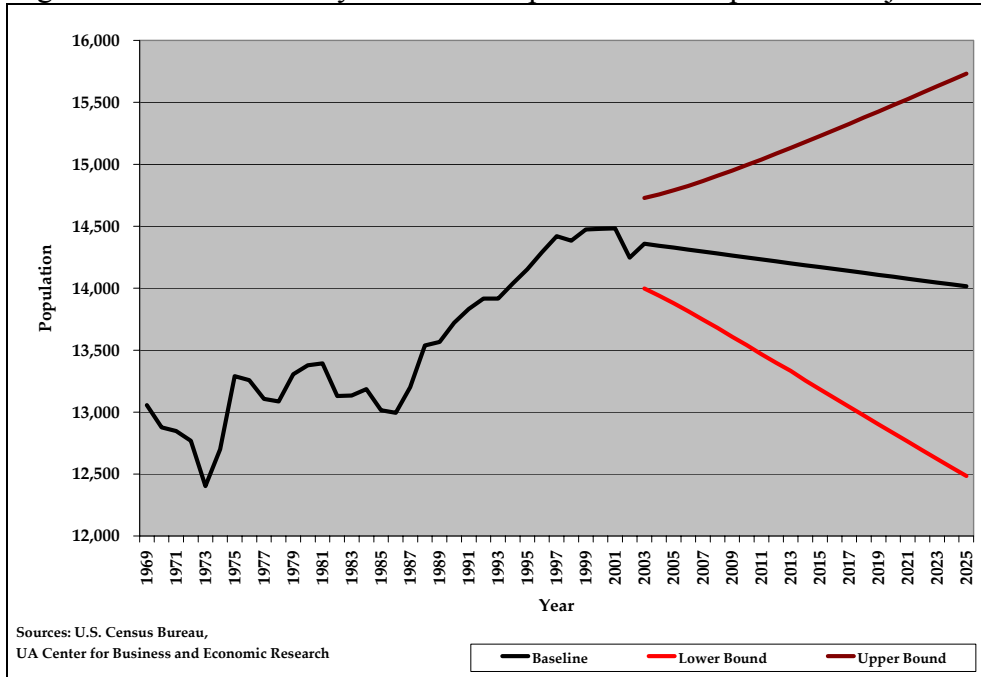


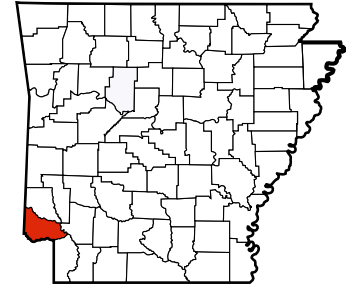
Table 40: Lincoln County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 14,383   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 14,474   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 14,480   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 14,484   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 14,247   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 14,327   | 80                        | 0.6%                     | 13,879      | (368)                     | -2.6%                    | 14,790      | 543                       | 3.8%                     |
| 2010 | 14,248   | 1                         | 0.0%                     | 13,540      | (707)                     | -5.0%                    | 14,994      | 747                       | 5.2%                     |
| 2015 | 14,170   | (77)                      | -0.5%                    | 13,185      | (1,062)                   | -7.5%                    | 15,228      | 981                       | 6.9%                     |
| 2020 | 14,093   | (154)                     | -1.1%                    | 12,832      | (1,415)                   | -9.9%                    | 15,477      | 1,230                     | 8.6%                     |
| 2025 | 14,015   | (232)                     | -1.6%                    | 12,485      | (1,762)                   | -12.4%                   | 15,731      | 1,484                     | 10.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Little River County***

Little River County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Little River County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Ashdown (4,781), Foreman (1,125), Wilton (439), Ogden (214), and Winthrop (186).



Little River County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1969 to 1979 (see Figure 42). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 3,514 people, or 31.9 percent, from 11,021 in 1969 to an historic high of 14,535 in 1979. This translates to an average growth rate of 2.8 percent per annum.

After decreasing by 563 people in 1980, the population of Little River County ranged from 13,856 to 14,021 during the 1981 to 1990 period. From 1990 to 2002, the county's population decreased by a net 528 people, or 3.8 percent, from 14,002 to 13,474. The county was the 56<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1992 to 2002 trend, the population of Little River County is projected to decrease by 239 people, or 1.8 percent, to 13,235 by 2010 and by 674 people, or 5.0 percent, to 12,800 by 2025 (see Table 41). The county's population is projected to be between 13,076 and 13,397 in 2010 and between 12,528 and 13,078 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Little River County will be the 57<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 59<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Little River County are Hempstead County, Arkansas (page 63); Howard County, Arkansas (page 67); Miller County, Arkansas (page 97); Sevier County, Arkansas (page 139); McCurtain County, Oklahoma (page 202); and Bowie County, Texas (page 213). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 42: Little River County Historical Population and Population Projections

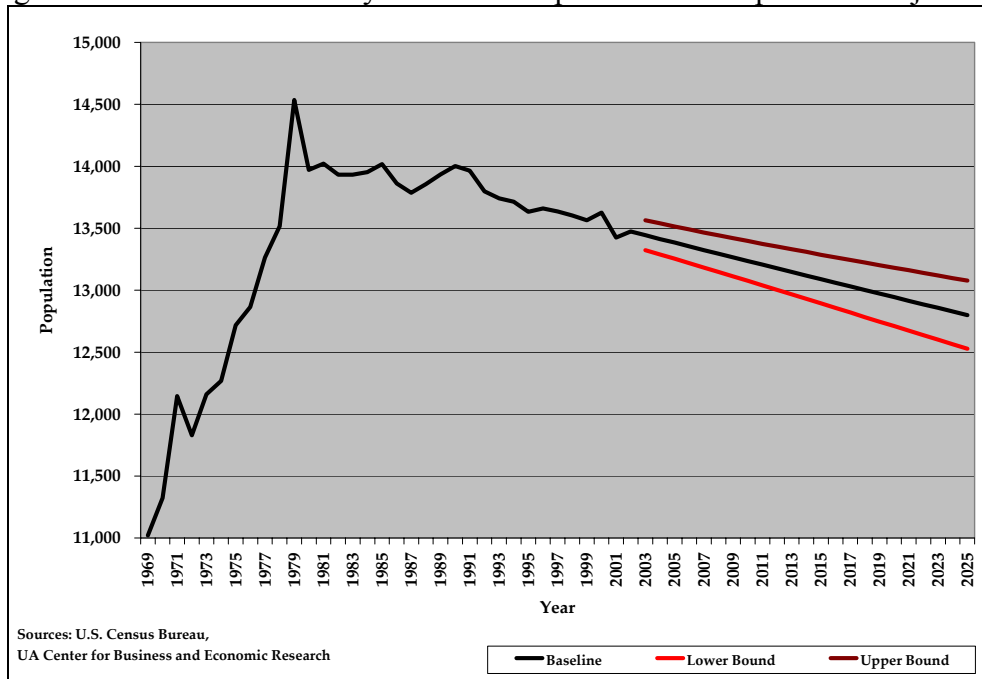


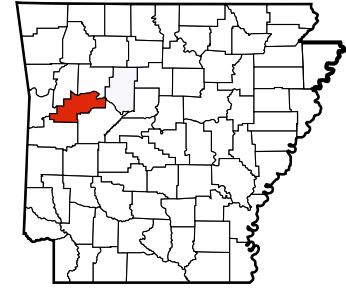
Table 41: Little River County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 13,604   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 13,565   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 13,626   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 13,425   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 13,474   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 13,384   | (90)                      | -0.7%                    | 13,255      | (219)                     | -1.6%                    | 13,514      | 40                        | 0.3%                     |
| 2010 | 13,235   | (239)                     | -1.8%                    | 13,076      | (398)                     | -3.0%                    | 13,397      | (77)                      | -0.6%                    |
| 2015 | 13,089   | (385)                     | -2.9%                    | 12,894      | (580)                     | -4.3%                    | 13,286      | (188)                     | -1.4%                    |
| 2020 | 12,944   | (530)                     | -3.9%                    | 12,711      | (763)                     | -5.7%                    | 13,181      | (293)                     | -2.2%                    |
| 2025 | 12,800   | (674)                     | -5.0%                    | 12,528      | (946)                     | -7.0%                    | 13,078      | (396)                     | -2.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Logan County***

Logan County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Logan County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Booneville (4,117), Paris (3,707), Magazine (915), Subiaco (439), Caulksville (233), and Scranton (222).



The county experienced relatively strong population growth from 1970 to 1978 (see Figure 43). For the period, the county's population increased by 3,161 people, or 18.8 percent, from 16,821 to 19,982. The county experienced moderate population growth from 1978 to 1985. During the period, the population of Logan County increased by a net 753 people, or 3.8 percent, to 20,735. The county's population then declined for four consecutive years from 1985 to 1989; population losses totaled 192.

The county experienced year-on-year population growth each year from 1989 to 2002, save in 2001. Population growth was relatively strong from 1991 to 1996; for the period, the county's population increased by 1,173 people, or 5.7 percent, from 20,655 to 21,828. Population growth moderated during the 1996 to 2002 period. The county's population increased by a net 566 people, or 2.6 percent, from 21,828 in 1996 to 22,394 in 2002. The county was the 34<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Logan County is projected to increase by 1,016, or 4.5 percent, to 23,410 by 2010 and by 2,793, or 12.5 percent, to 25,187 by 2025 (see Table 42). The county's population is projected to be between 22,688 and 24,154 in 2010 and between 23,548 and 26,941 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Logan County will be the 33<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 29<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Logan County are Franklin (page 53), Johnson (page 77), Pope (page 121), Scott (page 133), Sebastian (page 137), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 43: Logan County Historical Population and Population Projections

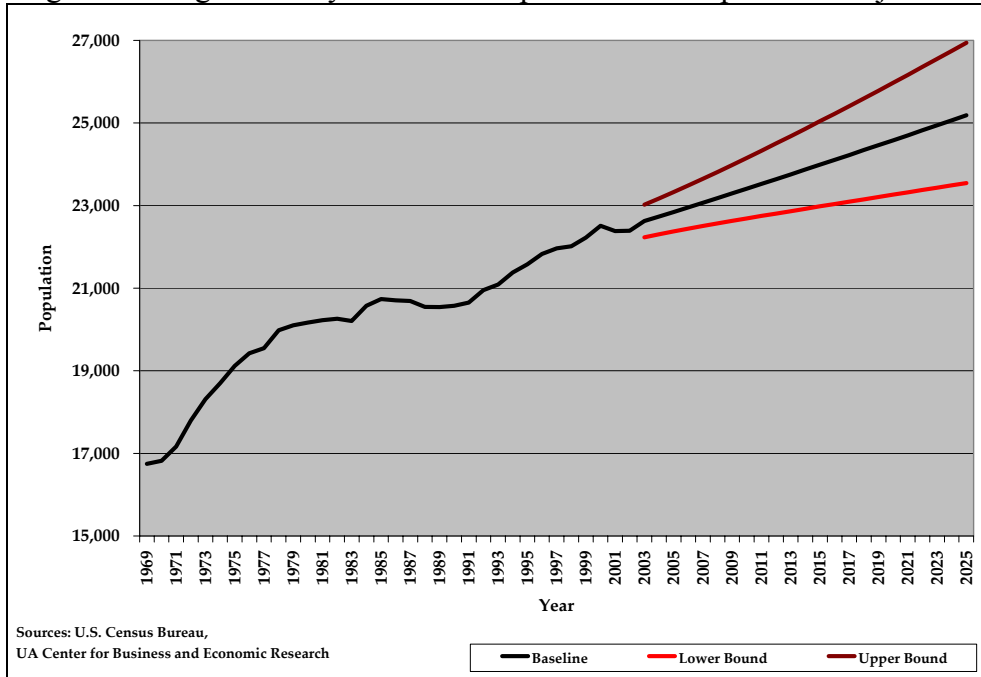


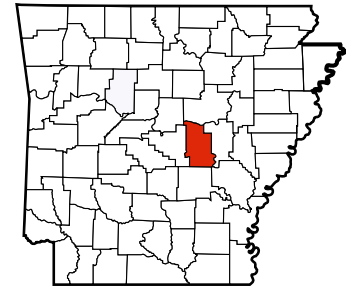
Table 42: Logan County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 22,017   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 22,223   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 22,511   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 22,382   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 22,394   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 22,845   | 451                       | 2.0%                     | 22,375      | (19)                      | -0.1%                    | 23,328      | 934                       | 4.2%                     |
| 2010 | 23,410   | 1,016                     | 4.5%                     | 22,688      | 294                       | 1.3%                     | 24,154      | 1,760                     | 7.9%                     |
| 2015 | 23,988   | 1,594                     | 7.1%                     | 22,980      | 586                       | 2.6%                     | 25,042      | 2,648                     | 11.8%                    |
| 2020 | 24,580   | 2,186                     | 9.8%                     | 23,265      | 871                       | 3.9%                     | 25,970      | 3,576                     | 16.0%                    |
| 2025 | 25,187   | 2,793                     | 12.5%                    | 23,548      | 1,154                     | 5.2%                     | 26,941      | 4,547                     | 20.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Lonoke County***

Lonoke County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Lonoke County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Cabot (15,261), Lonoke (4,287), England (2,972), Ward (2,580), and Carlisle (2,304). The county is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



The county's population increased every year from 1969 to 2002 (see Figure 44). For the period, the county's population increased by 29,155 people, or 111.5 percent, from 26,147 to 55,302. This translates to an average growth rate of 2.3 percent per annum. From 1969 to 1978, the county's population increased by 7,503 people, or 28.7 percent, from 26,147 to 33,650. From 1978 to 1991, the county's population increased by 6,241 people, or 18.5 percent, to 39,891.

From 1991 to 1997, the county's population increased by 9,616 people, or 24.1 percent. From 1997 to 2002, population growth moderated. For the period, the county's population grew by 5,795 people, or 11.7 percent, from 49,507 in 1997 to 55,302 in 2002. The county was the 11<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Lonoke County is projected to increase by 11,088 people, or 20.0 percent, to 66,390 by 2010 and by 37,954, or 68.6 percent, to 93,256 by 2025 (see Table 43). The county's population is projected to be between 64,757 and 68,057 in 2010 and between 88,150 and 98,657 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Lonoke County will be the 11<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 10<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Lonoke County are Arkansas (page 7), Faulkner (page 51), Jefferson (page 75), Prairie (page 123), Pulaski (page 125), and White (page 151). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.



Figure 44: Lonoke County Historical Population and Population Projections

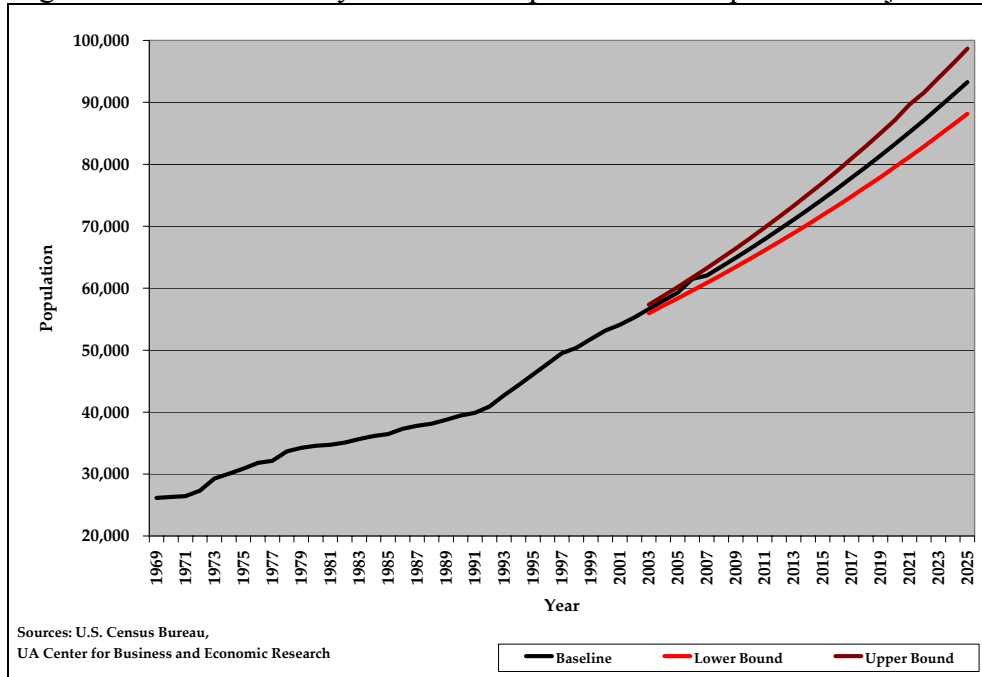


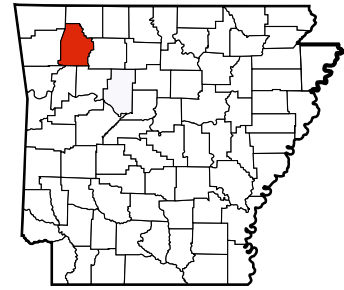
Table 43: Lonoke County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 50,373   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 51,807   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 53,164   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 54,090   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 55,302   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 59,278   | 3,976                     | 7.2%                     | 58,367      | 3,065                     | 5.5%                     | 60,204      | 4,902                     | 8.9%                     |
| 2010 | 66,390   | 11,088                    | 20.0%                    | 64,757      | 9,455                     | 17.1%                    | 68,057      | 12,755                    | 23.1%                    |
| 2015 | 74,355   | 19,053                    | 34.5%                    | 71,783      | 16,481                    | 29.8%                    | 77,011      | 21,709                    | 39.3%                    |
| 2020 | 83,266   | 27,964                    | 50.6%                    | 79,555      | 24,253                    | 43.9%                    | 87,160      | 31,858                    | 57.6%                    |
| 2025 | 93,256   | 37,954                    | 68.6%                    | 88,150      | 32,848                    | 59.4%                    | 98,657      | 43,355                    | 78.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Madison County***

Madison County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Madison County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Huntsville (1,931) and the towns of St. Paul (163) and Hindsville (75). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA.



Madison County experienced relatively moderate population growth from 1969 to 1974 (see Figure 45). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 350 people, or 3.7 percent, from 9,418 to 9,768. From 1974 to 1980, the county's population grew by 1,602 people, or 16.4 percent, to 11,370 in 1980.

Population growth decelerated during the 1980 to 1990 period. In 1990, the county's population stood at 11,654, a net increase of 284 people, or 2.5 percent, from the county's population in 1980. From 1990 to 1994, the county's population increased by 1,603 people, or 13.8 percent, to 13,257 in 1994. From 1995 to 2002, the county's population grew by a net 1,082 people, or 8.2 percent, from 13,263 to 14,345. The county was the 52<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Madison County is projected to increase by 1,678 people, or 11.7 percent, to 16,023 by 2010 and by 4,963 people, or 34.6 percent, to 19,308 by 2025 (see Table 44). The county's population is projected to be between 15,489 and 16,577 in 2010 and between 18,014 and 20,694 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Madison County will be the 50<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 44<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Madison County are Benton (page 13), Carroll (page 21), Crawford (page 39), Franklin (page 53), Johnson (page 77), Newton (page 107), and Washington (page 149). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 217 and 241, respectively.

Figure 45: Madison County Historical Population and Population Projections

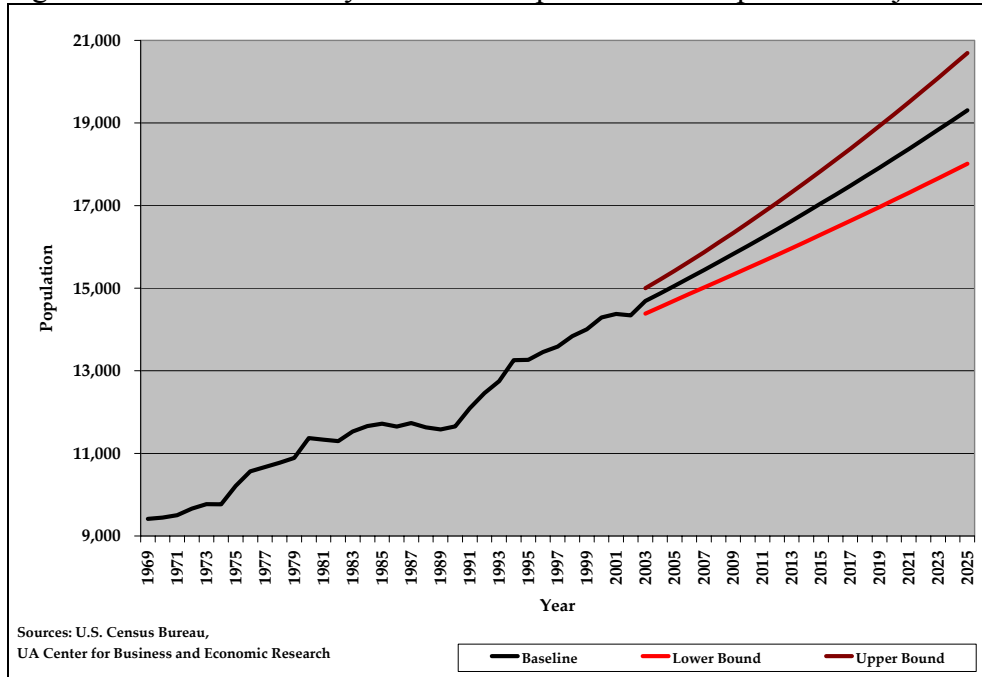


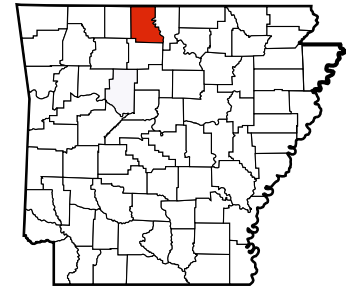
Table 44: Madison County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 13,837   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 14,003   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 14,295   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 14,379   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 14,345   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 15,059   | 714                       | 5.0%                     | 14,703      | 358                       | 2.5%                     | 15,424      | 1,079                     | 7.5%                     |
| 2010 | 16,023   | 1,678                     | 11.7%                    | 15,489      | 1,144                     | 8.0%                     | 16,577      | 2,232                     | 15.6%                    |
| 2015 | 17,052   | 2,707                     | 18.9%                    | 16,296      | 1,951                     | 13.6%                    | 17,840      | 3,495                     | 24.4%                    |
| 2020 | 18,144   | 3,799                     | 26.5%                    | 17,137      | 2,792                     | 19.5%                    | 19,212      | 4,867                     | 33.9%                    |
| 2025 | 19,308   | 4,963                     | 34.6%                    | 18,014      | 3,669                     | 25.6%                    | 20,694      | 6,349                     | 44.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Marion County***

Marion County is located in north-central Arkansas and is in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Marion County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Bull Shoals (2,000), Flippin (1,357), Yellville (1,312), Summit (586), and the town of Pyatt (253).



The county experienced year-on-year population growth in 29 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 46). For the period, the county's population grew by a net 9,337 people, or 134.9 percent (or 2.7 percent per annum), from 6,922 to 16,259.

From 1969 to 1978, the county's population increased by 4,276 people, or 61.8 percent, from 6,922 to 11,198. Population growth decelerated from 1978 to 1991. For the period, the county's population grew by a net 1,060 people, or 9.5 percent, to 12,258.

From 1991 to 1998, the county's population increased by 3,559 people, or 29.0 percent, to 15,817. Since 1998, population growth in Marion County has slowed, and in 2002, the county's population decreased by 57 people. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 442 people, or 2.8 percent, to 16,259. The county was the 49<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Marion County is projected to increase by 1,144 people, or 7.0 percent, to 17,403 by 2010 and by 3,296 people, or 20.3 percent, to 19,555 by 2025 (see Table 45). The county's population is projected to be between 16,421 and 18,446 in 2010 and between 17,023 and 22,465 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Marion County will be the 45<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 42<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Marion County are Baxter County, Arkansas (page 11); Boone County, Arkansas (page 15); Searcy County, Arkansas (page 135); Ozark County, Missouri (page 190); and Taney County, Missouri (page 196). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 46: Marion County Historical Population and Population Projections

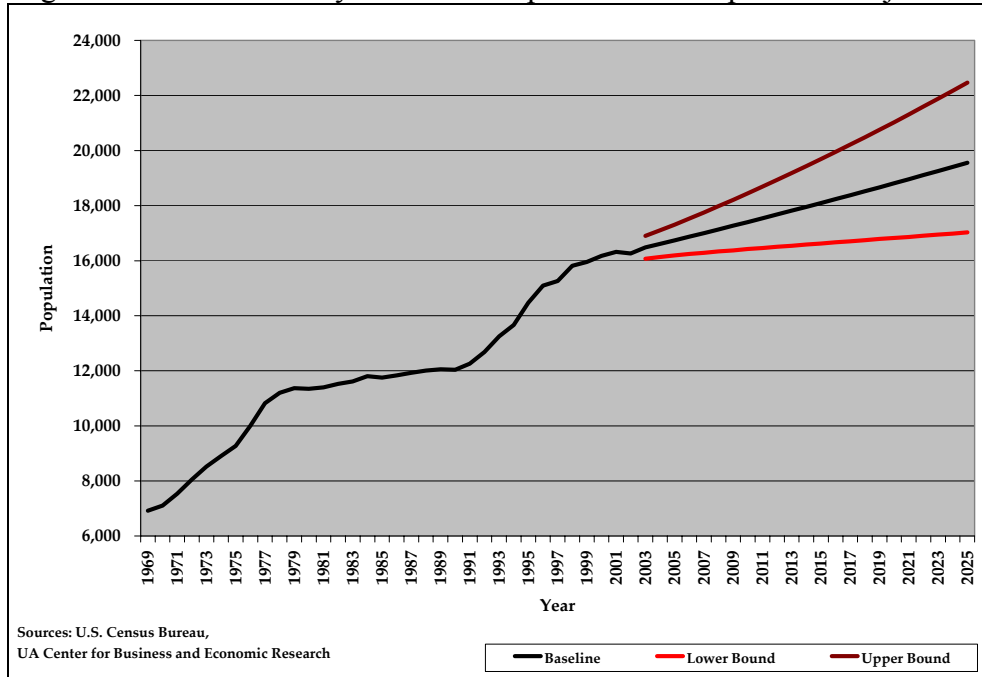


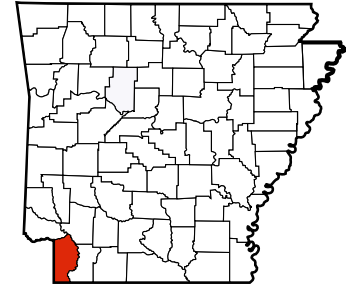
Table 45: Marion County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 15,817   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 15,951   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 16,170   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 16,316   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 16,259   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 16,739   | 480                       | 3.0%                     | 16,189      | (70)                      | -0.4%                    | 17,309      | 1,050                     | 6.5%                     |
| 2010 | 17,403   | 1,144                     | 7.0%                     | 16,421      | 162                       | 1.0%                     | 18,446      | 2,187                     | 13.5%                    |
| 2015 | 18,093   | 1,834                     | 11.3%                    | 16,626      | 367                       | 2.3%                     | 19,691      | 3,432                     | 21.1%                    |
| 2020 | 18,811   | 2,552                     | 15.7%                    | 16,825      | 566                       | 3.5%                     | 21,030      | 4,771                     | 29.3%                    |
| 2025 | 19,555   | 3,296                     | 20.3%                    | 17,023      | 764                       | 4.7%                     | 22,465      | 6,206                     | 38.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Miller County*

Miller County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Miller County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Texarkana (26,448) and the towns of Fouke (814) and Garland (352). The county is a component of the Texarkana MSA.



Miller County experienced year-on-year population growth in 29 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 47). For the period, the county's population grew by a net 7,846 people, or 23.6 percent, from 33,287 to 41,133. From 1969 to 1976, the county's population increased by 3,315 people, or 10.0 percent, from 33,287 to 36,602.

After decreasing by 159 people in 1977 and 1978, the county's population increased by 2,614 people, or 7.2 percent, from 36,443 in 1978 to 39,002 in 1983. From 1983 to 1990, the county's population decreased by a net 499 people, or 1.3 percent to 38,503.

The population of Miller County has increased every year since 1990. From 1992 to 1997, the county's population increased by 1,534 people, or 4.0 percent, from 38,759 to 40,293. In 2002, the county's population was 41,133, 840 people, or 2.1 percent, higher than in 1997. The county was the 17<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1992 to 2002 trend, the population of Miller County is projected to increase by 1,796 people, or 4.4 percent, to 42,929 by 2010 and by 5,427 people, or 13.2 percent, to 46,560 by 2025 (see Table 46). The county's population is projected to be between 42,332 and 43,530 in 2010 and between 45,424 and 47,724 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Miller County will be the 17<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Miller County are Hempstead County, Arkansas (page 63); Lafayette County, Arkansas (page 79); Little River County, Arkansas (page 87); Bossier Parish, Louisiana (page 157); Caddo Parish, Louisiana (page 159); Bowie County, Texas (page 213); and Cass County, Texas (page 214). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Texarkana MSA and the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 234 and 244, respectively.

Figure 47: Miller County Historical Population and Population Projections

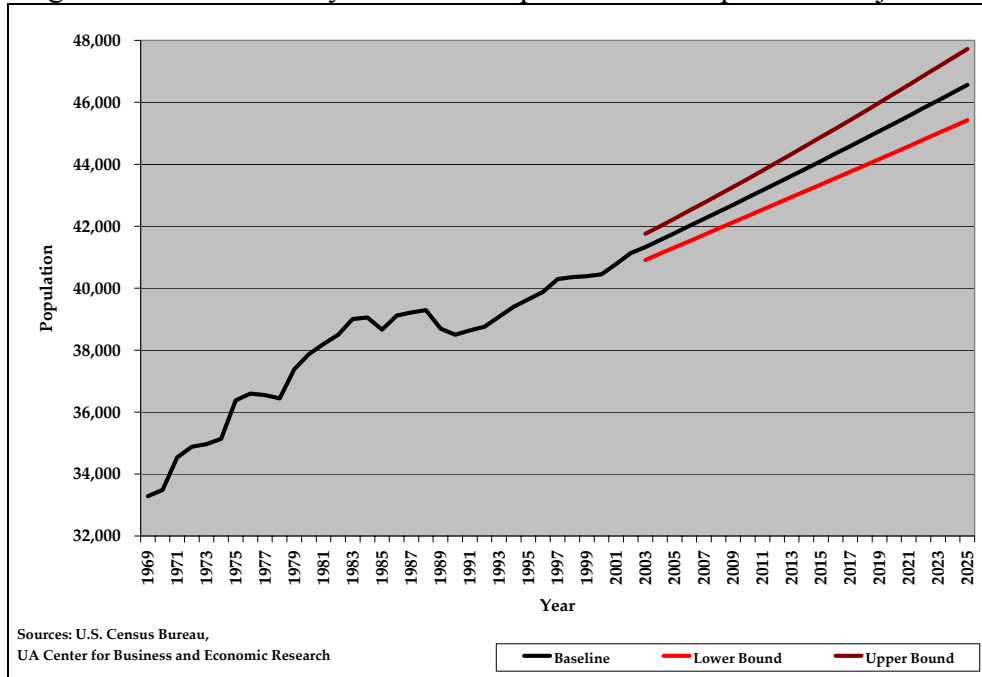


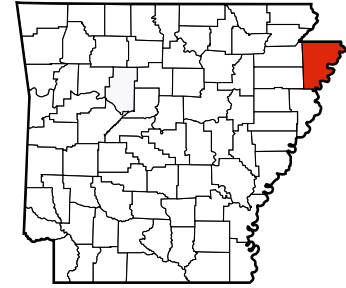
Table 46: Miller County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 40,356   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 40,391   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 40,450   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 40,778   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 41,133   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 41,781   | 648                       | 1.6%                     | 41,316      | 183                       | 0.4%                     | 42,247      | 1,114                     | 2.7%                     |
| 2010 | 42,929   | 1,796                     | 4.4%                     | 42,332      | 1,199                     | 2.9%                     | 43,530      | 2,397                     | 5.8%                     |
| 2015 | 44,104   | 2,971                     | 7.2%                     | 43,347      | 2,214                     | 5.4%                     | 44,878      | 3,745                     | 9.1%                     |
| 2020 | 45,315   | 4,182                     | 10.2%                    | 44,378      | 3,245                     | 7.9%                     | 46,277      | 5,144                     | 12.5%                    |
| 2025 | 46,560   | 5,427                     | 13.2%                    | 45,424      | 4,291                     | 10.4%                    | 47,724      | 6,591                     | 16.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Mississippi County*

Mississippi County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Mississippi County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Blytheville (18,272), Osceola (8,875), Gosnell (3,968), Leachville (1,981), and the town of Luxora (1,317).



The county experienced year-on-year population declines in 25 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 48). For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 12,632 people, or 20.0 percent, from its historic high of 63,012 to 50,380. From 1969 to 1973, Mississippi County's population decreased by 2,867 people, or 4.5 percent, from 63,012 to 60,145.

The county's population approached its historic high in 1975, increasing by 2,358 people from 1973. From 1975 to 1981, the county's population decreased by a net 3,456 people, or 5.5 percent, from 62,503 to 59,047. The rate of population loss decelerated from 1981 to 1991, during which time the county's population declined by a net 1,591 people, or 2.7 percent, to 57,456. In 1992 and 1993, the county's population decreased by 1,963 people and 3,705 people, respectively.

The county's population increased by a net 608 people from 1993 to 1998. Since 1998, the county's population decreased by 2,016 people, or 3.8 percent, from 52,396 in 1998 to 50,380 in 2002. The county was the 15<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Mississippi County is projected to decrease by 3,479 people, or 6.9 percent, to 46,901 by 2010 and by 9,700 people, or 19.3 percent, to 40,680 by 2025 (see Table 47). The county's population is projected to be between 44,659 and 49,257 in 2010 and between 36,192 and 45,725 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Mississippi County will be the 15<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 20<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Mississippi County are Craighead County, Arkansas (page 37); Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41); Poinsett County, Arkansas (page 117); Dunklin County, Missouri (page 184); Pemiscot County, Missouri (page 192); Dyer County, Tennessee (page 205); Lauderdale County, Tennessee (page 208); and Tipton County, Tennessee (page 211). A



discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 48: Mississippi County Historical Population and Population Projections

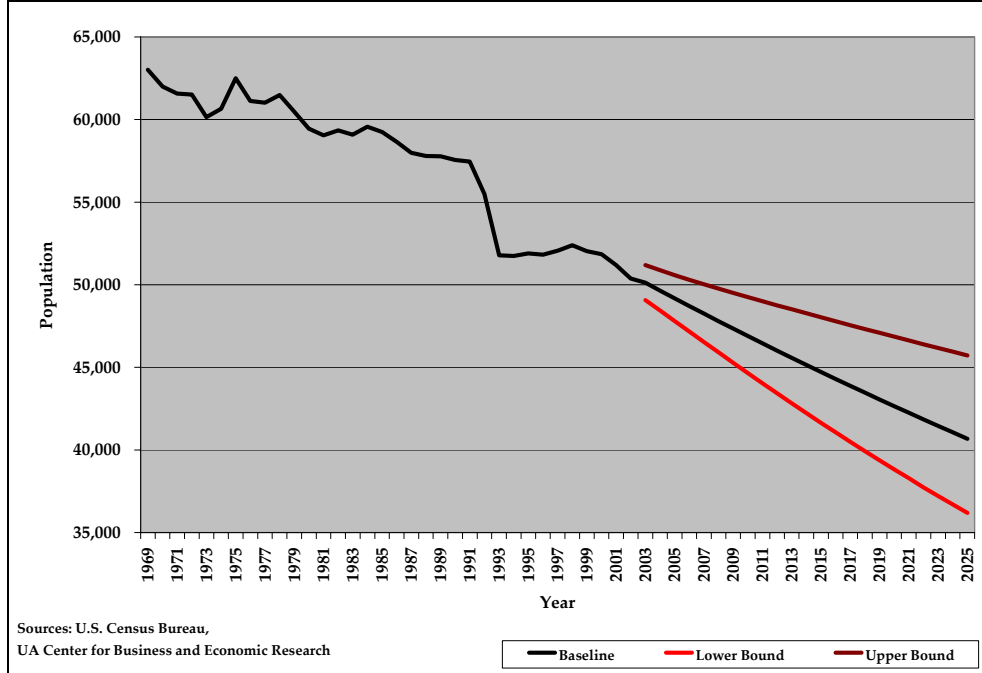


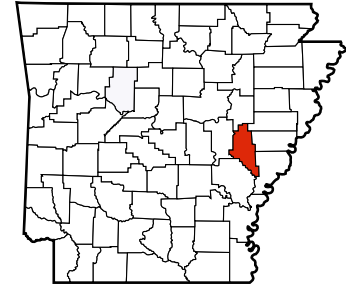
Table 47: Mississippi County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 52,396   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 52,034   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 51,855   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 51,189   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 50,380   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 49,178   | (1,202)                   | -2.4%                    | 47,810      | (2,570)                   | -5.1%                    | 50,584      | 204                       | 0.4%                     |
| 2010 | 46,901   | (3,479)                   | -6.9%                    | 44,659      | (5,721)                   | -11.4%                   | 49,257      | (1,123)                   | -2.2%                    |
| 2015 | 44,726   | (5,654)                   | -11.2%                   | 41,648      | (8,732)                   | -17.3%                   | 48,031      | (2,349)                   | -4.7%                    |
| 2020 | 42,655   | (7,725)                   | -15.3%                   | 38,828      | (11,552)                  | -22.9%                   | 46,859      | (3,521)                   | -7.0%                    |
| 2025 | 40,680   | (9,700)                   | -19.3%                   | 36,192      | (14,188)                  | -28.2%                   | 45,725      | (4,655)                   | -9.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Monroe County*

Monroe County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Monroe County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Brinkley (3,940), Clarendon (1,960), and Holly Grove (722).



Monroe County experienced year-on-year population declines in 31 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 49). For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 6,152 people, or 38.8 percent (or negative 1.5 percent per annum), from its historical high of 15,841 in 1969 to 9,689 in 2002.

From 1969 to 1974, the county's population declined by 1,618 people, or 10.2 percent, to 14,223. After increasing by 439 people in 1975, the county's population declined for 21 consecutive years. From 1975 to 1982, the county's population decreased by 957 people, or 6.5 percent, to 13,705. From 1982 to 1990, the county's population declined by 2,384 people, or 17.4 percent, to 11,321.

Population losses moderated from 1990 to 1997, during which time the county's population decreased by a net 691 people, or 6.1 percent, to 10,630. From 1997 to 2002, the population of Monroe County decreased by 941 people, or 8.9 percent, to 9,689. The county was the 66<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Monroe County is projected to decrease by 1,269 people, or 13.1 percent, to 8,420 by 2010 and by 3,296 people, or 34.0 percent, to 6,393 by 2025 (see Table 48). The county's population is projected to be between 8,005 and 8,857 in 2010 and between 5,700 and 7,170 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Monroe County will be the 6<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 4<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Monroe County are Arkansas (page 7), Lee (page 83), Phillips (page 113), Prairie (page 123), St. Francis (page 129), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 49: Monroe County Historical Population and Population Projections

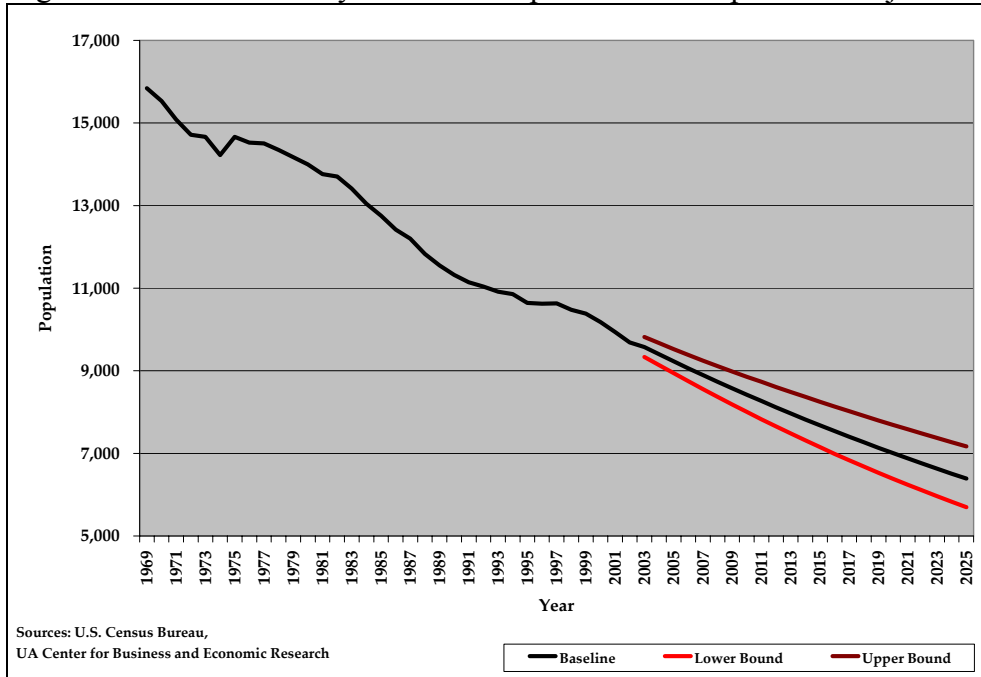


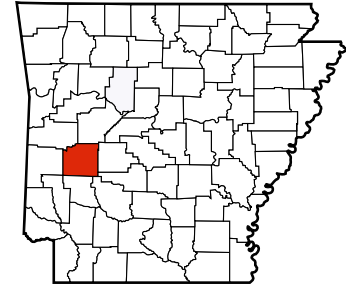
Table 48: Monroe County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 10,477   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 10,387   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 10,179   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,936    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,689    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,230    | (459)                     | -4.7%                    | 8,944       | (745)                     | -7.7%                    | 9,526       | (163)                     | -1.7%                    |
| 2010 | 8,420    | (1,269)                   | -13.1%                   | 8,005       | (1,684)                   | -17.4%                   | 8,857       | (832)                     | -8.6%                    |
| 2015 | 7,682    | (2,007)                   | -20.7%                   | 7,152       | (2,537)                   | -26.2%                   | 8,251       | (1,438)                   | -14.8%                   |
| 2020 | 7,008    | (2,681)                   | -27.7%                   | 6,386       | (3,303)                   | -34.1%                   | 7,690       | (1,999)                   | -20.6%                   |
| 2025 | 6,393    | (3,296)                   | -34.0%                   | 5,700       | (3,989)                   | -41.2%                   | 7,170       | (2,519)                   | -26.0%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Montgomery County*

Montgomery County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Montgomery County, and their 2000 population levels, include the city of Mount Ida (981) and the towns of Norman (423), Oden (220), and Black Springs (114).



The County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1971 to 1980 (see Figure 50). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 2,053 people, or 36.1 percent (or 3.5 percent per annum), from 5,690 to 7,743. From 1980 to 1991, the county's population grew by a net 159 people to 7,902 and ranged from 7,571 in 1982 to 7,921 in 1987.

From 1991 to 2002, the population of Montgomery County increased by a net 1,341 people, or 17.0 percent, from 7,902 to 9,243. The county was the 68<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002. Despite the modest population losses in 2001 and 2002, the longer term trend suggests an increasing population in Montgomery County in the foreseeable future.

Based on the 1991 to 2002 trend, the population of Montgomery County is projected to increase by 1,497 people, or 16.2 percent, to 10,740 by 2010 and by 4,393 people, or 47.5 percent, to 13,636 by 2025 (see Table 49). The county's population is projected to be between 10,381 and 11,112 in 2010 and between 12,872 and 14,446 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Montgomery County will be the 65<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 57<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Montgomery County are Clark (page 25), Garland (page 57), Hot Spring (page 65), Howard (page 67), Pike (page 115), Polk (page 119), Scott (page 133), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 50: Montgomery County Historical Population and Population Projections

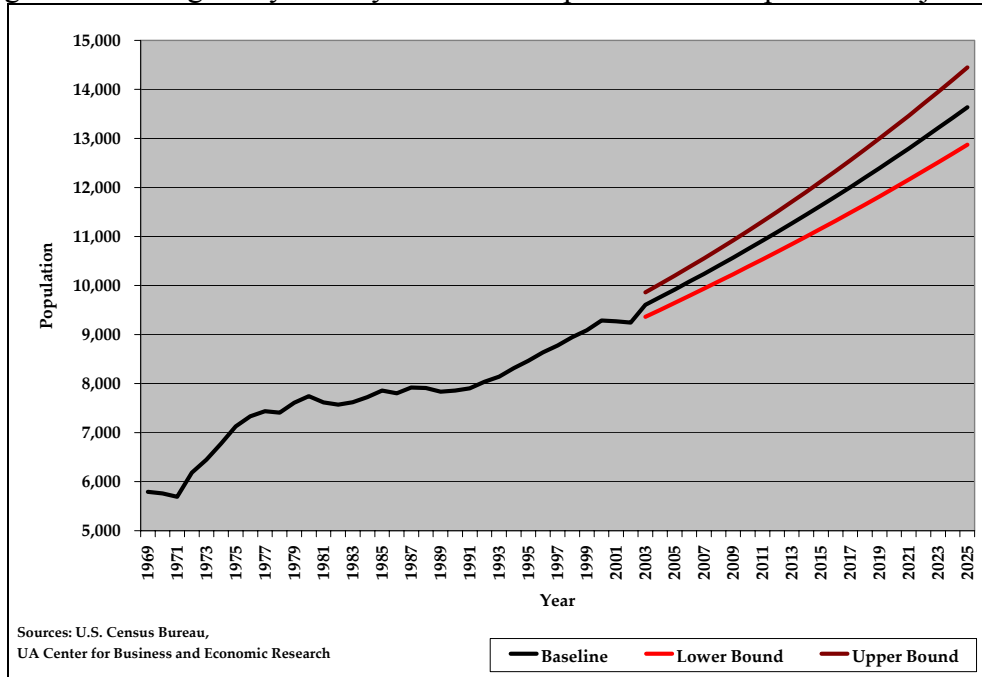


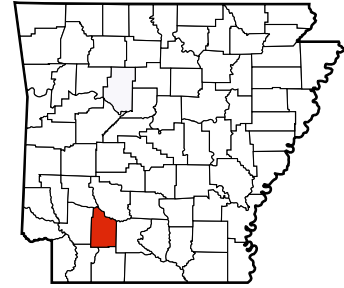
Table 49: Montgomery County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,948    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,089    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,286    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,268    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,243    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,918    | 675                       | 7.3%                     | 9,645       | 402                       | 4.3%                     | 10,200      | 957                       | 10.4%                    |
| 2010 | 10,740   | 1,497                     | 16.2%                    | 10,381      | 1,138                     | 12.3%                    | 11,112      | 1,869                     | 20.2%                    |
| 2015 | 11,629   | 2,386                     | 25.8%                    | 11,159      | 1,916                     | 20.7%                    | 12,121      | 2,878                     | 31.1%                    |
| 2020 | 12,593   | 3,350                     | 36.2%                    | 11,987      | 2,744                     | 29.7%                    | 13,231      | 3,988                     | 43.1%                    |
| 2025 | 13,636   | 4,393                     | 47.5%                    | 12,872      | 3,629                     | 39.3%                    | 14,446      | 5,203                     | 56.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Nevada County*

Nevada County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Nevada County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Prescott (3,686) and Emmet (480 of the city's 506 residents in 2000 lived in Nevada County), and the towns of Rosston (265), Willisville (188), Bluff City (158), and Bodcaw (154).



From 1970 to 1973, the population of Nevada County increased by 597 people, or 5.9 percent, from 10,115 to 10,712. From 1973 to 1976, the county's population declined by a net 83 people to 10,629. From 1977 to 1979, the county's population increased by 660 people, or 6.2 percent, to an historical high of 11,289 in 1979 (see Figure 51).

The county then experienced 13 years of population declines totaling 1,290 people. From 1980 to 1987, the county's population declined by 382 people, or 3.4 percent, from 11,096 to 10,714. From 1987 to 1990, the county's population decreased by 638 people, or 6.0 percent, to 10,076.

The population of Nevada County remained relatively stable from 1990 to 1997. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 15 people to 10,091. Since 1997, the county's population has decreased by a net 349 people, or 3.5 percent, to 9,742. The county was the 11<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Nevada County is projected to decrease by 483 people, or 5.0 percent, to 9,259 by 2010 and by 1,381 people, or 14.2 percent, to 8,361 by 2025 (see Table 50). The county's population is projected to be between 8,895 and 9,639 in 2010 and between 7,633 and 9,156 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Nevada County will be the 9<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 6<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Nevada County are Clark (page 25), Columbia (page 33), Hempstead (page 63), Lafayette (page 79), Ouachita (page 109), and Pike (page 115). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 51: Nevada County Historical Population and Population Projections

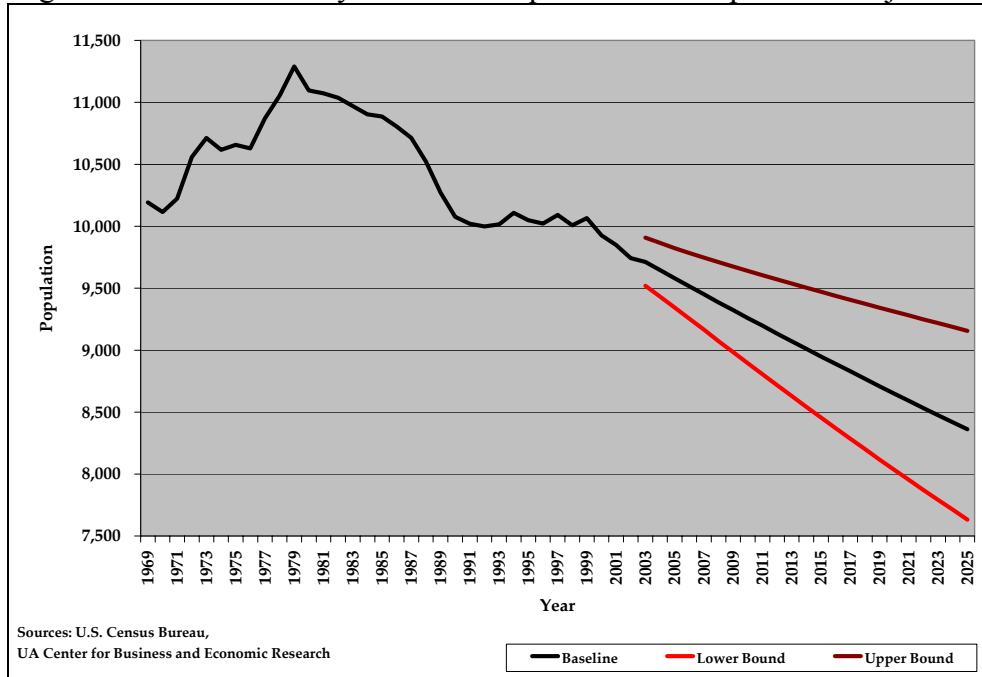


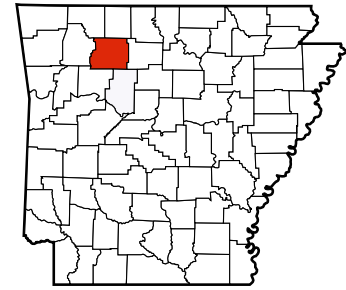
Table 50: Nevada County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 10,008   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 10,066   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,926    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,848    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,742    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,581    | (161)                     | -1.7%                    | 9,344       | (398)                     | -4.1%                    | 9,823       | 81                        | 0.8%                     |
| 2010 | 9,259    | (483)                     | -5.0%                    | 8,895       | (847)                     | -8.7%                    | 9,639       | (103)                     | -1.1%                    |
| 2015 | 8,950    | (792)                     | -8.1%                    | 8,457       | (1,285)                   | -13.2%                   | 9,472       | (270)                     | -2.8%                    |
| 2020 | 8,650    | (1,092)                   | -11.2%                   | 8,035       | (1,707)                   | -17.5%                   | 9,312       | (430)                     | -4.4%                    |
| 2025 | 8,361    | (1,381)                   | -14.2%                   | 7,633       | (2,109)                   | -21.6%                   | 9,156       | (586)                     | -6.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Newton County*

Newton County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Newton County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Jasper (498) and the town of Western Grove (407).



Newton County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1971 to 1977 (see Figure 52). For the period, the county's population increased by 1,500 people, or 25.2 percent (or 3.8 percent per annum), from 5,954 to 7,454. From 1977 to 1992, the county's population remained relatively stable. For the period, the population of Newton County increased by a net 257 people, or 3.4 percent, to 7,711 and ranged from 7,454 in 1977 to 7,862 in 1986.

From 1992 to 1995, the county's population increased by 509 people, or 6.6 percent, to 8,220. Since 1995, population growth in Newton County has slowed. The county experienced modest population losses in 1996 and 1998, and after reaching an historical high of 8,639 people in 2000, experienced a loss of 143 people in 2001. For the period, though, the county's population increased by a net 286 people, or 3.5 percent, to 8,506 in 2002. The county was the 5<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Newton County is projected to increase by 535 people, or 6.3 percent, to 9,041 by 2010 and by 1,433 people, or 16.8 percent, to 9,939 by 2025 (see Table 51). The county's population is projected to be between 8,578 and 9,529 in 2010 and between 8,926 and 11,067 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Newton County will be the 7<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 10<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Newton County are Boone (page 15), Carroll (page 21), Johnson (page 77), Madison (page 93), Pope (page 121), and Searcy (page 135). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.



Figure 52: Newton County Historical Population and Population Projections

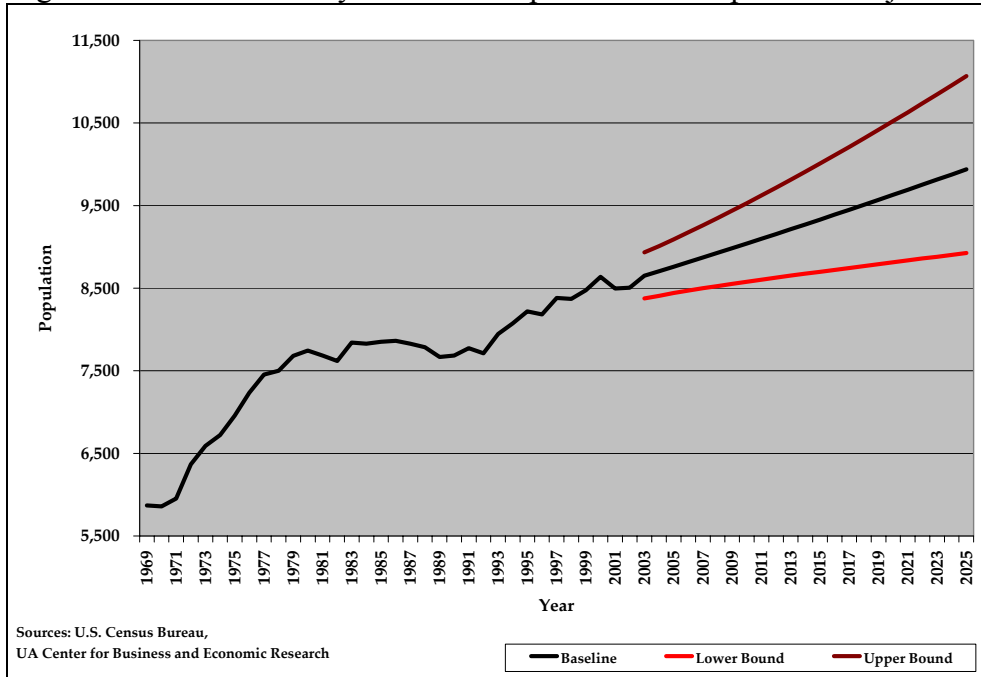


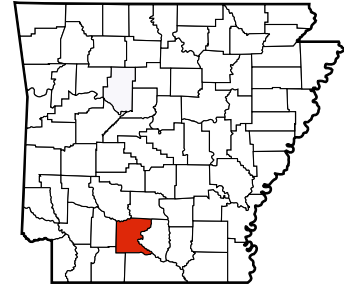
Table 51: Newton County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,370    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 8,475    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 8,639    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 8,496    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,506    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,760    | 254                       | 3.0%                     | 8,441       | (65)                      | -0.8%                    | 9,092       | 586                       | 6.9%                     |
| 2010 | 9,041    | 535                       | 6.3%                     | 8,578       | 72                        | 0.8%                     | 9,529       | 1,023                     | 12.0%                    |
| 2015 | 9,331    | 825                       | 9.7%                     | 8,698       | 192                       | 2.3%                     | 10,010      | 1,504                     | 17.7%                    |
| 2020 | 9,631    | 1,125                     | 13.2%                    | 8,813       | 307                       | 3.6%                     | 10,523      | 2,017                     | 23.7%                    |
| 2025 | 9,939    | 1,433                     | 16.8%                    | 8,926       | 420                       | 4.9%                     | 11,067      | 2,561                     | 30.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Ouachita County***

Ouachita County is located in south-central Arkansas and is a component of the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Ouachita County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Camden (13,154), Stephens (1,152), Bearden (1,125), East Camden (902), Chidester (335), and Louann (195).



The county's population decreased by 809 people, or 2.6 percent, from 31,029 in 1969 to 30,220 in 1971. From 1971 to 1977, the population of Ouachita County remained relatively stable (see Figure 53), ranging from 30,220 to 30,493. In 1977, the county's population was 30,236, a net increase of 16 people since 1971.

From 1977 to 1982, the county's population increased by 687 people, or 2.3 percent, to 30,923. From 1982 to 1985, population growth accelerated, during which time the county's population increased by 1,061 people to an historical high of 31,984.

The population of Ouachita County has decreased every year since 1985. From 1985 to 1989, the county's population declined by 527 people to 31,419. Population losses in 1990 and 1991 were 999 people and 349 people, respectively.

Population loss decelerated from 1991 to 1998, during which time the county's population decreased by 922 people, or 3.1 percent, from 30,026 to 29,104. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population decreased by 1,236 people, or 4.2 percent, to an historical low of 27,868. The county was the 24<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Ouachita County is projected to decrease by 2,359 people, or 8.5 percent, to 25,509 by 2010 and by 6,338 people, or 22.7 percent, to 21,530 by 2025 (see Table 52). The county's population is projected to be between 24,397 and 26,675 in 2010 and between 19,355 and 23,949 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Ouachita County will be the 26<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 38<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Ouachita County are Calhoun (page 19), Clark (page 25), Columbia (page 33), Dallas (page 45), Nevada (page 105), and Union (page 145). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

Figure 53: Ouachita County Historical Population and Population Projections

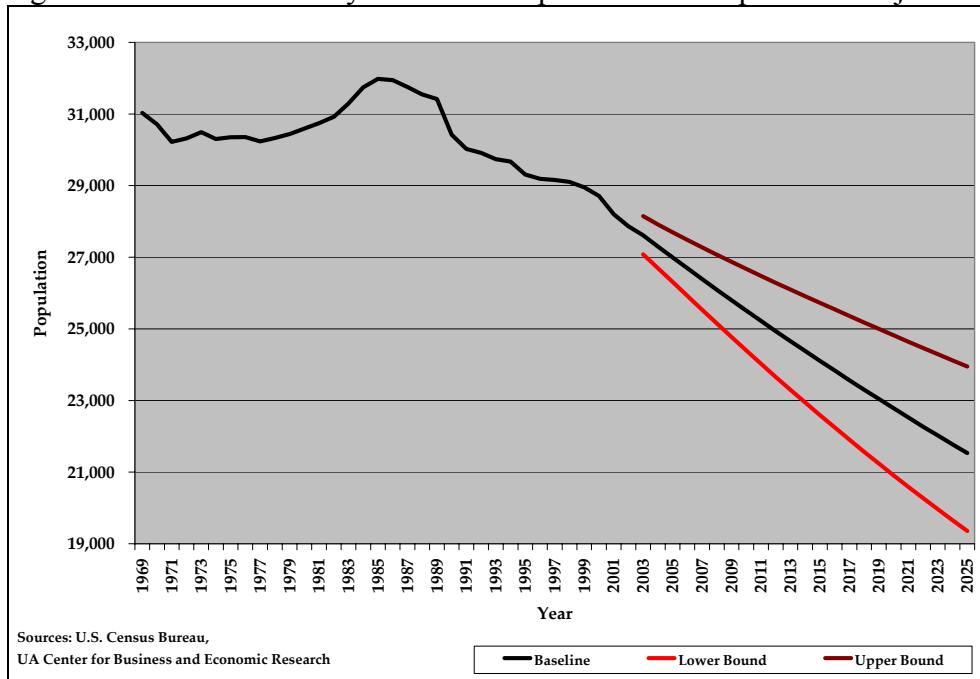


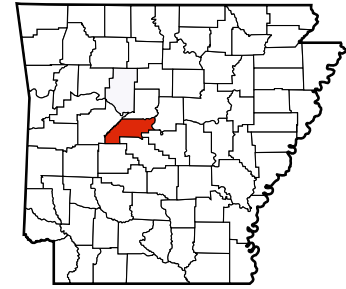
Table 52: Ouachita County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 29,104   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 28,954   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 28,711   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 28,203   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 27,868   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 26,995   | (873)                     | -3.1%                    | 26,310      | (1,558)                   | -5.6%                    | 27,695      | (173)                     | -0.6%                    |
| 2010 | 25,509   | (2,359)                   | -8.5%                    | 24,397      | (3,471)                   | -12.5%                   | 26,675      | (1,193)                   | -4.3%                    |
| 2015 | 24,108   | (3,760)                   | -13.5%                   | 22,591      | (5,277)                   | -18.9%                   | 25,727      | (2,141)                   | -7.7%                    |
| 2020 | 22,784   | (5,084)                   | -18.2%                   | 20,912      | (6,956)                   | -25.0%                   | 24,820      | (3,048)                   | -10.9%                   |
| 2025 | 21,530   | (6,338)                   | -22.7%                   | 19,355      | (8,513)                   | -30.5%                   | 23,949      | (3,919)                   | -14.1%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Perry County***

Perry County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Perry County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Perryville (1,458) and the towns of Bigelow (329), Perry (314), Casa (209), Adona (187), and Houston (159). Effective June 6, 2003, Perry County is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



The county experienced year-on-year population increases in 31 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 54). For the period, the county's population grew by a net 4,865 people, or 87.3 percent (or 1.9 percent per annum), from 5,571 to 10,436. The county experienced relatively strong population growth from 1969 to 1979. For the period, the county's population increased by 1,973 people, or 35.4 percent, to 7,544.

After decreasing by 253 people in 1980, the county's population increased by 751 people, or 10.3 percent, from 7,291 in 1980 to 8,042 in 1988. From 1990 to 1998, the population of Perry County increased by 2,049 people, or 25.7 percent, to 10,022. Since 1998, population gains in Perry County have decelerated. For the period, the county's population increased by 414 people, or 4.1 percent, to an historical high of 10,436 in 2002. The county was the 64<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Perry County is projected to increase by 890 people, or 8.5 percent, to 11,326 by 2010 and by 2,776 people, or 26.6 percent, to 13,212 by 2025 (see Table 53). The county's population is projected to be between 11,107 and 11,552 in 2010 and between 12,606 and 13,847 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Perry County will be the 62<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 58<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Perry County are Conway (page 35), Faulkner (page 51), Garland (page 57), Pulaski (page 125), Saline (page 131), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.

Figure 54: Perry County Historical Population and Population Projections

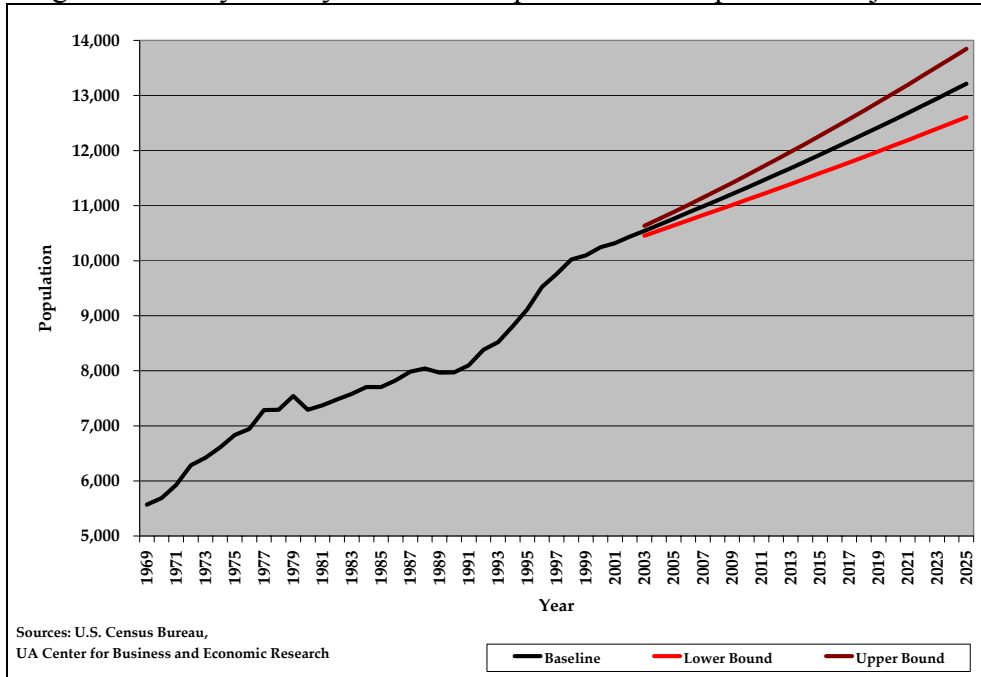


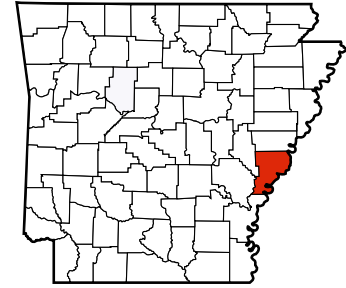
Table 53: Perry County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 10,022   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 10,097   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 10,244   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 10,318   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 10,436   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 10,760   | 324                       | 3.1%                     | 10,639      | 203                       | 1.9%                     | 10,882      | 446                       | 4.3%                     |
| 2010 | 11,326   | 890                       | 8.5%                     | 11,107      | 671                       | 6.4%                     | 11,552      | 1,116                     | 10.7%                    |
| 2015 | 11,923   | 1,487                     | 14.2%                    | 11,587      | 1,151                     | 11.0%                    | 12,270      | 1,834                     | 17.6%                    |
| 2020 | 12,550   | 2,114                     | 20.3%                    | 12,086      | 1,650                     | 15.8%                    | 13,034      | 2,598                     | 24.9%                    |
| 2025 | 13,212   | 2,776                     | 26.6%                    | 12,606      | 2,170                     | 20.8%                    | 13,847      | 3,411                     | 32.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Phillips County*

Phillips County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Phillips County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of West Helena (8,689), Helena (6,323), Marvell (1,395), Elaine (865), Lake View (531), and Lexa (331).



The county experienced year-on-year population losses in 31 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 55). For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 15,533 people, or 38.3 percent (or 1.4 percent per annum), from 40,534 to 25,001. From 1969 to 1974, the population of Phillips County declined by 3,261 people, or 8.0 percent, from 40,534 to 37,273.

After increasing by 358 people in 1975, the county's population decreased for 18 consecutive years. From 1975 to 1991, the population of Phillips County decreased by 9,465 people, or 25.2 percent, from 37,631 to 28,166.

Population declines slowed in 1992 and 1993. From 1994 to 1998, the county's population fell by 884 people, or 3.2 percent, from 28,050 to 27,166. Since 1998, the county's population has decreased by 2,165 people, or 8.0 percent, to 25,001. The county was the 28<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Phillips County is projected to decrease by 3,365 people, or 13.5 percent, to 21,636 by 2010 and by 8,729 people, or 34.9 percent, to 16,272 by 2025 (see Table 54). The county's population is projected to be between 20,649 and 22,668 in 2010 and between 14,640 and 18,084 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Phillips County will be the 35<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 48<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Phillips County are Arkansas County, Arkansas (page 7); Desha County, Arkansas (page 47); Lee County, Arkansas (page 83); Monroe County, Arkansas (page 101); Bolivar County, Mississippi (page 169); Coahoma County, Mississippi (page 171); and Tunica County, Mississippi (page 178). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 55: Phillips County Historical Population and Population Projections

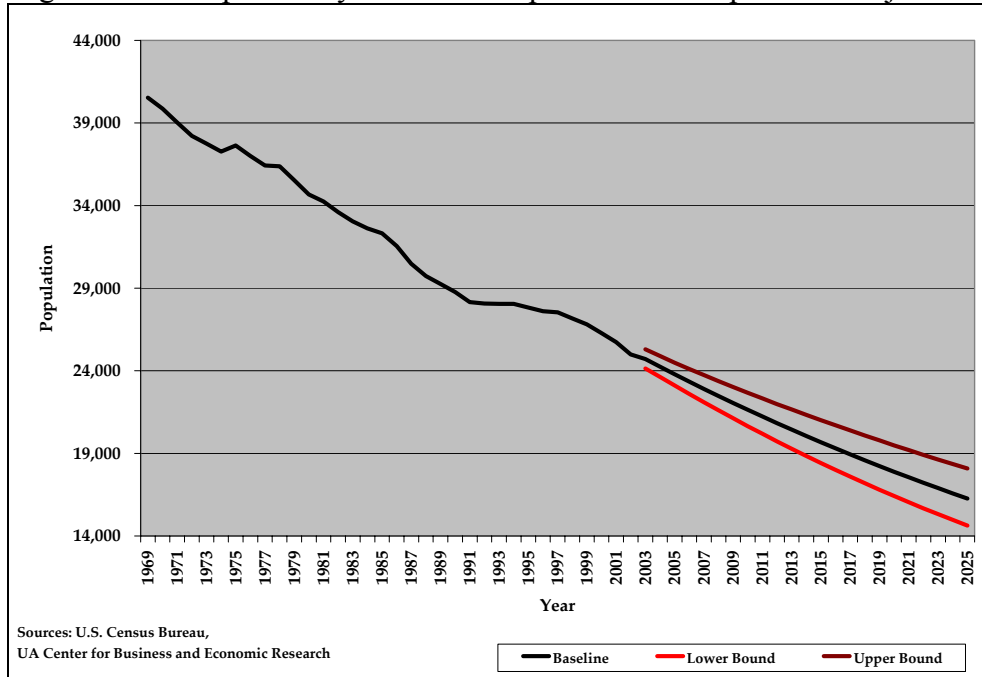


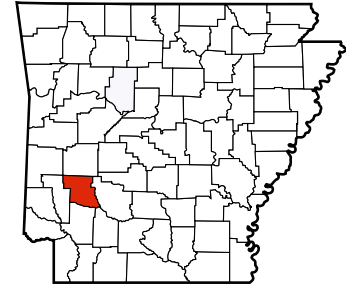
Table 54: Phillips County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 27,166   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 26,817   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 26,287   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 25,740   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 25,001   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 23,790   | (1,211)                   | -4.8%                    | 23,110      | (1,891)                   | -7.6%                    | 24,492      | (509)                     | -2.0%                    |
| 2010 | 21,636   | (3,365)                   | -13.5%                   | 20,649      | (4,352)                   | -17.4%                   | 22,668      | (2,333)                   | -9.3%                    |
| 2015 | 19,675   | (5,326)                   | -21.3%                   | 18,420      | (6,581)                   | -26.3%                   | 21,015      | (3,986)                   | -15.9%                   |
| 2020 | 17,892   | (7,109)                   | -28.4%                   | 16,424      | (8,577)                   | -34.3%                   | 19,493      | (5,508)                   | -22.0%                   |
| 2025 | 16,272   | (8,729)                   | -34.9%                   | 14,640      | (10,361)                  | -41.4%                   | 18,084      | (6,917)                   | -27.7%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Pike County*

Pike County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Pike County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Murfreesboro (1,764), Glenwood (1,751), and Delight (311) and the towns of Antoine (156) and Daisy (118).



From 1969 to 1975, the county's population grew by 1,123 people, or 13.0 percent, from 8,648 to 9,771. After decreasing by 181 people in 1976, the county's population experienced relatively strong growth through 1979 (see Figure 56), increasing by 775 people, or 8.1 percent, from 9,590 to 10,365. From 1979 to 1982, the county's population decreased by 250 people to 10,115. The county's population remained relatively stable from 1982 to 1991, ranging from 9,994 to 10,187.

From 1991 to 1998, the county's population increased by 1,142 people, or 11.4 percent, to 11,176. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population decreased by a net 39 people to 11,137. The county was the 62<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Because the population trend is not clearly identifiable after 1998, the projections, based on the data from 1998 through 2002, are for population growth in Pike County to remain close to zero. The population of Pike County is projected to increase by 44 people, or 0.4 percent, to 11,181 by 2010 and by 14 people, or 0.1 percent, to 11,151 by 2025 (see Table 55). The county's population is projected to be between 10,299 and 12,139 in 2010 and between 9,165 and 13,566 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Pike County will be the 64<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 63<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Pike County are Clark (page 25), Hempstead (page 63), Howard (page 67), Montgomery (page 103), Nevada (page 105), and Polk (page 119). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.



Figure 56: Pike County Historical Population and Population Projections

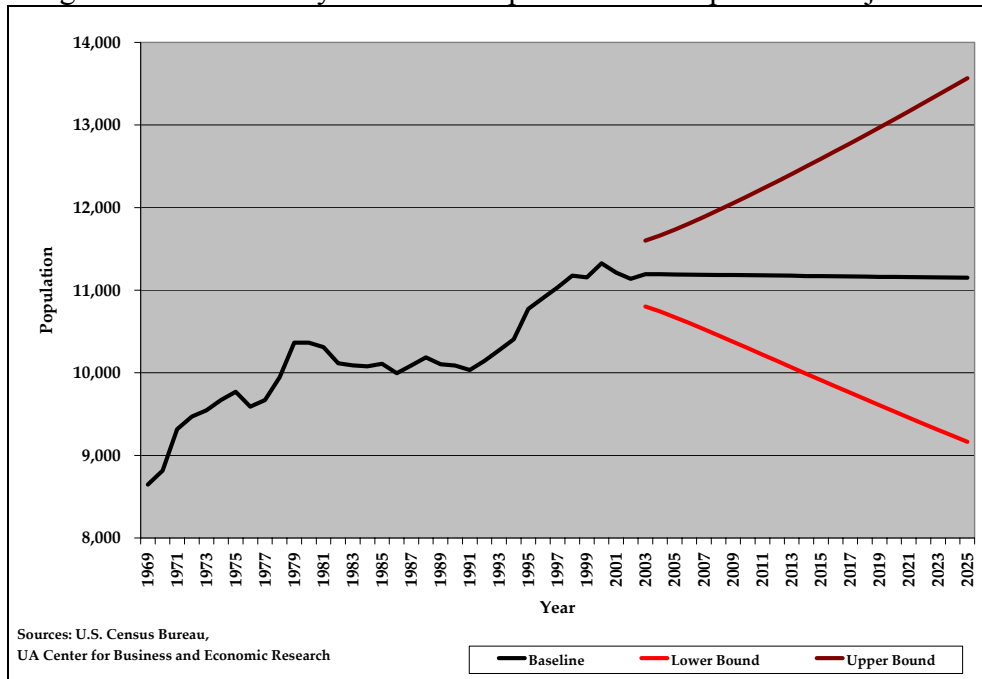


Table 55: Pike County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 11,176   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 11,155   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 11,326   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 11,213   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 11,137   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 11,191   | 54                        | 0.5%                     | 10,674      | (463)                     | -4.2%                    | 11,732      | 595                       | 5.3%                     |
| 2010 | 11,181   | 44                        | 0.4%                     | 10,299      | (838)                     | -7.5%                    | 12,139      | 1,002                     | 9.0%                     |
| 2015 | 11,171   | 34                        | 0.3%                     | 9,912       | (1,225)                   | -11.0%                   | 12,591      | 1,454                     | 13.1%                    |
| 2020 | 11,161   | 24                        | 0.2%                     | 9,533       | (1,604)                   | -14.4%                   | 13,066      | 1,929                     | 17.3%                    |
| 2025 | 11,151   | 14                        | 0.1%                     | 9,165       | (1,972)                   | -17.7%                   | 13,566      | 2,429                     | 21.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Poinsett County***

Poinsett County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Poinsett County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Trumann (6,889), Marked Tree (2,800), Harrisburg (2,192), and Lepanto (2,133). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Jonesboro MSA.



From 1970 to 1977, the county's population increased by a net 1,094 people, or 4.1 percent, from 26,911 to an historic high of 28,005. The population of Poinsett County then decreased for the next 14 years (see Figure 57). From 1977 to 1984, the county's population declined by 2,262 people, or 8.1 percent, to 25,743. From 1984 to 1991, the county's population decreased by 1,342 people, or 5.2 percent.

After increasing by a net 1,089 people from 1991 to 1998, the county's population decreased by a net 89 people to 25,401 in 2002. The county was the 26<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Because the population trend is not clearly identifiable after 1998, the projections, based on the data from 1998 through 2002, are for population growth in Poinsett County to be near zero during the forecast period. The county's population is projected to decrease by 4 people to 25,397 by 2010 and by 191 people, or 0.8 percent, to 25,210 by 2025 (see Table 56). The county's population is projected to be between 24,382 and 26,458 in 2010 and between 22,870 and 27,789 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Poinsett County will be the 27<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 28<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Poinsett County are Craighead (page 37), Crittenden (page 41), Cross (page 43), Jackson (page 73), and Mississippi (page 99). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Jonesboro MSA and the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 223 and 240, respectively.

Figure 57: Poinsett County Historical Population and Population Projections

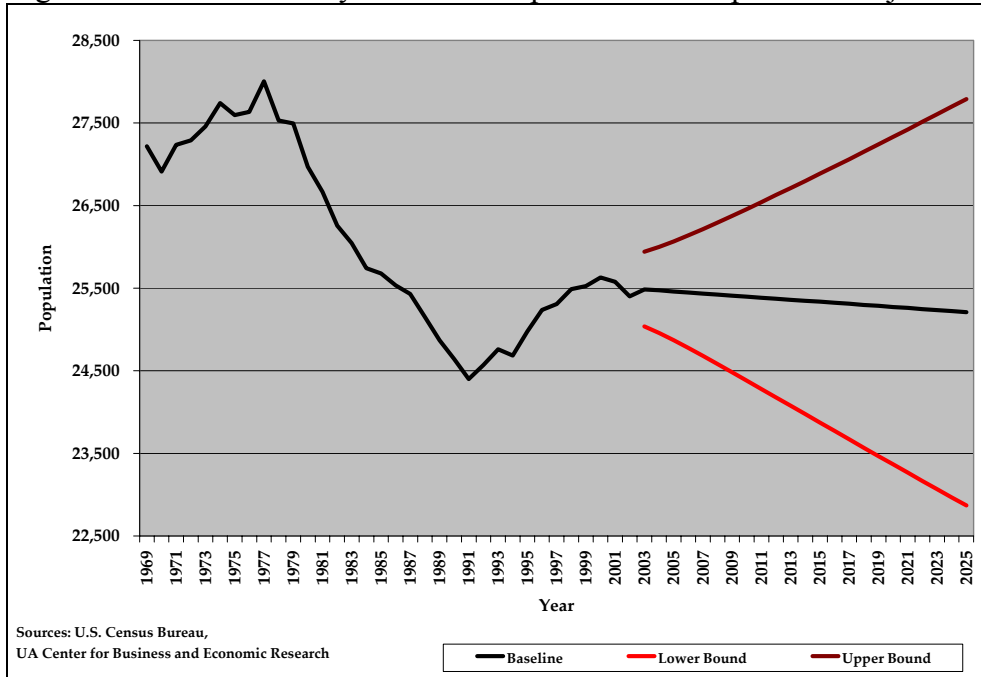


Table 56: Poinsett County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 25,490   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 25,525   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 25,630   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 25,577   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 25,401   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 25,461   | 60                        | 0.2%                     | 24,870      | (531)                     | -2.1%                    | 26,066      | 665                       | 2.6%                     |
| 2010 | 25,397   | (4)                       | 0.0%                     | 24,382      | (1,019)                   | -4.0%                    | 26,458      | 1,057                     | 4.2%                     |
| 2015 | 25,336   | (65)                      | -0.3%                    | 23,873      | (1,528)                   | -6.0%                    | 26,887      | 1,486                     | 5.9%                     |
| 2020 | 25,273   | (128)                     | -0.5%                    | 23,367      | (2,034)                   | -8.0%                    | 27,332      | 1,931                     | 7.6%                     |
| 2025 | 25,210   | (191)                     | -0.8%                    | 22,870      | (2,531)                   | -10.0%                   | 27,789      | 2,388                     | 9.4%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Polk County***

Polk County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Polk County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Mena (5,637), Wickes (675), Grannis (575), Hatfield (402), Cove (383), and Vandervoort (120).

From 1969 to 1977, the county's population grew by 4,132 people, or 31.3 percent (or 3.5 percent per annum), from 13,188 to 17,320. From 1977 to 1990, the county's population remained relatively stable (see Figure 58), ranging from 17,023 to 17,373. For the period, the county's population grew by a net 41 people to 17,361 in 1990.

The county experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1997. For the period, the county's population increased by 2,542 people, or 14.6 percent, to 19,903. Population growth decelerated from 1997 to 2002. For the period, the population of Polk County increased by a net 297 people, or 1.5 percent. The county was the 38<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 20,200.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Polk County is projected to increase by 486 people, or 2.4 percent, to 20,686 by 2010 and by 1,326 people, or 6.6 percent, to 21,526 by 2025 (see Table 57). The county's population is projected to be between 19,998 and 21,397 in 2010 and between 19,940 and 23,237 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Polk County will be the 37<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 39<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Polk County are Howard County, Arkansas (page 67); Montgomery County, Arkansas (page 103); Pike County, Arkansas (page 115); Scott County, Arkansas (page 133); Sevier County, Arkansas (page 139); Le Flore County, Oklahoma (page 200); and McCurtain County, Oklahoma (page 202). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.

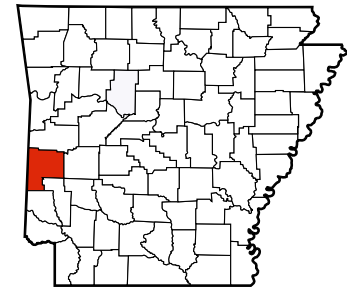


Figure 58: Polk County Historical Population and Population Projections

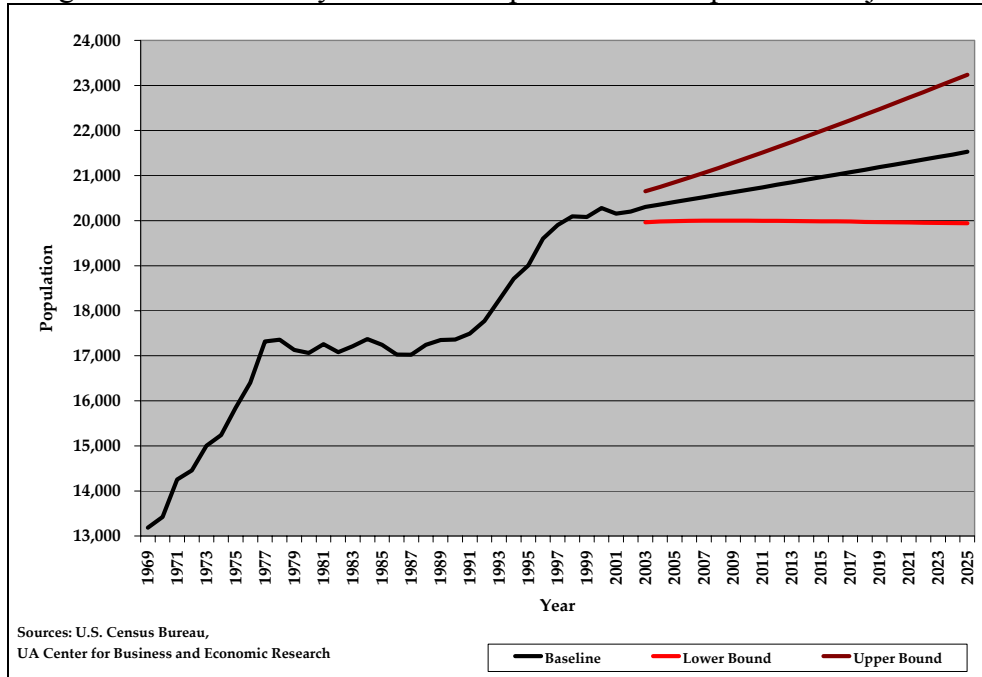


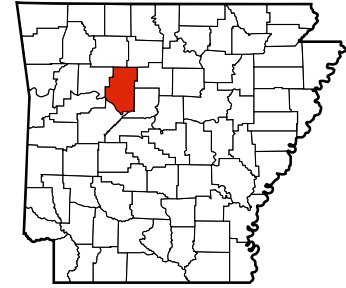
Table 57: Polk County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,094   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,079   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 20,277   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 20,154   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 20,200   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 20,412   | 212                       | 1.0%                     | 19,988      | (212)                     | -1.0%                    | 20,848      | 648                       | 3.2%                     |
| 2010 | 20,686   | 486                       | 2.4%                     | 19,998      | (202)                     | -1.0%                    | 21,397      | 1,197                     | 5.9%                     |
| 2015 | 20,963   | 763                       | 3.8%                     | 19,984      | (216)                     | -1.1%                    | 21,987      | 1,787                     | 8.8%                     |
| 2020 | 21,241   | 1,041                     | 5.2%                     | 19,964      | (236)                     | -1.2%                    | 22,600      | 2,400                     | 11.9%                    |
| 2025 | 21,526   | 1,326                     | 6.6%                     | 19,940      | (260)                     | -1.3%                    | 23,237      | 3,037                     | 15.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Pope County*

Pope County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Pope County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Russellville (23,682), Atkins (2,878), Dover (1,329), Pottsville (1,271), London (925), and Hector (506).



The population of Pope County increased every year from 1969 to 2002 (see Figure 59). Year-on-year population gains exceeded 1,000 people 9 times during the period. The county's population grew by 27,310 people, or 97.8 percent (or 2.1 percent per annum), from 27,913 in 1969 to 55,223 in 2002.

From 1969 to 1973, the county's population increased by 5,445 people, or 4.6 percent per annum on average, to 33,358. From 1973 to 1989, the population of Pope County increased by 11,590 people to 44,948 in 1989. From 1989 to 1995, the county's population increased by 6,528 people, or 2.3 percent per annum on average, to 51,476.

Since 1995, population growth has slowed. From 1995 to 2002, the county's population increased by 3,747 people, or 1.0 percent per annum on average, to 55,223. The county was the 12<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Pope County is projected to increase by 5,338 people, or 9.7 percent, to 60,561 by 2010 and by 15,995 people, or 29.0 percent, to 71,218 by 2025 (see Table 58). The county's population is projected to be between 58,912 and 62,262 in 2010 and between 67,306 and 75,358 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Pope County will be the 13<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Pope County are Conway (page 35), Johnson (page 77), Logan (page 89), Newton (page 107), Searcy (page 135), Van Buren (page 147), and Yell (page 155). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 59: Pope County Historical Population and Population Projections

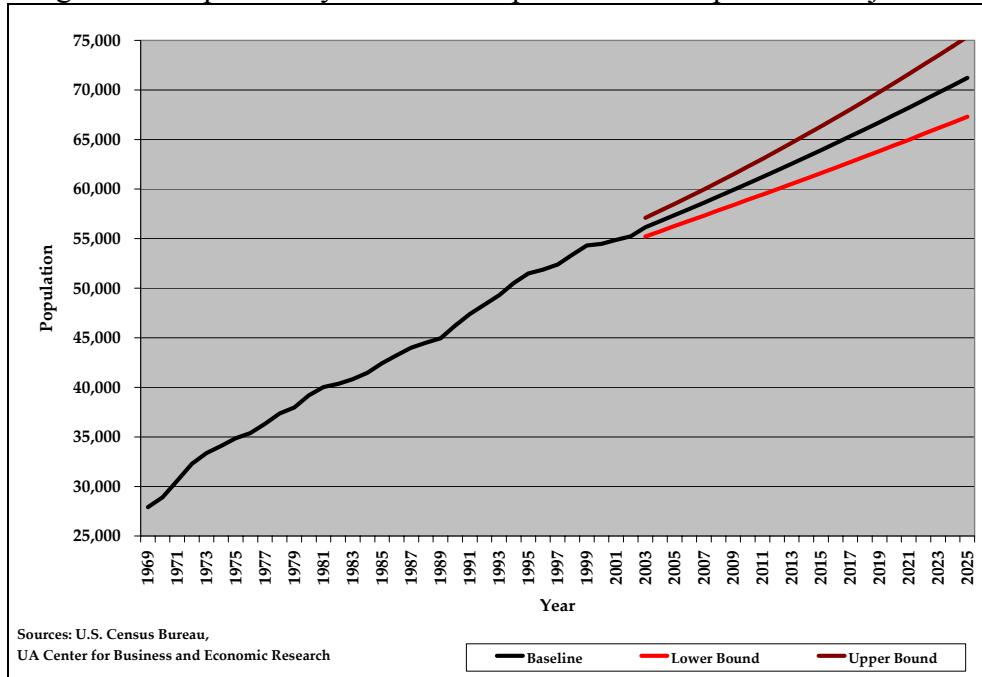


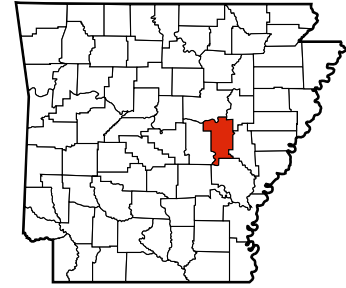
Table 58: Pope County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 53,383   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 54,300   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 54,480   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 54,885   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 55,223   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 57,377   | 2,154                     | 3.9%                     | 56,269      | 1,046                     | 1.9%                     | 58,507      | 3,284                     | 5.9%                     |
| 2010 | 60,561   | 5,338                     | 9.7%                     | 58,912      | 3,689                     | 6.7%                     | 62,262      | 7,039                     | 12.7%                    |
| 2015 | 63,921   | 8,698                     | 15.8%                    | 61,611      | 6,388                     | 11.6%                    | 66,324      | 11,101                    | 20.1%                    |
| 2020 | 67,474   | 12,251                    | 22.2%                    | 64,402      | 9,179                     | 16.6%                    | 70,693      | 15,470                    | 28.0%                    |
| 2025 | 71,218   | 15,995                    | 29.0%                    | 67,306      | 12,083                    | 21.9%                    | 75,358      | 20,135                    | 36.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Prairie County***

Prairie County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Prairie County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Des Arc (1,933), Hazen (1,637), De Valls Bluff (783), Fredonia (Biscoe) (476), and Ulm (205).



After increasing by 320 people to 10,626 in 1971, the population of Prairie County decreased by a net 130 people from 1971 to 1974. In 1975, the county's population increased by 312 people to an historical high of 10,808 (see Figure 60). From 1975 to 1979, the county's population declined by 773 people, or 7.2 percent, to 10,035.

From 1979 to 1983, the population of Prairie County increased by a net 10 people to 10,045. The county's population then experienced declines for 9 consecutive years. From 1983 to 1992, the county's population fell by 718 people, or 7.1 percent, to 9,327.

From 1992 to 1998, the county's population increased by a net 332 people, or 3.5 percent, to 9,649. Since 1998, the county's population has decreased by a net 209 people to 9,440 in 2002. The county was the 9<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Prairie County is projected to decrease by 348 people, or 3.7 percent, to 9,092 by 2010 and by 988 people, or 10.5 percent, to 8,452 by 2025 (see Table 59). The county's population is projected to be between 8,750 and 9,447 in 2010 and between 7,713 and 9,261 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Prairie County will be the 8<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 7<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Prairie County are Arkansas (page 7), Jefferson (page 75), Lonoke (page 91), Monroe (page 101), White (page 151), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238.



Figure 60: Prairie County Historical Population and Population Projections

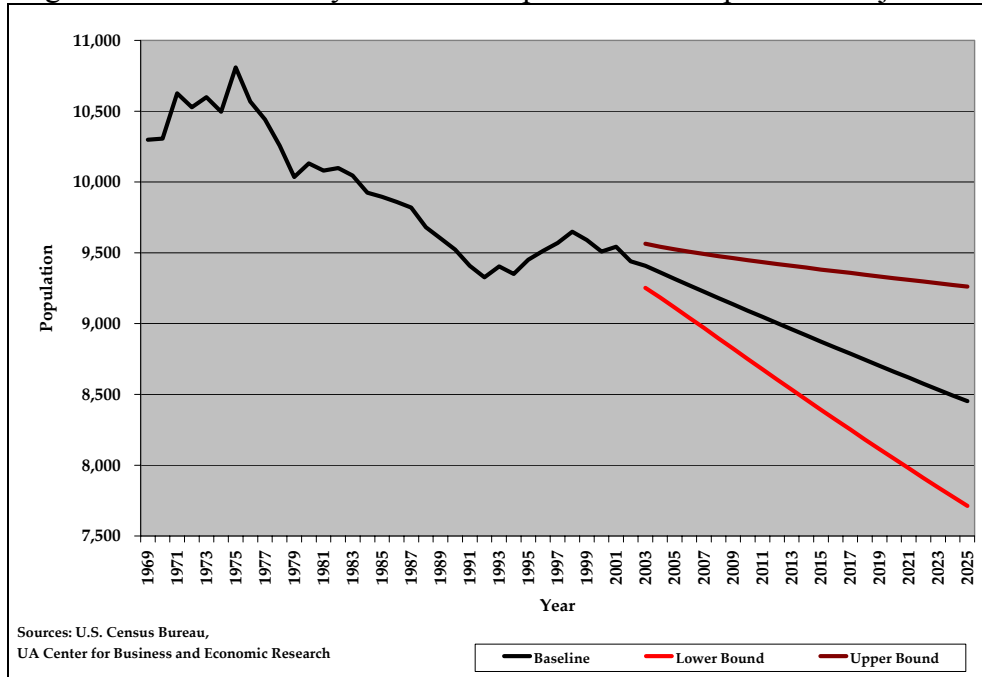


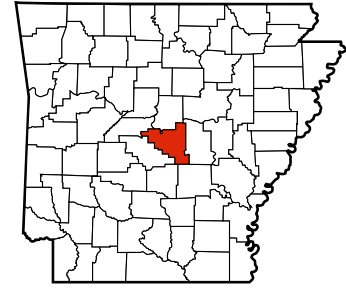
Table 59: Prairie County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 9,649    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,590    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,509    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,543    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,440    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,316    | (124)                     | -1.3%                    | 9,113       | (327)                     | -3.5%                    | 9,524       | 84                        | 0.9%                     |
| 2010 | 9,092    | (348)                     | -3.7%                    | 8,750       | (690)                     | -7.3%                    | 9,447       | 7                         | 0.1%                     |
| 2015 | 8,873    | (567)                     | -6.0%                    | 8,392       | (1,048)                   | -11.1%                   | 9,382       | (58)                      | -0.6%                    |
| 2020 | 8,660    | (780)                     | -8.3%                    | 8,046       | (1,394)                   | -14.8%                   | 9,321       | (119)                     | -1.3%                    |
| 2025 | 8,452    | (988)                     | -10.5%                   | 7,713       | (1,727)                   | -18.3%                   | 9,261       | (179)                     | -1.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Pulaski County***

Pulaski County, the most populous county in Arkansas in 2002, is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Pulaski County, and their 2000 population levels, include the state's capital city, Little Rock (183,133), and the cities of North Little Rock (60,433), Jacksonville (29,916), Sherwood (21,511), and Maumelle (10,557). The county is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



Pulaski County experienced population growth in 28 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002 (see Figure 61). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 81,066 people, or 28.6 percent (or 0.8 percent per annum), from 283,315 to 364,381.

From 1969 to 1974, the county's population increased by 35,346 people, or 12.5 percent, to 318,661. From 1974 to 1987, population growth decelerated. During this period, the county's population increased by 34,326 people, or 10.8 percent, to 352,897.

From 1987 to 1990, the county's population decreased by a net 2,837 people, or 0.8 percent, to 350,060. From 1990 to 1993, the population of Pulaski County increased by 8,052 people, or 2.3 percent, to 358,112. From 1993 to 1997, the county experienced a net population loss of 66 people. Since 1997, the county's population has increased by 6,335 people, or 1.8 percent. The population of Pulaski County stood at 364,381 in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Pulaski County is projected to increase by 10,326 people, or 2.8 percent, to 374,707 by 2010 and by 30,800, or 8.5 percent, to 395,181 by 2025 (see Table 60). The county's population is projected to be between 373,286 and 376,171 in 2010 and between 391,758 and 398,634 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Pulaski County will be supplanted by Benton County as the most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Pulaski County are Faulkner (page 51), Grant (page 59), Jefferson (page 75), Lonoke (page 91), Perry (page 111), and Saline (page 131). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.

Figure 61: Pulaski County Historical Population and Population Projections

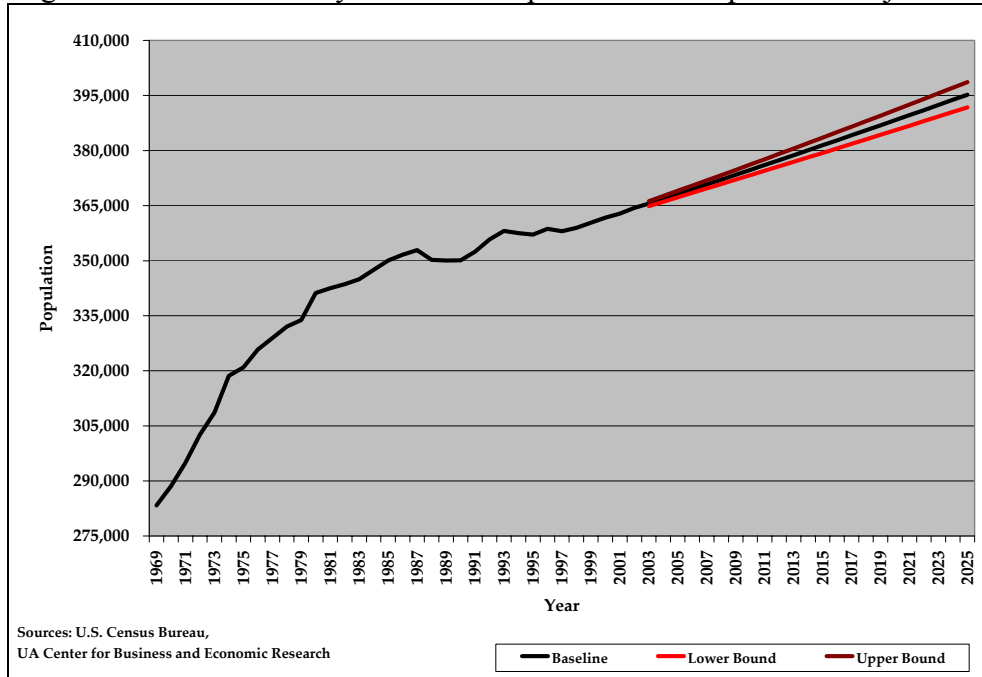


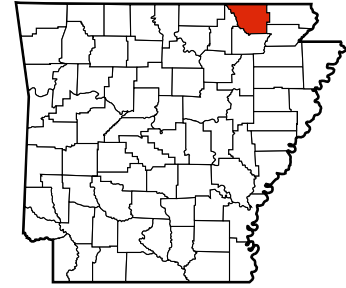
Table 60: Pulaski County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 358,910  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 360,312  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 361,743  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 362,812  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 364,381  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 368,133  | 3,752                     | 1.0%                     | 367,251     | 2,870                     | 0.8%                     | 369,018     | 4,637                     | 1.3%                     |
| 2010 | 374,707  | 10,326                    | 2.8%                     | 373,286     | 8,905                     | 2.4%                     | 376,171     | 11,790                    | 3.2%                     |
| 2015 | 381,437  | 17,056                    | 4.7%                     | 379,344     | 14,963                    | 4.1%                     | 383,502     | 19,121                    | 5.2%                     |
| 2020 | 388,248  | 23,867                    | 6.6%                     | 385,501     | 21,120                    | 5.8%                     | 391,015     | 26,634                    | 7.3%                     |
| 2025 | 395,181  | 30,800                    | 8.5%                     | 391,758     | 27,377                    | 7.5%                     | 398,634     | 34,253                    | 9.4%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Randolph County***

Randolph County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Randolph County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Pocahontas (6,518) and the towns of Reyno (484), Maynard (381), Biggers (355), O’Kean (201), and Ravenden Springs (137).



From 1969 to 1975, the population of Randolph County increased by 3,236 people, or 25.6 percent, from 12,629 to 15,865. Population growth decelerated from 1975 to 1980 (see Figure 62), during which time the county’s population increased by 922 people, or 5.8 percent, to 16,787. The county’s population declined by 433 people, or 2.6 percent, from 1980 to 1988.

From 1988 to 1996, the county’s population grew by 1,437 people, or 8.8 percent, to 17,791. The county’s population reached an historic high in 2001 at 18,239, 2.5 percent greater than its level in 1996. In 2002, the county’s population decreased by 137 people to 18,102. The county was the 41<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Randolph County is projected to increase by 651 people, or 3.6 percent, to 18,753 by 2010 and by 1,642 people, or 9.1 percent, to 19,744 by 2025 (see Table 61). The county’s population is projected to be between 18,162 and 19,365 in 2010 and between 18,428 and 21,152 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Randolph County will be the 43<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 41<sup>st</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Randolph County are Clay County, Arkansas (page 27); Greene County, Arkansas (page 61); Lawrence County, Arkansas (page 81); Sharp County, Arkansas (page 141); Oregon County, Missouri (page 189); and Ripley County, Missouri (page 193). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 62: Randolph County Historical Population and Population Projections

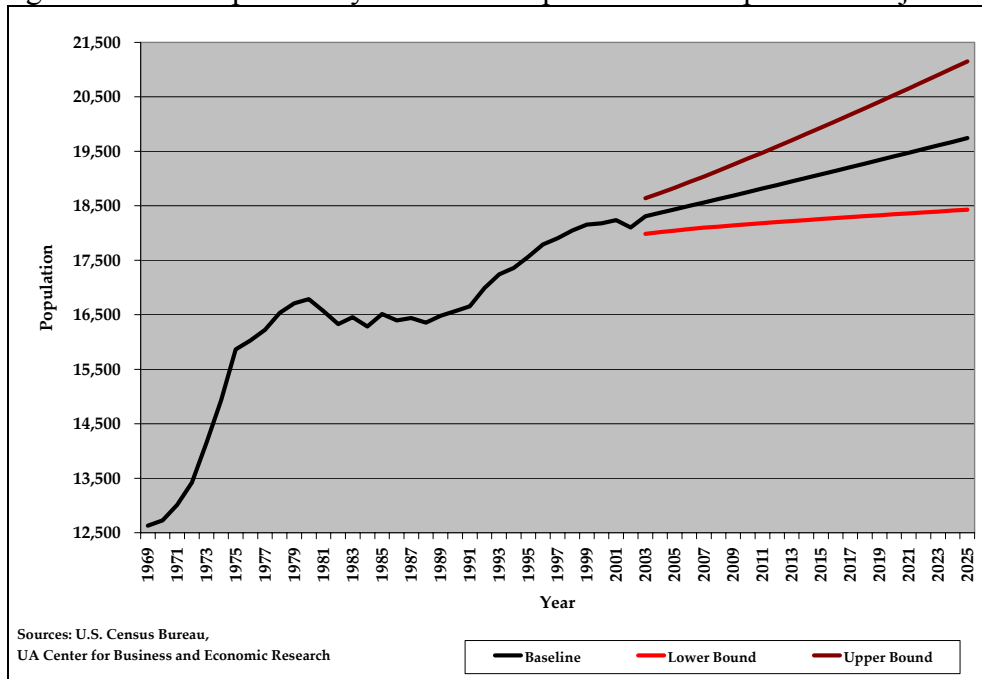


Table 61: Randolph County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 18,047   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 18,156   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 18,177   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 18,239   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 18,102   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 18,435   | 333                       | 1.8%                     | 18,045      | (57)                      | -0.3%                    | 18,832      | 730                       | 4.0%                     |
| 2010 | 18,753   | 651                       | 3.6%                     | 18,162      | 60                        | 0.3%                     | 19,365      | 1,263                     | 7.0%                     |
| 2015 | 19,078   | 976                       | 5.4%                     | 18,257      | 155                       | 0.9%                     | 19,934      | 1,832                     | 10.1%                    |
| 2020 | 19,407   | 1,305                     | 7.2%                     | 18,345      | 243                       | 1.3%                     | 20,533      | 2,431                     | 13.4%                    |
| 2025 | 19,744   | 1,642                     | 9.1%                     | 18,428      | 326                       | 1.8%                     | 21,152      | 3,050                     | 16.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***St. Francis County***

St. Francis County is located in the Southeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in St. Francis County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Forrest City (14,774), Hughes (1,867), Madison (987), Palestine (741), and the town of Caldwell (465).



From 1971 to 1978, the population of St. Francis County increased by a net 1,424 people, or 4.7 percent, to an historical high of 31,516 (see Figure 63). The county's population then decreased in 15 years of the subsequent 24 years.

From 1978 to 1986, the county's population decreased by 1,107 people, or 3.5 percent, to 30,409. Population losses accelerated from 1986 to 1990, during which time the county's population decreased by 1,928 people, or 6.3 percent, to 28,481. The county experienced mild population growth from 1990 to 1993. From 1993 to 1997, the county's population increased by 1,101 people, or 3.9 percent, to 29,648.

Population losses resumed in 1997. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population decreased by 875 people, or 2.4 percent, to 28,773. The county was the 23<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of St. Francis County is projected to decrease by 1,343 people, or 4.7 percent, to 27,430 by 2010 and by 3,744 people, or 13.0 percent, to 25,029 by 2025 (see Table 62). The county's population is projected to be between 26,860 and 28,015 in 2010 and between 23,863 and 26,255 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, St. Francis County will be the 25<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 30<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding St. Francis County are Crittenden (page 41), Cross (page 43), Lee (page 83), Monroe (page 101), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 242.

Figure 63: St. Francis County Historical Population and Population Projections

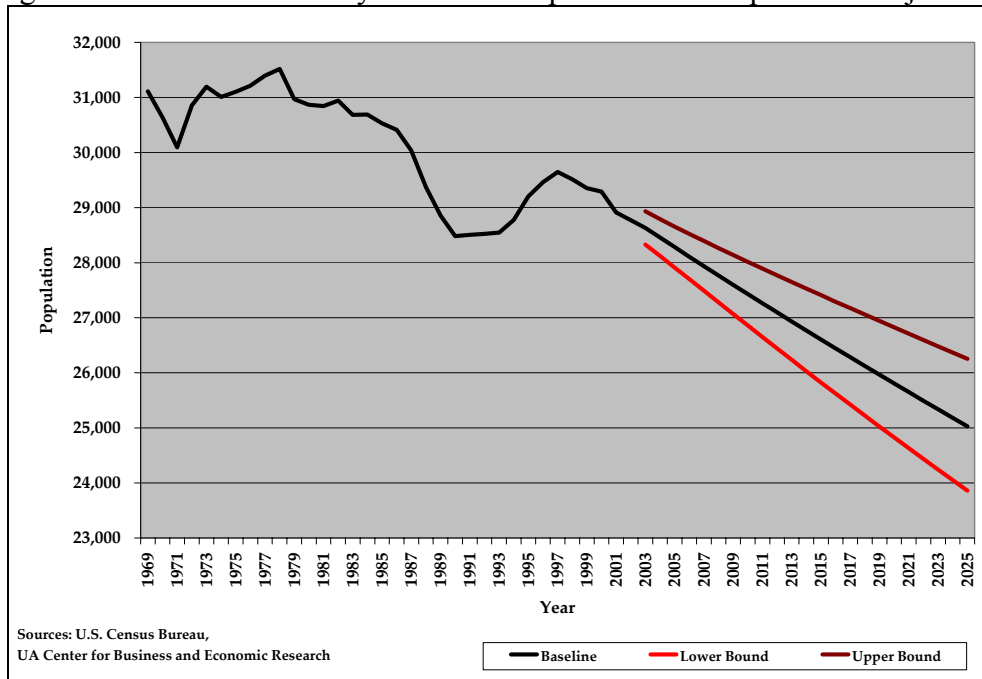


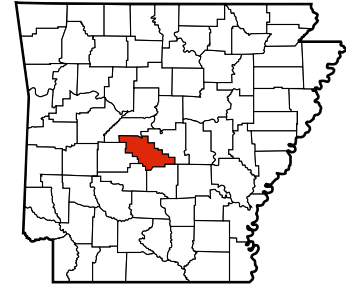
Table 62: St. Francis County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 29,514   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 29,353   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 29,292   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 28,912   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 28,773   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 28,283   | (490)                     | -1.7%                    | 27,912      | (861)                     | -3.0%                    | 28,655      | (118)                     | -0.4%                    |
| 2010 | 27,430   | (1,343)                   | -4.7%                    | 26,860      | (1,913)                   | -6.6%                    | 28,015      | (758)                     | -2.6%                    |
| 2015 | 26,606   | (2,167)                   | -7.5%                    | 25,825      | (2,948)                   | -10.2%                   | 27,411      | (1,362)                   | -4.7%                    |
| 2020 | 25,807   | (2,966)                   | -10.3%                   | 24,827      | (3,946)                   | -13.7%                   | 26,825      | (1,948)                   | -6.8%                    |
| 2025 | 25,029   | (3,744)                   | -13.0%                   | 23,863      | (4,910)                   | -17.1%                   | 26,255      | (2,518)                   | -8.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Saline County***

Saline County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Saline County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Benton (21,906), Bryant (9,764), Haskell (2,645), and Shannon Hills (2,005), the East End CDP (5,623), and the Salem CDP (2,789). The county is a component of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA.



Saline County experienced year-on-year population gains each year from 1969 to 2002. Year-on-year gains exceeded 1,000 people 27 times, 2,000 people 7 times, and 2,500 people 3 times during the period. From 1969 to 2002, the county's population grew by 50,806 people, or 143.2 percent (2.7 percent per annum), from 35,484 to 86,290.

From 1969 to 1980, the county's population increased by 17,871 people, or 50.4 percent, to 53,355. Population growth decelerated from 1980 to 1984 (see Figure 64), during which time the county's population increased by 2,982 people, or 5.6 percent, to 56,337. From 1984 to 1992, the county's population increased by 11,412 people, or 20.3 percent, to 67,749.

Population growth accelerated from 1992 to 1997, during which time the county's population increased by 11,015 people, or 16.3 percent. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population increased by 7,526 people, or 9.6 percent, to 86,290. The county was the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Saline County is projected to increase by 14,098 people, or 16.3 percent, to 100,388 by 2010 and by 46,073 people, or 53.4 percent, to 132,363 by 2025 (see Table 63). The county's population is projected to be between 97,587 and 103,280 in 2010 and between 124,119 and 141,153 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Saline County will be the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Saline County are Garland (page 57), Grant (page 59), Hot Spring (page 65), Perry (page 111), and Pulaski (page 125). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA and the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 226 and 238, respectively.



Figure 64: Saline County Historical Population and Population Projections

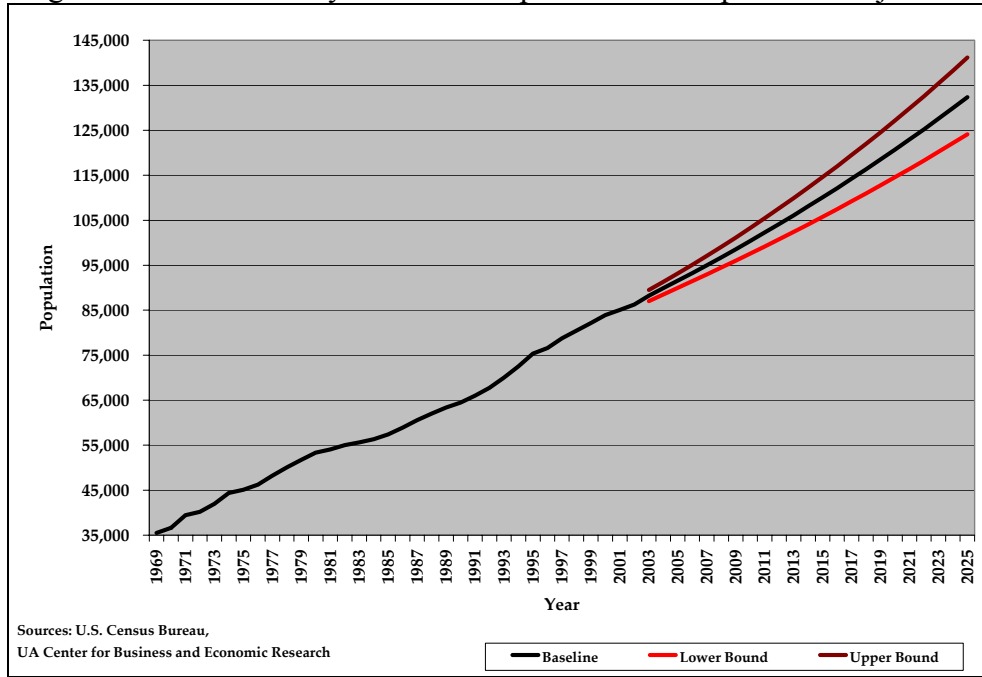


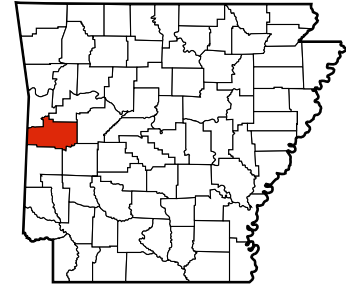
Table 63: Saline County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 80,449   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 82,130   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 83,933   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 85,056   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 86,290   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 91,555   | 5,265                     | 6.1%                     | 89,949      | 3,659                     | 4.2%                     | 93,190      | 6,900                     | 8.0%                     |
| 2010 | 100,388  | 14,098                    | 16.3%                    | 97,587      | 11,297                    | 13.1%                    | 103,280     | 16,990                    | 19.7%                    |
| 2015 | 110,084  | 23,794                    | 27.6%                    | 105,757     | 19,467                    | 22.6%                    | 114,588     | 28,298                    | 32.8%                    |
| 2020 | 120,704  | 34,414                    | 39.9%                    | 114,577     | 28,287                    | 32.8%                    | 127,173     | 40,883                    | 47.4%                    |
| 2025 | 132,363  | 46,073                    | 53.4%                    | 124,119     | 37,829                    | 43.8%                    | 141,153     | 54,863                    | 63.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Scott County***

Scott County is located in western Arkansas along the border with Oklahoma and is a component of the Northwest Arkansas planning area. The county's population centers, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Waldron (3,508) and Mansfield (391 of the city's 1,097 residents in 2000 lived in Scott County).



From 1969 to 1975, the county's population increased by 1,433 people, or 17.6 percent, to 9,568. From 1975 to 1982, the county's population was relatively stable, ranging from 9,346 to 9,679 (see Figure 65). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 26 people. From 1982 to 1987, the population of Scott County grew by 765 people, or 8.0 percent, from 9,594 to 10,359.

After decreasing by 159 people from 1987 to 1990, the county's population increased by 929 people, or 9.1 percent, from 10,200 in 1990 to an historic high of 11,129 in 1997. The county's population decreased by 246 people from 1997 to 1998 and then increased by a net 121 people from 10,977 in 1998 to 11,004 in 2002. The county was the 63<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Scott County is projected to increase by 227 people, or 2.1 percent, to 11,231 by 2010 and by 624 people, or 5.7 percent, to 11,628 by 2025 (see Table 64). The county's population is projected to be between 10,826 and 11,649 in 2010 and between 10,655 and 12,690 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Scott County will be the 63<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 62<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Scott County are Logan County, Arkansas (page 89); Montgomery County, Arkansas (page 103); Polk County, Arkansas (page 119); Sebastian County, Arkansas (page 137); Yell County, Arkansas (page 155); and Le Flore County, Oklahoma (page 200). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

Figure 65: Scott County Historical Population and Population Projections

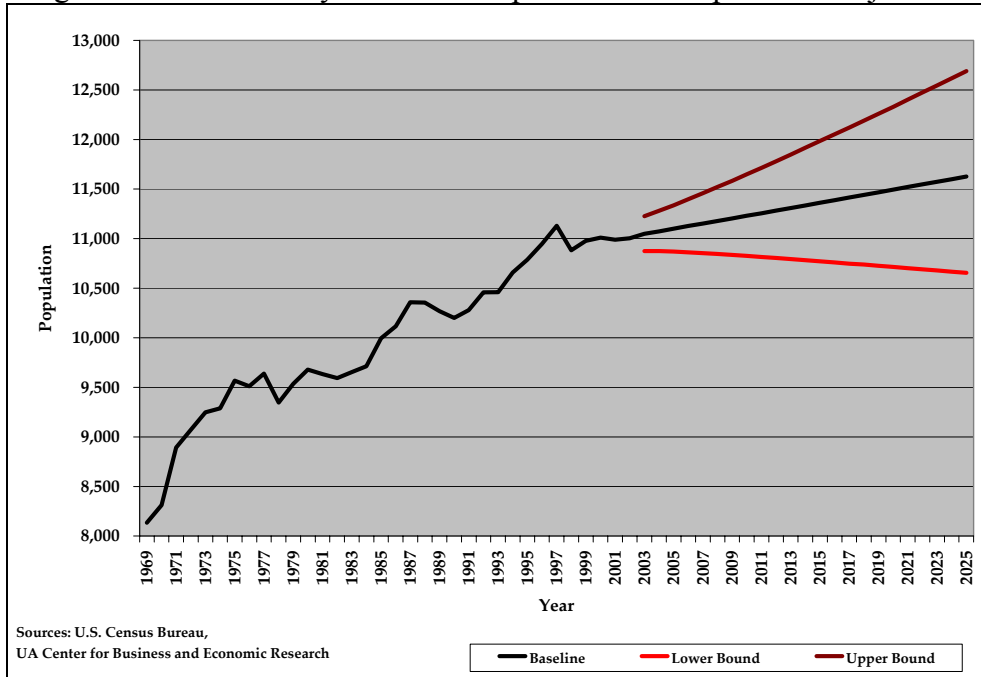


Table 64: Scott County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 10,883   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 10,977   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 11,010   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 10,989   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 11,004   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 11,101   | 97                        | 0.9%                     | 10,869      | (135)                     | -1.2%                    | 11,337      | 333                       | 3.0%                     |
| 2010 | 11,231   | 227                       | 2.1%                     | 10,826      | (178)                     | -1.6%                    | 11,649      | 645                       | 5.9%                     |
| 2015 | 11,362   | 358                       | 3.3%                     | 10,772      | (232)                     | -2.1%                    | 11,984      | 980                       | 8.9%                     |
| 2020 | 11,494   | 490                       | 4.5%                     | 10,714      | (290)                     | -2.6%                    | 12,330      | 1,326                     | 12.1%                    |
| 2025 | 11,628   | 624                       | 5.7%                     | 10,655      | (349)                     | -3.2%                    | 12,690      | 1,686                     | 15.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Searcy County*

Searcy County is located in north-central Arkansas and is a component of the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Searcy County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Marshall (1,313) and Leslie (482).

The population of Searcy County increased by a net 1,291 people, or 16.6 percent, from 7,785 in 1969 to an historical high of 9,076 in 1977. From 1977 to 1986, the county's population declined by 549 people, or 6.0 percent, to 8,527. Population loss accelerated from 1986 to 1992 (see Figure 66), during which time the population of Searcy County decreased by 860 people, or 10.1 percent, to 7,667.

From 1992 to 1997, the county's population increased by 381 people, or 5.0 percent, to 8,048. Population growth was relatively flat from 1997 to 2002. The county was the 2<sup>nd</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002 with a population of 8,039.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Searcy County is projected to increase by 223 people, or 2.8 percent, to 8,262 by 2010 and by 423 people, or 5.3 percent, to 8,462 by 2025 (see Table 65). The county's population is projected to be between 7,488 and 9,115 in 2010 and between 6,772 and 10,572 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Searcy County will be the 5<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 8<sup>th</sup> least populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Searcy County are Baxter (page 11), Boone (page 15), Marion (page 95), Newton (page 107), Pope (page 121), Stone (page 143), and Van Buren (page 147). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 241.

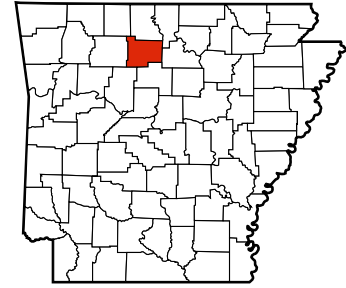


Figure 66: Searcy County Historical Population and Population Projections

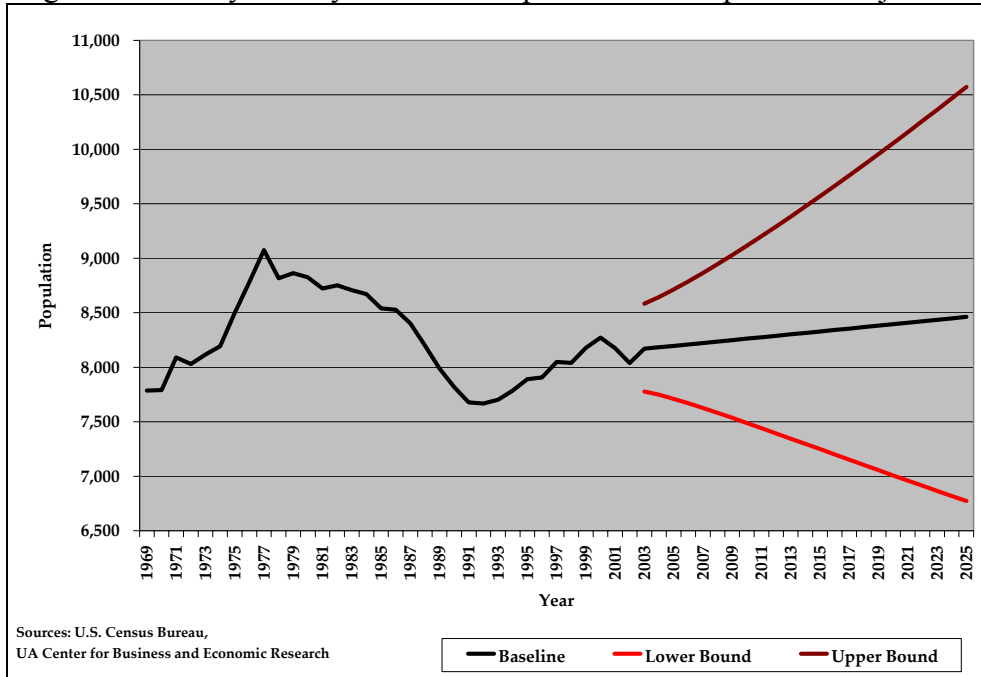


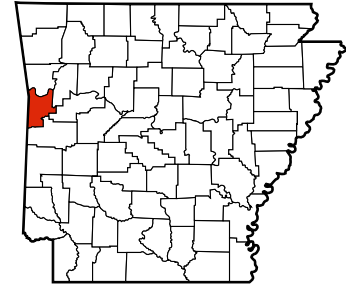
Table 65: Searcy County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,040    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 8,178    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 8,272    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 8,175    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,039    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,196    | 157                       | 2.0%                     | 7,709       | (330)                     | -4.1%                    | 8,714       | 675                       | 8.4%                     |
| 2010 | 8,262    | 223                       | 2.8%                     | 7,488       | (551)                     | -6.9%                    | 9,115       | 1,076                     | 13.4%                    |
| 2015 | 8,328    | 289                       | 3.6%                     | 7,249       | (790)                     | -9.8%                    | 9,568       | 1,529                     | 19.0%                    |
| 2020 | 8,395    | 356                       | 4.4%                     | 7,008       | (1,031)                   | -12.8%                   | 10,056      | 2,017                     | 25.1%                    |
| 2025 | 8,462    | 423                       | 5.3%                     | 6,772       | (1,267)                   | -15.8%                   | 10,572      | 2,533                     | 31.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Sebastian County***

Sebastian County is located along the western border of Arkansas with Oklahoma and is a component of the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Sebastian County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Fort Smith (80,268), Greenwood (7,112), Barling (4,176), and Lavaca (1,825). The county is a component of the Fort Smith MSA.



Sebastian County experienced year-on-year population gains in 30 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 39,046 people, or 49.9 percent (1.4 percent per annum), from 78,174 to 117,220. From 1969 to 1978, the county's population grew by 16,080 people, or 20.6 percent, to 94,254.

Population growth slowed from 1978 to 1990 (see Figure 67), during which time the county's population increased by a net 5,489 people, or 5.8 percent, to 99,743. From 1990 to 1997, the county's population grew by 11,698 people, or 11.7 percent, to 111,441. Since 1997, the county's population has increased by 5,779 people, or 5.2 percent, to 117,220. The county was the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Sebastian County is projected to increase by 11,077 people, or 9.4 percent, to 128,297 by 2010 and by 34,032 people, or 29.0 percent, to 151,252 by 2025 (see Table 66). The county's population is projected to be between 124,617 and 132,072 in 2010 and between 141,620 and 161,539 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Sebastian County will be the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 5<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Sebastian County are Crawford County, Arkansas (page 39); Franklin County, Arkansas (page 53); Logan County, Arkansas (page 89); Scott County, Arkansas (page 133); Le Flore County, Oklahoma (page 200); and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma (page 203). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Fort Smith MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 220 and 241, respectively.

Figure 67: Sebastian County Historical Population and Population Projections

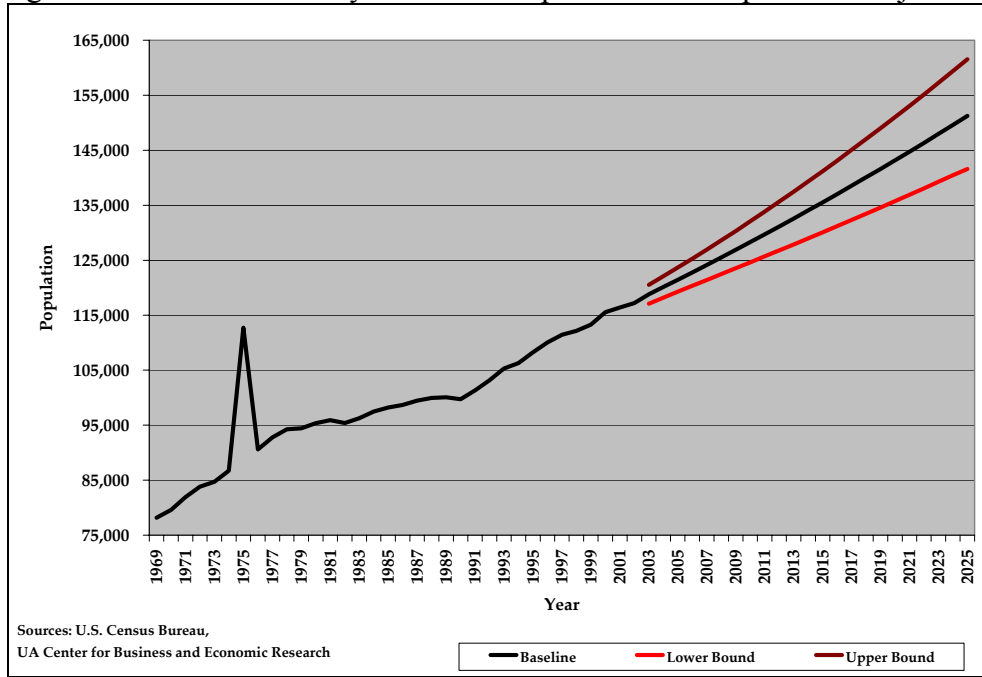


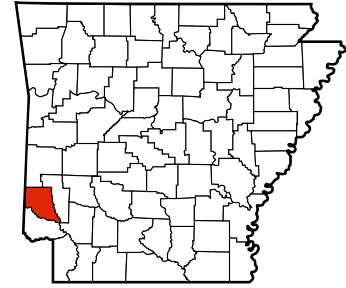
Table 66: Sebastian County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 112,150  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 113,302  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 115,551  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 116,407  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 117,220  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 121,443  | 4,223                     | 3.6%                     | 119,265     | 2,045                     | 1.7%                     | 123,661     | 6,441                     | 5.5%                     |
| 2010 | 128,297  | 11,077                    | 9.4%                     | 124,617     | 7,397                     | 6.3%                     | 132,072     | 14,852                    | 12.7%                    |
| 2015 | 135,523  | 18,303                    | 15.6%                    | 130,079     | 12,859                    | 11.0%                    | 141,210     | 23,990                    | 20.5%                    |
| 2020 | 143,172  | 25,952                    | 22.1%                    | 135,740     | 18,520                    | 15.8%                    | 151,025     | 33,805                    | 28.8%                    |
| 2025 | 151,252  | 34,032                    | 29.0%                    | 141,620     | 24,400                    | 20.8%                    | 161,539     | 44,319                    | 37.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Sevier County*

Sevier County is located in the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Sevier County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of De Queen (5,765) and Horatio (997) and the towns of Lockesburg (711), Gillham (188), and Ben Lomond (126).



From 1969 to 1980, the population of Sevier County increased by 2,886 people, or 25.8 percent, from 11,177 to 14,063. From 1980 to 1989, the county's population decreased by a net 646 people, or 4.6 percent, to 13,417.

After increasing by 1,148 people from 1989 to 1992, population growth in Sevier County decelerated (see Figure 68). From 1992 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 1,246 people, or 8.6 percent, from 14,565 to 15,811. The county was the 50<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1992 to 2002 trend, the population of Sevier County is projected to increase by 1,309 people, or 8.3 percent, to 17,120 by 2010 and by 3,688 people, or 23.3 percent, to 19,499 by 2025 (see Table 67). The county's population is projected to be between 16,714 and 17,536 in 2010 and between 18,689 and 20,343 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Sevier County will be the 47<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 43<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Sevier County are Hempstead County, Arkansas (page 63); Howard County, Arkansas (page 67); Little River County, Arkansas (page 87); Polk County, Arkansas (page 119); and McCurtain County, Oklahoma (page 202). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 244.



Figure 68: Sevier County Historical Population and Population Projections

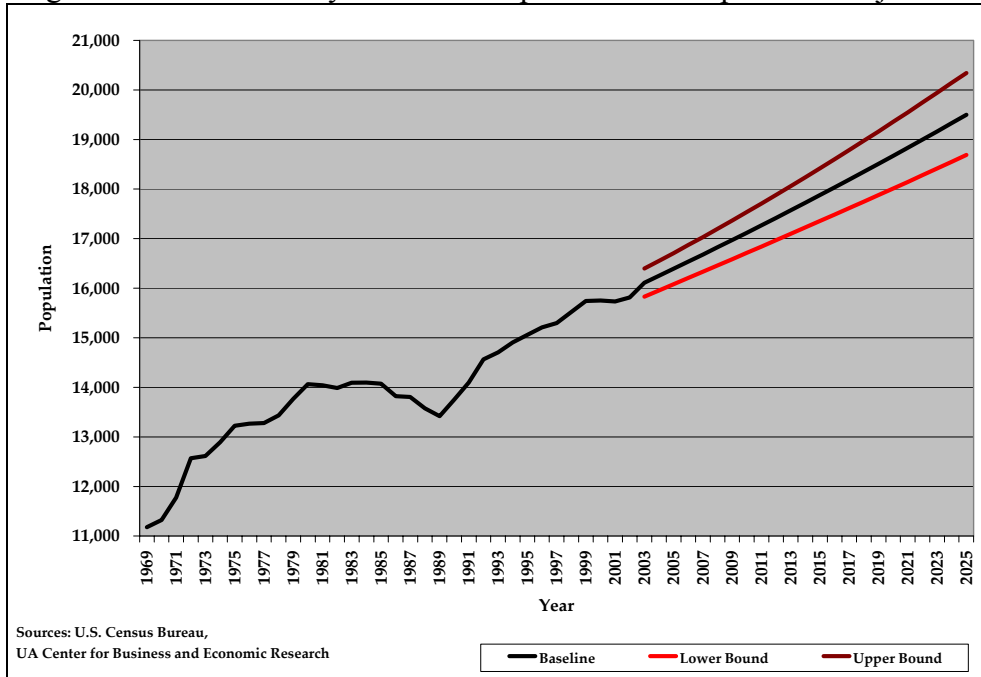


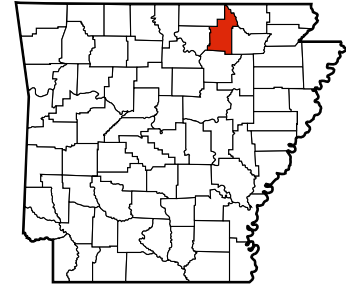
Table 67: Sevier County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 15,518   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 15,741   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 15,752   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 15,731   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 15,811   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 16,393   | 582                       | 3.7%                     | 16,081      | 270                       | 1.7%                     | 16,709      | 898                       | 5.7%                     |
| 2010 | 17,120   | 1,309                     | 8.3%                     | 16,714      | 903                       | 5.7%                     | 17,536      | 1,725                     | 10.9%                    |
| 2015 | 17,878   | 2,067                     | 13.1%                    | 17,354      | 1,543                     | 9.8%                     | 18,418      | 2,607                     | 16.5%                    |
| 2020 | 18,670   | 2,859                     | 18.1%                    | 18,012      | 2,201                     | 13.9%                    | 19,355      | 3,544                     | 22.4%                    |
| 2025 | 19,499   | 3,688                     | 23.3%                    | 18,689      | 2,878                     | 18.2%                    | 20,343      | 4,532                     | 28.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Sharp County***

Sharp County is located in the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Sharp County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Cherokee Village (3,839 of the city's 4,648 residents lived in Sharp County in 2000), Cave City (1,884 of the city's 1,946 residents lived in Sharp County in 2000), Highland (986), Ash Flat (975 of the city's 977 residents in 2000 lived in Sharp County), and Hardy (578).



From 1969 to 1981, the population of Sharp County increased by 6,637 people, or 82.3 percent, from 8,064 to 14,701. The county's population then decreased by a net 606 people, or 4.1 percent, to 14,095 in 1989.

After a modest increase from 1989 to 1990, population growth in Sharp County accelerated from 1990 to 1996 (see Figure 69). For the period, the county's population increased by 2,230 people, or 15.8 percent, to 16,358. From 1996 to 2002, the county's population grew by a net 912 people, or 5.6 percent, to 17,270. The county was the 45<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Sharp County is projected to increase by 1,571 people, or 9.1 percent, to 18,841 by 2010 and by 4,601 people, or 26.6 percent, to 21,871 by 2025 (see Table 68). The county's population is projected to be between 18,272 and 19,427 in 2010 and between 20,476 and 23,360 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Sharp County will be the 42<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 36<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Sharp County are Fulton County, Arkansas (page 55); Independence County, Arkansas (page 69); Izard County, Arkansas (page 71); Lawrence County, Arkansas (page 81); Randolph County, Arkansas (page 127); and Oregon County, Missouri (page 189). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 69: Sharp County Historical Population and Population Projections

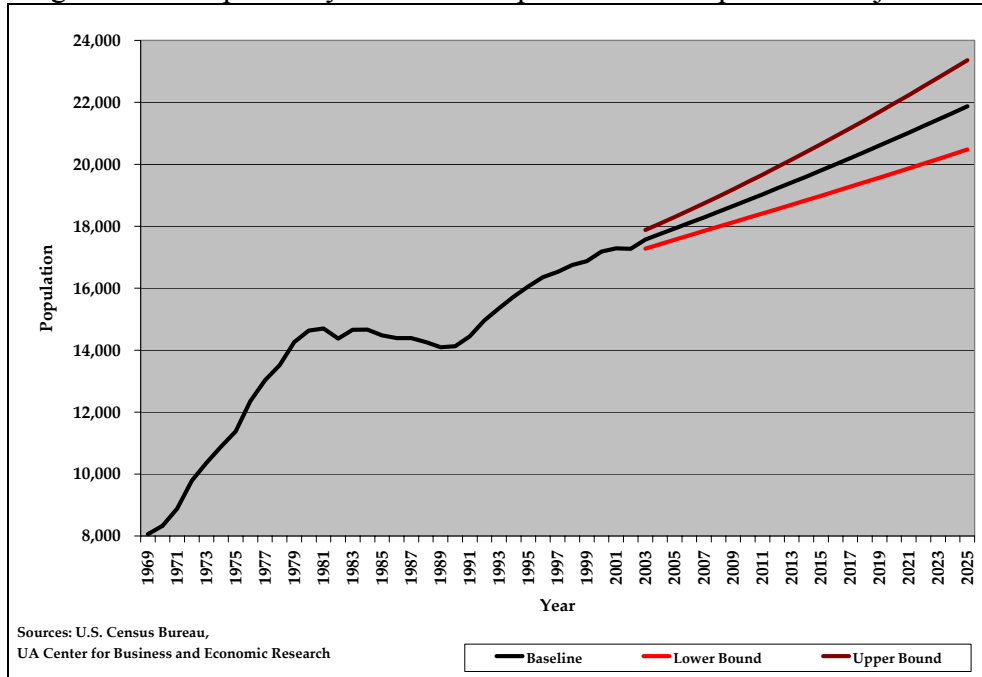


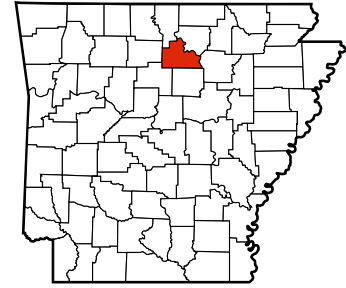
Table 68: Sharp County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 16,747   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 16,878   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 17,180   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 17,289   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 17,270   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 17,928   | 658                       | 3.8%                     | 17,564      | 294                       | 1.7%                     | 18,297      | 1,027                     | 5.9%                     |
| 2010 | 18,841   | 1,571                     | 9.1%                     | 18,272      | 1,002                     | 5.8%                     | 19,427      | 2,157                     | 12.5%                    |
| 2015 | 19,801   | 2,531                     | 14.7%                    | 18,985      | 1,715                     | 9.9%                     | 20,651      | 3,381                     | 19.6%                    |
| 2020 | 20,810   | 3,540                     | 20.5%                    | 19,718      | 2,448                     | 14.2%                    | 21,963      | 4,693                     | 27.2%                    |
| 2025 | 21,871   | 4,601                     | 26.6%                    | 20,476      | 3,206                     | 18.6%                    | 23,360      | 6,090                     | 35.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Stone County***

Stone County is located in north-central Arkansas and is a component of the Northeast Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Stone County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Mountain View (2,876) and Fifty-Six (163).



Stone County experienced year-on-year population gains in 30 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 4,722 people, or 69.5 percent (1.6 percent per annum), from 6,796 to 11,518. From 1969 to 1980, the county's population increased by 2,251 people, or 33.1 percent, to 9,047.

Population growth slowed from 1980 to 1989 (see Figure 70). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 572 people, or 6.3 percent, to 9,619. From 1989 to 1996, the population of Stone County grew by 1,345 people, or 14.0 percent, to 10,964. Since 1996, population growth in Stone County has slowed. During this period, the county's population increased by a net 554 people, or 5.1 percent, to 11,518. Stone County was the 61<sup>st</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Stone County is projected to increase by 863 people, or 7.5 percent, to 12,381 by 2010 and by 2,485 people, or 21.6 percent, to 14,003 by 2025 (see Table 69). The county's population is projected to be between 11,817 and 12,973 in 2010 and between 12,665 and 15,481 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Stone County will be the 59<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 54<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Stone County are Baxter (page 11), Cleburne (page 29), Independence (page 69), Izard (page 71), Searcy (page 135), and Van Buren (page 147). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Northeast Arkansas planning area can be found on page 240.

Figure 70: Stone County Historical Population and Population Projections

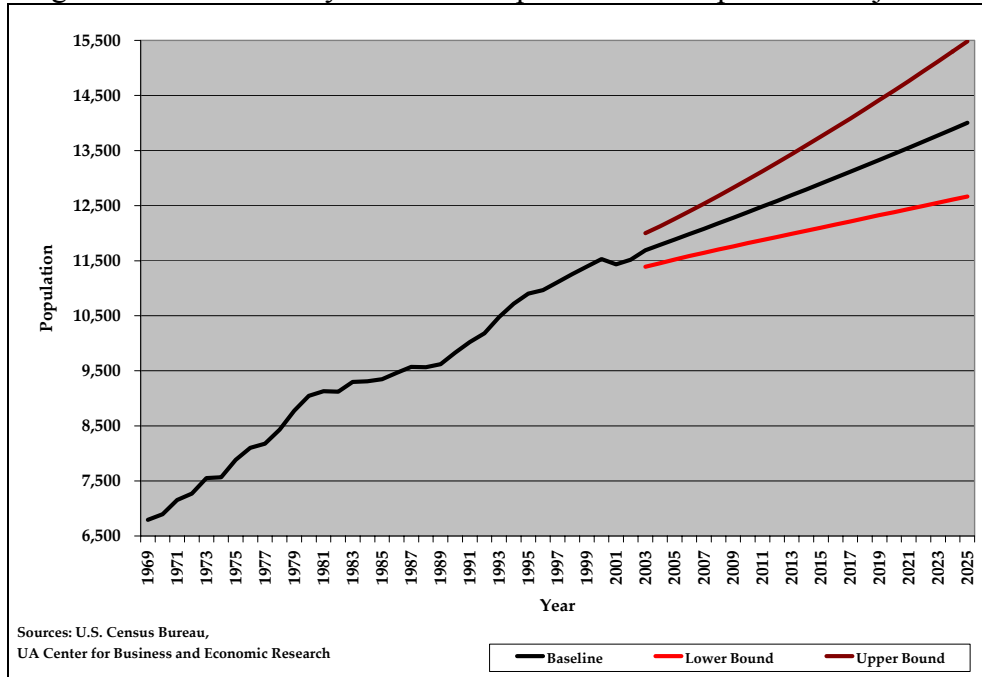


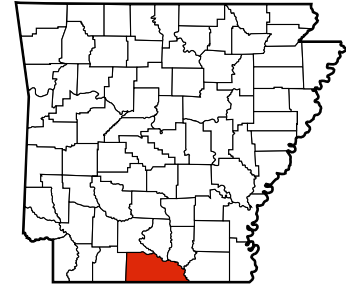
Table 69: Stone County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 11,256   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 11,391   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 11,531   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 11,434   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 11,518   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 11,883   | 365                       | 3.2%                     | 11,520      | 2                         | 0.0%                     | 12,259      | 741                       | 6.4%                     |
| 2010 | 12,381   | 863                       | 7.5%                     | 11,817      | 299                       | 2.6%                     | 12,973      | 1,455                     | 12.6%                    |
| 2015 | 12,900   | 1,382                     | 12.0%                    | 12,099      | 581                       | 5.0%                     | 13,753      | 2,235                     | 19.4%                    |
| 2020 | 13,440   | 1,922                     | 16.7%                    | 12,381      | 863                       | 7.5%                     | 14,589      | 3,071                     | 26.7%                    |
| 2025 | 14,003   | 2,485                     | 21.6%                    | 12,665      | 1,147                     | 10.0%                    | 15,481      | 3,963                     | 34.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## *Union County*

Union County is located in south-central Arkansas along the border with Louisiana and is a component of the Southwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Union County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of El Dorado (21,530), Smackover (2,005), Norphlet (822), Huttig (731), and Junction City (721).



After decreasing by 1,061 people from 1969 to 1971, the population of Union County increased by 5,186 people, or 11.6 percent, from 44,876 in 1971 to an historic high of 50,062 in 1979 (see Figure 71). From 1979 to 1981, the county's population decreased by 1,581 people and remained relatively stable from 1981 to 1985.

From 1985 to 1989, the county's population decreased by 1,774 people, or 3.7 percent, from 48,499 to 46,725. The rate of population loss decelerated from 1989 to 1995, during which time the county's population decreased by a net 193 people to 46,532. From 1995 to 2002, the population of Union County decreased by 1,253 people, or 2.7 percent, to 45,279. The county was the 16<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Union County is projected to decrease by 1,544 people, or 3.4 percent, to 43,735 by 2010 and by 4,083 people, or 9.0 percent, to 41,196 by 2025 (see Table 70). The county's population is projected to be between 43,153 and 44,325 in 2010 and between 40,083 and 42,341 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Union County will be the 16<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 19<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties and parishes immediately surrounding Union County are Ashley County, Arkansas (page 9); Bradley County, Arkansas (page 17); Calhoun County, Arkansas (page 19); Columbia County, Arkansas (page 33); Ouachita County, Arkansas (page 109); Claiborne Parish, Louisiana (page 160); Morehouse Parish, Louisiana (page 163); and Union Parish, Louisiana (page 166). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Southwest and Southeast Arkansas planning areas can be found on page 244 and 242, respectively.

Figure 71: Union County Historical Population and Population Projections

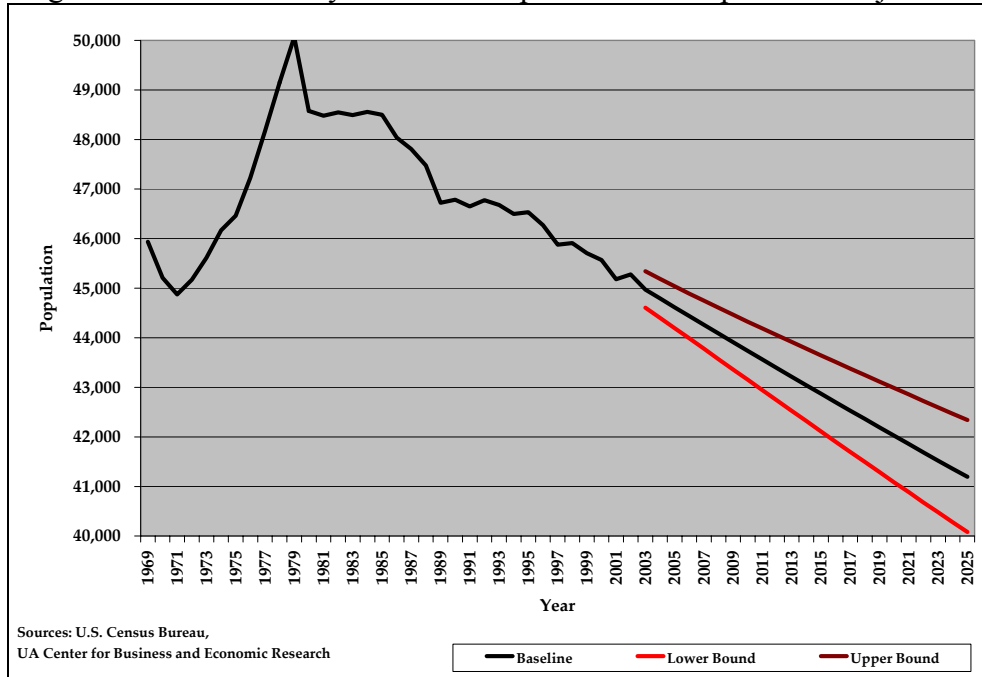


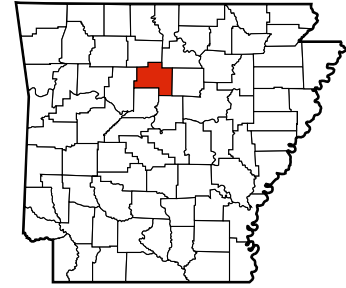
Table 70: Union County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 45,908   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 45,706   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 45,568   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 45,180   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 45,279   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 44,614   | (665)                     | -1.5%                    | 44,196      | (1,083)                   | -2.4%                    | 45,040      | (239)                     | -0.5%                    |
| 2010 | 43,735   | (1,544)                   | -3.4%                    | 43,153      | (2,126)                   | -4.7%                    | 44,325      | (954)                     | -2.1%                    |
| 2015 | 42,873   | (2,406)                   | -5.3%                    | 42,113      | (3,166)                   | -7.0%                    | 43,643      | (1,636)                   | -3.6%                    |
| 2020 | 42,024   | (3,255)                   | -7.2%                    | 41,085      | (4,194)                   | -9.3%                    | 42,985      | (2,294)                   | -5.1%                    |
| 2025 | 41,196   | (4,083)                   | -9.0%                    | 40,083      | (5,196)                   | -11.5%                   | 42,341      | (2,938)                   | -6.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Van Buren County***

Van Buren County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Van Buren County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Fairfield Bay (2,314 of the city's 2,460 residents in 2000 lived in Van Buren County) and Clinton (2,283) and the town of Shirley (337).



From 1969 to 1979, the population of Van Buren County increased by 5,008 people, or 61.2 percent, from 8,177 to 13,185. Population growth slowed from 1979 to 1990 (see Figure 72). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 872 people, or 6.6 percent, to 14,057.

From 1990 to 1997, the population of Van Buren County increased by a net 1,846 people, or 13.1 percent, to 15,903. Population growth slowed from 1997 to 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 411 people, or 2.6 percent, to 16,314. Van Buren County was the 48<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Van Buren County is projected to increase by 909 people, or 5.6 percent, to 17,223 by 2010 and by 2,588 people, or 15.9 percent, to 18,902 by 2025 (see Table 71). The county's population is projected to be between 16,699 and 17,765 in 2010 and between 17,622 and 20,274 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Van Buren County will be the 46<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 45<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Van Buren County are Cleburne (page 29), Conway (page 35), Faulkner (page 51), Pope (page 121), Searcy (page 135), and Stone (page 143). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238.



Figure 72: Van Buren County Historical Population and Population Projections

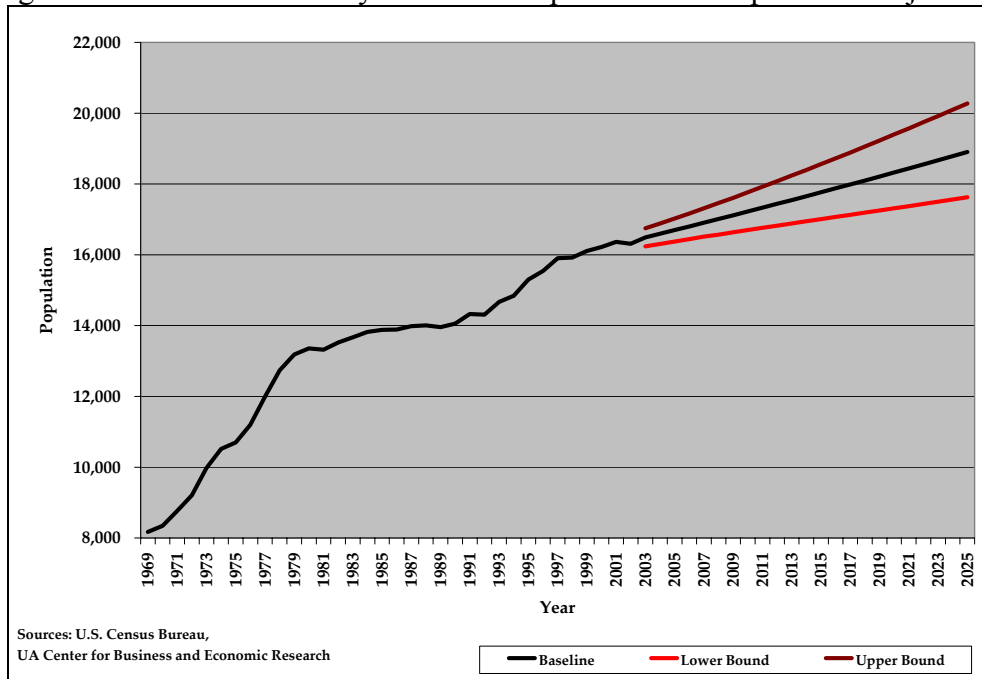


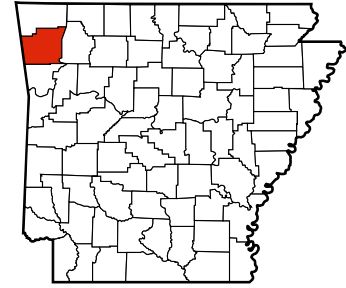
Table 71: Van Buren County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 15,923   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 16,105   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 16,220   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 16,366   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 16,314   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 16,697   | 383                       | 2.3%                     | 16,378      | 64                        | 0.4%                     | 17,023      | 709                       | 4.3%                     |
| 2010 | 17,223   | 909                       | 5.6%                     | 16,699      | 385                       | 2.4%                     | 17,765      | 1,451                     | 8.9%                     |
| 2015 | 17,765   | 1,451                     | 8.9%                     | 17,006      | 692                       | 4.2%                     | 18,559      | 2,245                     | 13.8%                    |
| 2020 | 18,325   | 2,011                     | 12.3%                    | 17,313      | 999                       | 6.1%                     | 19,398      | 3,084                     | 18.9%                    |
| 2025 | 18,902   | 2,588                     | 15.9%                    | 17,622      | 1,308                     | 8.0%                     | 20,274      | 3,960                     | 24.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Washington County***

Washington County is located in the Northwest Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Washington County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Fayetteville (58,047), Springdale (43,787 of the city's 45,798 residents in 2000 lived in Washington County), Farmington (3,605), Prairie Grove (2,540), Johnson (2,319), and West Fork (2,042). The county is a component of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA.



Like Benton County, the growth of Washington County's population and the economic activity taking place within the county during the last three decades is nothing short of remarkable. The county's population in 2002 (166,511) is roughly 2.2 times greater than in 1969 (75,186). This translates to an annual growth rate of 2.4 percent. For the period, year-on-year population gains exceeded 2,000 people 20 times, 3,000 people 12 times, 4,000 people 8 times, 5,000 people 4 times, and exceeded 6,000 people in 1995.

Much of the growth in Washington County can be attributed, either directly or indirectly, to the emergence of Wal-Mart, whose corporate headquarters are located in Bentonville in Benton County, as the world's largest retailer and the world's largest private employer. Particularly impressive have been the population gains from 1989 to 2002 (see Figure 73). For the period, the county's population grew by 55,384 people, or 49.8 percent (3.2 percent per annum), from 111,127 to 166,511.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Washington County is projected to increase by 32,020 people, or 19.2 percent, to 198,531 by 2010 and by 110,330 people, or 66.3 percent, to 276,841 by 2025 (see Table 72). The county's population is projected to be between 191,703 and 205,603 in 2010 and between 255,736 and 299,689 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Washington County will likely be supplanted by Benton County as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2003 and is projected to remain as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most populous county in the state through 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Washington County are Benton County, Arkansas (page 13); Carroll County, Arkansas (page 21); Crawford County, Arkansas (page 39); Franklin County, Arkansas (page 53); Madison County, Arkansas (page 93); and Adair County, Oklahoma (page 198). A

discussion of population trends and projections for the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA and the Northwest Arkansas planning area can be found on page 217 and 241, respectively.

Figure 73: Washington County Historical Population and Population Projections

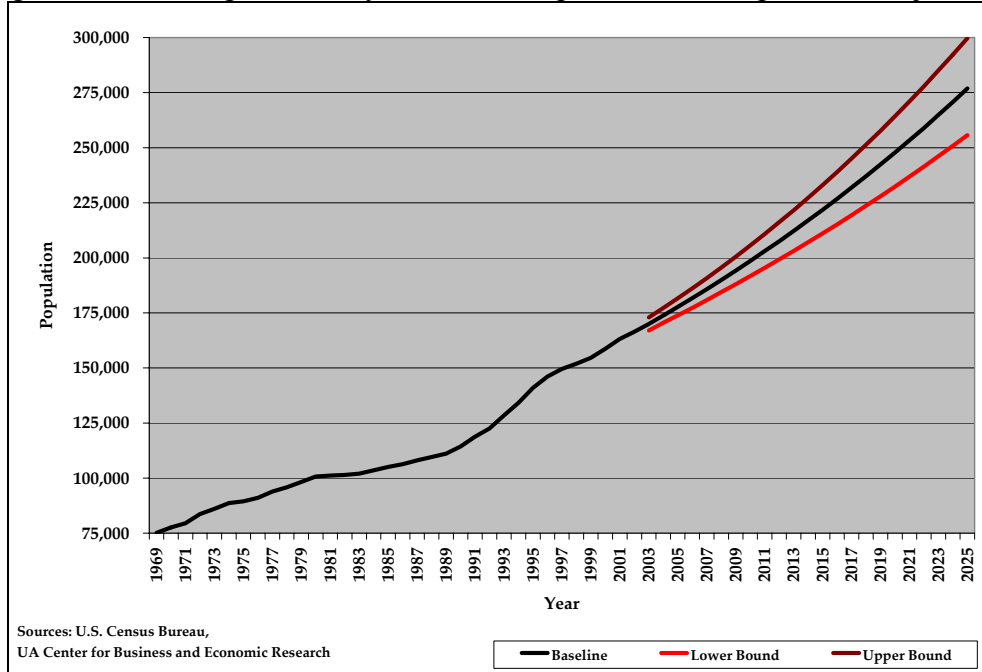


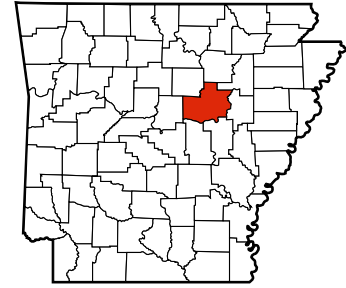
Table 72: Washington County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 151,909  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 154,627  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 158,720  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 163,168  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 166,511  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 177,709  | 11,198                    | 6.7%                     | 173,876     | 7,365                     | 4.4%                     | 181,625     | 15,114                    | 9.1%                     |
| 2010 | 198,531  | 32,020                    | 19.2%                    | 191,703     | 25,192                    | 15.1%                    | 205,603     | 39,092                    | 23.5%                    |
| 2015 | 221,793  | 55,282                    | 33.2%                    | 211,103     | 44,592                    | 26.8%                    | 233,048     | 66,537                    | 40.0%                    |
| 2020 | 247,806  | 81,295                    | 48.8%                    | 232,373     | 65,862                    | 39.6%                    | 264,263     | 97,752                    | 58.7%                    |
| 2025 | 276,841  | 110,330                   | 66.3%                    | 255,736     | 89,225                    | 53.6%                    | 299,689     | 133,178                   | 80.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***White County***

White County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in White County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Searcy (18,928), Beebe (4,930), Bald Knob (3,210), Judsonia (1,982), and Kensett (1,791).



White County experienced year-on-year population gains in 31 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 30,665, or 79.3 percent (1.8 percent per annum), from 38,689 to 69,354. From 1969 to 1980, the county's population increased by 12,274 people, or 31.7 percent, to 50,963.

Population growth slowed from 1980 to 1988 (see Figure 74). For the period, the county's population increased by a net 2,358 people, or 4.6 percent, to 53,321. Population growth accelerated from 1988 to 1998, during which time the county's population increased by 12,464 people, or 23.4 percent, to 65,785.

Since 1998, population growth has slowed. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population increased by 3,569 people, or 5.4 percent, to 69,354. White County was the 10<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of White County is projected to increase by 8,205 people, or 11.8 percent, to 77,559 by 2010 and by 26,196 people, or 37.8 percent, to 95,550 by 2025 (see Table 73). The county's population is projected to be between 75,350 and 79,834 in 2010 and between 89,188 and 102,365 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, White County will be the 10<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 9<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding White County are Cleburne (page 29), Faulkner (page 51), Independence (page 69), Jackson (page 73), Lonoke (page 91), Prairie (page 123), and Woodruff (page 153). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238.

Figure 74: White County Historical Population and Population Projections

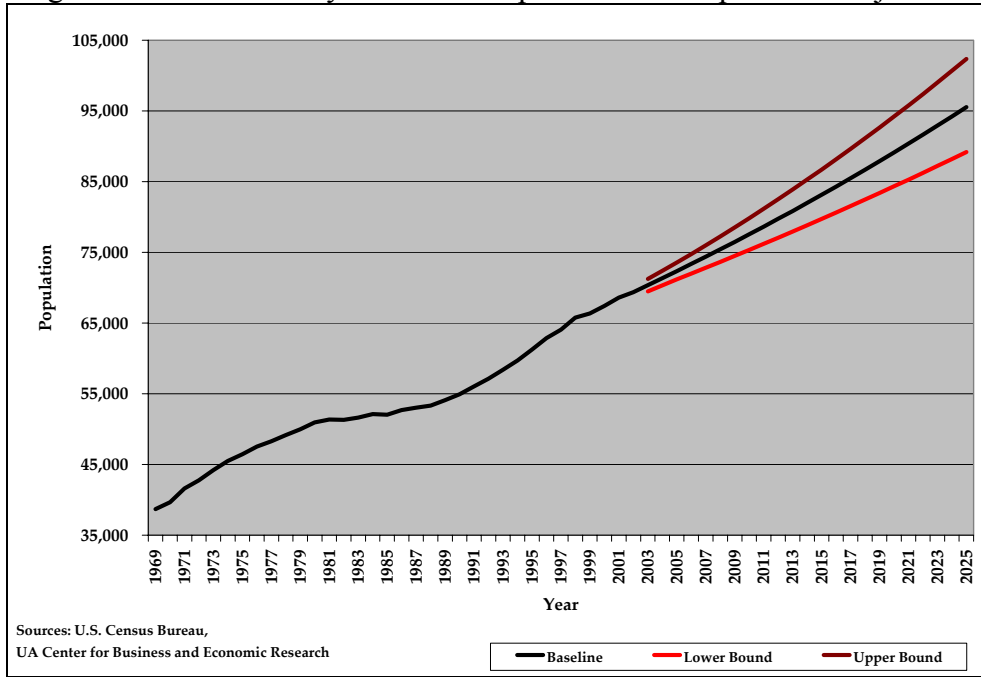


Table 73: White County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 65,785   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 66,359   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 67,417   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 68,612   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 69,354   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 72,352   | 2,998                     | 4.3%                     | 71,161      | 1,807                     | 2.6%                     | 73,563      | 4,209                     | 6.1%                     |
| 2010 | 77,559   | 8,205                     | 11.8%                    | 75,350      | 5,996                     | 8.6%                     | 79,834      | 10,480                    | 15.1%                    |
| 2015 | 83,142   | 13,788                    | 19.9%                    | 79,722      | 10,368                    | 14.9%                    | 86,717      | 17,363                    | 25.0%                    |
| 2020 | 89,134   | 19,780                    | 28.5%                    | 84,331      | 14,977                    | 21.6%                    | 94,212      | 24,858                    | 35.8%                    |
| 2025 | 95,550   | 26,196                    | 37.8%                    | 89,188      | 19,834                    | 28.6%                    | 102,365     | 33,011                    | 47.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Woodruff County***

Woodruff County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Woodruff County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Augusta (2,665), McCrory (1,850), and Cotton Plant (960) and the towns of Patterson (467) and Hunter (152).



The population of Woodruff County declined in all but 6 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. For the period, the county's population decreased by a net 3,365 people, or 28.4 percent (1.0 percent per annum), from 11,831 to 8,466. From 1969 to 1972, the county's population declined by 1,416 people, or 12.0 percent, to 10,415.

The population of Woodruff County increased by a net 812 people, or 7.8 percent, from 1972 to 11,227 in 1979. The county's population decreased every year from 1979 to 1993 (see Figure 75). Population losses totaled 2,032 people, or 18.1 percent, for the period.

After a net gain of 41 people from 1993 to 1996, the county's population decreased by a net 770 people, or 8.3 percent, from 9,236 in 1996 to 8,466 in 2002. The county was the 4<sup>th</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Woodruff County is projected to decrease by 842 people, or 9.9 percent, to 7,624 by 2010 and by 2,252 people, or 26.6 percent, to 6,214 by 2025 (see Table 74). The county's population is projected to be between 7,390 and 7,865 in 2010 and between 5,811 and 6,644 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Woodruff County will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> least populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Woodruff County are Cross (page 43), Jackson (page 73), Monroe (page 101), Prairie (page 123), St. Francis (page 129), and White (page 151). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238.

Figure 75: Woodruff County Historical Population and Population Projections

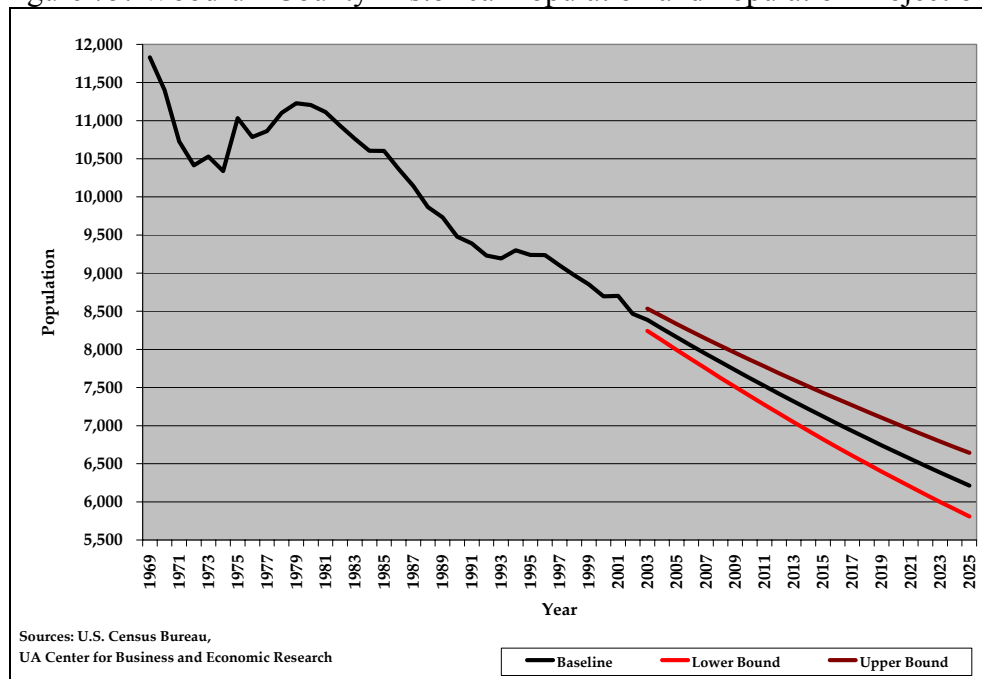


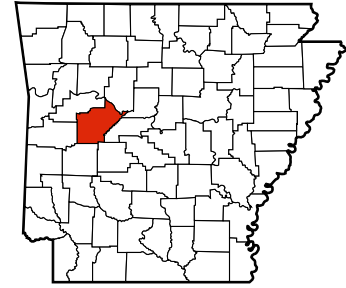
Table 74: Woodruff County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 8,972    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 8,855    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 8,696    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 8,702    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 8,466    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,162    | (304)                     | -3.6%                    | 7,994       | (472)                     | -5.6%                    | 8,333       | (133)                     | -1.6%                    |
| 2010 | 7,624    | (842)                     | -9.9%                    | 7,390       | (1,076)                   | -12.7%                   | 7,865       | (601)                     | -7.1%                    |
| 2015 | 7,121    | (1,345)                   | -15.9%                   | 6,823       | (1,643)                   | -19.4%                   | 7,432       | (1,034)                   | -12.2%                   |
| 2020 | 6,652    | (1,814)                   | -21.4%                   | 6,297       | (2,169)                   | -25.6%                   | 7,026       | (1,440)                   | -17.0%                   |
| 2025 | 6,214    | (2,252)                   | -26.6%                   | 5,811       | (2,655)                   | -31.4%                   | 6,644       | (1,822)                   | -21.5%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## ***Yell County***

Yell County is located in the Central Arkansas planning area. Population centers in Yell County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Dardanelle (4,228), Danville (2,392), Ola (1,204), Plainview (755), Havana (392), and Belleville (371).



Yell County experienced year-on-year population gains in 27 of the 33 years between 1969 and 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 7,387 people, or 52.7 percent (1.3 percent per annum), from 14,023 to 21,410. From 1969 to 1977, the county's population increased by 3,855 people, or 27.5 percent, to 17,878.

The county's population then declined from 1977 to 1980 (see Figure 76). For the period, the county's population decreased by 836 people, or 4.7 percent, to 17,042. From 1980 to 1990, the county's population increased by a net 780 people to 17,822.

The population of Yell County has increased every year since 1990. From 1990 to 1997, the county's population grew by 2,819 people, or 15.8 percent, to 20,641. Population growth slowed from 1997 to 2002, during which time the county's population increased by 769 people, or 3.7 percent, to 21,410. The county was the 35<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2002.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Yell County is projected to increase by 1,383 people, or 6.5 percent, to 22,793 by 2010 and by 4,130 people, or 19.3 percent, to 25,540 by 2025 (see Table 75). The county's population is projected to be between 22,420 and 23,170 in 2010 and between 24,602 and 26,513 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Yell County will be the 34<sup>th</sup> most populous county in Arkansas in 2010 and the 27<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state in 2025.

For those readers interested in regional population trends and projections, the counties immediately surrounding Yell County are Conway (page 35), Garland (page 57), Johnson (page 77), Logan (page 89), Montgomery (page 103), Perry (page 111), Pope (page 121), and Scott (page 133). A discussion of population trends and projections for the Central Arkansas planning area can be found on page 238.



Figure 76: Yell County Historical Population and Population Projections

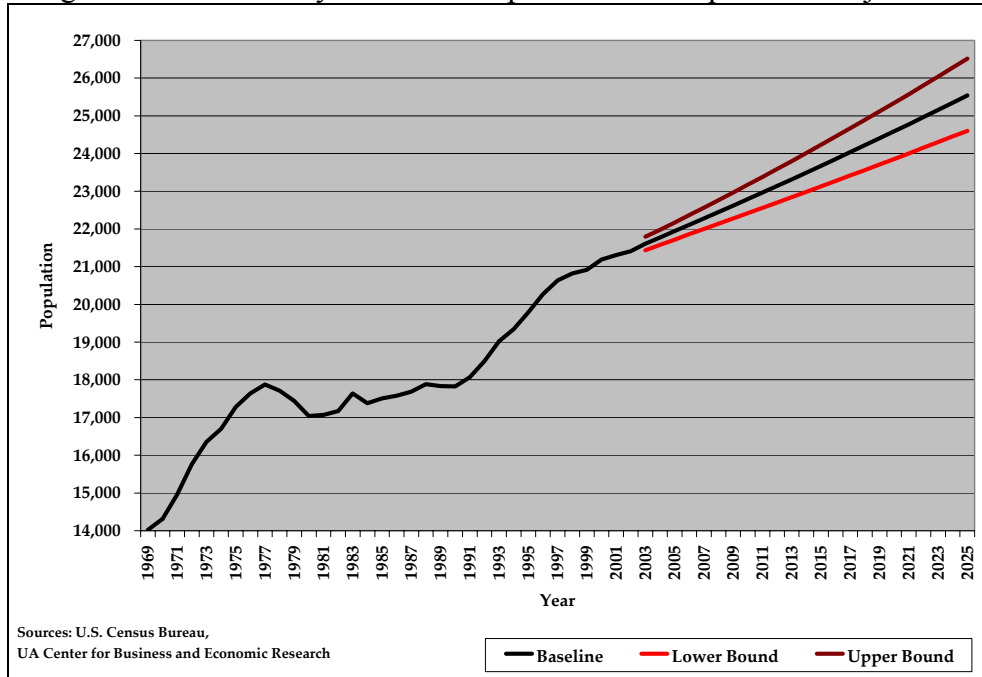


Table 75: Yell County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,819   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,918   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 21,188   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 21,310   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 21,410   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 21,943   | 533                       | 2.5%                     | 21,718      | 308                       | 1.4%                     | 22,170      | 760                       | 3.5%                     |
| 2010 | 22,793   | 1,383                     | 6.5%                     | 22,420      | 1,010                     | 4.7%                     | 23,170      | 1,760                     | 8.2%                     |
| 2015 | 23,673   | 2,263                     | 10.6%                    | 23,128      | 1,718                     | 8.0%                     | 24,231      | 2,821                     | 13.2%                    |
| 2020 | 24,590   | 3,180                     | 14.9%                    | 23,856      | 2,446                     | 11.4%                    | 25,344      | 3,934                     | 18.4%                    |
| 2025 | 25,540   | 4,130                     | 19.3%                    | 24,602      | 3,192                     | 14.9%                    | 26,513      | 5,103                     | 23.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## **Population Projections, Counties and Parishes Bordering Arkansas**

Economic activity within a county or state is clearly not generated solely by those people who are residents of that county or state. Governments and businesses should be mindful of nearby populations because these people are current or potential customers and users of infrastructure. As such, this section provides population projections for the counties and parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas that border counties in Arkansas.

### ***Louisiana***

The following parishes in Louisiana border counties in Arkansas: Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, East Carroll, Morehouse, Union, and Webster. The combined population of these parishes was 484,260 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for each of these parishes is presented below.

#### **Bossier Parish**

Bossier Parish borders the following Arkansas counties: Lafayette (page 79) and Miller (page 97). Population centers in Bossier Parish, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Bossier City (56,461), Red Chute CDP (5,984), Eastwood CDP (3,374), Haughton (2,792), Benton (2,035), and Plain Dealing (1,071). The parish is a component of the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA.

Bossier Parish experienced relatively strong population growth from 1992 to 1997. For the period, the parish's population increased by 9,573 people, or 11.0 percent, from 87,086 to 96,659. Population growth slowed from 1998 to 2002, during which time the parish's population increased by 4,858 people, or 5.1 percent, from 95,878 to 100,736.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Bossier Parish is projected to increase by 10,599 people, or 10.5 percent, to 111,335 by 2010 and by 33,211 people, or 33.0 percent, to 133,947 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 109,272 and 113,437 in 2010 and between 128,104 and 140,042 in 2025.

Figure 77: Bossier Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

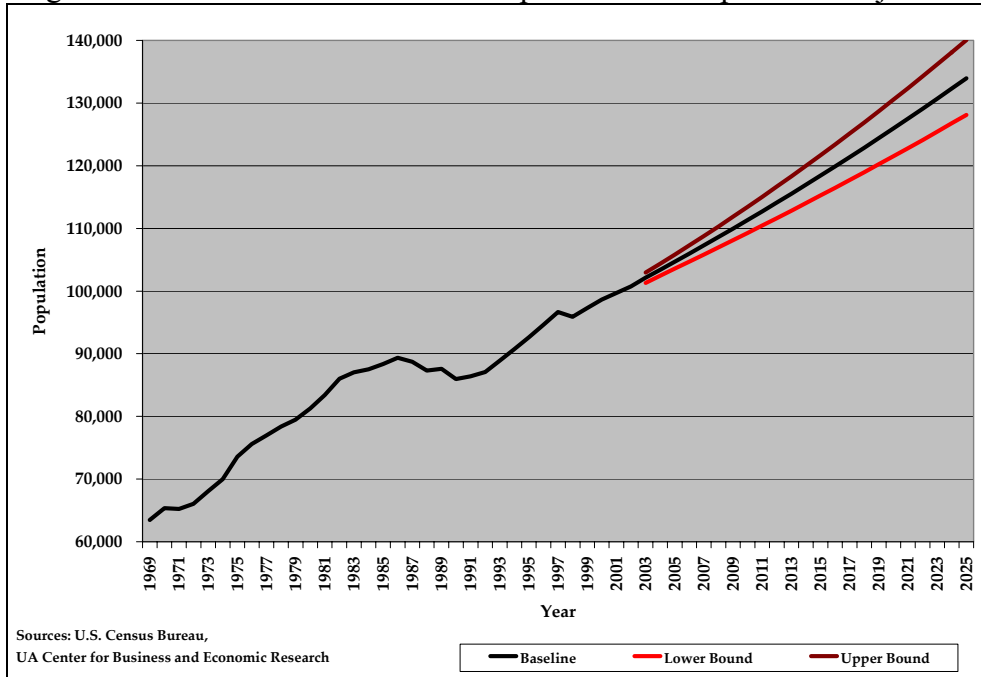


Table 76: Bossier Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 95,878   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 97,284   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 98,624   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 99,686   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 100,736  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 104,684  | 3,948                     | 3.9%                     | 103,570     | 2,834                     | 2.8%                     | 105,810     | 5,074                     | 5.0%                     |
| 2010 | 111,335  | 10,599                    | 10.5%                    | 109,272     | 8,536                     | 8.5%                     | 113,437     | 12,701                    | 12.6%                    |
| 2015 | 118,409  | 17,673                    | 17.5%                    | 115,243     | 14,507                    | 14.4%                    | 121,674     | 20,938                    | 20.8%                    |
| 2020 | 125,945  | 25,209                    | 25.0%                    | 121,504     | 20,768                    | 20.6%                    | 130,535     | 29,799                    | 29.6%                    |
| 2025 | 133,947  | 33,211                    | 33.0%                    | 128,104     | 27,368                    | 27.2%                    | 140,042     | 39,306                    | 39.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Caddo Parish

Caddo Parish borders the following Arkansas counties: Lafayette (page 79) and Miller (page 97). Population centers in Caddo Parish, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Shreveport (199,411 of the city’s 200,145 residents in 2000 lived in Caddo Parish) and the towns of Vivian (4,031), Greenwood (2,458), Blanchard (2,050), and Oil City (1,219). The parish is a component of the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA.

Caddo Parish experienced relatively strong population growth from 1970 to 1986. For the period, the parish’s population increased by 34,171 people, or 14.8 percent, from 230,482 to 264,653. Roughly half of these population gains were lost from 1986 to 1991. Population growth resumed from 1991 to 1995. Since 1995, the parish’s population has decreased by a net 814 people, or 0.3 percent, from 251,959 to 251,145.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Caddo Parish is projected to decrease by 197 people, or 0.1 percent, to 250,948 by 2010 and by 1,249 people, or 0.5 percent, to 249,896 by 2025. The parish’s population is projected to be between 249,746 and 252,155 in 2010 and between 247,434 and 252,357 in 2025.

Figure 78: Caddo Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

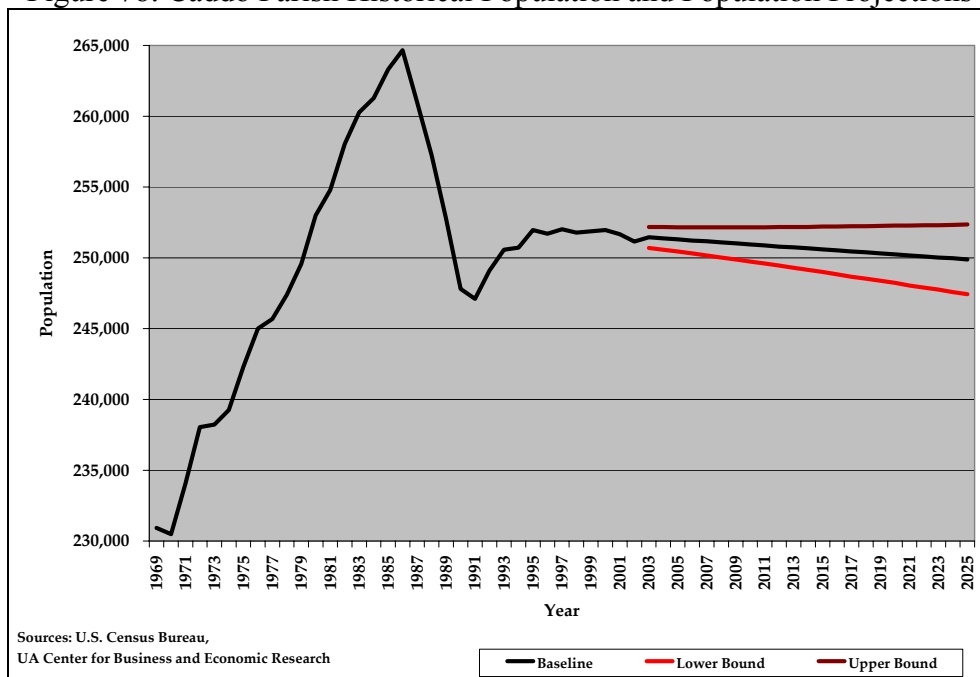


Table 77: Caddo Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 251,782  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 251,876  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 251,968  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 251,666  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 251,145  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 251,299  | 154                       | 0.1%                     | 250,446     | (699)                     | -0.3%                    | 252,155     | 1,010                     | 0.4%                     |
| 2010 | 250,948  | (197)                     | -0.1%                    | 249,746     | (1,399)                   | -0.6%                    | 252,155     | 1,010                     | 0.4%                     |
| 2015 | 250,597  | (548)                     | -0.2%                    | 248,998     | (2,147)                   | -0.9%                    | 252,206     | 1,061                     | 0.4%                     |
| 2020 | 250,246  | (899)                     | -0.4%                    | 248,227     | (2,918)                   | -1.2%                    | 252,281     | 1,136                     | 0.5%                     |
| 2025 | 249,896  | (1,249)                   | -0.5%                    | 247,434     | (3,711)                   | -1.5%                    | 252,357     | 1,212                     | 0.5%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Claiborne Parish

Claiborne Parish borders the following Arkansas counties: Columbia (page 33) and Union (page 145). Population centers in Claiborne Parish, and their 2000 population centers, include the towns and villages of Homer (3,788), Haynesville (2,679), Athens (262), and Lisbon (162).

Since 1984, the population of Claiborne Parish has decreased by 1,812 people, or 9.9 percent. The parish experienced relatively small population losses from 1990 to 1998. Since 1998, the parish's population has decreased by 560 people, or 3.3 percent, from 17,012 to 16,452.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Claiborne Parish is projected to decrease by 1,075 people, or 6.5 percent, to 15,377 by 2010 and by 2,951 people, or 17.9 percent, to 13,501 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 14,906 and 15,862 in 2010 and between 12,534 and 14,541 in 2025.

Figure 79: Claiborne Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

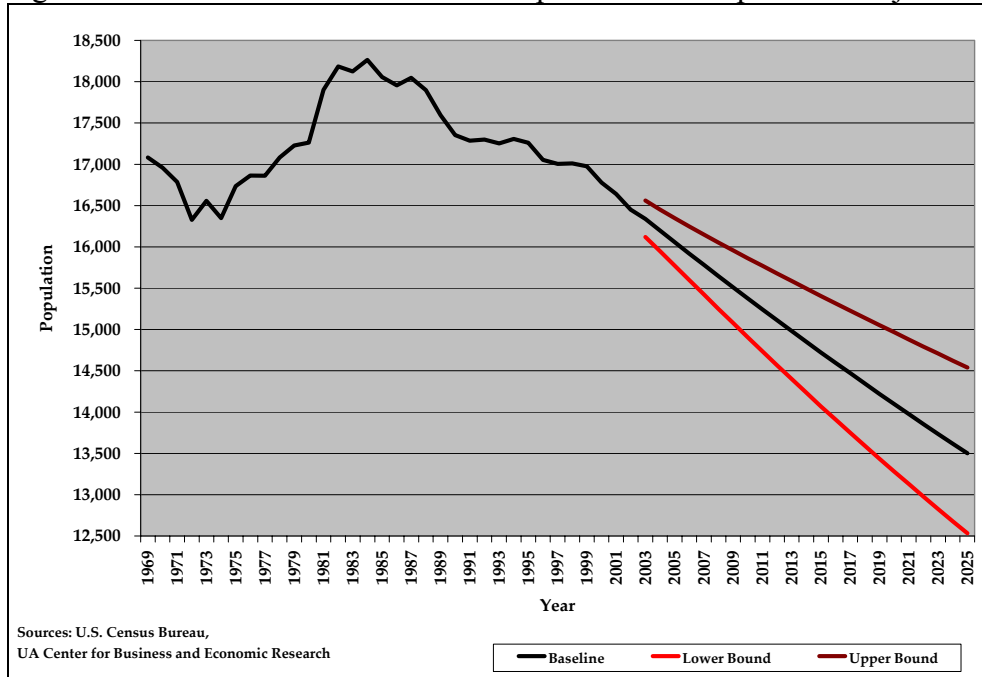


Table 78: Claiborne Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 17,012   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 16,975   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 16,777   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 16,642   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 16,452   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 16,059   | (393)                     | -2.4%                    | 15,774      | (678)                     | -4.1%                    | 16,349      | (103)                     | -0.6%                    |
| 2010 | 15,377   | (1,075)                   | -6.5%                    | 14,906      | (1,546)                   | -9.4%                    | 15,862      | (590)                     | -3.6%                    |
| 2015 | 14,723   | (1,729)                   | -10.5%                   | 14,071      | (2,381)                   | -14.5%                   | 15,406      | (1,046)                   | -6.4%                    |
| 2020 | 14,100   | (2,352)                   | -14.3%                   | 13,281      | (3,171)                   | -19.3%                   | 14,967      | (1,485)                   | -9.0%                    |
| 2025 | 13,501   | (2,951)                   | -17.9%                   | 12,534      | (3,918)                   | -23.8%                   | 14,541      | (1,911)                   | -11.6%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## East Carroll Parish

East Carroll Parish borders Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23). The population center in East Carroll Parish is the town of Lake Providence. Its population in 2000 was 5,104.

Population losses in East Carroll Parish were relatively mild from 1991 to 1998. During the period, the parish's population decreased by a net 107 people, or 1.1 percent, from 9,557 to 9,450. From 1998 to 2002, the parish's population fell by 349 people, or 3.7 percent, to 9,101.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of East Carroll Parish is projected to decrease by 630 people, or 6.9 percent, to 8,471 by 2010 and by 1,762 people, or 19.4 percent, to 7,339 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 7,911 and 9,072 in 2010 and between 6,234 and 8,640 in 2025.

Figure 80: East Carroll Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

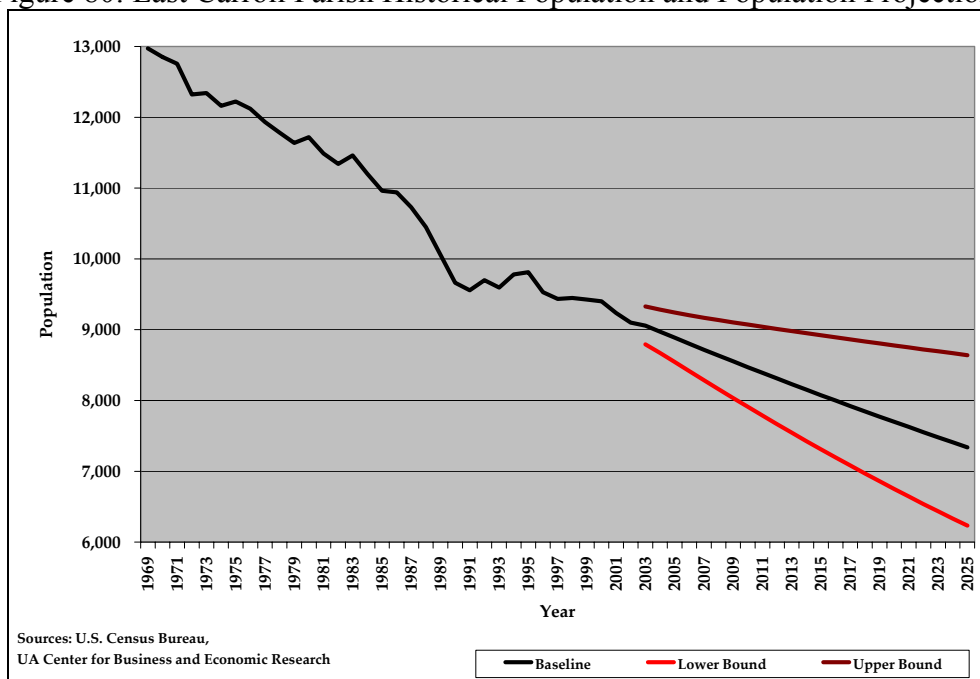


Table 79: East Carroll Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 9,450    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,426    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,399    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,236    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,101    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 8,887    | (214)                     | -2.4%                    | 8,543       | (558)                     | -6.1%                    | 9,243       | 142                       | 1.6%                     |
| 2010 | 8,471    | (630)                     | -6.9%                    | 7,911       | (1,190)                   | -13.1%                   | 9,072       | (29)                      | -0.3%                    |
| 2015 | 8,076    | (1,025)                   | -11.3%                   | 7,311       | (1,790)                   | -19.7%                   | 8,921       | (180)                     | -2.0%                    |
| 2020 | 7,699    | (1,402)                   | -15.4%                   | 6,752       | (2,349)                   | -25.8%                   | 8,779       | (322)                     | -3.5%                    |
| 2025 | 7,339    | (1,762)                   | -19.4%                   | 6,234       | (2,867)                   | -31.5%                   | 8,640       | (461)                     | -5.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Morehouse Parish**

Morehouse Parish borders the following counties in Arkansas: Ashley (page 9), Chicot (page 23), and Union (page 145). Population centers in Morehouse Parish, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Bastrop (12,988) and the villages of Mer Rouge (721), Bonita (335), Collinston (327), and Oak Ridge (142).

The population of Morehouse Parish decreased by a net 79 people from 1991 to 1997. Population losses accelerated from 1997 to 2002. For the period, the parish’s population decreased by 1,155 people, or 3.7 percent, from 31,598 to 30,443.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Morehouse Parish is projected to decrease by 1,719 people, or 5.6 percent, to 28,724 by 2010 and by 4,711 people, or 15.5 percent, to 25,732 by 2025. The parish’s population is projected to be between 28,404 and 29,045 in 2010 and between 25,089 and 26,389 in 2025.



Figure 81: Morehouse Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

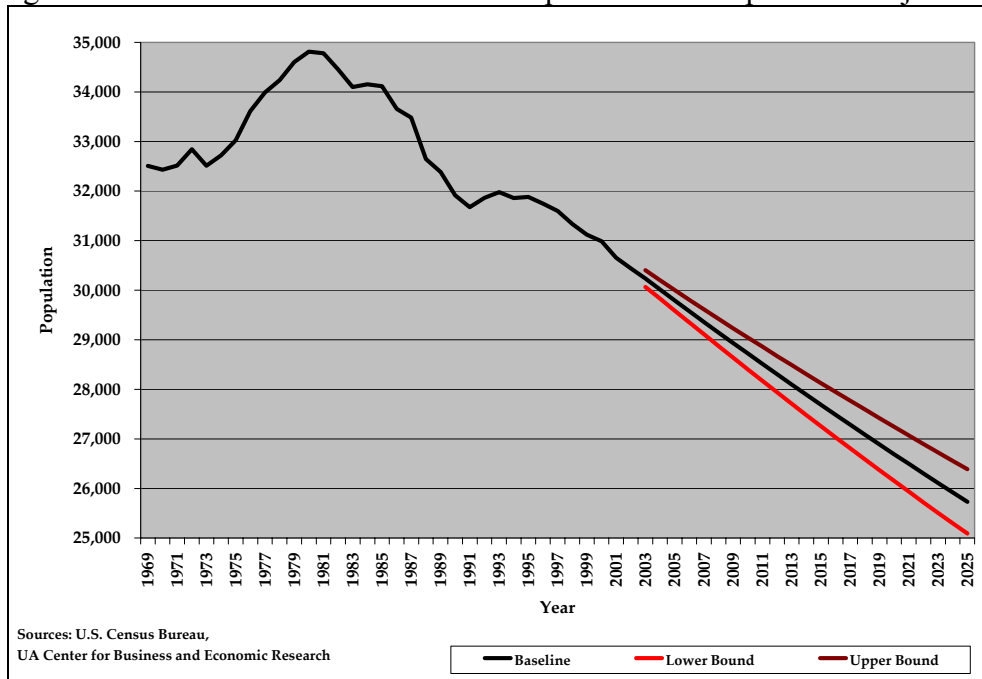


Table 80: Morehouse Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 31,338   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 31,122   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 30,988   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 30,655   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 30,443   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 29,795   | (648)                     | -2.1%                    | 29,590      | (853)                     | -2.8%                    | 30,004      | (439)                     | -1.4%                    |
| 2010 | 28,724   | (1,719)                   | -5.6%                    | 28,404      | (2,039)                   | -6.7%                    | 29,045      | (1,398)                   | -4.6%                    |
| 2015 | 27,689   | (2,754)                   | -9.0%                    | 27,258      | (3,185)                   | -10.5%                   | 28,127      | (2,316)                   | -7.6%                    |
| 2020 | 26,691   | (3,752)                   | -12.3%                   | 26,152      | (4,291)                   | -14.1%                   | 27,244      | (3,199)                   | -10.5%                   |
| 2025 | 25,732   | (4,711)                   | -15.5%                   | 25,089      | (5,354)                   | -17.6%                   | 26,389      | (4,054)                   | -13.3%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Union Parish

Union Parish borders the following counties in Arkansas: Ashley (page 9) and Union (page 145). Population centers in Union Parish, and their 2000 population levels, include the towns of Farmerville (3,808), Bernice (1,809), and Marion (806). The parish is a component of the Monroe MSA.

The parish experienced population growth every year since 1990, save in 2002. Population growth was relatively strong from 1991 to 1998. For the period, the parish's population increased by 1,727 people, or 8.3 percent, from 20,785 to 22,512. From 1998 to 2002, the parish's population increased by a net 259 people, or 1.2 percent, to 22,771.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Union Parish is projected to increase by 678 people, or 3.0 percent, to 23,449 by 2010 and by 1,780 people, or 7.8 percent, to 24,551 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 22,263 and 24,701 in 2010 and between 21,690 and 27,789 in 2025.

Figure 82: Union Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

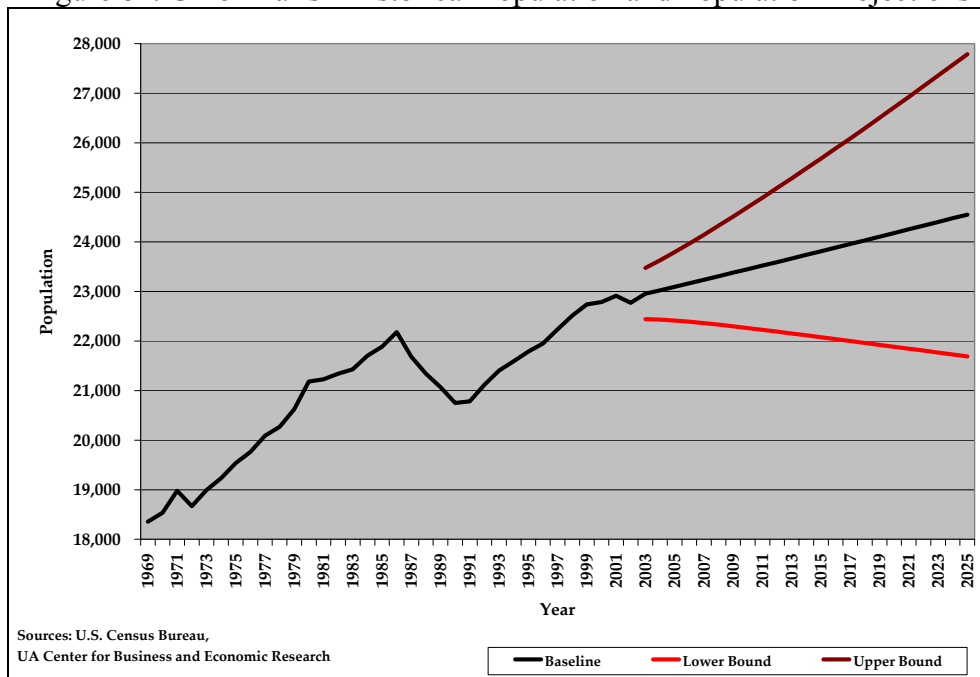


Table 81: Union Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 22,512   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 22,737   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 22,787   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 22,913   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 22,771   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 23,093   | 322                       | 1.4%                     | 22,415      | (356)                     | -1.6%                    | 23,794      | 1,023                     | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 23,449   | 678                       | 3.0%                     | 22,263      | (508)                     | -2.2%                    | 24,701      | 1,930                     | 8.5%                     |
| 2015 | 23,811   | 1,040                     | 4.6%                     | 22,077      | (694)                     | -3.0%                    | 25,681      | 2,910                     | 12.8%                    |
| 2020 | 24,178   | 1,407                     | 6.2%                     | 21,884      | (887)                     | -3.9%                    | 26,713      | 3,942                     | 17.3%                    |
| 2025 | 24,551   | 1,780                     | 7.8%                     | 21,690      | (1,081)                   | -4.7%                    | 27,789      | 5,018                     | 22.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Webster Parish

Webster Parish borders the following counties in Arkansas: Columbia (page 33) and Lafayette (page 79). Population centers in Webster Parish, and their 2000 population centers, include the cities of Minden (13,027) and Springhill (5,439) and the towns of Cullen (1,296), Cotton Valley (1,189), and Sibley (1,098).

From 1992 to 1997, the population of Webster Parish increased by 705 people, or 1.7 percent, from 41,360 to 42,065. From 1997 to 2002, the parish experienced a net population decrease of 556 people, or 1.3 percent. In 2002, the population of Webster Parish was 41,509.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Webster Parish is projected to decrease by 1,100 people, or 2.7 percent, to 40,409 by 2010 and by 3,044 people, or 7.3 percent, to 38,465 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 39,498 and 41,345 in 2010 and between 36,519 and 40,510 in 2025.

Figure 83: Webster Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

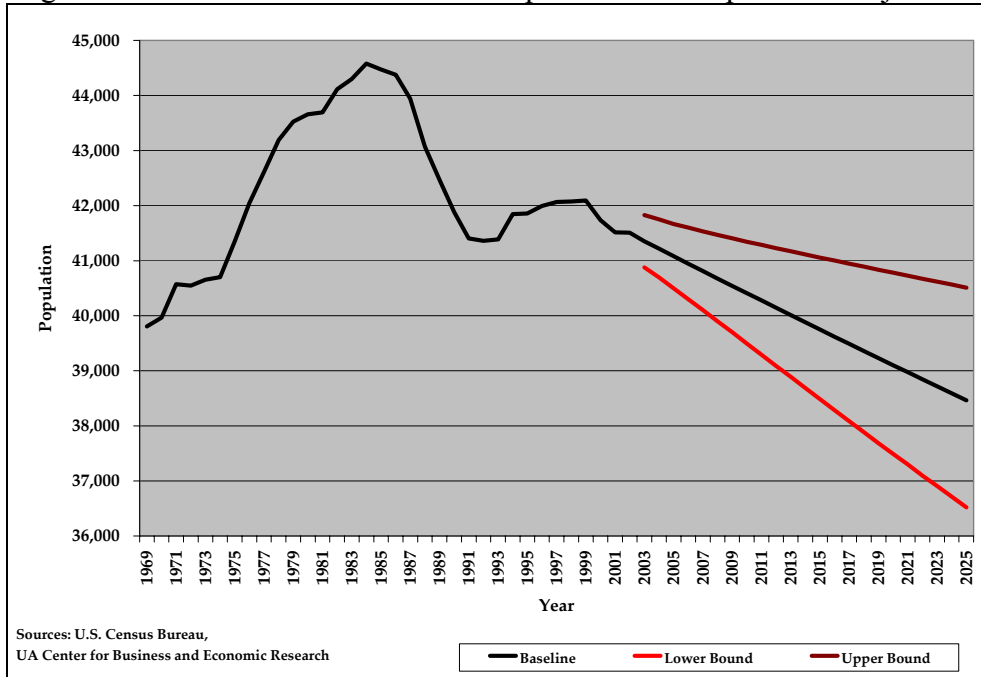


Table 82: Webster Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 42,073   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 42,092   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 41,736   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 41,514   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 41,509   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 41,081   | (428)                     | -1.0%                    | 40,498      | (1,011)                   | -2.4%                    | 41,668      | 159                       | 0.4%                     |
| 2010 | 40,409   | (1,100)                   | -2.7%                    | 39,498      | (2,011)                   | -4.8%                    | 41,345      | (164)                     | -0.4%                    |
| 2015 | 39,751   | (1,758)                   | -4.2%                    | 38,488      | (3,021)                   | -7.3%                    | 41,056      | (453)                     | -1.1%                    |
| 2020 | 39,101   | (2,408)                   | -5.8%                    | 37,493      | (4,016)                   | -9.7%                    | 40,782      | (727)                     | -1.8%                    |
| 2025 | 38,465   | (3,044)                   | -7.3%                    | 36,519      | (4,990)                   | -12.0%                   | 40,510      | (999)                     | -2.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## West Carroll Parish

West Carroll Parish borders Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23). Population centers in West Carroll Parish, and their 2000 population levels, include the town of Oak Grove (2,174) and the villages of Epps (1,153), Kilbourne (436), Forest (275), and Pioneer (171).

From 1990 to 1996, the population of West Carroll Parish increased by a net 204 people, or 1.7 percent, from 12,134 to 12,338. Since 1996, the parish has experienced a net population decrease of 235 people, or 1.9 percent. In 2002, the parish's population was 12,103.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of West Carroll Parish is projected to decrease by 314 people, or 2.6 percent, to 11,789 by 2010 and by 944 people, or 7.8 percent, to 11,159 by 2025. The parish's population is projected to be between 11,372 and 12,220 in 2010 and between 10,328 and 12,058 in 2025.

Figure 84: West Carroll Parish Historical Population and Population Projections

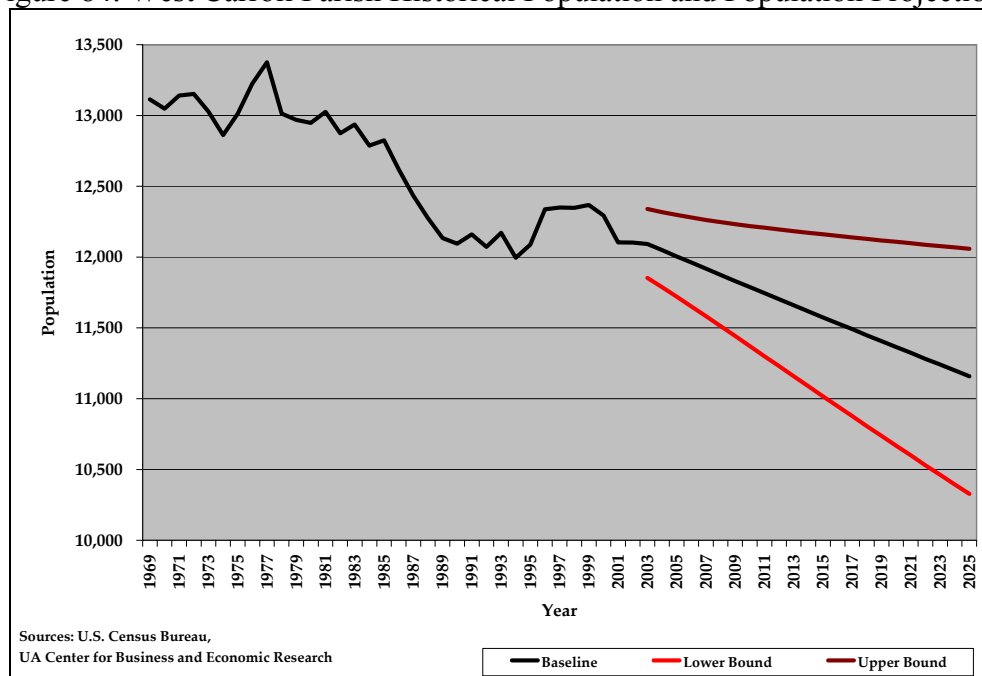


Table 83: West Carroll Parish Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 12,348   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 12,368   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 12,294   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 12,104   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 12,103   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 12,005   | (98)                      | -0.8%                    | 11,721      | (382)                     | -3.2%                    | 12,297      | 194                       | 1.6%                     |
| 2010 | 11,789   | (314)                     | -2.6%                    | 11,372      | (731)                     | -6.0%                    | 12,220      | 117                       | 1.0%                     |
| 2015 | 11,575   | (528)                     | -4.4%                    | 11,017      | (1,086)                   | -9.0%                    | 12,161      | 58                        | 0.5%                     |
| 2020 | 11,365   | (738)                     | -6.1%                    | 10,668      | (1,435)                   | -11.9%                   | 12,108      | 5                         | 0.0%                     |
| 2025 | 11,159   | (944)                     | -7.8%                    | 10,328      | (1,775)                   | -14.7%                   | 12,058      | (45)                      | -0.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Mississippi

The following counties in Mississippi border counties in Arkansas or are contained in the Memphis MSA: Bolivar, Coahoma, De Soto, Issaquena, Marshall, Tate, Tunica, and Washington. The combined population of these counties was 322,453 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for each of these counties is presented below.

### Bolivar County

Bolivar County is across the Mississippi River from the following counties in Arkansas: Desha (page 47) and Phillips (page 113). Population centers in Bolivar County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Cleveland (13,841), Shelby (2,926), Rosedale (2,414), Shaw (2,312), and Mound Bayou (2,102).

From 1987 to 1995, the population of Bolivar County decreased by a net 120 people, or 0.3 percent, from 42,164 to 42,044. Population losses accelerated from 1995 to 2002. For the period, the county's population decreased by 2,205 people, or 5.2 percent, to 39,839.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Bolivar County is projected to decrease by 2,091 people, or 5.2 percent, to 37,748 by 2010 and by 5,884 people, or 14.8 percent, to 33,955 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 37,317 and 38,185 in 2010 and between 33,167 and 34,763 in 2025.

Figure 85: Bolivar County Historical Population and Population Projections

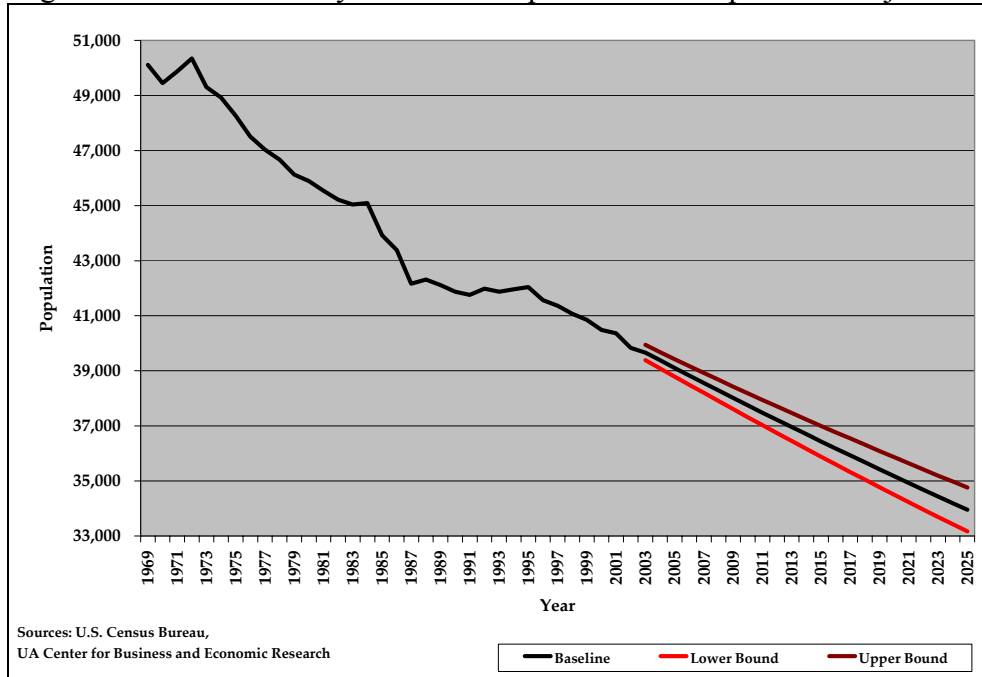


Table 84: Bolivar County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 41,069   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 40,854   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 40,485   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 40,363   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 39,839   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 39,105   | (734)                     | -1.8%                    | 38,789      | (1,050)                   | -2.6%                    | 39,423      | (416)                     | -1.0%                    |
| 2010 | 37,748   | (2,091)                   | -5.2%                    | 37,317      | (2,522)                   | -6.3%                    | 38,185      | (1,654)                   | -4.2%                    |
| 2015 | 36,439   | (3,400)                   | -8.5%                    | 35,886      | (3,953)                   | -9.9%                    | 37,001      | (2,838)                   | -7.1%                    |
| 2020 | 35,175   | (4,664)                   | -11.7%                   | 34,499      | (5,340)                   | -13.4%                   | 35,864      | (3,975)                   | -10.0%                   |
| 2025 | 33,955   | (5,884)                   | -14.8%                   | 33,167      | (6,672)                   | -16.7%                   | 34,763      | (5,076)                   | -12.7%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Coahoma County

Coahoma County is across the Mississippi River from the following counties in Arkansas: Desha (page 47) and Phillips (page 113). Population centers in Coahoma County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Clarksdale (20,645) and the towns of Jonestown (1,701), Friars Point (1,480), Lyon (418), Lula (370), and Coahoma (325).

From 1991 to 1996, the population of Coahoma County increased by a net 11 people from 31,422 to 31,433. Since 1996, the county has experienced population losses totaling 1,275 people, or 4.1 percent. In 2002, the population of Coahoma County was 30,158.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Coahoma County is projected to decrease by 1,671 people, or 5.5 percent, to 28,487 by 2010 and by 4,544 people, or 15.1 percent, to 25,614 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 28,336 and 28,638 in 2010 and between 25,324 and 25,908 in 2025.

Figure 86: Coahoma County Historical Population and Population Projections

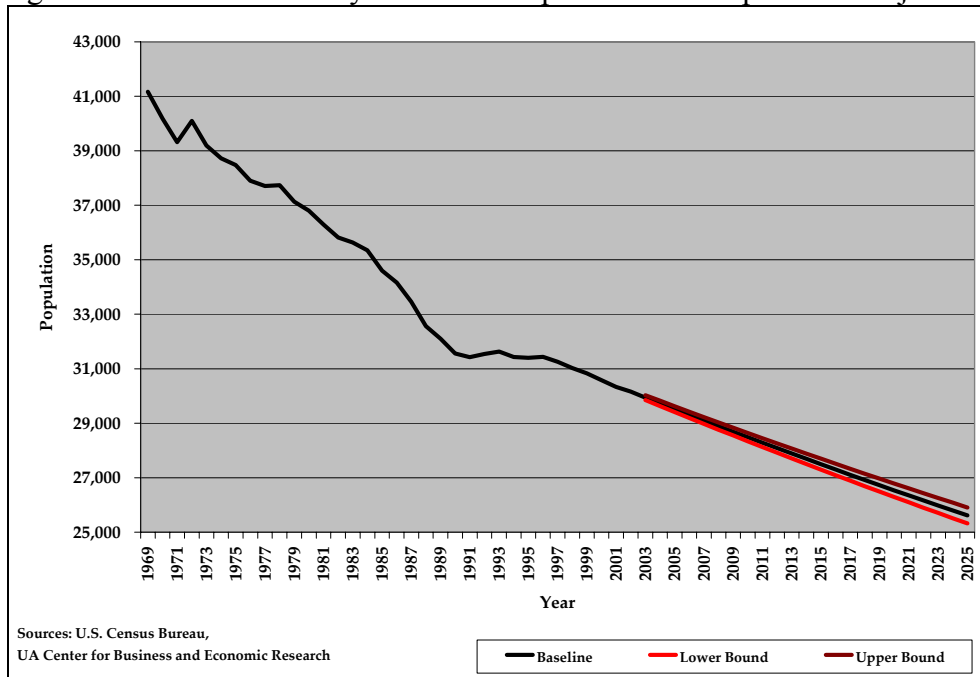




Table 85: Coahoma County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 31,023   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 30,836   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 30,580   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 30,329   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 30,158   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 29,516   | (642)                     | -2.1%                    | 29,410      | (748)                     | -2.5%                    | 29,620      | (538)                     | -1.8%                    |
| 2010 | 28,487   | (1,671)                   | -5.5%                    | 28,336      | (1,822)                   | -6.0%                    | 28,638      | (1,520)                   | -5.0%                    |
| 2015 | 27,496   | (2,662)                   | -8.8%                    | 27,296      | (2,862)                   | -9.5%                    | 27,698      | (2,460)                   | -8.2%                    |
| 2020 | 26,537   | (3,621)                   | -12.0%                   | 26,291      | (3,867)                   | -12.8%                   | 26,788      | (3,370)                   | -11.2%                   |
| 2025 | 25,614   | (4,544)                   | -15.1%                   | 25,324      | (4,834)                   | -16.0%                   | 25,908      | (4,250)                   | -14.1%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### De Soto County

De Soto County is across the Mississippi River from Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41). Population centers in De Soto County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Southaven (28,977), Olive Branch (21,054), Horn Lake (14,099), Hernando (6,812), and the Lynchburg CDP (2,959). The county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229).

De Soto County has experienced year-on-year population gains each year from 1969 to 2002. For the period, the county’s population increased by 83,824 people, or 242.0 percent, from 34,634 to 118,458. This translates to an average growth rate of 3.8 percent per annum.

Population growth accelerated from 1996 to 2002. For the period, the county’s population increased by 34,241 people, or 40.7 percent, from 84,217 to 118,458. Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of De Soto County is projected to increase by 57,271 people, or 48.3 percent, to 175,729 by 2010 and by 245,976 people, or 207.6 percent, to 364,434 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 170,980 and 180,593 in 2010 and between 343,589 and 386,505 in 2025.

Figure 87: De Soto County Historical Population and Population Projections

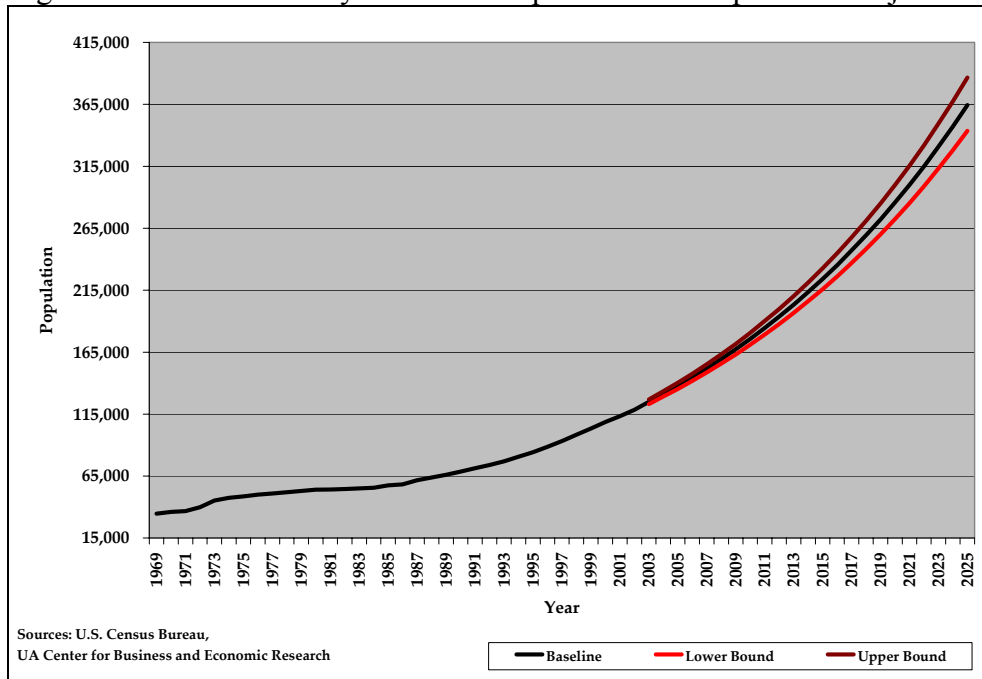


Table 86: De Soto County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 98,339   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 103,343  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 108,613  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 113,320  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 118,458  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 137,792  | 19,334                    | 16.3%                    | 135,307     | 16,849                    | 14.2%                    | 140,337     | 21,879                    | 18.5%                    |
| 2010 | 175,729  | 57,271                    | 48.3%                    | 170,980     | 52,522                    | 44.3%                    | 180,593     | 62,135                    | 52.5%                    |
| 2015 | 224,089  | 105,631                   | 89.2%                    | 215,820     | 97,362                    | 82.2%                    | 232,675     | 114,217                   | 96.4%                    |
| 2020 | 285,758  | 167,300                   | 141.2%                   | 272,338     | 153,880                   | 129.9%                   | 299,869     | 181,411                   | 153.1%                   |
| 2025 | 364,434  | 245,976                   | 207.6%                   | 343,589     | 225,131                   | 190.1%                   | 386,505     | 268,047                   | 226.3%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Issaquena County

Issaquena County is across the Mississippi River from Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23). The town of Mayersville is the county’s population center. In 2000, the town had a population of 795 people.

From 1990 to 1998, the county’s population increased by a net 257 people, or 13.4 percent, from 1,923 to 2,180. Since 1998, population growth has slowed, and the county’s population declined in 2000, 2001, and 2002. For the period, the county’s population increased by a net 14 people to 2,194.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Issaquena County is projected to increase by 21 people, or 1.0 percent, to 2,215 by 2010 and by 7 people, or 0.3 percent, to 2,201 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 1,799 and 2,727 in 2010 and between 1,341 and 3,613 in 2025.

Figure 88: Issaquena County Historical Population and Population Projections

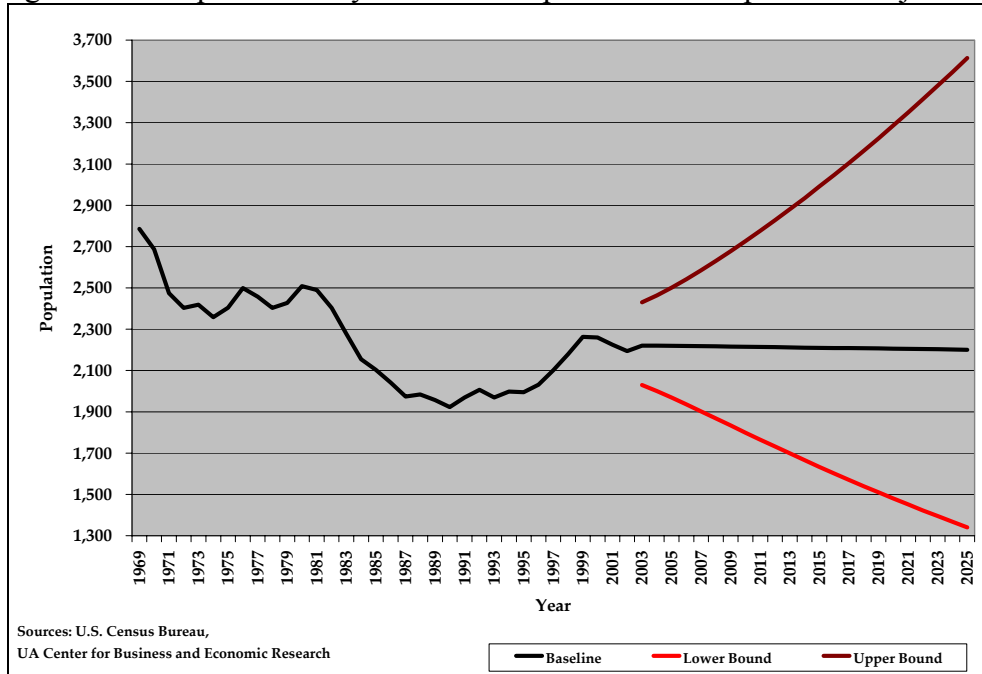


Table 87: Issaquena County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 2,180    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 2,263    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 2,260    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 2,225    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 2,194    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 2,220    | 26                        | 1.2%                     | 1,970       | (224)                     | -10.2%                   | 2,501       | 307                       | 14.0%                    |
| 2010 | 2,215    | 21                        | 1.0%                     | 1,799       | (395)                     | -18.0%                   | 2,727       | 533                       | 24.3%                    |
| 2015 | 2,210    | 16                        | 0.7%                     | 1,634       | (560)                     | -25.5%                   | 2,991       | 797                       | 36.3%                    |
| 2020 | 2,206    | 12                        | 0.5%                     | 1,481       | (713)                     | -32.5%                   | 3,286       | 1,092                     | 49.8%                    |
| 2025 | 2,201    | 7                         | 0.3%                     | 1,341       | (853)                     | -38.9%                   | 3,613       | 1,419                     | 64.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Marshall County

Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229). Population centers in Marshall County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Holly Springs (7,957) and the towns of Byhalia (706) and Potts Camp (494).

Population growth was relatively strong in Marshall County from 1990 to 1998. For the period, the county's population increased by 3,854 people, or 12.6 percent, from 30,471 to 34,325. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 838 people, or 2.4 percent, to 35,163.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Marshall County is projected to increase by 1,819 people, or 5.2 percent, to 36,982 by 2010 and by 5,274 people, or 15.0 percent, to 40,437 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 35,242 and 38,809 in 2010 and between 36,048 and 45,361 in 2025.

Figure 89: Marshall County Historical Population and Population Projections

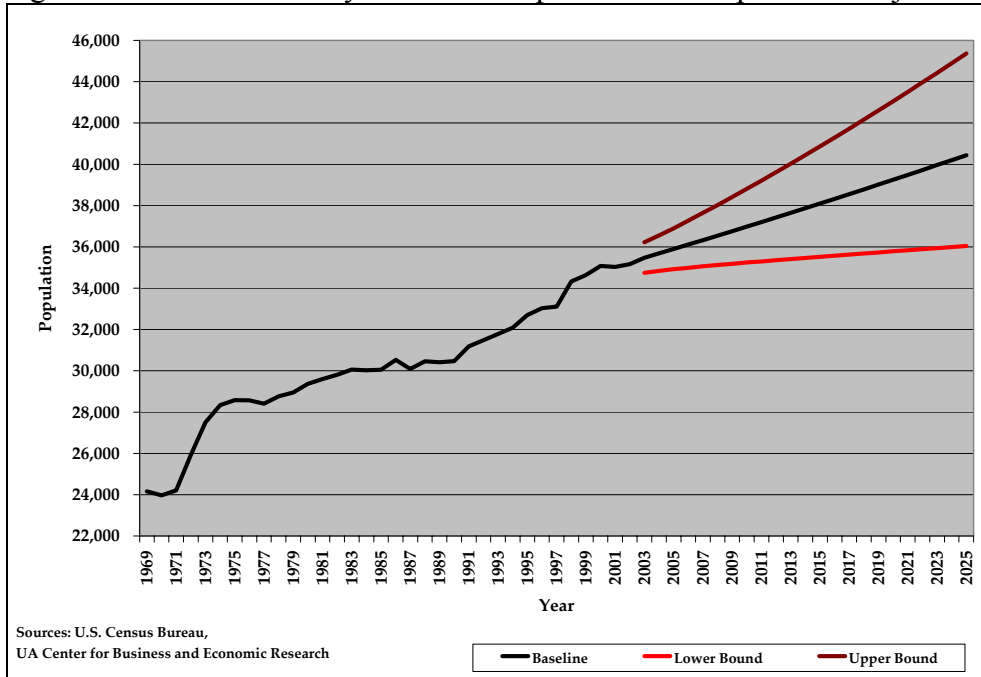


Table 88: Marshall County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 34,325   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 34,639   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 35,075   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 35,032   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 35,163   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 35,897   | 734                       | 2.1%                     | 34,916      | (247)                     | -0.7%                    | 36,905      | 1,742                     | 5.0%                     |
| 2010 | 36,982   | 1,819                     | 5.2%                     | 35,242      | 79                        | 0.2%                     | 38,809      | 3,646                     | 10.4%                    |
| 2015 | 38,101   | 2,938                     | 8.4%                     | 35,522      | 359                       | 1.0%                     | 40,864      | 5,701                     | 16.2%                    |
| 2020 | 39,250   | 4,087                     | 11.6%                    | 35,786      | 623                       | 1.8%                     | 43,049      | 7,886                     | 22.4%                    |
| 2025 | 40,437   | 5,274                     | 15.0%                    | 36,048      | 885                       | 2.5%                     | 45,361      | 10,198                    | 29.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Tate County**

Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229). Population centers in Tate County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Senatobia (6,682) and the town of Coldwater (1,674).

From 1990 to 1997, the population of Tate County increased by 2,719 people, or 12.7 percent, from 21,458 to 24,177. Population growth slowed slightly from 1997 to 2002. For the period, the county’s population increased by 1,574, or 6.5 percent, to 25,751.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Tate County is projected to increase by 2,879 people, or 11.2 percent, to 28,630 by 2010 and by 8,766 people, or 34.0 percent, to 34,517 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 27,195 and 30,140 in 2010 and between 30,721 and 38,778 in 2025.

Figure 90: Tate County Historical Population and Population Projections

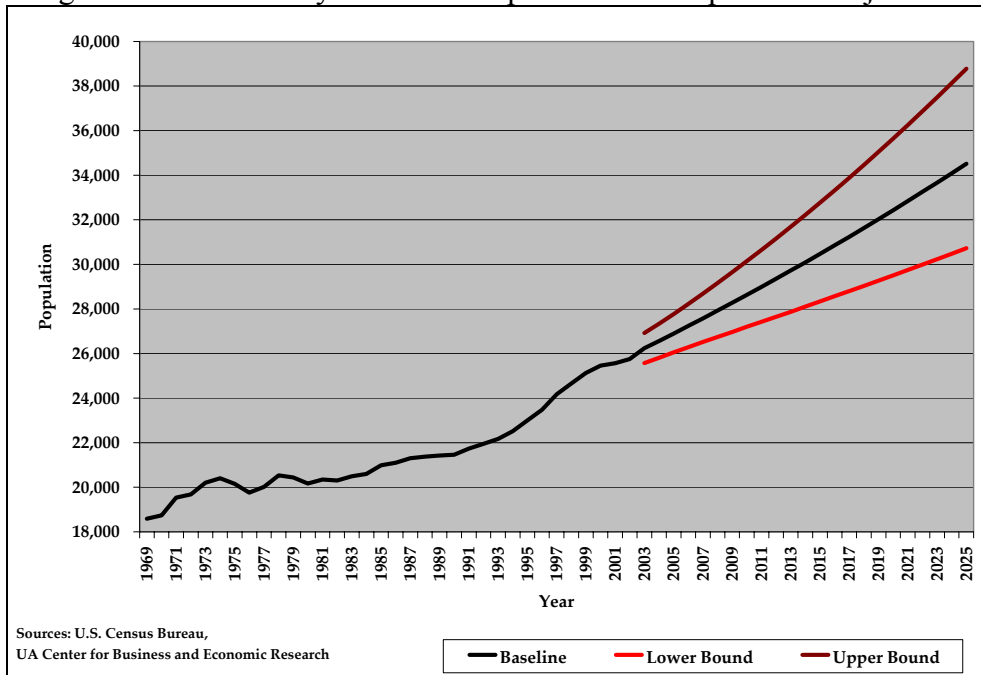


Table 89: Tate County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 24,660   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 25,127   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 25,455   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 25,564   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 25,751   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 26,898   | 1,147                     | 4.5%                     | 26,051      | 300                       | 1.2%                     | 27,775      | 2,024                     | 7.9%                     |
| 2010 | 28,630   | 2,879                     | 11.2%                    | 27,195      | 1,444                     | 5.6%                     | 30,140      | 4,389                     | 17.0%                    |
| 2015 | 30,470   | 4,719                     | 18.3%                    | 28,336      | 2,585                     | 10.0%                    | 32,764      | 7,013                     | 27.2%                    |
| 2020 | 32,429   | 6,678                     | 25.9%                    | 29,508      | 3,757                     | 14.6%                    | 35,643      | 9,892                     | 38.4%                    |
| 2025 | 34,517   | 8,766                     | 34.0%                    | 30,721      | 4,970                     | 19.3%                    | 38,778      | 13,027                    | 50.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Tunica County

Tunica County is across the Mississippi River from the following Arkansas counties: Lee (page 83) and Phillips (page 113). Population centers in Tunica County, and their 2000 population levels, include the North Tunica CDP (1,450) and the town of Tunica (1,132). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229).

The population of Tunica County reach an historic low of 8,167 in 1990. From 1990 to 1995, the county’s population increased by a net 494 people, or 6.0 percent, to 8,661. Since 1995, the county’s population has increased by 914 people, or 10.6 percent, to 9,575.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Tunica County is projected to increase by 959 people, or 10.0 percent, to 10,534 by 2010 and by 3,224 people, or 33.7 percent, to 12,799 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 10,222 and 10,857 in 2010 and between 12,033 and 13,612 in 2025.

Figure 91: Tunica County Historical Population and Population Projections

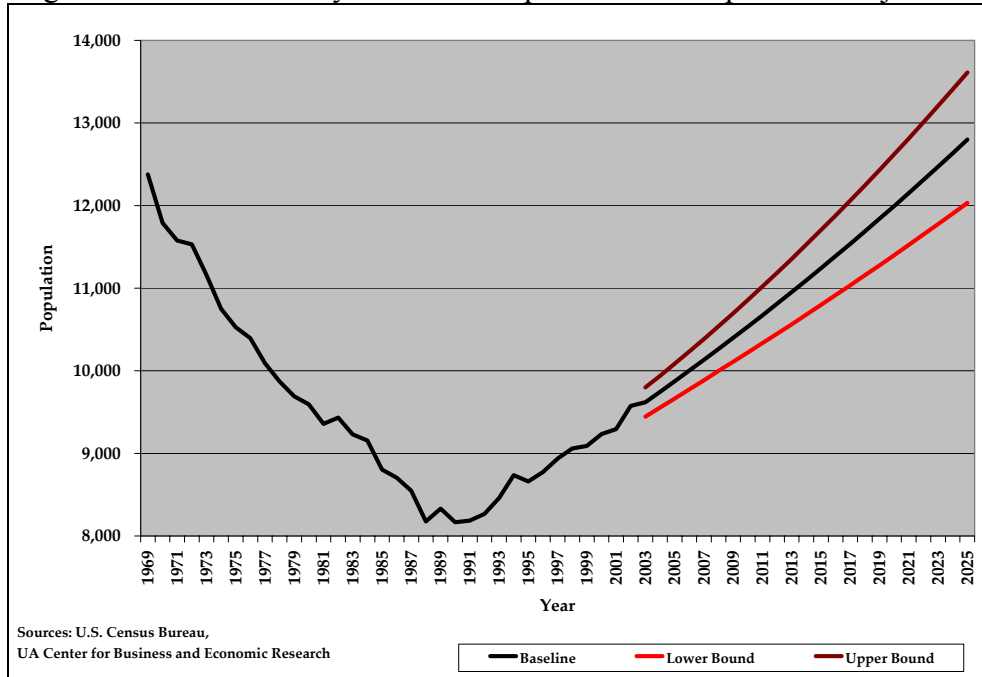


Table 90: Tunica County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 9,060    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,091    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,234    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,294    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,575    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,873    | 298                       | 3.1%                     | 9,665       | 90                        | 0.9%                     | 10,086      | 511                       | 5.3%                     |
| 2010 | 10,534   | 959                       | 10.0%                    | 10,222      | 647                       | 6.8%                     | 10,857      | 1,282                     | 13.4%                    |
| 2015 | 11,241   | 1,666                     | 17.4%                    | 10,798      | 1,223                     | 12.8%                    | 11,702      | 2,127                     | 22.2%                    |
| 2020 | 11,994   | 2,419                     | 25.3%                    | 11,400      | 1,825                     | 19.1%                    | 12,620      | 3,045                     | 31.8%                    |
| 2025 | 12,799   | 3,224                     | 33.7%                    | 12,033      | 2,458                     | 25.7%                    | 13,612      | 4,037                     | 42.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
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### Washington County

Washington County, Mississippi is across the Mississippi River from Chicot County, Arkansas (page 23). Population centers in Washington County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Greenville (41,633), Leland (5,502), and Hollandale (3,437) and the towns of Metcalfe (1,109) and Arcola (563).



From 1992 to 1998, the population of Washington County decreased by a net 1,867 people, or 2.8 percent, from 66,471 to 64,604. Since 1998, population losses in the county have accelerated. From 1998 to 2002, the county’s population decreased by 3,289 people, or 5.1 percent, to 61,315.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Washington County is projected to decrease by 6,177 people, or 10.1 percent, to 55,138 by 2010 and by 16,031 people, or 26.1 percent, to 45,284 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 54,366 and 55,921 in 2010 and between 43,783 and 46,836 in 2025.

Figure 92: Washington County, Mississippi Historical Population and Population Projections

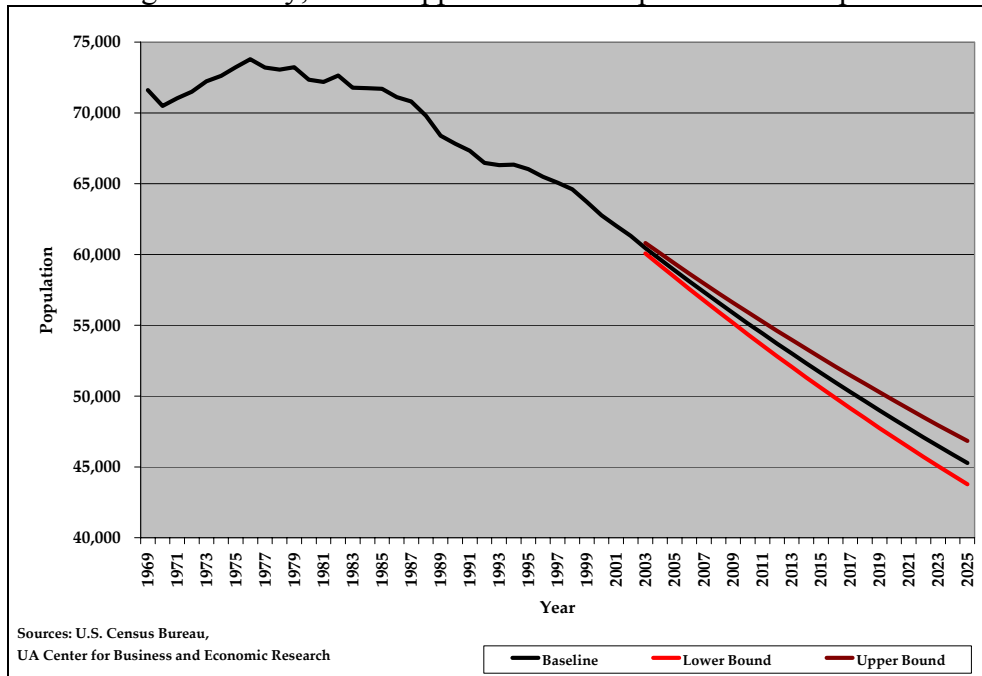


Table 91: Washington County, Mississippi Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 64,604   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 63,714   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 62,765   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 62,031   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 61,315   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 58,883   | (2,432)                   | -4.0%                    | 58,408      | (2,907)                   | -4.7%                    | 59,361      | (1,954)                   | -3.2%                    |
| 2010 | 55,138   | (6,177)                   | -10.1%                   | 54,366      | (6,949)                   | -11.3%                   | 55,921      | (5,394)                   | -8.8%                    |
| 2015 | 51,637   | (9,678)                   | -15.8%                   | 50,590      | (10,725)                  | -17.5%                   | 52,707      | (8,608)                   | -14.0%                   |
| 2020 | 48,359   | (12,956)                  | -21.1%                   | 47,066      | (14,249)                  | -23.2%                   | 49,682      | (11,633)                  | -19.0%                   |
| 2025 | 45,284   | (16,031)                  | -26.1%                   | 43,783      | (17,532)                  | -28.6%                   | 46,836      | (14,479)                  | -23.6%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Missouri**

The following counties in Missouri border counties in Arkansas: Barry, Butler, Dunklin, Howell, McDonald, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stone, and Taney. The combined population of these counties was 289,955 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for each of these counties is presented below.

**Barry County**

Barry County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Benton (page 13) and Carroll (page 21). Population centers in Barry County, and their 2000 population, include the cities of Monett (5,169), Cassville (2,890), Purdy (1,103), Shell Knob CDP (1,075), and Seligman, (877).

Population growth in Barry County was relatively strong from 1989 to 1998. For the period, the county’s population increased by 6,406 people, or 23.5 percent, from 27,273 to 33,679. From 1998 to 2002, the county’s population increased by 848 people, or 2.5 percent, to 34,527.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Barry County is projected to increase by 1,803 people, or 5.2 percent, to 36,330 by 2010 and by 5,500 people, or 15.9 percent, to

40,027 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 35,710 and 36,960 in 2010 and between 38,415 and 41,702 in 2025.

Figure 93: Barry County Historical Population and Population Projections

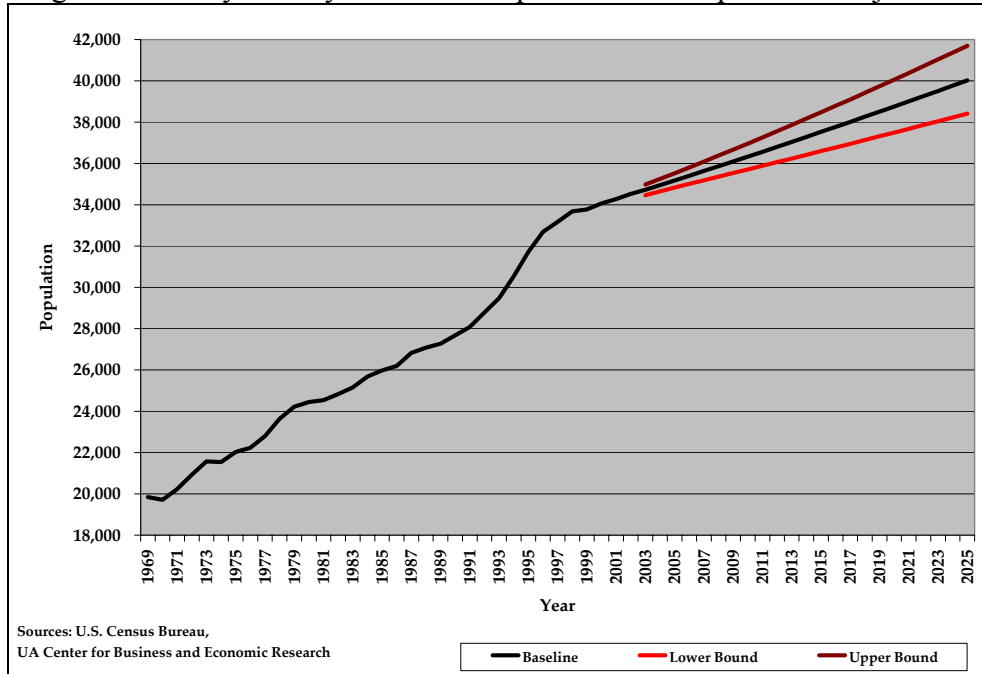


Table 92: Barry County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 33,679   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 33,769   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 34,060   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 34,273   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 34,527   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 35,179   | 652                       | 1.9%                     | 34,832      | 305                       | 0.9%                     | 35,525      | 998                       | 2.9%                     |
| 2010 | 36,330   | 1,803                     | 5.2%                     | 35,710      | 1,183                     | 3.4%                     | 36,960      | 2,433                     | 7.0%                     |
| 2015 | 37,523   | 2,996                     | 8.7%                     | 36,596      | 2,069                     | 6.0%                     | 38,473      | 3,946                     | 11.4%                    |
| 2020 | 38,754   | 4,227                     | 12.2%                    | 37,496      | 2,969                     | 8.6%                     | 40,055      | 5,528                     | 16.0%                    |
| 2025 | 40,027   | 5,500                     | 15.9%                    | 38,415      | 3,888                     | 11.3%                    | 41,702      | 7,175                     | 20.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Butler County

Butler County, Missouri borders Clay County, Arkansas (page 27). Population centers in Butler County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Poplar Bluff (16,651), Neelyville (487), Qulin (467), and Fisk (363).

From 1988 to 1993, Butler County experienced relatively strong population growth. For the period, the county's population increased by 1,945 people, or 5.1 percent, from 38,162 to 40,107. From 1993 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 657 people, or 1.6 percent, to 40,764.

Based on the 1993 to 2002 trend, the population of Butler County is projected to increase by 784 people, or 1.9 percent, to 41,548 by 2010 and by 1,912 people, or 4.7 percent, to 42,676 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 40,766 and 42,345 in 2010 and between 41,200 and 44,205 in 2025.

Figure 94: Butler County Historical Population and Population Projections

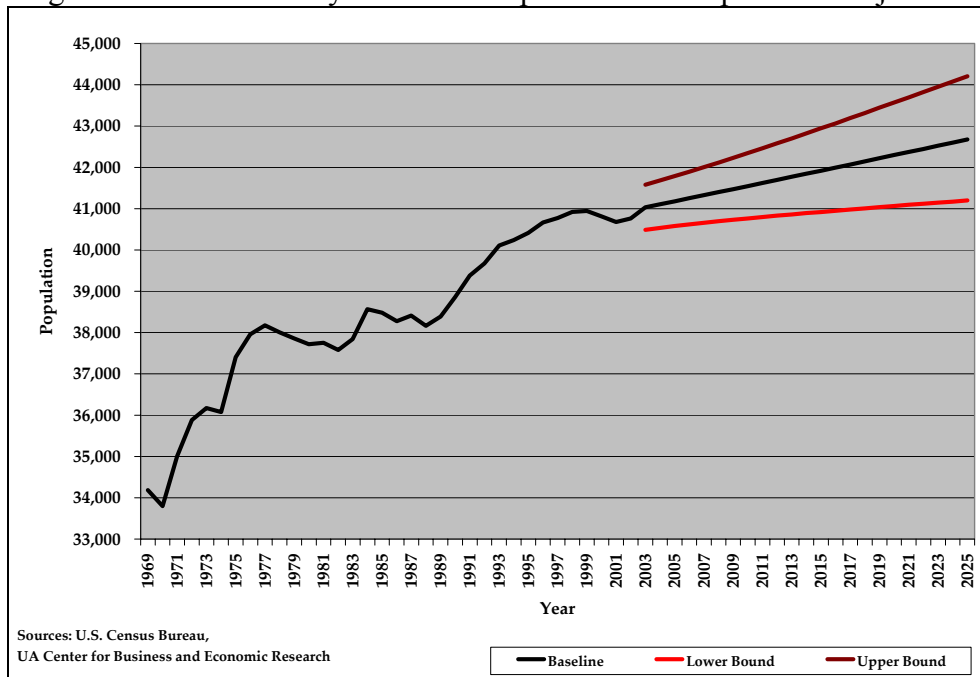


Table 93: Butler County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 40,924   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 40,945   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 40,815   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 40,675   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 40,764   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 41,180   | 416                       | 1.0%                     | 40,579      | (185)                     | -0.5%                    | 41,789      | 1,025                     | 2.5%                     |
| 2010 | 41,548   | 784                       | 1.9%                     | 40,766      | 2                         | 0.0%                     | 42,345      | 1,581                     | 3.9%                     |
| 2015 | 41,919   | 1,155                     | 2.8%                     | 40,921      | 157                       | 0.4%                     | 42,946      | 2,182                     | 5.4%                     |
| 2020 | 42,298   | 1,534                     | 3.8%                     | 41,065      | 301                       | 0.7%                     | 43,569      | 2,805                     | 6.9%                     |
| 2025 | 42,676   | 1,912                     | 4.7%                     | 41,200      | 436                       | 1.1%                     | 44,205      | 3,441                     | 8.4%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Dunklin County**

Dunklin County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Clay (page 27), Craighead (page 37), Greene (page 61), and Mississippi (page 99). Population centers in Dunklin County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Kennett (11,260), Malden (4,782), Campbell (1,883), Senath (1,650), and Clarkton (1,330).

From 1991 to 1996, the population of Dunklin County increased by a net 616 people, or 1.9 percent, from 32,933 to 33,549. The county’s population has decreased every year since 1996. For the period, the population of Dunklin County decreased by 744 people, or 2.2 percent, to 32,805.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Dunklin County is projected to decrease by 920 people, or 2.8 percent, to 31,885 by 2010 and by 2,644 people, or 8.1 percent, to 30,161 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 31,672 and 32,100 in 2010 and between 29,733 and 30,598 in 2025.

Figure 95: Dunklin County Historical Population and Population Projections

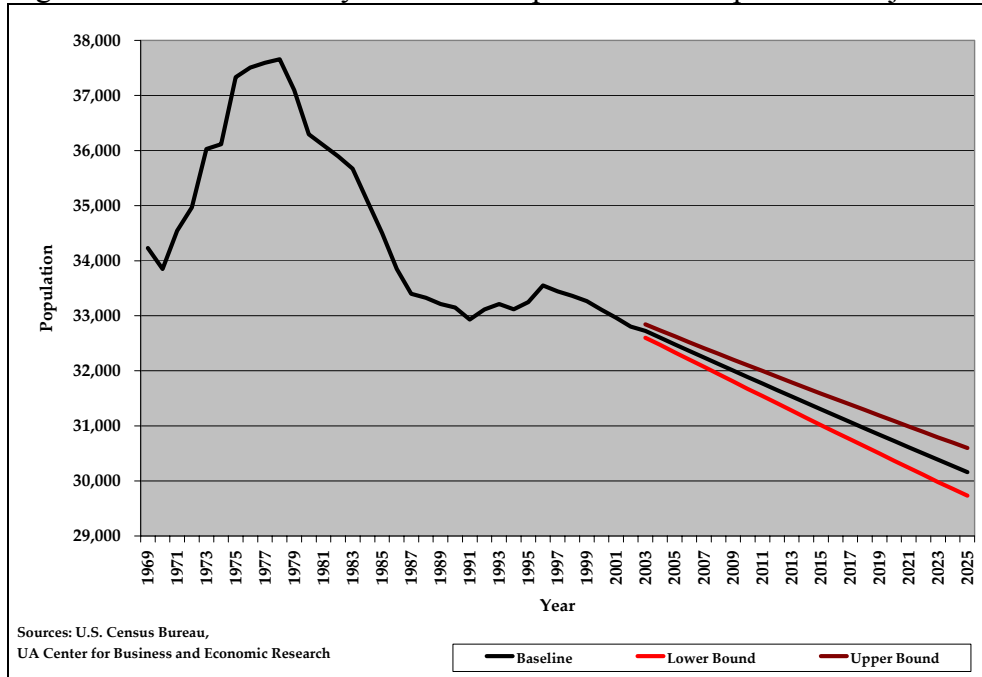


Table 94: Dunklin County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 33,362   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 33,264   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 33,108   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 32,964   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 32,805   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 32,481   | (324)                     | -1.0%                    | 32,338      | (467)                     | -1.4%                    | 32,627      | (178)                     | -0.5%                    |
| 2010 | 31,885   | (920)                     | -2.8%                    | 31,672      | (1,133)                   | -3.5%                    | 32,100      | (705)                     | -2.1%                    |
| 2015 | 31,301   | (1,504)                   | -4.6%                    | 31,014      | (1,791)                   | -5.5%                    | 31,587      | (1,218)                   | -3.7%                    |
| 2020 | 30,727   | (2,078)                   | -6.3%                    | 30,367      | (2,438)                   | -7.4%                    | 31,089      | (1,716)                   | -5.2%                    |
| 2025 | 30,161   | (2,644)                   | -8.1%                    | 29,733      | (3,072)                   | -9.4%                    | 30,598      | (2,207)                   | -6.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Howell County

Howell County borders the Fulton County, Arkansas (page 55). Population centers in Howell County, and their 2000 populations, include the cities of West Plains (10,866), Mountain View (2,430), Willow Springs (2,147), and Brandsville (174).

Population growth in Howell County was relatively strong from 1989 to 1997. For the period, the county's population increased by 5,515 people, or 17.9 percent, from 30,878 to 36,393. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 887 people, or 2.4 percent, to 37,280.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Howell County is projected to increase by 1,529 people, or 4.1 percent, to 38,809 by 2010 and by 4,297 people, or 11.5 percent, to 41,577 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 37,392 and 40,280 in 2010 and between 38,216 and 45,234 in 2025.

Figure 96: Howell County Historical Population and Population Projections

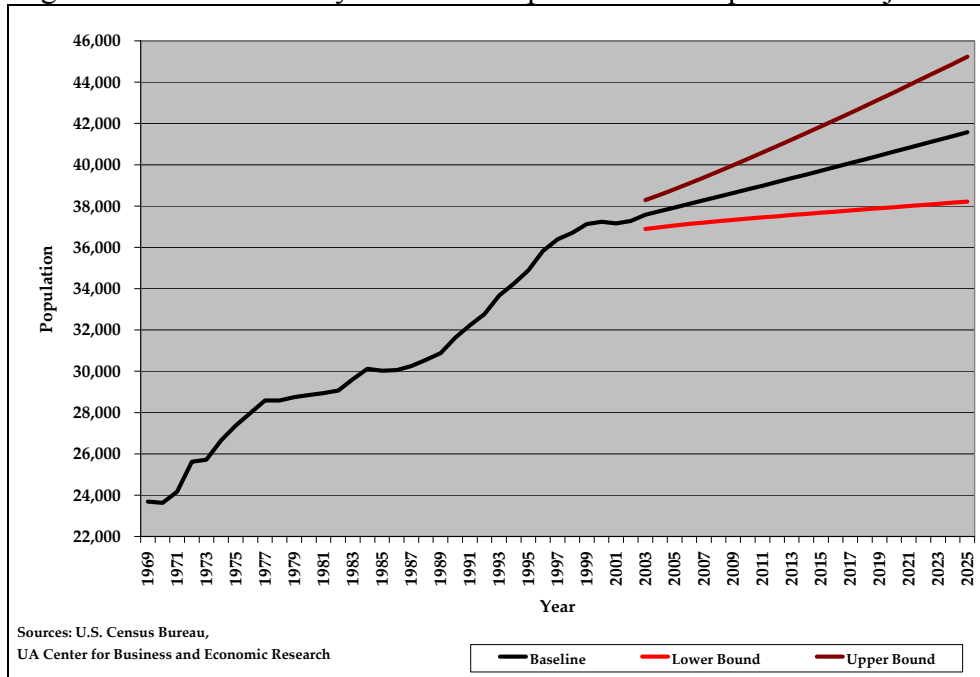


Table 95: Howell County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 36,703   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 37,128   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 37,234   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 37,165   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 37,280   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 37,930   | 650                       | 1.7%                     | 37,060      | (220)                     | -0.6%                    | 38,816      | 1,536                     | 4.1%                     |
| 2010 | 38,809   | 1,529                     | 4.1%                     | 37,392      | 112                       | 0.3%                     | 40,280      | 3,000                     | 8.0%                     |
| 2015 | 39,712   | 2,432                     | 6.5%                     | 37,677      | 397                       | 1.1%                     | 41,856      | 4,576                     | 12.3%                    |
| 2020 | 40,636   | 3,356                     | 9.0%                     | 37,949      | 669                       | 1.8%                     | 43,508      | 6,228                     | 16.7%                    |
| 2025 | 41,577   | 4,297                     | 11.5%                    | 38,216      | 936                       | 2.5%                     | 45,234      | 7,954                     | 21.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### McDonald County

McDonald County borders the Benton County, Arkansas (page 13). Population centers in McDonald County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Anderson (1,856) and Noel (1,480) and the towns of Goodman (1,183), South West City (855), Pineville (768), and Lanagan (411). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA (page 217).

Population growth in McDonald County was relatively strong from 1991 to 1998. For the period, the county’s population increased by 3,996 people, or 23.2 percent, from 17,200 to 21,196. From 1998 to 2002, the county’s population increased by a net 491 people, or 2.3 percent, to 21,687.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of McDonald County is projected to increase by 1,022 people, or 4.7 percent, to 22,709 by 2010 and by 2,856 people, or 13.2 percent, to 24,543 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 21,220 and 24,299 in 2010 and between 20,881 and 28,848 in 2025.



Figure 97: McDonald County Historical Population and Population Projections

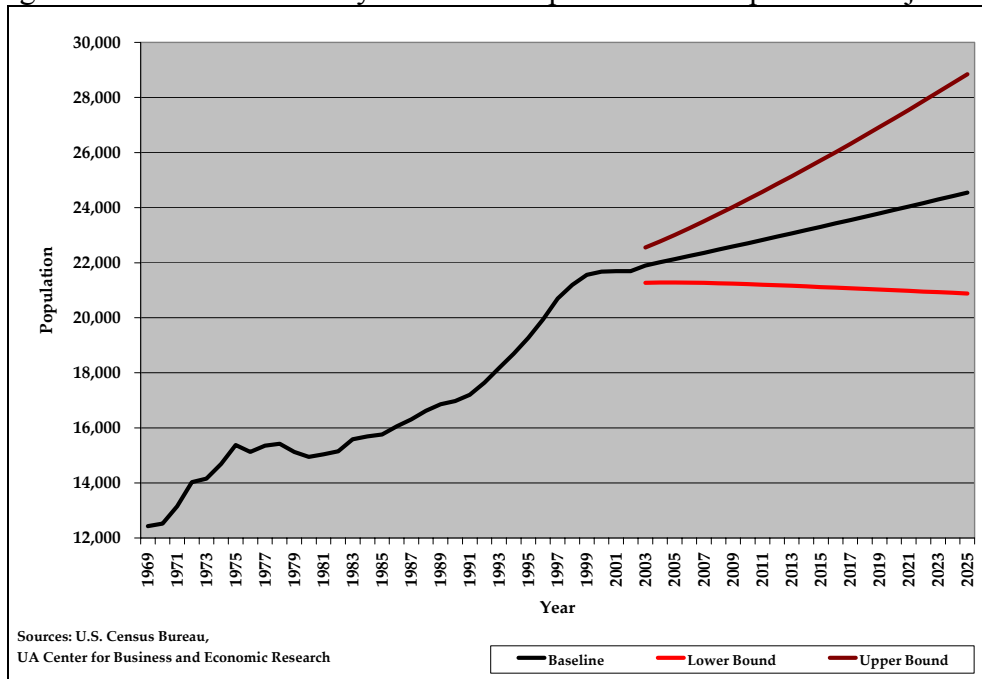


Table 96: McDonald County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 21,196   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 21,561   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 21,676   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 21,691   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 21,687   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 22,128   | 441                       | 2.0%                     | 21,282      | (405)                     | -1.9%                    | 23,006      | 1,319                     | 6.1%                     |
| 2010 | 22,709   | 1,022                     | 4.7%                     | 21,220      | (467)                     | -2.2%                    | 24,299      | 2,612                     | 12.0%                    |
| 2015 | 23,304   | 1,617                     | 7.5%                     | 21,116      | (571)                     | -2.6%                    | 25,717      | 4,030                     | 18.6%                    |
| 2020 | 23,916   | 2,229                     | 10.3%                    | 21,000      | (687)                     | -3.2%                    | 27,233      | 5,546                     | 25.6%                    |
| 2025 | 24,543   | 2,856                     | 13.2%                    | 20,881      | (806)                     | -3.7%                    | 28,848      | 7,161                     | 33.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Oregon County

Oregon County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Fulton (page 55), Randolph (page 127), and Sharp (page 141). Population centers in Oregon County, and their 2000

population levels, include the cities of Thayer (2,201) and Alton (668) and the town of Koshkonong (205).

From 1992 to 1997, the population of Oregon County increased by a net 494 people, or 5.2 percent, from 9,518 to 10,012. Since 1997, population growth has slowed in Oregon County. From 1997 to 2002, the county’s population increased by a net 253 people, or 2.5 percent, to 10,265.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Oregon County is projected to increase by 399 people, or 3.9 percent, to 10,664 by 2010 and by 1,041 people, or 10.1 percent, to 11,306 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 9,864 and 11,528 in 2010 and between 9,476 and 13,490 in 2025.

Figure 98: Oregon County Historical Population and Population Projections

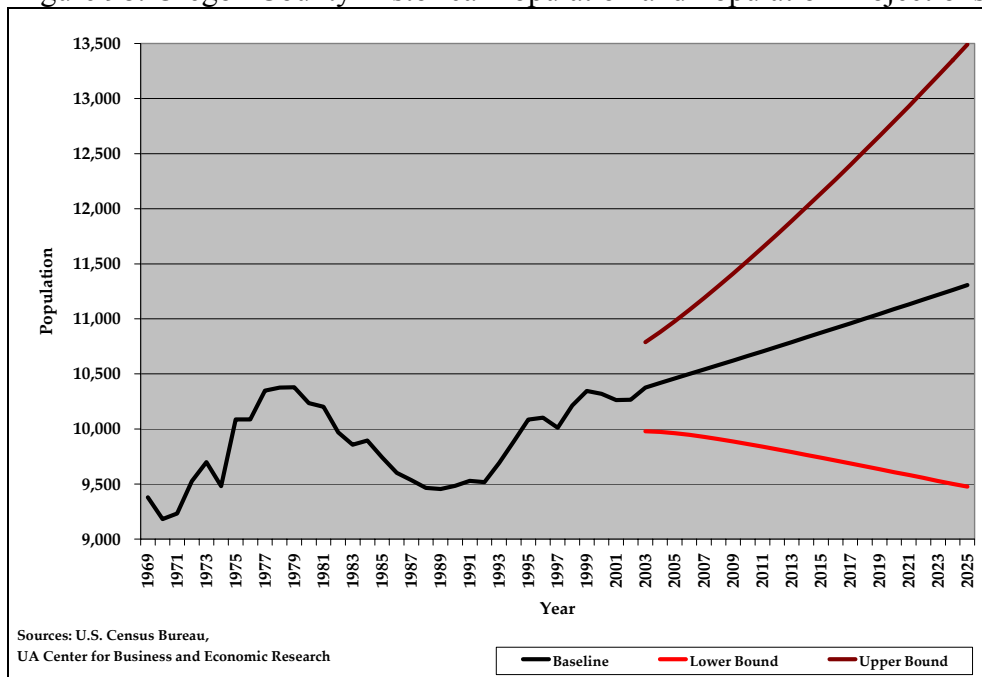


Table 97: Oregon County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 10,213   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 10,346   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 10,319   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 10,262   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 10,265   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 10,458   | 193                       | 1.9%                     | 9,962       | (303)                     | -3.0%                    | 10,977      | 712                       | 6.9%                     |
| 2010 | 10,664   | 399                       | 3.9%                     | 9,864       | (401)                     | -3.9%                    | 11,528      | 1,263                     | 12.3%                    |
| 2015 | 10,874   | 609                       | 5.9%                     | 9,740       | (525)                     | -5.1%                    | 12,139      | 1,874                     | 18.3%                    |
| 2020 | 11,088   | 823                       | 8.0%                     | 9,608       | (657)                     | -6.4%                    | 12,794      | 2,529                     | 24.6%                    |
| 2025 | 11,306   | 1,041                     | 10.1%                    | 9,476       | (789)                     | -7.7%                    | 13,490      | 3,225                     | 31.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Ozark County

Ozark County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Baxter (page 11), Fulton (page 55), and Marion (page 95). Population centers in Ozark County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Gainesville (632) and the villages of Bakersfield (285) and Theodosia (240).

From 1990 to 1996, the population of Ozark County increased by a net 704 people, or 8.2 percent, from 8,629 to 9,333. Population growth slowed from 1996 to 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by a net 64 people to 9,397.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Ozark County is projected to increase by 234 people, or 2.5 percent, to 9,631 by 2010 and by 516 people, or 5.5 percent, to 9,913 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 9,096 and 10,195 in 2010 and between 8,768 and 11,207 in 2025.

Figure 99: Ozark County Historical Population and Population Projections

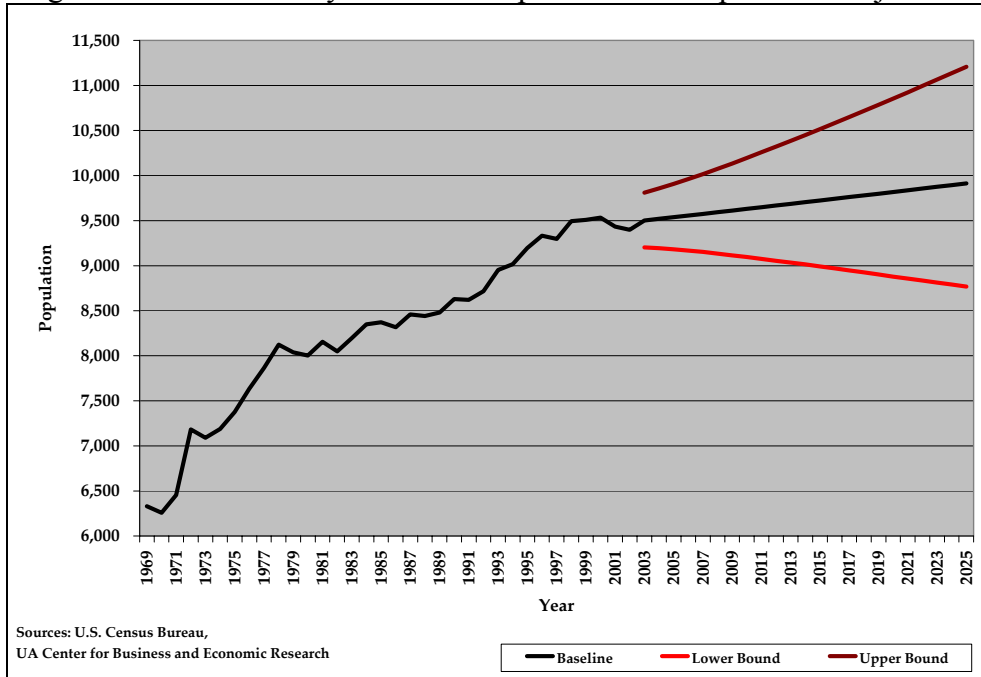


Table 98: Ozark County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 9,493    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 9,509    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 9,534    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 9,434    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 9,397    | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 9,538    | 141                       | 1.5%                     | 9,182       | (215)                     | -2.3%                    | 9,907       | 510                       | 5.4%                     |
| 2010 | 9,631    | 234                       | 2.5%                     | 9,096       | (301)                     | -3.2%                    | 10,195      | 798                       | 8.5%                     |
| 2015 | 9,723    | 326                       | 3.5%                     | 8,991       | (406)                     | -4.3%                    | 10,515      | 1,118                     | 11.9%                    |
| 2020 | 9,818    | 421                       | 4.5%                     | 8,879       | (518)                     | -5.5%                    | 10,854      | 1,457                     | 15.5%                    |
| 2025 | 9,913    | 516                       | 5.5%                     | 8,768       | (629)                     | -6.7%                    | 11,207      | 1,810                     | 19.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Pemiscot County

Pemiscot County borders the Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99). Population centers in Pemiscot County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Caruthersville (6,760), Hayti (3,207), Steele (2,263), Hayti Heights (771), and Cooter (440).

From 1994 to 1998, the population of Pemiscot County decreased by 506 people, or 2.4 percent, from 21,133 to 20,627. Population losses accelerated from 1998 to 2002. For the period, the county's population decreased by 778 people, or 3.8 percent, to 19,849.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Pemiscot County is projected to decrease by 1,559 people, or 7.9 percent, to 18,290 by 2010 and by 3,987 people, or 20.1 percent, to 15,862 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 17,089 and 19,577 in 2010 and between 13,490 and 18,652 in 2025.

Figure 100: Pemiscot County Historical Population and Population Projections

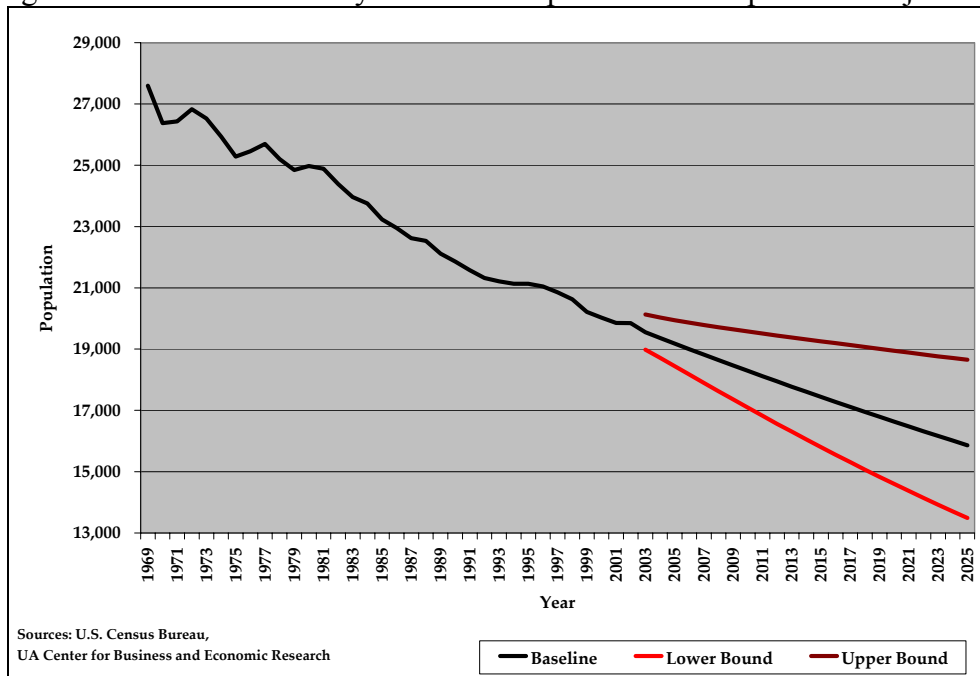


Table 99: Pemiscot County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,627   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,216   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 20,027   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 19,854   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 19,849   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 19,180   | (669)                     | -3.4%                    | 18,446      | (1,403)                   | -7.1%                    | 19,944      | 95                        | 0.5%                     |
| 2010 | 18,290   | (1,559)                   | -7.9%                    | 17,089      | (2,760)                   | -13.9%                   | 19,577      | (272)                     | -1.4%                    |
| 2015 | 17,443   | (2,406)                   | -12.1%                   | 15,802      | (4,047)                   | -20.4%                   | 19,253      | (596)                     | -3.0%                    |
| 2020 | 16,634   | (3,215)                   | -16.2%                   | 14,602      | (5,247)                   | -26.4%                   | 18,947      | (902)                     | -4.5%                    |
| 2025 | 15,862   | (3,987)                   | -20.1%                   | 13,490      | (6,359)                   | -32.0%                   | 18,652      | (1,197)                   | -6.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Ripley County

Ripley County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Clay (page 27) and Randolph (page 127). Population centers in Ripley County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Doniphan (1,932) and Naylor (610).

From 1992 to 1997, the population of Ripley County increased by 931 people, or 7.5 percent, from 12,468 to 13,399. Since 1997, the county’s population has oscillated around that figure. Indeed, in 2002, the county’s population was 13,399, the same as in 1997.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Ripley County is projected to decrease by 61 people, or 0.5 percent, to 13,338 by 2010 and by 217 people, or 1.6 percent, to 13,121 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 12,856 and 13,837 in 2010 and between 12,128 and 14,327 in 2025.

Figure 101: Ripley County Historical Population and Population Projections

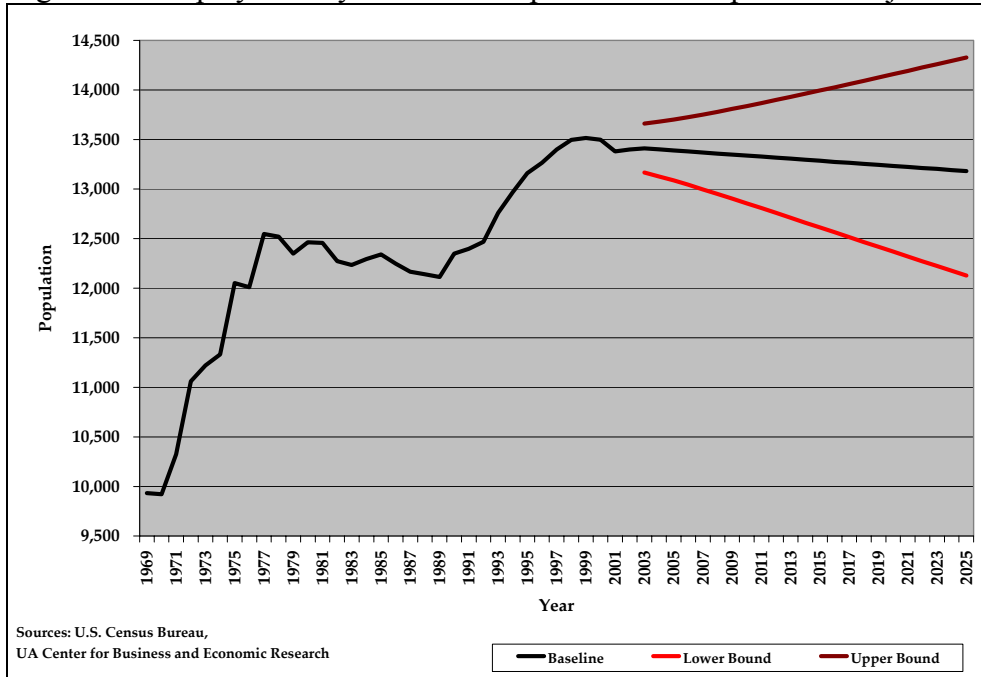


Table 100: Ripley County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 13,497   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 13,516   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 13,498   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 13,380   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 13,399   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 13,390   | (9)                       | -0.1%                    | 13,087      | (312)                     | -2.3%                    | 13,701      | 302                       | 2.3%                     |
| 2010 | 13,338   | (61)                      | -0.5%                    | 12,856      | (543)                     | -4.1%                    | 13,837      | 438                       | 3.3%                     |
| 2015 | 13,285   | (114)                     | -0.9%                    | 12,613      | (786)                     | -5.9%                    | 13,994      | 595                       | 4.4%                     |
| 2020 | 13,233   | (166)                     | -1.2%                    | 12,370      | (1,029)                   | -7.7%                    | 14,159      | 760                       | 5.7%                     |
| 2025 | 13,182   | (217)                     | -1.6%                    | 12,128      | (1,271)                   | -9.5%                    | 14,327      | 928                       | 6.9%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Stone County

Stone County, Missouri borders Carroll County, Arkansas (page 21). Population centers in Stone County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Kimberling City (2,253), Crane (1,390), Indian Point (588), Reeds Spring (465), Galena (451), and Branson West (408).

Stone County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1996. For the period, the county's population increased by 7,256 people, or 37.8 percent, from 19,197 to 26,453. From 1996 to 2002, the county's population increased by 2,928 people, or 11.1 percent, to 29,381.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Stone County is projected to increase by 4,717 people, or 16.1 percent, to 34,098 by 2010 and by 15,304 people, or 52.1 percent, to 44,685 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 32,833 and 35,412 in 2010 and between 41,196 and 48,465 in 2025.

Figure 102: Stone County, Missouri Historical Population and Population Projections

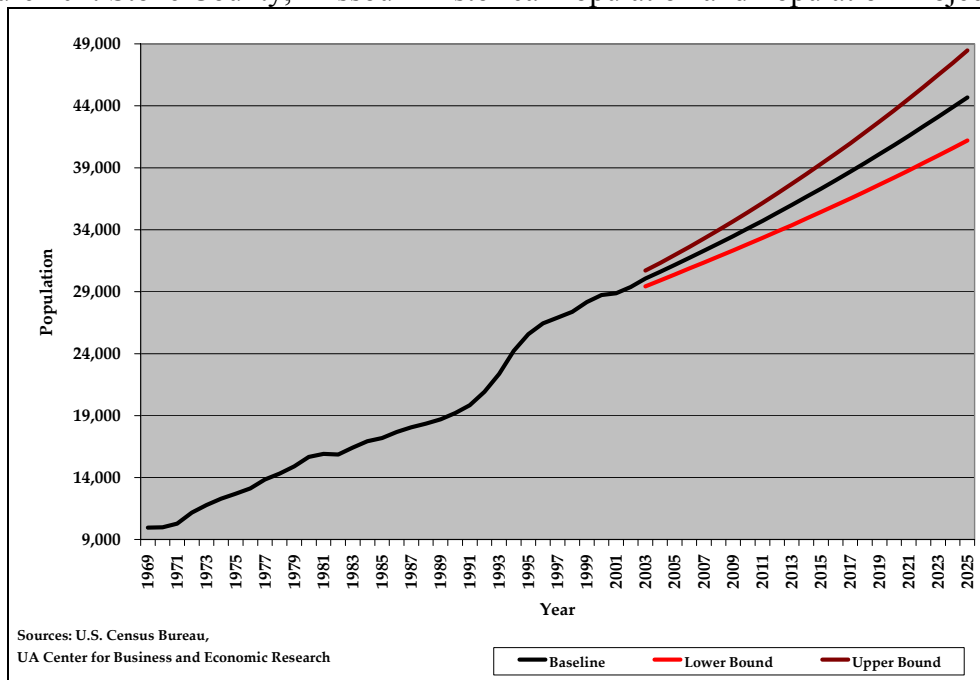




Table 101: Stone County, Missouri Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 27,372   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 28,170   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 28,739   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 28,874   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 29,381   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 31,160   | 1,779                     | 6.1%                     | 30,385      | 1,004                     | 3.4%                     | 31,956      | 2,575                     | 8.8%                     |
| 2010 | 34,098   | 4,717                     | 16.1%                    | 32,833      | 3,452                     | 11.7%                    | 35,412      | 6,031                     | 20.5%                    |
| 2015 | 37,313   | 7,932                     | 27.0%                    | 35,429      | 6,048                     | 20.6%                    | 39,301      | 9,920                     | 33.8%                    |
| 2020 | 40,835   | 11,454                    | 39.0%                    | 38,208      | 8,827                     | 30.0%                    | 43,639      | 14,258                    | 48.5%                    |
| 2025 | 44,685   | 15,304                    | 52.1%                    | 41,196      | 11,815                    | 40.2%                    | 48,465      | 19,084                    | 65.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Taney County

Taney County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Boone (page 15), Carroll (page 21), and Marion (page 95). Population centers in Taney County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Branson (6,050), Hollister (3,867), Forsyth (1,686), Merriam Woods (1,142), and Rockaway Beach (577).

From 1992 to 1997, Taney County experienced relatively strong population growth. For the period, the county’s population increased by 8,144 people, or 28.9 percent, from 28,207 to 36,351. From 1997 to 2002, the county’s population increased by 4,250 people, or 11.7 percent, to 40,601.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Taney County is projected to increase by 8,814 people, or 21.7 percent, to 49,415 by 2010 and by 29,242 people, or 72.0 percent, to 69,843 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 44,860 and 54,426 in 2010 and between 56,112 and 86,934 in 2025.

Figure 103: Taney County Historical Population and Population Projections

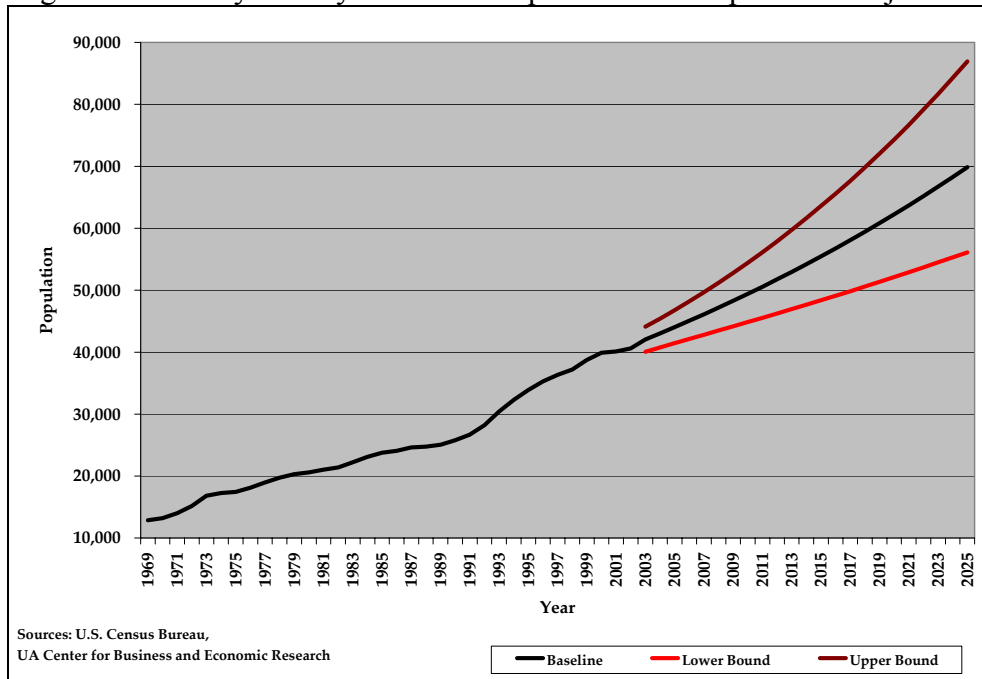


Table 102: Taney County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 37,197   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 38,743   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 39,912   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 40,091   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 40,601   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 44,029   | 3,428                     | 8.4%                     | 41,461      | 860                       | 2.1%                     | 46,761      | 6,160                     | 15.2%                    |
| 2010 | 49,415   | 8,814                     | 21.7%                    | 44,860      | 4,259                     | 10.5%                    | 54,426      | 13,825                    | 34.1%                    |
| 2015 | 55,453   | 14,852                    | 36.6%                    | 48,378      | 7,777                     | 19.2%                    | 63,564      | 22,963                    | 56.6%                    |
| 2020 | 62,230   | 21,629                    | 53.3%                    | 52,115      | 11,514                    | 28.4%                    | 74,317      | 33,716                    | 83.0%                    |
| 2025 | 69,843   | 29,242                    | 72.0%                    | 56,112      | 15,511                    | 38.2%                    | 86,934      | 46,333                    | 114.1%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Oklahoma**

The following counties in Oklahoma border counties in Arkansas: Adair, Delaware, Le Flore, McCurtain, and Sequoyah. The combined population of these counties was 181,645 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for each of these counties is presented below.

## Adair County

Adair County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Benton (page 13), Crawford (page 39), and Washington (page 149). Population centers in Adair County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Stilwell (3,276), the Town of Westville (1,596), Cherry Tree CDP (1,202), Bell CDP (602), and Watts Community CDP (500).

From 1994 to 1998, the population of Adair County increased by 964 people, or 4.9 percent, from 19,784 to 20,748. Population growth slowed slightly from 1998 to 2002. For the period, the county's population increased by 613 people, or 3.0 percent, to 21,361.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Adair County is projected to increase by 1,291 people, or 6.0 percent, to 22,652 by 2010 and by 3,910 people, or 18.3 percent, to 25,271 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 22,507 and 22,800 in 2010 and between 24,884 and 25,663 in 2025.

Figure 104: Adair County Historical Population and Population Projections

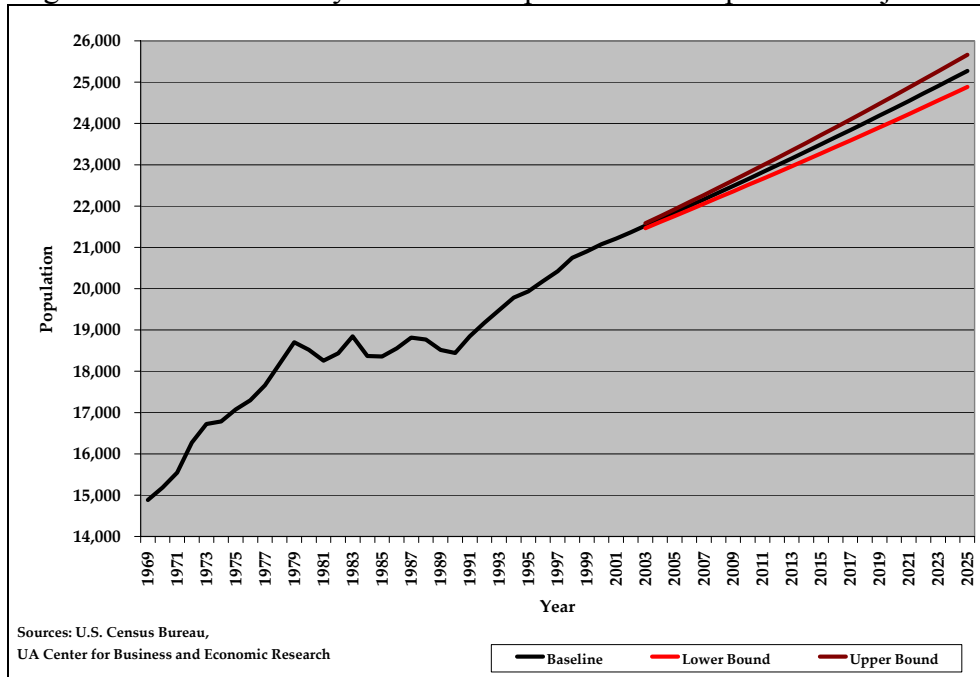


Table 103: Adair County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 20,748   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 20,904   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 21,079   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 21,213   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 21,361   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 21,842   | 481                       | 2.3%                     | 21,762      | 401                       | 1.9%                     | 21,923      | 562                       | 2.6%                     |
| 2010 | 22,652   | 1,291                     | 6.0%                     | 22,507      | 1,146                     | 5.4%                     | 22,800      | 1,439                     | 6.7%                     |
| 2015 | 23,494   | 2,133                     | 10.0%                    | 23,274      | 1,913                     | 9.0%                     | 23,716      | 2,355                     | 11.0%                    |
| 2020 | 24,365   | 3,004                     | 14.1%                    | 24,065      | 2,704                     | 12.7%                    | 24,671      | 3,310                     | 15.5%                    |
| 2025 | 25,271   | 3,910                     | 18.3%                    | 24,884      | 3,523                     | 16.5%                    | 25,663      | 4,302                     | 20.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Delaware County

Delaware County borders Benton County, Arkansas (page 13). Population centers in Delaware County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Grove (5,131), Jay (2,482), Copeland CDP (1,448), Cleora CDP (1,113), West Siloam Springs (877), and Colcord (819).

Delaware County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1994 to 1998. For the period, the county’s population increased by 3,934 people, or 12.4 percent, from 31,741 to 35,675. From 1998 to 2002, the county’s population increased by 2,138 people, or 6.0 percent, to 37,813.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Delaware County is projected to increase by 5,082 people, or 13.4 percent, to 42,895 by 2010 and by 15,792 people, or 41.8 percent, to 53,605 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 39,775 and 46,254 in 2010 and between 44,779 and 64,177 in 2025.

Figure 105: Delaware County Historical Population and Population Projections

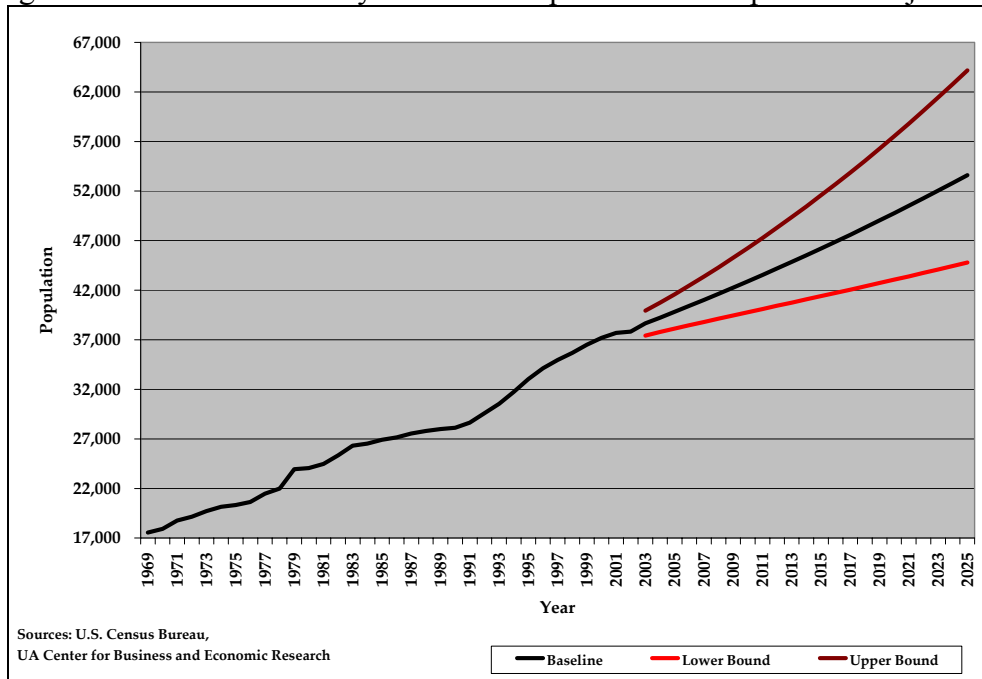


Table 104: Delaware County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 35,675   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 36,503   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 37,197   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 37,699   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 37,813   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 39,819   | 2,006                     | 5.3%                     | 38,132      | 319                       | 0.8%                     | 41,585      | 3,772                     | 10.0%                    |
| 2010 | 42,895   | 5,082                     | 13.4%                    | 39,775      | 1,962                     | 5.2%                     | 46,254      | 8,441                     | 22.3%                    |
| 2015 | 46,203   | 8,390                     | 22.2%                    | 41,399      | 3,586                     | 9.5%                     | 51,565      | 13,752                    | 36.4%                    |
| 2020 | 49,767   | 11,954                    | 31.6%                    | 43,062      | 5,249                     | 13.9%                    | 57,515      | 19,702                    | 52.1%                    |
| 2025 | 53,605   | 15,792                    | 41.8%                    | 44,779      | 6,966                     | 18.4%                    | 64,177      | 26,364                    | 69.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Le Flore County**

Le Flore County is adjacent to the following counties in Arkansas: Crawford (page 39), Polk (page 119), Scott (page 133), and Sebastian (page 137). Population centers in Le Flore County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Poteau (7,939), Pocola

(3,994), Heavener (3,201), Spiro (2,227), and Arkoma (2,180). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Fort Smith MSA (page 220).

Le Flore County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1992 to 1997. For the period, the county’s population increased by 3,484 people, or 7.9 percent, from 43,851 to 47,335. From 1997 to 2002, the county’s population increased by a net 1,097 people, or 2.3 percent, to 48,432.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Le Flore County is projected to increase by 1,719 people, or 3.5 percent, to 50,151 by 2010 and by 5,066 people, or 10.5 percent, to 53,498 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 49,415 and 50,894 in 2010 and between 51,741 and 55,315 in 2025.

Figure 106: Le Flore County Historical Population and Population Projections

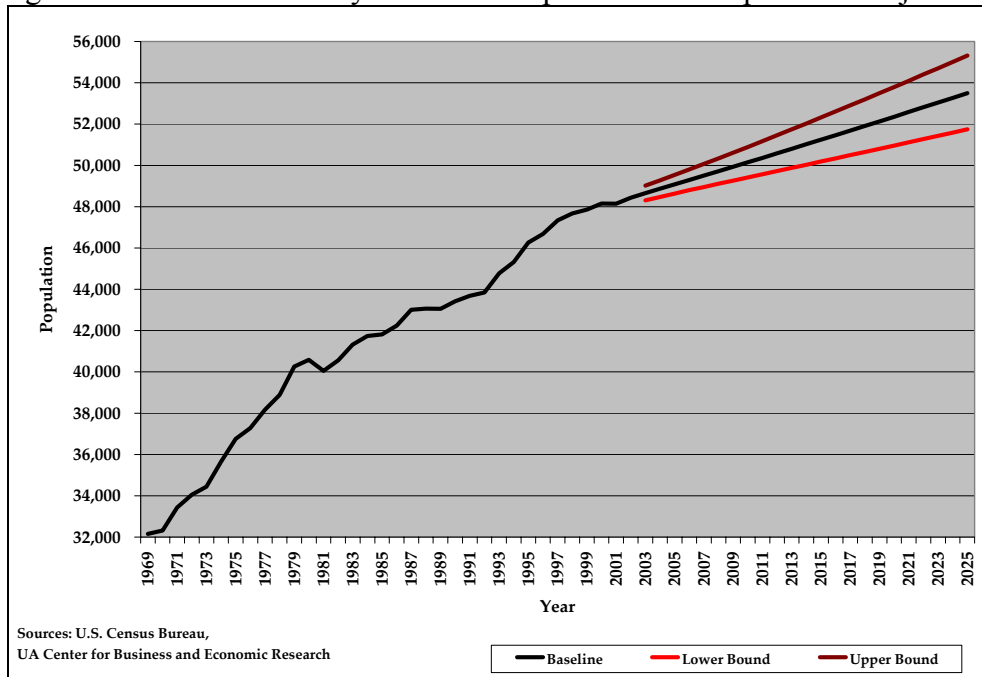


Table 105: Le Flore County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 47,674   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 47,858   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 48,160   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 48,151   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 48,432   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 49,085   | 653                       | 1.3%                     | 48,635      | 203                       | 0.4%                     | 49,533      | 1,101                     | 2.3%                     |
| 2010 | 50,151   | 1,719                     | 3.5%                     | 49,415      | 983                       | 2.0%                     | 50,894      | 2,462                     | 5.1%                     |
| 2015 | 51,241   | 2,809                     | 5.8%                     | 50,186      | 1,754                     | 3.6%                     | 52,318      | 3,886                     | 8.0%                     |
| 2020 | 52,355   | 3,923                     | 8.1%                     | 50,960      | 2,528                     | 5.2%                     | 53,793      | 5,361                     | 11.1%                    |
| 2025 | 53,498   | 5,066                     | 10.5%                    | 51,741      | 3,309                     | 6.8%                     | 55,315      | 6,883                     | 14.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### McCurtain County

McCurtain County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Little River (page 87), Polk (page 119), and Sevier (page 139). Population centers in McCurtain County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Idabel (6,952), Broken Bow (4,230), Wright City (848), Valliant (771), Millerton (359), and Haworth (354).

From 1991 to 1998, the population of McCurtain County increased by a net 1,203 people, or 3.6 percent, from 33,217 to 34,420. Since 1998, the county’s population has decreased by a net 233 people. In 2002, the population of McCurtain County was 34,187, or 0.7 percent less than in 1998.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of McCurtain County is projected to decrease by 425 people, or 1.2 percent, to 33,762 by 2010 and by 1,248 people, or 3.7 percent, to 32,939 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 33,183 and 34,351 in 2010 and between 31,609 and 34,324 in 2025.

Figure 107: McCurtain County Historical Population and Population Projections

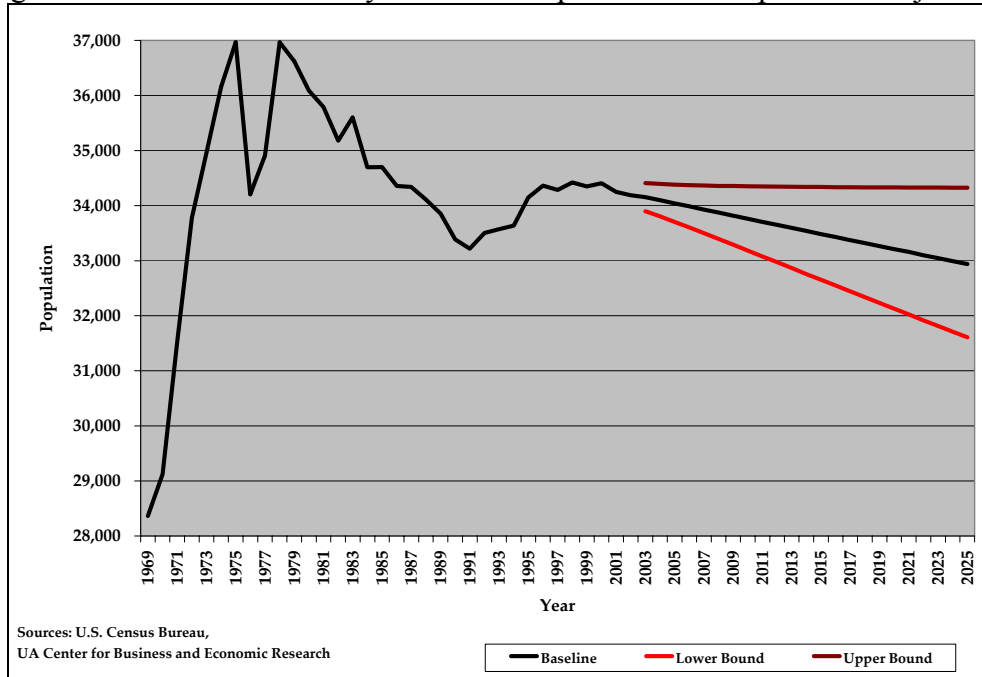


Table 106: McCurtain County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 34,420   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 34,348   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 34,408   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 34,249   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 34,187   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 34,040   | (147)                     | -0.4%                    | 33,705      | (482)                     | -1.4%                    | 34,379      | 192                       | 0.6%                     |
| 2010 | 33,762   | (425)                     | -1.2%                    | 33,183      | (1,004)                   | -2.9%                    | 34,351      | 164                       | 0.5%                     |
| 2015 | 33,483   | (704)                     | -2.1%                    | 32,653      | (1,534)                   | -4.5%                    | 34,338      | 151                       | 0.4%                     |
| 2020 | 33,210   | (977)                     | -2.9%                    | 32,129      | (2,058)                   | -6.0%                    | 34,331      | 144                       | 0.4%                     |
| 2025 | 32,939   | (1,248)                   | -3.7%                    | 31,609      | (2,578)                   | -7.5%                    | 34,324      | 137                       | 0.4%                     |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Sequoyah County

Sequoyah County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Crawford (page 39) and Sebastian (page 137). Population centers in Sequoyah County, and their 2000 population levels,



include the City of Sallisaw (7,989) and the towns of Muldrow (3,104), Roland (2,842), Vian (1,362), and Gore (850). The county is a component of the Fort Smith MSA (page 220).

Sequoyah County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1994 to 1998. For the period, the county’s population increased by 2,822 people, or 8.0 percent, from 35,471 to 38,293. From 1998 to 2002, the county’s population increased by 1,559 people, or 4.0 percent, to 39,852.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Sequoyah County is projected to increase by 3,240 people, or 8.1 percent, to 43,092 by 2010 and by 10,109 people, or 25.4 percent, to 49,961 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 42,740 and 43,451 in 2010 and between 48,986 and 50,955 in 2025.

Figure 108: Sequoyah County Historical Population and Population Projections

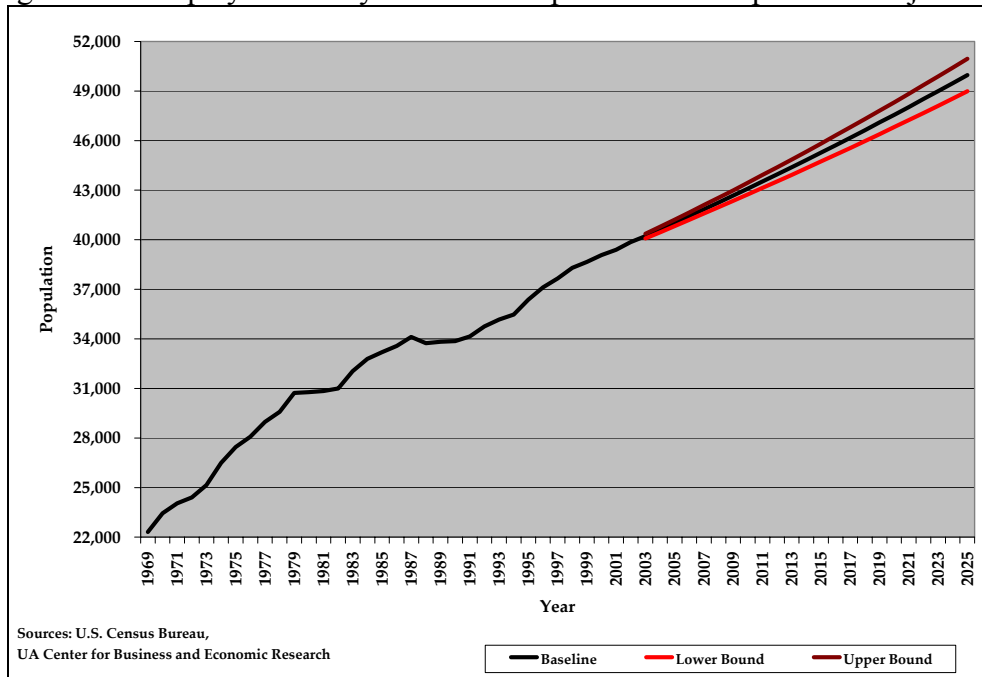


Table 107: Sequoyah County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 38,293   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 38,661   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 39,065   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 39,393   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 39,852   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 41,023   | 1,171                     | 2.9%                     | 40,827      | 975                       | 2.4%                     | 41,217      | 1,365                     | 3.4%                     |
| 2010 | 43,092   | 3,240                     | 8.1%                     | 42,740      | 2,888                     | 7.2%                     | 43,451      | 3,599                     | 9.0%                     |
| 2015 | 45,270   | 5,418                     | 13.6%                    | 44,730      | 4,878                     | 12.2%                    | 45,817      | 5,965                     | 15.0%                    |
| 2020 | 47,558   | 7,706                     | 19.3%                    | 46,812      | 6,960                     | 17.5%                    | 48,315      | 8,463                     | 21.2%                    |
| 2025 | 49,961   | 10,109                    | 25.4%                    | 48,986      | 9,134                     | 22.9%                    | 50,955      | 11,103                    | 27.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Tennessee

The following counties in Tennessee border counties in Arkansas or are contained in the Memphis MSA: Dyer, Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton. The combined population of these counties was 1,055,307 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for each of these counties is presented below.

### Dyer County

Dyer County is across the Mississippi River from Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99). Population centers in Dyer County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of Dyersburg (17,452), Newbern (2,988), and Trimble (728).

From 1992 to 1997, the population of Dyer County increased by 1,752 people, or 5.0 percent, from 34,899 and 36,651. From 1997 to 2002, the county's population increased by a net 333 people, or 0.9 percent, to 36,984.

Based on the 1997 to 2002 trend, the population of Dyer County is projected to increase by 772 people, or 2.1 percent, to 37,756 by 2010 and by 1,879 people, or 5.1 percent, to 38,863 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 36,214 and 39,368 in 2010 and between 35,355 and 42,719 in 2025.

Figure 109: Dyer County Historical Population and Population Projections

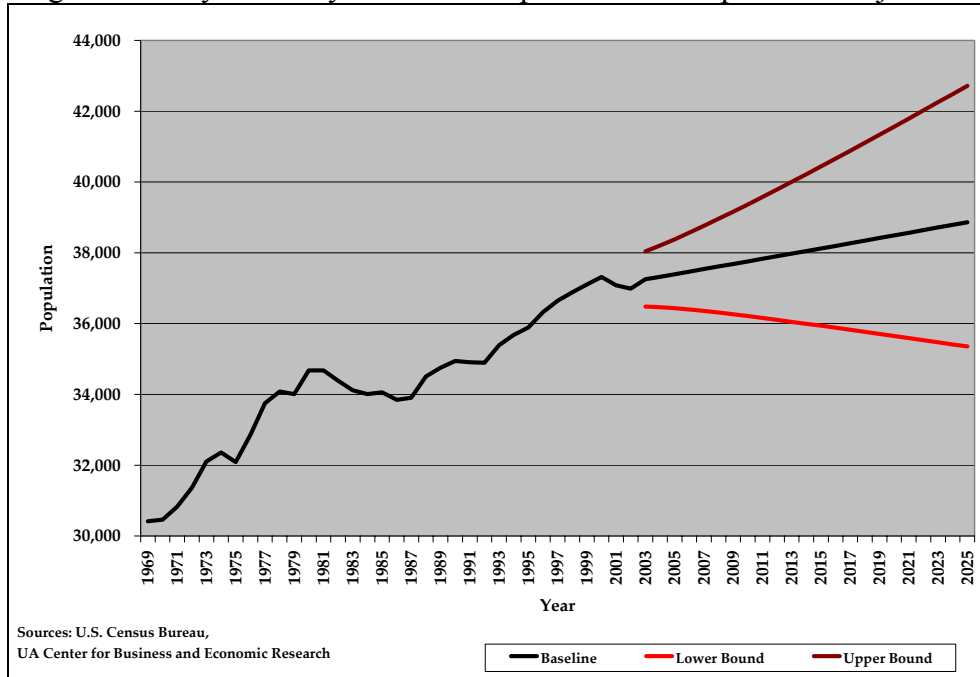


Table 108: Dyer County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 36,881   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 37,104   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 37,317   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 37,083   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 36,984   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 37,395   | 411                       | 1.1%                     | 36,436      | (548)                     | -1.5%                    | 38,380      | 1,396                     | 3.8%                     |
| 2010 | 37,756   | 772                       | 2.1%                     | 36,214      | (770)                     | -2.1%                    | 39,368      | 2,384                     | 6.4%                     |
| 2015 | 38,124   | 1,140                     | 3.1%                     | 35,940      | (1,044)                   | -2.8%                    | 40,441      | 3,457                     | 9.3%                     |
| 2020 | 38,492   | 1,508                     | 4.1%                     | 35,650      | (1,334)                   | -3.6%                    | 41,560      | 4,576                     | 12.4%                    |
| 2025 | 38,863   | 1,879                     | 5.1%                     | 35,355      | (1,629)                   | -4.4%                    | 42,719      | 5,735                     | 15.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Fayette County

Fayette County, Tennessee is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229). Population centers in Fayette County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities and towns of

Hickory Withe (2,574), Somerville (2,519), Oakland (1,279), Gallaway (666), and Piperton (589).

From 1977 to 1995, the population of Fayette County oscillated between 24,711 and 25,675. Population growth accelerated from 1995 to 2002. For the period, the county’s population increased by 5,945 people, or 23.5 percent, from 25,257 to 31,202.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Fayette County is projected to increase by 8,067 people, or 25.9 percent, to 39,269 by 2010 and by 29,906 people, or 95.8 percent, to 61,108 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 37,945 and 40,640 in 2010 and between 56,971 and 65,539 in 2025.

Figure 110: Fayette County Historical Population and Population Projections

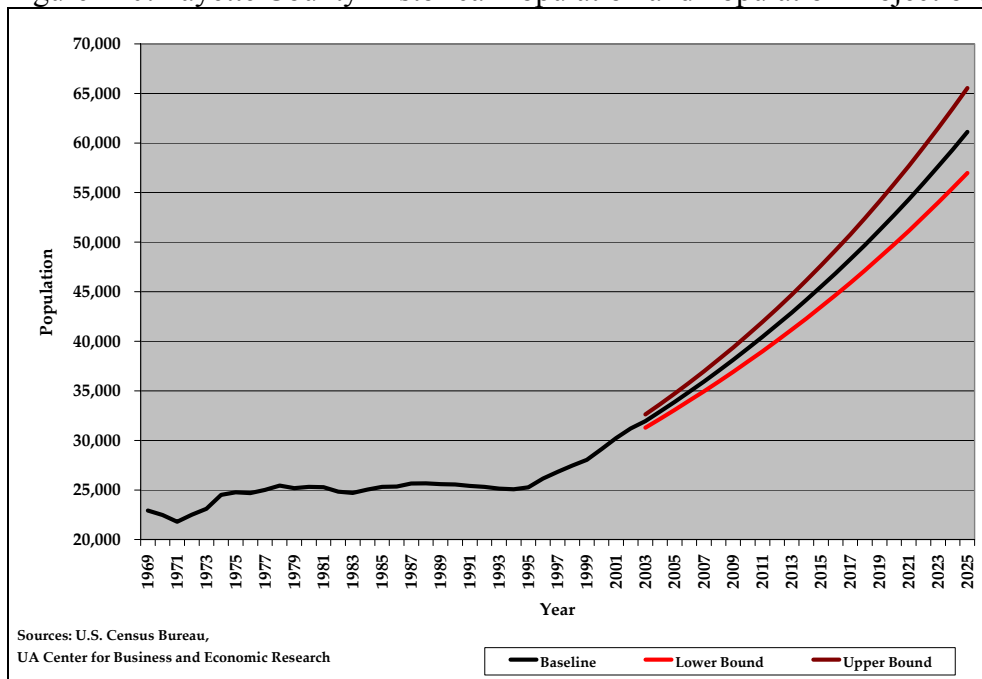


Table 109: Fayette County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 27,465   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 28,048   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 29,131   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 30,252   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 31,202   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 33,887   | 2,685                     | 8.6%                     | 33,077      | 1,875                     | 6.0%                     | 34,718      | 3,516                     | 11.3%                    |
| 2010 | 39,269   | 8,067                     | 25.9%                    | 37,945      | 6,743                     | 21.6%                    | 40,640      | 9,438                     | 30.2%                    |
| 2015 | 45,506   | 14,304                    | 45.8%                    | 43,469      | 12,267                    | 39.3%                    | 47,634      | 16,432                    | 52.7%                    |
| 2020 | 52,733   | 21,531                    | 69.0%                    | 49,772      | 18,570                    | 59.5%                    | 55,865      | 24,663                    | 79.0%                    |
| 2025 | 61,108   | 29,906                    | 95.8%                    | 56,971      | 25,769                    | 82.6%                    | 65,539      | 34,337                    | 110.0%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Lauderdale County

Lauderdale County is across the Mississippi river from Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99). Population centers in Lauderdale County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Ripley (7,844) and the towns of Halls (2,311), Henning (970), and Gates (901).

Lauderdale County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1995. For the period, the county’s population increased by 2,094 people, or 8.9 percent, from 23,569 to 25,663. From 1995 to 2002, the county’s population increased by a net 2,344 people, or 9.1 percent.

Based on the 1995 to 2002 trend, the population of Lauderdale County is projected to increase by 3,175 people, or 11.3 percent, to 31,182 by 2010 and by 9,972 people, or 35.6 percent, to 37,979 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 30,149 and 32,254 in 2010 and between 35,447 and 40,693 in 2025.

Figure 111: Lauderdale County Historical Population and Population Projections

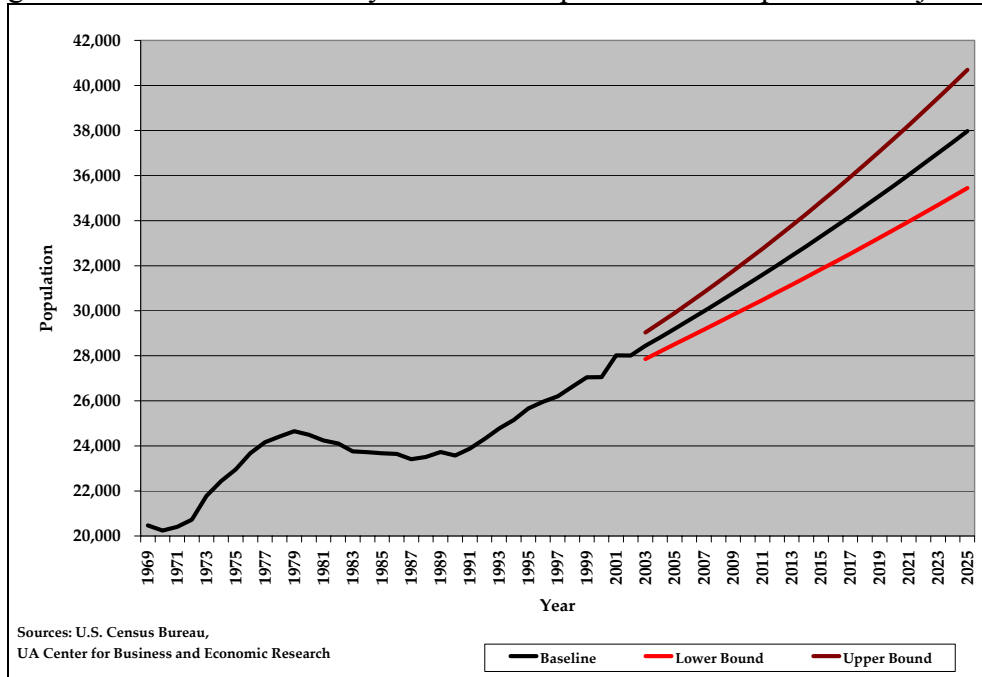


Table 110: Lauderdale County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 26,631   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 27,046   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 27,050   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 28,017   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 28,007   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 29,199   | 1,192                     | 4.3%                     | 28,513      | 506                       | 1.8%                     | 29,906      | 1,899                     | 6.8%                     |
| 2010 | 31,182   | 3,175                     | 11.3%                    | 30,149      | 2,142                     | 7.6%                     | 32,254      | 4,247                     | 15.2%                    |
| 2015 | 33,303   | 5,296                     | 18.9%                    | 31,834      | 3,827                     | 13.7%                    | 34,836      | 6,829                     | 24.4%                    |
| 2020 | 35,564   | 7,557                     | 27.0%                    | 33,597      | 5,590                     | 20.0%                    | 37,647      | 9,640                     | 34.4%                    |
| 2025 | 37,979   | 9,972                     | 35.6%                    | 35,447      | 7,440                     | 26.6%                    | 40,693      | 12,686                    | 45.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Shelby County

Shelby County is across the Mississippi River from Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41). Population centers, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Memphis (650,100), Bartlett (40,543), Germantown (37,348), Collierville (31,872), and Millington (10,433). The county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229).

Shelby County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1996. For the period, the county’s population increased by 49,461 people, or 6.0 percent, from 828,446 to 877,907. From 1996 to 2002, the county’s population increased by 27,771, or 3.2 percent, to 905,678.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Shelby County is projected to increase by 40,703 people, or 4.5 percent, to 946,381 by 2010 and by 120,447 people, or 13.3 percent, to 1.03 million by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 936,496 and 956,274 in 2010 and between 1.00 million and 1.05 million in 2025.

Figure 112: Shelby County Historical Population and Population Projections

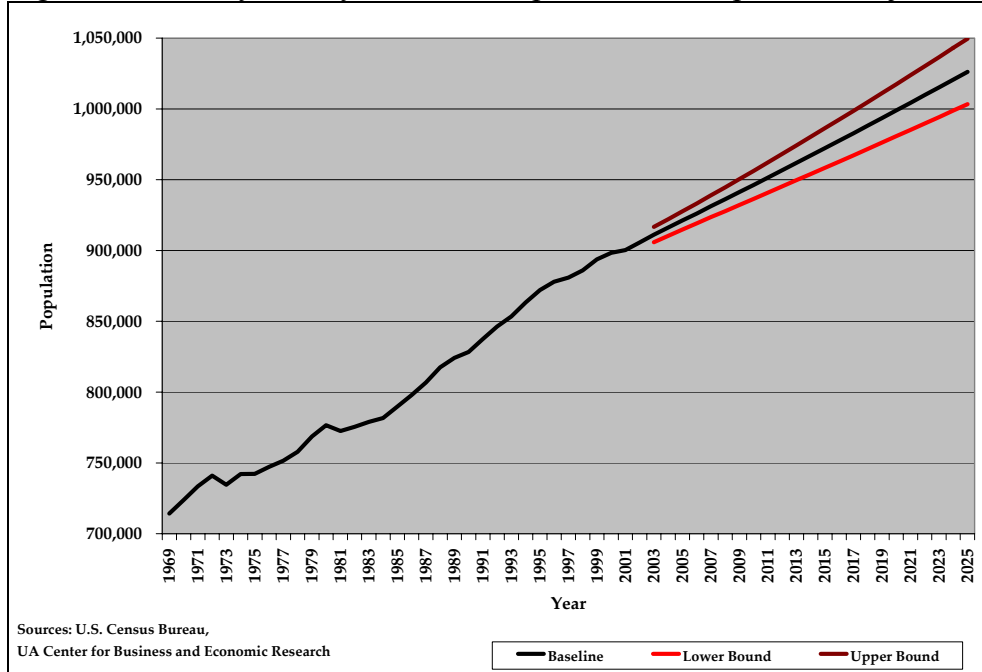


Table 111: Shelby County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 886,007   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 893,826   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 898,423   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 900,358   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 905,678   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 921,170   | 15,492                    | 1.7%                     | 914,744     | 9,066                     | 1.0%                     | 927,641     | 21,963                    | 2.4%                     |
| 2010 | 946,381   | 40,703                    | 4.5%                     | 936,496     | 30,818                    | 3.4%                     | 956,274     | 50,596                    | 5.6%                     |
| 2015 | 972,281   | 66,603                    | 7.4%                     | 958,380     | 52,702                    | 5.8%                     | 986,284     | 80,606                    | 8.9%                     |
| 2020 | 998,890   | 93,212                    | 10.3%                    | 980,679     | 75,001                    | 8.3%                     | 1,017,338   | 111,660                   | 12.3%                    |
| 2025 | 1,026,125 | 120,447                   | 13.3%                    | 1,003,295   | 97,617                    | 10.8%                    | 1,049,474   | 143,796                   | 15.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Tipton County

Tipton County is across the Mississippi River from Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41) and Mississippi County, Arkansas (page 99). Population centers in Tipton County, and their 2000 population levels, include the City of Covington (8,463) and the towns of Munford (4,708), Atoka (3,235), Brighton (1,719), and Mason (1,089). Effective June 6, 2003, the county is a component of the Memphis MSA (page 229).

From 1994 to 1998, Tipton County experienced relatively strong population growth. For the period, the county's population grew by 6,190 people, or 14.5 percent, from 42,674 to 48,864. From 1998 to 2002, the county's population increased by 4,572 people, or 9.4 percent, to 53,436.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Tipton County is projected to increase by 11,244 people, or 21.0 percent, to 64,680 by 2010 and by 38,019 people, or 71.1 percent, to 91,455 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 60,834 and 68,775 in 2010 and between 79,016 and 105,863 in 2025.



Figure 113: Tipton County Historical Population and Population Projections

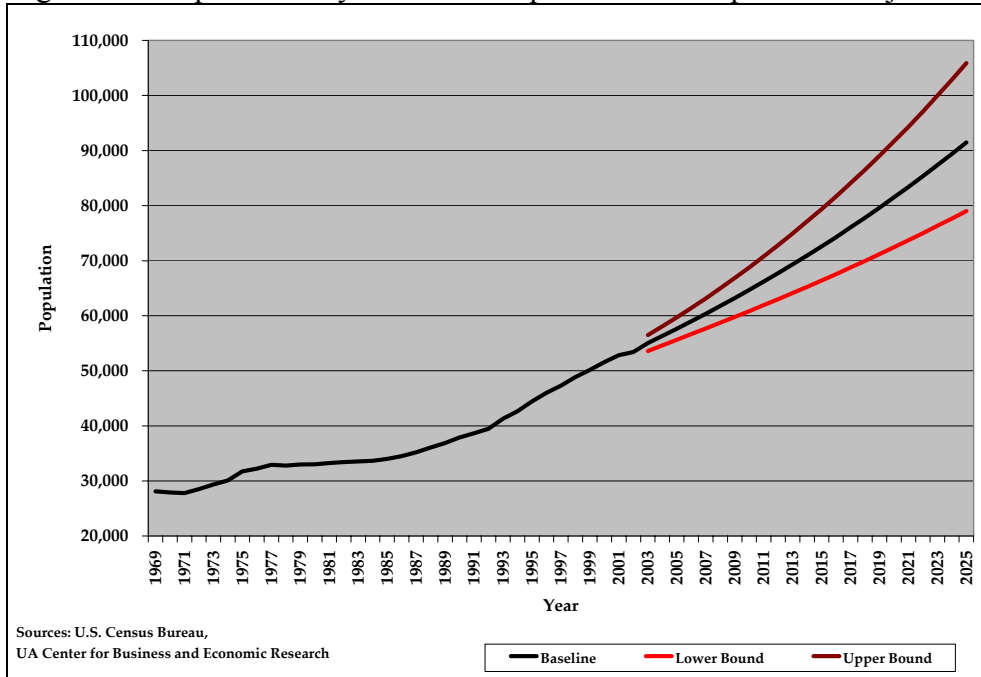


Table 112: Tipton County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 48,864   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 50,152   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 51,570   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 52,832   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 53,436   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 57,630   | 4,194                     | 7.8%                     | 55,631      | 2,195                     | 4.1%                     | 59,695      | 6,259                     | 11.7%                    |
| 2010 | 64,680   | 11,244                    | 21.0%                    | 60,834      | 7,398                     | 13.8%                    | 68,775      | 15,339                    | 28.7%                    |
| 2015 | 72,599   | 19,163                    | 35.9%                    | 66,403      | 12,967                    | 24.3%                    | 79,372      | 25,936                    | 48.5%                    |
| 2020 | 81,487   | 28,051                    | 52.5%                    | 72,439      | 19,003                    | 35.6%                    | 91,656      | 38,220                    | 71.5%                    |
| 2025 | 91,455   | 38,019                    | 71.1%                    | 79,016      | 25,580                    | 47.9%                    | 105,863     | 52,427                    | 98.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Texas**

The following counties in Texas border counties in Arkansas: Bowie and Cass. The combined population of these counties was 120,027 in 2002. A brief discussion of historical population trends and the population projections for these counties is presented below.

## Bowie County

Bowie County borders the following counties in Arkansas: Little River (page 87) and Miller (page 97). Population centers in Bowie County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Texarkana (34,782), Wake Village (5,129), New Boston (4,808), Hooks (2,973), Nash (2,169), De Kalb (1,769), and Maud (1,028). The county is a component of the Texarkana MSA (page 234).

Bowie County experienced relatively strong population growth from 1990 to 1996. For the period, the county's population grew by 5,819 people, or 7.1 percent, from 81,992 to 87,811. From 1996 to 2002, the county's population increased by 2,083, or 2.4 percent, to 89,894.

Based on the 1996 to 2002 trend, the population of Bowie County is projected to increase by 3,120 people, or 3.5 percent, to 93,014 by 2010 and by 9,118 people, or 10.1 percent, to 99,012 by 2025. The county's population is projected to be between 92,079 and 93,958 in 2010 and between 96,868 and 101,195 in 2025.

Figure 114: Bowie County Historical Population and Population Projections

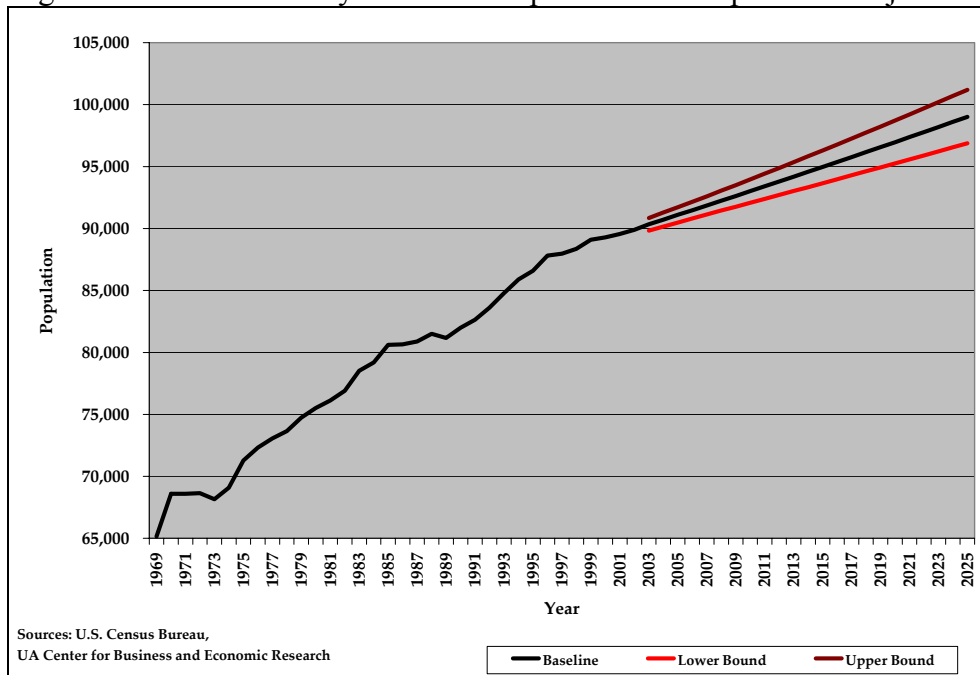


Table 113: Bowie County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 88,362   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 89,095   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 89,291   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 89,553   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 89,894   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 91,099   | 1,205                     | 1.3%                     | 90,481      | 587                       | 0.7%                     | 91,711      | 1,817                     | 2.0%                     |
| 2010 | 93,014   | 3,120                     | 3.5%                     | 92,079      | 2,185                     | 2.4%                     | 93,958      | 4,064                     | 4.5%                     |
| 2015 | 94,968   | 5,074                     | 5.6%                     | 93,658      | 3,764                     | 4.2%                     | 96,298      | 6,404                     | 7.1%                     |
| 2020 | 96,964   | 7,070                     | 7.9%                     | 95,254      | 5,360                     | 6.0%                     | 98,716      | 8,822                     | 9.8%                     |
| 2025 | 99,012   | 9,118                     | 10.1%                    | 96,868      | 6,974                     | 7.8%                     | 101,195     | 11,301                    | 12.6%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Cass County

Cass County borders Miller County, Arkansas (page 97). Population centers in Cass County, and their 2000 population levels, include the cities of Atlanta (5,745), Linden (2,256), Hughes Springs (1,848 of the city’s 1,856 residents in 2000 lived in Cass County), and Queen City (1,613).

From 1994 to 1998, the population of Cass County increased by 337 people, or 1.1 percent, from 30,202 to 30,539. Since 1998, the county’s population decreased by a net 406 people, or 1.3 percent. The county’s population was 30,133 in 2002.

Based on the 1998 to 2002 trend, the population of Cass County is projected to decrease by 808 people, or 2.7 percent, to 29,325 by 2010 and by 2,266 people, or 7.5 percent, to 27,867 by 2025. The county’s population is projected to be between 28,776 and 29,885 in 2010 and between 26,635 and 29,153 in 2025.

Figure 115: Cass County Historical Population and Population Projections

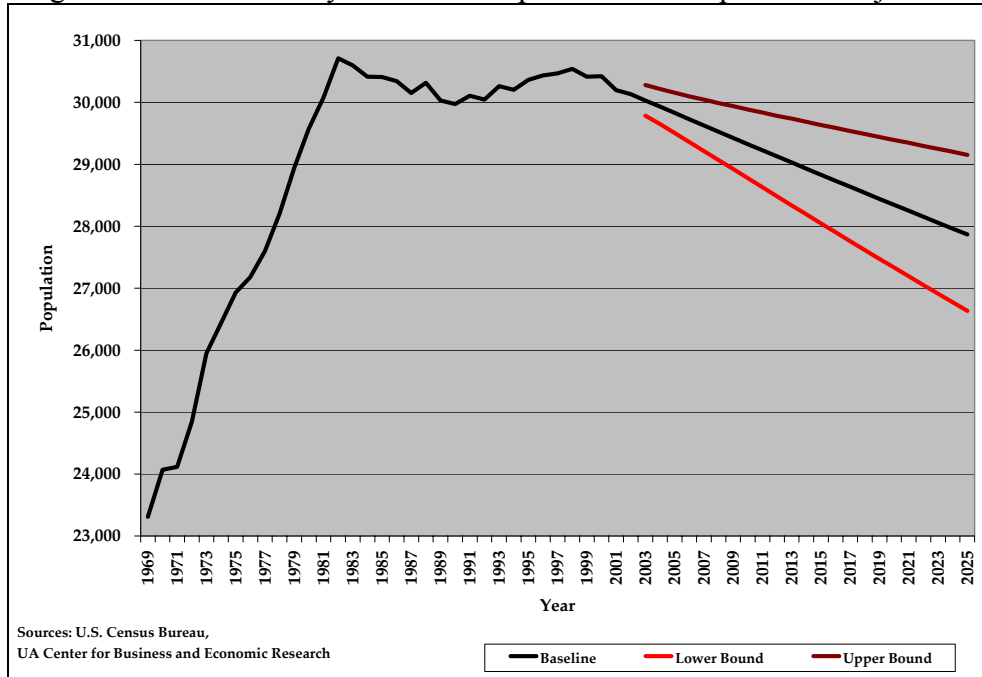


Table 114: Cass County Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 30,539   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 30,416   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 30,419   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 30,196   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 30,133   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 29,828   | (305)                     | -1.0%                    | 29,505      | (628)                     | -2.1%                    | 30,155      | 22                        | 0.1%                     |
| 2010 | 29,325   | (808)                     | -2.7%                    | 28,776      | (1,357)                   | -4.5%                    | 29,885      | (248)                     | -0.8%                    |
| 2015 | 28,831   | (1,302)                   | -4.3%                    | 28,046      | (2,087)                   | -6.9%                    | 29,635      | (498)                     | -1.7%                    |
| 2020 | 28,345   | (1,788)                   | -5.9%                    | 27,334      | (2,799)                   | -9.3%                    | 29,393      | (740)                     | -2.5%                    |
| 2025 | 27,867   | (2,266)                   | -7.5%                    | 26,635      | (3,498)                   | -11.6%                   | 29,153      | (980)                     | -3.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Population Projections, Metropolitan Statistical Areas

This section of the report uses the county-level projections discussed above to construct population projections for the state's seven Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). For readers not familiar with the term, the following comes from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of social and economic integration with that core. Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas comprise one or more entire counties...The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal data. Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area definitions result from applying published standards to Census Bureau data.<sup>3</sup>

The OMB has constructed the following MSAs that incorporate a county or counties in Arkansas: the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, the Fort Smith MSA, the Jonesboro MSA, the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA, the Memphis MSA, the Pine Bluff MSA, and the Texarkana MSA. The reader may not be aware that the OMB revised the definitions of each of Arkansas' seven MSAs, save the Texarkana MSA, effective June 6, 2003. The discussion that follows provides two sets of population projections for each of the MSAs, one based on the old definition of the MSA and one based on the new definition.

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html>

### ***Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA***

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA was defined to be Benton County, Arkansas (page 13) and Washington County, Arkansas (page 149). The phenomenal growth the MSA has experienced during the last three decades, especially during the 1990s and the 2000s (see Figure 116), can be attributed largely to the emergence of Wal-Mart as the world's largest retailer and world's largest private employer. In 1969, the two counties had a total population of 124,357, or 6.5 percent of the state's population. In 2002, Benton County and Washington County, with a total population of 332,011, accounted for 12.3 percent of the state's population.

The population of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, defined as Benton and Washington County, is projected to increase by 92,477 people, or 27.9 percent, to 424,488 by 2010 and by 346,465 people, or 104.4 percent, to 678,476 by 2025 (see Table 115). The population of the MSA is projected to be between 412,191 and 437,164 in 2010 and between 637,745 and 721,959 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the MSA will account for 14.5 percent of the state's population in 2010 and 19.5 percent of the state's population in 2025. Such large anticipated growth in the MSA highlights the need for public and private planners and decision-makers, including local, state, and national officials, to make infrastructure investments sufficient to support and accommodate growth of this magnitude in the MSA.

Figure 116: Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA Historical Population and Projections

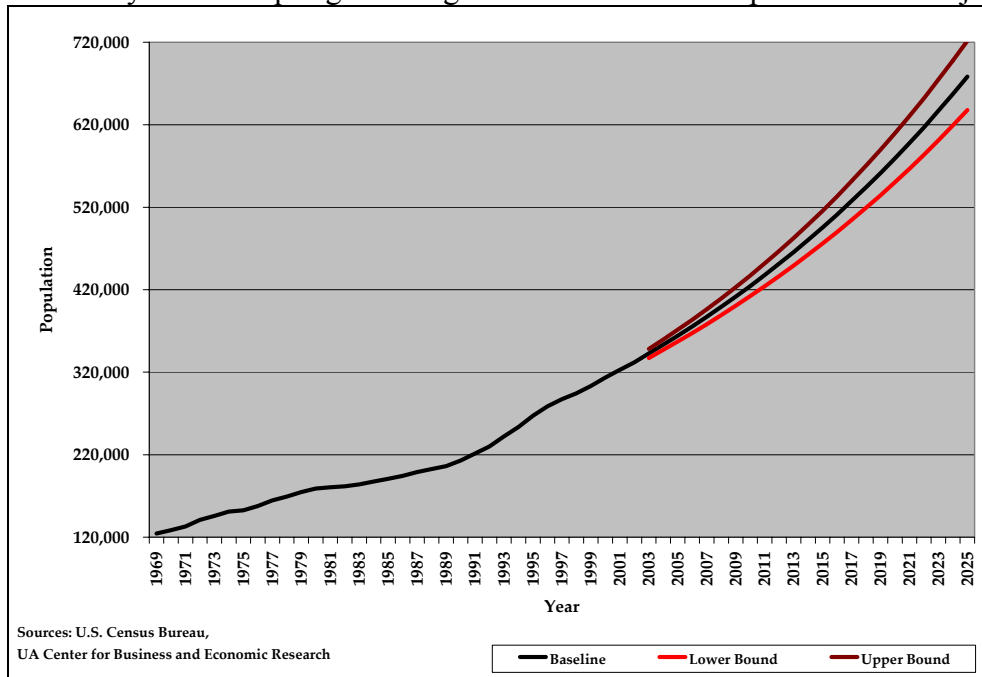


Table 115: Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 294,405  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 303,263  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 313,556  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 322,775  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 332,011  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 364,249  | 32,238                    | 9.7%                     | 357,198     | 25,187                    | 7.6%                     | 371,420     | 39,409                    | 11.9%                    |
| 2010 | 424,488  | 92,477                    | 27.9%                    | 412,191     | 80,180                    | 24.1%                    | 437,164     | 105,153                   | 31.7%                    |
| 2015 | 495,496  | 163,485                   | 49.2%                    | 476,001     | 143,990                   | 43.4%                    | 515,849     | 183,838                   | 55.4%                    |
| 2020 | 579,345  | 247,334                   | 74.5%                    | 550,498     | 218,487                   | 65.8%                    | 609,816     | 277,805                   | 83.7%                    |
| 2025 | 678,476  | 346,465                   | 104.4%                   | 637,745     | 305,734                   | 92.1%                    | 721,959     | 389,948                   | 117.5%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA is defined to be the above-listed counties plus Madison County, Arkansas (page 93) and McDonald County, Missouri (page 187). Compared to Benton and Washington County, the populations of Madison and McDonald County are relatively small. Given the county-level projections in the previous

section of the report, Benton County and Washington County will likely be driving most of the population growth in the MSA in the projection period.

Based on the new definition for the MSA, the population of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA is projected to increase by 95,177 people, or 25.9 percent, from 368,043 in 2002 to 463,220 by 2010 and by 354,284 people, or 96.3 percent, to 722,327 by 2025 (see Table 116). The MSA’s population is projected to be between 448,900 and 478,040 in 2010 and between 676,460 and 771,501 in 2025. In 2002, the Arkansas counties in the MSA constituted 12.8 percent of the state’s population. If the baseline projections are realized, the Arkansas counties in the MSA will account for 15.0 percent of the state’s population in 2010 and 20.0 percent of the state’s population in 2025.

Figure 117: Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

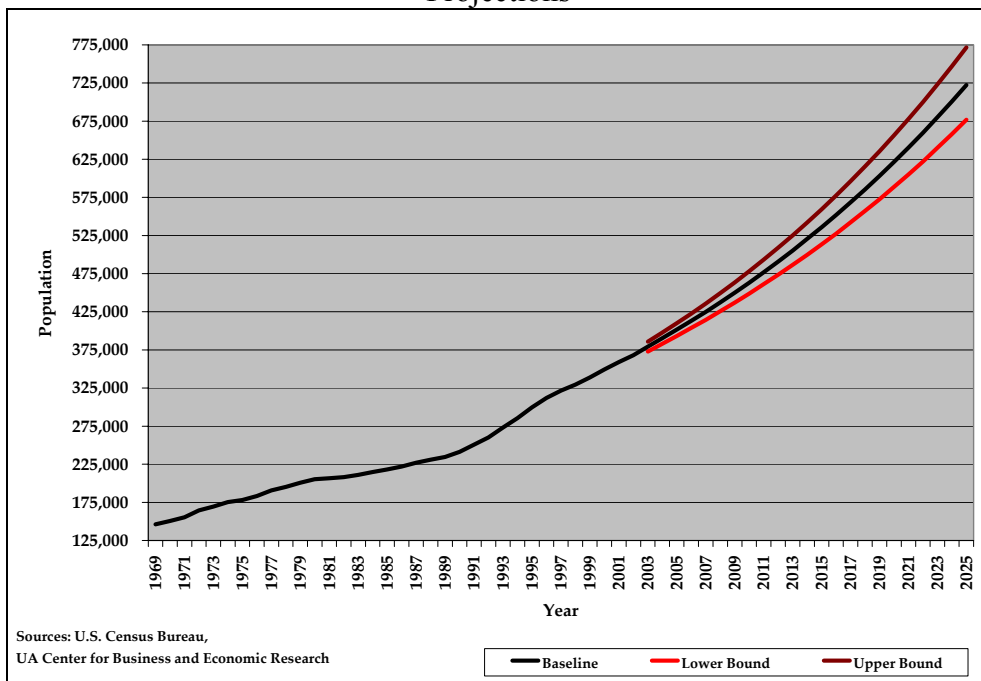




Table 116: Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 329,438  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 338,827  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 349,527  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 358,845  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 368,043  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 401,436  | 33,393                    | 9.1%                     | 393,183     | 25,140                    | 6.8%                     | 409,850     | 41,807                    | 11.4%                    |
| 2010 | 463,220  | 95,177                    | 25.9%                    | 448,900     | 80,857                    | 22.0%                    | 478,040     | 109,997                   | 29.9%                    |
| 2015 | 535,852  | 167,809                   | 45.6%                    | 513,413     | 145,370                   | 39.5%                    | 559,406     | 191,363                   | 52.0%                    |
| 2020 | 621,405  | 253,362                   | 68.8%                    | 588,635     | 220,592                   | 59.9%                    | 656,261     | 288,218                   | 78.3%                    |
| 2025 | 722,327  | 354,284                   | 96.3%                    | 676,640     | 308,597                   | 83.8%                    | 771,501     | 403,458                   | 109.6%                   |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Fort Smith MSA**

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Fort Smith MSA was defined to be Crawford County, Arkansas (page 39); Sebastian County, Arkansas (page 137); and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma (page 203). Crawford County and Sebastian County had a combined population of 103,491 and accounted for 5.4 percent of the state’s population in 1969. In 2002, the two Arkansas counties had a combined population of 172,193 and accounted for 6.4 percent of the state’s population.

The population of the Fort Smith MSA is projected to increase by 22,762 people, or 10.7 percent, to 234,807 by 2010 and by 71,556 people, or 33.7 percent, to 283,601 by 2025 (see Table 117). A majority of the projected population growth in the MSA from 2003 to 2025 is projected to occur in Sebastian County and Crawford County. The population of the MSA is projected to be between 229,308 and 240,449 in 2010 and between 268,945 and 299,150 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, Crawford and Sebastian County will have a combined population of 191,715 in 2010 and 233,640 in 2025 and will account for 6.5 percent and 6.7 percent of the state’s population in those years, respectively.

Figure 118: Fort Smith MSA Historical Population and Projections

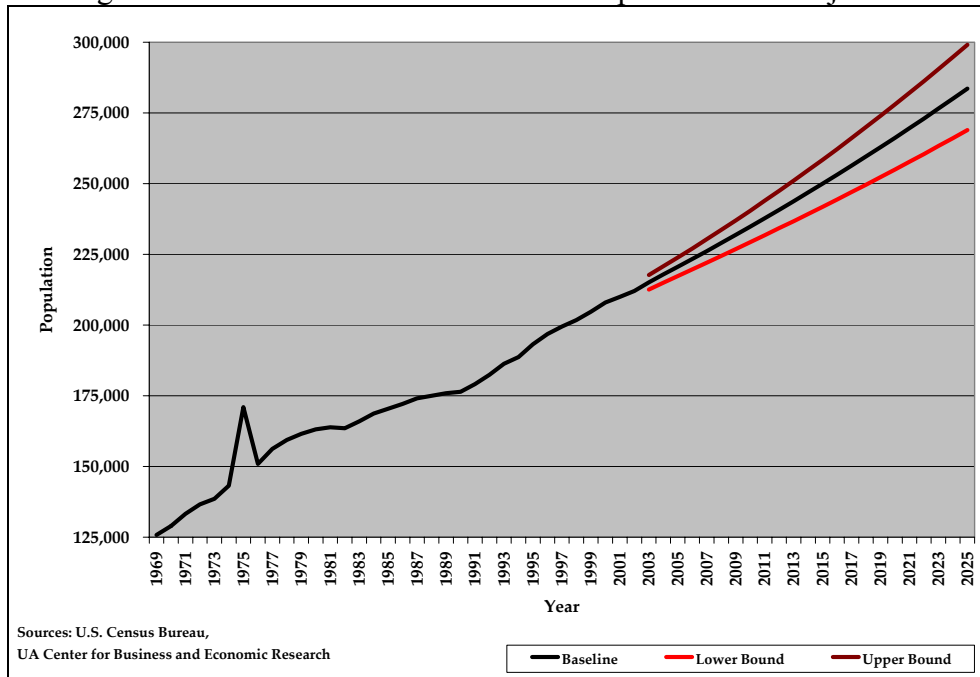


Table 117: Fort Smith MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 201,786  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 204,671  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 208,005  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 209,967  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 212,045  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 220,588  | 8,543                     | 4.0%                     | 217,314     | 5,269                     | 2.5%                     | 223,914     | 11,869                    | 5.6%                     |
| 2010 | 234,807  | 22,762                    | 10.7%                    | 229,308     | 17,263                    | 8.1%                     | 240,449     | 28,404                    | 13.4%                    |
| 2015 | 249,996  | 37,951                    | 17.9%                    | 241,819     | 29,774                    | 14.0%                    | 258,487     | 46,442                    | 21.9%                    |
| 2020 | 266,238  | 54,193                    | 25.6%                    | 255,013     | 42,968                    | 20.3%                    | 278,024     | 65,979                    | 31.1%                    |
| 2025 | 283,601  | 71,556                    | 33.7%                    | 268,945     | 56,900                    | 26.8%                    | 299,150     | 87,105                    | 41.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the MSA is defined to be the above-listed counties plus Franklin County, Arkansas (page 53) and Le Flore County, Oklahoma (page 200). Based on the new definition for the MSA, the population of the Fort Smith MSA is projected to increase by 25,663 people, or 9.2 percent, from 278,345 in 2002 to 304,008 by 2010 and by 79,942 people, or 28.7 percent, to 358,287 by 2025 (see Table 79). Again, a majority of the projected population

growth in the MSA from 2003 to 2025 is projected to occur in Sebastian County and Crawford County. The MSA's population is projected to be between 296,791 and 311,429 in 2010 and between 339,595 and 378,209 in 2025. In 2002, the Arkansas counties in the MSA constituted 7.0 percent of the state's population. If the baseline projections are realized, the Arkansas counties in the MSA will account for 7.2 percent and 7.3 percent of the state's population in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 119: Fort Smith MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

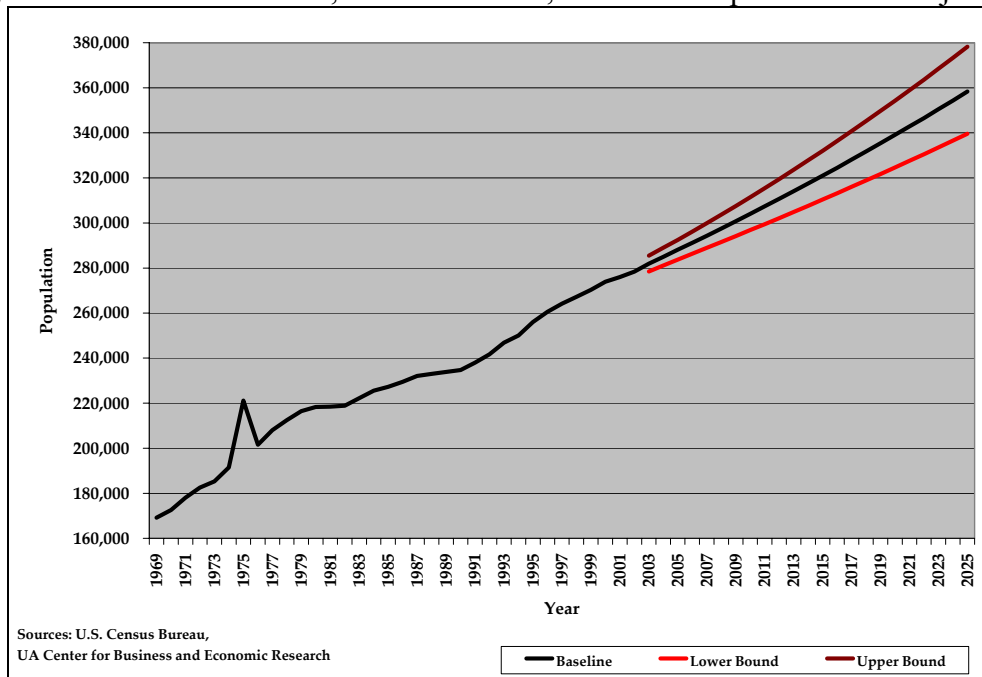


Table 118: Fort Smith MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 267,168  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 270,308  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 273,896  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 275,985  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 278,345  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 288,060  | 9,715                     | 3.5%                     | 283,698     | 5,353                     | 1.9%                     | 292,493     | 14,148                    | 5.1%                     |
| 2010 | 304,008  | 25,663                    | 9.2%                     | 296,791     | 18,446                    | 6.6%                     | 311,429     | 33,084                    | 11.9%                    |
| 2015 | 320,975  | 42,630                    | 15.3%                    | 310,361     | 32,016                    | 11.5%                    | 332,029     | 53,684                    | 19.3%                    |
| 2020 | 339,044  | 60,699                    | 21.8%                    | 324,606     | 46,261                    | 16.6%                    | 354,261     | 75,916                    | 27.3%                    |
| 2025 | 358,287  | 79,942                    | 28.7%                    | 339,595     | 61,250                    | 22.0%                    | 378,209     | 99,864                    | 35.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Jonesboro MSA***

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Jonesboro MSA was defined to be Craighead County, Arkansas. Based on this definition, from 1969 to 2002, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Jonesboro MSA increased from 2.7 percent to 3.1 percent. The MSA’s population is anticipated to grow relatively more quickly than for the state during the projection period. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state’s population living in the MSA will be 3.2 percent in 2010 and 2025. For a more in-depth discussion of population trends and projections for Craighead County, the reader is referred to page 37.

Figure 120: Jonesboro MSA Historical Population and Projections

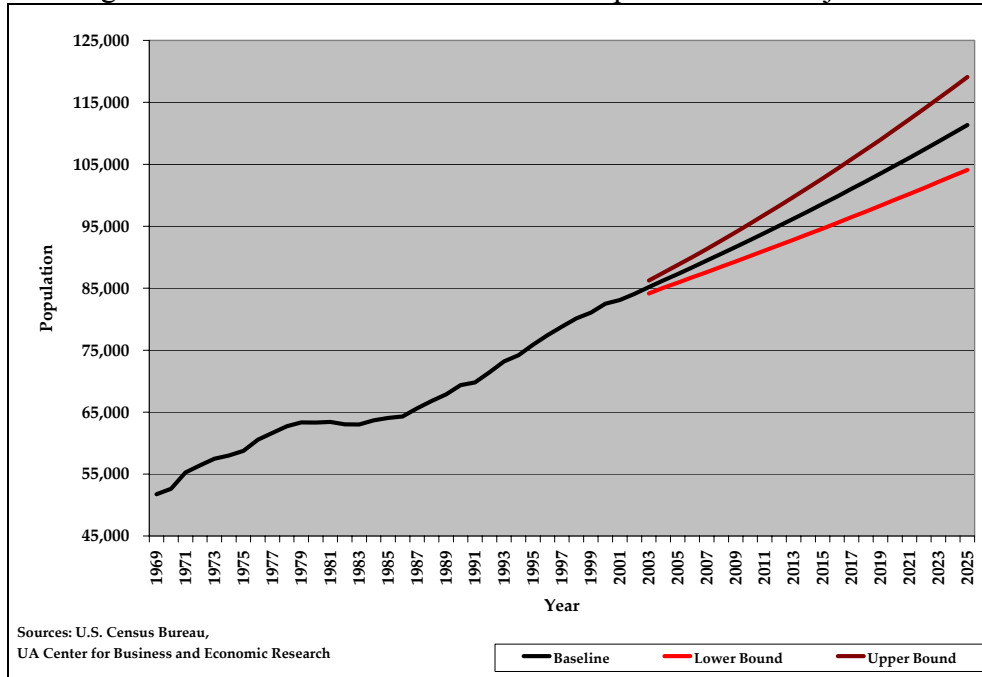


Table 119: Jonesboro MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 80,117   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 81,038   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 82,486   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 83,107   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 84,074   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 87,299   | 3,225                     | 3.8%                     | 85,897      | 1,823                     | 2.2%                     | 88,734      | 4,660                     | 5.5%                     |
| 2010 | 92,781   | 8,707                     | 10.4%                    | 90,192      | 6,118                     | 7.3%                     | 95,435      | 11,361                    | 13.5%                    |
| 2015 | 98,597   | 14,523                    | 17.3%                    | 94,627      | 10,553                    | 12.6%                    | 102,724     | 18,650                    | 22.2%                    |
| 2020 | 104,778  | 20,704                    | 24.6%                    | 99,260      | 15,186                    | 18.1%                    | 110,603     | 26,529                    | 31.6%                    |
| 2025 | 111,346  | 27,272                    | 32.4%                    | 104,099     | 20,025                    | 23.8%                    | 119,098     | 35,024                    | 41.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the MSA is defined to be Craighead County, Arkansas and Poinsett County, Arkansas (page 117). Based on the new definition for the MSA, the population of the Jonesboro MSA is projected to increase by 8,703 people, or 7.9 percent, from 109,475 in 2002 to 118,178 by 2010 and by 27,081 people, or 24.7 percent, to 136,556 by 2025 (see Table

120). The MSA’s population is projected to be between 114,574 and 121,893 in 2010 and between 126,969 and 146,887 in 2025. In 2002, the counties constituted 4.0 percent of the state’s population. If the baseline projections are realized, the population in the MSA will account for 4.0 percent and 3.9 percent of the state’s population in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 121: Jonesboro MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

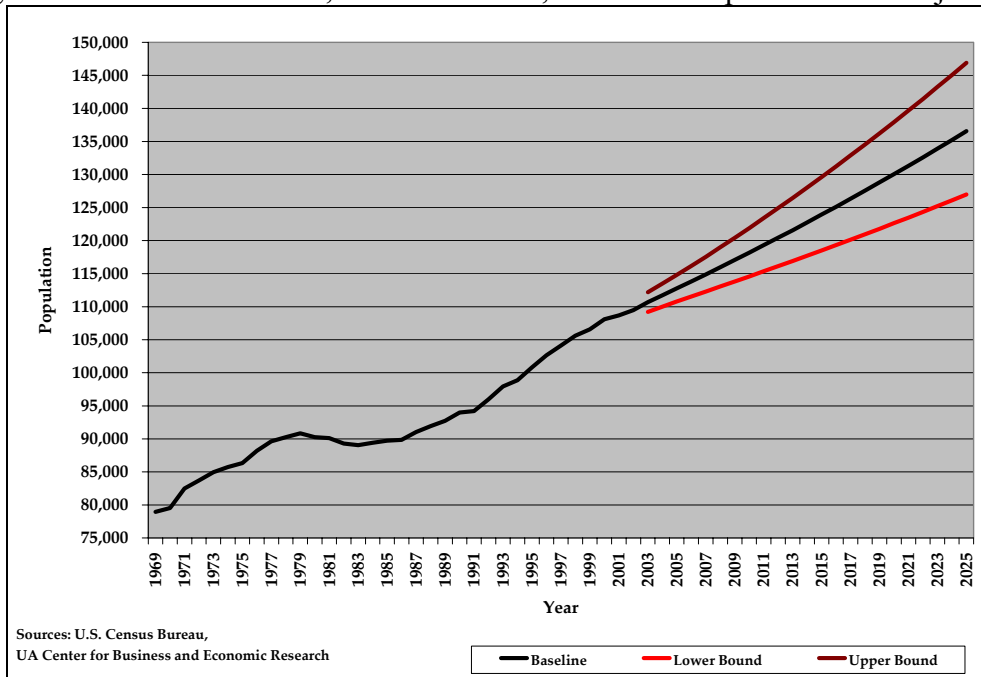


Table 120: Jonesboro MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 105,607  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 106,563  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 108,116  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 108,684  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 109,475  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 112,760  | 3,285                     | 3.0%                     | 110,767     | 1,292                     | 1.2%                     | 114,800     | 5,325                     | 4.9%                     |
| 2010 | 118,178  | 8,703                     | 7.9%                     | 114,574     | 5,099                     | 4.7%                     | 121,893     | 12,418                    | 11.3%                    |
| 2015 | 123,933  | 14,458                    | 13.2%                    | 118,500     | 9,025                     | 8.2%                     | 129,611     | 20,136                    | 18.4%                    |
| 2020 | 130,051  | 20,576                    | 18.8%                    | 122,627     | 13,152                    | 12.0%                    | 137,935     | 28,460                    | 26.0%                    |
| 2025 | 136,556  | 27,081                    | 24.7%                    | 126,969     | 17,494                    | 16.0%                    | 146,887     | 37,412                    | 34.2%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA***

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA was defined to be Faulkner County, Arkansas (page 51); Lonoke County, Arkansas (page 91); Pulaski County, Arkansas (page 125); and Saline County, Arkansas (page 131). The counties had a combined population of 375,628 in 1969 and accounted for 19.6 percent of the state’s population. In 2002, the counties in the MSA had a combined population of 595,563 and constituted 22.0 percent of the state’s population.

The MSA’s population is projected to increase by 55,063 people, or 9.2 percent, to 650,626 by 2010 and by 181,110 people, or 30.4 percent, to 776,673 by 2025 (see Table 121). A majority of these anticipated gains are projected to occur in Faulkner County and Saline County. The population of the MSA is projected to be between 639,698 and 661,959 in 2010 and between 743,985 and 812,025 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the counties will account for 22.2 percent and 22.3 percent of the state’s population in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 122: Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA Historical Population and Projections

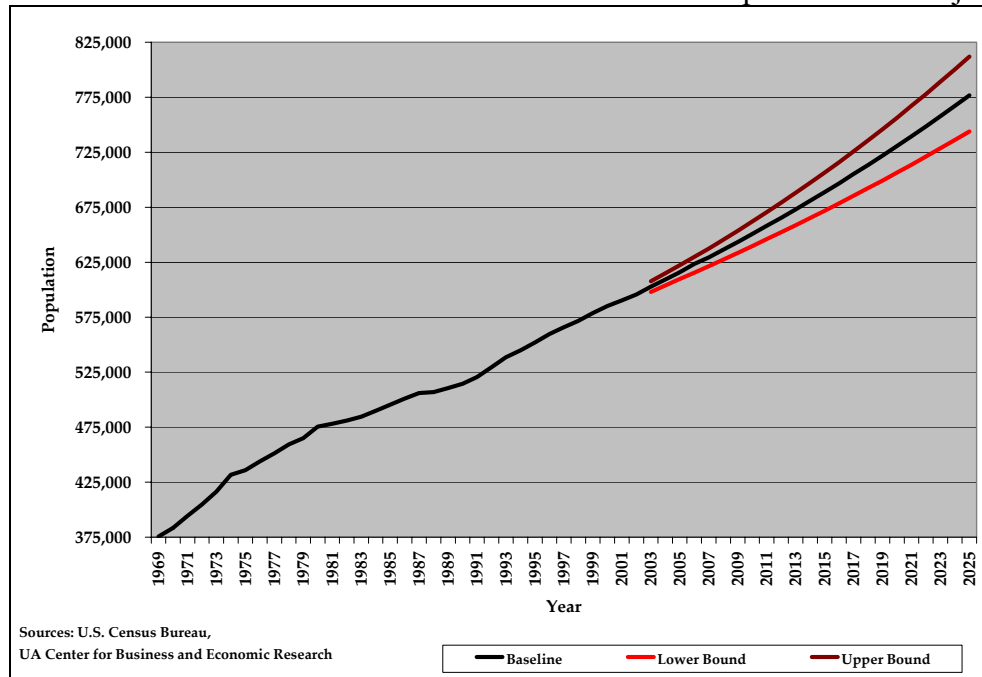


Table 121: Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 571,659  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 578,882  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 585,240  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 590,343  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 595,563  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 615,882  | 20,319                    | 3.4%                     | 609,656     | 14,093                    | 2.4%                     | 622,230     | 26,667                    | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 650,626  | 55,063                    | 9.2%                     | 639,698     | 44,135                    | 7.4%                     | 661,959     | 66,396                    | 11.1%                    |
| 2015 | 688,785  | 93,222                    | 15.7%                    | 671,805     | 76,242                    | 12.8%                    | 706,540     | 110,977                   | 18.6%                    |
| 2020 | 730,631  | 135,068                   | 22.7%                    | 706,475     | 110,912                   | 18.6%                    | 756,373     | 160,810                   | 27.0%                    |
| 2025 | 776,673  | 181,110                   | 30.4%                    | 743,985     | 148,422                   | 24.9%                    | 812,025     | 216,462                   | 36.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the MSA is defined to be the above-listed counties plus Grant County, Arkansas (page 59) and Perry County, Arkansas (page 111). Based on the new definition for the MSA, the population of the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA is projected to increase by 57,664 people, or 9.3 percent, from 622,847 in 2002 to 680,511 by 2010 and by



189,164 people, or 30.4 percent, to 812,011 by 2025 (see Table 122). The MSA’s population is projected to be between 669,027 and 692,411 in 2010 and between 777,822 and 848,933 in 2025. In 2002, the counties constituted 23.0 percent of the state’s population. If the baseline projections are realized, the population in the MSA will account for 23.2 percent and 23.3 percent of the state’s population in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 123: Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

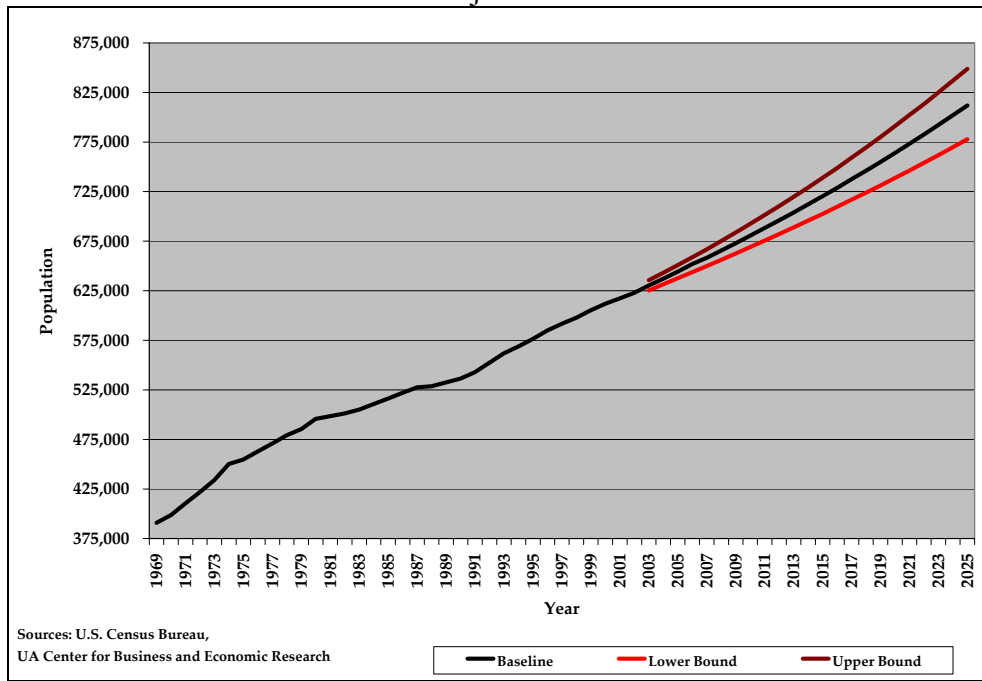


Table 122: Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 597,826  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 605,291  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 611,991  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 617,412  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 622,847  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 644,143  | 21,296                    | 3.4%                     | 637,599     | 14,752                    | 2.4%                     | 650,813     | 27,966                    | 4.5%                     |
| 2010 | 680,511  | 57,664                    | 9.3%                     | 669,027     | 46,180                    | 7.4%                     | 692,411     | 69,564                    | 11.2%                    |
| 2015 | 720,387  | 97,540                    | 15.7%                    | 702,570     | 79,723                    | 12.8%                    | 739,001     | 116,154                   | 18.6%                    |
| 2020 | 764,047  | 141,200                   | 22.7%                    | 738,740     | 115,893                   | 18.6%                    | 790,984     | 168,137                   | 27.0%                    |
| 2025 | 812,011  | 189,164                   | 30.4%                    | 777,822     | 154,975                   | 24.9%                    | 848,933     | 226,086                   | 36.3%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### Memphis MSA

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Memphis MSA was defined to be Fayette County, Tennessee (page 206); Shelby County, Tennessee (page 209); Tipton County, Tennessee (page 211); De Soto County, Mississippi (page 172); and Crittenden County, Arkansas (page 41). Based on this definition, from 1969 to 2002, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Memphis MSA decreased from 2.5 percent to 1.9 percent. The population in Crittenden County is projected to grow relatively less quickly than the state’s population during the projection period. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state’s population living in the MSA will be 1.8 percent and 1.7 percent in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

The population of the Memphis MSA is projected to increase by 120,003 people, or 10.3 percent, from 1.16 million in 2002 to 1.28 million in 2010 and by 442,170 people, or 38.1 percent, to 1.60 million in 2025 (see Table 123). The MSA’s population is projected to be between 1.26 million and 1.30 million in 2010 and between 1.54 million and 1.67 million in 2025. Most of the anticipated growth in the MSA is projected to occur in De Soto County, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee.

Figure 124: Memphis MSA Historical Population and Projections

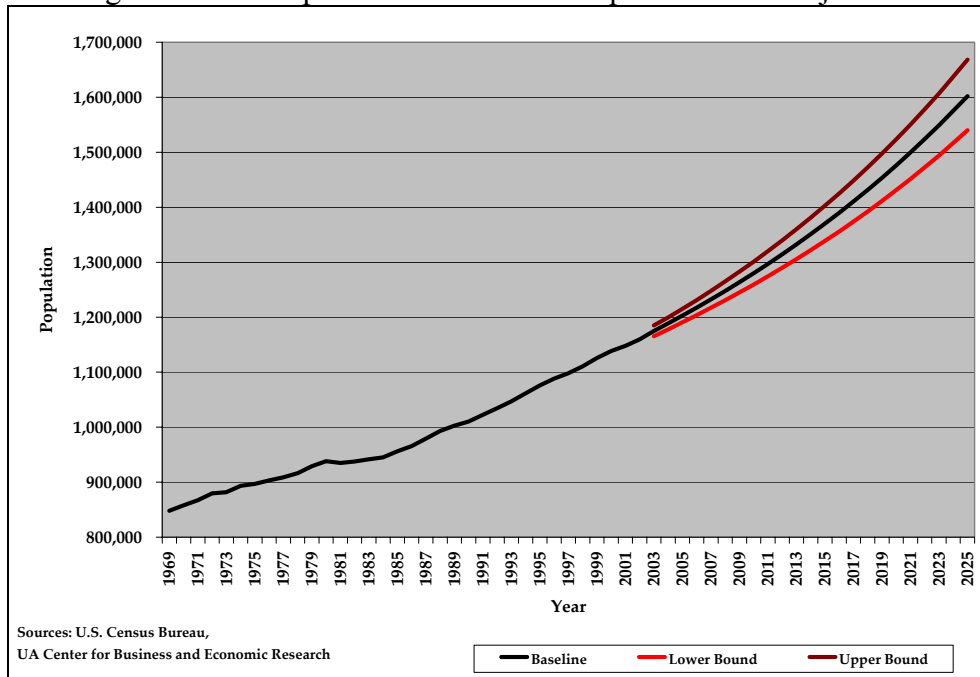


Table 123: Memphis MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 1,110,858 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 1,125,899 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 1,138,734 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 1,148,053 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 1,160,065 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 1,202,881 | 42,816                    | 3.7%                     | 1,190,655   | 30,590                    | 2.6%                     | 1,215,309   | 55,244                    | 4.8%                     |
| 2010 | 1,280,068 | 120,003                   | 10.3%                    | 1,259,476   | 99,411                    | 8.6%                     | 1,301,085   | 141,020                   | 12.2%                    |
| 2015 | 1,370,134 | 210,069                   | 18.1%                    | 1,338,623   | 178,558                   | 15.4%                    | 1,402,754   | 242,689                   | 20.9%                    |
| 2020 | 1,476,228 | 316,163                   | 27.3%                    | 1,431,110   | 271,045                   | 23.4%                    | 1,523,581   | 363,516                   | 31.3%                    |
| 2025 | 1,602,235 | 442,170                   | 38.1%                    | 1,540,151   | 380,086                   | 32.8%                    | 1,668,385   | 508,320                   | 43.8%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the MSA is defined to be the above-listed counties plus Marshall County, Mississippi (page 175); Tate County, Mississippi (page 176); and Tunica County, Mississippi (page 178). Based on the new definition for the MSA, the population of the Memphis MSA is projected to increase by 125,660 people, or 10.2 percent, from 1.23 million in 2002 to 1.36 million by 2010 and by 459,434 people, or 37.3 percent, to 1.69 million by 2025

(see Table 124). The MSA’s population is projected to be between 1.33 million and 1.38 million in 2010 and between 1.62 million and 1.77 million in 2025. Again, most of the anticipated growth in the MSA is projected to occur in De Soto County, Mississippi and Shelby County, Tennessee.

Figure 125: Memphis MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

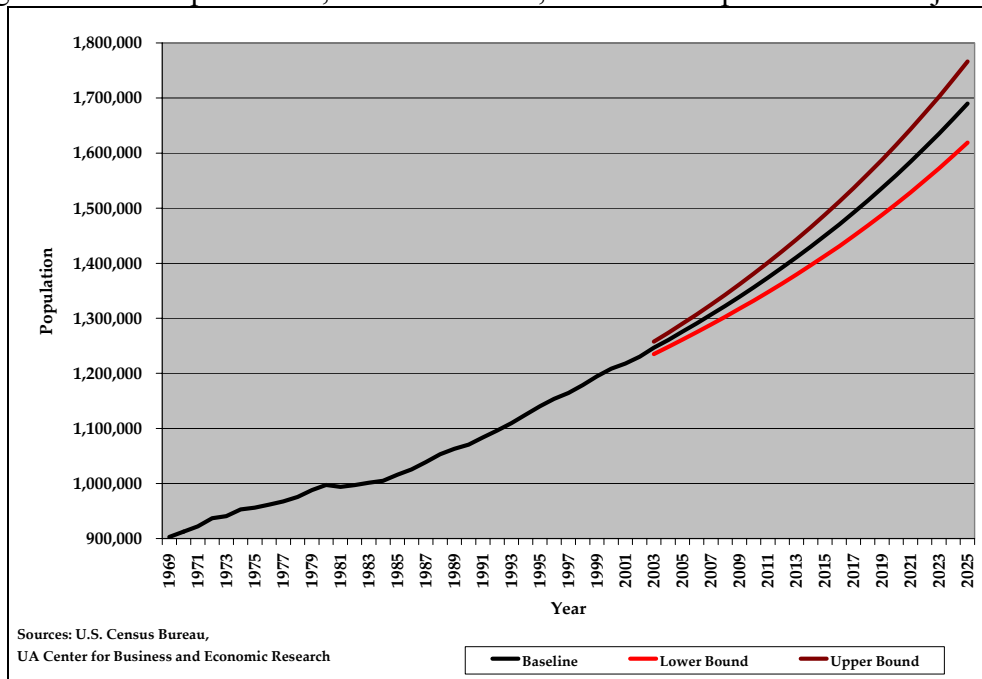


Table 124: Memphis MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 1,178,903 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 1,194,756 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 1,208,498 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 1,217,943 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 1,230,554 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 1,275,549 | 44,995                    | 3.7%                     | 1,261,287   | 30,733                    | 2.5%                     | 1,290,075   | 59,521                    | 4.8%                     |
| 2010 | 1,356,214 | 125,660                   | 10.2%                    | 1,332,135   | 101,581                   | 8.3%                     | 1,380,891   | 150,337                   | 12.2%                    |
| 2015 | 1,449,946 | 219,392                   | 17.8%                    | 1,413,279   | 182,725                   | 14.8%                    | 1,488,084   | 257,530                   | 20.9%                    |
| 2020 | 1,559,901 | 329,347                   | 26.8%                    | 1,507,804   | 277,250                   | 22.5%                    | 1,614,893   | 384,339                   | 31.2%                    |
| 2025 | 1,689,988 | 459,434                   | 37.3%                    | 1,618,953   | 388,399                   | 31.6%                    | 1,766,136   | 535,582                   | 43.5%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Pine Bluff MSA

Prior to June 6, 2003, the Pine Bluff MSA was defined to be Jefferson County, Arkansas. Based on this definition, from 1969 to 2002, the proportion of the state's population living in the Pine Bluff MSA decreased from 4.5 percent to 3.1 percent. The population of Jefferson County is projected to decline during the projection period while the state's population is projected to increase. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the MSA will be 2.8 percent and 2.2 percent in 2010 and 2025, respectively. For a more in-depth discussion of population trends and projections for Jefferson County, the reader is referred to page 75.

Figure 126: Pine Bluff MSA Historical Population and Projections

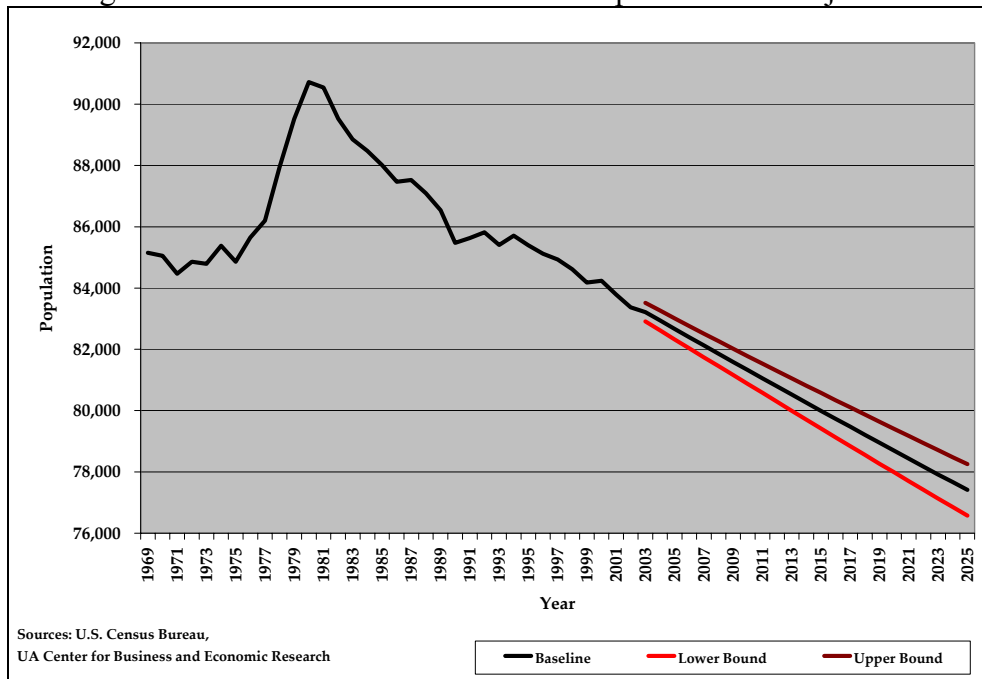


Table 125: Pine Bluff MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 84,611   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 84,178   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 84,238   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 83,790   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 83,374   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 82,669   | (705)                     | -0.8%                    | 82,323      | (1,051)                   | -1.3%                    | 83,009      | (365)                     | -0.4%                    |
| 2010 | 81,324   | (2,050)                   | -2.5%                    | 80,870      | (2,504)                   | -3.0%                    | 81,773      | (1,601)                   | -1.9%                    |
| 2015 | 79,993   | (3,381)                   | -4.1%                    | 79,420      | (3,954)                   | -4.7%                    | 80,580      | (2,794)                   | -3.4%                    |
| 2020 | 78,692   | (4,682)                   | -5.6%                    | 77,987      | (5,387)                   | -6.5%                    | 79,404      | (3,970)                   | -4.8%                    |
| 2025 | 77,412   | (5,962)                   | -7.2%                    | 76,573      | (6,801)                   | -8.2%                    | 78,253      | (5,121)                   | -6.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

Effective June 6, 2003, the MSA is defined to be Cleveland County, Arkansas (page 31); Lincoln County, Arkansas (page 85); and Jefferson County, Arkansas. Based on the new definition, the population of the Pine Bluff MSA is projected to decrease by 1,174 people, or 1.1 percent, from 106,162 in 2002 to 104,988 by 2010 and by 3,852 people, or 3.6 percent, to 102,310 by 2025 (see Table 126). The projected population losses in Jefferson County are expected to outweigh the projected population gains in Cleveland County during the projection period.

The MSA’s population is projected to be between 103,554 and 106,463 in 2010 and between 99,436 and 105,398 in 2025. In 2002, the counties constituted 3.9 percent of the state’s population. If the baseline projections are realized, the population in the MSA will account for 3.6 percent and 2.9 percent of the state’s population in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 127: Pine Bluff MSA, New Definition, Historical Population and Projections

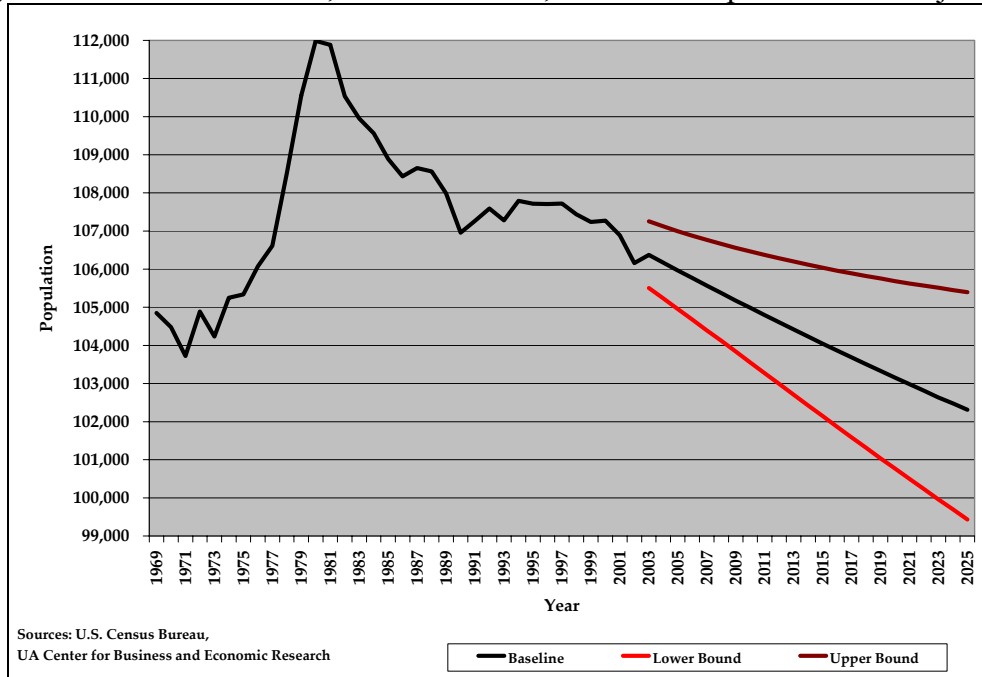


Table 126: Pine Bluff MSA, New Definition, Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 107,440  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 107,241  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 107,273  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 106,889  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 106,162  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 105,968  | (194)                     | -0.2%                    | 104,956     | (1,206)                   | -1.1%                    | 106,995     | 833                       | 0.8%                     |
| 2010 | 104,988  | (1,174)                   | -1.1%                    | 103,554     | (2,608)                   | -2.5%                    | 106,463     | 301                       | 0.3%                     |
| 2015 | 104,044  | (2,118)                   | -2.0%                    | 102,147     | (4,015)                   | -3.8%                    | 106,041     | (121)                     | -0.1%                    |
| 2020 | 103,155  | (3,007)                   | -2.8%                    | 100,772     | (5,390)                   | -5.1%                    | 105,686     | (476)                     | -0.4%                    |
| 2025 | 102,310  | (3,852)                   | -3.6%                    | 99,436      | (6,726)                   | -6.3%                    | 105,398     | (764)                     | -0.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Texarkana MSA**

When the definitions for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas were revised in June 2003, the definition for the Texarkana MSA, Bowie County, Texas (page 213) and Miller County, Arkansas (page 97), was unchanged. In 1969, the proportion of the state’s population living in Miller County was 1.7 percent. From 1969 to 2002, the population of Miller County grew

relatively less quickly than the state’s population. In 2002, the proportion of the state’s population living in Miller County was 1.5 percent.

The population of the Texarkana MSA is projected to increase by 4,916 people, or 3.8 percent, to 135,943 by 2010 and by 14,545 people, or 11.1 percent, to 145,572 by 2025 (see Table 127). The population of the MSA is projected to be between 134,411 and 137,488 in 2010 and between 142,292 and 148,919 in 2025. A majority of the anticipated population growth in the MSA from 2003 to 2025 is projected to be in Bowie County, Texas. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state’s population living in Miller County will be 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent in 2010 and 2025, respectively.

Figure 128: Texarkana MSA Historical Population and Projections

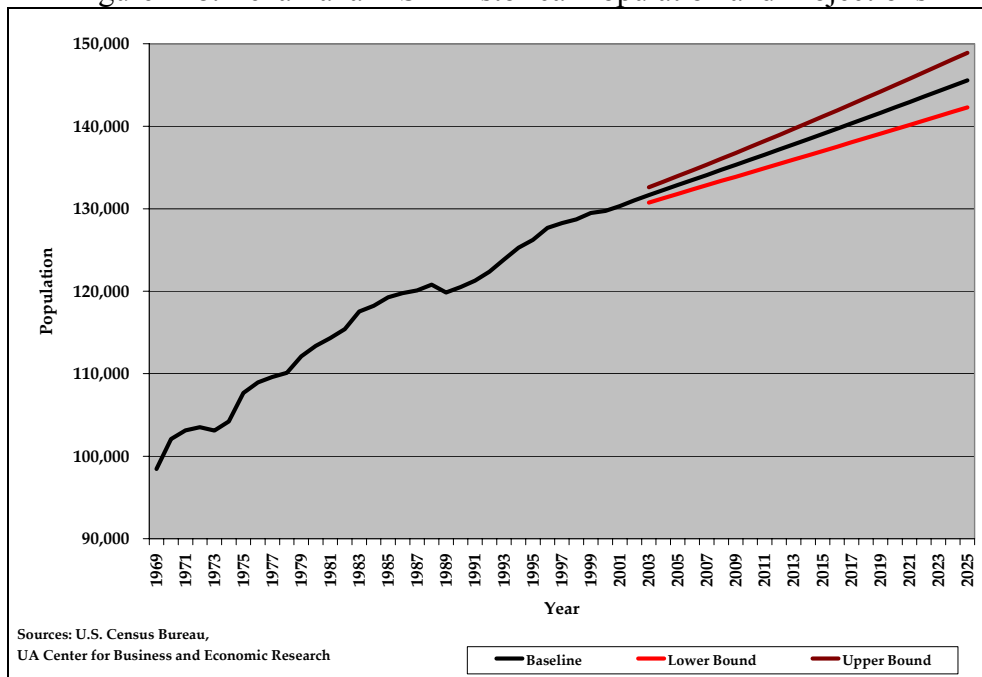




Table 127: Texarkana MSA Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 128,718  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 129,486  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 129,741  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 130,331  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 131,027  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 132,880  | 1,853                     | 1.4%                     | 131,797     | 770                       | 0.6%                     | 133,958     | 2,931                     | 2.2%                     |
| 2010 | 135,943  | 4,916                     | 3.8%                     | 134,411     | 3,384                     | 2.6%                     | 137,488     | 6,461                     | 4.9%                     |
| 2015 | 139,072  | 8,045                     | 6.1%                     | 137,005     | 5,978                     | 4.6%                     | 141,176     | 10,149                    | 7.7%                     |
| 2020 | 142,279  | 11,252                    | 8.6%                     | 139,632     | 8,605                     | 6.6%                     | 144,993     | 13,966                    | 10.7%                    |
| 2025 | 145,572  | 14,545                    | 11.1%                    | 142,292     | 11,265                    | 8.6%                     | 148,919     | 17,892                    | 13.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
 Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Population Projections, Planning Areas

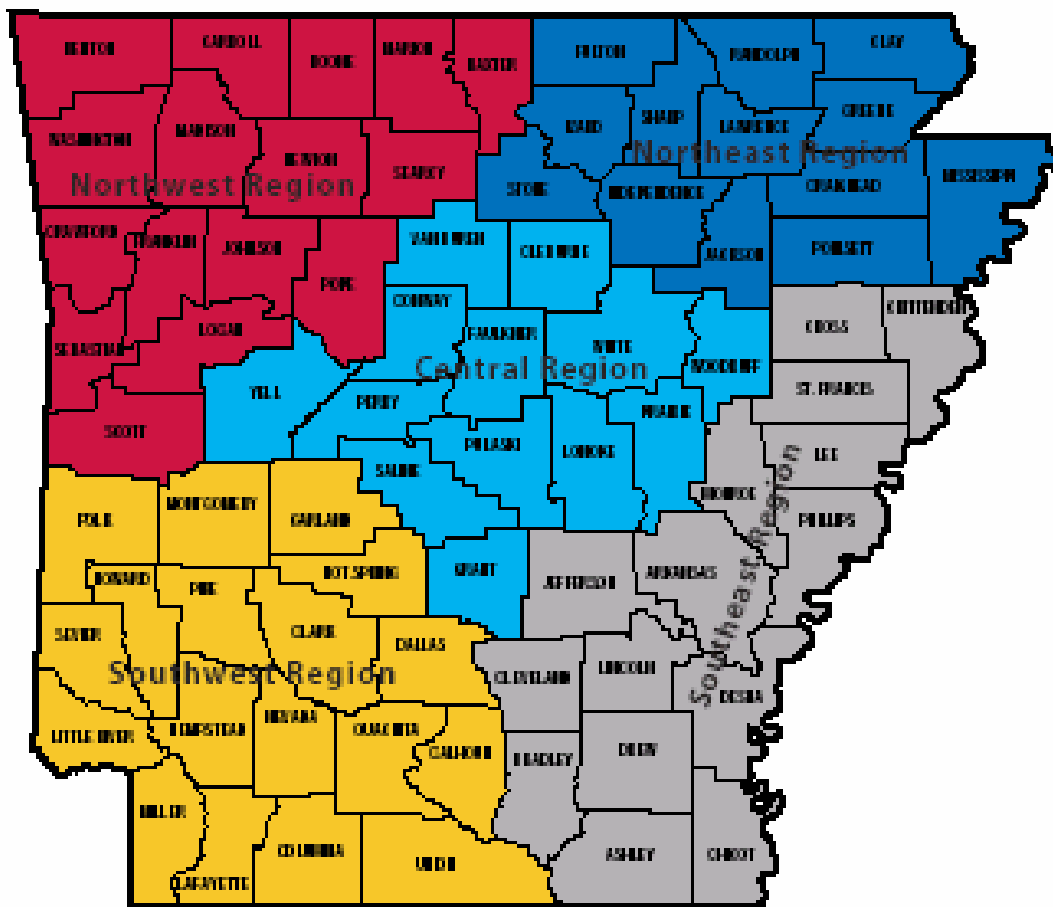
Next, it is interesting to analyze population changes over time at a regional level within the state. Determining the number of regions and their composition is an inherently arbitrary and difficult undertaking. Ideally, one would group counties according to several objective criteria, including their geographic location within the state and the profile of each county's economy.

The Arkansas Department of Economic Development (ADED) has given some consideration to this issue and has decomposed the state into five planning areas: Central Arkansas, Northeast Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, Southeast Arkansas, and Southwest Arkansas. ADED defines these areas by the following counties.

- **Central Arkansas** – Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren, White, Woodruff, and Yell;
- **Northeast Arkansas** – Clay, Craighead, Cross, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp, and Stone;
- **Northwest Arkansas** – Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, and Washington;
- **Southeast Arkansas** – Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lee, Lincoln, Monroe, Phillips, and St. Francis; and
- **Southwest Arkansas** – Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Garland, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union.

Figure 129 provides a graphical presentation of these areas. In order to maintain consistency with the data and literature ADED has published about these areas, the ADED definitions will be used in the subsequent analysis.

Figure 129: Arkansas Economic Development Planning Areas



Source: Arkansas Department of Economic Development

### Central Arkansas

The population of the Central Arkansas planning area grew by a net 292,158 people, or 58.4 percent, from 500,654 in 1969 to 792,812 in 2002. Of the 13 counties in the planning area, only Prairie County and Woodruff County, both located at the eastern edge of the region, had smaller populations in 2002 than in 1969. For the period, the proportion of the state's population living in the Central Arkansas planning area increased from 26.2 percent to 29.3 percent.

The population of the Central Arkansas planning area is projected to increase by 71,444 people, or 9.0 percent, to 864,256 by 2010 and by 232,620 people, or 29.3 percent, to 1.03 million by 2025. The region's population is projected to be between 847,886 and 881,181 in 2010 and between 978,766 and 1.08 million in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Central Arkansas planning area will be 29.4 percent in 2010 and 29.5 percent in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the Northwest

Arkansas planning area will supplant Central Arkansas as the most populous planning area in 2004.

Figure 130: Central Arkansas Planning Area Historical Population and Projections

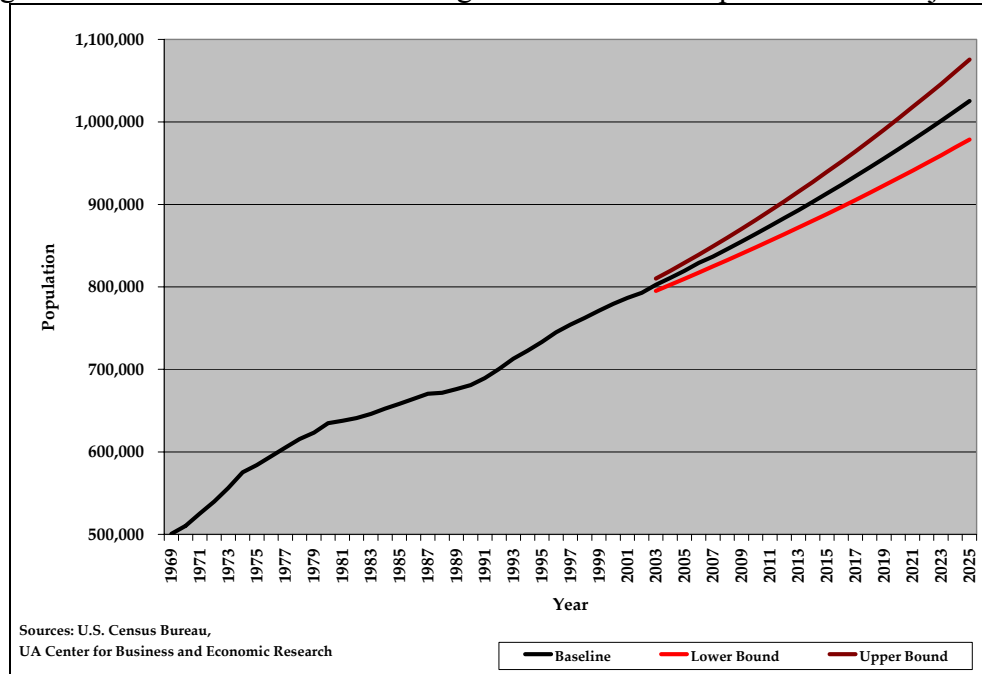


Table 128: Central Arkansas Planning Area Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 762,468   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 771,199   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 779,467   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 786,635   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 792,812   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 819,410   | 26,598                    | 3.4%                     | 809,912     | 17,100                    | 2.2%                     | 829,093     | 36,281                    | 4.6%                     |
| 2010 | 864,256   | 71,444                    | 9.0%                     | 847,886     | 55,074                    | 6.9%                     | 881,181     | 88,369                    | 11.1%                    |
| 2015 | 913,282   | 120,470                   | 15.2%                    | 888,315     | 95,503                    | 12.0%                    | 939,347     | 146,535                   | 18.5%                    |
| 2020 | 966,825   | 174,013                   | 21.9%                    | 931,833     | 139,021                   | 17.5%                    | 1,003,962   | 211,150                   | 26.6%                    |
| 2025 | 1,025,432 | 232,620                   | 29.3%                    | 978,766     | 185,954                   | 23.5%                    | 1,075,653   | 282,841                   | 35.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Northeast Arkansas

The population of the Northeast Arkansas planning area grew by a net 68,055 people, or 22.1 percent, from 307,737 in 1969 to 375,792 in 2002. Of the 14 counties in the planning area, the following 5 had smaller populations in 2002 than in 1969: Clay, Cross, Jackson, Mississippi, and Poinsett. For the period, the proportion of the state's population living in the Northeast Arkansas planning area decreased from 16.1 percent to 13.9 percent.

The population of the Northeast Arkansas planning area is projected to increase by 12,755 people, or 3.4 percent, to 388,547 by 2010 and by 39,743 people, or 10.6 percent, to 415,535 by 2025. The region's population is projected to be between 375,375 and 402,226 in 2010 and between 385,085 and 448,650 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Northeast Arkansas planning area will be 13.2 percent in 2010 and 11.9 percent in 2025.

Figure 131: Northeast Arkansas Planning Area Historical Population and Projections

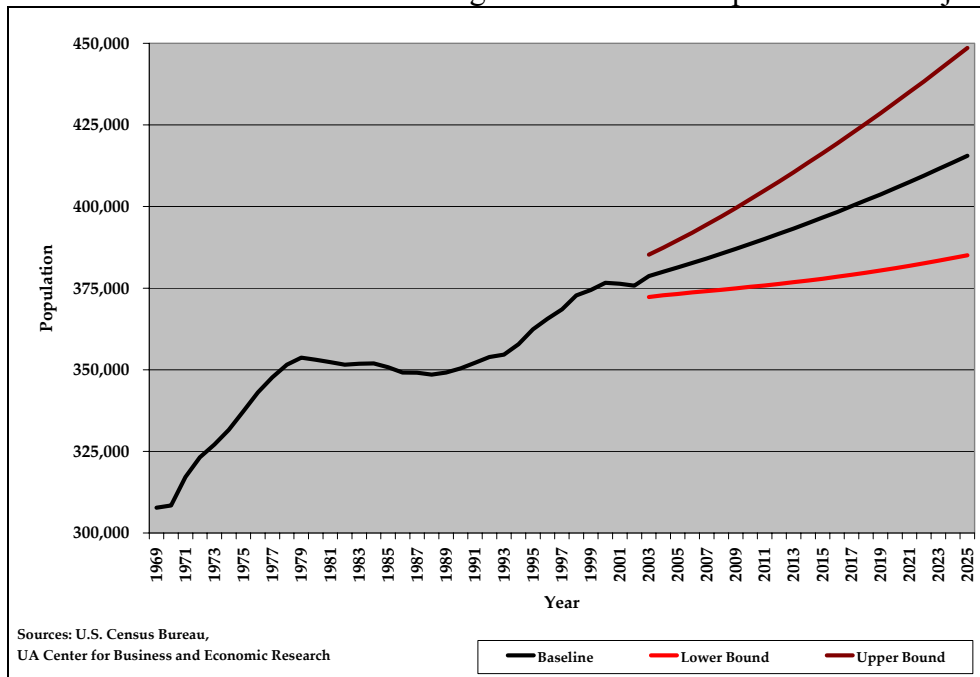


Table 129: Northeast Arkansas Planning Area Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 372,758  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 374,434  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 376,674  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 376,341  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 375,792  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 381,359  | 5,567                     | 1.5%                     | 373,252     | (2,540)                   | -0.7%                    | 389,658     | 13,866                    | 3.7%                     |
| 2010 | 388,547  | 12,755                    | 3.4%                     | 375,375     | (417)                     | -0.1%                    | 402,226     | 26,434                    | 7.0%                     |
| 2015 | 396,621  | 20,829                    | 5.5%                     | 377,902     | 2,110                     | 0.6%                     | 416,345     | 40,553                    | 10.8%                    |
| 2020 | 405,608  | 29,816                    | 7.9%                     | 381,120     | 5,328                     | 1.4%                     | 431,824     | 56,032                    | 14.9%                    |
| 2025 | 415,535  | 39,743                    | 10.6%                    | 385,085     | 9,293                     | 2.5%                     | 448,650     | 72,858                    | 19.4%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### *Northwest Arkansas*

The population of the Northwest Arkansas planning area grew by a net 399,282 people, or 104.7 percent, from 381,259 in 1969 to 780,541 in 2002. All 16 counties in the planning area experienced a net population increase from 1969 to 2002. For the period, the proportion of the state's population living in the Northwest Arkansas planning area increased from 19.9 percent to 28.8 percent.

The population of the Northwest Arkansas planning area is projected to increase by 133,690 people, or 17.1 percent, to 914,231 by 2010 and by 472,693 people, or 60.6 percent, to 1.25 million by 2025. The region's population is projected to be between 887,841 and 941,519 in 2010 and between 1.18 million and 1.33 million in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Northwest Arkansas planning area will be 31.1 percent in 2010 and 36.0 percent in 2025. Again, if the baseline projections are realized, the Northwest Arkansas planning area will become the most populous planning area in the state in 2004.

Figure 132: Northwest Arkansas Planning Area Historical Population and Projections

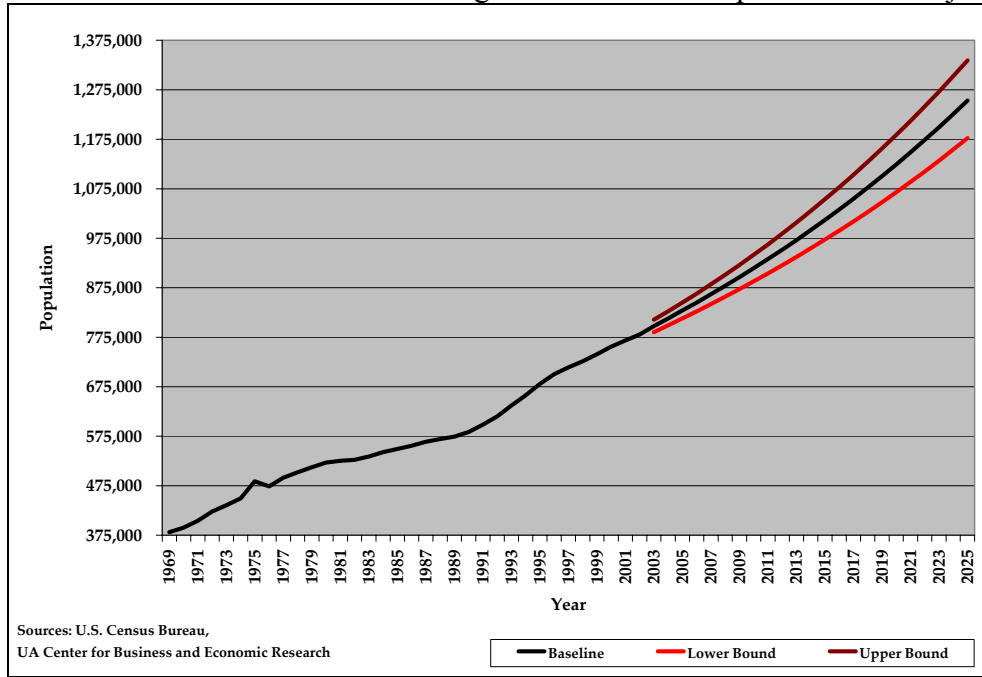


Table 130: Northwest Arkansas Planning Area Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 726,085   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 740,368   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 756,344   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 768,408   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 780,541   | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 828,863   | 48,322                    | 6.2%                     | 813,015     | 32,474                    | 4.2%                     | 845,041     | 64,500                    | 8.3%                     |
| 2010 | 914,231   | 133,690                   | 17.1%                    | 887,841     | 107,300                   | 13.7%                    | 941,519     | 160,978                   | 20.6%                    |
| 2015 | 1,011,898 | 231,357                   | 29.6%                    | 972,056     | 191,515                   | 24.5%                    | 1,053,655   | 273,114                   | 35.0%                    |
| 2020 | 1,124,058 | 343,517                   | 44.0%                    | 1,067,900   | 287,359                   | 36.8%                    | 1,183,661   | 403,120                   | 51.6%                    |
| 2025 | 1,253,234 | 472,693                   | 60.6%                    | 1,177,571   | 397,030                   | 50.9%                    | 1,334,526   | 553,985                   | 71.0%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

**Southeast Arkansas**

The population of the Southeast Arkansas planning area decreased by a net 36,401 people, or 9.7 percent, from 373,362 in 1969 to 336,961 in 2002. Of the 14 counties in the planning area, the following 10 experienced net population declines from 1969 to 2002:

Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, Jefferson, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, and St. Francis. For

the period, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Southeast Arkansas planning area decreased from 19.5 percent to 12.4 percent.

These figures are most striking when compared to the phenomenal population growth in the Northwest Arkansas planning area during the period. The two regions had roughly the same population in 1969. Whereas population in the Northwest Arkansas planning area more than doubled from 1969 to 2002, the population in the Southeast Arkansas planning area fell by nearly 10.0 percent.

The population of the Southeast Arkansas planning area is projected to decrease by 6,189 people, or 1.8 percent, to 330,772 by 2010 and by 17,665 people, or 5.2 percent, to 319,296 by 2025. The region’s population is projected to be between 323,786 and 337,972 in 2010 and between 306,292 and 333,175 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Southeast Arkansas planning area will be 11.3 percent in 2010 and 9.2 percent in 2025.

Figure 133: Southeast Arkansas Planning Area Historical Population and Projections

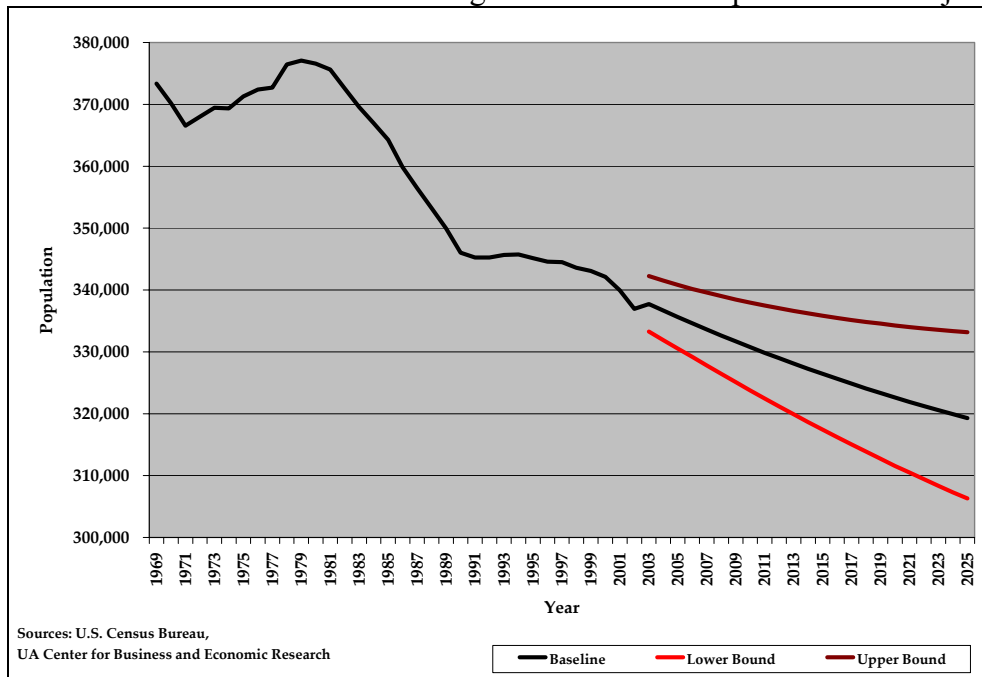




Table 131: Southeast Arkansas Planning Area Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 343,592  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 343,091  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 342,121  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 339,944  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 336,961  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 335,627  | (1,334)                   | -0.4%                    | 330,541     | (6,420)                   | -1.9%                    | 340,825     | 3,864                     | 1.1%                     |
| 2010 | 330,772  | (6,189)                   | -1.8%                    | 323,786     | (13,175)                  | -3.9%                    | 337,972     | 1,011                     | 0.3%                     |
| 2015 | 326,440  | (10,521)                  | -3.1%                    | 317,435     | (19,526)                  | -5.8%                    | 335,850     | (1,111)                   | -0.3%                    |
| 2020 | 322,629  | (14,332)                  | -4.3%                    | 311,581     | (25,380)                  | -7.5%                    | 334,266     | (2,695)                   | -0.8%                    |
| 2025 | 319,296  | (17,665)                  | -5.2%                    | 306,292     | (30,669)                  | -9.1%                    | 333,175     | (3,786)                   | -1.1%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

### ***Southwest Arkansas***

The population of the Southwest Arkansas planning area increased by a net 73,985 people, or 21.1 percent, from 349,988 in 1969 to 423,973 in 2002. Of the 18 counties in the planning area, the following 6 experienced net population declines from 1969 to 2002: Columbia, Dallas, Lafayette, Nevada, Ouachita, and Union. Because of strong population growth in Northwest Arkansas and Central Arkansas, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Southwest Arkansas planning area decreased from 18.3 percent to 15.6 percent.

The population of the Southwest Arkansas planning area is projected to increase by 13,329 people, or 3.1 percent, to 437,302 by 2010 and by 41,578 people, or 9.8 percent, to 465,551 by 2025. The region’s population is projected to be between 426,360 and 448,601 in 2010 and between 442,341 and 490,440 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state’s population living in the Southwest Arkansas planning area will be 14.9 percent in 2010 and 13.4 percent in 2025.

Figure 134: Southwest Arkansas Planning Area Historical Population and Projections

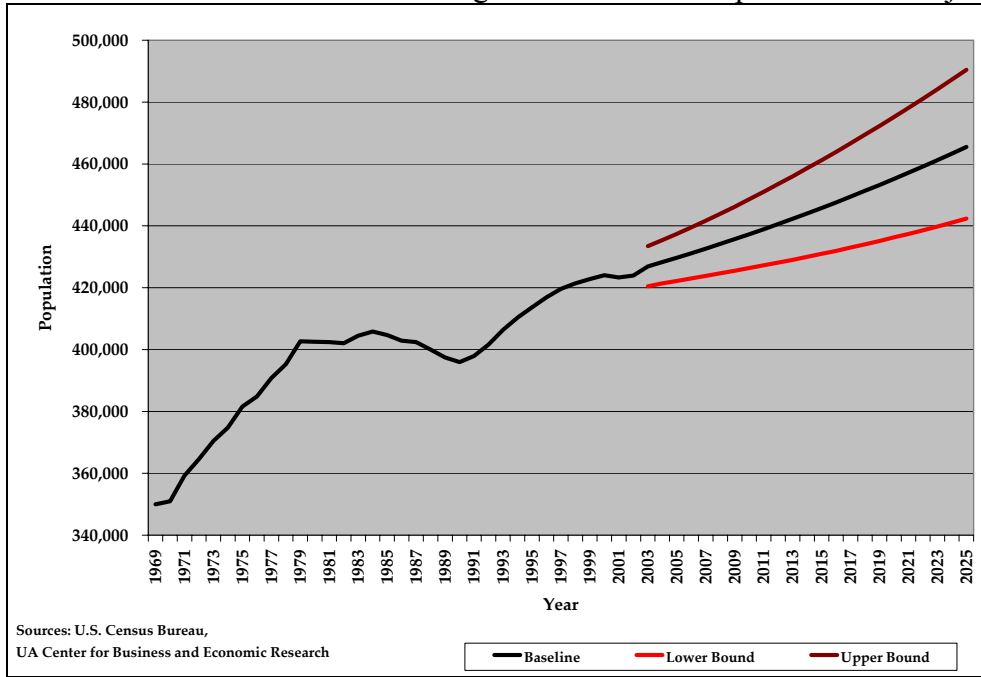


Table 132: Southwest Arkansas Planning Area Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 421,386  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 422,768  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 424,062  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 423,370  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 423,973  | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 429,715  | 5,742                     | 1.4%                     | 422,190     | (1,783)                   | -0.4%                    | 437,389     | 13,416                    | 3.2%                     |
| 2010 | 437,302  | 13,329                    | 3.1%                     | 426,360     | 2,387                     | 0.6%                     | 448,601     | 24,628                    | 5.8%                     |
| 2015 | 445,776  | 21,803                    | 5.1%                     | 430,971     | 6,998                     | 1.7%                     | 461,264     | 37,291                    | 8.8%                     |
| 2020 | 455,173  | 31,200                    | 7.4%                     | 436,265     | 12,292                    | 2.9%                     | 475,213     | 51,240                    | 12.1%                    |
| 2025 | 465,551  | 41,578                    | 9.8%                     | 442,341     | 18,368                    | 4.3%                     | 490,440     | 66,467                    | 15.7%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## **Population Projections, State of Arkansas**

Of the 75 counties in Arkansas, 52 experienced a net population increase from 1969 to 2002. Population losses for the period occurred primarily in the southeastern counties and were more than offset by population gains in the central and northwestern part of the state. The state's population increased by a net 797,079 people, or 41.7 percent, from 1,913,000 in 1969 to 2,710,079 in 2002.

From 1969 to 1972, the state's population became increasingly concentrated in metropolitan areas. Based on the definitions in use prior to June 6, 2003, the proportion of the state's population that lived in an MSA was 44.5 percent in 1969 and 50.2 percent in 2002. Using the updated definitions, the proportion of the state's population that lived in an MSA was 47.3 in 1969 and 54.1 percent in 2002.

The population of Arkansas is projected to increase by 225,029 people, or 8.3 percent, from 2,710,079 in 2002 to 2,935,108 by 2010 and by 768,969 people, or 28.4 percent, to 3,479,048 by 2025. The state's population is projected to be between 2,861,248 and 3,011,499 in 2010 and between 3,290,055 and 3,682,444 in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the state's population will exceed 3 million in 2013.

The concentration of the state's population in MSAs is projected to continue throughout the projection period. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population that lives in an MSA (using the old definitions) will be 52.4 percent in 2010 and 57.0 percent in 2025. This further highlights the need for government and private planners and decision-makers to make appropriate and sufficient infrastructure investments so that growth can be accommodated and supported rather than be stymied.

Figure 135: State of Arkansas Historical Population and Projections

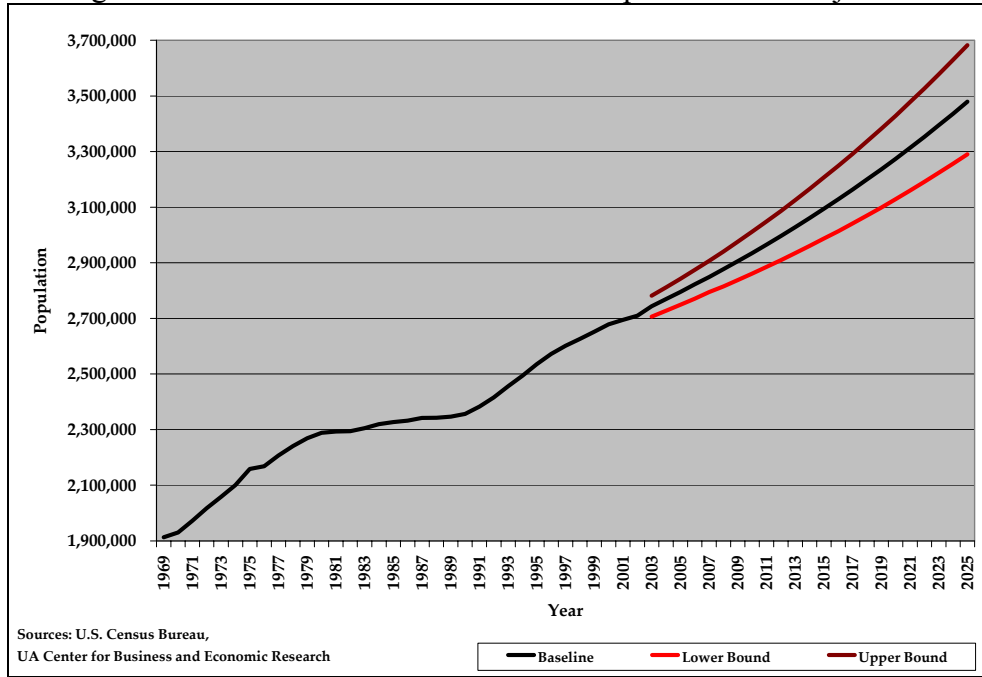


Table 133: State of Arkansas Population Projections, Selected Years

| Year | Baseline  |                           |                          | Lower Bound |                           |                          | Upper Bound |                           |                          |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|      | Estimate  | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 | Estimate    | Absolute Change from 2002 | Percent Change from 2002 |
| 1998 | 2,626,289 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 1999 | 2,651,860 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2000 | 2,678,668 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2001 | 2,694,698 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2002 | 2,710,079 | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        | -           | -                         | -                        |
| 2005 | 2,794,974 | 84,895                    | 3.1%                     | 2,748,910   | 38,831                    | 1.4%                     | 2,842,006   | 131,927                   | 4.9%                     |
| 2010 | 2,935,108 | 225,029                   | 8.3%                     | 2,861,248   | 151,169                   | 5.6%                     | 3,011,499   | 301,420                   | 11.1%                    |
| 2015 | 3,094,017 | 383,938                   | 14.2%                    | 2,986,679   | 276,600                   | 10.2%                    | 3,206,461   | 496,382                   | 18.3%                    |
| 2020 | 3,274,293 | 564,214                   | 20.8%                    | 3,128,699   | 418,620                   | 15.4%                    | 3,428,926   | 718,847                   | 26.5%                    |
| 2025 | 3,479,048 | 768,969                   | 28.4%                    | 3,290,055   | 579,976                   | 21.4%                    | 3,682,444   | 972,365                   | 35.9%                    |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Intercensal Population Estimates  
Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Arkansas

## Summary and Conclusions

This report has provided population projections for all 75 counties in Arkansas, the counties and parishes bordering Arkansas, the state's 7 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 5 planning areas, and the state in aggregate. The report is intended to be used for planning and research by government, businesses, researchers, and the general public.

If the baseline projections are realized, Benton County will likely surpass Washington County as the second most populous county in the state in 2003 and will become the most populous county in Arkansas by 2025. The population of Benton County and Pulaski County is projected to be between 382,009 and 422,270 and between 391,758 and 398,634 in 2025, respectively. Washington County's population is projected to be between 255,736 and 299,689 in 2025. Calhoun County, located in south-central Arkansas, is projected to remain the least populous county in the state through 2025.

The proportion of the state's population living in an MSA, using the definitions in use prior to June 6, 2003, increased from 44.5 percent in 1969 to 50.2 percent. This phenomenon is projected to continue through 2025. The proportion of the state's population living in an MSA is projected to increase to 52.4 percent in 2010 and 57.0 percent in 2025.

Relatively strong population growth is expected to occur in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA, the Fort Smith MSA, the Jonesboro MSA, and the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA through 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA will increase from 12.3 percent in 2002 to 19.5 in 2025. As a proportion of the state's population, the population living in the Arkansas counties of the Fort Smith MSA is projected to increase from 6.4 percent in 2002 to 6.7 percent in 2025.

If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Jonesboro MSA is projected to increase from 3.1 percent in 2002 to 3.2 percent in 2025. A majority of the projected population gains for the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA are projected to occur in Faulkner County and Saline County. If the baseline projections are realized, the Little Rock-North Little Rock MSA will account for 22.3 percent of the state's population in 2025, up from 22.0 percent in 2002.

Population growth is anticipated to continue in the Central, Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest planning areas. Growth is projected to be relatively strong in Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas during the projection period. The population of Southeast Arkansas is projected to decline through 2025.

If the baseline projections are realized, the Central Arkansas area will constitute 29.5 percent of the state's population, up from 29.3 percent in 2002. Even stronger growth is projected to occur in the Northwest Arkansas area. If the baseline projections are realized, the proportion of the state's population living in the Northwest Arkansas planning area will increase from 28.8 percent in 2002 to 36.0 percent in 2025. In contrast, the proportion of the state's population living in the Southeast Arkansas planning area is projected to decline from 12.4 percent in 2002 to 9.2 percent in 2025, according to the baseline projections.

While different regions within the state are expected to experience different rates of population growth and decay, the population of Arkansas in aggregate is projected to increase by roughly 225,000 people from 2.71 million in 2002 to 2.94 million and by roughly 770,000 people to 3.48 million in 2025. The state's population is projected to be between 2.86 million and 3.01 million in 2010 and between 3.29 million and 3.68 million in 2025. If the baseline projections are realized, the state's population will exceed 3 million in 2013.

## **About the Author**

Adam Cole was the Graduate Assistant at the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas from May 2001 to May 2003. He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in international economics and business from the Walton College in 2001 and graduated from the Walton College as the Outstanding Master of Arts in Economics student in 2003. He served as a Research Assistant for the Center from May 2003 to August 2003. He is currently a doctoral student in economics at the University of Michigan. His research interests include population and income dynamics, public finance, and labor economics.

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