6-1-2001

Components of Population Change, Nebraska Counties, 1990-2000

Jerry Deichert

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Recommended Citation

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE, NEBRASKA COUNTIES, 1990-2000

by Jerome Deichert

Information from the 2000 Census released on March 15th by the US Census Bureau put Nebraska's population at 1,711,263 persons. This was an 8.4 percent increase since the 1990 Census count.

The state's population grew in two ways: births exceeded deaths, and more people moved into the state than moved out. The difference between births and deaths is referred to as **natural change**. If births exceed deaths, there is a natural increase in population; but if deaths exceed births, there is natural decrease in population. The difference between the number of people who move into an area and those who move out is **net migration**. Net inmigration adds to an area's population and means that more people moved into an area than out of an area.

Net outmigration, on the other hand, subtracts from an area's population and means that more people moved out of an area than moved into an area.

The information needed to measure natural change and net migration is not collected by the Census Bureau but can be measured by using other sources. The attached tables present this information for Nebraska and its counties. The two main components of natural change, births and deaths, are reported by the Nebraska Division of Vital Statistics. The number for net migration, however, is not measured directly. Instead, it is the difference between the actual population change between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses and the natural change in population.

Net migration improved substantially during the 1990s. Between 1990 and 2000, Nebraska gained 48,234 persons or 3.1 percent due to net inmigration (see Table 1). This is a significant turnaround from the 1980s when there was a net outmigration of more than 100,000 persons and more than 6.0 percent.

Although all areas of the state shared in the net inmigration, the state's more populous counties were more likely to record net inmigration. A

total of 42 counties had net inmigration compared to 51 counties with net outmigration (see Map 1). During the 1980s, only 3 counties experienced net inmigration. Dawson County, the state's fastest growing county, also had the highest inmigration rate of 14.7 percent. Its neighbor to the south, Gosper County, followed with an inmigration rate of 13.0 percent. Other counties with inmigration above 10.0 percent were Saline (10.6 percent), Colfax (10.3 percent), Washington (10.3 percent), and Dakota (10.2 percent).

Blaine County recorded the largest loss of people due to outmigration (18.5 percent) Other counties with the rates of net outmigration exceeding 10.0 percent were Thomas (-15.2 percent), Hitchcock (-14.3 percent), Hayes (-13.6 percent), Logan (-12.3 percent), Wheeler (-12.2 percent), Box Butte (-11.1 percent), Rock (-10.8 percent), and Boyd (-10.7 percent).

During the 1990s, 52 counties had more births than deaths (see Map 2). This means that 41 Nebraska counties lost population because deaths were greater than births. Most of the counties that reported declines in total population also reported more deaths than births. In fact, 11 counties experienced net inmigration but lost population anyway because the number of deaths during the decade exceeded the number of births.

Overall, 40 of Nebraska's 93 counties added population during the 1990s (see Map 3). The reasons for this growth could have resulted from natural change, net migration, or both. The majority (22) of the growing counties added population both from natural change and from net migration. These counties, with both inmigration and natural increase, were among the state's more populous counties, accounting for nearly 75 percent of Nebraska's population. Table 2 shows that this group of counties included all of the metropolitan counties and the majority of the nonmetropolitan counties that contained a city of 8,000 persons or more. Map 4 shows how natural change and net migration are related to population change.

Additionally, 9 of the growing counties had net outmigration, but the excess of births over deaths has greater than the loss due to outmigration. On the other hand, 7 counties added population because their net inmigration exceeded their losses due to greater deaths than births.

Looking at the 53 counties that lost population during the 1990s, the majority (23) declined because of both net outmigration and deaths being greater than births. This group of counties was among the state's less populated counties containing a little more than 6 percent of Nebraska's population. Moreover, most do not have a town with 2,500 or more persons, and this is the case for most of the counties with declining populations.

Nineteen counties lost population because their net outmigration was larger than their natural increase. In contrast, there were 11 counties that lost population despite the fact that they reported net inmigration.

Table 1. Components of Population Change, Nebraska Counties, 1990 to 2000

State County	2000	1990[2]	Births 1990-99[3]	Deaths 1990-99[3]	Number 1990-00			Percentage[5] 1990-00		
					Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]	Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]
Nebraska[1]	1,711,263	1,578,417	235,210	150,599	132,846	84,611	48,234	8.4	5.4	3.1
Adams	31,151	29,625	4,119	3,211	1,526	908	618	5.2	3.1	2.1
Antelope	7,452	7,965	925	923	-513	2	-515	-6.4	0.0	-6.5
Arthur	444	462	49	41	-18	8	-26	-3.9	1.7	-5.6
Banner	819	852	64	54	-33	10	-43	-3.9	1.2	-5.0
Blaine	583	675	93	60	-92	33	-125	-13.6	4.9	-18.5
Boone	6,259	6,667	784	759	-408	25	-433	-6.1	0.4	-6.5
Box Butte	12,158	13,130	1,746	1,258	-972	488	-1,460	-7.4	3.7	-11.1
Boyd	2,438	2,835	302	395	-397	-93	-304	-14.0	-3.3	-10.7
Brown	3,525	3,657	442	469	-132	-27	-105	-3.6	-0.7	-2.9
Buffalo	42,259	37,447	5,516	3,016	4,812	2,500	2,312	12.9	6.7	6.2
Burt	7,791	7,868	817	1,147	-77	-330	253	-1.0	-4.2	3.2
Butler	8,767	8,601	1,060	1,085	166	-25	191	1.9	-0.3	2.2
Cass	24,334	21,318	3,176	2,005	3,016	1,171	1,845	14.1	5.5	8.7
Cedar	9,615	10,131	1,314	1,188	-516	126	-642	-5.1	1.2	-6.3
Chase	4,068	4,381	499	557	-313	-58	-255	-7.1	-1.3	-5.8
Cherry	6,148	6,307	800	606	-159	194	-353	-2.5	3.1	-5.6
Cheyenne	9,830	9,494	1,210	1,051	336	159	177	3.5	1.7	1.9
Clay	7,039	7,123	859	873	-84	-14	-70	-1.2	-0.2	-1.0
Colfax	10,441	9,139	1,449	1,092	1,302	357	945	14.2	3.9	10.3
Cuming	10,203	10,117	1,327	1,212	86	115	-29	0.9	1.1	-0.3
Custer	11,793	12,270	1,455	1,725	-477	-270	-207	-3.9	-2.2	-1.7
Dakota	20,253	16,742	3,381	1,570	3,511	1,811	1,700	21.0	10.8	10.2
Dawes	9,060	9,021	1,053	925	39	128	-89	0.4	1.4	-1.0
Dawson	24,365	19,940	3,840	2,349	4,425	1,491	2,934	22.2	7.5	14.7
Deuel	2,098	2,237	187	291	-139	-104	-35	-6.2	-4.6	-1.6
Dixon	6,339	6,143	786	705	196	81	115	3.2	1.3	1.9
Dodge	36,160	34,500	4,334	3,903	1,660	431	1,229	4.8	1.2	3.6
Douglas	463,585	416,444	70,563	35,010	47,141	35,553	11,588	11.3	8.5	2.8
Dundy	2,292	2,582	248	352	-290	-104	-186	-11.2	-4.0	-7.2
Fillmore	6,634	7,103	789	969	-469	-180	-289	-6.6	-2.5	-4.1
Franklin	3,574	3,938	393	645	-364	-252	-112	-9.2	-6.4	-2.8
Frontier	3,099	3,101	339	315	-2	24	-26	-0.1	0.8	-0.8
Furnas	5,324	5,553	603	1,008	-229	-405	176	-4.1	-7.3	3.2
Gage	22,993	22,794	2,602	2,983	199	-381	580	0.9	-1.7	2.5
Garden	2,292	2,460	198	412	-168	-214	46	-6.8	-8.7	1.9
Garfield	1,902	2,141	210	326	-239	-116	-123	-11.2	-5.4	-5.7
Gosper	2,143	1,928	237	272	215	-35	250	11.2	-1.8	13.0
Grant	747	769	106	63	-22	43	-65	-2.9	5.6	-8.5
Greeley	2,714	3,006	362	378	-292	-16	-276	-9.7	-0.5	-9.2
Hall	53,534	48,925	8,352	4,899	4,609	3,453	1,156	9.4	7.1	2.4

Table 1. Continued

State County	2000	1990[2]	Births 1990-99[3]	Deaths 1990-99[3]	Number 1990-00			Percentage[5] 1990-00		
					Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]	Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]
Hamilton	9,403	8,862	1,175	960	541	215	326	6.1	2.4	3.7
Harlan	3,786	3,810	401	541	-24	-140	116	-0.6	-3.7	3.0
Hayes	1,068	1,222	102	90	-154	12	-166	-12.6	1.0	-13.6
Hitchcock	3,111	3,750	333	437	-639	-104	-535	-17.0	-2.8	-14.3
Holt	11,551	12,599	1,531	1,364	-1,048	167	-1,215	-8.3	1.3	-9.6
Hooker	783	793	72	153	-10	-81	71	-1.3	-10.2	9.0
Howard	6,567	6,057	779	726	510	53	457	8.4	0.9	7.5
Jefferson	8,333	8,759	854	1,246	-426	-392	-34	-4.9	-4.5	-0.4
Johnson	4,488	4,673	479	644	-185	-165	-20	-4.0	-3.5	-0.4
Kearney	6,882	6,629	856	773	253	83	170	3.8	1.3	2.6
Keith	8,875	8,584	964	957	291	7	284	3.4	0.1	3.3
Keya Paha	983	1,029	119	112	-46	7	-53	-4.5	0.7	-5.2
Kimball	4,089	4,108	420	504	-19	-84	65	-0.5	-2.0	1.6
Knox	9,374	9,564	1,123	1,425	-190	-302	112	-2.0	-3.2	1.2
Lancaster	250,291	213,641	32,408	15,656	36,650	16,752	19,898	17.2	7.8	9.3
Lincoln	34,632	32,508	4,468	3,321	2,124	1,147	977	6.5	3.5	3.0
Logan	774	878	79	75	-104	4	-108	-11.8	0.5	-12.3
Loup	712	683	60	66	29	-6	35	4.2	-0.9	5.1
McPherson	533	546	49	40	-13	9	-22	-2.4	1.6	-4.0
Madison	35,226	32,655	5,477	3,418	2,571	2,059	512	7.9	6.3	1.6
Merrick	8,204	8,049	1,067	967	155	100	55	1.9	1.2	0.7
Morrill	5,440	5,423	674	723	17	-49	66	0.3	-0.9	1.2
Nance	4,038	4,275	501	549	-237	-48	-189	-5.5	-1.1	-4.4
Nemaha	7,576	7,980	771	939	-404	-168	-236	-5.1	-2.1	-3.0
Nuckolls	5,057	5,786	510	794	-729	-284	-445	-12.6	-4.9	-7.7
Otoe	15,396	14,252	1,751	1,946	1,144	-195	1,339	8.0	-1.4	9.4
Pawnee	3,087	3,317	295	539	-230	-244	14	-6.9	-7.4	0.4
Perkins	3,200	3,367	299	409	-167	-110	-57	-5.0	-3.3	-1.7
Phelps	9,747	9,715	1,281	1,184	32	97	-65	0.3	1.0	-0.7
Pierce	7,857	7,827	953	905	30	48	-18	0.4	0.6	-0.2
Platte	31,662	29,820	4,606	2,391	1,842	2,215	-373	6.2	7.4	-1.3
Polk	5,639	5,668	653	799	-29	-146	117	-0.5	-2.6	2.1
Red Willow	11,448	11,705	1,465	1,259	-257	206	-463	-2.2	1.8	-4.0
Richardson	9,531	9,937	1,100	1,559	-406	-459	53	-4.1	-4.6	0.5
Rock	1,756	2,019	175	220	-263	-45	-218	-13.0	-2.2	-10.8
Saline	13,843	12,715	1,476	1,702	1,128	-226	1,354	8.9	-1.8	10.6
Sarpy	122,595	102,583	19,453	4,534	20,012	14,919	5,093	19.5	14.5	5.0
Saunders	19,830	18,285	2,430	1,844	1,545	586	959	8.4	3.2	5.2
Scotts Bluff	36,951	36,025	5,289	4,032	926	1,257	-331	2.6	3.5	-0.9
Seward	16,496	15,450	1,748	1,599	1,046	149	897	6.8	1.0	5.8

Table 1. Continued

State County	2000	1990[2]	Births 1990-99[3]	Deaths 1990-99[3]	Number 1990-00			Percentage[5] 1990-00		
					Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]	Population Change	Natural Change[3]	Net Migration[4]
Sheridan	6,198	6,750	753	892	-552	-139	-413	-8.2	-2.1	-6.1
Sherman	3,318	3,718	394	474	-400	-80	-320	-10.8	-2.2	-8.6
Sioux	1,475	1,549	115	98	-74	17	-91	-4.8	1.1	-5.9
Stanton	6,455	6,244	825	470	211	355	-144	3.4	5.7	-2.3
Thayer	6,055	6,635	652	1,017	-580	-365	-215	-8.7	-5.5	-3.2
Thomas	729	851	85	78	-122	7	-129	-14.3	0.8	-15.2
Thurston	7,171	6,936	1,514	809	235	705	-470	3.4	10.2	-6.8
Valley	4,647	5,169	524	685	-522	-161	-361	-10.1	-3.1	-7.0
Washington	18,780	16,607	2,002	1,535	2,173	467	1,706	13.1	2.8	10.3
Wayne	9,851	9,364	1,129	685	487	444	43	5.2	4.7	0.5
Webster	4,061	4,279	442	749	-218	-307	89	-5.1	-7.2	2.1
Wheeler	886	948	133	79	-62	54	-116	-6.5	5.7	-12.2
York	14,598	14,428	1,807	1,523	170	284	-114	1.2	2.0	-0.8

[1]The state counts are final resident counts. In December 2000, the Census Bureau released Nebraska's reapportionment count at 1,715,369. This number includes persons who are U.S. military or federal employees and their dependents stationed overseas and who listed Nebraska as their home state.

[2]The 1990 population totals for Nebraska as well as Howard, Knox, Merrick, and Polk counties are corrected counts. The Census Bureau issued corrected population counts for these areas after the original 1990 counts and associated data products were published. Other detailed population tabulations were not revised to reflect the corrections, so the final counts reported here will differ slightly from the population totals in other tabulations.

[3]Births and deaths are the totals for the 10 calendar years preceding the census year. Natural change is simply the difference between births and deaths.

[4]Net migration is the difference between population change and natural change. A positive value means that more people moved into an area than out of an area. A negative value means that more people moved out than moved in.

[5]The percentage value is based on the initial year. Therefore, the net migration percent for 1990-00 is the net migration number expressed as a percentage of the 1990 population.

Source: US Census Bureau (population) and Nebraska Division of Vital Statistics (births and deaths)

Compiled by: Nebraska State Data Center, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Table 2. Nebraska Counties Classified By Population Change, Net Migration, and Natural Change, 1990-2000

Counties With <u>Increasing</u> Population Between 1990 and 2000

Both Net Inmigration and Natural Increase		**Natural Increase Larger Than Net Outmigration**	**Net Inmigration Larger Than Natural Decrease**
Adams*	Howard	Cuming[#]	Butler[#]
Buffalo*	Kearney[#]	Dawes[#]	Gage*
Cass	Keith[#]	Phelps[#]	Gosper
Cheyenne[#]	**Lancaster**	Pierce	Loup
Colfax[#]	Lincoln*	Platte*	Morrill
Dakota	Madison*	Scotts Bluff*	Otoe[#]
Dawson*	Merrick[#]	Stanton	Saline[#]
Dixon	**Sarpy**	Thurston	
Dodge*	Saunders[#]	York*	
Douglas	Seward[#]		
Hall*	**Washington**		
Hamilton[#]	Wayne[#]		

Counties With <u>Decreasing</u> Population Between 1990 and 2000

Both Net Outmigration and Natural Decrease		**Natural Increase Smaller Than Net Outmigration**		**Net Inmigration Smaller Than Natural Decrease**
Boyd	Jefferson[#]	Antelope	Keya Paha	Burt
Brown	Johnson	Arthur	Logan	Furnas
Chase	Nance	Banner	McPherson	Garden
Clay	Nemaha[#]	Blaine	Red Willow[#]	Harlan
Custer[#]	Nuckolls	Boone	Sioux	Hooker
Deuel	Perkins	Box Butte*	Thomas	Kimball[#]
Dundy	Rock	Cedar	Wheeler	Knox
Fillmore	Sheridan	Cherry[#]		Pawnee
Franklin	Sherman	Frontier		Polk
Garfield	Thayer	Grant		Richardson[#]
Greeley	Valley	Hayes		Webster
Hitchcock		Holt[#]		

Bold type indicates metropolitan counties.
* Indicates nonmetropolitan counties with largest city 8,000 or more.
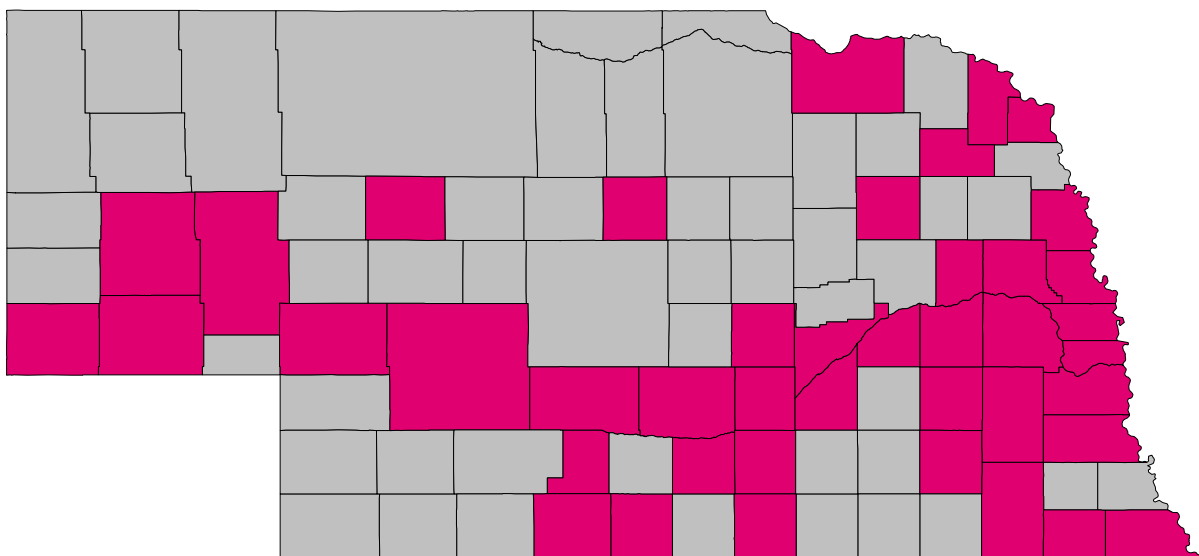[#] Indicates nonmetropolitan counties with with largest city 2,500 to 7,999.
Regular type indicates nonmetropolitan counties with no city at or above 2,500.

Natural increase--births exceed deaths. **Natural decrease**--deaths exceeded births.
Net inmigration--more people move into a county than out of a county. **Net outmigration**--more people than move out of a county than into a county.

Map 1
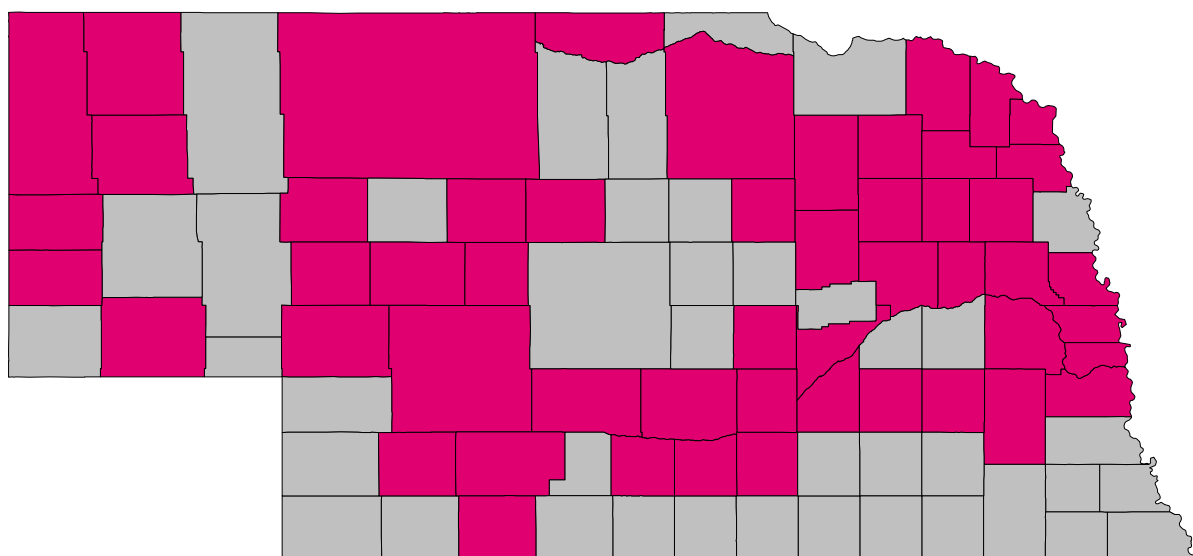# Nebraska Counties Classified By Net Migration, 1990-2000

County Groups

■ Net Inmigration (42)
■ Net Outmigration (51)

Source: UNO Center for Public Affairs Research

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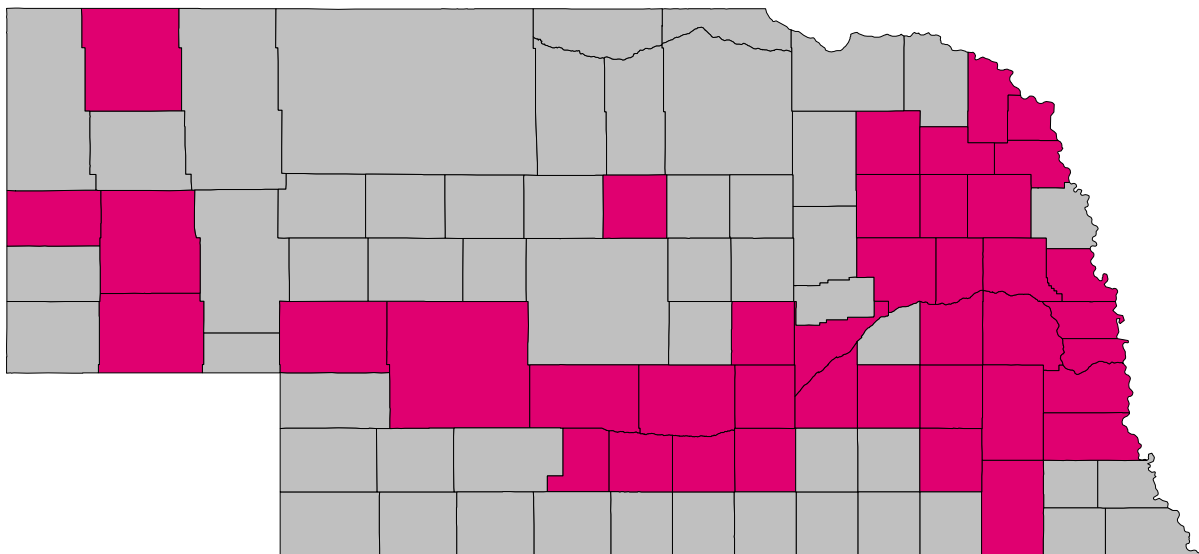
Map 2
Nebraska Counties Classified By Natural Change, 1990-2000

County Groups

■ Births Greater Than Deaths (52)
■ Deaths Greater Than Births (41)

Source: Nebraska Division of Vital Statistics

Map 3
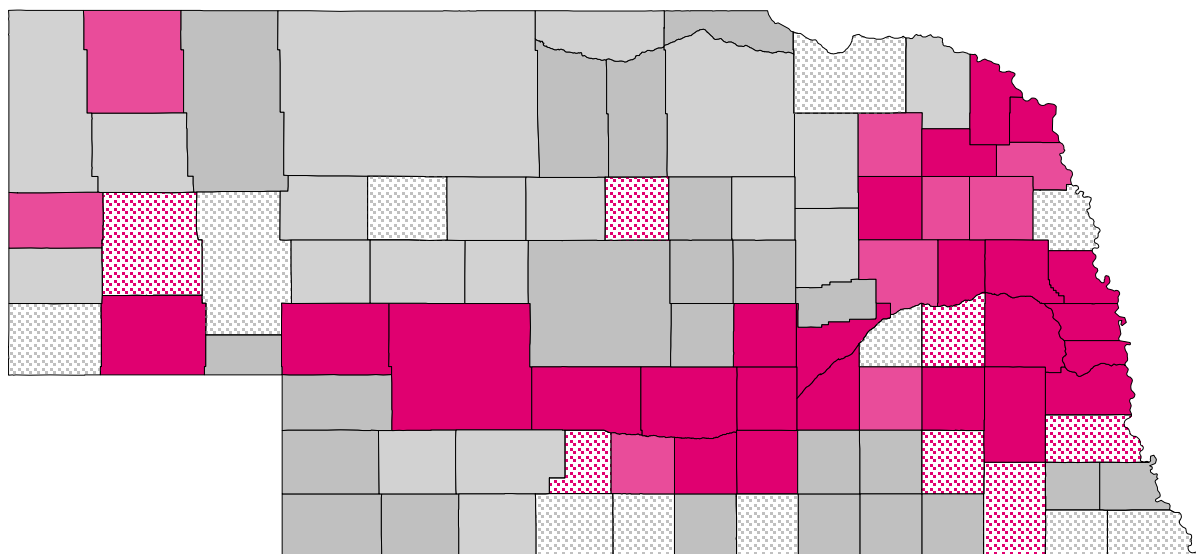# Nebraska Counties Classified By Population Change, 1990-2000

County Groups

■ Growing (40)
■ Declining (53)

Source: US Census Bureau

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Map 4
Nebraska Counties Classified By Population Change, Natural Change, and Net Migration
1990-2000

County Groups

■	Growth overall, both net inmigration and natural increase	(24)
▦	Growth overall, net inmigration larger than natural decrease	(7)
■	Growth overall, natural increase larger than net outmigration	(9)
■	Decline overall, natural increase smaller than net outmigration	(19)
▦	Decline overall, net inmigration smaller than natural decrease	(11)
■	Decline overall, both net outmigration and natural decrease	(23)

Source: US Census Bureau (population) and Nebraska Division of Vital Statistics (births and deaths)

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