



A Snapshot of Population Changes in Northeast Florida

Compiled by Michael Brown, Director of Special Projects

An overview of Census 2000 population data reveals that Northeast Florida grew 22%—slightly less than the state over the past decade. Four municipalities experienced percentage growth greater than the region; eight lost population. While the percentage of the region’s population living in incorporated areas decreased, that percentage far exceeds the state’s. The region also shows more racial diversity than the state.

The U.S. Census Bureau has released general population data on total population, age, and race for counties and municipalities. More detailed demographic and economic data will be available over the next three years.

Following is an overview of population changes within the Northeast Florida region based on data from Census 1940 through Census 2000.

The seven-county Northeast Florida region grew 22% during the 1990’s, from just over 1 million to over 1.24 million people. Florida grew at a slightly faster rate, 23.5%. The region’s lower growth rate indicates less political clout, as determined by representation in the Florida House and Senate.

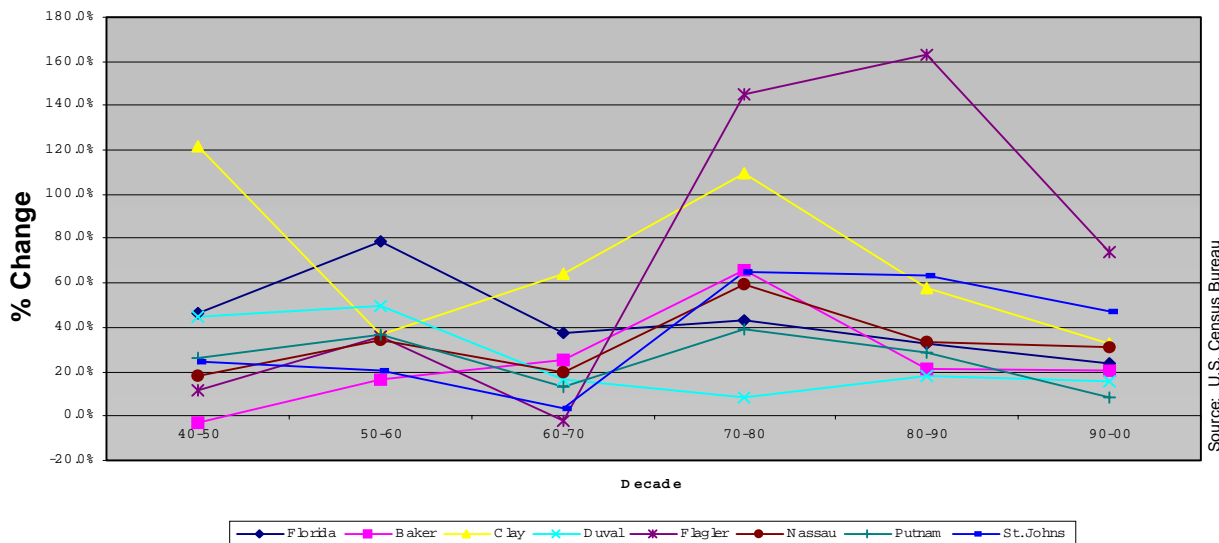
Growth continues to be disproportionate among the region’s counties. All counties saw a slowdown

during the 1990’s in the percentage growth rate compared to the 1980’s. Flagler continues to be the region’s and the state’s fastest growing county with a population increase of 73.6%. Flagler’s growth, however, has slowed from the 163% it experienced between 1980-90 and the 145% increase between 1970-80.

St. Johns County was the second fastest growing county in the region—the seventh in the state—increasing nearly 47% since 1990. Clay County, with a 33% increase, was the 17th fastest growing county in the state.

On the flip side, Putnam County was the region’s slowest growing county with an 8.2% population growth—a decrease from the 29% growth Putnam County saw during the 1980’s.

PERCENT POPULATION CHANGES 1940 - 2000



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION POPULATION GROWTH

COUNTY	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Baker	6,510	6,313	7,363	9,242	15,289	18,486	22,259
Clay	6,468	14,323	19,535	32,059	67,052	105,986	140,814
Duval	210,143	304,029	455,411	528,865	571,003	672,971	778,879
Flagler	3,008	3,367	4,566	4,454	10,913	28,701	49,832
Nassau	10,826	12,811	17,189	20,626	32,894	43,941	57,663
Putnam	18,698	23,615	32,212	36,424	50,549	65,070	70,423
St. Johns	20,012	24,998	30,034	31,035	51,303	83,829	123,135
Region	275,665	389,456	566,310	662,705	799,003	1,018,984	1,243,005
Florida	1,897,414	2,771,305	4,951,560	6,791,418	9,746,961	12,937,926	15,982,378

PERCENT INCREASE							
	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	
Baker	-3.0%	16.6%	25.5%	65.4%	20.9%	20.4%	
Clay	121.4%	36.4%	64.1%	109.2%	58.1%	32.9%	
Duval	44.7%	49.8%	16.1%	8.0%	17.9%	15.7%	
Flagler	11.9%	35.6%	-2.5%	145.0%	163.0%	73.6%	
Nassau	18.3%	34.2%	20.0%	59.5%	33.6%	31.2%	
Putnam	26.3%	36.4%	13.1%	38.8%	28.7%	8.2%	
St. Johns	24.9%	20.1%	3.3%	65.3%	63.4%	46.9%	
Region	41.2%	45.4%	17.0%	20.5%	27.5%	22.0%	
Florida	46.1%	78.7%	37.2%	43.5%	32.7%	23.5%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Regional Race Composition

The region's population shows more racial diversity than the state as a whole. Just over 73% is identified as white in the 2000 Census as compared to 78% in the state. Over 20% of the region's population is Black or African American, exceeding the state's rate of over 14%.

The region also contains a slightly higher percentage of other "one race" categories than found statewide. The state, however, shows a higher percentage of the population categorized as "two or more races" than Northeast Florida.

REGIONAL COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE

COUNT	Total Pop.	1 Race							2 or more
		Total	White	Black or African American	Am. Indian & Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Is.	Some other race	
Baker	22,259	22,041	18,707 (84.04%)	3,098 (13.92%)	85 (.38%)	89 (.40%)	7 (.03%)	55 (.25%)	218 (.98%)
Clay	140,814	137,983	123,128 (87.44%)	9,439 (6.70%)	658 (.47%)	2,797 (1.99%)	118 (.08%)	1,843 (1.31%)	2,831 (2.01%)
Duval	778,879	763,620	512,469 (65.80%)	216,780 (27.83%)	2,598 (.33%)	21,137 (2.71%)	466 (0.06%)	10,170 (1.31%)	15,259 (1.96%)
Flagler	49,832	49,490	43,490 (87.27%)	4,401 (8.83%)	133 (.27%)	583 (1.17%)	12 (.02%)	480 (.96%)	733 (1.47%)
Nassau	57,663	57,086	51,909 (90.02%)	4,465 (7.74%)	246 (.43%)	263 (.46%)	18 (.03%)	185 (.32%)	577 (1.00%)
Putnam	70,423	69,579	54,868 (77.91%)	12,003 (17.04%)	297 (.42%)	311 (.44%)	29 (.04%)	2,071 (2.94%)	844 (1.20%)
St. Johns	123,135	121,939	111,955 (90.92%)	7,744 (6.29%)	326 (.26%)	1,172 (.95%)	67 (.05%)	675 (.55%)	1,196 (.97%)
TOTAL	1,243,005	1,221,738 (98.29%)	916,532 (73.74%)	257,931 (20.70%)	4,343 (.35%)	26,352 (2.12%)	717 (.06%)	15,479 (1.25%)	21,658 (1.74%)
Florida	15,982,378	15,606,063 (97.65%)	12,465,029 (77.99%)	2,335,505 (14.61%)	53,541 (.34%)	266,256 (1.67%)	8,625 (.05%)	477,107 (2.99%)	376,315 (2.35%)
Region % of State	7.78%	7.83%	7.35%	11.04%	8.11%	9.90%	8.31%	3.24%	5.76%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Municipal Population Changes

As can be expected there was also disparity in the growth of the 27 municipalities within Northeast Florida. Four experienced percentage growth greater than the region—Beverly Beach (74.2%); Flagler Beach (29.8%); Interlachen (27.2%); and St. Augustine Beach (28.1%). The two fastest growing municipalities are in Flagler County, the

state's fastest growing county. Eight municipalities lost population between 1990 and 2000.

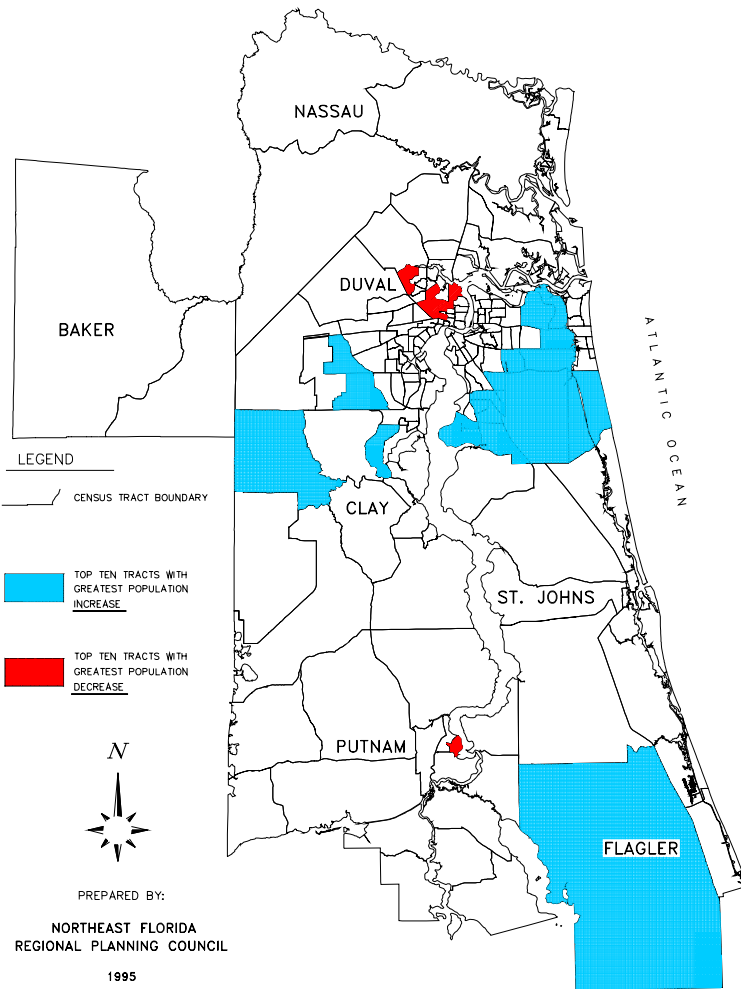
The percentage of region's population living in incorporated areas decreased over the past decade, from 72.8% in 1990 to 71.3% in 2000. This is consistent with what is happening at the state level and is continuing a trend since the 1970's.

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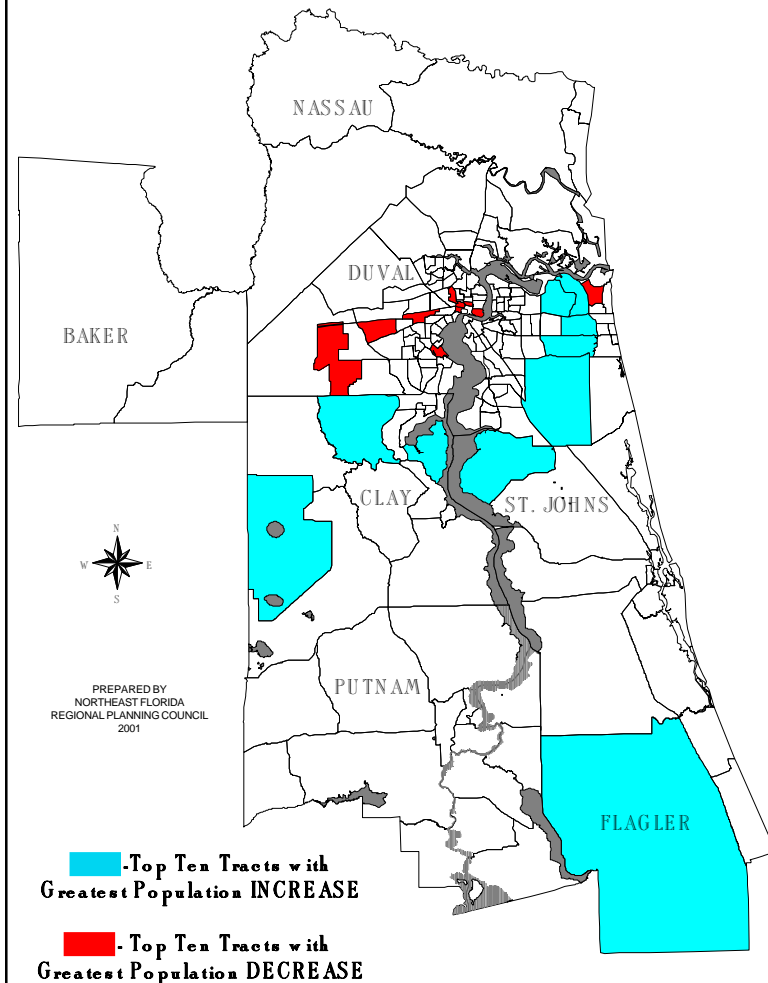


The **Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council** is an association of seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns) and 27 municipalities. As a dynamic network of local governance, it provides visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic, and social environment.

1980 - 1990 GREATEST POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS BY CENSUS TRACTS



1990 - 2000 GREATEST POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS BY CENSUS TRACTS



Regional Growth Trend

A comparison of the census tracts with the greatest percentage increase in population over the past decade indicates the growth trend between 1980-90 is continuing. Growth continues to be seen to the south and east of downtown Jacksonville, with some of the fastest

growing areas in northern Clay and St. Johns counties. The areas with the greatest percentage decrease continue to be primarily west of downtown Jacksonville, the same trend observed during the 1980's. However, areas showing the greatest loss in population are shifting further west from the city's core.



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Bringing Communities Together

Municipal Population *(Cont. from inside)*

The 71.3 % of the population living in incorporated areas, however, far exceeds the state's 50%. Two primary reasons for this difference are 1) the U.S. Census counts the consolidated City of Jack-

sonville as an incorporated area, and 2) the recent incorporation of Palm Coast added over 32,000 people to an incorporated area. Even without Palm Coast, however, the region would still have just under 69% of its population living in incorporated areas.

RESIDENT POPULATION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA MUNICIPALITIES BY DECENNIAL CENSUS: 1970 TO 2000

Municipality	2000 Census			1990	1980	1970
	Census Count	Numeric Change 1990	% Change from 1990	Census Count	Census Count	Census Count
Baker Co.						
Glen Saint Mary	473	(7)	-1.5%	480	462	357
Maccleenny	4,459	493	12.4%	3,966	3,851	2,733
Clay Co						
Green Cove Springs	5,378	881	19.6%	4,497	4,154	3,857
Keystone Heights	1,349	34	2.6%	1,315	1,056	800
Orange Park	9,081	(407)	-4.3%	9,488	8,766	5,019
Penney Farms	580	(29)	-4.8%	609	630	561
Duval Co.						
Atlantic Beach	13,368	1,732	14.9%	11,636	7,847	6,132
Baldwin	1,634	184	12.7%	1,450	1,526	1,408
Jacksonville	735,617	100,387	15.8%	635,230	540,920	504,265
Jacksonville Beach	20,990	3,151	17.7%	17,839	15,462	12,779
Neptune Beach	7,270	454	6.7%	6,816	5,248	4,281
Flagler Co						
Beverly Beach	547	233	74.2%	314	217	21
Bunnell	2,122	249	13.3%	1,873	1,816	1,687
Painters Hill **	-	-	-	-	40	14
Palm Coast	32,732	32,732	-	-	-	-
Flagler Beach	4,954	1,136	29.8%	3,818	2,208	1,042
Marineland	6	(15)	-71.4%	21	31	13
Nassau Co						
Callahan	962	16	1.7%	946	869	772
Fernandina Beach	10,549	1,784	20.4%	8,765	7,224	6,955
Hilliard	2,702	426	18.7%	2,276	1,869	1,205
Putnam Co.						
Crescent City	1,776	(83)	-4.5%	1,859	1,722	1,734
Interlachen	1,475	315	27.2%	1,160	848	478
Palatka	10,033	(411)	-3.9%	10,444	10,175	9,444
Pomona Park	789	63	8.7%	726	791	578
Welaka	586	53	9.9%	533	492	496
St. Johns Co.						
Hastings	521	(74)	-12.4%	595	636	628
Saint Augustine	11,592	(103)	-0.9%	11,695	11,985	12,352
St. Augustine Beach	4,683	1,026	28.1%	3,657	1,289	632
Incorporated Pop.						
	886,228	144,220	19.4%	742,008	632,134	580,243
Regional Pop.						
	1,243,005	224,021	22.0%	1,018,984	799,003	662,705
Incorporated Pop. As % of Regional Pop.						
	71.3%			72.8%	79.1%	87.6%

** Denotes a municipality that was no longer incorporated or considered an active incorporation at the time of the 2000 Census
 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. Tabulated by the Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.