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Population Update Report Number 5

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Riley, M P. and Baer, L, "Population Update Report Number 5" (1981). *Agricultural Experiment Station Circulars.* Paper 233.
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South Dakota Population and Net Migration, 1970-1980

Update Series, C 229, No. 5
Department of Rural Sociology
Agricultural Experiment Station
South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota
December 1981

POPULATION UPDATE

POPULATION UPDATE

South Dakota Population and Net Migration, 1970-1980*

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GENERAL POPULATION TREND OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Present Situation

South Dakota's population on April 1, 1980, was 690,768. This is an increase of 24,511 people or 3.8% from the 666,257 in 1970. The growth rate of 3.8% for 1970-1980 ranks South Dakota sixth in the rate of increase for seven neighboring states (Table 1).

*1980 Census of Population and Housing, PHC 80A P-43, South Dakota, Advanced (revised) population and housing counts, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C., July 15, 1981.

The growth rates of Montana (13%) and especially Wyoming (42%), fourth highest in the nation, are particularly significant in that they are larger than the U.S. total growth of 11%. They reflect a tremendous growth due to utilization of natural resources. The surrounding "farm belt" states experienced the slower growth rate evident throughout the agriculturally based midwest region.

South Dakota State Population Over Three Decades

Basic changes have occurred primarily in birth rate and migration.

In the 1950's South Dakota experienced a small population increase (4.3%, Table 2) in spite of a high loss through out-migration. The out-

Table 1. Population and population change for South Dakota, selected states, and the United States (1970-1980).

	1980	1970	Percent Change
Minnesota	4,077,148	3,806,103	7.1
Nebraska	1,570,006	1,485,333	5.7
Montana	786,690	694,409	13.3
Iowa	2,913,387	2,825,368	3.1
Wyoming	470,816	332,416	41.6
South Dakota	690,178	666,257	3.8
North Dakota	652,695	617,792	5.6
Total United States	226,505,415	203,302,031	11.4

migration was compensated for by the high birth rate of the "baby boom." By 1960 the baby boom had peaked, and the lower fertility of the 1960's together with a continued high rate of out-migration gave South Dakota a population loss for the 60's of 2.1%.

The 1970's present a different picture.

During this decade the birth rate continued at a relatively low level. However, a dramatic reduction in net out-migration during the 70's was sufficient to give South Dakota a population increase of 3.8% in spite of the low fertility.

Thus the crucial factor explaining this population increase is migration. Much more needs to be known about why the out-migration rate dropped so markedly during this most recent period.

POPULATION CHANGE

Population Change by County

Between 1960 and 1970, 53 of South Dakota's 67 counties** lost population. At the extreme, Stanley County dropped 40% and Fall River 30%.

During the last 10 years, 13 of these counties "turned around." They had not only stopped losing, but actually gained population (Maps 1 and 2). Thus, while only 14 counties recorded gains in population during the '60's, 24 counties experienced gains in the '70's (Table 6).

Of the 44 counties losing population, 24 lost a smaller percentage in the '70's than in the 1960's.

Only two counties that gained population from 1960 to 1970 (Bennett and Yankton) lost population in the 1970's. In Yankton, the loss was under 1% (Map 1 and Table 6).

Of the 11 counties that gained population for both periods, three (Minnehaha, Pennington, and Lawrence) increased their rate of population gain in the '70's.

**Washabaugh and Jackson counties were combined in 1979. Thus the 1980 Census records only Jackson County; South Dakota now has 66 counties.

Population Change by State Planning District

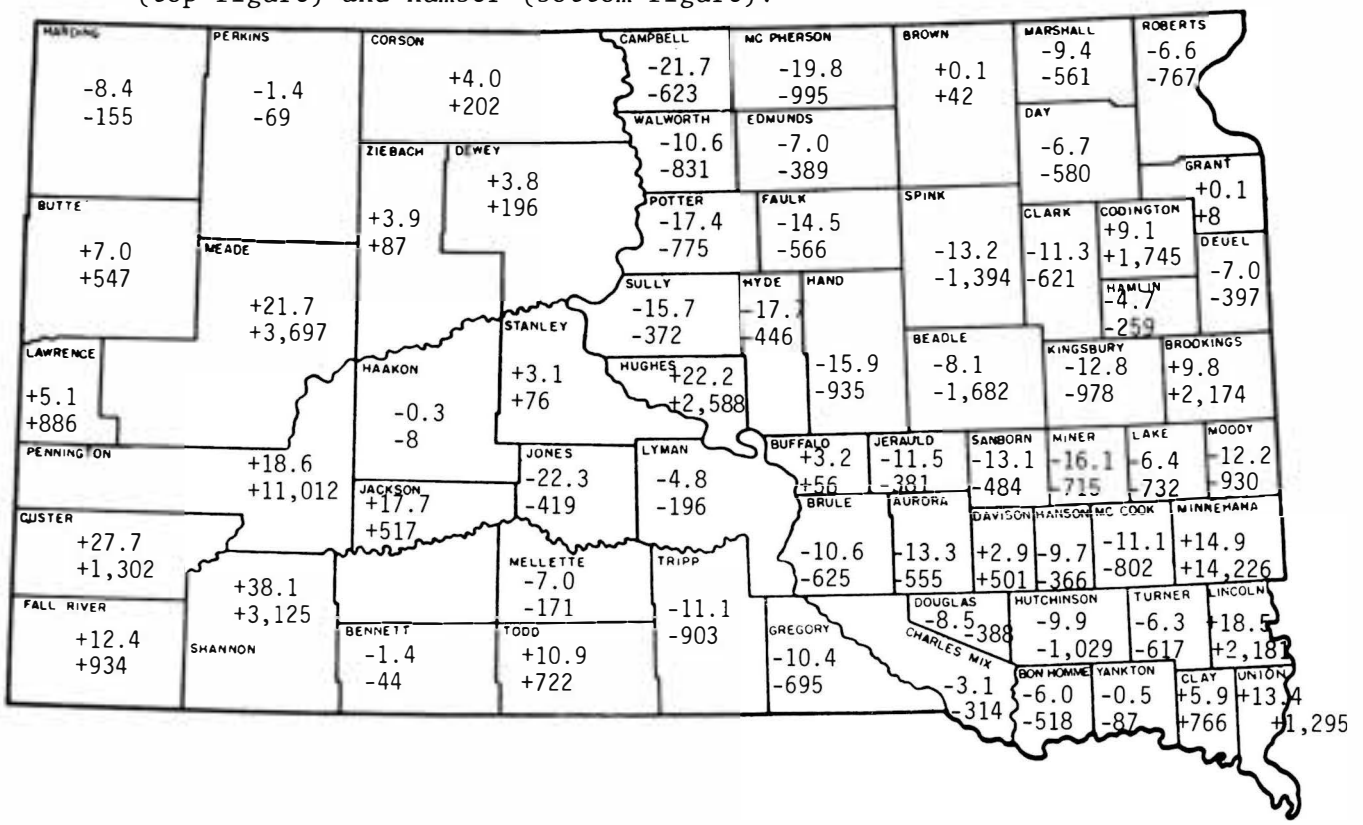
South Dakota is divided into six state planning districts, each of which contains a group of contiguous counties that are considered to share common socioeconomic and geographic characteristics.

Districts II and VI gained population during the past decade.

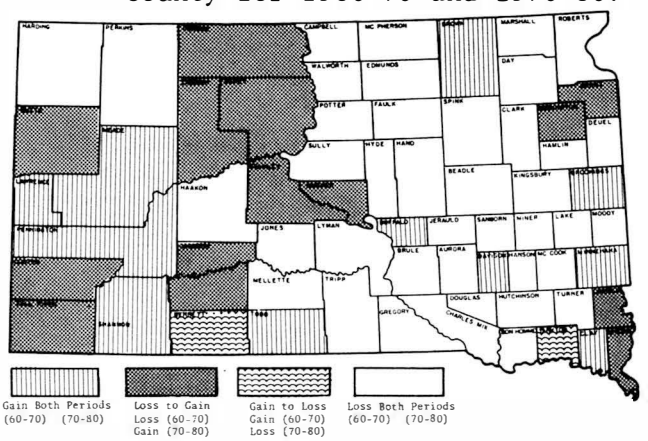
Table 2. South Dakota population change and net migration, 1950-60, 1960-70, and 1970-80.

Decade	Population Beginning of Decade	Population at End of Decade	Number Change	Percentage Change	Number Net Migration	Percentage Net Migration
1950-1960	652,740	680,514	27,774	4.3	-93,962	-14.4
1960-1970	680,514	666,257	-14,257	-2.1	-92,560	-13.6
1970-1980	666,257	690,768	24,511	3.8	-26,384	- 4.0

Map 1. Population change for South Dakota counties, 1970-80, by percentage (top figure) and number (bottom figure).



Map 2. Pattern of population change by county for 1960-70 and 1970-80.



District II, which includes Minnehaha County with Sioux Falls, had a population increase of over 17,000, more than double the percentage population change for the 1960's (5% to 11.6%, Map 3 and Table 3).

District VI includes the Black Hills area with Pennington County and Rapid City. It experienced a population gain of 21,821, more than a five-fold increase (3% in the '60's to 17% in the 1970's).

The remaining four planning districts lost population in both the 1960's and 1970's. However, the loss (except for District IV) slowed. District I showed the greatest change, a 7.0% population loss in the '60's and only 0.7% in the '70's. District IV was the only planning district recording a greater population loss (4.8% in 1970 and 6.8% in 1980).

Map 3. Population change for planning and development districts 1970-80.

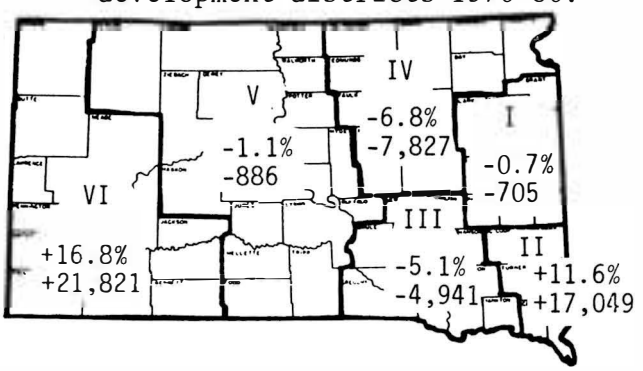


Table 3. South Dakota planning and development districts, population change, and net migration, 1970-80.

District	Population 1980	Population 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Rate	Net Migration Number	Net Migration Rate
State Total	690,768	666,257	+24,511	+ 3.8	-26,384	- 4.0
District I	97,508	98,213	- 705	- 0.7	- 4,905	- 4.9
District II	163,703	146,654	+17,049	+11.6	+ 6,126	+ 4.1
District III	92,487	97,428	- 4,941	- 5.1	- 9,403	- 9.7
District IV	107,267	115,094	- 7,827	- 6.8	-13,097	-11.4
District V	78,071	78,957	- 886	- 1.1	- 9,307	-11.8
District VI	151,732	129,911	+21,821	+16.8	+ 4,202	+ 3.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census - 1980 Advanced Report (Revised South Dakota 7/15/81).

NET MIGRATION[+]

Net Migration by County

The extent of population movement is reflected in the net migration numbers and rates for individual counties, especially when rates for the '60's are compared with rates of the '70's.

For 1960-70, only four counties (Clay, Meade, Todd, and Washabaugh) experienced in-migration. The 1970-80 decade shows 13 counties with in-migration (Map 5 and Table 6).

Twelve counties "turned around" (out-migration in 1960-70 and in-migration 1970-80, Map 5). Meade County gained population through net in-migration for both decades.

"Reverse" migration patterns (gains in 1960-70 and losses in 1970-80) were found for Todd and Clay counties. The remaining counties experienced net out-migration for both periods.

Net Migration by Planning District

All six state planning districts had net out-migration during the 1960's, whereas two districts had net in-migration during the 1970's (District II, 4.1%; and District VI, 3.2%). The remaining districts recorded out-migration (Map 6 and Table 3).

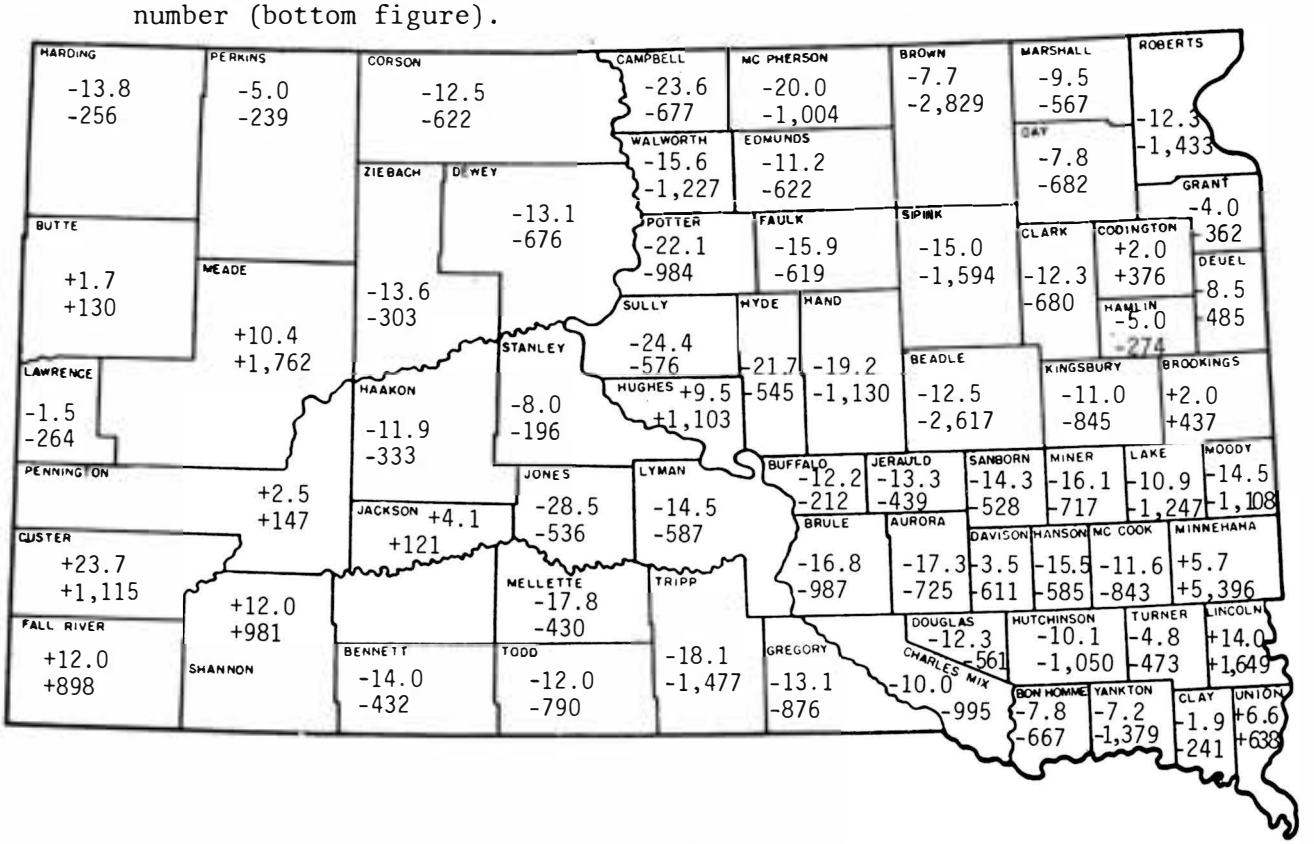
SOUTH DAKOTA'S URBAN PLACES

Urban Population

The U.S. Census definition of "urban" is an incorporated place of 2,500 or more population. The majority of the population of South Dakota has been rural. Twenty-four places were classified as urban in 1980; one city, Chamberlain, declined in population

[+]The U.S. Census does not report "net migration." It is calculated by the "residual method" which contrasts natural increase (births minus deaths) with the amount of population change. The authors are grateful for the cooperation of South Daktoa Department of Health, Vital Records Project, Pierre, for birth and death data.

Map 4. Net migration by county for 1970-80, by rate (top figure) and number (bottom figure).



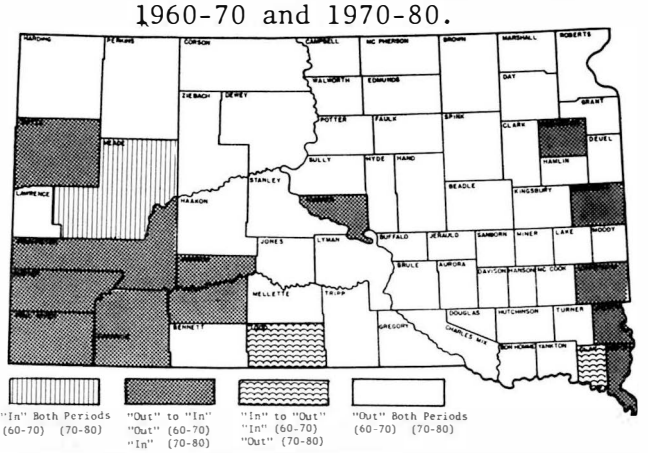
from 1970-80, resulting in a shift from an urban to a rural classification. Two places, Brandon and Box Elder, experienced gains and were classified as new urban places in 1980 (Table 4).

In the previous decade, increased growth rates were often attributed to increasing college enrollments. Yet, the 1970-80 decade reflects moderate growth in the college communities and even declines. Pierre experienced the most dramatic growth (23.4%, 2,274 people), primarily due to the growth in government.

Watertown showed an increase of 16.9% (2,261 people). This is due in part to the return of retirees to the area.

Sturgis (14.2% or 648 people) and Belle Fouche (10.8% or 456 people) also showed an increase in population. This is due in part to the proximity of these areas to other rapidly growing populations as in Wyoming and Pennington County in South Dakota.

Map 5. Migration patterns by county for 1960-70 and 1970-80.



Map 6. Migration for planning districts, 1970-80, by rate (top figure) and number (bottom figure).

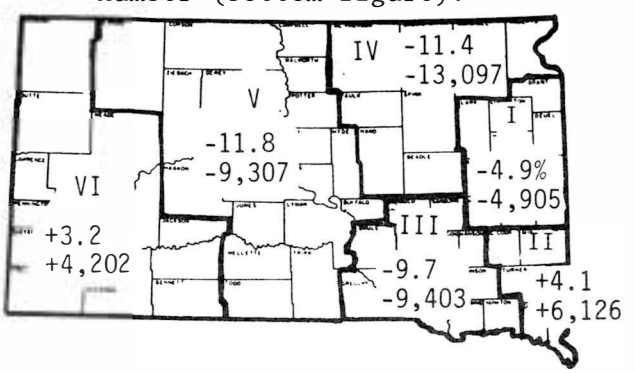


Table 4. Population of South Dakota communities classified urban, 1970 and 1980, and percent change.

Community	Population 1980	Population 1970	Change in Number	Change in Percent
Incorporated Places Urban in 1970 and 1980:				
Aberdeen (Brown County)	25,956	26,476	- 520	- 2.0
Belle Fouche (Butte County)	4,692	4,236	456	10.8
Brookings (Brookings County)	14,951	13,717	1,234	9.0
Canton (Lincoln County)	2,886	2,665	221	8.3
Hot Springs (Fall River County)	4,742	4,434	308	6.9
Huron (Beadle County)	13,000	14,299	-1,299	- 9.1
Lead (Lawrence County)	4,330	5,420	-1,090	-20.1
Madison (Lake County)	6,210	6,315	- 105	- 1.7
Milbank (Grant County)	4,120	3,727	393	10.5
Mitchell (Davidson County)	13,916	13,425	491	3.7
Mobridge (Walworth County)	4,174	4,545	- 371	- 8.2
Pierre (Hughes County)	11,973	9,699	2,274	23.4
Rapid City (Pennington County)	46,492	43,836	2,656	6.1
Redfield (Spink County)	3,027	2,943	84	2.9
Sioux Falls (Minnehaha County)	81,182	72,488	8,694	12.0
Sisseton (Roberts County)	2,789	3,094	- 305	- 9.9
Spearfish (Lawrence County)	5,251	4,661	590	12.7
Sturgis (Meade County)	5,184	4,536	648	14.3
Vermillion (Clay County)	10,136	9,128	1,008	11.0
Watertown (Codington County)	15,649	13,388	2,261	16.9
Winner (Tripp County)	3,472	3,789	- 317	- 8.4
Yankton (Yankton County)	12,011	11,919	92	0.8
Places Urban in 1970 and Rural in 1980:				
Chamberlain (Brule County)	2,258	2,626	- 368	-14.0
Places Rural in 1970 and Urban in 1980:				
Brandon (Minnehaha County)	2,589	--	--	--
Box Elder (Pennington County)	3,186	607	2,579	424.9
Unincorporated Census Designated Places, Urban 1980:				
Ellsworth (Meade County)	4,766	5,805	-1,039	- 17.9
Pine Ridge (Shannon County)	3,059	2,768	- 291	- 10.5
Rapid Valley (Pennington County)	3,265	--	--	--

Sources: 1980 Census of Population and Housing, South Dakota, Advance Report, Revised July 15, 1981; U.S. Census of Population, Special Report, "Census Designated Places", July 1981.

Sioux Falls, in the only SMSA (standard metropolitan statistical area) in the state, continued to grow, with an increase of 12.0% or 8,694 people. Several colleges are located here as well as an increasing number of industries and employment opportunities.

Brookings increased by 9.0% or 1,234 people, a result of increasing college enrollment and more industrial opportunities.

Size of Urban Place and Rates of Population Gain

The urban places of South Dakota can be grouped into three categories on the basis of their 1970 populations. These categories include cities of 10,000 or more, cities of 5,000-9,999, and cities of 2,500 to 4,999. The population of the nine largest urban places totalled 219,247 in 1970 and 235,130 in 1980. This was an increase

Table 5. Number and percent change in population of South Dakota urban places, 1960-1970 and 1970-1980 by 1970 size of place.

Urban Place by 1970 Size	1960-70 Change in Number	1960-70 Change in Percent	1970-80 Change in Number	1970-80 Change in Percent
10,000 and over:				
Aberdeen	3,403	14.7	- 520	- 2.0
Brookings	3,159	29.9	1,234	9.0
Huron	119	0.8	-1,299	- 9.1
Mitchell	870	6.9	491	3.7
Pierre	- 389	- 3.9	2,267	23.4
Rapid City	1,437	3.4	2,656	6.1
Sioux Falls	7,011	10.7	8,694	12.0
Watertown	- 689	- 4.9	2,261	16.9
Yankton	2,640	28.5	92	0.8
Total	17,572	8.7	15,883	7.2
5,000-9,999:				
Lead	- 791	-12.7	-1,090	-20.1
Madison	895	16.5	- 105	- 1.7
Spearfish	979	26.6	590	12.7
Sturgis	- 103	- 2.2	648	14.3
Vermillion	3,026	49.6	454	5.0
Total	5,006	20.0	497	1.7
2,500-4,999:				
Belle Fouche	149	3.6	456	10.8
Canton	154	6.1	221	8.3
Hot Springs	- 509	-10.3	308	6.9
Milbank	227	6.5	393	10.5
Mobridge	154	3.5	- 371	- 8.2
Redfield	- 9	- 0.3	84	2.9
Sisseton	- 124	- 3.9	- 305	- 9.9
Winner	84	2.3	- 317	- 8.4
Total	126	0.43	469	1.6

Table 6. South Dakota population and net migration, 1970-1980 (final counts).

County	Population 1980	Population 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Rate	Net Migration Number	Net Migration Rate
South Dakota	690,768	666,257	+ 24,511	+ 3.8	- 26,384	- 4.0
Aurora	3,628	4,183	- 555	- 13.3	- 725	- 17.3
Beadle	19,195	20,977	- 1,682	- 8.1	- 2,617	- 12.5
Bennett	3,044	3,088	- 44	- 1.4	- 432	- 14.0
Bon Homme	8,059	8,577	- 518	- 6.0	- 667	- 7.8
Brookings	24,332	22,158	+ 2,174	+ 9.8	+ 437	+ 2.0
Brown	36,962	36,920	+ 42	+ 0.1	- 2,829	- 7.7
Brule	5,245	5,870	- 625	- 10.6	- 987	- 16.8
Buffalo	1,795	1,739	+ 56	+ 3.2	- 212	- 12.2
Butte	8,372	7,825	+ 547	+ 7.0	+ 130	+ 1.7
Campbell	2,243	2,866	- 623	- 21.7	- 677	- 23.6
Charles Mix	9,680	9,994	- 314	- 3.1	- 995	- 10.0
Clark	4,894	5,515	- 621	- 11.3	- 680	- 12.3
Clay	13,689	12,923	+ 766	+ 5.9	- 241	- 1.9
Codington	20,885	19,140	+ 1,745	+ 9.1	+ 376	+ 2.0
Corson	5,196	4,994	+ 202	+ 4.0	- 622	- 12.5
Custer	6,000	4,698	+ 1,302	+ 27.7	+ -1,115	+ 23.7
Davison	17,820	17,319	+ 501	+ 2.9	- 611	- 3.5
Day	8,133	8,713	- 580	- 6.7	- 682	- 7.8
Deuel	5,289	5,686	- 397	- 7.0	- 485	- 8.5
Dewey	5,366	5,170	+ 196	+ 3.8	- 676	- 13.1
Douglas	4,181	4,569	- 388	- 8.5	- 561	- 12.3
Edmunds	5,159	5,548	- 389	- 7.0	- 622	- 11.2
Fall River	8,439	7,505	+ 934	+ 12.4	+ 898	+ 12.0
Faulk	3,327	3,893	- 566	- 14.5	- 619	- 15.9
Grant	9,013	9,005	+ 8	+ 0.1	- 362	- 4.0
Gregory	6,015	6,710	- 695	- 10.4	- 876	- 13.1
Haakon	2,794	2,802	- 8	- 0.3	- 333	- 11.9
Hamlin	5,261	5,520	- 259	- 4.7	- 274	- 5.0
Hand	4,948	5,883	- 935	- 15.9	- 1,130	- 19.2
Hanson	3,415	3,781	- 366	- 9.7	- 585	- 15.5
Harding	1,700	1,855	- 155	- 8.4	- 256	- 13.8
Hughes	14,220	11,632	+ 2,588	+ 22.2	+ 1,103	+ 9.5
Hutchinson	9,350	10,379	- 1,029	- 9.9	- 1,050	- 10.1
Hyde	2,069	2,515	- 446	- 17.7	- 545	- 21.7
Jackson*	3,437	2,920	+ 517	+ 17.7	+ 121	+ 4.1
Jerauld	2,929	3,310	- 381	- 11.5	- 439	- 13.3
Jones	1,463	1,882	- 419	- 22.3	- 536	- 28.5
Kingsbury	6,679	7,657	- 978	- 12.8	- 845	- 11.0
Lake	10,724	11,456	- 732	- 6.4	- 1,247	- 10.9
Lawrence	18,339	17,453	+ 886	+ 5.1	- 264	- 1.5
Lincoln	13,942	11,761	+ 2,181	+ 18.5	+ 1,649	+ 14.0
Lyman	3,864	4,060	- 196	- 4.8	- 587	- 14.5
McCook	6,444	7,246	- 802	- 11.1	- 843	- 11.6
McPherson	4,027	5,022	- 995	- 19.8	- 1,004	- 20.0
Marshall	5,404	5,965	- 561	- 9.4	- 567	- 9.5
Meade	20,717	17,020	+ 3,697	+ 21.7	+ 1,762	+ 10.4
Mellette	2,249	2,420	- 171	- 7.0	- 430	- 17.8
Miner	3,739	4,454	- 715	- 16.1	- 717	- 16.1
Minnehaha	109,435	95,209	+ 14,226	+ 14.9	+ 5,396	+ 5.7
Moody	6,692	7,622	- 930	- 12.2	- 1,108	- 14.5
Pennington	70,361	59,349	+ 11,012	+ 18.6	+ 147	+ 2.5
Perkins	4,700	4,769	- 69	- 1.4	- 239	- 5.0
Potter	3,674	4,449	- 775	- 17.4	- 984	- 22.1
Roberts	10,911	11,678	- 767	- 6.6	- 1,433	- 12.3
Sanborn	3,213	3,697	- 484	- 13.1	- 528	- 14.3
Shannon	11,323	8,198	+ 3,125	+ 38.1	+ 981	+ 12.0
Spink	9,201	10,595	- 1,394	- 13.2	- 1,594	- 15.0
Stanley	2,533	2,457	+ 76	+ 3.1	- 196	- 8.0
Sully	1,990	2,362	- 372	- 15.7	- 576	- 24.4
Todd	7,328	6,606	+ 722	+ 10.9	- 790	- 12.0
Tripp	7,268	8,171	- 903	- 11.1	- 1,477	- 18.1
Turner	9,255	9,872	- 617	- 6.3	- 473	- 4.8
Union	10,938	9,643	+ 1,295	+ 13.4	+ 638	+ 6.6
Walworth	7,011	7,842	- 831	- 10.6	- 1,227	- 15.6
Yankton	18,952	19,039	- 87	- 0.5	- 1,379	- 7.2
Ziebach	2,308	2,221	+ 87	+ 3.9	- 303	- 13.6

*Jackson and Washabaugh Combined into one on January 1, 1979. (Now called Jackson County.)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census - 1980 Advanced Report (Revised South Dakota 7/15/81).

of 15,883 or 7% during the 1970-80 decade, slightly lower than the 8.7% for 1960-70 (Table 5).

The five middle-sized urban places (5,000-9,999) totalled 30,060 in 1970 and increased slightly to 30,557 in 1980 (a 2% increase). This was a much smaller increase than the 20% increase in the 1960-70 decade.

The eight smaller communities (2,500-4,999) in 1970 reflected a gain from the 1960-70 decade to the 1970-80 decade from 126 people (0.4%) to 469 people (1.6%), due to the increases in Belle Fouche and Milbank. The total population of this classification grew slightly from 29,433 people in 1970 to 29,902 in 1980.

SUMMARY

Findings relative to population change are:

1. State Total: Reports show South Dakota's population on April 1, 1980, to be 690,768, an increase of 24,511 (3.8%) over the state's 1970 population of 666,257. The population increase during the 1970's represents a reversal from the 1960-70 period when the state lost 14,257 (2.1%).

2. Counties: Twenty-four of the state's 66 counties increased in population during 1970-80 (14 gained in the 1960-70 decade). The largest increase was Minnehaha County with 14,226 and the smallest was Buffalo with 56.

3. State Planning Districts: Of the state's six planning districts, two gained population and four lost during the 1970-80 decade. All six districts lost population in the 1960-70 decade. District VI, which includes the Black Hills, had the greatest rate of gain (16.8%).

Findings relative to net-migration are:

1. State Total: Net migration is calculated to be 26,384 for the 1970-80 decade. This amounts to a loss of 4.0% of the state's 1970 population. The net out-migration for the 1960-70 decade was over 92,000 or 13.6%.

2. Counties: Thirteen counties showed net in-migration for the 1970's in contrast to only four in the 1960's. In the main, net in-migration was limited to Black Hills counties and to counties with large cities or adjacent to large cities.

3. State Planning Districts: Two of the six districts had net in-migration. District II, which includes Minnehaha County, had the larger rate. District VI, with Pennington, also had net in-migration.

Findings relative to urban places:

South Dakota had 24 urban places in 1980. Two counties had two urban places each (Minnehaha and Pennington), and the remaining urban places were located one to each county. Thus of the 66 counties, only 22 had incorporated communities with populations as large as 2,500. Seven urban places lost population in the 1970's and 17 gained population. The largest cities (Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, and Mitchell) experienced low to moderate growth rates in 1970-80. These six cities have a combined population of 198,146 or 29% of the state's total population.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the help of Deb Crotchett, research assistant in rural sociology, in the preparation of this publication.

Published in accordance with an Act passed in 1881 by the 14th Legislative Assembly, Dakota Territory, establishing the Dakota Agriculture College and with the Act of re-organization passed in 1887 by the 17th Legislative Assembly, which established the Agricultural Experiment Station at South Dakota State University
File: 5.4-1—2M—12-81mb—758