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Population Change in South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

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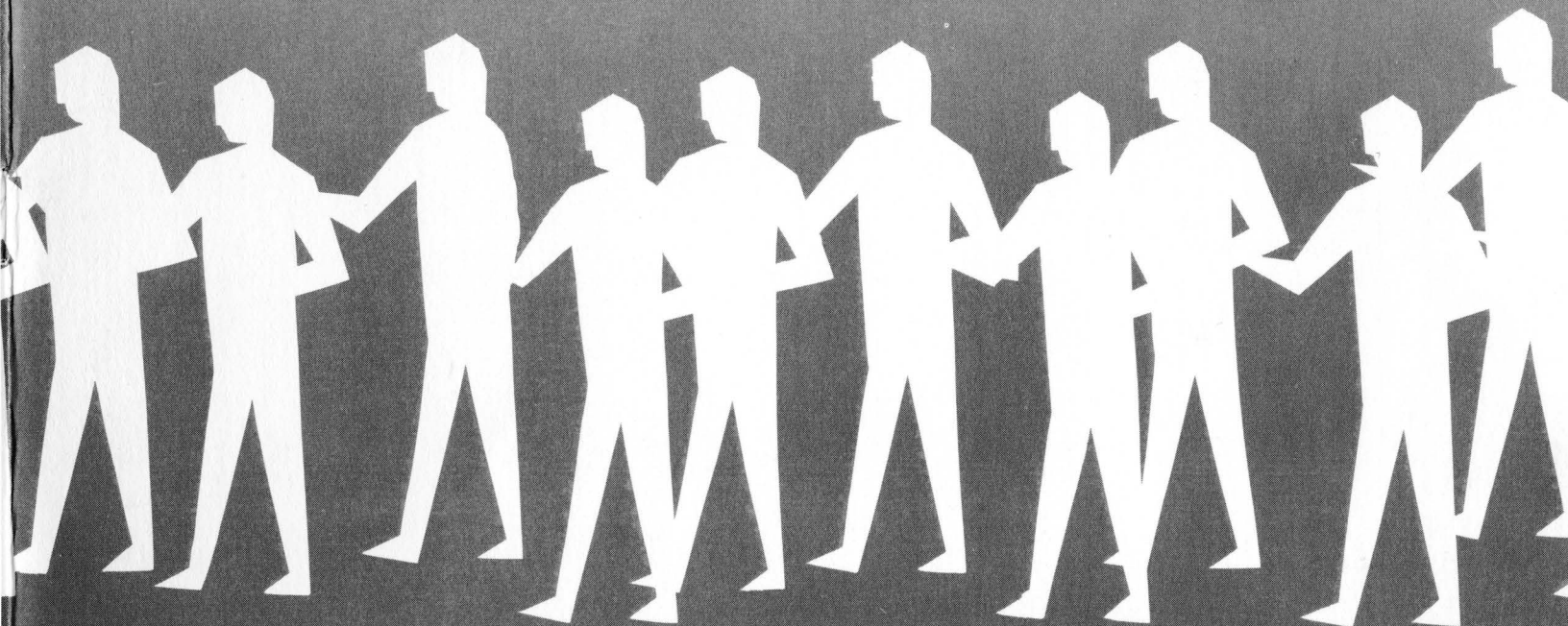
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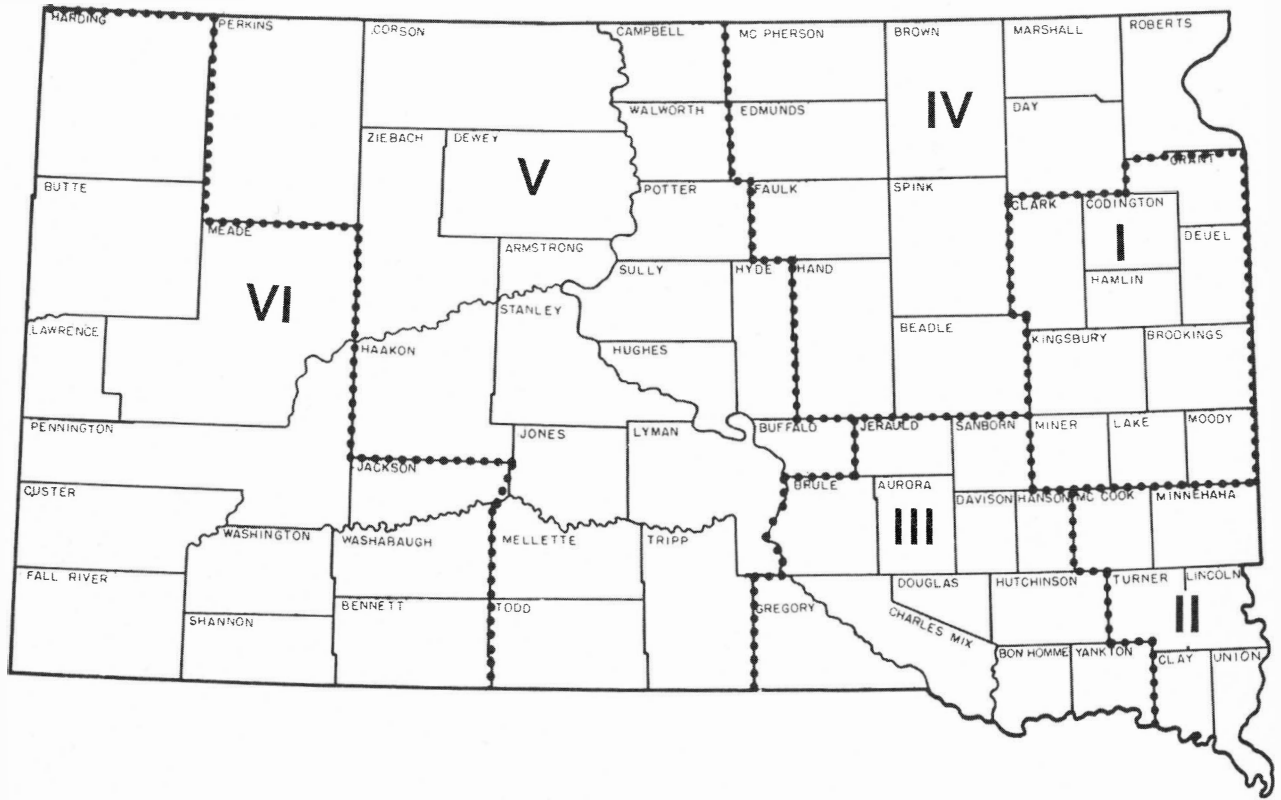
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Population Change in South Dakota Small Towns 1960-1970

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South Dakota Planning Districts



POPULATION CHANGE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

SMALL TOWNS: 1960-1970

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1975

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SMALL TOWNS: 1960-1970

By

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INTRODUCTION

A major rural state characteristic is the large proportion of incorporated places that are small towns. This is especially true in South Dakota where 92% of the incorporated towns had under 2,500 inhabitants in 1970 and were classified as rural. South Dakota had 666,257 residents in 1970, and one of every five persons lived in these rural small towns.

For this study, small towns are defined as those incorporated places with a population under 2,500 inhabitants in both 1960 and 1970. Consequently, Fort Pierre and Deadwood, although they had 1970 populations of 2,409 and 1,448, respectively, were not considered small towns in this study because they had populations of 2,500 or more in 1960. Furthermore, Box Elder and Dimock were not included under this definition because they became incorporated after 1960.

During the past three decades many South Dakota small towns have been declining in population. In fact, from 1940 to 1970 the total population residing in South Dakota's small towns changed from 142,375 to 125,511, a loss of 16,864 inhabitants, or 11.8%. The significance of this loss in small town population is not so much the numerical decline for the State as a whole but the fact that the population losses for small towns have varied from one community to another during recent decades. For example, from 1960 to 1970 changes in small town population size ranged from an increase of 67% for Camp Crook to a loss of 81% for Ardmore.

These declines, whether real or prospective, concern numerous segments of the population. Local businessmen fear the loss of potential consumers, farmers fear the loss of marketing and trading facilities, and community leaders fear lost support or loyalties. Governmental agencies face declining tax bases as expenditures for schools, roads and other services continue. The residents of declining communities feel threatened by losses, not only of individuals, but of facilities such as hospitals, churches, and schools.

THE PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Changes of varying magnitude in small town population generate questions regarding the explanation for small town population gains and losses. Consequently, this study attempted to determine:

1. The changes that occurred in the population of South Dakota small towns from 1960 to 1970.
2. In what way the amount of population change for small towns differed when small towns of varying size were compared with each other and when county seat communities were compared with non-county seat towns.
3. The factors that help explain the variations in population change for small towns in South Dakota from 1960 to 1970.

Research related to these questions is important. Knowledge of small town population changes and of factors that help explain why some small towns grow while others decline should assist area planning and programming initiated by various governmental, educational, economic, recreational and religious agencies. Furthermore, this investigation permits the continuation of related analysis done for the decades 1940 to 1950 and 1950 to 1960, previously reported by Field and Dimit.¹

SMALL TOWN POPULATION CHANGES

Examination of the population data for the 1960-1970 decade raises the question, "What kinds of gains or losses did the small towns in South Dakota have from 1960 to 1970, and how do these changes compare among the small towns themselves and with previous decades?" The following section of the report examines changes in small town population from the perspective of that question.

Gains and Losses

Census reports regarding changes in population from 1960 to 1970 for South Dakota reveal that the State's small towns experienced varying gains or losses. For descriptive purposes, the small towns of South Dakota were rank-ordered according to the percentage gain or loss each experienced. The small town with the highest percentage growth was listed first and the one with the greatest percentage decline listed last. The small towns are listed in rank order by type of growth in the subsequent Tables 1-6. Appendix I lists the small towns in alphabetical order, and reports their population size in 1960 and 1970, the amount of gains or losses for each community, and the percentage change for the decade.

¹Donald R. Field and Robert M. Dimit, Population Change in South Dakota Small Towns and Cities. Brookings: South Dakota State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 571, March, 1970.

To compare 1960-1970 changes in population according to the extent of gains or losses, the small towns were classified as high growth, moderate growth, low growth, low decline, moderate decline and high decline communities. High growth small towns were defined as those increasing in size by 20% or more; moderate growth, 6% or more but less than 20%; and low growth, less than 6%. Low decline small towns were defined as those reporting a decline in size by less than 15%; moderate decline, 15% or more but less than 30%; high decline, over 30%.

During the past decade 75 small towns (27%) in South Dakota gained population. Kennebec and Esmond were the same size in 1970 as in 1960. A total of 203 small towns (73%) lost population. Camp Crook had the largest gain with 67%; and Ardmore showed the greatest decline with 81%.

High Growth Communities

Fourteen communities in South Dakota were classified as high growth small towns. They are listed in rank order by percentage growth in Table 1. Within this group Camp Crook experienced the largest percentage gain (66.7%), although the absolute numerical gain was only 60 inhabitants. Mission had the smallest increase, with a gain of 20.9%. Among high growth towns, Springfield had the largest numerical increase, with a gain of 372 persons from 1960 to 1970; and Broadland showed the least, with an increase of 12 inhabitants.

Table 1. Percentage Changes in Rank Order for High Growth South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Camp Crook	66.7	Alcester	30.9
Tea	60.6	Corsica	28.4
Whitewood	46.6	Utica	27.1
Twin Brooks	41.9	Volga	25.9
Broadland	36.4	Wall	25.0
Springfield	31.2	Wolsey	23.2
Baltic	30.9	Mission	20.9

Moderate Growth Communities

Twenty-seven communities in South Dakota were classified as moderate growth small towns (Table 2). Valley Springs experienced the largest percentage gain (19.9%) within this group. Parkston and Fairburn had the smallest gains, with 6.4% increases. Gregory had the largest numerical increase, with a gain of 278 persons from 1960 to 1970. Fairburn showed the least, gaining three inhabitants. Almost one-half of the moderate growth communities experienced gains of 15-19%.

Table 2. Percentage Changes in Rank Order for Moderate Growth
South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Valley Springs	19.9	Murdo	10.4
Freeman	19.0	Burke	10.0
Hermosa	19.0	Lennox	9.9
Gregory	18.8	Dallas	9.9
Hoven	18.1	Highmore	8.8
Long Lake	17.4	Harrisburg	8.0
Summit	17.3	Rosholt	7.8
Salem	17.1	Eagle Butte	7.1
North Sioux City	16.8	Jefferson	7.0
Claire City	16.3	Dell Rapids	6.9
Hartford	16.3	Parkston	6.4
Platte	15.8	Fairburn	6.4
Irene	15.5		
Mound City	13.9		
Agar	12.2		

Low Growth Communities

Thirty-four South Dakota communities were classified as low growth small towns (Table 3). White River had the largest percentage gain (5.8%) among them. Marion increased least, with a gain of 0.1%. Wagner had the largest numerical increase in this group, gaining 69 persons during the decade. Goodwin, Timber Lake, White and Marion increased one resident each.

Table 3. Percentage Changes in Rank Order for Low Growth
South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
White River	5.8	Clear Lake	1.8
Armour	5.7	Tripp	1.7
Naples	5.6	Britton	1.6
Martin	5.4	Reliance	1.5
Mount Vernon	5.0	Canistota	1.4
Ipswich	5.0	Colton	1.3
Presho	4.7	Goodwin	0.9
Castlewood	4.6	Hosmer	0.9
Lesterville	4.6	De Smet	0.9
Wagner	4.4	Lake Norden	0.8
Badger	4.3	Wessington	0.5
Glenham	4.1	Timber Lake	0.2
Ethan	4.0	White	0.2
Miller	3.2	Marion	0.1
Gayville	3.1		
Chancellor	2.8		
Centerville	2.6		
Tabor	2.6		
Aurora	2.2		
Grenville	2.0		

Low Decline Communities

Ninety-six communities in South Dakota were classified as low decline small towns (Table 4). Of low decline communities, Garretson and Elk Point had the smallest percentage loss (0.4%), with absolute numerical losses of three and six, respectively. Monroe and St. Lawrence had the greatest losses (14.1%), declining 12 and 14 persons, respectively.

Table 4. Percentage Changes in Rank Order for Low Decline
South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Garretson	-0.4	Wilmot	-5.0
Elk Point	-0.4	Lane	-5.1
White Lake	-0.5	Viborg	-5.3
Eureka	-0.5	Leola	-5.5
Bowdle	-0.9	Carter	-5.6
McIntosh	-0.9	Frederick	-5.8
Tyndall	-1.3	Colome	-5.8
Orient	-1.5	Tulare	-6.2
Carthage	-1.6	Fruitdale	-6.3
Gettysburg	-1.8	Webster	-6.5
Brentford	-2.1	Pierpont	-6.6
Cresbard	-2.2	Standburg	-6.7
Selby	-2.2	Onida	-6.9
Roslyn	-2.3	Draper	-7.0
Mission Hill	-2.4	Wentworth	-7.1
Faith	-2.5	Hill City	-7.2
Alexandria	-2.6	Hayti	-7.5
Iroquois	-2.6	Stickney	-7.7
Howard	-2.7	Beresford	-7.7
Ree Heights	-2.7	Humboldt	-7.8
Stratford	-2.8	New Effington	-7.9
Peever	-2.9	Lebanon	-8.1
Eden	-2.9	Ramona	-8.1
Kadoka	-3.0	Volin	-8.2
Worthing	-3.3	Kransburg	-8.3
Bryant	-3.8	Hecla	-8.3
Groton	-4.0	Scotland	-8.6
Arlington	-4.2	Clark	-8.6
Avon	-4.2	Bridgewater	-8.8
Mellette	-4.3	Faulkton	-9.1
Cavour	-4.3	Egan	-9.4
Dupree	-4.6	Kimball	-9.5
Plankinton	-4.8	Colman	-9.7
Flandreau	-4.8	New Underwood	-10.0
Menno	-4.9	Emery	-10.0

Table 4 continued.

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Doland	-10.6	Elkton	-12.9
Brandt	-10.8	Astoria	-13.1
Bison	-11.2	Claremont	-13.4
Hurley	-11.3	Yale	-13.5
Corona	-11.3	Estelline	-13.6
Sinai	-11.4	Turton	-13.6
Philip	-11.8	Lake Andes	-13.6
Columbia	-11.8	Veblen	-13.7
Parker	-12.0	Dante	-13.7
Big Stone City	-12.1	Monroe	-14.1
McLaughlin	-12.2	St. Lawrence	-14.1
Montrose	-12.3		
Herreid	-12.4		
Wessington Springs	-12.6		
Ortley	-12.6		

Moderate Decline Communities

Sixty-eight communities in South Dakota were classified as moderate decline small towns (Table 5). Of these moderately declining small towns, Lake Preston experienced the smallest percentage loss (15.0%). Lake Preston had an absolute numerical loss of 143 persons. Altamont had the greatest percentage loss (29.9%), although the absolute numerical loss was only 23 inhabitants.

Table 5. Population and Percentage Changes for Moderate Decline
South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Lake Preston	-15.0	Bonesteel	-21.7
Chelsea	-15.1	Northville	-22.2
Dolton	-15.5	Gary	-22.3
Pukwana	-15.8	Hitchcock	-22.3
Artesian	-16.1	Ward	-23.0
Artas	-16.1	South Shore	-23.2
Oldham	-16.2	Trent	-23.7
Spencer	-16.3	Olivet	-23.7
Blunt	-16.4	Central City	-23.9
Bristol	-16.4	Custer	-24.1
Bradley	-16.5	Wakonda	-24.1
Newell	-16.7	Hetland	-24.3
Lemmon	-17.2	Willow Lake	-24.4
Canova	-17.4	Alpena	-24.6
Langford	-17.4	Ashton	-24.7
Woonsocket	-17.7	Java	-24.9
Roswell	-18.2	Roscoe	-25.2
Pollock	-18.2	Fulton	-25.2
Waubay	-18.2	Stockholm	-25.2
Davis	-18.5	Nisland	-25.6
Onaka	-18.8	Seneca	-26.7
Geddes	-18.9	Harrold	-27.8
Florence	-19.0	Wallace	-28.0
Isabel	-19.3	Labolt	-28.0
Toronto	-19.4	Conde	-28.1
Hudson	-19.6	Delmont	-28.4
Winfred	-19.7	St. Francis	-28.7
Nunda	-19.8	Fairview	-28.7
Frankfort	-20.0	Delrichs	-28.8
Buffalo Gap	-20.1	Bushnell	-29.3
Bruce	-20.2	Sherman	-29.3
Lowry	-20.5	Revilla	-29.7
Hazel	-21.1	Altamont	-29.9
Herrick	-21.3		
Fairfax	-21.3		

High Decline Communities

Thirty-nine communities in South Dakota were classified as high decline small towns (Table 6). Among these Marvin and New Witten experienced the smallest percentage loss (30.1%) and had numerical losses of 28 and 44, respectively. Ardmore had the greatest percentage decline (80.8%), with an absolute numerical loss of 59 inhabitants.

Table 6. Population and Percentage Changes for High Decline South Dakota Small Towns: 1960-1970

Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Name	Percentage Change 1960-1970
Marvin	-30.1	Butler	-38.7
New Witten	-30.1	Farmer	-38.9
Tolstoy	-30.3	Buffalo	-39.7
Oacoma	-31.1	Pringle	-40.7
Letcher	-32.1	Bancroft	-44.2
Raymond	-32.1	Garden City	-44.2
Erwin	-32.5	Lake City	-45.7
Wetonka	-32.6	Virgil	-46.9
Vilas	-32.7	Lily	-47.9
Midland	-32.7	Akaska	-48.9
Ravinia	-33.5	Wood	-50.6
Edgemont	-33.7	White Rock	-53.9
Henry	-34.1	Interior	-54.7
Morristown	-34.2	Hillsvievw	-56.8
Wasta	-35.2	Cottonwood	-57.9
Quinn	-35.2	Belvidere	-58.6
Verdon	-35.7	Rockham	-69.5
Vienna	-35.7	Loyalton	-70.6
Albee	-38.1	Ardmore	-80.8
Andover	-38.4		

Changes by Decade

As previously mentioned, during the 1960's a total of 75 small towns (27%) in South Dakota gained population; Kennebec and Esmond were the same size in 1970 as in 1960; and 203 small towns (73%) lost population. The number of small towns experiencing population loss during the 1960-1970 decade was larger than the number reported for the 1940-1950 and 1950-1960 decades (Table 7). From 1940-1950, 104 small towns increased in size; and 174 lost population. From 1950 to 1960, the numbers were 99 and 179, respectively. The 1960-1970 decrease in the number of small towns gaining

population and increase in the number losing residents continued the trend from small town population change that has prevailed since 1940.

Table 7. Population Changes for South Dakota Small Towns:
1940-1950, 1950-1960, 1960-1970

Change Factor	1940-1950		1950-1960		1960-1970	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Growth	104	37.0	99	35.5	75	26.8
No Change	3	1.0	1	0.4	2	0.7
Decline	<u>174</u>	<u>62.0</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>64.1</u>	<u>203</u>	72.5
Total	281	100.0	279	100.0	280	

Summary of Gains and Losses

Seventy-five small towns in South Dakota increased in size from 1960 to 1970 (Table 8). Of these the high, moderate and low growth communities numbered 14, 27, and 34, respectively. Only 5% of the 280 small towns experienced growth that could be classified as high, 10% were moderate growth towns, and 12% were low growth communities.

Table 8. Number and Percent of South Dakota Small Towns,
by Extent of Growth: 1960-1970

Change Factor	Number	Percent
High Growth	14	5
Moderate Growth	27	10
Low Growth	34	12
Stable	2	1
Low Decline	96	34
Moderate Decline	68	24
High Decline	39	14

Two communities were the same size in 1970 as in 1960, although periodic changes in population size certainly occurred during the 1960's for these small towns.

Two hundred and three communities declined in size over the decade, 72% of the 280 small towns. Of these, 96 were classified as small towns with low declines, 68 as moderate decline towns, and 39 as high decline communities.

Whereas some small towns grew from 1960 to 1970, high growth was experienced by few communities. Most small towns gaining population had low growth. Nearly 75% of the State's small towns lost inhabitants, a continuation of the trend for small South Dakota towns in recent decades.

CHANGES BY STATUS AND SIZE

A further question investigated in this study was, "How did the 1960-1970 changes in the sizes of South Dakota's small towns compare with changes in other segments of the State's population, among towns of different size, and between county seats and non-county seat communities?"

State, Urban and Rural Population

The 1970 South Dakota population was 666,257, a decline of 14,257 (2.1%) from 1960 (Table 9). Urban areas (towns and cities with over 2,500 residents and adjacent unorganized high density tracts) increased by 29,850 residents (11%) from 1960 to 1970. During the decade the rural nonfarm population in South Dakota dropped from 207,646 persons to 202,470, a loss of 5,176 residents (2.5%). Over these same years that part of the rural nonfarm population dwelling in small towns declined from 132,487 to 125,511, a drop of 6,976 (5.3%). Between 1960 and 1970 the rural farm population decreased 38,931 persons (18.8%), a drop from 205,688 to 166,757.

Table 9. Population Changes for South Dakota, Urban and Rural Areas: 1960-1970

	1960 Population	1970 Population	Gain or Loss	Percentage Gain or Loss
South Dakota	680,514	666,257	-14,257	-2.1
Urban	267,180	297,030	29,850	11.1
Rural Nonfarm	207,646	202,470	-5,176	-2.5
Small Town	132,487	125,511	-6,976	-5.3
Rural Farm	205,688	166,757	-38,931	-18.8

The percentage loss for small towns was more than for the State. In fact, the decline of 6,976 persons accounted for 48.9% of the State's total population loss and was greater than the loss sustained by the rural nonfarm segment as a whole. This would suggest that the population losses from most small towns may have been offset by the movement of people to the open-country as rural residents but not as farm operators, especially to rural land adjacent to urban centers.

Population Size

Before comparing 1960-1970 changes in population by size of place for South Dakota small towns, this report will examine changes by size of place, not only for the small towns, but for all incorporated places in South Dakota.

Incorporated Places. South Dakota contained 307 incorporated places in 1960 and 1970. In 1960, 25 were urban (cities with populations of 2,500 or more); 282 were rural small towns. In 1970, 23 were urban; 284 were rural, including Fort Pierre and Deadwood, previously classified in 1960 as urban, and Box Elder and Dimock, incorporated since 1960. Table 10 reports the number of incorporated towns in South Dakota for 1960 and 1970 by size of place.

Table 10. Number of Incorporated Places by Size
in South Dakota, 1960-1970

All Places	Under 500	500 999	1,000 1,499	1,500 1,999	2,000 2,499	2,500 4,999	5,000 9,999	10,000 24,999	25,000 49,999	50,000 & over
<u>1960</u>										
307	195	51	24	7	5	13	4	6	1	1
<u>1970</u>										
307	195	56	19	10	4	11	4	5	2	1

The table shows that:

1. Only Sioux Falls had a population of 50,000 or more in both 1960 and 1970.
2. Cities with populations between 2,500 and 4,999 continued to represent the largest single urban category; however, the number in that group declined from 13 to 11 between 1960 and 1970.
3. The number of small towns with populations under 500 remained at 195 in both 1960 and 1970.

4. From 1960 to 1970 the number of small towns with 1,000-1,499 population declined by five; the number with population under 500 remained at 195; the number with 500-999 residents increased by 5; and the number with 1,500-1,999 people advanced from 7 to 10.

Small Towns

To compare the small town population changes by size of place the 280 small towns selected for study were categorized into four groups: under 500 population, 500-999, 1,000-2,499, and 2,500 and over. Table 11 shows the numbers and percentages of small towns that gained or declined in population from 1960 to 1970, according to size of place. The highest percentage decline by size of place occurred in small towns under 500 population category. The largest percentage gain by size of place occurred among those with 1,000-2,499 inhabitants.

Table 11. Number of Small Towns Gaining or Declining in Population by Size of Place: 1960-1970

	Under 500		500-999		1,000-2,499	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Increased	44	22.8	18	35.4	16	44.4
No Change	2	1.0	0	0	0	0
Declined	<u>147</u>	<u>76.2</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>64.6</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>55.6</u>
Total	193	100.0	51	100.0	36	100.0

South Dakota small town population changes from 1960 to 1970 continue past trends, and apparently support the belief that the greater the size of the rural small town, the greater the probability of intercensal growth.

County Seat Status

Previous studies have demonstrated that county seats in South Dakota have had an advantage over most other communities when growth potential is considered. This advantage exists because the occupational bases of county seats are supplemented by governmental service positions. A question arises as to whether this would be true for county seat towns for the decade 1960 to 1970.

Table 12 reports the number of small South Dakota county seat and non-county seat towns experiencing gains and declines from 1960 to 1970.

Table 12. Population Change for Small Towns, by County Seat Status, 1960-1970

Change Factor	County Seats		Non-county Seats	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Increase	15	36.6	63	26.4
No Change	1	2.4	1	0.4
Decrease	<u>25</u>	<u>60.9</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>73.2</u>
Total	41	100.0	239	100.0

$$\chi^2 = 21.286$$

$$\text{d.f.} = 2$$

$$P = .001$$

Over one-third of the small county seat towns increased in size compared with slightly more than 25% for non-county seat towns. Only 61% of the county seat towns declined in size; whereas 73% of the non-county seat towns lost population.

The differences observed in Table 12 between county seat and non-county seat small towns as to the number gaining or losing population the past decade suggest that there is an association between county-seat status and population change. This is supported statistically and led researchers to conclude that among small towns, county seat status is associated with the fact that some communities lost fewer residents or gained in population from 1960 to 1970.

Summary by Status and Size

Small towns in South Dakota experienced a combined loss of 6,976 persons during 1960 to 1970, nearly one-half the total population loss for the State as a whole. Comparing all incorporated places, the greatest decline in the number of small towns was among those 1,000 to 1,499 in size.

Population changes for small towns in the 1960's continued past trends and support the belief that small towns with larger populations tend to experience greater growth over a 10-year period, except for those with populations under 500.

Small county seat communities in South Dakota have an advantage over most other communities when growth potential is considered.

EXPLAINING SMALL TOWN CHANGE

The third objective of this study was to determine those factors that help explain the population gains and losses occurring among South Dakota small towns from 1960 to 1970.

Hypothesis and Findings

Thirteen factors² were thought to help explain why some small towns grew and others declined during the decade. These factors were designated as the independent variables X_1 through X_{13} and defined as follows:

- X_1 . Number and type of highways serving the small town.
- X_2 . Population size of the small town in 1960.
- X_3 . The small town population change from 1950 to 1960.
- X_4 . Number of miles from the small town to the nearest city of 10,000 or more population.
- X_5 . Number of miles from the small town to the nearest incorporated place under 2,500 population.
- X_6 . Number of years since total discontinuance of railway service to the small town.
- X_7 . County seat or non-county seat status of the small town.
- X_8 . Population change from 1960 to 1970 for the county in which the greater portion of the small town was located.
- X_9 . Change in average farm size for the surrounding county from 1959 to 1969.
- X_{10} . Change in the total market value of all agricultural products sold in the surrounding county, 1959-1969.
- X_{11} . Change in the total market value of all livestock sold in the surrounding county, 1959-1969.
- X_{12} . Change in the total market value of all crops sold in the surrounding county, 1959-1969.

²Other factors could have been selected in addition; however, previous studies by Field and Dimit (op. cit.) and Douglas Chittick (Growth and Decline of South Dakota Trade Centers, 1901-51. Brookings: South Dakota State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Bull. 448, May, 1955) concluded that factors such as those used in this study were associated with small town population decline in South Dakota in earlier decades.

X_{13} . Change in the number of farm laborers for the surrounding county, 1960-1970.

The absolute plus or minus change in the size of the small town from 1960 to 1970 was designated the dependent variable (Y).

The following null hypothesis was formulated:

The set of independent variables X_1 through X_{13} will not help explain significantly the variation observed in the gains or losses for the small town from 1960 to 1970 (Y).³

Stated descriptively, it was found that South Dakota small towns experiencing greater growth from 1960 to 1970 were characterized by:

1. Greater increases in county population from 1960 to 1970 (X_8).
2. Shorter distances to similar small towns (X_5).
3. Greater length of time since the discontinuance of railroad service to the small town (X_6).
4. Greater population growth for the small town from 1950 to 1960 (X_3).
5. Smaller population among towns under 2,500 in 1960 (X_2).

Changes in the average farm size for the surrounding county (X_9), total market value of all agricultural products, livestock and crops sold in the surrounding county (X_{10} , X_{11} , and X_{12}), number of farm laborers in the surrounding county (X_{13}), proximity to cities with 10,000 or more population (X_4), number of highways serving the small town (X_1) and county-seat status (X_7) did not contribute significantly to the explanation of small town population change.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

One of the objectives of this study was to determine the changes that occurred among small towns in South Dakota from 1960 to 1970. It was found that almost 75% of the State's small towns declined in size, with slightly more than one-third experiencing moderate losses (15-29%). Changes of this type continued during the 1960's the progressive declines that have been the pattern since 1940.

Another objective was to examine how the changes in small town population differed with other segments of the State's population, among towns of different size, and between county seat and non-county seat small towns.

³For the purpose of testing the association between the variables a step-wise least squares multiple regression analysis was used. The association between the variables was tested at the .05 level of significance. The statistical data is reported in Appendix II.

The investigators found that except for rural farm areas small towns had the greatest population losses among residential categories in the State, especially those small towns 1,000 to 1,499 in size. These losses continued past trends. It was found that although the number of small towns under 500 inhabitants remained the same, small towns with the largest population and with county seat status had an advantage over other small communities in either attaining greater growth or recording minimal population losses.

Finally, of 13 factors the investigators thought would explain significantly why some small towns grew and others declined during the decade, five were found to characterize small towns that either attained greater growth or had minimal population losses.

Based on the findings, the investigators conclude:

1. Population relocations are continuing in South Dakota, producing population losses from rural farm areas and some small towns, particularly those 1,000 to 1,499 in size.

2. Population growth and decline varies from town to town by size of place. This may be due to the fact that towns under 500 in size and from 500 to 999 inhabitants are approaching the minimum sizes to which they may decline and still perform services to the surrounding area as competitive trade centers. Conversely, small towns with populations over 1,500 in 1960 had more favorable growth advantages than those with populations of 1,000 to 1,499.

3. County seat small towns have an advantage over non-county seat small towns in the capacity to grow or resist rural depopulation. This appears the case because county seats serve as centers for their surrounding trade areas. A certain number of persons are needed to operate and maintain the county governmental services, and these persons dwell in the county seat towns. Furthermore, when constituents visit the county seats for county related business, they often shop at the same time to reduce travel costs to and from the country. These factors add to the economic and population stability of the county seat towns.

4. Population gains and losses of many small towns are associated with population changes occurring in the county in which the community is located. The demographic contention that small towns are closely related to their trade areas appears supported. However, one must use caution when making this conclusion. The investigators believe the relationship between the growth of a small town and the growth of its county is due partly to the fact that increases in a small town's population are also reflected as increases in the population for the county as a whole. Changes in the county populations outside of the small towns in the counties must be compared to the changes occurring in the small towns themselves if conclusions regarding the nature of this demographic association are to be made with greater specification.

5. Adjacency to another small trade center does not necessarily lead to population decline.

6. Discontinuance of railroad service is not associated with population decline. This conclusion, however, calls for additional comments. It has been assumed that discontinuance of railraod service will lead to population declines for small towns. This study tested the association between the amount of population change for small towns from 1960 to 1970 and the number of years since the discontinuance of railroad service to the respective small towns. No attempt was made to evaluate the effects of railroad discontinuance according to historical setting, whether the discontinuance was of less consequential or duplicating railroad services or if the discontinuance resulted in the elimination of the only railroad service to the small town or of only one of multiple railroad connections. The investigators believe that such additional analysis would be helpful, particularly in that the effect of railroad discontinuance on small town population probably varies according to technology and the transportation alternatives that remain.

7. Small towns having previous population increases will probably grow from 1970 to 1980.

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APPENDIX I

Population and Percent Change of Small Towns
in South Dakota: 1960-1970
in Alphabetical Order

Name	Population		Percentage	
	1970	1960	Gain or Loss 1960-1970	Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Agar	156	139	17	12.2
Akaska	46	90	-44	-48.9
Albee	26	42	-16	-38.1
Alcester	627	479	148	30.9
Alexandria	598	614	-16	-2.6
Alpena	307	407	-100	-24.6
Altamont	54	77	-23	-29.9
Andover	138	224	-86	-38.4
Ardmore	14	73	-59	-80.8
Arlington	954	996	-42	-4.2
Armour	925	875	50	5.7
Artas	73	87	-14	-16.1
Artesian	277	330	-53	-16.1
Ashton	137	182	-45	-24.7
Astoria	153	176	-23	-13.1
Aurora	237	232	5	2.2
Avon	610	637	-27	-4.2
Badger	122	117	5	4.3
Baltic	364	278	86	30.9
Bancroft	48	86	-38	-44.2
Belvidere	96	232	-136	-58.6
Beresford	1,655	1,794	-139	-7.7
Big Stone City	631	718	-87	-12.1
Bison	406	457	-51	-11.2
Blunt	445	532	-87	-16.4
Bonesteel	354	452	-98	-21.7
Bowdle	667	673	-6	-0.9
Bradley	157	188	-31	-16.5
Brandt	132	148	-16	-10.8
Brentford	94	96	-2	-2.1
Bridgewater	633	694	-61	-8.8
Bristol	470	562	-92	-16.4
Britton	1,465	1,442	23	1.6
Broadland	45	33	12	36.4
Bruce	217	272	-55	-20.2
Bryant	502	522	-20	-3.8
Buffalo	393	652	-259	-39.7
Buffalo Gap	155	194	-39	-20.1
Burke	892	811	81	10.0
Bushnell	65	92	-27	-29.3
Butler	38	62	-24	-38.7
Camp Crook	150	90	60	66.7
Canistota	636	627	9	1.4

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population		Percentage	
	1970	1960	Gain or Loss 1960-1970	Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Canova	204	247	-43	-17.4
Carter	17	18	-1	-5.6
Carthage	362	368	-6	-1.6
Castlewood	523	500	23	4.6
Cavour	134	140	-6	-4.3
Centerville	910	887	23	2.6
Central City	188	247	-59	-23.9
Chancellor	220	214	6	2.8
Chelsea	45	53	-8	-15.1
Claire City	100	86	14	16.3
Claremont	214	247	-33	-13.4
Clark	1,356	1,484	-128	-8.6
Clear Lake	1,157	1,137	20	1.8
Colman	456	505	-49	-9.7
Colome	375	398	-23	-5.8
Colton	601	593	8	1.3
Columbia	240	272	-32	-11.8
Conde	279	388	-109	-28.1
Corona	133	150	-17	-11.3
Corsica	615	479	136	28.4
Cottonwood	16	38	-22	-57.9
Cresbard	224	229	-5	-2.2
Custer	1,597	2,105	-508	-24.1
Dallas	233	212	21	9.9
Dante	88	102	-14	-13.7
Davis	101	124	-23	-18.5
Dell Rapids	1,991	1,863	128	6.9
Delmont	260	363	-103	-28.4
De Smet	1,336	1,324	12	0.9
Doland	430	481	-51	-10.6
Dolton	60	71	-11	-15.5
Draper	200	215	-15	-7.0
Dupree	523	548	-25	-4.6
Eagle Butte	530	495	35	7.1
Eden	132	136	-4	-2.9
Edgemont	1,174	1,772	-598	-33.7
Egan	281	310	-29	-9.4
Elk Point	1,372	1,378	-6	-0.4
Elkton	541	621	-80	-12.9
Emery	452	502	-50	-10.0
Erwin	106	157	-51	-32.5
Esmond	19	19	0	0.0
Estelline	624	722	-98	-13.6
Ethan	309	297	12	4.0
Eureka	1,547	1,555	-8	-0.5
Fairburn	50	47	3	6.4
Fairfax	199	253	-54	-21.3

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population	Population	Gain or Loss	Percentage
	1970	1960	1960-1970	Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Fairview	72	101	-29	-28.7
Faith	576	591	-15	-2.5
Farmer	58	95	-37	-38.9
Faulkton	955	1,051	-96	-9.1
Flandreau	2,027	2,129	-102	-4.8
Florence	175	216	-41	-19.0
Frankfort	192	240	-48	-20.0
Frederick	359	381	-22	-5.8
Freeman	1,357	1,140	217	19.0
Fruitdale	74	79	-5	-6.3
Fulton	101	135	-34	-25.2
Garden City	126	226	-100	-44.2
Garretson	847	850	-3	-0.4
Gary	366	471	-105	-22.3
Gayville	296	261	8	3.1
Geddes	308	380	-72	-18.9
Gettysburg	1,915	1,950	-35	-1.8
Glenham	178	171	7	4.1
Goodwin	114	113	1	0.9
Gregory	1,756	1,478	278	18.8
Grenville	154	151	3	2.0
Groton	1,021	1,063	-42	-4.0
Harrisburg	338	313	25	8.0
Harrold	184	255	-71	-27.8
Hartford	800	688	112	16.3
Hayti	393	425	-32	-7.5
Hazel	101	128	-27	-21.2
Hecla	407	444	-37	-8.3
Henry	182	276	-94	-34.1
Hermosa	150	126	24	19.0
Herreid	672	767	-95	-12.4
Herrick	126	160	-34	-21.3
Hetland	81	107	-26	-24.3
Highmore	1,173	1,078	95	8.8
Hill City	389	419	-30	-7.2
Hillsview	19	44	-25	-56.8
Hitchcock	150	193	-43	-22.3
Hosmer	437	433	4	0.9
Hoven	671	568	103	18.1
Howard	1,175	1,208	-33	-2.7
Hudson	366	455	-89	-19.6
Humboldt	411	446	-35	-7.8
Hurley	399	450	-51	-11.3
Interior	81	179	-98	-54.7
Ipswich	1,187	1,131	56	5.0
Irene	461	399	62	15.5
Iroquois	375	385	-10	-2.6

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population	Population	Gain or Loss	Percentage
	1970	1960	1960-1970	Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Isabel	394	488	-94	-19.3
Java	305	406	-101	-24.9
Jefferson	474	443	31	7.0
Kadoka	815	840	-25	-3.0
Kennebec	372	372	0	0.0
Kimball	825	912	-87	-9.5
Kranzburg	143	156	-13	-8.3
Labolt	90	125	-35	-28.0
Lake Andes	948	1,097	-149	-13.6
Lake City	44	81	-37	-45.7
Lake Norden	393	390	3	0.8
Lake Preston	812	955	-143	-15.0
Lane	94	99	-5	-5.1
Langford	328	397	-69	-17.4
Lebanon	182	198	-16	-8.1
Lemmon	1,997	2,412	-415	-17.2
Lennox	1,487	1,353	134	9.9
Leola	787	833	-46	-5.5
Lesterville	181	173	8	4.6
Letcher	201	296	-95	-32.1
Lily	62	119	-57	-47.9
Long Lake	128	109	19	17.4
Lowry	35	44	-9	-20.5
Loyalton	10	34	-24	-70.6
McIntosh	563	568	-5	-0.9
McLaughlin	863	983	-120	-12.2
Marion	844	843	1	0.1
Martin	1,248	1,184	64	5.4
Marvin	65	93	-28	-30.1
Mellette	199	208	-9	-4.3
Menno	796	837	-41	-4.9
Midland	270	401	-131	-32.7
Miller	2,148	2,081	67	3.2
Mission	739	611	128	20.9
Mission Hill	161	165	-4	-2.4
Monroe	134	156	-22	-14.1
Montrose	377	430	-53	-12.3
Morristown	144	219	-75	-34.2
Mound City	164	144	20	13.9
Mount Vernon	398	379	19	5.0
Murdo	865	783	82	10.5
Naples	38	36	2	5.6
New Effington	258	280	-22	-7.9
Newell	664	797	-153	-16.7
New Underwood	416	462	-46	-10.0
New Witten	102	146	-44	-30.1
Nisland	157	211	-54	-25.6

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population 1970	Population 1960	Gain or Loss 1960-1970	Percentage Gain or Loss 1960-1970
North Sioux City	860	736	124	16.8
Northville	119	153	-34	-22.2
Nunda	85	106	-21	-19.8
Oacoma	215	312	-97	-31.1
Oelrichs	94	132	-38	-28.8
Oldham	244	291	-47	-16.2
Olivet	103	135	-32	-23.7
Onaka	69	85	-16	-18.8
Onida	785	843	-58	-6.9
Orient	131	133	-2	-1.5
Ortley	111	127	-16	-12.6
Parker	1,005	1,142	-137	-12.0
Parkston	1,611	1,514	97	6.4
Peever	202	208	-6	-2.9
Philip	983	1,114	-131	-11.8
Pierpont	241	258	-17	-6.6
Plankinton	613	644	-31	-4.8
Platte	1,351	1,167	184	15.8
Pollock	341	417	-76	-18.2
Presho	922	881	41	4.7
Pringle	86	145	-59	-40.7
Pukwana	208	247	-39	-15.8
Quinn	105	162	-57	-35.2
Ramona	227	247	-20	-8.1
Ravinia	109	164	-55	-33.5
Raymond	114	168	-54	-32.1
Ree Heights	183	188	-5	-2.7
Reliance	204	201	3	1.5
Reville	142	202	-60	-29.7
Rockham	60	197	-137	-69.5
Roscoe	398	532	-134	-25.2
Rosholt	456	423	33	7.8
Roslyn	250	256	-6	-2.3
Roswell	32	39	-7	-17.9
St. Francis	300	421	-121	-28.7
St. Lawrence	249	290	-41	-14.1
Salem	1,391	1,188	203	17.1
Scotland	984	1,077	-93	-8.6
Selby	957	979	-22	-2.2
Seneca	118	161	-43	-26.7
Sherman	82	116	-34	-29.3
Sinai	147	166	-19	-11.4
South Shore	199	259	-60	-23.2
Spencer	385	460	-75	-16.3
Springfield	1,566	1,194	372	31.2
Stickney	421	456	-35	-7.7
Stockholm	116	155	-39	-25.2

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population		Percentage	
	1970	1960	Gain or Loss 1960-1970	Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Strandburg	98	105	-7	-6.7
Stratford	106	109	-3	-2.8
Summit	332	283	49	17.3
Tabor	388	378	10	2.6
Tea	302	188	114	60.6
Timber Lake	625	624	1	0.2
Tolstoy	99	142	-43	-30.3
Toronto	216	268	-52	-19.4
Trent	177	232	-55	-23.7
Tripp	851	837	14	1.7
Tulare	211	225	-14	-6.2
Turton	121	140	-19	-13.6
Twin Brooks	122	86	36	41.9
Tyndall	1,245	1,262	-17	-1.3
Utica	89	70	19	27.1
Valley Springs	566	472	94	19.9
Veblen	377	437	-60	-13.7
Verdon	18	28	-10	-35.7
Viborg	662	699	-37	-5.3
Vienna	119	191	-72	-37.7
Vilas	33	49	-16	-32.7
Virgil	43	81	-38	-46.9
Volga	982	780	202	25.9
Volin	157	171	-14	-8.2
Wagner	1,655	1,586	69	4.4
Wakonda	290	382	-92	-24.1
Wall	786	629	157	25.0
Wallace	95	132	-37	-28.0
Ward	57	74	-17	-23.0
Wasta	127	196	-69	-35.2
Waubay	696	851	-155	-18.2
Webster	2,252	2,409	-157	-6.5
Wentworth	196	211	-15	-7.1
Wessington	380	378	2	0.5
Wessington Springs	1,300	1,488	-188	-12.6
Wetonka	31	46	-15	-32.6
White	418	417	1	0.2
White Lake	395	397	-2	-0.5
White River	617	583	34	5.8
White Rock	35	76	-41	-53.9
Whitewood	689	470	219	46.6
Willow Lake	353	467	-114	-24.4
Wilmot	518	545	-27	-5.0
Winfred	110	137	-27	-19.7
Wolsey	436	354	82	23.2
Wood	132	267	-135	-50.6

Appendix I continued.

Name	Population 1970	Population 1960	Gain or Loss 1960-1970	Percentage Gain or Loss 1960-1970
Woonsocket	852	1,035	-183	-17.7
Worthing	294	304	-10	-3.3
Yale	148	171	-23	-13.5

APPENDIX II

Sums of Squares and Proportion of Variance
Accounted for by the Independent Variables
as Entered into the Equation

Independent Variables	Sum of Squares Accounted For	Proportion of Variation Explained	Cumulative Proportion of Variation Explained	Regression Coefficient for Significant Variables	Y Intercept
X ₈	73100.188	0.032	0.032	0.007	22.203
X ₅	59385.188	0.026	0.059	-4.233	
X ₆	40623.828	0.018	0.077	0.732	
X ₃	30623.375	0.014	0.090	0.132	
X ₂	31794.094	0.014	0.104	-0.024	
X ₁₀	14639.066	0.006	0.111		
X ₁₃	13659.145	0.006	0.117		
X ₁	7488.363	0.003	0.120		
X ₉	2145.800	0.001	0.121		
X ₁₂	1666.150	0.001	0.122		
X ₁₁	7174.800	0.003	0.125		
X ₇	1371.211	0.001	0.125		
X ₄	110.504	0.000	0.125		

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