

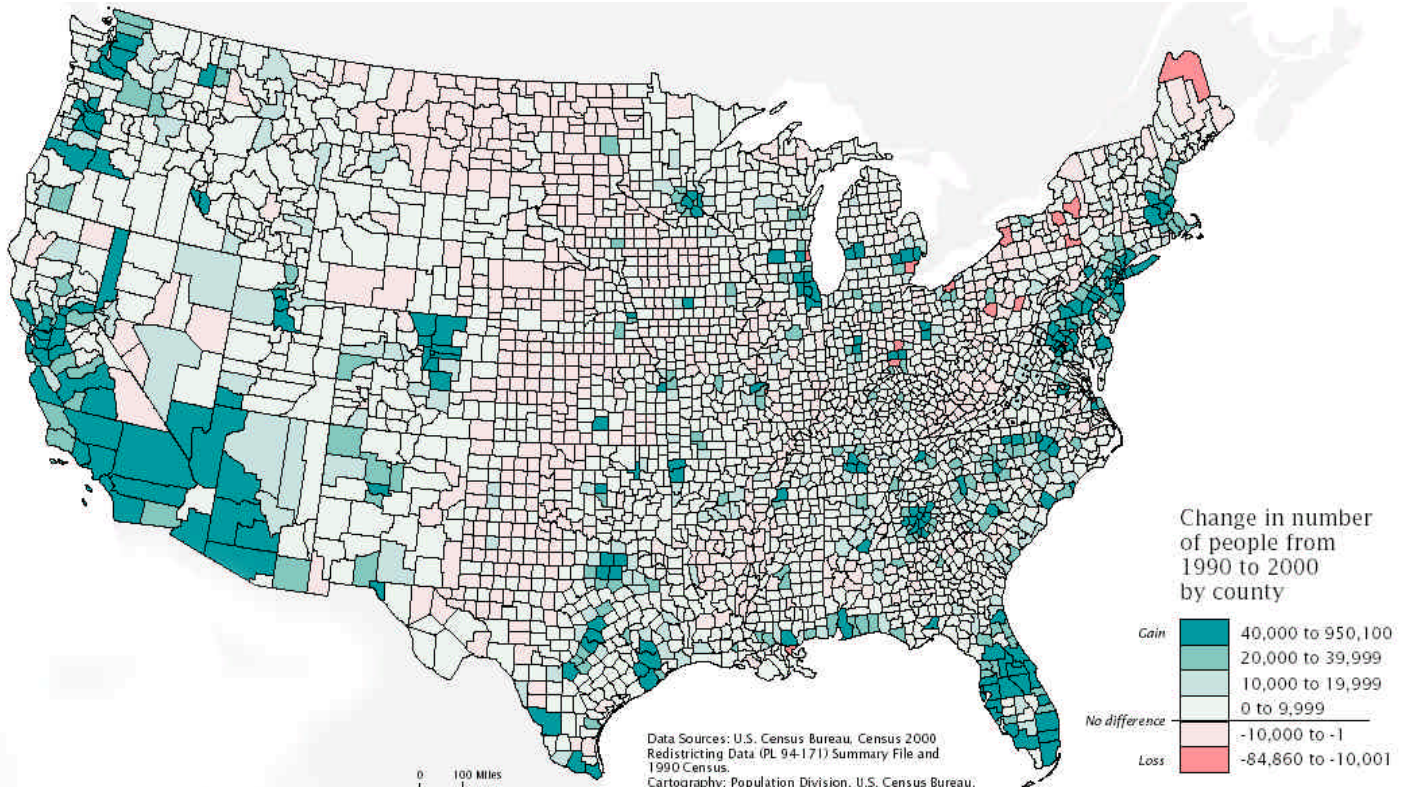


REAL GEOGRAPHY

EXPLORING THE GEOGRAPHY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

McGraw-Hill Higher Education

“Reapportionment” by Jon C. Malinowski, Ph.D.



The text discusses the process of redistricting and reapportionment that occurs every ten years in the United States following the results of the decennial census. This brief essay builds on that discussion.

Note in the map above that the U.S. population changes over

time. Between 1990 and 2000, areas of the Northeast, Midwest and Great Plains lost population. Some counties lost over 10,000 people while many gained tens of thousands.

While some of these changes are occurring within states (such as people moving from rural to urban areas), much of the change involves Americans moving between states or moving to the United States from

overseas. The result is that some states have declined in population relative to the national population, and others have gained. Because there are only 435 congressional districts for the House of Representatives, some states lose and others gain seats. Arizona, Texas, Georgia, and Florida all gained two seats after the 2000 count. A complete list of the 2000 changes were:

Gains:	Losses:
California	Connecticut
Nevada	New York
Arizona	Ohio
Colorado	Illinois
Texas	Indiana
North Carolina	Michigan
Georgia	Wisconsin
Florida	Pennsylvania
	Oklahoma
	Mississippi

Further Research

1. What were the redistricting battles in your state after the 2000 census? Who were the key political players involved and what were goals of each?

Links:

- Census Bureau Redistricting Data <http://www.census.gov/clo/www/redistricting.html>