

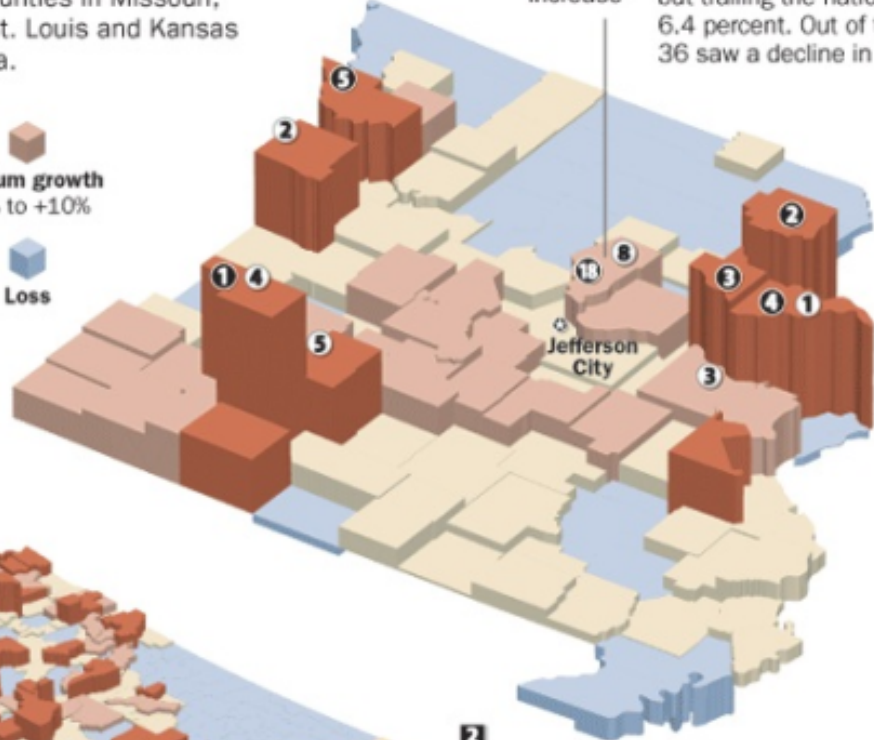
Boone County added more than 10,000 residents between 2000 and 2006, according to Census estimates released last week. Its growth rate of 7.8 percent placed it in the upper tier of fast-growing counties in Missouri, most of which are clustered in the St. Louis and Kansas City suburbs and the Springfield area.

MISSOURI

Missouri grew by 246,000 people between 2000 and 2006, an increase of 4.4 percent, but trailing the national growth rate of 6.4 percent. Out of the state's 115 counties, 36 saw a decline in residents.

Boone County
7.8 percent increase

The height of the counties shown represent the percentage change in population from 2000 to 2006:



Fastest-growing Missouri counties

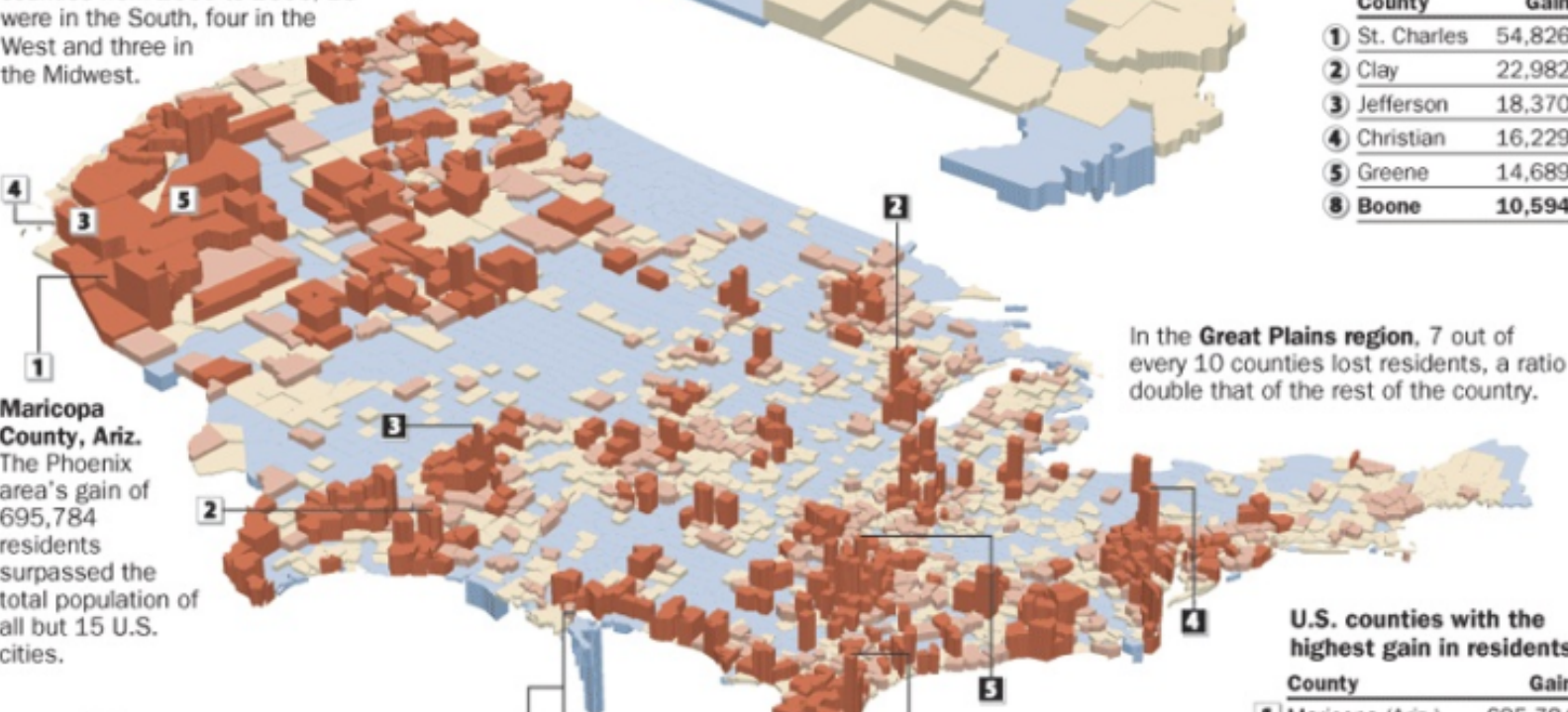
County	Pct. chg.
1 Christian	29.9
2 Lincoln	28.7
3 Warren	21.0
4 St. Charles	19.3
5 Cass	16.7
15 Boone	7.8

Missouri counties with the highest gain in residents

County	Gain
1 St. Charles	54,826
2 Clay	22,982
3 Jefferson	18,370
4 Christian	16,229
5 Greene	14,689
8 Boone	10,594

NATIONALLY

Of the 20 fastest-growing counties from 2000 to 2006, 13 were in the South, four in the West and three in the Midwest.



Maricopa County, Ariz.
The Phoenix area's gain of 695,784 residents surpassed the total population of all but 15 U.S. cities.

In the **Great Plains region**, 7 out of every 10 counties lost residents, a ratio double that of the rest of the country.

Fastest-growing U.S. counties

County	Pct. chg.
1 Flagler (Fla.)	66.7
2 Kendall (Ill.)	61.7
3 Rockwall (Texas)	60.5
4 Loudoun (Va.)	58.5
5 Forsyth (Ga.)	53.4

Losing residents:
Katrina-devastated New Orleans lost 261,281 people, over half its population. Neighboring St. Bernard Parish had the nation's most rapid decline, at -76.9 percent.

1 Gaining residents:
Flagler County, Fla., grew by 66.7 percent, the fastest rate in the country. Of the 104 counties that grew by 25 percent or more, 29 were in either Florida or Georgia.

U.S. counties with the highest gain in residents

County	Gain
1 Maricopa (Ariz.)	695,784
2 Harris (Texas)	485,653
3 Riverside (Calif.)	481,416
4 Los Angeles (Calif.)	428,751
5 Clark (Nev.)	401,801

Source: U.S. Census Bureau