

CHAPTER 2

SPENCER COUNTY POPULATION INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

PURPOSE

The objective of the population analysis and projection is to determine the size and density of the various population groups within the defined geographic area of Spencer County; and to estimate the future size and relevant characteristics of the same groups for the purpose of accessing the need for land, housing, transportation services, and other public and private facilities to support the anticipated population for the next twenty years.

TRENDS IN REGIONAL AND COUNTY GROWTH

In order to sufficiently analyze the current population of Spencer County, it is useful to review regional and county trends of recent years to determine dominant patterns of settlement and local growth centers.

Study of the regional population growth trends relative to those of Spencer County is especially important in light of the development of Taylorsville Lake and its potential impact on future patterns of settlement.

As Table 2-1 indicates, all counties have experienced growth due to the recent housing market boom in the adjacent counties to Jefferson County. The region in this period of time became increasingly dominated by the Louisville SMSA (which includes Jefferson, Bullitt and Oldham counties in Kentucky). The trend toward rapid urbanization and suburbanization, and decreasing rural farm populations can be cited as major causes of the continued increase in Spencer County's population, and the steady growth of the Louisville SMSA.

TABLE 2-1

RECENT POPULATION TRENDS IN THE KIDPA REGION, TOTAL POPULATION BY YEAR

<u>County</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Bullitt	15,726	26,090	43,346	47,567	61,236
Henry	10,987	10,910	12,740	12,823	15,060
Jefferson	610,947	695,055	685,004	664,937	693,604
Oldham	13,388	14,687	27,795	33,263	46,178
Shelby	18,493	18,999	23,328	24,824	33,337
Spencer	5,680	5,488	5,929	6,801	11,766
Trimble	5,102	5,349	6,253	6,090	8,125
Region	680,323	776,578	804,395	769,305	869,306

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population & Housing, 1960-2000

NOTE: Kentucky State and County Quick Facts now reports Spencer County Population 2006 estimate at 16,475. This is a 40% increase from 2000 to 2006.

The decrease in the rural farm population of Spencer County as a substantiating factor of the increasing dominance of the urbanized area of the region is exemplified by Table 2-2 which shows the past trends in the non-farm residents of the county are those that live in rural areas but derive little or no income from the sale of farm products.

Because all of Spencer County's population is defined as rural, the rural non-farm portion consists of people living in Taylorsville and those people living in the county that qualify under the definition. Since 1930, the rural non-farm population has increased over 100 percent, while the farm population has decreased by over 75 percent.

TABLE 2-2

**NON-FARM AND FARM POPULATION,
1950-2000: SPENCER COUNTY**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total County</u>	<u>Non-Farm</u>	<u>Farm</u>	<u>% Farm</u>
1950	6,157	1,775	4,382	71%
1960	5,680	2,254	3,426	60%
1970	5,488	2,856	2,632	48%
1980	5,929	4,164	1,765	30%
1990	6,801	5,598	1,203	18%
2000	11,766	10,820	946	8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 1950-2000.

The decline of the rural farm population in the county over the past several years reflects a general nationwide decline in the farming population due to the selling of smaller farms to larger farming operations, and to the change many farmers have made to other occupations.

The negative percent population change of 13 percent experienced by Spencer County from 1950 to 1970 is due in part to intraregional migration. This intraregional migration to other counties in the region is reflected in the increasing share of total regional population experienced by certain counties.

Tables 2-3 and 2-4 provide information about general housing characteristics. Table 2-3 compares the number of housing units in Spencer County, as well as the rented, owned, and vacant units, with the surrounding counties. The number of housing units in the county increased 73 percent between 1990 and 2000. The percent of the housing units owned rather than rented also increased.

TABLE 2-3

**HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS OF
SPENCER AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES, 1990-2000**

<u>County</u>	1990				2000				%Change 1990- 2000
	<u>Housing Units</u>	<u>% Owner Occupied</u>	<u>% Renter Occupied</u>	<u>% Vacant</u>	<u>Housing Units</u>	<u>% Owner Occupied</u>	<u>% Renter Occupied</u>	<u>% Vacant</u>	
Spencer	2,640	69.1	23.8	7.2	4,555	77.1	16.2	6.7	73%
Bullitt	16,629	81.0	15.0	4.0	23,160	80.3	15.4	4.3	39%
Henry	5,447	68.5	21.4	10.1	6,381	71.0	20.5	8.4	17%
Jefferson	282,578	60.3	33.2	6.5	305,835	60.9	32.9	6.2	8%
Oldham	11,202	79.2	16.1	4.7	15,541	83.1	12.5	4.4	39%
Shelby	9,617	66.9	27.2	5.9	12,857	68.5	25.6	5.9	34%
Trimble	2,510	72.9	16.6	10.5	3,437	73.7	17.6	8.7	37%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Housing, General Housing Characteristics, 1990-2000

NOTE: Sums of columns may not equal totals due to rounding of numbers. Vacant includes vacant, seasonal, and migratory

NOTE: Per the U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts, as of 2007 there are 5,231 housing units.

TABLE 2-4

**MOBILE HOME PERCENTAGES IN
SPENCER AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES, 1980-2000**

<u>County</u>	1980		1990		2000		%Change 1980- 2000
	<u>Mobile Home Trailers</u>	<u>% of total Units</u>	<u>Mobile Home Trailers</u>	<u>% of total Units</u>	<u>Mobile Home Trailers</u>	<u>% of total Units</u>	
Spencer	229	10.5	499	18.9	692	15.2	202%
Bullitt	1,955	14.3	2,603	15.7	2,921	12.6	49%
Henry	506	9.9	1,007	18.5	1,249	19.6	147%
Jefferson	2,949	1.1	3,949	1.4	4,770	1.6	62%
Oldham	435	5.0	623	5.6	534	3.4	23%
Shelby	237	2.7	400	4.2	426	3.3	80%
Trimble	398	16.4	599	23.9	1,010	29.4	154%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Housing, 1980-2000

NOTE: Per the U.S. Census Bureau State and County Quick Facts, as of 2007 there are 536 mobile homes, there are 426 modular homes, and 21 new modular manufacturing homes.

The number of trailers and mobile homes more than tripled between 1980 and 2000. There were only 229 mobile homes in 1980, and in 2000, 692 mobile homes were located throughout the county. Spencer County's increased rate surpassed any other county in the region by nearly 50 percent.

TABLE 2-5

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT KIDPA REGION
POPULATION TOTALS AND PERCENTAGES BY COUNTY, 1990-2000**

County	1990	% of Region	2000	% of Region
Bullitt	47,567	6.0	61,236	7.0
Henry	12,823	1.6	15,060	1.7
Jefferson	664,937	83.5	693,604	79.8
Oldham	33,263	4.2	46,178	5.3
Shelby	24,824	3.1	33,337	3.8
Spencer	6,801	1.2	11,766	1.4
Trimble	6,090	0.8	8,125	0.9
Region	769,305		869,306	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1990-2000

The percentage increases in total regional population shares experienced by Bullitt, Oldham, Clark and Floyd counties are indicative of the effects that both intraregional migration and suburbanization have had in the regional setting. Jefferson County's total population has decreased gradually in the period between 1980 and 1990; its total share of the regional population is estimated to have decreased by 6.2 percent. This is due to the out migration of the population to outlying counties in the SMSA. Spencer County's population also shows an increase in total population, but only a slight gain in total percentage share of the regional population. The trend toward urbanization and migration from the rural areas, often for better employment opportunities accounts for the minimal gain.

CURRENT TRENDS IN PLANNING AREA GROWTH

The planning units of Spencer County were originally defined by the designated 1970 Census Enumeration Districts. As of the 2000 US Census, Enumeration Districts were replaced by Assignment Areas and redrawn. Due to this change, the area covered by each planning unit from 1990 to 2000 may be slightly different. Map 13 shows the geographic distribution of the county's population in 2000 by planning unit and total planning area. Table 2-6 shows the population distribution by planning unit and total planning area.

Planning Unit No. 1 consists of the city limits and annex areas.

Planning Unit No. 2 is located in the north eastern section of the county, from S.R. 248 northward.

Planning Unit No. 3 is located in the south eastern section of the county, from S.R. 248 southward to S.R. 55 – including Taylorsville Lake area.

Planning Unit No. 4 is located in the north western section of the county, west of the City, from S.R. 44 northward.

Planning Unit No. 5 is located in the south western section of the county, west of the City, from S.R. 44 southward.

There areas are shown on 13.

TABLE 2-6

SPENCER COUNTY POPULATION, 1980-2000

<u>Planning Unit</u>	<u>1980 Total Population</u>	<u>1990 Total Population</u>	<u>2000 Total Population</u>	<u>%Change 1980-2000</u>
P-1	801	1,217	1046	31%
P-2	1,108	921	1586	43%
P-3	1,107	1,037	1886	70%
P-4	1,796	1,452	5471	205%
P-5				
	1,117	1,174	1777	59%
Total	5,929	6,801	11,766	98%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, 1980-2000

Planning units P-4 and P-5 (western half of the county) comprised over half of the county's population in 2000. The City of Taylorsville (P-1) made up 13.5 percent of the total population in 1980. Although the percentage rose in 1990 to 18 percent, growth decreased to half of that, 9 percent, by 2000. The recent increases in population in Spencer County have occurred primarily in planning units P-4 and P-5. Much of the growth in P-4 is the extension of the Louisville suburbs over the Jefferson County line.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLANNING AREA

Age

The changing demographic distribution of the county's population can be seen in Table 2-8. Between 1990 and 2000, the elderly population (ages 65 and over) increased 13.6 percent and comprised 9.1 percent of the total population in 2000. Table 2-8 indicates that the estimated 65+ age population was 11.9 percent of the total county population in 1990. The elderly population was not substantially different at the state and nationwide levels in 1990, with Kentucky's elderly comprising 12.5 percent of the total state population.

While the elderly population has continued to increase since 1960, the young population (age 15 and under) of Spencer County also increased 49.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. There is also a projected increase in all age groups between 2000 and 2020.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE AND SEX

The 2004 population forecasts prepared by the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Center, projects Spencer County's population by age and sex to the year 2020. The projection methodology utilized in the projection series is based on the cohort-component method. This method takes the population at a base year and divides it into cohorts, or age groups, which share the same demographic characteristics. The cohorts are analyzed in terms of fertility, mortality, migration and symptomatic indicators of change over time to produce the forecasts. Table 2-8 indicates projected population by age and sex to the year 2020 for Spencer County.

TABLE 2-8

PROJECTED POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

<u>Age</u>	1980		1990		2000		2020	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0-4	232	208	245	211	431	423	733	705
5-14	557	489	539	529	973	835	1,529	1,470
15-44	1,333	1295	1,554	1,542	2,680	2,685	4,983	4,700
45-64	570	587	699	667	1,379	1,287	4,439	4,715
65+	316	342	366	449	473	600	1,355	1,616
Total	5,929		6,801		11766		26245	

Source: Population Projections, 1980-2020. The 2004 Edition

As Table 2-8 indicates, the trend toward females outnumbering males in the older range is expected to continue through the year 2020, as they have a longer life expectancy. The elderly population as a whole is expected to remain relatively constant as a percentage of total population as seen with 11.1 percent of the total population at age 65 and over in 1980 and 11.3 percent of the total population at age 65 and over in the year 2020.

By contrast, those in the 14 and under age groups are expected to decrease in share of total population from 25 percent in 1980 to 17 percent in the year 2020. The decrease may reflect a continuing decline in the birth rate and smaller family sizes in the future.

TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Both regional trends and projections of population growth can be graphically depicted to determine if past settlement patterns within the region and Spencer County can be expected to continue at least for the twenty year planning period.

The 2004 Urban Studies Center population projections series anticipates the county's population to be 26,245 in the year 2020. This is an increase of over 120 percent or 14,479 people from 2000. When compared to the 14.5

percent increase expected in the total regional population by the year 2020, Spencer County is expected to grow at a much faster pace than the region as a whole; a fact which may indicate the continued dominance of the metropolitan area in attracting new residents to the Kentuckiana area.

The projected county population can be distributed to the various planning units of the planning area, or county, if one assumes that certain characteristics of household behavior and patterns of settlement will continue to the year 2020. Table 2-9, Household and Population Projections by Planning Unit, distributes the projected population to the year 2020, given the following assumptions:

- (1) Each planning unit will retain its current average percent share of total housing units.
- (2) A constant vacancy rate of 6.5 percent will persist to the year 2020 for each planning unit in Spencer County, except for P-1 (Taylorsville) which will average a 11 percent vacancy rate calculated by the 2000 census.
- (3) Total occupied units can be calculated using the appropriate housing vacancy rate and average household size for each planning unit.
- (4) Average household size for each planning unit is assumed to remain constant from the year 2000.
- (5) Non-household population in 2020 is projected to be the same percentage of total county population as in 2000 which is .01 of the 2000 total population.
- (6) Total county population in 2020 is projected to be the same as in the 2004 Urban Studies Projection series. The cohort survival and cohort migration method was used in its computation.

Table 2-9 indicates that Planning Unit P-4 will continue to dominate Spencer County in its growth potential. Planning Unit P-4 is projected to retain the largest percentage share of the total population in the year 2020 with P-5 having the second largest share and P-2 the third largest share.

TABLE 2-9

**SPENCER COUNTY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND POPULATION
BY PLANNING UNIT, 1990-2000**

<u>Planning Unit</u>	<u>Avg. Household Size</u>		<u>Household Pop.</u>		<u>Non-Household Pop.</u>	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
P-1	2.35	2.38	1217	935	0	111
P-2	2.81	2.80	921	1586	0	0
P-3	2.75	2.62	1037	1886	0	0
P-4	2.88	2.86	2395	5463	57	8
P-5	2.88	2.91	1174	1777	0	0

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1990-2000

<u>Planning Unit</u>	2020				
	<u>Average Household Size</u>	<u>Occupied Housing Units</u>	<u>Household Population</u>	<u>Non-Household Population</u>	<u>Total Population</u>
1	2.38	1006	2394	111	2505
2	2.80	1345	3766	0	3766
3	2.62	1633	4278	0	4278
4	2.86	4228	12092	8	12100
5	2.91	1346	3917	0	3917
Total*	2.73	9558	26126	119	26245

NOTE: Sums of columns may not equal totals due to rounding of numbers.

*Totals represent county totals projected by the 2004 Kentucky Urban Studies Projection Series.

VISITATION

The largest segment of the visitors that utilizes the Taylorsville Lake and its environs on a short term, seasonal basis is fishermen. They constitute the largest population of visitation. The lake is mainly a day lake, but the building of Edge Water Resorts with cabins and lodge will increase visitor use. This reflects a market area defined as one-half the distance between comparing facilities, but no more than 50 miles.

Analysis of the calculation utilized by the Army Corps of Engineers to determine annual visitation reveals that they expanded the standard number of 13 weeks in a season to 18 weeks to include all of June and September. The milder climate in Kentucky encourages recreation activities in the spring and fall such as hiking, biking, and fishing. The result of utilizing the higher number of weeks is an increase in day use. Again, time and distance to the lake and cost of energy will also have a profound effect on the actual numbers of visitors to the lake that are realized in the future.

SUMMARY

The data reported in this chapter was gathered from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1990 – 2000; this data is not up to date. The County has grown approximately 40 percent since 2000. Several times between the years of 2000 and 2006 Spencer County was the fastest growing county in the state and was among the fastest growing counties in the nation, by percentage. The estimated population of Spencer County in 2006 is 16, 475.