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GROWTH AND URBANIZATION OF THE  
TEXAS POPULATION, 1940-1950

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Within the last thirty years there has been a very pronounced increase in interest in problems of population--size, aspects of composition, spatiality, growth, urbanization, and other vital problems. This increased interest has been evidenced by many studies dealing with the population of the United States and other nations, and it has also led to increased attention to population trends in smaller areas, such as regions, states, and cities.

It is the purpose of this thesis to consider the growth and urbanization of the Texas population since 1880, with primary emphasis on changes which took place during the decade from 1940 to 1950.

Within the decennial period 1940-1950 the total Texas population increased by 1,296,176 (20.2 per cent), and the urban population increased by 1,922,611 (approximately 66.0 per cent). Urbanization continues, drawing from rural Texas and from areas outside the state. It is becoming increasingly clear that there will be no reversal

of the rural-to-urban movement which began about 1900 and was greatly accelerated by the two World Wars. During the decade ending in 1950, an estimated 700,000 people moved from the rural areas to the urban centers of Texas. Tractors and other new equipment literally pushed these people off the farms, while industrial technological development pulled them into the cities. According to the 1950 census the state's four largest cities (Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Fort Worth) had 22 per cent of the state's total population.

Early records of Texas' population are scarce and indefinite. The population for 1744 was estimated at 1,500 people, and most of these people had settled near San Antonio and Nacogdoches, with a sprinkling along the Rio Grande. The era of colonization brought many people to Texas, and the numbers of new arrivals increased greatly after Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836. By 1850 the population had increased to approximately 213,000.<sup>1</sup>

The Civil War virtually stopped for awhile the westward movement of people throughout the country, but following the war, conditions in the Plantation South gave renewed impetus to the westward movement. Many planters, their slaves freed and their agricultural system

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<sup>1</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 91.

revolutionized, and many Civil War veterans turned hopefully westward to Texas, where they expected to make a new start in a new land. Added to the thousands who came from the older states of the North and the South were the many thousands coming from foreign countries. From 1865, the year the Civil War ended, to 1880 people came in such great numbers that the population count in Texas for the latter year showed a total of approximately 1,600,000 people.<sup>2</sup> In those early days Texas was a frontier state with much free land to be had for the mere act of settling on it. The state was predominantly rural and agricultural, with great expanses still unsettled in the western part of the state, where the "deer and the antelope" still roamed. The western part of Texas was also the home of the lean Texas longhorn. Beef first made Texas rich after the Civil War, when "cattle kings" ruled the open range and cowboys drove millions of steers "up the trail" to northern markets.<sup>3</sup>

This briefly recounts the population growth of Texas up to 1880, at which point the first phase of this study begins. The purpose of the first part of this study is to compare the growth of the Texas population with that of the United States as a whole since 1880, to determine

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 96.

<sup>3</sup>"Texas," Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, Vol. 14, p. 53, 1947 ed.



the racial composition of the Texas population from 1880-1950, to compare regional rates of population change in Texas from 1940 to 1950, and to advance some explanations for whatever facts this phase of the study may reveal.

It is to be noted, however, that this rural and agricultural situation began gradually to change, and by 1880 9.0 percent of the population was urban. Cities grew in size and number. By 1910 the urban population was 24.0 percent of the total population, and by 1930 the percentage had increased to 41.0. The 1950 census revealed the fact that the Texas population had for the first time in the state's history become predominantly urban, with approximately 63.0 percent of the population living in urban areas. This gradual shift from a rural to an urban population is among the more important aspects of Texas' growth.

There have been cities in the world for thousands of years. However, it was not until the coming of the Industrial Revolution and its counterpart, the Agrarian Revolution, about the middle of the eighteenth century, that cities began to grow rapidly. Of course, the effects of these revolutions were not felt all at once and everywhere alike. Rather, it was a gradual process which slowly changed many a tranquil village into a thriving metropolis.

As late as 1850 there were only two cities in the world which had a population of a million or more, London (2,363,341) and Paris (1,053,261). By 1900 there were twelve cities with a million or more people, and by 1940 there were thirty-seven such cities.<sup>4</sup> When later data are available they will almost certainly reveal that still more cities have been added to the list. There are ten other cities in the world which now have populations between 900,000 and 999,999, and eight additional ones which have between 800,000 and 899,999.<sup>5</sup>

One must not overlook the fact that it was the Industrial Revolution and the Agrarian Revolution acting together which were the main causal factors in the growth of urbanization. Improved means of transportation and communication were also important factors in this growth. As one authority has said:

The mechanical devices of the nineteenth century substituted machines for hand work and differentiated manufacturing from agriculture, thereby producing a cleavage which has influenced all social institutions ... The factory system made necessary concentration of man power and, consequently, the unprecedented growth of urban population. However, concentration of population would have been impossible without the agricultural

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<sup>4</sup>Warren S. Thompson, Population Problems, p. 312.

<sup>5</sup>The World Almanac, 1951, p. 355.

revolution to furnish food and raw materials for the workers in the city factories. In other words, it would not be inaccurate to say that machines and factories made the industrial city necessary, while improved agriculture, transportation, and trade have made it possible for large cities to exist with unparalleled frequency.<sup>6</sup>

In 1787 the surplus food produced by nineteen farmers was enough to feed only one additional person in the city, but in recent years the food surplus produced by nineteen farmers is enough to feed sixty-six additional persons.<sup>7</sup> This has indeed been a revolution in the field of agriculture. While industrialization acts as an attractive force pulling people to the cities, farm mechanization acts as a compulsive force pushing them from the farms.

The cause of the growth of the modern city is primarily economic, but there are other contributing factors also. The city has certain psychological and cultural lures, better educational opportunities, a greater variety of recreational activities, more and better conveniences, and better churches.<sup>8</sup>

The effects of the Industrial Revolution were not felt in the United States until about the time of the War of 1812,

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<sup>6</sup>Harry Elmer Barnes, Social Institutions, pp. 657-658.

<sup>7</sup>Paul H. Landis, Rural Life in Process, p. 10.

<sup>8</sup>Barnes, op. cit., p. 658.

which is sometimes called "Our Second War for Independence." This war hastened industrial independence for the United States. The factory system, however, really did not get under way effectively until the latter part of the nineteenth century, and much of the urban growth in the United States has resulted from the impetus given industrial development by World War I and World War II.

The factory system in this country was first established in New England and the Northeast; it spread west and south as population increased. Industrialization arrived in Texas with the coming of the twentieth century, but rapid growth of cities did not come until the advent of the First World War. Perhaps the greatest force fostering industrialization and urbanization in Texas has been the tremendous demand for war materials growing out of the second World War.

The problem involved, therefore, in the second part of this study is to determine the amount of urbanization which took place in Texas during the 1940-1950 decade, to determine the rates of urbanization in the various regions and cities grouped according to size, to compare these rates with those of the state as a whole, to determine the variations among the several regions and "size groups" of cities, and to describe some of the factors related to such increases and variations.

Since the term urban has a special meaning as applied to the taking of the census, and since the 1950 meaning is different from the meaning of urban as applied to the 1940 census, it might be well at this point to define the term as used by the Bureau of the Census in 1950:

The urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages; (b) the densely settled suburban area, or urban fringe, incorporated or unincorporated, around cities of 50,000 or more; (c) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside of any urban fringe; and (d) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as towns.<sup>9</sup>

This change in definition of the term urban as used by the Bureau of the Census renders the urban population for 1950 not wholly or completely comparable to that of 1940. In other words, if the 1940 definition of urban had been used in the latest census count the 1950 urban population would have been smaller; and conversely, if the 1950 definition had been used when taking the 1940 census, the urban population for 1940 would have been larger. After consultation with the users of census data, urban and certain other terms were given new definitions to improve the statistics, even though it was recognized that comparability with earlier census figures would be adversely affected.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of Population, Series PC-6, No. 10, March 30, 1951, p. 3.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

CHAPTER II  
GROWTH AND RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE  
TEXAS POPULATION, 1880-1950

The purpose of this chapter is to compare the rate of growth of population in Texas with that of the United States as a whole since 1880, to examine changes in the racial composition of the state population, to determine whether in Texas there existed any regional variations in the rate of population growth between 1940 and 1950, and to attempt to account for such variations as may be found to exist.

Comparison of the rate of growth of the Texas population with that of the United States as a whole shows that in 1880 the population of Texas was 3.2 per cent of the total for the United States and that the percentage for the state has increased in each decennium thereafter, reaching 5.1 in 1950 (Table 1). In other words, the rate of population increase in Texas has been greater than that for the United States as a whole (Fig. 1). It is probably safe to assume that this trend will continue, for the foreseeable future at least, since Texas has almost unlimited potentialities for industrial development. The

state has vast areas in which many additional millions of people can find ample living space, the natural resources are vast almost beyond reckoning, the climate affords almost optimum conditions both for industry and people, the facilities for transportation and communication can certainly be expanded to meet any demands, and actual and potential power supply can take care of any requirements which may reasonably be expected to arise in the future.

TABLE 1  
GROWTH OF TEXAS POPULATION COMPARED  
TO THAT OF THE UNITED STATES  
1880-1950\*

Year	Total Population		Texas Population As Percent of United States Population
	United States	Texas	
1880	50,155,783	1,591,749	3.2
1890	62,947,714	2,235,527	3.6
1900	75,994,575	3,048,710	3.4
1910	91,972,266	3,896,542	4.3
1920	105,710,620	4,663,228	4.4
1930	122,775,046	5,824,715	4.8
1940	131,669,275	6,414,824	4.9
1950	150,697,361	7,711,194	5.1

\*Sources: World Almanac (1951) and U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 10 (March 30, 1951)

As can be seen by reference to Figure 1, not only has the Texas population increased faster on a comparative basis

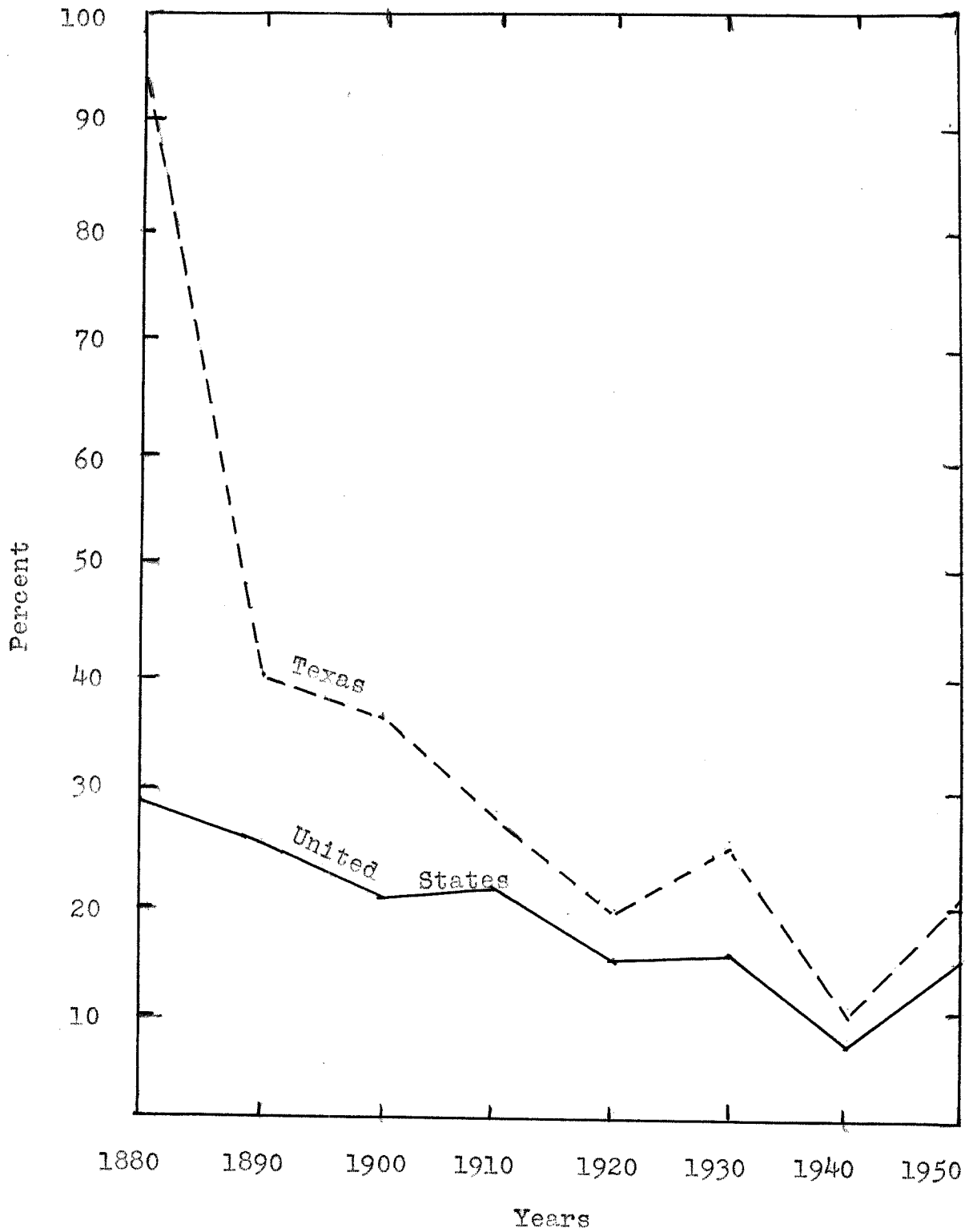


Fig. 1.--Population Growth in Texas and the United States, 1880-1950.



than that of the United States as a whole, but it has also made greater relative increases since 1880. Texas showed a relative percentage increase of 94.4 during the decade ending in 1880, whereas the United States showed a relative percentage increase of only 28.2 for the same period. In 1890 Texas showed a relative increase of 40.4 per cent, and the United States as a whole showed a 26.0 per cent increase. The relative percentages of increase for the state and the nation gradually decreased from decade to decade, showing their lowest relative percentages of increase for the decade 1930-1940. For this decade Texas showed a relative increase of 10.1 per cent, while the United States showed a 7.3 per cent increase. This low percentage of increase for the state and the nation was due largely to the adverse effects of the Great Depression of the 1930's. It will be remembered that during this time millions of people were unemployed and on relief. These people were highly mobile, for the most part, traveling widely in search of the then illusive or nonexistent employment. The birth rate fell sharply during this decennium, since unemployment, "relief," and mobility are not jointly or severally conducive to a normal birth rate. It is interesting to note that for the decennium ending in 1950 the relative percentages of increase for the state and the nation were double their respective increases for

the decennium ending in 1940--20.2 per cent for the state and 14.5 for the nation as a whole. This increase can be largely credited to the war-induced prosperity of the 1940's and to reductions in infant mortality.

Texas, like other Southern states, is biracial, and therefore a consideration of the relative growth of its white and nonwhite populations is important. A study of Table 2 and Figure 2 shows that the nonwhite percentage of the Texas population has been steadily decreasing since 1880, dropping from 24.8 to 11.5. However, the nonwhite population is increasing in absolute numbers; the increase in actual numbers was from approximately 395,000 in 1880 to approximately 886,000 in 1950, a percentage increase of approximately 124.0. As shown in the table, the white population increased in absolute numbers from 1,197,000 in 1880 to 6,825,000 in 1950, a percentage increase of almost 470.0. It should be pointed out here that the nonwhite population is largely Negro, since the other races included in the nonwhite category have at no time ever exceeded one-half of one per cent of the total population in Texas.<sup>1</sup> Also the nonwhite population for the United States as a whole is largely Negro, although the percentages differ considerably.

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<sup>1</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 96.

TABLE 2

RACIAL COMPOSITION OF TEXAS POPULATION  
1940-1950\*

Year	Race		Percent Nonwhite
	White	Nonwhite	
1880	1,197,237	394,512	24.8
1890	1,745,935	489,592	21.9
1900	2,426,669	622,041	20.4
1910	3,204,848	691,694	17.8
1920	3,918,165	745,063	16.0
1930	4,967,172	857,543	14.7
1940	5,487,545	927,279	14.5
1950	6,825,000	886,000	11.5

\*Sources: The Texas Almanac (1949-1950) and the U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-6, No. 10, March 30, 1951.

If the Negro population for Texas in 1880 had increased at the rate maintained by the white population from 1880 to 1950, it would have showed a count of 1,857,000, instead of the 886,000 which it actually showed in 1950. There are several factors which have operated to prevent the maintenance by the Negro population of a rate of increase equal to that of the white population. Chief among these factors have been the following: (1) "Out-migration." Proportionately more Negroes than whites have left the state. Many of them have been attracted to areas in the North and the Far West where there are wider economic opportunities and greater social acceptance for the Negro; (2) Light

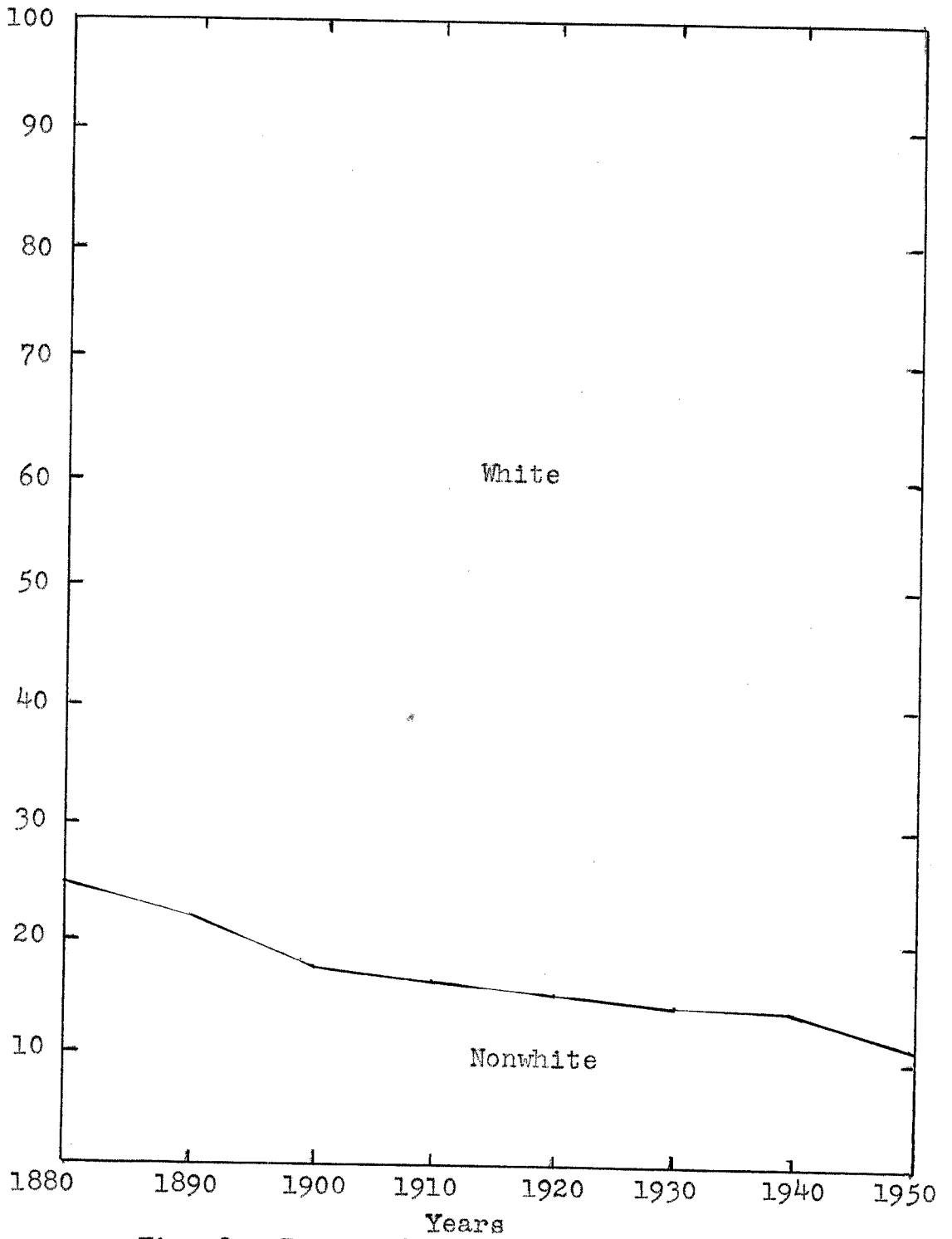


Fig. 2.--Racial Composition of the Texas population, 1880-1950.

"in-migration." Comparatively few Negroes have come as migrants to Texas, while many whites, especially Mexicans, have been added annually to the white segment of the population; (3) High death rate. The death rates for the white and nonwhite were 12.0 and 10.5 per 1,000, respectively, for the United States as a whole in 1945.<sup>2</sup> While figures for Texas are not presently available, it can be safely assumed that the differences in rates equaled, if it did not surpass, that for the nation as a whole. Care must be exercised in interpreting race as a factor in the death rate. One authority has the following to say regarding differences in death rates of whites and nonwhites:

It should not be inferred, however, from these differences in the death rates of the white and the colored populations that these rates are the result of inherent race differences. It is much more likely that they are caused chiefly by the great differences in modes of living of the two racial groups. At least, until the conditions of life in the two groups approximate one another rather closely, the presumption is that differences in death rates arise out of differences in sanitary and medical care and in economic status rather than out of inherent biological differences.<sup>3</sup>

Regional variations in the rate of population growth in Texas between 1940 and 1950 are another aspect of this study of Texas populations. It will be noticed from a

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<sup>2</sup>Maurice R. Davie, Negroes in American Society, p. 237.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 240.

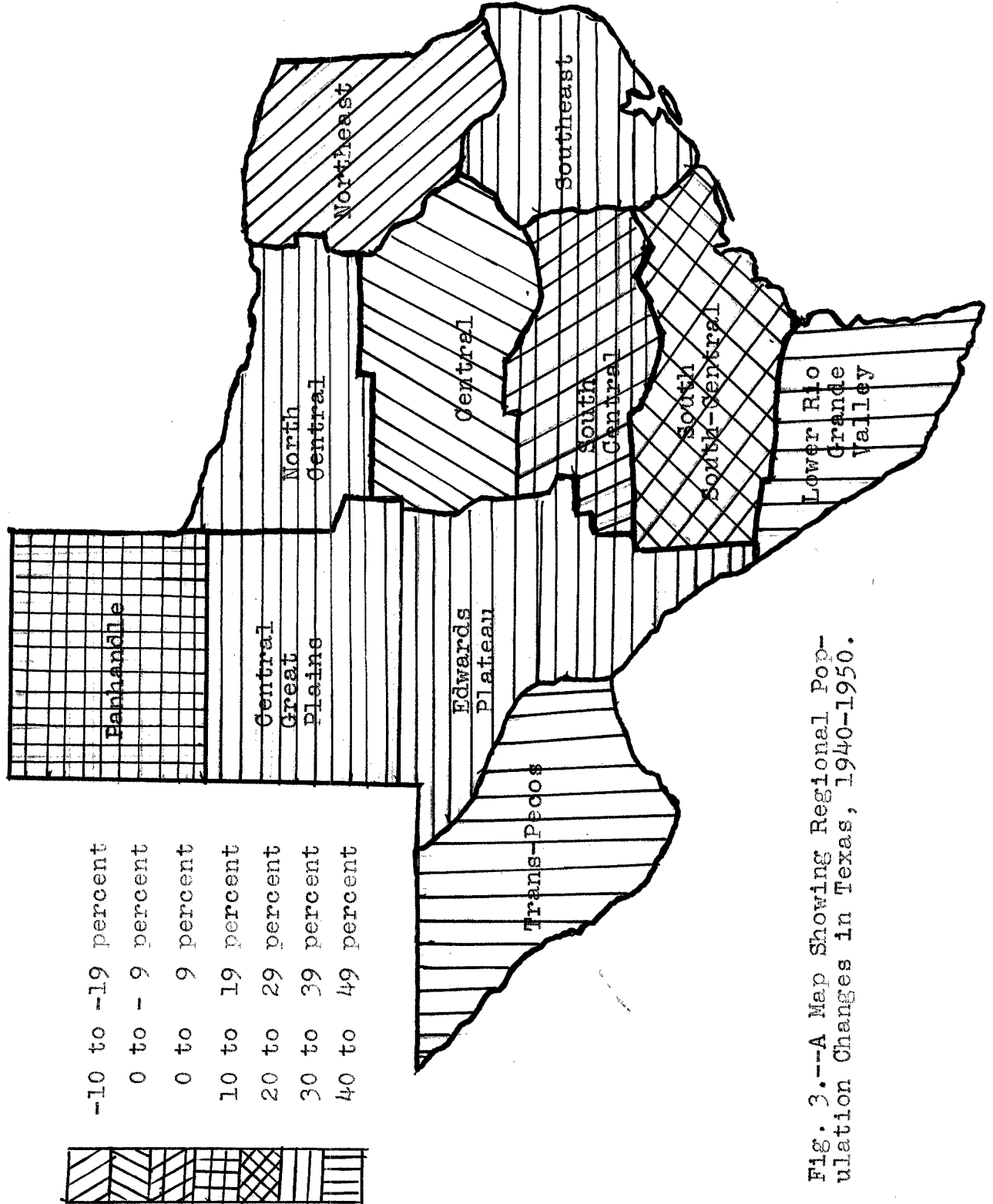


Fig. 3.--A Map Showing Regional Population Changes in Texas, 1940-1950.

study of Figure 3 and Table 3 that two regions suffered losses in population during the decade ending in 1950, the Central and the Northeast. In absolute numbers they lost, respectively, 60,456 and 109,446. Their respective percentage losses were 8.3 and 11.2. Of the Central Region's twenty-seven counties twenty-two showed losses, and of the Northeast Region's thirty-one counties twenty-seven showed losses. These losses can be explained, largely, by reference to the fact that these regions were, and still are, in a period of transition from farming to dairying and stock raising, both of which require a smaller labor force than does farming. Many of the people who once lived in these regions have been forced to seek a means of livelihood elsewhere. They have gone to such industrial centers as Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston.

The lowest regional increase in population during the decennium ending in 1950 was the South Central's 6.2 per cent. This South Central Region, like the Northeast and Central regions, is an area where ranching is the major industry. It is not to be inferred, however, that there is no farming in the region. Quite the contrary is the case, as farming is important in certain areas, especially in eastern parts of the region.

TABLE 3

## GROWTH OF TEXAS POPULATION BY REGIONS, 1940-1950\*

Regions	1940	1950	Numerical Change	Percent of Change	Rank by Amount Change	
					Numerical	Percent
Trans-Pecos	174,739	245,480	70,750	40.0	6	2
Panhandle	236,659	278,659	41,461	18.0	8	8
Central Great Plains	370,373	480,131	109,758	30.0	5	6
Edwards Plateau	185,583	244,825	59,242	32.0	7	5
North Central	1,100,160	1,466,595	367,385	33.3	1	4
Central	726,382	665,926	-60,456	-8.3	10	10
South Central	486,949	517,189	30,240	6.2	9	9
South South-Central	726,042	916,477	190,435	26.2	3	7
Lower Rio Grande Valley	425,055	624,942	199,887	47.0	4	1
Northeast	979,772	870,326	-109,446	-11.2	11	11
Southeast	1,084,668	1,446,662	362,194	33.4	2	3
State as a Whole	6,414,848	7,677,832	1,262,984	19.7		

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)



The Panhandle Region ranked second lowest in percentage increase in population among the nine regions which showed gains during the past decennium. The region's 18.0 per cent gain in population can be accounted for by the huge production of oil and gas, cotton, wheat, small grains, and cattle. Industries associated with these activities are also found in the region.

Looking again at Figure 3, one sees that the Trans-Pecos Region and the Lower Rio Grande Region showed the greatest gain in population for the decade under consideration. The Trans-Pecos Region owes much of its growth to increased mining and smelting activities, to increased farming activities made possible by the extension of irrigation facilities, and to military camps and hospitals located there. The Rio Grande Valley Region owes its growth largely to the production of citrus fruits, winter vegetables, cattle, cotton, and oil and gas. The unusually long growing season and extensive irrigation facilities have made the Rio Grande Valley one of the leading intensive farming areas in the world.

The remaining five regions of Texas had population increases ranging from 26.2 per cent to 33.4 per cent. These regions in the order of their percentage gain are:

the Southeast with 33.4; the North Central, 33.3; the Edwards Plateau, 32.0; the Central Great Plains, 30.0; and the South South-Central, 26.2. The Edwards Plateau's increase is due largely to the tremendous gain in oil production in areas near the cities of Odessa, Monahans, Kermit, and Midland. The great influx of people into these oil areas was sufficient to give the whole region an overall increase much beyond what normally might be expected. The rough terrain which prevails throughout most of this region and the light rainfall, which ranges well below twenty inches, are not factors conducive to great population densities and large urban centers. It is an area given over mostly to sheep and goat ranching, being one of the major sections in the world for the production of these animals. In this arid and semiarid region many acres are needed for pasture for even a few sheep or goats, and only a small labor force is required, much of which is seasonal.

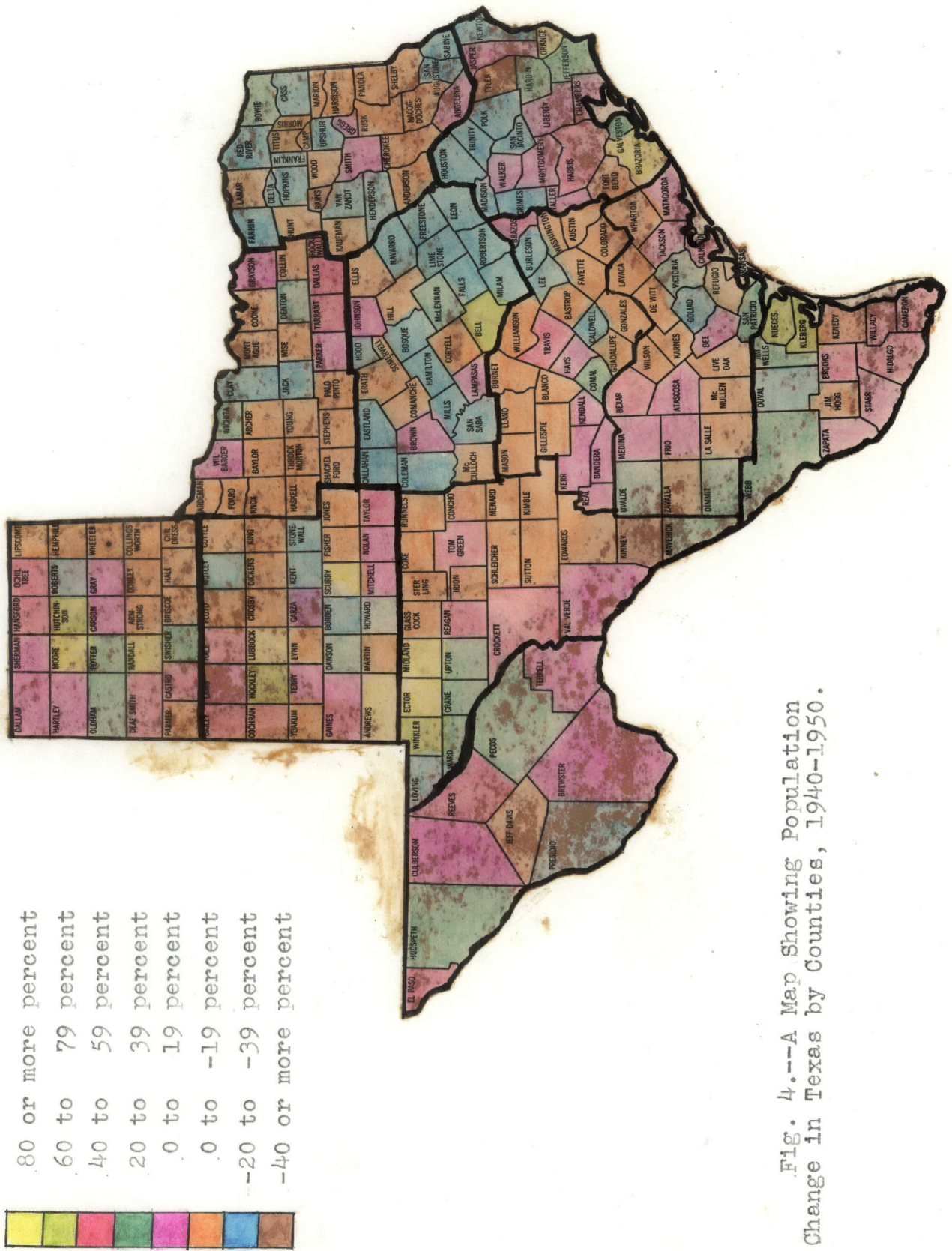
The South South-Central Region owes its population increase for the past decade to the intensive farming found in the "Winter Garden" area near Crystal City, to the industrial and shipping development of its coastal area near Corpus Christi, and to San Antonio's remarkable growth. The latter city's 153,000 increase accounts for about three-fourths of the entire region's gain of 190,000

people. The reasons for San Antonio's growth will be discussed in a later chapter dealing with regional patterns of urbanization.

The 30 per cent population increase for the Central Great Plains during the past decade can be ascribed to the development of such minerals as potash and oil, to increased farming resulting from the development of deep-well irrigation projects, and to the development of allied industries.

The North Central Region's 33.3 per cent increase in population for the decennium is largely accounted for by the outstanding growth of its two leading cities, Dallas and Fort Worth. These two cities alone account for almost two-thirds of the increase for the entire region. Likewise, Houston, Beaumont, and Fort Arthur account for a large portion of the regional increase in the Southeast area.

Out of a total of two hundred fifty-four Texas counties, one hundred forty-six showed a population loss for the decennial period ending in 1950. These losses reflect the high degree of mobility which characterizes the Texas population today. This movement of people is toward the industrial, urban centers and away from the mechanized farming areas and areas in transition from farming to dairying and ranching (Fig. 4).



80 or more percent
60 to 79 percent
40 to 59 percent
20 to 39 percent
0 to 19 percent
0 to -19 percent
-20 to -39 percent
-40 or more percent

Fig. 4.--A Map Showing Population Change in Texas by Counties, 1940-1950.

The Texas population is growing, but basically it is the growth of the urban population which is responsible for the overall growth in population. It is for this reason that the remainder of this thesis is devoted to an analysis of patterns and of trends in urban growth in the state.

## CHAPTER III

### THE URBANIZATION TREND IN TEXAS SINCE 1880

In 1880 less than 10 per cent of the population of Texas was urban, whereas almost 91 per cent of the total was rural. Even as late as 1920 less than one-third of the total population was urban. This situation was to be expected, since the Texas economy was preponderantly agricultural. By 1940 the urban population had reached 45.4 per cent of the total population, and by 1950, 62.7 per cent. As urbanization has increased there has been, of course, a corresponding decline in rural population (Fig. 5).

Both the impact of World War I and the prosperity of the 1920's are clearly discernible in the trend of urbanization, as is the effect of the Great Depression of the 1930's. During World War I people moved to the cities to work in the war plants and stayed on through the 1920's to produce consumer goods, for which there was a tremendous demand. With the coming of the depression late in 1929 a great number of factories closed entirely or operated on a part-time basis. As a consequence millions

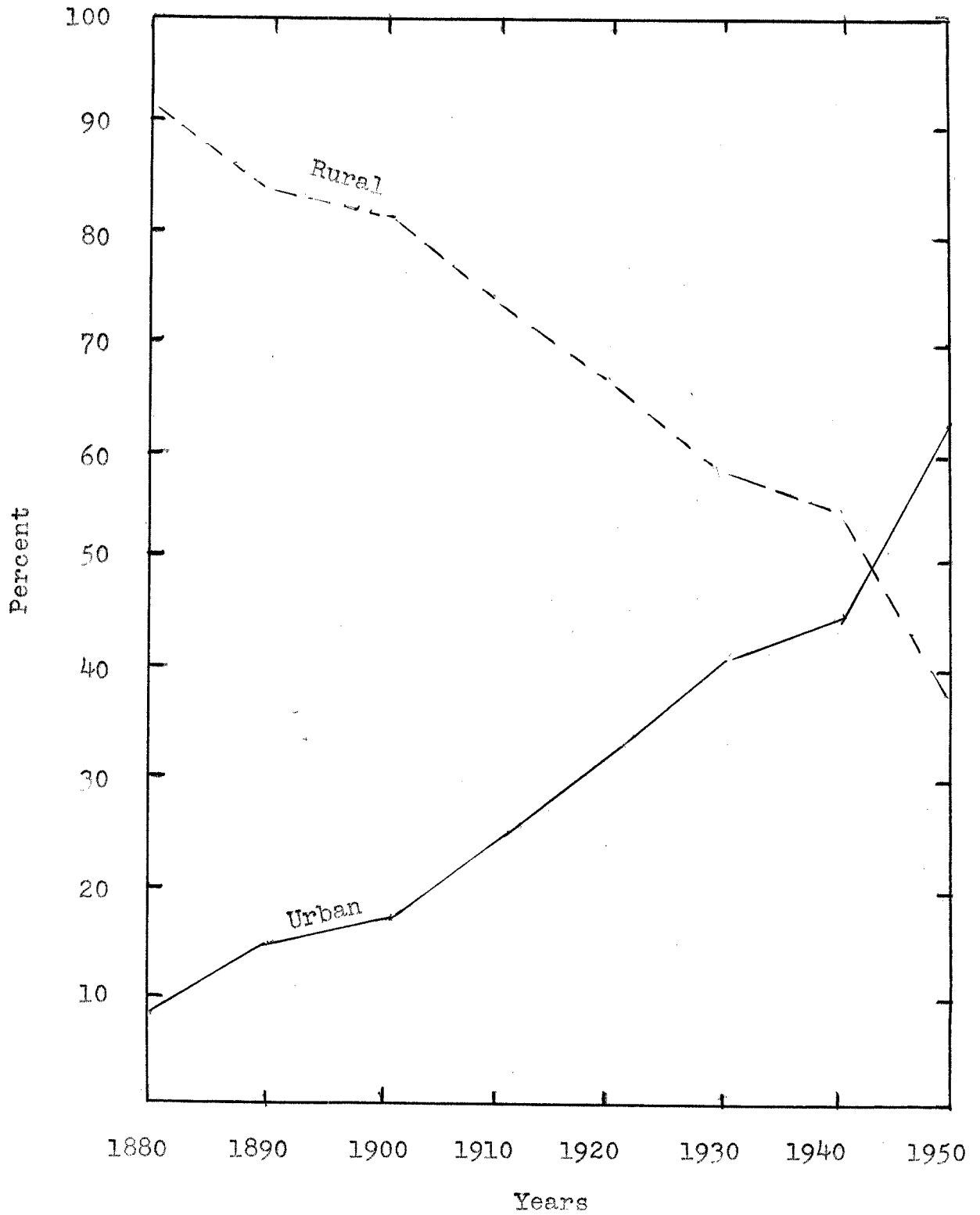


Fig. 5.--Percentage of Texas Population in Urban and Rural Areas, 1880-1950.

of people were idle and an exodus from the cities was stimulated. Although the urban population increased slightly during this period, the rate of urban growth was lower than at any time since 1900.

The steepest climb of the urban trend line was made during the decade ending with 1950. This decade includes the "Arsenal of Democracy" era and the period of stupendous and unprecedented industrial production for World War II. It is also to be noted in Figure 5 that the urban line crossed the rural line during this decade, indicating that urban population exceeded the rural population for the first time in Texas history. As noted above, the percentage of the total population which had become urban by 1950 was 62.7. This means, of course, that only slightly over one-third of the population of the state remained in rural areas.

The total Texas population for 1880 was approximately 1,592,000 persons, of whom only 147,000 lived in urban areas, (Fig. 6). By 1890 the total population had increased to almost 2,236,000, of whom just under 350,000 were urban. The total for the state in 1900 was almost 3,049,000, of whom 521,000 were urban. The census for 1910 revealed a total state population of approximately 3,900,000 persons, of whom 940,000 were classed as urban by the Bureau of the Census. The population count in 1920 gave the state a total



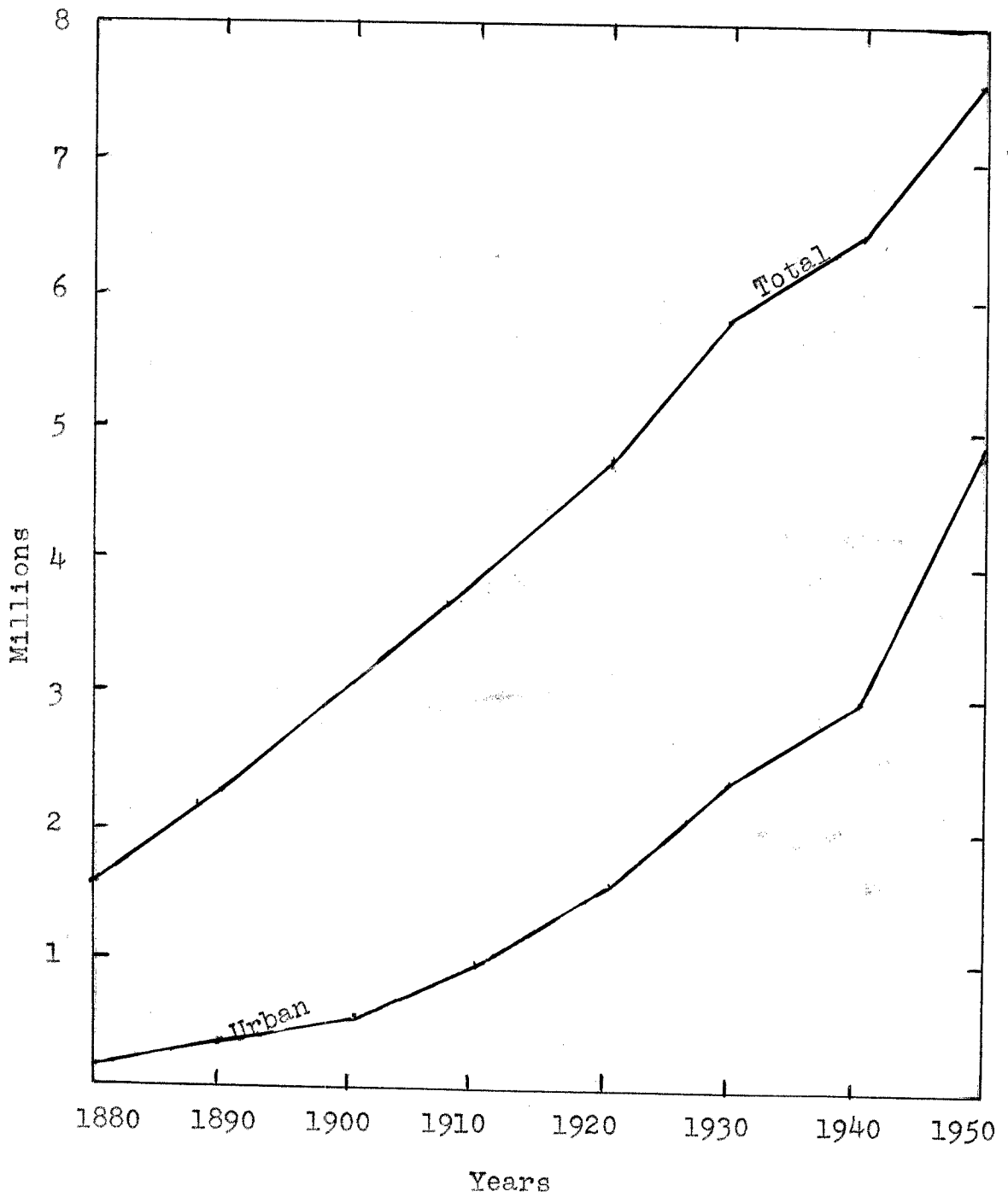


Fig. 6.--Growth of Total and Urban Population in Texas, 1880-1950.

of 4,660,000, of which 1,513,000 lived in urban areas. By 1930 there were 2,390,000 urban dwellers out of a total population of 5,825,000. The census of 1940 showed a figure for the state of 6,415,000, of whom 2,911,000 were urban. The most recent census report (1950) revealed a state total of 7,711,000, of whom 4,834,000 were urban dwellers.

A study of the above data and Figure 6 shows the urban trend line inclining ever more sharply upward except during the 1930's (Great Depression). While it has risen steadily from 9.2 per cent in 1880 to 62.7 in 1950, the urbanization of the population can hardly be expected to reach 100 per cent, since that would mean total urbanization. It is probable, however, that another two decades will find at least three-fourths of the Texas population living in cities.

It must be remembered that the Industrial Revolution and the Agrarian Revolution are actually still in process and that the forces set in motion by them are still operative in urbanizing the population. A constantly increasing and improving industrialization acts as an attractive force drawing people to the cities, while an ever increasing mechanization of farming acts as a compulsive force pushing people off the farms. More and more people are needed in industry, and fewer and fewer are needed for farming.

## CHAPTER IV

### REGIONAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION IN TEXAS, 1940-1950

In this chapter of the present study the regional aspects of urbanization will be examined. As an aid in the matter of examining the demographic aspects of urbanization, the state has been divided into the regional areas indicated in Figure 7. These regional divisions have been made for the purpose of determining whether differences exist in rates of urbanization in various sections of the state. Geographic factors largely determined the locations and boundaries of these various regions.

There are eleven of these regional areas, as can be seen by consulting Figure 7: the Trans-Pecos, the Panhandle, the Central Great Plains, the Edwards Plateau, the North Central, the Central, the South Central, the South South-Central, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the Northeast, and the Southeast. Some of these regional names were arbitrarily chosen, but as far as possible names in common use were selected.

The various shadings used in Figure 7 show the relative percentage of urban increase for these regions from 1940 to 1950. A region was shaded according to the percentage

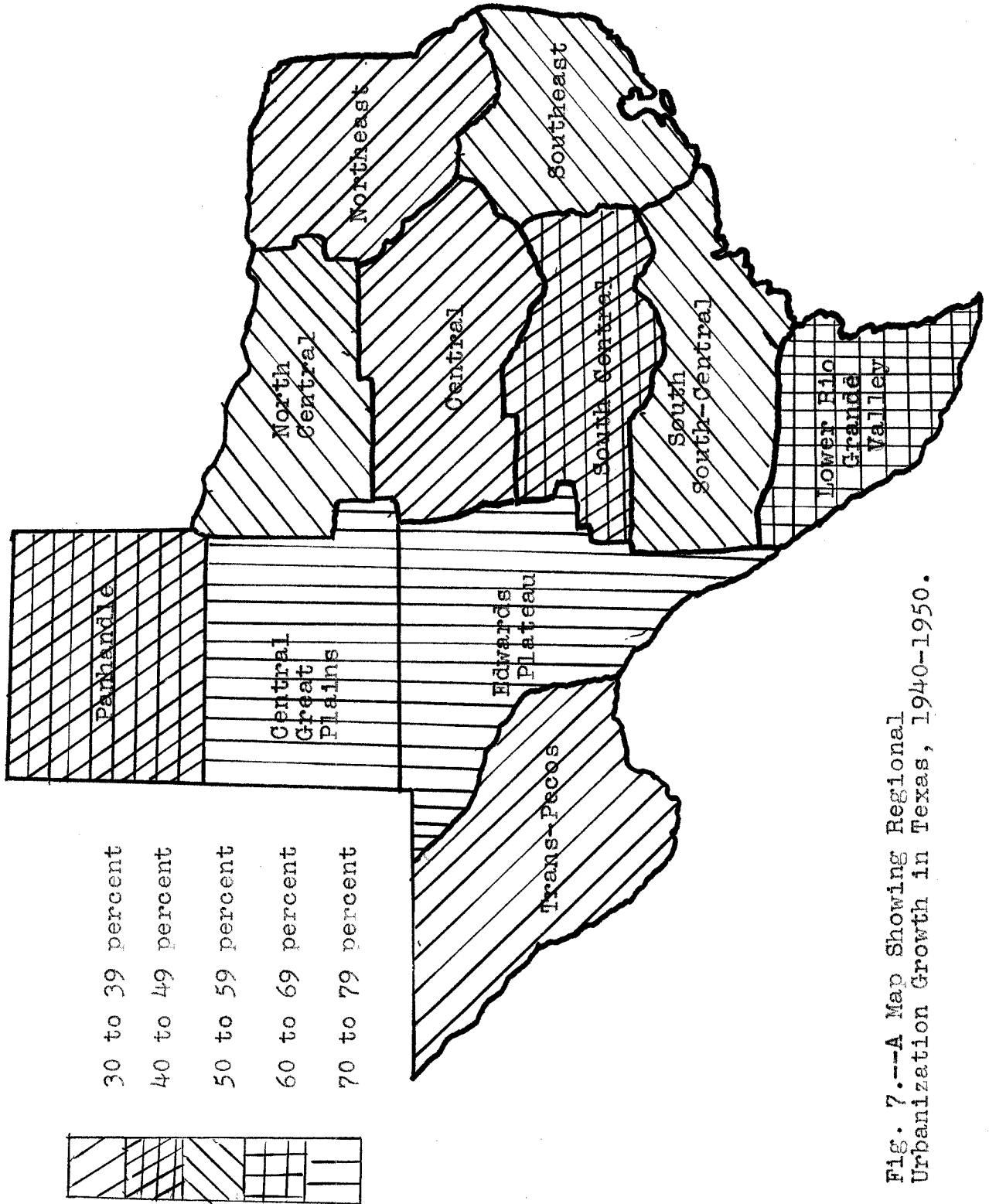


Fig. 7.--A Map Showing Regional Urbanization Growth in Texas, 1940-1950.

bracket into which it fell. The grouping used was as follows: 30 to 39 per cent, 40 to 49 per cent, 50 to 59 per cent, 60 to 69 per cent, and 70 to 79 per cent.

One can see at a glance that there are three regions which fall within the lowest bracket, the Trans-Pecos, the Central, and the Northeast. In the next lowest bracket there are two regions, the Panhandle and the South Central. In the 50-59 percent bracket there are three regions: the Southeast, the South South-Central, and the North Central. The Lower Rio Grande Valley is the only one in the 60-69 per cent bracket. The two regions in the highest bracket are the Central Great Plains and the Edwards Plateau. The exact percentage increases for these various regional areas are shown in Table 15. These percentage differences will be treated in later pages of this thesis.

The urban population of the Trans-Pecos Region (Table 4) increased 36.8 per cent during the decade 1940-1950. This is considerably below the percentage increase of 51.1 for the state as a whole. By reference to Table 15 one can determine the median percentage gain among the cities of this region to be 36.0. This compares favorably with the state's median of 38.4 per cent (Table 15). The median numerical increase for the cities in this region is 3,178, which is more than double the state's 1,450.

TABLE 4  
 URBANIZATION IN THE TRANS-PECOS REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
El Paso	96,810	130,003	34.3	6	33,193	1
Pecos	4,855	8,054	65.9	2	3,199	2
Alpine	3,866	5,256	36.0	4	1,390	3
Fabens	2,100	3,093	47.3	3	993	6
Marfa	3,805	3,595	- 5.5	7	210	7
Fort Stockton	3,294	4,444	34.9	5	1,150	5
Ysleta	1,600	4,778	198.6	1	3,178	4
Totals	<u>116,330</u>	<u>159,223</u>			<u>42,893</u>	
Regional Percentage Increase:			36.8			

\* Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

One city in the Trans-Pecos Region showed a loss in population for the decade ending in 1950. Marfa had a loss of 5.5 per cent. Ysleta, in 1940 the smallest city in the region (Table 4), had a percentage increase of 198.6; El Paso, the largest city in the region, had a percentage increase of 34.3.

Conditions in the Trans-Pecos Region are not favorable to great population densities nor to the development of large urban centers. Arid and semiarid conditions prevail throughout the region, and farming is carried on only where irrigation has been developed or where "dry farming" is practiced. Most of the region is given over to the raising of cattle, sheep, and goats. Grass is so scarce that even one goat requires many acres for grazing. Ranching of any type requires the work of only a few people and the services of only a few cities.

One might ask how, under these adverse conditions, a city the size of El Paso (130,000) developed. This city's growth has been due to a number of factors: the momentum of an early start (1827); its location at a mountain pass; its being port of entry into Mexico, a crossroads of north-south and east-west transcontinental highways and rail lines, and a center of huge irrigation district as well as vast mining and smelting activities. In addition to all these causes for growth, El Paso is also famous as a health resort and as a tourist, educational, and military center.

The urban population of the Panhandle Region increased by 41.1 per cent during the 1940-1950 decade (Table 5). This was 10 per cent below the state's increase of 51.1 (Table 15). The median per cent of increase (28.8) was almost 10 per cent below the state's 38.4, and the numerical median increase of 1,217 is 16 per cent below the state's 1,450. These differences may be accounted for by the fact that industrialization and urbanization have only recently begun in the Panhandle. In fact, settlement itself came much later for the Panhandle than for the regions in the eastern half of the state. This is no less true of other regions lying west of the one-hundredth meridian. The movement of settlers has been east to west since the days of Jamestown and Plymouth. So it was with Texas, the eastern part being settled much earlier than the western part.

The Panhandle has three fairly large cities, as Texas cities go: Amarillo, with approximately 74,000 inhabitants; Borger, with approximately 18,000; and Pampa, with approximately 16,000. The growth of these cities may be explained by the fact that there are certain resources in the Panhandle which tend to offset the disadvantages of a late start. The area is rich in oil, natural gas, helium, potash, and fine soils which lend themselves to the production of huge crops of wheat, grain sorghums, and cotton. Great herds of Hereford cattle are a common sight in the Panhandle area.



TABLE 5  
URBANIZATION IN THE PANHANDLE REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Canadian	2,151	2,671	24.2	10	520	11
Clarendon	2,431	2,572	5.8	14	141	14
Dumas	2,117	6,108	188.5	1	3,991	2
Perryton	2,325	4,399	89.2	2	2,074	6
Tulia	2,055	3,107	54.1	6	1,112	10
Canyon	2,622	4,349	65.9	5	1,727	7
Childress	6,464	7,587	17.4	11	1,123	9
Dalhart	4,682	5,899	26.0	9	1,217	8
Hereford	2,984	4,808	86.1	3	2,224	5
Memphis	3,829	3,803	- 1.7	15	- 66	15
Shamrock	3,123	3,326	6.5	13	203	13
Wellington	3,308	3,669	10.9	12	361	12
Borger	10,118	17,949	79.2	4	7,931	1
Amarillo	51,686	73,737	42.7	7	22,051	4
Pampa	12,895	16,522	28.2	8	3,627	3
Phillips	4,250	4,096	- 3.6	16	- 154	16
Totals	117,080	164,662			48,082	
Regional Percentage Increase:			41.1			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

Inspection and interpolation show that the median percentage of increase for the Central Great Plains Region (Table 6) was 53.5 and that the median of numerical growth was 1,935. The percentage of urban growth (77.6) for the region as a whole was considerably above the state's 51.1 (Table 15). The fact that the Central Great Plains Region is considerably ahead of the state's urban increase while the Panhandle is considerably below it may be explained by the more rapid development of the natural resources of oil, potash, and soil. A milder climate also favors the Central Great Plains area.

In this region most rapid urbanization was found in Andrews, which had only 611 people in 1940 but 2,698 in 1950, an increase of 441.6 per cent. Lubbock, another fast-growing city in this region, had a numerical increase of more than 39,000, or 124.1 per cent, among the highest for the larger cities of the state. Abilene increased by more than 20,000, or 77.0 per cent. Lamesa, Plainview, Snyder, Big Spring, and Sweetwater also experienced large increases during the 1940-1950 decennium. These cities have large farming and ranching areas on which to draw, as well as oil and other mineral resources in generous amounts. They have industries which are related to the above activities, such as oil refining and oil supply companies; and meat, hide, and grain processing plants.

TABLE 6  
URBANIZATION IN THE CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Andrews	611	3,309	441.6	1	2,698	10
Anson	2,339	2,708	15.6	21	370	21
Hamlin	2,406	3,564	48.1	13	1,158	15
Post	2,046	3,136	53.3	12	1,090	17
Rotan	2,029	3,159	55.7	10	1,130	16
Seminole	1,761	3,480	97.6	5	1,719	12
Tahoka	2,129	2,831	33.0	16	702	19
Brownfield	4,009	6,160	53.7	11	2,151	11
Colorado City	5,213	6,709	28.7	18	1,496	13
Floydada	2,726	3,214	17.9	20	488	20
Lamesa	6,038	10,706	77.3	6	4,668	6
Levelland	3,091	8,265	167.4	3	5,174	4
Littlefield	3,817	6,558	71.8	8	2,741	9
Paducah	2,677	2,940	9.8	22	263	22
Plainview	8,263	14,023	69.7	9	5,760	5
Slaton	3,587	5,040	40.5	14	1,453	14
Snyder	3,815	12,012	214.9	2	8,197	3
Big Spring	12,604	17,258	36.9	15	4,654	7
Sweetwater	10,367	13,580	31.0	17	3,213	8
Abilene	26,612	47,102	77.0	7	20,490	2
Lubbock	31,853	71,390	124.1	4	39,537	1
Stamford	4,810	5,806	20.7	19	996	18
Totals	142,802	252,950			110,748	
Regional Percentage Increase:			77.6			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

The median per cent of urban gain for the Edwards Plateau Region was 19.6, and the median numerical growth was 848 (Table 7). These increases are only slightly more than one-half those for the state. However, the percentage of urban increase for the region as a whole, 79.3, is considerably above the state's 51.1 (Table 15). The region's generally adverse conditions, such as rugged terrain and semiaridity, explain the low median, but the discovery of oil in areas around such towns as Kermit, McCamey, Midland, Monahans, and Odessa has meant a rapid growth for them, so rapid and large as to raise the percentage increase for the region above that for the state.

As stated above, conditions in the Edwards Plateau Region are not generally conducive to great population densities nor to the development of large urban centers. This is an area of arid to semiarid climate and rugged terrain suitable, for the most part, for the raising of cattle, sheep, and goats. Ranching of any type requires few people and few cities. In this connection, it might be pointed out that in all this vast region, embracing twenty-four counties, there are only thirteen areas which were classed as urban in 1950, and four of these have fewer than 3,000 people each.

In the North Central Region (Table 8) the percentage of urban growth amounted to 33.6 and the median numerical

TABLE 7  
URBANIZATION IN THE EDWARDS PLATEAU REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Menard	2,375	2,674	12.6	10	299	12
Ballinger	4,472	5,293	18.4	8	821	7
Eagle Pass	6,459	7,227	12.2	11	768	8
Kermit	2,584	6,884	166.4	2	4,300	4
McCamey	2,595	3,104	19.6	7	509	10
Midland	9,352	21,756	132.6	3	12,404	3
Monahans	3,944	6,260	58.7	5	2,316	5
Odessa	9,573	29,432	204.4	1	19,859	2
Sonora	2,528	2,635	4.2	13	107	13
Del Rio	13,343	14,191	6.4	12	848	6
San Angelo	25,802	51,889	101.1	4	26,087	1
Ozona	2,150	2,877	33.8	6	727	9
Winters	2,335	2,671	14.4	9	336	11
Totals	87,515	156,893			69,381	
Regional Percentage Increase:			79.3			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

increase was 1,782. The percentage of urban increase for the region as a whole was 51.4. These figures compare favorably with the state's corresponding 38.4 per cent, 1,450, and 51.1 per cent.

Percentage changes in urbanization range all the way from a loss of 11.7 (Electra) to an increase of 1,460.0 (Eagle Ford). This large percentage increase for Eagle Ford can be accounted for by the tremendous influx of people into the Dallas-Fort Worth area to work in the war plants and by their staying on to produce peacetime consumer goods. It is largely residential. Electra's loss can be explained by the drying up of the oil wells which put Electra "on the map" in the first place.

It is interesting to note that this region has two of the seven Texas cities which had populations of 100,000 or more in 1950, Dallas and Fort Worth. In 1950 the former city had 433,000 persons and the latter, 277,000. These two cities alone have more people than all the other cities (34) in the region combined.

The North Central Region contains some of the state's best farming and grazing lands. The rolling plains in the Wichita Falls area have long been known for their Hereford cattle and small-grains fields. The "Black Waxy" area ranks with the world's best farming lands. The area west of Fort Worth is a noted cattle and grain section.

TABLE 8  
URBANIZATION IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Garland	2,233	10,291	360.9	4	8,058	8
Henrietta	2,391	2,820	17.9	26	529	31
Irving	1,089	2,575	136.5	7	1,486	21
Jacksboro	2,363	2,928	23.6	22	565	30
Lancaster	1,151	2,627	128.2	8	1,476	22
Bowie	3,470	4,330	30.5	19	860	26
Breckenridge	5,826	6,605	13.4	32	779	29
Burkburnett	2,814	4,516	60.5	13	1,702	18
Decatur	2,528	2,925	13.5	30	397	33
Electra	5,588	4,934	11.7	36	654	36
Gainesville	9,651	11,219	16.2	28	1,668	19
Graham	5,175	6,756	30.6	18	1,581	20
Haskell	3,051	3,832	25.6	21	781	28
McKinney	8,555	10,525	23.0	24	1,970	16
Mineral Wells	6,303	7,763	23.2	23	1,460	23
Nocona	2,605	3,001	15.2	29	396	34
Olney	3,497	3,753	7.3	35	256	35
Quanah	3,767	4,594	22.0	25	827	27
River Oaks	3,286	7,113	116.5	9	3,827	10
Seymour	3,328	3,778	13.5	31	450	32
Vernon	9,277	12,684	36.7	17	3,407	12
Weatherford	8,655	11,196	29.4	20	2,541	15
White Settlement	1,826	10,836	493.4	3	9,010	7

TABLE 8 --- Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Denison	15,581	17,444	12.0	33	1,863	17
Denton	11,192	21,345	90.7	11	10,153	5
Highland Park	10,288	11,307	9.9	34	1,019	25
Sherman	17,156	20,073	17.0	27	2,917	14
University Park	14,458	23,823	64.8	12	9,365	6
Wichita Falls	45,112	67,709	50.1	15	22,597	3
Dallas	294,734	432,927	46.9	16	138,193	1
Fort Worth	177,662	277,047	55.9	14	99,385	2
Grand Prairie	1,595	14,707	822.1	2	13,112	4
Eagle Ford	300	4,679	1,460.0	1	4,379	9
Haltom	2,040	5,740	181.4	5	3,700	11
Oak Knoll						
Village	1,925	3,925	155.5	6	3,000	13
Hillcrest	1,423	2,823	98.4	10	1,400	24
Totals	696,828	1,055,352			358,824	
Regional Percentage Increase:			51.4			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)



There are a number of factors which help to account for the impressive growth of Dallas and Fort Worth. These cities have had the advantage of an early start; they are located in one of the richest agricultural sections in the world; and they became rail centers very early.

Dallas is the state's second largest city, having many large financial institutions, wholesale and retail businesses, and light industries. Dallas is one of the most important cotton markets of the South, and it has benefited from the location at nearby Grand Prairie of one of the nation's largest aircraft plants. It is in the geographic center of midcontinent oil and gas fields and serves as headquarters for major oil companies and oil well machinery concerns. Dallas is a distributing point for farm machinery and equipment. Manufacturing industries produce cotton gin machinery, wearing apparel, machine shop products, automobiles, textiles, furniture, cement, foods, leather goods and saddles, cotton-seed products, bakery goods, flour, bottled drinks, roofing materials, paints, electric appliances, and kitchen utensils. Further, Dallas is an important air, rail and motor transportation center.<sup>1</sup> Many national concerns have branch offices and branch stores in the city of Dallas.

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<sup>1</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 517.

Fort Worth is the fourth largest city in Texas. It was founded in 1848, but most of its growth has been in relatively recent years. Fort Worth has one of the largest aircraft plants in the United States and several smaller ones. Other industries include meat packing, flour milling, cottonseed processing, garment making, candy making, food processing, furniture making, boot and shoe manufacturing, oil refining, soap making, cement making, bottling of soft drinks, wood-working, and paper bag and box making. Fort Worth is the principal meat packing and flour milling city of Texas, and it is an outstanding national grain and livestock market.<sup>2</sup>

In the Central Texas Region (Table 9) the median percentage increase in urban growth was 18.4 and the median numerical increase was 623. In each case this was about half what they were for the state as a whole (Table 15). The percentage of urban growth for the region as a whole was 33.8. This was about 17 per cent below the state's 51.1 per cent. The comparatively low increase in this region was due largely to the fact that it is in transition from a farming section to a ranching section and is consequently losing farm population and service centers. In this region of twenty-seven counties there were only twenty-nine areas classed as urban in 1950. Only three of these cities showed a population of 20,000

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 591.

TABLE 9  
URBANIZATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Calvert	2,366	2,561	8.2	19	195	25
Killeen	1,263	7,110	469.9	1	5,847	4
McGregor	2,062	2,664	29.2	10	602	16
Brady	5,002	5,923	18.4	15	921	12
Cameron	5,040	5,227	3.7	25	187	26
Cisco	4,868	5,216	7.1	22	348	22
Coleman	6,051	6,513	7.6	21	459	20
Comanche	3,209	3,832	19.4	14	623	15
Doublin	2,546	2,746	7.9	20	200	24
Eastland	3,849	3,606	-6.3	27	-243	27
Ennis	7,087	7,817	10.3	18	730	13
Gatesville	3,177	3,848	21.1	13	671	14
Hamilton	2,716	3,080	13.4	17	364	21
Hearne	3,511	4,778	36.1	8	1,267	11
Hillsboro	7,799	8,352	7.1	23	553	17
Lampasas	3,426	4,872	42.2	7	1,446	10

TABLE 9---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Marlin	6,542	7,006	7.1	24	464	18
Mexia	6,410	6,618	3.2	26	208	23
Ranger	4,553	3,957	-13.2	29	596	29
San Saba	2,927	3,390	15.8	16	463	19
Stephenville	4,768	7,065	48.2	6	2,297	8
Teague	3,157	2,908	-7.9	28	249	28
Waxachachie	8,655	11,196	29.4	9	2,541	7
Brownwood	13,398	20,140	50.3	5	6,742	3
Cleburne	10,558	12,845	21.7	12	2,287	9
Corsicana	15,232	19,108	25.4	11	3,876	5
Temple	15,344	24,970	62.7	3	9,626	2
Waco	55,982	84,300	50.6	4	28,318	1
Belton	3,572	6,244	74.8	2	2,672	6
Totals	215,070	287,892			72,819	
Regional Percentage Increase:			33.8			

\* Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

or more in 1950, while fifteen of them showed less than 6,000 people each. Three cities showed a loss: Ranger, 13.2; Teague, 7.9; and Eastland, 6.3. Ranger and Eastland are former oil-boom towns whose oil is becoming depleted and whose people of necessity are moving elsewhere. Teague is in an area where people are shifting from farming to cattle raising, and thus farm population is diminishing and service centers are becoming smaller.

Waco, the "big city" of the Central Region, showed remarkable growth during this ten-year period. Its percentage increase was 50.6 and its numerical gain was 28,318. Waco benefited tremendously from the "war effort," and it is the site of a large Veterans' Hospital and the venerable Baylor University. Waco has lumber and textile mills and is a trading and shopping center for a large area in central Texas. It is surrounded by one of the best farming and ranching sections in the entire state.

The median per cent of increase for the South Central Region was 24.9; the numerical median, 1,024; and the regional per cent of gain was 45.1 (Table 10). The medians for this region are about two-thirds as large as the medians for the state as a whole, while the regional percentage of increase is slightly under the state's 51.1. The low degree of urbanization in this region is primarily due to its being largely a grazing section.

TABLE 10  
URBANIZATION IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Bastrop	1,976	3,158	59.8	5	1,182	10
College Station	2,184	7,898	261.6	1	5,714	3
Columbus	2,422	2,862	18.2	13	440	16
Eagle Lake	2,124	2,775	30.6	11	651	13
Elgin	2,008	3,155	51.1	6	1,147	11
Giddings	2,166	2,524	16.5	14	358	17
Brenham	6,435	6,919	7.5	21	484	15
Fredericksburg	3,544	3,847	8.5	19	303	18
Georgetown	3,682	4,943	34.2	10	1,261	8
Gonzales	4,722	5,630	19.2	12	908	12
Kerrville	5,572	7,665	37.6	9	2,193	7
La Grange	2,531	2,729	7.8	20	198	21
Llano	2,658	2,960	11.4	16	302	19
Lockhart	5,018	5,531	10.2	17	513	14
Luling	4,437	4,285	-3.2	22	152	22
New Braunfels	6,076	12,196	74.8	3	5,220	4
San Marcos	6,006	9,961	65.9	4	3,955	5
Sequin	7,006	9,696	38.4	8	2,690	6
Smithville	3,100	3,381	9.1	18	281	20
Taylor	7,875	9,083	15.3	15	1,208	9
Bryan	10,018	17,949	79.2	2	7,931	2
Austin	87,930	131,964	50.1	7	44,034	1
Totals	179,490	261,211			81,721	
Regional Percentage Increase:			45.1			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

There was one city in the South Central Region which lost population during the 1940-1950 decade, Luling. However, the loss was small, being only 3.2 per cent, or a mere 152 numerically. Luling is another oil town whose oil wells are showing signs of depletion. Out of the twenty-two towns in this region there were only three with more than 10,000 persons: New Braunfels, with 12,195; Bryan, 17,949; and Austin, 131,964. Thirteen of the twenty-two cities in this region had less than 5,000 persons each in 1950. It is interesting to note that there are twenty-four counties in this area, but only twenty-two centers classed as urban. This means that at least two counties had no trading centers large enough to be classed as urban.

With the possible exception of New Braunfels, the larger cities in this region owe much of their growth to the fact that they are educational or political centers. Austin, the "big city" of this region, is both an educational and political center. New Braunfels's 74.8 per cent increase can be explained by the fact that there are textile mills, hosiery mills, garment factories, and many other industries located there. The region furnishes the raw materials, the labor, and, in some part, the markets for these industries.

In the South South-Central Region (Table 11) the median percentage of increase was 39.2, while the median

TABLE 11  
 URBANIZATION IN THE SOUTH SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Carrizo Springs	2,494	4,343	74.1	4	1,849	11
Karnes City	1,571	2,584	64.5	5	1,013	18
Mathis	1,950	4,038	107.1	3	2,088	8
Olmos Park	1,822	2,813	54.4	8	991	19
Palacios	2,288	2,913	27.3	21	625	23
Pleasanton	2,074	2,903	40.0	13	829	20
Port Lavaca	2,069	5,062	144.7	1	2,993	3
Terrell Hills	1,236	2,702	118.6	2	1,366	12
Alamo Heights	5,700	7,950	38.5	14	2,250	7
Arenas Pass	4,095	5,389	31.6	18	1,294	14
Bay City	6,594	9,518	42.8	10	2,824	4
Beeville	6,789	9,328	37.4	16	2,539	5
Cotulla	3,633	4,425	21.8	23	793	21
Crystal City	6,529	7,195	10.2	28	666	22
Cuero	5,474	7,456	36.2	17	1,982	9
Edna	2,724	3,845	41.2	11	1,121	16



TABLE 11---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
El Campo	2,906	6,216	59.1	7	2,310	6
Hondo	3,200	4,220	31.3	19	1,020	17
Kenedy	2,891	4,177	44.5	9	1,286	15
Pearsall	3,164	4,461	41.0	12	1,297	13
Refugio	4,077	4,680	14.8	24	602	24
Sinton	3,770	4,270	13.3	25	500	26
Uvalde	6,679	8,659	29.6	20	1,980	10
Wharton	4,386	4,456	1.6	29	70	29
Yoakum	4,733	5,225	10.4	27	492	27
Victoria	11,566	16,102	39.2	15	4,536	2
San Antonio	253,854	406,811	60.3	6	152,957	1
Taft	2,686	2,985	11.1	26	299	28
Yorktown	2,081	2,596	24.7	22	515	25
Totals	364,135	557,123			193,088	
Regional Percentage Increase:			53.0			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

numerical gain was 1,286. This compares favorably with the state's median percentage gain of 38.4 and numerical median gain of 1,450. The percentage gain in urban population for the region as a whole was 53.0, which is very close to the state's 51.1 per cent (Table 15).

The cities in the South South-Central Region varied in per cent of increase in population from a low of 1.6 (Wharton) to a high of 144.7 (Port Lavaca). The least gain in population was Wharton's 70 and the largest was San Antonio's 153,000. Wharton's small increase can perhaps be explained by the fact that the area which this city services is shifting from farming to dairying and ranching, which require a smaller labor force. San Antonio, the third largest city in the state, owes its growth to the fact that it is the center of a large trading and shipping area. In addition several army camps and aviation schools are located there. Among the city's industries are garment factories, meat packing plants, furniture factories, metal working plants, pecan shelling plants, railroad shops, plasticizing plants, and Mexican-food processing plants.<sup>3</sup>

The South South-Central Region is an area of small urban centers. From San Antonio's high of 407,000 there is a drop of 391,000 to Victoria's 16,000, which is the

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 499.

second highest. All the other cities of the twenty-nine in the region range in size from Bay City's 9,518 down to Karnes City's 2,584, twenty of them having populations of less than 6,000. This situation is due to the fact that the region is largely a cattle, sheep, and goat raising area. However, some sections are noted for their intensive farming and high farm production. The "Winter Garden" section is a good example of this. However, except for the possibility of boom conditions following the discovery of oil or other minerals, there is not likely to be any large urban growth in this region. The farming mentioned above is the type requiring only seasonal employment of large numbers of workers, who are drawn from a migrant population rather than from the permanent population.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region (Table 12) the median per cent of urban increase was 64.0, which was almost 26 per cent above the state's 38.4. The median numerical gain was 2,314, which was 864 above the state's 1,450. The regional per cent of urban growth was 66.9, while that for the state was 51.1.

The percentage change by city for this region ranges from a loss of 2.3 to the tremendous gain of 31,884.0. Benavides lost seventy-two persons during the ten years ending in 1950; San Pedro, the town with the greatest percentage gain, grew from a lowly twenty-five to a sizeable

TABLE 12  
 URBANIZATION IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Alamo	1,944	3,026	55.7	19	1,082	26
Bishop	1,329	2,732	105.6	7	1,403	21
Edcouch	1,758	2,925	66.4	14	1,167	24
Elsa	1,006	3,175	215.6	2	2,169	17
La Feria	1,664	2,937	78.6	11	1,273	23
Premont	1,080	2,533	134.5	3	1,453	20
San Juan	2,264	3,407	50.5	21	1,143	25
Alice	7,792	16,414	110.7	6	8,622	6
Donna	4,712	7,161	52.0	20	2,449	14
Edinburg	8,718	12,340	41.5	24	3,622	13
Falfurrias	4,500	6,697	48.8	22	2,197	16
Hebbronville	3,000	4,290	43.0	23	1,290	22
Kingsville	7,782	16,857	116.6	5	9,075	5
Mercedes	7,624	10,065	32.0	26	2,441	15
Mission	5,982	10,756	79.8	10	4,774	10
Pharr	4,784	8,678	81.4	9	3,894	11

TABLE 12---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Raymondville	4,050	9,135	125.6	4	5,085	9
Rio Grande City	2,500	3,982	59.3	18	1,482	19
Robstown	6,780	7,248	6.9	29	468	29
San Benito	9,501	13,264	39.6	25	3,763	12
San Diego	2,674	4,394	64.3	15	1,720	18
San Pedro	25	7,996	31884.0	1	7,971	8
Weslaco	6,883	7,487	8.8	28	604	28
Harlingen	13,306	23,202	74.4	12	9,896	4
McAllen	11,877	20,005	68.4	13	8,128	7
Laredo	39,274	51,694	31.6	27	12,420	3
Corpus Christi	57,301	108,053	88.6	8	50,752	1
Brownsville	22,083	36,176	63.8	16	12,093	2
Benavides	3,081	3,009	-2.3	30	-72	30
Ramona	1,708	2,778	62.6	17	1,070	27
Totals	246,982	412,416			165,434	
Regional Percentage Increase:			66.9			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

7,487. This growth resulted largely from oil development in the area.<sup>4</sup> This is a typical boom situation which follows the discovery of oil and causes mushroom growth, making roaring cities out of slumbering villages.

Out of the thirty cities listed as urban for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region, seven showed increases of more than 100 per cent for the 1940-1950 decade, and fourteen others showed increases of more than fifty per cent. An additional six showed increases above thirty per cent. This indicates a uniformly high urban rate of growth throughout the region and helps to explain the region's overall urban increase of 66.9 per cent.

This region has long been referred to as the "garden spot" of Texas. It is a region of contrasts, with large-scale cattle raising and modernized, intensive agricultural production being found side by side. The great King Ranch is just across the fence from the citrus groves and winter truck farms in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Fronting Mexico on one side and the sea on another, the region has its economy sustained in material degree by international commerce.<sup>5</sup>

Corpus Christi, with a population of 108,000 in 1950, is the largest city in this region. Since 1920 this city

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 607.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 155.

has more than doubled in population during each decennial period except for the one ending in 1950, during which the increase was 88.6 per cent. This is one of the best records of growth among Texas cities or among American cities generally, for that matter. Corpus Christi is an industrial, shipping, and recreational center. Some of the largest of the new chemical industries have been established in and around this city. It has a deep-water harbor and connects with the Intracoastal Canal. It has excellent beaches, boating and fishing facilities, excellent hotels, highly rated schools, and beautiful churches. Among the many industries are such important ones as oil refineries, an alkali plant, food processing plants, creameries, fertilizer plants, and chemical plants. A Naval Air Training Station, costing \$100,000,000 is also located there.<sup>6</sup>

The second largest city in this region is Laredo, whose 1950 population was approximately 52,000. This city is the principal border gateway for overland traffic between the United States and Mexico and carries a larger volume of passenger and freight traffic than any other port of entry into Mexico. A wide territory of retail trade is served by Laredo. Laredo industries manufacture hats, bricks, tile, clothing, canned goods, and antimony. There is oil production in the vicinity of Laredo, also.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 572.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 601.

Brownsville, with 36,000 population, is the third city in size in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region. It is a land and sea port of entry, Valley trade and shipping center, deep-water harbor, and international airport. It has brick and tile plants, clothing factories, and food processing plants.<sup>8</sup> Being on the Mexican border gives Brownsville a distinctive international atmosphere.

Before discussion of this region is concluded, it might be well to point out the increasing importance of cotton production in the area. Preliminary reports set the production for 1948 at 383,000 standard sized bales (500 pounds).<sup>9</sup> Many of the citrus groves which were killed by the severe freezes of the 1950-1951 winter have been replaced by cotton fields. It takes five years to bring a citrus grove to production, whereas it takes only five months to receive a return from the planting of cotton.

The median percentage of urban increase for the Northeast Region was 20.9, and the numerical median growth was 1,167. The percentage of gain for the region as a whole was 30.0 (Table 13). The respective figures for the state as a whole were 38.4, 1,450 and 51.1 per cent. It can be seen that the region was below the state in all three points

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<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 507.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., pp. 217, 220.



TABLE 13  
URBANIZATION IN THE NORTHEAST REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Atlanta	2,453	3,770	53.7	7	1,317	14
Carthage	2,178	4,751	118.1	2	2,573	9
New Boston	1,111	2,679	141.1	1	1,568	12
San Augustine	1,516	2,506	65.3	4	990	18
Athens	4,765	5,206	9.3	25	441	24
Bonham	5,349	7,043	10.9	23	694	23
Canter	3,010	4,318	43.5	10	1,308	15
Clarksville	4,095	4,350	6.2	27	255	29
Commerce	4,699	5,866	24.8	15	1,167	16
Gilmer	3,138	4,114	31.1	14	976	19
Gladewater	4,454	5,310	19.2	17	856	21
Henderson	6,437	6,802	5.7	28	365	26
Jacksonville	7,218	8,550	18.5	18	1,332	13
Jefferson	2,797	3,161	13.0	21	364	27
Kaufman	2,654	2,715	2.3	31	61	31
Kilgore	6,708	9,693	44.5	9	2,985	7
Lufkin	9,567	15,147	58.3	6	5,580	4
Mineola	3,223	3,521	12.3	22	298	25
Mount Pleasant	4,528	6,348	40.2	11	1,820	11
Nacogdoches	7,538	12,303	63.1	5	4,765	5

TABLE 13---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Pittsburg	2,916	3,157	8.3	26	241	30
Rusk	5,699	6,617	16.1	19	918	20
Sulphur Springs	6,742	8,994	33.4	13	2,252	10
Greenville	13,995	14,697	5.0	29	702	22
Longview	13,758	24,445	77.7	3	10,687	1
Marshall	18,410	22,255	20.9	16	3,845	6
Palestine	12,144	12,455	2.6	30	311	28
Paris	18,678	21,636	15.8	20	2,958	8
Terrell	10,481	11,533	10.2	24	1,072	17
Texasarkana	17,019	24,657	44.9	8	7,638	3
Tyler	28,279	38,864	37.4	12	10,585	2
Totals	236,559	307,583			71,024	
Regional Percentage Increase:			30.0			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

of comparison, and the differences were considerable. Perhaps the major cause underlying these differences is that this area of the state is in process of shifting from a farming economy to one of dairying and ranching. Those farms remaining are becoming more and more mechanized and thus need a smaller labor force than formerly. However, the hilly terrain of the East Texas area does not lend itself to large scale farming, for the most part, since the fields are comparatively small. It is a well known fact that dairying and ranching do not require as many "hands" as does farming. Especially was this so for the type of farming which prevailed in East Texas, where the "Georgia stock," the "bull-tongue," and the "one gray mule" constituted the operational assets of most of the farmers. It is usually referred to as a "one-horse" system of farming. At any rate, the return on the labor, time, and capital outlay (small as it was) could not support the farmer and his family. Added to this, there were the problems of erosion and insect infestation to harass him further. Only within the last twenty years have the farmers been persuaded that farming is a poor business in East Texas.

On the other hand, the region is almost ideally suited for dairying and ranching. The climate is not too severe, the fertility of the soil and the ample rainfall insure grass in generous amounts for grazing and for hay, and water

for the cattle is usually no problem at all. Because of mild climate, housing for the cattle is comparatively simple and inexpensive. One wonders why this change from farming to dairying and ranching did not occur much sooner. Traveling through East Texas, one sees many a former farm given over to grass and cattle, with the farm houses standing vacant or stuffed with hay for winter feeding.

It is interesting to contrast the urban situation in the Northeast Region with that in the Rio Grande Region. The latter region had twenty-seven cities out of its total of thirty which showed a population increase of 30 per cent or better during the past decade. The Northeast Region, on the other hand, had only fourteen out of a total of thirty-one cities showing that rate of increase.

The median per cent of growth for cities of the Southeast Region was 73.4, and the numerical median increase was 2,460 (Table 15). The percentage of urban increase for the region as a whole was 55.0 (Table 14). These medians were almost double those of the state (Table 15), while the percentage increase was slightly above that of the state.

The Southeast Region is one of the fastest growing and most highly industrialized sections in the state. This region probably has more of the factors required for industrialization than any other part of the state. It might be well at this point to enumerate some of the elements considered most

TABLE 14  
URBANIZATION IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Angleton	1,763	3,247	84.2	17	1,484	23
Bellaire	1,124	10,147	802.8	1	9,023	7
Cleveland	1,783	5,194	191.3	7	3,411	14
Galena Park	1,516	7,162	358.5	4	5,646	10
Lakeview	1,852	3,083	261.9	6	2,231	20
Livingston	1,851	2,674	54.2	24	2,823	29
Port Neches	2,487	5,447	119.0	12	2,960	17
South Houston	2,982	4,116	219.1	5	3,134	15
Alvin	3,087	3,541	14.7	30	454	31
Conroe	4,624	7,313	58.2	22	2,689	18
Crockett	4,536	5,923	30.6	26	1,387	24
Huntsville	5,108	9,802	91.9	15	4,694	12
Jasper	3,497	4,404	25.9	27	907	28
La Porte	3,072	4,957	61.2	20	1,885	22
Liberty	3,087	4,161	34.8	25	1,074	27
Navasota	6,138	4,976	-18.9	35	-1162	35
Orange	7,422	21,100	182.4	9	13,678	4
Pasadena	3,436	22,444	553.2	2	19,008	3
Rosenberg	3,457	5,758	66.6	19	2,301	19
Silsbee	2,525	3,178	25.9	28	2,653	30

TABLE 14--Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Texas City	5,748	16,577	188.4	8	10,829	6
Port Arthur	46,140	57,377	24.4	29	11,237	5
Beaumont	59,061	93,715	58.7	21	34,654	2
Galveston	60,862	65,898	8.3	31	5,036	11
Houston	384,514	594,321	54.6	23	209,807	1
Dickinson	3,500	2,640	-24.6	36	-860	34
Highland	3,000	2,715	-9.5	34	-285	33
Jacinto City	3,800	6,850	80.2	18	3,050	16
Lake Jackson	3,000	2,896	-3.5	32	-104	32
Lamarque	1,500	7,358	390.0	3	5,858	9
Nederland	1,700	3,801	124.0	11	2,101	21
Red Cut Heights	1,276	2,554	100.0	13	1,278	25
West Orange	1,275	2,552	100.0	14	1,277	26
Baytown	25,000	22,927	-8.3	33	-2,073	36
Freeport	2,579	6,008	133.0	10	3,429	13
West University Place	9,221	17,053	84.9	16	7,832	8
Totals	674,523	1043,869			369,345	
Regional Percentage Increase:			55.0			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

conducive to urban and industrial growth: (1) Transportation facilities. A city must have railway or waterway transportation facilities to develop industrially, but the city which has both rail and sea ways has a double advantage. Having both sea and rail transportation implies that the city is located at a "break" in transportation, which in itself is an advantage. (2) Location. The city located at the farthest reach of the navigable sea into the land, at the point where transportation lines cross, or at mountain passes where highways and railways must converge to cross the mountains has a distinct advantage over other cities not so located. Goods bound by sea to interior sections of a country will be taken to that port nearest those sections. Conversely, goods from the interior sections to be shipped by sea will be carried to the nearest port. These facts explain, in large part, why Houston has outstripped Galveston as Texas' leading seaport. (3) A hinterland rich in natural resources. The Southeast Region is one of the richest sections in the world in natural resources. Fine timber, an almost inexhaustible water supply, an ideal climate, oil, gas, sulphur, sea water (magnesium), rich soils, ample rainfall, fine pasture lands, gypsum, deep sea ports, and navigable rivers are among the many resources in this region. (4) Availability of markets and raw materials. Cities in the Southeast Region have readily

available all the natural resources mentioned and can readily obtain any other raw materials which might be needed. The industrial products of this region are shipped throughout the United States and to many foreign countries by sea, land, and air.<sup>10</sup>

In one decade, 1920-1930, Houston doubled its population and became the largest city in the state as well as one of the busiest seaports in the United States. Exploitation of the rich Gulf oil fields and the completion in 1914 of the Houston Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico were the chief factors in the city's growth in population and trade. The ship channel makes it possible for the largest cargo ships and oil tankers to go from Houston's busy wharves to ports in all parts of the world. Houston also has a heavy coastwise trade. Railway lines bring in freight for these ships from Mexico, the Mississippi Valley, and the West, as well as from the rich lands around Houston; and long pipe lines bring to the Houston refineries petroleum from fields as far away as Wyoming.<sup>11</sup>

Everything is big in Texas, but nothing has been quite as spectacular as the industrial rise of Houston since 1939.

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<sup>10</sup>Eugene Van Cleff, Geography for the Businessman, pp. 61-77.

<sup>11</sup>"Houston," Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, Vol. 6, p. 346, 1947 ed.



But this rise has been no accident. Farsighted leaders in Houston had great dreams for the "Bayou City," and they took a big step in making those dreams come true when they planned and dug the Houston Ship Channel, fifty-eight miles long, thirty-four feet deep (minimum), at a cost of \$50,000,000. The city is today one of the major ports in the United States. The Houston oil area of fourteen counties has fifteen refineries with a daily capacity of nearly 600,000 barrels. Eight of these refineries are in Harris County, of which Houston is the county seat. World War II accelerated expansion of oil and chemical plants, with the United States Government investing the colossal sum of \$220,000,000 in hundred-octane gasoline and synthetic rubber plants.

The Houston area produces well over 87 per cent of the Texas rice crop, and a major portion of this rice is milled in Houston. Flour milling is also important there. Great herds of cattle feed in the luxuriant pastures of Gulf Coast areas, giving Houston another thriving industry, meat packing.

Houston and its throbbing industries would be impossible without adequate transportation facilities. Houston has these: the famous Ship Channel, eight major airlines, and many railroads. One KPRC radio announcer, in the course

of his daily work, says repeatedly, "This is Houston, where seventeen railroads meet the sea."<sup>12</sup>

Beaumont is another rapidly developing industrial and shipping center in the Southeast Region. The city is a major port with large foreign, coastwise, and Intra-coastal Canal commerce. It is connected with the Gulf of Mexico by the Sabine-Neches Waterway. Beaumont has oil refineries, chemical plants; and petro-chemical industries; ship building and repairing facilities; rice milling, box and crate factories; iron and steel plants; lumber mills, and mill works.

Port Arthur (57,000) is another important port in this region. The city is located on the Sabine-Neches Waterway and is a major oil refining and shipping center, with foreign and coastwise trade. Cotton, lumber, wheat, and oil are commodities shipped in large quantities. Port Arthur's industries include oil refining, ship building, brass making, barrel making, container manufacturing, carbon making, chemical making, welding, and steel processing. The city is on the Intracoastal Canal, which gives it water connections with Houston and New Orleans.<sup>13</sup>

Galveston (66,000), another city in the Southeast Region, is one of the state's leading ports. It had

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<sup>12</sup>The World Almanac, 1951, pp. 117-118.

<sup>13</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 528.

approximately 7,000,000 tons of foreign, coastwise, and internal shipping in 1947. The city has tourist trade attracted annually by fishing, boating, and swimming. Galveston exports cotton, sulphur, grain, flour, metals, sugar, and other products. The city's industries include grain elevators, machine shops, flour mills, cotton compresses, ship yards and dry docks, rice mills, breweries, and food processing plants. The city is the center of one of the nation's largest customs districts.<sup>14</sup>

Now that the regional trends in urbanization for the past decade in Texas have been traced, it is desirable at this point to summarize the findings of this chapter. To facilitate this summarization, Table 15 was prepared. The medians and percentages of increase of the eleven regions set up for this study and for the state as a whole are given in this table. The regions are ranked on the basis of their medians of percentage increase (column 2). Quite obviously then, columns 3 and 4 are not ranked.

A glance at column 2 shows that the Southeast, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the Central Great Plains regions, in the order named, hold the first three places. In other words, these three regions had the highest medians of percentage increase. It is interesting to

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 528.

TABLE 15

REGIONAL INCREASES IN URBANIZATION  
IN TEXAS, 1940-1950

Region	Medians of Increase		Percentage Increase
	Percentage	Numerical	
(1) Southeast	(2) 73.4	(3) 2,460	(4) 55.0
Lower Rio Grande Valley	64.0	2,319	66.9
Central Great Plains	53.5	1,935	77.6
South South- Central	39.2	1,286	53.0
Trans-Pecos	36.0	3,178	36.8
North Central	33.6	1,782	51.4
Panhandle	28.8	1,217	41.1
South Central	24.9	1,024	45.1
Northeast	20.9	1,167	30.0
Edwards Plateau	19.6	848	79.3
Central Texas	18.4	623	33.8
State as Whole	38.4	1,450	51.1

note that the difference between the first place and the second, and between the second place and the third place is approximately 10 per cent, while the difference between third and fourth rankings is over 14 per cent. It should be noted, also, that the difference between the highest median percentage increase and the lowest one is considerable, 55.0. However, it should be pointed out that even the lowest median percentage increase (18.4) in urbanization is significant. Even in this region, Central Texas, urbanization moved forward rapidly during the decade ending in 1950.

The medians of numerical increases are given in column 3, and, again, it is to be noted that the same regions held their respective places at the top, if the Trans-Pecos Region is excepted. In terms of percentage increases, it can be seen in column 4 that the three top ranking regions are the Edwards Plateau (79.3), the Central Great Plains (77.6), and the Lower Rio Grande Valley (66.9). However, it should be noted that the Southeast, the South South-Central, and the North Central regions showed percentage increases in the fifties. It should be further noted that no region in the entire state failed to increase its urban population by at least 30.0 percent and that the percentage increase for the state as a whole for the decade under consideration was 51.1.

The urban population in 1950 for the state as a whole was one and one-half times greater than it was in 1940. The rate of increase in urbanization for the decade 1940-1950, according to the final figures of the 1950 census, is three times as great as the rate for the decade from 1930 to 1940.

The low rank of the North Central Region in column 2 needs an explanation. This low rank is due to the fact that there are many urban centers in the region which made small increases. Thus in counting down to the median or mid-point, one arrives at a number which is necessarily small. The fact that several cities made big gains is offset by the fact that all the cities making such gains are passed before the median is reached. Thus the sixteen cities which made 50.0 or more percentage increase are passed before the median for the total of thirty-six cities in the list is reached. It is to be noted that the North Central Region made a good showing in column 4 (51.4 per cent). Here the big gains made by the sixteen cities mentioned above are more than enough to overcome the small gains of the others.

This high rate of urbanization has certain implications and poses certain problems which will be treated in the final chapter of this thesis.

## CHAPTER V

### ASPECTS OF URBANIZATION IN SELECTED SIZE-GROUPINGS OF TEXAS CITIES

1940-1950

It is the purpose of this chapter to examine the relationship which existed in Texas in the past decade between city size and the rate of urbanization. Cities were grouped as follows on the basis of their 1940 population: under 2,500; 2,500 to 9,999; 10,000 to 24,999; 25,000 to 49,999; 50,000 to 99,999; and 100,000 or more. Cities were assigned to each group on the basis of their 1940 populations, as stated above, but to be included these cities must have reached urban status, or maintained it, in the 1950 census. This procedure introduces an element of bias into the "under 2,500" group, which will be discussed within the next few pages.

At this point it might be of interest to note that there are eight Texas cities which fell from urban status during the decade closing in 1950; these cities were Mart, Brackettville, Bridge City, Bunavista, Cooper, Handley, Seagraves, and Velasco.<sup>1</sup> South San Antonio lost its urban

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<sup>1</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, pp. 108-121.

identification through annexation to the city of San Antonio in 1944 and does not appear in the present listing of Texas urban centers.

There are seventy-one cities in the "under 2,500" group (Table 16). This category has the second largest number of cities; the one with the largest number of cities is the 2,500 to 9,999 group, which has 156 cities (Table 17).

Out of the seventy-one cities in Table 12, thirty-two had a percentage increase of more than 100.0. One of these, San Pedro, had the remarkable gain of 31,884.0 per cent. This increase indicates a definite boom situation, with a growth far beyond anything which may be normally expected. The cause of the San Pedro boom was the discovery of oil in the vicinity. Andrews' 441.6 per cent increase was also due to an oil boom situation. Bellaire's 802.8 per cent increase was due largely to the influx of people seeking work in the great industrial area in and around Houston. Grand Prairie owed her big increase of 822.1 per cent to the location of huge airplane production plants there and to the proximity of Dallas and Fort Worth. Killeen's outstanding increase of 462.9 per cent was due mainly to the location there of Camp Hood, which is the home of the Second Armored (Hell on Wheels) Division and the scene of National Guard and Organized Reserve training during the summer months.



TABLE 16  
 TEXAS CITIES HAVING LESS THAN 2500 POPULATION IN 1940  
 BUT MORE THAN THAT NUMBER IN 1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Alamo	1,944	3,026	55.7	45	1,080	48
Andrews	611	3,309	441.6	7	2,698	19
Angleton	1,763	3,247	84.2	36	1,482	30
Anson	2,338	2,708	15.6	67	370	66
Atlanta	2,453	3,770	53.7	50	1,317	36
Bastrop	1,976	3,158	59.8	43	1,182	40
Bellaire	1,124	10,047	802.8	3	9,023	1
Bishop	1,329	2,732	105.6	30	1,403	34
Calvert	2,366	2,561	8.2	70	195	70
Canadian	2,151	2,671	24.2	62	520	62
Carrizo Springs	2,494	4,343	74.1	38	1,848	26
Carthage	2,178	4,751	118.1	28	2,573	20
Clarendon	2,431	2,572	5.8	71	141	71
Cleveland	1,783	5,194	191.3	16	3,411	12
College Station	2,184	7,898	261.6	13	5,714	7
Columbus	2,422	2,862	18.2	64	440	64
Dumas	2,117	6,108	188.5	17	3,991	10
Eagle Ford	300	4,679	460.0	6	4,379	9
Edcouch	1,758	2,925	66.4	39	1,167	41
Elgin	2,008	3,155	57.1	44	1,147	43

TABLE 16---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Elsa	1,006	3,175	215.1	14	3,169	22
Fabens	2,100	3,093	47.3	54	993	52
Galena Park	1,562	7,162	358.5	10	5,600	8
Garland	2,233	10,291	360.9	9	8,058	3
Giddings	2,166	2,524	16.5	66	358	67
Grand Prairie	1,595	14,707	822.1	2	3,112	15
Hamlin	2,406	3,564	48.1	53	1,158	42
Henrietta	2,391	2,820	17.9	65	429	65
Irving	1,089	2,575	136.5	22	1,486	29
Jacksboro	2,363	2,928	23.6	63	565	61
Karnes City	1,571	2,584	64.5	41	1,013	50
Killeen	1,263	7,110	462.9	5	5,847	6
Lamarque	1,500	7,358	390.0	8	5,858	5
Lakeview	852	3,093	261.9	12	2,231	21
Lancaster	1,151	2,627	128.2	24	1,476	31
Eagle Lake	2,124	2,775	30.6	58	651	38
La Feria	1,664	2,937	78.6	37	1,273	39
Livingston	1,851	2,855	54.2	48	1,004	51
McGregor	2,062	2,664	29.2	59	602	60
Mathis	1,950	4,038	107.1	29	2,088	24

TABLE 16---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Menard	2,375	2,674	12.6	69	299	69
Nederland	1,700	3,801	124.0	25	2,101	23
New Boston	1,111	2,679	141.1	21	1,568	28
Olmos Park	1,822	2,813	54.4	27	991	53
Palacios	2,288	2,913	27.3	60	625	59
Ozona	2,150	2,877	33.8	56	727	56
Perryton	2,325	4,399	89.2	35	2,074	25
Pleasanton	2,074	2,903	40.0	55	829	55
Port Lavaca	2,069	5,062	144.7	20	2,993	17
Port Neches	2,487	5,447	119.0	26	2,960	18
Post	2,046	3,136	53.3	51	1,090	47
Premont	1,080	2,533	134.5	23	1,453	33
Rotan	2,029	3,159	55.7	46	1,130	45
San Augustine	1,516	2,506	65.3	40	990	54
San Pedro	25	7,996	31,884.0	1	7,971	4
San Juan	2,264	3,407	50.5	52	1,143	44
Seminole	1,761	3,480	97.6	34	1,719	27
South Houston	982	4,116	319.1	11	3,134	14
Tahoka	2,129	2,831	33.0	57	702	57
Terrell Hills	1,236	2,702	118.6	27	1,466	32

TABLE 16----Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Tulia	2,055	3,167	54.1	49	1,112	46
West Orange	1,276	2,552	100.0	32	1,276	38
Winters	2,335	2,671	14.4	68	336	68
Yorktown	2,081	2,596	24.7	61	515	63
Ysleta	1,600	4,778	198.6	15	3,178	13
White Settlement	1,826	10,836	493.4	4	9,010	2
Haltom	2,040	5,740	181.4	18	3,700	11
Oak Knoll Village	1,925	3,925	155.5	19	3,000	16
Hillcrest	1,423	2,823	98.4	33	1,400	35
Ramona	1,708	2,778	62.6	42	1,070	49
Red Cut Heights	1,276	2,554	100.0	31	1,278	37
Totals	124,348	278,549			154,191	
Group Percentage Increase:			124.0			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

Carthage, deep in the East Texas "Piney Woods," owed its 118.1 per cent gain to the discovery of oil in Panola County, of which Carthage is the county seat. Bishop, Cleveland, Dumas, Mathis, and Seminole owed most of their growth to oil also. Many of the others in the high percentage increase brackets benefited from an overflow of both industries and people from nearby industrial centers, such as Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange, Dallas, and Fort Worth.

The percentage increases ranged all the way from a low of 5.8 to a high of 31,884.0, with a median of 84.2 for all the cities of this group. The numerical gains ranged from a low of 141 to a high of 9,023, with a median of 1,317. The per cent of urban increase for the group as a whole was 124.0. The median increase for all the urban centers in the state as a whole was 38.4, which was less than one-half that for the cities in this group. The state's numerical increase of 1,450 was a little larger than the 1,317 which was the median numerical increase of the cities in this group. The percentage increase for the group (124.0) was almost two and one-half the state's percentage increase of 51.1. However, comparisons with this group were misleading, since the group included only "selected" cities. Actually the median and percentage increase shown above for the group were not comparable to those shown for the other groups or for the state as a whole.

The term "selected" as used in this context requires an explanation. Out of approximately 3,400 towns and villages, incorporated and not incorporated, in Texas, which might conceivably have gained sufficient numbers to give them urban status, only seventy-one actually did so. It should be clear from this fact that the cities included in the "under 2,500" group are a chosen few indeed. Comparing cities "under 2,500" with the other size groupings requires information not presently available for the remaining 3,329 towns.

In the 2,500 to 9,999 group there are 156 cities (Table 17). As may be noted from the table, there are thirteen cities in this category which lost population during the 1940-1950 period. These are, in order of their appearance in the table, Benavides, 2.3 per cent; Dickinson, 24.6 per cent; Eastland, 6.3 per cent; Electra, 11.7 per cent; Highlands, 9.5 per cent; Lake Jackson, 3.5 per cent; Luling, 3.4 per cent; Marfa, 5.5 per cent; Memphis, 1.7 per cent; Navasota, 18.9 per cent; Phillips, 3.6 per cent; Ranger, 13.2 per cent; and Teague, 7.9 per cent. The percentage gains for the remainder of the cities in this group run from a low of 1.6 to a high of 553.2, with the median falling at 27.3 for all the cities in the group. The numerical gains run from a low of sixty-one to a high of 19,859, with the median at 1,204. The percentage increase for the group as a whole is 43.0.

TABLE 17  
URBANIZATION OF CITIES OF 2,500-9,999 POPULATION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Alamo Heights	5,700	7,950	39.5	55	2,250	45
Alice	7,792	16,414	110.7	13	9,622	7
Alpine	3,866	5,256	36.0	62	1,390	66
Alvin	3,087	3,541	14.7	104	454	117
Aransas Pass	4,095	5,389	31.6	70	1,294	71
Arlington	4,240	7,686	81.3	18	3,446	25
Athens	4,765	5,206	9.3	122	441	119
Ballinger	4,472	5,293	18.4	94	821	93
Bay City	6,594	9,418	42.8	48	2,824	31
Beeville	6,789	9,328	37.4	58	2,539	37
Belton	3,575	6,244	74.8	22	2,669	35
Benavides	3,081	3,009	-2.3	145	72	145
Bonham	6,349	7,043	10.9	115	694	99
Bowie	3,470	4,530	30.5	74	1,060	83
Brady	5,002	5,923	18.4	95	921	87
Breckenridge	5,826	6,605	13.4	107	779	96
Brenham	6,435	6,919	10.7	130	484	112
Brownfield	4,009	6,160	53.7	39	2,151	48
Burkburnett	2,814	4,516	60.5	33	1,702	58
Cameron	5,040	5,227	3.7	140	187	140
Canyon	2,622	4,349	65.9	27	1,727	56
Center	3,010	4,318	43.5	46	1,308	69
Childress	6,464	7,587	17.4	97	1,123	80

TABLE 17---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Cisco	4,868	5,216	7.1	132	384	122
Clarksville	4,095	4,350	6.2	137	355	127
Coleman	6,054	6,513	7.6	129	459	116
Colorado City	5,213	6,709	28.7	77	1,496	61
Commanche	3,209	3,832	19.4	90	623	103
Commerce	4,699	5,856	24.8	82	1,167	78
Conroe	4,624	7,313	58.2	38	2,689	34
Cotulla	3,633	4,425	21.8	86	792	94
Crockett	4,536	5,923	30.6	72	1,387	67
Crystal City	6,529	7,185	10.2	119	666	101
Cuero	5,474	7,456	36.2	60	1,982	51
Dalhart	4,682	5,899	26.0	78	1,217	76
Decatur	2,578	3,925	53.5	105	347	128
Dickinson	3,500	2,640	-24.6	156	860	155
Donna	4,712	7,161	52.0	40	2,449	38
Dublin	2,546	2,746	7.9	127	200	138
Eagle Pass	6,459	7,227	12.2	112	768	97
Eastland	3,849	3,606	-6.3	150	243	151
Edinburg	8,718	12,340	47.3	43	3,622	24
Edna	2,724	3,845	41.2	50	1,121	81
El Campo	3,906	6,216	59.1	35	2,310	41
Electra	5,588	4,934	-11.9	153	654	154
Ennis	7,087	7,817	10.3	118	730	98



TABLE 17---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Falfurrias	4,500	6,697	48.8	41	2,197	47
Floydada	2,726	3,214	17.9	96	488	111
Fort Stockton	3,294	4,444	34.9	64	1,150	79
Fredericksburg	3,544	3,847	8.5	198	303	129
Freepport	2,579	6,008	133.0	7	3,429	26
Gainesville	9,651	11,219	16.2	92	1,568	60
Gatesville	3,177	3,848	21.1	84	671	100
Georgetown	3,682	4,943	34.2	63	1,261	75
Gilmer	3,138	4,114	31.1	68	976	86
Gladewater	3,454	5,310	19.2	86	856	91
Gonzales	4,722	5,630	19.2	87	908	89
Graham	5,175	6,756	30.6	70	1,581	59
Hamilton	2,716	3,080	13.4	102	364	124
Haskell	3,051	3,832	25.6	79	781	95
Hearne	3,511	4,778	36.1	58	1,267	74
Hebronville	3,000	4,290	43.0	44	1,290	72
Henderson	6,434	6,808	5.7	130	365	123
Hereford	2,584	4,808	86.1	13	2,224	46
Highlands	3,000	4,715	57.5	152	1,715	152
Hillsboro	7,799	8,352	7.1	125	553	106
Hondo	3,200	4,220	31.3	67	1,020	84
Huntsville	5,108	9,802	91.9	12	4,694	17
Jacinto City	3,800	6,848	80.2	17	3,048	29
Jacksonville	7,218	8,550	18.5	88	1,332	68
Jasper	3,497	4,404	25.9	76	907	90
Jefferson	2,797	3,161	13.0	105	364	125
Kaufman	2,654	2,715	2.3	142	61	143

TABLE 17---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Kenedy	2,891	4,177	44.5	44	1,286	73
Kermit	2,584	6,884	166.4	7	4,300	19
Kerrville	5,572	7,665	37.6	58	2,093	50
Kilgore	6,708	9,693	44.5	45	2,985	30
Kingsville	7,782	16,857	116.6	11	9,075	6
Lake Jackson	3,000	2,896	- 3.5	147	- 104	147
La Grange	2,531	2,729	7.3	128	198	139
Lamesa	6,038	10,706	77.3	21	4,668	18
Lampasas	3,426	4,872	42.2	49	1,446	65
La Porte	3,072	4,957	61.2	32	1,885	54
Levelland	3,091	8,265	167.4	6	5,174	13
Liberty	3,087	4,161	34.8	65	1,074	82
Littlefield	3,817	4,558	71.8	24	741	32
Llano	3,658	6,960	11.4	113	302	130
Lockhart	5,018	5,531	10.2	120	513	107
Lufkin	9,567	15,147	58.3	37	5,580	11
Luling	4,437	4,285	- 3.4	146	- 152	148
McCamey	2,595	3,104	19.6	89	509	108
McKinney	8,555	10,525	23.0	84	1,970	53
Marfa	3,805	3,595	- 5.5	149	- 210	150
Marlin	6,542	7,006	7.1	134	464	114
Memphis	3,869	3,803	- 1.7	144	66	146
Mercedes	7,624	10,065	32.0	68	2,441	39
Mexia	6,410	6,618	3.2	141	208	136
Midland	9,352	21,756	132.6	9	12,404	4
Mineola	3,223	3,621	12.3	111	398	120
Mineral Wells	6,303	7,763	23.2	83	1,460	63
Mission	5,982	10,756	79.8	20	4,774	15
Monahans	3,944	6,260	58.7	36	2,316	40
Mount Pleasant	4,528	6,348	40.2	53	1,820	55

TABLE 17---Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Nacogdoches	7,538	12,303	63.2	31	4,762	16
Navasota	6,138	4,976	-18.9	155	-1,162	156
New Braunfels	6,976	12,196	74.8	23	5,220	12
Nocona	2,605	3,001	15.2	102	396	121
Odessa	9,573	29,432	207.4	3	19,859	1
Olney	3,497	3,753	7.3	131	256	134
Orange	7,472	21,100	182.4	5	13,628	3
Paducah	2,677	2,940	9.8	121	263	133
Pasadena	3,436	22,444	553.2	1	19,008	2
Pearsall	3,164	4,461	41.0	51	1,297	70
Pecos	4,855	8,054	65.9	28	3,199	21
Pharr	4,784	8,678	81.4	17	3,894	14
Phillips	4,250	4,096	-3.6	148	-154	149
Pittsburg	2,916	3,157	8.3	126	241	135
Plainview	8,263	14,023	69.7	25	5,760	10
Quanah	3,767	4,594	22.0	85	827	92
Ranger	4,553	3,951	-13.2	154	-602	153
Raymondville	4,050	9,135	125.6	10	5,085	14
Refugio	4,077	4,680	14.8	103	603	105
Rio Grande City	2,500	3,982	59.3	34	1,482	62
River Oaks	3,286	7,113	116.5	12	3,827	22
River Oaks	6,780	7,248	6.9	135	468	113
Robstown	3,457	5,758	66.6	26	2,301	40
Rosenberg	5,699	6,617	16.1	99	918	88
Rusk	9,501	13,264	39.6	54	3,763	23
San Benito	2,674	4,394	64.3	30	1,720	57
San Diego	6,006	9,961	65.9	29	3,955	20
San Marcos	2,927	2,927	15.8	100	0	115

TABLE 17--Continued

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Sequin	7,006	9,696	38.4	56	2,690	33
Seymour	3,328	3,778	13.5	106	450	118
Shamrock	3,123	3,326	6.5	136	203	137
Silsbee	2,525	3,178	25.9	80	653	102
Sinton	3,770	4,270	13.3	109	500	109
Slaton	3,587	5,040	40.5	52	1,453	64
Smithville	3,100	3,381	9.1	123	281	132
Snyder	3,815	12,012	214.9	2	8,197	8
Sonora	2,528	2,635	4.2	139	107	141
Stamford	4,810	5,806	20.7	88	996	85
Stephenville	4,768	7,065	48.2	42	2,297	43
Sulphur Springs	6,742	8,994	33.4	67	2,252	44
Taylor	7,875	9,083	15.3	101	1,208	77
Teague	3,157	2,908	7.9	151	1,249	151
Teft	2,686	2,985	11.1	114	299	131
Texas City	5,748	2,985	188.4	3	10,829	5
Uvalde	6,679	16,577	29.6	72	1,980	52
Vernon	9,277	12,684	36.7	56	3,407	27
Waxahachie	8,655	11,196	29.4	73	2,541	56
Weatherford	5,924	8,053	35.9	60	2,129	49
Wellington	3,308	3,669	10.9	110	361	126
Weslaco	6,883	7,487	8.8	117	604	104
West University						
Place	9,221	17,053	84.9	14	7,832	9
Wharton	4,386	4,456	1.6	143	70	142
Yoakum	4,733	5,225	10.4	111	492	110
Totals	742,457	1,061,865			319,408	
Group Percentage Increase:			43.0			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

The medians and percentage increase for this group are not strictly comparable to the corresponding figures for the group just discussed, because the cities in the first group are, as pointed out above, "selected" cities, while those in the second group are not.

The error must not be made of concluding that smaller cities make greater percentage gains and that the larger cities make larger numerical gains. In fact, data found in the Tables 16 to 21, inclusive, and Table 22 show that in both relative and absolute terms the rate of urbanization depends primarily upon the previous size of the city.

Pasadena, the city in this group with the greatest percentage growth (553.2), is a suburb of Houston and has caught the overflow, in part at least, of both industry and people from Houston. Kaufman, the city having the smallest growth in the group, is in an area which is shifting from cotton farming to cattle raising. Alice, Kermit, Levelland, Midland, Odessa, and Snyder owe their growth largely to oil. Texas City, virtually destroyed by a series of devastating explosions in 1947, has been practically restored and is growing rapidly.<sup>2</sup>

Freeport gained 133.0 per cent during the decennium, largely because of the location there of the Dow and Company

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 529.

Chemical Plant for the processing of magnesium from sea water. Orange, at the head of deep-water navigation on Sabine Lake, has grown rapidly because of its great increase in shipping, its shipbuilding, oil refining, a Du Pont nylon plant, a Consolidated steel fabricating plant, lumbering, and rice milling.<sup>3</sup>

There are only twenty-six cities ranging in size from 10,000 to 24,999. All of these cities gained in population during the decade ending in 1950 (Table 18). The lowest per cent of increase was Palestine's 2.6 and the highest was Denton's 90.7. The median percent of gain was 33.9, and the numerical median was 4,211 (Table 22). The percentage increase for the group as a whole was 38.7. Ranging next below Denton, whose remarkable increase was due, in large part, to the new system of counting college students,<sup>4</sup> is Borger's 79.2 per cent (oil), Harlingen's 74.4 per cent (Rio Grande Valley), and Longview's 77.7 per cent (Le Tourneau interests and the huge East Texas oil field).

In the "sixties" are found Brownsville's 63.8 per cent, McAllen's 68.4 per cent (both in the Rio Grande Valley), Temple's 62.7 per cent (railroad shops, veterans' hospital, the famous Scott-White Hospital, and nearby Camp Hood), and University Park's 64.8 per cent (largely a residential area

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<sup>3</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 573.

<sup>4</sup>The 1950 census counted college students as part of the population of the town where the college was located.

TABLE 18  
URBANIZATION IN CITIES OF 10,000-24,999 POPULATION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Big Spring	12,604	17,258	36.9	13	4,654	12
Borger	10,018	17,949	79.2	2	7,931	8
Brownsville	22,083	36,176	63.8	7	14,093	1
Brownwood	13,398	20,140	50.3	10	6,742	10
Bryan	11,842	18,072	52.6	9	6,230	11
Cleburne	10,558	12,845	21.7	17	2,287	20
Corsicana	15,232	19,108	25.4	16	3,876	14
Del Rio	13,343	14,191	6.4	24	848	24
Denison	11,581	17,444	12.0	21	1,863	21
Denton	11,192	21,345	90.7	1	10,153	3
Greenville	13,995	14,697	5.0	25	702	25
Harlingen	13,306	23,202	74.4	4	9,896	4
Highland Park	10,288	11,307	9.9	23	1,019	23
Longview	13,758	24,445	77.7	3	10,687	2
McAllen	11,877	20,005	68.4	5	8,128	7
Marshall	18,410	22,255	20.9	18	3,845	15
Palestine	12,144	12,455	2.6	26	311	26
Pampa	12,895	16,522	28.1	15	3,627	26
Paris	18,678	21,636	15.8	20	2,958	16
Sherman	17,156	20,073	17.0	19	2,917	18
Sweetwater	10,367	13,580	31.0	14	3,213	17
Temple	15,344	24,970	62.7	8	9,626	5
Terrell	10,481	11,555	10.2	22	1,072	22
Texarkana	17,019	24,657	44.9	11	7,638	9
University Park	14,458	23,823	64.8	6	9,365	6
Victoria	11,556	16,102	39.2	12	4,546	13
Totals	357,583	495,810			138,227	
Group Percentage Increase:			38.7			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

for Dallasites). In the 40 to 60 per cent bracket there are only three cities: Brownwood with 50.3 (Camp Bowie, the manufacturing of woollen and worsted materials, and garment making), Bryan with 52.6 (Agricultural and Mechanical College), and Texarkana with 44.9 (Lone Star and Red River Ordnance Plants).

By now it can be observed that the number of cities grows smaller as the size of the cities increases. There are only seven in the 25,000 to 49,999 group (Table 19). In this group Baytown is the only city which lost population, 8.3 per cent. This loss is, perhaps, the most difficult to explain of all the losses shown by the fourteen urban centers at the time of the 1950 census. Baytown is in the rapidly growing industrial area of which Houston is the center. The city is on the Houston Ship Channel and has oil refineries and a synthetic rubber plant.<sup>5</sup>

There were two cities in this group which more than doubled in size during the decennium ending in 1950: Lubbock's population increased 124.1 per cent and San Angelo's increased 101.1 per cent. The former owes its growth partly to the new system of counting college students, but in larger part to industries related to farming and poultry. The city ships

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<sup>5</sup>Texas Almanac, 1949-1950, p. 536.



TABLE 19  
 URBANIZATION IN CITIES OF 25,000-49,999 POPULATION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Abilene	26,612	47,102	77.0	3	20,490	4
Laredo	39,274	51,694	31.6	6	12,420	5
Lubbock	31,853	71,390	124.1	1	39,537	1
Port Arthur	46,140	57,377	24.4	7	11,237	6
San Angelo	25,802	51,889	101.1	2	26,087	2
Tyler	28,279	38,864	37.4	5	10,585	7
Wichita Falls	45,112	67,709	50.1	4	22,597	3
Baytown	25,000	22,927	- 8.3	8	- 2,073	8
Totals	268,072	409,052			140,880	
Group Percentage Increase:			52.6			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

4,500,000 pounds of eggs and 3,000,000 pounds of dressed fowls, 8,000,000 pounds of butter, and great quantities of cheese. Industrial products include farm implements, cottonseed oil and feed stuffs. Lubbock is one of the largest primary cotton markets in the South.<sup>6</sup>

The next highest in percentage gain were Abilene (77.0) and Wichita Falls (50.1). Abilene is a trade and marketing center for an extensive farming and ranching area. It is also an educational center where three colleges are located: Abilene Christian College, McMurry College, and Hardin-Simmons University. Like all college and university towns, the city benefited from the new system of counting college students. Wichita Falls is the center of a large and rich oil, cattle, and farming section and supports industries related to these activities.

Tyler is next in rank in percentage gain. This city owes its rapid growth largely to its location in an oil area. Tyler is located in the midst of eight distinct fields: the Rice Field, the Gresham Field, the Mount Sylvan Field, the Red Springs Field, the Sand Flat Field, the Chapel Hill Field, the Hawkins Field, and the huge and world-renowned East Texas Field. Tyler is the center of a

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 561.

fast growing rose industry, which has thousands of acres of rose bushes under cultivation. The rose growers ship millions of rose bushes annually to all parts of the United States and to many foreign countries.

The cities in this group (Table 19) range in per cent of change from a loss of 8.3 to a gain of 124.1, the median being at 50.0. The median numerical gain was 20,490. The percentage increase for the group as a whole was 52.6. Except for the median numerical increase, these figures are fairly close to the corresponding figures for the state as a whole (Table 22). In considering the median numerical gain for this group, it must be remembered that the relative increase for the cities is high. If Baytown's loss is disregarded, the lowest numerical gain made by any city in the group was 10,585 (Tyler).

There are seven cities in the 50,000 to 99,999 bracket (Table 20). They range in per cent gain from a low of 8.3 (Galveston) to a high of 88.6 (Corpus Christi). The median per cent of increase is 50.1, which is considerably above the state's 38.4, but the percentage increase, 46.4, for the group is fairly close to the state's 51.1. The median numerical increase for the group is 33,193. This is many times the state's median numerical increase of 1,450, as is to be expected, since this group includes only

TABLE 20  
 URBANIZATION IN CITIES OF 50,000-99,999 POPULATION, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Amarillo	51,686	73,737	42.7	5	22,051	6
Austin	87,930	131,964	50.1	4	44,034	2
Beaumont	59,061	93,715	58.7	2	34,654	3
Corpus Christi	57,301	108,153	88.6	1	50,752	1
El Paso	96,810	130,003	34.3	6	33,193	4
Galveston	60,852	65,898	8.3	7	5,036	7
Waco	55,982	84,300	50.6	3	28,318	5
Totals	<u>469,632</u>	<u>687,670</u>			<u>218,038</u>	
Group Percentage Increase:			46.4			

\*Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

cities which made gains ranging upward from 22,051, with the single exception of Galveston, which gained only 5,036. However, even Galveston's low is much higher than the state's median.

In 1940 Texas had only four cities with populations of 100,000 or more: Houston, with 594,321; Dallas, 432,734; San Antonio, 406,811; and Fort Worth, 277,047 (Table 21). The figures given here, however, are those of the 1950 census. The basis for grouping the cities, it must be remembered, is the 1940 population count. If the 1950 count had been used as the basis for these groupings, three other cities would appear in this bracket: Austin, with a population of 131,964; El Paso, with 130,003; and Corpus Christi, with 108,053.

For the past decade San Antonio ranked first among these cities in percentage gain, and Houston ranked first in numerical gain. The range of increase for these four cities was, quite interestingly, less than fourteen per cent; but the numerical increases ranged from Fort Worth's low of 99,385 to Houston's high of 209,095--a difference of a little over 110,000.

These four cities accounted for 31.0 per cent of the urban increase for the entire state for the decade ending in 1950, though they comprised only 1.5 per cent of the total number of urban places. This is true, perhaps,

TABLE 21  
 URBANIZATION IN CITIES OF 100,000 OR MORE, 1940-1950\*

City	1940	1950	Percent Change	Percent Rank	Numerical Change	Numerical Rank
Dallas	294,734	432,927	46.9	4	138,195	3
Fort Worth	177,662	277,047	55.9	2	99,385	4
Houston	384,514	594,321	54.6	3	209,807	1
San Antonio	253,854	406,811	60.3	1	152,957	2
Totals	<u>1,119,764</u>	<u>1,711,106</u>			<u>600,342</u>	
Group Percentage Increase:			54.0			

\* Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Series PC-3, No. 8 Rev. (January 11, 1951)

because the factors which were conducive to their becoming big in the first place continued to be operative in making them larger. There are definite factors which determine the best location for a city and whether it will grow. Some of these factors were mentioned in earlier pages of this study, but it might be well to recount them at this point. Factors of importance (not necessarily in the order of their importance) are as follows: (1) transportation facilities, (2) a hinterland furnishing raw materials, a labor supply, and markets, (3) communication facilities, (4) an adequate source of power, providing coal, oil, gas, or waterpower, and (5) a favorable climate.<sup>7</sup> There are, perhaps, other factors which should be considered in the location of a city, but these are the principal ones. The more of these factors concentrated at any given place the greater is the likelihood that in the course of time a city located at that place will develop into a large and important city.

In Table 22 medians and percentage increases for the several groups of cities and for the state as a whole are given. The purpose of this table is to give a clearer picture of the amount of urbanization growth for each size group and to simplify the matter of comparing one group with another and each group with the state as a whole.

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<sup>7</sup>Eugene Van Cleef, Geography for the Businessman, pp. 61-77.

TABLE 22  
 MEDIAN AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR SELECTED SIZE GROUPS,  
 TEXAS CITIES, 1940-1950

Size Group	Median Percent Increase	Percentage Increase	Median of Numerical Increase
Cities Under 2,500 (1940)	84.2	124.0	1,295
Cities From 2,500-10,000 (1940)	27.3	43.0	1,208
Cities From 10,000-25,000 (1940)	33.9	38.7	4,211
Cities From 25,000 to 50,000 (1940)	43.7	52.6	20,490
Cities From 50,000 to 100,000 (1940)	50.1	46.6	33,193
Cities of 100,000 or More (1940)	55.2	54.0	145,575
State As a Whole	38.4	51.1	1,450



It is to be remembered that the cities in the lowest bracket (under 2,500) are a "selected group" and are not strictly comparable to the other groups of cities. Leaving out the cities in the lowest bracket makes the cities in the highest one the leading group of the six appearing in the list. This group of cities (100,000 or more) shows the highest median percentage increase (55.2), the highest percentage increase (54.0), and the highest median numerical increase (145,575). As previously pointed out it is noteworthy that the medians of the groups are progressive from low to high, if the "selected group" is disregarded. That is, the larger the size group the larger the median. The group with the smallest median per cent of increase (27.3) is the 2,500 to 9,999 group. This is about one-half the median percentage increase for the cities of the highest bracket, which is 55.2.

The eighteen cities in the three groups composed of cities which had 25,000 or more people in 1940 accounted for almost 50.0 per cent of the urban growth of the decade ending in 1950; and the seven Texas cities which had populations of 100,000 or more in 1950 accounted for more than 37.0 per cent of the urban increase for the decade. In the first instance this leaves 254 urban centers to account for approximately 50.0 per cent of the urban increase for the

decade; or, in the second instance, 265 cities to account for approximately 63.0 per cent of it.

This is a significant contribution by these eighteen cities to urban growth during the 1940-1950 decennium. These eighteen cities include most of those which have become well established and are most likely to continue to thrive and grow. Their growth has extended over a long enough period of time to make it possible to regard it as a more or less normal, permanent thing. This is to say, their growth is not caused by a "boom" situation which is likely to be comparatively short lived, but to factors which have been operative for a long period of time and which can be expected to continue in force.

This being the case, it is to be expected that these larger cities (25,000 people or more) will continue to account for a large per cent of whatever urban increase the state of Texas may experience in the decades to come.

## CHAPTER VI

### PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH AND URBANIZATION OF THE TEXAS POPULATION

In the first part of this study the growth of the Texas population since 1880 was compared with that of the nation as a whole, and it was found that the rate of increase for Texas has been faster than that for the rest of the United States during this period. There are a number of factors which enter into an explanation of this relationship. For one thing, Texas is among the younger sections of the country and, therefore, is expected to continue growing rapidly when growth in the older sections of the nation has begun to slow down. Another factor in the rate differential is the matter of migration, and again, Texas, being a comparatively new and unsettled state, has attracted many people from the older and more crowded sections of the nation. Further, Texas is the recipient of a significant number of immigrants from Mexico. By 1940 there were 159,000 Mexicans in Texas out of a total foreign-born white population of 234,000. Another factor, and a major one, has been the natural increase due to the excess of births over deaths. Until 1950 Texas was a predominantly rural and agricultural state with the high birth rate characteristic of such areas. The birth rate for the

nation as a whole has been materially reduced by the low birth rate in the highly urbanized and industrialized sections of the nation. However, as Texas becomes more and more urbanized, it is probable that the birth rate will decrease, since birth rates in urban areas are always lower than those in rural areas. A declining birth rate can, therefore, be expected in Texas. A fourth factor which helps to account for population increase in Texas, certainly since 1915, is the growth of industrialization. Belatedly industrialists came to see the potentialities of the Texas resources and began to develop them. It seems safe to predict that the Texas population will continue to increase, perhaps into the 1980's, reaching by that time, according to some authorities, a figure approximating 9,500,000.<sup>1</sup> The chief basis for this prediction is the fact that Texas is still in the early stages of industrialization and development of natural resources.

Another aspect of the Texas population considered in this study is that of racial composition. Whites and Negroes make up practically the whole population in Texas, since all other races combined have never exceeded one-half of one per cent of the total population. In 1880 the nonwhites made up nearly 25 per cent of the population, but by 1950 the percentage had decreased to 11.5. However, nonwhites have

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<sup>1</sup>Joe R. Motheral and Carl M. Rosenquist, An Experiment in Research Planning, p. 7.

increased in absolute numbers in each decennial period since 1880 (the beginning date for the study) except for the decade ending in 1950. The number of nonwhites decreased from 927,000 in 1940 to 886,000 in 1950. This was a decrease of 41,000, a very significant loss. Not only did Texas lose these 41,000 but it also lost an additional number of Negroes equivalent to their natural increase for the decade. Although exact figures are not available it is obvious that Texas lost a large number of Negro citizens through migration from the state between 1940 and 1950. They were attracted to the North, East, and Far West because of wider social acceptance and greater employment opportunities to be found there in industry and the professions. The non-white population has never been able to maintain an equal rate of increase with that of the white population. At least three causes can be sighted for this fact: heavy migration from the state, light migration into the state, and a high death rate among Negroes. On the basis of past trends in the growth of the nonwhite population it seems safe to predict that the Negro element will compose less than ten per cent of the total population by 1970.

Not only is the population of the state growing rapidly, but it is also shifting from region to region and from rural areas to urban centers within the state. One hundred forty-six of Texas' two hundred fifty-four counties showed population losses for the decennium ending in 1950. These represent

57.5 per cent of all the Texas counties. The losses ranged from a low of 0.5 per cent to a high of 41.9 per cent. One hundred thirteen of the counties which showed losses in the 1950 census are east of the one-hundredth meridian, and sixty-seven of them lie, roughly, within the northeast quarter of the state. This loss of population in so many counties of Texas has resulted from farm mechanization on the one hand and urban industrialization on the other. Both of these processes have been moving forward rapidly since the early 1920's. Extensive areas of the northeast quarter of the state are being given over more and more to ranching, dairying, and mechanized farming. This means that many farm workers have had to look elsewhere for a livelihood, and it is estimated that during the years from 1940 to 1950 between 600,000 and 800,000 people left the rural areas to work at jobs in the industrial centers of the state.

This great mobility of the Texas population creates social, health, and educational problems. The growth of some urban centers has been so rapid that it has far exceeded the facilities for housing, for water, for sewer service, for garbage disposal, for police protection, for education, and for recreation. In many instances the poor quality of housing, the overcrowding, and the inadequate sanitary facilities have produced hazards to health and social welfare. Then, too, there is the problem of social orientation and adjustment which these people who have so recently come

from a rural situation must solve with the help of those in charge of city and social welfare administration. Some of the problems are so large they will have to be handled by the state and the nation: among these are social security, pensions, and old age and social welfare benefits. There must be provisions made to prevent suffering in the case of recurring depressions which cause widespread closing of factories and laying off of workers. People "on the land" can manage to sustain themselves during a depression, though, of course, they do not prosper; but people in the cities dependent on their daily wage really suffer unless they have been able to save something for "the rainy day." With sixty-three per cent of the Texas population, as of 1950, residing in urban centers and depending solely, in most cases, on industry for a living, this problem assumes broader significance and greater urgency than ever before in Texas history.

The Texas population is not only becoming predominantly urban for the state as a whole, but also certain regional areas are urbanizing at a much faster rate than other regions and faster than the state as a whole. The Southeast, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the Central Great Plains, and the North Central regions are among those which showed the highest median percentage increases of urban population for the decade ending in 1950.

The Southeast Region, the Gulf Coast area, and the North Central Region have a concentration of the greatest number of factors which are conducive to a large and continued industrial and urban growth. It is safe to assume that these areas will continue to increase in urban growth, but the rate will likely not be as fast as it was during the past decade.

The state not only made its greatest gain in urban growth during the aforementioned decennium but it also made its greatest overall population increase, with an all-time high of approximately 1,300,000. Only in the 1930 census, when the increase was 1,161,000, has Texas even approximated this latest record in the state's population growth. The percentage of increase in total population during the decade ending in 1950 was 20.2, while the rate of urban increase was 63.0. Thus it can be seen that the urban rate of increase was more than three times as great as was the rate for the total population increase.

It is to be expected that the urban population and the total population will continue to increase into the 1970's and possibly into the 1980's. The continual increase in number of new machines and in technological skills, both in the industrial and the agricultural fields, will operate to encourage the further growth of the total population and of the urban population. Mechanization of agriculture has brought large scale farming to Texas and has forced hundreds of thousands of rural people off the farms and into industrial



occupations in the urban centers of Texas. Though the urban and the total population can be expected to increase for the next two or three decades, it is not to be expected that the rate of increase for either of them will be at as fast a rate as it was for the decennial period ending in 1950.

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