

Patterns of U.S. Population Growth, 2010 to 2020: Comparisons to Prior Decades

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*This presentation is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress.
Any views expressed on technical issues are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.*

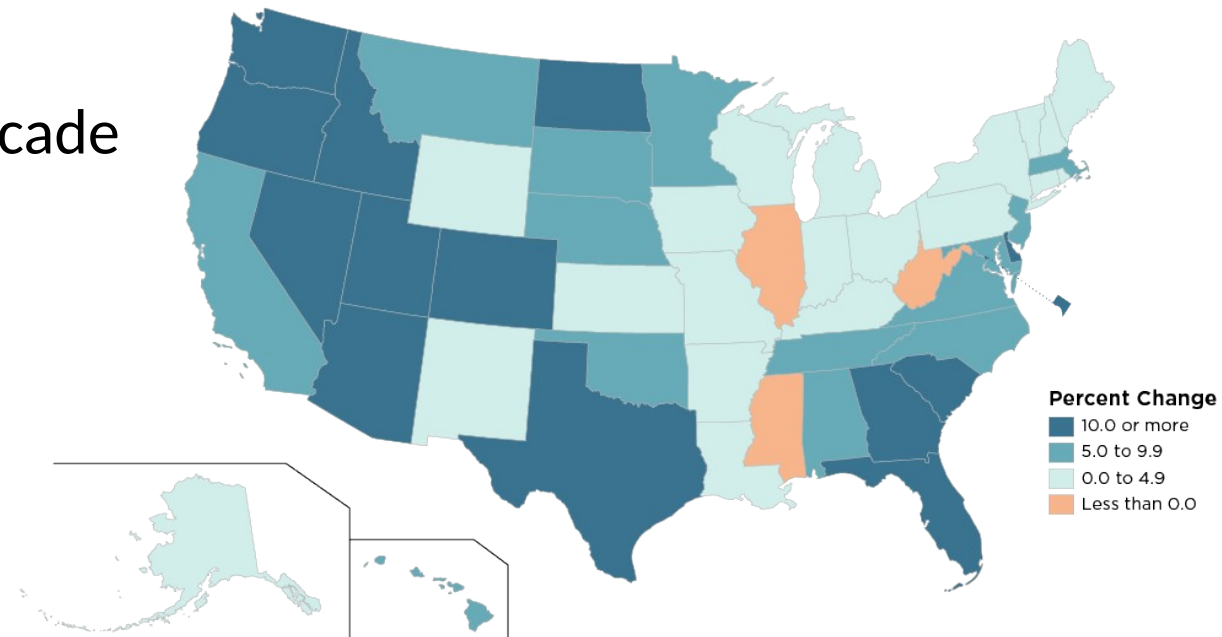
Outline of Presentation

- Results for 2010-2020, change from prior decade
- County Patterns in Historical Context
- Fast-growing and declining counties over time
- Why Fewer Fast-Growing Areas?
- Conclusions

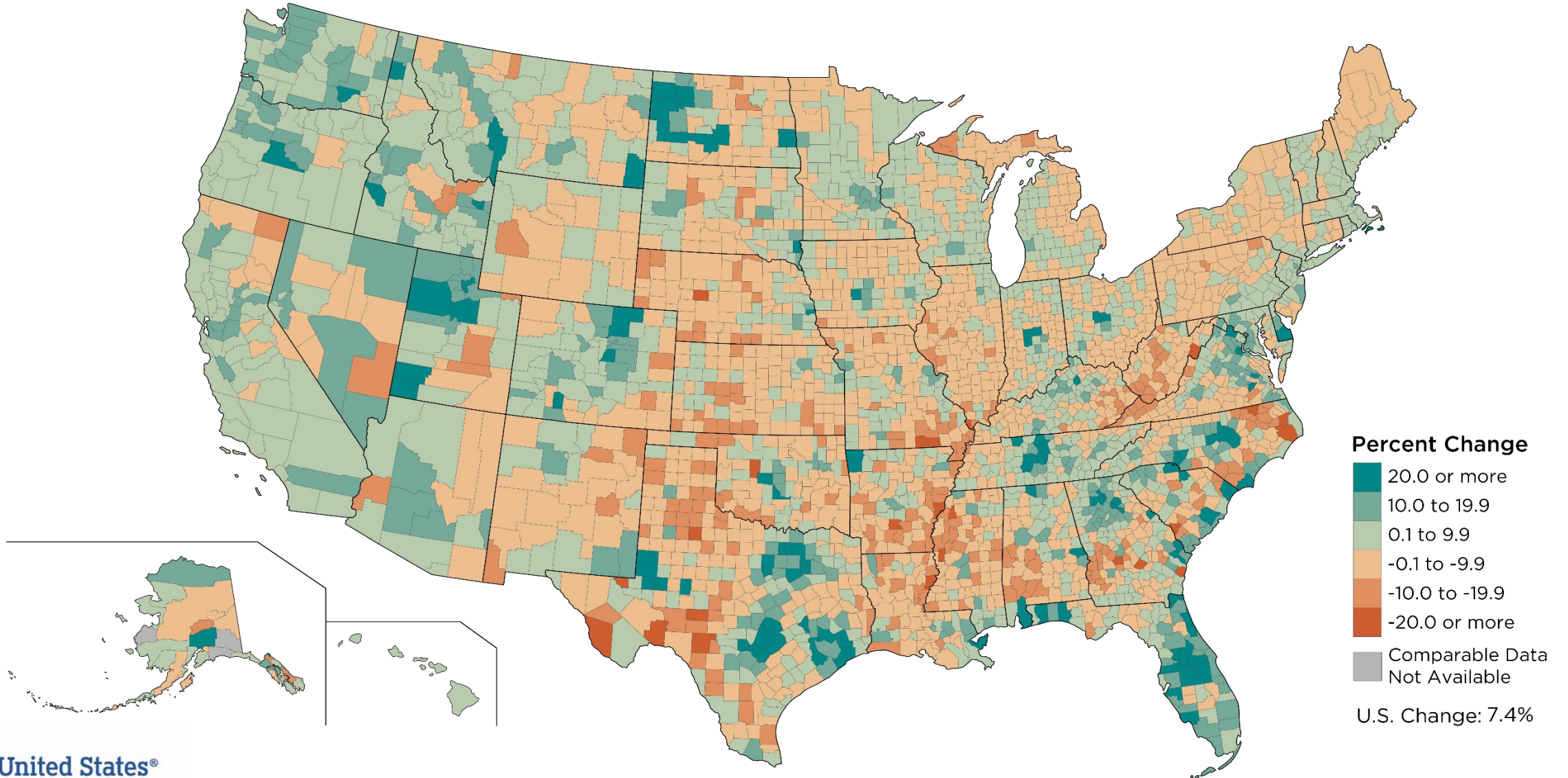
Population Change: 2010 to 2020

- 2020 Population of 331,449,281, which is up 7.4 percent from 2010
- Second slowest percentage increase ever; only the 1930s had a smaller increase (7.3 percent)
- Fastest growing state was Utah (+18.4%)
- 14 states grew faster than 10 percent
- 3 states had population decline for the decade
- 53 percent of counties lost population

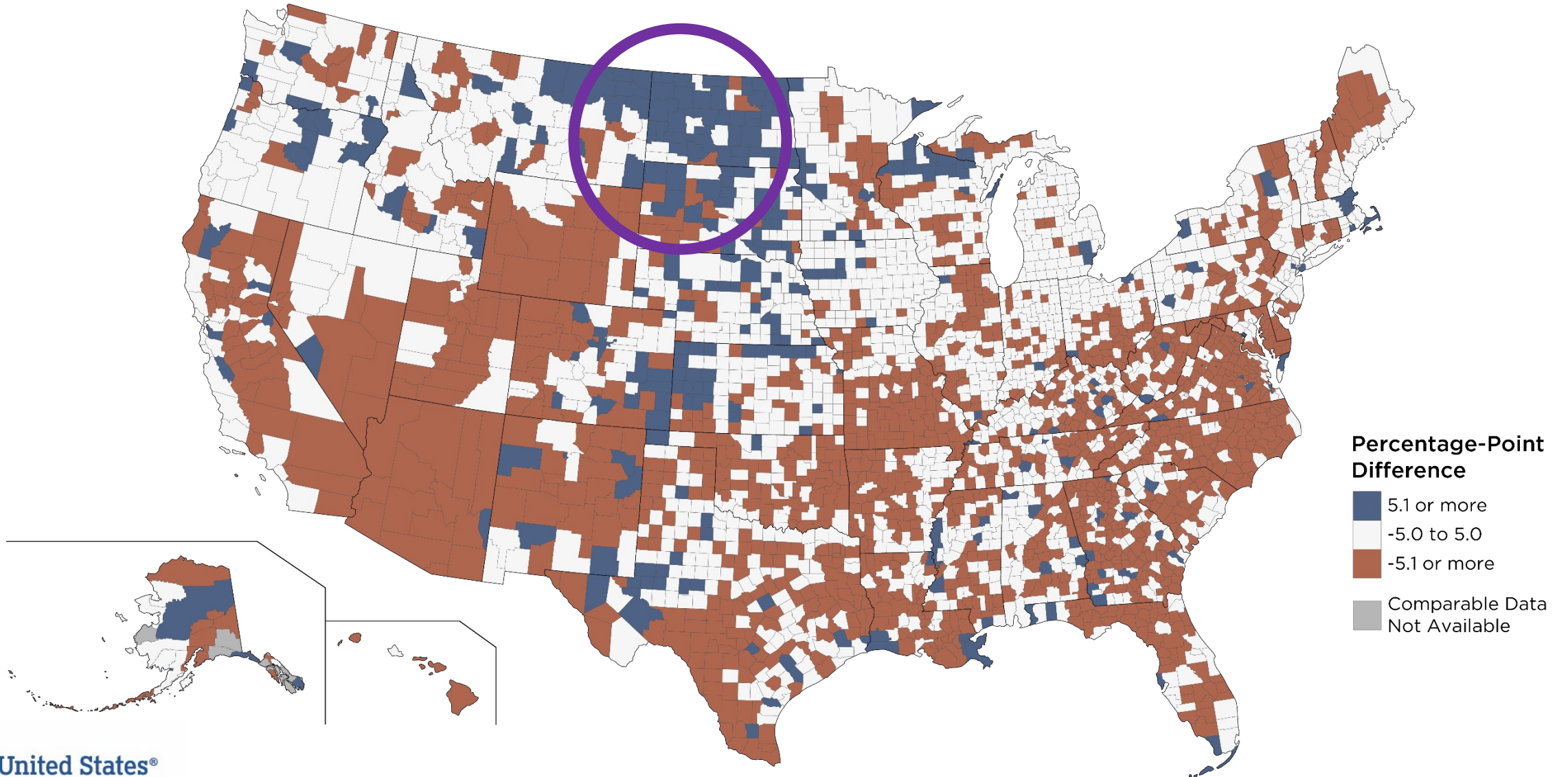
Percent Change in State Population: 2010 to 2020



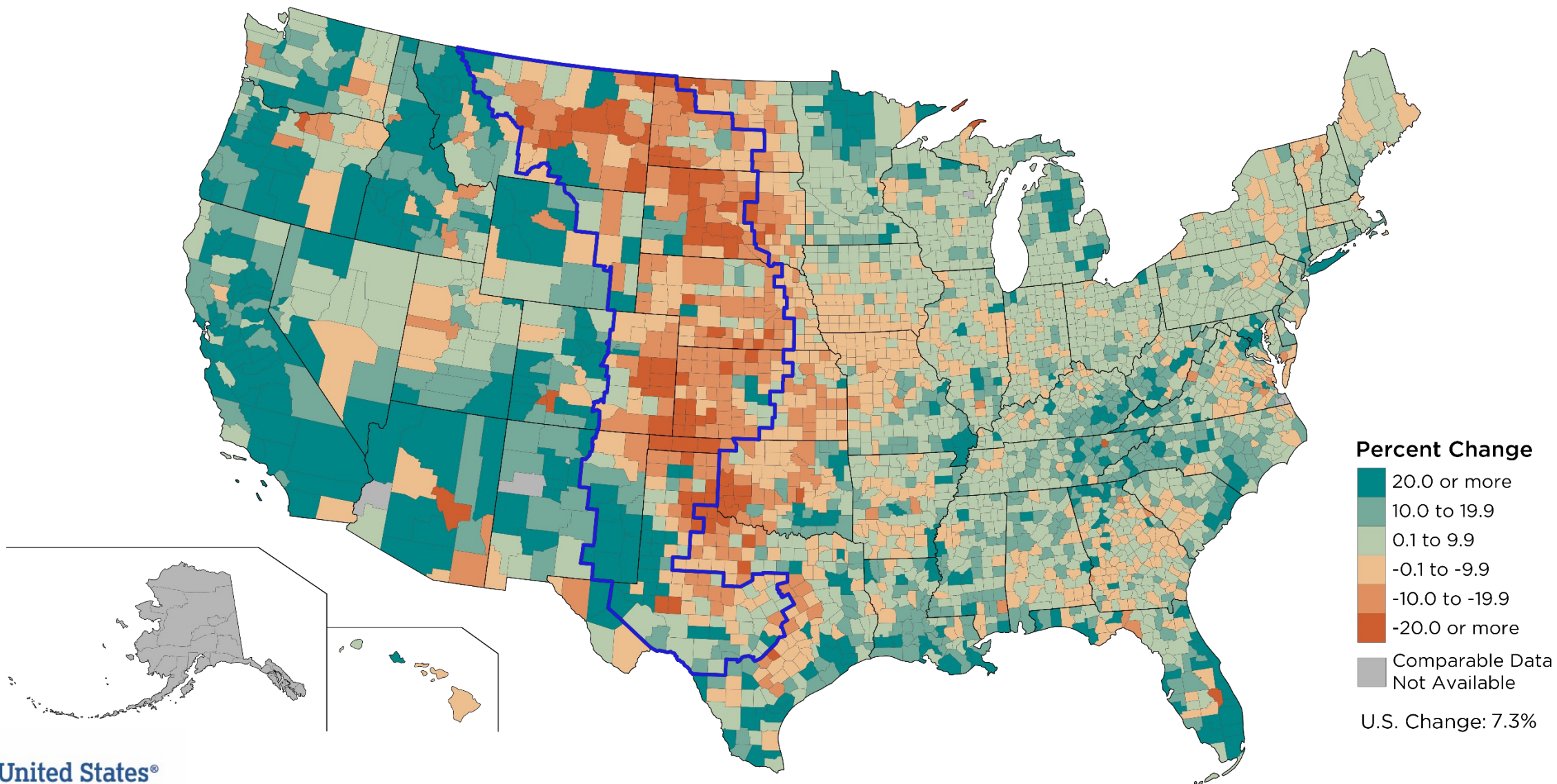
Population Change by County: 2010 to 2020



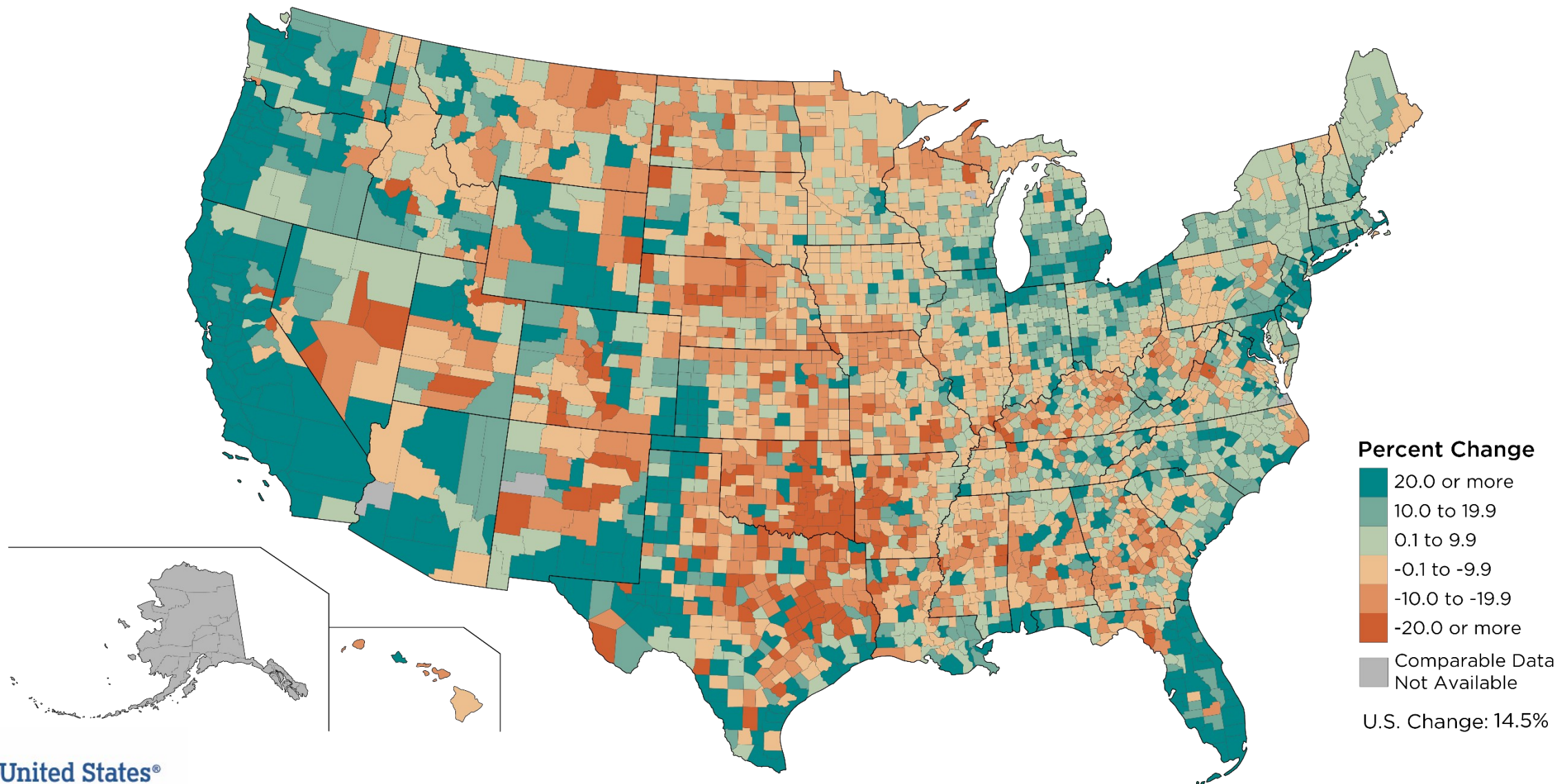
Where Growth Shifted: 2010 to 2020



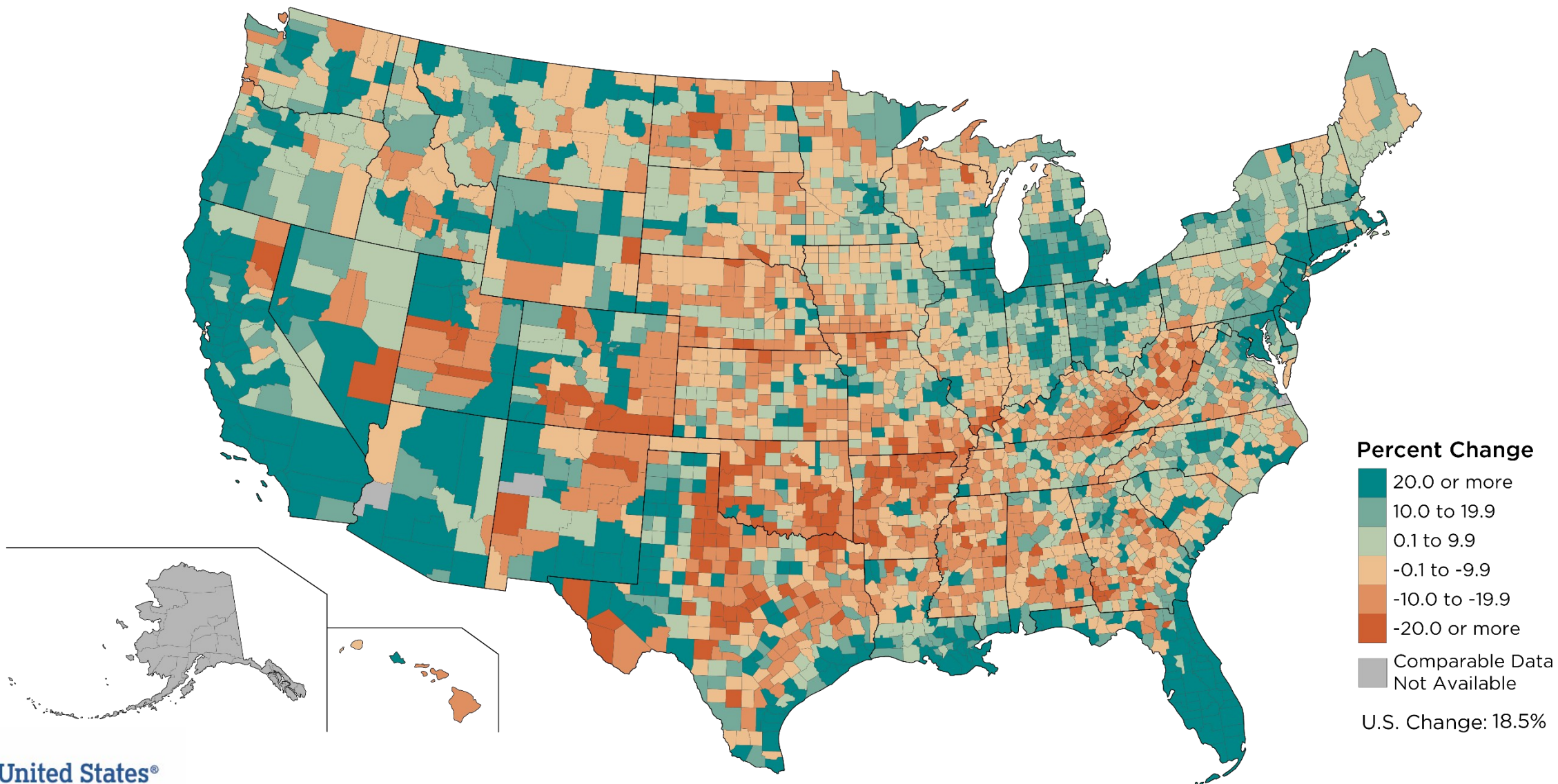
Population Change by County: 1930 to 1940



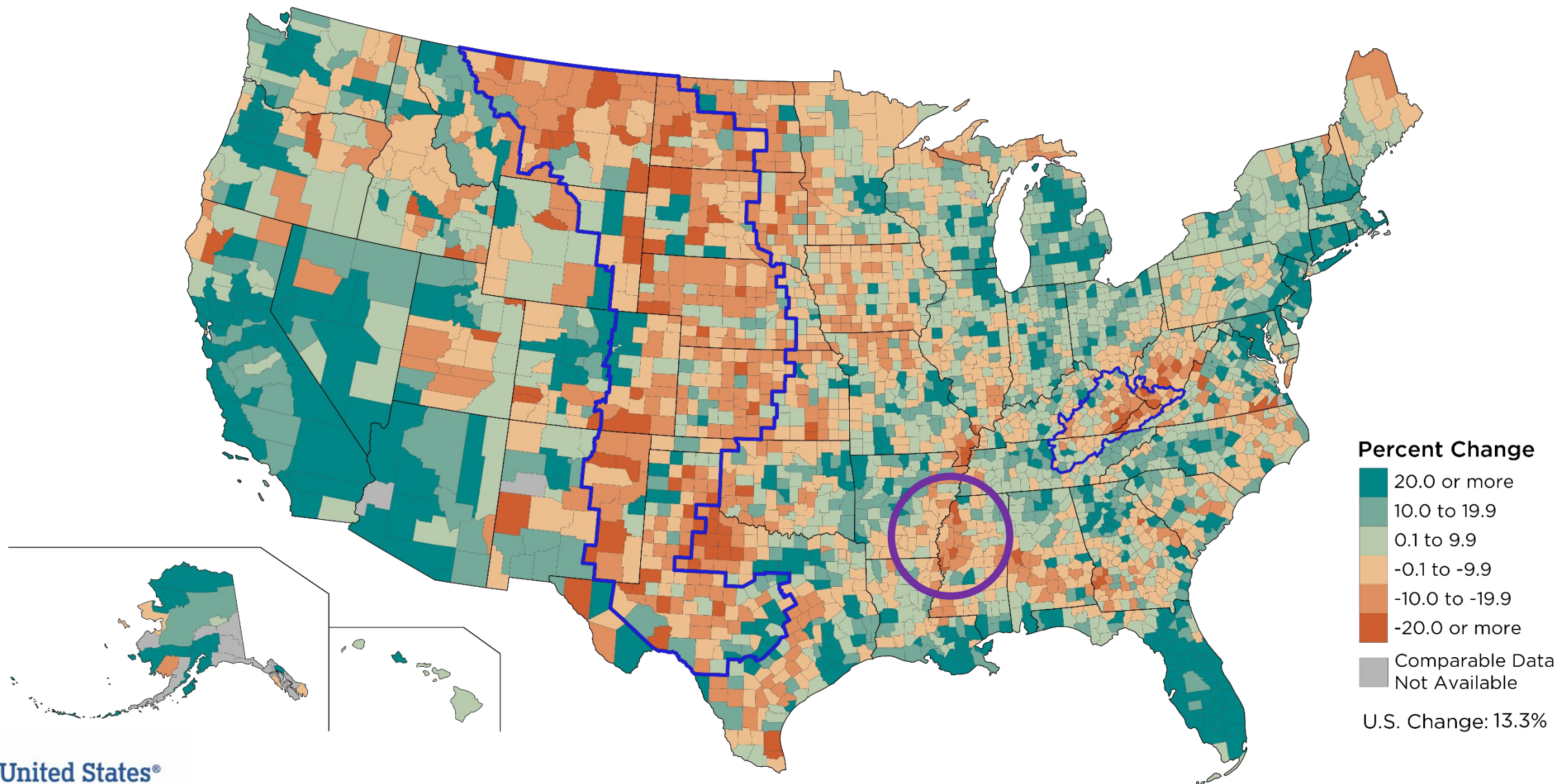
Population Change by County: 1940 to 1950



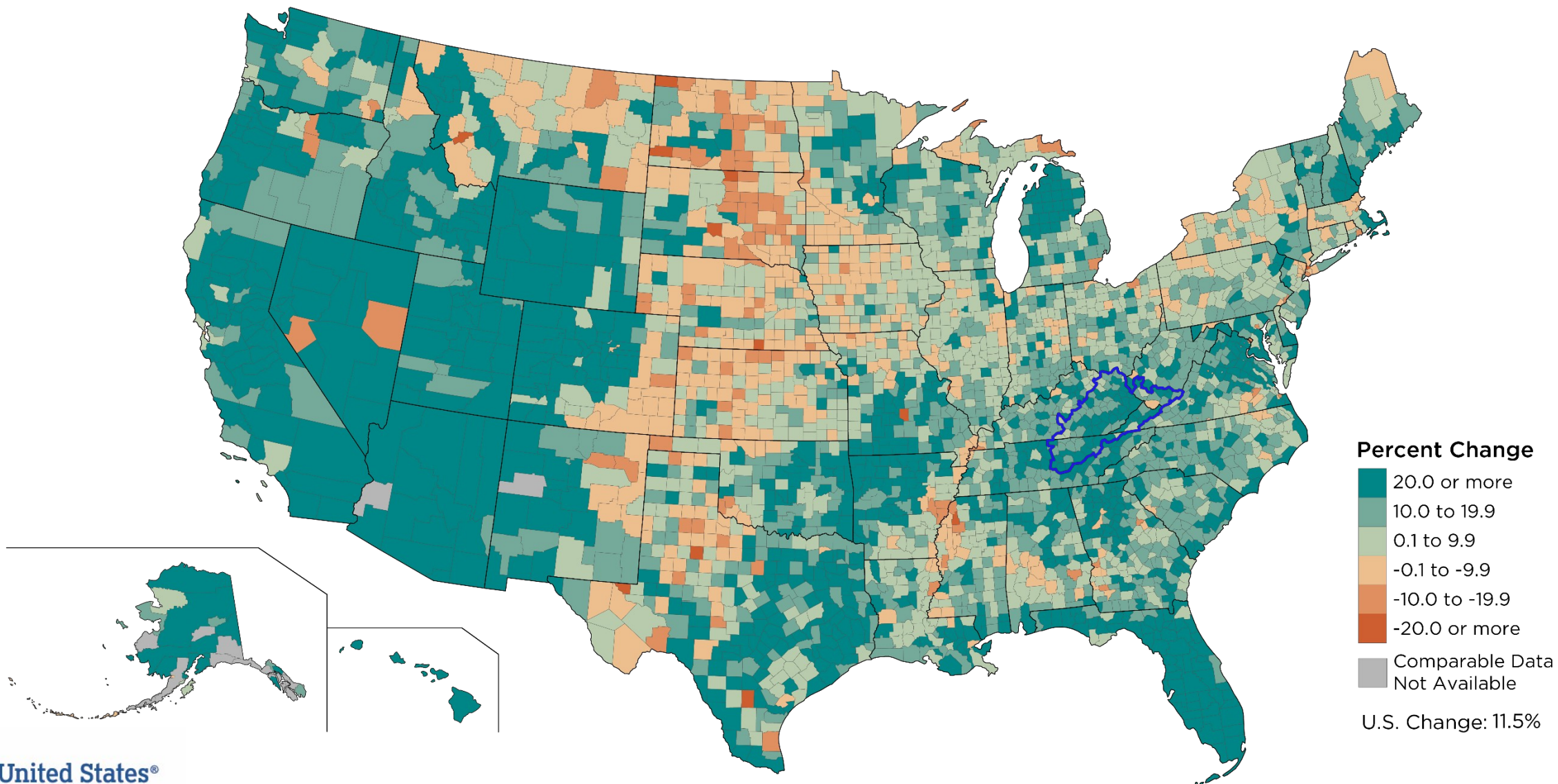
Population Change by County: 1950 to 1960



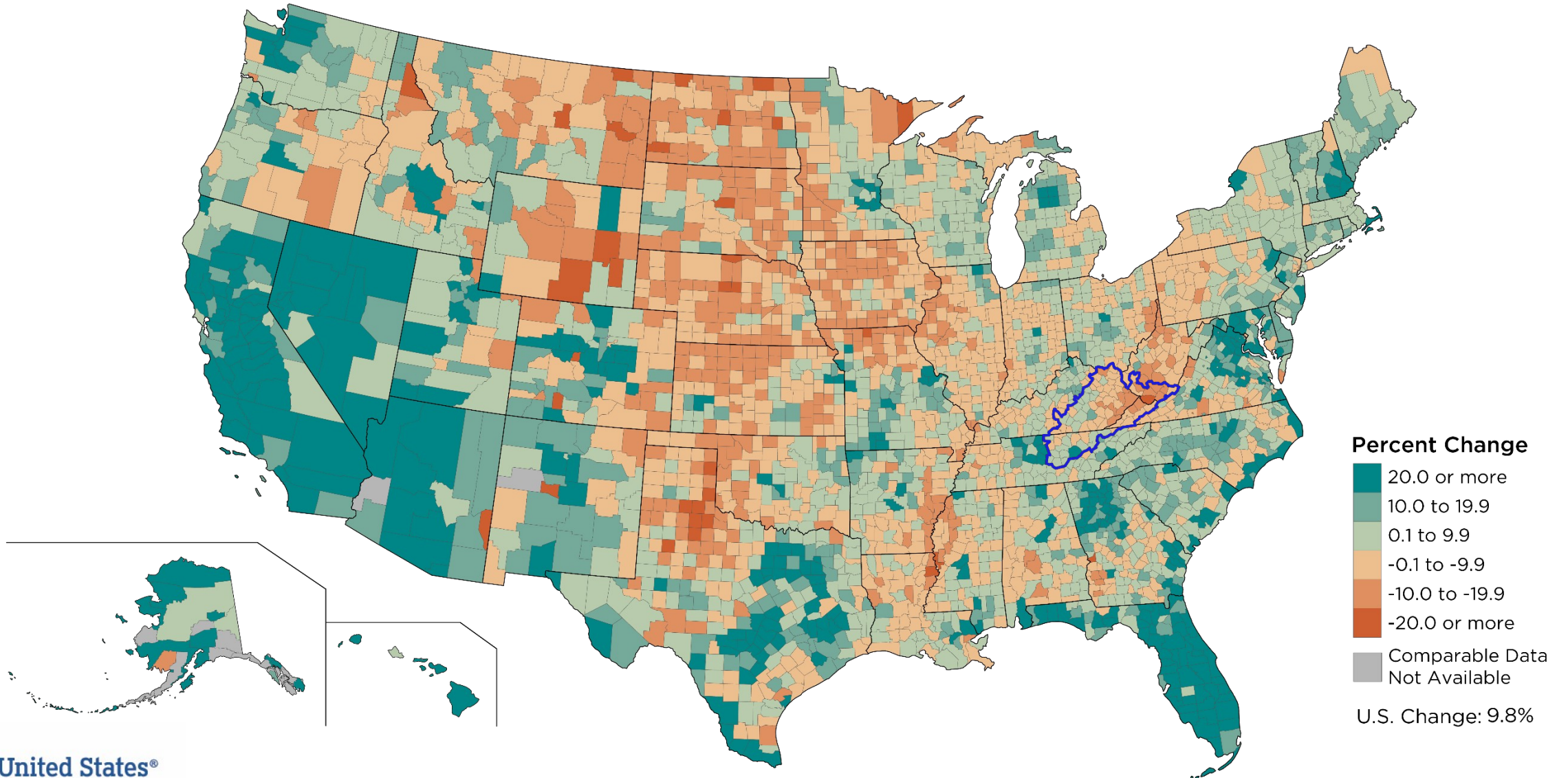
Population Change by County: 1960 to 1970



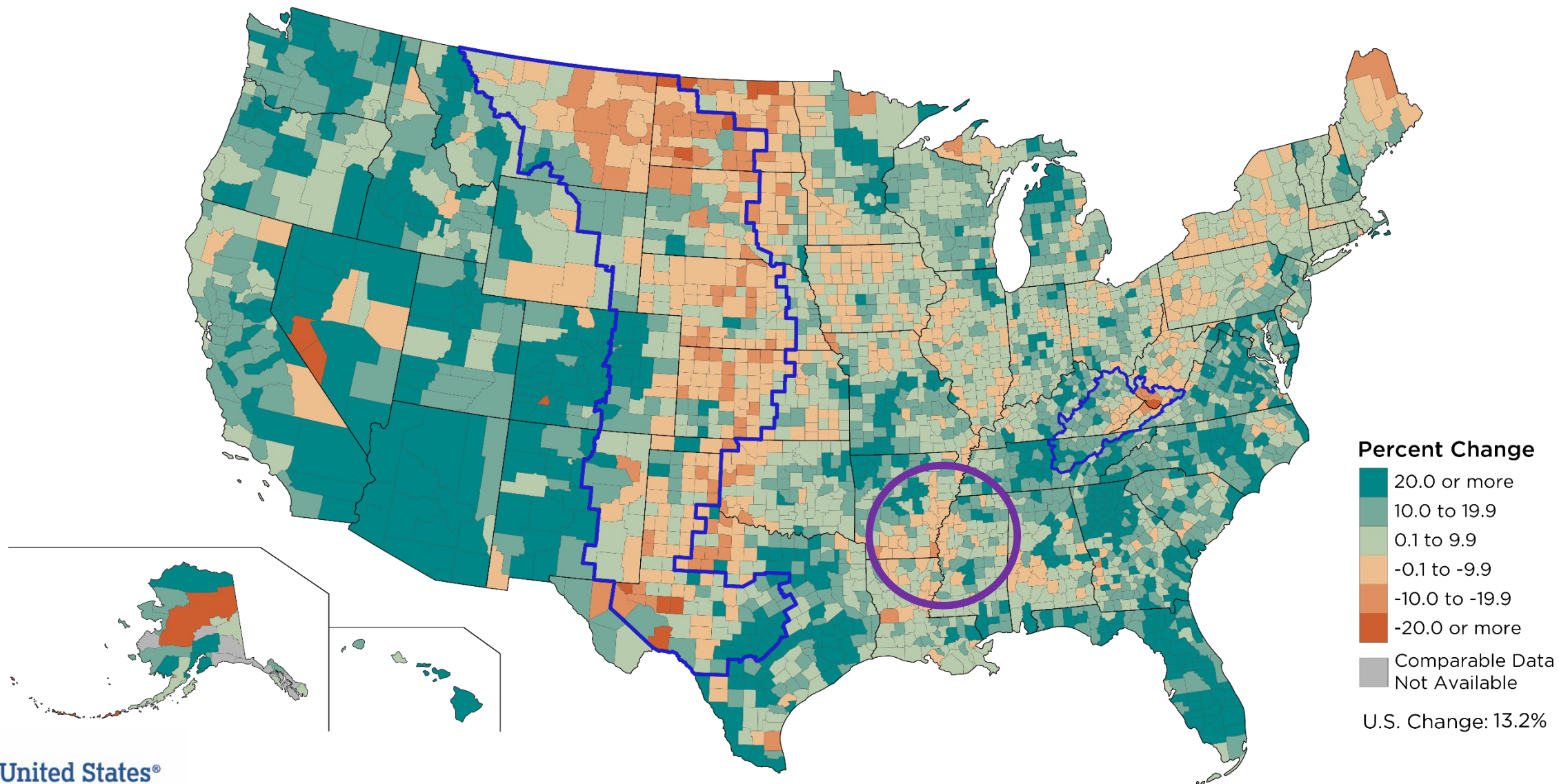
Population Change by County: 1970 to 1980



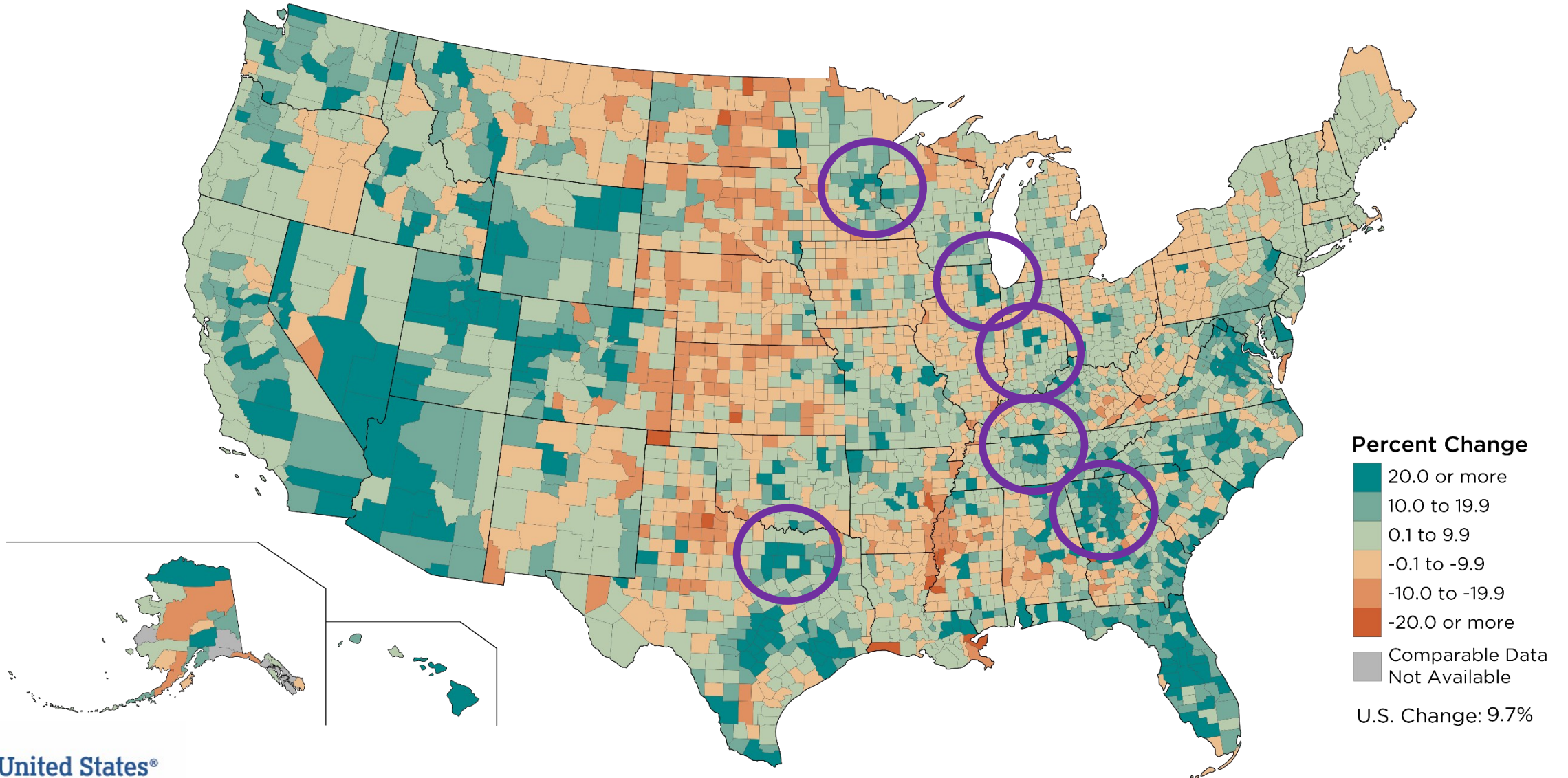
Population Change by County: 1980 to 1990



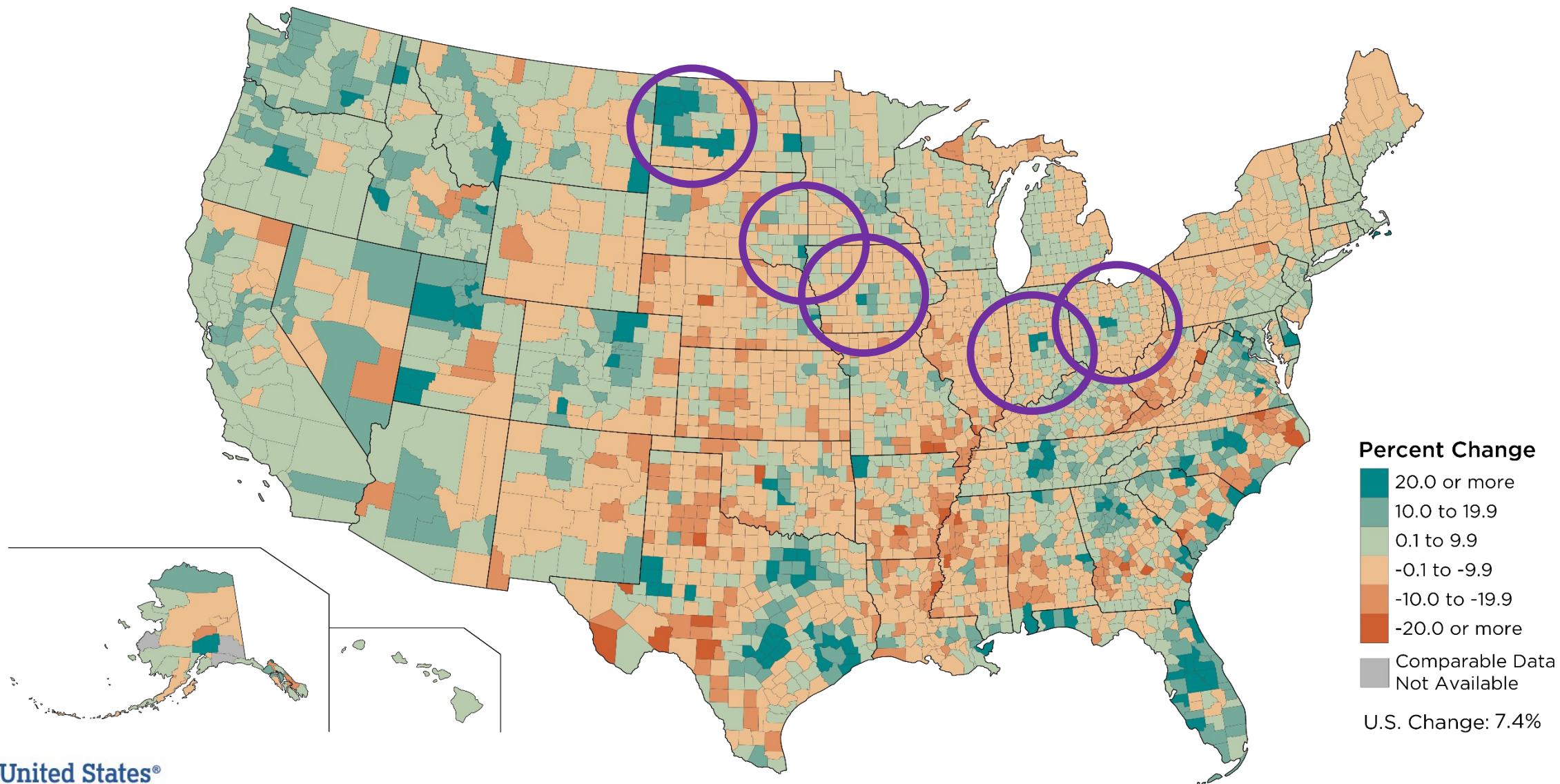
Population Change by County: 1990 to 2000



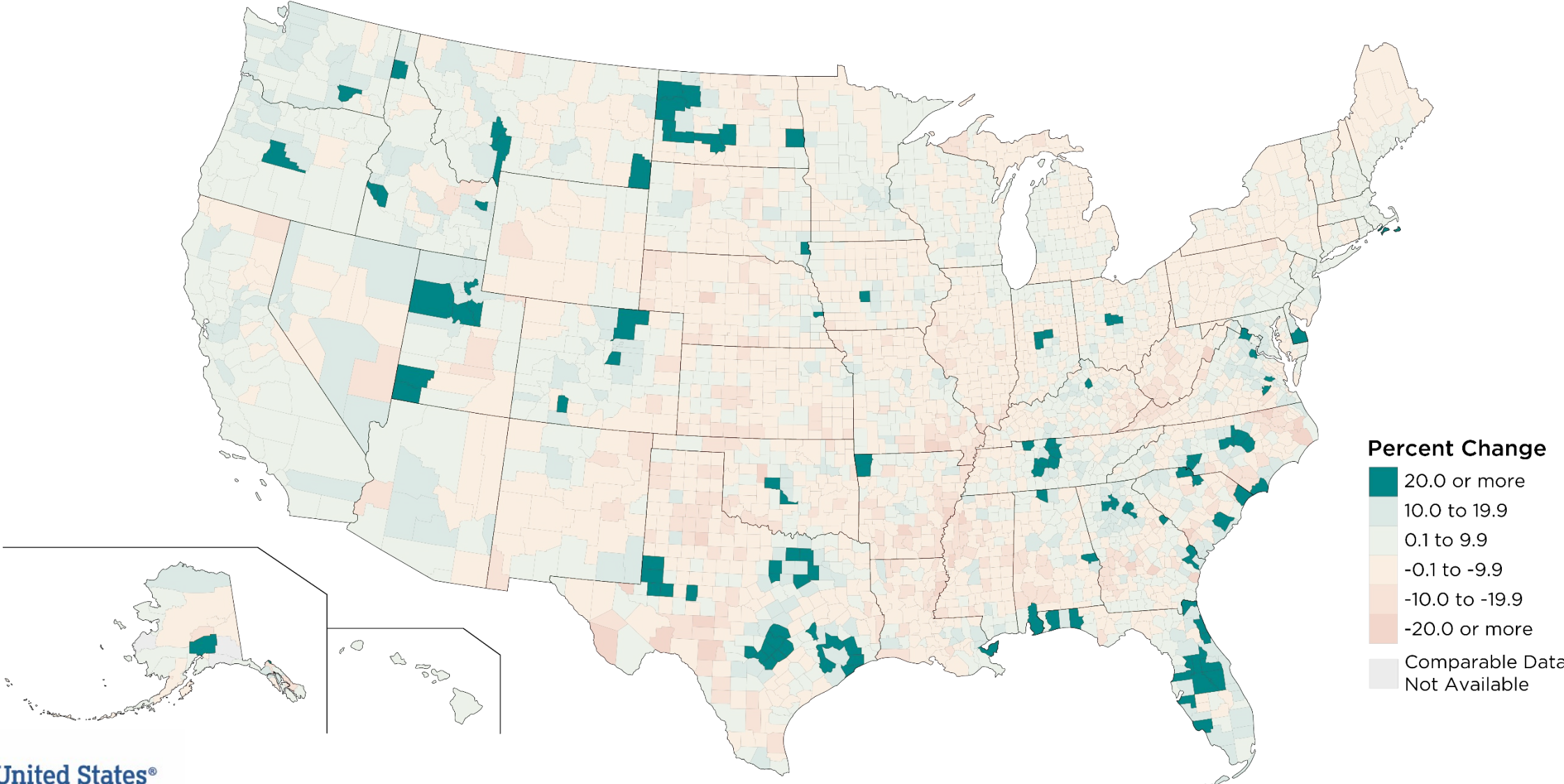
Population Change by County: 2000 to 2010



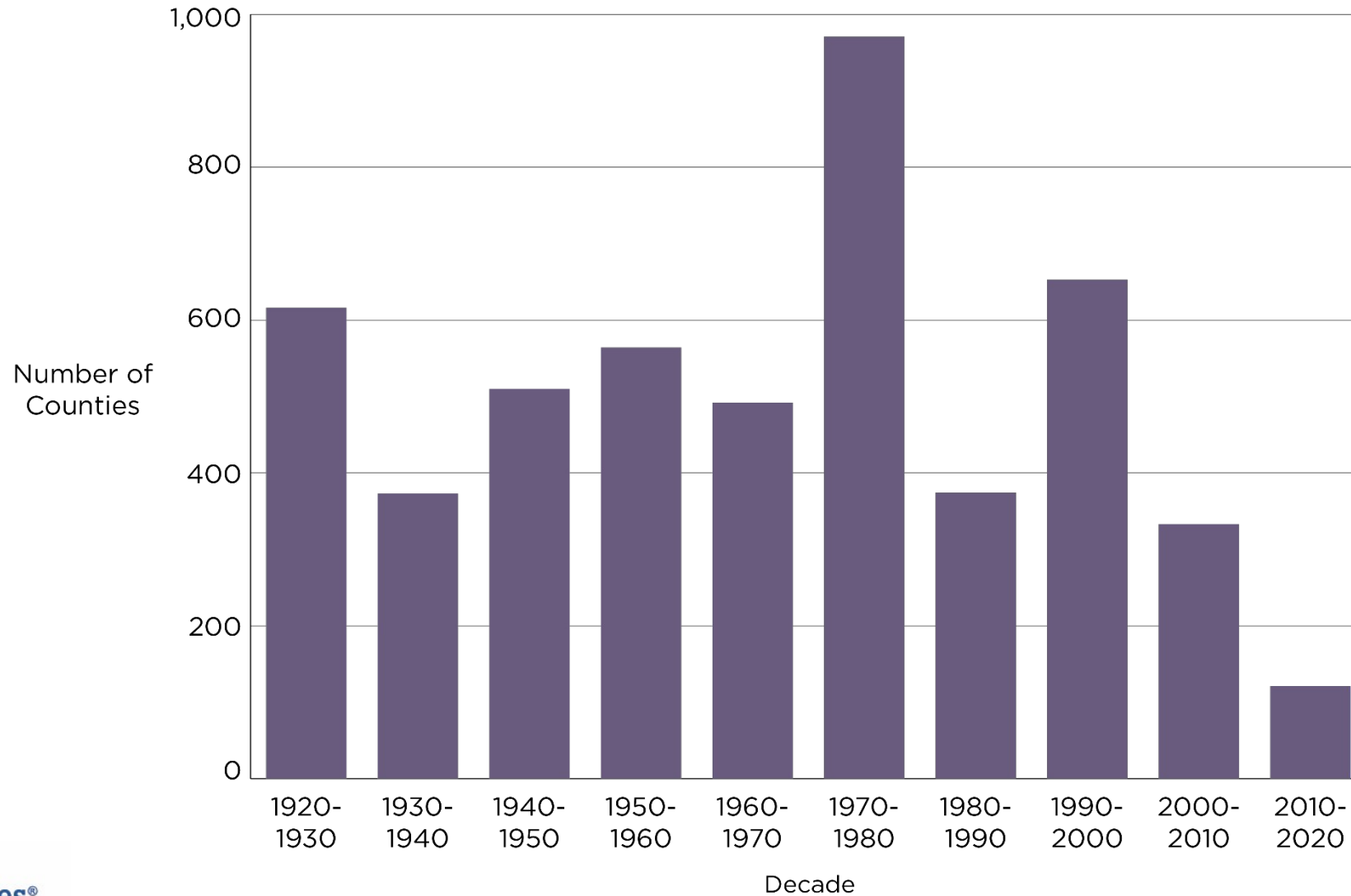
Population Change by County: 2010 to 2020



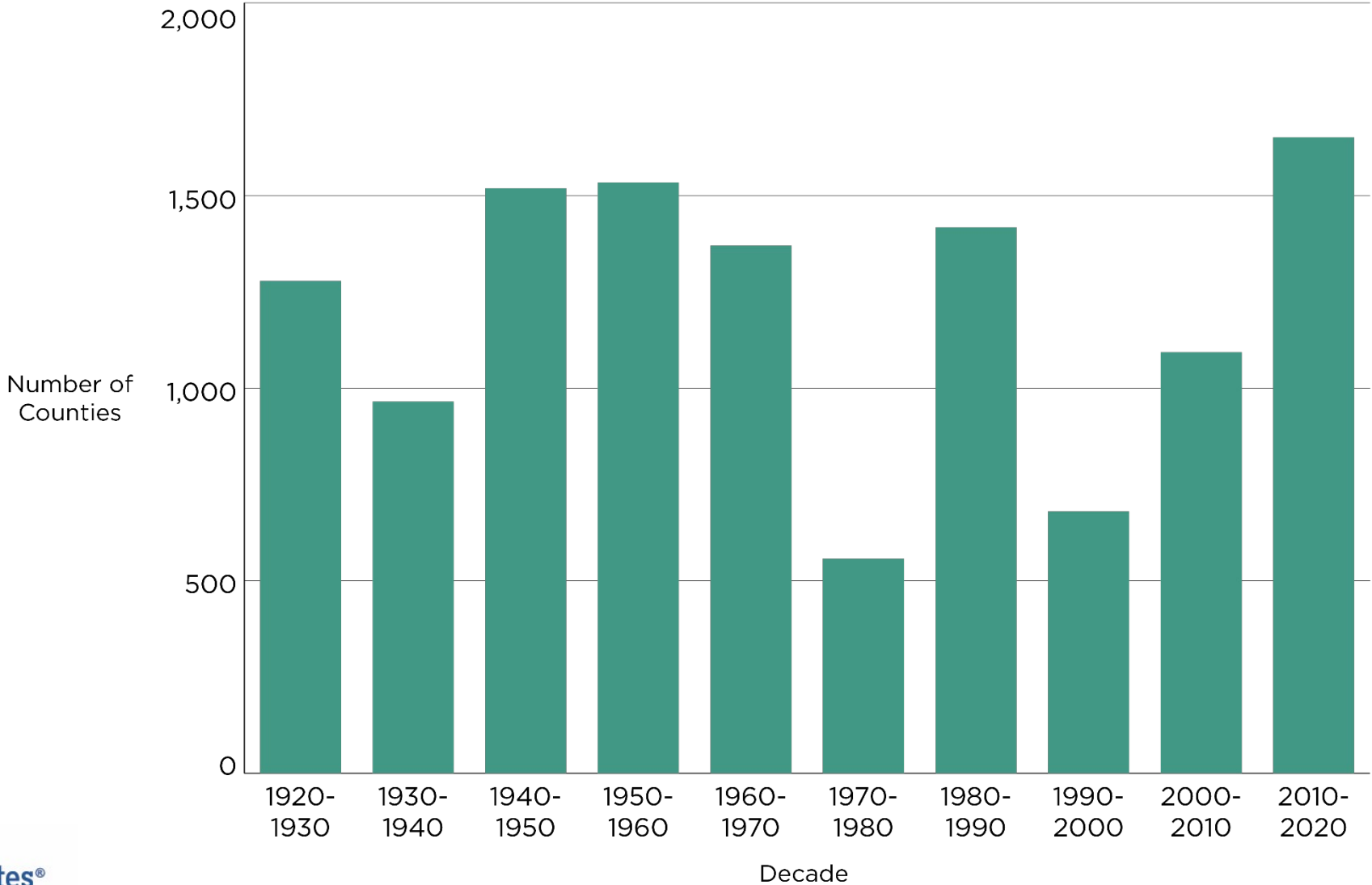
Fast Growing Counties: 2010 to 2020



Counties with Growth of 20% or More by Decade: 1920 to 2020



Counties with Population Loss by Decade: 1920 to 2020



Why Fewer Fast-Growing Areas?

- Slower population growth for the nation
- Larger base populations...harder to translate into large pct gains
- Fewer areas with substantial population decline to fuel nearby growth. In past decades, some areas grew largely through migration from nearby areas
 - St Louis Metro Area St Louis city to St Charles County
 - Detroit Metro Area Wayne County to Oakland County

Conclusions

- More areas with population decline and fewer areas with rapid growth
- National components of growth have moderated: fewer births, more deaths
- Mobility and migration rates have slowed considerably
- Local suburbanization has slowed in most instances
- End result: fewer ways in which an area's population would grow; fewer areas growing rapidly.

The end of the growth frontier?

Sources

2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File

2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File

Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File

Richard L. Forstall, Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790 to 1990, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1996.