

1990

Rep. Diamanti's Schedule

- September 23rd- 90 - Saturday
7:30 p.m. - speak to Annual State Trails Assn.
Camp Sertoma in Stokes County
- September 26th - Tuesday
7:00 p.m. - speak to Ashe County Chamber of Commerce
West Jefferson
- October 10th - Tuesday
9:30 - 10:30 am - panel discussion - NC Low Income
Housing Coalition in Durham
- October 21st - Saturday
2:00 p.m. - Bicentennial Celebration at Rockford
Baptist Church - Rockford, NC
4:00 - 9:00 - Barbecue Supper at Ashe County Park with
town officials and public
- November 7th - Tuesday
7:00 - speech - Surry County Homebuilders in Mt. Airy
- November 15th - Wednesday
9:00 - 12:00 - tour of Mt. Airy Schools with
Superintendent
- November 28th - Tuesday
6:30 p.m. - speech in Mt. Airy to Crossroads group on
mental health, disabilities, and substance
abuse
- December 2nd - Saturday
12:30 - rode in Christmas Parade in Boone
- December 5th - Tuesday
6:00 p.m. - meet with ASU Student Senate in Boone
- December 11th - Monday
2:00 p.m. - interview with Kay Williams of the Dept.
of Public Instruction for feature article
in their newsletter.

1991

- January 16th & 17th - Tuesday and Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - Governmental Operations - Raleigh
- January 17th - Wednesday
5:30 p.m. - attend conference of School Board Assn.
and Education Policy Fellows - Raleigh
- January 21st - Sunday
David received award at United Cerebral Palsy telethon
on Channel 8 TV live in High Point
- January 22nd - Monday
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. - panel discussion at Winter Leadership
conference in Winston-Salem
- January 25th - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - panel of in-depth issues - Northwest
District Legislative Day - Winston-Salem David
to speak on Education
- January 29th - Monday
6:00 p.m. - dinner and speech - Educational
Secretaries in Elkin

16 eastern N.C. counties lose population in '80s.

Triangle counties, Mecklenburg lead in decade of growth

By **DONNA SEESE**
Staff writer

While most of North Carolina grew during the 1980s, 23 rural counties — 16 of them in the eastern part of the state — lost population, according to preliminary 1990 census figures.

The trend mirrors the rest of the nation, where more than half the 2,400 rural counties lost people to the cities during the past decade.

In North Carolina, rural county officials said the loss could be traced directly to a lack of jobs. That theme is repeated throughout much of the South, said Stuart A. Rosenfeld, director of the Southern Technology Council.

"The older, labor-intensive factories that have tried to compete on the basis of costs just can't compete any more in this country," he said. Instead, industries are moving to other countries where wages are lower. "It's too easy to go offshore and reduce labor costs even more."

In eastern rural counties, where population shrank the most, the loss of people is a symptom of a changing economy and the difficulty of attracting industry to a region that lacks the roads and resources business demands.

Seven of the eastern counties that lost population registered declines of more than 5 percent.

Northampton lost 9.4 percent,

dropping from 22,584 people in 1980 to 20,447 in the preliminary 1990 figures. Hyde lost 8.4 percent, dropping from 5,873 people to 5,374. Both counties had a second decade of decline.

Bladen lost 6.4 percent; Sampson, 5.8; Greene, 5.7; Lenoir, 5.3 and Washington, 5.3.

Eastern counties that lost less than 5 percent were Hertford, 3.6 percent; Martin, 3.6; Columbus, 3.2; Bertie, 3.1; Jones, 3.1; Tyrrell, 2.9; Duplin, 2.6; Edgecombe, 0.8 and Halifax, 0.6.

Anson County in the southern Piedmont recorded the largest loss, dropping from 25,649 to 22,824, a decline of 11 percent.

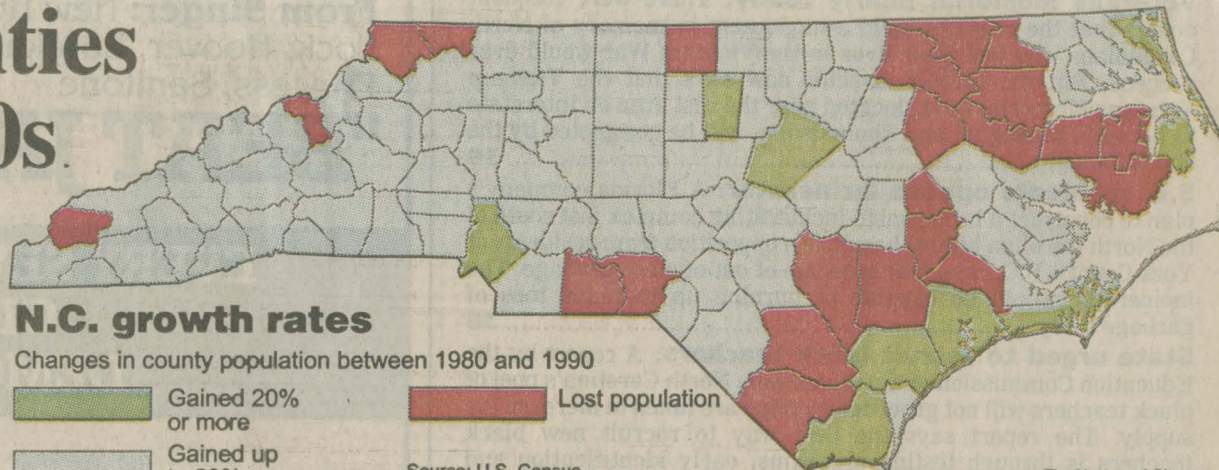
Populations of other declining counties outside the east fell by less than 5 percent. The Piedmont counties were: Richmond, 2.4 percent and Caswell, 0.5 percent. The western counties were: Ashe, 0.9 percent; Graham, 0.3; Alleghany, 0.1 and Mitchell, 0.1.

The final count for the state and its counties is expected to be submitted to the president Monday. William F. Hill, regional director for the U.S. Census Bureau in Charlotte, said he expected only minor differences between the preliminary and the final figures.

Overall, North Carolina has grown, with the biggest leaps in population coming in the booming coastal counties and in the Triangle and Mecklenburg urban areas.

Dare led the state in rate of increase with 68 percent growth, jumping from a population of 13,377 to 22,573. Next came Brunswick at 41 percent, going from

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The News and Observer

North Carolina's 20 largest cities

City	Prelim. 1990 population*	1980 population	Percent Change
Charlotte	389,000	315,474	23.3
Raleigh	205,419	150,255	36.7
Greensboro	181,485	155,642	16.6
Winston-Salem	140,664	131,885	6.6
Durham	133,720	101,149	32.2
Fayetteville	73,577	59,507	23.6
High Point	69,063	63,479	8.7
Asheville	61,456	54,022	13.7
Gastonia	53,895	47,218	14.1
Wilmington	52,642	44,000	19.6
Rocky Mount	48,325	41,526	16.3
Greenville	44,478	35,740	24.4
Cary	42,466	21,763	95.1
Goldsboro	40,331	31,871	26.5
Burlington	39,178	37,266	5.1
Chapel Hill	38,431	32,421	18.5
Wilson	36,266	34,424	5.3
Kannapolis	29,305	30,303	-3.2
Hickory	27,689	20,757	33.3
Jacksonville	27,255	18,259	49.2

* 1990 preliminary population counts are subject to revision.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census

N.C. cities make gains in census

By **WADE RAWLINS**
Staff writer

Bolstered by relatively healthy economies and by strong appetites for annexation, virtually all of North Carolina's urban areas gained population in the 1980s, preliminary census figures show.

"Areas that were the first out of the box after the recession of the early 1980s and got a reputation for being economically solid tended to attract development," said Gregory A. Szymik, Raleigh's economic development planner.

Raleigh, which overtook Greensboro as the state's second-largest city during the 1980s, was among seven municipalities that grew fast enough to move up the ladder of the state's 20 biggest

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CHRISTMAS DAY NFO DEC 25, 1990
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NC population by counties

County	1970	1980	Preliminary 1990	1980 to 1990	
				Number change	Percent change
Alamance	96,502	99,319	106,967	7,648	7.7%
Alexander	19,466	24,999	27,382	2,383	9.5%
Alleghany	8,134	9,587	9,569	-18	-0.2%
Anson	23,488	25,649	22,824	-2,825	-11.0%
Ashe	19,571	22,325	22,109	-216	-1.0%
Avery	12,655	14,409	14,786	377	2.6%
Beaufort	35,980	40,355	42,271	1,916	4.7%
Bertie	20,528	21,024	20,371	-653	-3.1%
Bladen	26,477	30,491	28,514	-1,977	-6.5%
Brunswick	24,223	35,777	50,681	14,904	41.7%
Buncombe	145,056	160,934	174,436	13,502	8.4%
Burke	60,364	72,504	75,117	2,613	3.6%
Cabarrus	74,629	85,895	97,585	11,690	13.6%
Caldwell	56,699	67,746	70,071	2,325	3.4%
Camden	5,453	5,829	5,881	52	0.9%
Carteret	31,603	41,092	52,198	11,106	27.0%
Caswell	19,055	20,705	20,585	-120	-0.6%
Catawba	90,873	105,208	116,956	11,748	11.2%
Chatham	29,554	33,415	38,318	4,903	14.7%
Cherokee	16,330	18,933	20,113	1,180	6.2%
Chowan	10,764	12,558	13,471	913	7.3%
Clay	5,180	6,619	7,146	527	8.0%
Cleveland	72,556	83,435	83,482	47	0.1%
Columbus	46,937	51,037	49,402	-1,635	-3.2%
Craven	62,554	71,043	81,107	10,064	14.2%
Cumberland	212,042	247,160	270,140	22,980	9.3%
Currituck	6,976	11,089	13,697	2,608	23.5%
Dare	6,995	13,377	22,573	9,196	68.7%
Davidson	95,627	113,162	125,138	11,976	10.6%
Davie	18,855	24,599	27,440	2,841	11.5%
Duplin	38,015	40,952	39,855	-1,097	-2.7%
Durham	132,681	152,785	179,707	26,922	17.6%
Edgecombe	52,341	55,988	55,498	-490	-0.9%
Forsyth	215,118	243,704	262,862	19,158	7.9%
Franklin	26,820	30,055	35,512	5,457	18.2%
Gaston	148,415	162,568	171,890	9,322	5.7%
Gates	8,524	8,875	9,274	399	4.5%
Graham	6,562	7,217	7,193	-24	-0.3%
Granville	32,762	34,043	38,070	4,027	11.8%
Greene	14,967	16,117	15,197	-920	-5.7%
Guilford	288,645	317,154	343,753	26,599	8.4%
Halifax	54,354	55,076	54,730	-346	-0.6%
Harnett	49,667	59,570	66,743	7,173	12.0%
Haywood	41,710	46,495	46,823	328	0.7%
Henderson	42,804	58,580	69,031	10,451	17.8%
Hertford	24,439	23,368	22,522	-846	-3.6%
Hoke	16,436	20,383	22,521	2,138	10.5%
Hyde	5,571	5,873	5,374	-499	-8.5%
Iredell	72,197	82,538	92,445	9,907	12.0%
Jackson	21,593	25,811	26,497	686	2.7%
Johnston	61,737	70,599	79,902	9,303	13.2%
Jones	9,779	9,705	9,396	-309	-3.2%
Lee	30,467	36,718	40,936	4,218	11.5%
Lenoir	55,204	59,819	56,639	-3,180	-5.3%
Lincoln	32,682	42,372	50,094	7,722	18.2%
Macon	15,788	20,178	23,427	3,249	16.1%
Madison	16,003	16,827	16,935	108	0.6%
Martin	24,730	25,948	25,008	-940	-3.6%
McDowell	30,648	35,135	35,435	300	0.9%
Mecklenburg	354,656	404,270	498,506	94,236	23.3%
Mitchell	13,447	14,428	14,409	-19	-0.1%
Montgomery	19,267	22,469	23,011	542	2.4%
Moore	39,048	50,505	58,417	7,912	15.7%
Nash	59,122	67,153	75,224	8,071	12.0%
New Hanover	82,996	103,471	119,118	15,647	15.1%
Northampton	23,099	22,584	20,447	-2,137	-9.5%
Onslow	103,126	112,784	150,625	37,841	33.6%
Orange	57,567	77,055	92,885	15,830	20.5%
Pamlico	9,467	10,398	11,530	1,132	10.9%
Pasquotank	26,824	28,462	31,219	2,757	9.7%
Pender	18,149	22,262	28,571	6,309	28.3%
Perquimans	8,351	9,486	10,406	920	9.7%
Person	25,914	29,164	29,850	686	2.4%
Pitt	73,900	90,146	107,167	17,021	18.9%
Polk	11,735	12,984	14,383	1,399	10.8%
Randolph	76,358	91,300	105,887	14,587	16.0%
Richmond	39,889	45,161	44,054	-1,107	-2.5%
Robeson	84,842	101,610	104,137	2,527	2.5%
Rockingham	72,402	83,426	85,568	2,142	2.6%
Rowan	90,035	99,186	109,192	10,006	10.1%
Rutherford	47,337	53,787	56,807	3,020	5.6%
Sampson	44,954	49,687	46,758	-2,929	-5.9%
Scotland	26,929	32,273	33,391	1,118	3.5%
Stanly	42,822	48,517	51,361	2,844	5.9%
Stokes	23,782	33,086	36,548	3,462	10.5%
Surry	51,415	59,449	61,395	1,946	3.3%
Swain	8,835	10,283	11,255	972	9.5%
Transylvania	19,713	23,417	25,438	2,021	8.6%
Tyrrell	3,806	3,975	3,856	-119	-3.0%
Union	54,714	70,436	82,187	11,751	16.7%
Vance	32,691	36,748	38,120	1,372	3.7%
Wake	229,006	301,429	417,309	115,880	38.4%
Warren	15,340	16,232	16,763	531	3.3%
Washington	14,038	14,801	14,009	-792	-5.4%
Watauga	23,404	31,666	36,838	5,172	16.3%
Wayne	85,408	97,054	102,887	5,833	6.0%
Wilkes	49,524	58,657	59,061	404	0.7%
Wilson	57,486	63,132	65,276	2,144	3.4%
Yadkin	24,599	28,439	30,074	1,635	5.7%
Yancey	12,629	14,934	15,389	455	3.0%
N. Carolina	5,084,411	5,880,095	6,552,927	672,832	11.4%

Carolinas



Associated Press

Rep. Dan Blue (left), speaks at a press conference after Rep. Bobby Hunter withdrew from the race for the speaker of the

House. Blue would be the first speaker from a major urban area in nearly 30 years.

Democrats Get Behind Blue He'd Be N.C.'s First Black Speaker

By JOHN DRESCHER
Raleigh Bureau

RALEIGH — Having gained the support of his chief opponent on Monday, state Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, is on the verge of becoming North Carolina's first black speaker of the House.

Blue would be the first speaker from a major urban area in nearly 30 years and will likely listen to the concerns of Mecklenburg and other population centers. And he is expected to

control a House less influenced by Republicans, such as Minority Leader Johnathan Rhyne, R-Lincoln.

Blue and Rep. Bob Hunter, D-McDowell, held a news conference Monday to announce that Hunter was withdrawing from the speaker's race and backing Blue.

The announcement means Blue will be nominated Friday by House Democrats, who hold 81 of 120 seats, to be speaker. The full House is expected to

select Blue as speaker when the legislature opens Jan. 30.

"This step by him (Hunter) clearly shows that as Democrats, we plan to enter the '91 session united," Blue said with a smiling Hunter standing beside him.

Two years ago, 20 Democrats unhappy with the leadership of former Speaker Liston Ramsey, D-Madison, joined with 45 Republicans to elect Joe Mavretic, D-Edgecombe — and give House Republicans unprecedented power.

Republicans chaired many subcommittees in a new system they helped negotiate and saw their leader, Rhyne, become a key player.

But Republicans now have seven fewer members and Democrats are united. With those differences, here are some changes to expect in the 1991-92 session:

• Republicans will have less influence. "Absolutely. We will have less impact on legislation

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Democrats Get Behind Rep. Blue

He Would Be N.C.'s First Black Speaker

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than in the last two years," said Rep. Coy Privette, R-Cabarrus.

Last session, Republicans helped kill a tax increase and cut the state's abortion fund for poor women. With their subcommittee chairmanships, they helped control the agenda.

Blue has had a good relationship with Republicans and said Monday he will involve them. But he said committee chairpersons and those "responsible for the flow of legislation" would be Democrats.

Rhyne, the minority leader, plans to meet with Blue, possibly today, to discuss the Republicans' role. "There's more than one way to skin a cat," Rhyne said.

● The House will be less conservative. "It will be very progressive. He will get things done," said former Rep. Al Adams, D-Wake, who served with Blue in the early 1980s.

Blue has been a supporter of social service programs, such as one that provided health care for poor, pregnant women.

"He is a person who's idealistic but is aware that you have to take what you can get," said Rep. Ruth Easterling, D-Mecklenburg.

Blue said Monday he didn't know if the state needed to increase taxes. Republicans think they know what Blue will seek.

"I do expect him to push for a tax increase," said Rep. Trip Sizemore, R-Guilford, who did not seek reelection this year. "Dan Blue is not a conservative. In fact, he's a liberal."

● Urban areas will have a friend. Rep. Carl Stewart, D-Gaston, was speaker from 1977 to 1980, but the House hasn't had a speaker from one of the state's five largest counties since Rep. Joseph Hunt of Guilford was speaker in 1961.

"He (Blue) does represent an urban area. He's more attuned to our problems," said Rep. John McLaughlin, D-Mecklenburg.

Blue pushed mass transit last session, and "a lot of other issues that involve major urban areas are coming to the front burner," Blue said.

But Blue, 41, also has ties to rural areas. The Duke-educated lawyer was raised in Robeson County. He said he is interested in spreading more money to rural schools.