

Jefferson county continues population increase;
Cumberland Plateau area has great decrease,
as revealed in figures showing

Where Kentuckians Now Live

By JAMES S. BROWN

From the standpoint of change, the big news in the release of estimates of Kentucky's 1957 population by counties and economic areas¹ is the change in distribution of people *within* the state. Particularly striking is the great increase of the population of Jefferson county (Metropolitan Area A) and the great loss of population of the Cumberland Plateau area (Economic Area 9).²

Population of the State

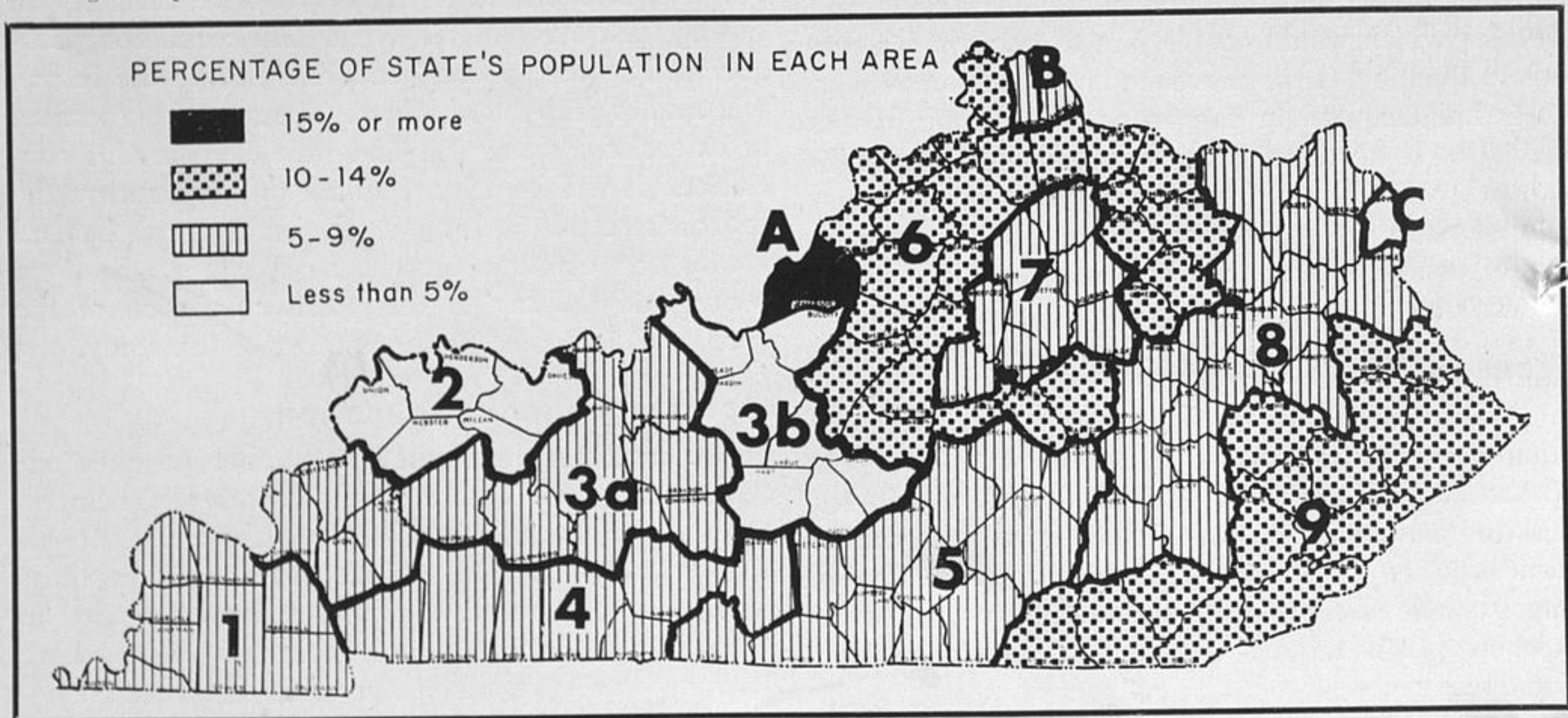
The state's population was estimated to be about the same on July 1, 1957 as April 1, 1950, increasing only 12,387 (or less than 1 percent) to 2,983,873. Natural increase continued to be high, with 360,073 more births than deaths during this 7¼-year period. But, as has been true for a long time, this relatively

¹ State economic areas are groupings of counties which have similar social and economic characteristics.
² Thomas R. Ford, *Population Estimates for Kentucky Counties and Economic Areas, July 1, 1957*, Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station Progress Report 66.

large natural increase was nearly altogether offset by a loss through migration; during 1950-57, 332,934 more persons left the state than migrated into it.

Distribution of the State's Population

More and more of the population is concentrated in urban areas. All three metropolitan areas gained from 1950 to 1957: Area A (Jefferson county) 20.0 percent; Area B (Campbell and Kenton counties) 12.6 percent; and Area C (Boyd county) 1.4 percent. The eight counties which in 1950 had 50 percent or more of their populations classified as urban (Boyd, Campbell, Daviess, Fayette, Henderson, Jefferson, Kenton, and McCracken) contained almost 40 percent of the state's people in 1957 compared with a little more than a third in 1950. The concentration of Kentucky's population in urban areas is leading to a geographical concentration of population in clusters along the Ohio River. Eleven counties along the Ohio in five clusters (Boyd-Greenup; Boone-Campbell-Kenton; Daviess-Henderson; Jefferson-Oldham-Hardin; and Mc-



This map, divided into economic and metropolitan areas, shows the distribution of Kentucky's population on July 1, 1957. The economic areas are designated by numerals, 1

through 9; the metropolitan areas are designated by letters, A-B-C.