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### Population Density Change

**Indicator:** Change in population density per square mile from 1989 to 1997, by census tract. Population density change is calculated by subtracting an area's population in 1997 from that in 1989 and normalizing by geographic extent (square miles). Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties. Generally, census tracts have between 2,500 and 8,000 residents and boundaries that follow visible features.

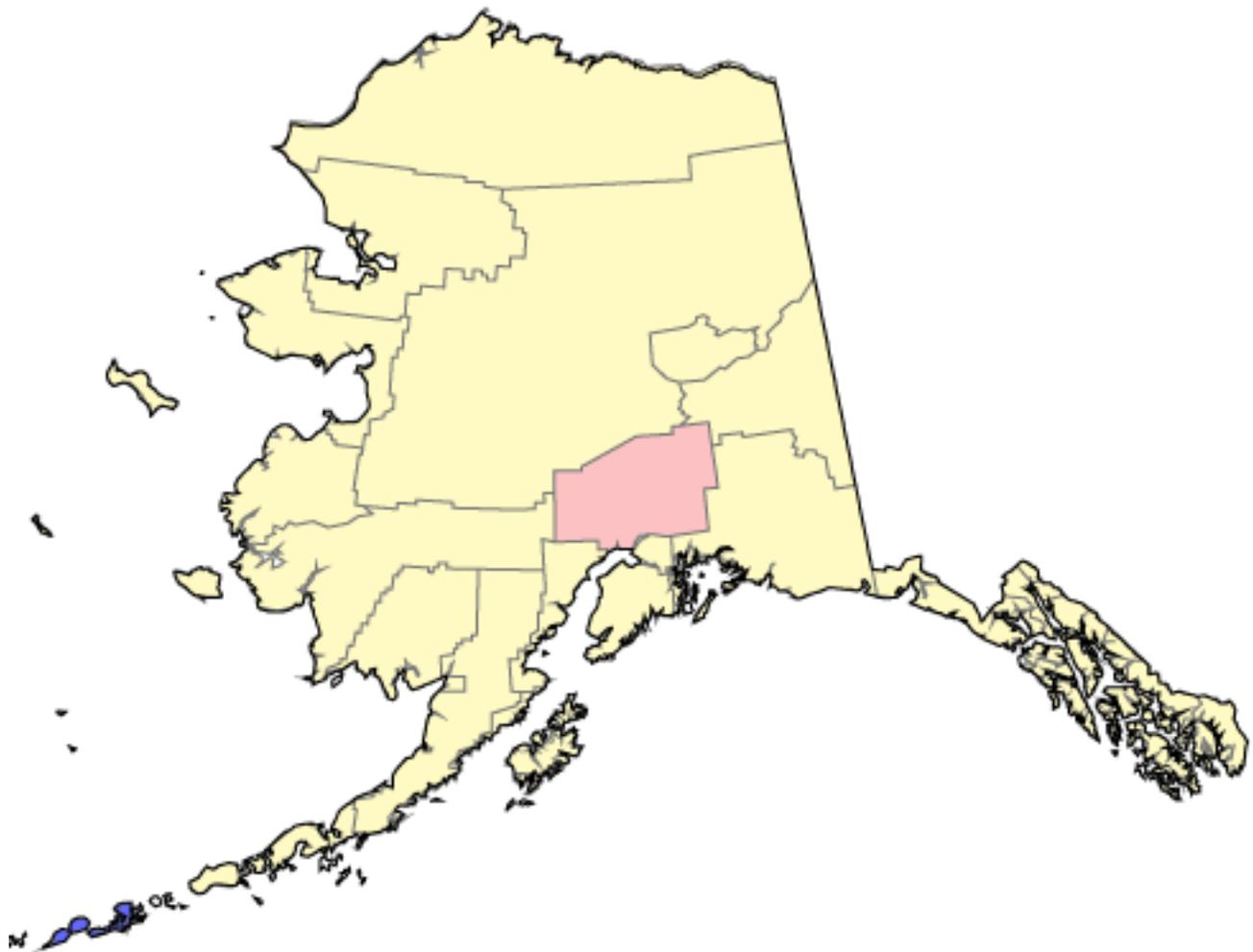
**Key Findings:** This information provides a general picture of the changing intensity of human settlement. In general, BLM lands are seldom concentrated in the areas of fastest growth. Population density change compared with per capita income provides an indicator of the economic health of an area. Generally, areas with low per capita income and decreasing population density are considered economically unhealthy and would benefit from financial stimulus. One area of possible concern is located on the western border of Nevada where high concentrations of BLM lands do exist in the vicinity of lands with relatively high population growth as well as lands showing population loss. Another lies on the southeastern border of California where negative population growth exists. Only one area, southwestern Nevada, appears to show a high concentration of BLM lands in conjunction with negative population growth and very low per capita income. Areas of relatively high population growth may offer exceptional economic or aesthetic opportunities. Areas of negative growth, which include many rural areas throughout the west, may require special sensitivity to the needs of the people in the local communities.

**Limitations:** These data are considered to be of very good quality and are easily obtainable. Many additional analyses are possible with this information.

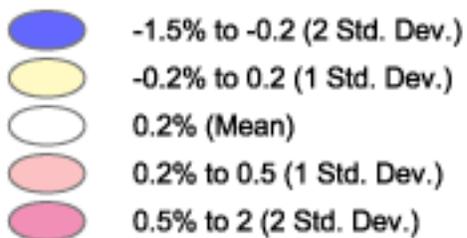
**Source:** Census CD+Maps by Geolytics, available from: <http://www.geolytics.com>. Decennial Census, available in National Atlas of the United States at: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/atlasftp.html> and in hard copy at local libraries; also found at the Government Sharing Project: <http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu>. City and County Data Book, available for order at: <http://www.census.gov/statab/www/ccdb.html>, or in the library reference section.

**Comments:** This information comes from the decennial census. During the later part of a decade, current estimates may be found at the sources above.

## Population Density Change



Population Density Change  
Percent By Census Tract  
1989 - 1997



Scale 1:15,000,000

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