



Southern Illinois Regional Assessment Project

Alexander County Fact Sheet

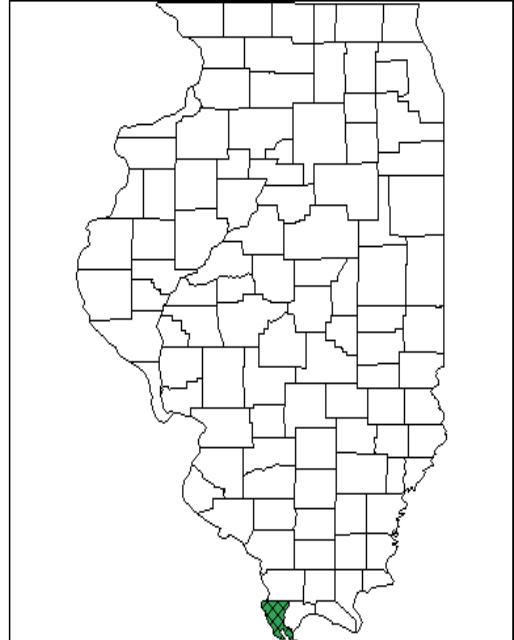
**Dr. Courtney Flint and Dr. Stephen Gasteyer, Principle Investigators
Joanna Ganning, Hua Qin and Michelle Downs, Graduate Assistants**

Alexander County:

Formed from Union County in 1819.
Named for William M. Alexander,
who became Speaker of the Illinois
House of Representatives in 1822.
The county has never adopted
township form of government.
Instead, it is divided into precincts.

County Seat: Cairo

2005 Population Estimate: 8,927



Economic Indicators

Income and Poverty

2004 Per Capita Personal Income¹:
\$18,212 (Region: \$23,753)

1999 Median Household Income²:
\$26,042 (Region, calculated: \$30,845)

1999 Median Household Income where householder is black or African American alone²: \$16,513 (Region, calculated: \$18,340)

2000 Poverty Level²: 26.1% (Region: 15.8%)

2000 Poverty Level Among Blacks or African Americans²: 38.1% (Region: 39.3%)

Households with Public Assistance Income in 2000 (percentage)²:
312 (8.2%) (Region: 3.5%)

Unemployment Rate in 2005³: 8.8%

Sources: 1: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; 2: U.S. Census Bureau; 3: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Commuting in 2000

Top 3 Counties from which Workers In-Commute

1	Pulaski	514
2	Union	284
3	Ballard, KY	117

Top 3 Counties to which Workers Out-Commute

1	Cape Girardeau, MO	930
2	Union	198
3	Pulaski	154

Source: U.S. Census 2000, Journey to Work

Total number in-commuting: 1,524

Total number out-commuting: 1,632

Net commuting: -108

Total county workforce: 3,198

Net commuting as % of county workforce: -3.4%

Top Industries for Employment

Rank	NAICS Code	Industry Name	Employment
1	62	Health Care and Social Assistance	322
	6214	Outpatient Care Centers	184
	621420	Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Centers	62
	623110	Nursing Care Facilities	66
2	488	Support Activities for Transportation	233
	488330	Navigational Services to Shipping	220
3	72	Accommodation and Food Services	99
	722	Food Services and Drinking Places	94
4	311222	Soybean Processing	95
5	212322	Industrial Sand Mining	59

Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

Note: NAICS is the North American Industry Classification System.

Agricultural Indicators

Crop	Acreage	Percent
	1999-2000	1999-2000
Corn	32,714	38.4%
Soy	27,456	32.3%
Winter wheat	1,466	1.7%
Other small grains/ Hay	430	0.5%
Winter wheat/ Soybeans	5,439	6.4%
Other Agriculture	17,041	20.0%
Rural grassland	587	0.7%
Total	85,132	100%

2002 Market value of agricultural crop products sold (in \$1,000):

9,854 (Region average: 18,669)

2002 Market value of livestock and poultry products sold (in \$1,000):

379 (Region average: 5,768)

2002 Market value of total agricultural products sold (in \$1000):

10,233 (Region average: 23,361)

2002 Market value of agricultural products sold average per farm (in dollars):

68,678 (Region average: 50,680)

Source: USDA, 2002 Census of Agriculture

Source: USDA, IDA and IDNR, 2002 Illinois Interagency Landscape Classification Project

Livestock	Number of Farms with Animals			Number of Animals		
	1997	2002	% Change	1997	2002	% Change
Cattle	75	58	-28%	3,357	2,243	-34%
Hogs	11	3	-73%	261	26	-90%
Horses	11	23	+110%	64	69	+8%

Source: USDA, 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture

Soil Type	Acreage	Percent
Prime farmland soils (not eroded)	43,328	36.9%
Prime farmland soils (eroded)	3,872	3.3%
Non-prime farmland soils (all erosion classes)	70,151	59.8%
Total	117,351	100%

Source: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Web Soil Survey, and Alexander Soil Survey Report (1968)

Note: Prime farmlands soils include those soil types with 0-10% slope; non-prime farmland soils are all other soil types with slope greater than 10%.

Irrigation	1997	2002
Acres Land in Irrigated Farms	11,144	D
Total Acres Farmland	73,639	78,418
% Farmland Irrigated	15.1%	—

Source: USDA, 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture

Note: "D" indicates this information was not disclosed.

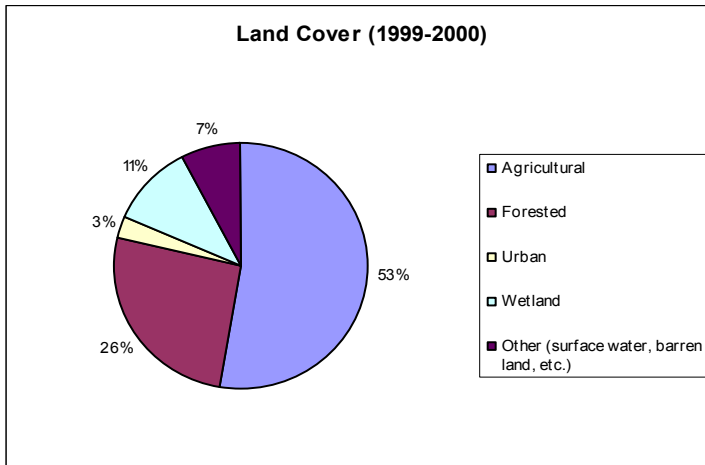
Environmental Indicators

Land

Land Cover (1999-2000)	Acreages	Percent (County)	Percent (Region)	Percent (State)
Agricultural	85,132	52.5%	64.6%	76.3%
Forested	42,364	26.1%	21.0%	11.5%
Urban	4,571	2.8%	3.0%	6.4%
Wetland	17,986	11.1%	8.5%	3.9%
Other	12,056	7.4%	2.8%	1.8%
Total	162,109	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: "Other" includes surface water, barren land, etc.

Source: USDA, IDA and IDNR, 2002 Illinois Interagency Landscape Classification Project



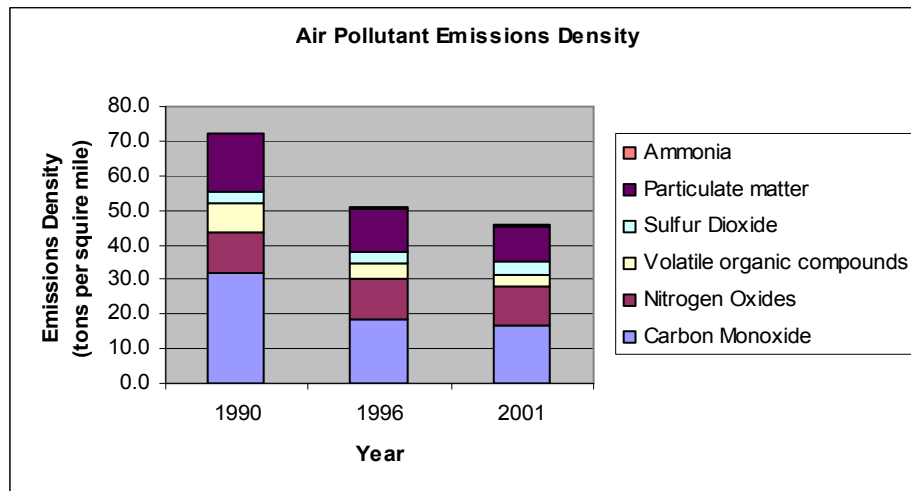
Timberland Ownership Classes	Acreages	Percent
National Forest	26,100	36.9%
Other Public	2,800	4.0%
Corporate	11,600	16.4%
Private	30,200	42.7%
Total	70,700	100.0%

Note: "Other Public" includes other federal, state, county and municipal.

Source: Schmidt, T. L., M. H. Hansen, and J. A. Solomakos. 2000. Illinois' forests in 1998 (Resource Bulletin NC-198). St. Paul, MN: USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station.

Air

Total Air Pollutant Emissions Density (tons per square mile)	1990	1996	2001	2001 Region Avg.
	72.3	50.9	45.7	59.6



Note: EPA collects emissions data for three criteria air pollutants: Carbon monoxide (CO), Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), Particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and three precursors/promoters of criteria air pollutants: Volatile organic compounds (VOC), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Ammonia (NH₃).

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Emission Inventory NEI database and Air Quality System (AQS) database

Water

Number of public water systems: 7
Number of water health based violation (since 1993): 1
Number of impaired or threatened water bodies: 67
Percentage of surface water areas with impaired or threatened uses: 18%

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts Databases; Scorecard-the Pollution Information Site <http://www.scorecard.org>

Note: Scorecard's county-level data on impaired waterbodies are derived from two U.S. EPA sources: the 1998 TMDL Tracking System and the 1998 National Water Quality Inventory.

Estimated Use of Water (in million gallons per day)	1990	1995	2000
	2.33	2.45	3.06

Source: National Water-Use Information Program, U.S. Geological Survey

Toxics and Wastes

Facilities Generating Toxics and Wastes	Number
Facilities producing air emissions	21
Companies with wastewater discharging permits	20
Facilities having toxic chemical releases	3
Potential waste sites in Superfund	1
Hazardous waste generating facilities	23
Radiation regulated facilities	0

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts Databases

Outdoor Recreational Areas

Shawnee National Forest

- Bean Ridge Pond Campground

Horseshoe Lake State Recreational Area
Fort Defiance State Park
Cache River
Mississippi River

Sources: Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Highway Map 2005-2006; USDA Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest Map

Demographic Indicators

Population	1990	2000	2005
Population Density (population per square mile land area)	45	41	38
Population	10,626	9,590	8,927
Dependency Ratio	73.6	60.8	—
Inmate Population	16	468	—

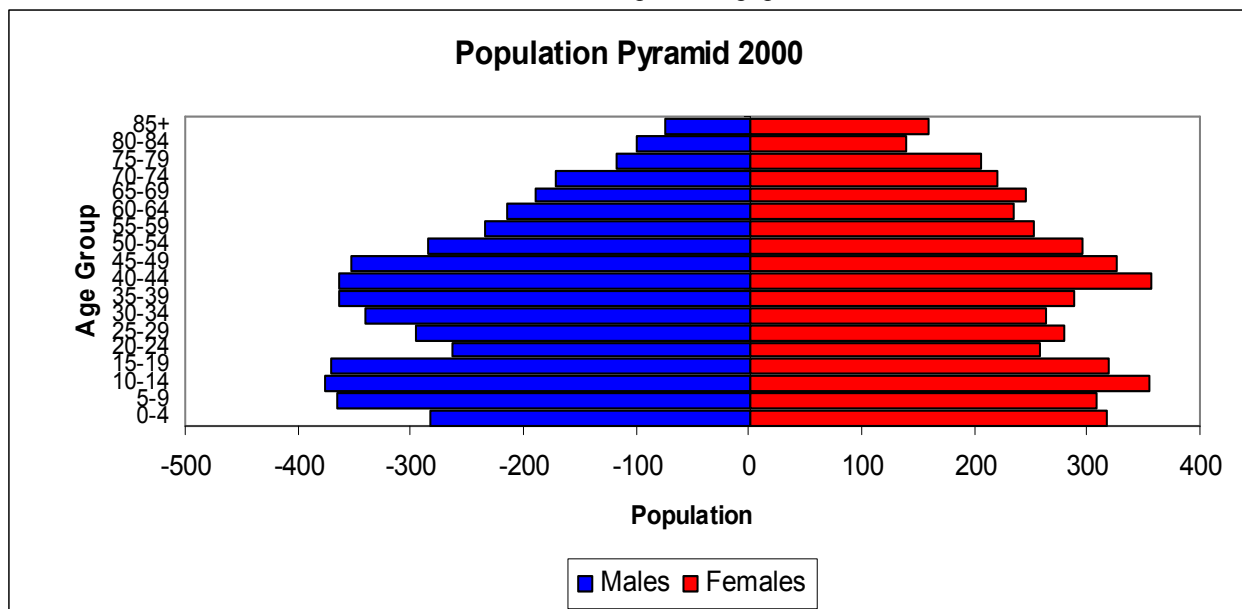
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Dependency ratio is the ratio of the population under age 15 and over age 64 to the working age population (ages 15-64). Higher values imply a greater dependent population.

Selected Vital Statistics	Alexander	Region Avg.	State
Average Crude Birth Rate (1990-2004)	13.7	11.2	14.9
Average Crude Death Rate (1990-2004)	13.2	12.5	8.6
Average Percent of Birth of Low Birth Weight to Total Birth (1995-2001)	12.4%	7.7%	8.0%
Percent of People with Disability in the 16 to 64 Age Group (2000)	27.6%	20.3%	16.6%

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Birth Statistics

Note: Crude birth/death rate is the number of births/deaths per 1000 population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Note: All figures on the X-axis are population numbers and should be treated as positive.

Ancestry

Ancestry	Number	Percent
Other groups	3,204	44.4%
United States / American	999	13.8%
German	905	12.5%
Irish	706	9.8%
English	470	6.5%
Scottish	153	2.1%
French (except Basque)	139	1.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Note: The Hispanic/Latino figures may be included in other race categories.

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White alone	5,968	62.23%
Black or African American alone	3,338	34.81%
Hispanic or Latino	138	1.44%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	26	0.27%
Asian alone	35	0.36%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	2	0.02%
Some other race alone	3	0.03%
Two or more races	80	0.83%
Total Population	9590	100.00%

2002-2003 County-to-County Migration

Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migrants
Total migration: US and Foreign	372	516	-144
Median adjusted gross income of migrants	\$14,166	\$13,921	—
Total US migration	372	516	-144
Total migration to/from the same state	154	213	-59
Total migration to/from a different state	218	303	-85
Non-migrants	6,117	6,117	—
#1 County migrants move from/to	Cape Girardeau, MO (72)	Cape Girardeau, MO (131)	-59
#2 County migrants move from/to	Pulaski, IL (59)	Pulaski, IL (71)	-12
#3 County migrants move from/to	Union, IL (28)	Scott, MO (37)	—

Source: 2003 IRS Migration Files

Note: This table shows that between 2002 and 2003, there were -144 net migrants to Alexander County. The incomes of the in-migrants was higher than that of the out-migrants, which may be a result of the age bracket of the in-migrants (potential retirees). More migration movement occurred between Alexander and counties outside of Illinois than with other Illinois counties. Of the top three counties from which people move to Alexander, two match the top counties to which Alexander residents move. In both cases, net migration runs out of Alexander County.

Social Indicators

Education

Enrollment	Number	% Change 2004-2005	Race/Ethnicity (2005-2006)	Number	Percent
2005-2006 K-12 Enrollment	1,204	-1.9%	White	497	37.6%
2005-2006 Total Housed Student Enrollment	1,321	-3.1%	Black	802	60.7%
Projected 2007-2008 Enrollment (K-12)	1,090	-11.2%	American Indian	2	0.2%
Projected 2012-2013 Enrollment (K-12)	845	-31.1%	Asian	1	0.1%
			Hispanic	9	0.7%
			Multi-racial	10	0.8%
			Total	1,321	100.0%

Selected School Report Statistics	Alexander	Region Avg.	State
Average Low-income-family Student Rate in 2005	80.5	45.5	40.0
Average High School Dropout Rate in 2005	2.4	3.2	4.0
Average High School Graduation Rate in 2005	89.0	90.7	87.4

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, Data Analysis & Process Reporting

Note: Total housed student enrollment includes pre-K through post secondary students. All rates in school report statistics are numbers per 100 students.

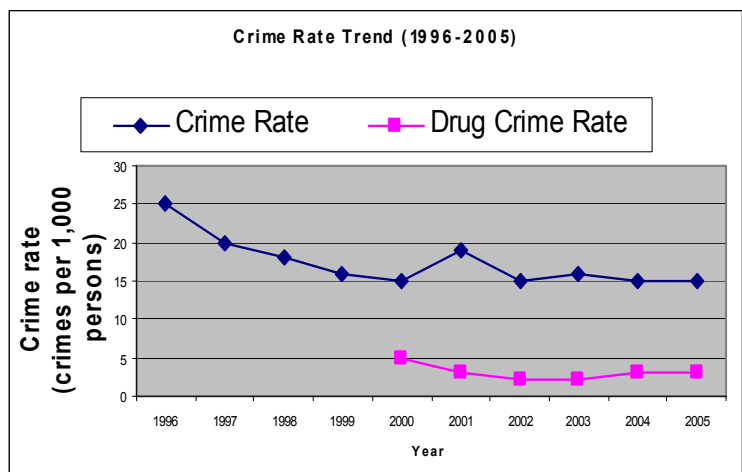
Educational Attainment (Percent, Population 25 years and over)	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High School Graduate or Higher	4,016	59.7%	4,283	67.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	527	7.8%	439	6.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000,

Crime

Crime in 2005	Number
Total Crimes	406
Crime Rate (crimes per 1,000 persons)	44
Drug Arrests	34
Drug Crime Arrest Rate (arrests per 1,000 persons)	4

Source: Illinois State Police, Crime in Illinois, 2006



Note: The Illinois State Police calculated crime rate as the number of crimes per 100,000 persons. We adjusted the rate to the number of crimes per 1000 persons here due to relatively small populations of most southern Illinois counties.

Health Care Coverage

Percent of persons having some kind of health care coverage (including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare)	2003	2003 Region Avg.	2004 State
	81.0%	83.0%	84.8%

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Housing

Housing	Percent	Region
Mobile homes that are rented	11.7%	24.6%
Owner-occupied units with housing problems	27.0%	18.7%
Renter-occupied units with housing problems	34.0%	35.6%
Homeownership	72.0%	73.6%
Homeownership among blacks/African Americans (2)	48.0%	41.4%
Vacant housing units for seasonal or recreational use	3.5%	2.0%

Source: US Census 2000 and HUD (2000)

Note: Housing problems, according to HUD, include incomplete plumbing, incomplete kitchen facilities, over-crowding or non-affordability.

2) There are 1,216 households in the county for which the householder is black or African American alone.

<p>Housing Permits in 2005: 5 Houses Sold in the First Quarter of 2006: 5 Median House Sale Price in the First Quarter of 2006: \$13,177</p>
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Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development; IL Association of Realtors

For more information, contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, W-503 Turner Hall, 1201 S. Goodwin, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-2770, cflint@uiuc.edu or gasteyer@uiuc.edu.