

TABLE 4.11.1.1–3—Population Growth by County in Pantex Region of Influence

COUNTY	1960	1970	% CHANGE 1960- 1970	1980	% CHANGE 1970- 1980	1990	% CHANGE 1980- 1990	1995	% CHANGE 1990- 1995
Armstrong	1,966	1,895	-3.6	1,994	5.2	2,021	1.4	2,111	4.5
Carson	7,781	6,358	-18.3	6,672	4.9	6,576	-1.4	6,639	1.0
Potter	115,580	90,511	-21.7	98,637	9.0	97,874	-0.7	104,574	6.8
Randall	33,913	53,885	58.9	75,062	39.3	89,673	19.5	96,438	7.5
Total ROI	159,240	152,649	-4.1	182,365	19.4	196,144	7.6	209,762	6.9
Amarillo MSA	149,493	144,396	-3.4	173,699	20.3	187,547	8.0	201,012	7.2

Sources: City 1989; TX Cen 1961:6; TX Cen 1973:9; TX Cen 1982:14; TX Cen 1992a:1; TX Cen 1996; TX Cen 1996a

experienced a 3.4 percent decline in population between 1960 and 1970. This was largely attributable to the closing of the Amarillo Air Force Base in 1968. Amarillo MSA quickly recovered from this population loss by the mid 1970's. Between 1970 and 1980, it increased its population at an average annual rate of 2.0 percent. The growth rate slowed down to 0.8 percent per year in the 1980's but increased again to 1.4 percent per year during the 1990's (1990-1995).

4.11.1.2 Regional Income and Poverty

In 1989, the median household income in the ROI was \$25,763, compared to the median of \$27,016 for Texas as a whole. Per capita income in the ROI was \$12,639 in 1989, compared to the State-wide per capita income of \$12,904. A total of 30,253 persons in the ROI were below the poverty level based on their 1989 incomes, representing 15.4 percent of all persons in the ROI. Over 97 percent of these persons were residents of the Amarillo metropolitan area. Across Texas, 18.1 percent of all persons were below the poverty level based on their incomes in 1989. Table

4.11.1.2–1 summarizes the information on income and poverty levels in the ROI.

4.11.1.3 Regional Housing

Throughout the four-county area, a total of 84,506 housing units were counted in 1990. Slightly more than 11 percent, or 9,439 of these units were vacant, while just over 75,000 were occupied by an average of 2.56 persons per unit. Nearly 65 percent of the units were owner-occupied dwellings, while the remainder were occupied by renters. Less than 5 percent of the occupied units were overcrowded, with more than one person per room. Less than 1 percent of all housing units in the ROI lacked either complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. Table 4.11.1.3–1 presents the housing characteristics for the ROI as a whole and the four counties that comprise the ROI.

4.11.1.4 Regional Labor Force

In 1990, two-thirds of the ROI's population 16 years of age and older, or 97,713 persons, were in the civilian labor force. Of this total, 91,412 were employed, with 71,134 working at least 35 hours per week. Unemployed persons totaled 6,301, or 6.5 percent of the civilian labor force.