

RESEARCH REPORT

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*Comparison of Changes in Population, Southern Baptist Churches,
and Resident Members by Region and State, 1990 to 2000*

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and Resident Members by Region and State, 1990 to 2000*

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Executive Summary

One measure of effectiveness of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) church planting and evangelism is the comparison of changes in churches and resident membership over time to changes in population. The text, tables, maps, and charts in this report provide such a measurement from 1990 to 2000. Highlights are bulleted below. All information is for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Population

- The U.S. population grew 13.1 percent to 281 million, a net gain of 33 million from 1990 to 2000.
- The South and West led in growth (14.8 and 10.4 million) as well as rate of growth (17.3 and 19.7 percent). See footnote 1 on page 1 for the definition of census regions and divisions.
- The top 20 states in rate of population growth were all in the South or West regions.
- 8 states gained more than 1 million people
- California (4.1 million), Texas (3.9), and Florida (3.0) accounted for one-third of the nation's numeric population growth.
- Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington ranked in the top 10 states in both numeric and percentage growth in population.

Churches

- SBC churches numbered 41,514 in 2000, an increase of 3,486 or 9.2 percent.
- 80 percent of churches and 70 percent of the net gain in churches were in the South.
- Texas, Florida, and California each netted a gain of 200 or more churches since during the 1990s.
- California, Maryland, and Pennsylvania ranked in the top 15 states in both numeric and percentage growth in churches.

Population per Church

- During the 1990s, the growth rate of churches has lagged behind the growth rate of population. Hence, the ratio of population per church was higher (6,779 people per church) in 2000 than in 1990.
- The ratio of persons to churches differs drastically by geographic area. The ratio is about 3,000 in the South and almost 80,000 in the Northeast.
- The District of Columbia and 25 states realized improvement in their population per church ratio from 1990 to 2000—indicating churches grew more rapidly than population.

Resident Membership

- There were 11.4 million SBC resident members reported in 2000, an increase of 822 thousand, or 7.8 percent.

- A larger percentage of congregations failed to report their membership in 2000 as compared to 1990. This creates an artificial factor inhibiting growth rates of resident membership.
- Growth in reported membership failed to keep pace with growth of churches (9.2%) and population (13.1%).
- The District of Columbia and Pennsylvania ranked in the top 15 states in both numeric and percentage growth in resident membership.

Population per Resident Member

- During the 1990s, the growth rate of resident membership lagged drastically behind population growth, resulting in the ratio of population per resident member worsening to 24.7 in 2000. (Increased non-reporting of membership is a mitigating factor.)
- Population per member also varies greatly by region, ranging from 10 in the South to 668 in the Northeast.
- Only 16 states improved their population per member ratio from 1990 to 2000 (indicating membership growth rate exceeded population growth rate), compared to 26 states that improved their population per church ratio.

Conclusions and Implications

- Southern Baptists lost “market share” of the population between 1990 and 2000.
- The church planting and evangelism goals set by the North American Mission Board are indeed God-size goals and will not be attained without divine intervention.

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Introduction

This report examines population and population changes in the United States and compares them to the changes in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches and resident membership for the years 1990 and 2000. This information is examined at the national level, by the four census regions of the country, by the nine census divisions, and by states.¹

Population counts are from the 1990 and 2000 censuses of the United States population provided by the Bureau of the Census. Counts of churches and resident members are enumerated through the Annual Church Profile (ACP) process administered Convention-wide by LifeWay Christian Resources. In order to make data from the two sources comparable, Southern Baptist data is summarized by geographical state and not state convention. Furthermore, only churches physically located in the United States are included, i.e., churches located in Canada or the U.S. Territories, are not included.² The number of church-type missions is not available for 1990, so those congregations are excluded for comparing 1990 to 2000. Although church-type missions are not included in the counts of churches, members of church-type missions are included in resident membership counts at both time periods.

The information in this report is organized into five sections—population, churches, population per church, resident membership, and population per resident member. Each section of the report contains introductory text, tables, maps, and bar charts. The text provides highlights of that section's material. The first table in each section looks at the regional differences in data for that topic. The other two tables are at the state level—one providing raw data and the other providing state rankings for the various items. The maps and charts provide thematic views by state and state rankings, respectively.

¹ The four census regions of the United States—South, West, Northeast, and Midwest—are subdivided into census divisions. The South Region is divided into South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central divisions. The states in the South Atlantic division are Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. The states in the East South Central division are Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The states in the West South Central division are Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The West region is divided into Pacific and Mountain divisions. The states of the Pacific division are Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The states of the Mountain division are Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The Northeast region is divided into New England and Middle Atlantic divisions. The states of the New England division are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The states of the Middle Atlantic division are New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Midwest region is divided into East North Central and West North Central divisions. The states in the East North Central division are Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The states of the West North Central division are Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

² The 2000 population estimate for Canada is 30,769,700. Based on 2000 counts, there were 149 congregations (including churches and missions) physically located in Canada. Based on this information, the population per congregation in Canada was 206,500.

Population

The Nation

On April 1, 2000, the count of people living in the United States was 281.4 million. This is 32.6 million more people than were counted in the 1990 census—a 13.1 percent increase during the 1990s. (See table 1.) The bulk of the nation's growth, about 70 percent, is attributable to natural increase, i.e., births minus deaths. The other 30 percent is the result of net migration, i.e., the influx of persons into the country minus those leaving.³

Regions

The nation is divided into four census regions. The South is the largest with more than 100 million residents, and is home to more than one-third of the U.S. population. The Midwest is the second largest region with 64.4 million people followed by the West with 63.2 million and the Northeast with 53.6 million. (See table 1.)

The South experienced the largest net increase from 1990 to 2000—14.8 million people. The growth of the South accounted for 45 percent of the nation's net population gain during the 1990s. Even though only the third largest region, the West had the second largest increase of population—10.4 million people. The Midwest increased less than 5 million during the decade, while the Northeast increased less than 3 million people.

The rate of growth for the South was 17.3 percent. However, the South was not the fastest growing region. That distinction belongs to the West, which grew by 19.7 percent. Because of its growth, the West will soon become the nation's second largest region. Within the West region, the Mountain division grew by 33.0 percent, almost double the growth rate of any other division. In contrast, the slowest growing region of the country was the Northeast with a 5.4 percent increase. The Midwest fell in the middle with a 7.9 percent increase.

States

The most populous states in 2000 were:

	(Millions)
California	32.3
Texas	19.4
New York	18.1
Florida	14.7
Illinois	12.0

Texas replaced New York as the second largest state during the 1990s. (See table 3, which shows the rank of each state in relation to all other states for a particular variable. For example, Texas was the third largest state in 1990 but by 2000 was

³ Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.

the second largest state. From 1990 to 2000 it had the second largest increase of population among the states, and the eighth largest percentage increase in population.) Other notable changes in rankings were Illinois moving past Pennsylvania into the top five and Georgia moving past North Carolina into the top 10.

The five states with the largest net gain in population from 1990 to 2000 are:

	(Millions)
California	4.1
Texas	3.9
Florida	3.0
Georgia	1.7
Arizona	1.5

The top eight states in population gain were either Southern or Western states. (See figures 3 and 4.) Three additional states had net growth more than 1 million—North Carolina (1.4 million), Washington (1.0), and Colorado (1.0).

In the South, Texas and Florida accounted for almost half the region's decadal growth, while California had two-fifths of the growth in the West. Together, California, Texas, and Florida accounted for a third of the nation's net population growth during the 1990s.

Only the District of Columbia lost population during the 1990s.

The top five states in percentage increase in population are:

Nevada	66.3%
Arizona	40.0
Colorado	30.6
Utah	29.6
Idaho	28.5

All of these states are part of the rapidly growing Mountain Division of the West region of the U.S. (See figures 5 and 6.) With the exception of Delaware (ranked thirteenth with its growth of 17.6%), all of the states ranked in the top 20 fastest growing states are in the South or the West. Particularly noteworthy in map figure 5 is the contiguous line of states ranging from Texas to Washington that are among the fastest growing in the country.

Three states were in the top 10 in decadal growth rate even though they were among the 10 most populous states in 1990. They are Florida, North Carolina, and Texas.

Table 1
Population by Region, 1990 to 2000

	—Population—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	248,765,170	281,421,906	32,656,736	13.1 %
Northeast	50,828,313	53,594,378	2,766,065	5.4
New England	13,206,943	13,922,517	715,574	5.4
Middle Atlantic	37,621,370	39,671,861	2,050,491	5.5
Midwest	59,669,135	64,392,776	4,723,641	7.9
East North Central	42,008,929	45,155,037	3,146,108	7.5
West North Central	17,660,206	19,237,739	1,577,533	8.9
South	85,455,793	100,236,820	14,781,027	17.3
South Atlantic	43,571,473	51,769,160	8,197,687	18.8
East South Central	15,179,959	17,022,810	1,842,851	12.1
West South Central	26,704,361	31,444,850	4,740,489	17.8
West	52,811,929	63,197,932	10,386,003	19.7
Mountain	13,658,794	18,172,295	4,513,501	33.0
Pacific	39,153,135	45,025,637	5,872,502	15.0

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 2
Population by State, 1990 to 2000

	—Population—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	248,765,170	281,421,906	32,656,736	13.1 %
Alabama	4,040,389	4,447,100	406,711	10.1
Alaska	550,043	626,932	76,889	14.0
Arizona	3,665,339	5,130,632	1,465,293	40.0
Arkansas	2,350,624	2,673,400	322,776	13.7
California	29,785,857	33,871,648	4,085,791	13.7
Colorado	3,294,473	4,301,261	1,006,788	30.6
Connecticut	3,287,116	3,405,565	118,449	3.6
Delaware	666,168	783,600	117,432	17.6
District of Columbia	606,900	572,059	-34,841	-5.7
Florida	12,938,071	15,982,378	3,044,307	23.5
Georgia	6,478,149	8,186,453	1,708,304	26.4
Hawaii	1,108,229	1,211,537	103,308	9.3
Idaho	1,006,734	1,293,953	287,219	28.5
Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	988,691	8.6
Indiana	5,544,156	6,080,485	536,329	9.7
Iowa	2,776,831	2,926,324	149,493	5.4
Kansas	2,477,588	2,688,418	210,830	8.5
Kentucky	3,686,892	4,041,769	354,877	9.6
Louisiana	4,221,826	4,468,976	247,150	5.9
Maine	1,227,928	1,274,923	46,995	3.8
Maryland	4,780,753	5,296,486	515,733	10.8
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	332,672	5.5
Michigan	9,295,287	9,938,444	643,157	6.9
Minnesota	4,375,665	4,919,479	543,814	12.4
Mississippi	2,575,475	2,844,658	269,183	10.5
Missouri	5,116,901	5,595,211	478,310	9.3
Montana	799,065	902,195	103,130	12.9
Nebraska	1,578,417	1,711,263	132,846	8.4
Nevada	1,201,675	1,998,257	796,582	66.3
New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,235,786	126,534	11.4
New Jersey	7,747,750	8,414,350	666,600	8.6
New Mexico	1,515,069	1,819,046	303,977	20.1
New York	17,990,778	18,976,457	985,679	5.5
North Carolina	6,632,448	8,049,313	1,416,865	21.4
North Dakota	638,800	642,200	3,400	0.5

Table 2 (continued)

	—Population—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	10,847,115	11,353,140	506,025	4.7 %
Oklahoma	3,145,576	3,450,654	305,078	9.7
Oregon	2,842,337	3,421,399	579,062	20.4
Pennsylvania	11,882,842	12,281,054	398,212	3.4
Rhode Island	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.5
South Carolina	3,486,310	4,012,012	525,702	15.1
South Dakota	696,004	754,844	58,840	8.5
Tennessee	4,877,203	5,689,283	812,080	16.7
Texas	16,986,335	20,851,820	3,865,485	22.8
Utah	1,722,850	2,233,169	510,319	29.6
Vermont	562,758	608,827	46,069	8.2
Virginia	6,189,197	7,078,515	889,318	14.4
Washington	4,866,669	5,894,121	1,027,452	21.1
West Virginia	1,793,477	1,808,344	14,867	0.8
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	471,906	9.6
Wyoming	453,589	493,782	40,193	8.9

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 3
Rankings of Population and Change by State, 1990 to 2000

	Population Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Alabama	22	23	25	25
Alaska	50	48	43	17
Arizona	24	20	5	2
Arkansas	33	33	29	18
California	1	1	1	19
Colorado	26	24	8	3
Connecticut	27	29	39	47
Delaware	46	45	40	13
District of Columbia	48	50	51	51
Florida	4	4	3	7
Georgia	11	10	4	6
Hawaii	41	42	41	31
Idaho	42	39	32	5
Illinois	6	5	9	33
Indiana	14	14	18	27
Iowa	30	30	36	43
Kansas	32	32	35	35
Kentucky	23	25	27	29
Louisiana	21	22	34	40
Maine	38	40	45	46
Maryland	19	19	20	23
Massachusetts	13	13	28	41
Michigan	8	8	15	39
Minnesota	20	21	17	21
Mississippi	31	31	33	24
Missouri	15	17	23	30
Montana	44	44	42	20
Nebraska	36	38	37	37
Nevada	39	35	13	1
New Hampshire	40	41	38	22
New Jersey	9	9	14	34
New Mexico	37	36	31	12
New York	2	3	10	42
North Carolina	10	11	6	9
North Dakota	47	47	50	50

Table 3 (continued)

	Population Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	7	7	22	44
Oklahoma	28	27	30	26
Oregon	29	28	16	11
Pennsylvania	5	6	26	48
Rhode Island	43	43	47	45
South Carolina	25	26	19	15
South Dakota	45	46	44	36
Tennessee	17	16	12	14
Texas	3	2	2	8
Utah	35	34	21	4
Vermont	49	49	46	38
Virginia	12	12	11	16
Washington	18	15	7	10
West Virginia	34	37	49	49
Wisconsin	16	18	24	28
Wyoming	51	51	48	32

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Figure 1
Population, 2000

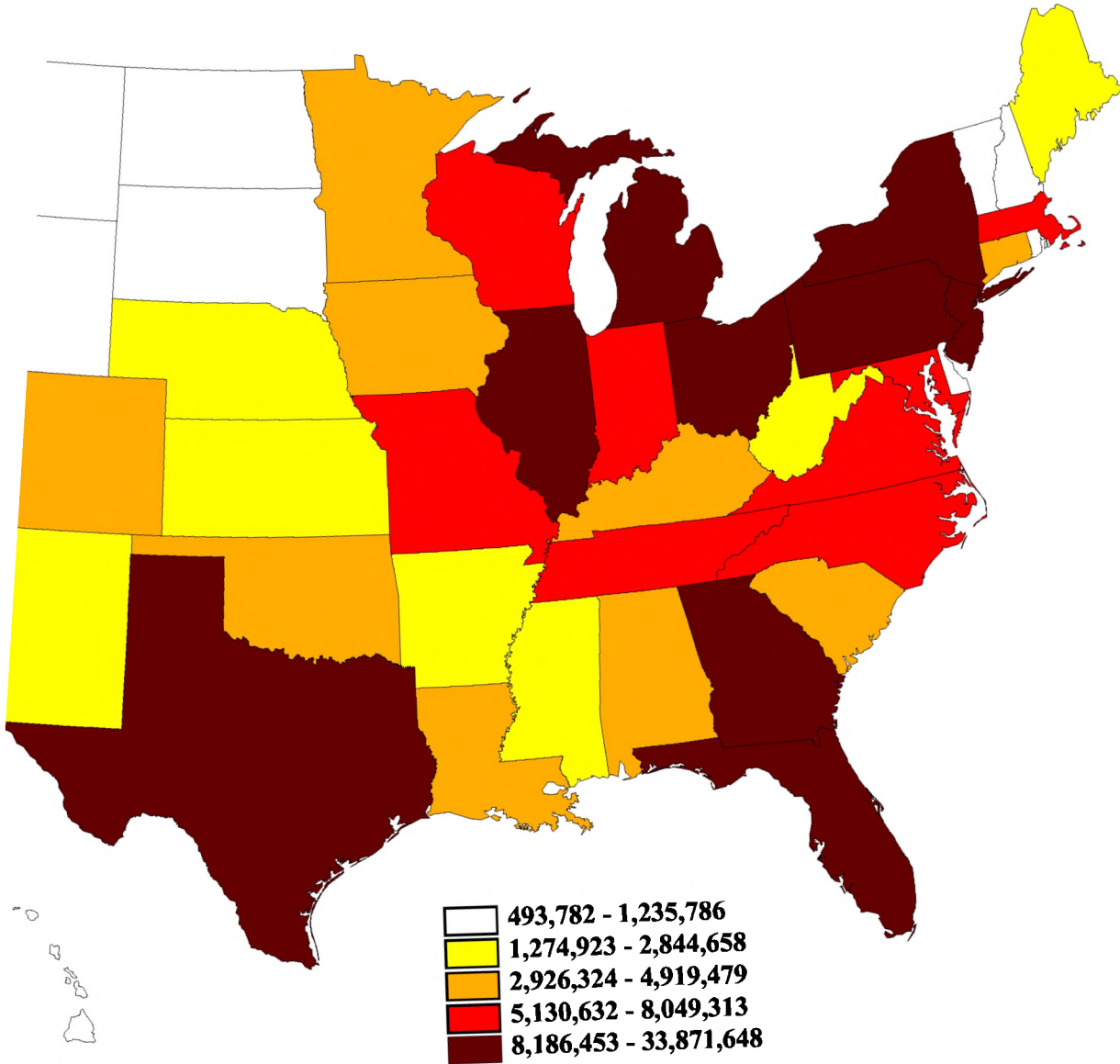


Figure 2
States Sorted by Population, 2000

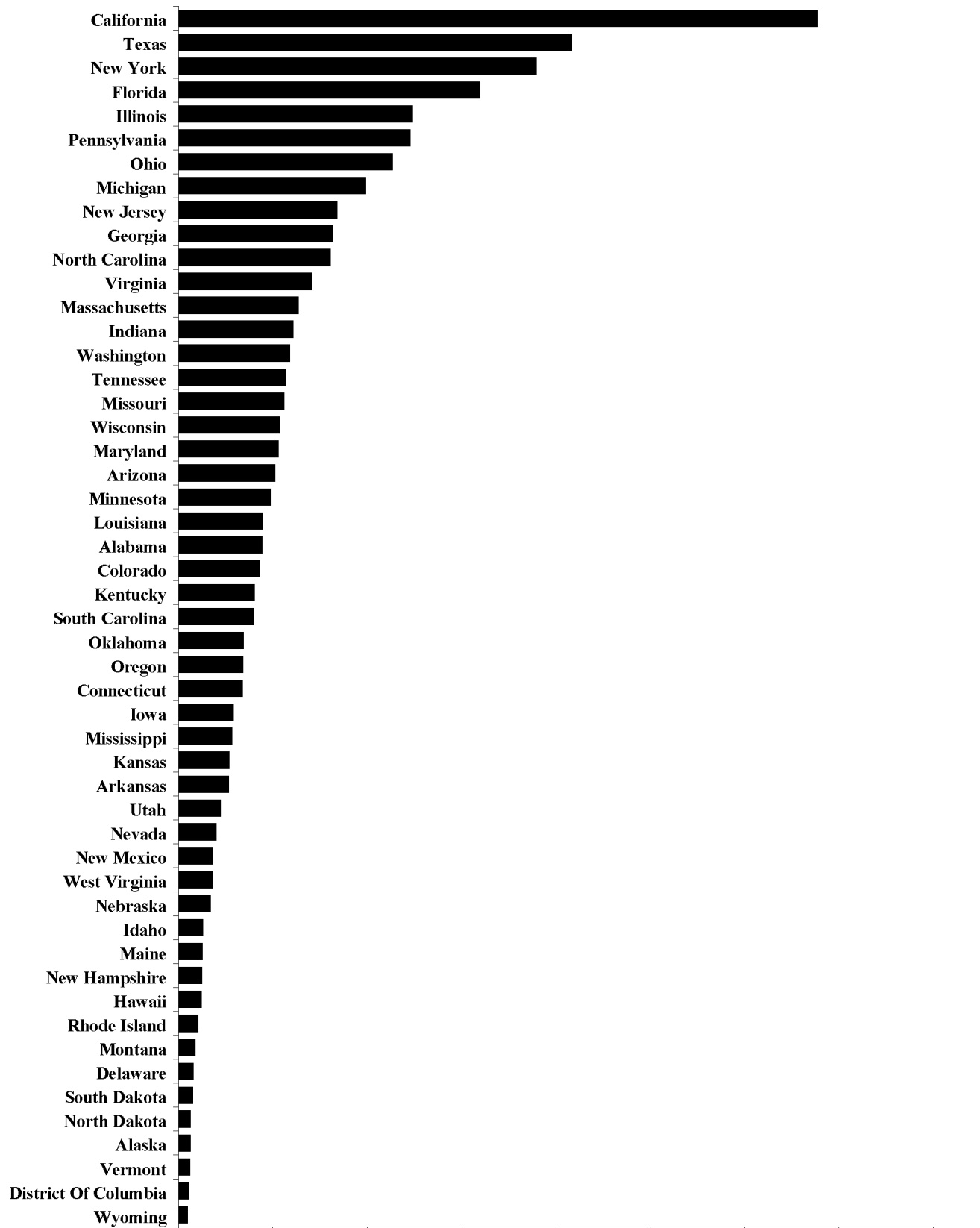


Figure 3
Net Population Change, 1990 to 2000

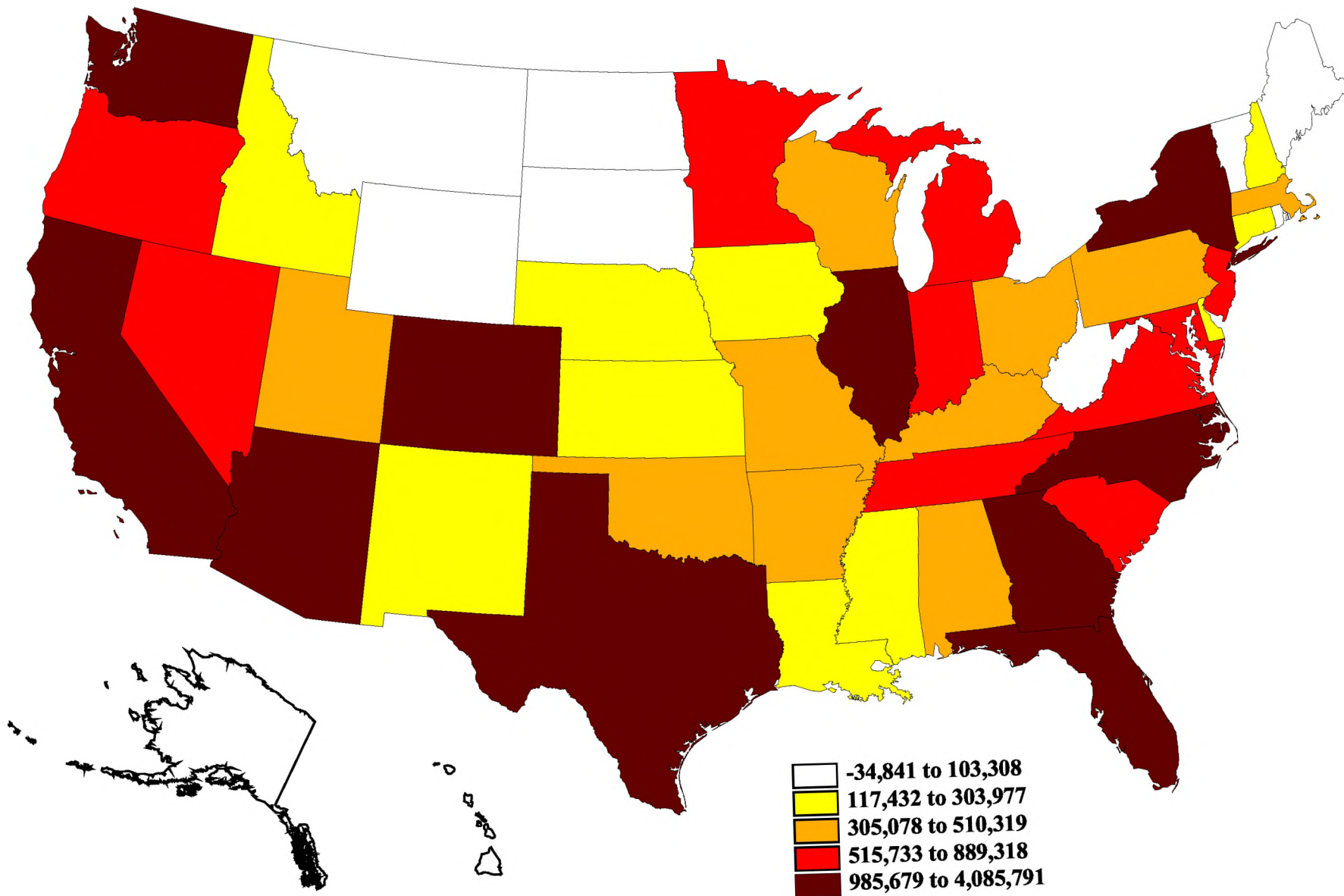


Figure 4
States Sorted by Net Population Change, 1990 to 2000

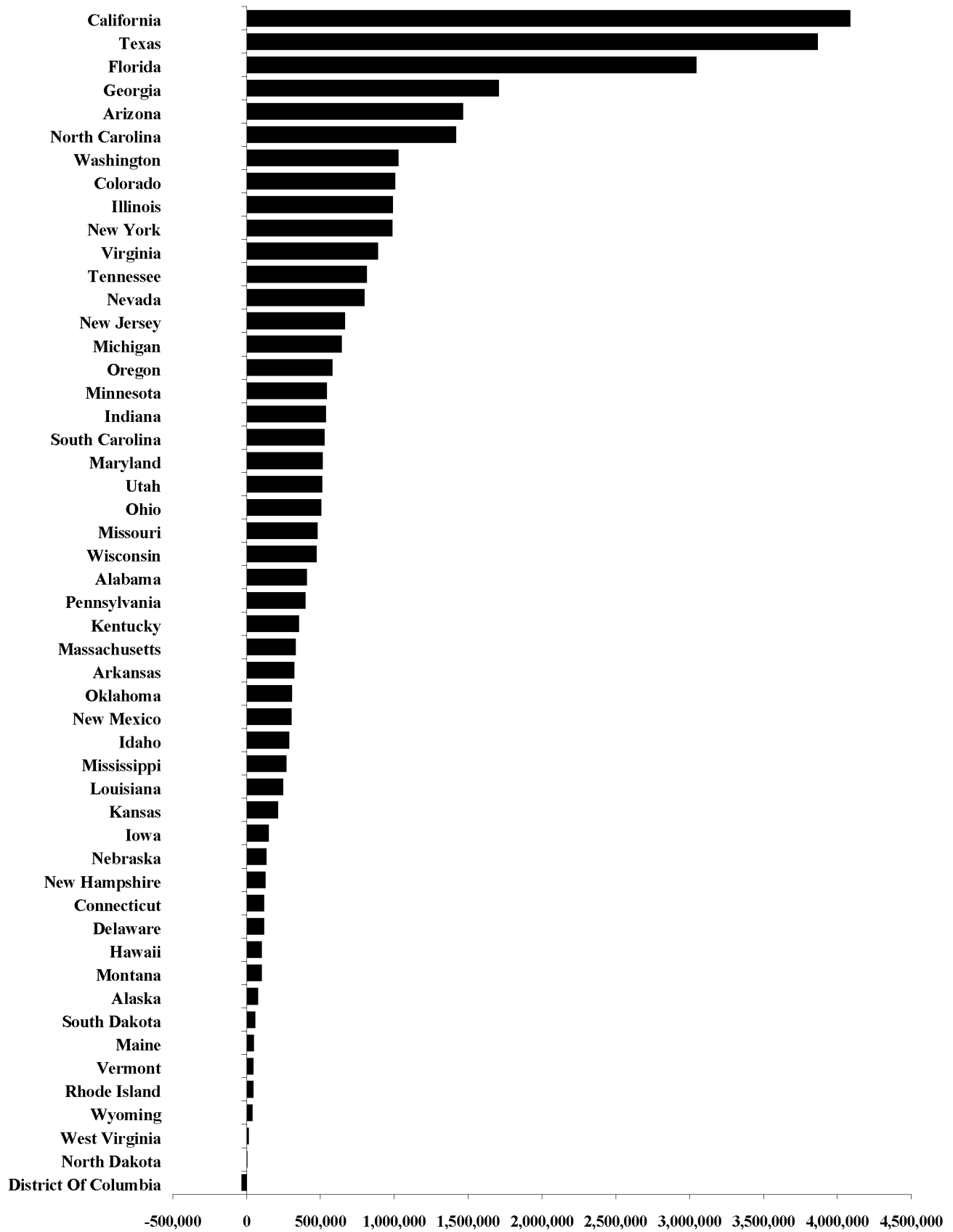


Figure 5
Percent Population Change, 1990 to 2000

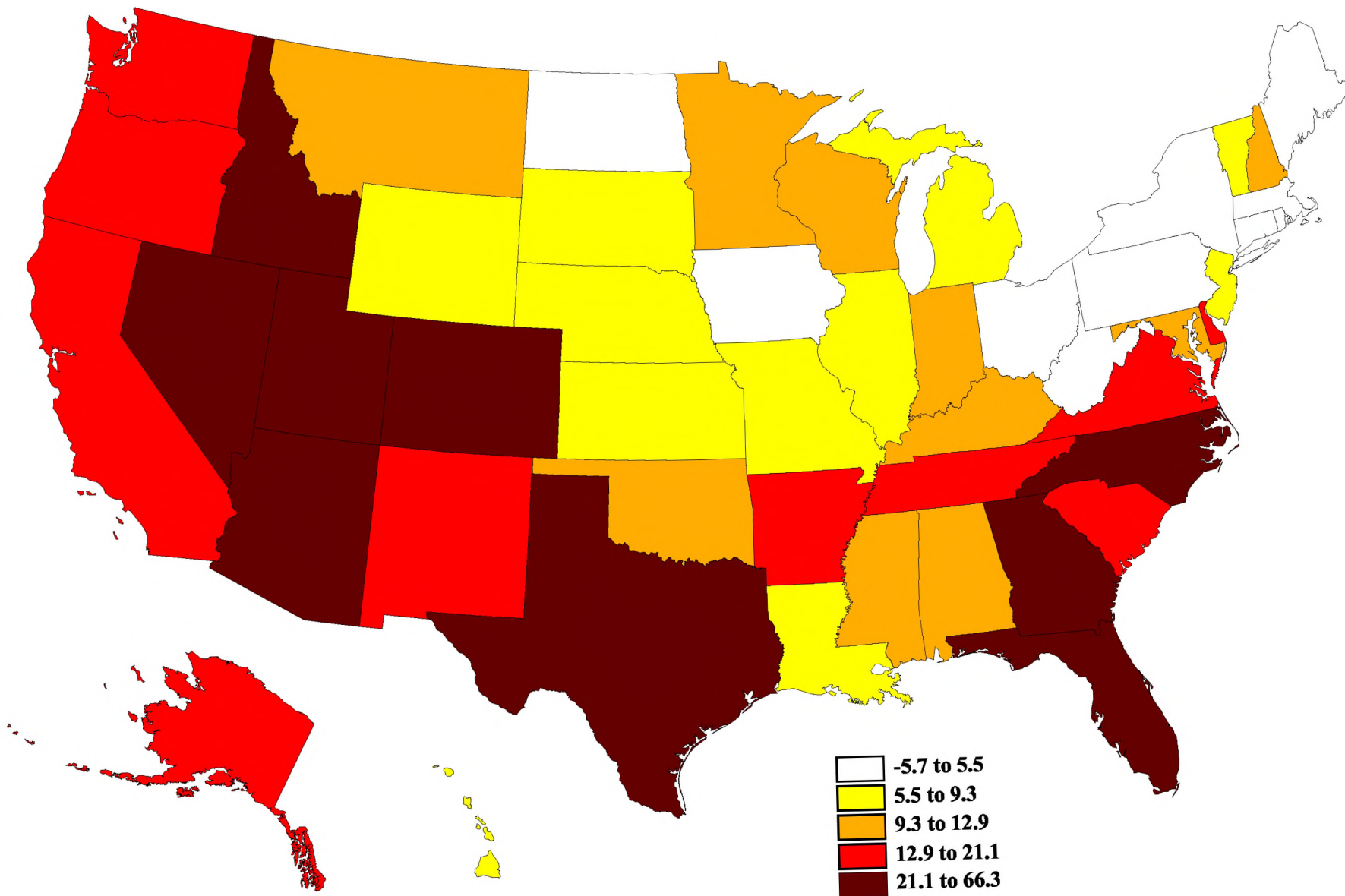
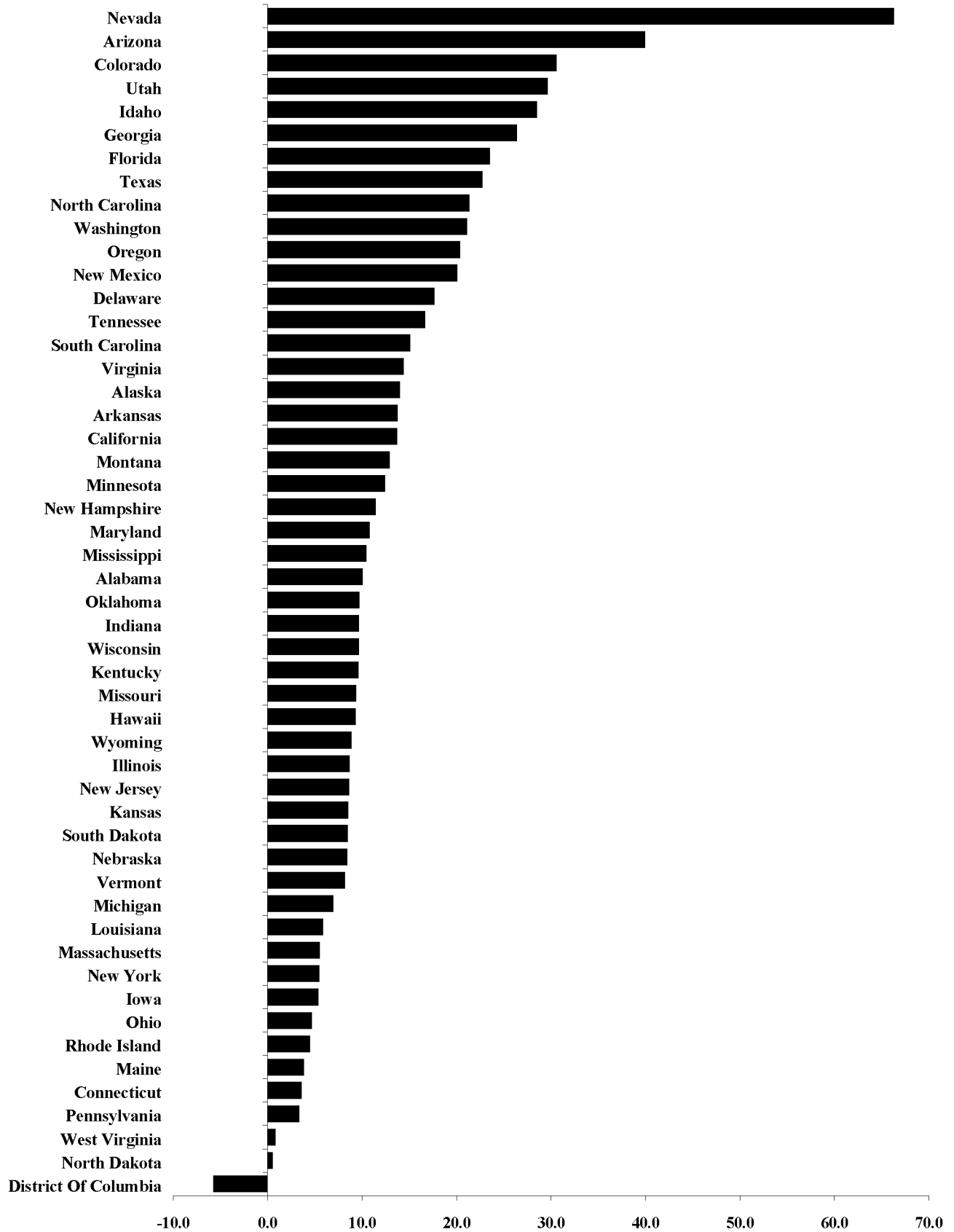


Figure 6
States Sorted by Percent Population Change, 1990 to 2000



Churches

The Nation

Based on 2000 Annual Church Profile information, there were 41,514 constituted Southern Baptist churches physically located in the United States. This is an increase of 3,486 churches since 1990—a 9.2 percent increase, which compares unfavorably with the population growth rate of 13.1 percent. (See table 4.)

Regions

Even though the Southern Baptist Convention is national in scope, 4 of 5 SBC churches are still located in the South. In percentage distribution of SBC churches, the Midwest is the second largest region (11.2%), followed by the West (7.6%), and the Northeast (1.6%). (See table 4.) The distribution of SBC churches across the regions of the country in 2000 is similar to 1990. The West and Northeast have gained slightly in their share of churches.

The South's net gain of 2,429 churches was the most of any region, and accounted for 70 percent of the Convention-wide increase in churches during the 1990s. The West registered the second largest net gain, followed by the Midwest and then the Northeast.

Even though the Northeast had the smallest net increase of churches, it experienced the highest rate of increase. Overall, the Northeast increased its number of SBC churches by 54.1 percent during the 1990s. The number of SBC churches in the West increased by 21.8 percent, in the South by 7.9 percent, and in the Midwest by 5.9 percent.

States

The top five states in number of churches is as follows:

Texas	4,973
North Carolina	3,717
Georgia	3,233
Alabama	3,148
Tennessee	2,972

While these are all Southern states, at the other end of the spectrum, the five states with the fewest number of churches are all in the Northeast. (See table 5 and figures 7 and 8.)

The top five states in the net increase of SBC churches during the 1990s were:

Texas	676
Florida	296
California	273
North Carolina	183
Georgia	178

Particularly notable is the increase of churches in California having moved past Arkansas during the 1990s to become the fourteenth largest state in SBC churches. (See table 6.) Florida, too, registered substantial increase and has moved past Missouri and South Carolina to become the eighth largest state in Convention churches. Georgia moved past Alabama to become third in number of churches.

The top five states in percentage increase in SBC churches during the 1990s are:

Pennsylvania	86.8%
District of Columbia	69.0
Rhode Island	60.0
Massachusetts	58.7
New Jersey	58.3

The number of SBC churches in Nevada and North Dakota also grew by 50 percent. A large number of existing African-American churches in the Philadelphia area affiliated with Southern Baptists during the decade, greatly strengthening the work of the denomination in that city and state.

Table 4
Churches by Region, 1990 to 2000

	—Churches—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	38,028	41,514	3,486	9.2 %
Northeast	440	678	238	54.1
New England	112	157	45	40.2
Middle Atlantic	328	521	193	58.8
Midwest	4,297	4,549	252	5.9
East North Central	2,033	2,168	135	6.6
West North Central	2,264	2,381	117	5.2
South	30,690	33,119	2,429	7.9
South Atlantic	12,138	13,180	1,042	8.6
East South Central	10,121	10,581	460	4.5
West South Central	8,431	9,358	927	11.0
West	2,601	3,168	567	21.8
Mountain	1,057	1,289	232	21.9
Pacific	1,544	1,879	335	21.7

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 5
Churches by State, 1990 to 2000

	—Churches—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	38,028	41,514	3,486	9.2 %
Alabama	3,070	3,148	78	2.5
Alaska	60	68	8	13.3
Arizona	270	323	53	19.6
Arkansas	1,290	1,372	82	6.4
California	1,119	1,392	273	24.4
Colorado	192	243	51	26.6
Connecticut	28	32	4	14.3
Delaware	13	19	6	46.2
District of Columbia	29	49	20	69.0
Florida	1,758	2,054	296	16.8
Georgia	3,055	3,233	178	5.8
Hawaii	57	71	14	24.6
Idaho	54	66	12	22.2
Illinois	917	981	64	7.0
Indiana	308	345	37	12.0
Iowa	62	75	13	21.0
Kansas	219	254	35	16.0
Kentucky	2,266	2,424	158	7.0
Louisiana	1,351	1,435	84	6.2
Maine	10	13	3	30.0
Maryland	308	405	97	31.5
Massachusetts	46	73	27	58.7
Michigan	238	264	26	10.9
Minnesota	32	45	13	40.6
Mississippi	1,980	2,037	57	2.9
Missouri	1,851	1,884	33	1.8
Montana	77	105	28	36.4
Nebraska	37	49	12	32.4
Nevada	74	111	37	50.0
New Hampshire	10	14	4	40.0
New Jersey	48	76	28	58.3
New Mexico	271	301	30	11.1
New York	159	219	60	37.7
North Carolina	3,534	3,717	183	5.2
North Dakota	18	27	9	50.0

Table 5 (continued)

	—Churches—		—Change—	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	512	514	2	0.4 %
Oklahoma	1,493	1,578	85	5.7
Oregon	120	128	8	6.7
Pennsylvania	121	226	105	86.8
Rhode Island	5	8	3	60.0
South Carolina	1,789	1,878	89	5.0
South Dakota	45	47	2	4.4
Tennessee	2,805	2,972	167	6.0
Texas	4,297	4,973	676	15.7
Utah	52	62	10	19.2
Vermont	13	17	4	30.8
Virginia	1,517	1,660	143	9.4
Washington	188	220	32	17.0
West Virginia	135	165	30	22.2
Wisconsin	58	64	6	10.3
Wyoming	67	78	11	16.4

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 6
Rankings of Churches by State, 1990 to 2000

	Church Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Alabama	3	4	15	49
Alaska	34	37	41	31
Arizona	21	20	19	23
Arkansas	14	15	14	40
California	15	14	3	19
Colorado	24	24	20	17
Connecticut	45	45	45	30
Delaware	47	47	43	8
District of Columbia	44	41	32	2
Florida	10	7	2	26
Georgia	4	3	5	43
Hawaii	36	36	33	18
Idaho	37	38	36	20
Illinois	16	16	16	37
Indiana	18	19	21	32
Iowa	33	34	34	22
Kansas	23	23	23	28
Kentucky	6	6	7	38
Louisiana	13	13	13	41
Maine	49	50	48	16
Maryland	18	18	10	14
Massachusetts	40	35	30	4
Michigan	22	22	31	34
Minnesota	43	44	34	9
Mississippi	7	8	18	48
Missouri	8	9	24	50
Montana	30	31	28	12
Nebraska	42	41	36	13
Nevada	31	30	21	6
New Hampshire	49	49	45	10
New Jersey	39	33	28	5
New Mexico	20	21	26	33
New York	26	27	17	11
North Carolina	2	2	4	45
North Dakota	46	46	40	6

Table 6 (continued)

	Church Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	17	17	50	51
Oklahoma	12	12	12	44
Oregon	29	29	41	39
Pennsylvania	28	25	9	1
Rhode Island	51	51	48	3
South Carolina	9	10	11	46
South Dakota	41	43	50	47
Tennessee	5	5	6	42
Texas	1	1	1	29
Utah	38	40	39	24
Vermont	47	48	45	15
Virginia	11	11	8	36
Washington	25	26	25	25
West Virginia	27	28	26	20
Wisconsin	35	39	43	35
Wyoming	32	32	38	27

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

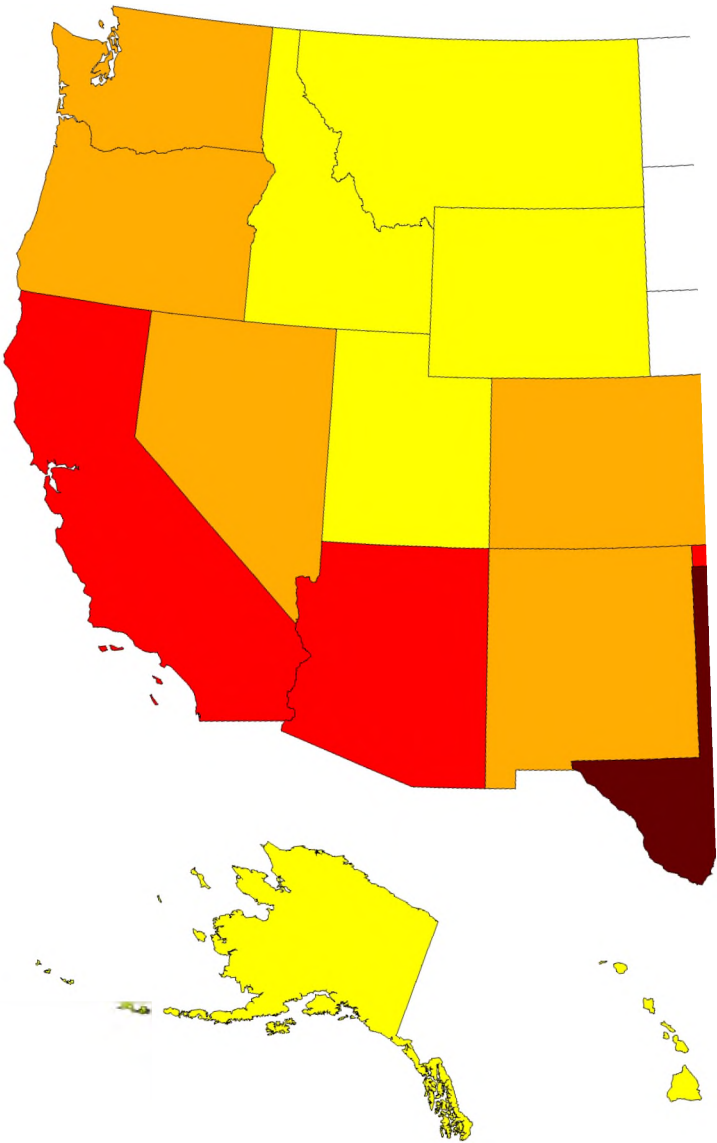


Figure 7
Churches, 2000

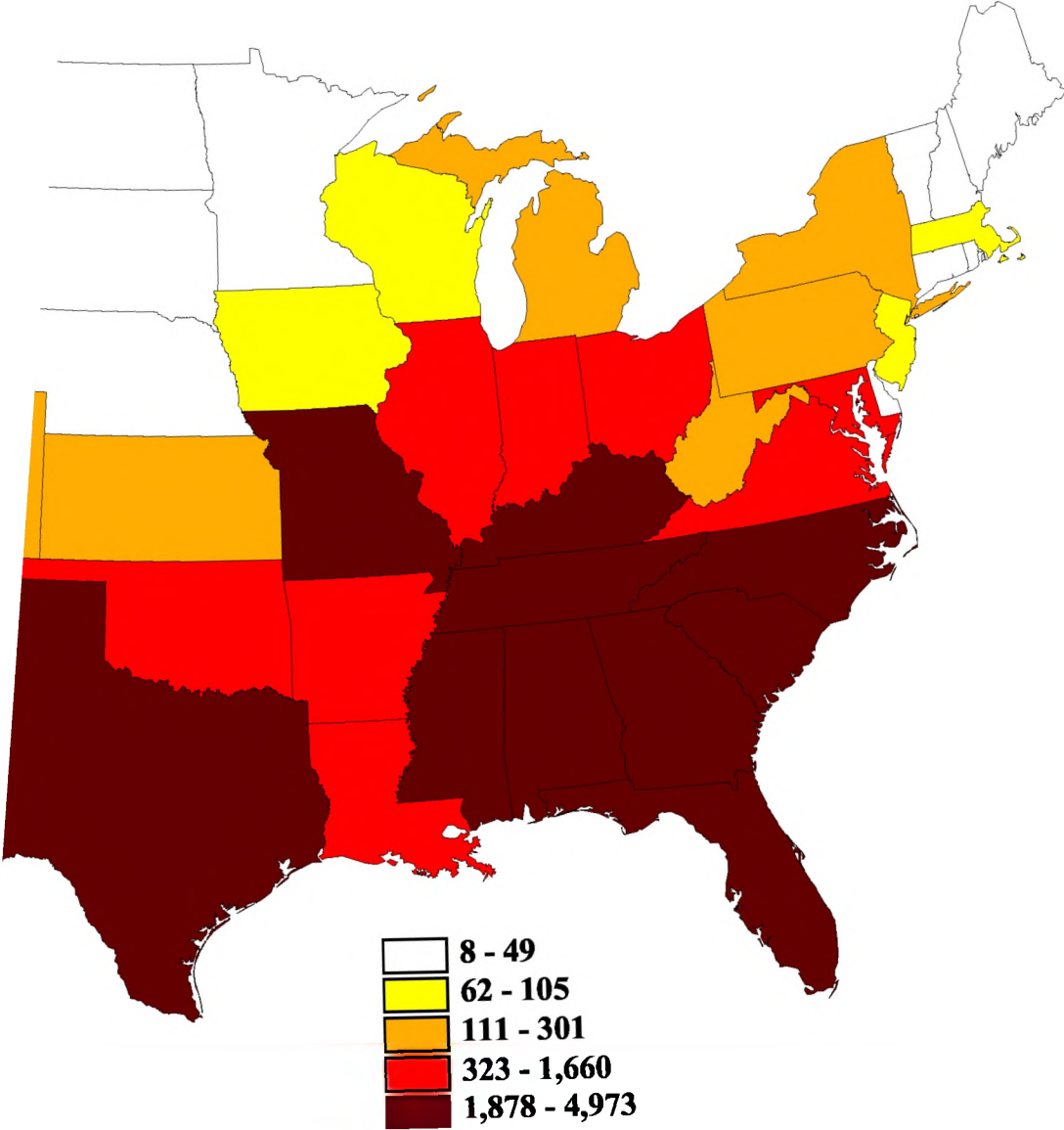


Figure 8
States Sorted by Number of Churches, 2000

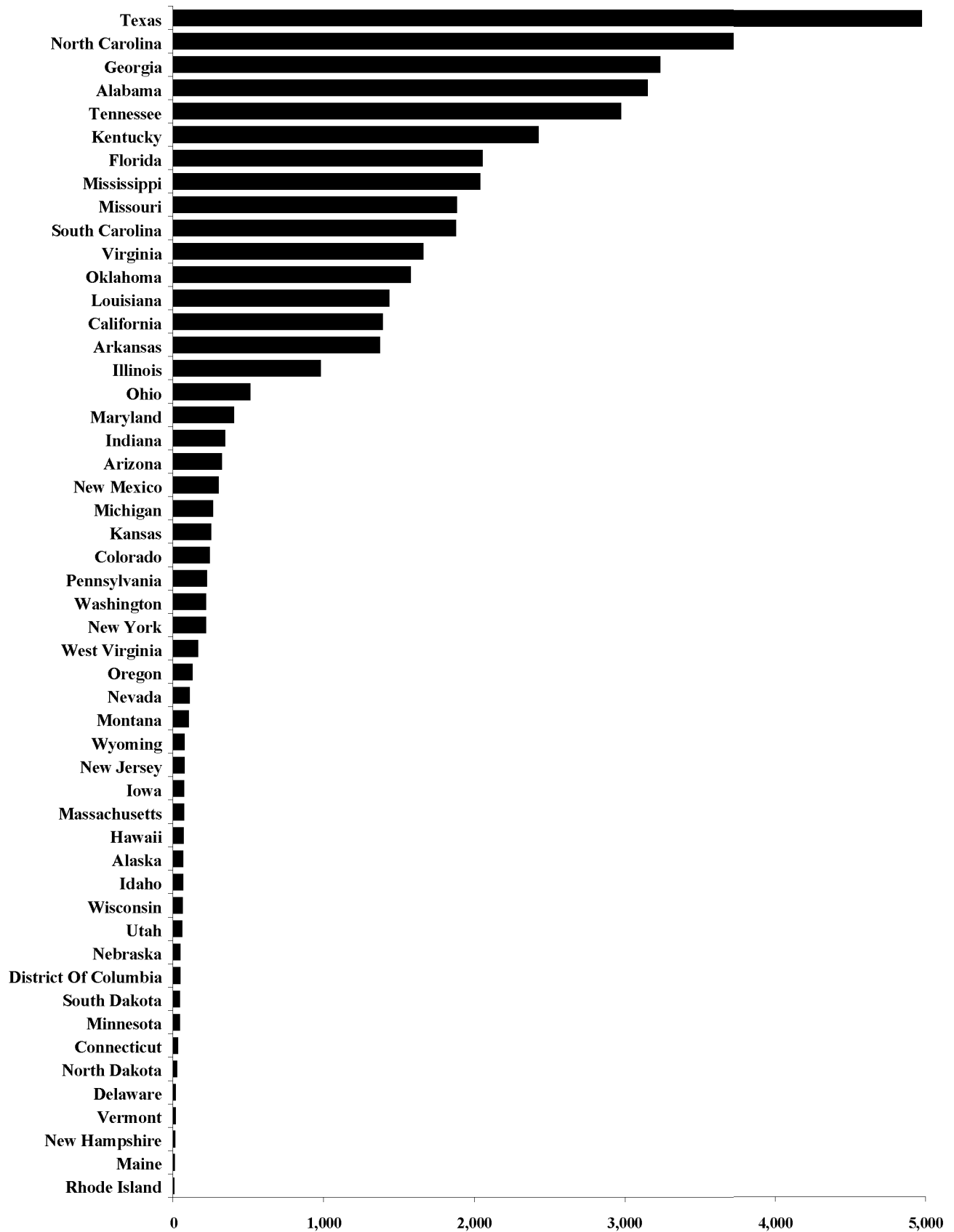


Figure 9
Net Change in Churches, 1990 to 2000

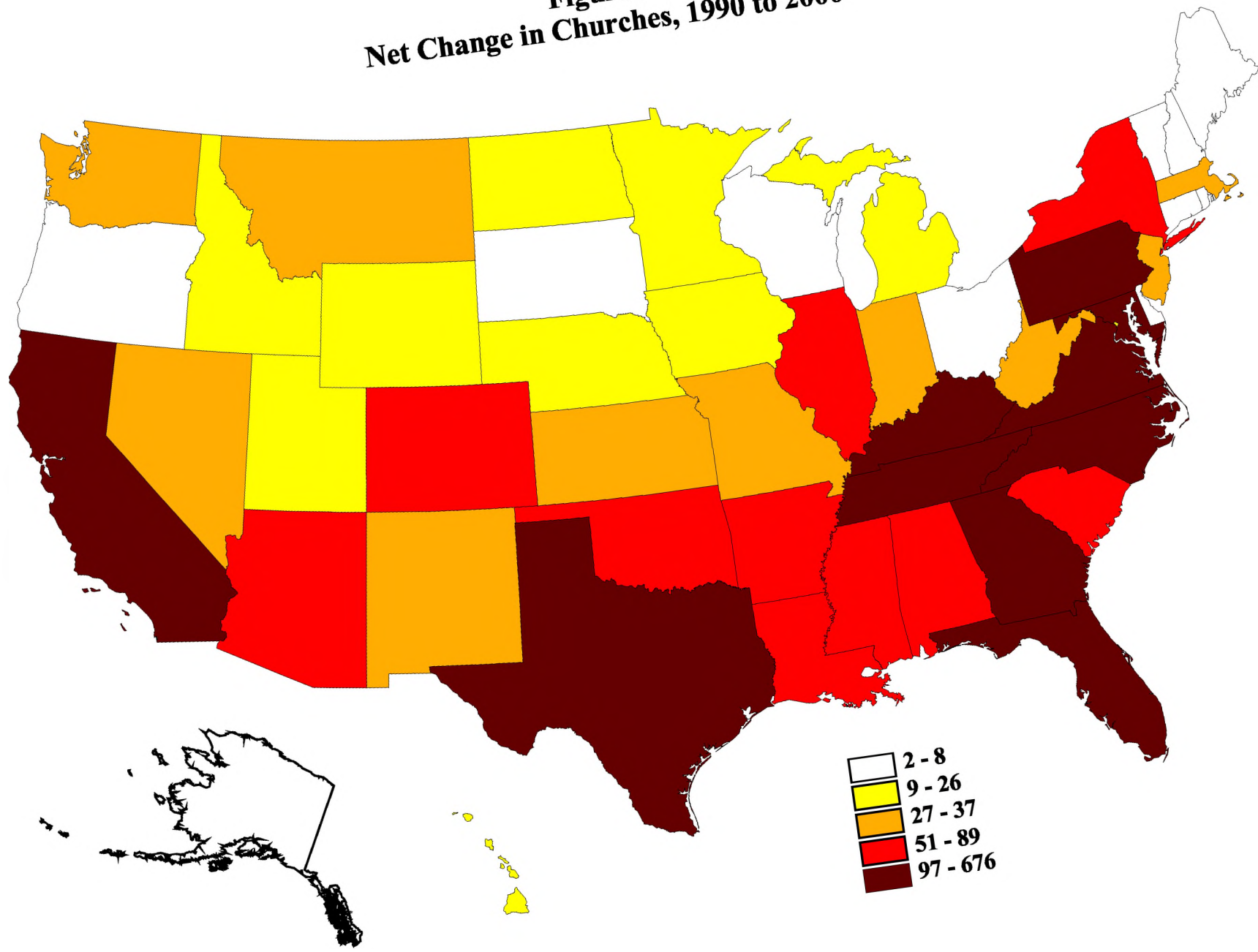


Figure 10
States Sorted by Net Change in Churches, 1990 to 2000

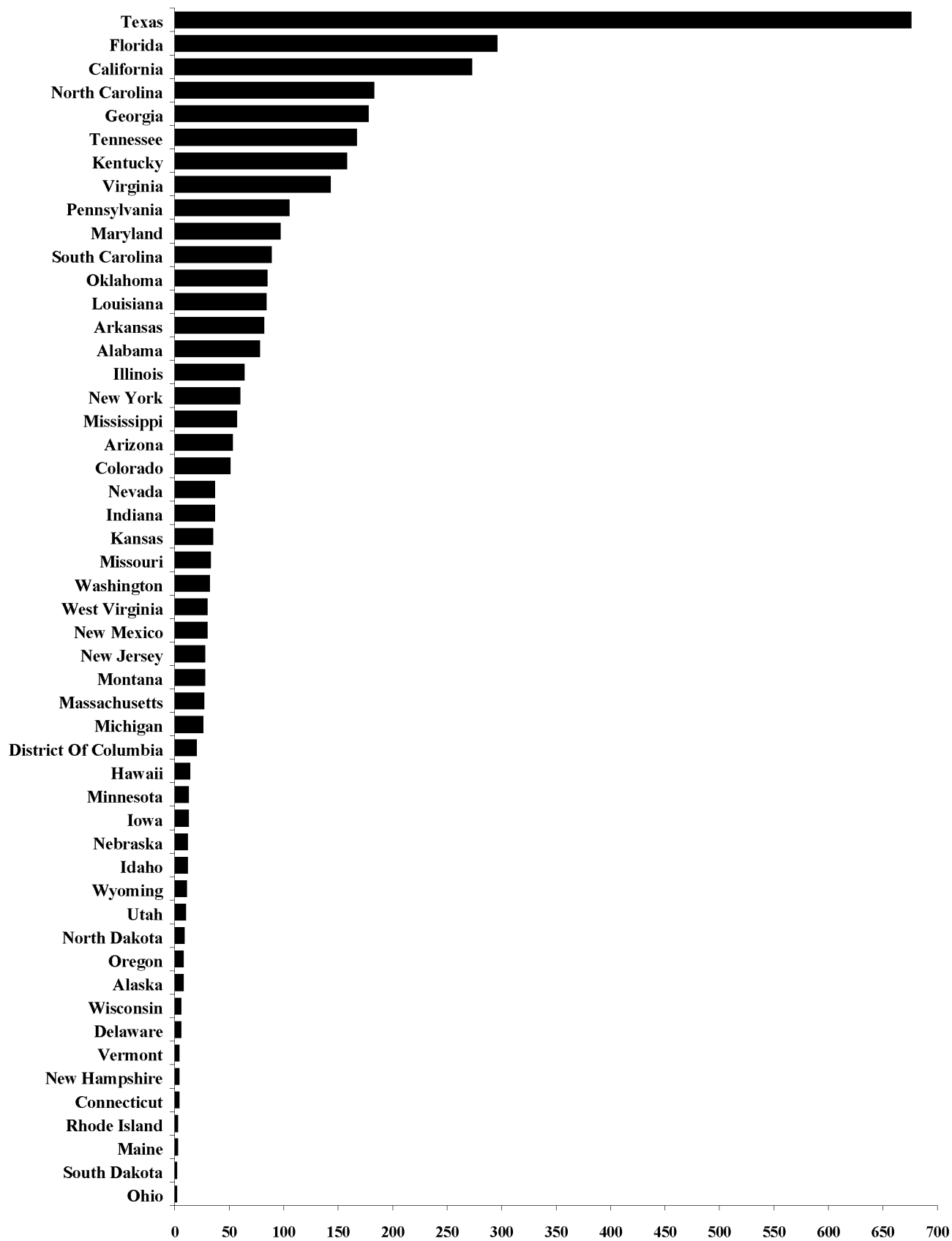
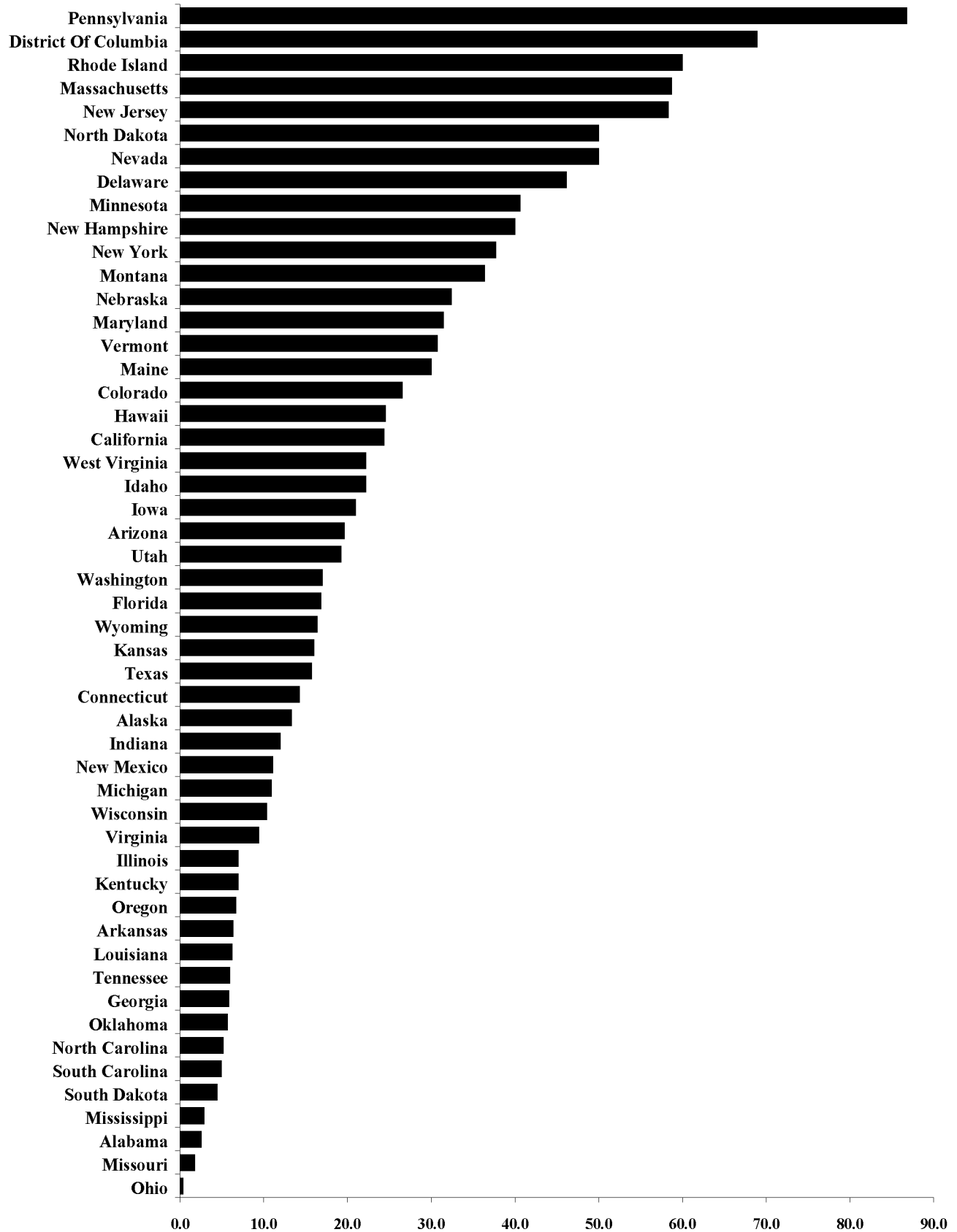


Figure 12
States Sorted by Percent Change in Churches,
1990 to 2000



Population Per Church

The Nation

Despite aggressive church planting efforts during the 1990s, the growth rate of SBC churches lagged behind the growth rate of the population. In the United States there were 6,779 people for every Southern Baptist church in 2000. (See table 7.) This is very similar to the 1990 figure of 6,542 people for every Southern Baptist Church.

An index of change, which directly compares these two figures, can be computed by dividing the 2000 population per church by the 1990 population per church and multiplying by 100. If the index of change is greater than 100, the population per church ratio is higher in 2000 than in 1990, indicating that the ratio has worsened over time. If the ratio is less than 100, the population per church ratio has improved over time. The ratio for the nation is 103.6 indicating that the population per church ratio worsened slightly from 1990 to 2000, i.e., Southern Baptist churches did not even keep up with population growth.

Regions

There are substantial differences among the regions in their population per Southern Baptist church ratios. (See table 7.) In the South, there are 3,027 people for every Southern Baptist church. In contrast, there are 79,048 people for every Southern Baptist church in the Northeast. The Midwest and West regions fall between these two extremes with ratios of 14,155 to 1 and 19,949 to 1 respectively.

Despite the prevalence of Southern Baptists in the South and the fact that 70 percent of the increase in Southern Baptist churches occurred in the South, the starting of new churches has not kept up with the rapid population growth in the South. Specifically, the population per church ratio worsened from 2,784 to 3,037 between 1990 and 2000. The worsening ratio is reflected by an index of change for the South of 108.7.

The population per church ratio worsened slightly in the Midwest, indicated by an index of change of 101.9. The ratio improved for the other two regions during the decade. Most notable is the 30 percent improvement in the population per church ratio in the Northeast as indicated by an index of change of 68.4. Even with a net gain of 232 churches, the Mountain division of the West region did not keep up with its 33 percent population growth from 1990 to 2000. This census division had the worst index of change (109.1) outside the South.

States

The top five states with the highest population per church ratios in 2000 are as follows:

	(Thousands)
Rhode Island	131
New Jersey	111
Minnesota	109
Connecticut	106
Maine	98

All of the states with the highest ratios are in the Northeast or upper Midwest. (See table 8 and figures 13 and 14.) Additional states with at least 80,000 people per SBC church include Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are five states in the South where the population per church ratio is less than 2,000.

In examining the index of change, there are 25 states with an index greater than 100, indicating that population per church ratio has worsened from 1990 to 2000, i.e., church planting has not kept pace with population growth. (See figures 15 and 16.) Twenty-one of these 25 states are in the South or West. Particularly troubling are the Southern states where the bulk of Southern Baptist churches, members, and resources reside. Even in home territory, Southern Baptists have not been able to keep up with population growth.

The five states with the highest (i.e., worst) indexes of change are as follows:

Georgia	119.4
Arizona	117.0
North Carolina	115.4
Oregon	112.8
Nevada	110.9

In contrast, 25 states plus the District of Columbia improved their population to SBC church ratio from 1990 to 2000—some substantially. Major church planting gains were made in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, North Dakota, and New Jersey.

Table 7
Population per Church by Region, 1990 to 2000,
and Index of Change

	Population per Church		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
United States	6,542	6,779	103.6
Northeast	115,519	79,048	68.4
New England	117,919	88,678	75.2
Middle Atlantic	114,699	76,146	66.4
Midwest	13,886	14,155	101.9
East North Central	20,664	20,828	100.8
West North Central	7,800	8,080	103.6
South	2,784	3,027	108.7
South Atlantic	3,590	3,928	109.4
East South Central	1,500	1,609	107.3
West South Central	3,167	3,360	106.1
West	20,304	19,949	98.2
Mountain	12,922	14,098	109.1
Pacific	25,358	23,963	94.5

Note: The index of change in population per church is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-church ratio by the 1990 population-per-church ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-church ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 8
Population per Church by State, 1990 to 2000,
and Index of Change

	Population per Church		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
United States	6,542	6,779	103.6
Alabama	1,316	1,413	107.3
Alaska	9,167	9,220	100.6
Arizona	13,575	15,884	117.0
Arkansas	1,822	1,949	106.9
California	26,618	24,333	91.4
Colorado	17,159	17,701	103.2
Connecticut	117,397	106,424	90.7
Delaware	51,244	41,242	80.5
District of Columbia	20,928	11,675	55.8
Florida	7,360	7,781	105.7
Georgia	2,121	2,532	119.4
Hawaii	19,443	17,064	87.8
Idaho	18,643	19,605	105.2
Illinois	12,465	12,660	101.6
Indiana	18,001	17,625	97.9
Iowa	44,788	39,018	87.1
Kansas	11,313	10,584	93.6
Kentucky	1,627	1,667	102.5
Louisiana	3,125	3,114	99.7
Maine	122,793	98,071	79.9
Maryland	15,522	13,078	84.3
Massachusetts	130,792	86,974	66.5
Michigan	39,056	37,646	96.4
Minnesota	136,740	109,322	79.9
Mississippi	1,301	1,396	107.4
Missouri	2,764	2,970	107.4
Montana	10,377	8,592	82.8
Nebraska	42,660	34,924	81.9
Nevada	16,239	18,002	110.9
New Hampshire	110,925	88,270	79.6
New Jersey	161,411	110,715	68.6
New Mexico	5,591	6,043	108.1
New York	113,150	86,650	76.6
North Carolina	1,877	2,166	115.4
North Dakota	35,489	23,785	67.0

Table 8 (continued)

	Population per Church		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
Ohio	21,186	22,088	104.3
Oklahoma	2,107	2,187	103.8
Oregon	23,686	26,730	112.8
Pennsylvania	98,205	54,341	55.3
Rhode Island	200,693	131,040	65.3
South Carolina	1,949	2,136	109.6
South Dakota	15,467	16,061	103.8
Tennessee	1,739	1,914	110.1
Texas	3,953	4,193	106.1
Utah	33,132	36,019	108.7
Vermont	43,289	35,813	82.7
Virginia	4,080	4,264	104.5
Washington	25,887	26,791	103.5
West Virginia	13,285	10,960	82.5
Wisconsin	84,341	83,807	99.4
Wyoming	6,770	6,331	93.5

Note: The index of change in population per church is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-church ratio by the 1990 population-per-church ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-church ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 9
State Rankings of Population per Church,
1990 to 2000, and Index of Change

	Population per Church Rank		Index of Change Rank
	1990	2000	
Alabama	50	50	12
Alaska	35	34	25
Arizona	30	28	2
Arkansas	47	47	13
California	18	19	32
Colorado	26	24	22
Connecticut	6	4	33
Delaware	11	11	41
District of Columbia	22	31	50
Florida	36	36	15
Georgia	43	43	1
Hawaii	23	26	34
Idaho	24	22	16
Illinois	32	30	24
Indiana	25	25	28
Iowa	12	12	35
Kansas	33	33	30
Kentucky	49	49	23
Louisiana	41	41	26
Maine	5	5	43
Maryland	28	29	36
Massachusetts	4	7	48
Michigan	15	13	29
Minnesota	3	3	42
Mississippi	51	51	11
Missouri	42	42	10
Montana	34	35	37
Nebraska	14	16	40
Nevada	27	23	5
New Hampshire	8	6	44
New Jersey	2	2	46
New Mexico	38	38	9
New York	7	8	45
North Carolina	46	45	3
North Dakota	16	20	47

Table 9 (continued)

	Population per Church Rank		Index of Change Rank
	1990	2000	
Ohio	21	21	18
Oklahoma	44	44	20
Oregon	20	18	4
Pennsylvania	9	10	51
Rhode Island	1	1	49
South Carolina	45	46	7
South Dakota	29	27	19
Tennessee	48	48	6
Texas	40	40	14
Utah	17	14	8
Vermont	13	15	38
Virginia	39	39	17
Washington	19	17	21
West Virginia	31	32	39
Wisconsin	10	9	27
Wyoming	37	37	31

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Figure 14
States Sorted by Population per Church, 2000

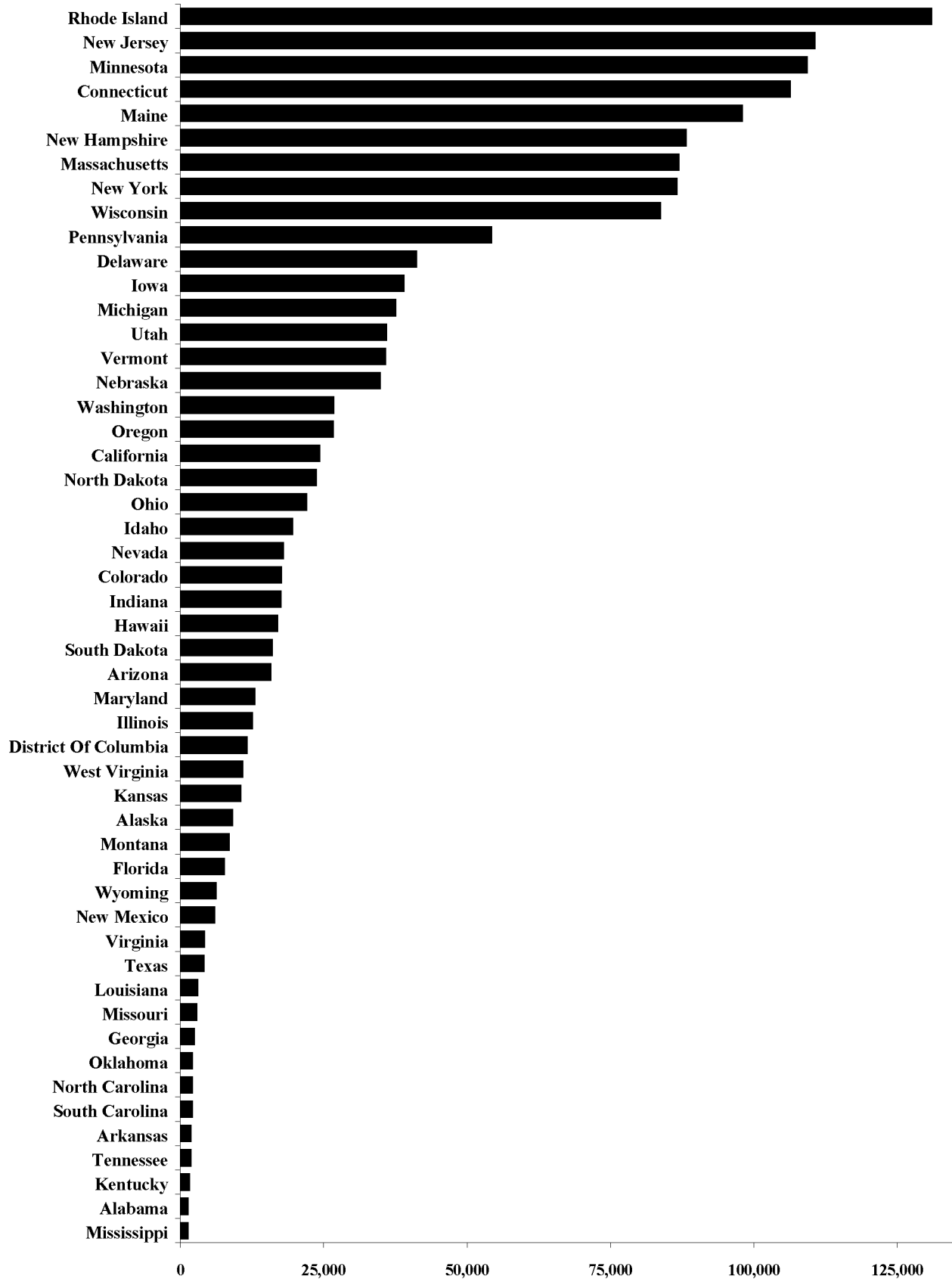


Figure 15
Population per Church Change Index, 1990 to 2000

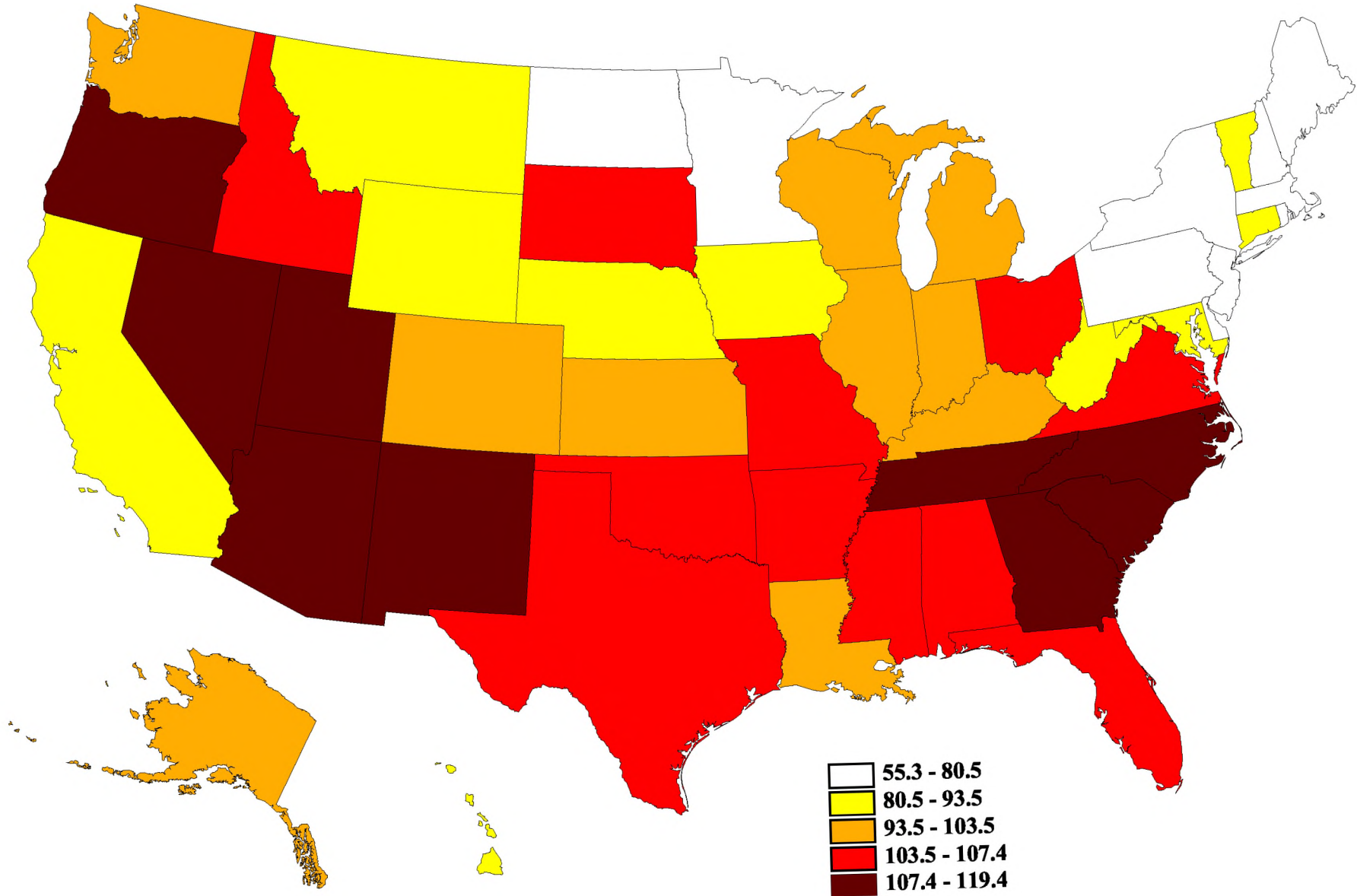
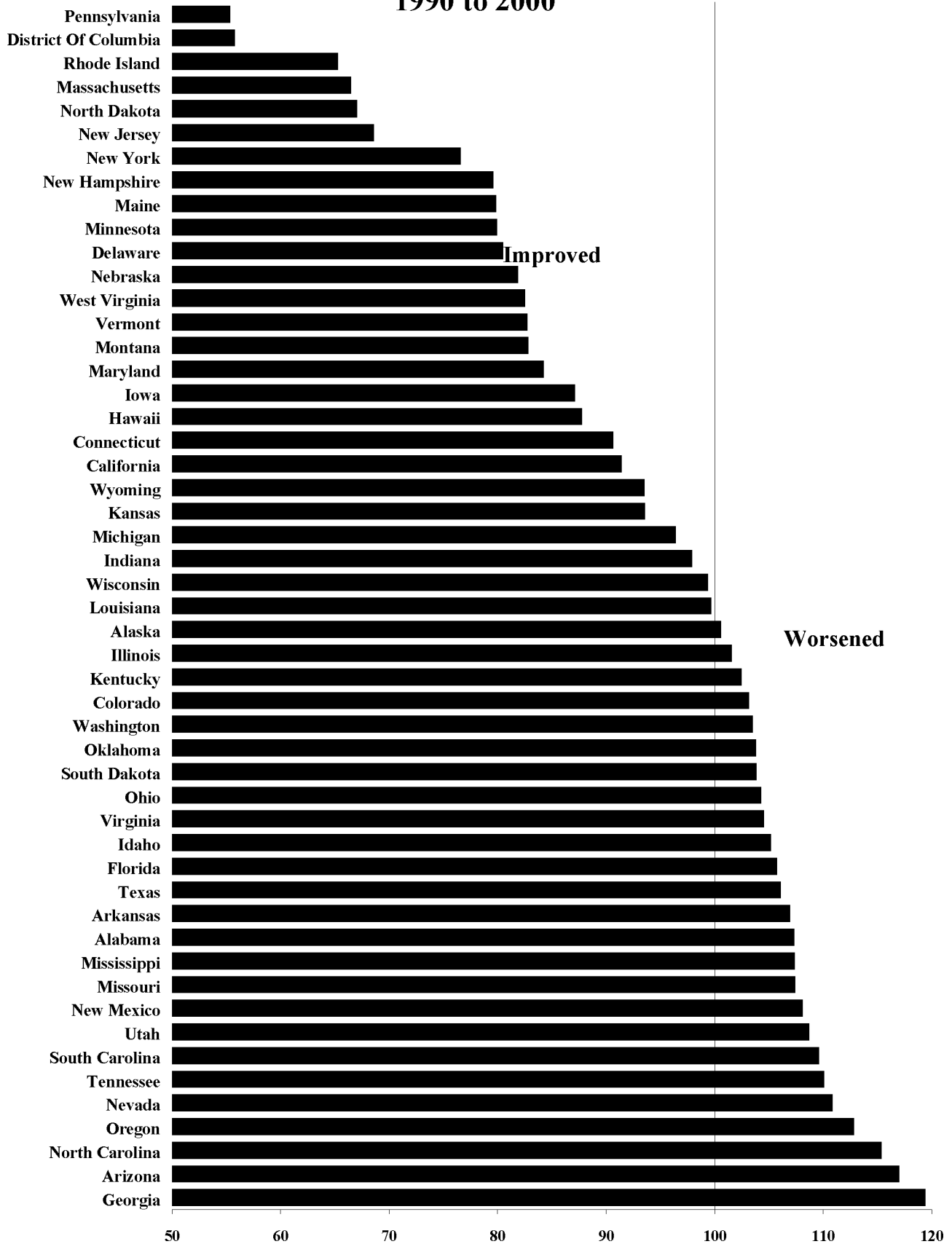


Figure 16
States Sorted by Population per Church Change Index,
1990 to 2000



Resident Membership

Before addressing changes in resident membership in SBC churches, it is important to discuss reporting differences between 1990 and 2000. These differences cause some areas of the country to show declines in resident membership that may not be real.

In 1990 the former Sunday School Board brought data forward from prior years if churches did not report membership. Only 798 (2.1%) of the 38,028 churches had no data for any of the most recent three years (1990, 1989, and 1988). In order to make the 2000 counts of resident membership as comparable as possible to 1990, data was brought forward from 1999 and 1998. Even so, there were 2,326 (5.6%) of 41,514 churches that did not complete an ACP for 2000, 1999, or 1998.

The problem is exacerbated because resident membership counts for a church-type mission came from its own Annual Church Profile in 2000. Back in 1990, membership for a church-type mission was included with its sponsoring church. Twenty-two percent of the 4,651 church-type missions had no useable membership data in 2000.

The problem of non-reporting congregations has worsened between 1990 and 2000. Furthermore, the non-reporting churches and church-type missions are not evenly distributed across the regions of the country. In the Northeast and West, 13 and 11 percent of the churches, respectively, had no data available. In the Midwest and South, those percentages were 4.2 and 5.0, respectively.

If all congregations (including missions) are considered, the percentages without resident membership available are 15 in both the Northeast and the West, 5 in the Midwest, and 6 in the South. The New England census division had missing resident membership for 23 percent of its congregations, the Pacific division 20 percent.

Due to the reporting disparities across time and geography, the analysis of trends in resident membership must be interpreted cautiously.

The Nation

More than 11 million resident members were reported by Southern Baptist churches in the United States in 2000. This represents a net increase of 822,000 during the 1990s, a 7.8 percent increase. The growth rate of resident members is considerably less than both population increase (13.1%) and church increase (9.2%). (See table 10.) It is reasonable to assume, due to non-reporting, that the actual growth rate of resident members was higher than 7.8 percent, but it seems likely that it is still well below the population growth rate.

Regions

The bulk of Southern Baptist members are located in the South—86 percent of resident members. (In contrast, 36 percent of the U.S. population lives in the South.) Earlier it was noted that 20 percent of SBC churches are located outside

the South but now it is apparent that only 14 percent of members are outside the South. Churches outside the South are newer and tend to be smaller than those in the South.

In membership, the Midwest is the second largest region, with 930,000 resident members or 8.2 percent of total Convention membership. The West has 586,000 members or 5.1 percent of membership while the Northeast has only 80,000 or 0.7 percent of membership.

The South region accounted for over 90 percent of the net resident membership growth from 1990 to 2000 with an increase of 748,000 members. The Midwest increased by almost 45,000 members.

Because of the aforementioned reporting issues, things get interesting in the Northeast and the West. Overall, the Northeast gained 24,000 resident members between 1990 and 2000, a growth rate of 43 percent. Its two divisions, New England (12%) and Middle Atlantic (55%), differ greatly in their growth rates. It can be safely assumed that resident membership is under-reported in New England.

The West region is also affected by lack of reporting. Resident membership growth of about 5,000 for the region seems low considering 567 churches were gained. Similarly, the reported decline of 2,000 members in the Pacific division is not likely real.

States

The top five states in reported 2000 resident membership are as follows:

	(Thousands)
Texas	1,821
Georgia	1,019
North Carolina	967
Tennessee	857
Alabama	807

At the other end of the scale, there are 16 states that reported less than 10,000 resident members. Vermont, in particular, reported fewer than 1,000 resident members. (See table 11 and figures 17 and 18.)

The five states with the largest net gain in resident members are:

	(Thousands)
Texas	215
Florida	111
Georgia	86
Tennessee	58
North Carolina	51

(See figures 19 and 20.)

Ten states show a loss of resident members from 1990 to 2000. The states with the largest losses of membership are California, Arizona, Michigan, and Connecticut. Each of these four states gained churches and also had high incidences of non-reporting in 2000, thus their membership decline may not reflect what is really happening in those states.

Table 10
Resident Membership by Region, 1990 to 2000

	Resident Membership		Change	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	10,570,299	11,392,372	822,073	7.8 %
Northeast	55,993	80,207	24,214	43.2
New England	15,651	17,523	1,872	12.0
Middle Atlantic	40,342	62,684	22,342	55.4
Midwest	885,642	930,269	44,627	5.0
East North Central	395,627	423,794	28,167	7.1
West North Central	490,015	506,475	16,460	3.4
South	9,047,265	9,795,571	748,306	8.3
South Atlantic	3,658,619	3,982,702	324,083	8.9
East South Central	2,595,333	2,742,936	147,603	5.7
West South Central	2,793,313	3,069,933	276,620	9.9
West	581,399	586,325	4,926	0.8
Mountain	233,898	240,914	7,016	3.0
Pacific	347,501	345,411	-2,090	-0.6

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 11
Resident Membership by State, 1990 to 2000

	Resident Membership		Change	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
United States	10,570,299	11,392,372	822,073	7.8 %
Alabama	763,964	806,724	42,760	5.6
Alaska	11,606	11,650	44	0.4
Arizona	82,773	77,417	-5,356	-6.5
Arkansas	328,057	354,781	26,724	8.1
California	278,856	266,851	-12,005	-4.3
Colorado	43,408	43,061	-347	-0.8
Connecticut	5,284	4,055	-1,229	-23.3
Delaware	3,309	4,121	812	24.5
District of Columbia	12,013	23,484	11,471	95.5
Florida	681,639	792,733	111,094	16.3
Georgia	932,897	1,018,692	85,795	9.2
Hawaii	11,308	12,029	721	6.4
Idaho	6,310	7,783	1,473	23.3
Illinois	160,365	182,248	21,883	13.6
Indiana	73,161	78,191	5,030	6.9
Iowa	8,115	7,992	-123	-1.5
Kansas	48,758	52,870	4,112	8.4
Kentucky	555,791	574,707	18,916	3.4
Louisiana	395,332	419,951	24,619	6.2
Maine	943	1,347	404	42.8
Maryland	81,240	86,003	4,763	5.9
Massachusetts	6,371	7,768	1,397	21.9
Michigan	38,329	33,852	-4,477	-11.7
Minnesota	3,112	3,486	374	12.0
Mississippi	476,572	504,926	28,354	5.9
Missouri	417,813	426,635	8,822	2.1
Montana	5,911	9,091	3,180	53.8
Nebraska	7,038	10,506	3,468	49.3
Nevada	15,595	23,036	7,441	47.7
New Hampshire	1,418	2,252	834	58.8
New Jersey	6,902	12,999	6,097	88.3
New Mexico	66,151	65,464	-687	-1.0
New York	16,752	17,169	417	2.5
North Carolina	915,744	967,001	51,257	5.6
North Dakota	1,721	1,712	-9	-0.5

Table 11 (continued)

	Resident Membership		Change	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	116,774	119,516	2,742	2.3 %
Oklahoma	464,141	474,478	10,337	2.2
Oregon	16,292	18,659	2,367	14.5
Pennsylvania	16,688	32,516	15,828	94.8
Rhode Island	998	1,364	366	36.7
South Carolina	552,882	584,587	31,705	5.7
South Dakota	3,458	3,274	-184	-5.3
Tennessee	799,006	856,579	57,573	7.2
Texas	1,605,783	1,820,723	214,940	13.4
Utah	5,932	7,327	1,395	23.5
Vermont	637	737	100	15.7
Virginia	452,095	477,503	25,408	5.6
Washington	29,439	36,222	6,783	23.0
West Virginia	26,800	28,578	1,778	6.6
Wisconsin	6,998	9,987	2,989	42.7
Wyoming	7,818	7,735	-83	-1.1

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 12
Rankings of Resident Membership by State, 1990 to 2000

	Resident Membership Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Alabama	5	5	6	35
Alaska	32	34	41	41
Arizona	18	20	50	49
Arkansas	14	14	9	24
California	15	15	51	47
Colorado	23	23	46	43
Connecticut	43	44	48	51
Delaware	45	43	34	11
District of Columbia	31	28	15	1
Florida	6	6	2	16
Georgia	2	2	3	22
Hawaii	33	33	35	28
Idaho	40	39	30	13
Illinois	16	16	12	19
Indiana	20	19	21	26
Iowa	34	38	44	46
Kansas	22	22	23	23
Kentucky	7	8	13	36
Louisiana	13	13	11	29
Maine	50	50	37	8
Maryland	19	18	22	31
Massachusetts	39	40	31	15
Michigan	24	25	49	50
Minnesota	46	45	38	21
Mississippi	9	9	8	30
Missouri	12	12	17	40
Montana	42	37	25	5
Nebraska	36	35	24	6
Nevada	30	29	18	7
New Hampshire	48	47	33	4
New Jersey	38	32	20	3
New Mexico	21	21	47	44
New York	27	31	36	37
North Carolina	3	3	5	34
North Dakota	47	48	42	42

Table 12 (continued)

	Resident Membership Rank		Change Rank	
	1990	2000	Net	Percent
Ohio	17	17	27	38
Oklahoma	10	11	16	39
Oregon	29	30	28	18
Pennsylvania	28	26	14	2
Rhode Island	49	49	39	10
South Carolina	8	7	7	32
South Dakota	44	46	45	48
Tennessee	4	4	4	25
Texas	1	1	1	20
Utah	41	42	32	12
Vermont	51	51	40	17
Virginia	11	10	10	33
Washington	25	24	19	14
West Virginia	26	27	29	27
Wisconsin	37	36	26	9
Wyoming	35	41	43	45

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Figure 17
Resident Membership, 2000

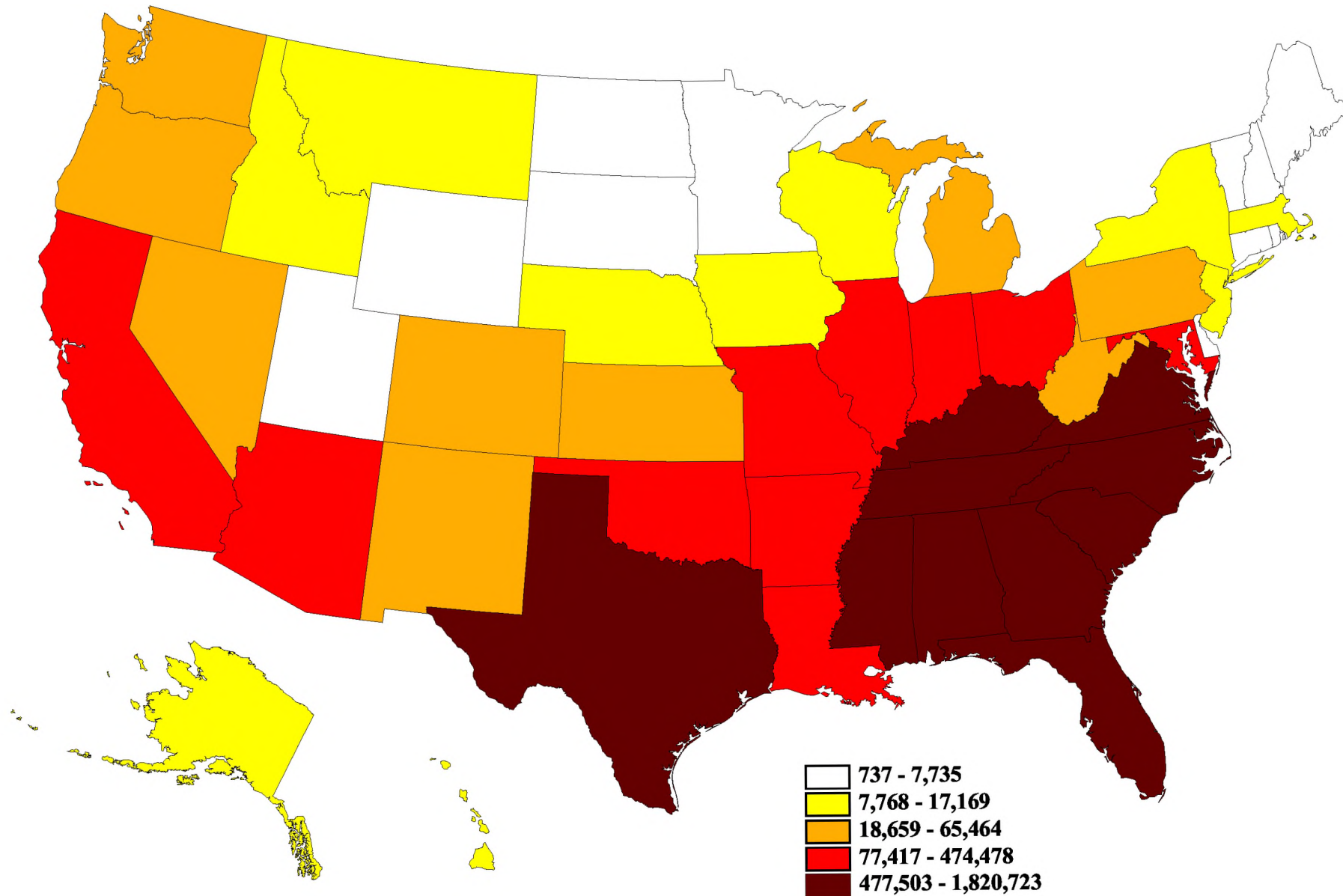


Figure 18
States Sorted by Resident Membership, 2000

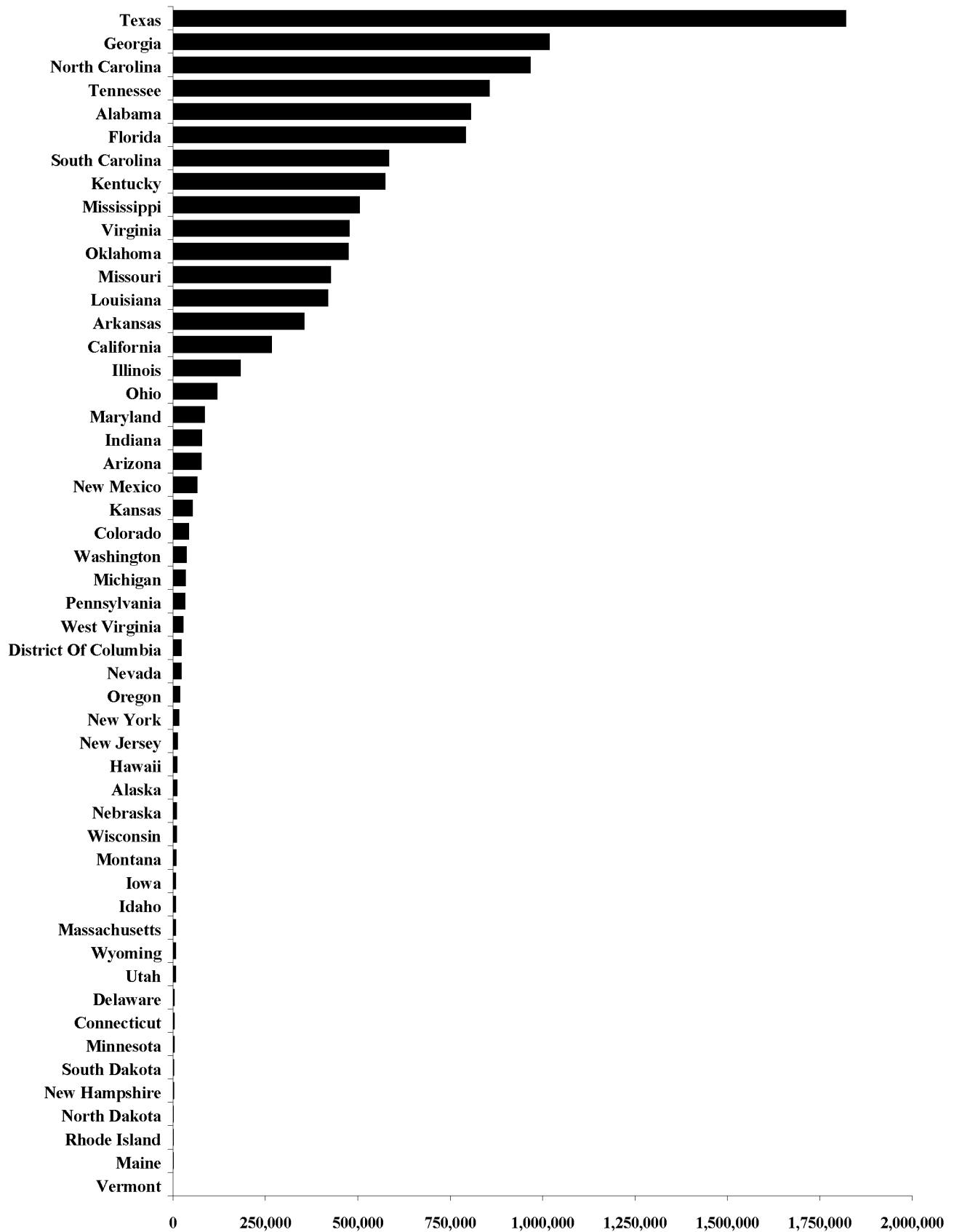


Figure 19
Net Change in Resident Membership, 1990 to 2000

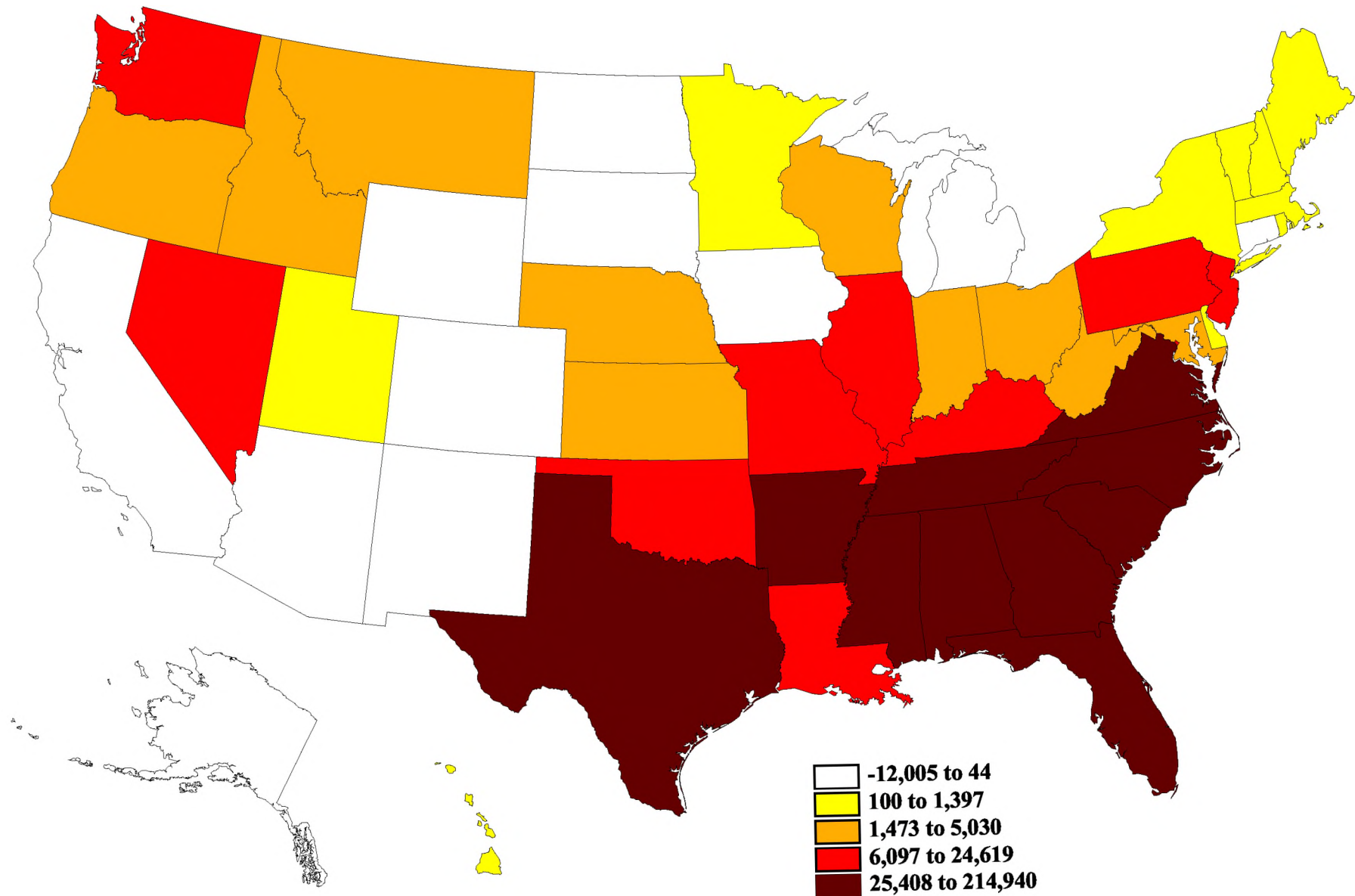


Figure 20
States Sorted by Net Change in Resident Membership,
1990 to 2000

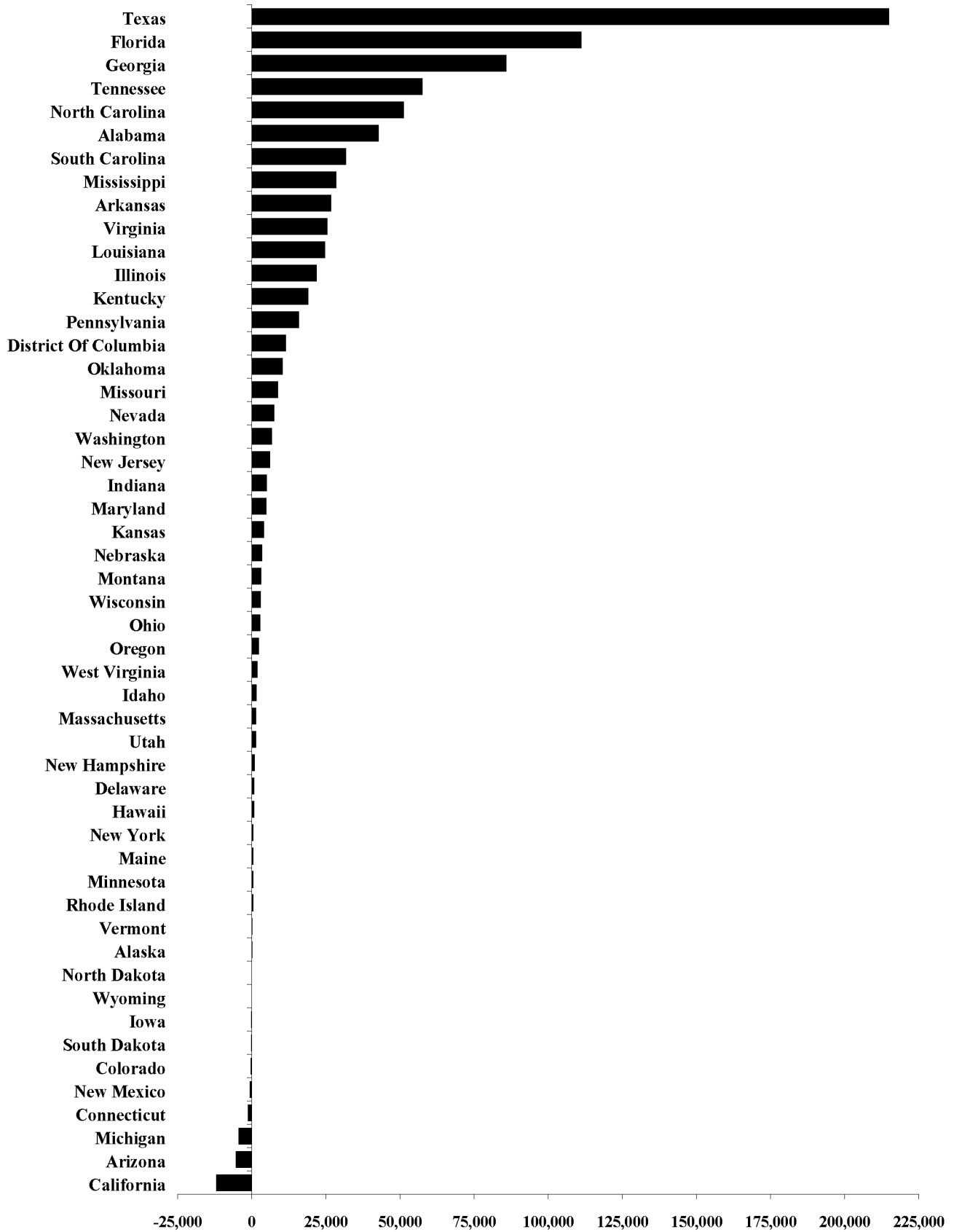
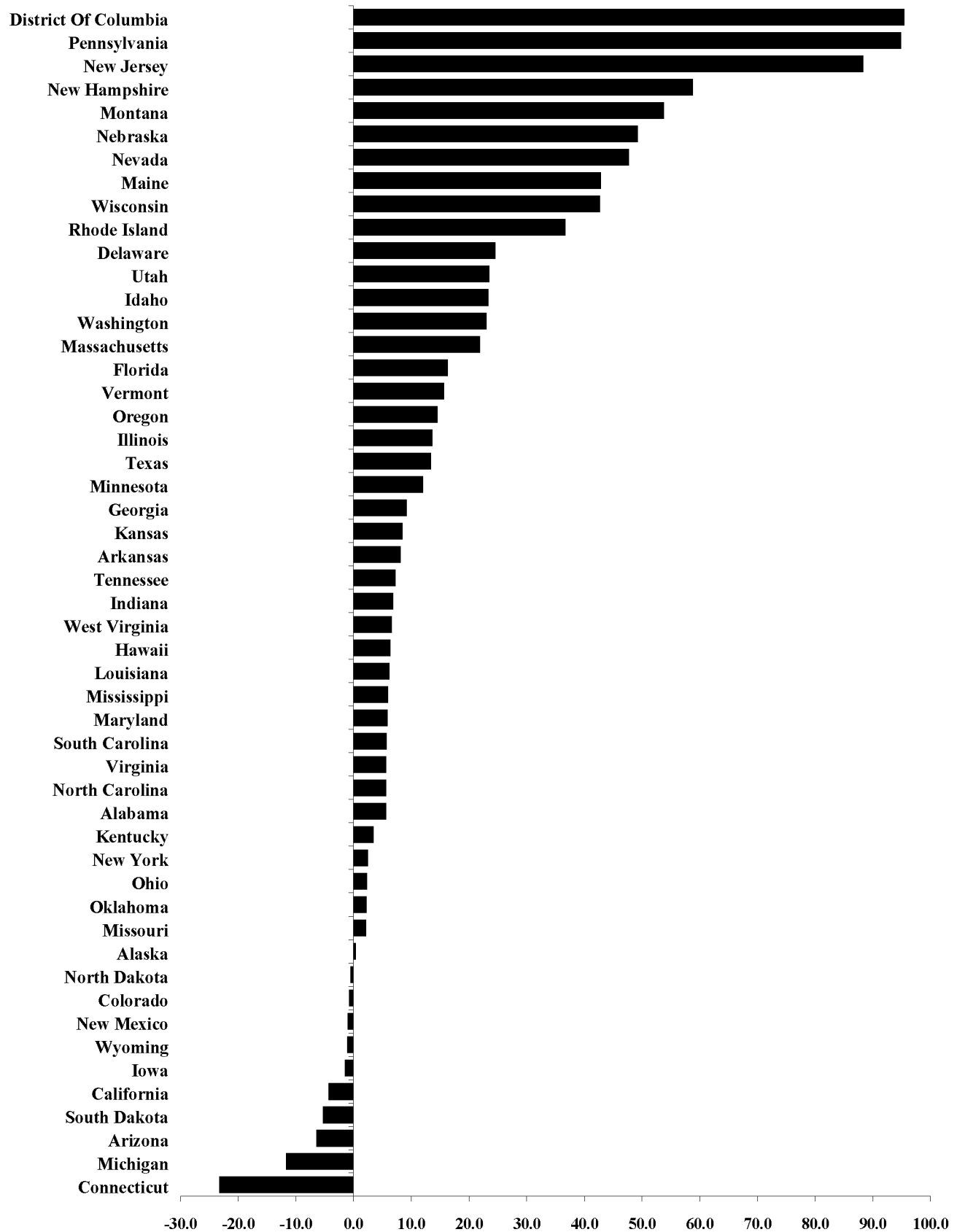


Figure 22
States Sorted by Percent Change in Resident Membership,
1990 to 2000



Population per Resident Member

The Nation

The best indicator of the denomination's penetration of the population, or its "market share" may be the ratio of population to resident members. In 2000 there were 24.7 people for every Southern Baptist resident member in the U.S. (Another way to communicate this is if you randomly select 25 people in the U.S., you would expect 1 to be Southern Baptist. See table 13.) This ratio has worsened since 1990 when there were 23.5 people per resident member. As with population to church ratios, these numbers can be compared directly by computation of an index of change. This index is computed by dividing the population per resident member in 2000 by the population per resident member in 1990 and then multiplying by 100. Scores above 100 indicate the ratio has worsened from 1990 to 2000, while those below 100 indicate the population per member ratio has improved.

The computed index of change for the nation is 105, meaning that growth in Southern Baptist resident membership did not keep up with the growth in population during the same time frame. As stated previously, even if all congregations reported their resident membership, the index would still be expected to be more than 100, indicating a "loss of market share" for Southern Baptists.

Regions

The market share varies greatly throughout the nation. In the South there are 10 people for every Southern Baptist resident member. At the other extreme, in the Northeast there are 668 people for every Southern Baptist resident member. In the West the ratio is 108 to 1, while in the Midwest it's 69 to 1. (See table 13.)

The index of change for population to membership is worsening for most regions of the country. The only exception is the Northeast where the index shows improvement from 1990 to 2000. The index would be even more favorable in the Northeast except for 15 percent non-reporting among its congregations.

At the region level, the West shows the highest index of change. The Mountain division had such rapid population growth that the denomination has not kept pace. The index of change in the Pacific division is negatively impacted by the nearly 20 percent non-reporting rate of its congregations.

States

As noted previously, the population to member ratio is not evenly distributed across the United States. It ranges from a high of 1,411 people for every Southern Baptist resident member in Minnesota to a low of 5.5 people per member in Alabama. (See table 14 and figures 23 and 24.)

There are seven states where the ratio is more than a 750 to 1. Those states are:

Minnesota	1,411
New York	1,105
Maine	947
Connecticut	840
Vermont	826
Massachusetts	817
Rhode Island	769

Six of these states are in the Northeast, the other in the upper Midwest. As expected, the states with the lowest ratios are in the South.

An examination of the index of change shows that 15 states and the District of Columbia showed improvement in the population per resident member ratio from 1990 to 2000. (See figures 25 and 26.) Seven of these states are in the Northeast. Outside these regions, the only areas to show improvement are the District of Columbia and Louisiana in the South, and Montana in the West.

While church membership lost ground vis-à-vis population gain for most all the states of the South, the loss of market share in the South was not nearly so dramatic as for some of the states outside the South. There are five states where the population per resident member worsened by 20 percent or more from 1990 to 2000. These states are as follows:

Arizona	149.7
Connecticut	135.0
Colorado	131.6
New Mexico	121.3
Michigan	121.1

All of these states registered membership declines while population increased. One common thread among these states was a high non-reporting rate among their churches. For example, 43 percent of the congregations in Connecticut did not report their resident membership, compared to 13 percent in Arizona and Michigan.

Table 13
Population per Resident Member by Region, 1990 to 2000,
and Index of Change

	Population per Resident Member		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
United States	23.5	24.7	105.0
Northeast	907.8	668.2	73.6
New England	843.8	794.5	94.2
Middle Atlantic	932.6	632.9	67.9
Midwest	67.4	69.2	102.7
East North Central	106.2	106.5	100.3
West North Central	36.0	38.0	105.4
South	9.4	10.2	108.3
South Atlantic	11.9	13.0	109.1
East South Central	5.8	6.2	106.1
West South Central	9.6	10.2	107.1
West	90.8	107.8	118.7
Mountain	58.4	75.4	129.2
Pacific	112.7	130.4	115.7

Note: The index of change in population per resident member is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-resident-member ratio by the 1990 population-per-resident-member ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-resident-member ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 14
Population per Resident Member by State, 1990 to 2000,
and Index of Change

	Population per Resident Member		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
United States	23.5	24.7	105.0
Alabama	5.3	5.5	104.2
Alaska	47.4	53.8	113.5
Arizona	44.3	66.3	149.7
Arkansas	7.2	7.5	105.2
California	106.8	126.9	118.8
Colorado	75.9	99.9	131.6
Connecticut	622.1	839.8	135.0
Delaware	201.3	190.1	94.5
District of Columbia	50.5	24.4	48.2
Florida	19.0	20.2	106.2
Georgia	6.9	8.0	115.7
Hawaii	98.0	100.7	102.8
Idaho	159.5	166.3	104.2
Illinois	71.3	68.1	95.6
Indiana	75.8	77.8	102.6
Iowa	342.2	366.2	107.0
Kansas	50.8	50.8	100.1
Kentucky	6.6	7.0	106.0
Louisiana	10.7	10.6	99.6
Maine	1,302.2	946.5	72.7
Maryland	58.8	61.6	104.7
Massachusetts	944.3	817.3	86.6
Michigan	242.5	293.6	121.1
Minnesota	1,406.1	1,411.2	100.4
Mississippi	5.4	5.6	104.2
Missouri	12.2	13.1	107.1
Montana	135.2	99.2	73.4
Nebraska	224.3	162.9	72.6
Nevada	77.1	86.7	112.6
New Hampshire	782.3	548.8	70.1
New Jersey	1,122.5	647.3	57.7
New Mexico	22.9	27.8	121.3
New York	1,073.9	1,105.3	102.9
North Carolina	7.2	8.3	114.9
North Dakota	371.2	375.1	101.1

Table 14 (continued)

	Population per Resident Member		Index of Change
	1990	2000	
Ohio	92.9	95.0	102.3
Oklahoma	6.8	7.3	107.3
Oregon	174.5	183.4	105.1
Pennsylvania	712.1	377.7	53.0
Rhode Island	1,005.5	768.6	76.4
South Carolina	6.3	6.9	108.8
South Dakota	201.3	230.6	114.5
Tennessee	6.1	6.6	108.8
Texas	10.6	11.5	108.3
Utah	290.4	304.8	104.9
Vermont	883.5	826.1	93.5
Virginia	13.7	14.8	108.3
Washington	165.3	162.7	98.4
West Virginia	66.9	63.3	94.6
Wisconsin	699.0	537.1	76.8
Wyoming	58.0	63.8	110.0

Note: The index of change in population per resident member is calculated by dividing the 2000 population-per-resident-member ratio by the 1990 population-per-resident-member ratio and multiplying by 100. An index of 100 means that the ratios were the same for both years. An index greater than 100 means that the population-per-resident-member ratio worsened from 1990 to 2000. An index less than 100 indicates the ratio improved.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Table 15
State Rankings of Population per Resident Member, 1990
to 2000, and Index of Change

	Population per Resident Member Rank		Index of Change Rank
	1990	2000	
Alabama	51	51	27
Alaska	35	34	10
Arizona	36	30	1
Arkansas	44	45	22
California	23	22	6
Colorado	27	24	3
Connecticut	11	4	2
Delaware	17	17	40
District of Columbia	34	37	51
Florida	38	38	20
Georgia	45	44	7
Hawaii	24	23	30
Idaho	21	19	28
Illinois	29	29	38
Indiana	28	28	31
Iowa	13	13	19
Kansas	33	35	35
Kentucky	47	47	21
Louisiana	41	42	36
Maine	2	3	46
Maryland	31	33	25
Massachusetts	6	6	42
Michigan	15	15	5
Minnesota	1	1	34
Mississippi	50	50	26
Missouri	40	40	18
Montana	22	25	45
Nebraska	16	20	47
Nevada	26	27	11
New Hampshire	8	9	48
New Jersey	3	8	49
New Mexico	37	36	4
New York	4	2	29
North Carolina	43	43	8
North Dakota	12	12	33

Table 15 (continued)

	Population per Resident Member Rank		Index of Change Rank
	1990	2000	
Ohio	25	26	32
Oklahoma	46	46	17
Oregon	19	18	23
Pennsylvania	9	11	50
Rhode Island	5	7	44
South Carolina	48	48	13
South Dakota	18	16	9
Tennessee	49	49	14
Texas	42	41	16
Utah	14	14	24
Vermont	7	5	41
Virginia	39	39	15
Washington	20	21	37
West Virginia	30	32	39
Wisconsin	10	10	43
Wyoming	32	31	12

Source: Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.; Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, Tenn.; compiled by Research Services, NAMB, Alpharetta, Ga.

Figure 23
Population per Resident Member, 2000

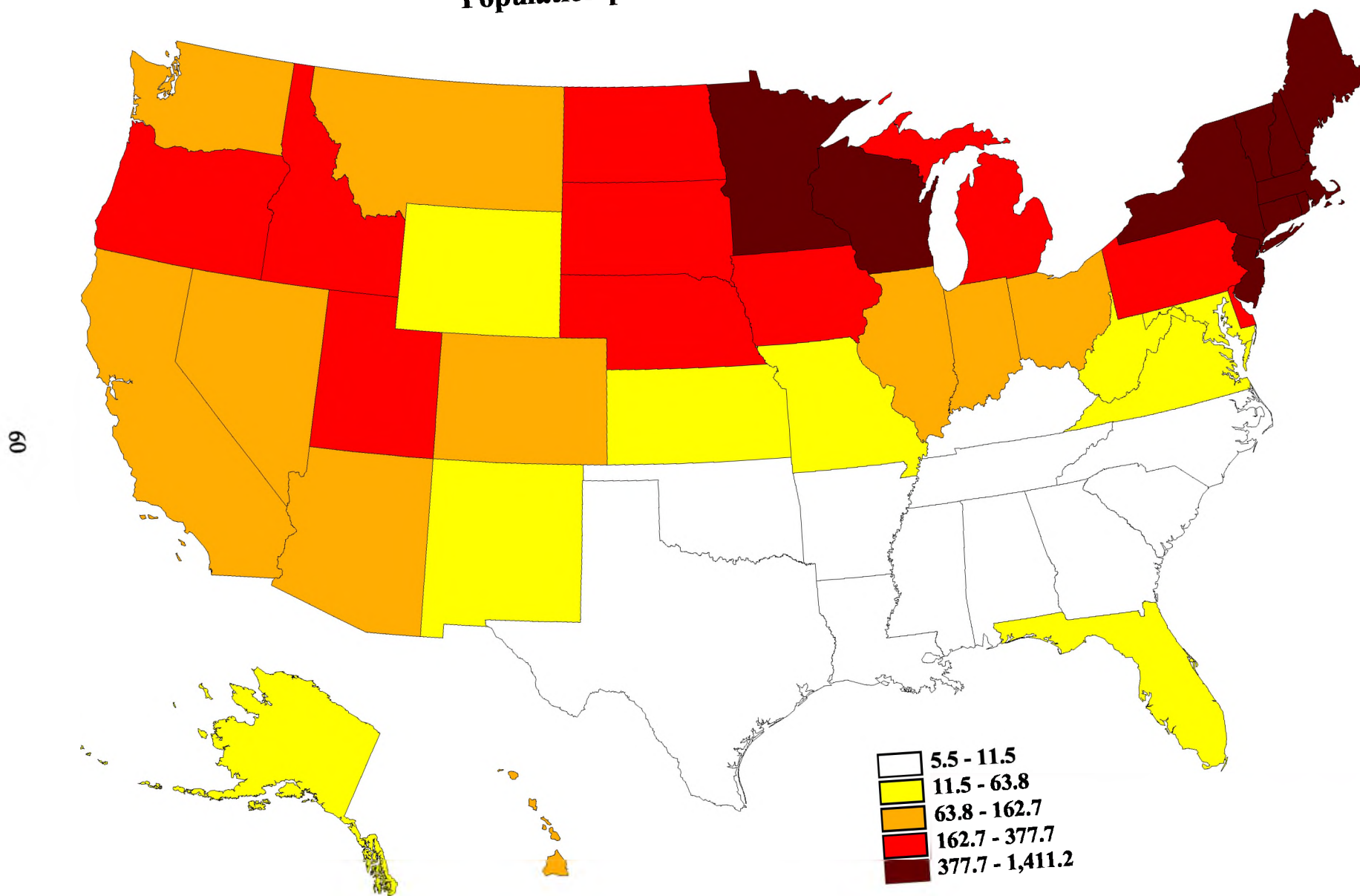


Figure 24
States Sorted by Population per Resident Member, 2000

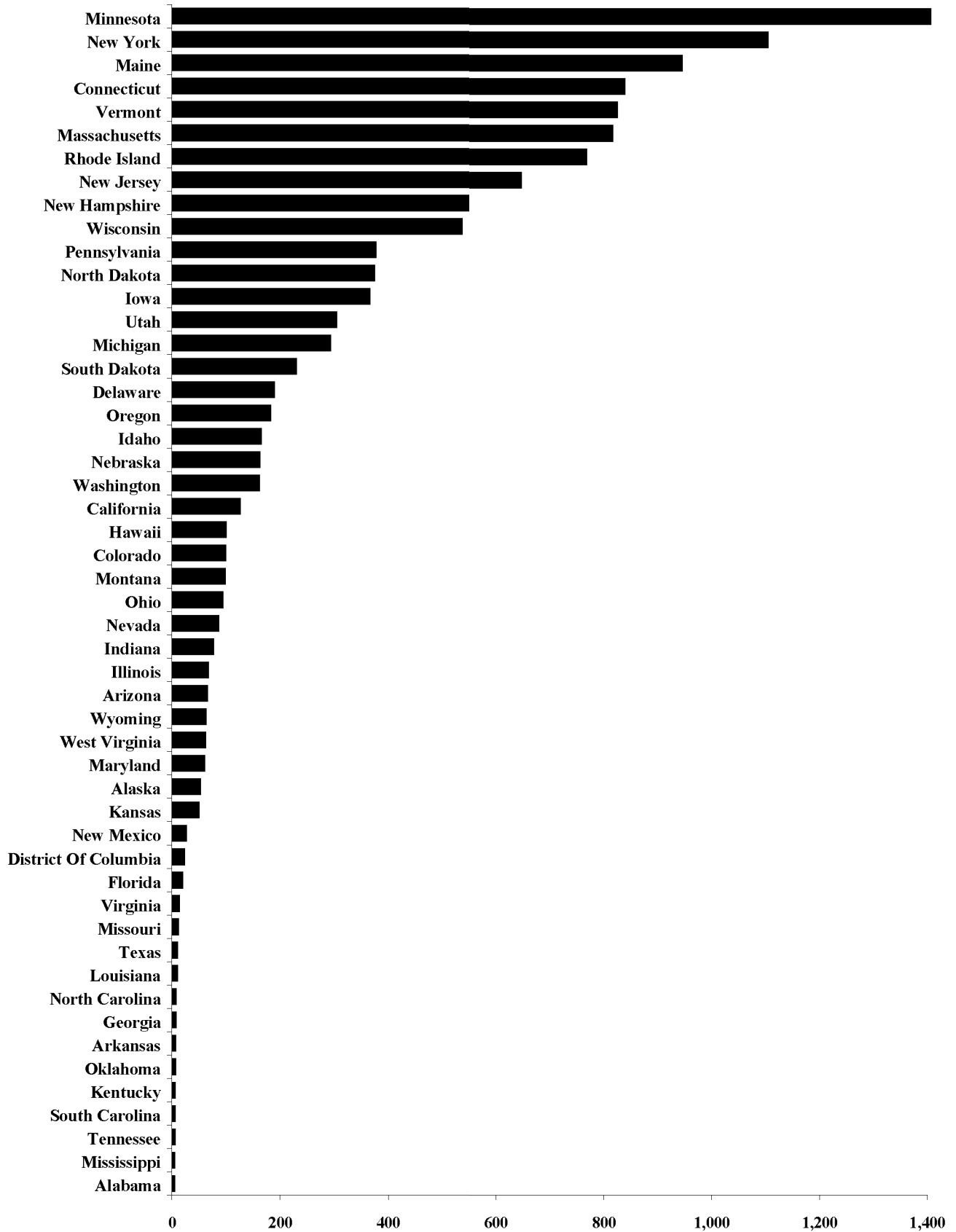


Figure 25
Population per Resident Member Change Index, 1990 to 2000

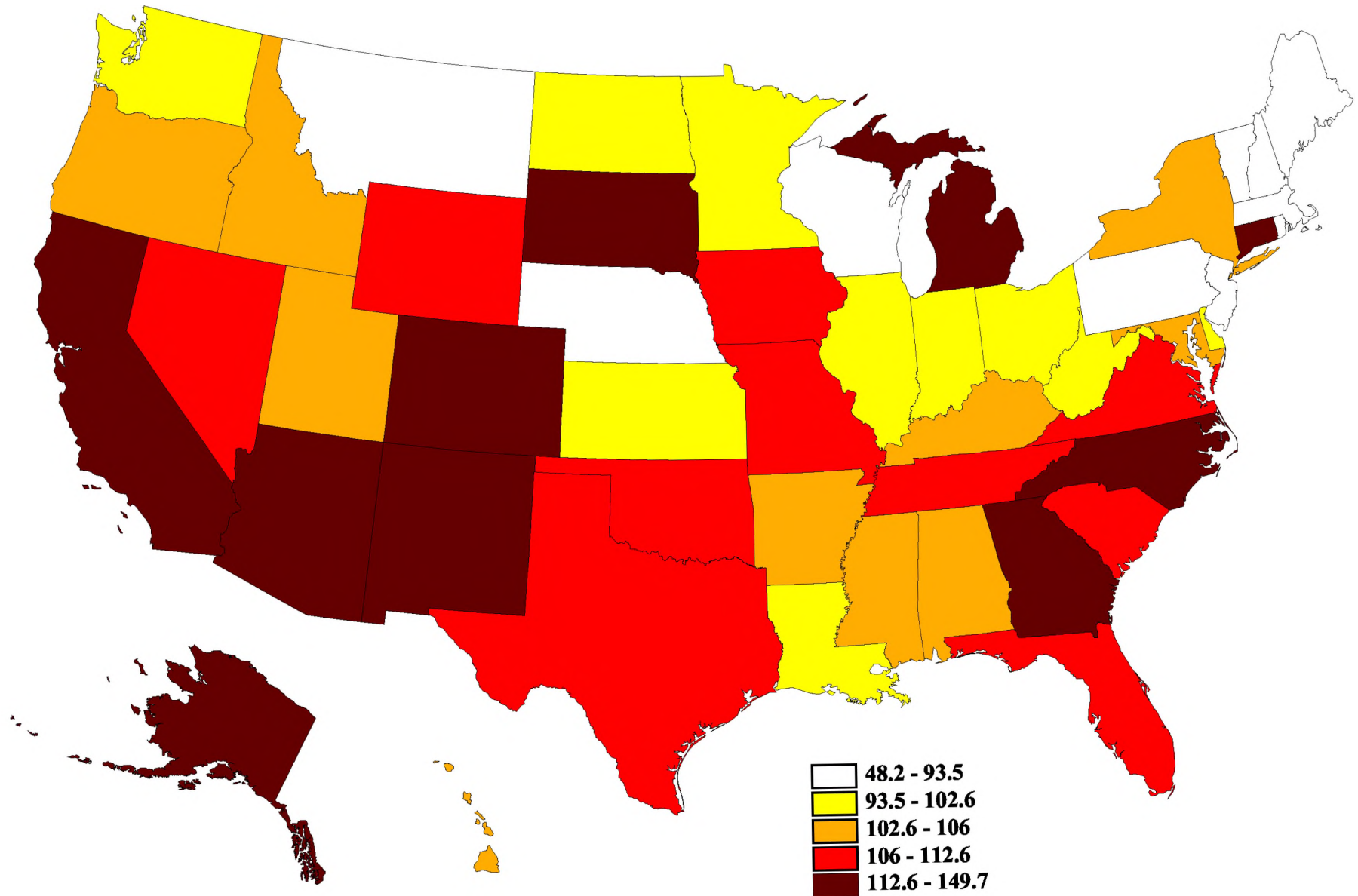
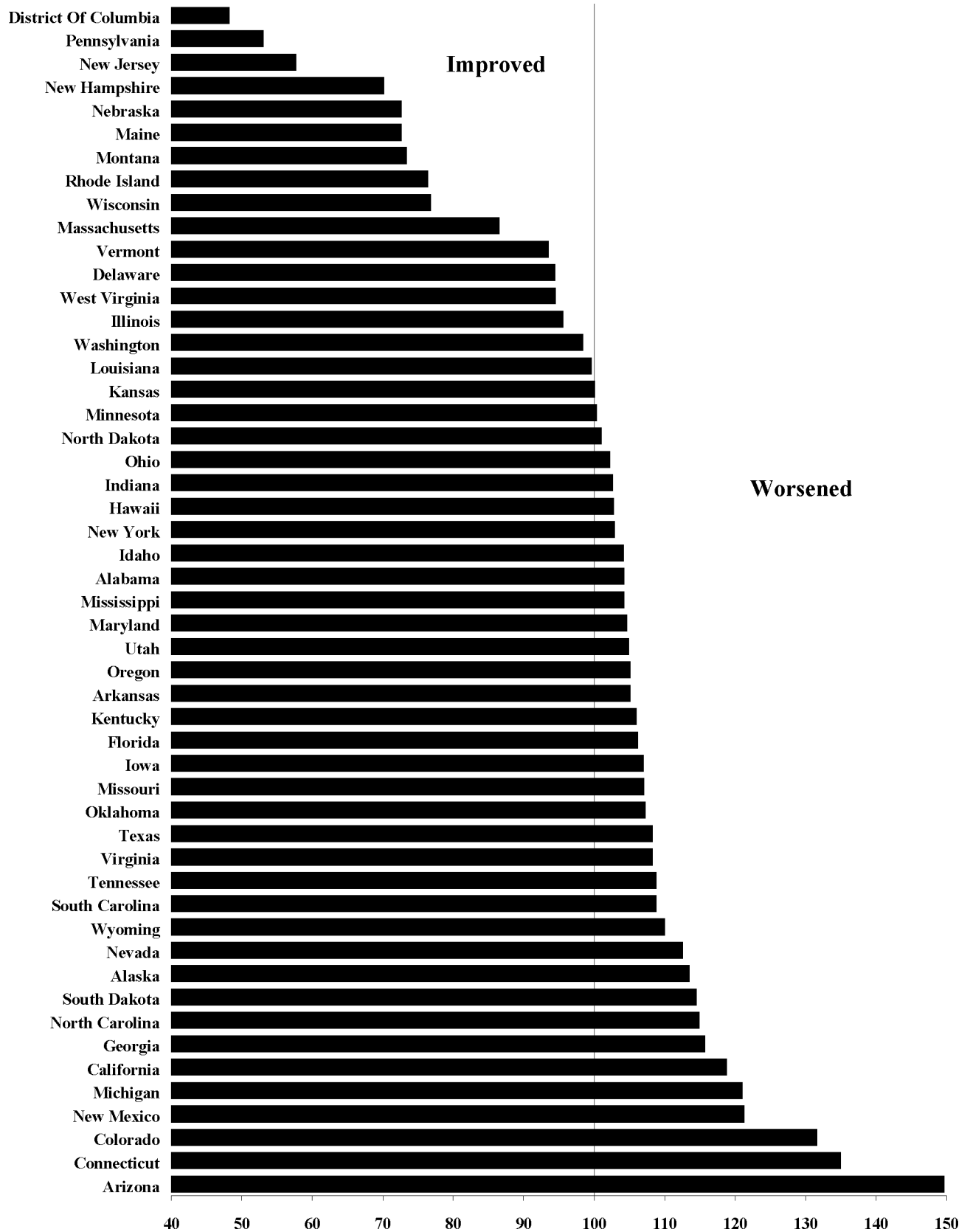


Figure 26
States Sorted by Population per Resident Member
Change Index, 1990 to 2000



Concluding Remarks

Between 1990 and 2000, growth rates of Southern Baptist churches (9.2%) and resident membership (7.8%) in the U.S. have not matched the population growth rate (13.1%). Even if resident membership could be adjusted to account for increased non-reporting, it is highly unlikely that the growth rate would match the population growth.

State convention directors of missions reported more than 10,000 church starts during 1990 through 2000—an average of 1,330 per year. Yet, an average of only 349 constituted churches were gained each year. These two indicators of church planting success have been in conflict for some time. Two factors contribute to the different counts.

First, churches are removed from the Convention each year due to disbanding, reorganizing, or changing affiliation. Second, states differ in the type of units counted as church starts.

A congregation is counted as Southern Baptist based on its affiliation with a local association, a state convention, or the SBC Executive Committee. State conventions should take the lead in insuring that all new congregations are added into the Southern Baptist Directory Services, an online database of SBC congregations maintained by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Denominational emphases on church planting and evangelism have kept the SBC an alive and vital denomination. Much work remains in order to keep pace with the growing and changing population in the United States.