

## Section 2.2: Demographic Overview

### Population Trends

Bethalto has had fairly stable population levels according to recent data. According to Census reports, the population of Bethalto in 1990 was 9,507 residents. 10 years later, the 2000 reports documented a very small loss in population, with only 9,454 residents; a loss of less than 1%. The most current Census data shows that as of 2010, the population was 9,521; a 0.7% increase from 2000, and very similar population to that of 1990. These population trends can be characterized as slightly stagnant when compared to the County, which experienced a population growth of approximately 4% between 2000 and 2010, and the state of Illinois as a whole, which saw a 3.3% growth in population in the same time span. This means that although the region and state are seeing increased population levels, Bethalto has been unable to draw any of these new residents into the Village. Assuming these trends are representative of future population forecasts, it can be projected that Bethalto's population will remain near its current level unless active steps are taken to increase residency within the Village.

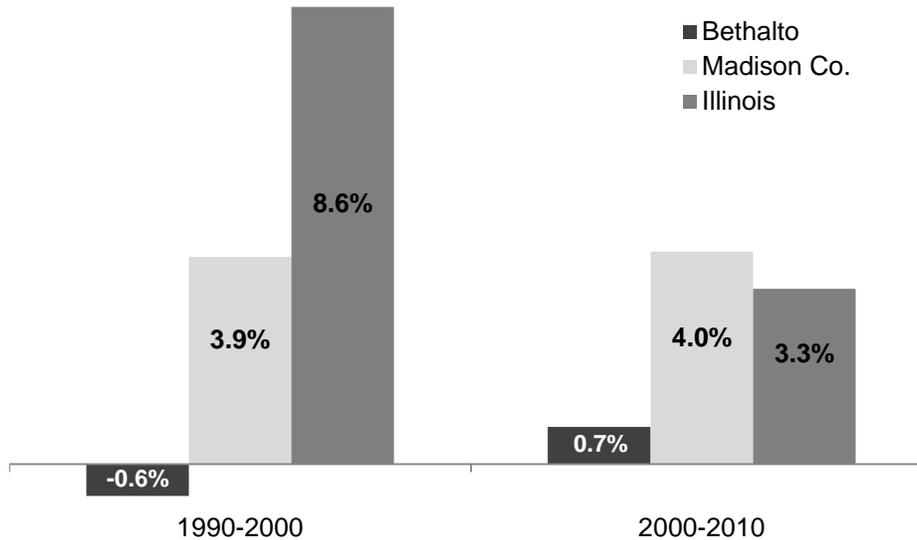
Figure 2.2-1: Population Statistics

Total Population			
	1990	2000	2010
<b>Bethalto</b>	9,507	9,454	9,521
<b>Madison Co.</b>	249,238	258,941	269,282
<b>Illinois</b>	11,430,602	12,419,293	12,830,632

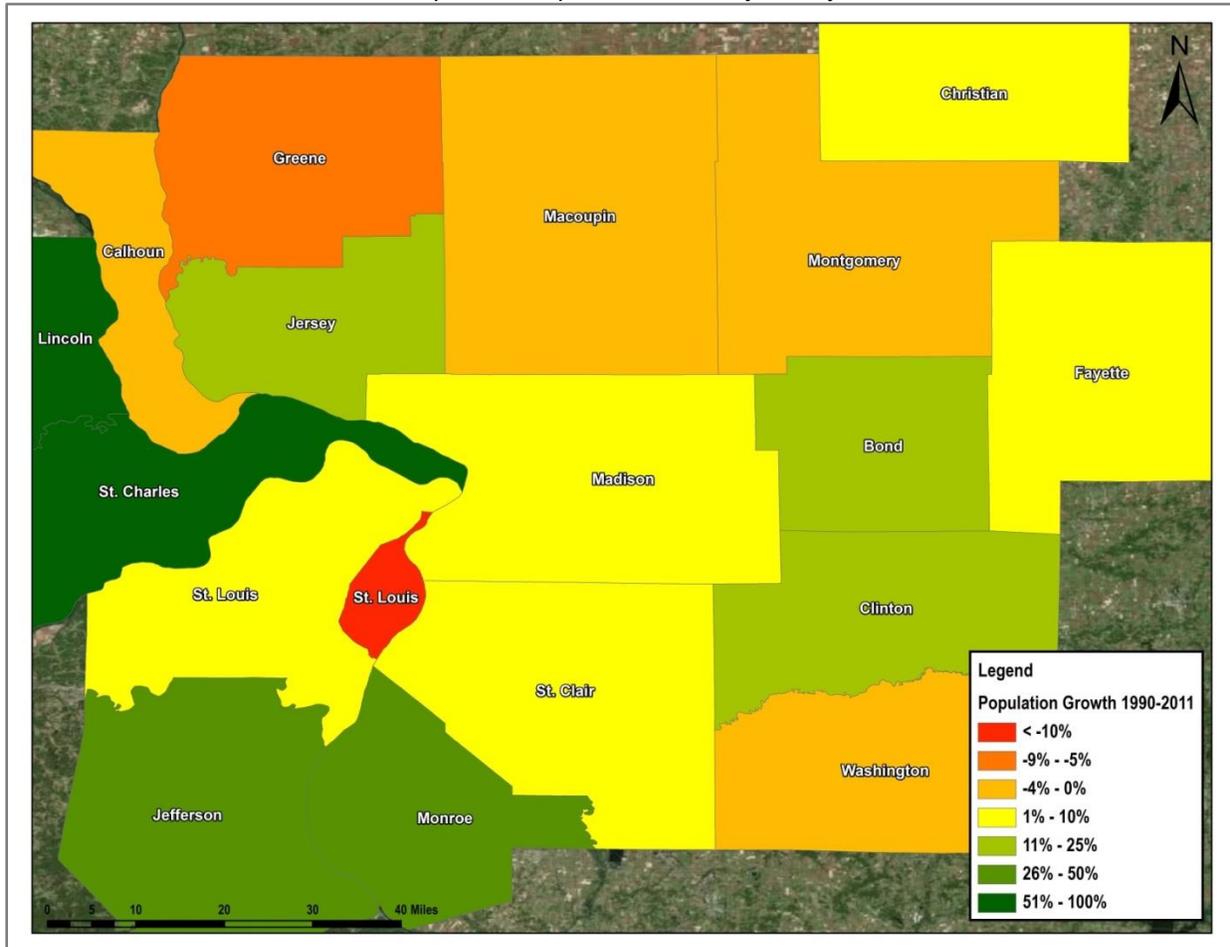
Population Growth			
	1990	2000	2010
<b>Bethalto</b>	-	-0.6%	0.7%
<b>Madison Co.</b>	-	3.9%	4.0%
<b>Illinois</b>	-	8.6%	3.3%

Figure 2.2-2: Population Growth



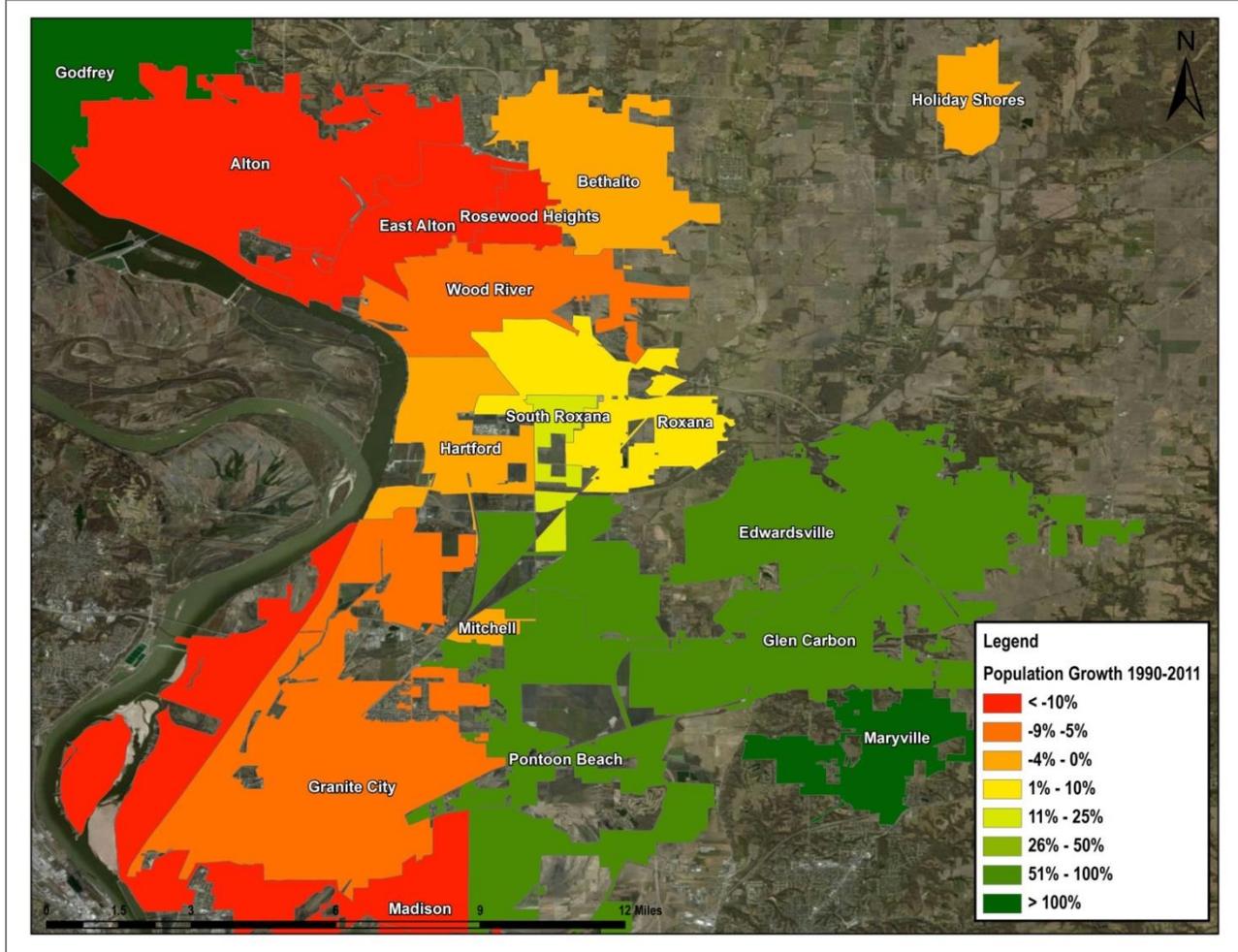
## Regional Comparisons

Map 2.2-1: Population Growth by County



From 1990 to 2011, Madison County has seen an 8% increase in population. This is modest growth compared to those counties that saw significant increases in population over this time period (St. Charles: 67%, Lincoln: 80%, Monroe: 46%), but still significant considering how many neighboring counties actually lost population (St. Louis City: -20%, Greene: -9%, Montgomery: -2%).

Map 2.2-2: Population Growth by Place

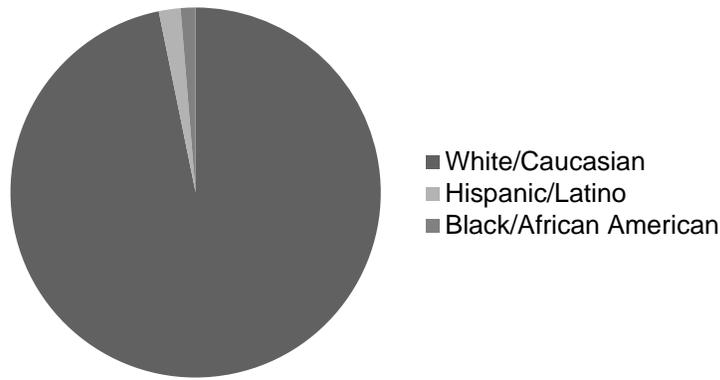


From 1990 to 2011 Madison County as a whole saw an 8% increase in population. That population growth was not uniformly spread across the municipalities in the area, however. As detailed previously, the Village of Bethalto has had stagnant population growth. Between 1990 and 2011, there was an increase of 18 residents (9,507 in 1990 and 9,525 in 2011). While the Village is struggling with continued population growth, comparatively the Village is successful in maintaining its steady population numbers. Many of the neighboring communities have lost population over this time period, with Rosewood Heights having lost 17%, Alton losing 14%, and both Madison and East Alton having lost 10% of their total populations.

### Race and Ethnicity

The predominant ethnic group in Bethalto is White or Caucasian individuals, who make up 96.8% of the total population. Hispanic or Latino individuals are the second most prevalent, comprising just under 2% of the population while Black or African American residents make up the remaining 1.3%. All remaining categories of ethnic groups comprise less than 1% of the total population.

Figure 2.2-3: Race and Ethnicity

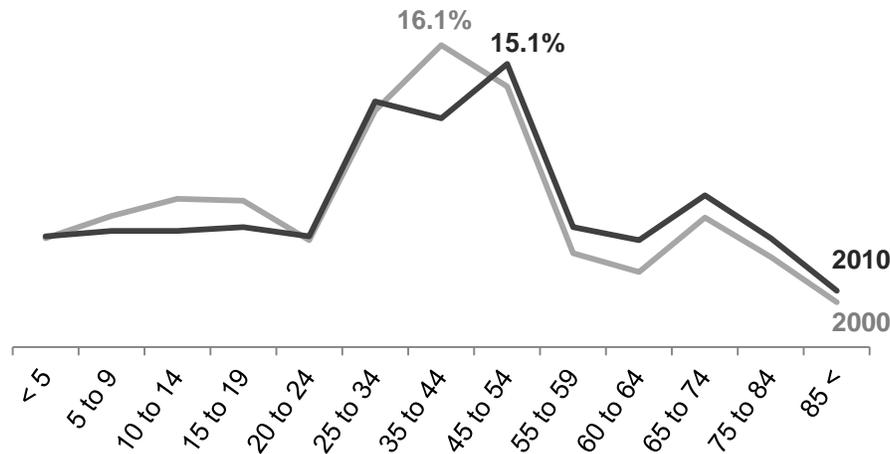


Although not very racially diverse, Madison County as a whole is approximately 90% White or Caucasian, causing Bethalto to not stand out significantly from the trends within the region.

### Age and Gender

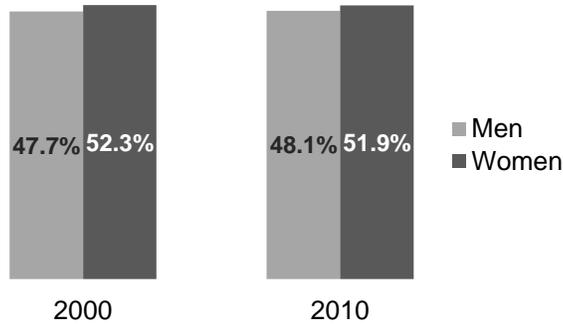
When looking at the ages of the population of Bethalto, we find that it resembles the typical distribution for the Madison County and Illinois. Figure 2.2-4 shows the age distribution in the Village in the years 2000 and 2010. Aside from the slightly larger portion of individuals in the 35 to 44 age range in 2000, Bethalto's age distribution is fairly standard and uniform between the two Census counts. The majority of Bethalto's residents are between 25 to 54 years old. The median age for the Village was 36.9 in 2000 and increased slightly to 40.3 by 2010. This trend of an aging population is also applicable to Madison County and the U.S. who are also experiencing similar aging patterns.

Figure 2.2-4: Age Distribution



Historically, the female population has been slightly higher than the male population in the Village. In 2000, women comprised 52.3% of the total population while men were the other 47.7%. By the year 2010, the gap had closed slightly, but women still were a majority of the population by almost 4%.

Figure 2.2-5: Gender Distribution



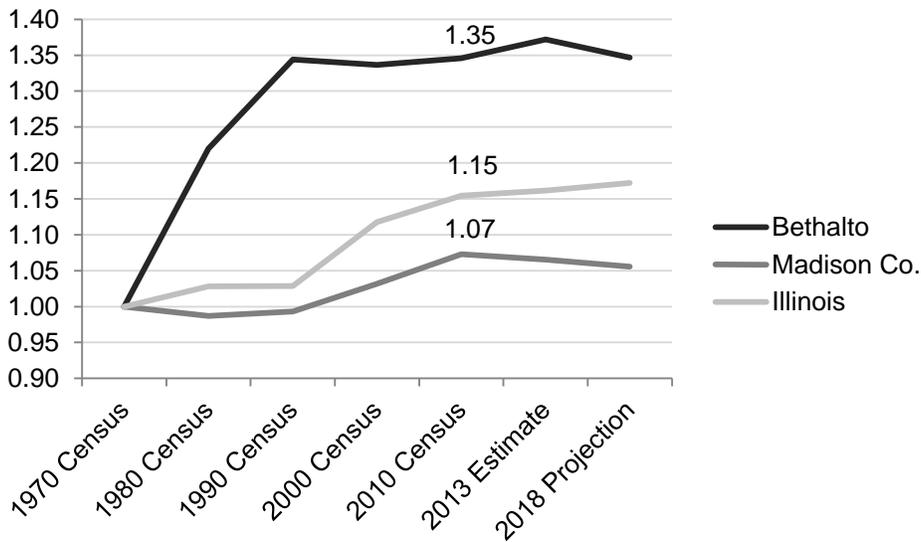
### Section 2.3: Demographic Trends

As indexed from 1970, population trends between Bethalto, Madison County, and the State of Illinois are shown in Figure 2.3-1. Bethalto experienced fairly significant growth between 1970 and 1990. From 1990, however, the population level became relatively stable and growth became stagnant.

In contrast to Bethalto's trend of unchanging population levels post 1990, both Madison County and the State of Illinois experienced periods of growth from 1990-2010.

Current estimates show that there has been very little population growth in all 3 regions from 2010 to 2013, and future projections predict slight population losses in both Madison County and Bethalto by 2018.

Figure 2.3-1: Indexed Population Trends 1970 Census to 2018 Projections



Population stagnation in the region can be attributed to many local and national trends, including the decline of manufacturing, consolidation of markets, and an aging population. Another factor attributing to population stagnation is the decline of the river-based economy in recent history. The importance of river traffic has decreased steadily over the last century, resulting in a region-wide decline in jobs.