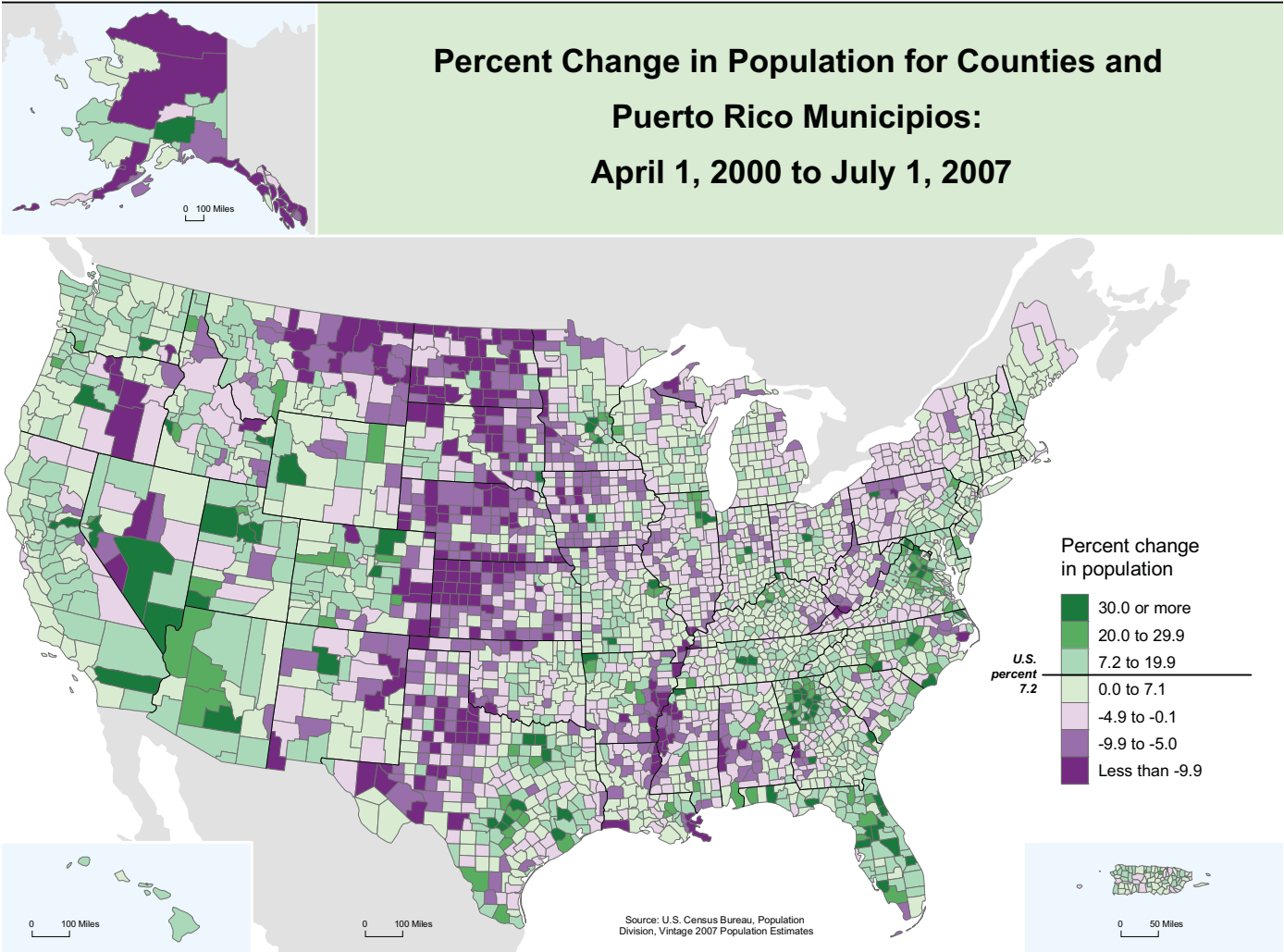


Population Changes

in the U.S. and Puerto Rico



The extent to which communities achieve economic sustainability is often reflected in patterns of population change. National patterns often conceal widely varying circumstances from one community to another. The map on this page shows population change from 2000 to 2007 by county for the United States. Most obvious is the large band of counties with declining populations in the Great Plains extending from Canada to Mexico, a pattern that has persisted for decades. A number of nonmetro counties in the Great Plains area of the region covered by the WRDC experienced population declines. In contrast, a majority of nonmetro counties in the western states, especially those with extensive amenity resources experienced population growth.