

### III. Existing Conditions

*This section presents information about demographic trends and projections.*

This section provides background information about the city of Gallup and McKinley County. It includes population and housing units projections and the analyses leading to them.

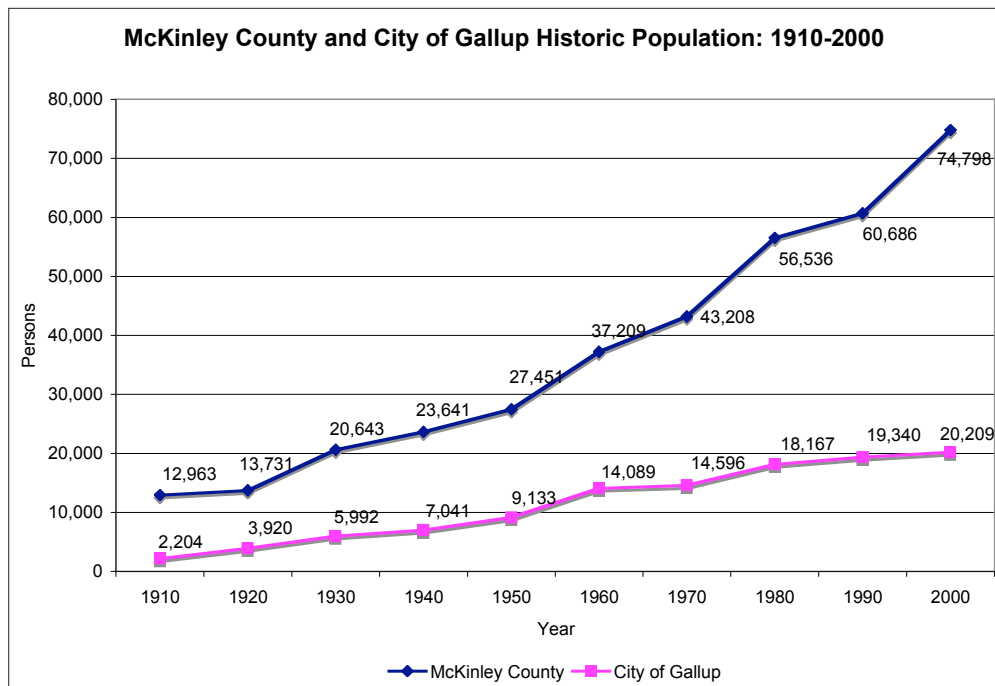
#### A. Demographic Trends and Projections

Long-term demographic and economic trends tend to shape the future of communities. While the past does not dictate the future, the dynamics of long-range trends generally continue with some momentum into the future, unless unforeseen conditions intervene. While Gallup has never been a boom town, it has experienced long-term population growth and has the potential either to increase its rate of growth in the future or decline in population.

#### City and County Long Range Population Trends

Over the 90-year period of 1910-2000, population grew every decade in both the city and county.

**Exhibit III-1**  
Long-Range  
Historic  
Population of the  
City and County:  
1910-2000



The unincorporated area of McKinley County has grown faster than Gallup every decade since 1960. Gallup's share of the total county population peaked in 1960 at 38% and declined to 27% by 2000. The unincorporated population nearly doubled from 23,120 persons in 1960 to 54,589 persons in 2000.

Gallup's population growth rate has varied over the 90-year period, as shown in the following chart. As a "rule of thumb," a fast rate of growth is greater than 3%, a moderate rate is 2% to 3%, and a slow rate is below 2%.