

## II. POPULATION

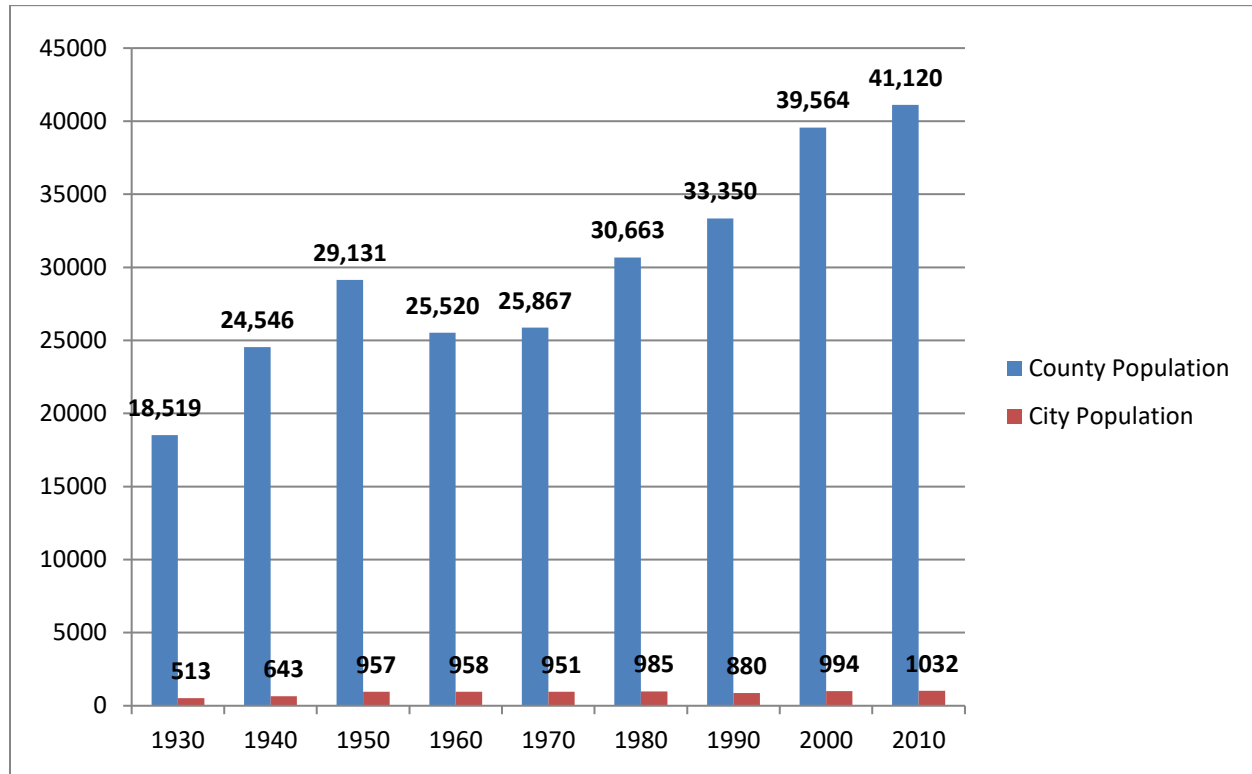
Over the last 60 years, Tonasket has been experiencing a declining share of County growth while 23 miles to the south, Omak has been gaining its share. Omak’s central location has been an attraction for large commercial development including discount stores, while also being the central location for governmental offices and services. Tonasket is trending toward a “bedroom” community that may be a more quiet and peaceful place to raise children or retire. This prediction will be especially valid if the trend for development continues in the Tonasket unincorporated area to subdivide farm and ranch holdings for rural residential uses.

Table II-1 and Figure II-1 on the following page provides two views of data on Tonasket’s historic population compared to Okanogan County as a whole. Tonasket's first official census in 1930 showed a population of 513. By 1950 the population had nearly doubled; however, since those years, the population in Tonasket has remained relatively flat, at around 1000 persons. The 2000 U. S. Census showed a population of 994. More recently, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), based on data provided by the City, estimated the population in 2010 at about 1,040 people. (1,032 actual count)

**TABLE II-1  
 HISTORIC POPULATION FIGURES**

Year	Population	Percent increase from Previous Decade	Percent of County Population Living in Tonasket
1930	513	---	2.77
1940	643	25.34	2.62
1950	957	48.83	3.29
1960	958	.10	3.75
1970	951	-0.73	3.68
1980	985	3.58	3.21
1990	880	-10.66	2.64
2000	994	12.95	2.51
2010	1050	5.63	2.59

**FIGURE II-1  
 TONASKET/OKANOGAN COUNTY POPULATION HISTORY  
 BY DECADE**



Population projections for the City of Tonasket are based on past trends on a decade by decade basis. The chart presented below depicts the population figures over the past 80 years.

The following growth projections are based upon the mean average growth rate for the past three decades for the low projection, five decades for the medium project and seven decades for the high projection. Based on the U.S. Census figures provided, population over the past decade indicates a significant decline. It is assumed that some of this growth is occurring outside of the Tonasket incorporated boundaries and will be annexed in the future.

**TABLE II-2  
 POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

2011		2020	2030
1050	Low	1078	1106
	Medium	1080	1111
	High	1140	1237