

Fastest growing counties in the U.S.

Illinois County the fastest growing in the United States

By Les Christie, staff writer June 16, 2010: 7:04 AM ET

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The fastest growing large county in the United States is not in a trendy Sun Belt state. It's in Illinois, a member in good standing of the Rust Belt.

Kendall County, Ill., a far-flung suburb of Chicago, grew nearly 100% in the last nine years, according to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau. The county went from a population of 54,563 on April 1, 2000, to an estimated 104,821 last July 1.

The county has been transitioning from an agricultural area to a bedroom community -- albeit one far from the main job center. "It's a wonderful place to live with excellent schools and a very low crime rate," said Anne Vickery, a member of the Kendall County Board. "But you're going to have to travel to get to Chicago."

The more than 300-square-mile county is still 60% devoted to agriculture, but when the housing boom was at its height, that farmland was disappearing rapidly and sold for as much as \$75,000 an acre.

"We had a lot of rich farmers from selling off land and a lot who wished they had sold," Vickery said. Land prices have come down in the bust to more like \$12,000 an acre today.

Population Estimates for the 100 Fastest Growing U.S. Counties with 10,000 or More Population in 2009: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009					
Rank	Geographic Area	Population Estimates		Change, 2000 to 2009	
		July 1, 2009	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	Number	Percent
1	Kendall County, IL	104,821	54,563	50,258	92.1
2	Pinal County, AZ	340,962	179,720	161,242	89.7
3	Rockwall County, TX	81,391	43,079	38,312	88.9
4	Flagler County, FL	91,622	49,832	41,790	83.9
5	Loudoun County, VA	301,171	169,599	131,572	77.6
6	Forsyth County, GA	174,520	98,367	76,153	77.4
7	Lincoln County, SD	41,218	24,147	17,071	70.7
8	Paulding County, GA	136,655	81,613	55,042	67.4
9	Williamson County, TX	410,686	249,979	160,707	64.3
10	Douglas County, CO	288,225	175,766	112,459	64.0