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How do perceived “successful” communities compare to their peers?

***Presentation to
“On the Bright Side:
What has worked in Canadian rural community
development?”***

***2010 Annual Rural Policy Conference
of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation,
Brandon, October 14-16, 2010***

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Rural Research Group, Statistics Canada***



Outline:

- **Introduction**
- **What factors are associated with community “success” in Canada?**
- **Comparison of “predicted” growth and actual growth for communities nominated by conference attendees**
- **Discussion: How do perceived successful communities compare to their peers?**
- **Conclusions**



Introduction

- **What is “success”**
 - **We use ‘population change’ as an indicator of success**
 - **people come if there are jobs or if they like the place**
 - **people leave if there are no jobs or if they do not like the place**
 - **Obviously, there are alternative measures**
 - **Tom Johnson (Oct 15, 2010) noted that development is not a rising population – but development may lead to a rising population**
 - **Economic development is a rising level of productivity (and rising income) which may or may not lead to a rising population**
 - **Examples of the latter are many rural municipalities on the Prairies where each remaining farmer is highly productive and has a high income (relative to an urban worker) – but there are very few people living in the municipality**



Introduction

- What is “success”
- We use ‘population change’ as an indicator of success
 - people come if there are jobs or if they like the place
 - people leave if there are no jobs or if they do not like the place
- Obviously, there are alternative measures
- **As noted by Partridge *et al.* (2007), selecting the appropriate way to measure the well-being of the residents of a geographic area is problematic.**
- They suggest that “income and wages are ambiguous indicators” (Partridge *et al.*, 2007, p. 41) because higher income and wages would be associated with areas with agglomeration economies but places with lower income and wages are chosen by people who wish to consume the amenity attributes of some geographic areas.
- Thus, trends in income or wages is not necessarily an unambiguous measure of the change in the well-being of individuals in a geographic area.
- Partridge *et al.* (2007) argue that population change, which is largely driven by net migration – voting with one’s feet – captures both the benefits of growth in economic activity in a geographic space and the amenity benefits of residing in a geographic space.
- Partridge, Mark D., M. Rose Olfert and Alessandro Alasia. (2007) "Canadian Cities as Regional Engines of Growth: Agglomeration and Amenities". **Canadian Journal of Economics**, Vol. 40, No. 1, pp. 39-68, February.



Introduction

- **What is “success”**
 - **We use ‘population change’ as an indicator of success**
 - **people come if there are jobs or if they like the place**
 - **people leave if there are no jobs or if they do not like the place**
 - **Obviously, there are alternative measures**
 - **Our model shows the association of population change with major factors driving population change**
 - **We then look at the communities that you have nominated to determine if they grew more or less than is predicted by our model**



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How do perceived “successful” communities
compare to their peers?

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What factors are associated with community success in Canada?



What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

Association between the level of variable in 1981 and population change from 1981 to 2006

Name of variable (1981)	Variable at community level	Variable measured for the region surrounding the community
Sector restructuring		
Employment in agriculture	Negative	Negative
Employment in forestry, fishing, mining and oil and gas extraction agriculture	Negative	not significant
Employment in distributive services (transportation, retail trade, etc.)	Positive	not significant
Employment in producer services (finance, insurance etc.)	Positive	not significant



What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

Association between the level of variable in 1981 and population change from 1981 to 2006

Name of variable (1981)	Variable at community level	Variable measured for the region surrounding the community
Agglomeration factors		
Population density	Negative	not significant
Size of nearest Census Metropolitan Centre or Census Agglomeration (with a population of 10,000 or more)	Positive	n.a.
Distance to a Census Metropolitan Area of 500,000 or more	Negative	n.a.
Distance to a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration with a population of 10,000 to 499,999	Negative	n.a.



What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

- **Primary sector restructuring and the strength of metropolitan agglomerations are two major drivers of changing population settlement patterns across Canada.**
 - **Communities highly reliant on traditional sectors at the beginning of the 1980s experienced significant population downsizing. In contrast, communities with a higher share of employment in dynamic sectors experienced higher population growth.**
 - **Sector restructuring has been paralleled by a steady process of agglomeration around urban centres. Although urban decongestion has occurred within high density regions, both proximity and population size of the nearest urban core are positively associated with population growth of their surrounding communities.**



What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

Association between the level of variable in 1981 and population change from 1981 to 2006

Name of variable (1981)	Variable at community level	Variable measured for the region surrounding the community
Diversification and human capital		
Economic specialization index	Negative	Negative
Level of educational attainment	Positive	Positive
Labour force participation rate	not significant	not significant



What factors are associated with community success in Canada?

- **Communities that were more diversified and had a higher educational attainment at the beginning of the 1980s experienced higher population growth over the following two decades.**
- **Community population change is determined both by *community* as well as *regional* characteristics; the latter in some cases reinforces community effects.**



Comparison of “predicted” growth and actual growth for communities nominated by conference attendees

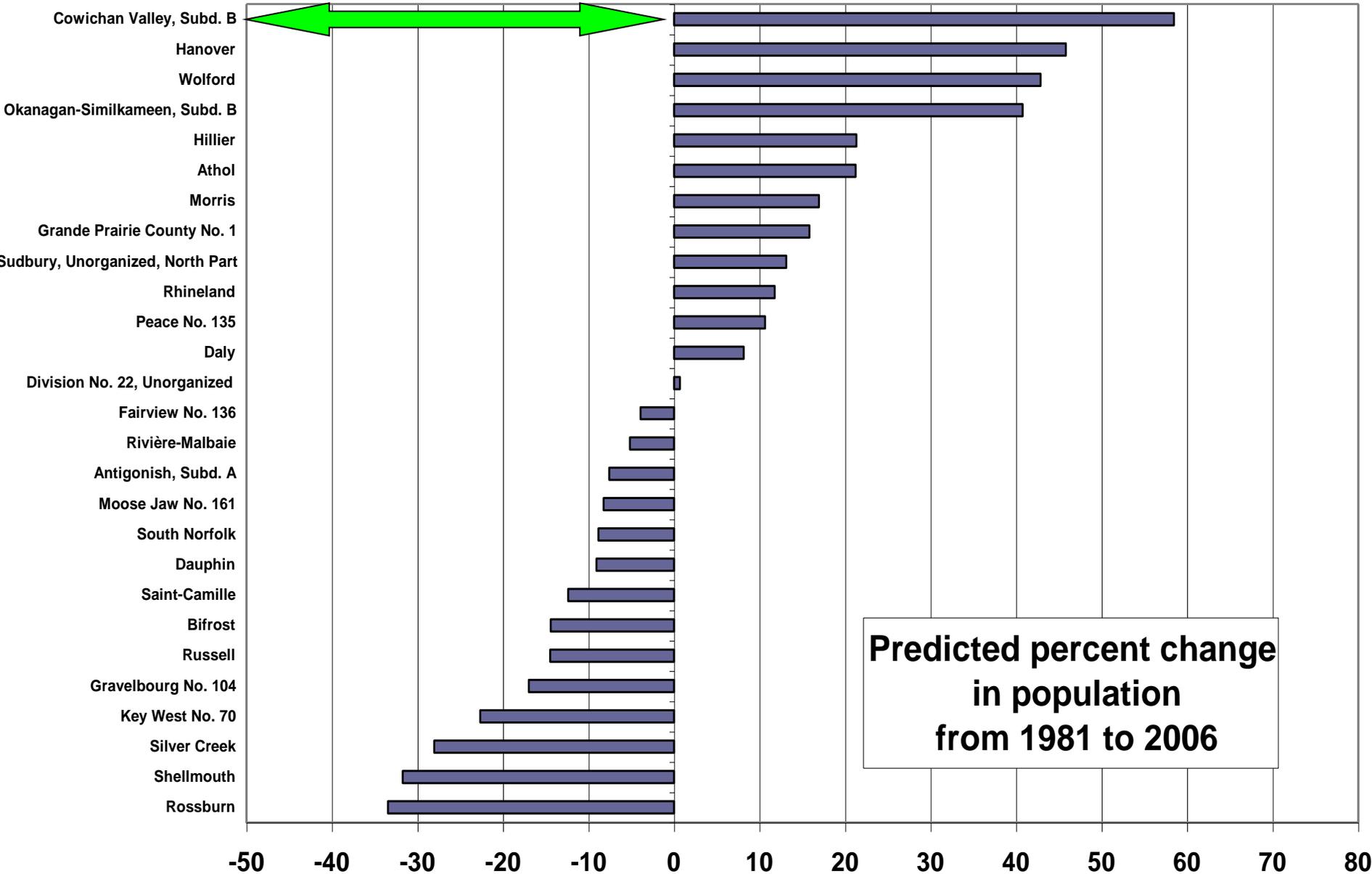
- The regression model “predicts” growth for each community based on the characteristics included in the model.
- Thus, for a given set of characteristics, the “predicted” growth indicates the average growth for all communities with these characteristics.
- This average represents the growth experienced by the “peers” of the given community.
- For each given community, we will show:
 - Predicted versus actual growth (i.e. did this community grow by more or less than its peers?)
 - Selected socio-economic characteristics for 1981 to 2006



Revisiting “success”

- **You are successful (or “competitive”) if your growth was higher than your peers**
 - **In a regression context, this means that your actual growth was higher than your predicted growth.**

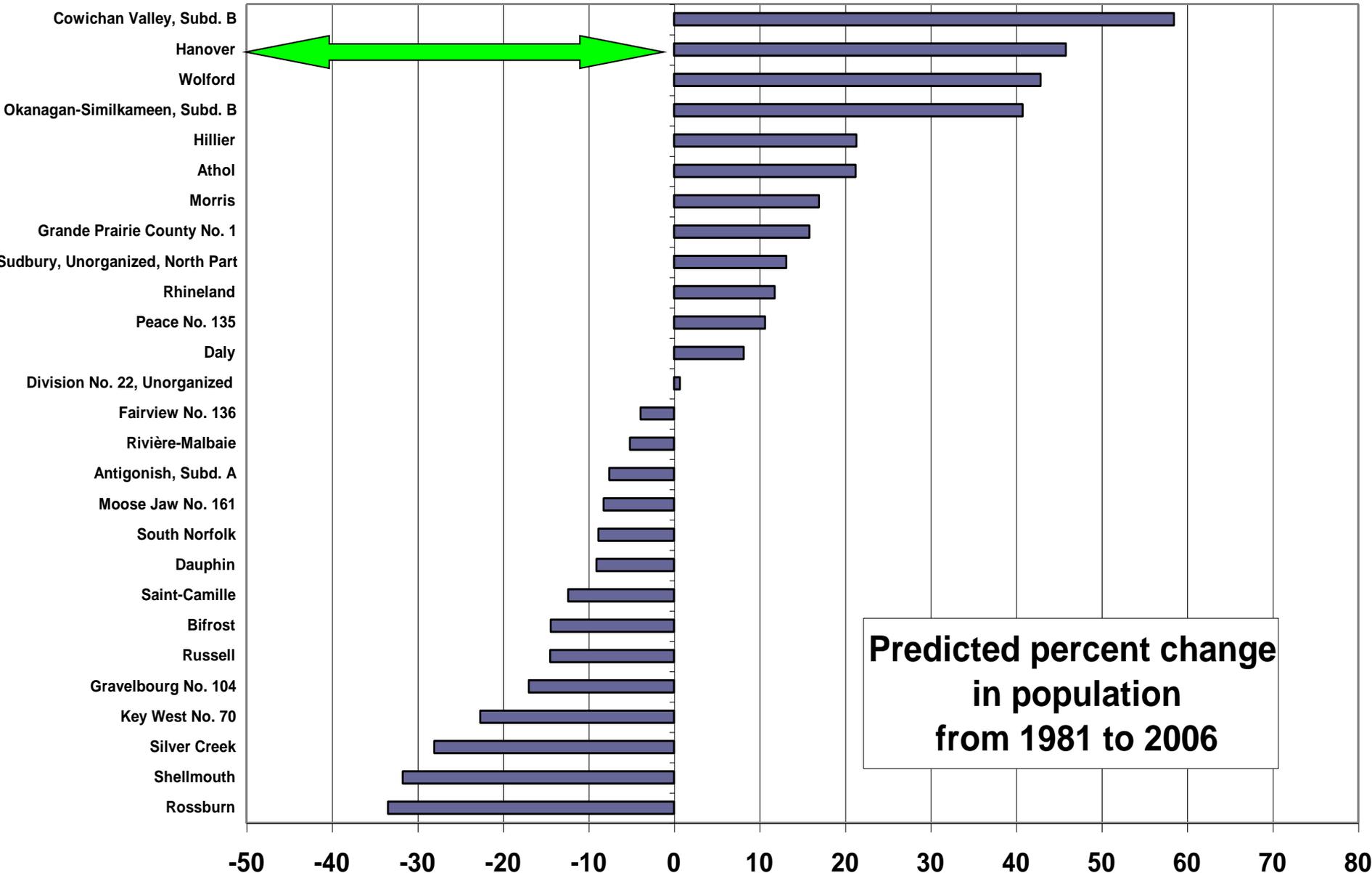
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**Predicted percent change
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from 1981 to 2006**

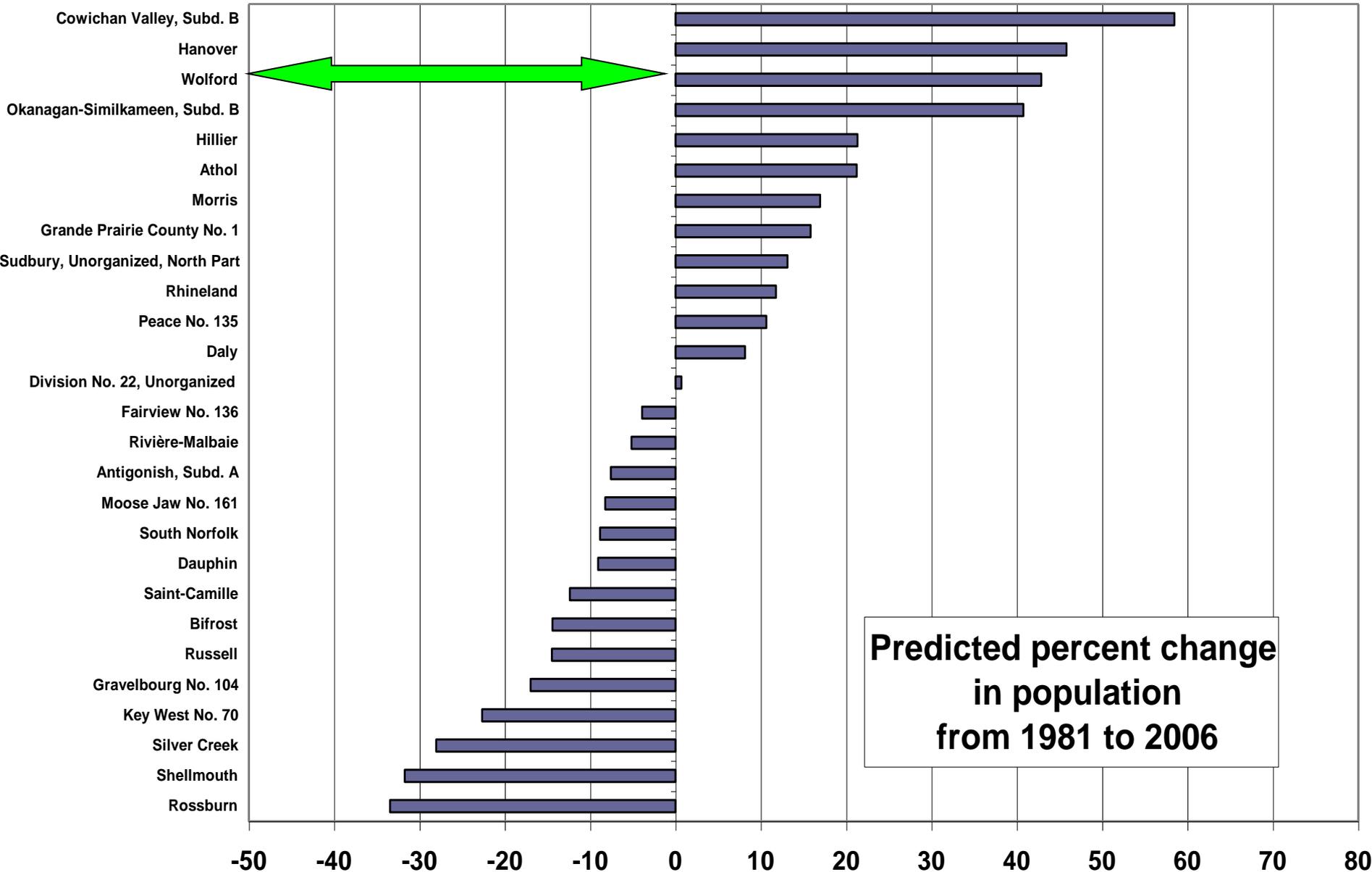
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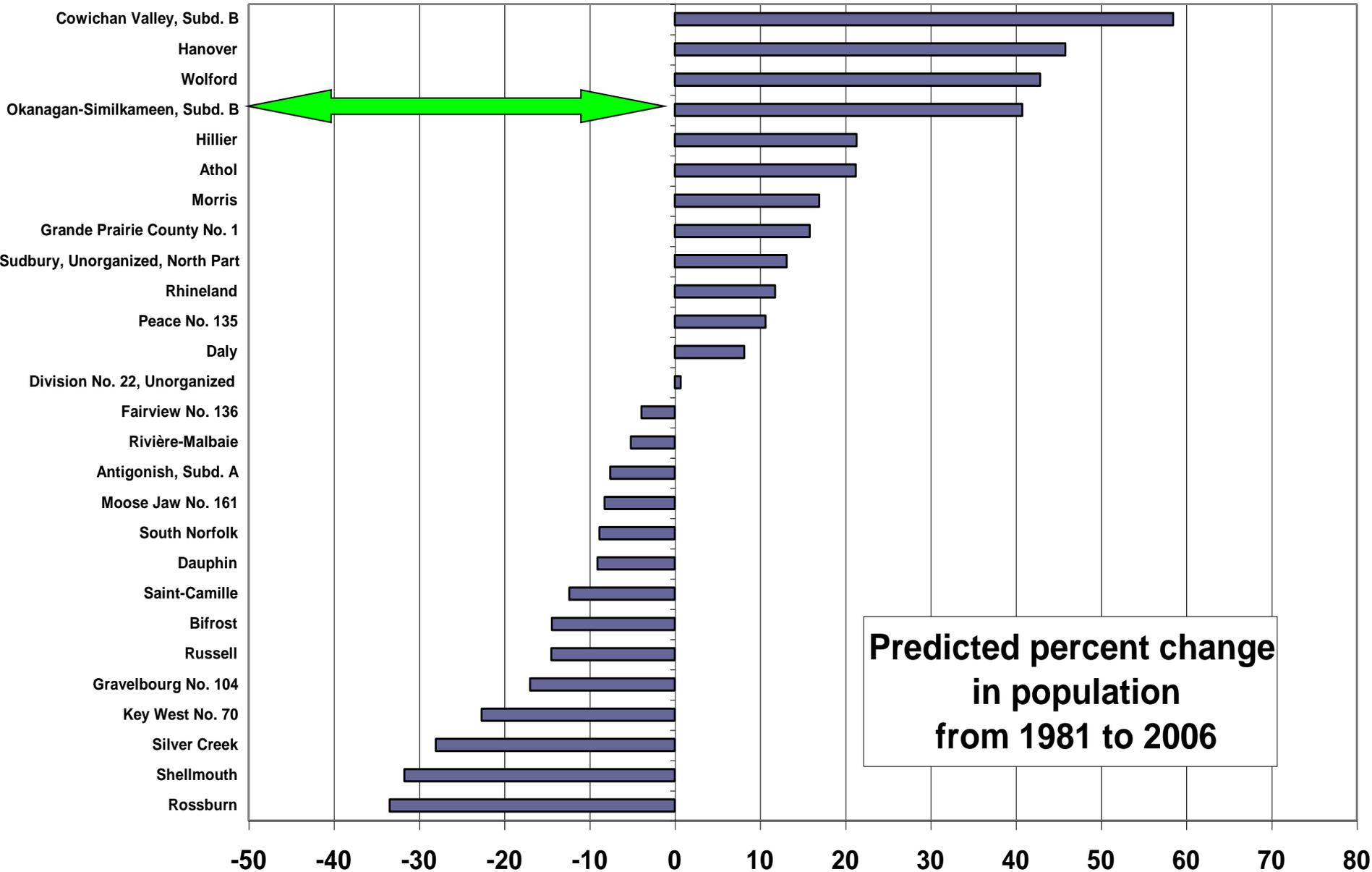
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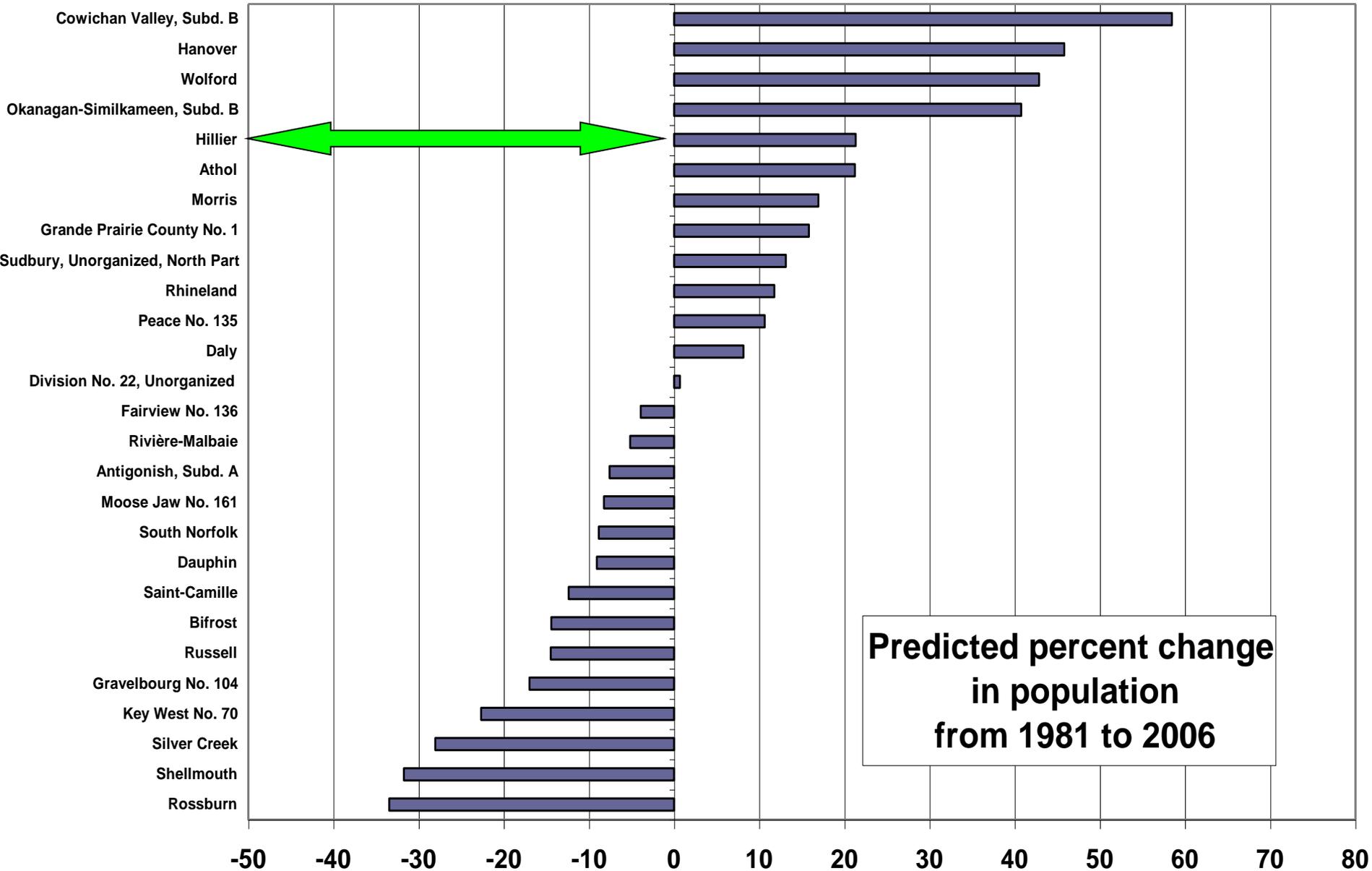
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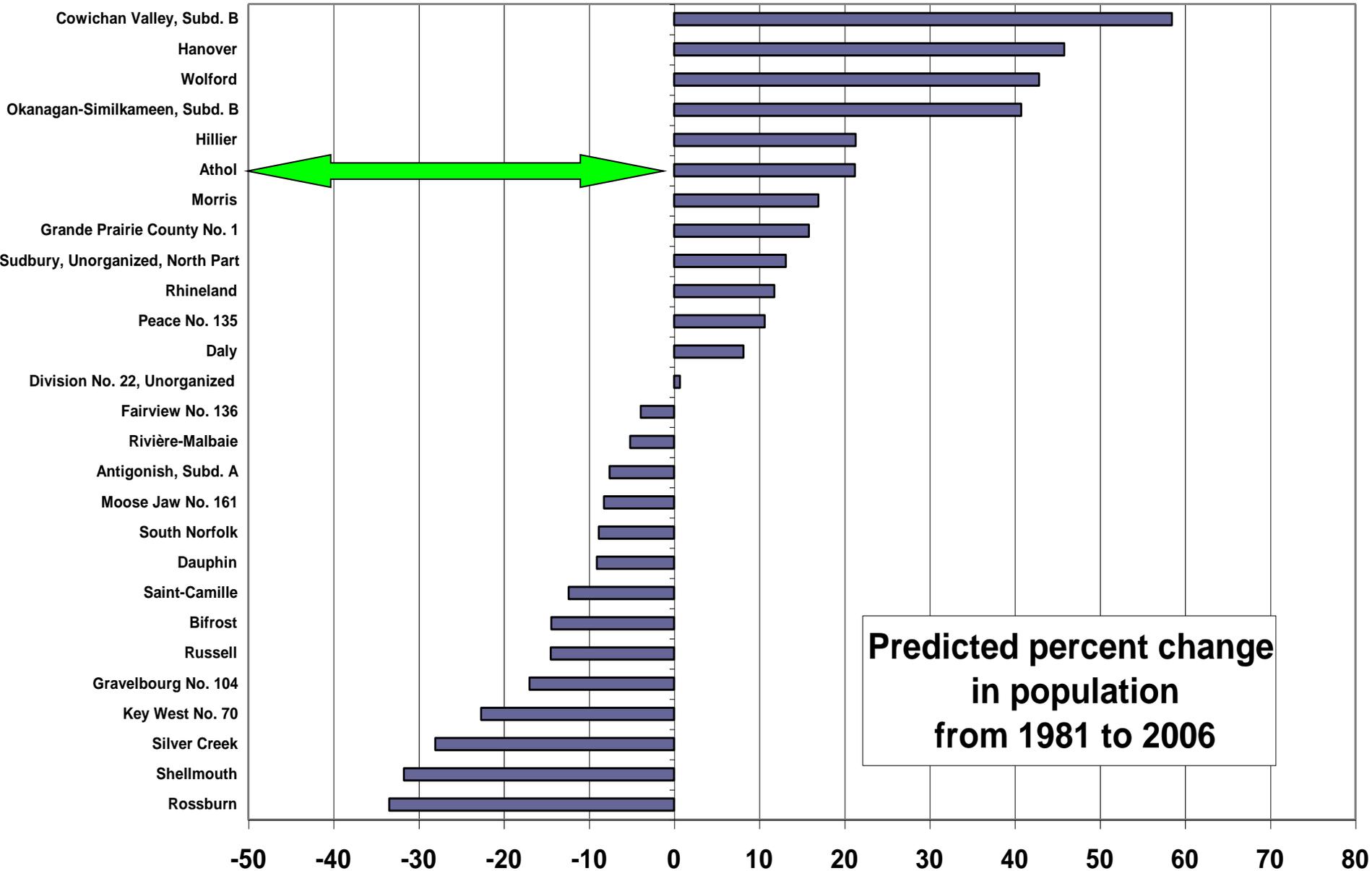
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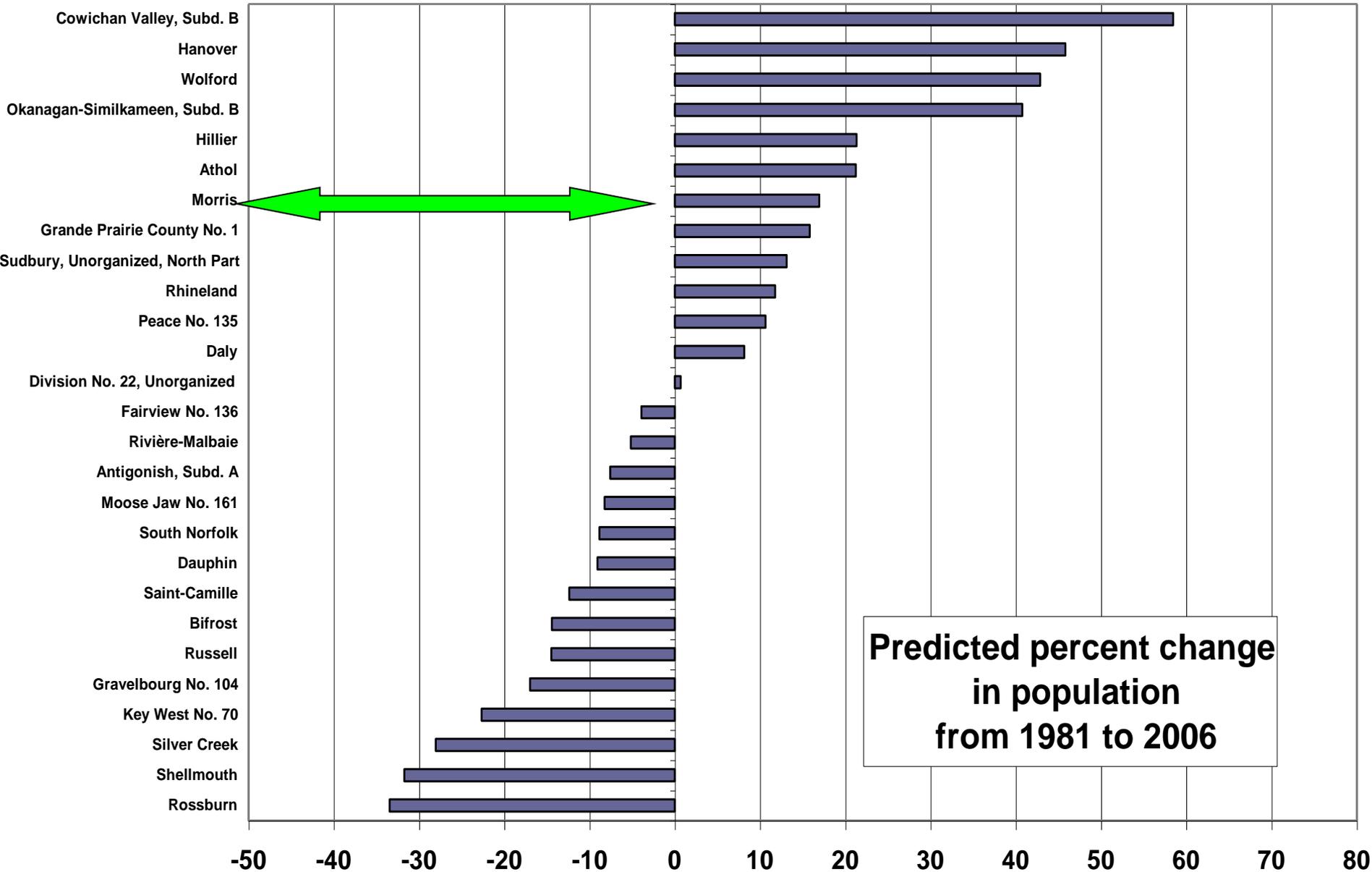
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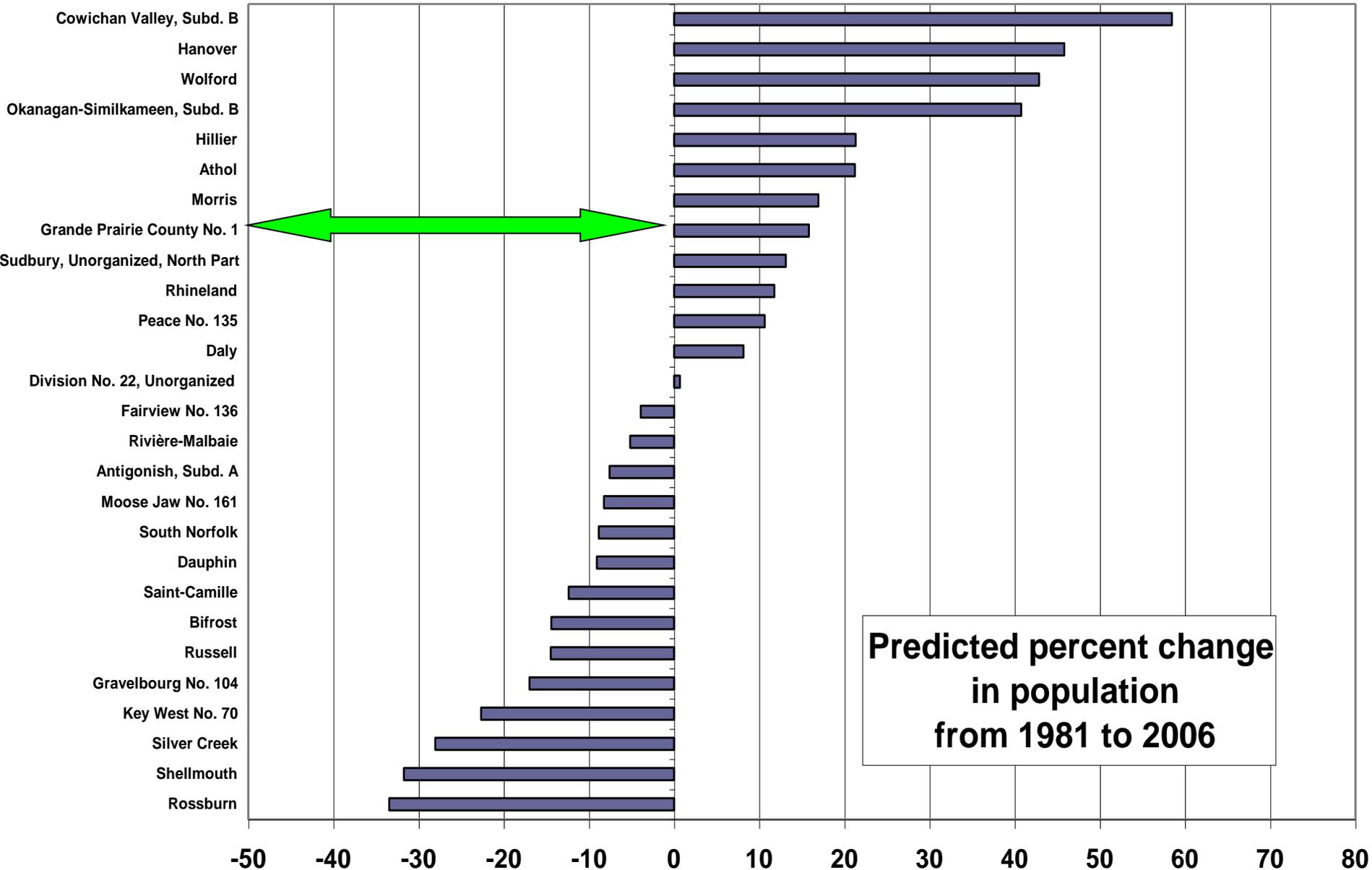
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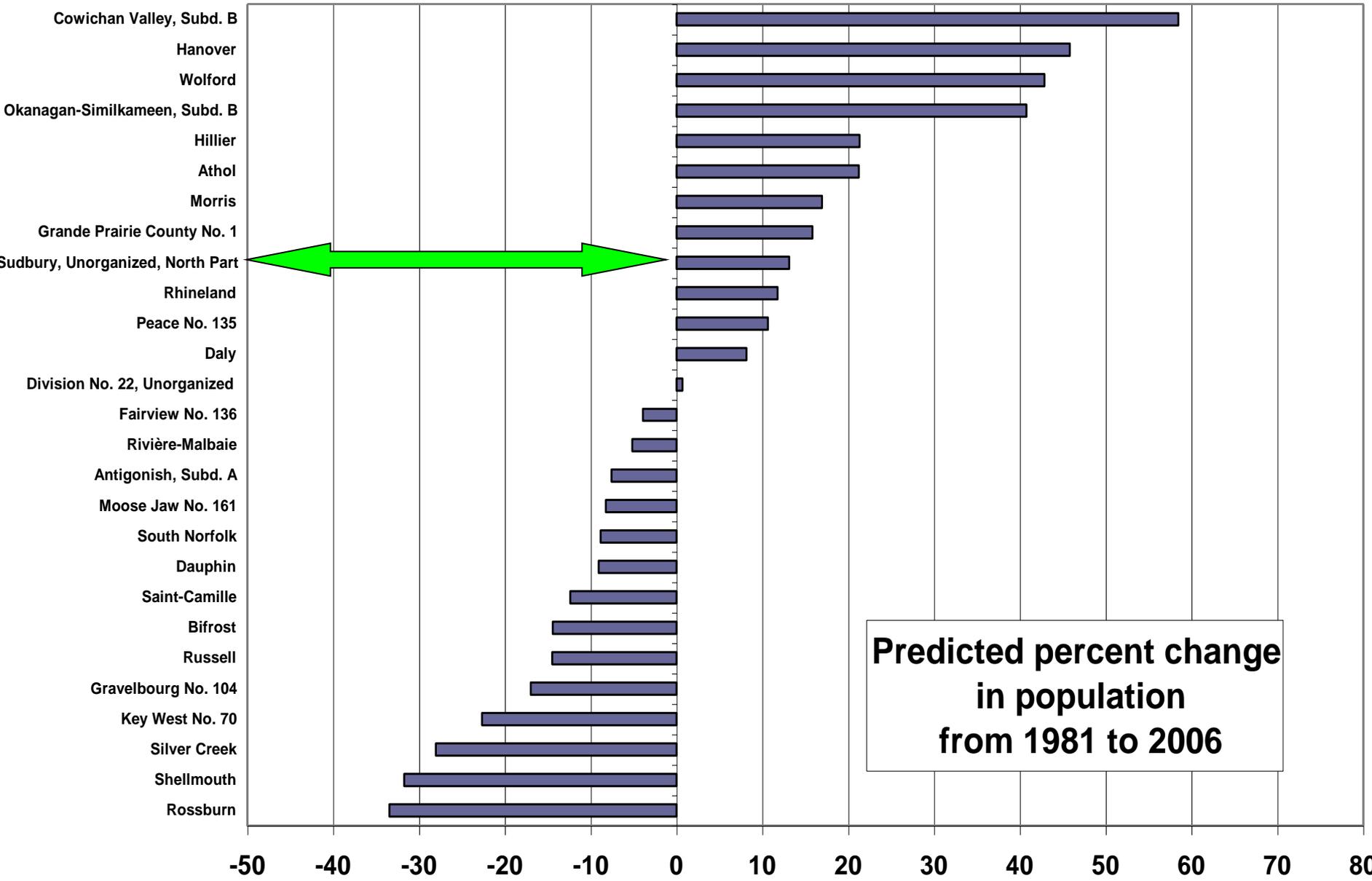
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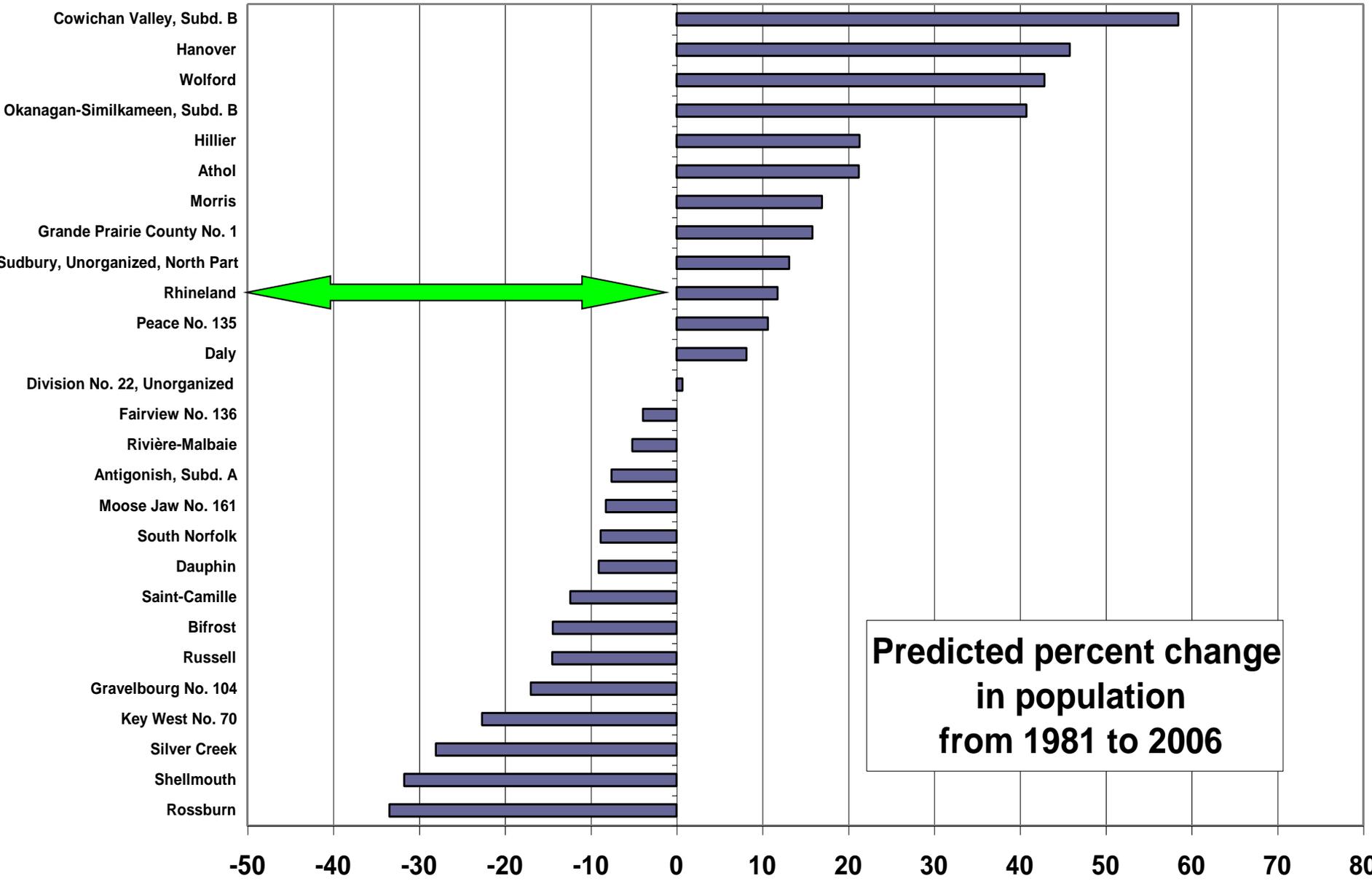
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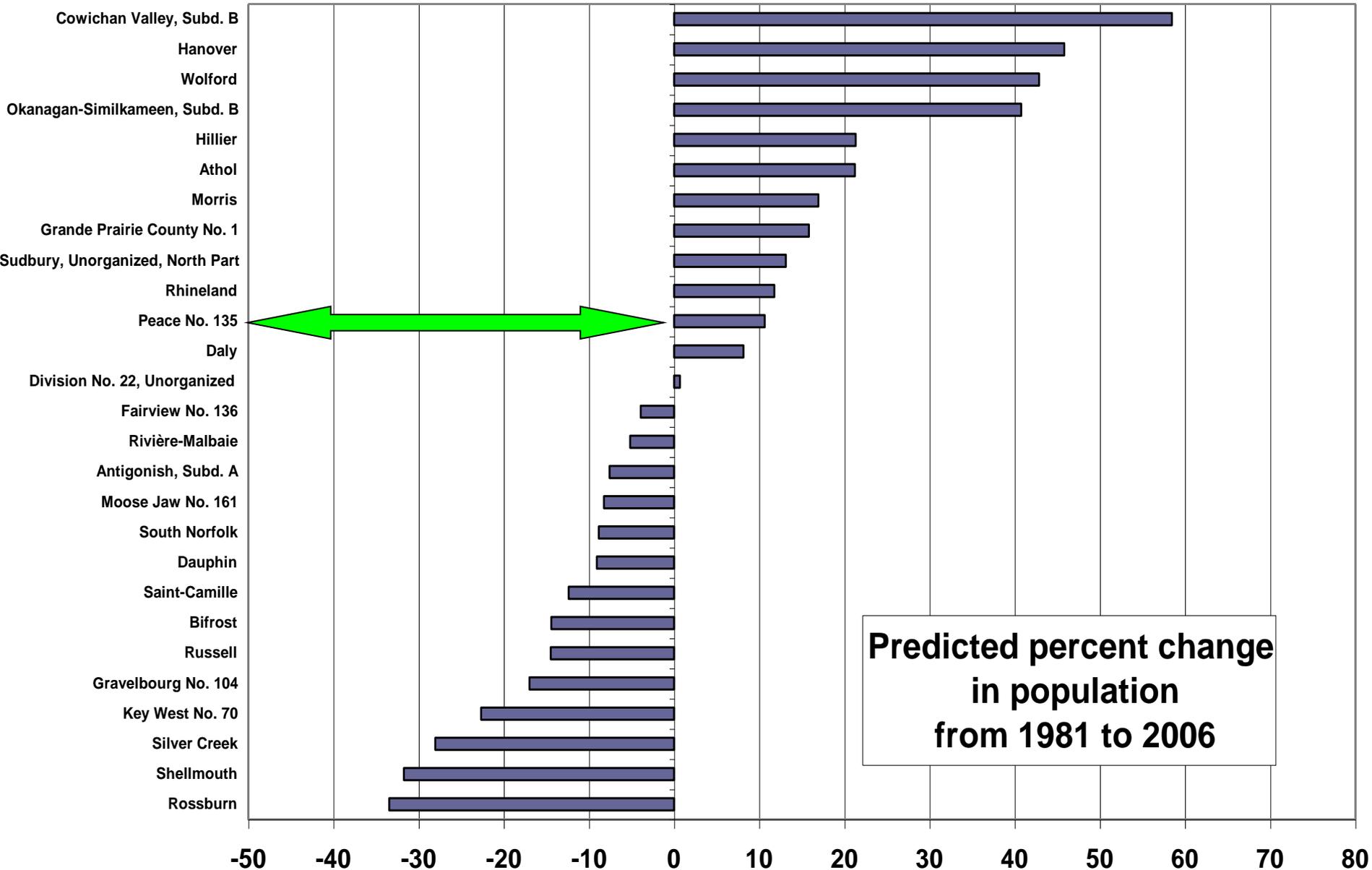
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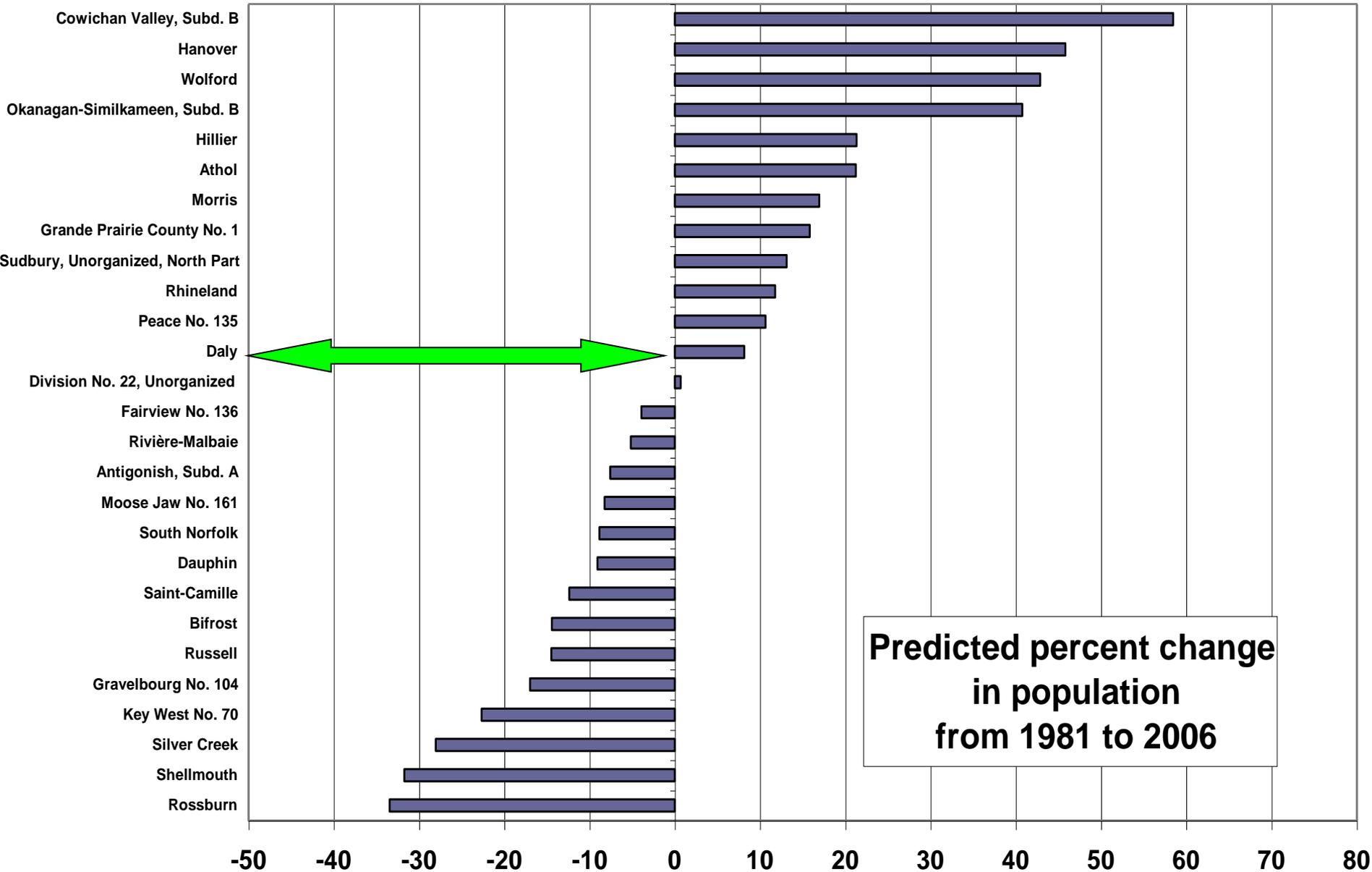
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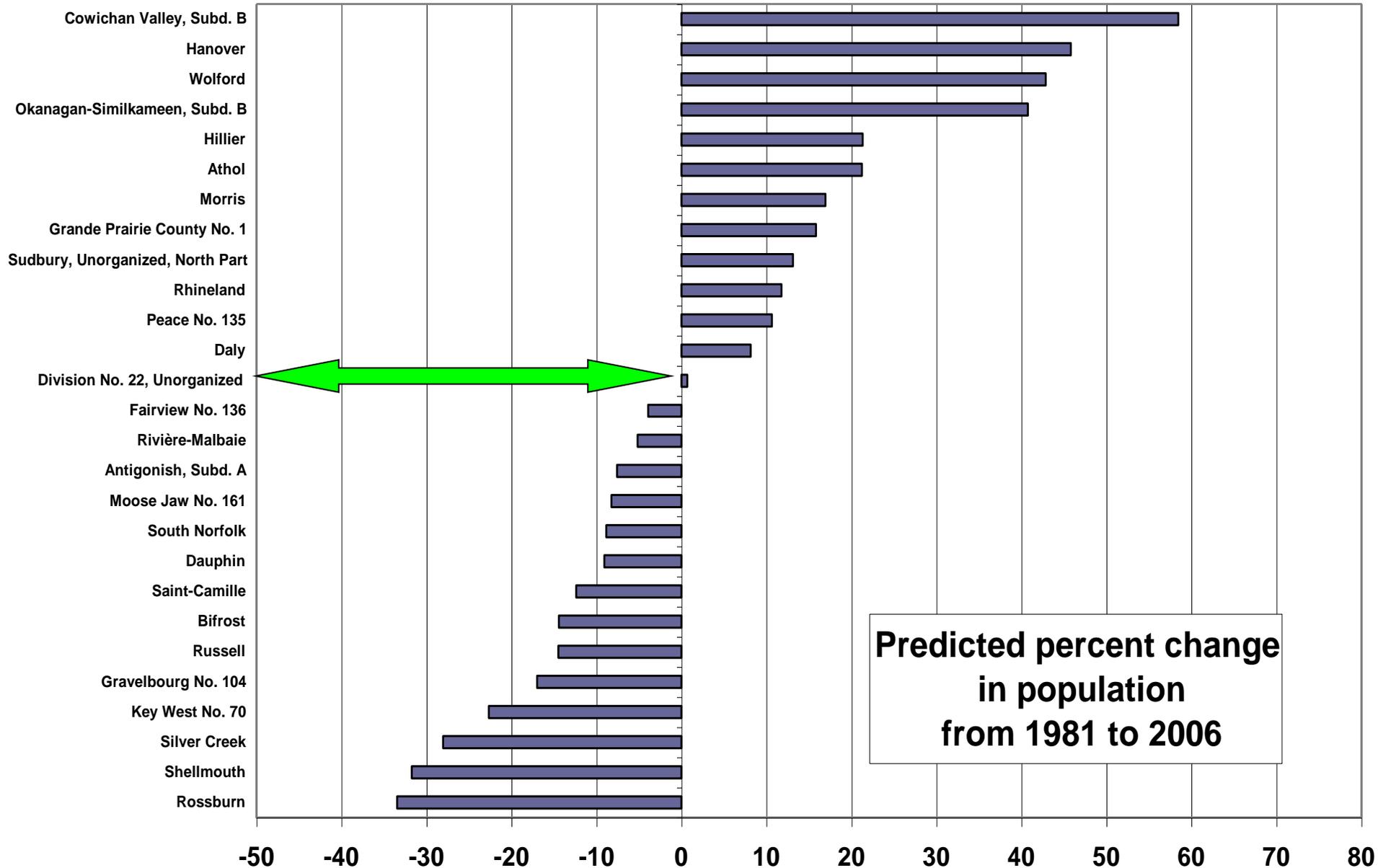
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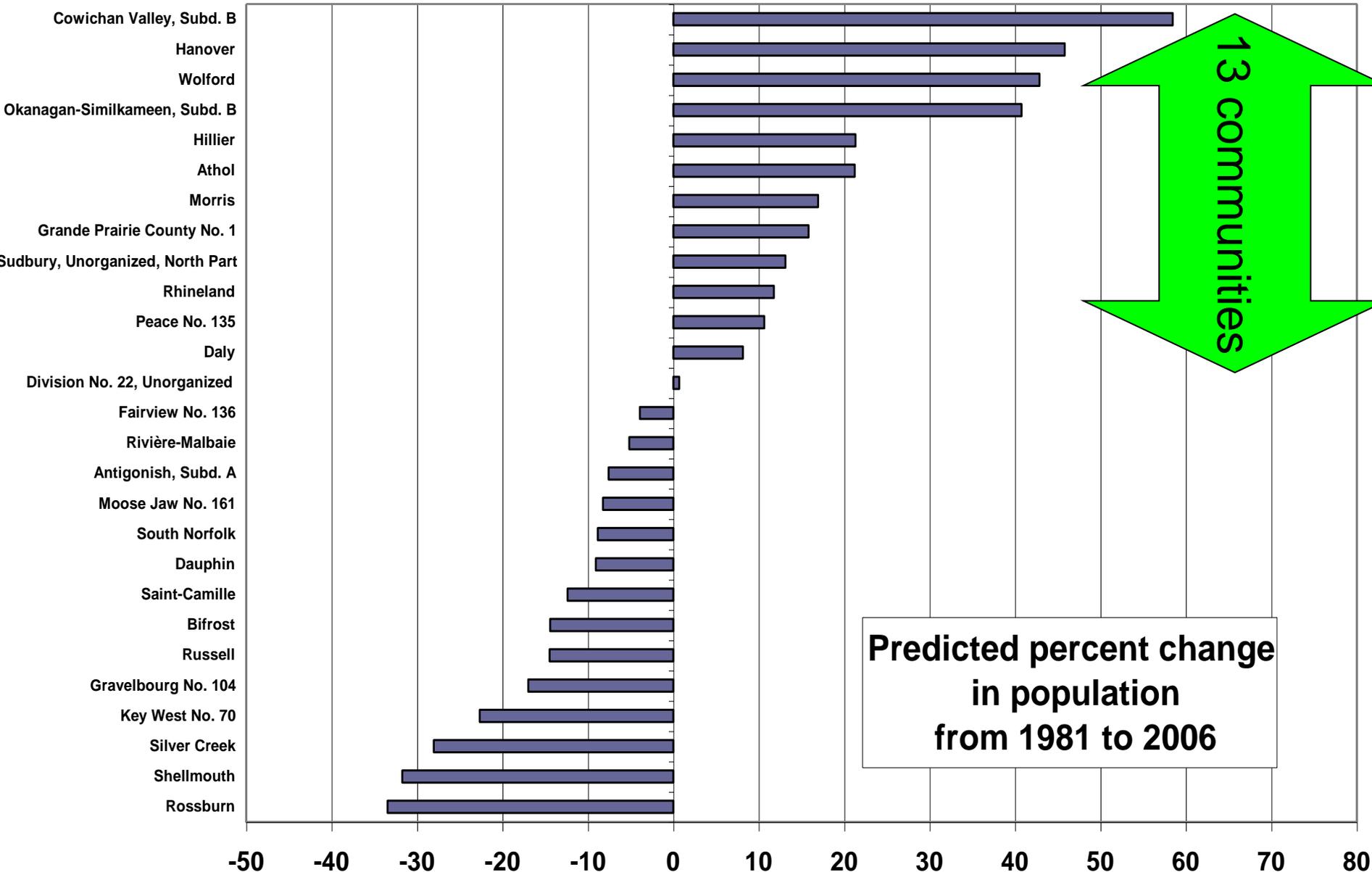
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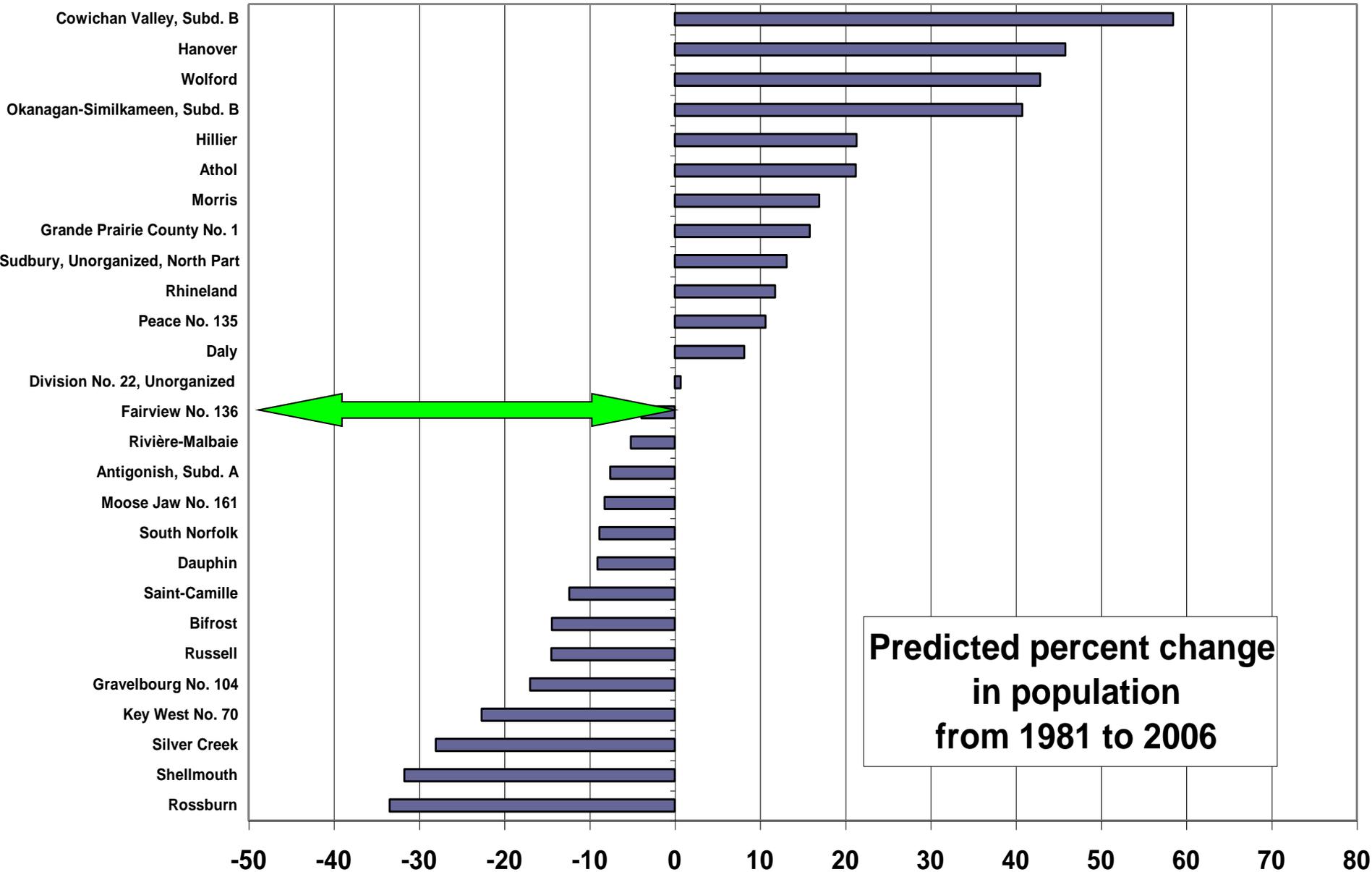


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13 communities

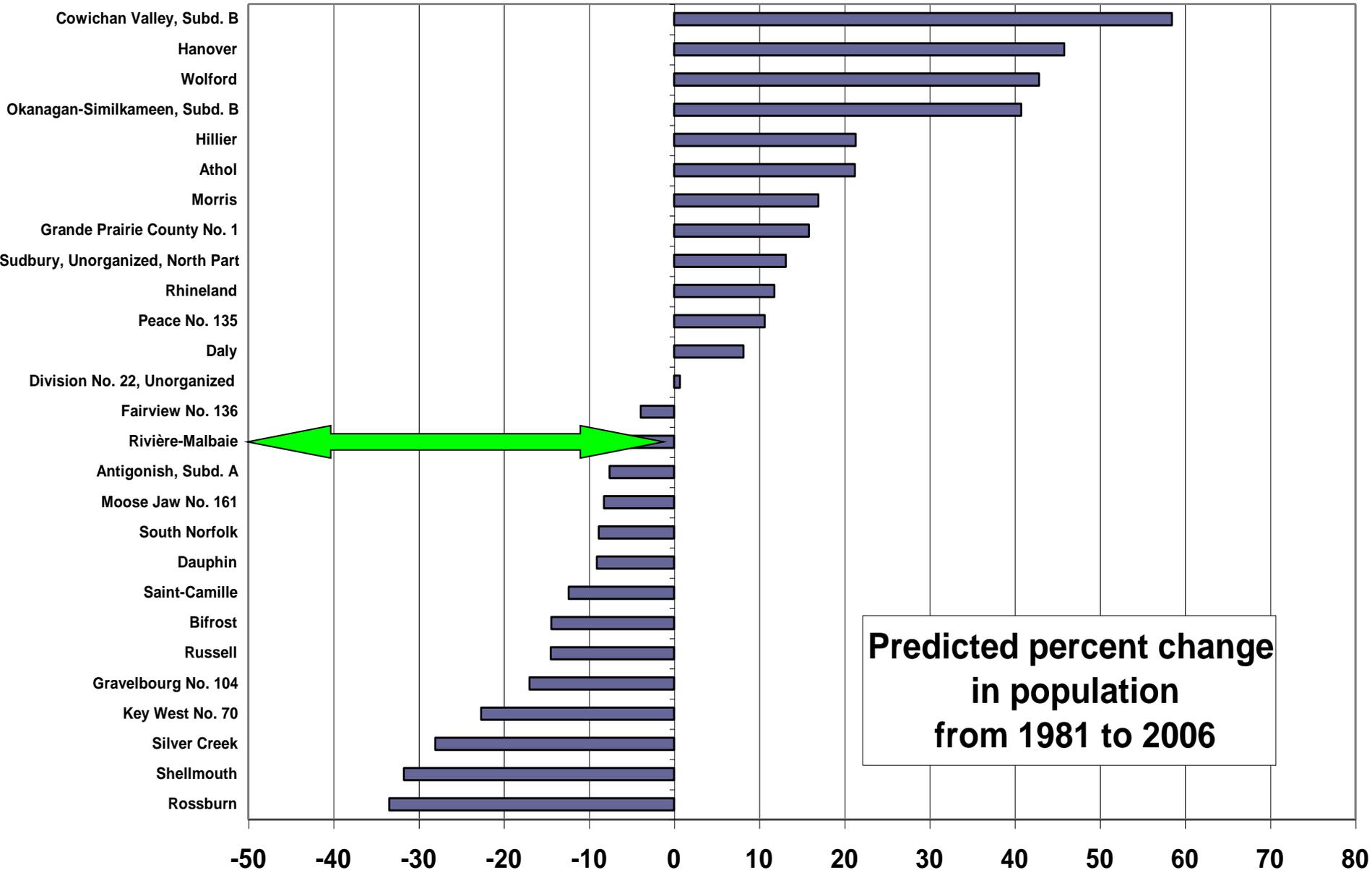
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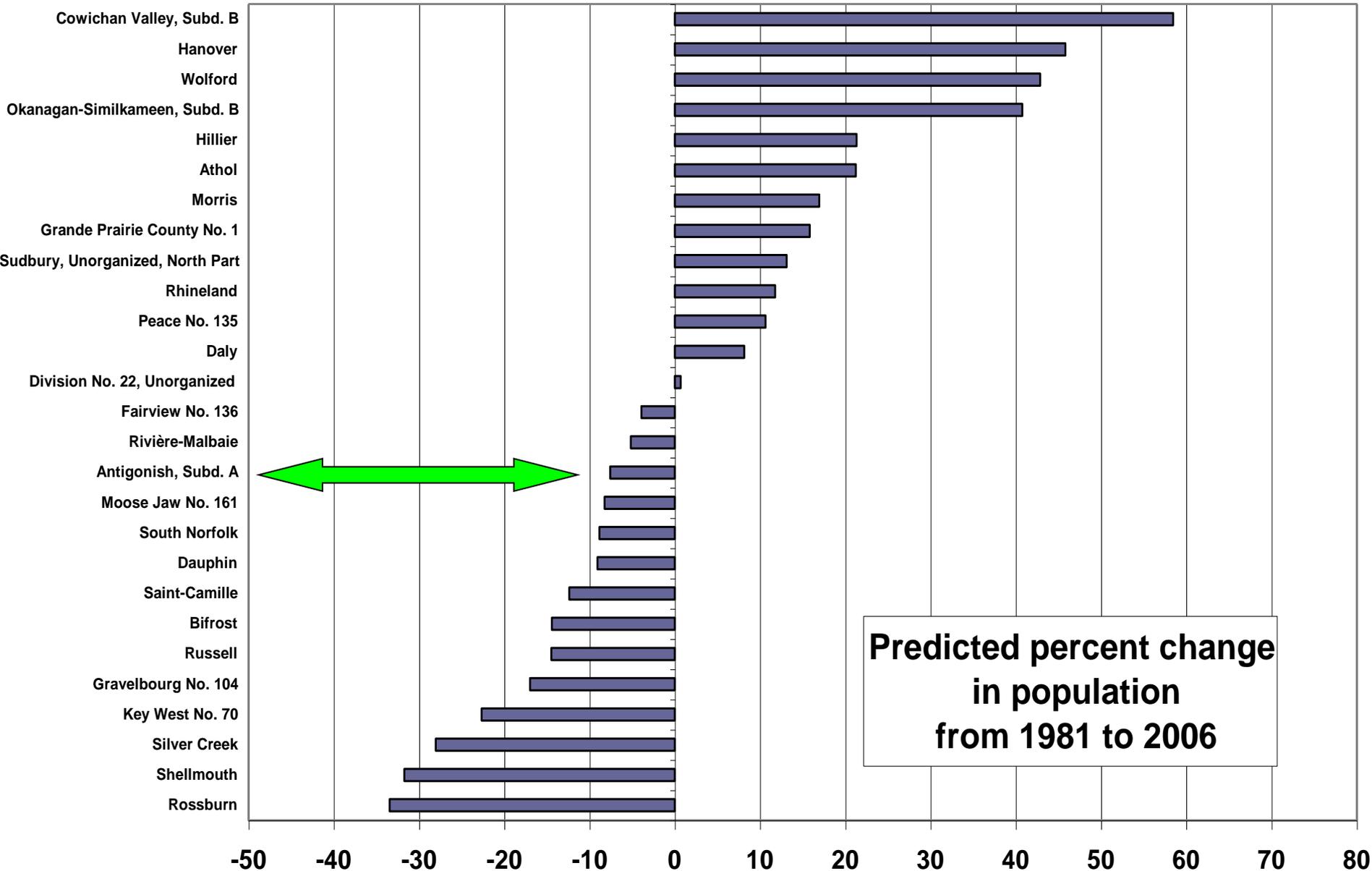
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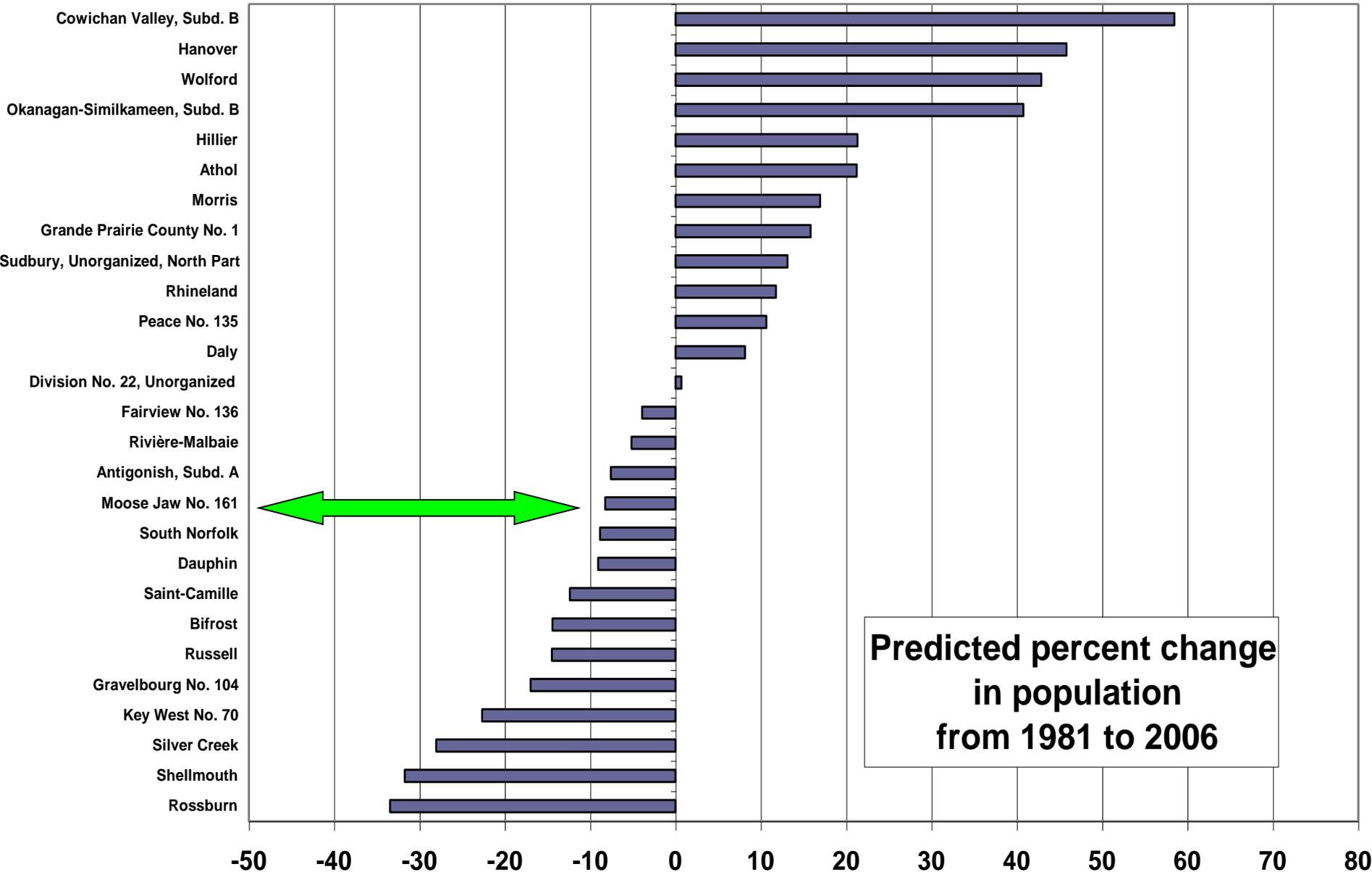
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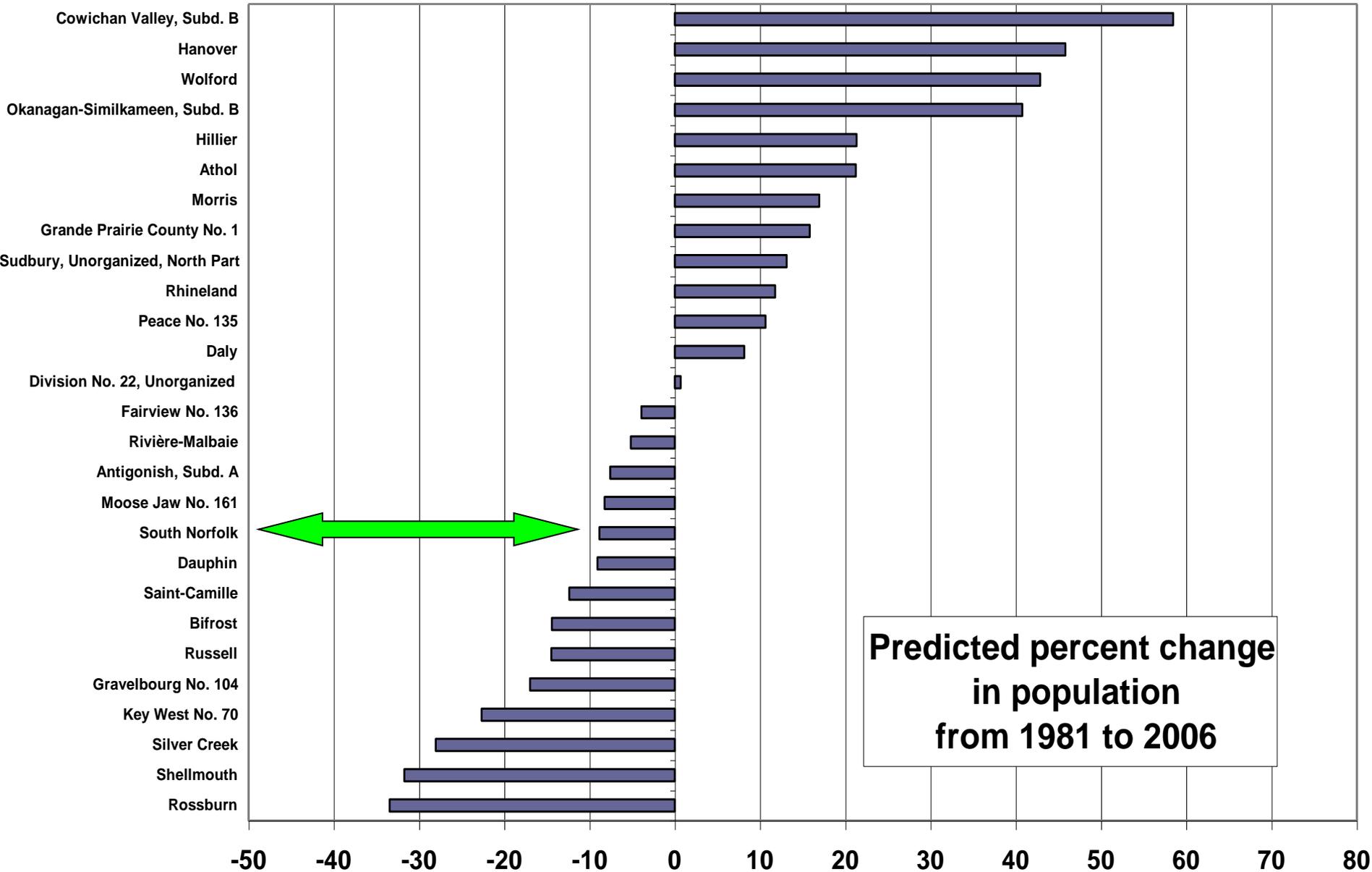
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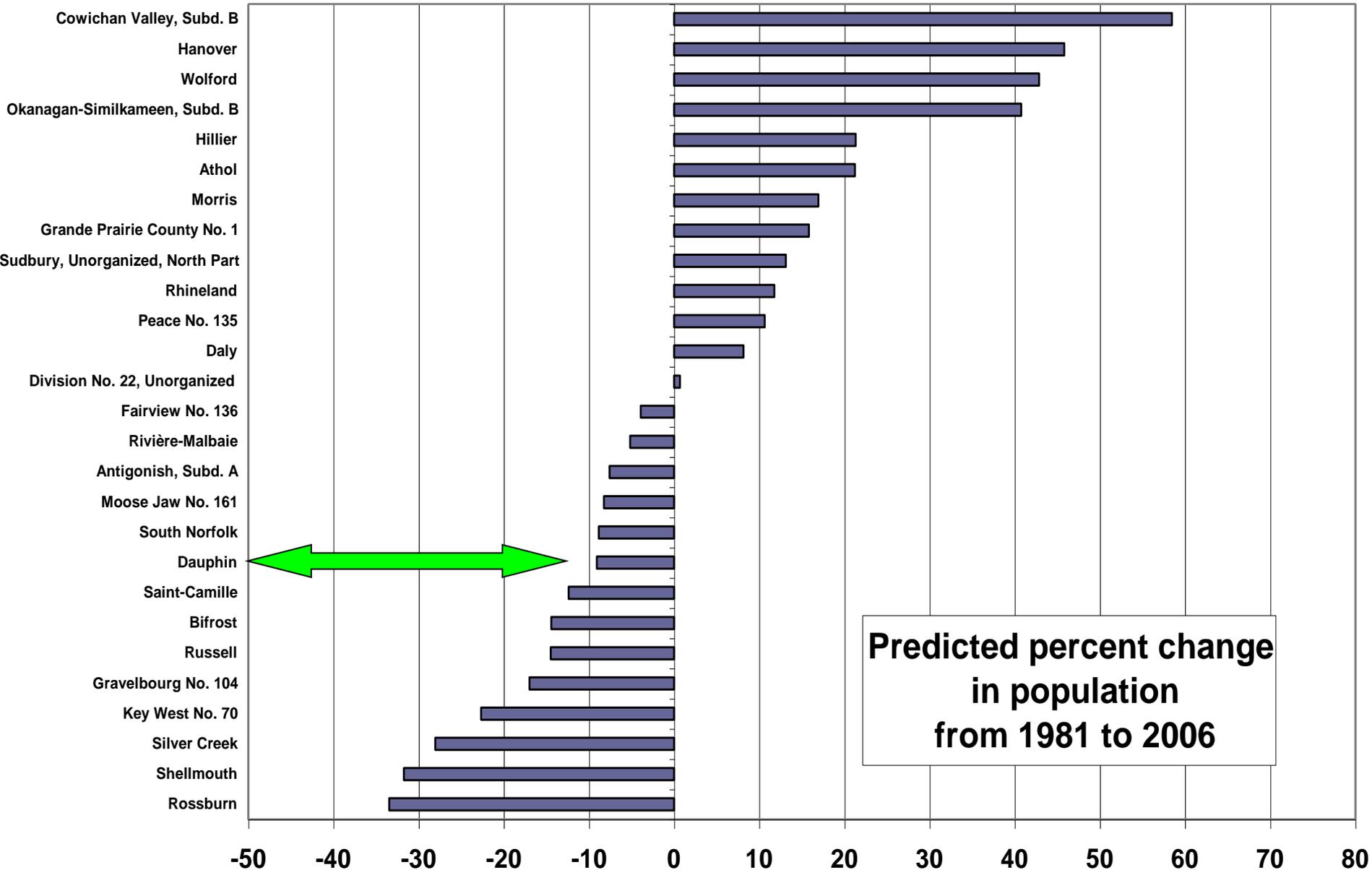
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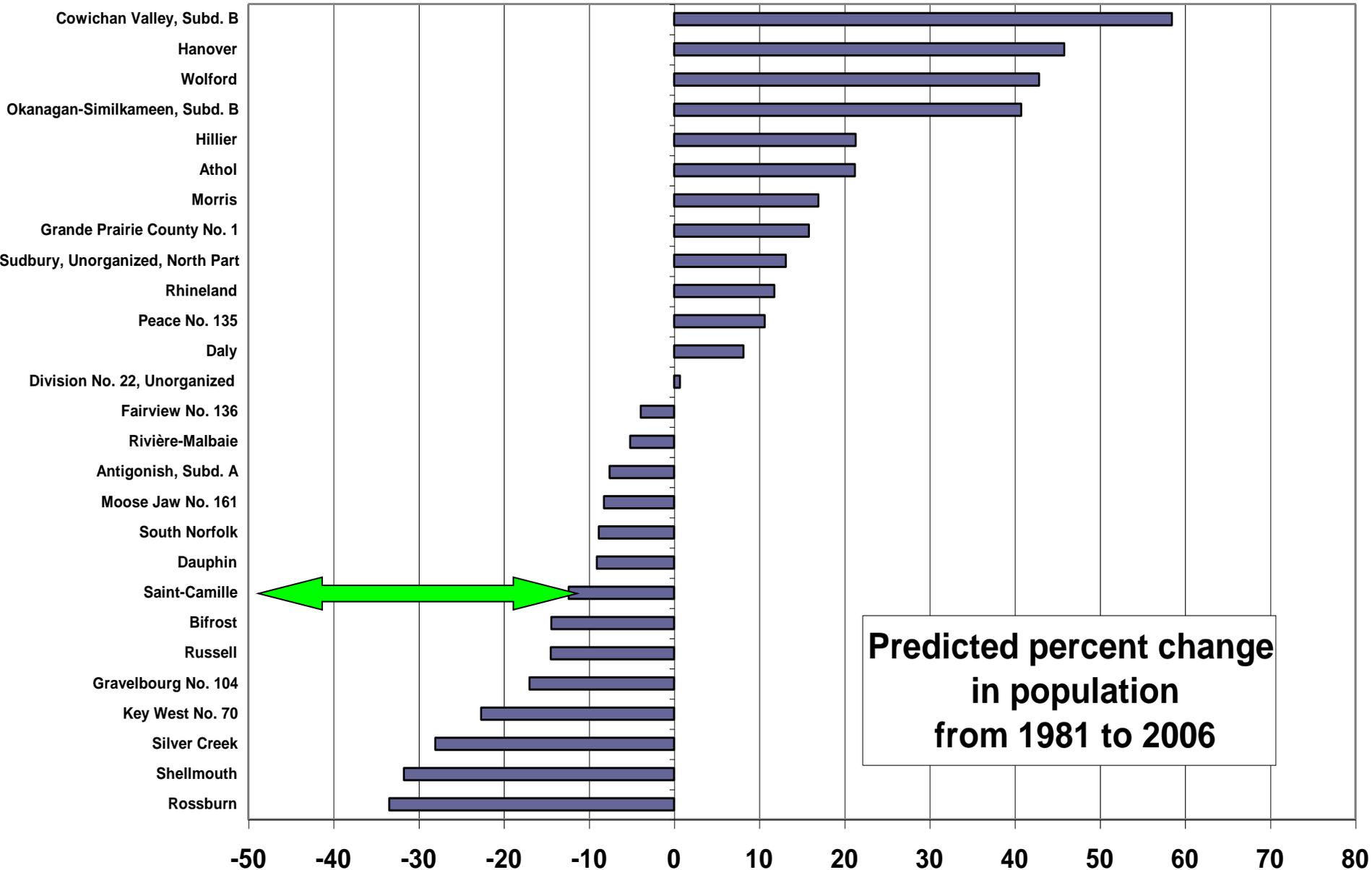
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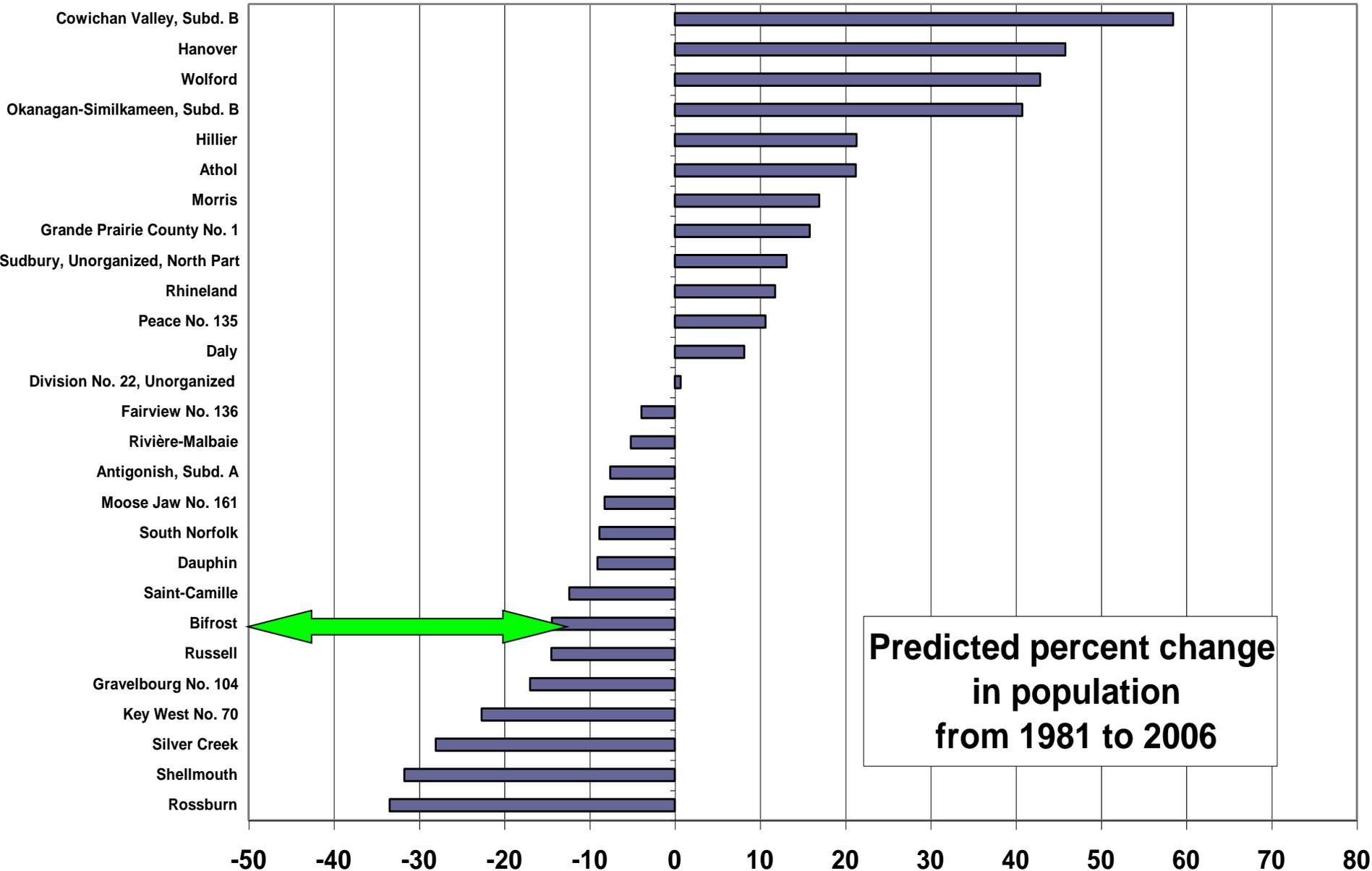
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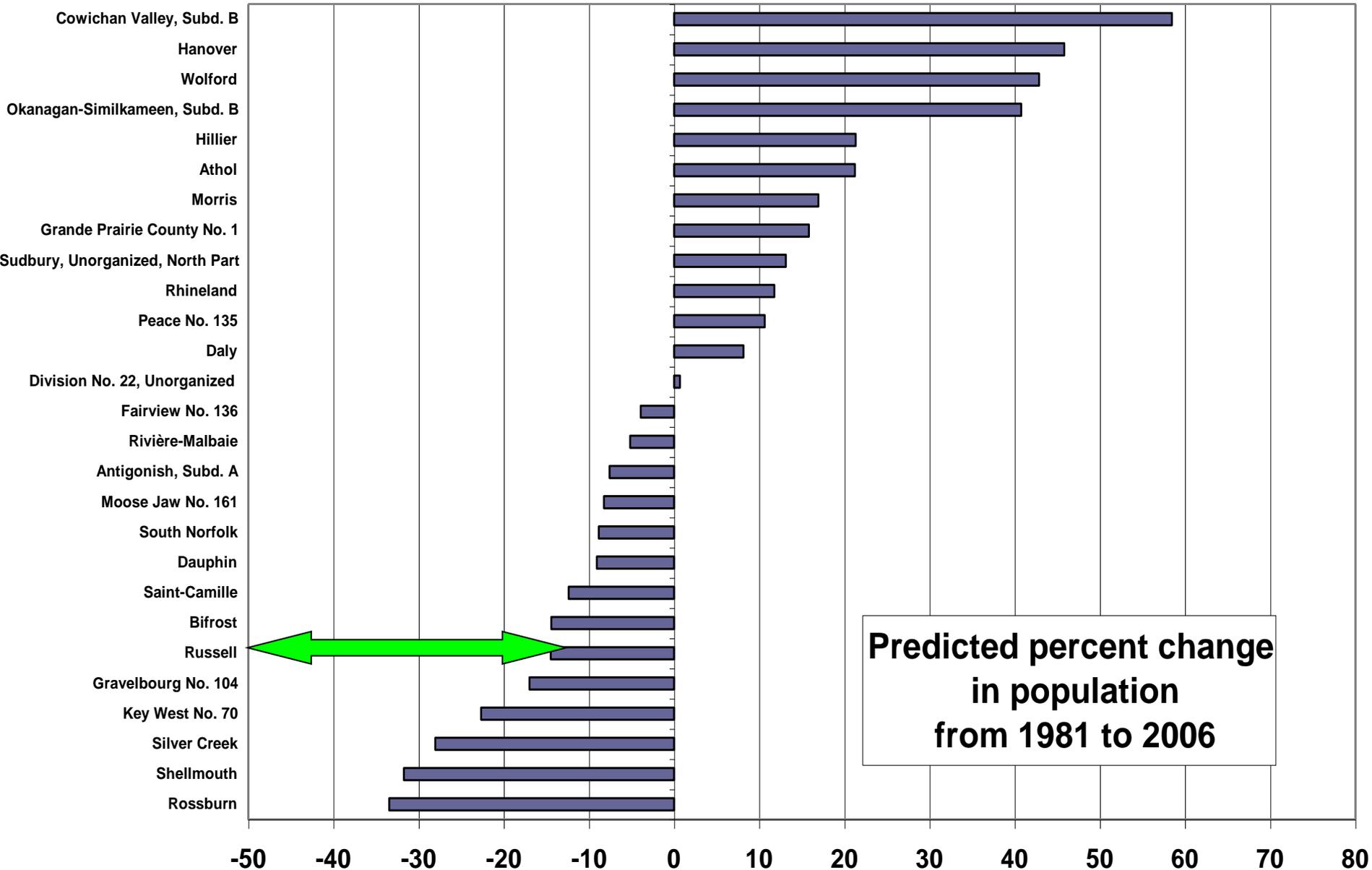
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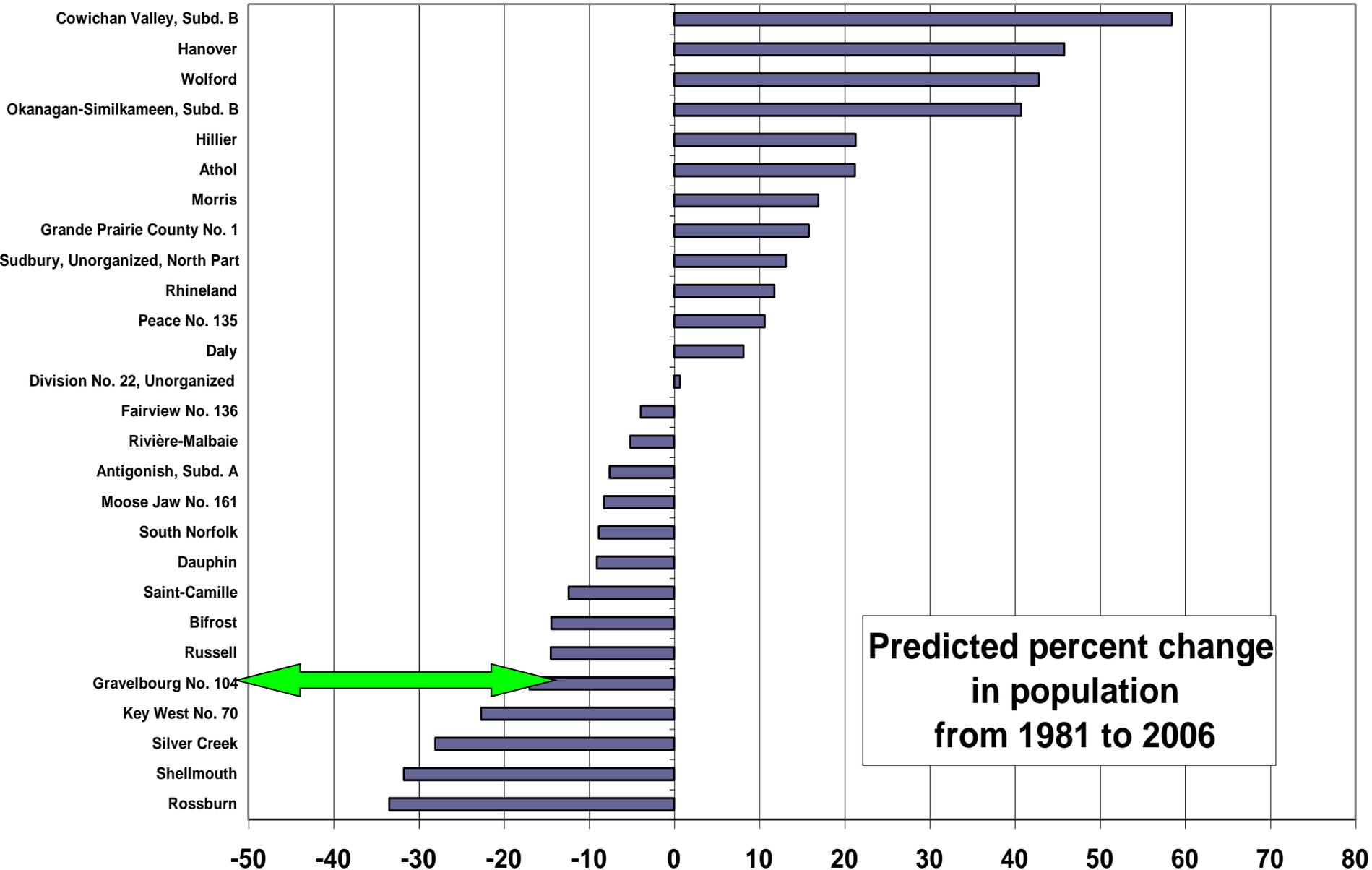
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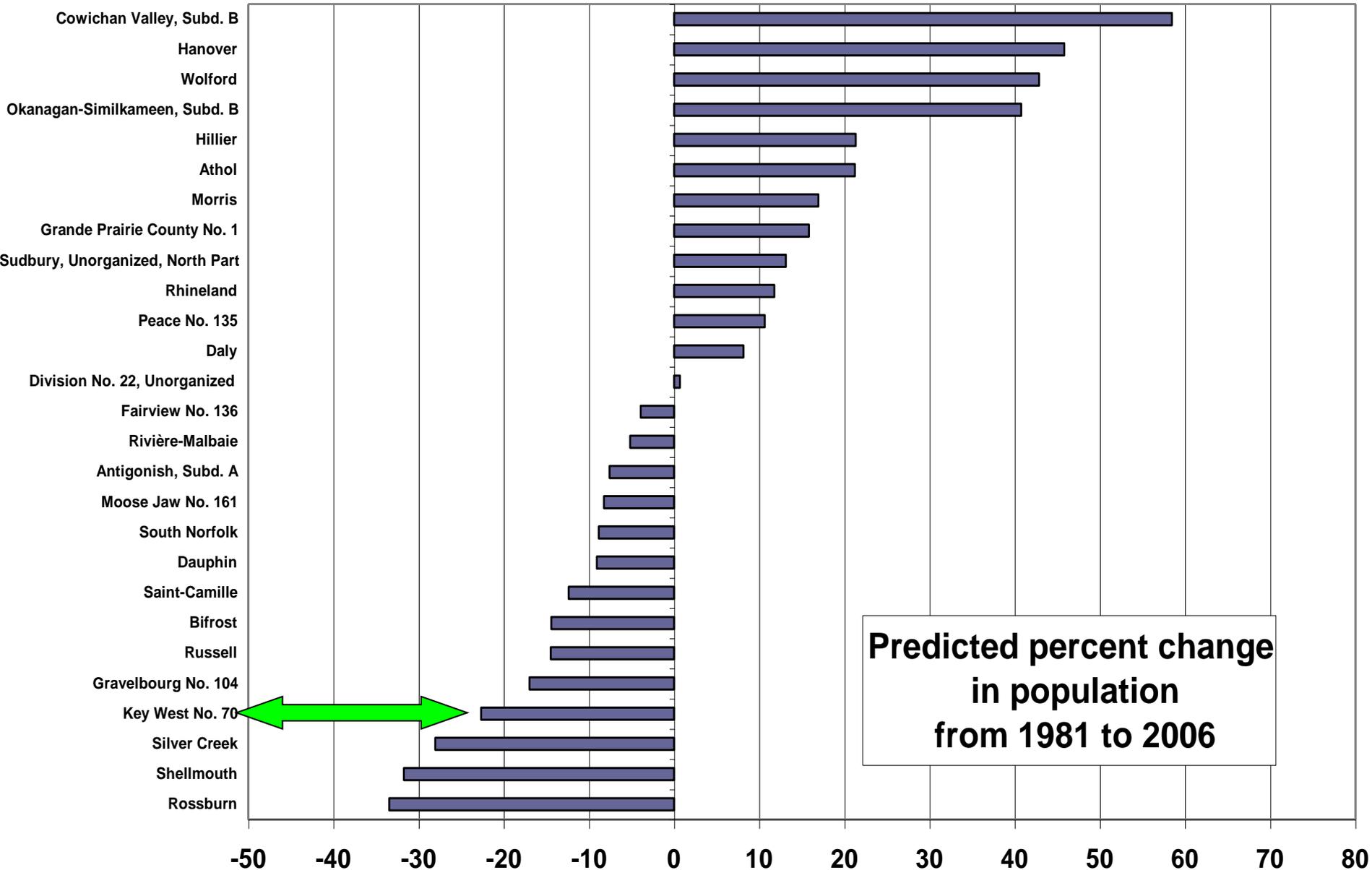
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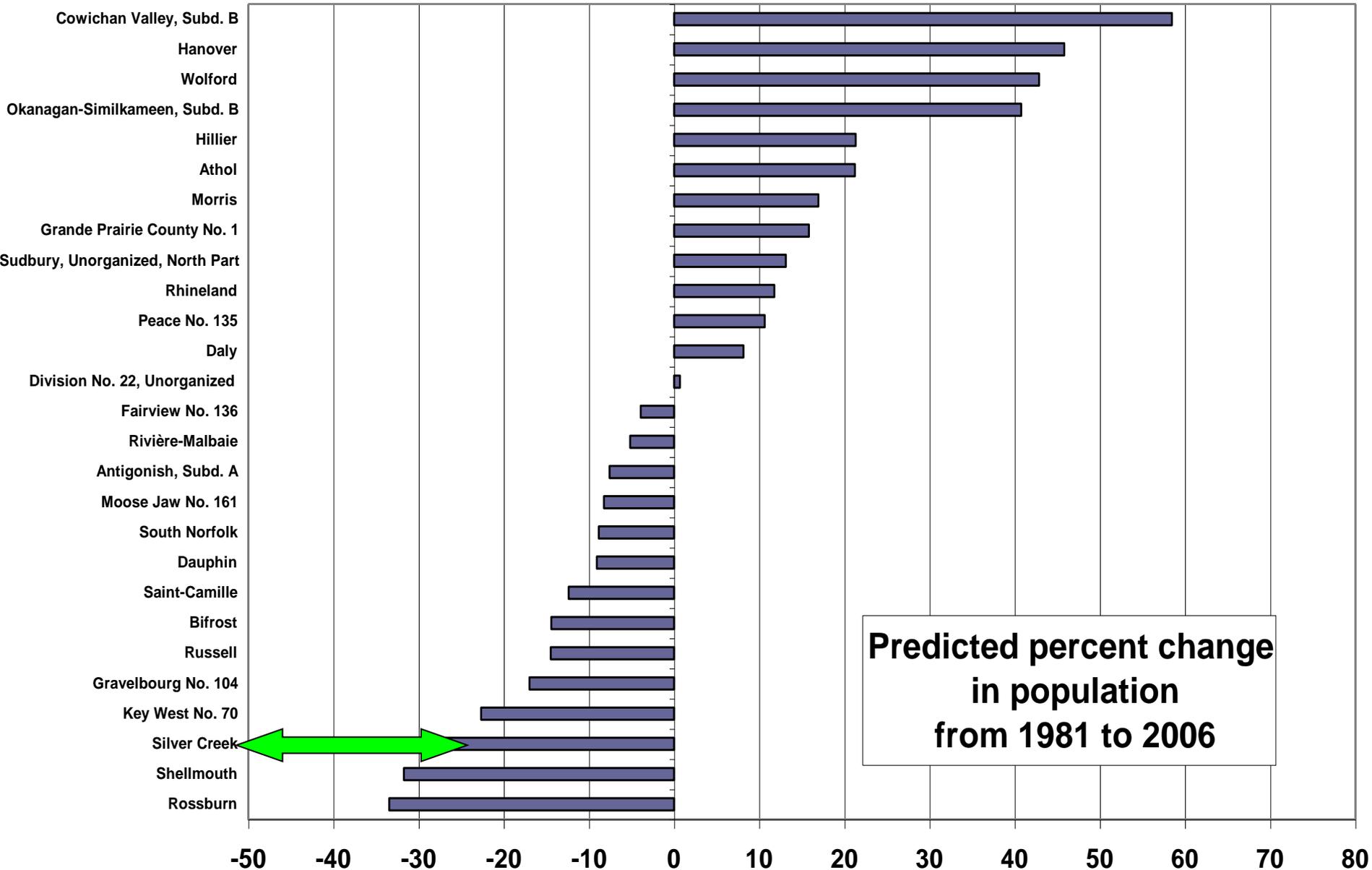
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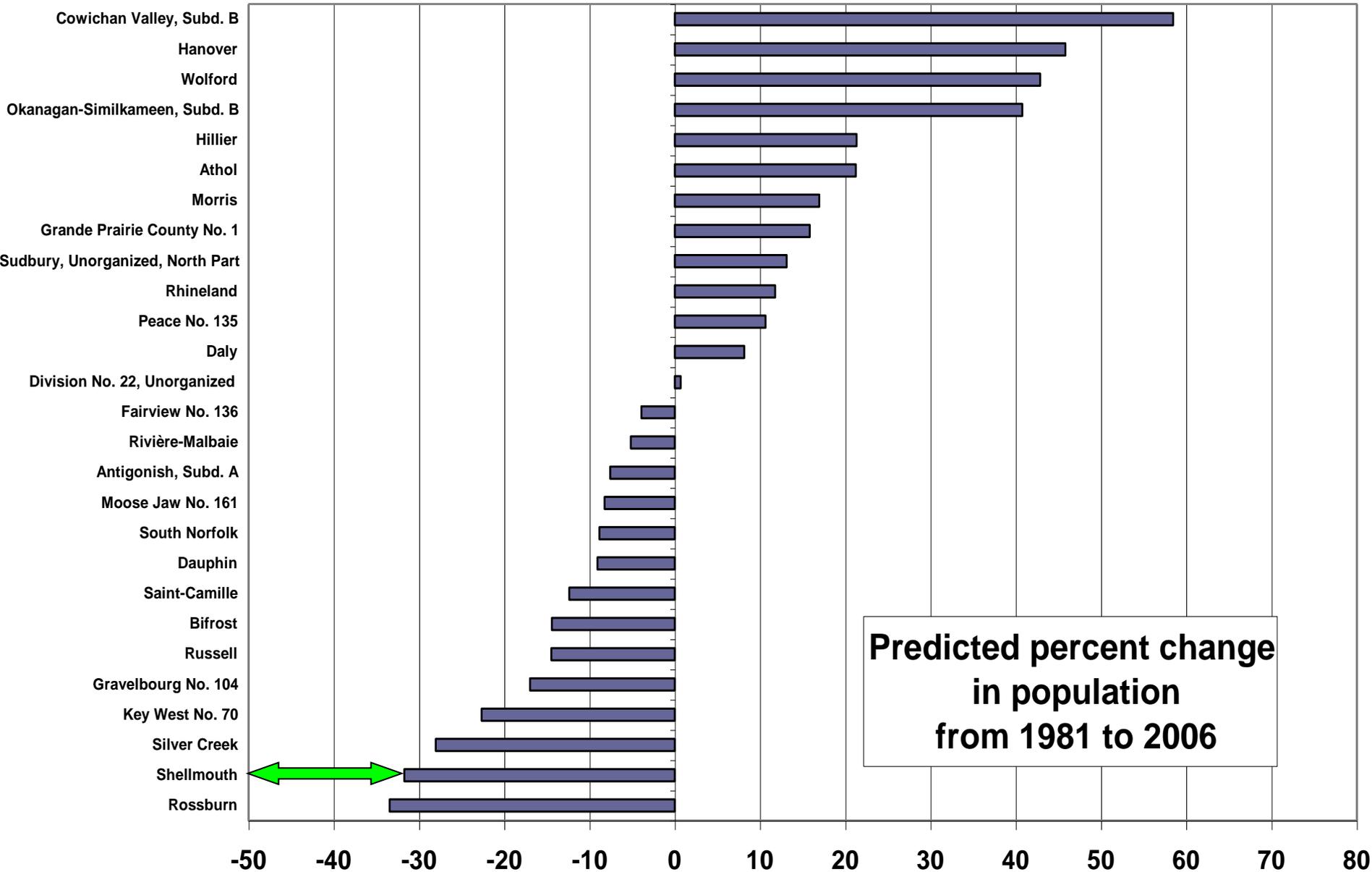
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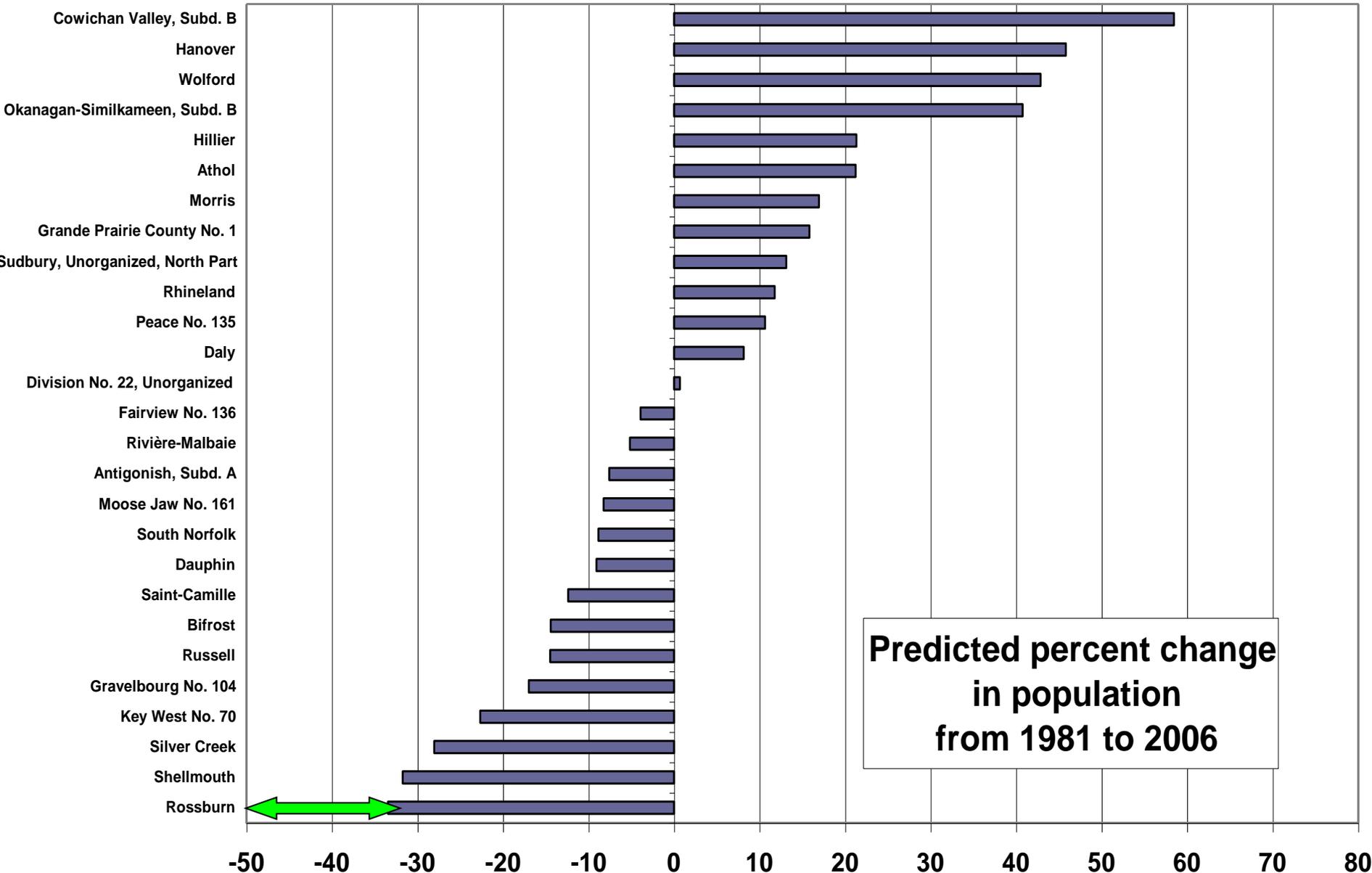
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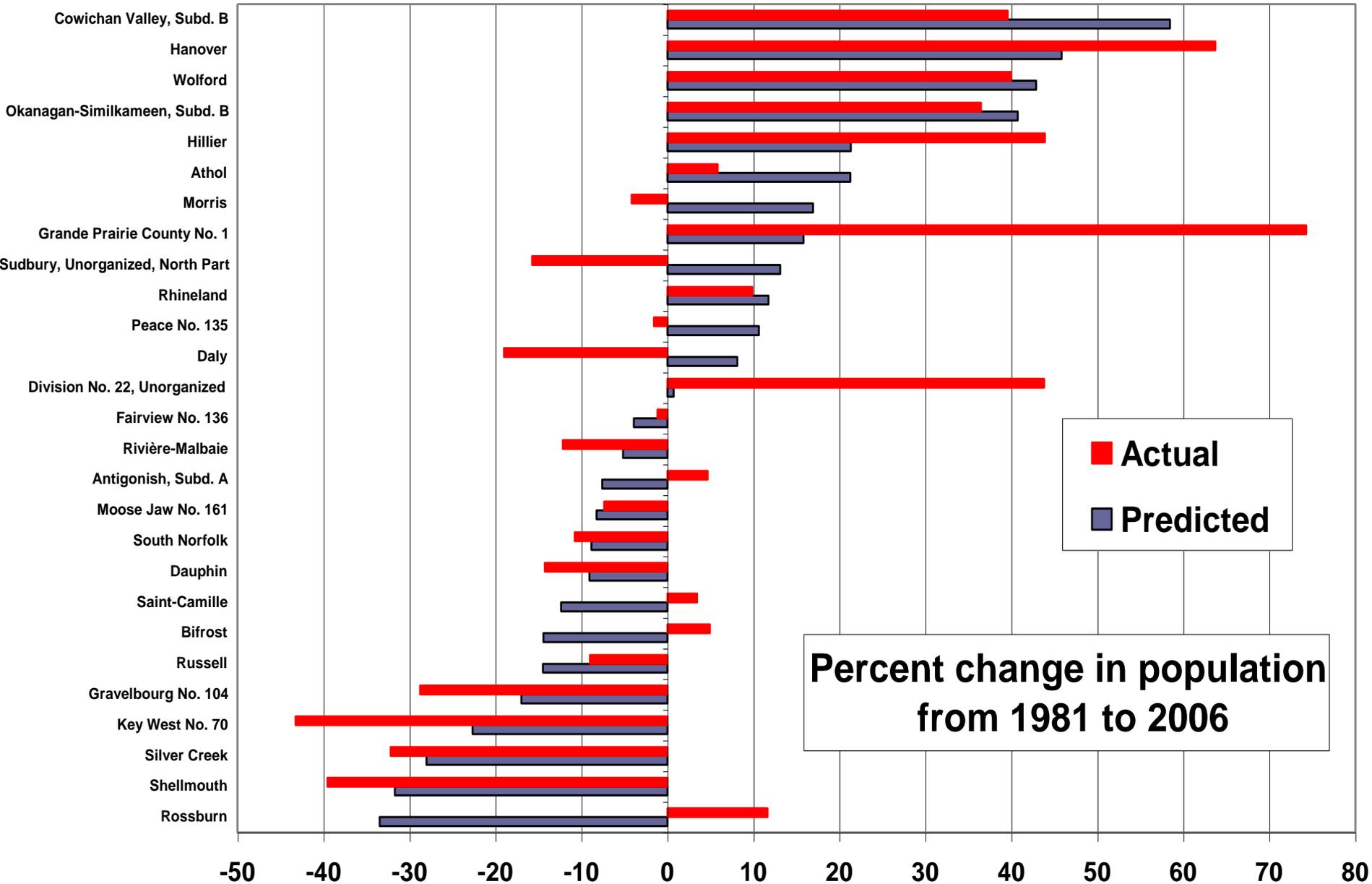
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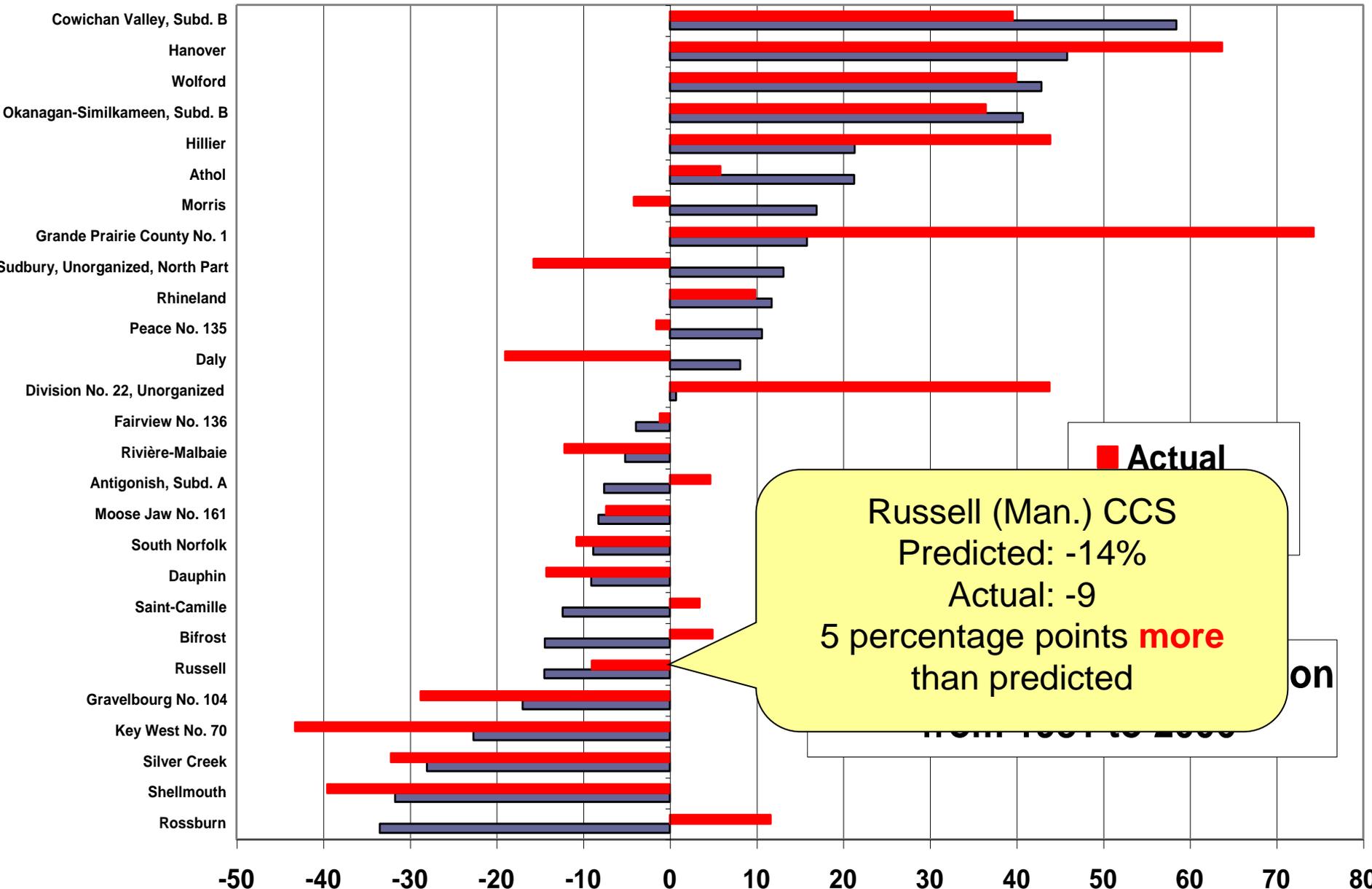
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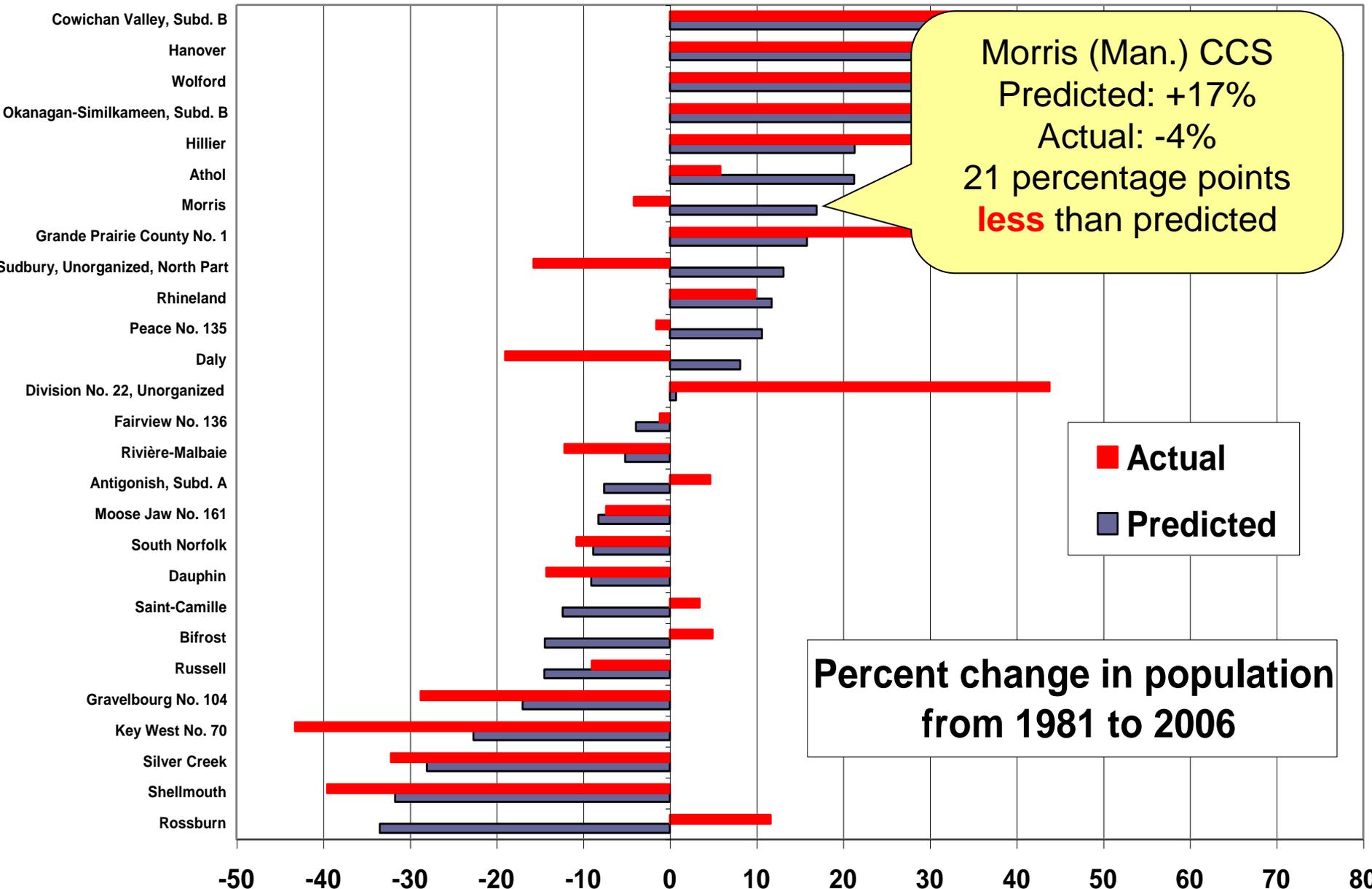
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■ Actual
 Russell (Man.) CCS
 Predicted: -14%
 Actual: -9
 5 percentage points **more**
 than predicted

Source: Calculated from Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) "Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital." *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* Vol. 8, No. 4 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE).

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, there is a wide range in predicted versus actual population growth, 1981 to 2006



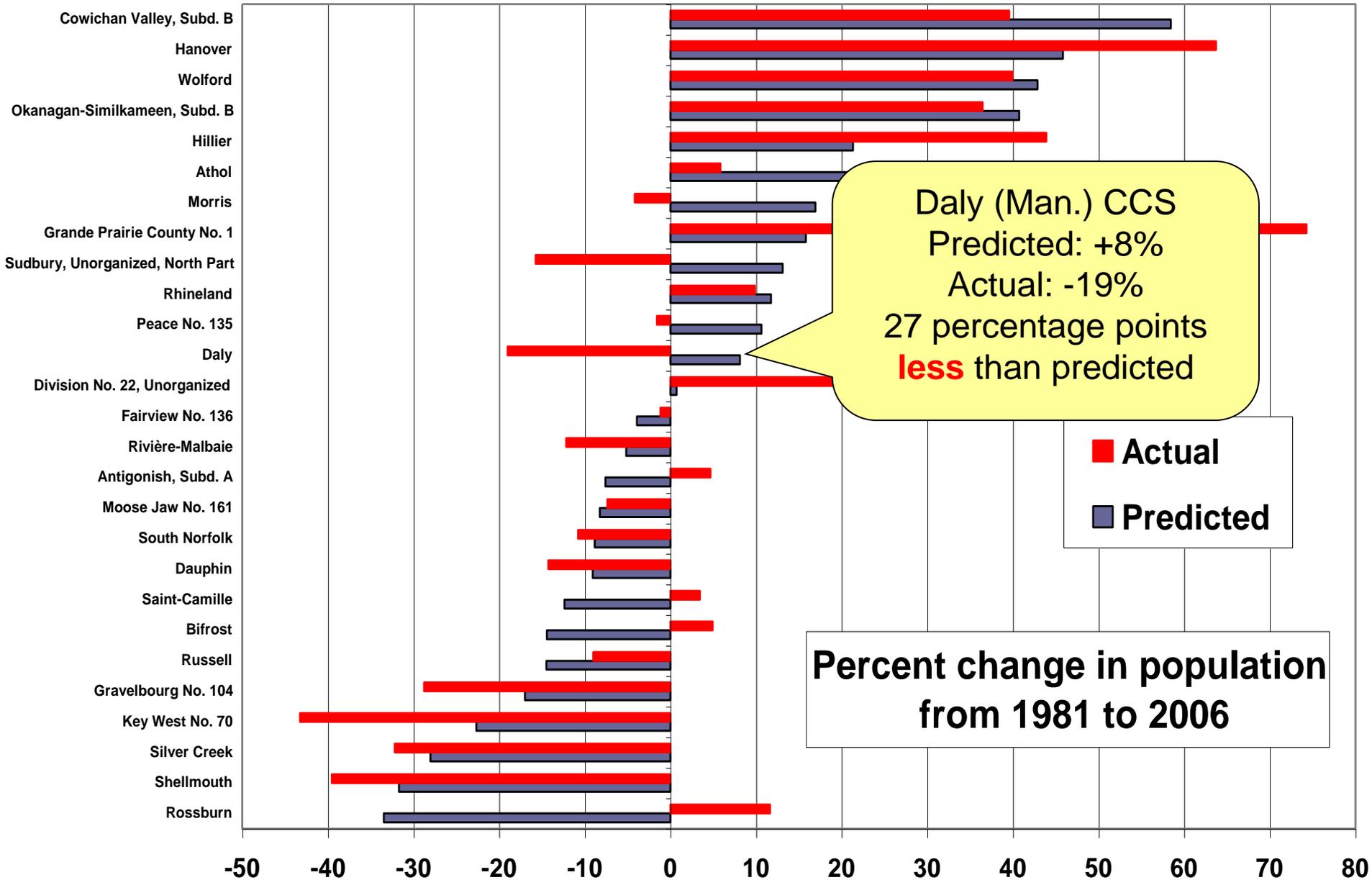
Morris (Man.) CCS
 Predicted: +17%
 Actual: -4%
 21 percentage points
less than predicted

■ Actual
 ■ Predicted

Percent change in population
 from 1981 to 2006

Source: Calculated from Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) "Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital." *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* Vol. 8, No. 4 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE).

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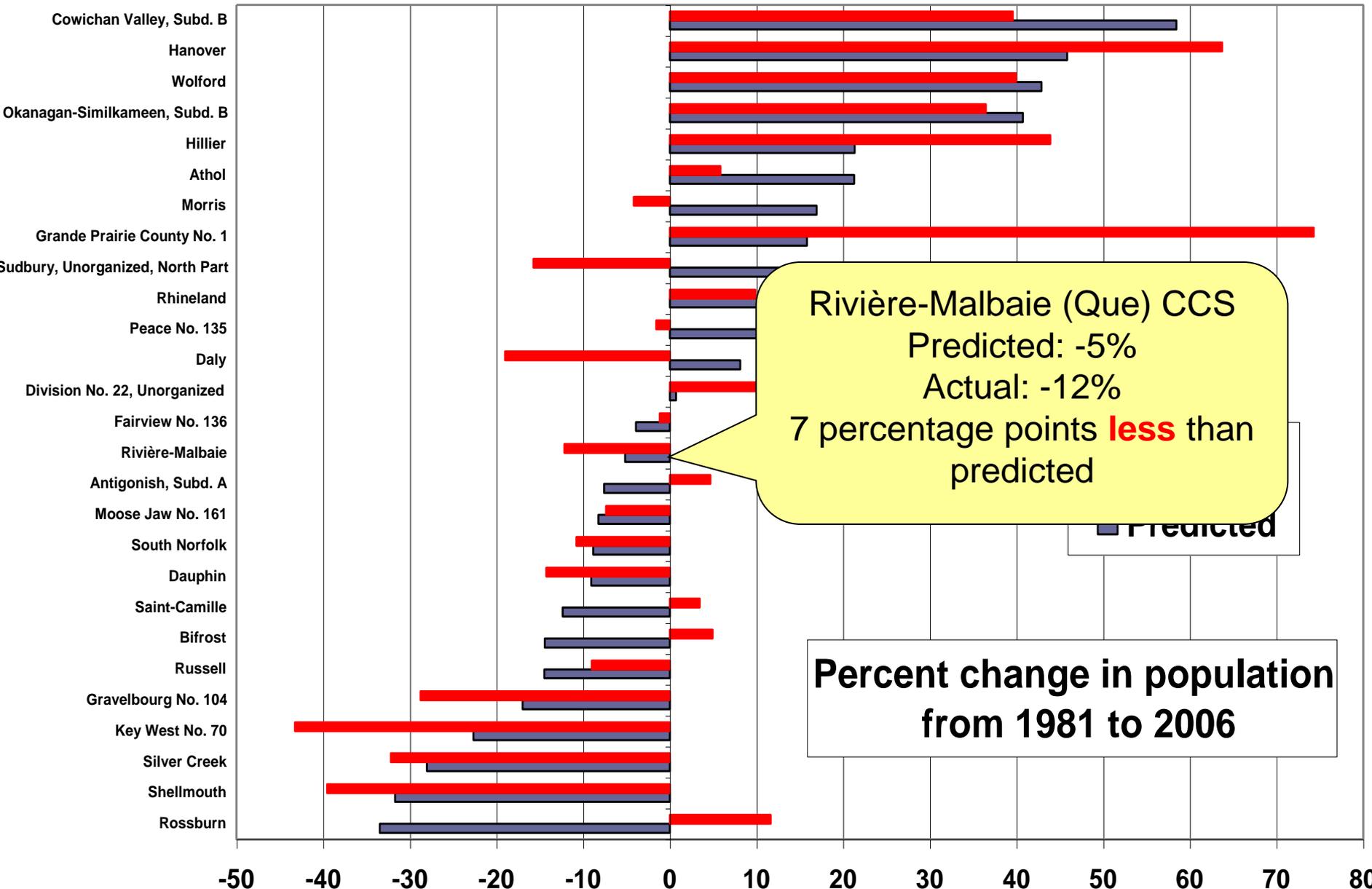
Daly (Man.) CCS
 Predicted: +8%
 Actual: -19%
 27 percentage points
less than predicted

■ Actual
 ■ Predicted

**Percent change in population
 from 1981 to 2006**

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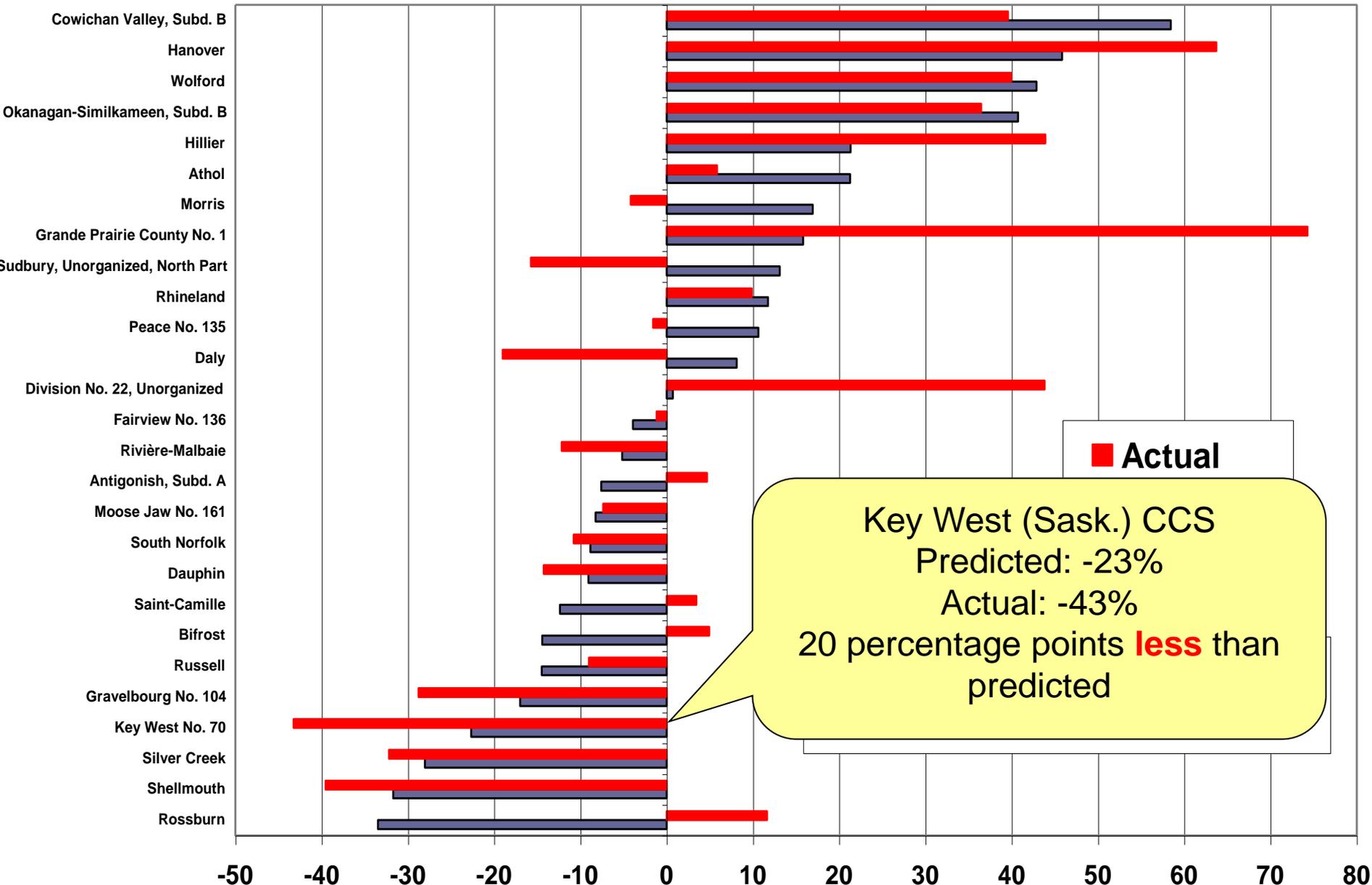


Rivière-Malbaie (Que) CCS
 Predicted: -5%
 Actual: -12%
 7 percentage points **less** than predicted

**Percent change in population
 from 1981 to 2006**

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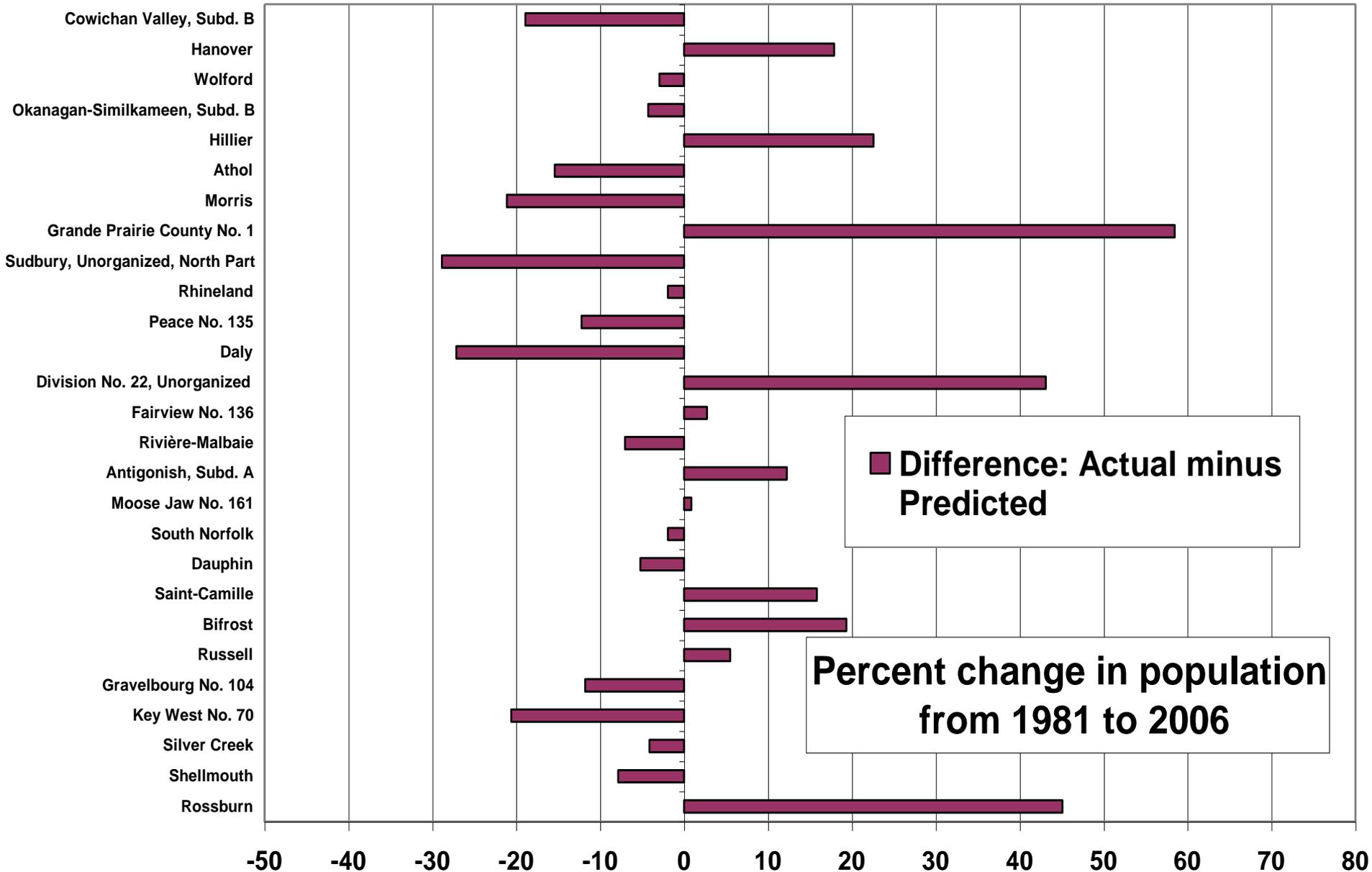
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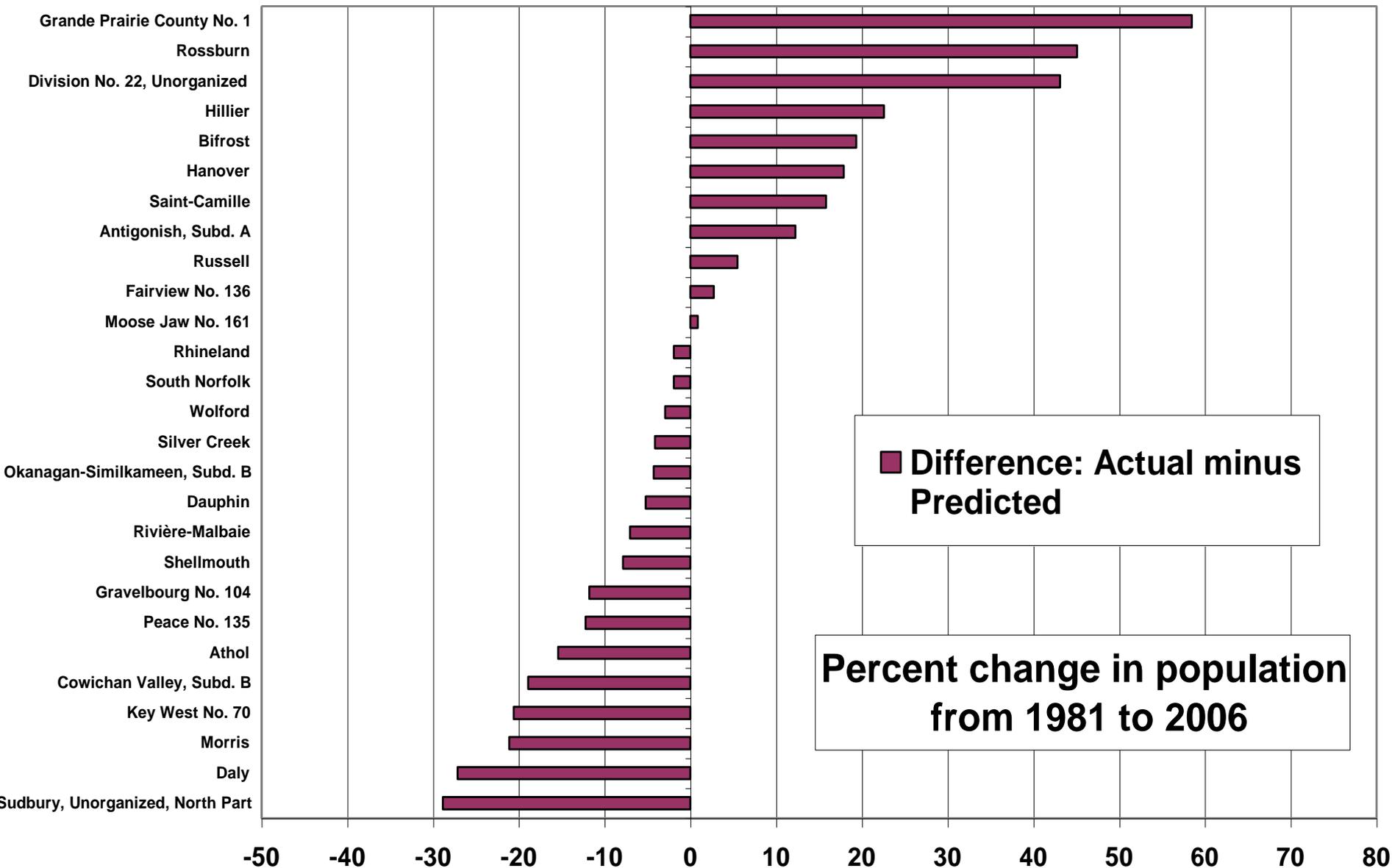
■ **Actual**
 Key West (Sask.) CCS
 Predicted: -23%
 Actual: -43%
 20 percentage points **less** than predicted

Source: Calculated from Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) "Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital." **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 8, No. 4 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE).

In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, there is a wide range in predicted versus actual population growth, 1981 to 2006



In the CCSs containing the nominated communities, the top 11 listed CCSs performed better than their peers in terms of population growth, 1981 to 2006



■ Difference: Actual minus Predicted

Percent change in population from 1981 to 2006

Source: Calculated from Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) "Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital." *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* Vol. 8, No. 4 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE).



How do perceived "successful" communities compare to their peers?

Census consolidated subdivision	includes nominated community		located in census division:		located in province:		Average percent change in each 5-year inter-censal period
Russell	Town of Russell		Division No. 16 (includes Roblin & Russell)		Manitoba		
	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	
Non-institutional population	2,780	2,750	2,645	2,630	2,590	2,530	-0.4
Number of females 25 to 54 years of age	465	475	450	465	455	460	-0.1
Females, 25 to 54 years, who are employed	315	340	325	380	360	370	0.6
Percent of females, 25 to 54, who are employed	68	72	72	82	79	80	0.7
Number of males 25 to 54 years of age	470	475	465	495	490	435	-0.1
Males, 25 to 54 years, who are employed	430	440	445	465	480	380	-0.2
Percent of males, 25 to 54, who are employed	91	93	96	94	98	87	0.0
Number employed in agriculture (SIC)	240	245	150	205	145	n.a.	-2.4
Number employed in forestry, fishing, mining and oil and gas extraction (SIC)	45	45	30	70	50	n.a.	n.a.
Number employed in traditional manufacturing (SIC)	30	20	15	25	40	n.a.	n.a.
Number employed in complex manufacturing (SIC)	15	20	30	20	25	n.a.	2.0
Number employed in agriculture (NAICS)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	170	140	n.a.
Number employed in forestry, fishing, mining and oil and gas extraction (NAICS)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	65	125	n.a.
Number employed in manufacturing (NAICS)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	105	40	n.a.
Total income per capita (current dollars)	6,611	9,223	13,432	16,196	18,811	22,051	n.a.
Earned income per capita (current dollars)	4,783	6,161	9,206	10,929	12,584	14,110	n.a.
Investment income per capita (current dollars)	754	1,138	1,522	1,056	1,396	1,160	n.a.
Transfer income per capita (current dollars)	963	1,781	2,388	3,279	3,116	4,459	n.a.
Other income per capita (current dollars)	111	142	317	932	1,715	2,323	n.a.
Total income per capita (\$2005)	16,068	15,662	18,335	19,796	21,108	22,051	1.5
Earned income per capita (\$2005)	11,625	10,462	12,567	13,358	14,121	14,110	1.1
Investment income per capita (\$2005)	1,833	1,932	2,078	1,291	1,566	1,160	-1.9
Transfer income per capita (\$2005)	2,341	3,024	3,260	4,008	3,497	4,459	2.2
Other income per capita (\$2005)	270	241	433	1,139	1,924	2,323	10.3
Earned income as a percent of total	72	67	69	67	67	64	n.a.
Investment income as a percent of total	11	12	11	7	7	5	n.a.
Transfer income as a percent of total	15	19	18	20	17	20	n.a.
Other income as a percent of total	2	2	2	6	9	11	n.a.
Average earnings (\$1995) per hour for persons 25-54 years (with some earned income, hours worked last week and weeks worked last year)	12.70	10.45	13.09	12.73	13.56	14.70	0.8
Percent with earnings (\$1995) less than \$10 per hour (for those with some earned income, hours worked last week and weeks worked last year)	39	50	42	44	n.a.	53	n.a.



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Transfer income as a percent of total	15	19	18	20	17	20	n.a.
Other income as a percent of total	2	2	2	6	9	11	n.a.
Average earnings (\$1995) per hour for persons 25-54 years (with some earned income, hours worked last week and weeks worked last year)	12.70	10.45	13.09	12.73	13.56	14.70	0.8
Percent with earnings (\$1995) less than \$10 per hour (for those with some earned income, hours worked last week and weeks worked last year)	39	50	42	44	n.a.	53	n.a.



How do perceived successful communities compare to their peers?

- **Discussion**



Conclusions

- **The model accounted for 57% of the variation. This is good for this type of model. We have identified some key factors.**
- **However, 43% of the variation is not due to the factors in our model. Some of the variation is “luck” – either the good kind or the bad kind.**
- **Most of the missing 43% is due to local unique factors which are difficult (perhaps impossible) to capture in a statistical analysis.**
- **One-half of the nominated communities performed better than their peers.**



Read more

- Alasia, Alessandro. (2010) “Population Change Across Canadian Communities: The Role of Sector Restructuring, Agglomeration, Diversification and Human Capital.” **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin** Vol. 8, No. 4 (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-006-XIE). (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=21-006-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>)



Discussion

***How do perceived “successful”
communities compare to their peers?***

Presentation to

“On the Bright Side:

***What has worked in Canadian rural community
development?”***

***2010 Annual Rural Policy Conference
of the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation,
Brandon, October 14-16, 2010***

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