

# Trends in Delaware's Growth and Spending



# Delaware Data Sources

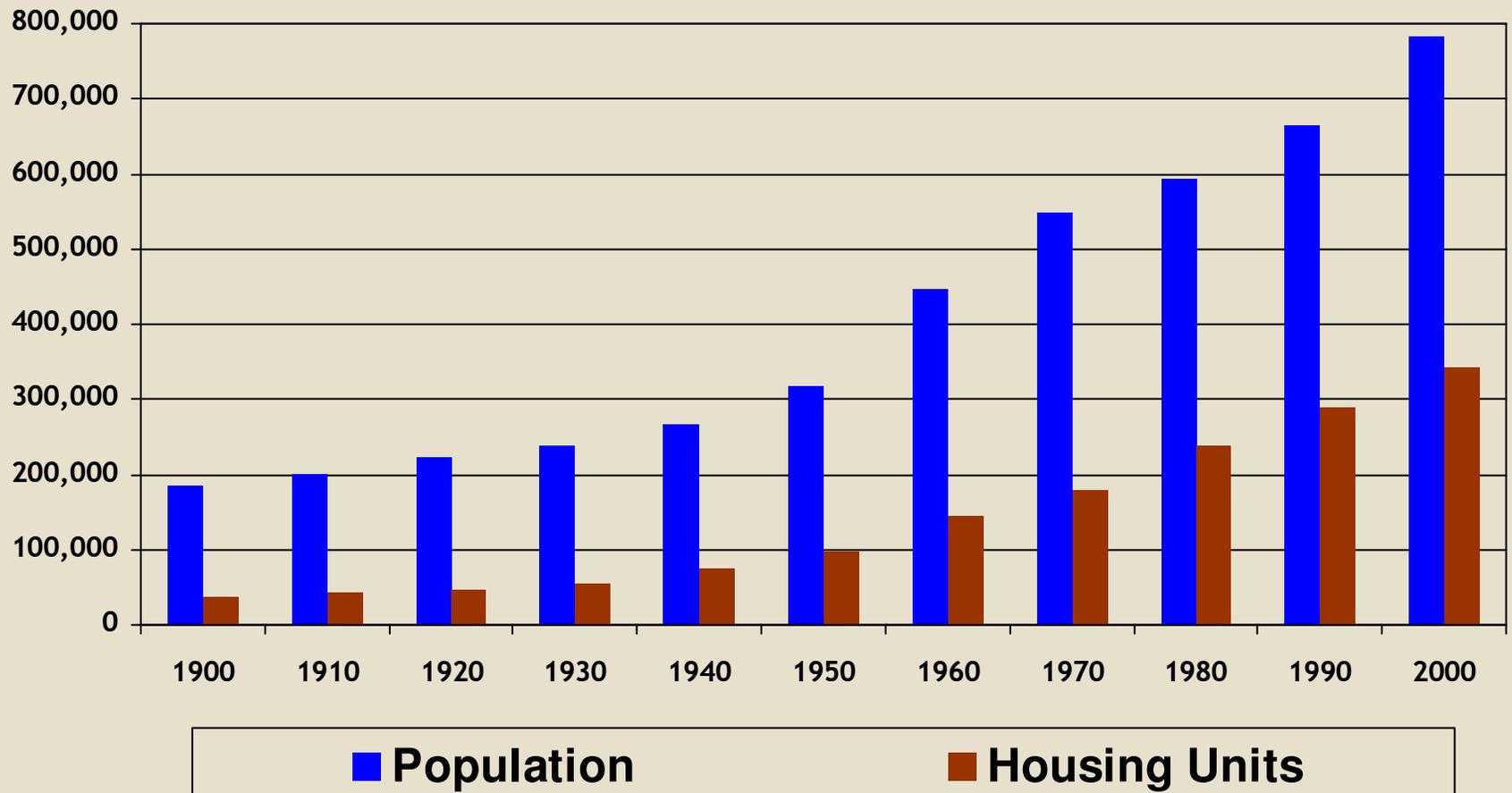
- **Executive Department,  
Office of the Budget**
- **State Archives**
- **Office of State Planning Coordination**
- **University of Delaware**



# Population And Housing

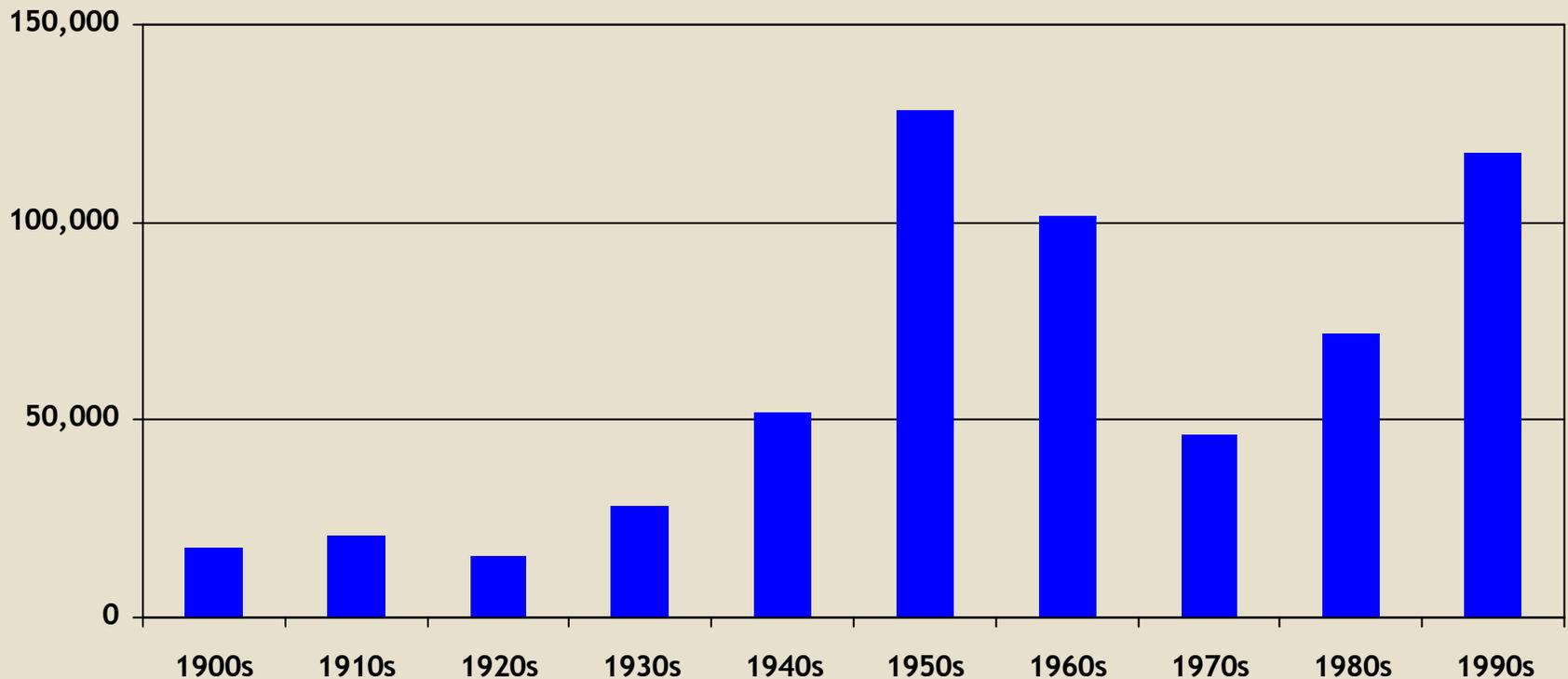


# Total Population & Housing Growth





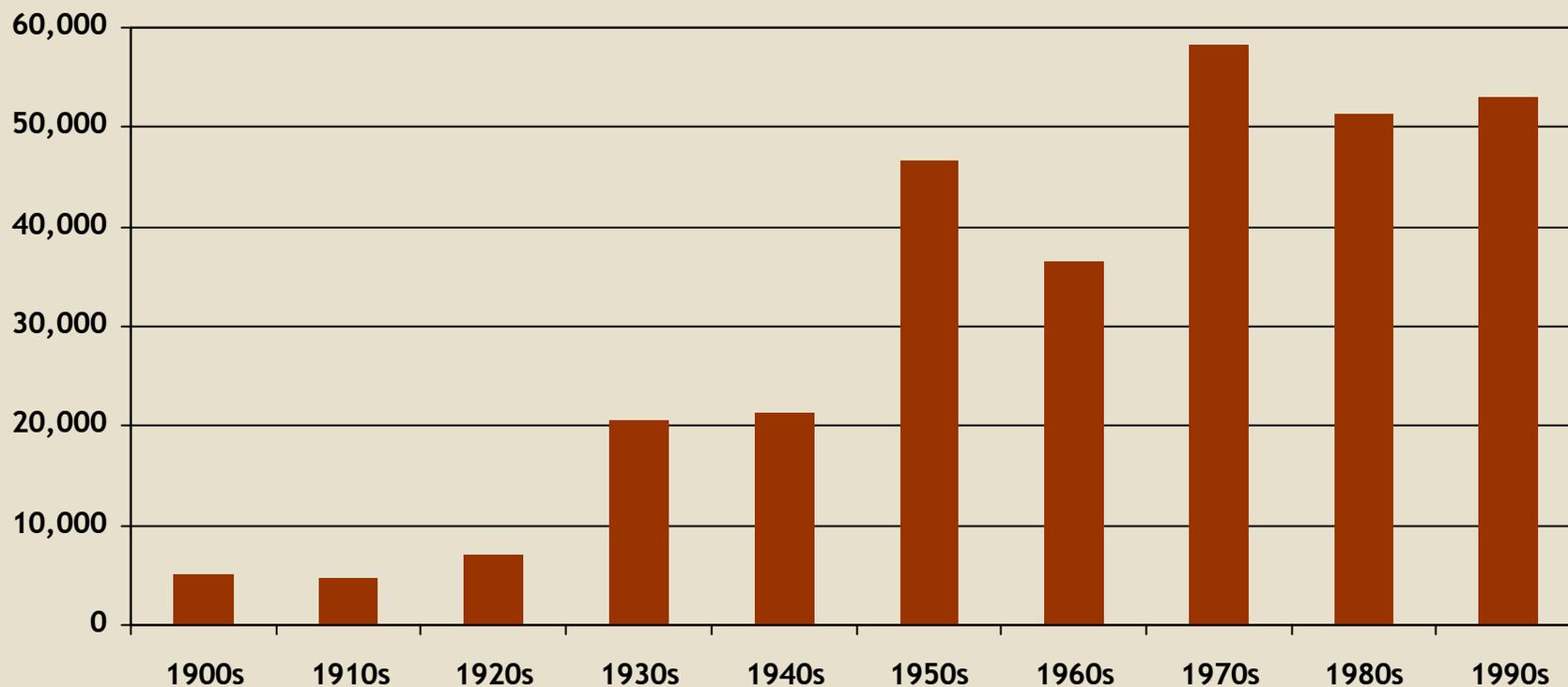
# The Second Highest Population Increase Happened in the 1990s



■ New Residents by Decade



## The Largest Growth in Housing Occurred From 1970 to 2000



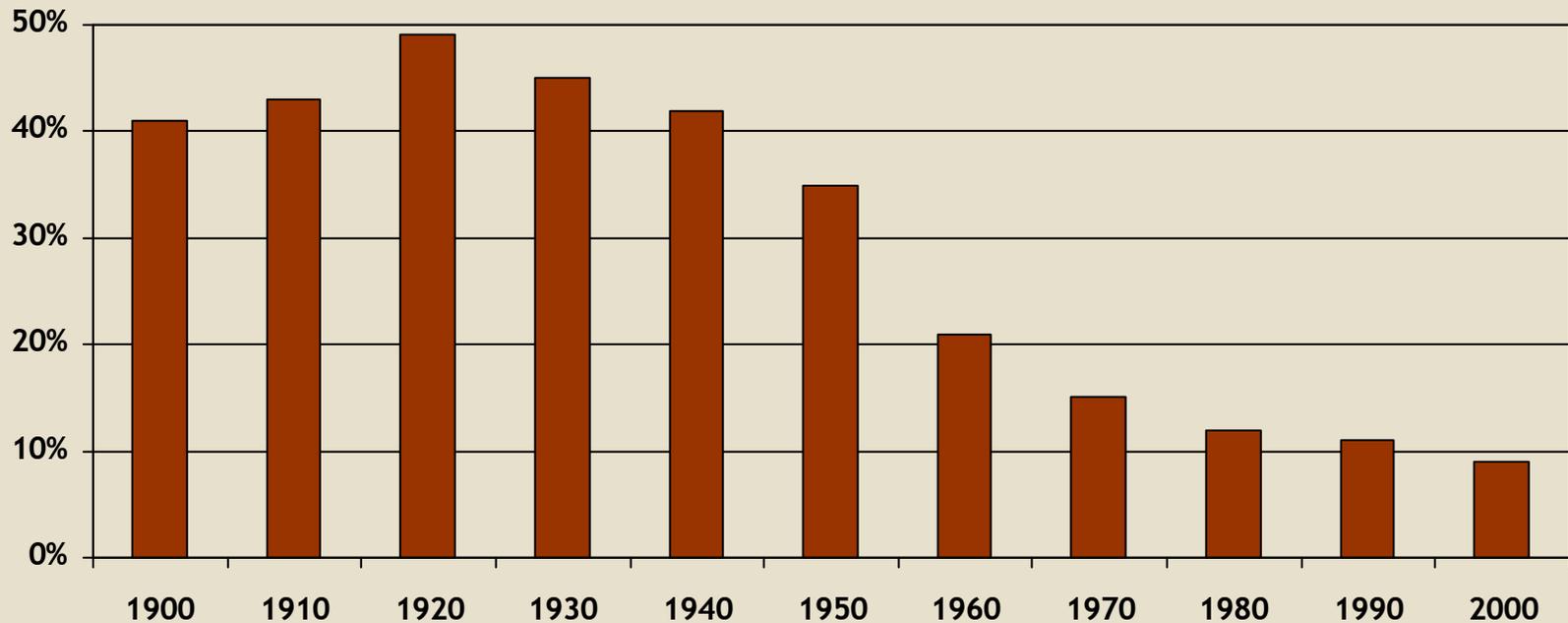
■ New Housing Units by Decade



# Changing Land Use and Land Consumption Rates



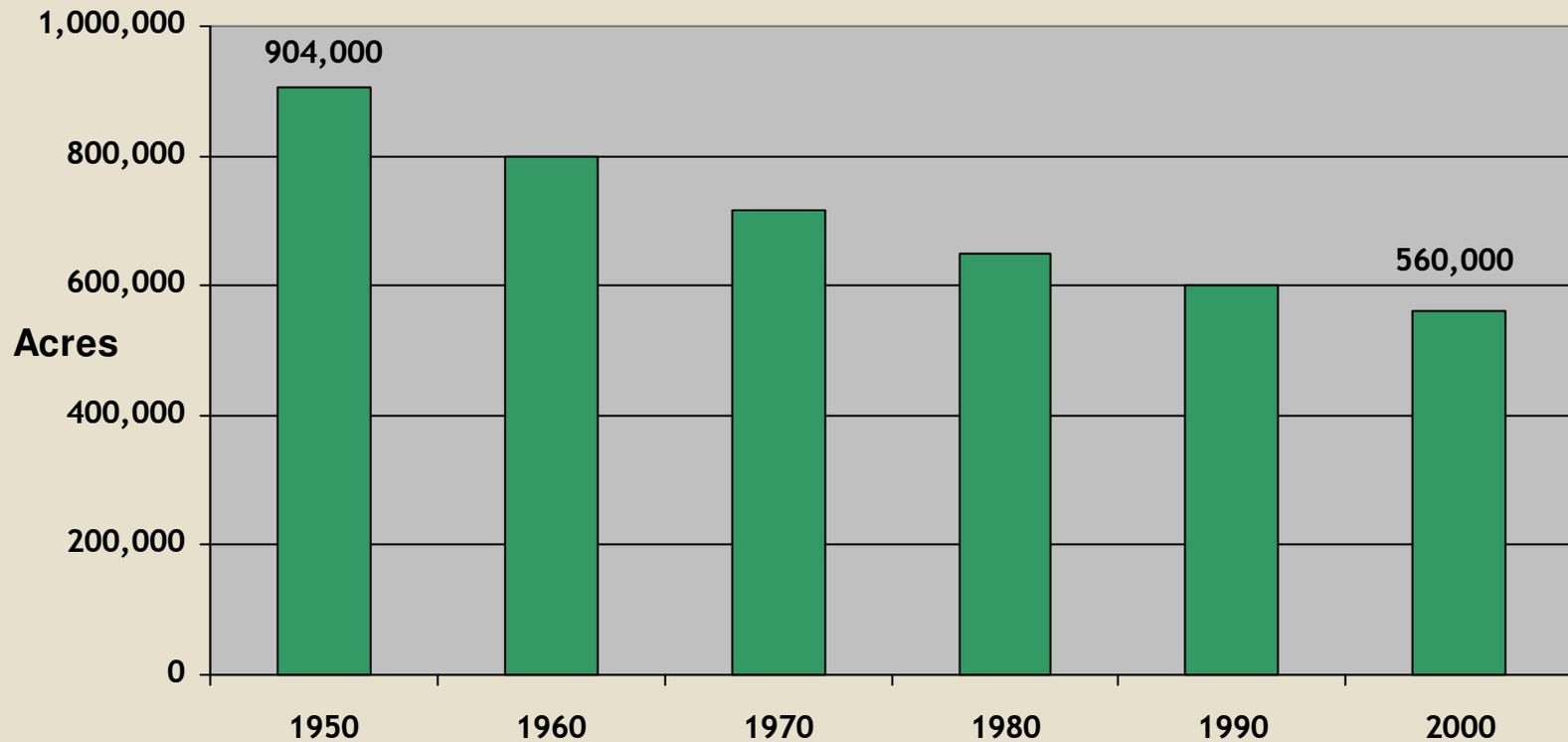
# More People Are Living Outside of Wilmington



■ Percentage of DE Residents Living in Wilmington

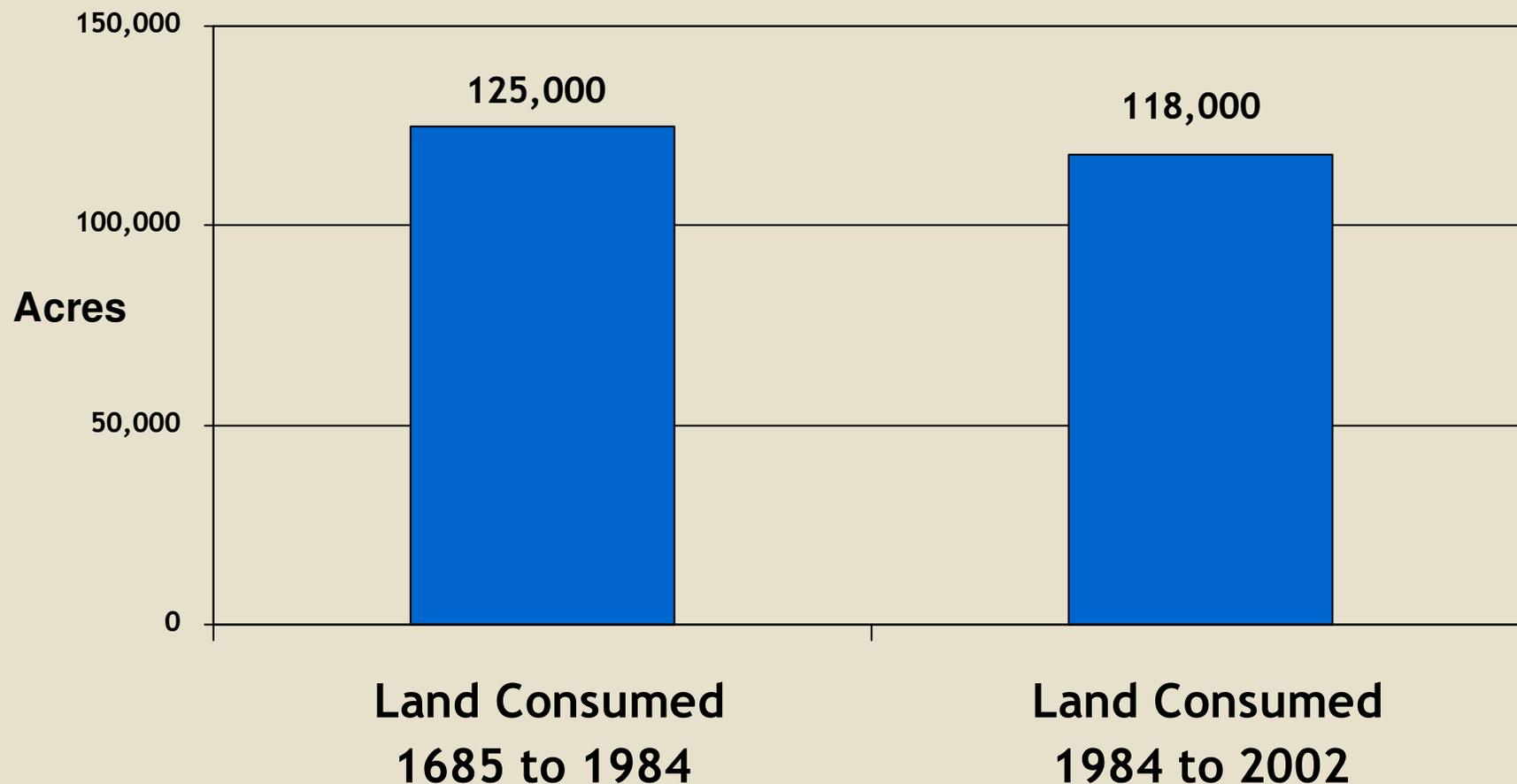


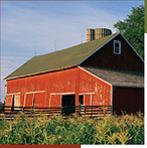
## Land In Farms Declined By 344,000 Acres Over 50 Years



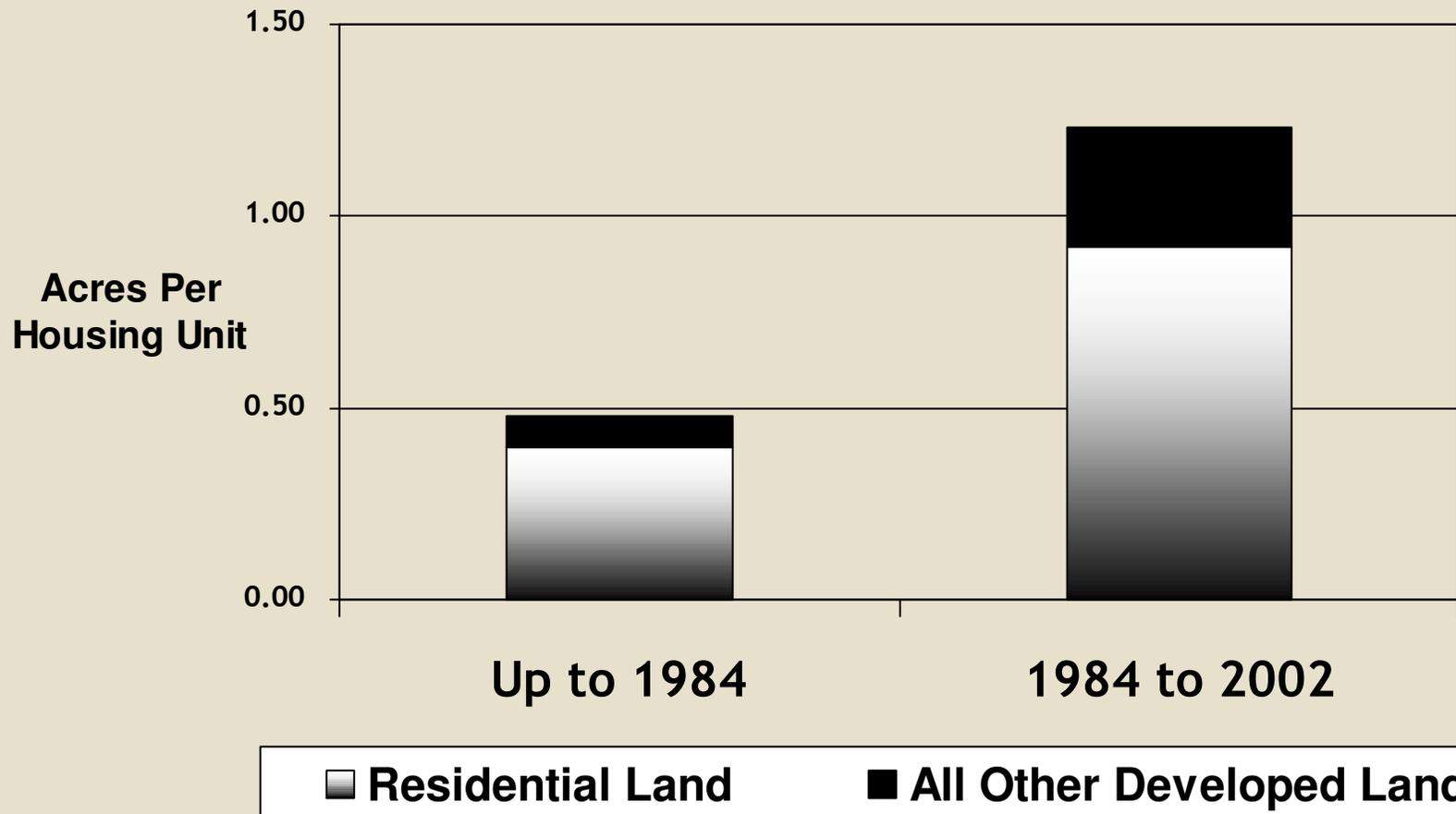


# Land Consumed Since 1984 Equals Previous 300 Years of DE History



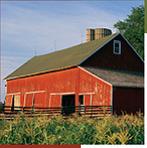


# Housing Development After 1984 Consumes More Land On Average

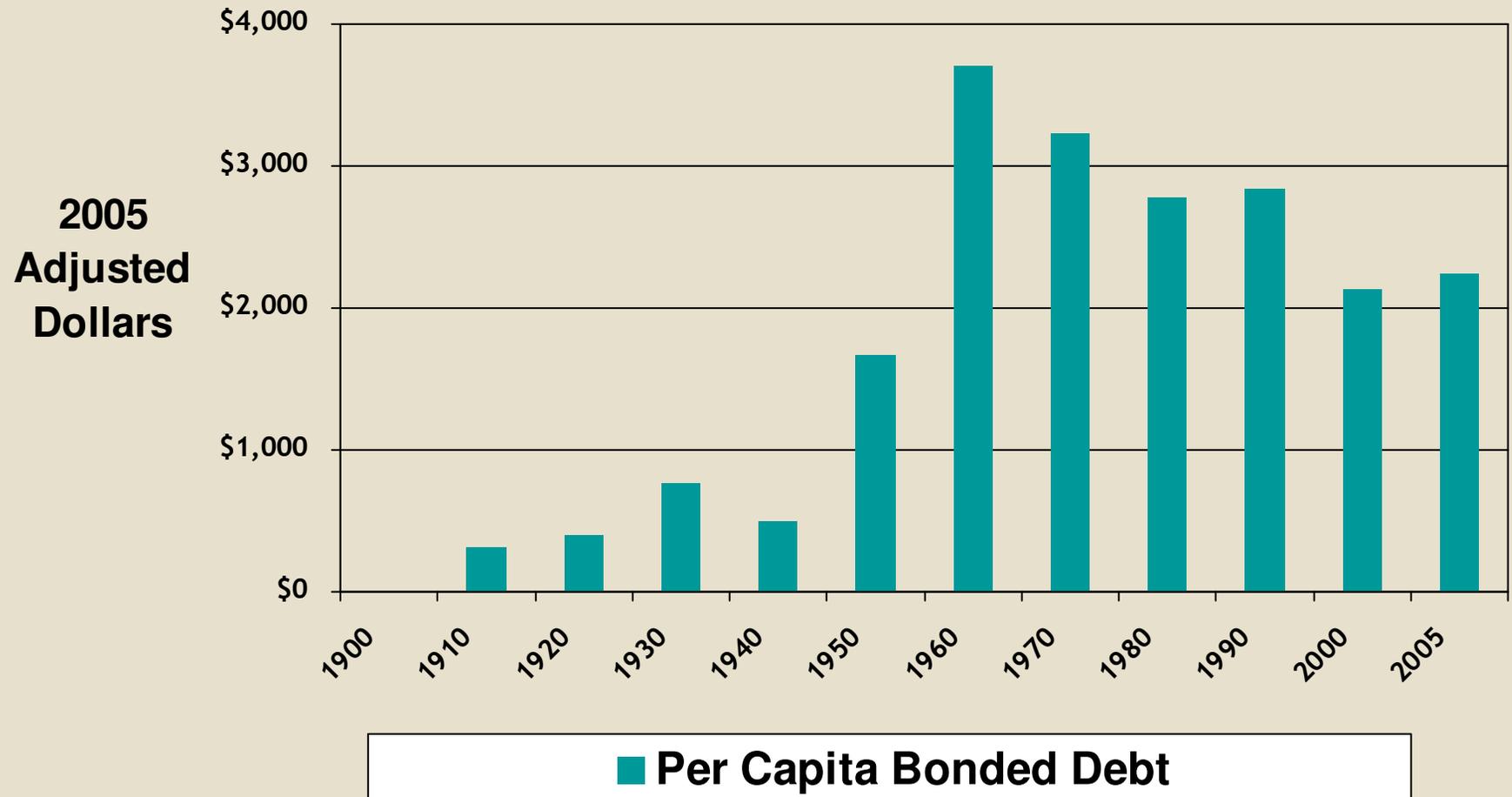




# State Spending

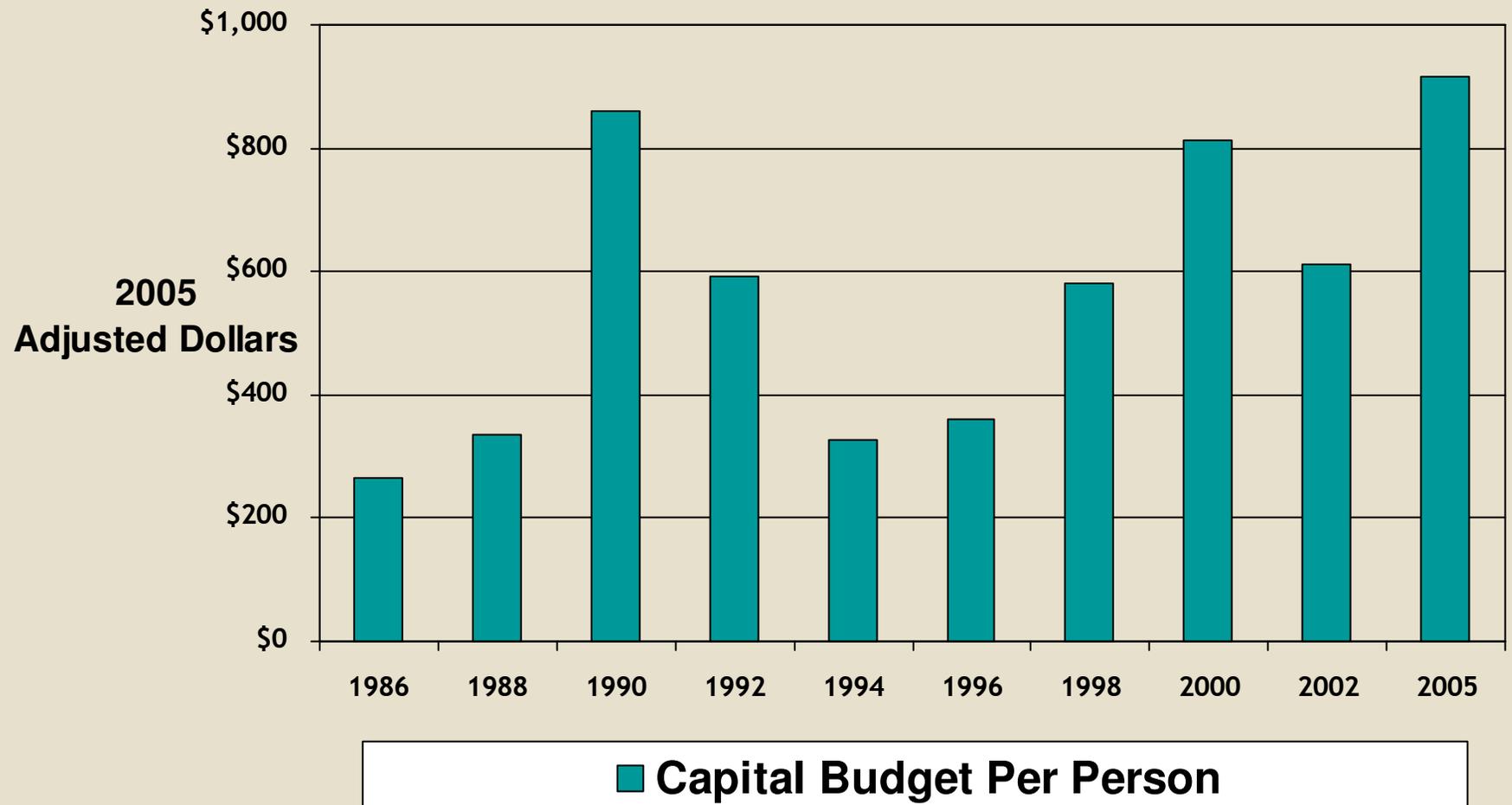


# Post War Growth Caused Bonded Debt to Rise in the 1960s



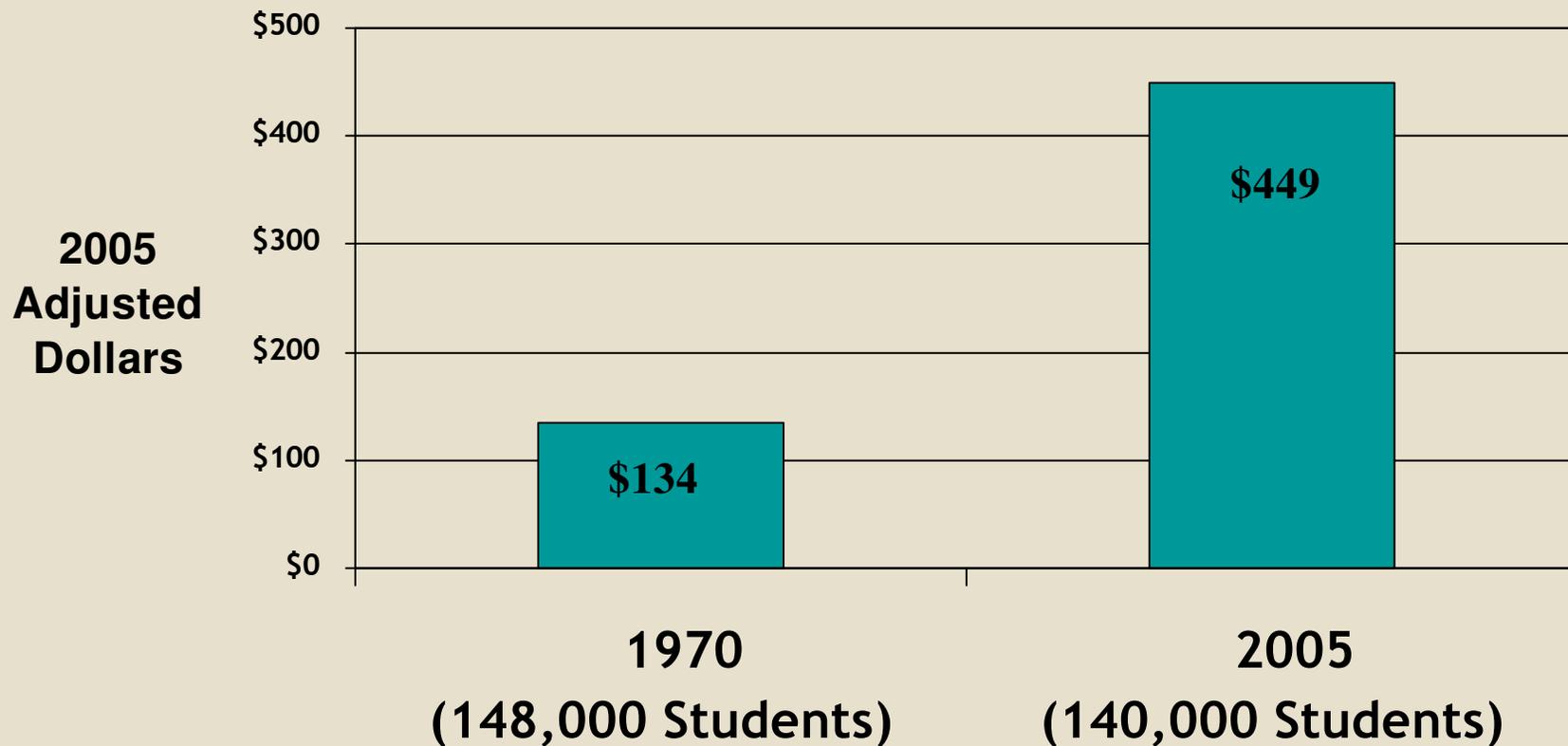


# Capital Budget Per Person Increases 250 Percent From 1986 to 2005



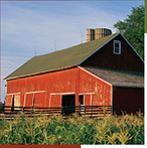


# School Transportation Costs Per Pupil Tripled From 1970 to 2005

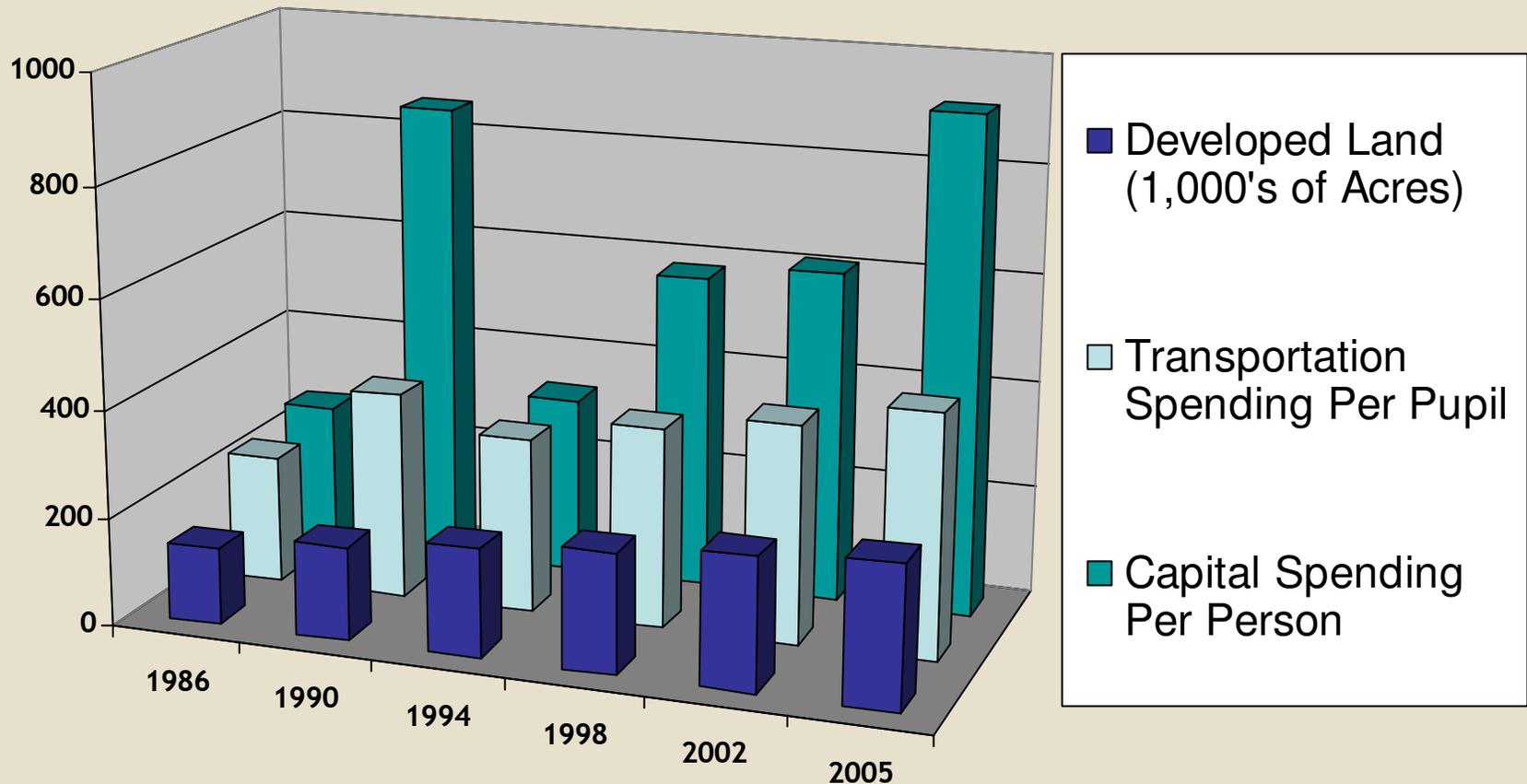




# Combining the Trends



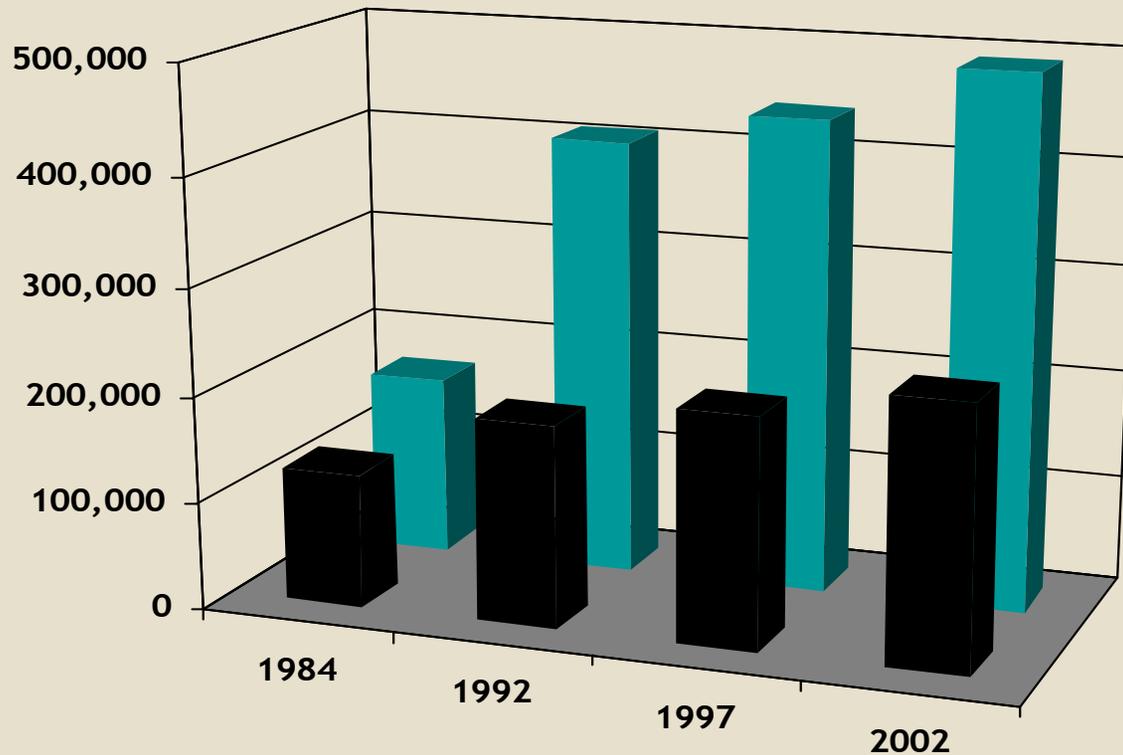
# Is Land Consumption Creating Higher Costs?



Note: All Transportation and Capital Budget Spending in 2005 Dollars



# Land Consumption and Capital Budgets Show Rising Trend

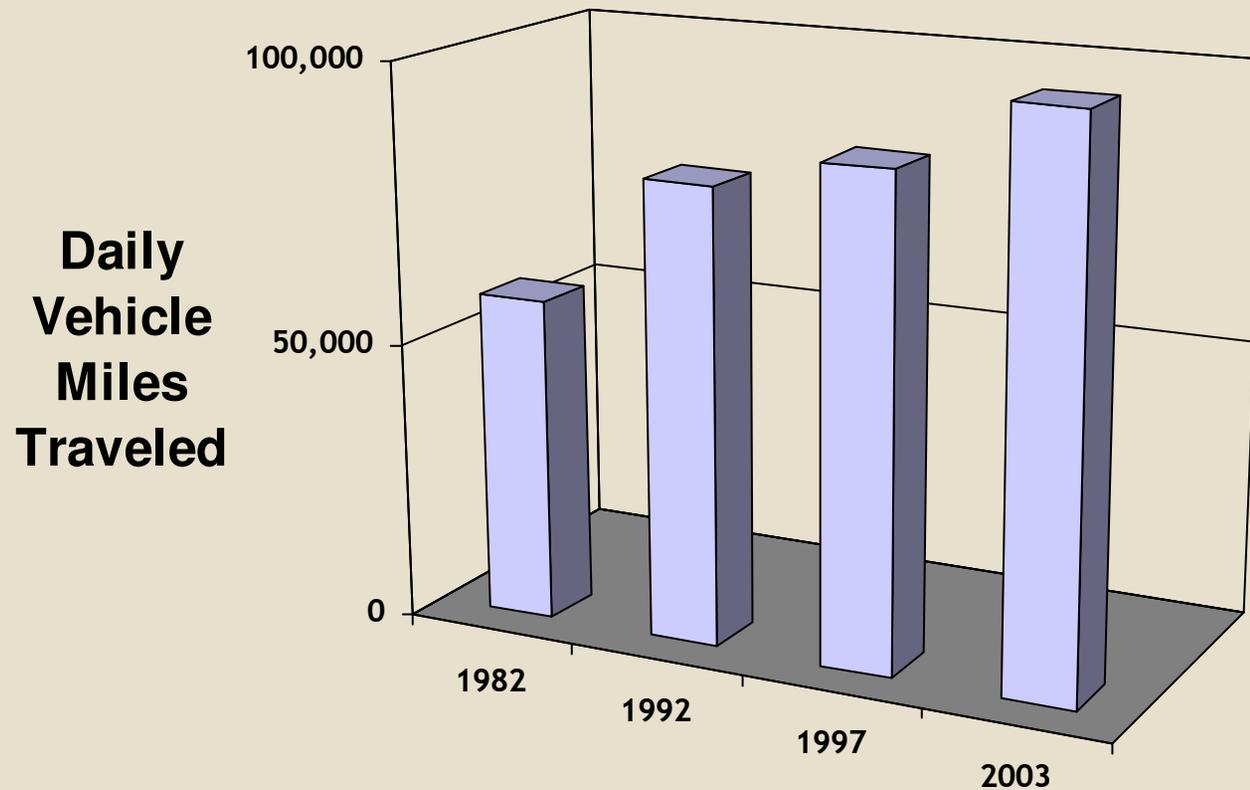


**Note: All Capital Budget Figures in 2005 Dollars**

■ All Developed Land      ■ Total Capital Budget (\$1,000s)



# Sprawl Increases Auto Travel by 79 Percent





# Major Findings

- Over the first 300 years of its history, 125,000 acres of land were developed in Delaware.
- It only took 18 more years (1984 to 2002) for another 118,000 acres to be developed - certainly more than 125,000 by today.



# Major Findings

- As of 1984, the average new house consumed less than 1/2 acre of land.
- Between 1984 and 2002, the average new house consumed 1.23 acres of land.



# Major Findings

- If the rate of land consumption before 1984 had been maintained, Delaware would have 72,000 fewer acres developed by 2002.
- This almost equals the number of acres of farmland now under easement in the state as a whole (79,955).



## Major Findings

- Over the last 20 years, the state's capital budget has tripled, from \$264 to \$916 per person.
- Since 1970 state spending on school transportation has more than tripled, from \$134 to \$449 per pupil.

Note: All Figures in 2005 Dollars



# Final Points

- Since 1984, the land consumption rate has tripled, while the capital budget per person has also increased dramatically.
- Sprawl costs more: rising school transportation costs and capital budgets are related to the high rate of land consumption.
- A bill is coming due: the costs of current land use sprawl will be paid in the next decade, based on Delaware's recent past.