

# Number of Inhabitants

## INTRODUCTION

### GENERAL

This volume presents the statistics on the number of inhabitants of the United States as returned in the 1950 Census of Population. These statistics relate only to the total population of various areas and not to the characteristics of the population. Statistics are presented here for the United States and its urban and rural parts, places classified by size, regions, divisions, and the States and their urban and rural parts, counties, minor civil divisions, incorporated and unincorporated places, urbanized areas, standard metropolitan areas, State economic areas, economic subregions, and the metropolitan districts of 1940. Selected statistics are also presented for the Territories, possessions, etc.

**Usual place of residence.**—In accordance with Census practice dating back to 1790, each person enumerated in the 1950 Census was counted as an inhabitant of his usual place of residence or usual place of abode, that is, the place where he lives and sleeps most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as his legal residence, voting residence, or domicile, although, in the vast majority of cases, the use of these different bases of classification would produce identical results.

In the application of this rule, persons were not always counted as residents of the places in which they happened to be found by the census enumerators. Persons in continental United States and Hawaii in places where guests usually pay for quarters (hotels, etc.) were enumerated on the night of April 11, and those whose usual place of residence was elsewhere were allocated to their homes. Visitors found staying in private homes, however, were not ordinarily interviewed there. Information on persons away from their usual place of residence was obtained from other members of their families, landladies, etc. If an entire family was expected to be away during the whole period of the enumeration, information on it was obtained from neighbors. A matching process was used to eliminate duplicate reports for persons who reported for themselves while away and were also reported by their families at home.

Persons in the armed forces quartered on military installations were enumerated as residents of the States, counties, and minor civil divisions in which their installations were located. Members of their families were enumerated where they actually resided. In the 1950 Census, college students living away from home were considered residents of the communities in which they were residing while attending college, rather than as persons temporarily absent from their parental homes as was the practice in 1940. In 1950 the crews of vessels of the American Merchant Marine in harbors of the United States were counted as part of the population of the ports in which their vessels were berthed on April 1, 1950. Crews of American vessels on the high seas or in foreign ports were included in the population abroad; in 1940 crews of American vessels were treated as part of the population of the port from which the vessel operated, regardless of the location of the vessel on April 1, 1940. Inmates of institutions, who ordinarily live there for long periods of time, were counted as inhabitants of the place in which the institution was located; whereas patients in general hospitals, who ordinarily have short stays,

were counted at, or allocated to, their homes. All persons without a usual place of residence were counted where they were enumerated.

**Coverage of citizens of foreign countries.**—Citizens of foreign countries temporarily visiting or traveling in the United States or living on the premises of an embassy, ministry, legation, chancellery, or consulate were not enumerated. Citizens of foreign countries having their usual residence in the United States as defined above, including those working here (but not living at an embassy, etc.) and those attending school (but not living at an embassy, etc.), were included in the enumeration, however, as were members of their families living with them.

**Date of enumeration.**—The date of enumeration for the Decennial Censuses of 1950, 1940, and 1930 was April 1 in accordance with the requirements of the Fifteenth Census Act. The Census of 1920 was taken as of January 1 and that of 1910 was taken as of April 15. For the decennial censuses between 1830 and 1900, the date of enumeration was June 1 and in the period 1790 to 1830 the census date was the first Monday in August. The enumeration date April 1 was selected for recent censuses as a date on which the number of persons away from home would be at a minimum and on which the weather conditions favor rather than impede the field work.

Enumeration for the 1950 Census of Population began on April 1, 1950. Two-thirds of the population had been enumerated by mid-April, nine-tenths by the end of the month. So much of the canvass was just about on schedule. Unfavorable weather conditions in some parts of the country delayed the beginning of enumeration, in some areas to as late as mid-May. Nevertheless, by the end of June all but one percent of the enumeration had been completed.

The fact that the enumeration is spread over a period of weeks, rather than made on a single day, creates certain problems with respect to coverage. Thus, some persons who move during the enumeration period may be missed altogether, since the area in which they originally lived may not be canvassed before they move and enumeration may be completed in the area of their new home by the time they arrive. Conversely, there is the possibility of duplicate enumeration, once at the initial residence and once at their new home. It seems probable, however, that the net result is an underenumeration of these movers. Again, enumerators tend to ignore the explicit date of enumeration and to record information as of the date of their visit. Therefore, in spite of instructions, some infants are included in the census who were born after the census date, and some persons who died after April 1 are excluded.

**Area of enumeration.**—In the 1950 Census the areas enumerated were as follows: continental United States, the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, American Samoa, the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and some of the smaller islands and island groups. Certain of the minor possessions, however, were not enumerated; the figures on their population were obtained as far as possible from other sources. (See table 1 of Chapter 1.)

Figure 3.—MAJOR ACQUISITIONS OF TERRITORY BY THE UNITED STATES

[For other areas under the jurisdiction of the United States, see table 1 of Chapter 1]



The 1950 Census also made special provision for the enumeration of members of the armed forces of the United States abroad and their dependents living with them, civilian American citizens employed by the United States Government abroad and their dependents living with them, and the crews of vessels in the American Merchant Marine on the high seas or in foreign ports. This phase of the enumeration was made possible through cooperative arrangements with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Maritime Administration, and other Federal agencies concerned, whereby these agencies took the responsibility for the distribution and collection of specially designed census reports for individuals and households. Other persons who were only temporarily abroad were supposed to have been reported by their families or neighbors in the United States. Only scattered voluntary reports could be obtained for private citizens who were abroad for a long period of time; this class is not covered by any of the published statistics.

The data in the 1950 Census on the population abroad are the most comprehensive ever obtained in a decennial census. In 1940, for example, the War and Navy Departments gave to the Bureau of the Census the number of their personnel stationed abroad; and the State Department furnished the number of employees in the diplomatic service abroad and their dependents. No information was obtained on the characteristics of the population abroad such as is available from the schedules employed in the 1950 Census.

In this bulletin the term "United States" when used without qualification refers to the 48 States and the District of Columbia and excludes outlying Territories, possessions, etc. Sometimes, however, the United States in this sense is referred to as "continental United States."

The Census of 1890 was the first at which a complete enumeration was made of the area now comprised within the boundaries of the 48 States and the District of Columbia. Indians living in Indian Territory or on reservations were not included in the population until 1890, and at earlier censuses large tracts of unorganized and sparsely settled territory were not canvassed by the enumerators. Thus, the sum of the areas enumerated was not always identical with the area included within the legal boundaries of the United States at the respective dates, nor was it always possible to indicate the exact boundaries of the enumerated areas. In the earlier censuses not all of a State or territory was covered by the enumerators but only that part up to the "frontier line" and any large isolated settlements beyond. For example, Iowa Territory in 1840 included all of what is now Iowa and most of what is now Minnesota, but within the Territory the only substantial settlements were in the southeastern corner of what is now Iowa, and hence only this part was covered by the Census of 1840. It is not feasible to make a more exact statement than that the area of what is now Iowa was added to the area of enumeration in 1840. The western part of what is now Minnesota, however, was not included until later.

The Census of 1790 covered areas now embraced in the District of Columbia and the following States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Large areas in some of these States, however, were not covered in the enumeration. Only about one-fourth of the area of Georgia, for example, was enumerated.<sup>1</sup>

The area added at each census to the area of enumeration within the boundaries of continental United States may be briefly indicated as follows:

**1800.**—The area now constituting the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the south central parts of Alabama and Mississippi. In that year the area now within the

<sup>1</sup> For maps showing the distribution of the population at each census from 1790 to 1910, see U. S. Bureau of Census, *Statistical Atlas of the United States*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1914.

States of Illinois and Wisconsin and a part of the present area of Michigan were included in the Territory of Indiana; and three years later, when Ohio was admitted to the Union as a State, the remainder of the present area of Michigan was added to Indiana Territory. The population shown for Indiana Territory in 1800 was substantially that residing within the present limits of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The population shown for Mississippi and Alabama in 1800 was that residing within Mississippi Territory as then constituted, which embraced the area now forming the south central parts of the States of Mississippi and Alabama.

**1810.**—The area now constituting Arkansas, the northern parts of Mississippi and Alabama, and all but the southwestern part of Louisiana and the northwestern part of Missouri. (The remainder of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was not enumerated in 1810.) The population shown for Mississippi and Alabama for 1810 included that residing within Mississippi Territory as then constituted.

**1820.**—The extreme southern parts of Alabama and Mississippi, and the southwestern part of Louisiana. Florida was purchased in 1819, but was not enumerated in 1820.

**1830.**—Florida.

**1840.**—Iowa, northwestern Missouri, and northeastern Minnesota.

**1850.**—Texas, Utah, California, that part of New Mexico Territory now constituting the State of New Mexico with the exception of a small portion of the Gadsden Purchase of 1853, and that part of the Territory of Oregon now constituting the States of Oregon and Washington.

**1860.**—Dakota Territory (organized in 1861 from the area now embraced within the States of North and South Dakota and those parts of Montana and Wyoming lying east of the crest of the Rocky Mountains and north of the forty-third parallel), the remainder of Minnesota, Nebraska, (then including that part of the area now constituting Wyoming which lay south of the forty-third parallel and east of the Rocky Mountains), Kansas, Colorado, Nevada, that part of Washington Territory now constituting Idaho and those portions of Montana and Wyoming lying west of the Rocky Mountains, that part of New Mexico Territory now constituting the State of Arizona (including the greater portion of the Gadsden Purchase of 1853); and that part of the Gadsden Purchase which now forms the southwestern part of New Mexico. The population shown for Washington Territory for 1860 was that residing within the limits of the Territory as then constituted, which embraced the area of the present States of Washington, Idaho, and western Montana and Wyoming.

**1870 and 1880.**—No change.

**1890.**—Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. (later combined to form the State of Oklahoma) and Indian reservations.

**1900-1950.**—No change.

Alaska was first included in a Federal decennial census in 1880, Hawaii in 1900, Puerto Rico in 1910, and American Samoa, Guam, and the Canal Zone in 1920; but a special census of Puerto Rico had been taken in 1899 under the direction of the War Department, and a special census of the Canal Zone had been taken in 1912 by the Department of Civil Administration of the Isthmian Canal Commission. The Virgin Islands of the United States were first enumerated in a regular decennial census in 1930. A special census, however, had been taken as of November 1, 1917, immediately after purchase of the islands by the United States.

Since the Republic of the Philippines was established as an independent country in 1946, the islands were not covered in the 1950 Census. The Philippine Islands had never been enumerated at a decennial census. A special census of the archipelago was taken in 1903 by the Philippine Commission and censuses were taken in 1919 (as of December 31, 1918) and in 1939 (as of January 1, 1939) by the Philippine government.

#### COMPLETENESS OF ENUMERATION

The degree of completeness of enumeration has always been a matter of deep concern to the Bureau of the Census; and, in the course of its history, a number of devices have been developed to aid in securing adequate coverage. These devices include the special procedures for the enumeration of transients and infants, urging notifications from persons who believed that they may not have been enumerated, and the early announcement of population

counts in local areas to make possible the thorough investigation of complaints as to the accuracy of the count. In the 1950 Census earlier procedures were strengthened and additional procedures were introduced. Adequate handling of the problem of underenumeration involves not only the development of techniques in order to insure satisfactory coverage but also methods of measuring the completeness of coverage.

Prior to 1950, no method had been devised to give an overall direct measure of the completeness of enumeration of the total population. For the most part, discussion in census reports was confined to qualitative statements based on various kinds of evidence. Some quantitative measures were developed, however. For example, the underenumeration of children under 5 had been estimated for recent censuses by comparisons of census counts with survivors of births in the preceding five years. Such comparisons indicate that the total understatement in the published figure for this age group was about 810,000 in the 1950 Census, according to a provisional estimate, and about 860,000 in the 1940 Census; the corresponding percentages were 4.8 and 7.6, respectively.

In the 1950 Census the population of all ages was re-enumerated on a sample basis in a carefully conducted post-enumeration survey, thus permitting a direct check on a case-by-case basis of the actual enumeration. The results of this survey indicate a net underenumeration in the census count of the total population of the United States of about 2,100,000, or 1.4 percent.

Procedures to improve coverage.—From the earlier discussion of usual residence and date of enumeration, some of the difficulties involved in obtaining a complete and unduplicated count of the population should be clear. It may safely be said that no national census, either in the United States or abroad, has ever represented an absolutely accurate count.

Experience had shown that many devices might be used to improve the completeness of coverage. The major ones used in the 1950 Census of Population were:

1. A longer and better planned period of training was provided for enumerators. The enumerators were paid while taking a three-day course of training that emphasized the importance of an accurate count, the kinds of people who tended to be missed, and how to discover them. A Training Guide for the instructor, film strips, records, and practice enumeration were among the devices used.
2. Each enumerator was furnished with a map of his enumeration district, showing the boundaries of the area for which he was responsible.
3. An infant card had to be filled for each baby born after January 1, 1950, since experience had shown that babies are easily missed. Enumerators received 7 cents extra for each infant card filled.
4. A crew leader was assigned to supervise each group of approximately 15 enumerators. His duties included helping enumerators with problem cases and spot-checking a sample of the dwelling units assigned to them.
5. A special enumeration of persons in hotels, tourist courts, and other places where transients usually pay for quarters was made the night of April 11. When transients claimed a usual place of residence elsewhere, records were compared to ensure that they were counted once and only once.
6. "Missed Person" forms were published in the newspaper at the end of the field canvass so that persons who thought they had been missed could fill them out and mail them to the district supervisor.
7. District supervisors made preliminary announcements of the population counted so that any complaints or criticisms concerning the completeness of the enumeration could be submitted before field offices were closed. If the evidence, usually in the form of lists of names and addresses of people believed missed, seemed to indicate appreciable underenumeration, a re-enumeration was made of the affected area.

In this country, the length of the enumeration period, the high degree of population mobility, the difficulty of finding many dwelling units, the living habits of apartment dwellers and lodgers in our metropolitan centers, and the inexperience of most of the

enumerators, all represent relatively great problems. In some foreign countries, the canvass is completed in a day or so by means of a radically different organization of the field work. The existence of a continuous population register, the use of self-enumeration, and the use of permanent Government employees as enumerators are factors that may make a quick canvass possible. In some foreign censuses, everyone must remain at home until the entire enumeration is completed or may move about on the streets only with some form of identification to prove that he has been counted. Even with such drastic interference with normal activities, some persons are missed.

Of course, there are considerable differences among censuses with respect to completeness of enumeration, and these differences are due partly to differences in procedures. Accuracy in a census can be increased by using better procedures, but some procedures are so expensive that the improvement would not be worth the added cost.

Indirect methods of evaluating completeness of coverage.—One of the simplest types of evaluation is obtained from the examination of rates of changes for a series of several censuses with respect to their consistency and reasonableness. For example, a comparison of figures for the Southern States among the Censuses of 1860, 1870, and 1880 shows unreasonably low rates of increase for the decade 1860 to 1870 and abnormally high rates of increase for the decade 1870 to 1880. These differences are of such a magnitude that it appears evident that the enumeration of 1870 in these areas was seriously incomplete, undoubtedly as a result of the unsettled conditions of the reconstruction period. In terms of the total population for the United States as a whole, the number initially enumerated was 38,558,371; whereas a later revised figure, taking into account the underenumeration in the Southern States, put the total population of the United States at 39,818,449. For the portion of the United States outside the South, the rate of increase for the decade 1860 to 1870 was almost exactly the same as for the decade 1870 to 1880. Therefore, the figure for the South for 1870 was revised on the assumption that the rate of increase during these two decades was the same.

Another method of estimating the comparative completeness of successive censuses involves the use of vital statistics and immigration statistics in conjunction with census data. Since the population at a given census should represent the population at the previous census plus births and immigration and minus deaths and emigration in the intervening period, it is possible, given the necessary statistics, to calculate the expected population on a given census date and to compare it with the enumerated population. If this comparison shows that the expected population exceeds the enumerated population, it may be inferred that the amount of underenumeration in the current census exceeded that in the previous census; if, on the other hand, the enumerated population exceeds the expected population the inference is that the current census is the more complete one. These inferences, of course, rest on the assumptions that the error in census counts are always in the direction of net underenumeration and that errors in the measurement of births, deaths, immigration, and emigration are small in relation to the amounts of comparative underenumeration.

The application of this method and assumptions to the decade 1940-50 results in an estimate that the 1950 count was more complete by some 100,000 than that of 1940. For the decade 1930-40, application of the method suggests that the total net number of persons missed in 1940 may have been about 1,300,000 more than that missed in 1930.

The components of population change were probably estimated more accurately for the forties than for the thirties because not all States were in the birth and death registration areas until 1933 and because the registration of vital statistics within these areas has been increasing in completeness. Allowances were made for these factors in the case of births and in the

case of infant deaths, but these estimates may be subject to considerable error. No adjustment was made for underregistration of deaths, other than infant deaths, although some deaths to older persons were not registered. International migration was the smallest component of population change in these decades, but the figures were probably subject to the greatest relative error. In view of these considerations, the result of 100,000 is so close to zero that we cannot be sure whether coverage was more adequate in 1940 or in 1950.

The comparison of the expected with the enumerated population provides figures only on the difference between the amounts of total net underenumeration at two censuses. If, however, one of these totals can be estimated, then it is possible to specify total net underenumeration for each census linked together by this method. As described more fully below, the Post-Enumeration Survey indicates for 1950 a total net underenumeration of 1.4 percent. On this basis, the percentage of net underenumeration would be 1.6 in 1940, and 0.7 in 1930.

Since the expected population under 10 years of age at a given census can be derived from the number of births in the preceding decade, a comparison of the expected and enumerated population gives a direct measure of total net underenumeration. On this basis, it is estimated that the total net amount of underenumeration in the age group under 10 years was about 1,300,000 in the 1950 Census and about 1,500,000 in the 1940 Census. The corresponding percentages are 4.3 and 6.7. This "underenumeration" may also reflect some net overstatement of age in the census around this general age range. Despite the possible errors in the estimates of births, deaths, and migration used in determining the expected population, it is felt that the indicated difference between net underenumeration in 1940 and 1950 is in the true direction.

Comparisons of census data with independent counts of corresponding segments of the population are sometimes possible in the case of certain other age-sex groups. For example, there have been several studies for both World War I and World War II relating figures for males of military age from the census to registration figures. Here again, however, interpretation of the differences is complicated by the fact that there are no adequate measures of the accuracy of the Selective Service figures. There is, in fact, some evidence of overreporting in these figures, which were compiled by local boards with little statistical supervision. Nonetheless, these studies do suggest an appreciable underenumeration of males in the appropriate age groups in the censuses of 1920 and 1940, particularly among Negroes.

**Post-Enumeration Survey.**—A particularly important and useful method of checking the adequacy of enumeration is a direct check on a case-by-case basis of the actual enumeration. A procedure of this type was used in the Post-Enumeration Survey of the 1950 Census, in which a reenumeration on a sample basis was undertaken. To check for entire households erroneously omitted from the census, a probability sample of about 3,500 small areas was canvassed and the relistings carefully compared with the original census listings. In addition to the check for erroneously omitted households, a sample of about 22,000 households was reinterviewed to determine the number of persons erroneously omitted in cases where the household had been included. This sample of households was also used to determine the number of persons erroneously included in the census listings and the accuracy of the reports obtained on the characteristics of enumerated persons.

The Post-Enumeration Survey interviewers were carefully selected and were given intensive training and supervision. Great efforts were made to limit respondents to the person who was presumably best informed regarding the information desired—usually, the person himself. These precautions resulted in an ex-

penditure per case in the Post-Enumeration Survey many times that of the original enumeration—an expenditure which was feasible only because the study was done on a sample basis. A full description of the procedure and results of this Post-Enumeration Survey will be published at a later date.

As indicated in table A, the net underenumeration in the census count of the total population of the United States is estimated at 1.4 percent (with a standard error of 0.2 percent). The net underenumeration is the difference between the erroneous omissions and the erroneous inclusions. The figures shown in table A represent those errors in the census count which were detected by the Post-Enumeration Survey. Errors not reflected in these figures may have arisen because of the following factors, among others:

1. In the check for erroneously omitted persons, large non-dwelling-unit quarters (i. e., those where 35 or more persons had been enumerated), such as hotels and other accommodations for transients, were excluded. A separate check on those accommodations was undertaken, but the results of this study are not yet available.

2. Identifying all errors in the census coverage is extremely difficult. Although some of the errors in the census listings came from carelessness or ineptness of the enumerators, many of them are a result of the intrinsic difficulty of enumerating certain types of persons—for example, persons with no fixed place of residence. The Post-Enumeration Survey interviewers did succeed in locating many of the persons who were missed or erroneously included in the census, but they could not identify all such cases. A small-scale field check on the Post-Enumeration Survey results indicates that the Post-Enumeration Survey errors were, in general, in the direction of underestimating the number of erroneously omitted persons. This conclusion is also supported by examining the Post-Enumeration Survey figures in the light of other evidence on errors. For example: estimates of children under 5 based on records of births, deaths, and migration point to a shortage in the census figure for this age group of considerably greater magnitude than that reported by the Post-Enumeration Survey; again, although the Post-Enumeration Survey indicates, as had been expected, a greater error in the enumeration of the nonwhite population than the white population, it shows less error for the nonwhite population in the age group 15 to 24 than for other nonwhite age groups, a difference which might possibly be valid but is more likely attributable to the difficulty experienced by both the census and the Post-Enumeration Survey in listing the most mobile sectors of the population.

3. The reliability of these estimates, as in all statistical surveys, is also affected by errors in the application of sampling and other procedures.

TABLE A.—ESTIMATES OF COVERAGE ERROR FOR PERSONS, BY REGIONS AND SIZE OF PLACE: 1950

[Estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded]

Area	Census population (thousands)	Estimated total population (thousands)	Persons erroneously omitted <sup>1</sup>		Persons erroneously included <sup>2</sup>		Net error	
			Number (thousands)	Number per 100 enumerated	Number (thousands)	Number per 100 enumerated	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated total population
United States.....	150,697	152,788	3,400	2.3	1,309	0.9	2,091	1.4
Northeast.....	39,478	39,794	732	1.9	416	1.1	316	0.8
North Central.....	44,461	45,064	813	1.8	210	0.5	603	1.3
South.....	47,197	48,071	1,381	2.9	607	1.1	874	1.8
West.....	19,862	19,861	476	2.4	177	0.9	299	1.5
Urban.....	96,468	97,504	1,928	2.0	892	0.9	1,036	1.1
Places of 1,000,000 and over.....	17,404	17,634	477	2.7	247	1.4	230	1.3
Places of 50,000 to 1,000,000.....	35,839	36,255	662	1.8	246	0.7	416	1.1
Other.....	43,228	43,615	789	1.8	400	0.9	389	0.9
Rural.....	54,230	55,285	1,472	2.7	417	0.8	1,055	1.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes some persons who were counted elsewhere, at the wrong address, as discussed in the text.

<sup>2</sup> Includes some persons who were counted only once but at the wrong address, as discussed in the text.

Those errors in the Post-Enumeration Survey which could be identified were almost all in the direction of underestimating the number of persons erroneously omitted from, or erroneously included in, the census, with probably more erroneous omissions than inclusions. These and other considerations suggest that the estimated net underenumeration of 1.4 percent in 1950 is a minimum estimate.

As indicated in table A, there is some variation with residence in the coverage error of the census. In general, the net underenumeration was somewhat greater in rural than in urban areas and it was somewhat greater in the South and West than in the other regions of the United States. Among urban areas the error seems to be greater for the large cities. The error rates would vary among smaller areas, such as individual States, counties, and cities; but the sample was not large enough to yield reliable estimates for such areas.

In interpreting the figures on erroneous omissions and erroneous inclusions, it should be recognized that these are defined with respect to the listings for a given census enumeration district. (See table B.) For example, some of the "omitted" cases represent the listing of a person in the wrong census enumeration district rather than his complete omission from the census. Such cases will be included in both the estimate of erroneous omissions and the estimate of erroneous inclusions (since such persons enumerated in the wrong census enumeration district are both omitted from the listing where their names should appear and included in a listing where their names should not appear). In the absence of duplicate enumeration these cases do not affect the net error. They do, however, affect the other values estimated in table B.

TABLE B.—ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF PERSONS ERRONEOUSLY OMITTED FROM, OR ERRONEOUSLY INCLUDED IN, CENSUS ENUMERATION DISTRICT LISTINGS, BY RACE AND TYPE OF ERROR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1950

Type of error	Total		White		Nonwhite	
	Number (thousands)	Percent of enumerated population	Number (thousands)	Percent of white population	Number (thousands)	Percent of non-white population
<b>Persons erroneously omitted</b> <sup>1</sup> .....	3,400	2.3	2,697	2.0	703	4.5
In missed households and quasi households.....	2,416	1.6	1,939	1.4	477	3.0
In enumerated households and quasi households.....	984	0.7	758	0.6	226	1.4
<b>Persons erroneously included</b> <sup>2</sup> .....	1,309	0.9	1,122	0.8	187	1.2
Persons who should not have been enumerated anywhere.....	193	0.1	163	0.1	35	0.2
In households erroneously included.....	38	.....	33	.....	5	.....
In households properly included.....	160	0.1	130	0.1	30	0.2
Persons who should have been enumerated in another enumeration district.....	1,111	0.7	959	0.7	152	1.0
In households erroneously included.....	99	0.1	94	0.1	5	.....
In households properly included.....	1,012	0.7	865	0.6	147	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes some persons who were counted elsewhere, at the wrong address, as discussed in the text.

<sup>2</sup> Includes some persons who were counted only once but at the wrong address, as discussed in the text.

In an attempt to estimate the number of errors attributable to enumeration of persons in the wrong enumeration district, the sample persons in the Post-Enumeration Survey were asked to report all addresses where they might have been enumerated. On the basis of a check against the listings for the census enumeration districts containing the reported addresses, it is estimated that about 400,000 persons were enumerated in the wrong enumeration district simply because the enumerator used the wrong boundary. The estimate of 400,000 may be subtracted from the estimates of erroneous omissions and erroneous inclusions if

interest is restricted to those errors which affect the census tabulations for the United States as a whole. Actually all of the persons enumerated in the wrong enumeration district were enumerated in the correct region and most were enumerated in the correct State, so that this group of errors has practically no effect on either national or regional tabulations and an extremely small effect on State tabulations.

**Sampling variability of the Post-Enumeration Survey results.**—The limitations of the Post-Enumeration Survey results have been discussed above. An additional limitation is, of course, the presence of sampling variability. Estimates of standard errors are presented in table C. In the interpretation of the Post-Enumeration Survey estimates, it should be remembered that the chances are about 2 out of 3 that the figures estimated from the sample (tables A and B) differ from those that would have been obtained from a post-enumeration survey of the entire population by amounts less than the standard error indicated in this table. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the estimates are within twice the standard error of the figures which would result from a post-enumeration survey of the entire population.

TABLE C.—STANDARD ERRORS OF COVERAGE ERROR STATISTICS FOR PERSONS: 1950

[Range of 2 chances out of 3]

Size of estimate of coverage error	Estimated standard error of specified types of coverage error		
	Number of persons erroneously omitted	Number of persons erroneously included	Net error
5,000.....	5,000	6,000	12,000
10,000.....	7,000	9,000	17,000
25,000.....	12,000	14,000	26,000
50,000.....	17,000	21,000	38,000
75,000.....	21,000	26,000	48,000
100,000.....	24,000	30,000	54,000
200,000.....	42,000	56,000	98,000
1,000,000.....	115,000	123,000	207,000
2,000,000.....	205,000	210,000	342,000
3,000,000.....	300,000	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Not applicable.

## THE UNITED STATES

**Population of the United States, its Territories, possessions, etc.**—The population of the United States, its Territories, possessions, etc., was about 154,230,000 on April 1, 1950 (table 1).<sup>2</sup> If the population of the Philippine Islands is excluded from the 1940 total, the increase over the 10-year period was nearly 20,000,000, or 14.9 percent. Puerto Rico accounted for well over three-fifths of the population outside continental United States, and the Territories for more than one-sixth. The population abroad, principally members of the armed forces and members of their families, numbered close to 500,000.

**Population of continental United States.**—The population of continental United States on April 1, 1950, was 150,697,361; this figure represents an increase of about 19 million, or 14.5 percent, over the corresponding figure for April 1, 1940 (table 2). In absolute numbers this increase is greater than the increase during any previous intercensal period. In relative terms, however, the increase between 1940 and 1950, although more than double that for the decade 1930 to 1940, is of roughly the same order of magnitude as the increases during the decades 1910 to 1920 and 1920 to 1930 and falls far short of the decennial rates of increase which occurred during the nineteenth century.

An examination of the decennial rates of increase since 1790 indicates that during each of the seven decades up to 1860 the population increased by approximately one-third. On the basis of a correction made for the known underenumeration in 1870,

<sup>2</sup> References to numbered tables are to detailed tables in Chapter 1 (U. S. Summary).

the percentage increases for the decades 1860 to 1870 and 1870 to 1880 become, respectively, 26.6 and 26.0 rather than 22.6 and 30.1. (See footnote 3 of table 2). On the basis of these revised figures, the decennial rates of increase for the period 1860 to 1890 were all in the neighborhood of 25 percent.<sup>3</sup> The decennial rates of increase in the period 1890 to 1910 were about 20 percent, and those for the period 1910 to 1930, about 15 percent. The percentage increase for the period 1930 to 1940, the decade of the depression, represents an all time low.

**Center of population and area.**—The "center of population" is defined by the Bureau of the Census as that point which may be considered as the center of population gravity of the United States; in other words, the point upon which the United States would balance, if it were a rigid plane without weight and the population were distributed thereon with each individual being assumed to have equal weight and to exert an influence on a central point proportional to his distance from that point.<sup>4</sup>

The center of population of the United States moved westward from the State of Indiana into the State of Illinois between 1940 and 1950. The 1950 center of population is located in Denver township, Richland County, Ill., 8 miles north-northwest of Olney. This point is on a line between Cincinnati and St. Louis, about two-thirds of the distance to St. Louis. In terms of latitude and longitude, the 1950 center is located at latitude 38°50'21" North, longitude 88°9'33" West.

During the decade from 1940 to 1950, the center of population moved 42 miles westward and 7.6 miles southward, reaching its most southerly point as well as its most westerly point. This westward movement of the center of population between 1940 and 1950 is the greatest during the present century and exceeds all movements westward since that for the decade of 1880 to 1890. The longest movement westward was during the decade from 1850 to 1860 when the center advanced 80.6 miles. The shortest movement westward was during the decade from 1910 to 1920 when it advanced only 9.8 miles. The point farthest north was the 1790 location, and the point farthest south, the 1950 location; but the difference is only 30.1 miles. The total westward movement from 1790 to 1940 was 644 miles.

<sup>3</sup> For a more extensive analysis of population growth in the United States during the nineteenth century, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *A Century of Population Growth*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1909.

<sup>4</sup> In the actual calculation, the center of population is first assumed to be approximately at a certain point. Through this point a parallel and a meridian are drawn, each crossing the entire country. In the determination of the center of population in 1950, the point selected was the intersection of the parallel lat. 39° N. with the meridian of long. 86° W.

The product of the population of a given area by its distance from the assumed parallel is called a north or south moment, and the product of the population of the area by its distance from the assumed meridian is called an east or west moment. In the calculation of north and south moments, the distances are measured in minutes of latitude; in calculating east and west moments, it is necessary to use miles because of the unequal length of the degrees and minutes of longitude in different latitudes. The population of the country is grouped by "square degrees"—that is, by areas included between consecutive parallels and meridians—as they are convenient units with which to work. The population of the incorporated and unincorporated places with 25,000 inhabitants or more is then deducted from that of the respective square degrees in which they lie and treated separately. The center of population of each square degree is assumed to be at its geographical center, except where such an assumption is manifestly incorrect; in these cases the position of the center of population of the square degree is estimated as nearly as possible. The population of each square degree north or south of the assumed parallel is multiplied by the distance of its center from that parallel; a similar calculation is made for the incorporated and unincorporated places with 25,000 inhabitants or more; and the sum of the north moments and the sum of the south moments are ascertained. The difference between these two sums, divided by the total population of the country, gives a correction to the latitude. In a similar manner the sums of the east and of the west moments are ascertained and from them the correction in longitude is made.

Table D and the accompanying map give the approximate location of the center of population at each census from 1790 to 1950.

TABLE D.—CENTER OF POPULATION: 1790 TO 1950

Year	North latitude			West longitude			Approximate location
	°	'	"	°	'	"	
1790.....	38	50	21	88	9	33	8 miles north-northwest of Olney, Richland County, Ill.
1940.....	38	56	54	87	22	35	2 miles southeast by east of Carlisle, Haddon township, Sullivan County, Ind.
1930.....	39	3	45	87	8	6	3 miles northeast of Linton, Greene County, Ind.
1920.....	39	10	21	86	43	15	8 miles south-southeast of Spencer, Owen County, Ind.
1910.....	39	10	12	86	32	20	In the city of Bloomington, Ind.
1900.....	39	9	36	85	48	54	6 miles southeast of Columbus, Ind.
1890.....	39	11	56	86	32	53	20 miles east of Columbus, Ind.
1880.....	39	4	8	84	39	40	8 miles west by south of Cincinnati, Ohio (in Kentucky).
1870.....	39	12	0	83	35	42	48 miles east by north of Cincinnati, Ohio.
1860.....	39	0	24	82	48	48	20 miles south by east of Chillicothe, Ohio.
1850.....	38	50	0	81	19	0	23 miles southeast of Parkersburg, W. Va. <sup>1</sup>
1840.....	39	2	0	80	18	0	16 miles east of Clarksburg, W. Va. <sup>1</sup>
1830.....	38	57	54	79	18	54	19 miles west-southwest of Moorefield, W. Va. <sup>1</sup>
1820.....	39	5	42	78	33	0	16 miles east of Moorefield, W. Va. <sup>1</sup>
1810.....	39	11	30	77	37	12	40 miles northwest by west of Washington, D. C. (in Virginia).
1800.....	39	16	6	76	56	30	18 miles west of Baltimore, Md.
1790.....	39	16	30	76	11	12	23 miles east of Baltimore, Md.

<sup>1</sup> West Virginia was set off from Virginia Dec. 31, 1862, and admitted as State June 19, 1863.

The position of the "center of area," that is, the point on which the surface of the United States would balance if it were a plane of uniform weight per unit of area, is located in Smith County, Kans. (approximate latitude 39°50' North, longitude 98°35' West).

**Area and density.**—The gross area, land and water, of the territory under the jurisdiction of the United States at the time of the 1950 Census was 3,623,130 square miles (table 1). The Territories, possessions, etc., had an area of 605,743 square miles and constituted 16.7 percent, or one-sixth, of the aggregate area.

The area in 1790 was 892,135 square miles, or somewhat less than one-fourth of the present area, and embraced substantially all the territory between Canada and Florida and between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River, together with part of the drainage basin of the Red River of the North. This original territory and the successive major accessions of territory from 1790 to 1920 are shown on the map which appears on page x. In 1803 the area of the country was nearly doubled by the Louisiana Purchase; and, between 1840 and 1850, three large accessions of territory resulted in further increases aggregating 1,204,896 square miles, equivalent to two-thirds of the former area.

For continental United States, the population per square mile of land area in 1950 was 50.7 (table 2). Beginning with the Census of 1790 in which the population per square mile was 4.5, the figures at each subsequent census have shown an increase in density with the exception of those for the Censuses of 1810 and 1850. In each of these years, the density was lower than it had been in the immediately preceding census because of large accessions of sparsely populated territory in the preceding decade.

**Urban and rural areas.**—According to the new definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the old definition, the urban population had been limited to all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor

INTRODUCTION

Figure 4.—CENTER OF POPULATION: 1950 AND 1940

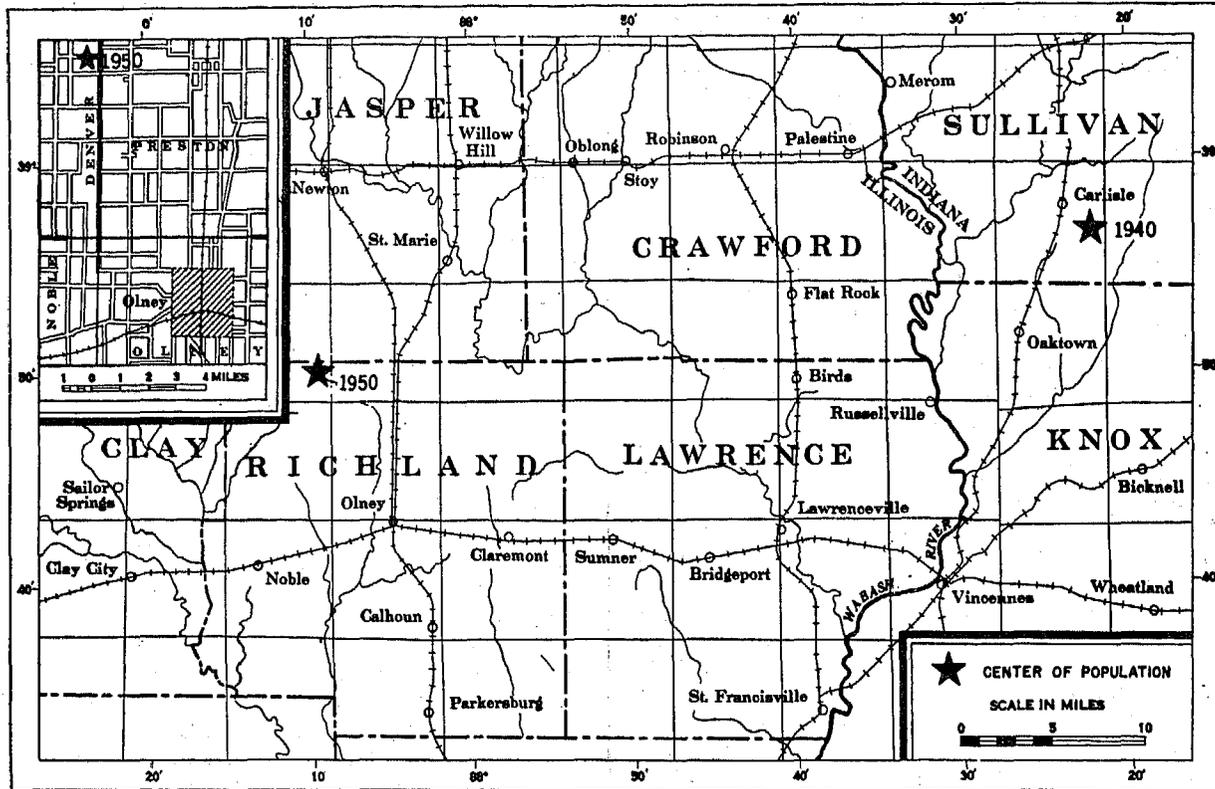
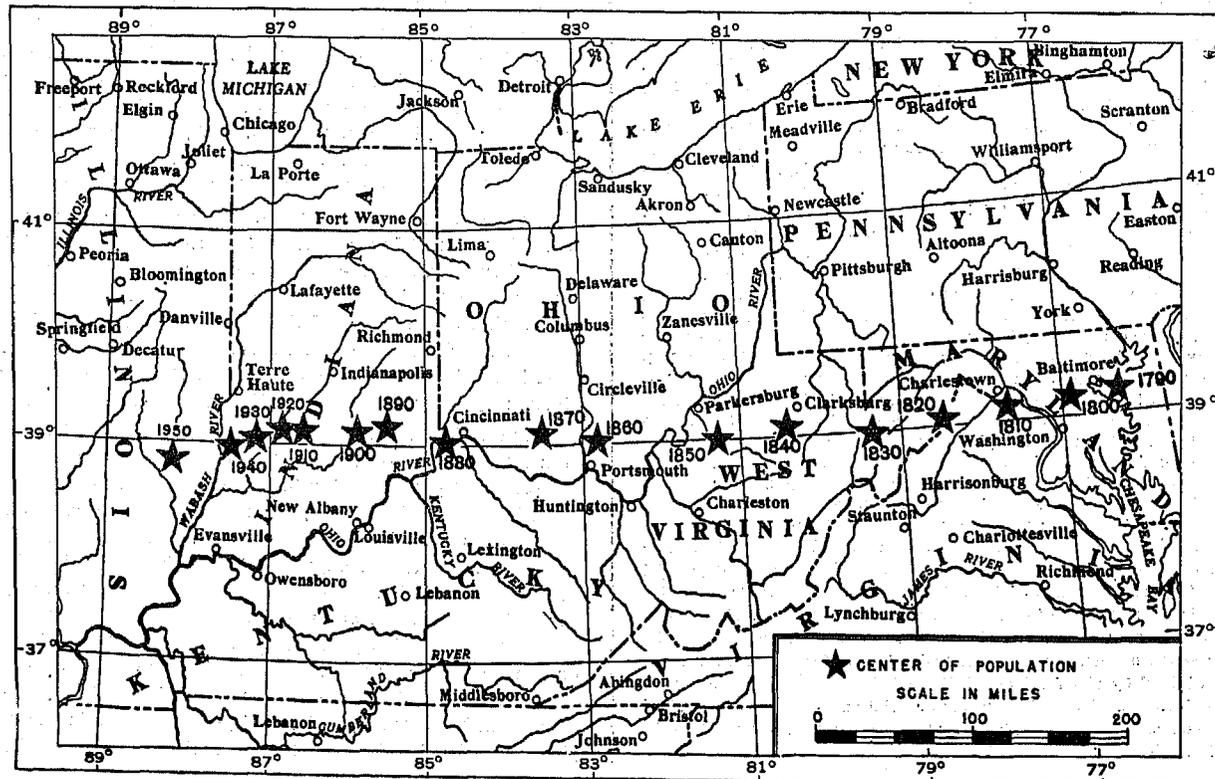


Figure 5.—CENTER OF POPULATION: 1790 TO 1950



civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.<sup>5</sup>

In both definitions, the most important component of the urban territory is the group of incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. A definition of urban territory restricted to such places would exclude a number of equally large and densely settled places, merely because they were not incorporated places. Under the old definition, an effort was made to avoid some of the more obvious omissions by the inclusion of the places classified as urban under special rules. Even with these rules, however, many large and closely built-up places were excluded from the urban territory. To improve the situation in the 1950 Census, the Bureau of the Census set up, in advance of enumeration, boundaries for urban-fringe areas around cities of 50,000 or more and for unincorporated places outside urban fringes. All the population residing in urban-fringe areas and in unincorporated places of 2,500 or more is classified as urban according to the 1950 definition. (Of course, the incorporated places of 2,500 or more in these fringes are urban in their own right.) Consequently, the special rules of the old definition are no longer necessary. For the convenience of those who are interested in the trend of the urban and rural population, the 1950 population is shown in accordance with the old definition as well as in accordance with the 1950 definition. Although the Bureau of the Census has employed other definitions in the course of its history, the statistics on the population by urban and rural residence shown for years prior to 1940 are in substantial accordance with the 1940 definition.

The count of urban places according to the new urban definition includes all incorporated places of 2,500 or more regardless of location and unincorporated places of 2,500 or more. Incorporated places of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants which lie in the urban fringe are not recognized as urban places even though their population is counted as urban. Under the old definition, all incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and all areas classified as urban under special rules were recognized as urban places. Thus, although the urban population under the old definition was exactly the population living in urban places, the urban population under the new definition includes persons living in territory outside urban places, that is, in incorporated places under 2,500 and unincorporated territory included in the urban-fringe areas.

The rural population is by no means identical with the farm population, that is, the population living on farms. (The rural-nonfarm population of the United States exceeds the rural-farm population.) Practically all of the farm population, however, is rural. Statistics of the farm population will be presented in the Series P-B bulletins.

There were no urbanized areas delineated in the Territories or possessions. The urban population in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico comprises all persons living in places of 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Urban and rural population under the new and old definitions.— Under the new urban-rural definition, 96,487,686 persons, or 64.0 percent of the population of the United States, were classified as urban. The remaining 54,229,675 persons constituted the rural

<sup>5</sup> The areas urban under special rules in 1940 were of 3 types. The first type was limited to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, in which States it is not the practice to incorporate as municipalities places with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. This type was made up of towns (townships) in which there was a village or thickly settled area having 2,500 inhabitants or more, and which comprised, either by itself or when combined with other villages in the same town, more than 50 percent of the total population of the town. The second type of areas urban under special rule was made up of townships and other political subdivisions (not incorporated as municipalities nor containing any areas so incorporated) with a total population of 10,000 or more and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile. The third type of area urban under special rule consisted of 7 places—1 in Vermont and 6 in Maine—which had been classified as urban places in 1930 but about whose status as incorporated places some question was raised in 1940.

population. The urban population according to the old definition was 88,927,464, and the rural population was 61,769,897.

The 1950 urban population according to the new urban definition consisted of the following: (a) the 86,550,941 inhabitants of the 3,883 incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; (b) the 1,994,727 inhabitants of the 401 unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more; and (c) the 7,922,018 persons living in the urban-fringe areas but outside the incorporated places of 2,500 or more. Under the old definition, the urban population consisted of the 86,550,941 inhabitants of the 3,883 incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and the 2,376,523 persons living in 140 of the areas classified as urban under special rules in 1940. (There were 141 such areas in 1940. One of the areas, Claremont town, Sullivan County, N. H., was incorporated as a city in 1948; and, consequently, was classified as urban because it was an incorporated place of 2,500 or more.)

Table B presents a cross-classification of the population by urban and rural residence under the new and old urban-rural definitions. As shown in this table, 88,589,867 persons were living in territory classified as urban under both definitions and 53,892,078 were living in territory classified as rural under both definitions. Of the population classified as urban under both definitions, 86,550,941 were residents of incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remaining 2,038,926 of these persons were classified as urban under the old definition because of residence in places urban under special rules; under the new definition 1,718,422 were classified as urban because of residence in unincorporated territory included in urban-fringe areas and 320,504 because of residence in unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more. An additional 7,877,819 persons were classified as urban under the new definition, 6,203,596 because of residence in urban-fringe areas (577,992 of whom were living in incorporated places under 2,500 inhabitants and 5,625,604 in unincorporated territory) and 1,674,223 because of residence in unincorporated places of 2,500 or more; these persons were included in the rural population under the old definition. On the other hand, 337,597 persons living in the areas urban under special rules according to the old definition were included in the rural population according to the new definition.

To summarize, the urban population under the new definition included 6,203,596 persons living in urban-fringe areas and 1,674,223 persons living in unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more who would have been included in the rural population under the old definition. On the other hand, 337,597 persons living in areas urban under special rules according to the old definition were classified as rural according to the new definition. The net increase in the urban population which resulted from the change in definition, therefore, is 7,540,222, or 5.0 percent of the total population of the United States. In terms of the population classified by urban and rural residence in accordance with the old definition, the change in definition resulted in an increase of 8.5 percent in the urban population and a decrease of 12.2 percent in the rural population (table 14).

The population of the incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more constituted 89.7 percent of the urban population under the new definition and 97.3 percent of the urban population under the old definition. The population living in other territory in the urban-fringe areas accounted for 8.2 percent of the urban population under the new definition, and the population in unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more accounted for the remaining 2.1 percent.

Table 3 presents the 1950 and 1940 population of the 140 areas urban under special rules in 1940 (omitting Claremont) and the classification of their 1950 population by urban and rural residence in accordance with the new definition. Of the 140 areas, only 4 had all of their population classified as rural under the new definition, whereas 21 had all of their population classified as urban under the new definition. The 337,597 persons

TABLE E.—POPULATION, URBAN AND RURAL, ACCORDING TO NEW AND OLD URBAN-RURAL DEFINITIONS: 1950

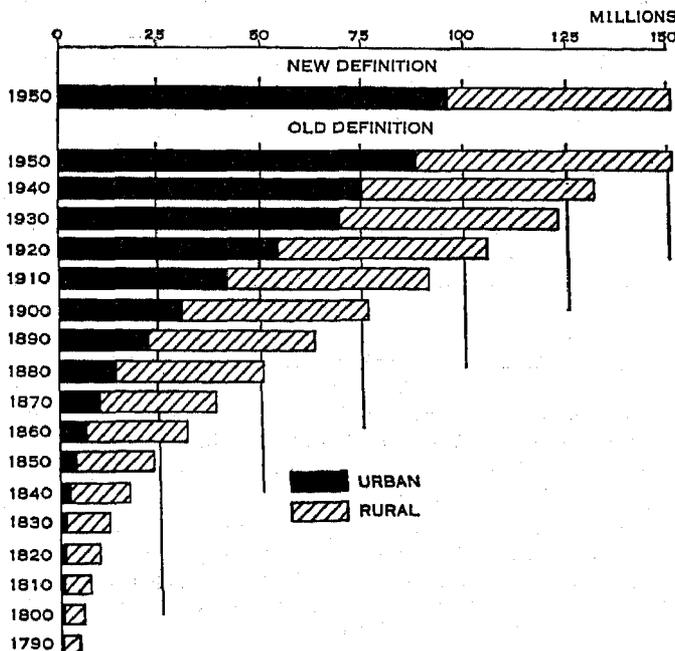
[For description of new and old urban-rural definitions, see text]

Type of area and class of place in accordance with new urban definition	Total	Type of area and class of places in accordance with old urban definition			
		Urban		Rural	
		Total	Incorporated urban places		Areas urban under special rules
Total.....	150,697,361	88,927,464	86,550,941	2,376,523	61,769,897
Urban, total.....	96,467,686	88,589,867	86,550,941	2,038,926	7,877,819
Within urbanized areas.....	69,249,148	63,045,552	61,327,130	1,718,422	6,203,596
Incorporated places of 2,500 or more.....	61,327,130	61,327,130	61,327,130	-----	-----
Incorporated places under 2,500.....	577,992	-----	-----	-----	577,992
Unincorporated territory.....	7,344,026	1,718,422	-----	1,718,422	5,625,604
Outside urbanized areas.....	27,218,538	25,544,315	25,223,811	320,504	1,674,223
Incorporated places of 2,500 or more.....	25,223,811	25,223,811	25,223,811	-----	-----
Unincorporated places of 2,500 or more.....	1,994,727	320,504	-----	320,504	1,674,223
Rural, total.....	54,229,675	337,597	-----	337,597	53,892,078

living in these areas who were included in the rural population according to the new definition amounted to about one-seventh of the total population of the areas.

Trends in urban and rural population, 1790 to 1950.—Trends in the urban and rural population can be examined only on the basis of the old definition. On this basis, the urban population increased from 74,423,702 in 1940 to 88,927,464 in 1950, and the rural population from 57,245,573 in 1940 to 61,769,897 (table 15).

FIGURE 6.—URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: 1790 TO 1950



The gains of 14,503,762 in the urban, and 4,524,324 in the rural, population represented increases of 19.5 and 7.9 percent, respectively. The numerical gain in the urban population was second only to the increase of 14,796,850 recorded in the decade 1920 to 1930 and marked the seventh consecutive decade in which the numerical increase in the urban population exceeded that in the rural population. The numerical increase in the rural population was the largest since the gain of 4,993,205 for the decade 1890 to 1900.

In 1790, 1 out of every 20 of the 3,929,214 inhabitants of the United States was living in urban territory (table 15). In every decade thereafter, with the exception of that from 1810 to 1820, the rate of growth of the urban population exceeded that of the rural population. By 1860, one out of five persons was included in the urban population. The process of urbanization continued in the following decades, and by 1920 the urban population exceeded the rural population. In 1950 about three out of every five persons were living in urban territory.

Places classified according to size.—There were 5 places of 1,000,000 or more in 1950; 101 places of 100,000 to 1,000,000; 378 places of 25,000 to 100,000; 3,800 places of 2,500 to 25,000; and 4,487 places of 1,000 to 2,500 (tables 5a, 5b, and K). On the other hand, the places of 1,000,000 or more contained 11.5 percent of the total population; those of 100,000 to 1,000,000, 17.9 percent; those of 25,000 to 100,000, 11.8 percent; those of 2,500 to 25,000, 17.6 percent; those of 1,000 to 2,500, 4.6 percent; and the remaining 36.6 percent lived in smaller places, the unincorporated parts of urban fringes, and the open country. If we regarded each urbanized area as only one "place," the distribution would be somewhat different. For example, "places" of 1,000,000 or more would then contain 25.1 percent of the population and areas outside places of 1,000 or more would account for only 31.7 percent (table 5a).

Again, historical comparisons of groups of places according to size can be made only in terms of the old urban definition (table 5b). Population changes in the size-groups of largest places may be very great because the inclusion or exclusion of a single metropolis has a very marked effect. New York City first achieved a population of a million at the Census of 1880. At that time it included 2.4 percent of the national population total. By 1950, the five places of this size-class included 11.5 percent of the total. The number of places in all but two size-groups has tended to increase steadily up through the latest census. The number of places of 250,000 to 500,000 has been about the same since 1930, but here there are too few cases for the determination of the recent trend. The number of incorporated places of less than 1,000 has declined slightly since 1930. In terms of population, all size groups have a remarkably consistent history of growth, except, again, for the very smallest incorporated places. In terms of percentage of the total population accounted for, the picture is less consistent. In general, the larger size-classes have gained relative to the smaller ones, but there are several recent exceptions. The peak proportion of the United States total was reached in 1930 for both cities of 1,000,000 or more and cities of 250,000 to 500,000. Places of 5,000 to 10,000 represent the smallest class that has been increasing its share. Areas outside places of 1,000 or more, which included 60.9 percent of the population in 1890, included only 37.4 percent in 1950.

APPORTIONMENT

Apportionment population.—The primary reason for the establishment of the decennial census of population, as set forth in the Constitution, was to provide a basis for the apportionment of members of the House of Representatives among the several States. Such an apportionment has been made on the basis of every census from 1790 to 1950, except that of 1920. Prior to 1870, the population basis for apportionment was the total free population of the States, omitting Indians not taxed, plus three-fifths of the number of slaves. After the apportionment of 1860 the fractional count of the number of slaves, of course, disappeared from the procedure; and in 1940 it was determined that there were no longer any Indians who should be classed as "not taxed" under the terms of the apportionment laws. The 1940 and 1950 apportionments, therefore, were made on the basis of the entire population of the 48 States. All apportionments are made under the constitutional provision that each State should have at least one Representative, no matter how small its population.

The population base for apportionment and other significant items are shown in table F. The results of each apportionment, starting with the initial apportionment in 1789 and including those based on each census from 1790 to 1950, are shown by regions, divisions, and States in table 10.

TABLE F.—POPULATION BASE FOR APPORTIONMENT AND THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES APPORTIONED: 1790 TO 1950

Census year	Population base <sup>1</sup>	Number of Representatives <sup>2</sup>	Ratio of apportionment population to Representatives	Date of apportionment act
1950.....	149,895,183	435	344,587	Nov. 15, 1941.
1940.....	131,006,184	435	301,164	Nov. 15, 1941.
1930.....	122,093,455	435	280,675	June 18, 1929.
1920.....	( <sup>3</sup> )	435	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
1910.....	91,603,772	435	210,583	Aug. 8, 1911.
1900.....	74,562,608	386	193,167	Jan. 15, 1901.
1890.....	61,908,906	356	173,901	Feb. 7, 1891.
1880.....	49,371,340	325	151,912	Feb. 25, 1882.
1870.....	38,115,641	292	130,533	Feb. 2, 1872. <sup>4</sup>
1860.....	29,550,038	241	122,614	May 23, 1850. <sup>5</sup>
1850.....	21,766,691	234	93,020	May 23, 1850. <sup>5</sup>
1840.....	15,908,376	223	71,338	June 25, 1842.
1830.....	11,930,987	240	49,712	May 22, 1832.
1820.....	8,972,396	213	42,124	Mar. 7, 1822.
1810.....	6,584,231	181	36,377	Dec. 21, 1811.
1800.....	4,379,820	141	34,609	Jan. 14, 1802.
1790.....	3,615,823	105	34,436	Apr. 14, 1792.
		65	730,000	Constitution, 1789.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the population of the District of Columbia, the population of the Territories, the number of Indians not taxed, and (prior to 1870) two-fifths of the slave population.

<sup>2</sup> This number is the actual number apportioned at the beginning of the decade.

<sup>3</sup> No apportionment was made after the Census of 1920.

<sup>4</sup> Amended by act of May 30, 1872.

<sup>5</sup> Amended by the act of Mar. 4, 1862.

<sup>6</sup> Amended by act of July 30, 1852.

<sup>7</sup> The minimum ratio of population to Representatives stated in the Constitution (art. 1, sec. 2).

The first attempt to make provision for automatic reapportionment was included in the act for the taking of the Seventh and subsequent censuses (approved May 23, 1850). By specifying the number of Representatives to be assigned and the method to be used, it was hoped to eliminate the need for a new act of Congress every decade and assure an equitable distribution of Representatives. When this Census Act was superseded in 1870, the automatic feature was discontinued, and the method of computing the apportionment was determined by Congress on each occasion up to 1910.

No apportionment was made after the Census of 1920, the apportionment of 1910 remaining in effect. In 1929, when the act for the taking of the Fifteenth and subsequent censuses was under consideration, it seemed desirable to incorporate some provision which might prevent the repetition of the 1920 experience. A section was, therefore, included in the act which provided, for the 1930 and subsequent censuses, that unless Congress within a specified time enacted legislation providing for apportionment on a different basis, the apportionment should be made automatically by the method last used. In accordance with this act, a report was submitted by the President to Congress on December 4, 1930, showing the apportionment computations both by the method of major fractions (which was the one used in 1910) and by the method of equal proportions. In 1931, in the absence of additional legislation, the automatically effective apportionment followed the method of major fractions.

The Censuses of 1940 and 1950 were taken under the same law as the Census of 1930, but in 1941 this law was amended to the effect that apportionments based on the 1940 and subsequent censuses should be made by the method of equal proportions. In the application of this method, the Representatives are so assigned that the average population per Representative has the least possible relative variation between one State and any other.

Changes in number of Representatives, 1940 to 1950.—As a result of the apportionment based on the 1950 Census, seven States

gained Representatives and nine States lost Representatives. The largest gain was made by California, which gained seven Representatives. Florida gained two; and Maryland, Michigan, Texas, Virginia, and Washington each gained one. The nine States losing Representatives were: Pennsylvania, three; Missouri, New York, and Oklahoma, two each; and Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, one each.

REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES

Trends in population, 1940 to 1950.—For purposes of providing summary figures at levels intermediate between those for the United States and those for an individual State, regions and geographic divisions have been used in recent censuses. The latter type of area represents a grouping of contiguous States, and regions in turn are composed of groups of divisions. The component States of each division are indicated on the map which appears on page iv.

As in earlier periods, the West led the four regions of the United States in rate of population growth during the last 10 years. Between 1940 and 1950 the West had a 40.9 percent increase in population, whereas no other region increased by more than 13.3 percent (table 7). Throughout the last 100 years, census returns consistently have pointed to the West as the region outstripping all others in rate of population gain. Now, for the first time, the numerical intercensal increase in the population of the West, 5,678,260, has also exceeded the numerical increase in any other region. Most of the increase in the West, 4,753,265, took place in the Pacific Division. In the Mountain Division the increase was only 924,995, or somewhat less than one-sixth of the gain for the region. The Pacific and Mountain Divisions surpassed all other divisions with respect to rate of population increase in the last 10 years, the former having an increase of 48.8 percent, and the latter an increase of 22.3 percent.

Second among the regions with respect to both amount and rate of population increase was the South, which had a gain of 5,531,187, or 13.3 percent. Much of this gain took place in the South Atlantic Division, which increased by 3,359,184, or 18.8 percent, and in the West South Central Division, which gained 1,473,047, or 11.3 percent. In the East South Central Division there was only a relatively small increase, 698,956, or 6.5 percent. The South had a number of States with population losses; three of the four States which had population losses were in this region.

The remaining two regions, the North Central and Northeast, had moderate rates of increase. The population of the North Central Region increased by 4,317,430, or 10.8 percent, and the Northeast by 3,501,209, or 9.7 percent. In the North Central Region the large increase occurred in the East North Central Division, which gained 3,773,026, or 14.2 percent. The West North Central Division increased, but by only 544,404, or 4.0 percent. In the Northeast the bulk of the population increase took place in the already heavily populated Middle Atlantic Division, which gained 2,624,046, or 9.5 percent.

The population counts from the 1950 Census show New York to be the most populous, and Nevada to be the least populous, State, just as has been the case since 1890. In between these extremes, however, there has been a considerable rearrangement of the rank of the States with respect to total population (table 11). Thirteen States and the District of Columbia now rank higher than in 1940, whereas 22 other States have dropped in rank during the last 10 years. California had the most conspicuous change in rank, progressing from fifth place in 1940 to second place in 1950. Florida and Washington each moved seven positions upward in rank, Arizona six positions upward, and Maryland and Virginia each four positions upward. On the other hand, Arkansas had a sharp drop in rank with respect to total population, falling from twenty-fourth to thirtieth place, and West Virginia dropped from twenty-fifth to twenty-ninth place.

INTRODUCTION

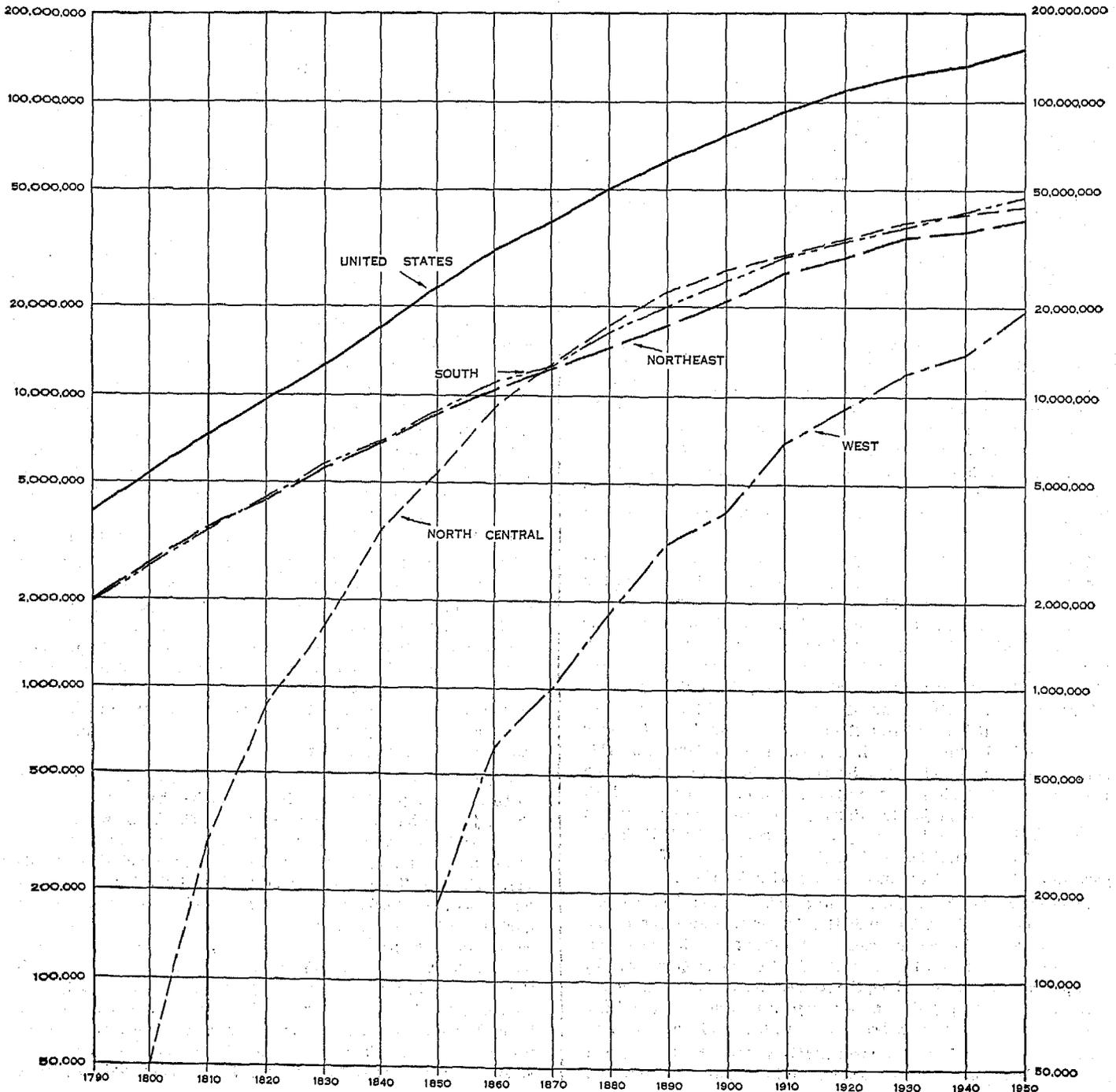
California surpassed all other States with respect to both amount and rate of population increase (table 12). Between 1940 and 1950, California had a population increase of 3,678,836, or 53.3 percent; Oregon and Washington had increases of 39.6 percent and 37.0 percent, respectively. Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah formed a second area of rapid population increase, with recorded gains ranging from 25.2 percent for Utah to 50.1 percent for Arizona. A third center of heavy population increase is located in and near the seat of the United States Government. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia each had increases of more than 20 percent. Florida, Michigan, and Texas, with rates of increase of 46.1, 21.2, and 20.2 percent, respectively, were the only other States which had population increases of one-fifth or more. The rate of increase in the population of Florida was in marked contrast to the rates in the

neighboring States of Georgia and Alabama, which had increases of 10.3 and 8.1 percent, respectively.

Only four States, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, had population losses. Three of these States were in the South and one in the North Central Region; all four States were predominantly rural.

Area and density.—Among the regions, the West contained approximately 40 percent of the total land area of the country and 13.0 of the total population in 1950, whereas the Northeast with about 5 percent of the land area contained approximately 26 percent of the population. The South accounted for about 30 percent of the land area of the country and also about 30 percent of the population. The corresponding figures for the North Central States were 25 and 30 percent, respectively. In 1950 there were 241.2 persons per square mile in the Northeast; 58.8 in the

Figure 7.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1790 TO 1950



North Central States; 53.7 in the South; and 16.6 in the West (table 9).

The Middle Atlantic Division led the other divisions with a density of 300.1 persons per square mile of land area, followed by New England with a density of 147.5 and the East North Central Division with a density of 124.1. The figures on density for the remaining divisions were all less than 100; and the figure for the Mountain Division, 5.9, was the lowest among all divisions.

The District of Columbia, which is also the city of Washington, had a density of 13,150.5 persons per square mile in 1950. Among the States, there were three—Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Massachusetts—with population densities ranging from 596.2 to 748.5. For Connecticut, New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania densities ranged from 233.1 to 409.7; and densities of from 108.7 to 193.8 occurred in the following States: Ohio, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana. The population per square mile was less than 10.0 in North and South Dakota and in each of the Mountain States except Colorado.

Shifts in the ranking of States with respect to density in the period between 1900 and 1950 have not, in general, been very marked. The District of Columbia, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut have occupied one or another of the first five places at each of the six decennial censuses in the 50-year period under consideration. Likewise, during the same period Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada occupied the last five places. There were, however, some exceptions. Between 1900 and 1950 California rose from thirty-seventh to twentieth place, and Florida, from thirty-sixth to twenty-seventh place. On the other hand, Missouri dropped from seventeenth to twenty-sixth place.

Among the larger Territories and possessions, Alaska with only 0.2 persons per square mile in 1950 was less densely settled than Nevada (1.5), the lowest ranking State. Hawaii was about as densely settled as Tennessee; and Puerto Rico, although predominantly rural, was as densely settled as New Jersey.

Urban and rural population under new definitions.—The Northeast, with an urban population amounting to nearly 80 percent of the total population of the region, led all other regions in the percentage of the population classified as urban under the new definition (table 15). The percentages of the total population classified as urban in the West and in the North Central Regions were about 69.8 and 64.1, respectively; and slightly less than one-half (48.6 percent) of the population of the South was urban. In the Middle Atlantic, New England, and Pacific Divisions, the urban population comprised 75 percent or more of the total population, whereas in the South Atlantic and East South Central Divisions the corresponding percentages were 49.1 and 39.1, respectively. In the remaining divisions, the percentage urban ranged from 52.0 in the West North Central Division to 69.7 in the East North Central Division.

There were four States—New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island—among which the percentage of the population classified as urban varied from 84.3 to 86.6 (table G). This group of States was followed by three States—California, Connecticut, and Illinois—in which this percentage varied from 77.6 to 80.7. At the lower end of the distribution, the percentage urban for North Dakota was 26.6 and for Mississippi, 27.9. For an additional group of States—Arkansas, South Dakota, North Carolina, West Virginia, Vermont, South Carolina, and Kentucky—this percentage varied from 33.0 to 36.8. The range in the remaining 32 States was from 42.9 percent for Idaho to 70.7 percent in Michigan. The District of Columbia is completely urban.

Effects of change in urban definition.—The net number of persons shifted to the urban population by the change in the urban-rural definition amounted to 5.0 percent of the total population of the United States (table 14). Among the regions, it ranged from 10.6 percent in the West to 3.4 in the North Central

Region. For both the Northeast and the South, this percentage was 4.6—slightly less than the national figure.

Among the divisions, the net transfer of population from rural to urban effected by the change in the urban-rural definition was least in New England, where it amounted to 1.9 percent of the total population. This low figure reflects the fact that, although the change in definition in this division had the effect of including in the urban classification territory which was rural under the old definition, considerable portions of the towns which had been urban under special rules according to the old definition were shifted into the rural category. As a result, the net gain by reclassification in urban population was small. The greatest net effect of the change in urban definition occurred in the Pacific Division in which 12.1 percent of the total population was transferred from rural to urban.

In three States—North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming—the change in the urban-rural definition had no effect on the distribution of the population by urban and rural residence.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island stand in marked contrast to the other States in which the urban and rural distribution of the population was affected by the change in definition. In these States the net effect of this change was to transfer 3.5 percent and 4.2 percent of the total population, respectively, from the urban to the rural classification. Among all the remaining States, however, the change in urban definition resulted in net shifts of population in the opposite direction, that is, from the rural to the urban category. These shifts ranged from 19.0 percent of the total population of Arizona to 0.1 percent of South Dakota.

A comparison of those States in which 10 percent or more of the total population was transferred to the urban category by the change in definition—Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, California, Connecticut, and Maine—with those States in which the corresponding figure was less than 1 percent or in which there was no change—Montana, Iowa, Minnesota, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Vermont—suggests that, in general, the effects of the change were large in those States in which population growth had been relatively great between 1940 and 1950 and in which the percent urban under the old definition was relatively high. Since the change in definition involved the shift of thickly settled areas from the rural to the urban classification, these relationships are to be expected. A relatively high concentration of urban population increases the potential size of the "suburban" population which may be converted to urban under the new definition; and, in a period, such as the decade 1940 to 1950, when population growth is concentrated in suburban areas, this potentiality is realized in those States with large increases in population.

The situation is complicated, of course, by variations in State practices with respect to incorporation and annexation. If these two processes have followed closely on the heels of concentrated settlement, then little difference between the urban and rural distribution of the population of a State under the old and new definitions is to be expected. If, however, the development of new areas of concentrated settlement is not recognized by annexation or incorporation, the difference created by the change in definition will be large. A further complication arises in connection with the minor civil divisions which were urban under special rules according to the old definition. The use of whole minor civil divisions as units required the inclusion of their sparsely settled areas. Under the greater refinement of the new definition, these sparsely settled areas reverted to rural territory with the result that in Rhode Island and Massachusetts the change in definition resulted in a net increase in population classified as rural.

Rank of States under new and old urban-rural definitions.—In 1950 under the old urban-rural definition, the District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey occupied, in that order, the first five ranks in the array of States according

to percentage of urban population (table G). Arrayed in the order of percent urban under the new definition, these same States still occupied the first five places, but Rhode Island and Massachusetts, which ranked second and third under the old definition, dropped to fifth and fourth place under the new, and New York and New Jersey rose to third and second place, respectively. This shift reflects the fact that Rhode Island and Massachusetts were the only States in which the change in urban definition resulted in a net decrease in the urban population, whereas in New Jersey and New York it resulted in the usual net increase in urban population.

The greatest increases in rank brought about by the change in definition occurred in Arizona, which rose from fortieth to twenty-fourth place; Delaware, which rose from thirtieth to eighteenth place; and Maryland, which rose from twentieth to twelfth place.

Trends in the urban and rural population, 1940 to 1950.—Trends in the urban and rural population can be examined only on the basis of the old urban-rural definition. Among the regions, the patterns of urban and rural increase were quite diverse (table 15). In the West, the urban and rural percentages of increase were fairly similar, 42.5 and 38.6, respectively; whereas in the South the corresponding percentages were 35.9 and 0.2. The figures for the North Central Region indicate an intermediate position with a rate of increase for the urban population of 15.2 percent and a rate of increase for the rural population of 4.5 percent. In the Northeast, however, the rural rate of increase, 17.9 percent, was more than twice as large as the urban rate, 7.2 percent.

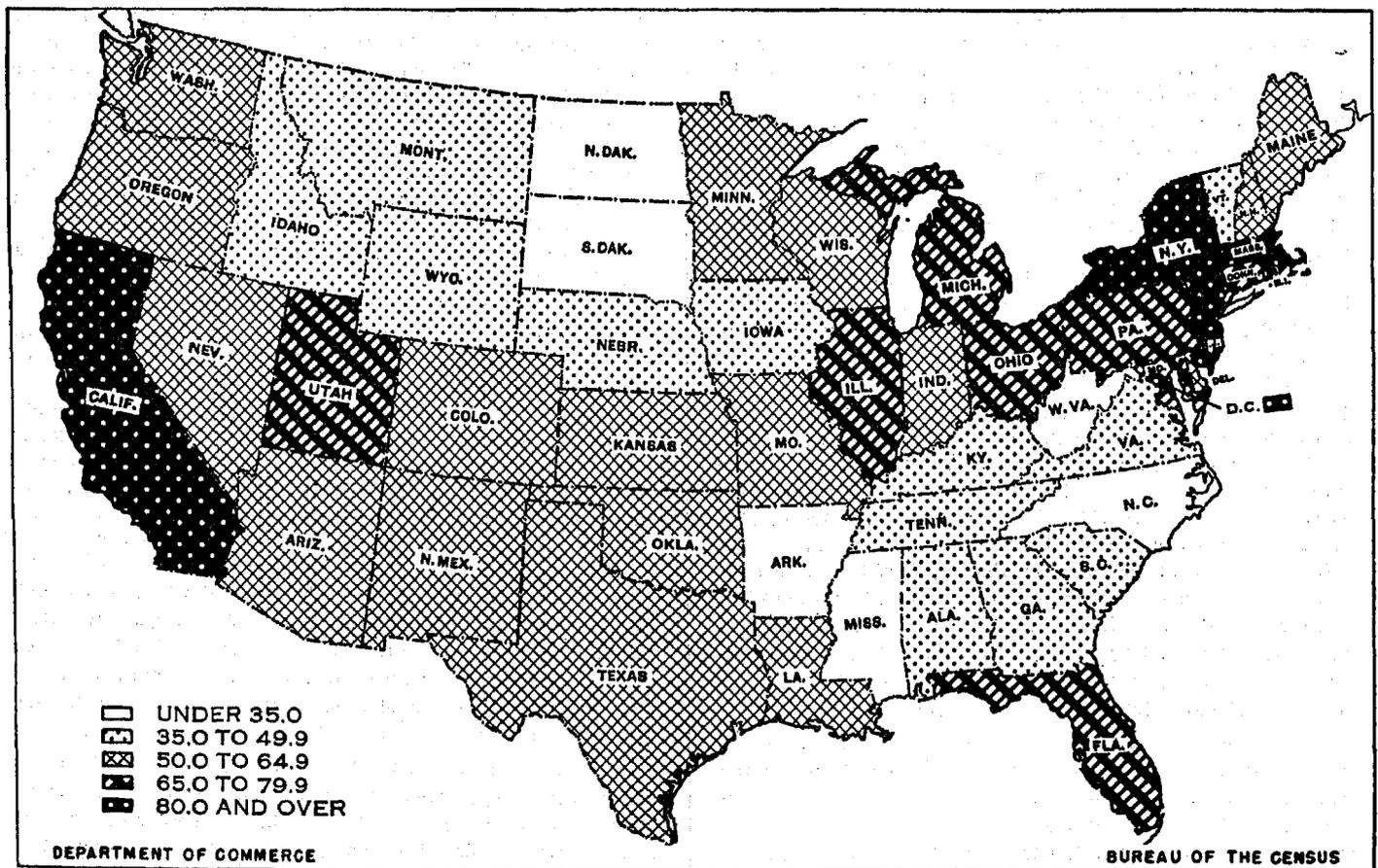
The geographic divisions fall into several fairly distinct types with respect to patterns of change in the urban and rural popula-

tion during the decade. The West North Central, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions were characterized by substantial rates of growth in urban areas and by actual losses in rural areas. In the South Atlantic and Mountain Divisions, both the urban and rural populations increased but the urban rate of growth was considerably greater than the rural rate. In the East North Central Division, the urban and rural rates of growth were of about the same magnitude and not appreciably different from the rate of growth of the total population of the country as a whole. The figures for the component divisions of the Northeast, the New England and Middle Atlantic Divisions, showed rural rates of increase in excess of urban rates, as did the figures for the Pacific Division.

The rates of urban and rural increase among the States (exclusive of the District of Columbia) show a similar type of variability. There were 17 States in which there were substantial rates of increase in the urban population but decreases in the rural population. This group of States includes the four States—Arkansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Oklahoma—in which the total population decreased during the decade; and, even in these States, the rates of urban increase ranged from 24.9 percent in North Dakota to 42.9 percent in Arkansas. There were 18 States in which both the urban and the rural population increased and in which the urban rate of growth exceeded the rural rate of growth. In the remaining 13 States—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island—the rural rate of increase exceeded the urban rate. In these last States, it is likely that the direction of the difference would have been reversed in most cases if the new definition could have been used over the decade.

Figure 8.—PERCENT URBAN BY STATES: 1950

[Based on classification in accordance with new urban-rural definition]



# NUMBER OF INHABITANTS

Figure 9.—PERCENT INCREASE IN URBAN POPULATION BY STATES: 1940 TO 1950  
 [Based on classification in accordance with old urban-rural definition]

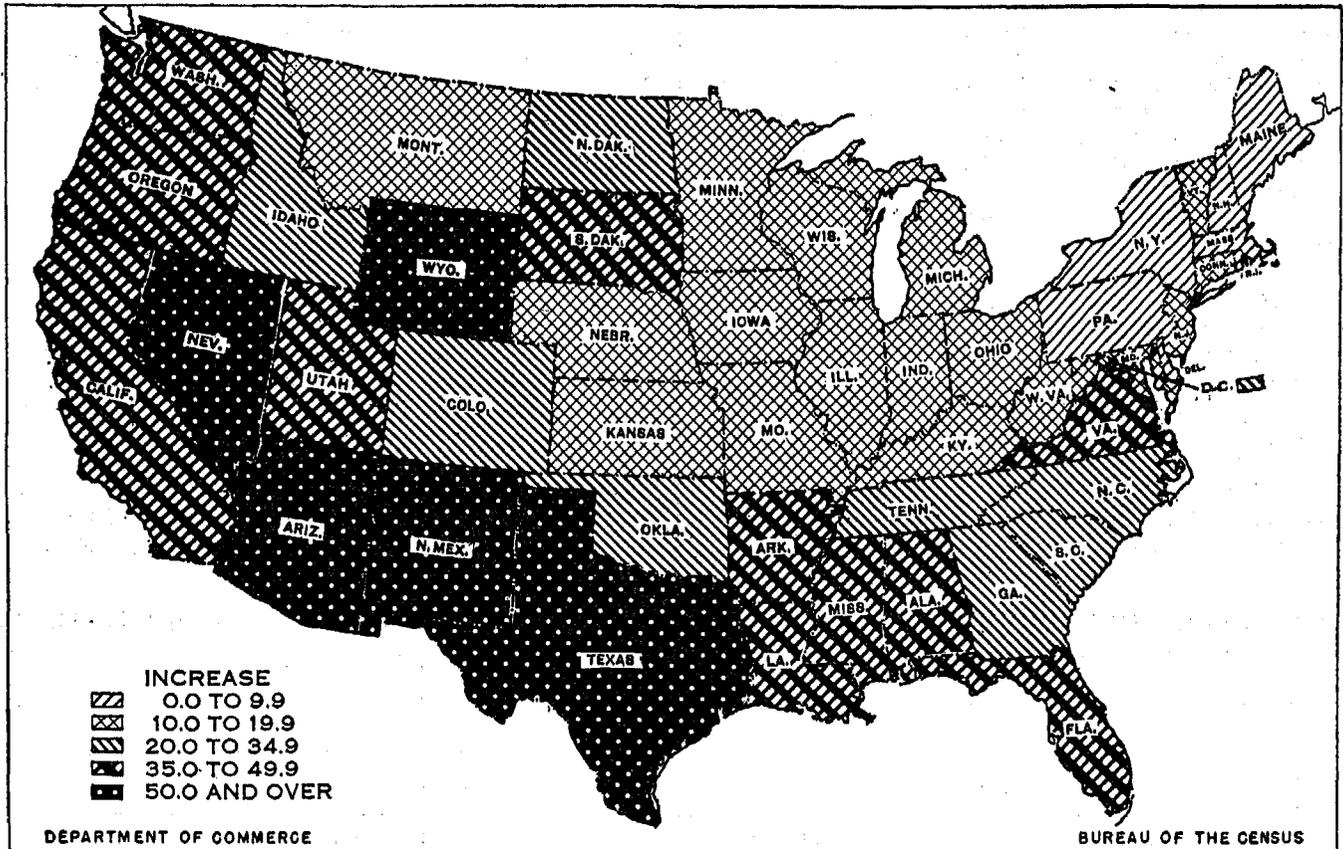
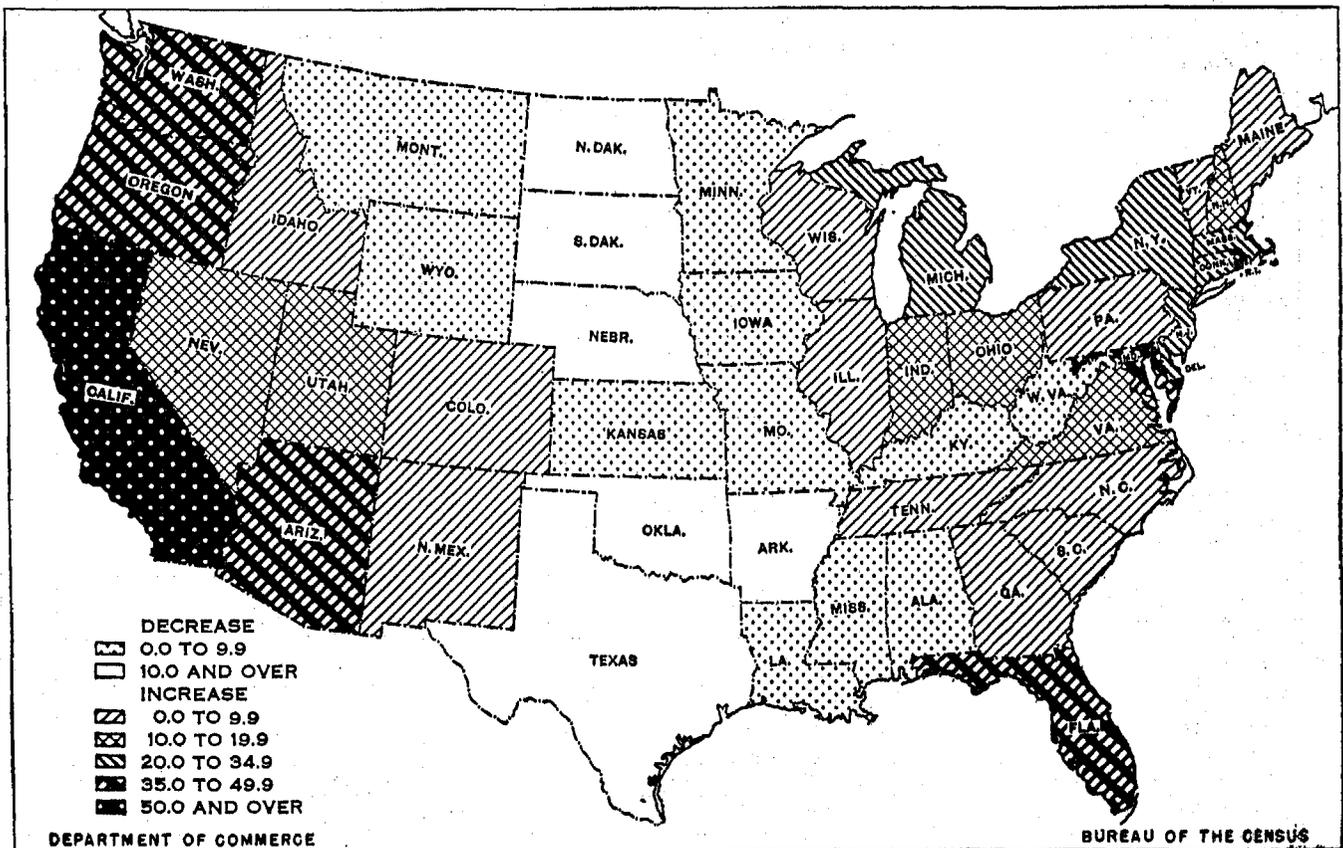


Figure 10.—PERCENT INCREASE IN RURAL POPULATION BY STATES: 1940 TO 1950  
 [Based on classification in accordance with old urban-rural definition]



In summary, the urban population increased in every State during the decade ending in 1950. It is also apparent that the slow rate of growth or actual decline in the total population of the central areas of the country was primarily a function of decreases or slight increases in the rural population. Finally, the general character of the areas—regions, divisions, and States—where the rural rate of growth during the decade exceeded the urban rate (which means, of course, that the urban population constituted a smaller percentage of the total population in 1950 than it had in 1940) suggests that the higher rates of rural increase reflect suburban development rather than any upsurge in the farm or village population.

**Rank of States by percent urban, 1900 to 1950.**—In 1900 the District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey occupied the first five places among the States ranked with respect to the percent of the population classified as urban (table G). In 1950, under the old urban-rural definition, these five still occupied the first ranks, and in the same order. The next five places were held in 1900 by Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, and Maryland. By 1950, under the old definition, Maryland and Connecticut had dropped to the twentieth and eleventh ranks, respectively; and they had been replaced by Ohio and Michigan, which have risen from twelfth and sixteenth

places, respectively. The greatest gains in rank during the 50-year period were made by Texas, which rose from thirty-fourth place in 1900 to thirteenth place in 1950, and by Oklahoma which rose from forty-seventh to twenty-sixth place.

The five lowest ranking States in 1900 were Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Idaho. Of these States, Oklahoma had risen to twenty-sixth place by 1950, Idaho to thirty-eighth place, and Arkansas to forty-fourth place. In the same period West Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina had dropped from fortieth, forty-first, and forty-fourth places, respectively, to positions among the last five ranks. Losses of 10 or more ranks between 1900 and 1950 occurred in the following States: Delaware, Kentucky, Montana, Maine, Maryland, Vermont. In no instances do these declines in rank represent a decrease in the proportion of the population classified as urban during the 50-year period; rather, they represent relatively low rates of increase in the proportion urban.

**State origins and boundaries.**—Since 1780, not only have there been changes in the boundaries of the Thirteen Original States, but the whole process of converting newly acquired areas, first into Territories and then into States, involved a considerable number of boundary changes before the State boundaries, as they now exist, were established. The history of major changes as

Table G.—RANK OF STATES ACCORDING TO PERCENT OF POPULATION CLASSIFIED AS URBAN: 1950 AND 1900

Rank	1950				1900	
	New urban-rural definition		Old urban-rural definition		State	Percent urban
	State	Percent urban	State	Percent urban		
1	District of Columbia.....	100.0	District of Columbia.....	100.0	District of Columbia.....	100.0
2	New Jersey.....	86.8	Rhode Island.....	83.4	Rhode Island.....	83.3
3	New York.....	85.5	Massachusetts.....	87.9	Massachusetts.....	86.0
4	Massachusetts.....	84.4	New York.....	80.2	New York.....	72.9
5	Rhode Island.....	84.3	New Jersey.....	79.6	New Jersey.....	70.6
6	California.....	80.7	Illinois.....	74.5	Connecticut.....	59.9
7	Connecticut.....	77.6	California.....	67.1	Pennsylvania.....	54.7
8	Illinois.....	77.6	Ohio.....	66.4	Illinois.....	54.3
9	Michigan.....	70.7	Pennsylvania.....	65.8	California.....	52.3
10	Pennsylvania.....	70.5	Michigan.....	64.3	Maryland.....	49.8
11	Ohio.....	70.2	Connecticut.....	64.1	Colorado.....	48.3
12	Maryland.....	69.0	Utah.....	59.9	Ohio.....	48.1
13	Florida.....	68.5	Texas.....	59.8	New Hampshire.....	46.7
14	Utah.....	65.3	Missouri.....	57.9	Delaware.....	45.4
15	Washington.....	63.2	Colorado.....	57.4	Washington.....	40.8
16	Texas.....	62.7	Florida.....	56.5	Michigan.....	39.3
17	Colorado.....	62.7	New Hampshire.....	56.5	Wisconsin.....	38.2
18	Delaware.....	62.6	Indiana.....	56.4	Utah.....	38.1
19	Missouri.....	61.5	Wisconsin.....	55.5	Missouri.....	36.3
20	Indiana.....	59.9	Maryland.....	54.4	Montana.....	34.7
21	Wisconsin.....	57.9	Minnesota.....	53.9	Indiana.....	34.3
22	New Hampshire.....	57.5	Washington.....	53.6	Minnesota.....	34.1
23	Nevada.....	57.2	Nevada.....	52.5	Maine.....	33.5
24	Arizona.....	55.5	Louisiana.....	50.8	Oregon.....	32.2
25	Louisiana.....	54.8	Wyoming.....	49.8	Wyoming.....	28.8
26	Minnesota.....	54.5	Oklahoma.....	49.6	Louisiana.....	26.5
27	Oregon.....	53.9	Oregon.....	48.1	Iowa.....	25.6
28	Kansas.....	52.1	Kansas.....	47.4	Nebraska.....	23.7
29	Maine.....	51.7	Iowa.....	46.9	Kansas.....	22.4
30	Oklahoma.....	51.0	Delaware.....	46.5	Vermont.....	22.1
31	New Mexico.....	50.2	New Mexico.....	46.2	Kentucky.....	21.8
32	Wyoming.....	49.8	Nebraska.....	45.8	Florida.....	20.3
33	Iowa.....	47.7	Montana.....	42.8	Virginia.....	18.3
34	Virginia.....	47.0	Maine.....	41.0	Texas.....	17.1
35	Nebraska.....	46.9	Virginia.....	40.3	Nevada.....	17.0
36	Georgia.....	45.3	Georgia.....	40.1	Tennessee.....	16.2
37	Tennessee.....	44.1	Alabama.....	40.1	Arizona.....	15.9
38	Alabama.....	43.8	Idaho.....	39.8	Georgia.....	15.6
39	Montana.....	43.7	Tennessee.....	38.4	New Mexico.....	14.0
40	Idaho.....	42.9	Arizona.....	36.5	West Virginia.....	13.1
41	Kentucky.....	36.8	Vermont.....	36.4	South Carolina.....	12.8
42	South Carolina.....	36.7	Kentucky.....	33.5	Alabama.....	11.9
43	Vermont.....	36.4	South Dakota.....	33.1	South Dakota.....	10.2
44	West Virginia.....	34.6	Arkansas.....	32.3	North Carolina.....	9.9
45	North Carolina.....	33.7	West Virginia.....	31.9	Arkansas.....	8.5
46	South Dakota.....	33.2	North Carolina.....	30.5	Mississippi.....	7.7
47	Arkansas.....	33.0	South Carolina.....	28.8	Oklahoma.....	7.4
48	Mississippi.....	27.9	Mississippi.....	27.6	North Dakota.....	7.3
49	North Dakota.....	26.6	North Dakota.....	26.6	Idaho.....	6.2

they relate to the 48 States and the District of Columbia as now constituted is outlined below:<sup>a</sup>

**Alabama.**—Alabama was organized as a Territory in 1817 from the eastern part of Mississippi Territory and was admitted to the Union in 1819 as the twenty-second State with boundaries as at present.

**Arizona.**—Arizona was organized as a Territory in 1863 from the western part of the Territory of New Mexico. Part of the Territory was annexed in 1866 by Nevada, leaving the Territory with boundaries the same as those of the present State. Arizona was admitted to the Union in 1912 as the forty-eighth State.

**Arkansas.**—Arkansas was organized as a Territory in 1819 with boundaries which also included most of the present area of Oklahoma. The area of the Territory was reduced in 1824 and 1828 to substantially the present boundaries of the State. It was admitted to the Union as the twenty-fifth State in 1836 with boundaries substantially as at present.

**California.**—California was organized as a State from a part of the area acquired from Mexico in 1848 and was admitted to the Union in 1850 as the thirty-first State with boundaries as at present.

**Colorado.**—Colorado was organized as a Territory in 1861 from parts of Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Utah Territories. In 1876, without change in boundaries and with boundaries as at present, it was admitted to the Union as the thirty-eighth State.

**Connecticut.**—Connecticut was one of the Thirteen Original States.

**Delaware.**—Delaware was one of the Thirteen Original States.

**District of Columbia.**—The District of Columbia, formed from territory ceded by Maryland and Virginia, was established as the seat of the Federal Government in accordance with acts of Congress passed in 1790 and 1791. Its boundaries, as defined in 1791, included the present area, together with about 30 square miles in Virginia. In 1846 the area south of the Potomac River was retroceded to Virginia, leaving the District of Columbia with its present limits.

**Florida.**—Florida was organized as a Territory in 1822, with boundaries as at present, from the area purchased from Spain in 1819 and transferred to the United States in 1821. It was admitted to the Union in 1845 as the twenty-seventh State.

**Georgia.**—Georgia was one of the Thirteen Original States. At the close of the Revolution, it included territory extending westward to the Mississippi River, constituting most of the area now in Alabama and Mississippi. In 1798 part of this area was organized as the Territory of Mississippi. In 1802 Georgia ceded to the United States all its claims to the region west of its present western boundary and acquired a small strip of land along its northern boundary. These changes left the State with its present boundaries.

**Idaho.**—Idaho was organized as a Territory in 1863. Its area was reduced in 1864 by the organization of Montana Territory and in 1868 by the organization of Wyoming Territory. Idaho attained its present boundaries in 1873 with the transfer of six square miles to Montana following a resurvey of the Continental Divide. Idaho was admitted to the Union in 1890 as the forty-third State.

**Illinois.**—Illinois, organized as a Territory in 1809 from the western part of Indiana Territory, comprised at that time all of the present State of Illinois, almost all of Wisconsin, and parts of Michigan and Minnesota. In 1818 that portion of the Territory lying within the present boundaries of Illinois was admitted to the Union as the twenty-first State.

**Indiana.**—The Territory of Indiana was organized from the western part of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio in 1800, at which time it comprised nearly all of the present State of Indiana, together with an area now constituting Illinois, Wisconsin, northeastern Minnesota, and western Michigan. In 1802 an area now constituting the remainder of Michigan was added, and in 1802 and 1803 minor revisions of the eastern boundary took place. The area of the Territory was greatly reduced by the organization of Michigan Territory in 1805 and of Illinois Territory in 1809. In 1816, with the addition of a small strip of land

along the northern boundary and the separation of an area in the Upper Peninsula, Indiana was admitted to the Union as the nineteenth State with boundaries as at present.

**Iowa.**—Iowa was organized as a Territory in 1838 with boundaries that included, in addition to the present area of the State, the eastern parts of the present States of North Dakota and South Dakota and the western part of the present State of Minnesota. Iowa was admitted to the Union in 1846 as the twenty-ninth State with boundaries substantially as at present.

**Kansas.**—The area now comprising Kansas and part of Colorado was organized as the Territory of Kansas in 1854, and in 1861 that portion of the Territory lying within the present boundaries of Kansas was admitted to the Union as the thirty-fourth State.

**Kentucky.**—Kentucky, originally a part of Virginia, was admitted to the Union in 1792 as the fifteenth State with boundaries substantially as at present.

**Louisiana.**—The greater part of the area now constituting Louisiana was organized in 1804 as the Territory of Orleans. It included at that time the Baton Rouge District—that part of the present State lying east of the Mississippi River—but excluded the southwestern part of the present State—that part lying west of the Louisiana Purchase boundary. In 1812 all the present area of Louisiana except the Baton Rouge District was admitted to the Union as the eighteenth State, and upon the addition of the district a few days later Louisiana assumed its present boundaries.

**Maine.**—Maine, originally a part of Massachusetts, was admitted to the Union in 1820 as the twenty-third State.

**Maryland.**—Maryland was one of the Thirteen Original States. In 1791 its area was reduced by the formation of the District of Columbia.

**Massachusetts.**—Massachusetts was one of the Thirteen Original States. In 1820 Maine, previously a part of Massachusetts, was admitted to the Union as a separate State, leaving Massachusetts with boundaries substantially as at present.

**Michigan.**—Michigan was organized as a Territory in 1805 from the northeastern part of Indiana Territory and comprised the greater part of the area of the present State, including the Lower Peninsula and the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, and a small part of the present State of Indiana. In 1816 a narrow strip at the southern limit of Michigan Territory was annexed to Indiana Territory. In 1818, when Illinois was admitted as a State, all of Illinois Territory north of the State of Illinois was transferred to Michigan Territory. This transferred area comprised almost all of the present State of Wisconsin, part of Minnesota, and the western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. At the same time a section of unorganized territory, formerly part of Indiana Territory, was annexed by the Territory of Michigan. This annexation comprised the middle portion of the Upper Peninsula and a very small part of Wisconsin not formerly included. In 1834 Michigan Territory was further enlarged by the annexation of that part of Missouri Territory now comprising all of Iowa, the remainder of Minnesota not previously included, and parts of North and South Dakota. With the organization of Wisconsin Territory and the legal cession of a small area to Ohio in 1836, Michigan Territory assumed the limits of the present State. Michigan was admitted to the Union as the twenty-sixth State in 1837.

**Minnesota.**—Minnesota was organized as a Territory in 1849 from unorganized area formerly within the Territories of Iowa and Wisconsin. It included an area now comprising the State of Minnesota, the eastern parts of the States of North and South Dakota, and a small part of Nebraska. In 1858 that part of the Territory lying within the present boundaries of Minnesota was admitted to the Union as the thirty-second State.

**Mississippi.**—Mississippi was organized as a Territory in 1798, at which time it included territory now comprising the south central parts of Mississippi and Alabama. The area of the Territory was enlarged in 1804 by the addition of land now comprising the northern parts of Mississippi and Alabama. Its area was further enlarged in 1812 by the addition of the extreme southern portions of the present States of Mississippi and Alabama. In 1817 the eastern part of the Territory was taken to form the Territory of Alabama, and Mississippi was admitted to the Union as the twentieth State with boundaries substantially as at present.

**Missouri.**—The Territory of Missouri, the name given in 1812 to the former Territory of Louisiana, comprised at that time all of the Louisiana Purchase except the part included in the State of Louisiana. The State of Missouri, formed from a small part of the Territory, was admitted to the Union in 1821. In 1836,

<sup>a</sup> For maps showing the boundaries of the States and Territories at each census from that of 1790 to that of 1900, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., *A Century of Population Growth*, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1909. For a detailed discussion of changes in the boundaries of the States, see U. S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey Bulletin 817, *Boundaries, Areas, Geographic Centers, and Altitudes of the United States and the several States*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1930.

when the present northwest corner of the State was added, Missouri assumed its present limits.

*Montana.*—Montana was organized as a Territory in 1864 from the northeastern part of Idaho Territory with boundaries substantially the same as those of the present State. It was admitted to the Union in 1889 as the forty-first State.

*Nebraska.*—Nebraska was organized as a Territory in 1854 from unorganized territory originally part of the Louisiana Purchase. Its boundaries included, in addition to the present area of the State, parts of the present States of North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. The area of the Territory was greatly reduced in 1861 by the organization of Dakota and Colorado Territories. At the same time a small area was added to the western part of the Territory. The area was again reduced in 1863 by the organization of Idaho Territory. Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867 as the thirty-seventh State with boundaries substantially as at present. In 1870 and 1882 small tracts of land were transferred from the Dakota Territory to Nebraska, and in 1943 small tracts of land were transferred between Iowa and Nebraska.

*Nevada.*—Nevada, when organized as a Territory in 1861 from part of Utah Territory, comprised only the western part of the present State. In 1864 Nevada was admitted to the Union as the thirty-sixth State, its area having been enlarged in 1862 by the annexation from Utah Territory of a strip of land more than 50 miles wide. In 1866, with annexations from Arizona and Utah Territories, Nevada assumed its present limits.

*New Hampshire.*—New Hampshire was one of the Thirteen Original States.

*New Jersey.*—New Jersey was one of the Thirteen Original States.

*New Mexico.*—The Territory of New Mexico was organized in 1850 from the area now comprising the greater parts of the States of New Mexico and Arizona, together with small portions of Colorado and Nevada. The Territory was enlarged by the addition of the Gadsden Purchase in 1854 and reduced by the organization of Colorado Territory in 1861. With the organization of Arizona Territory in 1863, the area of New Mexico was reduced to substantially the present area of the State. New Mexico was admitted to the Union in 1912 as the forty-seventh State.

*New York.*—New York was one of the Thirteen Original States. New York dropped its claim to Vermont after the latter was admitted to the Union as a separate State in 1791. With the annexation of a small area from Massachusetts in 1853, New York assumed its present boundaries.

*North Carolina.*—North Carolina was one of the Thirteen Original States.

*North Dakota.*—North Dakota was organized as a State from part of Dakota Territory with boundaries as at present and was admitted to the Union in 1889.

*Ohio.*—Ohio was organized from part of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio in 1802 and with minor revisions of the western boundary was admitted to the Union as the seventeenth State in 1803. With the settlement of a boundary dispute with Michigan Territory in 1836, Ohio assumed its present boundaries.

*Oklahoma.*—The Territory of Oklahoma was organized in 1890 from the western part of Indian Territory and the Public Land Strip, originally a part of Texas. In 1893 the Territory was enlarged by the addition of the Cherokee Outlet, which fixed part of the present northern boundary. In 1907 the Territory and the remaining part of the Indian Territory were combined and admitted to the Union as the forty-sixth State with boundaries substantially as at present. Upon the settlement in 1930 of a boundary dispute with Texas, Oklahoma assumed its present limits.

*Oregon.*—Oregon was organized as a Territory in 1848, at which time it included the area now constituting the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of western Montana and Wyoming. The area of the Territory was greatly reduced in 1853 by the organization of the Territory of Washington. In 1859, with the transfer to Washington Territory of the area now comprising southern Idaho, western Wyoming, and a small tract in western Montana, Oregon assumed its present boundaries and was admitted to the Union as the thirty-third State.

*Pennsylvania.*—Pennsylvania was one of the Thirteen Original States. With the purchase of a small tract of land in its northwestern corner from the Federal Government in 1792, Pennsylvania assumed its present boundaries.

*Rhode Island.*—Rhode Island was one of the Thirteen Original States.

*South Carolina.*—South Carolina was one of the Thirteen Original States.

*South Dakota.*—South Dakota was organized as a State from part of Dakota Territory and was admitted to the Union in 1889.

*Tennessee.*—The Territory South of the River Ohio was organized in 1790, at which time it included the present State of Tennessee and parts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. In 1796 Tennessee was admitted to the Union as the sixteenth State with boundaries substantially as at present.

*Texas.*—Texas, originally a part of Mexico, won its independence by revolution in 1835 and 1836 and continued as an independent republic until 1845, when it was annexed to the United States and admitted to the Union as the twenty-eighth State. At this time it included area now comprising parts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. In 1850, with the transfer to the United States of the territory now in these other States, Texas assumed practically its present boundaries. Upon settlement of a boundary dispute with Oklahoma in 1930, Texas assumed its present boundaries.

*Utah.*—The Territory of Utah was organized in 1850, at which time it comprised, in addition to the area of the present State, areas now constituting western Colorado, southwestern Wyoming, and the greater part of Nevada. The area of the Territory was reduced in 1861 by the organization of Nevada and Colorado Territories and by a transfer to Nebraska Territory. It was reduced again in 1864 and 1866 by the eastward extensions of the boundaries of the State of Nevada and in 1868 by the organization of Wyoming Territory. Utah was admitted to the Union in 1896 as the forty-fifth State with boundaries as at present.

*Vermont.*—Vermont was admitted to the Union in 1791 as the fourteenth State and was the first to be admitted after the adoption of the Constitution by the Thirteen Original States.

*Virginia.*—Virginia, one of the Thirteen Original States, included in 1790 the areas now constituting the States of Kentucky and West Virginia. The area of the State was reduced in 1791 by the formation of the District of Columbia and in 1792 by the admission of Kentucky into the Union as a separate State; the area was enlarged in 1846 by the retrocession of the part of the District of Columbia south of the Potomac but was further reduced in 1863 by the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a separate State. In 1866 two additional counties (Berkeley and Jefferson) were annexed to West Virginia, leaving the boundaries of Virginia as at present.

*Washington.*—Washington was organized as a Territory in 1853 from part of Oregon Territory, and included an area now comprising the State of Washington, northern Idaho, and part of Montana. In 1859, upon the admission of Oregon as a State, the remaining portion of Oregon Territory, comprising the rest of Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming, was added to the Territory of Washington. The area of the Territory was reduced to the present limits of the State in 1863, upon the organization of Idaho Territory. Washington was admitted to the Union in 1889 as the forty-second State.

*West Virginia.*—West Virginia, formed from 48 counties of Virginia, was admitted to the Union in 1863 as the thirty-fifth State. In 1866, with the annexation of two additional counties (Berkeley and Jefferson) from Virginia, the boundaries were established as at present.

*Wisconsin.*—Wisconsin was organized as a Territory in 1836 from that part of Michigan Territory which lay west of the present limits of the State of Michigan. As originally constituted, the Territory included the present States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, the eastern parts of North and South Dakota, and a small part of Nebraska. In 1838 that part of the Territory lying west of the Mississippi River and a line drawn due north from its source to the Canadian boundary was organized as the Territory of Iowa. In 1848 that part of the Territory lying within the present boundaries of the State was admitted to the Union as the thirtieth State.

*Wyoming.*—Wyoming was organized as a territory in 1868 with boundaries as at present from parts of Dakota, Idaho, and Utah Territories. It was admitted to the Union in 1890 as the forty-fourth State.

**The Territories.**—The circumstances under which the Territories were acquired by the United States and the dates of their acquisition are as follows:

*Alaska.*—Alaska was acquired by purchase from Russia in 1867 and was organized as a Territory in 1912.

*Hawaii.*—Hawaii, by voluntary action of its people, ceded its sovereignty to the United States in 1898 and was organized as a Territory on June 14, 1900.

**The possessions.**—The circumstances under which the principal possessions were acquired and the dates of their acquisition are as follows:

*American Samoa.*—American Samoa was acquired by the United States in accordance with a convention between the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, signed December 2, 1899, ratified February 16, 1900, and proclaimed by the President of the United States on the latter date. Under an Executive order of February 19, 1900, the islands were placed under the authority of the Secretary of the Navy for use as a naval station. The high chiefs of the Tutuila voluntarily ceded the islands of Tutuila and Annuu to the United States on April 17, 1900; and the islands of the Manua group (Tau, Olosega, and Ofu) were ceded by their high chiefs on July 16, 1904. By joint resolution of Congress, approved March 4, 1925, Swains Island was annexed to American Samoa.

*Guam.*—The island of Guam was ceded by Spain to the United States under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, signed December 10, 1898, and ratified in the following year.

*Puerto Rico.*—The island of Puerto Rico was formally surrendered by Spain to the United States in October 1898, and was ceded to the United States, together with Vieques, Culebra, and other small adjacent islands, by the Treaty of Paris, signed December 10, 1898, and ratified in the following year.

*Virgin Islands of the United States.*—The Virgin Islands of the United States, formerly known as the Danish West Indies, were acquired by the United States by purchase from Denmark in 1917, the formal transfer of possession having taken place on March 31 of that year. St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas are the 3 principal islands of the group, although there are 65 smaller islands, most of which are uninhabited.

*Other areas.*—The circumstances under which the Canal Zone came under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands came under the trusteeship of the United States are as follows:

*Canal Zone.*—The use, occupation, and control of the Canal Zone were granted to the United States under the terms of a treaty with the Republic of Panama, signed November 18, 1903, and ratified in the following year.

*Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.*—The United States became the administering authority over the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (which comprises the Caroline, Marshall, and Marianas Islands except Guam) under an agreement approved by the Security Council of the United Nations on April 2, 1947, and by the United States Government on July 18, 1947. By Executive order, the military government in these islands was terminated on the latter date, and the authority and responsibility for the civil administration were delegated to the Secretary of the Navy.

## URBANIZED AREAS

*Definitions.*—"Urbanized areas" have been defined for the first time in the 1950 Census. The major objective of the Bureau of the Census in delineating these areas was to provide a better separation of urban and rural population in the vicinity of our larger cities than was possible under the old definition. All persons who resided in urbanized areas on April 1, 1950, are included in the urban population according to the new definition. The effect of the adoption of the urbanized area concept was to include in the urban population 6,203,596 persons living under distinctly urban conditions in the immediate environs of our larger cities who under the old definition would have been included in the rural population. (See table E.)

An urbanized area is an area that includes at least one city with 50,000 inhabitants or more in 1940 or later according to a special census taken prior to 1950 and also the surrounding closely settled incorporated places and unincorporated areas that meet the criteria listed below. Since the urbanized area outside of incorporated places was defined on the basis of housing or population density or of land use, its boundaries for the most part are not political but follow such features as roads, streets, railroads, streams, and other clearly defined lines which may be easily identified by census enumerators in the field. The urbanized area boundaries were selected after careful examination of all available maps, aerial photographs, and other sources of information, and then were checked in detail in the field by trained investigators to insure that the criteria were followed and that the boundaries were identifiable.

The delineation of the boundaries of the urbanized areas had to be completed prior to the beginning of enumeration; consequently, it was not possible to establish urbanized areas in connection with those cities which attained a population of 50,000 or more according to the 1950 Census. Urbanized areas were established for Fort Smith, Ark., and Muskegon, Mich., both of which had in excess of 50,000 inhabitants according to special censuses conducted prior to 1950. The population of both of these cities fell below 50,000 in 1950. The urbanized areas defined for these two cities, however, were retained in the tabulations.

The urban fringe of an urbanized area is that part which is outside the central city or cities. The following types of areas are embraced if they are contiguous to the central city or cities or if they are contiguous to any area already included in the urban fringe:

1. Incorporated places with 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1940 or at a subsequent special census conducted prior to 1950.

2. Incorporated places with fewer than 2,500 inhabitants containing an area with a concentration of 100 dwelling units or more with a density in this concentration of 500 units or more per square mile. This density represents approximately 2,000 persons per square mile and normally is the minimum found associated with a closely spaced street pattern.

3. Unincorporated territory with at least 500 dwelling units per square mile.

4. Territory devoted to commercial, industrial, transportation, recreational, and other purposes functionally related to the central city.

Also included are outlying noncontiguous areas with the required dwelling unit density located within 1½ miles of the main contiguous urbanized part, measured along the shortest connecting highway, and other outlying areas within one-half mile of such noncontiguous areas which meet the minimum residential density rule.

Although an urbanized area may contain more than one city of 50,000 or more, not all cities of this size are necessarily central cities. The largest city of an area is always a central city. In addition, the second and third most populous cities in the area may qualify as central cities provided they have a population of at least one-third of that of the largest city in the area and a minimum of 25,000 inhabitants. The names of the individual urbanized areas indicate the central cities of the areas.

*Population of urbanized areas.*—Somewhat less than one-half of the total, and more than seven-tenths of the urban, population of the United States was living in the 157 urbanized areas in 1950 (table 5a). Of the 69,249,148 persons living in the urbanized areas, 48,377,240 were in the 172 central cities and 20,871,908 were living in the urban-fringe areas. In urban-fringe areas, there were 12,949,890 persons living in 859 incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more, 577,992 persons living in 457 incorporated places under 2,500 inhabitants, and 7,344,026 persons living in unincorporated territory. The number of persons in the incorporated places under 2,500 inhabitants and in unincorporated territory—7,922,018—represents the persons in urban territory living outside urban places, and, consequently, the net addition to the urban population attributable to the urbanized area delineations.

In population, the urbanized areas ranged in size from the Fort Smith Urbanized Area, which had a population of 56,046, to the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Urbanized Area, which had a population of 12,296,117 (table 18). The 12 urbanized areas with more than 1,000,000 inhabitants had a combined population of 37,817,068, or more than one-half the population of the 157 areas. On the other hand, the 3,116,450 persons living in the 38 urbanized areas under 100,000 inhabitants represented less than 5 percent of the total population in urbanized areas.

Seven out of ten of the persons living in the urbanized areas were residents of the central cities. The proportion of the population of the urbanized areas living in the central city or cities,

however, varied greatly among the areas, ranging from a low of 28.3 percent for the Wilkes-Barre Urbanized Area to virtually 100 percent for the Beaumont Urbanized Area. There were 79 urbanized areas with 80 percent or more of their population in the central city or cities. Only seven urbanized areas—the Boston, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Providence, San Bernardino, and Wilkes-Barre Urbanized Areas—had fewer than half of their inhabitants living in the central cities. (See table 17.)

**Population density.**—The population per square mile of land area for all 157 urbanized areas was 5,438 (table 17). Three of the areas—the New York-Northeastern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Lancaster Urbanized Areas—had densities in excess of 9,000. Five—the Atlantic City, Duluth-Superior, Fort Smith, St. Petersburg, and Sioux City Urbanized Areas—had densities under 2,000. The density of the central cities was more than double that of the urban-fringe areas—7,788 as against 3,200. In six of the areas, however, the Brockton, Fall River, Fort Smith, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Stamford-Norwalk Urbanized Areas, the density of the urban fringe exceeded that of the central city. The density in the central cities varied from 1,414 for Duluth-Superior to 24,537 for the three central cities of the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Urbanized Area. An even greater variation was found in the densities of the urban-fringe areas. In 11 areas the urban-fringe areas had densities in excess of 4,000. At the other extreme, the urban-fringe areas of Beaumont and Amarillo had densities of 29 and 179, respectively. These and other low densities in urban-fringe areas are attributable to the inclusion in the urbanized areas of land devoted to urban uses, such as industrial areas, railroad yards, and airports, which had little or no residential population.

## COUNTIES

**Definitions.**—The primary divisions of the States are, in general, termed counties; but in Louisiana these divisions are known as parishes. There are also a number of cities which are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their States, namely, Baltimore in Maryland, St. Louis in Missouri, and 27 cities in Virginia. The District of Columbia, which is not divided into counties, is included here as the equivalent of a county as are also the three parts of Yellowstone National Park in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. There were 3,070 counties and parishes in continental United States in 1950 and 33 county equivalents.

The number of counties remained unchanged between 1940 and 1950. Washington County, S. Dak., was annexed by Shannon County. Offsetting this loss, however, was the organization of a new county, Los Alamos, in New Mexico. The number of county equivalents increased by three—three cities in Virginia, Colonial Heights, Falls Church, and Waynesboro, became independent of county organization during the decade. Changes in the number of counties were fairly frequent some decades ago but have become progressively rarer. These changes, as well as changes of county boundaries, are listed in the notes to tables 5 and 6 of the State chapters and in the reports of other censuses.

**Population of counties.**—The counties ranged in population from Armstrong County, S. Dak., which had 52 inhabitants, to Cook County, Ill., which had 4,508,792 inhabitants. Ten additional counties (Los Angeles, Calif.; Middlesex, Mass.; Wayne, Mich.; Bronx, Kings, New York, and Queens, N. Y.; Cuyahoga, Ohio; Allegheny and Philadelphia, Pa.) had 1,000,000 inhabitants or more. These 11 counties had a combined population of 24,837,059, or nearly one-sixth of the population of the United States (table H). On the other hand, the 777 counties and county equivalents having fewer than 10,000 inhabitants had a combined population of 4,729,303, or somewhat more than 3 percent of the population. Despite the increase of about one-seventh in

the population of the United States as a whole, the median county population was 19,837 in 1950 as against 19,888 in 1940.

TABLE H.—POPULATION IN GROUPS OF COUNTIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE: 1950

Size of county	1950			1940		
	Number	Percent of total counties	Population	Number	Percent of total counties	Population
Total.....	3,103	100.0	150,697,361	3,100	100.0	131,669,275
Counties of 1,000,000 or more.....	11	0.4	24,837,059	10	0.3	20,705,285
Counties of 500,000 to 1,000,000.....	31	1.0	20,753,791	18	0.6	12,228,219
Counties of 250,000 to 500,000.....	48	1.5	16,909,695	41	1.3	14,718,169
Counties of 100,000 to 250,000.....	161	4.9	23,478,633	117	3.8	18,097,755
Counties of 50,000 to 100,000.....	257	8.3	18,055,117	256	8.3	17,620,088
Counties of 25,000 to 50,000.....	647	20.9	22,695,077	678	21.9	23,029,174
Counties of 10,000 to 25,000.....	1,181	38.1	19,538,086	1,262	40.7	20,924,453
Counties of 5,000 to 10,000.....	516	16.6	3,921,320	475	15.3	3,603,490
Counties of 2,500 to 5,000.....	177	5.7	678,910	161	5.2	603,023
Counties of 1,000 to 2,500.....	96	2.1	119,738	72	2.3	130,007
Counties under 1,000.....	18	0.6	9,335	10	0.3	3,697
<b>Cumulative summary:</b>						
Counties of 10,000 or more.....	2,326	75.0	145,963,058	2,332	76.8	127,323,153
Counties of 25,000 or more.....	1,145	36.9	126,429,972	1,120	36.1	106,398,700
Counties of 100,000 or more.....	241	7.8	85,679,178	186	6.0	65,749,438
Median population.....			19,837			19,888

<sup>1</sup> Includes 3,070 counties; Baltimore city, Md.; St. Louis city, Mo.; the District of Columbia; 27 independent cities in Virginia in 1950 and 24 in 1940; and the parts of Yellowstone National Park in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

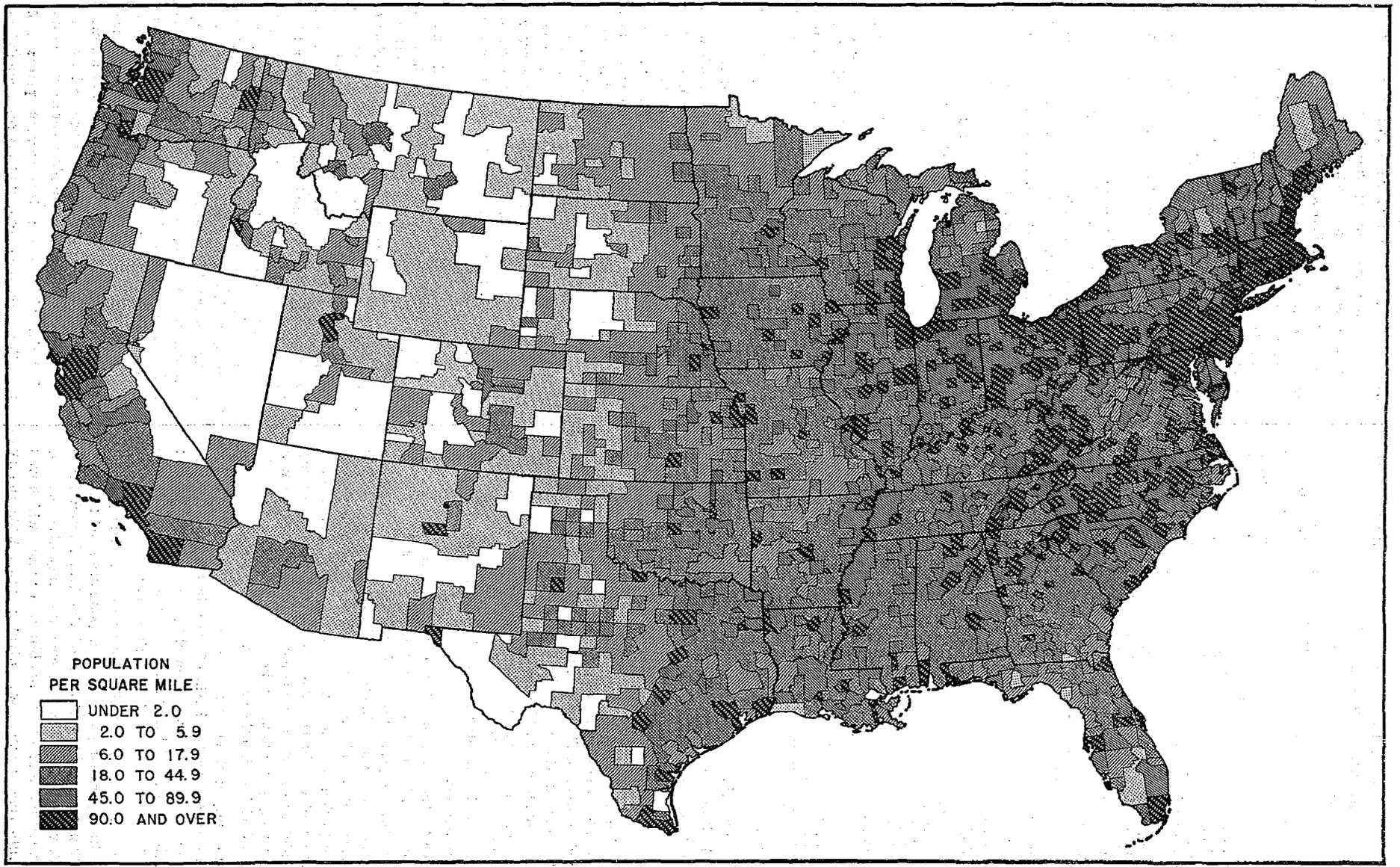
**Trends in population, 1940 to 1950.**—Despite the record gain of 19,000,000 in the population of the United States as a whole, nearly one-half of the counties lost population and nearly one-fourth lost 10 percent or more (table 20). Of the 3,103 counties and county equivalents, 1,518, or 48.9 percent, lost population, and 708, or 22.8 percent, lost 10 percent or more. Of the 1,585 counties which gained population, 884, or 28.5 percent of the counties, increased by 10 percent or more and 520, or 16.8 percent, increased by 20 percent or more. More than four out of every five counties in the Northeast, and more than three out of every five counties in the West, increased in population. In both the North Central States and the South, more than half the counties lost population. Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island, all of which have relatively few counties, were the only States in which all counties increased in population.

Thirty-one counties and the independent city of Falls Church, Va., more than doubled in population between 1940 and 1950 (table J). All but one of these counties—Grant County, Kans.—were located in the South or in the West. Twelve of these counties and Falls Church city were in the South Atlantic States and seven in the Pacific States.

The fastest growing county in the United States between 1940 and 1950 was Warwick County, Va., which had a population increase of 331.2 percent. At the other extreme, the largest percentage decline was experienced in Esmeralda County, Nev., which had a decline of 60.5 percent.

**Counties in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.**—Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico are also divided into counties or county equivalents. Alaska is divided into 4 judicial divisions; Puerto Rico is divided into 77 municipalities; Hawaii is officially divided into 5 counties. However, Kalawao County, which consists exclusively of the Kalaupapa Leper Settlement, has no local government and is controlled entirely by the Territorial Board of Hospitals and Settlement. It is included with Maui County for purposes of representation in the Territorial Legislature, and it has been combined with Maui County in the 1950 Census tabulations, as in 1940 and 1930.

Figure 11.—POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE BY COUNTIES: 1950



NUMBER OF INHABITANTS

TABLE J.—COUNTIES THAT INCREASED BY 100 PERCENT OR MORE BETWEEN 1940 AND 1950

Rank	County	Population		Increase, 1940 to 1950	
		1950	1940	Number	Percent
1	Warwick, Va.....	39,875	9,248	30,627	331.2
2	Benton, Wash.....	51,370	12,053	39,317	326.2
3	Andrews, Texas.....	5,002	1,277	3,725	291.7
4	Moore, Texas.....	13,349	4,461	8,888	199.2
5	Contra Costa, Calif.....	298,984	100,450	198,534	197.6
6	Clark, Nev.....	48,289	16,414	31,875	194.2
7	Falls Church, Va. <sup>1</sup> .....	7,535	2,576	4,959	192.5
8	Ector, Texas.....	42,102	15,051	27,051	179.7
9	Norfolk, Va.....	99,937	35,828	64,109	178.9
10	Jefferson, Ore.....	5,536	2,042	3,494	171.1
11	Caribou, Idaho.....	5,576	2,284	3,292	144.1
12	Fairfax, Va.....	98,557	40,920	57,637	140.8
13	Grant, Kans.....	4,638	1,946	2,692	138.3
14	Arlington, Va.....	135,449	57,040	78,409	137.5
15	Mineral, Nev.....	5,560	2,342	3,218	137.4
16	Onslow, N. C.....	42,047	17,939	24,108	134.4
17	Orange, Texas.....	40,557	17,382	23,175	133.4
18	Anderson, Tenn.....	59,407	26,504	32,903	124.1
19	Olay, Fla.....	14,323	6,468	7,855	121.4
20	Midland, Texas.....	25,785	11,721	14,064	120.0
21	Prince Georges, Md.....	194,182	89,490	104,692	117.0
22	Franklin, Wash.....	13,563	6,307	7,256	115.0
23	Okaloosa, Fla.....	27,633	12,900	14,733	113.4
24	Solano, Calif.....	104,833	49,118	55,715	113.4
25	Monroe, Fla.....	29,957	14,078	15,879	112.8
26	Douglas, Ore.....	54,549	25,728	28,821	112.0
27	Princess Anne, Va.....	42,277	19,984	22,293	111.6
28	Broward, Fla.....	83,933	39,794	44,139	110.9
29	San Mateo, Calif.....	235,659	111,782	123,877	110.8
30	Bernalillo, N. Mex.....	145,673	69,391	76,282	109.9
31	Bay, Fla.....	42,589	20,585	22,003	108.4
32	Jefferson, La.....	103,873	50,427	53,446	106.0

<sup>1</sup> Independent city.

Table 19 presents the 1950 and 1940 population of the counties in continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, together with the rate of change for the decade.

### MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

**Definitions.**—To the primary political divisions into which counties are divided, the Bureau of the Census applies the general term "minor civil divisions." In addition to the county divisions shown by the Bureau, there are thousands of school, taxation, election, and other units for which separate census figures are not published. Where more than one type of primary division exists in a county, the Bureau of the Census uses the more stable divisions, so as to provide insofar as possible comparable statistics from decade to decade.

**Change in units, 1940 to 1950.**—The minor civil divisions shown for the State of Washington in previous censuses were the election precincts, a few townships, and some of the cities and towns. The election precincts are not suitable for statistical purposes because their boundaries change so frequently as to prevent comparisons of data from one period to another. Accordingly, the minor civil divisions were replaced in the 1950 Census by "census county divisions," which are newly established special areas which will remain as relatively permanent statistical areas corresponding to the minor civil divisions in other States.

The census county divisions were defined by the State Census Board of Washington on the basis of criteria approved by the Bureau of the Census and were reviewed by interested State and local groups, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and by the Bureau of the Census.

A total of 642 census county divisions was established in the State. Each incorporated place with a population of 2,500 or more, according to a 1948 estimate of the Washington State Census Board, was made a separate census county division, and each incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more which was not divided into census tracts was divided into census county

subdivisions. The census tracts in the adjacent areas of Seattle and Tacoma outside incorporated places of 10,000 inhabitants or more are recognized as census county divisions.

The minor civil divisions shown for Florida in previous censuses were election precincts. The boundaries of election precincts, however, have been subject to frequent changes. In the 1950 Census, therefore, the election precincts were replaced by another division of the counties, the commissioner's districts, the boundaries of which are less subject to change.

**Number and types of minor civil divisions.**—There were 48,529 minor civil divisions or their equivalents recognized by the Bureau of the Census in continental United States on April 1, 1950. The most numerous of the minor civil divisions were the civil and judicial townships, which numbered 20,879 and were found in 20 States. The total also included 8,708 precincts, 6,739 districts, and 4,326 independent municipalities, and 3,599 towns. The remaining minor civil divisions are known as beats, gores, grants, islands, purchases, surveyed townships, etc., some of which are found only in a single State. The number and types of minor civil divisions in each State are shown in table 21.

For the number and types of minor civil divisions in each State in 1940, see reports of the Sixteenth Census (1940), *Areas of the United States: 1940*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1942, p. 5.

**Minor civil divisions in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.**—The 4 judicial divisions in Alaska are divided into 46 recording districts. The 5 counties in Hawaii are divided into 28 judicial districts. The 77 municipalities in Puerto Rico are divided into 943 barrios, including those in cities, towns, and villages.

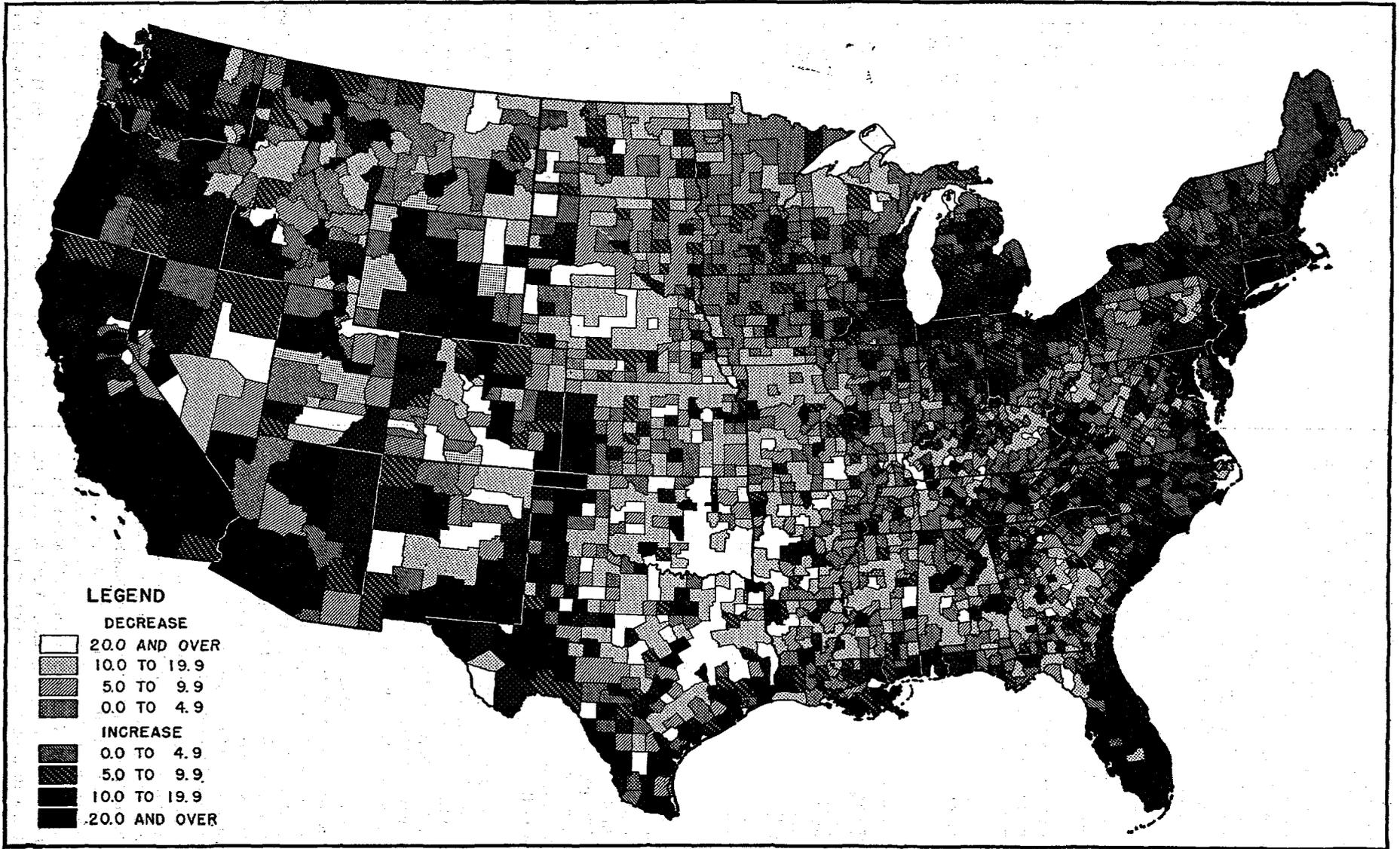
### INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED PLACES

**Definitions.**—The term "place" as used in reports of the 1950 Census refers to a concentration of population, regardless of the existence of legally prescribed limits, powers, or functions. Most of the places listed are incorporated as cities, towns, villages, or boroughs, however. In addition, the larger unincorporated places outside the urbanized areas were delineated and those with a population of 1,000 or more are presented in the same manner as incorporated places of equal size. Each unincorporated place possesses a definite nucleus of residences and has its boundaries drawn so as to include, if feasible, all the surrounding closely settled area. Although there are unincorporated places in the urban-fringe areas, it was not considered feasible to establish boundaries for such places and therefore they were not identified as separate places.

Political units recognized as incorporated places in the reports of the 1950 Census are those which are incorporated as cities, boroughs, towns, and villages with the exception that towns are not recognized as incorporated places in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin. The towns in these States are minor civil divisions similar to the townships found in other States and not necessarily thickly settled centers of population such as the cities, boroughs, towns, and villages in other States. Similarly, in those States where some townships possess powers and functions similar to those of incorporated places, the townships are not classified as "incorporated places." Thus some minor civil divisions which are "incorporated" in one legal sense of the word are not regarded by the Census Bureau as "incorporated places." Without this restriction all of the towns in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin and the townships in States such as New Jersey would have to be counted as incorporated places without any consideration of the nature of population settlement. The densely settled portion of a town or township in these States, however, may be recognized by the Bureau of the Census as an unincorporated place (or as part of an urban fringe).

**Relationship between incorporated places and counties.**—In most States the incorporated places form subdivisions of the minor

Figure 12.—PERCENT INCREASE IN POPULATION BY COUNTIES: 1940 TO 1950



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civil divisions in which they are located. In other States, however, all or some of the incorporated places are also minor civil divisions. St. Louis, Baltimore, and 27 cities in Virginia are independent of any county organization. In a number of instances, such as Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Denver, the incorporated place is coextensive with the county in which it is located. New York City, on the other hand, is made up of five counties.

Trends in the population of incorporated places.—Nearly three-fourths of the population gain in continental United States between 1940 and 1950 was accounted for by the increase in the number of persons living in incorporated places. In 1950 there were 96,062,627 persons living in 17,118 incorporated places (table K). This represents an increase of about 14,200,000, or 17.4 percent, over the 81,843,011 persons living in the 16,611 incorporated places reported in 1940.

TABLE K.—POPULATION IN GROUPS OF INCORPORATED AND UNINCORPORATED PLACES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE: 1950

Size of place	Incorporated places		Unincorporated places of 1,000 or more	
	Number	Population	Number	Population
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>17, 118</b>	<b>96, 062, 627</b>	<b>1, 430</b>	<b>3, 565, 496</b>
Places of 1,000,000 or more.....	5	17, 404, 450	-----	-----
Places of 500,000 to 1,000,000.....	13	9, 186, 945	-----	-----
Places of 250,000 to 500,000.....	23	8, 241, 560	-----	-----
Places of 100,000 to 250,000.....	65	9, 478, 662	-----	-----
Places of 50,000 to 100,000.....	126	8, 930, 823	-----	-----
Places of 25,000 to 50,000.....	249	8, 710, 867	3	96, 854
Places of 10,000 to 25,000.....	752	11, 515, 155	26	351, 350
Places of 5,000 to 10,000.....	1, 093	7, 569, 509	83	569, 087
Places of 2,500 to 5,000.....	1, 557	5, 512, 970	289	977, 436
Places of 1,000 to 2,500.....	3, 408	5, 382, 637	1, 029	1, 570, 769
Places under 1,000.....	9, 827	4, 129, 049	-----	-----

Cities of 100,000 or more.—Table 23 presents the population of cities having 100,000 inhabitants or more in 1950, with comparative figures going back to the first census in which the city appears. There were 106 cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more in continental United States in 1950, whereas in 1940 there were only 92 cities of this size. The population of Lowell, Mass., dropped below 100,000 in 1950, and there were 15 cities the population of which passed 100,000. Nine of these cities were in the South, three in the West, two in the Northeast, and one in the North Central Region.

There were 44,311,617 persons living in the 106 cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more in 1950. This total represents an increase of 6,323,623, or 16.6 percent, over the 37,987,989 persons living in the 92 cities of this size in 1940 (table 5b). The largest numerical increase among cities of this size was experienced in Los Angeles, which had a gain of 466,081. The next largest increase was recorded in New York City, which experienced a gain of 436,962. The large percent increase in Baton Rouge is attributable in great measure to an annexation. Aside from Baton Rouge, the largest percent increase was recorded in Corpus Christi, which had a gain of 89.0 percent. Of the eight cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more in 1950 which lost population between 1940 and 1950, all but one—Wilmington, Del.—were located in the Northeast. Scranton, Pa., which experienced a loss of 14,868, or 10.6 percent, led these cities in both the amount and rate of decline.

Between 1940 and 1950 there were a number of changes in the ranking of the 10 most populous cities (table 25). The three cities which ranked first, second, and third in 1940—New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia—retained their positions in 1950. The only other one of the first 10 cities to retain its position was St. Louis, which occupied eighth place. Los Angeles replaced Detroit as the fourth most populous city, and Baltimore replaced Cleveland as the sixth most populous city. Washington, D. C., became one of the 10 most populous cities for the first time,

TABLE L.—CITIES OF 25,000 OR MORE IN 1950 THAT INCREASED BY 100 PERCENT OR MORE BETWEEN 1940 AND 1950

Rank	City	Population		Increase, 1940 to 1950	
		1950	1940	Number	Percent
1	Richmond, Calif. <sup>1</sup> .....	99, 545	23, 642	75, 903	321. 1
2	Baton Rouge, La. <sup>2</sup> .....	125, 629	34, 719	90, 910	261. 8
3	Odessa, Texas <sup>3</sup> .....	29, 495	9, 573	19, 922	208. 1
4	Compton, Calif. <sup>4</sup> .....	47, 991	16, 198	31, 793	196. 3
5	Albuquerque, N. Mex. <sup>5</sup> .....	96, 815	35, 449	61, 366	173. 1
6	Norman, Okla. <sup>6</sup> .....	27, 006	11, 429	15, 577	136. 3
7	Lynwood, Calif. <sup>7</sup> .....	25, 823	10, 982	14, 841	135. 1
8	Burld, Ohio.....	41, 396	17, 868	23, 528	131. 7
9	Independence, Mo. <sup>8</sup> .....	36, 963	16, 066	20, 897	130. 1
10	Burbank, Calif. <sup>9</sup> .....	78, 577	34, 337	44, 240	128. 3
11	Lubbock, Texas <sup>10</sup> .....	71, 747	31, 853	39, 894	125. 2
12	Panama City, Fla.....	25, 814	11, 610	14, 204	122. 3
13	Vancouver, Wash. <sup>11</sup> .....	41, 664	18, 788	22, 876	121. 8
14	San Mateo, Calif. <sup>12</sup> .....	41, 732	19, 403	22, 329	115. 3
15	Biloxi, Miss.....	37, 425	17, 475	19, 950	114. 2
16	Redwood City, Calif. <sup>13</sup> .....	25, 544	12, 453	13, 091	105. 1
17	Key West, Fla.....	26, 433	12, 927	13, 506	104. 5
18	San Angelo, Texas <sup>14</sup> .....	52, 093	25, 802	26, 291	101. 9
19	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.....	36, 328	17, 990	18, 332	101. 9

<sup>1</sup> Part of township 10, Contra Costa County, annexed to Richmond in 1949.  
<sup>2</sup> Parts of old police jury wards 3, 6, 8, and 9, East Baton Rouge Parish, annexed to Baton Rouge in 1949.  
<sup>3</sup> Parts of precincts 1, 2, 3, and 4, Ector County, annexed to Odessa since 1940.  
<sup>4</sup> Part of Compton township, Los Angeles County, annexed to Compton since 1940.  
<sup>5</sup> Parts of precincts 5, 13, 15, and 24, Bernalillo County, annexed to Albuquerque since 1947.  
<sup>6</sup> Parts of Liberty, Noble, and Norman townships, Cleveland County, annexed to Norman in 1948 and 1949, in 1944, and in 1940, 1944, and every year 1946 through 1950, respectively.  
<sup>7</sup> Parts of Compton township, Los Angeles County, annexed to Lynwood since 1940.  
<sup>8</sup> Part of Blue township, Jackson County, annexed to Independence in 1948.  
<sup>9</sup> Part of Los Angeles township and Los Angeles city, Los Angeles County, annexed to Burbank in 1948.  
<sup>10</sup> Parts of precinct 1, Lubbock County, annexed to Lubbock in 1940, 1941, and every year 1945 through 1950.  
<sup>11</sup> Parts of Clark County, annexed to Vancouver in 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1950.  
<sup>12</sup> Parts of township 3, San Mateo County, annexed to San Mateo in 1945, 1947, 1948, and 1950.  
<sup>13</sup> Parts of township 3, San Mateo County, annexed to Redwood in 1940, 1943, and each year 1945 through 1949.  
<sup>14</sup> Parts of precincts 1 and 2, Tom Green County, annexed to San Angelo in 1940, 1942, 1947, 1948, and 1949 and in 1949, respectively.

reaching the ninth position and replacing Boston, which now ranks as the tenth most populous city. Pittsburgh, which occupied the tenth position in 1940, dropped to twelfth in 1950.

Unincorporated places.—Of the unincorporated places for which boundaries were delineated by the Bureau of the Census, 1,430 were found to have 1,000 inhabitants or more (table K). There were 3,565,496 persons living in these unincorporated places, 1,570,769 of whom were living in the 1,029 places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants.

Variations in local practice with respect to incorporation and in the extent to which densely settled areas outside incorporated places were included in urban-fringe areas affect the number of unincorporated places in a given State. Three States—Delaware, Iowa, and North Dakota—and the District of Columbia had no unincorporated places. In the remaining 45 States, the number of unincorporated places ranged from 1 in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wyoming to 143 in Pennsylvania. The number of persons living in unincorporated places varied from 1,727 in Minnesota to 383,281 in California.

Incorporated and unincorporated places in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.—There were 27 incorporated places in Alaska in 1950, 9 of which were incorporated as cities and 18 of which were incorporated as towns. The most populous of the incorporated places was the city of Anchorage, which had a population of 11,254. Three additional places—Fairbanks city, Juneau city, and Ketchikan town—had more than 5,000 inhabitants. The 27 incorporated places had a combined population of 45,630, or 35.5 percent of the population of the Territory. In addition to the incorporated places in Alaska, the Bureau of the Census enumerated separately all places recognized locally. All such places with 25 inhabitants or more are reported as unincorporated places.

There are no incorporated places in Hawaii or Puerto Rico. The cities, towns, and villages in both Hawaii and Puerto Rico

are unincorporated places which have locally recognized boundaries.

#### STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS

It has long been recognized that for many types of social and economic analysis it is necessary to consider as a unit the entire population in and around the city whose activities form an integrated social and economic system. Prior to the 1950 Census, areas of this type had been defined in somewhat different ways for different purposes and by various agencies. Leading examples were the metropolitan districts of the Census of Population, the industrial areas of the Census of Manufactures, and the labor market areas of the Bureau of Employment Security. The usefulness of data published for any of these areas was limited by this lack of comparability.

Accordingly, the Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Areas, composed of representatives of interested Federal agencies, including the Bureau of the Census, and sponsored by the Bureau of the Budget, established the "standard metropolitan area" so that a wide variety of statistical data might be presented on a uniform basis. Since counties instead of minor civil divisions are used as the basic component of standard metropolitan areas (except in the New England States), it was felt that many more kinds of statistics could be compiled for them than for such areas as the formerly established metropolitan districts, which were not defined in terms of counties.

**Definition.**—Except in New England, a standard metropolitan area is a county or group of contiguous counties which contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more. In addition to the county, or counties, containing such a city, or cities, contiguous counties are included in a standard metropolitan area if according to certain criteria they are essentially metropolitan in character and socially and economically integrated with the central city.

The criteria of metropolitan character relate primarily to the character of the county as a place of work or as a home for concentrations of nonagricultural workers and their dependents. Specifically, these criteria are:

1. The county must (a) contain 10,000 nonagricultural workers or, (b) contain 10 percent of the nonagricultural workers working in the standard metropolitan area or, (c) have at least one-half of its population residing in minor civil divisions with a population density of 150 or more per square mile and contiguous to the central city.

2. Nonagricultural workers must constitute at least two-thirds of the total number of employed persons of the county.

The criteria of integration relate primarily to the extent of economic and social communication between the outlying counties and the central county as indicated by such items as the following:

1. Fifteen percent or more of the workers residing in the contiguous county work in the county containing the largest city in the standard metropolitan area, or

2. Twenty-five percent or more of the persons working in the contiguous county reside in the county containing the largest city in the standard metropolitan area, or

3. The number of telephone calls per month to the county containing the largest city of the standard metropolitan area from the contiguous county is four or more times the number of subscribers in the contiguous county.

In New England, the city and town are administratively more important than the county, and data are compiled locally for such minor civil divisions. Here towns and cities were the units used in defining standard metropolitan areas, and most of the criteria relating to the number and proportion of nonagricultural workers set forth above could not be applied. In their place, a population density criterion of 150 persons or more per square mile, or 100 persons or more per square mile where strong integration was evident, has been used.

**Central cities.**—Although there may be several cities of 50,000 or more in a standard metropolitan area, not all are necessarily central cities. The largest city in a standard metropolitan area is the principal central city. Any other city of 25,000 or more

within a standard metropolitan area, and having a population amounting to one-third or more of the population of the principal city, is also a central city. However, no more than three cities have been defined as central cities of any standard metropolitan area. The name of every central city is included in the name of the area, with the exception that in the case of the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area, "Jersey City" and "Newark" are not part of the name.

**Relation of standard metropolitan areas to other specially defined areas.**—The standard metropolitan area is one of several areas which have been specially defined for purposes of separately identifying large concentrations of population in and around cities of 50,000 or more. Other areas in this class are the metropolitan district of 1940 and the urbanized area.

Since, as described in the following section on this type of area, the metropolitan district was built up from minor civil divisions and since the standard metropolitan area is generally composed of whole counties, the standard metropolitan area ordinarily includes a larger territory than the corresponding metropolitan district. There are, however, cases in which parts of the metropolitan district, as defined in 1940, do not fall within any standard metropolitan area. It is also true that in a number of cases single metropolitan districts of 1940 have been split into two standard metropolitan areas. Many metropolitan districts would have been changed, of course, had they been brought up to date for 1950.

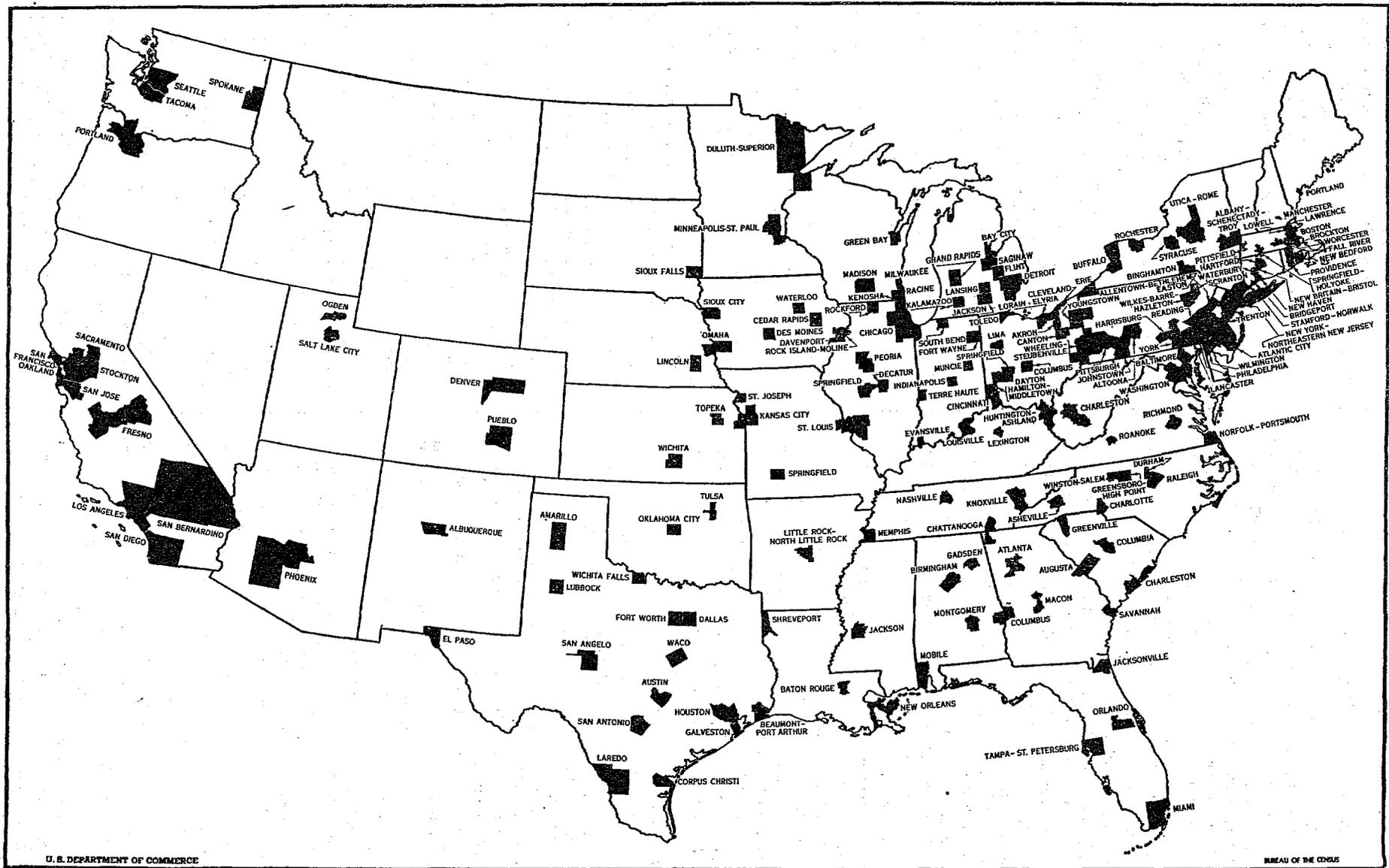
In general then, the two kinds of areas are not comparable. The fact that metropolitan districts were defined almost wholly in terms of density and that standard metropolitan areas include whole counties means that the population density of the standard metropolitan areas is considerably lower on the average and shows more variation from one area to another. Differences between the two types of areas are relatively minor in New England and would have been even less had the metropolitan districts been brought up to date.

The urbanized area can be characterized as the physical city as distinguished from both the legal city and the metropolitan community. Urbanized areas are smaller than standard metropolitan areas and in most cases are contained in standard metropolitan areas. However, in a few instances, the fact that the boundaries of standard metropolitan areas are determined by county lines, and those of urbanized areas by the pattern of urban growth, means that there are small segments of urbanized areas which lie outside standard metropolitan areas. In general then, urbanized areas represent the thickly settled core of the standard metropolitan areas, with the exceptions noted above. Because of discontinuities in land settlement, there are also some cases in which a single standard metropolitan area contains two urbanized areas. The lists of urbanized areas and of standard metropolitan areas also differ somewhat because the 1950 population of cities was not available in time for use in defining the former.

**Population of standard metropolitan areas and their component parts, 1950.**—The aggregate population of the 168 standard metropolitan areas in continental United States in 1950 was 84,500,680, and their aggregate area was 207,583 square miles, or 7.0 percent and 56.1 percent of the total land area and total population, respectively. Of the population of 84,500,680, 49,412,792 persons, or 58.5 percent, were living in central cities, and the remaining 35,087,888 were in the areas outside central cities (tables 26 to 29).

The 14 standard metropolitan areas with a population of a million or more in 1950 had an aggregate population of 44,440,496, or more than half of the total, whereas the total population of the 17 areas of fewer than 100,000 was 1,430,076. The New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area had the largest population (12,911,994), and the Laredo Standard Metropolitan Area, the smallest population (56,141). Somewhat more than two-thirds of the 168 standard metropolitan areas were areas with total populations ranging between 100,000 and 500,000.

Figure 13.—STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS: 1950



There were 40 standard metropolitan areas with less than half their total population in their central cities. These areas ranged from those such as the Los Angeles, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Atlanta areas, to relatively small ones such as the Orlando, Asheville, and Jackson, Mich., areas. These standard metropolitan areas lie in 19 States, largely in the Northeast and the South, but are most numerous in 2 States—Pennsylvania and California. Of the 12 standard metropolitan areas with principal central cities in Pennsylvania, 9 have more than half their population outside their central cities, and in California 6 out of 8 areas are of this class.

Trends in population, 1940 to 1950.—The population of 84.5 million in standard metropolitan areas represents an increase of 15.2 million, or 22.0 percent, over the 69.3 million inhabitants of those areas in 1940 (table 27). The rate of increase in the population of central cities during the decade, 13.9 percent, was slightly less than that for the country as a whole. In the outlying parts of standard metropolitan areas, however, the population increased by about 9.2 million, or 35.5 percent of the 1940 population of these areas. Standard metropolitan areas stand in marked contrast then with the remainder of the country in which the rate of increase was only 6.1 percent. Of the increase of about 19 million for the United States during the decade, about four-fifths occurred in standard metropolitan areas and nearly one-half occurred outside the central cities.

The population increased most rapidly in those standard metropolitan areas that ranged in size in 1950 from 500,000 to 1,000,000, where the rate of increase was 28.4 percent (table M). The rate of increase for standard metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or more (19.0 percent) was the lowest. The figures for areas in the size-classes 100,000 to 250,000 and 250,000 to 500,000 indicate increases of about 24 percent, and the rate of growth in areas of less than 100,000 (22.5 percent) was about the same as that for all the areas.

TABLE M.—POPULATION IN GROUPS OF STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE: 1950 AND 1940

Size of areas	Number of areas	Population	
		1950	1940
Total (168 areas).....	168	84,500,680	69,279,675
Areas of 1,000,000 or more.....	14	44,440,496	37,351,783
Areas of 500,000 to 1,000,000.....	19	12,398,635	9,657,043
Areas of 250,000 to 500,000.....	44	14,594,878	11,736,699
Areas of 100,000 to 250,000.....	74	11,636,595	9,866,468
Areas under 100,000.....	17	1,430,076	1,167,682

Of the 168 standard metropolitan areas, 162 gained population between 1940 and 1950 and 6 lost population. The areas with population losses were Altoona, Johnstown, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazelton, Duluth-Superior, and Wheeling-Steubenville. In each of these areas except the Duluth-Superior area, the central cities also lost population. Of the 162 standard metropolitan areas that gained population, 91, or slightly more than half, had increases of 20 percent or more, and 46, or slightly more than a fourth of all standard metropolitan areas, had increases of one-third or more. One area, that of Albuquerque, more than doubled in population with an increase of 109.9 percent.

Population density.—In 1950, the population per square mile of land area for all of the 168 standard metropolitan areas was 407 as compared with 51 for the United States as a whole (table 29). There were three standard metropolitan areas—Milwaukee, New York-Northeastern New Jersey, and Boston—with more than 3,000 inhabitants per square mile. At the other end of the scale eight standard metropolitan areas—Amarillo, Fresno, San Angelo, Pueblo, Phoenix, Duluth-Superior, Laredo, and San Bernardino—had a population density of less than 50 per square mile. This extreme variation in density among standard metropolitan areas is an indication, of course, of the limitations of counties

as a basis for defining such areas. The area of San Bernardino County, Calif., for example, is greater than that of any of the New England States except Maine, and it is more than 5 times as large as the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Standard Metropolitan Area and 84 times as large as the Milwaukee Standard Metropolitan Area. In short, in those parts of the country where counties are large the use of counties yields only a very rough approximation of genuinely metropolitan areas. There was also considerable variability, however, in density among the central cities of standard metropolitan areas. Among central cities the number of persons per square mile ranged from 1,304 in the Pittsfield Standard Metropolitan Area to 24,537 in the New York-Northeastern New Jersey area. For areas outside of central cities, this figure ranged from 1 in the Laredo Standard Metropolitan Area to 2,172 in the Boston area.

Relation between population in standard metropolitan areas and urbanized areas.—Table N presents a cross-classification of the population by residence inside and outside standard metropolitan areas and urbanized areas. Of the 84,500,680 persons living in standard metropolitan areas, 68,989,014, more than four-fifths, were also residents of urbanized areas. On the other hand, only 260,134 persons were living in urbanized areas but outside standard metropolitan areas. There were no standard metropolitan areas established for Muskegon, Mich., and Fort Smith, Ark. If the population of the urbanized areas established for these cities is excluded, the number of persons living in segments of the urbanized areas which extend beyond the boundaries of standard metropolitan areas was 118,843.

TABLE N.—POPULATION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE URBANIZED AREAS AND STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS: 1950

Location	Population	Inside standard metropolitan areas	Outside standard metropolitan areas
Total.....	150,697,361	84,500,680	66,196,681
Inside urbanized areas.....	69,240,148	68,989,014	<sup>1</sup> 260,134
Outside urbanized areas.....	81,448,213	<sup>2</sup> 16,511,666	65,936,547

<sup>1</sup> Includes population (141,201) of 2 urbanized areas which are located entirely outside of standard metropolitan areas.

<sup>2</sup> Includes population (1,732,845) of 18 standard metropolitan areas which contain no urbanized areas.

Standard metropolitan areas in Hawaii and Puerto Rico.—In the Territories and possessions of the United States, there are four standard metropolitan areas, none of which had a population as great as half a million (table 27). The largest of the four areas was that of San Juan-Río Piedras, P. R., which had a population of 465,741, and was slightly smaller in population than the Memphis Standard Metropolitan Area, which ranked thirty-sixth in size in continental United States.

The Honolulu Standard Metropolitan Area has a population of 353,020, slightly less than that of the Wheeling-Steubenville area, which ranked forty-eighth in size in continental United States. It is the only standard metropolitan area in the Territory of Hawaii and contains more than 70 percent of the population of the Territory. The other two standard metropolitan areas outside continental United States are the Ponce and Mayagüez areas in Puerto Rico, with 126,810 and 87,307 inhabitants, respectively.

1940 METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS

Definition.—Metropolitan districts were defined for every city of 50,000 inhabitants or more in 1940, two or more such cities sometimes being in one district. In general, metropolitan districts included, in addition to the central city or cities, all adjacent and contiguous minor civil divisions or incorporated places having a population density of 150 or more per square mile. Since the metropolitan districts are being replaced by the standard metropolitan areas, no attempt was made to redefine the 1940 metropoli-

tan districts or to define metropolitan districts for those cities which attained a population of 50,000 or more in 1950. Insofar as possible, the 1950 figures represent the population of the territory included in the metropolitan districts in 1940, as an effort was made to use in the enumeration the 1940 limits of the metropolitan districts even though the pertinent minor civil divisions might have changed their boundaries. For the constituent parts of the metropolitan districts in 1940, see reports of the Sixteenth Census (1940), *Population*, Vol. I.

**Trends in population, 1940 to 1950.**—The 1950 population of the 140 metropolitan districts of 1940 was 76,203,556, an increase of 13,237,783, or 21.0 percent, over the 1940 population. Almost one-fifth of this increase was contributed by the Los Angeles and New York-Northeastern New Jersey Metropolitan Districts. All but four of the districts gained. The rates of change ranged from a gain of 90.5 percent for Corpus Christi to a loss of 14.0 percent for Scranton-Wilkes-Barre. All but 1 of the 17 districts which gained more than 50 percent were located in the South and West and were heavily concentrated in California and Texas. An additional 24 districts gained more than a third but less than a half. None of the districts which gained more than a third were in the Northeast. Three of the four metropolitan districts which lost population were located in Pennsylvania.

#### STATE ECONOMIC AREAS AND ECONOMIC SUBREGIONS

**State economic areas.**—State economic areas are relatively homogeneous subdivisions of States. They consist of single counties or groups of counties which have similar economic and social characteristics. The boundaries of these areas have been drawn in such a way that each State is subdivided into relatively few parts, with each part having certain significant characteristics which distinguish it from adjoining areas. The country has been subdivided into 501 State economic areas. In publications from the Population Census, however, some of the thinly populated agricultural areas have been combined.

The grouping of the 3,103 counties or equivalent subdivisions of the United States into State economic areas is the product of a special study sponsored by the Bureau of the Census in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and several State and private agencies. The delimitation procedure was devised by Dr. Donald J. Bogue of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, on loan to the Bureau of the Census.<sup>7</sup>

**Relation to standard metropolitan areas.**—The combination of counties into State economic areas have been made for the entire country, and in this process the larger standard metropolitan areas (those with a population of 100,000 or more in 1940) have been recognized as metropolitan State economic areas. When a standard metropolitan area is located in two or more States, each State part becomes a metropolitan State economic area. In New England this correspondence does not exist because State economic areas are composed of counties whereas standard metropolitan areas are built up from towns. Here counties with more than half their population in a standard metropolitan area are classified as metropolitan. Likewise, because standard metropolitan areas were set up on the basis of the 1950 population and State economic areas on the basis of the 1940 population, there are some standard metropolitan areas which are not recognized in the State-economic-area classification and one metropolitan State economic area (Michigan C) is not recognized in the standard-metropolitan-area classification.

**Uses.**—In the establishment of State economic areas, factors in addition to industrial and commercial activities were taken into account. Demographic, climatic, physiographic, and cultural factors, as well as factors pertaining more directly to the produc-

tion and exchange of agricultural and nonagricultural goods, were considered. The net result then is a set of areas, intermediate in size between States, on the one hand, and counties, on the other, which are relatively homogeneous with respect to a large number of characteristics. Areas of this type are well adapted for use in a wide variety of studies in which State data are neither sufficiently refined nor homogeneous and in which the manipulation of county data presents real difficulty. Moreover, a standard set of areas, such as these, makes possible studies in widely different fields on a comparable area basis.

**Economic subregions.**—These areas represent combinations of State economic areas. By this combination, the 501 State economic areas are consolidated into a set of 119 areas which cut across State lines but which preserve to a great extent the homogeneous character of the State economic areas. The economic subregions are perhaps best adapted to those analyses of the geographic distribution of characteristics of the population within the country as a whole in which there is no need for the recognition of State boundaries and in which the greater refinement permitted by the larger number of areas is desirable. The publication of data from the 1950 Census in several fields has been planned for economic subregions.

Figures on the total population of economic subregions and their component State economic areas are presented in table 31. A map showing the boundaries of State economic areas and economic subregions appears on pages xxxvii. In table 19, which presents statistics for counties, each county is identified by the number or letter designation of the State economic area into which it falls.

#### CENSUS TRACTS

**Definition.**—Census tracts are small areas, having a population generally between 3,000 and 6,000, into which certain large cities (and in some cases their adjacent areas) have been subdivided for statistical and local administrative purposes, through cooperation with a local committee in each case.<sup>8</sup> The tract areas are established with a view to approximate uniformity in population, with some consideration of uniformity in size of area, and with due regard for physical features. Each tract is designed to include an area fairly homogeneous in population characteristics. In cities where ward lines are infrequently changed, the tracts may form subdivisions of wards; but the tracts are usually laid out without regard to ward boundaries. The tracts are intended to remain unchanged from census to census and thus to make possible studies of changes in social and economic characteristics of the population within small sections of the city.

**Areas tracted in 1950.**—There are 12,633 tracts in the 69 tracted areas for which 1950 Census data are available on this basis. Tract data were tabulated for 8 cities in 1910 and 1920, 18 cities in 1930, and 60 areas in 1940. Figures on the total population by tracts have been published for each of the 1950 areas in Series PC-10, *Advance Reports*. The characteristics of the population and housing of census tracts will be published as Volume III, *Census Tract Statistics*, for all but a few of the 69 areas. Table 33 presents the number of tracts in the city and in the adjacent part of each tracted area.

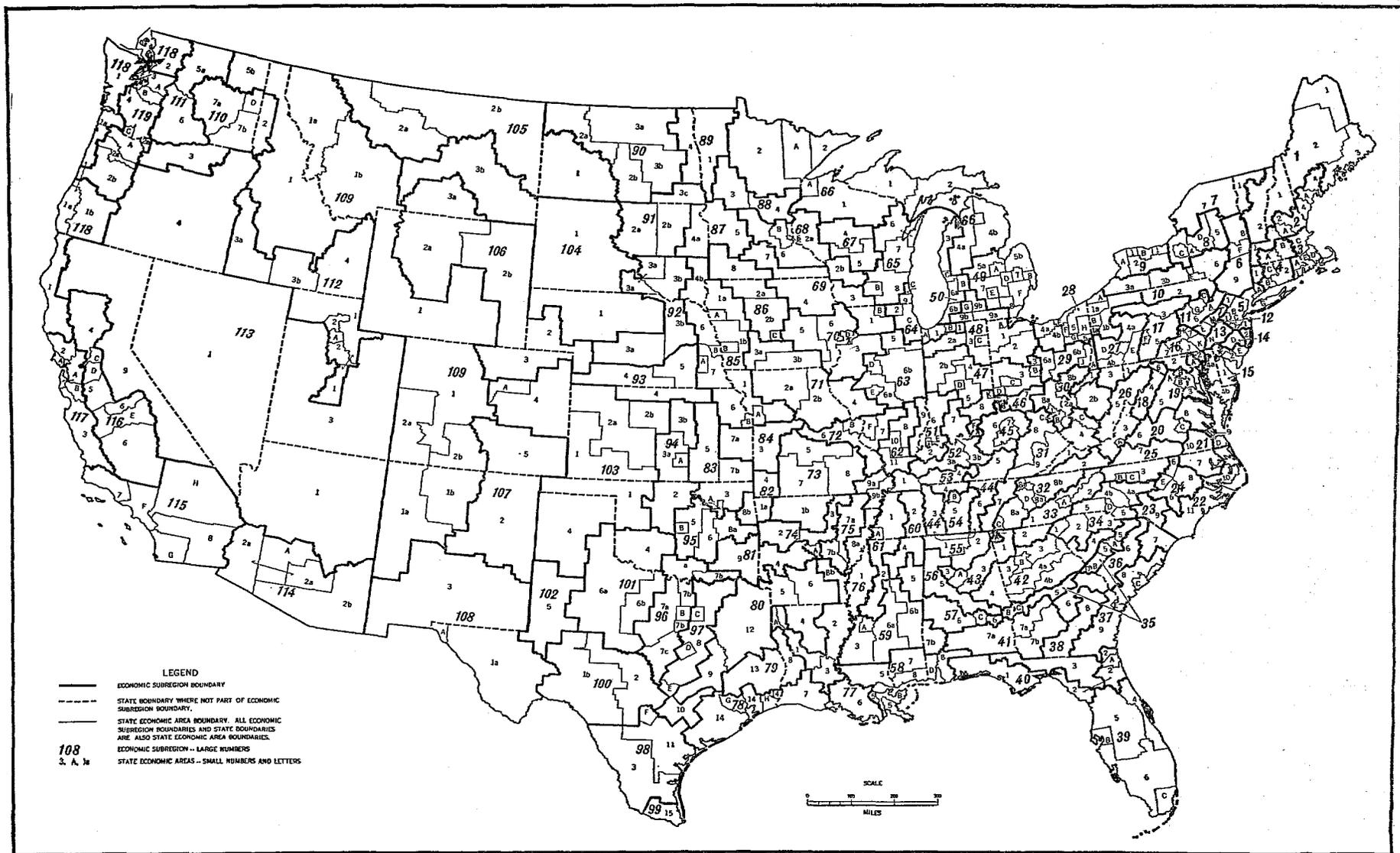
#### INSTITUTIONS

The population of institutions and military installations is included as a part of the population of the city, township, or other political area in which the institution or installation is located. This institutional population in some cases forms an appreciable fraction of the total population of the city or town, and sometimes it seriously affects the distribution of the total by sex, age, or other characteristics. It has not been found practicable, however, to make any general provision for showing separately the popula-

<sup>7</sup> For further discussion and materials on State economic areas and their uses, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *State Economic Areas*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1951.

<sup>8</sup> For a further discussion of census tract data and their uses, see U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census Tract Manual*, 8d edition, January 1947.

Figure 14.—ECONOMIC SUBREGIONS AND STATE ECONOMIC AREAS: 1950



tion of individual institutions. Figures on the inmate population will be presented for standard metropolitan areas, urbanized areas, counties, and cities of 10,000 inhabitants or more in Chapter B, Population, Volume II, *Characteristics of the Population*. In addition, the Census Bureau will make available on request the 1950 data giving the total population of those large institutions which comprise a complete enumeration district.

#### SPECIAL CENSUSES

The Bureau of the Census has an established procedure for taking a special census at the request and expense of a local com-

munity. Generally, the areas for which special censuses are taken are those which have experienced an unusual increase in population either because of changes in political boundaries or because of relatively high in-migration. The areas in which special censuses were conducted by the Bureau of the Census between April 1, 1940, and April 1, 1950, are shown in table 32; more than 400 separate special censuses were conducted during the decade 1940 to 1950.

The Bureau of the Census has published separately the results of these special censuses in varying detail in *Current Population Reports*, Series P-SC and P-28.