United States Census Bureau

1940-2010 STATE BY STATE:
KEY COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE YEARS

Then & Now

The 1940 Census came at a momentous time in our nation's history — as we recovered from the Great Depression and not long before our entry into World War II. With the release of the 1940 Census records, we can now look back and see how states have changed over time.

1940	2010
100.7 MEN FOR EVERY 100 WOMEN	**96.7 MEN** FOR EVERY 100 WOMEN

Highest ratio of MEN to WOMEN

1940		2010	
Nevada	125.4 to 100	Alaska	108.5 to 100
Wyoming	116.7 to 100	Wyoming	104.1 to 100
Montana	114.8 to 100	North Dakota	102.1 to 100
Idaho	111.4 to 100	Nevada	102.0 to 100

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age increased by nearly a decade in the 70 years between 1940 and 2010.

1940

29.0 YEARS
Median Age

Lowest median age

22.2 South Carolina

23.0 New Mexico

23.1 North Carolina

23.8 Mississippi

23.8 Alabama

Highest median age

33.0 California

32.4 Oregon

32.2 Washington

32.2 New York

31.8 Massachusetts

***D.C. had a median age of 31.9**

2010

37.2 YEARS
Median Age

Some of the lowest median ages

29.2 Utah

33.6 Texas

33.8 Alaska

34.7 Idaho

35.2 California

***D.C. had a median age of 33.9**

Some of the highest median ages

42.7 Maine

41.5 Vermont

41.3 New Hampshire

41.2 West Virginia

40.7 Florida

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EMPLOYMENT

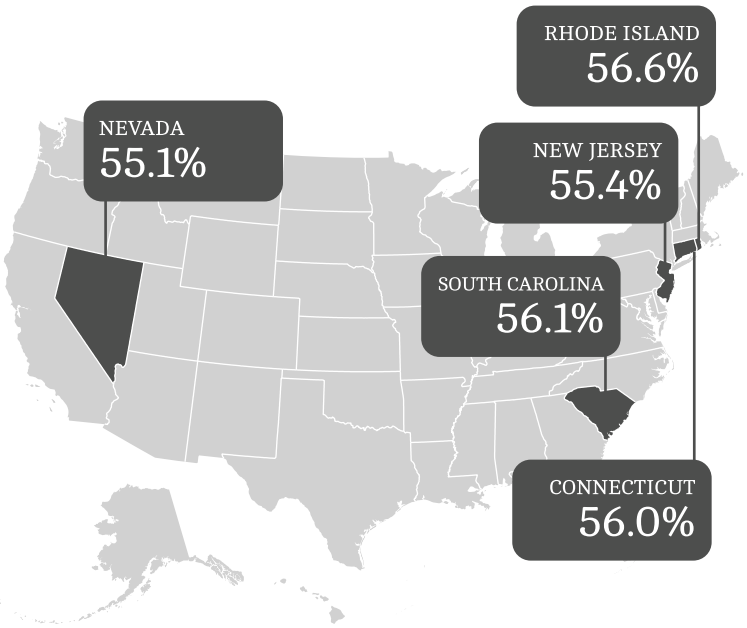
The states with the highest employment rates shifted westward over time.

1940

52.2%

of those 14 and older were in the labor force

States with the highest percentage of people in the labor force



***D.C. had a percentage of 62.2%**

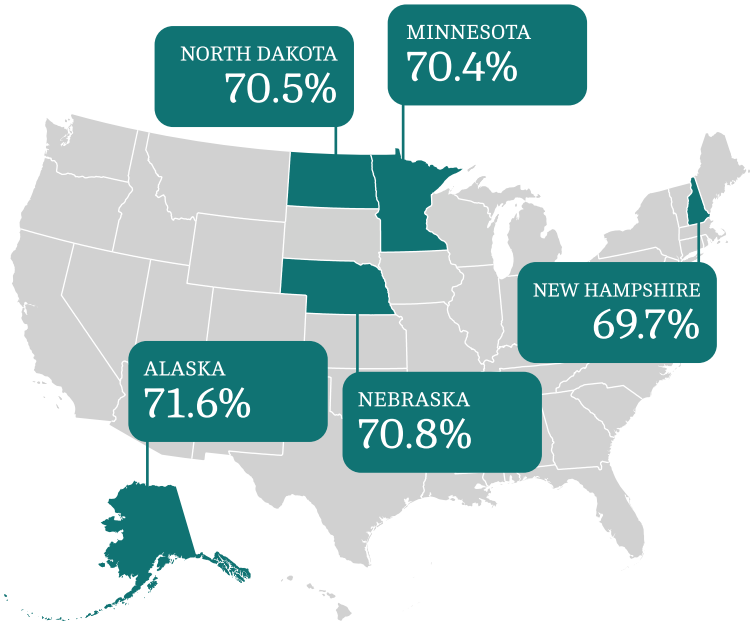
**In 1940, AK and HI were included as territories*

2010

64.4%

of those 16 and older were in the labor force

States with some of the highest percentage of people in the labor force



Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

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HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

A far higher percentage of people had high school educations in 2010 than in 1940.

1940

24.5%

of those 25 and older had earned at least a high school degree

States with highest rates of high school completion

37.3%	California
37.0%	Utah
35.6%	Nevada
33.6%	Washington
33.1%	Oregon

***D.C. had a percentage of 41.2%**

2010

85.6%

of those 25 and older had earned at least a high school degree

States with some of the highest rates of high school completion

92.3%	Wyoming
91.8%	Minnesota
91.7%	Montana
91.5%	New Hampshire
91.0%	Vermont

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Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

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COLLEGE EDUCATION

A bachelor's degree was much more common in 2010 than in 1940.

1940

4.6%

of those 25 and older reported having attended 4 or more years of college

States with highest rates of college graduates

6.8%
California

6.7%
Nevada

6.3%
Arizona

6.2%
Utah

6.0%
Colorado

***D.C. had the highest percentage at 11.1%**

2010

28.2%

of those 25 and older had earned a bachelor's degree or higher

States with some of the highest rates of college graduates

39.0%
Massachusetts

36.4%
Colorado

36.1%
Maryland

35.4%
New Jersey

34.2%
Virginia

***D.C. had the highest percentage at 50.1%**

United States Census Bureau

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census

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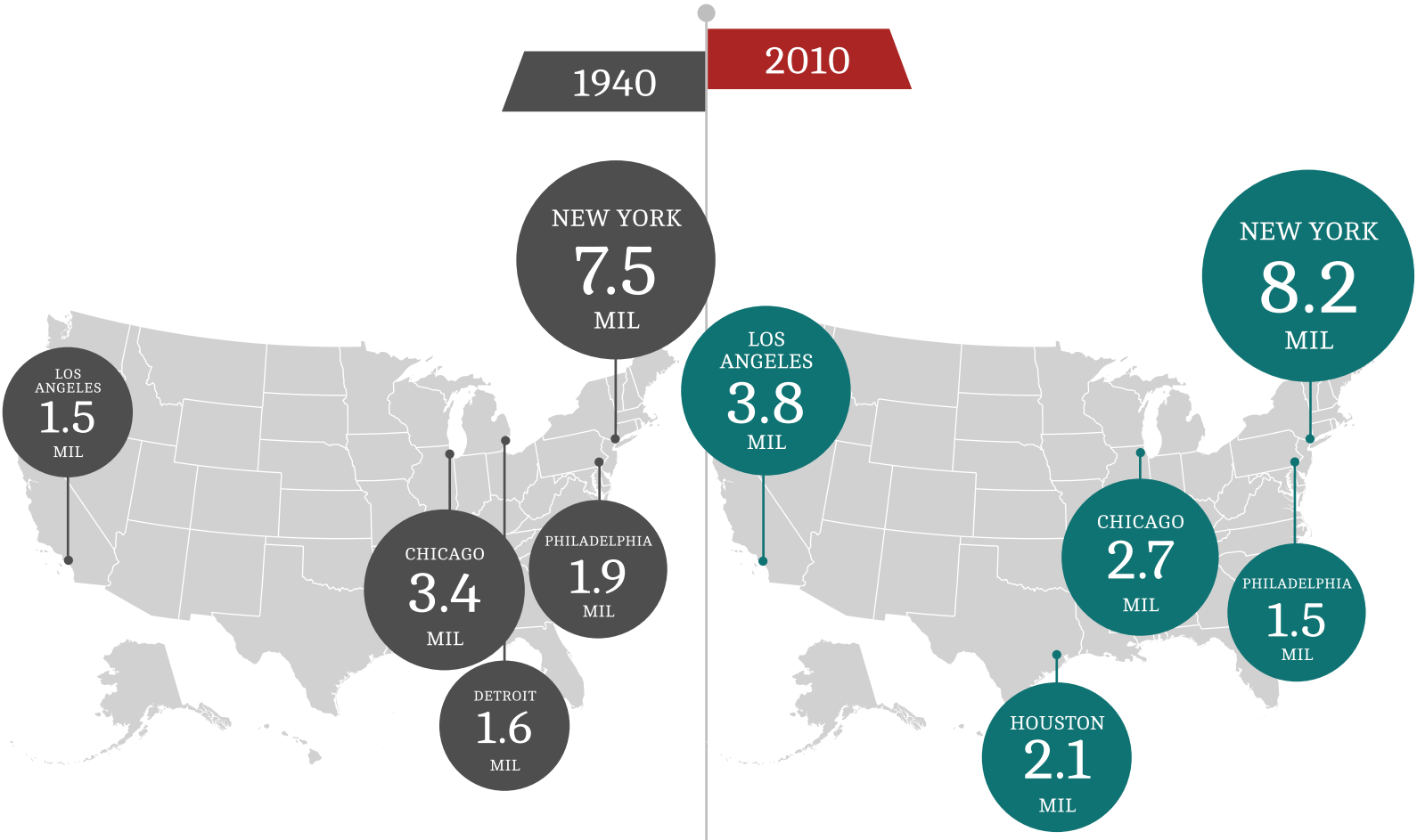
TOP 5 CITIES BY POPULATION

The change in America's most-populous cities shows how we've spread across the country.



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