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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Ratio 1940</th>
<th>Ratio 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>125.4 to 100</td>
<td>108.5 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>116.7 to 100</td>
<td>104.1 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>114.8 to 100</td>
<td>102.1 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>111.4 to 100</td>
<td>102.0 to 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.
The median age increased by nearly a decade in the 70 years between 1940 and 2010.

**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

**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

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

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.
EMPLOYMENT

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

52.2%
of those 14 and older were in the labor force

States with the highest percentage of people in the labor force

NEVADA 55.1%
RHODE ISLAND 56.6%
NEW JERSEY 55.4%
SOUTH CAROLINA 56.1%
CONNECTICUT 56.0%

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

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

NORTH DAKOTA 70.5%
MINNESOTA 70.4%
ALASKA 71.6%
NEW HAMPSHIRE 69.7%
NEBRASKA 70.8%

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

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

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

24.5%
of those 25 and older had earned at least a high school degree

States with highest rates of high school completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1940</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* D.C. had a percentage of 41.2%

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

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.
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%*

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.
TOP 5 CITIES BY POPULATION

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

*In 1940, AK and HI were included as territories

Sources: 2010 American Community Survey, 2010 Census, 1940 Census
The American Community Survey is a survey and its estimates are subject to sampling error.