

IX. PROPORTION OF CHILDREN IN WHITE POPULATION.

RATIO OF WHITE ADULTS OF SELF-SUPPORTING AGE TO WHITE CHILDREN—OF WHITE CHILDREN TO ADULT WHITE FEMALES—
EFFECT OF CHANGES IN THE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN.

It is probable that no change in the composition of the white population of the United States possesses greater interest, or is more important to the future welfare of the nation, than the proportion of the total constituted by children. It is clear that upon the changes in this respect, occurring from census to census, in the Republic and in individual states and communities, depends practically all economic readjustment. What proportion of the white population was formed by children under 16 years of age at the First Census, and at the Twelfth? And, if a marked change has occurred during the period under consideration, what are some of the possible causes?

In the following table comparison is made of the proportion of children per 1,000 of the total white population at intervals from 1790 to 1900. It is necessary to accept the age period under 16 years as a limitation of "children," because of the use of that age period at the earlier censuses.

TABLE 34.—Number of children per 1,000 of the white population, by states and territories: 1790, 1820, 1850, 1880, and 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	NUMBER OF WHITE PERSONS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE PER 1,000 OF ALL AGES.				
	1790	1820	1850	1880	1900
United States.....	490	489	431	390	356
Area enumerated in 1790.....	490	483	414	373	344
New England.....	470	443	358	309	291
Maine.....	507	485	404	318	290
New Hampshire.....	486	447	342	281	275
Vermont.....	513	463	378	324	294
Massachusetts.....	455	420	338	305	290
Rhode Island.....	464	429	349	315	305
Connecticut.....	454	422	340	315	297
Middle states.....	494	485	405	358	326
New York.....	493	484	385	336	309
New Jersey.....	487	472	410	361	327
Pennsylvania.....	498	489	429	385	345
Delaware.....	494	479	431	367	327
Southern states.....	502	508	464	431	402
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	450	457	414	377	333
Virginia and West Virginia.....	497	487	451	434	400
North Carolina.....	519	507	455	429	428
South Carolina.....	522	503	456	433	418
Georgia ¹	531	519	493	442	421
Kentucky.....	545	533	474	439	404
Tennessee ²	* 550	551	488	449	411
Added area.....		526	463	406	368

¹ Entire state.

² Southwest Territory in 1790.

* Basic figures obtained from ratios existing in Tennessee in 1800.

The change which occurred in the original area during the first thirty-year period—from 1790 to 1820—

was so slight as to possess little significance. During this period there was, indeed, a slight increase in the proportion shown in the Southern states. The decline in the succeeding periods was—1820 to 1850, 69; 1850 to 1880, 41; 1880 to 1900 (twenty years), 29; hence, the decline in the proportion of white children under 16 in each 1,000 white persons of all ages was 7 during the first thirty years of Federal census taking and 139 in the succeeding eighty years.

It will be observed that the Southern states, although little affected since the First Census by additions to population through immigration, have, by maintaining a higher birth rate than the New England and Middle states, increased their numbers from distinctively native population at a rate approximating, or possibly exceeding, the rate attained by other portions of the country with the assistance of immigrants and their descendants.

RATIO OF WHITE ADULTS OF SELF-SUPPORTING AGE TO WHITE CHILDREN.

The changes between the First and Twelfth censuses in the average number of white adults available for the support of each white child are shown in the following table. Since children do not, as a rule, pass suddenly into the adult class with respect to ability to support young persons, for the purposes of this study twenty years is set as the minimum age at which persons are capable of supporting children.

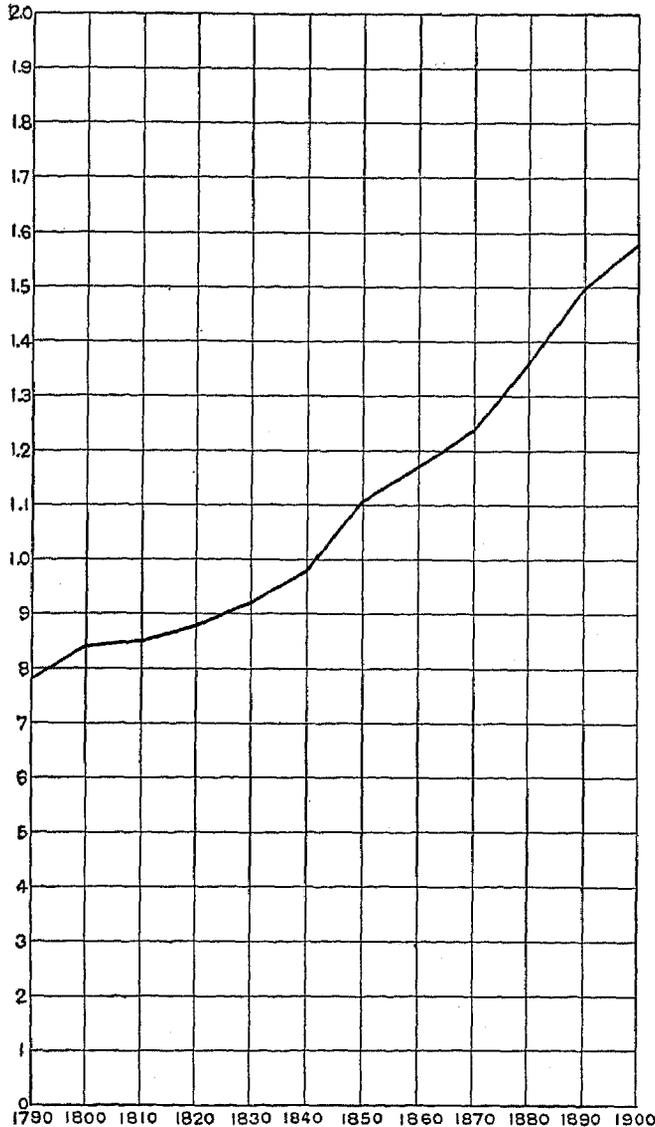
TABLE 35.—Ratio of white adults of self-supporting age to white children: 1790 to 1900.

CENSUS YEAR.	White persons 20 years and over.	White children under 16 years.	Ratio of persons 20 years and over to all children under 16 years.
1790.....	1,214,388	1,553,260	0.78
1800.....	1,832,375	2,156,357	0.85
1810.....	2,485,176	2,933,211	0.85
1820.....	3,395,467	3,843,680	0.88
1830.....	4,626,290	4,970,210	0.93
1840.....	6,440,054	6,510,878	0.99
1850.....	9,421,637	8,428,458	1.12
1860.....	13,310,660	11,329,812	1.17
1870.....	17,070,373	13,719,431	1.24
1880.....	22,928,219	16,919,639	1.36
1890.....	30,263,755	20,154,222	1.50
1900.....	37,748,491	23,846,473	1.58

For the censuses from 1790 to 1850, inclusive, some minor adjustments of age periods for this table proved

to be necessary in order to secure comparable figures; in some instances these adjustments were for the period under 16 years of age, and in others for the period 20 years of age and over. They were not sufficient, however, to affect to any appreciable degree the percentages which appear in the table, even though it be conceded that some errors may exist in the computations required to be made from the nearest age group.

DIAGRAM 9.—Ratio of white adults of self-supporting age to white children under 16 years.



The proportion for 1900 is practically double that for 1790. The uninterrupted increase shown in the proportion of white adults of self-supporting age to white children proves exceedingly suggestive. At the First Census 780 adults contributed to the maintenance and rearing of 1,000 children in the United States; but in 1900 the relationship of adults to children had

changed so greatly that the ratio became 1,580 adults to each 1,000 children.¹

The ratios of adults to children at the most recent censuses of the principal nations of Europe were as follows:

COUNTRY.	Census year.	Ratio of adults of self-supporting age (20 years and over) to children under 16 years.
France.....	1901	2.4
Ireland.....	1901	1.8
England and Wales.....	1901	1.7
Scotland.....	1901	1.6
Italy.....	1901	1.6
Austria-Hungary.....	1900	1.5
Germany.....	1900	1.5
United States.....	1900	1.6

In 1790 the ratios of white adults of self-supporting age to white children were practically uniform throughout the area enumerated. This fact suggests that in 1790 similar conditions prevailed generally throughout the country in connection with domestic and family affairs. In 1900 the ratios varied widely in different states, and in some instances—especially in New England and in some of the other older settled states—attained a high figure. The analysis is presented in full in the following table. In order to show the effect of locality, the states are grouped under main and minor geographic divisions.

In the different divisions and states of continental United States the number of white adults available in 1900 for the support of each 1,000 white children varied from 1,060 in Indian Territory to 2,400 in Nevada. Within the area enumerated in 1790 the extremes were 1,130 for North Carolina and (disregarding the District of Columbia) 2,390 for New Hampshire.

When the states of the area enumerated in 1790 are grouped by geographic divisions it is found that in both 1790 and 1900 the Southern states showed the smallest proportion of white adults of self-

¹ "No great power of imagination is needed in order to perceive the enormous effect of these (European population) changes, * * * and if at the present moment yearly 20 young persons out of a population of 1,000 enter life as full grown members of society, it will make a great difference if this number is reduced—say to 15. Everywhere in offices and shops the number of juveniles will be on the decrease, whereas gray-haired officials will be more abundant, and if it is true that all new ideas are born in young brains, then this distribution of age is identical with a serious loss for the population. * * *

In a stagnant population, according to the life tables for males, about 26 per cent would be under 15 years old, but if all the principal causes of death disappear the number would sink to 23 per cent. In the former case 74 adults would bring up 26 children; in the latter the numbers would be 77 and 23; consequently there would, in the case of the higher, accordingly be 2.8 adults to 1 child, in the other, 3.3."—Westergaard, *Proceedings of the International Institute of Statistics, 1907, page 113.*

supporting age to white children, and the New England states showed the largest. In 1900, however, the two extremes had grown so far apart that the Southern states, although nearly doubling their proportion during the century, showed a ratio scarcely more than one-half of that indicated for New England. The difference between the ratios per 1,000 children for the two sections had advanced from 700 and 800 adults, respectively, in 1790, to 1,280 and 2,190 in 1900.

TABLE 36.—Ratio of white adults of self-supporting age to white children, by states and territories: 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	White population under 16 years.	White population 20 years and over.	Ratio of white population 20 years and over to white population under 16 years.
Continental United States ¹	23,846,473	37,748,491	1.58
Area enumerated in 1790.....	10,464,298	17,663,445	1.69
New England.....	1,610,495	3,531,973	2.19
Maine.....	200,792	441,215	2.20
New Hampshire.....	112,987	269,686	2.39
Vermont.....	100,857	217,746	2.16
Massachusetts.....	804,542	1,774,910	2.21
Rhode Island.....	125,970	262,269	2.08
Connecticut.....	265,347	566,147	2.13
Middle states.....	4,972,312	9,179,888	1.85
New York.....	2,212,213	4,438,326	2.01
New Jersey.....	591,730	1,092,418	1.85
Pennsylvania.....	2,117,946	3,557,203	1.68
Delaware.....	50,423	91,941	1.82
Southern states.....	3,881,491	4,951,584	1.28
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	381,253	674,660	1.77
Virginia and West Virginia.....	844,206	1,084,553	1.28
North Carolina.....	540,543	613,164	1.13
South Carolina.....	233,056	273,618	1.17
Georgia ²	497,862	580,671	1.17
Kentucky.....	751,566	953,950	1.27
Tennessee.....	633,005	770,968	1.22
Added area.....	13,382,175	20,085,046	1.50
Northern states.....	9,222,868	14,510,777	1.57
Ohio.....	1,335,964	2,406,258	1.80
Indiana.....	847,755	1,410,271	1.66
Illinois.....	1,630,114	2,715,180	1.64
Michigan.....	813,188	1,401,750	1.72
Wisconsin.....	780,664	1,113,736	1.43
Minnesota.....	668,183	935,121	1.40
Iowa.....	802,660	1,236,108	1.54
Missouri.....	1,095,731	1,605,117	1.46
North Dakota.....	128,739	160,507	1.25
South Dakota.....	155,250	195,142	1.26
Nebraska.....	408,226	561,678	1.38
Kansas.....	526,304	769,909	1.46
Southern states.....	2,898,532	3,232,544	1.12
Florida.....	121,473	151,885	1.25
Alabama.....	431,491	480,601	1.11
Mississippi.....	276,328	307,476	1.11
Louisiana.....	307,120	361,674	1.18
Texas.....	1,057,904	1,160,016	1.10
Indian Territory.....	134,300	141,961	1.06
Oklahoma.....	154,435	183,954	1.19
Arkansas.....	415,478	444,977	1.07
Western states.....	1,260,775	2,341,725	1.86
Montana.....	69,674	143,887	2.07
Wyoming.....	28,843	54,107	1.88
Colorado.....	169,736	324,182	1.91
New Mexico.....	74,124	63,918	1.27
Arizona.....	31,307	55,314	1.77
Utah.....	118,758	180,847	1.10
Nevada.....	9,689	25,262	2.40
Idaho.....	60,568	82,975	1.37
Washington.....	162,542	300,219	1.85
Oregon.....	131,768	232,065	1.76
California.....	408,826	900,947	2.23

¹ Excluding persons stationed abroad.

² Entire state.

The marked difference in the ratio shown by the group of Southern states, in comparison with some other sections, suggests a tabulation of the South in comparison with the rest of the country; and upon making such analysis it appears that the ratio of white adults of self-supporting age to each 1,000 white children in 1900 was 1,210 in the South and 1,730 in the remainder of the country.

It must not be overlooked that the ratios here shown are based upon the entire white population, native and foreign. It was impossible to secure an analysis for the native and foreign elements separately; but attempts to secure such separation indicated that the native element tended to record a much higher ratio of adults to children than the foreign element—in some instances, indeed, probably exceeding 3,000 adults to each 1,000 children.

RATIO OF WHITE CHILDREN TO ADULT WHITE FEMALES.

The relative importance of children in the white population has already been measured by considering the proportion children form of the total and the ratio of adults of self-supporting age to children. Another standpoint from which to view this subject consists in a consideration of the ratio of white children (under 16 years of age) to white females 16 years of age and over.

TABLE 37.—Ratio of white children to adult white females in each state and territory enumerated in 1790 and in the same areas in 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	RATIO OF WHITE CHILDREN UNDER 16 TO ALL WHITE FEMALES 16 YEARS AND OVER.	
	1790	1900
Area enumerated in 1790.....	1.9	1.0
New England.....	1.7	0.8
Maine.....	2.1	0.8
New Hampshire.....	1.9	0.8
Vermont.....	2.3	0.9
Massachusetts.....	1.6	0.8
Rhode Island.....	1.6	0.8
Connecticut.....	1.6	0.8
Middle states.....	2.0	1.0
New York.....	2.1	0.9
New Jersey.....	2.0	1.0
Pennsylvania.....	2.1	1.1
Delaware.....	2.0	1.0
Southern states.....	2.0	1.3
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	1.6	1.0
Virginia and West Virginia.....	2.0	1.4
North Carolina.....	2.2	1.5
South Carolina.....	2.3	1.4
Georgia.....	2.4	1.4
Kentucky.....	2.6	1.4
Tennessee.....	2.7	1.4

Comparison of the ratios shown in this table for 1790 and 1900 reveals a variation comparable in extent with that shown in Table 35. An average of nearly 2 children to every white female of mature years in 1790 declined to an average of 1 in 1900, or half as great for the entire area considered. In all

the New England states, and in New York, the average was less than 1 in 1900.

The significance of this subject is so great that it

will be appropriate to point out the conditions which prevailed in 1850 and 1900 in continental United States and in individual states.

TABLE 38.—RATIO OF WHITE CHILDREN TO ALL WHITE FEMALES 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES: 1850 AND 1900.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	1850			1900		
	White females 16 years and over. ¹	White children under 16 years. ²	Ratio of white children to white females 16 years and over.	White females 16 years and over.	White children under 16 years.	Ratio of white children to white females 16 years and over.
Continental United States.....	5,376,497	8,428,458	1.6	20,822,625	23,846,473	1.1
Area enumerated in 1790.....	3,620,445	5,088,063	1.4	9,735,972	10,000,044	1.0
New England.....	878,777	968,798	1.1	1,993,736	1,610,495	0.8
Maine.....	169,536	234,873	1.4	243,124	200,792	0.8
New Hampshire.....	107,780	108,632	1.0	149,350	112,987	0.8
Vermont.....	95,547	118,583	1.2	118,318	109,857	0.9
Massachusetts.....	335,407	332,088	1.0	1,019,195	894,542	0.8
Rhode Island.....	48,332	50,270	1.0	150,094	125,970	0.8
Connecticut.....	122,175	123,452	1.0	313,675	265,347	0.8
Middle states.....	1,714,728	2,364,449	1.4	5,127,096	4,972,312	1.0
New York.....	920,783	1,173,119	1.3	2,496,547	2,212,213	0.9
New Jersey.....	137,787	190,801	1.4	610,528	591,730	1.0
Pennsylvania.....	635,840	969,870	1.5	1,969,432	2,117,046	1.1
Delaware.....	20,318	30,659	1.5	90,619	50,423	1.0
Southern states.....	1,026,940	1,755,656	1.7	2,615,140	3,507,237	1.3
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	132,474	188,663	1.4	388,125	381,253	1.0
Virginia and West Virginia.....	245,388	403,250	1.6	618,013	844,266	1.4
North Carolina.....	156,788	251,542	1.6	396,471	540,543	1.5
South Carolina.....	75,367	125,113	1.7	162,973	233,056	1.4
Georgia (eastern part).....	32,028	50,521	1.6	86,277	123,608	1.4
Kentucky.....	191,611	301,111	1.6	545,038	751,596	1.4
Tennessee.....	193,314	309,456	1.6	448,243	633,005	1.4
Added area.....	1,756,052	3,339,555	1.9	11,086,653	13,756,420	1.2
Northern states.....	1,316,012	2,459,118	1.9	7,916,781	9,222,868	1.2
Ohio.....	512,296	889,640	1.7	1,347,828	1,335,064	1.0
Indiana.....	237,871	476,641	2.0	785,402	847,755	1.1
Illinois.....	204,097	402,065	2.0	1,483,102	1,600,114	1.1
Michigan.....	100,334	176,868	1.8	559,528	813,188	1.1
Wisconsin.....	75,685	133,184	1.8	609,344	780,664	1.3
Minnesota.....	1,213	2,291	1.9	482,641	668,183	1.4
Iowa.....	44,933	94,532	2.1	672,837	802,060	1.2
Missouri.....	140,283	283,297	2.0	890,544	1,095,731	1.2
North Dakota.....	(3)	(3)	.....	74,807	128,730	1.7
South Dakota.....	(3)	(3)	.....	98,724	156,250	1.6
Nebraska.....	(3)	(3)	.....	295,832	408,226	1.4
Kansas.....	(3)	(3)	.....	416,215	526,394	1.3
Southern states.....	413,463	836,759	2.0	2,065,284	3,272,786	1.6
Georgia (western part).....	97,533	200,412	2.1	256,699	374,254	1.5
Florida.....	10,771	22,068	2.1	83,066	121,473	1.5
Alabama.....	104,534	208,287	2.0	282,156	431,494	1.5
Mississippi.....	67,725	146,803	2.2	179,268	270,328	1.5
Louisiana.....	63,289	102,964	1.6	207,418	307,120	1.5
Texas.....	33,783	73,142	2.2	639,303	1,057,904	1.7
Indian Territory.....	(3)	(3)	.....	73,702	134,300	1.8
Oklahoma.....	(3)	(3)	.....	93,012	154,435	1.7
Arkansas.....	35,828	82,063	2.3	250,660	415,478	1.7
Western states.....	25,977	43,078	1.7	1,104,588	1,260,775	1.1
Montana.....	(3)	(3)	.....	52,580	69,674	1.3
Wyoming.....	(3)	(3)	.....	19,217	28,843	1.5
Colorado.....	(3)	(3)	.....	155,298	169,736	1.1
New Mexico and Arizona.....	(3)	(3)	.....	69,940	105,431	1.5
Utah.....	16,973	25,956	1.5	74,735	118,758	1.6
Nevada.....	4,740	4,163	1.9	0,318	0,689	1.0
Idaho.....	(3)	(3)	.....	36,346	60,508	1.7
Oregon and Washington.....	2,234	5,538	2.5	239,711	294,310	1.2
California.....	4,021	7,021	1.7	447,413	463,826	0.9

¹ Excluding persons stationed abroad.
² Subdivision of group 15 to 19 years estimated.

³ Not enumerated.
⁴ Enumerated as part of Utah territory if at all.

No state of the Union enumerated in 1850 showed an increase, during the half century which elapsed to 1900, in the ratio of children to adult white females. Within this short period the ratio of children to each 1,000 females declined from 1,600 to 1,100 for the entire United States, and from 1,400 to 1,000 in the

area enumerated in 1790. The two preceding tables, therefore, reveal the fact that the ratio of 1,900 children to each 1,000 white women for the United States in 1790 declined 300 (to 1,600) in the sixty years elapsing to 1850, and 500 (to 1,100) in the succeeding half century. How great has been the change during the century

in the proportion of children in the white population can best be realized by applying the ratio shown in 1900 to the number of white females above the age of 16 in 1790, and the ratio shown in 1790 to the number of white females 16 years of age and over in 1900.

AREA.	NUMBER OF WHITE CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.			
	1790		1900	
	Actual number.	On basis of ratio shown for continental United States in 1900, number would have been—	Actual number.	On basis of ratio shown in 1790, number would have been—
Continental United States.....	1,553,260	884,495	23,846,810	39,563,953
Area enumerated in 1790.....	1,553,260	884,495	10,090,044	18,498,347
Added area.....			13,756,766	21,065,606

Changes in the ratio of white children to adult white females, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.—The enumeration of the inhabitants of New York city in 1703 specified the number of white females and the number of white children of both sexes. This fact makes possible a computation, for one representative community, of the proportion of children to white females at one of the earliest enumerations made in British North American territory. The ratio of white children of both sexes to white females 16 years of age and over, as indicated by this census, was 1.9.

Of even greater interest is the partial enumeration of New York colony made in 1712–1714. The returns of this census cover all counties except Queens, although the returns for Kings and Richmond counties give only the total population, and Albany, Dutchess, and Ulster counties were not returned at all until 1714. The detailed returns of this census cover the entire white population in even greater detail than was shown at the First Census of the United States. The proportion of white children under 16 years of age to white females 16 years of age and over, for the counties reported in detail, is given in Table 39.

The results of the New York censuses of 1703 and 1712 lead to the conclusion that at this period in the history of the colony there were about 2 white children to each adult white female. It is probable that at this early period there was little variation in the conditions prevailing in the different colonies; most of the inhabitants were engaged in agricultural pursuits, and there was practically no urban population in the modern sense of the term. This uniformity of conditions, together with the fact that even as late as 1790 the ratio of white children to white women varied but little in the different states and geographic divisions, suggests the inference that throughout the eighteenth century, and in all the British American colonies, there were approximately 2 white children to each adult

white female. This inference accords with the fact that the economic and social conditions of the colonies remained substantially unchanged during that period. It also serves to emphasize strikingly, by contrast, the change which occurred in the United States during the nineteenth century in the ratio of white children to adult white females.

TABLE 39.—Ratio of white children under 16 years of age to white females 16 years of age and over in New York, by counties: 1712.

COUNTY.	White females 16 years and over.	WHITE CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS.			Ratio of white children under 16 years to white females 16 years and over.
		Both sexes.	Males.	Females.	
Total.....	4,317	8,450	4,389	4,061	2.0
Albany ¹	725	1,404	753	651	.....
Dutchess ¹	98	218	120	98	.....
New York.....	1,365	2,379	1,197	1,182	1.7
Orange.....	96	187	105	82	1.9
Suffolk.....	990	2,136	1,092	1,044	2.2
Ulster ¹	442	877	450	427	.....
Westchester.....	601	1,249	672	577	2.1

¹ Returns not received until 1714.

Ratios of children to adult females in the native and the foreign stock of the white population.—It will be recalled that in a preceding chapter the contributions of the two main elements of the white population—descendants of persons enumerated in 1790 and of persons who came to the United States after the First Census—were estimated to represent approximately 35,000,000 and 32,000,000, respectively, of the total white population in 1900. Which of these two elements is the more liberal contributor of population increase at the present time? If the second, or foreign element, is the larger contributor what share is being borne in such contribution by the various nationalities which compose it? It is clear that the answers to these questions are of great importance to the Republic, since the ideals and policies of the nation must depend upon the characteristics of its citizens. Unfortunately, however, census publications can give no answer to questions concerning the fecundity of the various elements of the population.

There is a widespread opinion among students of population statistics that the white native stock, represented by the 35,000,000 of persons in 1900, is now increasing at a very slow rate, if at all; in all probability it is barely maintaining itself.¹ This point of view appears to be confirmed by many of the facts which are presented in this report. If this be true, or even

¹ “As a general proposition it will hold true that the absolute and relative fecundity of the native born element is less throughout the country than that of the foreign born. There are differences, of course, in the degree of fecundity, and fortunately the native birth rate is still comparatively normal in the Southern and Western states; but there can be no doubt that throughout the country the foreign element is reproducing itself much more rapidly than the native, with probably four generations to a century, against less than three among the natives.”—F. L. Hoffman, *North American Review*, May, 1909, page 675.

A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH.

partially true, then the other, or foreign, element of the white population, represented in 1900 by 32,000,000 persons, of whom more than 20,000,000 were either foreign born or the children of persons born abroad, is now contributing the bulk of population increase. There is no reason to doubt, however, that within this element the different nationalities differ widely in their percentages of increase.

In order to determine whether differences of this character actually exist, a test was made by analyzing the names appearing upon the Twelfth Census schedules for 2 counties which remained practically unchanged in area during the century—Hartford county,

Conn., and Columbia county, N. Y. Hartford county, Conn., was selected partly because in 1790 its population was exclusively British, and practically all English, so that the changes, if any, occurring during the century, could be clearly marked in connection with that nationality; and partly because in 1900 it was a typical county. The population had increased sixfold during the century; it was partly urban and partly rural; it was exceedingly prosperous, and obviously had fully participated in the growth and progress of the nation. Columbia county, N. Y., was a distinctly rural county in 1790, and largely rural also in 1900. The tabulations resulted as follows:

TABLE 40.—RATIO OF ADULT WHITE FEMALES TO WHITE CHILDREN, FOR EACH NATIONALITY AS INDICATED BY NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES IN HARTFORD COUNTY, CONN.: 1790 AND 1900.

NATIONALITY.	1790					1900				
	White females 16 years and over.		White children under 16 years.			White females 16 years and over.		White children under 16 years.		
	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.			Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.		
			Total.	Average to each female 16 years and over.	Per cent distribution.			Total.	Average to each female 16 years and over.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	10,614	100.0	17,076	1.6	100.0	66,517	100.0	55,653	0.8	100.0
British.....	10,594	99.8	17,042	1.6	99.8	52,500	78.9	36,576	0.7	65.7
English.....	10,236	96.4	16,516	1.6	96.7	32,159	48.3	17,916	0.6	32.2
Scotch.....	303	2.9	416	1.4	2.4	2,798	4.2	2,094	0.7	3.8
Irish.....	55	0.5	110	2.0	0.6	17,543	26.4	16,566	0.9	29.8
Dutch.....	6	0.1	10	1.7	0.1	151	0.2	127	0.8	0.2
French.....	11	0.1	22	2.0	0.1	1,781	2.7	2,173	1.2	3.9
German.....						6,375	9.6	7,752	1.2	13.9
All other ¹	3	(?)	2	0.7	(?)	5,710	8.6	9,025	1.6	16.2

¹ Includes Hungarian, Italian, Roumanian, Russian, Scandinavian, etc.

² Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

TABLE 41.—RATIO OF ADULT WHITE FEMALES TO WHITE CHILDREN, FOR EACH NATIONALITY AS INDICATED BY NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, N. Y.: 1790 AND 1900.

NATIONALITY.	1790					1900				
	White females 16 years and over.		White children under 16 years.			White females 16 years and over.		White children under 16 years.		
	Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.			Number.	Per cent distribution.	Number.		
			Total.	Average to each female 16 years and over.	Per cent distribution.			Total.	Average to each female 16 years and over.	Per cent distribution.
Total.....	6,203	100.0	13,054	2.1	100.0	15,542	100.0	11,205	0.7	100.0
British.....	4,980	80.3	10,646	2.1	81.6	11,713	75.4	7,673	0.7	68.5
English.....	4,815	77.6	10,344	2.1	79.2	8,644	55.6	5,490	0.6	49.0
Scotch.....	137	2.2	250	1.7	1.8	516	3.3	340	0.7	3.0
Irish.....	28	0.5	72	2.6	0.6	2,553	16.4	1,843	0.7	16.4
Dutch.....	1,148	18.5	2,290	2.0	17.5	985	6.3	633	0.6	5.6
French ¹	30	0.5	60	2.0	0.5	241	1.6	226	0.9	2.0
German.....	37	0.6	42	1.1	0.3	2,343	15.1	2,163	0.9	19.3
All other ²	8	0.1	16	2.0	0.1	260	1.7	510	2.0	4.6

¹ Practically all French Canadians in 1900.

² Includes Hungarian, Italian, Roumanian, Russian, Scandinavian, etc.

In 1900 the British stock was making a comparatively meager contribution to the population of both counties. The 1790 ratios of 1.6 children under 16 years of age to each female 16 years and over in the

Connecticut county and 2.1 in the New York county, by 1900 had shrunk one-half in the former and one-third in the latter. Since in 1790 the British element was composed almost exclusively of English, it is in

this nationality that most of the descendants of persons enumerated in 1790 in these 2 counties are to be found. It will be observed that in both instances the ratio for the English is even lower than that for the remainder of the British element.

The other than British elements show in each county, in 1900, a more liberal ratio of children to women. Both the French Canadian and the German nationalities show a ratio which, while much less than that shown for 1790, is nevertheless higher than that of the British element. The increase in the ratio is greatest, however, for the nationalities analyzed upon the schedule and grouped in the table under the head of "all other." This term includes principally Italians, Hungarians, Russians, and Scandinavians—nationalities which are included in the most recent immigration movement. In both counties the contribution of this element, in 1900, greatly exceeds that of any other, approaching the very liberal proportion of children to adult females shown for the total white population at the First Census of the United States.

The foregoing analysis is presented merely as an illustration of the significant variation in the contribution of various racial elements to the increase of population in the United States. The labor involved in a complete tabulation of this kind is so great that it could not be attempted except at a decennial census, and it is doubtful if facilities would exist at that time. But the test tabulations here presented tend to confirm the impression that during the eighteenth century practically no change occurred in the social and economic structure of the colonies which subsequently became parts of the United States, while during the nineteenth century a very marked readjustment has been in progress, resulting in a striking change in the ratio of children to adult females.

Comparison of the United States with Europe.—Consideration of the changes shown to have occurred in the United States during the century, in the ratio of white children to adult white females, is aided by making a study of the corresponding ratios for the four principal nations of Europe.

COUNTRY.	Census year.	Females 16 years and over.	Children under 16 years.	Ratio of children under 16 to females 16 years and over.
United Kingdom.....	1901	14, 251, 030	14, 211, 351	1.0
France.....	1901	14, 190, 357	10, 681, 683	0.8
Germany.....	1900	18, 293, 000	20, 732, 000	1.1
Italy.....	1901	10, 540, 684	11, 722, 730	1.1
United States.....	1900	20, 822, 625	23, 840, 473	1.1

The above table indicates that the proportion of children to adult females was practically the same in the United States in 1900 as in Great Britain, Germany, and Italy at the corresponding enumerations in those countries; hence it appears that population conditions in the Republic are tending to become more

in harmony with those obtaining in other civilized countries. It should be noted that although the ratio shown for France is considerably less than those for Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and the United States, it is identical with that shown for 5 of the New England states, and but one-tenth less than that shown for New York.

EFFECT OF CHANGES IN THE PROPORTION OF CHILDREN.

There are many standpoints from which to view this subject. From one, it might be claimed that the people of the United States, taking all into account, have concluded that they are only about one-half as well able to rear children—at any rate without personal sacrifice—under the conditions prevailing in 1900 as their predecessors proved themselves to be under the conditions which prevailed in 1790. It is possible also to claim that at the period of the First Census the simple living characteristic of a new country, the simple wants supplied by neighborhood industries, and the self-dependence of the family due to sparseness of population, all tended toward large families.

In 1900 the resources of the nation were developed to the point of fruition. From various causes the population had become very large. Wealth had increased to a degree unparalleled elsewhere in the world or in any age. At the present time the complexity of living, congestion of population, dependence on foreign help, and especially the innumerable wants fostered by machine-made goods, manufactured upon an enormous scale and ever tempting to greater expenditure, all tend toward restriction of size of families.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century a vast continent, with untold resources, awaited development and created what might be termed a population hunger. In Europe, at the same period, the creation of unexampled industrial activity produced, though to a lesser degree, a somewhat similar condition. The close of the nineteenth century finds the insistent demand for population practically satisfied, and in some instances more than satisfied, both in the United States and in Europe. The degree to which this demand is occurring in different sections of the United States is suggested by the wide variations in the proportions of white children to white adults in the various states and geographic divisions. The older communities, having already acquired dense population, resulting in a more severe struggle for existence, show the highest proportion of adults to children; while in the younger or more sparsely settled states, and in those in which wide opportunity for the individual still exists, the proportion of children to adults is much greater. It must be remembered, however, that in communities which have been in existence less than fifty years the birth rates, as reflected by the proportion of children in the

white population, may be abnormally high, because of the abnormal age distribution of the population of such sections.

It would be idle to attempt to point out the social and economic results likely to occur in the future from the changes here shown to have taken place, even were such a discussion appropriate in these pages. A century hence the student of population changes will be able to measure, in the same manner as the significance of population changes from 1790 to 1900 is here measured, but in a better and more accurate fashion, the effect—economic loss, or possibly, indeed, economic gain—upon the United States of failure of the white population to contribute (on the basis of the

1790 proportion) many millions of young people to the activities of the Republic. He will confront the fact that in the early life of the Republic there appeared in the total population a very large proportion of young persons, but that after the expiration of a century, as the population approached 100,000,000 and all the activities of the nation were developed and expanded to a marvelous degree, the proportion of young persons decreased to such an extent as to create a remarkable contrast between the conditions which prevailed at the beginning and at the end of the nineteenth century. It is probable that against such a background the economic history of the coming century will be written.