

We, The Americans

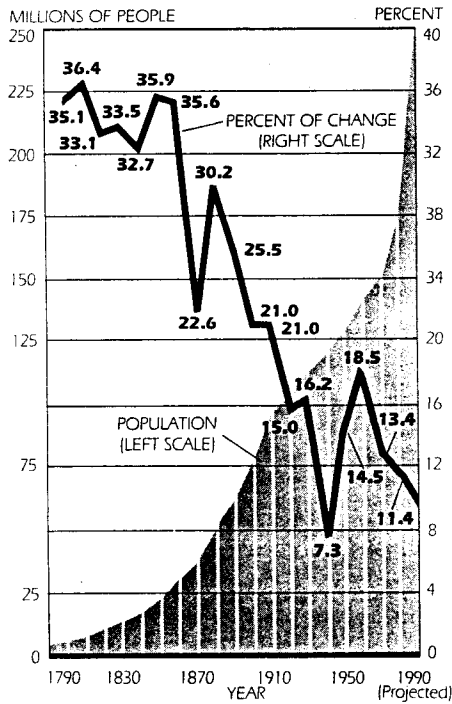


We, The Americans

We Americans take a good look at ourselves every 10 years to see how many of us there are, our age and racial makeup, where and how we're living, our educational attainment, the work we do and how much we're paid for it, and other important facts. We've taken a census every 10 years since 1790, when the framers of the Constitution decided that censuses were important enough to be required by that document. In 1980 we took the 20th census.

When we look at each new census and compare the results with those that have gone before, we can measure what's been happening to us and perhaps determine where we're going. Here is our latest national photograph, side by side with the one developed in 1970 and sometimes earlier ones. Occasionally you also will find snapshots from the many surveys taken between the censuses.

Total Population and Percent Change from Preceding Census



We're still growing, but more slowly . . .

The census showed that there were 226,545,805 of us living in the United States on April 1, 1980; 10 years earlier we numbered 203,302,031. This gain of some 23 million is equal to our entire population in 1850. Yet it was the slowest growth—just 11.4 percent—in this century, except for the Great Depression years of the 1930s. For comparison, the first census in 1790 revealed a population of just under 4 million, by 1900 we had grown to 76 million, and by 1950 we numbered about 151 million.

We'll grow even more slowly from now on . . .

Trends shown by censuses and other statistics on births and deaths, and the numbers of people moving into and out of the nation, help demographers (professionals who study population trends) to estimate our population from year to year and also to look ahead. For instance, they know that during the summer of 1983 we passed the 234 million mark.

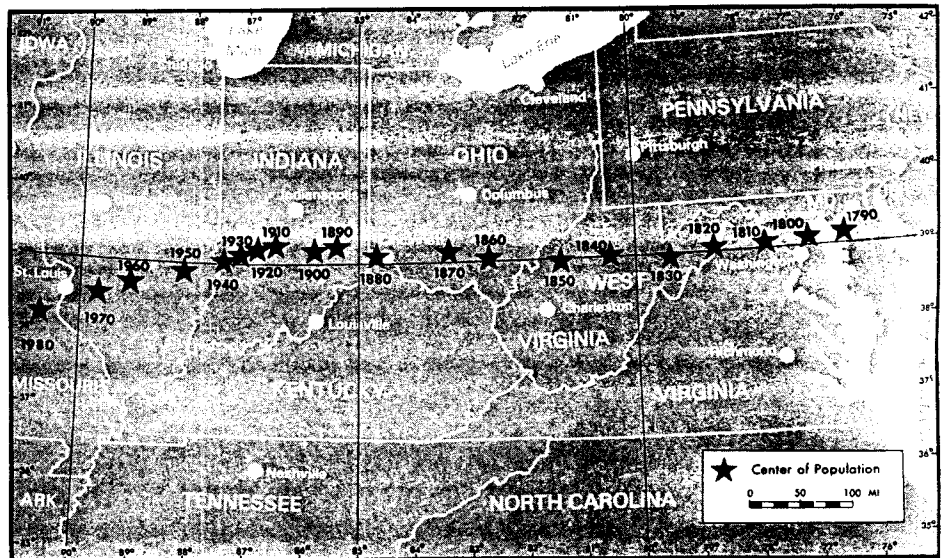
Our total numbers in the future, of course, will depend on what happens to the fertility, mortality, and net immigration rates. The Census Bureau has developed several series of population projections that take these rates into account. If we look at the middle series, we see a growth of 9.2 percent in the 1980s and 7.1 percent in the 1990s. Population growth is expected to continue to slow as the next century unfolds.

Here are some projections of what we may number in the future:

1985: 238,648,000	2000: 267,990,000
1990: 249,731,000	2025: 301,022,000
1995: 259,631,000	2050: 308,856,000

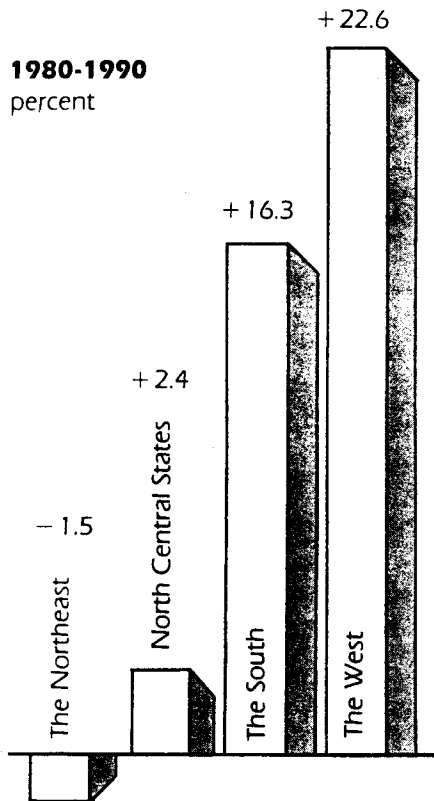
We're still moving west—and south . . .

From its 1790 location 23 miles east of Baltimore, Maryland, the nation's "population center" has moved steadily west and slightly south over the decades. The center* crossed the Mississippi River sometime during the 1970s to Jefferson County, Missouri, as measured by the 1980 census.

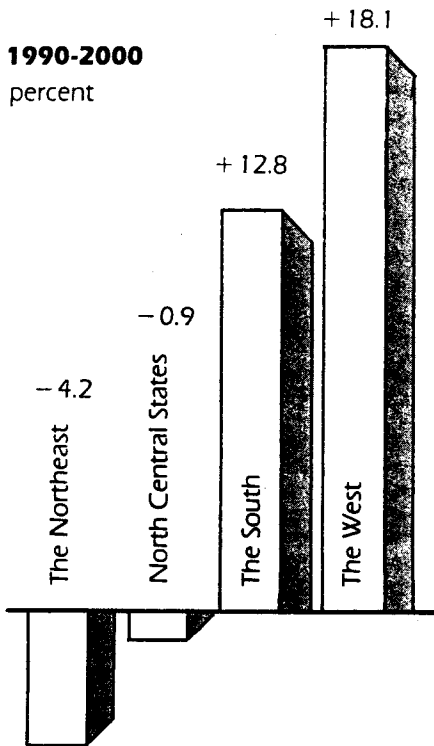


*The "population center" is where the country would balance perfectly if it were a flat surface and every person on it had equal weight.

1980-1990
percent



1990-2000
percent



Based on trends already taking place, here are regional population projections for the final two decades of this century:

Ninety percent of our growth in the last decade was in the South and West, and for the first time, more than half of our population (52.3 percent) was living in those two regions on census day. Here is the growth from 1970 to 1980 compared with the previous decade:

	1970-1980	1960-1970
The Northeast:	0.2 percent	10 percent
North Central States:	4 percent	10 percent
The South:	20 percent	14 percent
The West:	24 percent	24 percent

The Mountain States grew the fastest in the last decade, an increase of 37 percent. The Middle Atlantic States actually lost population—just over 1 percent.

1980 State Population, Ranking, and Change Since 1970

	1980 population	1980 rank	Percent change 1970-1980
Alabama	3,893,888	22	13.1
Alaska	401,851	51	32.8
Arizona	2,718,215	29	53.1
Arkansas	2,286,435	33	18.9
California	23,667,902	1	18.5
Colorado	2,889,964	28	30.8
Connecticut	3,107,576	25	2.5
Delaware	594,338	48	8.4
District of Columbia	638,333	47	-15.6
Florida	9,746,324	7	43.5
Georgia	5,463,105	13	19.1
Hawaii	964,691	39	25.3
Idaho	943,935	41	32.4
Illinois	11,426,518	5	2.8
Indiana	5,490,224	12	5.7
Iowa	2,913,808	27	3.1
Kansas	2,363,679	32	5.1
Kentucky	3,660,777	23	13.7
Louisiana	4,205,900	19	15.4
Maine	1,124,660	38	13.2
Maryland	4,216,975	18	7.5
Massachusetts	5,737,037	11	0.8
Michigan	9,262,078	8	4.3
Minnesota	4,075,970	21	7.1
Mississippi	2,520,638	31	13.7
Missouri	4,916,686	15	5.1
Montana	786,690	44	13.3
Nebraska	1,569,825	35	5.7
Nevada	800,493	43	63.8
New Hampshire	920,610	42	24.8
New Jersey	7,364,823	9	2.7
New Mexico	1,302,894	37	28.1
New York	17,558,072	2	-3.7
North Carolina	5,881,766	10	15.7
North Dakota	652,717	46	5.7
Ohio	10,797,630	6	1.3
Oklahoma	3,025,290	26	18.2
Oregon	2,633,105	30	25.9
Pennsylvania	11,863,895	4	0.5
Rhode Island	947,154	40	-0.3
South Carolina	3,121,820	24	20.5
South Dakota	690,768	45	3.7
Tennessee	4,591,120	17	16.9
Texas	14,229,191	3	27.1
Utah	1,461,037	36	37.9
Vermont	511,456	49	15.0
Virginia	5,346,818	14	14.9
Washington	4,132,156	20	21.1
West Virginia	1,949,644	34	11.8
Wisconsin	4,705,767	16	6.5
Wyoming	469,557	50	41.3