

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

Nevada

125.4 to 100

Wyoming

116.7 to 100

Montana

114.8 to 100

Idaho

111.4 to 100

Alaska

108.5 to 100

Wyoming

104.1 to 100

North Dakota

102.1 to 100

Nevada

102.0 to 100

MEDIAN AGE

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

1940

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

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

1940

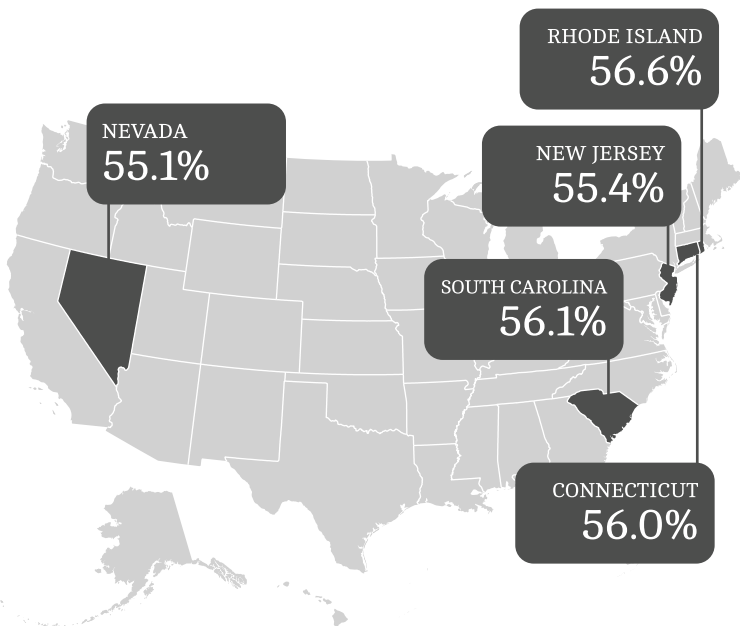
2010

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%

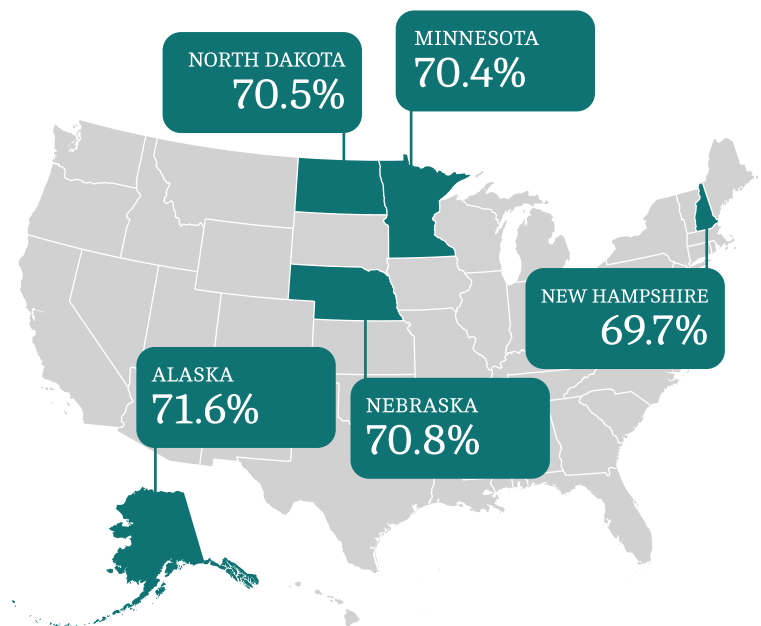
*In 1940, AK and HI were included as territories

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



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

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

1940

2010

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%

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

COLLEGE EDUCATION

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

1940

2010

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%

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

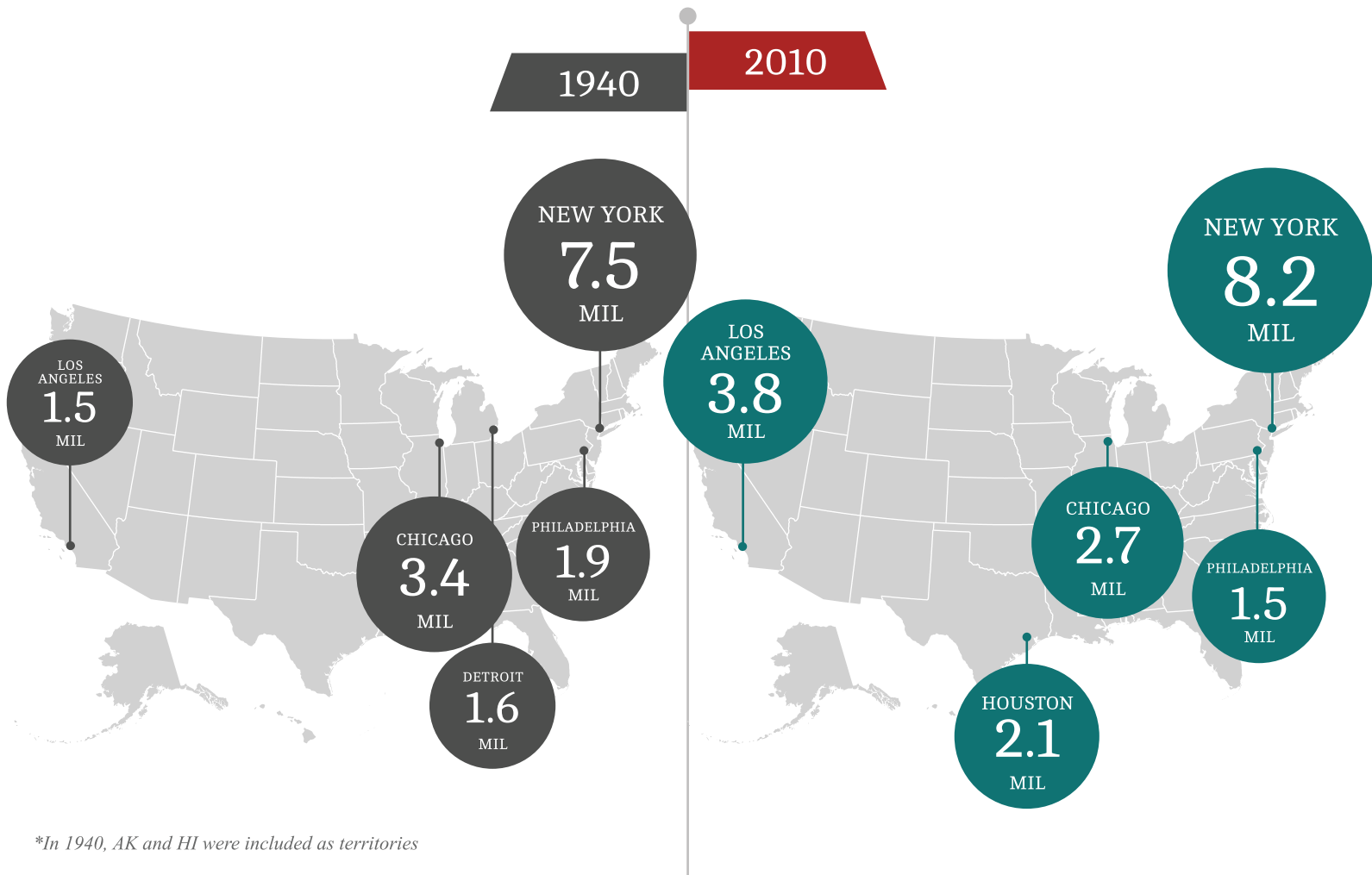


34.2%
Virginia

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

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*