

1940-2010 How Has America Changed?

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. It was also the first Census that looked deeper into the details of much of American life. Now, 72 years later, upon release of the 1940 Census forms by the National Archives, we look back and see just how much America changed.

1940 Population 132.2 MILLION

2010 Population 308.7 MILLION

Nearly 1 in 6 of the people counted in the 1940 Census were also counted in the 2010 Census.

5 MOST POPULATED STATES

The overall U.S. population growth has shifted south and west, with Texas and Florida now amongst the most populous states.

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

1940 Population

California 6.9 MILLION

Illinois 7.9 MILLION

Ohio 6.9 MILLION

Pennsylvania 9.9 MILLION

New York 13.4 MILLION

2010 Population

California 37.2 MILLION

Texas 25.1 MILLION

Florida 18.8 MILLION

Illinois 12.8 MILLION

New York 19.3 MILLION

In 1940, AK and HI were included as territories

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

As we've grown we've also become more diverse.

Population by Race

1940

89.8% White

9.8% Black

0.4% Other

2010

72.4% White Alone

12.6% Black or African American alone

4.8% Asian Alone

0.9% American Indian & Alaskan Native alone
0.2% Some Other Race Alone
2.9% Two or More Races

Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin
16.3% Hispanic or Latino
83.7% Not Hispanic or Latino

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

EDUCATION

Improved access to education means far more people today are college graduates

1940

5% of population with Bachelors Degree
5.5% of Males 25+ who are college grads
3.8% of Females 25+ who are college grads

2010

28% of Population with Bachelors Degree
28.5% of Males 25+ who are college grads
27.9% of Females 25+ who are college grads

EARNINGS

Women still make less money in the workplace than men...but the wage gap is shrinking.

1940 \$956 Median Income for Men
2010 \$33,276 Median Income for Men
1940 \$592 Median Income for Women
2010 \$24,157 Median Income for Women
1940 Women earned 62 cents for each dollar a man earned
2010 Women earned 74 cents for each dollar a man earned

TOP INDUSTRIES

Our workforce and industries have changed dramatically over time.

1940

45,166,083 Employees

2010

139,033,928 Employees

1940

23.4% Manufacturing
18.5% Agriculture
14.0% Retail Trade
8.9% Personal Services
7.4% Professional & Related Services

2010

23.2% Educational services, health care & social assistance

11.7% Retail Trade

10.6% Professional, scientific, management & administrative services, waste management services

10.4% Manufacturing

6.2% Construction

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

HOUSING

The average American home in 1940 was much different than its modern counterpart.

1940

\$30.83 Average monthly rent, urban

\$18.35, Average monthly rent, rural, non-farm

78.9% had an outside toilet, rural-farm

17.7% had running water, rural-farm

31.3% had electric light, rural-farm

2010

\$855 Median monthly rent and utilities

\$1496 Median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners

99.4% had complete plumbing

97.5% had telephone service

57.1% had two or more vehicles

MARITAL STATUS

Even the terms we use to determine who's single and who's married have changed over time.

1940

Never Married

Male (15-19) 98.3%

Female (15-19) 88.1%

Male (20-34) 43.9%

Female (20-34) 28.9%

Married

Male (15-19) 1.7%

Female (15-19) 11.6%

Male (20-34) 54.8%

Female (20-34) 68.0%

2010

Never Married

Male (15-19) 99.2%

Female (15-19) 98.3%

Male (20-34) 65.6%

Female (20-34) 55.6%

Married

Male (15-19) 0.8%

Female (15-19) 1.6%

Male (20-34) 30.8%

Female (20-34) 39.2%

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