

Chapter 1. Population Growth, Distribution, and Congressional Apportionment

The first decennial census of the population of the United States was taken in 1790. In general, the census has been taken on a *de jure* (place of residence) basis rather than on a *de facto* (place at time of the census) basis. While there have been changes in the details of the residence rules used in conducting the enumeration, these have had very little proportionate effect on population counts for the geographic areas included in the Chartbook. Early census reports included numerous typographical errors and inconsistencies, and as a result, population totals for the 1790 to 1870 period are taken from the 1870 census, Volume I (U.S. Census Office, 1872a), which corrected these problems. From 1870 to 2010, population totals are as published for each census, and do not include any revisions published in subsequent censuses.

As described in the 1890 census, Volume I, pp. xi-xii (U.S. Census Office, 1895), the 1870 census enumeration was believed to have been particularly deficient in the South. Based on some rather simplistic assumptions about population growth rates in the 1860-1870, 1870-1880, and 1880-1890 decades, it was estimated that the undercount in 1870 for the South, and thus for the United States, was 1.3 million. If this estimate is used, changes to data in Figures 1-1 to 1-5 would be as follows. Figure 1-1: 1870 population (in millions) for the United States (39.8) and the South (13.5). Figure 1-2: 1860-1870 and 1870-1880 numerical increase (in millions) for the United States (8.4 and 10.3) and the South (2.4 and 3.0). Figure 1-3: 1860-1870 and 1870-1880 percent increase for the United States (26.6 and 26.0) and the South (21.7 and 21.9). Figure 1-4: 1870 percent distribution of population for the North (63.5), South (34.0), and West (2.5). Figure 1-4: 1860-1870 percent distribution of numerical increase for the North (66.7), South (28.8), and West (4.4). Figure 1-4: 1870-1880 percent distribution of numerical increase for the North (63.8), South (28.7), and West (7.5).

For general information on the boundaries of states and territories at each census from 1790 to 1900, when most of the boundary changes occurred, and for 1960 to 2010 (including Alaska and Hawaii), see [Maps](#). For general information on the history, development, and coverage of the decennial census of population, see [Data Sources](#).

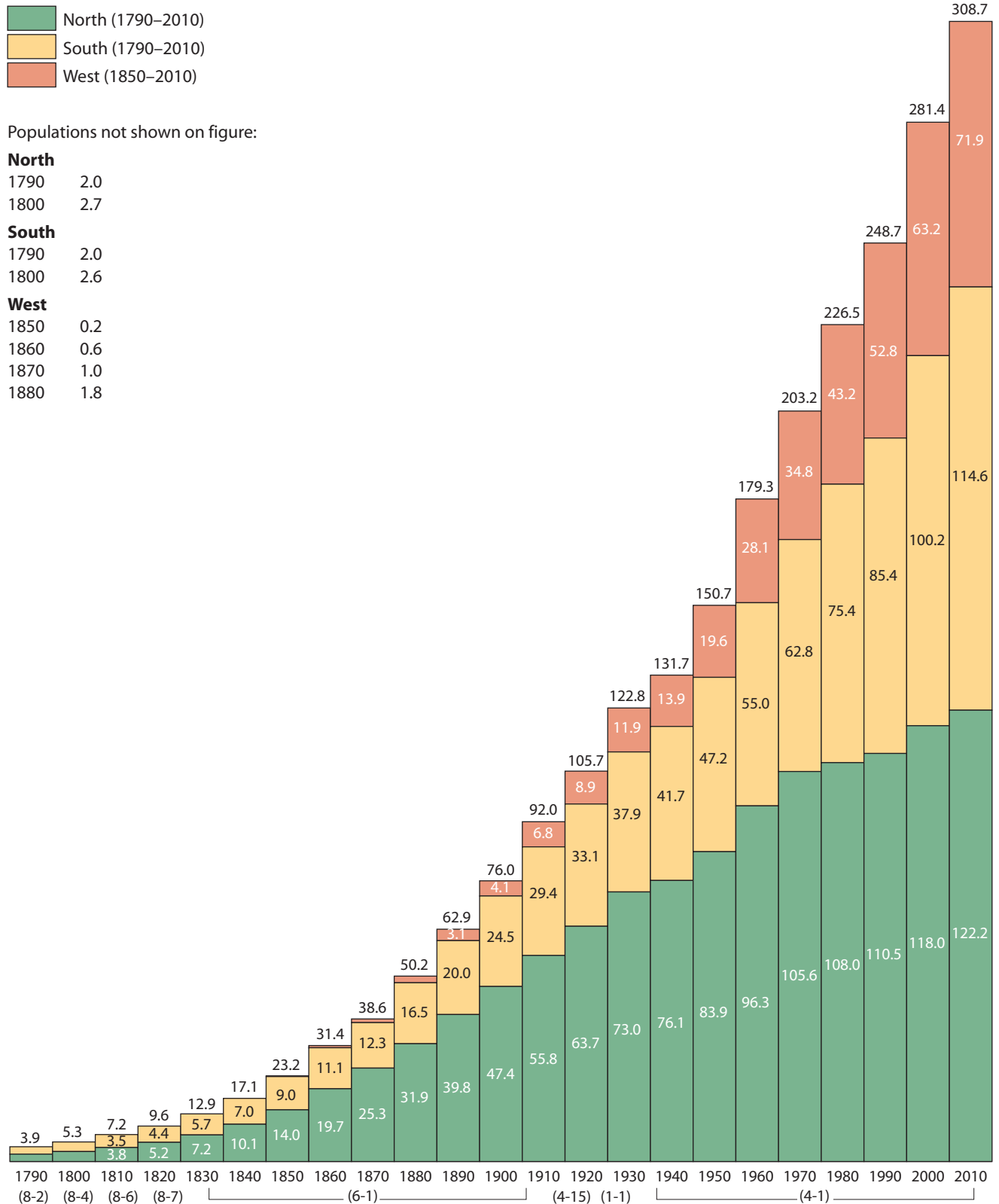
Figures

- 1-1. Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010
- 1-2. Numerical Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010
- 1-3. Percent Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010
- 1-4. Percent Distribution of Population and of Numerical Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010
- 1-5. Percent Distribution of Population for the United States by Division and Other Selected Geographic Areas: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010
- 1-6. Ten States with Largest Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010
- 1-7. Percentage of the Population in Each of the Ten States with Largest Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010
- 1-8. Center of Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010
- 1-9. Congressional Apportionment for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

Figure 1-1.

Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

(Numbers in millions. Reference month and day of census shown below census year. See Chapter 1 text regarding data for 1870)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 19, 2012

Figure 1-2.

Numerical Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

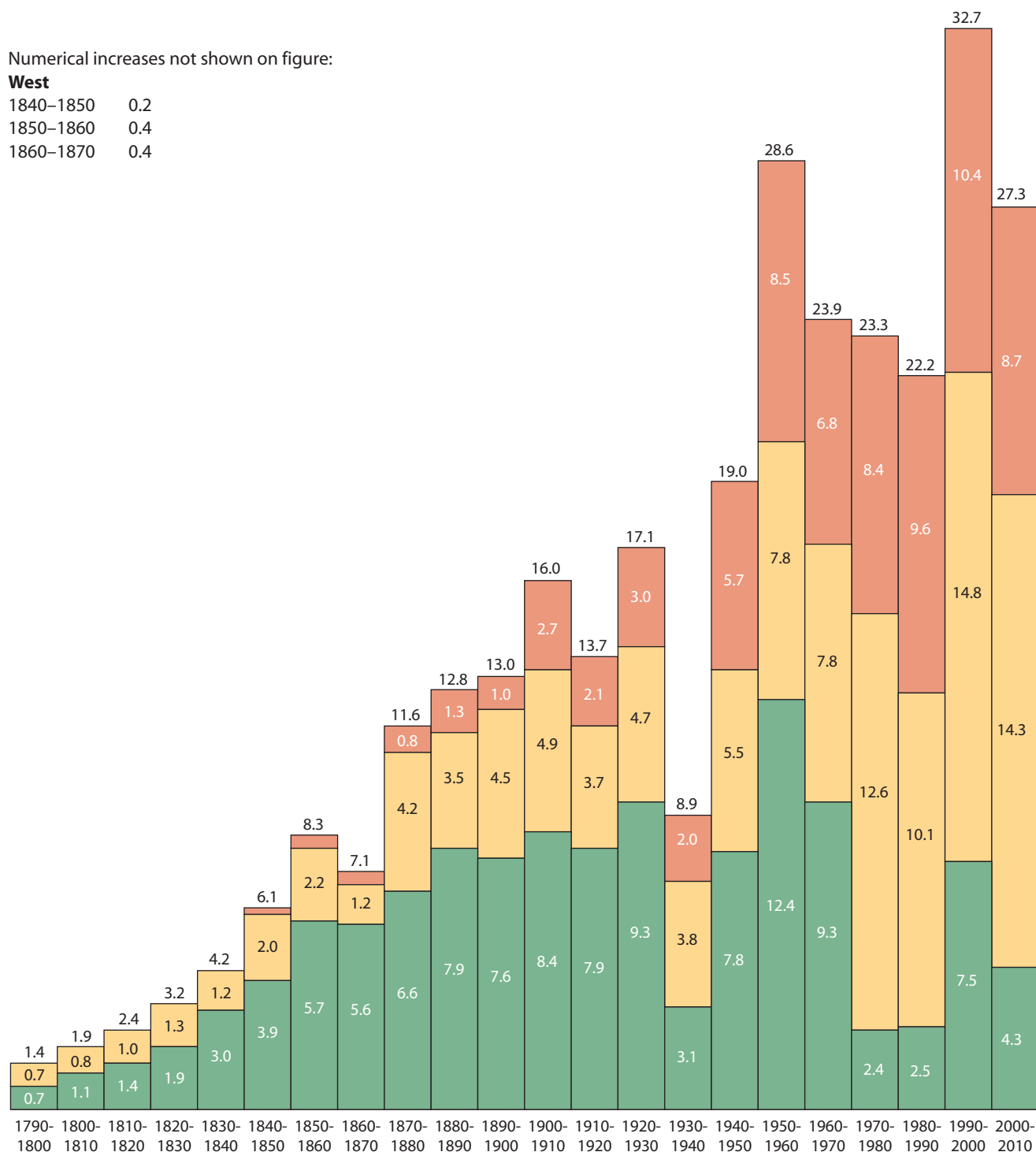
(Numbers in millions. See Chapter 1 text regarding data for 1860-1870 and 1870-1880)



Numerical increases not shown on figure:

West

1840–1850	0.2
1850–1860	0.4
1860–1870	0.4



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

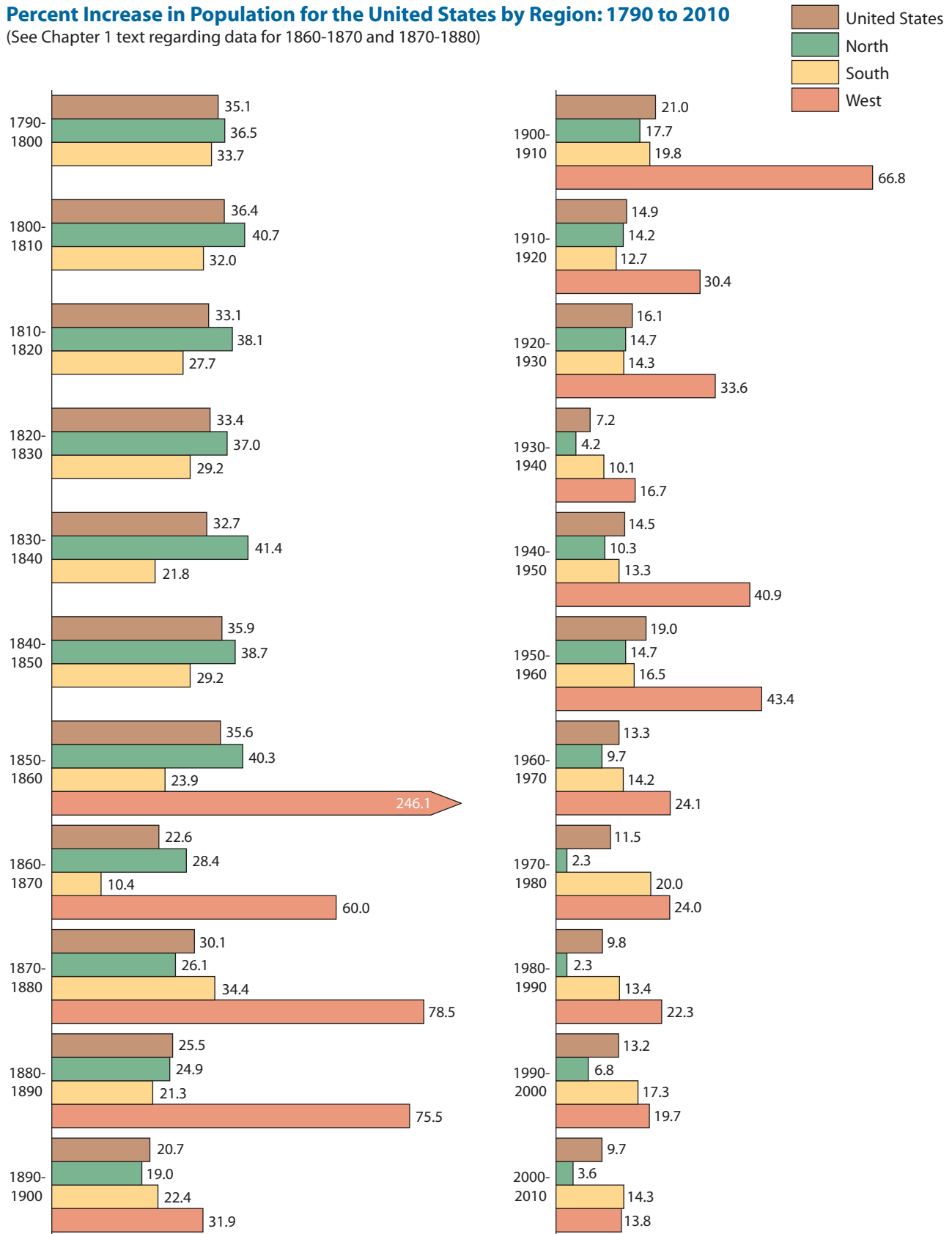
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 27, 2012

Figure 1-3.

Percent Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

(See Chapter 1 text regarding data for 1860-1870 and 1870-1880)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

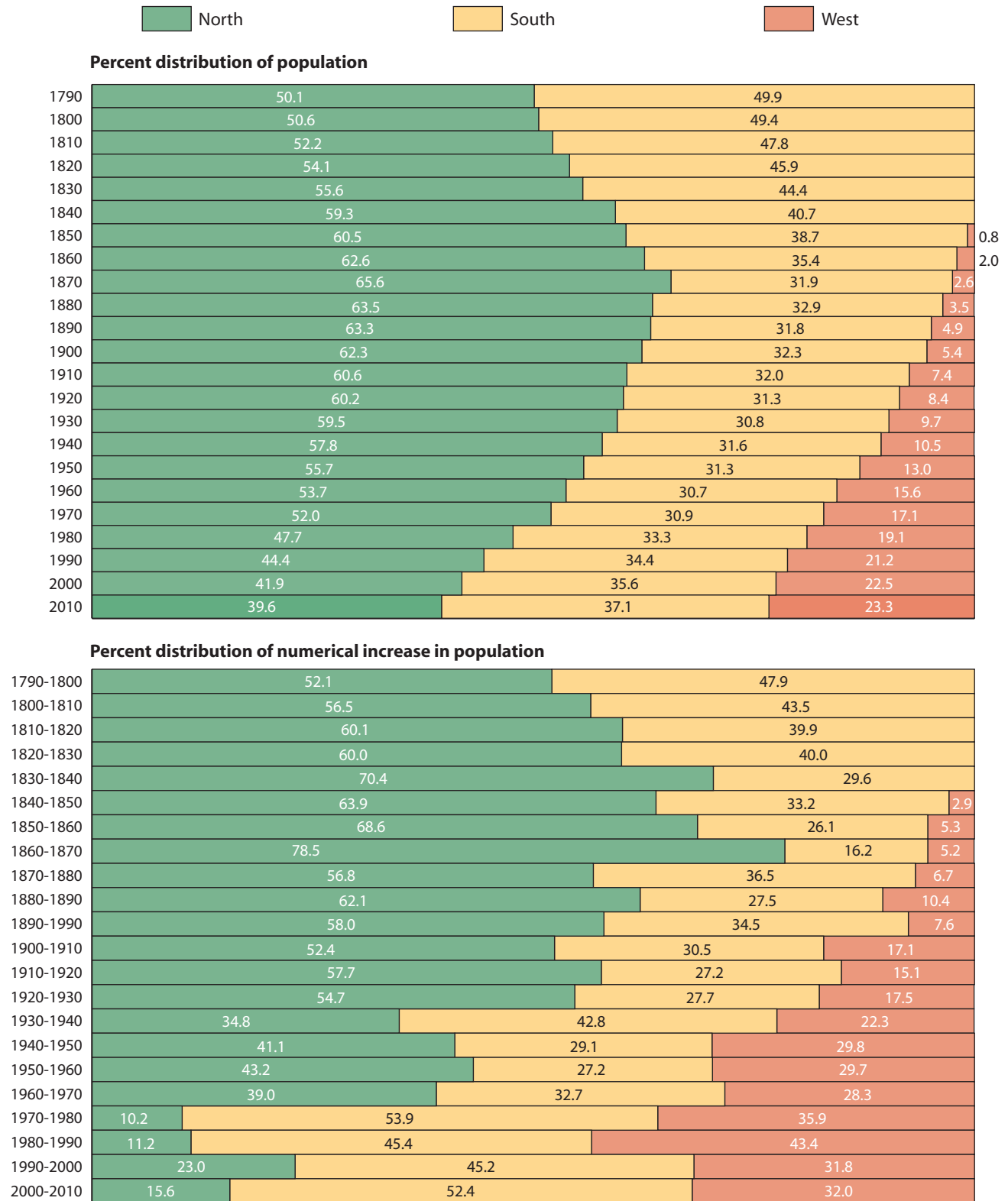
Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 19, 2012

Figure 1-4.

Percent Distribution of Population and of Numerical Increase in Population for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

(See Chapter 1 text regarding data for 1870, 1860-1870, and 1870-1880)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

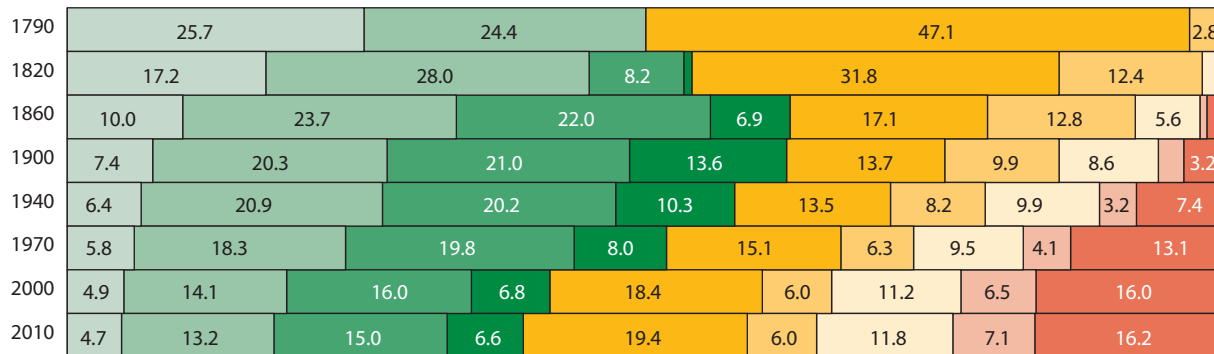
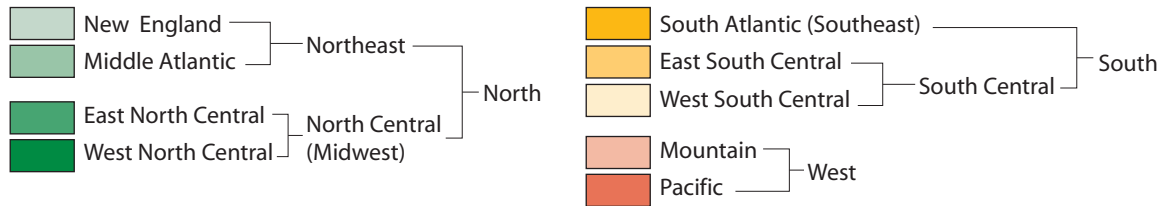
September 19, 2012

Figure 1-5.

Percent Distribution of Population for the United States by Division and Other Selected Geographic Areas: 1790, 1820, 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

(See Map 3 for boundaries of census divisions)

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

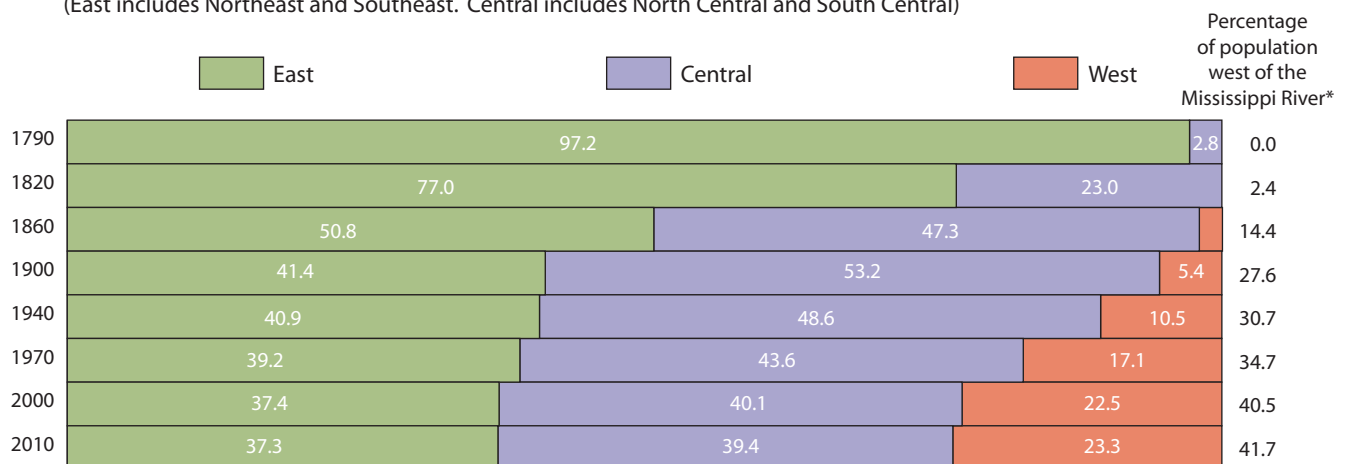


Percentages not shown on figure:

West North Central	West South Central	Mountain	Pacific
1820 0.7	1820 1.7	1860 0.6	1860 1.4
		1900 2.2	

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY SECTION

(East includes Northeast and Southeast. Central includes North Central and South Central)



Percentage not shown on figure:

West
1860 2.0

*Includes the West North Central and West South Central divisions and the West region.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

Figure 1-6.

Ten States with Largest Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010

(Populations in thousands)

North
South
West

1790		1800		1810		1820		1830		1840	
1.....	VA 478	VA 880	VA 975	NY 1,373	NY 1,919	NY 2,429					
2.....	PA 434	PA 602	NY 959	VA 1,065	PA 1,348	PA 1,724					
3.....	NC 394	NY 589	PA 810	PA 1,049	VA 1,211	OH 1,519					
4.....	MA 379	NC 478	NC 556	NC 639	OH 938	VA 1,240					
5.....	NY 340	MA 423	MA 472	OH 581	NC 738	TN 829					
6.....	MD 320	SC 346	SC 415	KY 564	KY 688	KY 780					
7.....	SC 249	MD 342	KY 407	MA 523	TN 682	NC 753					
8.....	CT 238	CT 251	MD 381	SC 503	MA 610	MA 738					
9.....	NJ 184	KY 221	CT 262	TN 423	SC 581	GA 691					
10.....	NH 142	NJ 211	TN 262	MD 407	GA 517	IN 686					
1850		1860		1870		1880		1890		1900	
1.....	NY 3,097	NY 3,881	NY 4,383	NY 5,083	NY 6,003	NY 7,269					
2.....	PA 2,312	PA 2,906	PA 3,522	PA 4,283	PA 5,258	PA 6,302					
3.....	OH 1,980	OH 2,340	OH 2,665	OH 3,198	IL 3,826	IL 4,822					
4.....	VA 1,422	IL 1,712	IL 2,540	IL 3,078	OH 3,672	OH 4,158					
5.....	TN 1,003	VA 1,596	MO 1,721	MO 2,168	MO 2,679	MO 3,107					
6.....	MA 995	IN 1,350	IN 1,681	IN 1,978	MA 2,239	TX 3,049					
7.....	IN 988	MA 1,231	MA 1,457	MA 1,783	TX 2,236	MA 2,805					
8.....	KY 982	MO 1,182	KY 1,321	KY 1,649	IN 2,192	IN 2,516					
9.....	GA 906	KY 1,156	TN 1,259	MI 1,637	MI 2,094	MI 2,421					
10.....	NC 869	TN 1,110	VA 1,225	IA 1,625	IA 1,912	IA 2,232					
1910		1920		1930		1940		1950		1960	
1.....	NY 9,114	NY 10,385	NY 12,588	NY 13,479	NY 14,830	NY 16,782					
2.....	PA 7,665	PA 8,720	PA 9,631	PA 9,900	CA 10,586	CA 15,717					
3.....	IL 5,639	IL 6,485	IL 7,631	IL 7,897	PA 10,498	PA 11,319					
4.....	OH 4,767	OH 5,759	OH 6,647	OH 6,908	IL 8,712	IL 10,081					
5.....	TX 3,897	TX 4,663	TX 5,825	CA 6,907	OH 7,947	OH 9,706					
6.....	MA 3,366	MA 3,852	CA 5,677	TX 6,415	TX 7,711	TX 9,580					
7.....	MO 3,293	MI 3,668	MI 4,842	MI 5,256	MI 6,372	MI 7,823					
8.....	MI 2,810	CA 3,427	MA 4,250	MA 4,317	NJ 4,835	NJ 6,067					
9.....	IN 2,701	MO 3,404	NJ 4,041	NJ 4,160	MA 4,691	MA 5,149					
10.....	GA 2,609	NJ 3,156	MO 3,629	MO 3,785	NC 4,062	FL 4,952					
1970		1980		1990		2000		2010			
1.....	CA 19,953	CA 23,668	CA 29,760	CA 33,872	CA 37,254						
2.....	NY 18,237	NY 17,558	NY 17,990	TX 20,852	TX 25,146						
3.....	PA 11,794	TX 14,229	TX 16,987	NY 18,976	NY 19,378						
4.....	TX 11,197	PA 11,864	FL 12,938	FL 15,982	FL 18,801						
5.....	IL 11,114	IL 11,427	PA 11,882	IL 12,419	IL 12,831						
6.....	OH 10,652	OH 10,798	IL 11,431	PA 12,281	PA 12,702						
7.....	MI 8,875	FL 9,746	OH 10,847	OH 11,353	OH 11,537						
8.....	NJ 7,168	MI 9,262	MI 9,295	MI 9,938	MI 9,884						
9.....	FL 6,789	NJ 7,365	NJ 7,730	NJ 8,414	GA 9,688						
10.....	MA 5,689	NC 5,882	NC 6,629	GA 8,186	NC 9,535						

Summary of top ten ranks

CA (10) 1920–2010	MO (9) 1860–1940
CT (3) 1790–1810	NH (1) 1790
FI (6) 1960–2010	NJ (11) 1790–1800, 1920–2000
GA (6) 1830–1850, 1910, 2000–2010	NY (23) 1790–2010
IL (16) 1860–2010	NC (11) 1790–1850, 1950, 1980–1990, 2010
IN (8) 1840–1910	OH (20) 1820–2010
IA (3) 1880–1900	PA (23) 1790–2010
KY (9) 1800–1880	SC (5) 1790–1830
MD (4) 1790–1820	TN (7) 1810–1870
MA (19) 1790–1970	TX (13) 1890–2010
MI (14) 1880–2010	VA (9) 1790–1870

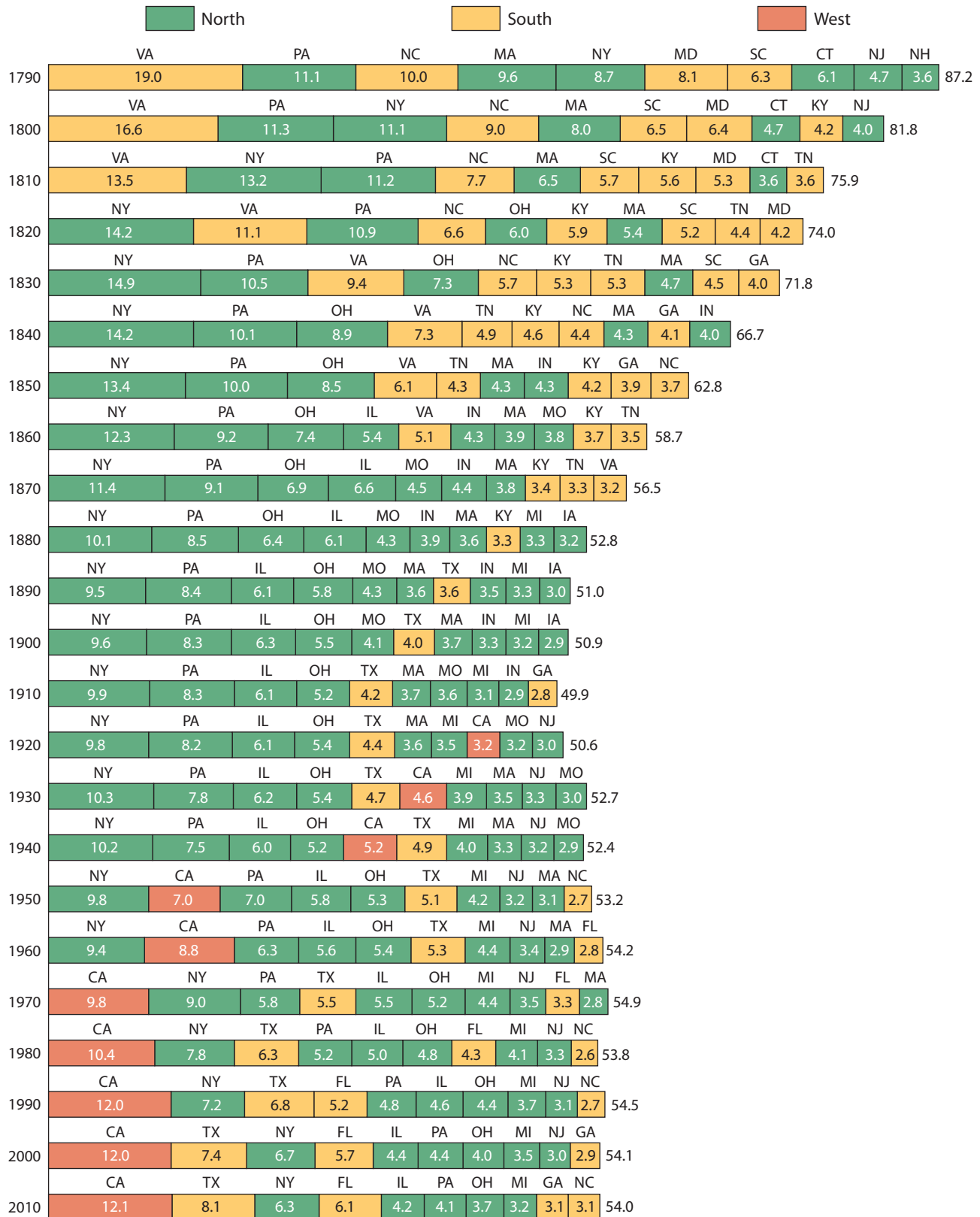
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

September 27, 2012

Figure 1-7.

Percentage of the Population in Each of the Ten States with Largest Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

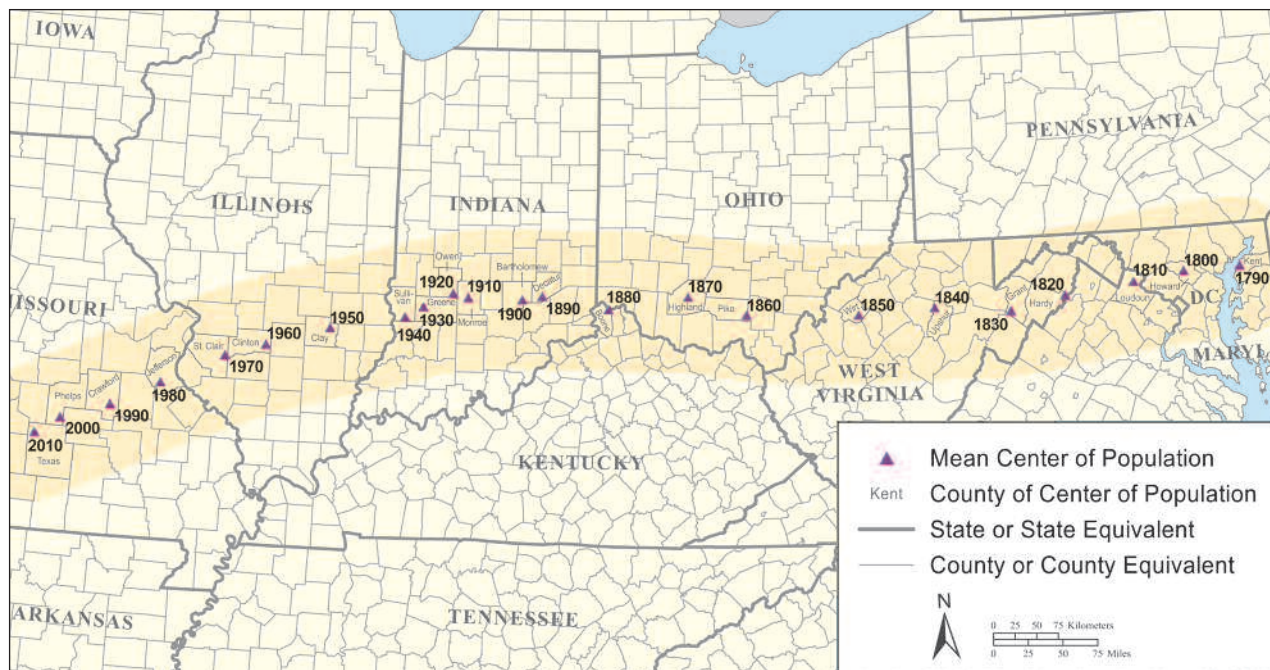
September 19, 2012

Figure 1-8.

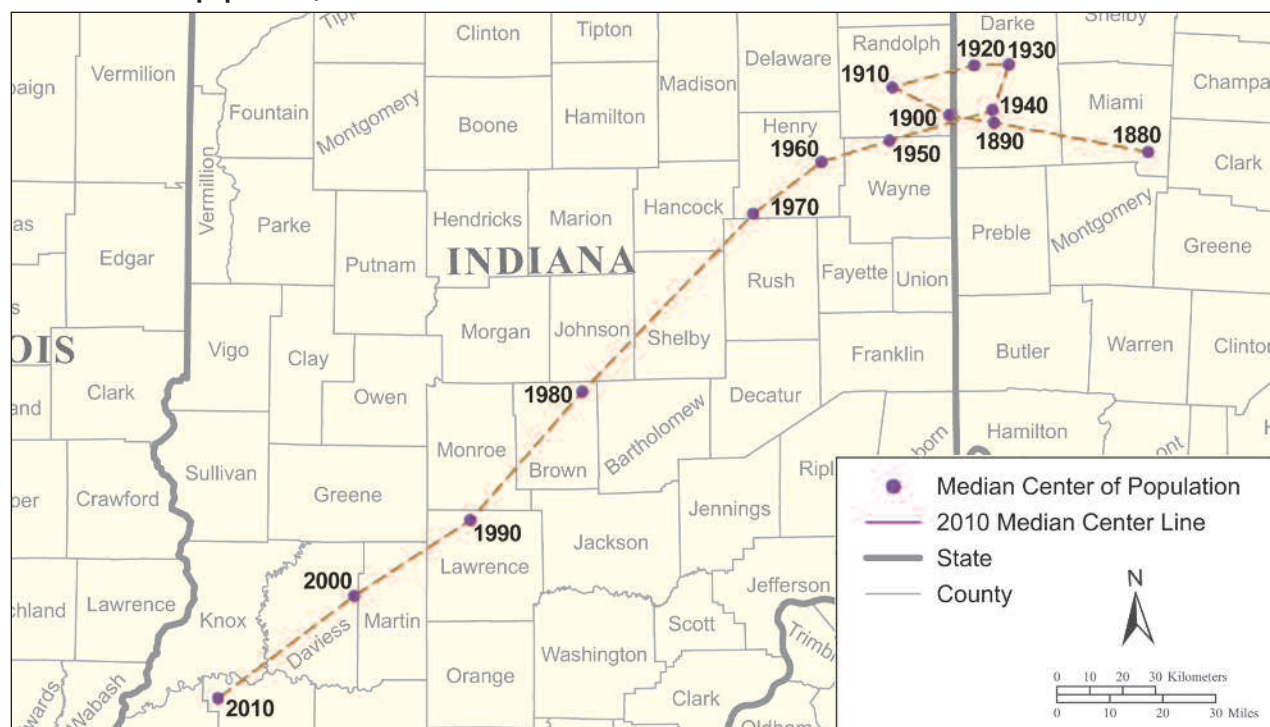
Center of Population for the United States: 1790 to 2010

(Mean center is the point at which an imaginary, flat, weightless, and rigid map would balance if each person in the population were assigned the same weight. Median center is the intersection point of two lines, each of which divides the population in half: a north-south line dividing the population east and west, and an east-west line dividing the population north and south)

Mean center of population, 1790 to 2010



Median center of population, 1880 to 2010

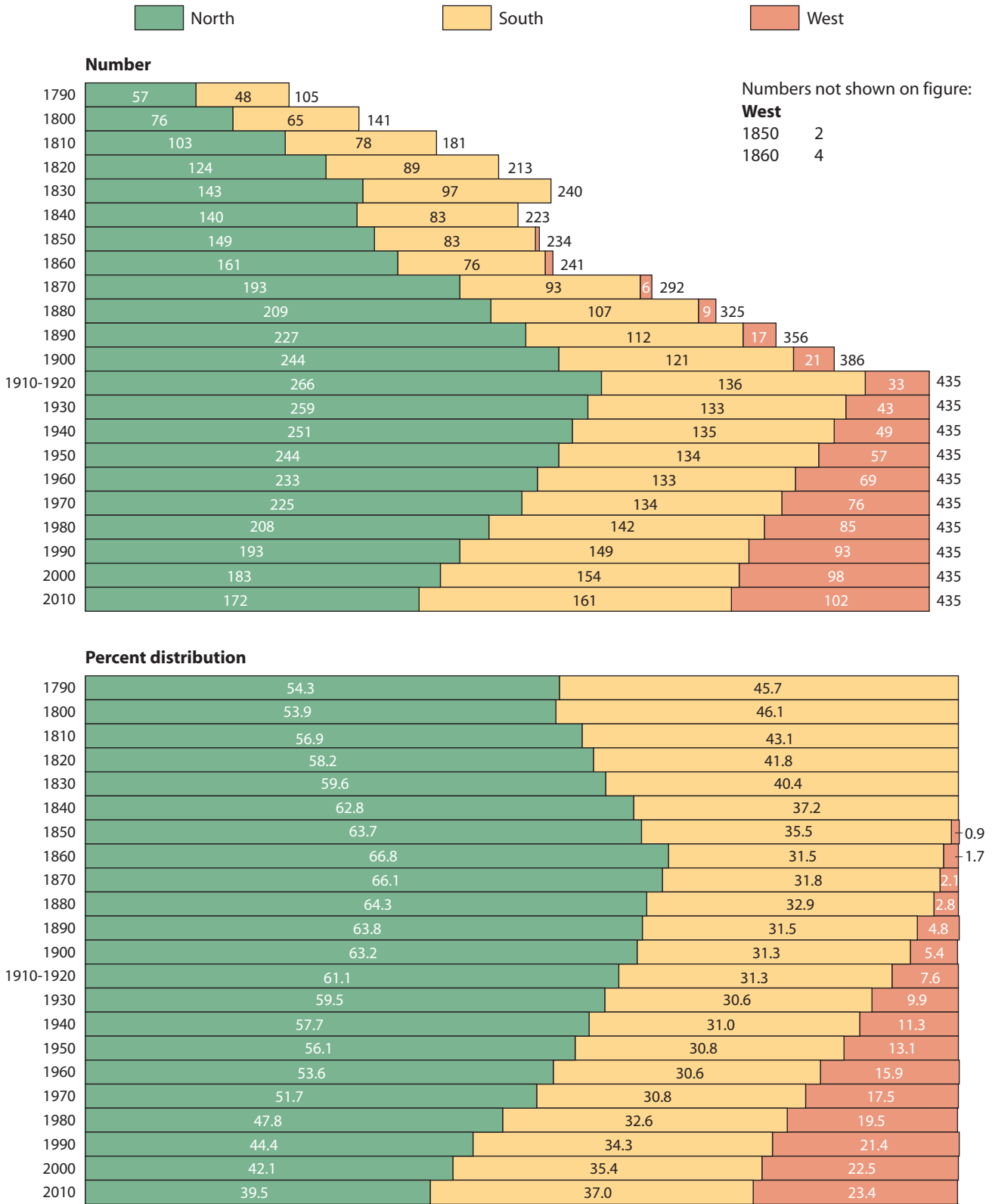


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, especially 2010 census (2012), CPH-2-1, pp. IV-1 and IV-2, and pp. E-30 and E-31.
See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Figure 1-9.

Congressional Apportionment for the United States by Region: 1790 to 2010

(Excludes representatives assigned by Congress to newly admitted states after the apportionment act for that census)



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, especially 2000 census (2004), PHC-3-1, Part 1, Table 3, pp. 4-5. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.
 Copyright © 2012 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.