

Chapter 11. Nativity, Place of Birth, and Internal Migration

A question on place of birth has been included in the decennial census since 1850. Information collected on this item has been used to identify the state in the United States or outlying area of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico) or foreign country in which each individual was born. Data on the native and foreign-born population are generally consistent over time, although the definition of the native population has been refined. Since 1890, the individuals who were born in a foreign country, but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen, have been defined as native rather than as foreign born. Since 1890, the native population has been defined to include all individuals who were born in the United States, born in an outlying area of the United States, or born in a foreign country with one or both parents U.S. citizens. The native population is thus the population with U.S. citizenship at birth, regardless of place of birth.

For the native population born in the United States, information on state of residence and state of birth together provides a rough measure of lifetime migration among states which can be cumulated to show interregional migration. The information does not specify when the migration occurred or anything about intermediate moves, but it does provide a general indication of lifetime migration over the preceding generation or two for the enumerated population. One weakness in these data is due to the increasing proportion of births occurring in hospitals in the 20th century because a person's state of birth may differ from his or her original state of residence. For example, in Figure 11-5, some of the 490,000 persons born in Washington, DC and living in Maryland in 2000 were born to mothers living in Maryland suburbs in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The interpretation of trends in net lifetime interregional migration can be illustrated with reference to Figure 11-3. With no interregional migration after a certain date, the net figure will eventually become zero with the attrition by death of persons who migrated. An increase in a net in-migration (e.g., in the West until 1980) indicates continued net immigration to the region in each decade. Similarly, a net out-migration that becomes more negative (e.g., the North from 1930 to 2010) indicates continued net out-migration each decade. The data indicate a major change for the South from 1960 to 2010, from a sizable net out-migration to a sizable net immigration.

Figures

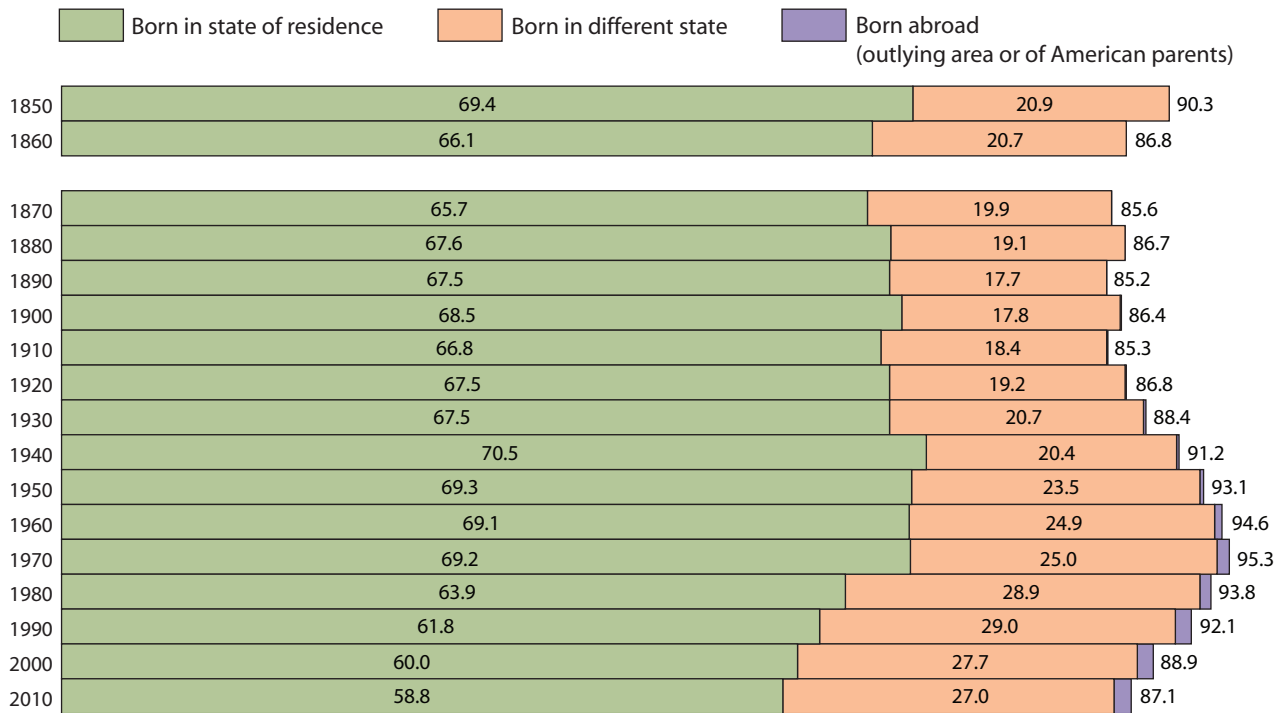
- 11-1. Nativity and Place of Birth of the Population for the United States: 1850 to 2010
- 11-2. Percent Distribution by Nativity and Place of Birth of the Population for the United States by Region: 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010
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Figure 11-1.

Nativity and Place of Birth of the Population for the United States: 1850 to 2010

(Data for 1850 and 1860 assume that the entire slave population was born in the United States)

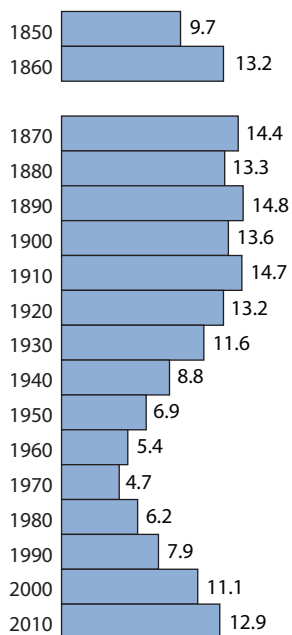
PERCENT NATIVE BY PLACE OF BIRTH



Percentages born abroad not shown on figure above:

1900	0.1	1930	0.2	1960	0.6	1990	1.3
1910	0.1	1940	0.2	1970	1.0	2000	1.3
1920	0.1	1950	0.3	1980	0.9	2010	1.4

PERCENT FOREIGN BORN



Sources: Joseph P. Ferrie (2006), "Internal Migration," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, Vol. 1, pp. 1-489 to 1-504. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS), and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2006), "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000," Population Division Working Paper No. 81. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

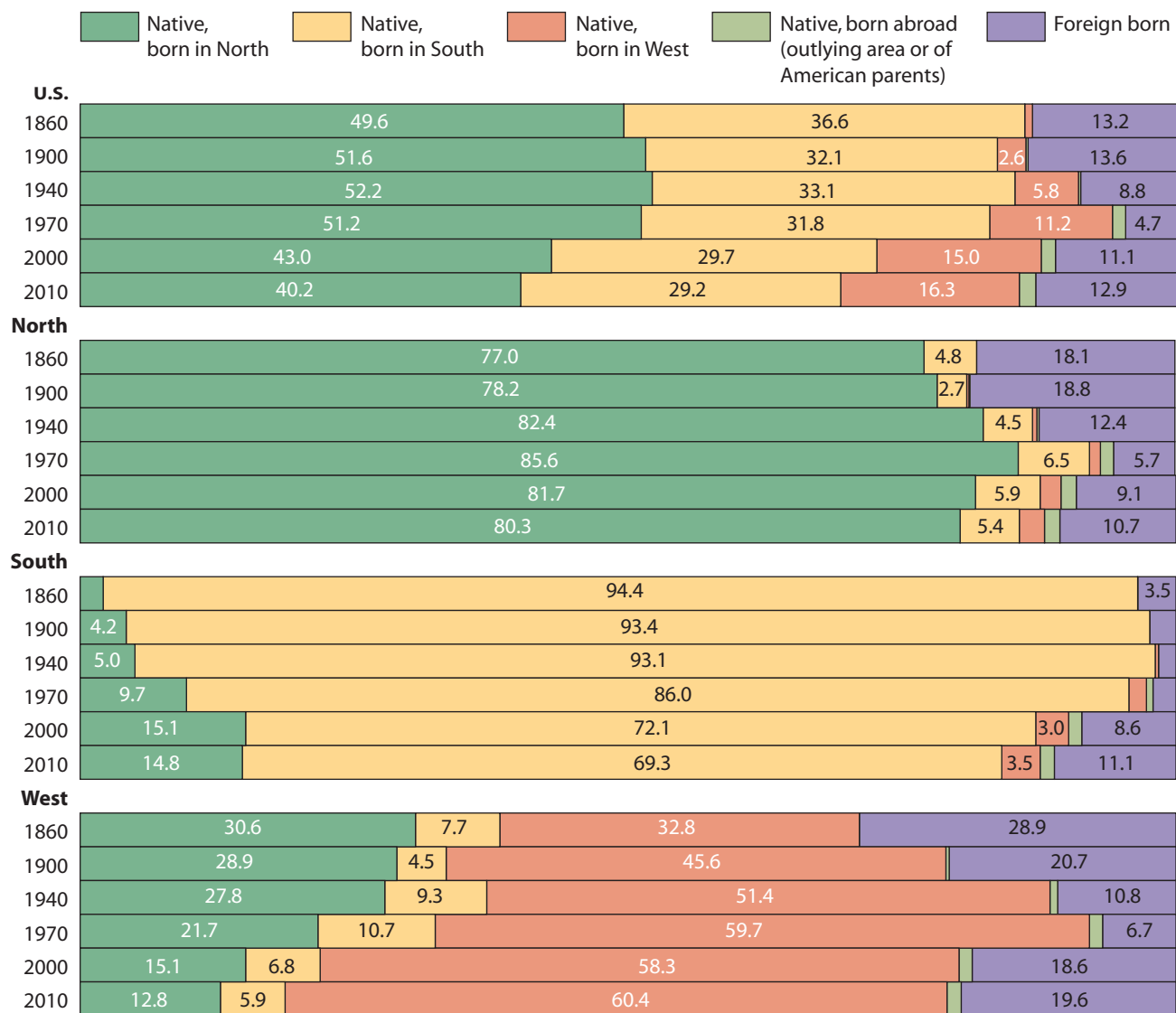
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Figure 11-2.

Percent Distribution by Nativity and Place of Birth of the Population for the United States: 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

(Data for 1860 assume that the entire slave population was born in the United States)



Percentages not shown on figure:

		Born in West	Born abroad			Born in North	Born in West	Born abroad	Foreign born
U.S.	1860	0.7		South	1860	2.1			
	1900		0.1		1900		0.1		2.3
	1940		0.2		1940		0.3		1.5
	1970		1.0		1970		1.6	0.6	2.1
	2000		1.3		2000			1.2	
	2010		1.4		2010			1.4	
North	1860	0.0		West	1860				
	1900	0.2	0.1		1900			0.2	
	1940	0.4	0.2		1940			0.7	
	1970	1.0	1.2		1970			1.2	
	2000	1.9	1.4		2000			1.1	
	2010	2.3	1.4		2010			1.3	

Sources: Joseph P. Ferrie (2006), "Internal Migration," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, Vol. 1, pp. 1-489 to 1-504. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS), and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2006), "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000," Population Division Working Paper No. 81. See www.demographicchartbook.com/References.

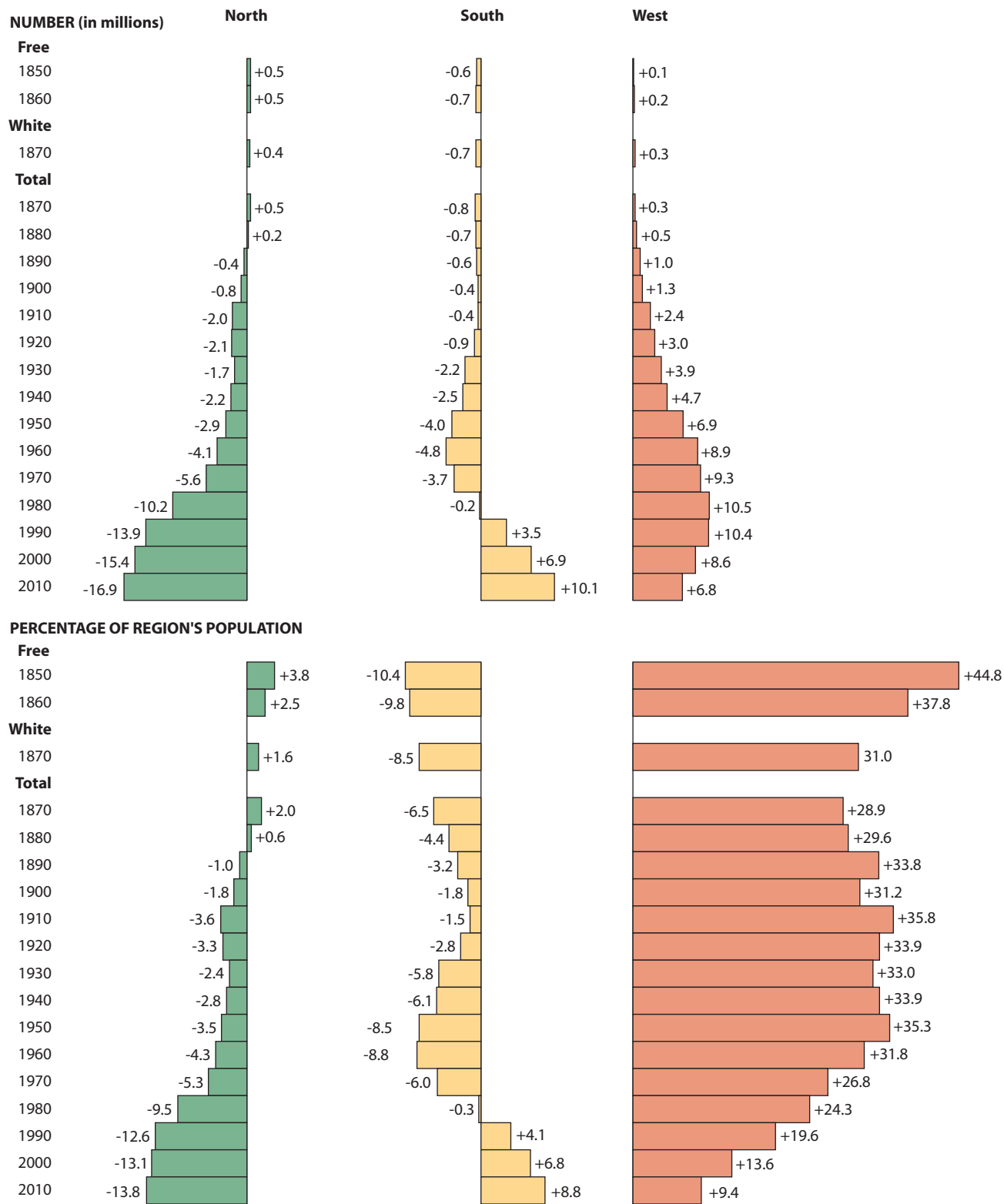
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Figure 11-3.

Net Lifetime Migration of the Population Born and Living in the United States for Regions: 1850 to 2010

(Data for 1850 and 1860 exclude the slave population)



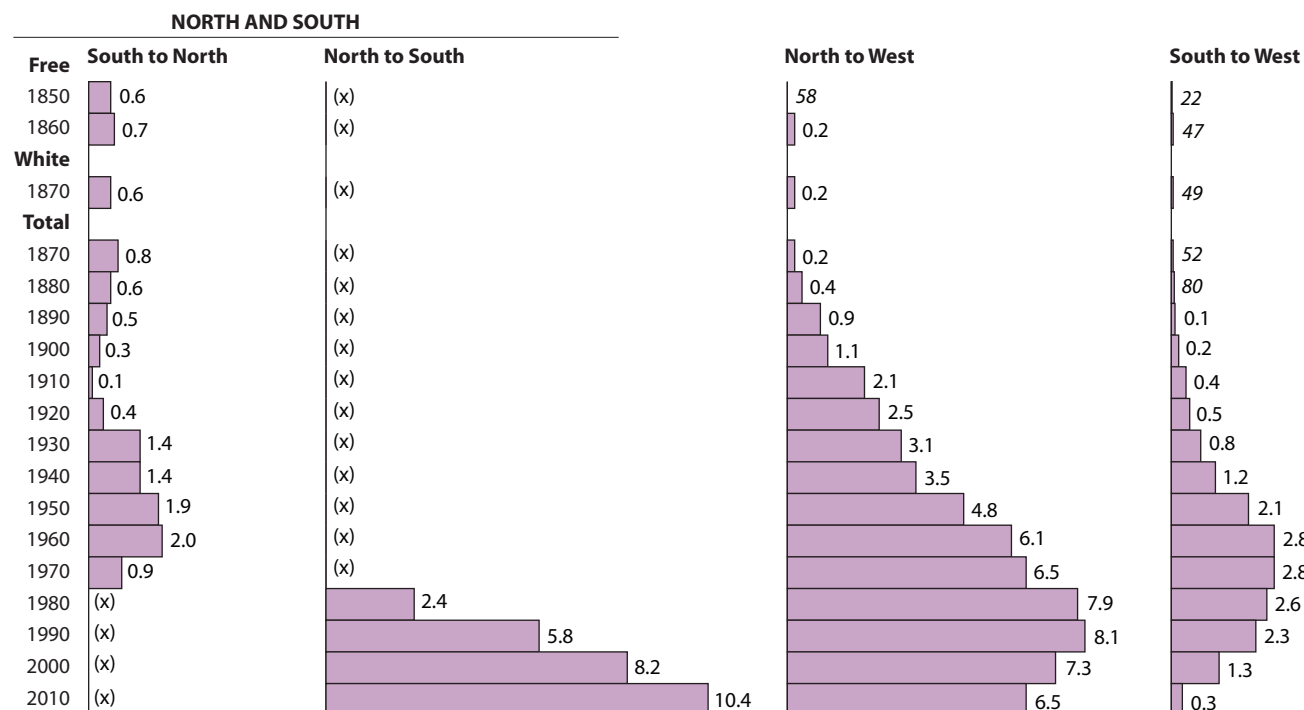
Sources: Joseph P. Ferrie (2006), "Internal Migration," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, Vol. 1, pp. 1-489 to 1-504. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS), and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2006), "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000," Population Division Working Paper No. 81. See www.demographicchartbook.com/References. Copyright © 2013 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

Figure 11-4.

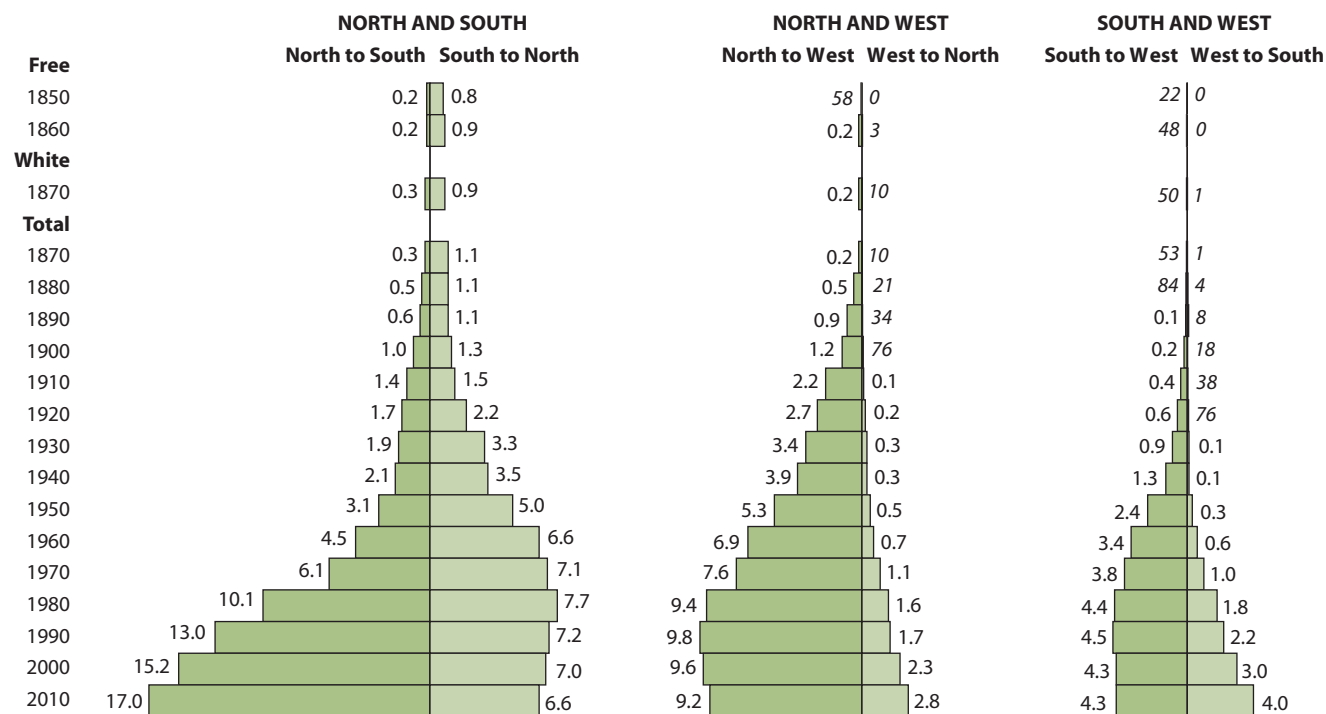
Lifetime Migration Between Pairs of Regions for the Population Born and Living in the United States: 1850 to 2010

(Numbers in millions except that numbers under 100,000 are shown in thousands in italics. Data for 1850 and 1860 exclude the slave population)

NET MIGRATION BETWEEN PAIRS OF REGIONS



GROSS MIGRATION BETWEEN PAIRS OF REGIONS



(x) Not applicable.

Sources: Joseph P. Ferrie (2006), "Internal Migration," in *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition*, Vol. 1, Vol. 1, pp. 1-489 to 1-504. U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications and for 2010, the American Community Survey (ACS), and Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung (2006), "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000," Population Division Working Paper No. 81. See www.demographicchartbook.com/References. Copyright © 2013 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.

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Figure 11-5.

Ten Largest State-to-State Lifetime Migration Flows and Their Reverse Flows for the Population Born and Living in the United States: 1860, 1900, 1940, 1970, 2000, and 2010

(Numbers in thousands. Data for 1860 exclude the slave population)

