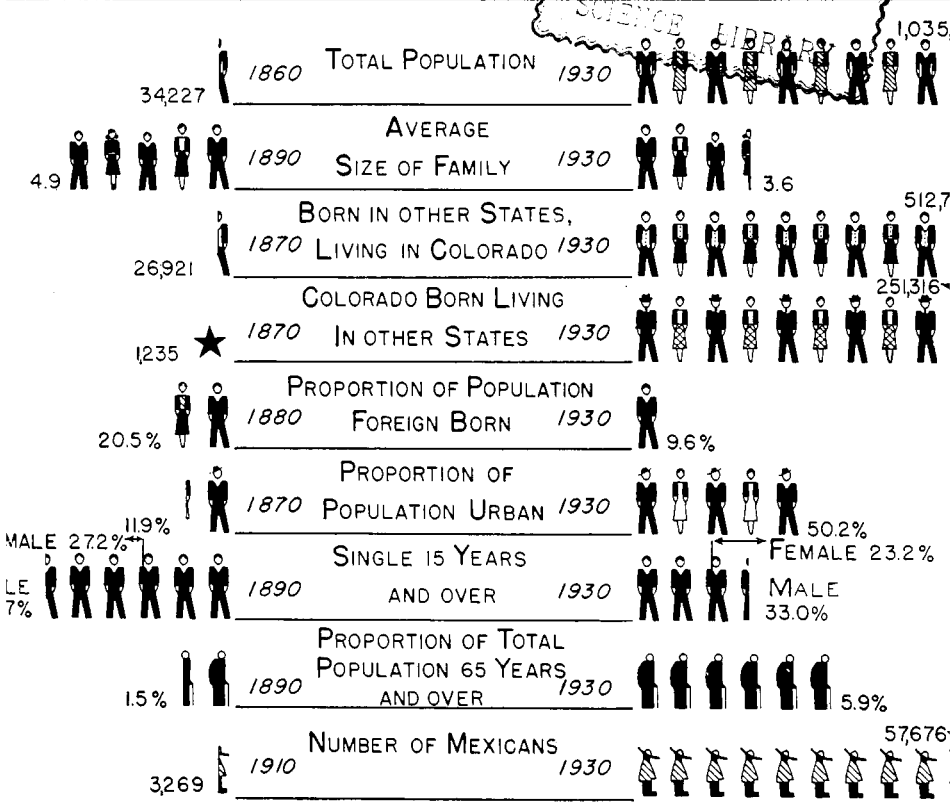
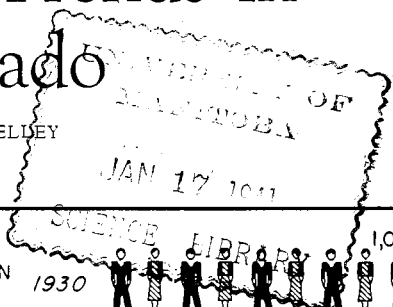


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Population Trends in Colorado

R. W. ROSKELLEY



Cooperative Plan of Rural Research
 Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station
 Colorado State College
 Fort Collins

and

Rural Section, Division of Research
 Federal Work Projects Administration

Something to Think About . . .

THESE is evidence to indicate that Colorado is approaching its population saturation point under its present economic and social structure. Authorities in farm management and soil conservation agree that the average farm in Colorado is not large enough at the present time to be the most economical unit.¹ This being the case, it follows that agriculture cannot provide jobs for any significant probable future increase in Colorado's population unless it is possible to increase the amount of water available for irrigation purposes and change the present agricultural practices to more intensive farming. Perhaps the additional population must look to industry or mining for sufficient employment to insure an adequate standard of living. If these alternatives are not possible, it appears probable that any future increase in the population of the State will add to the relief burden already in existence or reduce the average numbers of hours of employment per person.

The decline in the number of persons moving into the State during the last few decades suggests that Colorado has reached its capacity to absorb population under its present economic and social order.

¹For a discussion of this topic see Burdick, R. T. and Reinholt, Martin, *North Park Cattle Production*, Colo. Exp. Sta. Bul. 435, p. 28; and Burdick, R. T., *Landlord and Tenant Income in Colorado*, Colo. Exp. Sta. Bul. 451, p. 40.

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Population Trends in Colorado 1860 to 1930^{cs}

A Historical Perspective for Agricultural, Industrial, and Human Planning

R. W. ROSKELLEY²

COLORADO'S history has been conditioned by the diversity of the cultural background of the people who settled here and the geographic variety which characterizes the area. The migration of people has led to investigations by students of population, and, as a result, attention has been called to the fact that these population changes, though gradual, are altering the biological base of society as certainly as the glaciers alter the physical universe; the consequential impact of these changes upon the social order are as momentous as the impact of the glacier upon the physical universe.⁴ The forces of these population changes differ from those of the glacier in that a portion of their momentum, as well as certain repercussions, lie within the control of intelligently planned and purposefully organized programs to minimize their impact.

Organized life in Colorado, whether it has been on a family, neighborhood, community, county, or state scale, has had as its objective the protection of life and the promotion of human welfare. Planning is one of the tools which has been adopted as a means of achieving these objectives. Community and county committees of farmers are meeting throughout the State to plan the future of agriculture. Colorado has established a planning commission which is interested in urban, rural, and institutional planning. The State Water Conservation Board is developing a program for the conservation and use of the water resources of the State. Effective planning is possible only when all factors which have a bearing upon the problems are considered. Many failures in attempted social engineering may be attributed, at least partially, to the fact that our knowledge of the existing conditions has not been sufficient to enable the evolution of constructive programs. The importance of the human element in planning, together with its relationship to other factors, has been given added emphasis during the last few years.

Functionally this study provides a historical perspective. It presents in pictorial and graphic form certain basic trends which occurred in Colorado's population between 1860 and 1930, the statistical data being based almost entirely upon the Federal Census. The major purposes are (1) to provide an easily obtainable source of information regarding some of the most important population changes which occurred between 1860 and 1930, and (2) to indicate a number of implications and relationships between population changes

¹This bulletin analyzes broad trends in Colorado's population makeup from the vantage point of historical perspective. It provides a basis for a study now under way of the impact of the depression upon Colorado's people and institutions. Because the last decade deserves separate analysis, 1940 census figures are used in this bulletin in only a few instances.

²Assistant rural sociologist, Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station.

⁴T. J. Wooster, Jr., "The Future Working Population" *Rural Sociology*, Vol. IV, No. 3, Sept. 1939, p. 275.

and such factors as agriculture, industry, mining, social institutions, and public welfare.

It is felt that a knowledge of these factors is very essential in both understanding and promoting the planning process. That there is an interdependence between the number of mouths to feed and agriculture, as well as the number of job opportunities for people and industry, seems quite evident. Fundamentally each state institution and agency relies on the numerical status, trends, and characteristics of the population groups involved to understand its own scope, the problem of reaching its constituency, its relationship to other agencies, and its probable future development.

Brief Historical Perspective of Colorado

Spain and France were the first European nations to claim the area now known as Colorado. The Territory came under the jurisdiction of the United States Government by three distinct acquisitions. Roughly speaking, that portion of the State north of the Arkansas River and east of the Continental Divide was included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. A strip of land on the western and southwestern portion of the State was acquired from Mexico in 1848. The high mountainous area running north and south through the central part of the State, as well as the southeastern portion below the Arkansas River, was purchased from Texas in 1850. The boundaries of Colorado were fixed when it was organized as a territory in 1861. Statehood was granted in 1876.

The earliest Europeans in Colorado were Spaniards who came as missionaries or searchers for gold. Zebulon Pike, the first United States explorer to enter the territory, came in 1806. Pike was followed by Long and other explorers who preceded the fur trappers.

Following the discovery of gold in 1858, thousands of people migrated to Colorado. After the first flush of population the migration was reduced materially by the Civil War, the lack of transportation, new mining adventures in Montana, Idaho, and Nevada, and other related causes.

The completion of the railroads into Colorado, the successful treatment of refractory ores, the close of the Civil War, the opening of new productive mines, the settlement of Indian troubles, and the introduction of irrigation farming all encouraged and facilitated a great influx of population into the State during the early 1870's.

With the coming of the late seventies, new mines were opened, the cattle industry of the western Plains was started, and industry and trade thrived.

Mining continued to be the most important enterprise in the State for some time. Later came the smelters and more industries; eastern Colorado changed from a cattle country into a wheat-raising area; mining gave way to agriculture and industry as the State's most important enterprises.

Part I.—Population Growth

Some Implications of Population Growth

The exact reason or combination of reasons why people move is not known. The desire for improved economic opportunities has undoubtedly been one of the major causes for thousands of people moving to Colorado. The effects of this migration upon the social, political, economic, religious, and other cultural aspects of the State are multiple.

People who move from their state of birth to seek a livelihood elsewhere do not leave their social philosophies, political ideas, farming practices, or religious loyalties behind. On the contrary, their mental pictures, social values, ideas, and loyalties are carried with them to their new home. This has meant that a relatively small proportion of Colorado's people have been bound by traditions and customs indigenous to or characteristic of the State. The shrines, the sanctuaries, and the altars for many of Colorado's citizens have been in other states. Many people have not been anchored to Colorado either psychologically, economically, or physically. Thus a number of Colorado's problems dealing with governmental, educational, economic, agricultural, industrial, and social affairs can be partially attributed to this diversity of cultural heritage. Farming techniques of a humid Corn Belt have been attempted in semiarid Colorado. The size of the farm, the autonomy of the local school district, the form and function of county governmental units have not been established on the basis of the needs and conditions peculiar to Colorado. They have been an expression of mental luggage of the people who first settled this area. They may or they may not be most adequate for the State.

In a sense the present trends toward a more stable population which will include a larger proportion of Colorado-born may be of some value to the State. If it is possible to melt down the diversity of the cultural background of Colorado's citizenry into a common crucible and recrystallize it into a new compound, then perhaps it will be possible to evolve a constructive agricultural policy, an efficient industrial economy, and an equitable educational and social program indigenous to the conditions peculiar to Colorado. If this is done (and it is possible to pass such programs on to the next generation, to be altered as conditions warrant), it is probable that many present problems which are caused by the heterogeneity of the cultural backgrounds and experiences of the people will be eliminated in the future.

The rapid rate of increase in the total population of the State, especially during the first half decade of its existence, necessitated hasty development of a number of institutions and untried programs. As the rate of the population change becomes more stabilized, it will be possible to devote more time toward planning for institutional services. Less time will probably be devoted to initiation of new

movements, and more energy can be directed toward improvement of those which are now functioning.

The influx of people from other states into Colorado and the exodus of Colorado-born to other areas raises certain questions regarding the qualitative results of migration. What training, skills, social attributes and attitudes have the people who come into the State in comparison with those who leave? What proportion of those who leave are graduates of state educational institutions, highly trained and capable, but are not able to find employment in Colorado? There is no means of measuring these factors at the present time, but they are problems which deserve consideration by planning groups.

The changes in population density which have occurred over various sections of the State in the past, and which will probably be repeated in some areas in the future, raise practical questions concerning institutional services in the areas affected. Health, recreation, social welfare, religious welfare, economic welfare, and police protection are types of services which all persons need regardless of the density of the population; yet migration frequently intensifies maladjustments in rural institutions and organizations. The administrative units needed to provide the citizenry with the services mentioned should be determined by the population base, the tax base, and the availability of transportation and communication rather than by tradition. In a state such as Colorado where the foundations upon which institutional services are built are constantly changing, it is highly important that the administrative and service units be sufficiently flexible to enable changes which are necessary to serve the basic needs and welfare of the people most adequately.

The slower rates of increase which are predicted for the future population of Colorado may be looked upon as favorable if viewed in terms of future relationships between the total population and the natural resources. An unfavorable ratio between these factors is one reason for the low standard of living in such countries as India, China, and Japan.

Aspects of Growth

There has been a constant gain in Colorado's population since the first census of 1860 (fig. 1). The total population of 34,277 in 1860 rose to 1,035,791 in 1930. (See fig. 51 in appendix for preliminary 1940 census figures for Colorado.) The rate of increase from one decade to another has not been constant. There were but few more people in the State in 1870 than in 1860. The 1880 census, however, showed an increase of 387.5 percent over that of the preceding decade. Between 1880 and 1890 the population more than doubled. There was an increase of approximately one-fifth between 1890 and 1900 and an increase of nearly one-third during the next decade. The gains from 1910 to 1920 and during the following 10 years were smaller than formerly.

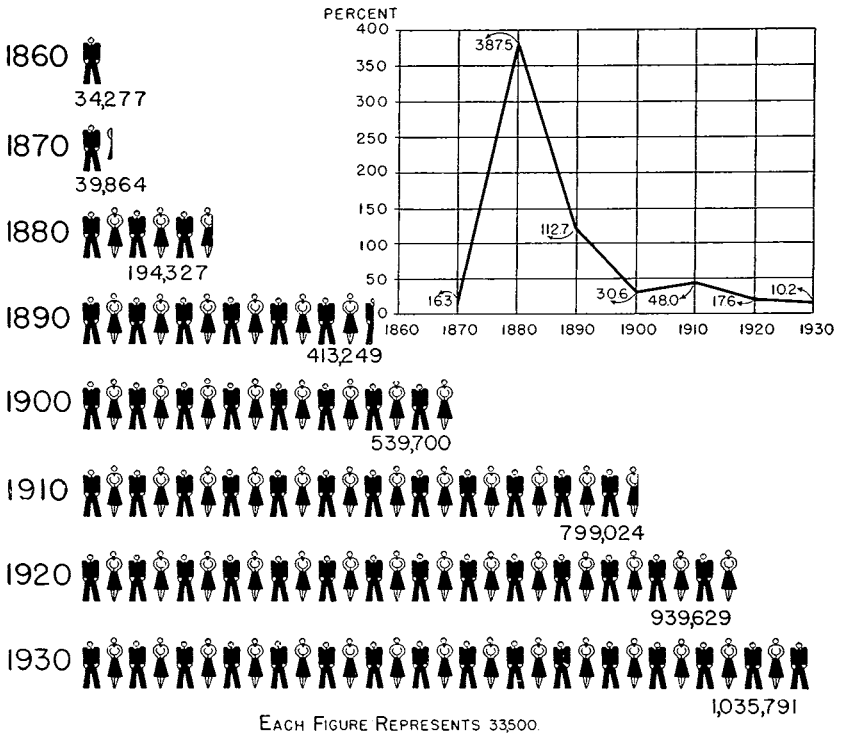


Figure 1.—Growth of Colorado population by decades, 1860 to 1930 (numerical and percentage). Colorado's total population has shown a constant growth since the first census of 1860. The percentage chart shows that, except for the decade between 1900 and 1910, the rate of growth has been on the downward trend since 1880.

Population Density of the State

There were approximately 33 times as many persons per square mile in Colorado in 1930 as in 1860 (fig. 2). In the first census year there was only 0.3 person per square mile; the number rose to 10.0 persons per square mile in 1930. The density in Colorado in 1930 (10.0 persons), however, was only about one-fourth that of the United States, which was 41.3 persons per square mile.

Population Density by Counties

The increase in density throughout the State since 1860 has not been uniform. The exact rates of increase for various sections of the State are rather difficult to depict because of the changes which have been made in county boundaries. However, an examination of figures 3 and 3 (cont'd.) reveals the relative density of population in each county at selected decades (see also appendix table 1). The trends, shown on a county basis, reveal the importance of mining and the consequential high densities in the mining counties during the early

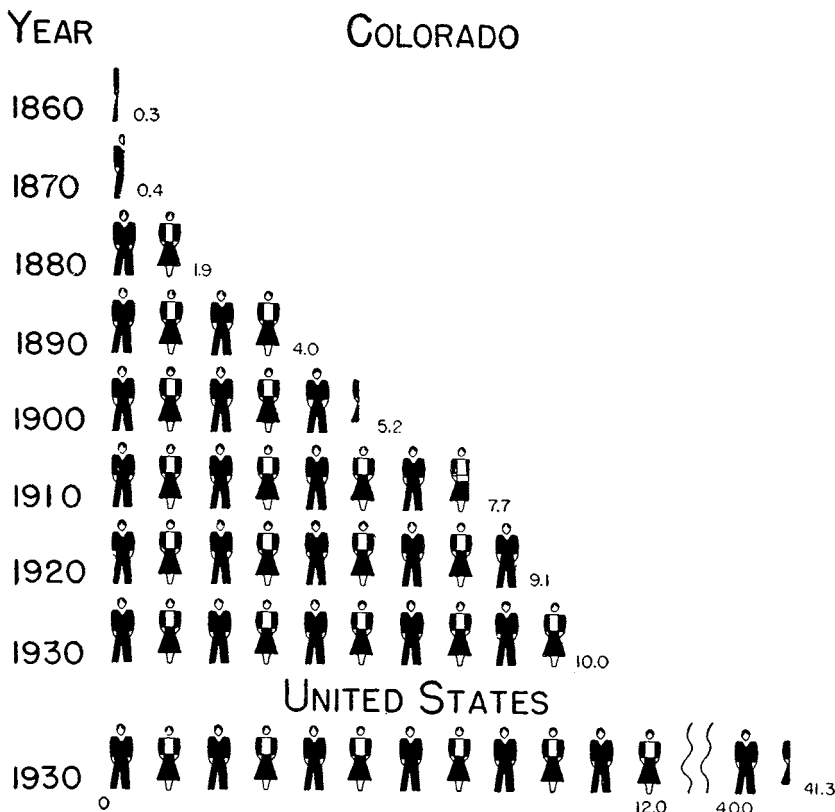


Figure 2.—Density of population in Colorado, 1860 to 1930, and in the United States for 1930. There were 33 times as many persons per square mile in Colorado in 1930 as in 1860. However, the density of 10.0 persons per square mile in Colorado in 1930 compared with 41.3 persons per square mile in the United States as a whole.

period. A number of mining counties reached their peak in population before the beginning of the twentieth century and have declined since that period. For example, the mining counties, Ouray, Summit, Mineral, Clear Creek, Hinsdale, Lake, Pitkin, Gilpin, and Teller, decreased between 62 percent and 85 percent in population in the three decades preceding 1930.⁵ Closely related to the population increase in the mineral counties is that which occurred in the counties containing cities which provide basic services for the mining areas.

The changes which occurred in the population densities of the various counties in the State between 1860 and 1930 are an index of the changing importance of agriculture, mining, and industry in the State. In 1930 the counties having large urban populations and

⁵LeRoy R. Hafen, *Colorado, the Story of a Western Commonwealth* (Denver: Peerless Publishing Co., 1933), p. 291.

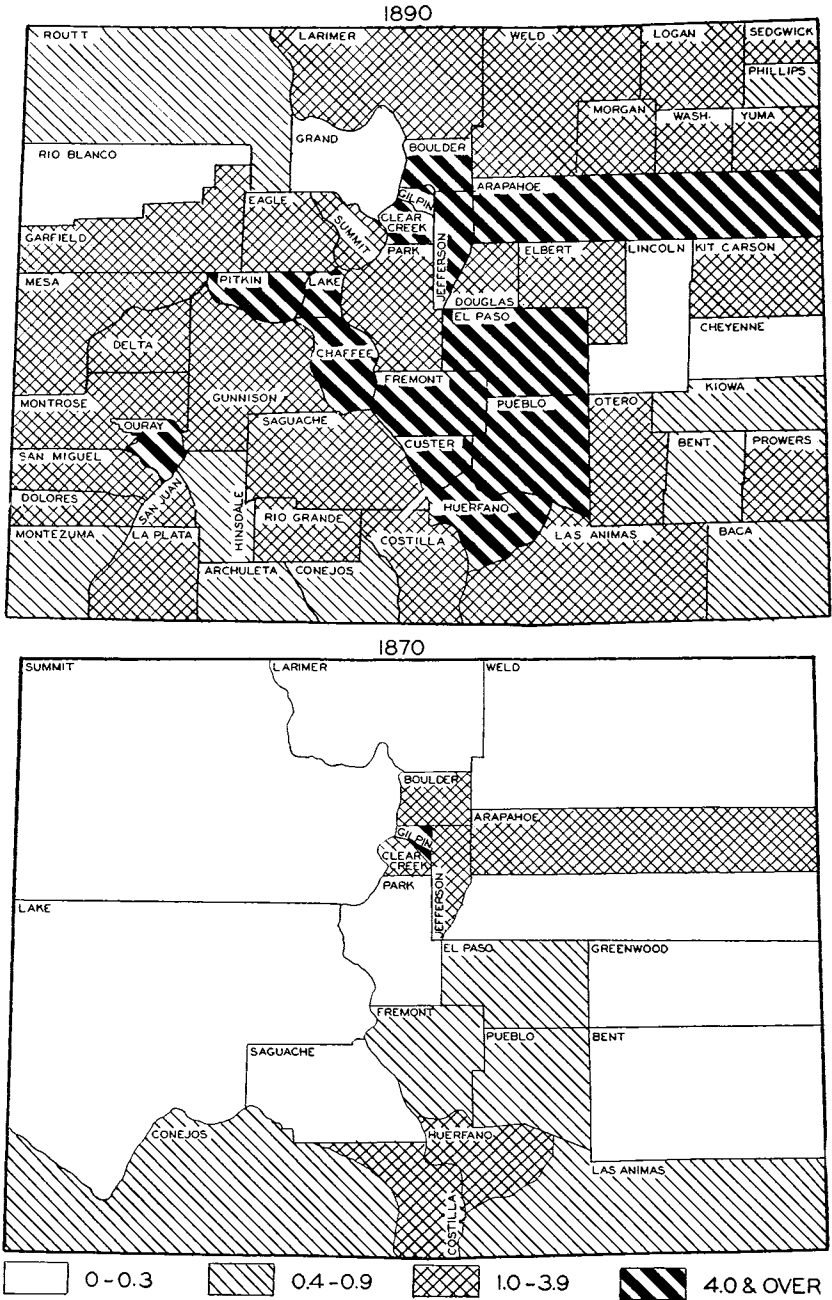
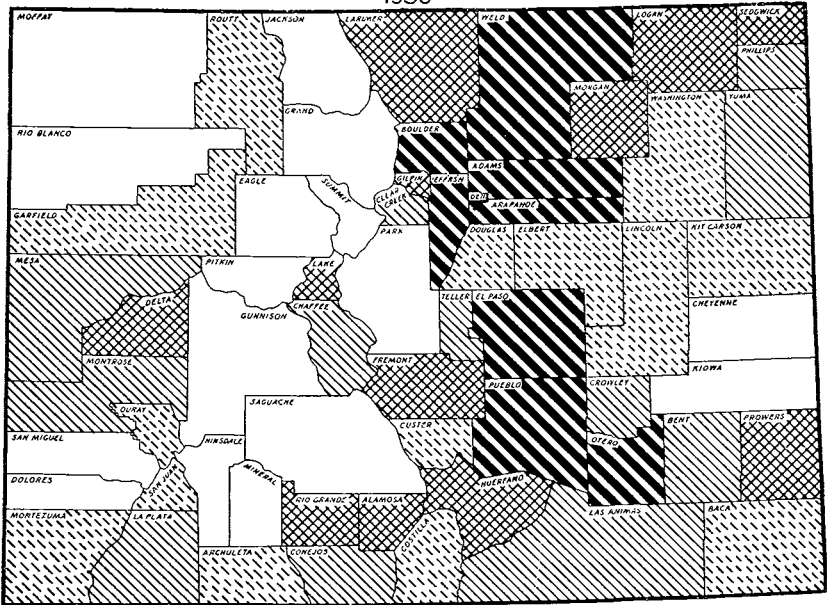


Figure 3.—Density of Colorado population by counties, 1870 and 1890. Changes in the density of population of the various counties in Colorado are an index of the changing importance of agriculture, mining, and industry in the State over the period studied. The keys to the crosshatch marking of these maps refer to number of persons per square mile.

1930



1910

DENVER 4,963.2

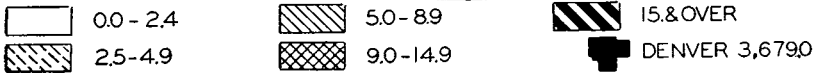
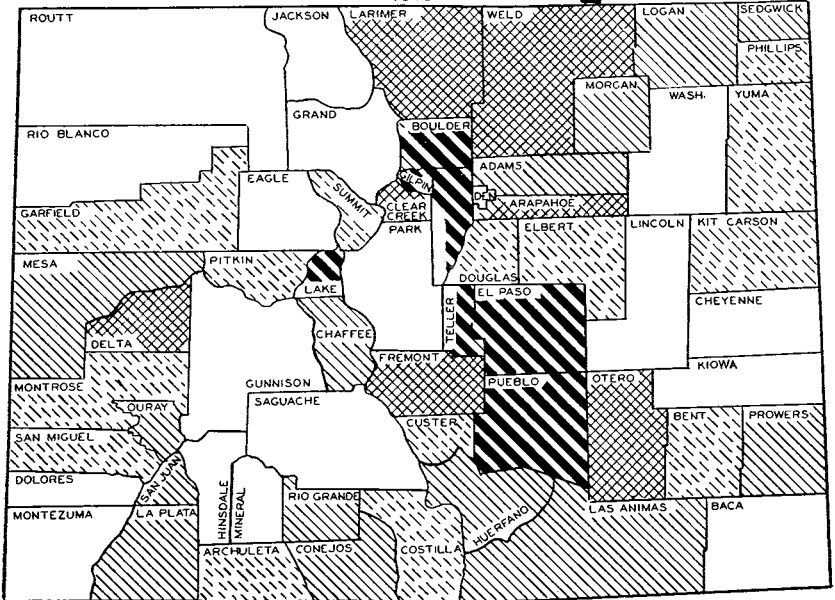


Figure 3 (cont'd.).—Density of population by counties, 1910 and 1930.

relatively large proportions of irrigated farm land naturally led in density of population. Mining areas and the poorer farming areas had the second greatest density. The most sparsely settled counties included the poorer agricultural lands and the extremely mountainous areas (see appendix table 1).

Migration into Colorado From Other States as Related to Growth

One of the major factors influencing the growth in Colorado's population has been the heavy migration of people into the State. In 1870, 26,889 of the State's 39,864 persons were born in some other state, while nearly half of Colorado's population in 1930, 512,764, were not natives of Colorado (fig. 4). The number of people born in another state but living in Colorado increased each decade between 1870 and 1930.

There were more persons from Illinois, Ohio, and New York living in Colorado in 1860 than from any other state (fig. 5 and 5 cont'd.). Persons from New Mexico were most numerous in 1870. People born in the Middle West, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, constituted the major number of native white migrants to Colorado in 1880. The number of migrants to Colorado from the various states in 1880 continued in approximately the same proportions thereafter, with the exceptions of a general increase from Kansas and Nebraska and, later, an increase from certain states lying south and east of Colorado.

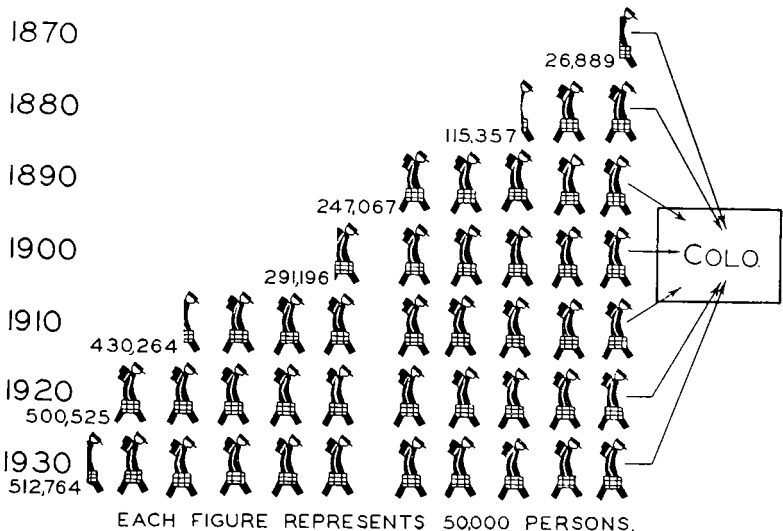


Figure 4.—Native white migrants born in other states living in Colorado, 1870 to 1930. The number of white persons born in other states but living in Colorado increased each decade between 1870 and 1930.

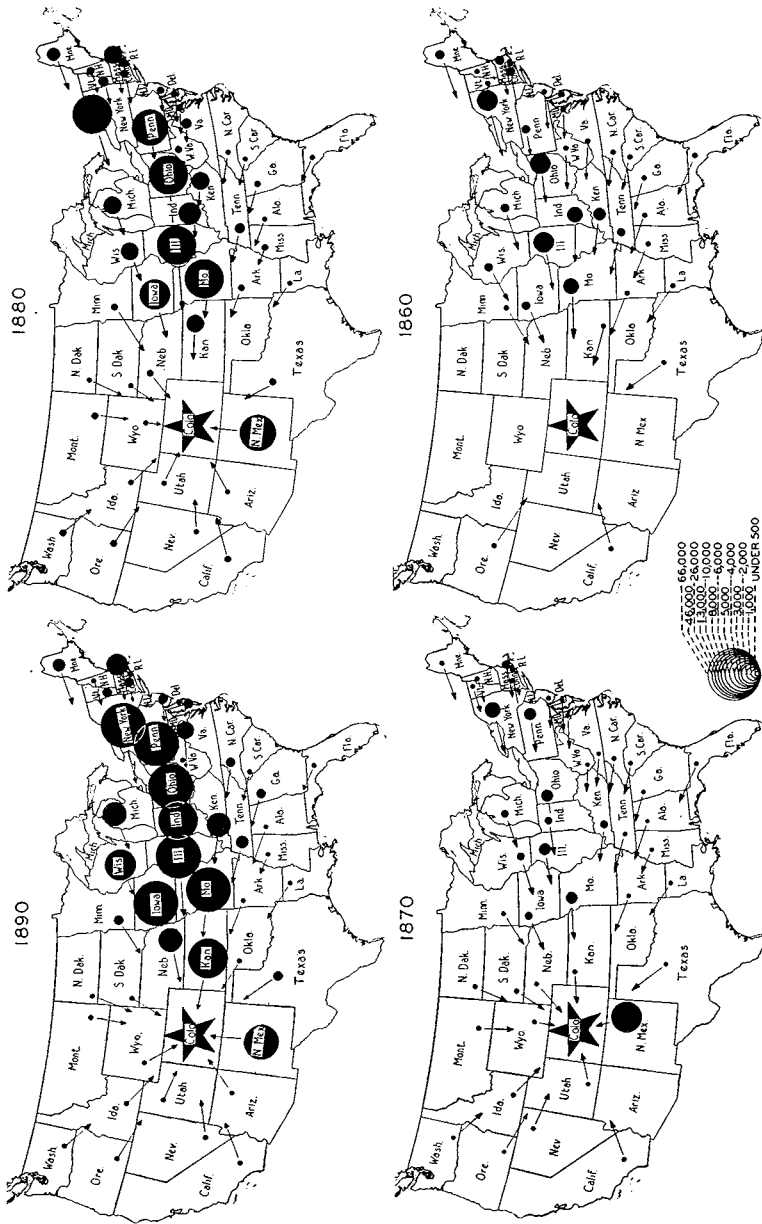


Figure 5.—Native white migrants from state of birth living in Colorado, 1860 to 1890. The number of people from other states living in Colorado in 1890 was greater than in 1860. Increase in the number of persons living in Colorado, the number being according to the key at the bottom center of this figure.

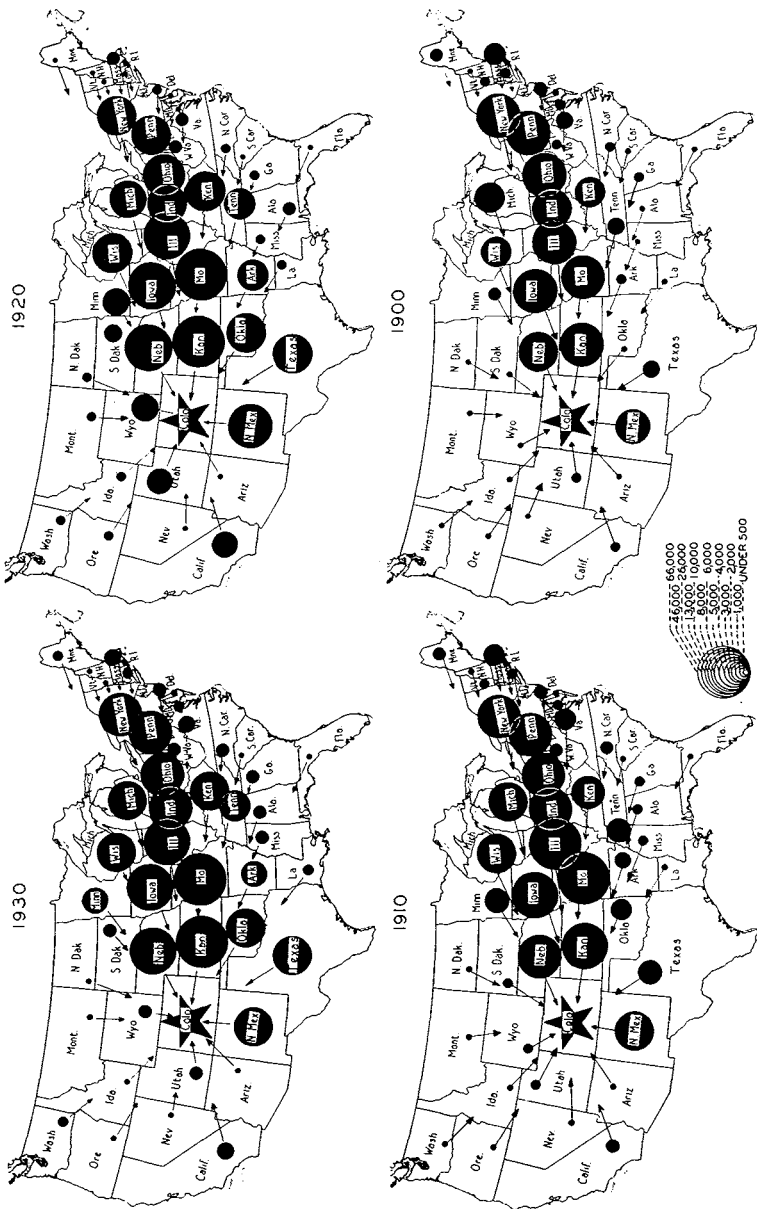


Figure 5 (cont'd.).—Native white migrants from state of birth living in Colorado, 1900 to 1930. There were more people from other states living in Colorado in 1930 than in 1900.

Migration Out of Colorado

Not only has there been a migration of people into Colorado, but many persons born here have moved elsewhere (fig. 6). In 1870, 1,235 such persons were living in some other state of the nation. The number of Colorado-born living in other states increased each decade and was 251,316 in 1930.

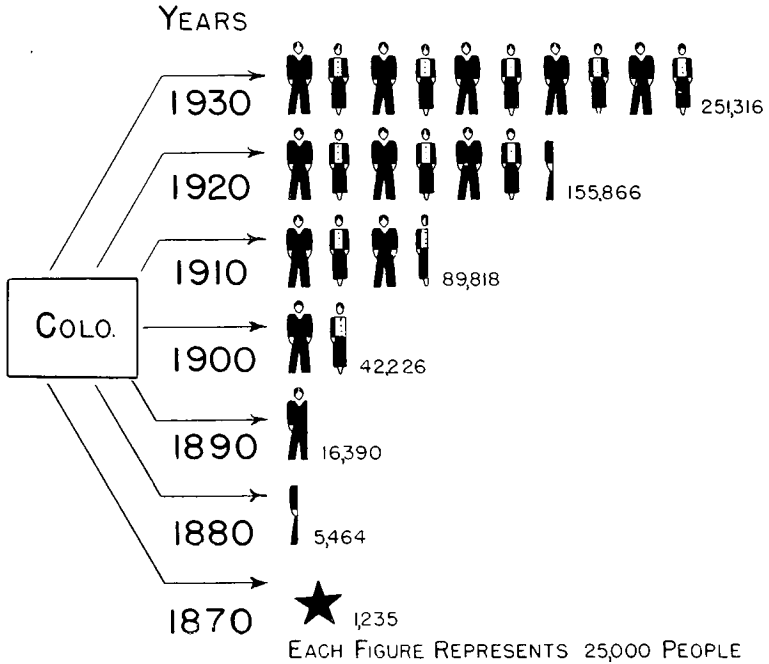


Figure 6.—Persons born in Colorado living in other states, 1870 to 1930. Persons born in Colorado but living in other states increased in number each decade from 1870 to 1930.

The migration of persons born in Colorado to other states has not been uniform (fig. 7). The trends between 1870 and 1900 showed concentrations of Colorado-born persons in neighboring states, the Middle West, and the far West. The most significant change in this concentration after 1900 was the increasing migration to the Pacific Coast. Very few persons born in Colorado have moved to the South, New England, or the North Central area.

Net Results of Interstate Migration

Some states have gained while others have lost population as a result of interstate migration with Colorado. The net results, of living persons as of 1930, are shown in figure 8.⁶ From this figure

⁶Net difference considers only those persons born in one state and living in another at the time of the census enumeration in 1930. No account is made of such factors as death rates.

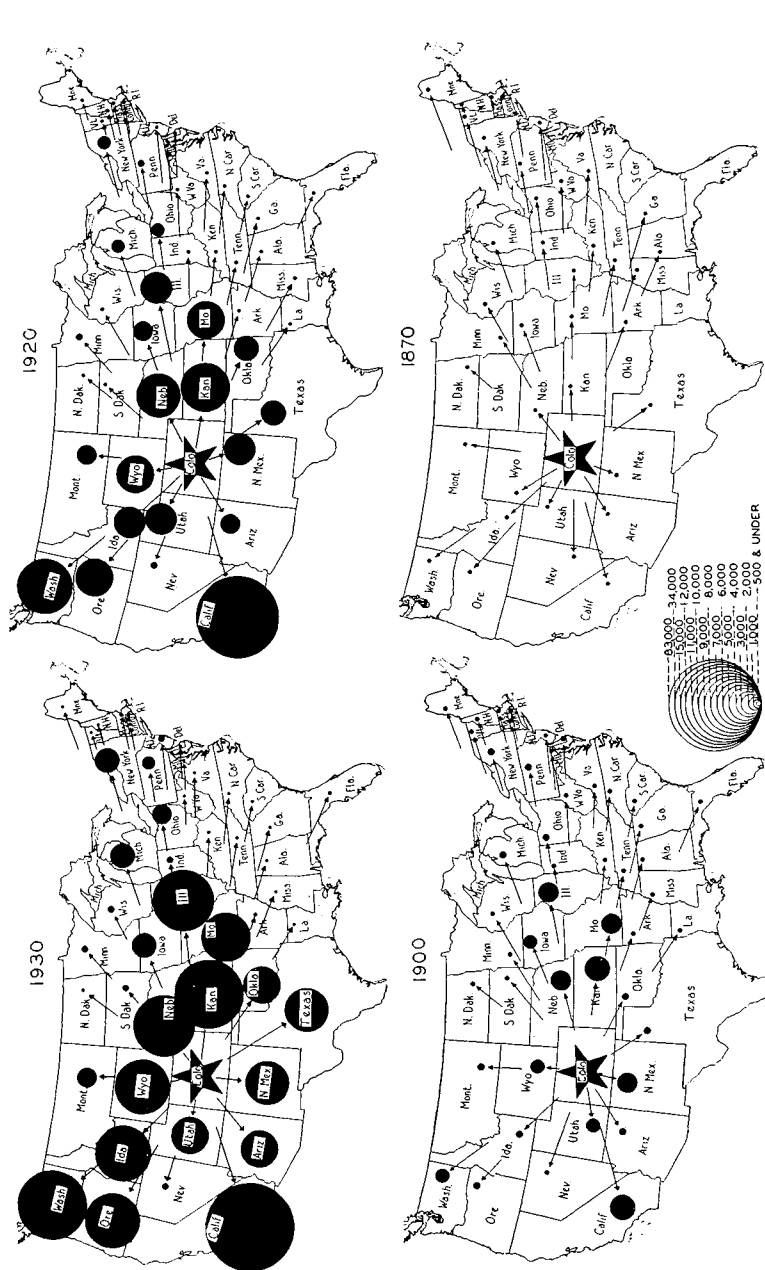


Figure 7.—Native white migrants born in Colorado living elsewhere, 1870 to 1930 by states. There were many more people born in Colorado but living in other states in 1930 than in 1870. Increase in the size of the black spots indicates an increase in the number of persons from Colorado living in that state, the number being according to the key at the bottom center of this figure.

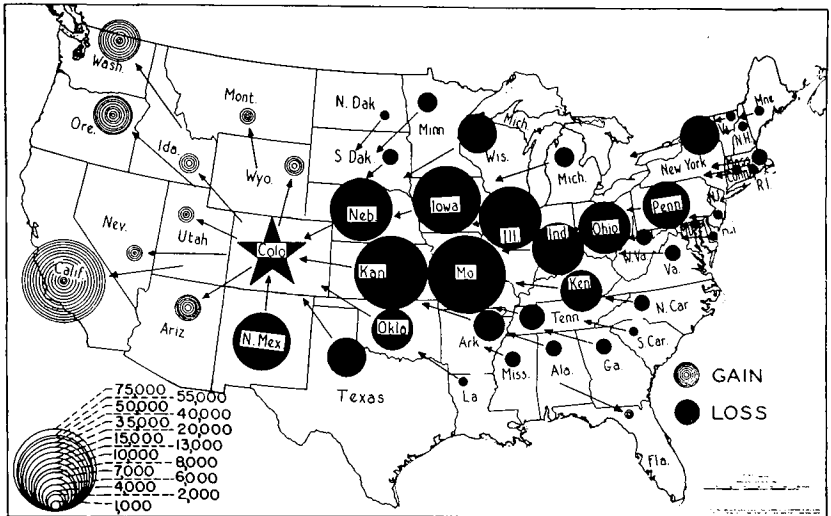


Figure 8.—Net difference of interstate migration of Colorado population, 1930. Colorado gained population as a result of interstate migration with states to the east and south, and lost population as a result of interstate migration with states to the west. A solid black spot in a state means more persons migrated from that state to Colorado than migrated from Colorado to that state. Spots not solid black indicate the reverse. The larger the spot is, the larger the net difference indicated, the number being according to the key at the bottom left corner of the figure.

it may be concluded that there were more people born in Colorado and living on the Pacific Coast and in each Rocky Mountain state, with the exception of New Mexico, than were born in each respective state and living in Colorado. The opposite is true for all states east and south of Colorado with the exception of Florida. It is evident that Coloradans have followed Greeley's admonition and have gone west. In 1930 California had experienced the greatest net gain through interstate migration with Colorado, while Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska lost the greatest number of people through interstate migration with Colorado.

Gains or Losses of Rocky Mountain States through Migration

Colorado gained more persons through interstate migration prior to and during each of the first three decades of the twentieth century than any other state in the Rocky Mountain section (fig. 9). Montana ranked second in net gain, while Idaho and Arizona were third and fourth, respectively. Utah was the only state in the group which showed an increasing loss each decade. The gains or losses were not uniform for the various states or periods of time. The net gain was smaller in 1930 than it was in 1910 in a majority of the states. Arizona and Nevada were the only states which showed a net gain through interstate migration between 1920 and 1930.

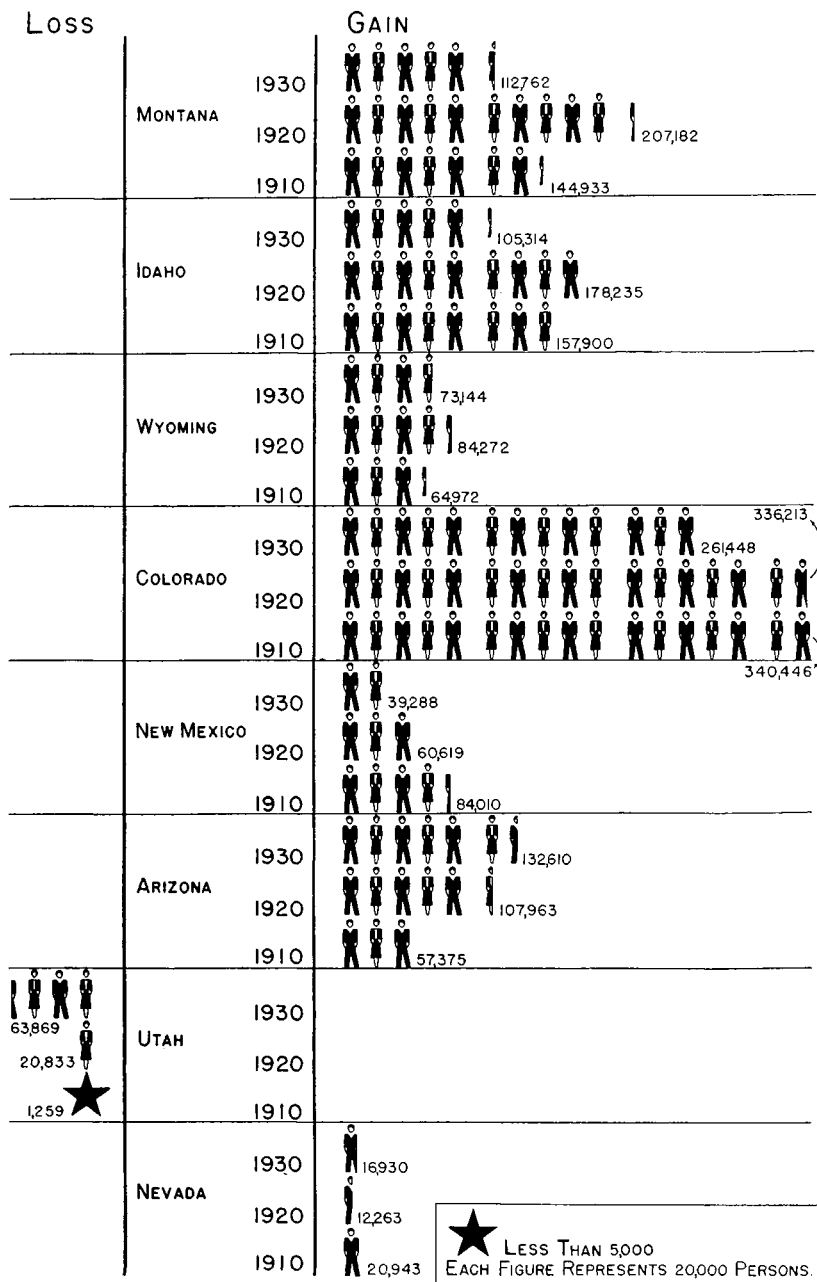


Figure 9.—Net gain or loss due to interstate migration. Rocky Mountain States, 1910, 1920, and 1930. Colorado gained more persons through interstate migration prior to and during each of the decades ending in 1910, 1920, and 1930 than any other Rocky Mountain state. Utah was the only state in the region that showed a loss during the periods specified.

Interstate and International Migration

Colorado's population has been affected not only by interstate migration but also by international migration. People born in some foreign countries have moved to Colorado and have established homes, farms, and industries. The numerical results of interstate and international migration, as reported by the United States census in 1930, are given in figure 10.

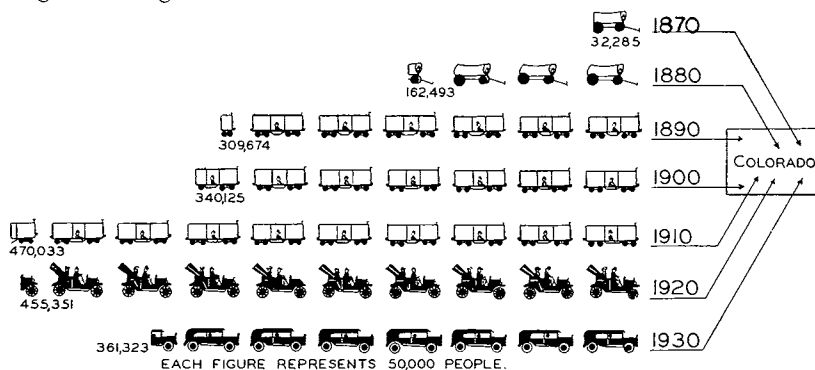


Figure 10.—Net gain in Colorado's population through interstate and international migration, 1870 to 1930. (Symbols suggestive of predominant modes of travel.) Colorado's accumulative net gain from migration was greatest in 1910. The decrease after that time was caused by a number of factors, one of which was increased migration out of the State.

Every year that census material has been available there have been more migrants from other states in the union and from other nations living in Colorado than Coloradans living outside the State. In 1870 there were 32,285 more people living in Colorado but born outside than there were persons born in Colorado but living elsewhere.

The largest net gain through migration that the State has ever had was 470,033 persons in the decade immediately preceding 1910. Each decade before 1910 showed a greater net increase than the preceding one. Since 1910, however, the reverse has been true.

Increases and decreases through population changes have affected counties as well as the State. Between 1900 and 1930, population increases ranging from 100 to 200 percent took place in Delta, Elbert, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Otero, Rio Grande, Routt, Bent, and Grand Counties. In Prowers, Phillips, Weld, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Morgan, Logan, Cheyenne, Washington, Yuma, Lincoln, and Baca Counties, an even greater increase occurred.⁷ Changes which occurred between 1920 and 1930 in various counties are indicated in figure 11.

Population increases between 1920 and 1930 occurred in 38 counties. The growths of 67.1 percent in Alamosa, 64.5 percent in Arapahoe, 51.5 percent in Jefferson, and 40.3 percent in Adams

⁷Hafen, *Colorado, the Story of a Western Commonwealth*, p. 291.

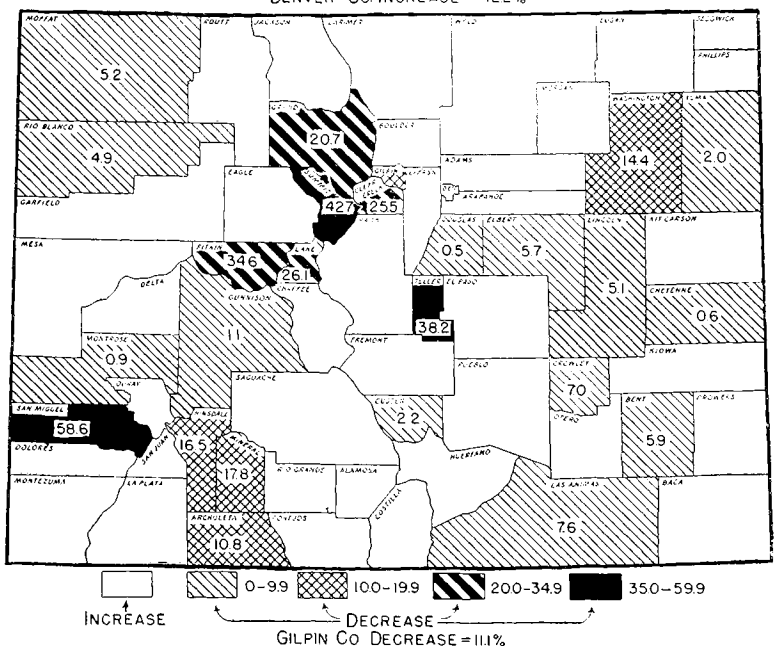
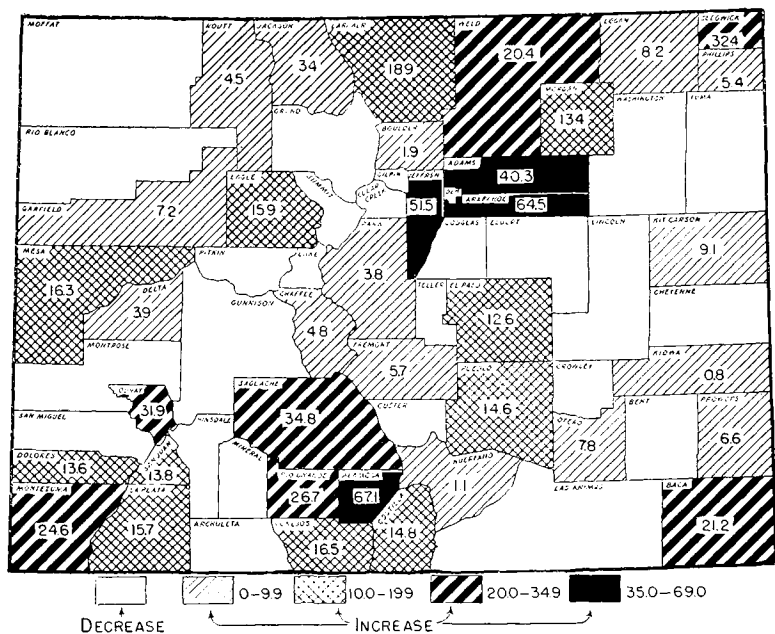


Figure 11.—Increases and decreases in population of Colorado counties, 1920 to 1930. There was an increase in the population of 38 counties in Colorado and a decrease in the remaining 25 counties between 1920 and 1930. In the top map are shown the percentages of increase in counties which experienced an increase between 1920 and 1930, and in the bottom map are shown the percentages of decrease where decrease occurred.

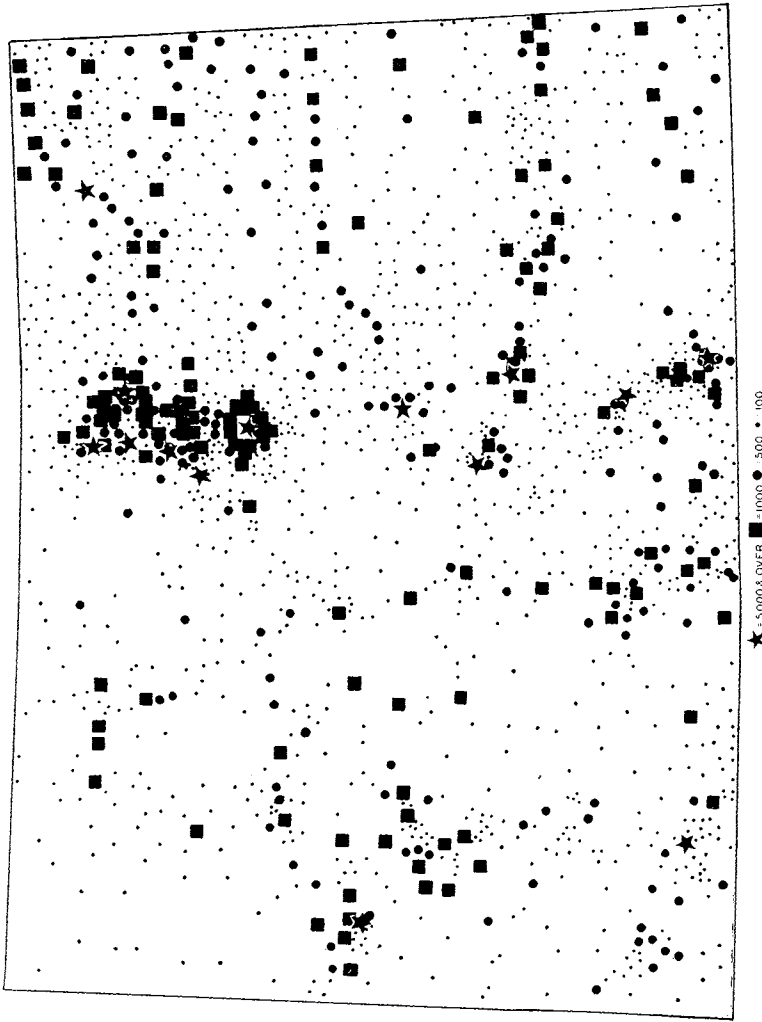


Figure 12.—Distribution of Colorado's population in 1930, by voting precinct. The high density of population in the better mining and agricultural areas (for instance, the irrigated section from Denver north) as well as in the business and industrial centers, is evident on this map.

were the greatest in the State. In 7 of the 35 counties the increase was less than 5 percent. The high rate of increase in the irrigated areas of the State, as well as in certain more newly settled counties in the southwestern portion, deserves notation.

Twenty-five of Colorado's 63 counties had a smaller population in 1930 than they had in 1920. In 7 of the 25 counties the loss was less than 5 percent. San Miguel and Summit (both predominantly mining counties) with a loss of 58.6 percent and 42.7 percent, respectively, experienced the greatest decreases.

Distribution of Colorado's Population in 1930

Figure 12 shows the distribution of population in Colorado as of 1930. The high density of population in the better agricultural and mining areas, as well as in the business and industrial centers, is evident.

Estimated Future Growth

Because of the variety of factors which might influence the growth, it is impossible to predict the exact growth of the future population of Colorado. (For preliminary 1940 figures by counties see fig. 51 in appendix.) It is possible, however, to make certain assumptions regarding conditions which will influence future changes and to predict accordingly. This procedure has been used by Thompson and Whelpton.⁸ They calculated two sets of population estimates; the first is based upon the assumption that there will be no migration, while the second is based upon the assumption that the migration will be like that which occurred between 1920 and 1930.

If there is no internal migration (to or from other states), the total population of Colorado will continue to increase rather markedly in the future (fig. 13). There will be approximately 1,104,000 persons in 1940 (preliminary 1940 census figures for Colorado show 1,118,820); 1,160,000 persons in 1950; and 1,188,000 persons in 1960.

With a migration like that which occurred between 1920 and 1930 the population of Colorado would continue to grow after 1930 but the rate of growth would be retarded. In 1940 the number of persons would be 1,082,000; in 1950 the number would approach 1,111,000; and by 1960 it would rise to 1,120,000. The significant feature about this predicted trend is that if future migration is like that which occurred between 1920 and 1930 it will retard the growth of the population of the State, while before 1920 internal migration contributed to this growth.

With no rural to urban population movement between 1930 and 1960, the rural population would increase rather rapidly; the

⁸W. Thompson and P. K. Whelpton, *Estimates of Future Population by States* (Washington, D. C.: National Resources Board, 1934).

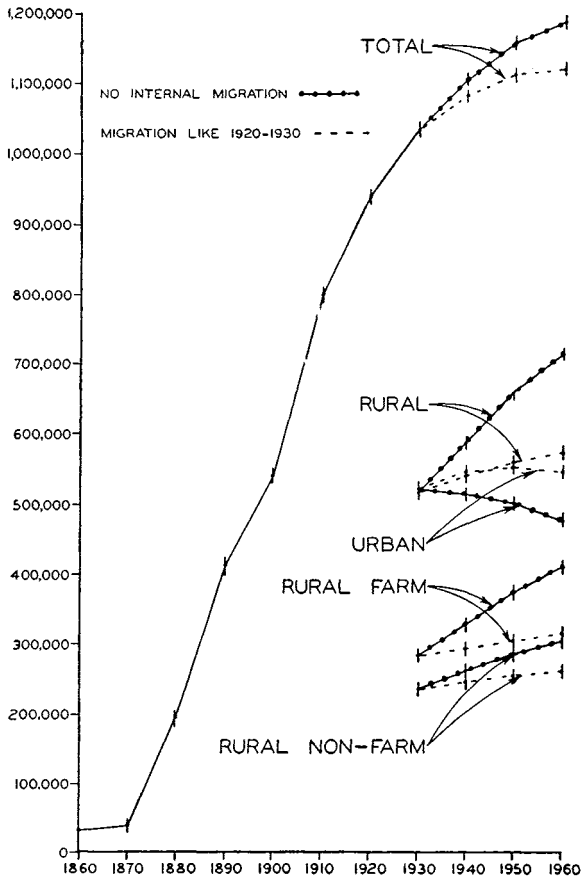


Figure 13.—Trends in population increase of Colorado; past trends, 1860 to 1930; predicted trends, 1940 to 1960. It is evident from the past trends, as well as from predicted trends, that population increase in Colorado is leveling off.

urban population would decline slightly during the first decade but with increased acceleration later. In case the migration were like that which took place between 1920 and 1930, the population in both rural and urban Colorado would increase until 1950; thereafter the rural population would still increase and the urban would begin its decline. A major reason for this decline would be a decrease in the birth rate.

Assuming there would be no migration, both the rural farm and the rural non-farm people would increase in numbers between 1930 and 1960. The former, however, would increase most rapidly. With migration like that which took place between 1920 and 1930 each class would make some growth but it would be much smaller than if there were no migration.

Summary The population of Colorado has grown very rapidly since establishment of the Territory. In 1860 there were 34,277 persons in this Territory. By 1930 the number had risen to 1,035,791. The future growth will probably be less rapid. The rate of growth has not been uniform, however. The greatest increases in the population of the State occurred between 1870 and 1890, and between 1900 and 1910. The rate of growth declined between 1910 and 1930.

Even though Colorado's population has increased sharply since the settlement of the area, the average density of population for the State in 1930 was less than one-fourth that of the United States. The changes in densities by counties have been sporadic. Changing population densities reflect the relative prosperity of mining, industrial developments, and varying agricultural practices and conditions.

Interstate and international migration have contributed to the growth of Colorado's population. In 1870, 26,889 of the State's 39,864 persons were born in some other state, and in 1930 the number of people born in another state but living in Colorado had risen to 512,764. According to the United States Census there have been more persons born elsewhere but living in Colorado each decade than there have been Colorado-born persons living outside the State. Every state in the Rocky Mountain region showed a net gain because of interstate migration which occurred prior to and during the three decades ending in 1910, 1920, and 1930 with the exception of Utah where a net loss was reported in each decade. There was a greater net gain reported for Colorado during each decade than for any other state in the region.

In 1870 there were 1,235 persons born in Colorado but living in another state, and in 1930 this number had risen to 251,316 people. The period which showed the greatest net gain for Colorado through interstate migration was the decade ending in 1910. At this time the number of migrants to Colorado exceeded the number of Colorado emigrants by 470,033. The decrease in the net gain since then may be partially attributed to the fact that Colorado migrants to other states have increased materially.

Rather large population changes occurred in the counties between 1920 and 1930. The number of inhabitants decreased almost one-half in some counties, while in others an increase of more than 50 percent occurred.

Part II.—Composition and Characteristics of the Population

Age and Sex

Some Implications of Age and Sex Composition

The changes which have occurred in the age and sex distribution of Colorado's population have a number of implications. The decrease in the proportion of children in the total population has a direct bearing upon the future needs of the school. The declining birth rate throughout the State has already been reflected in decreased school enrollment in the elementary grades. School officials should be cognizant of these trends when considering any building program. In families where the number of children is smaller, less of the income will be needed for the bare necessities of life; perhaps more can be spent for cultural advancement. The decrease in the number of children in the total population means that if Colorado is to have any large increase in her future population, it will probably come through migration from other states.

The decline in the proportion of persons in the productive age groups implies added financial burdens upon those who belong to this class. These burdens assume considerable importance in the light of the fact that there is such a pronounced increase in both the number and the demands of the old-age group. The burden is lightened somewhat by the fact that there are fewer children to support than formerly. In this sense the changes in the age distribution mean that formerly people in the productive age groups spent a large proportion of their income to support children; today it is spent to support the aged. During the last few years some people of national reputation have questioned the extent of this transfer of support. They have intimated that some evidence indicates that security for the aged has been achieved at the expense of lessened opportunities for youth.

The changing age distributions have a number of implications for the industries of the State in the future. With a declining birth rate and an increasing number of older persons in society, industry is faced with an aging labor supply. The industrial policy of setting the upper limit of employment age for new workers at 40 years is directly contrary to the trends in the age composition of the population. Whether or not industry can continue such a policy despite these trends is a problem.

Studies have been made which show that, in addition to old age benefits and insurance, consideration should be given to the problems of possible employment of older workers not ready for retirement. What are the possibilities of adult education and other meas-

ures as means of enhancing the usefulness and increasing the joys of an aging population?⁹

Other problems center around the fact that older people tend to be more conservative and less hospitable to new ideas than the younger folks. They think in terms of the past. Frequently they seek peace, not opportunity. Their greater leisure, and in some cases economic security, often give them an advantage in the affairs of the community and its social organization.¹⁰ An aging population also means an increase in the death rate.

Variations throughout the State in age-sex distribution indicate that the adult burdens of feeding, clothing, and rearing children are much less in some counties than in others. The problem of state support of schools and libraries and health and recreation facilities assumes new significance when this unequal distribution of financial burden to rear children is considered. The equalization of funds is not only important because of the differences in the proportion of children from one area to another; it is also significant because many of the children reared in an area of high birth rate move to the city and become a part of the productive age group in that area where the birth rate is low. Numerous studies have shown that areas having a high ratio of children to adult population are usually also areas of meager economic resources.¹¹

Historically, this movement of youth from the country to the city has been a drainage on the economic and human resources of the country. During the last few decades the farms have fed, clothed, and educated a large proportion of the young people who have later joined the productive population in the city. The financial importance of this movement has been stressed by students who have studied it. Baker estimates that the net migration of farm youth to cities between 1920 and 1930 represents a contribution of about \$14,000,000 from the farm communities to the cities of the nation.¹²

It must not be assumed that all the results of rural-urban migration have been negative: many have been positive. The migration of persons, even youth, from the country to the city has prevented a rather serious overpopulation problem which would have arisen in rural areas. Thus these movements have facilitated adjustments between human and natural resources.

The difference in the number of males per 100 females among various nationality and color groups and in various cities illustrates some of the selective factors at work in any migration movement. Pueblo has been noted as an industrial city and has attracted more of the male sex. Colorado Springs, a residential and recreational center,

⁹*The Problems of a Changing Population* (National Resources Committee publication [May 1938]), p. 8.

¹⁰J. H. Kolb and Edmund des Brunner, *A Study of Rural Society*, (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1935), p. 236.

¹¹Kolb and Brunner, *A Study of Rural Society*, pp. 175-99.

¹²O. E. Baker, "Rural-Urban Migration and The National Welfare", *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. XXIII, No. 87, June 1933, pp. 60-126.

has attracted both sexes more equally. This illustrates that in cases involving international migration the male sex moves most frequently.

The trend toward an equalization of sex ratio in Colorado has had its effect upon the social structure of the State. Traditionally, women are more staunch supporters of law and order than are men; they promote schools, libraries, and health clinics, as well as other types of social, educational, and cultural organizations. Counties with low percentages of women are frequently lacking in such services.

Aspects of Age and Sex Composition

The age composition of Colorado's population changed decidedly between 1890 and 1930. The trends may be summarized briefly as follows: There was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population in the younger age groups, a decided decrease in the proportion of persons between 20 and 34 years, and a great increase in the proportion of the population 45 years of age and older. In 1890, 10.8 percent of Colorado's population was under 5 years of age, compared with 9.2 percent in 1930 (fig. 14). The age groups 20 to 34, inclusive, accounted for 35.3 percent of the population in 1890 in contrast with 23.1 percent in 1930. Persons 45 years of age and over constituted approximately one-eighth (12.8 percent) of the persons in the State in 1890 and rose to nearly one-quarter (24.6 percent) of the population in 1930 (fig. 14).

Age-Sex

The age-sex distribution in 1930 was not uniform throughout the State.¹³ Each county had its own peculiarities. When an age-sex pyramid is drawn for each county it is possible, however, to classify the counties into four general groups.

More than three-fourths of the counties of the State (47 out of 63) had a population which when presented graphically was comparable to Adams County (fig. 15). This group is heavily weighted at the base, suggesting a large proportion of young people. The percentages gradually taper off with increase in age. Another striking feature about this distribution is the excess of males over females in each age group, especially after 15 years.

The second most important type, numerically, included 10 counties and was typified by Routt County. As in the case of the former counties, there is a large base, indicating a high proportion of children, and a smaller proportion of females than males. The percentage of females declines over each 10-year period, and in that sense the females reveal a different trend than the males. The males decrease in each age group, 5 through 34 years of age, show a rather sharp increase between 35 and 44, then decrease rather abruptly thereafter.

¹³The age-sex pyramid is one of the best methods of depicting variations in age-sex distribution. The youngest age group is placed at the bottom of the pyramid and each succeeding older group is superimposed upon the preceding one.

Five counties were included in the third type illustrated by Gilpin County. This group had an excess of males over females, with an increase of males in each decade 25 through 55 years. The variations in proportions of females were sporadic, with a generally declining trend. The small percentage of persons falling in the younger age groups is especially noticeable in this category.

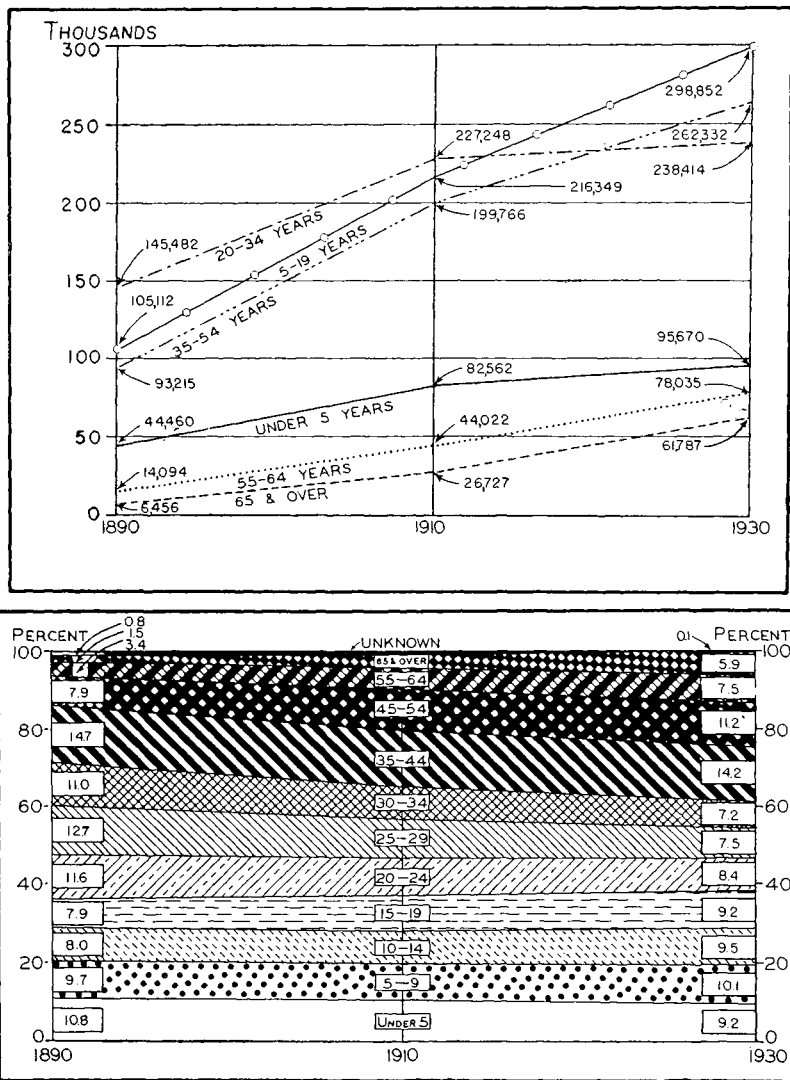


Figure 14.—Number and percent changes in the age distribution of Colorado's population, 1890, 1910, and 1930. Between 1890 and 1930 there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population in the younger age groups, a decided decrease in the proportion of persons between 20 and 34 years, and a great increase in the proportion of the population 45 years of age and over.

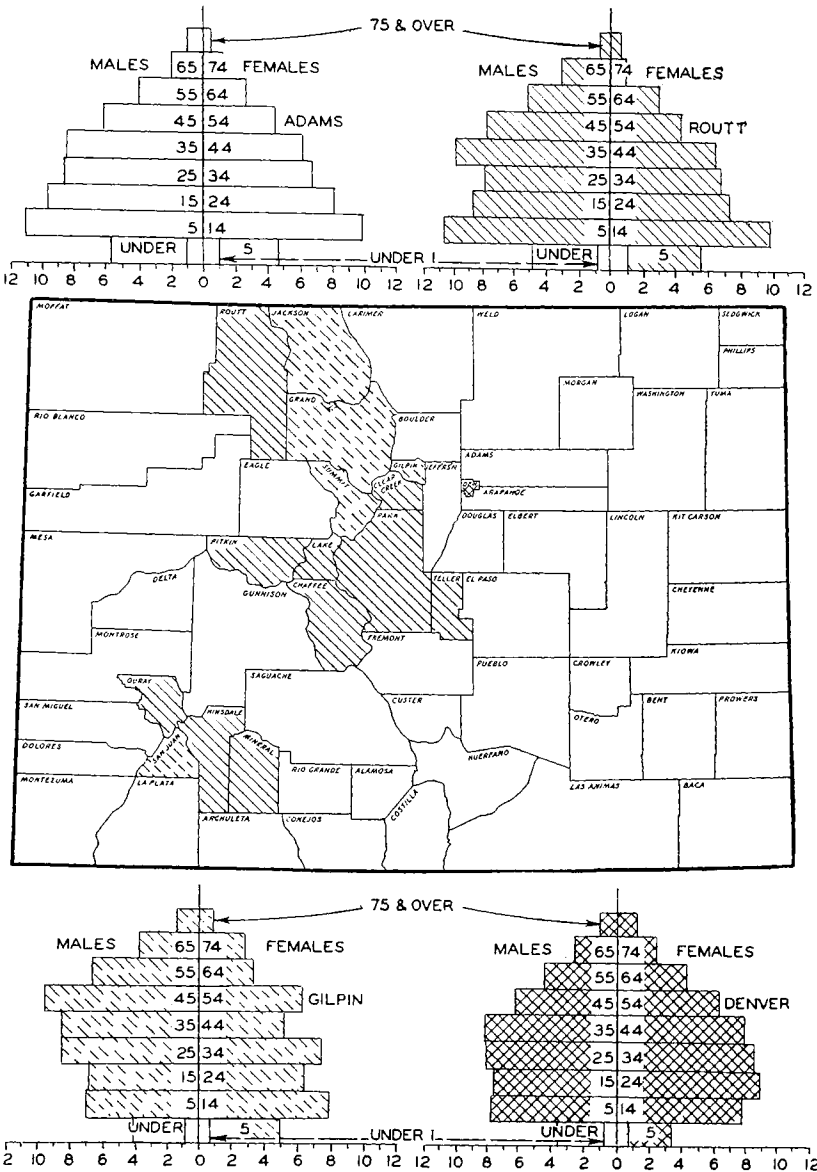


Figure 15.—Age-sex distribution for counties, 1930. The four age-sex pyramids on this figure typify the age-sex distribution in counties which, on the map, are crosshatch-marked correspondingly. For instance, the counties without crosshatch marking are typified by the pyramid marked "Adams." This pyramid, with the longer bars at the base, indicates a larger percentage of the population in the younger age groups on both the male and female sides. A large proportion of the counties in the State had an age-sex distribution comparable to Adams County. (Line above age group 75 and over represents "unknowns." Same applies to fig. 17.)

Denver County was unique in itself. It was characterized by a very small percentage of its total number in the younger age groups and an excess of females over males in every age group over 15 years.

Age-Residence

Not only was there a decided difference between age and sex distributions from one county to another; there were likewise numerous age and sex variations when the population was classified according to residence. An examination of figure 16 reveals that the age com-

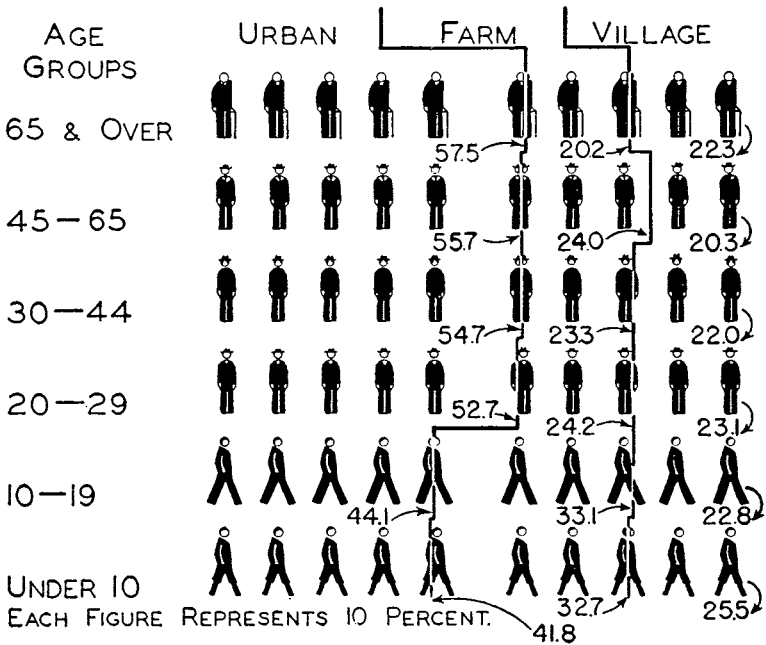


Figure 16.—Distribution of Colorado population by age and residence, 1930. The larger percentage of urban residents were in the older age groups, and in direct contrast the larger percentage of farm residents were in the younger age groups.

position of the rural farm population in 1930 was in direct contrast to the urban population, while the rural non-farm or village class in most instances was midway between them. The rural farm population had a larger proportion of its population in the younger age groups from 1 to 19 years, and in the urban class each age category 20 years and over exceeded the one immediately younger.

Age-Sex-Nativity

Different nativity groups, both in 1900 and in 1930, showed distinct variations in the proportion of the total population in various age age categories (fig. 17 and appendix table 2). In the native white population there was a normal distribution with a large proportion

of younger people and declining percentages with increasing age. The foreign-born white presented an almost completely different picture. They had but few persons in the younger years, more than 90 percent being accounted for in the age groups above 25 years. The age and sex distribution of the native-born of foreign or mixed parentage approximated more nearly that of the native whites than it did that of the foreign-born white.

There were some differences in the distribution by age-sex and nativity between 1900 and 1930. The differences between the native white and the native white of foreign or mixed parents were greater in 1930 than in 1900. At the beginning of the century there was a larger proportion of the foreign-born population in the age groups 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 than 30 years later. Among the females, in

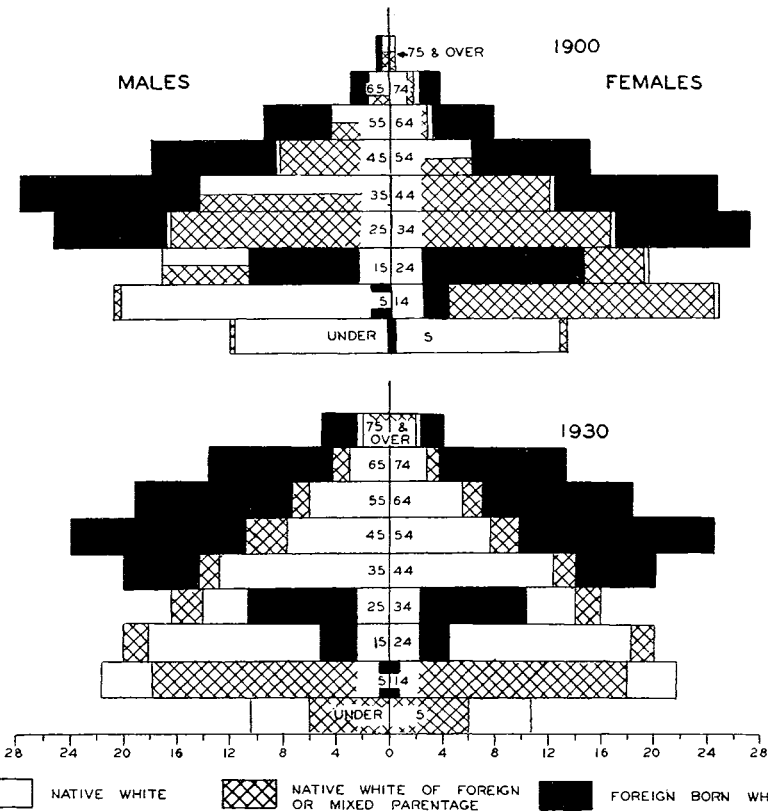


Figure 17.—Age and sex distribution by nativity group. Colorado, 1900 and 1930. The native white population, designated by the white bars, showed in both 1900 and 1930 a larger proportion of younger people and declining percentages with increasing age. The foreign-born white, designated by the black bars, showed an almost completely different picture. The native white of foreign or mixed parentage approximated the native white more nearly than they did the foreign-born white.

1900, the greatest concentration was found in a younger age group than among the males.

Sex

Colorado's population has always had a preponderance of males over females. In 1860 the ratio was 95.4 males to 4.6 females (fig. 18). Ten years later the proportion was 62.2 percent males and 37.8 percent females. In 1880 the proportion of males rose slightly over the preceding decade, the ratio being approximately two to one (66.5 percent to 33.5 percent). Since 1880 the percentage of males has gradually decreased and in 1930 there were 51.2 percent men and 48.8 percent women.

The ratio of males to females in Colorado has been about the same as that of the Rocky Mountain States at each decade since 1870. There were considerable differences between the sex ratios of Colorado and the United States up to and including 1890. Since 1900 the differences have been relatively small.

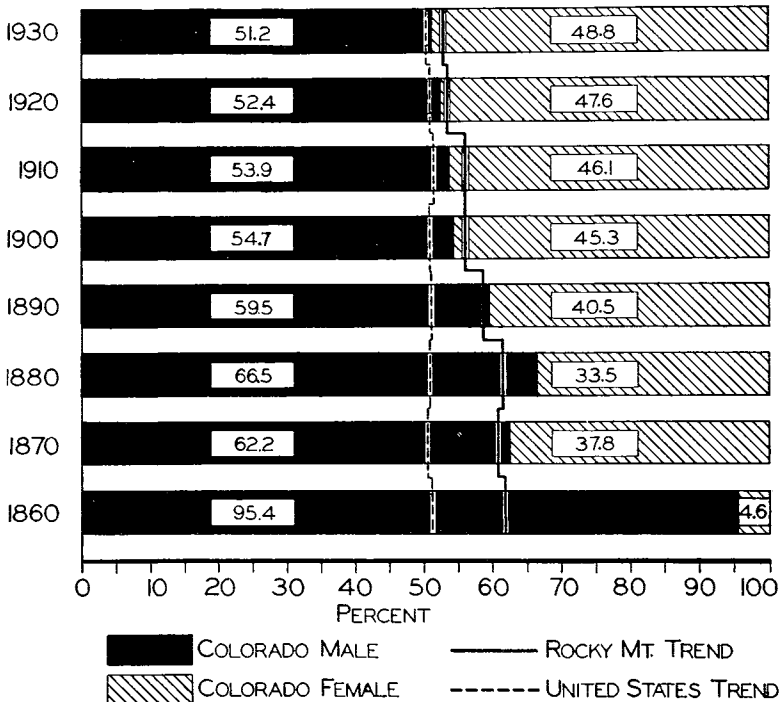


Figure 18.—Percentage distribution of population by sex for Colorado, Rocky Mountain States, and United States, 1860 to 1930. The male proportion of Colorado's population, predominant in 1860, had decreased by 1930 until the male and female proportions were almost equal. This was also true in the Rocky Mountain States area. The ratio for the United States remained almost constant.

Sex Ratio by County

In 1930 there were extreme variations among the counties in the number of males per 100 females (fig. 19). San Juan County with 187.5 men per 100 women had the greatest excess of males, while El Paso County with only 92.7 males per 100 females was the greatest opposite extreme. In all but 3 (El Paso, Denver, and Boulder) of the 63 counties in the State, the men outnumbered the women. Nine counties had more than 130 males per 100 females, and in 21 counties the ratio was more than 120 to 100.

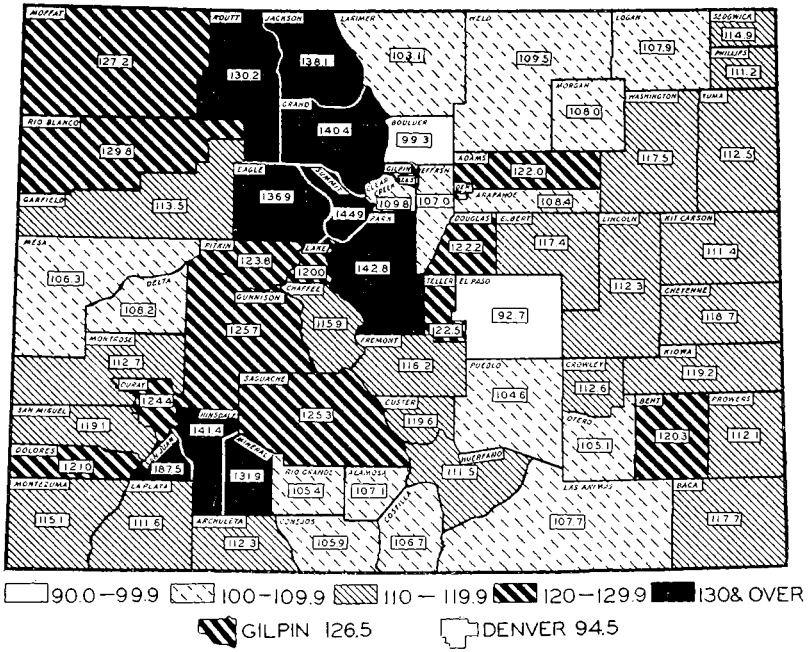


Figure 19.—Males per 100 females by counties, Colorado, 1930. In all but three counties (those entirely white on the map) there were more men than women in 1930. Keys to the crosshatch marking refer to number of men per 100 women.

The striking feature of figure 19 is the close correlation between sex ratio and type-of-farming and mineral areas. The irrigated sections in the northern, midwestern, and southern sections of the State are obvious. The dry-farming and ranch areas are clearly delimited, as are the mining areas.

Sex Ratio by Nativity and Color

When Colorado's population is classified by nativity and color, significant sex ratios become evident. Figure 20 shows the number of males per 100 females among the native white, foreign-born white, and the Negroes. The trend lines which are superimposed upon the figures representing Colorado indicate the sex ratios in each of the

cities considered. In 1890 the number of men per 100 women in Colorado among the native white, the foreign-born white, and the Negroes were 136.4, 194.4, and 137.8, respectively (see appendix table 3).

The ratio of males to females in Pueblo was much greater than in any of the three groups for Colorado and was larger than that in either of the cities except the Negroes of Denver. Among the native white of Pueblo in 1890 the ratio of men to women was 166.8 to 100; among the foreign-born white the ratio was 264.4 to 100; among the Negroes it was 183.2 to 100.

The excess of males over females in Colorado declined over each period between 1890 and 1930. At each interval, however, the sex ratio of Pueblo exceeded the State average, the State average exceeded Denver, and Denver exceeded Colorado Springs.

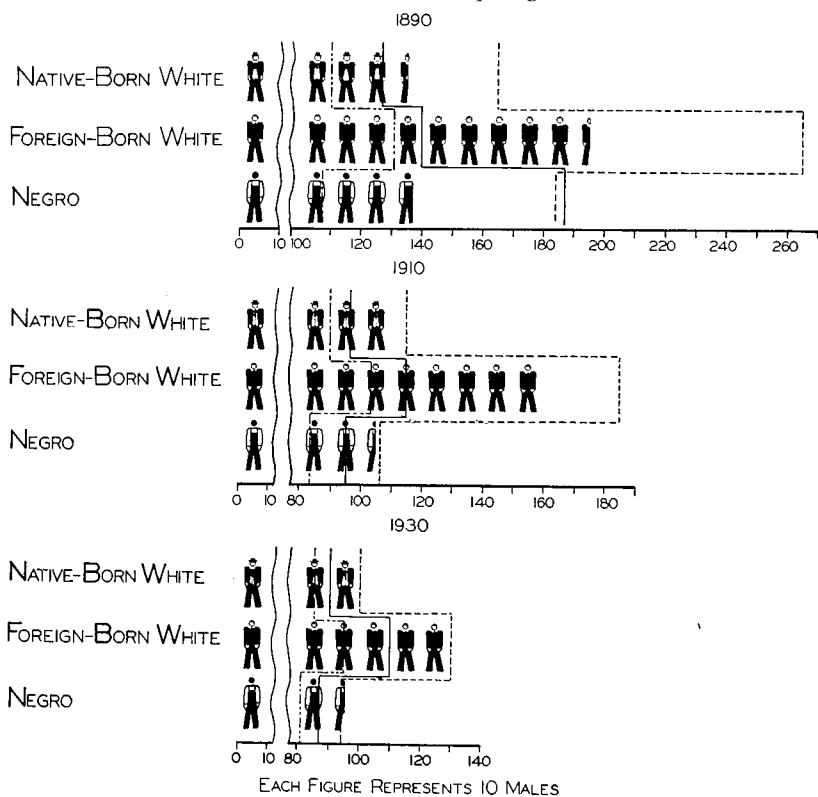


Figure 20.—Number of males per 100 females by nativity for Colorado, Denver, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs, 1890, 1910, and 1930. The excess of males over females for each nativity group in Colorado declined over each period between 1890 and 1930. At each interval, however, the ratio of males to females in Pueblo (dotted line) exceeds the state average (figures), the state average exceeds Denver (solid line), and Denver exceeds Colorado Springs (dot-dash line).

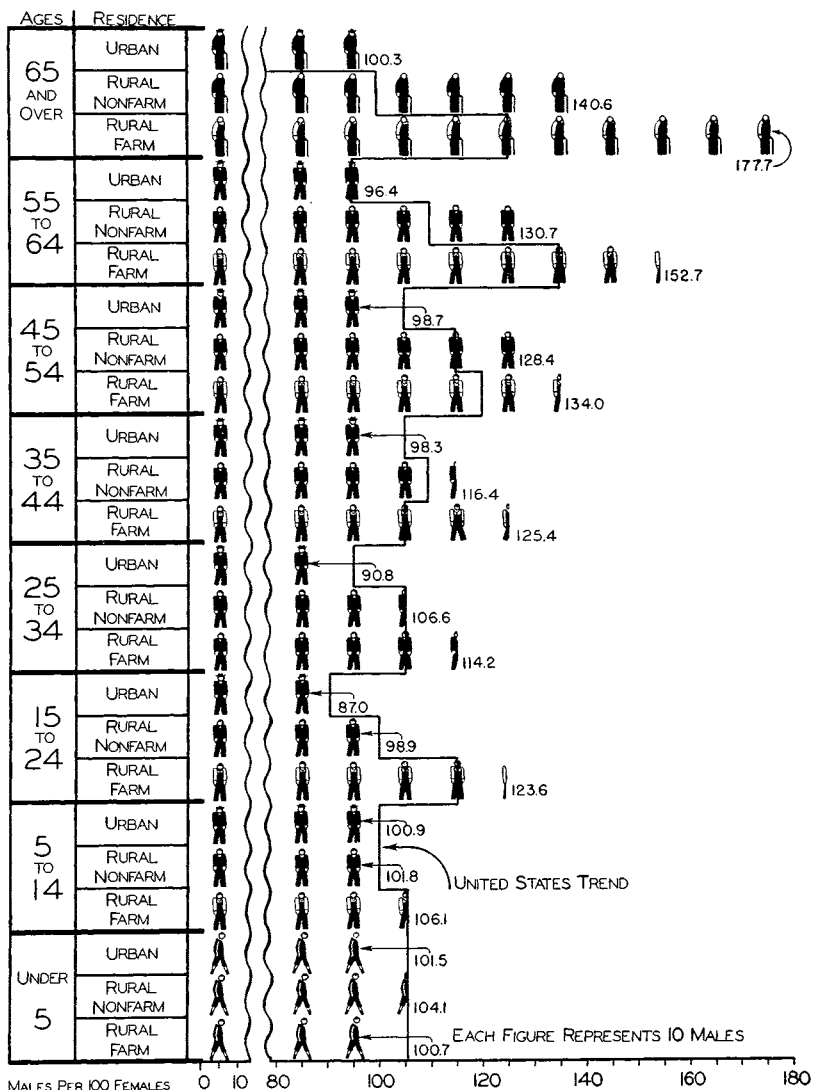


Figure 21.—Males per 100 females in Colorado and the United States by age groups and residence, 1930. In all age groups 5 and above there were more males per 100 females in the rural farm classification than in the rural non-farm or in the urban. The line representing the United States trend shows how Colorado compared with the United States as a whole.

Sex-Age-Residence

The ratio of males to females classified by age and residence in 1930 indicates significant variations. In the younger age groups the ratio remains almost the same. Beginning with the years 15 to 24, there are 123.6 males per 100 females in the rural farm group (fig. 21). There is a slight decrease in the next age group, but thereafter a constant increase is seen until one reaches those persons 65 years of age and over, where there were 177.7 men per 100 women living in rural areas. In urban areas there were fewer than 100 males per 100 females in each age group except among those 65 years of age and older. The sex ratio of the rural non-farm population was midway between the rural farm and urban in every age group after the first. A comparison of the United States trend line with that of Colorado reveals that beginning with the age group 35 to 44 there were more males per 100 females in each residence group in Colorado than in the United States. In some age groups below 35 the United States average exceeded the Colorado average, while in some other groups the situation was reversed.

Summary

Trends reveal that Colorado's population is aging.

The proportion of the population in the younger and productive years is decreasing, and the percentage of people in the older group is increasing.

The age-sex distribution of the State in 1930, classified on a county basis, was not homogeneous. The age-sex distribution in each county may be classified in one of four general types. Forty-seven of the 63 counties, mostly agricultural, were somewhat similar. Each one had an approximately equal sex distribution, a large percentage in the youngest age groups, and declining proportions with increasing age. A second type of counties, part agricultural and part mining, had more males than females, with males in the younger and middle age groups predominating. The third type had a small percentage of children or young folks and more men than women, especially in the early and late middle-age class. The age-sex pyramid of Denver County was a different type than any other. In Denver there was a relatively small proportion of children or young people, there was a large percentage of the group in the productive age category, and there were more females than males, especially in the age groups 15 through 34.

The age-sex pyramid of the native white was different from that of the native whites of foreign or mixed parents, or the foreign-born white. Among the native white there was a large proportion of children. Among the foreign-born there was a very small percentage of children or young people. A larger proportion of persons among the foreign-born was to be found in the middle and old age categories than in either of the other nativity groups. The distribution of the native-born of foreign or mixed parentage was usually between the

extremes of the other two; it approximated that of the native white of native parentage most nearly.

There have always been more men than women in Colorado. The excess of males over females was greatest in 1860; it has gradually approached an equal ratio since then.

The excess of males over females was greater in 1890 than in 1930. The ratio of males to females was greater among the foreign-born white than among the native white or the Negroes. It was greater in Pueblo than in Colorado as a whole, or in Denver or Colorado Springs, for the decades ending in 1890, 1910, and 1930. Colorado had more men per 100 women than did either Denver or Colorado Springs for each of the decades just mentioned.

The variations in the sex ratio of Colorado counties are extreme: In 1930 San Juan had 187.5 men to 100 women compared with El Paso County which had only 92.7 men per 100 women.

The sex ratio varied among nativity groups, persons of different color, and from one city to another.

Migration from rural areas to urban areas is evidenced by the relatively high proportion of the rural population under 19 years of age. In the city there was a relatively small proportion of the total group below 19 years of age and a rather high percentage in the older groups.

Rural-Urban Characteristics¹⁴

Some Implications of Rural-Urban Distribution

The declining proportion of Colorado people who can be classed as farm population raises numerous questions.

Some of the most important concern functions of institutions and types of legislation. The Colorado Experiment Station and the Colorado Extension Service were established to serve farm people. If the farm group continues to decline in proportion to the total population, will there be demands on the part of other residence groups for similar organizations? Perhaps they will request part of the services of the Experiment Station and Extension Service.

If the farm people in Colorado continue to become a smaller percentage of the total population, what will be the legislative effects? Will there be as much interest and consideration given to farm problems? Will the increasing proportion of rural non-farm people, living in villages, compete or cooperate with agricultural interests for governmental appropriations and services? Will the village group become a bargaining bloc and join sides with urban or rural interest, depending upon the possible gains?

Between 1933 and 1936 the proportion of the population on relief was greater among rural non-farm people than among farm

¹⁴Urban population is that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. Rural farm population as classified by the 1930 census included all persons living on farms, regardless of occupation; and as classified by the 1920 census included in addition the farm laborers and their families who, while not living on farms, nevertheless lived in strictly rural territory. Rural non-farm population includes all rural population not classed as rural farm.

groups. Only a small percentage of village laborers enjoy the values of the recent social security legislation. In schools the problems of both the farm and city are given consideration, while little or no effort is made to understand conditions and problems in the village.

Mobility between farms, villages, and cities causes some very difficult problems of social, institutional, and other types of adjustments. Very little is known concerning the effects of migrants from rural areas upon the characteristics and institutions of the city population.¹⁵ What contribution has education to offer toward the solution of these problems? Could legislation be enacted which would help alleviate some of them?

In agricultural counties the presence or absence of urban groups is closely related to the natural resources. As soil fertility and available water increase, the probability of a thriving urban area as a service center for the surrounding open country becomes greater. Under such circumstances farmers need not travel far to obtain adequate medical, library, economic, and other types of services. The absence of adequate centers usually implies difficulties for the farmers in getting needed institutional assistance.

Aspects of Rural-Urban Distribution

The proportion of Colorado's population living on farms declined each decade between 1870 and 1930 with the exception of the 2.1 percent increase reported in 1890 (fig. 22). The percentage living in cities showed a consistent growth from 1870 to 1910. From 1910 to 1930 the proportion remained almost constant. In 1920 and in 1930 the proportion living in villages was nearly twice as great as it was during any of the three previous decades. In 1930 approximately one out of every four persons in Colorado lived on the farm, one resided in the village, and two had homes in the city (fig. 22).

The percentage of Colorado's people living in cities in 1930 was smaller than the average for the United States (fig. 23). Forty-nine and eight-tenths percent of the population of Colorado lived in rural areas as compared with 43.9 percent for the United States. The proportion of Colorado's population living in cities of various sizes was about the same as in the United States. In both Colorado and the United States slightly more than one out of every four persons (27.8 and 29.6 percent, respectively) lived in cities of 100,000 or more. A slightly smaller proportion of Colorado's population lived in cities of 10,000 to 100,000 than was found in the United States.

The distribution of the rural and urban populations by counties was not uniform throughout the State in 1930 (fig. 24 and appendix table 4). Denver County was all urban. Thirty-nine of the 63 counties had no urban population in 1930. Adams County with 16.8 percent urban, and Lake and Pueblo counties with 77.0 percent

¹⁵*The Problems of a Changing Population* (National Resources Committee publication [May 1938]), p. 111.

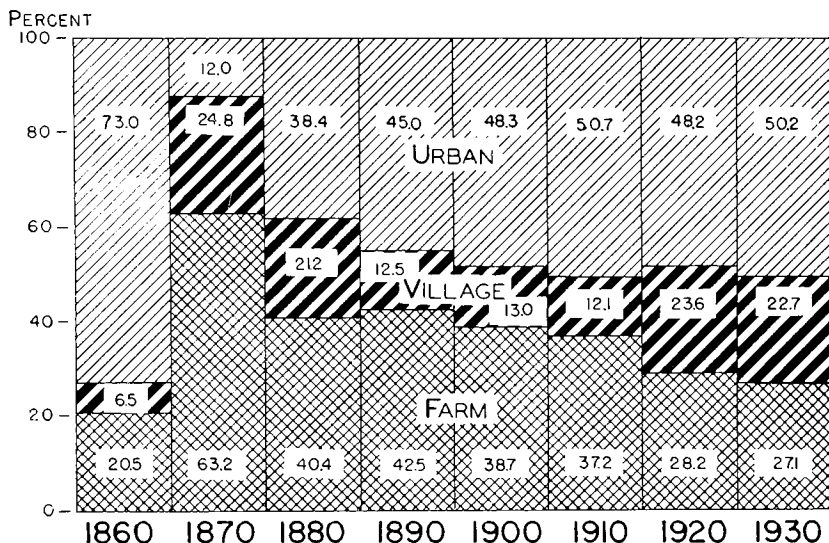


Figure 22.—Percentage distribution of Colorado population by residence, 1860 to 1930. The proportion of Colorado's population living on farms declined each decade between 1870 and 1930 with the exception of the decade ending in 1890. The percentage living in cities showed consistent growth from 1870 to 1910, then remained about constant. In 1920 and in 1930 the proportion living in villages was nearly twice as great as in any of the three previous decades.

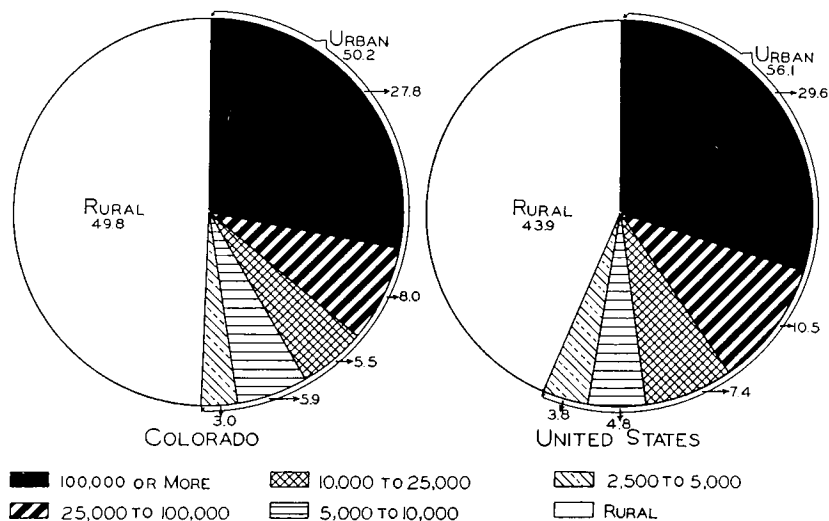


Figure 23.—Proportion of population living in rural areas and in various sized cities, Colorado and United States, 1930. The percentage of Colorado's population living in rural areas in 1930 was greater than the average for the United States. The proportion living in cities of various sizes was slightly smaller than the average for the United States in each size except cities of 5,000 to 10,000. Keys to crosshatch marking refer to size of cities.

and 75.9 percent urban, respectively, had the lowest and highest proportion of urban population in the counties with both types (fig. 24). Forty of the 61 counties in the State in 1910 had no urban population, compared with 41 of the 63 counties in 1920.

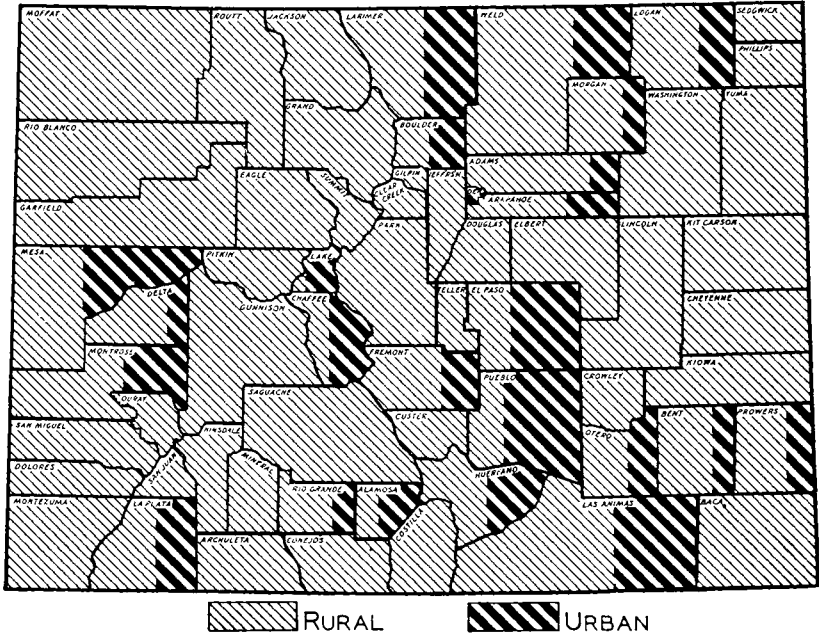


Figure 24.—Percentage distribution of rural-urban population by counties, Colorado, 1930. Thirty-nine of Colorado's 63 counties, as indicated by the crosshatch marking on the map, had no urban population in 1930.

The density of rural farm population varied significantly from one county to another within the State. The number of counties with the varying densities per square mile were as follows: Seventeen counties had less than 1 farm person per square mile; 14 counties ranged between 1.0 and 2.5 persons; 20 counties varied between 2.6 and 5.0 persons; 7 counties had densities between 5.1 and 7.5 persons; and in 3 counties the densities ranged between 7.6 and 10.0 persons per square mile. Boulder County, with 9.2 farm persons per square mile, had the greatest concentration of farm population, while Hinsdale and Mineral Counties with an average of 0.1 person per square mile were lowest in density (fig. 25).

Summary

The proportion of Colorado's population living on the farm decreased each decade from 1890 to 1930. In 1890, 42.5 percent of the people in the State resided on farms, 12.5 percent in villages, and 45.0 percent in cities. By 1930 the proportion living on farms had dropped to 27.1 percent, while those living in villages had increased to 22.7 percent and those in urban areas had risen to 50.2 percent.

related to and caused by foreign culture patterns will probably decrease in the future.

Aspects of Nativity In Colorado Population

Colorado is, and always has been, peopled predominantly by native-born whites. In 1860 only 7.8 percent of the population was foreign-born; this proportion rose to 20.5 percent in 1880 but declined very gradually each decade thereafter; it was 9.6 percent in 1930 (fig. 26). The proportion of the total population in Colorado which was foreign-born was greater than the proportion which was Colorado-born in 1860, 1880, and 1890. For each remaining decade the proportion of native-born Coloradans was greater than the foreign-born. The proportion of the total population which was made up of persons born in Colorado increased each decade between 1860 and 1930 with the exception of 1880, while the percentage of other native-born (persons born elsewhere in the United States) has decreased. In 1860 only 0.1 percent of the persons living in the State were born here, while in 1930 about two out of every five persons (40.5 percent) were native Coloradans. On the other hand, 92.0 percent of the people living in the State in 1860 were born elsewhere in the United States and by 1930 only 49.2 percent could be so classified (fig. 26).

The total number of foreign-born people living in Colorado increased each decade from 1860 to 1910 and decreased thereafter

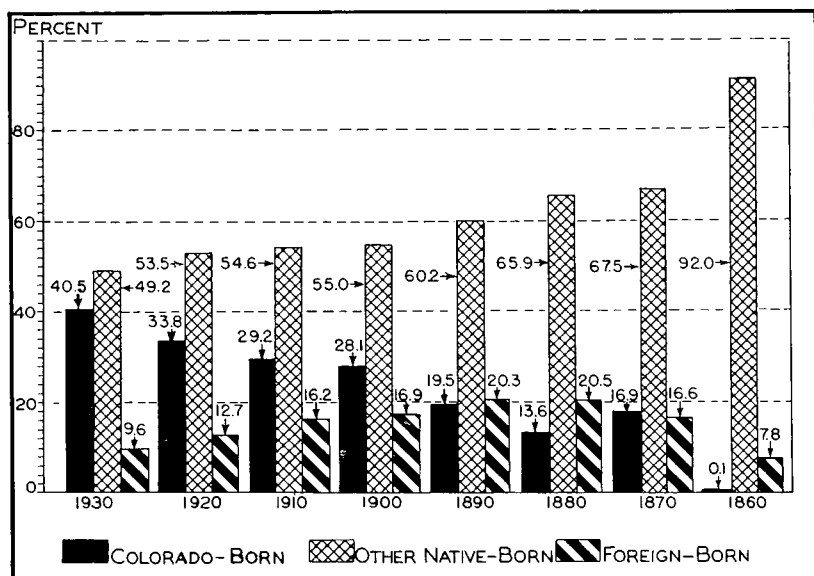


Figure 26.—Nativity of Colorado population, 1860 to 1930. Native-born persons (born in Colorado and elsewhere in the United States) have always made up the largest proportion of Colorado's population. The proportion of Colorado-born increased steadily and substantially, and the proportion of foreign-born decreased steadily, from 1880 to 1930.

(fig. 27). There were 2,666 foreign-born persons living in Colorado in 1860. This number rose to 129,587 persons in 1910, then declined to 99,875 in 1930.

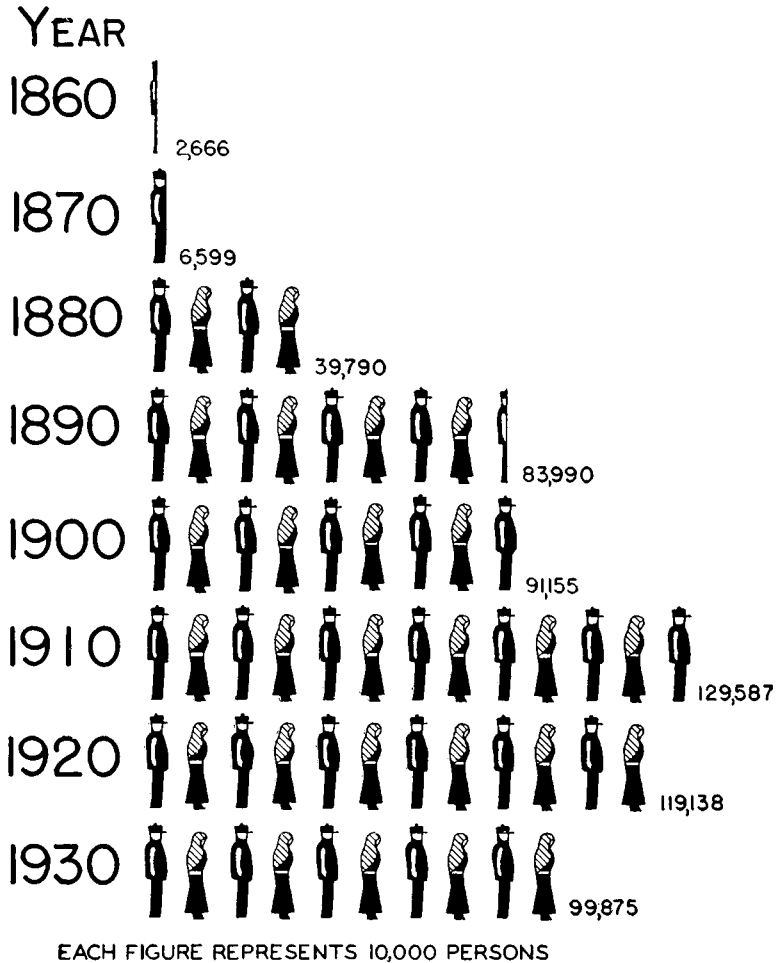


Figure 27.—Number of foreign-born persons living in Colorado, by decade, 1860 to 1930. The number of foreign-born persons living in Colorado increased each decade from 1860 to 1910 and decreased thereafter.

Nativity in Colorado Compared with Rocky Mountain States

Each decade between 1860 and 1930, Colorado had a smaller proportion of its population which was foreign-born than the average for the Rocky Mountain region (fig. 28). For the decades 1860, 1870, and 1880 the proportion of foreign-born in Colorado was much smaller than the average for the Rocky Mountain region; since then, the differences have been small. In 1860, 1920, and 1930 the proportion of foreign-born in the United States was greater than it

was in Colorado; the opposite was true between 1870 and 1910 (fig. 28).

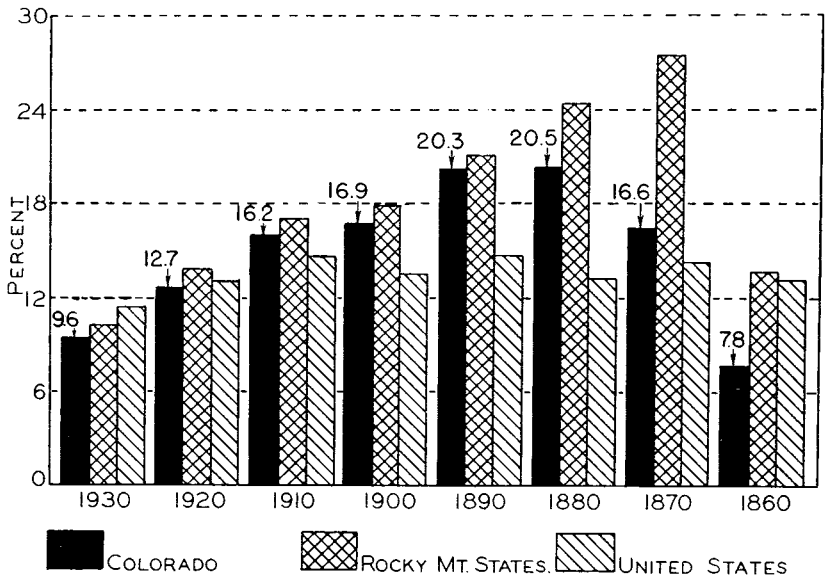
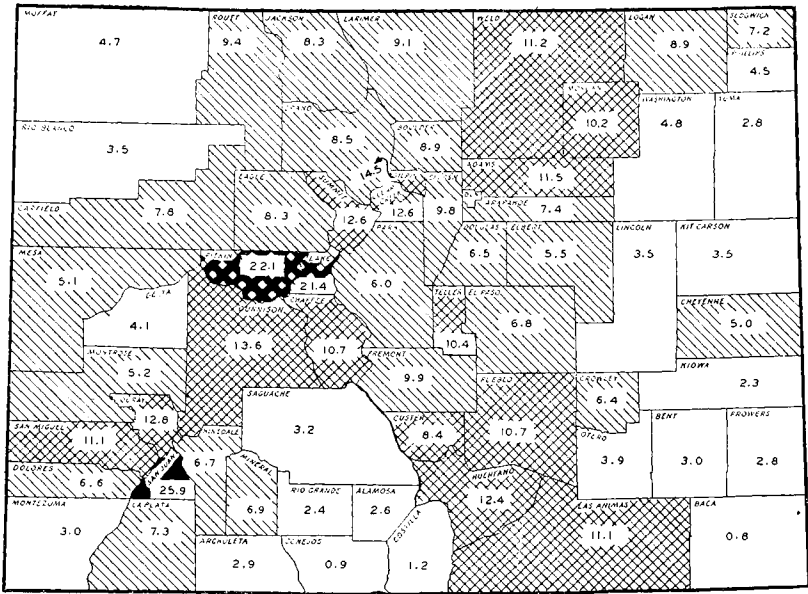


Figure 28.—Percentage foreign born of total population. Colorado, Rocky Mountain States, and United States, 1860 to 1930. The percentage of Colorado's population which was foreign born has always been smaller than that of the Rocky Mountain States, but except for 1860, 1920, and 1930 was larger than that of the United States.

Nativity by Counties

As mentioned earlier, there was a decline between 1890 and 1930 in the proportion of Colorado's population which was foreign-born. This decline was not only true for the State as a whole, but it characterized every county within the State except Huerfano where there was an increase of 5.1 percent (fig. 29). Of the 63 counties in the State in 1930, only 55 were in existence in 1890. During this period most of them experienced a decline of 50 to 80 percent in the proportion of the total population which was foreign-born. The number of counties falling within the given range of change are as follows: In 1 county, Pitkin, the decline in the proportion of the population which was foreign-born was less than 10 percent between 1890 and 1930; during the same period, 3 counties decreased between 20 and 29.9 percent; 4 decreased between 30 and 39.9 percent; 5 decreased between 40 and 49.9 percent; 19 decreased between 50 and 59.9 percent; 11 decreased between 60 and 69.9 percent; 12 decreased between 70 and 79.9 percent; and 4 decreased between 80 and 89.9 percent (fig. 29). The four counties in which the greatest changes occurred were Conejos, Lincoln, Yuma, and Baca. The sugar-beet and mining areas in the State still had the largest proportion of foreign-born people in 1930.

1930



1890

DENVER 11.4

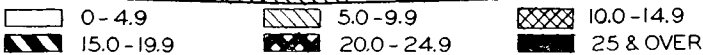
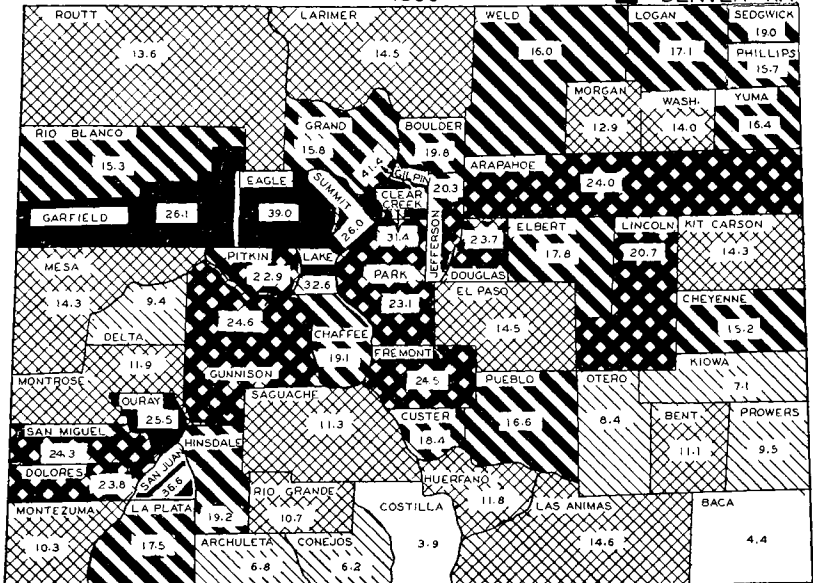


Figure 29.—Percentage foreign born of total white population, by counties, 1890 and 1930. The decline between 1890 and 1930 in the proportion of Colorado's population which was foreign born characterized every county but Huerfano. Keys to crosshatch marking refer to percent of population foreign born.

Nativity by Residence

The nativity of Colorado's population, classified by rural and urban residence, did not change significantly during the first 30 years of the twentieth century (fig. 30). The changes which occurred within the State were distributed rather evenly in both rural and urban areas. During each decade the proportion of native white

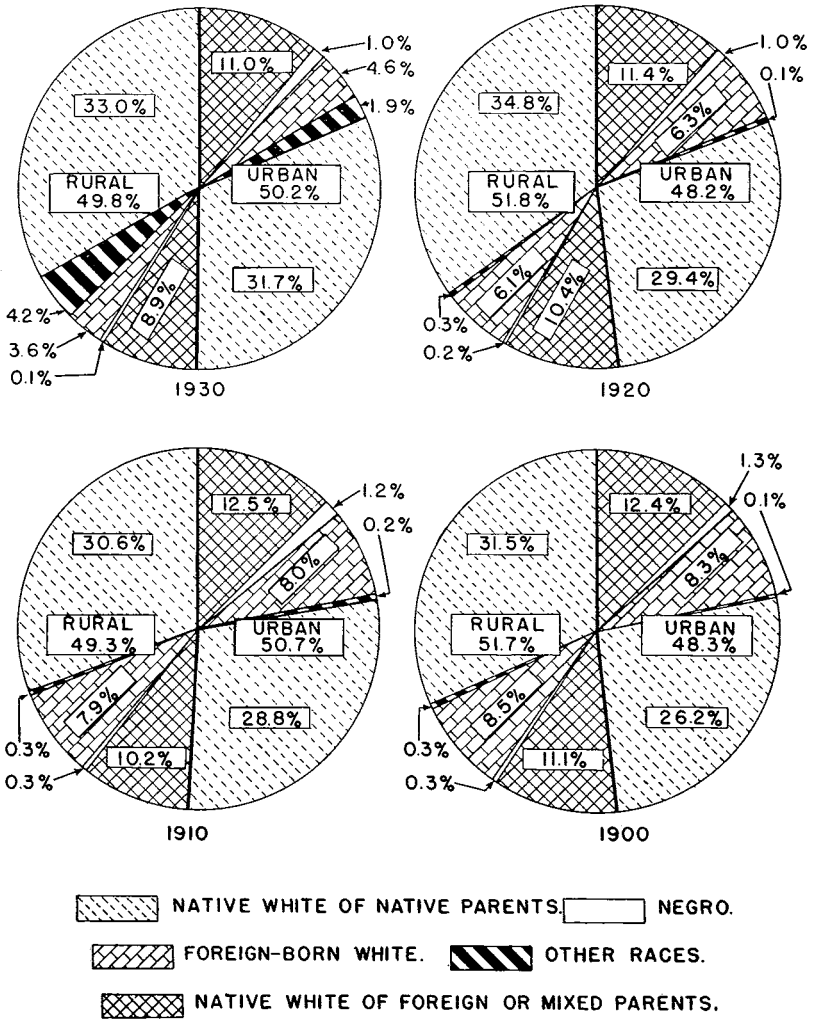


Figure 30.—Percentage distribution of Colorado population by color, nativity, parentage, and residence, 1900 to 1930. During each decade the proportion of native white living in the country was higher than in the city. The opposite was true of the native white of foreign or mixed parentage. Changes which occurred were small and were distributed rather evenly in both rural and urban areas.

people living in the country was higher than in the city. Over the same period there was a preponderance of native white of foreign or mixed parents living in urban areas. About the same proportion of foreign-born white were to be found in the city as in the country.

The proportion of Negroes living in the city has been slightly higher than in the country, while the percentage of other races has been largest in the country. The proportion of the total population listed as other races, distributed by residence, remained almost constant between 1900 and 1920 but increased greatly, particularly in rural areas, between 1920 and 1930 (fig. 30).

Summary

At only one time in Colorado's history (in 1880) has there been as many as one out of five persons in the State who was foreign-born. Since then the ratio has decreased. In 1930 less than 1 in 10 was born on foreign soil. The percentage of Colorado's population born within the State has increased each decade and other native-born have gradually decreased.

Since 1860 the percent of the total population of Colorado which has been foreign-born has been smaller than the average for the Rocky Mountain area. Until 1920 the proportion of Colorado's population which was foreign-born was larger than for the United States.

On the average there was a slightly higher percentage of native white people in rural areas than in urban areas in Colorado in 1930. The opposite was true for foreign-born white.

Nationalities and Racial Groups

Some Implications of Nationality and Race

A study of the foreign-born people who settled in Colorado during the early years of statehood reveals that most of them came from the countries of northern Europe. These people have been considered the most desirable immigrants in the nation. However, during the second and third decade of the twentieth century the flow of immigrants shifted from northern Europe to southern Europe and Mexico and with the result that some aspects of a racial problem have developed in the State. An alien background, a lack of education, and the handicap of a foreign tongue have been factors which have contributed to the development of a system of caste and class in Colorado. Native whites or foreign-born whites from northern Europe generally refuse to associate with the Mexican immigrants or to ascribe to them equal social status. In some counties of Colorado there is considerable agitation for a dual school system, one for Mexicans, another for whites. An item which lends to the complexity of the problem is the fact that the birth rate among the Mexicans is more than twice as great as among the Americans and

it is much larger than is necessary to maintain a stable population.¹⁶ There are no immediate prospects that the Mexicans will be assimilated by the native or foreign-born whites. The present attitudes and culture patterns of the latter indicate continued social discrimination, and perhaps other types of discrimination, against the Mexicans, with appalling economic, social, and moral costs.

The increase of Mexican people in Colorado presents a challenge to the State. Any intolerance which Coloradans may show toward the cultural differences of the Mexicans may damage the self-respect of these people and conflict with the family loyalties and ideals by which they live. In communities where law and order prevail, the lives of the people are governed by ideals, attitudes, loyalties, and tradition. It is easy for the American to scoff or hold in ridicule the standards which govern the lives of the Mexicans or any other ethnic group, but it should be realized that it is much easier to destroy the ideals of these people than it is to build new ones for them. A person without ideals is like a traveler without a compass to give direction to his activity or a brake to give control.

The German-Russians as an ethnic group have been very insistent upon maintaining their own mode of life even in an American setting. There is evidence, however, that education and increased facilities for communication and contact with the dominant culture in Colorado will facilitate the assimilation of these people.

There is but little evidence to indicate that any of the other racial groups will constitute a problem for Colorado in the near future. A few Negroes, Chinese, Japanese, and other racial groups have resided in the State for some time, but they have not increased rapidly, and little conflict has arisen between them and the Americans within the State.

If the United States continues its present restriction of immigration, problems related to the assimilation and Americanization of the foreign-born will probably be fewer in the future in Colorado than they are at present.

Aspects of Nationality And Race Distribution

Numerically, the Germans were the largest foreign-born nationality group in Colorado for the half century 1880-1930 (fig. 31 and appendix table 5). The English were the second most numerous foreign-born element and the Swedish were third. Each of these was among the six ranking foreign-born nationalities for each decade between 1880 and 1930. English immigrants were most numerous in 1880 with 8,797 persons. The Germans took the lead in 1890, 1900, and 1910 with 15,151 persons for the first decade, 14,606 persons for the second, and 16,908 persons for the third. English immigrants were second in 1890 and 1900 with

¹⁶The birth rate indicated here is based upon a Colorado Experiment Station study of 470 families of sugar beet laborers in 1939. Data are to be published later.

14,406 and 13,575 persons, respectively. The Italians were the second ranking group in 1910 with 14,375 persons and the English were third at this time with 12,928 people. Russian immigrants (German-Russian) were the most numerous foreign-born group in 1920, numbering 16,669 people. Italians with 12,580 ranked next, and Germans, numbering 11,992, were third. Mexican immigrants totaling 13,144 outranked any other foreign-born group in 1930, Russians

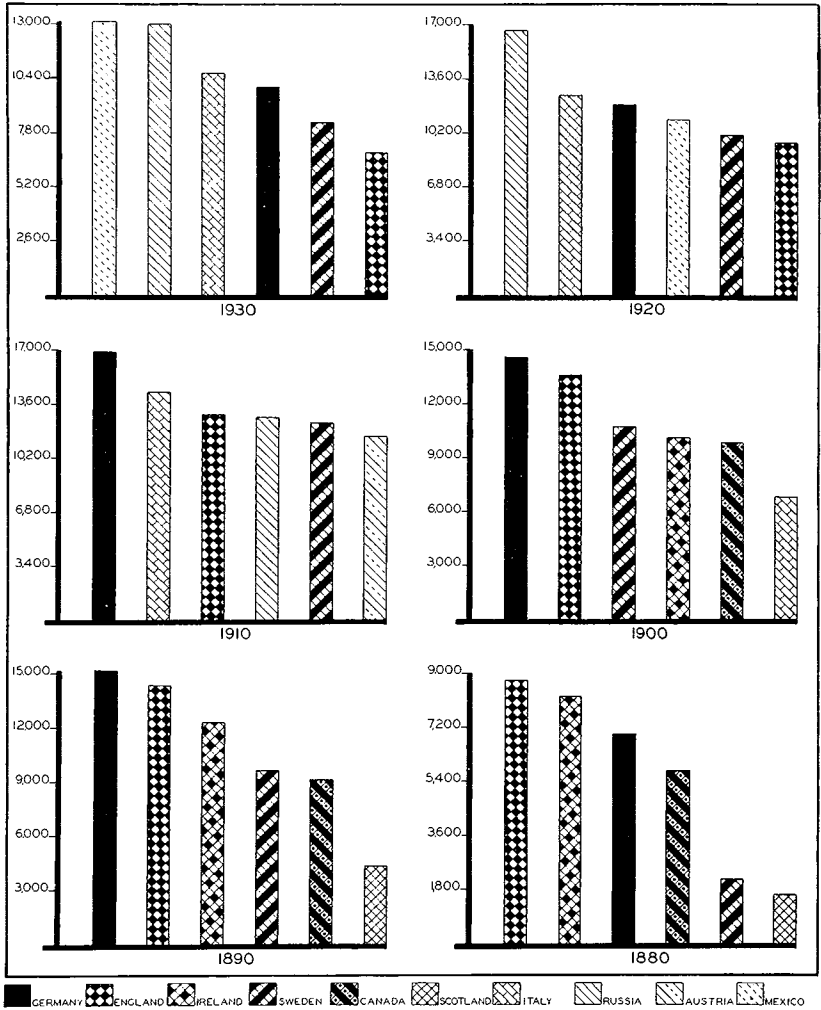


Figure 31.—Ranking nationalities in Colorado foreign-born population, 1880 to 1930. Mexicans, not among the first six foreign-born nationalities until 1920, ranked first in number in 1930. Russians, coming into the first six in 1910, were the most numerous foreign-born group in 1920 and were second in 1930. Germans, first in 1890, 1900, and 1910, dropped to fourth in 1930.

with 12,979 were next, and Italians, accounting for 10,670, were third.

The relative importance of the various nationalities at different decades seems significant. The Irish, the Canadians, and the Scotchmen were numerically among the most important foreign-born nationality groups living in Colorado during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. During this time the Mexicans and Italians were relatively few; the Italians, however, ranked as one of the six most numerous foreign-born nationality groups in 1900 and each decade thereafter. The Mexican did not rank as one of the six most important nationality groups until 1920, at which time they were fourth. Ten years later they outnumbered any other nationality.

Figures 32 and 32 (cont'd) show the distribution of the eight major nationalities as of 1930 (foreign-born and native white of foreign or mixed parentage) by counties. A clustering of groups is very evident in a number of cases.¹⁷ In 1930, the British and Germans were distributed quite evenly throughout the State (fig. 32 and appendix table 6). The Swedish, Danish, and Norwegians were especially concentrated in the central and north central sections. Most of the German-Russians were in the sugar beet producing sections. The Canadians were scattered throughout the State, while the Slavs were found most frequently in the mining and steel mill areas as well as in the northern irrigated section. A large majority of the Italians were located in the Denver metropolitan area and in the mining areas.

Racial Distribution in Colorado and Rocky Mountain States

In 1930 more than 9 out of every 10 persons (92.8 percent) in Colorado were white.¹⁸ Mexicans accounted for 5.5 percent, Negroes 1.1 percent, other 0.3 percent, and Indian 0.1 percent (fig. 33).¹⁹

The racial distribution differed a great deal among the various Rocky Mountain States in 1930. In Arizona, for example, about one out of every four persons was a Mexican (26.2 percent) while in New Mexico there was nearly one out of seven (13.9 percent). One person out of 10 in Arizona was an Indian compared with nearly 1 out of 14 in New Mexico. None of the states had a very high percentage of Negroes, but Arizona was highest with 2.5 percent. Utah and Idaho had a lower percentage of Mexicans, Negroes, and Indians than any other state in the region.

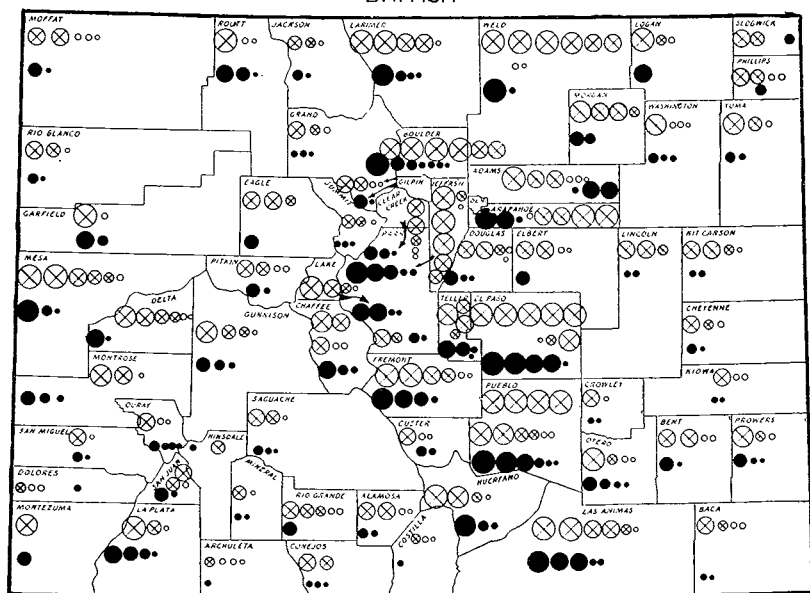
There is no immediate prospect of Colorado being peopled by any of the other minor races in the State. Persons belonging to the Japanese and Filipino races showed some increase during recent

¹⁷Such interpretations are made in the light of the total population distribution.

¹⁸It is necessary in this study to use the term white, Mexicans, Negroes, etc., as it is used in the census. See 15th U. S. Census, Vol. 2, p. 35.

¹⁹Other races not shown on this graph include Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and all others not specified. In no state in the Rocky Mountain area do they constitute as much as 1.0 percent of the population.

BRITISH



⊗ 14,706 } DENVER
● 3,969

GERMANS

⊗ 20,896 } DENVER
● 6,412

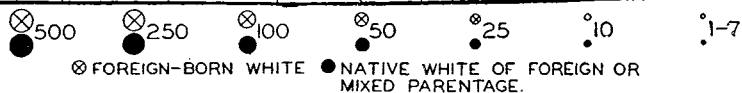
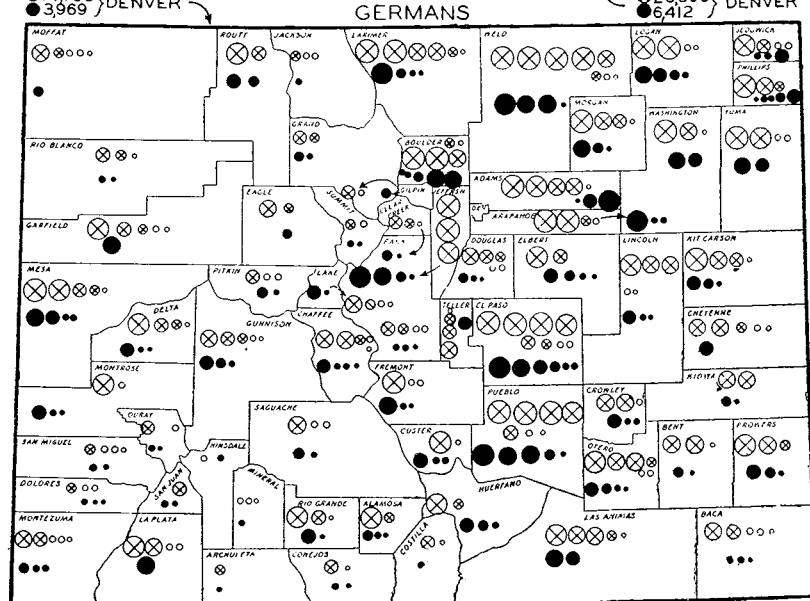
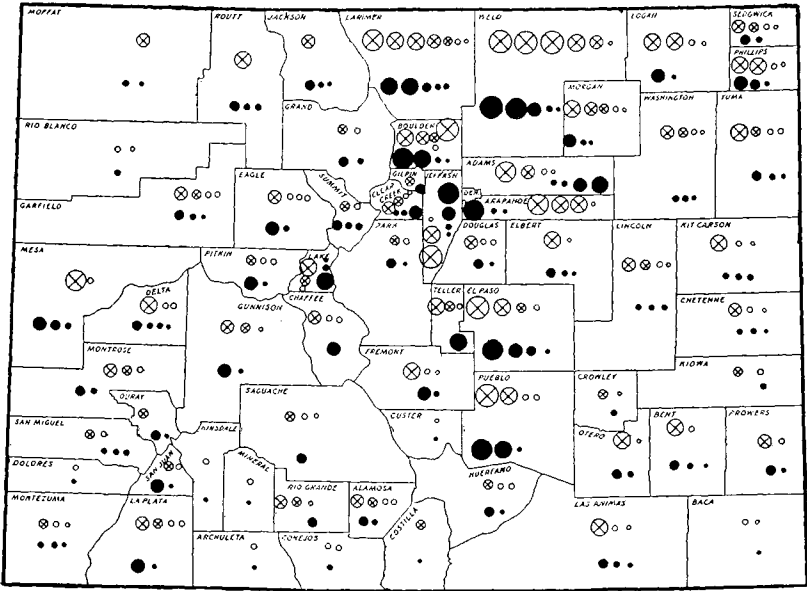


Figure 32.—Distribution of British and Germans by counties, 1930. The British and Germans were distributed quite evenly throughout the State.

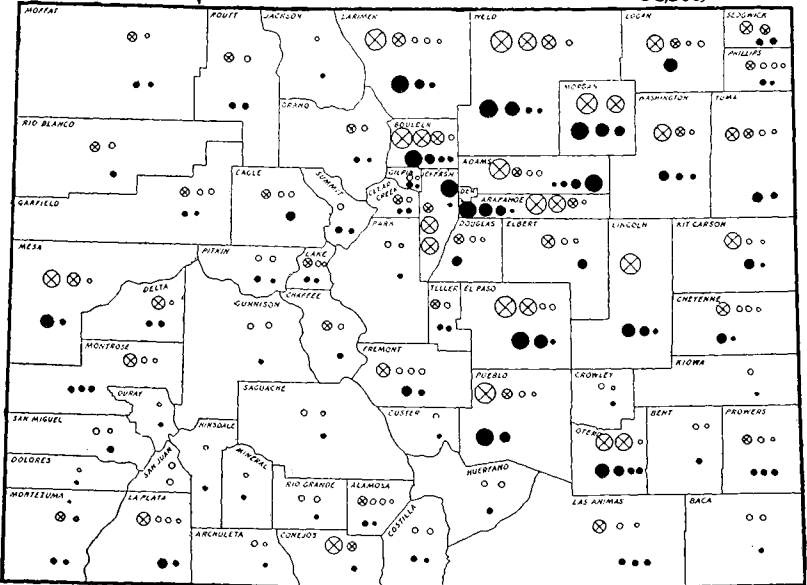
SWEDISH



⊗ 2,651 } DENVER
● 1,297

DANISH & NORWEGIAN

⊗ 5,929 } DENVER
● 3,500



⊗ 500 ⊗ 250 ⊗ 100 ⊗ 50 ⊗ 25 ○ 10 ○ 1-7

⊗ FOREIGN-BORN WHITE. ● NATIVE WHITE OF FOREIGN OR MIXED PARENTAGE.

Figure 32 (cont'd.).—Distribution of Swedish and Danish and Norwegian by counties, 1930. The Swedish and Danish and Norwegian were concentrated in the central and north-central sections of the State.

GERMAN-RUSSIANS

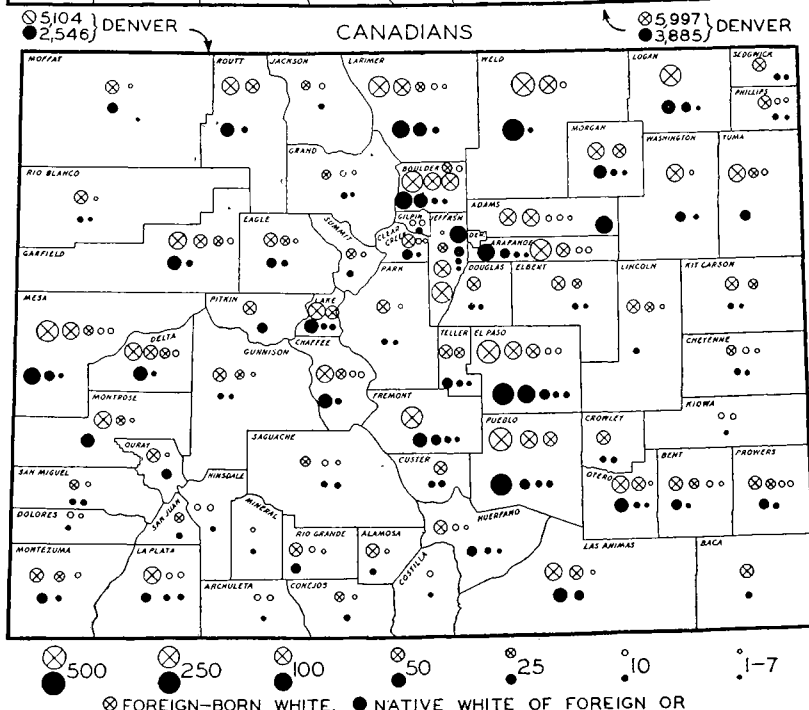
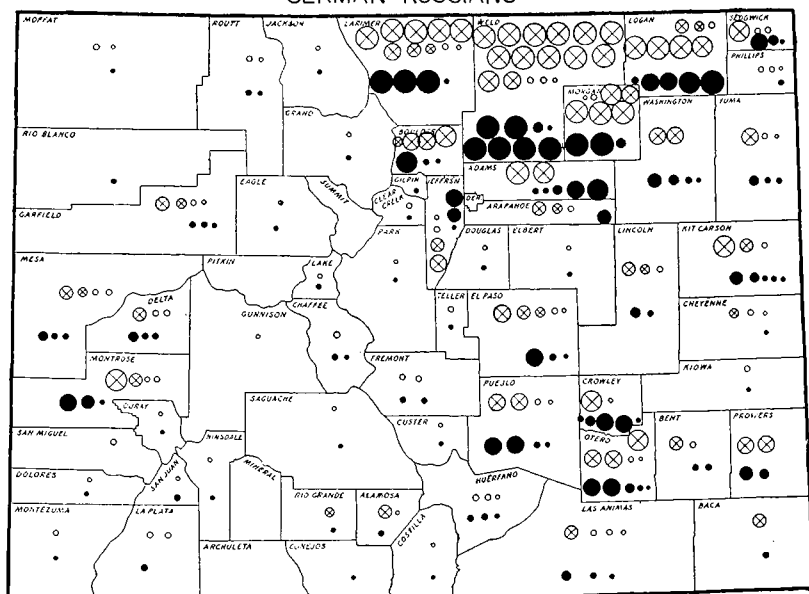
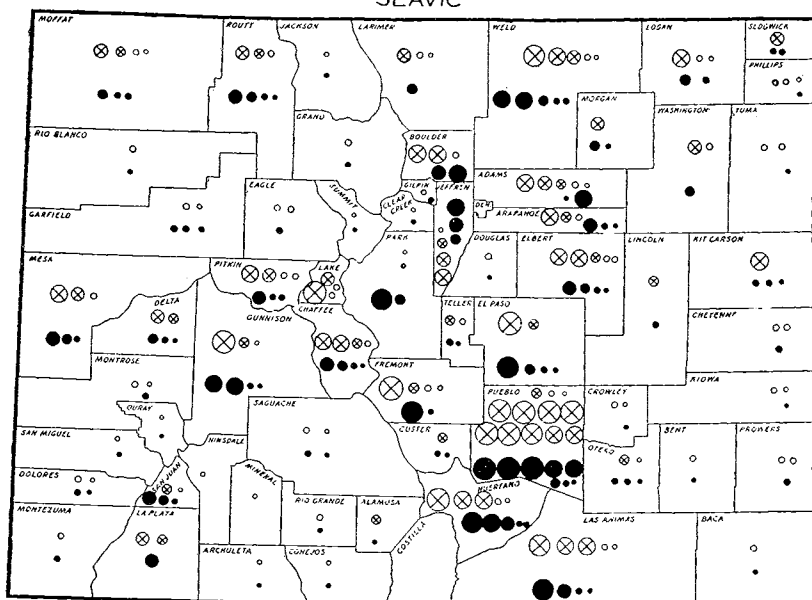
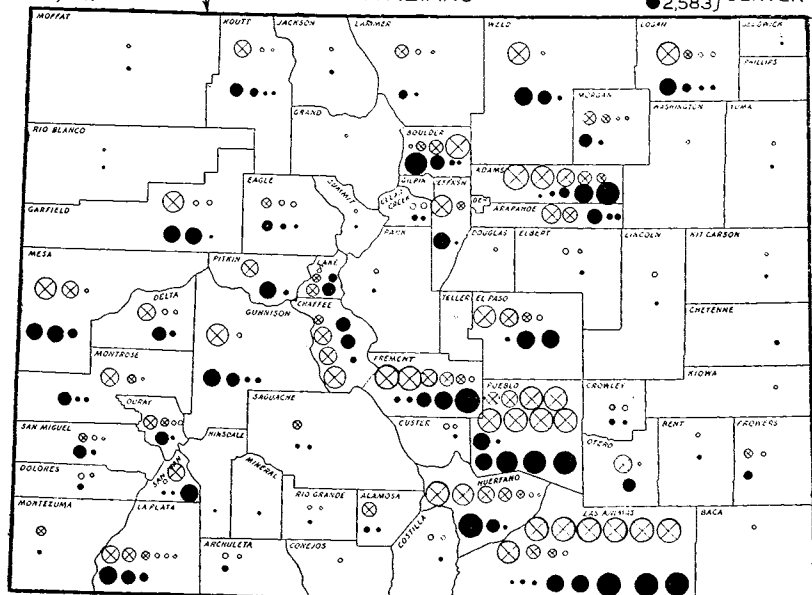


Figure 32 (cont'd.).—Distribution of the German-Russians and Canadians by counties, 1930. Most of the German-Russians were in the sugar beet producing sections of the State. The Canadians were scattered.

SLAVIC



ITALIANS



⊗ FOREIGN-BORN WHITE ● NATIVE WHITE OF FOREIGN OR MIXED PARENTAGE.

Figure 32 (cont'd.).—Distribution of Slavs and Italians by counties, 1930. The Slavs were found most frequently in the mining and steel mill areas as well as in the northern irrigated section. The Italians were located in the Denver metropolitan area and in the mining areas.

decades, but their numbers are still relatively small (fig. 34). The census of 1920 showed 2,300 Japanese persons in the State; 20 years later there were 3,213. No Filipinos were recorded in 1910, only 47 in 1920, and 250 in 1930. The Indians showed a slight decrease in total numbers between 1910 and 1930, while the Chinese declined about one-third over the same period.

The proportion of Colorado's population classified as white decreased 4.8 percent between 1910 and 1930. Mexicans constituted 0.4 percent of the total population in Colorado in 1910 and 5.6

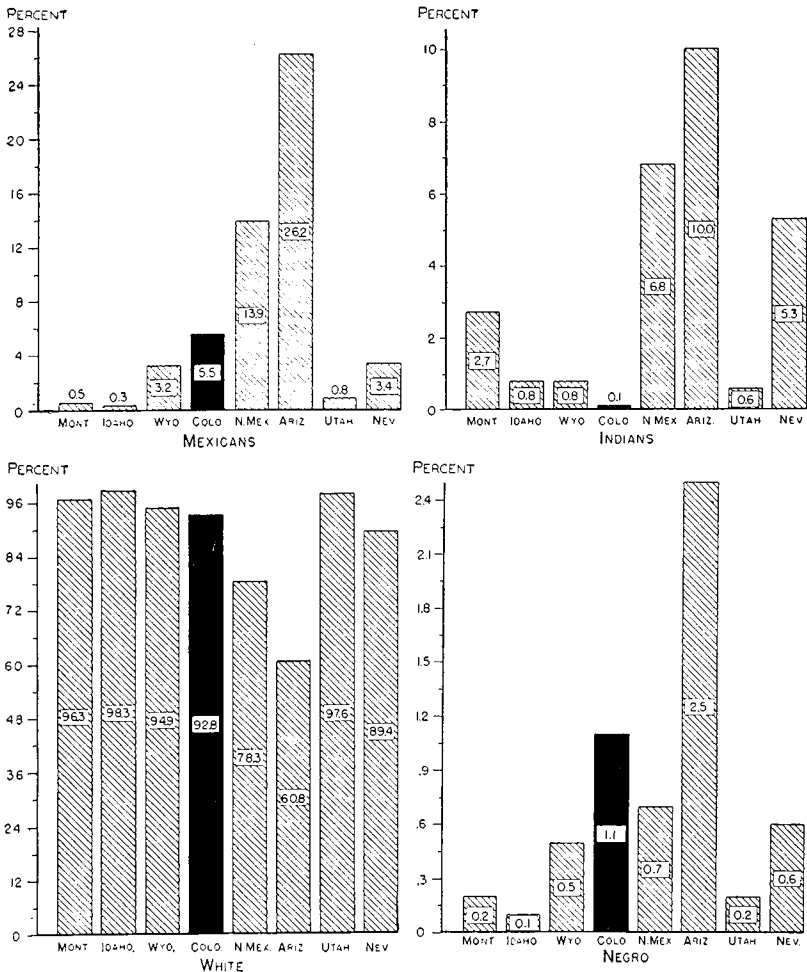


Figure 33.—Percentage distribution by race and color, Colorado and Rocky Mountain States, 1930. Racial distribution differed a great deal among the various Rocky Mountain States. Colorado did not have the largest percentage of any one race.

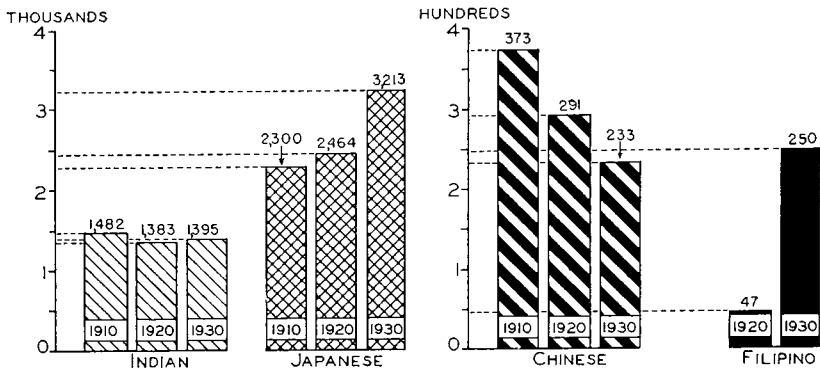


Figure 34.—Population of minor races in Colorado, 1910 to 1930. There is no immediate prospect of Colorado being peopled by any of the minor races whose increase or decrease is illustrated here.

percent in 1930 (fig. 35). The percentage of the State's population classified as Negro actually declined slightly during the period indicated, while all other groups combined remained almost constant.

The numerical increase of the Mexicans between 1910 and 1930, as well as the changes in their nativity, are shown in figure 36. There were 3,269 Mexicans in Colorado in 1910 and 57,676 in 1930, an increase of 1,664.3 percent.

The nativity of the Mexicans in Colorado changed materially over the period. The censuses of 1910 and 1920 showed that about three out of four Mexicans (76.4 percent and 74.6 percent) were foreign born, while in 1930 the situation had reversed to where slightly more than three out of four persons listed by the census as Mexicans were natives of the United States (fig. 36).

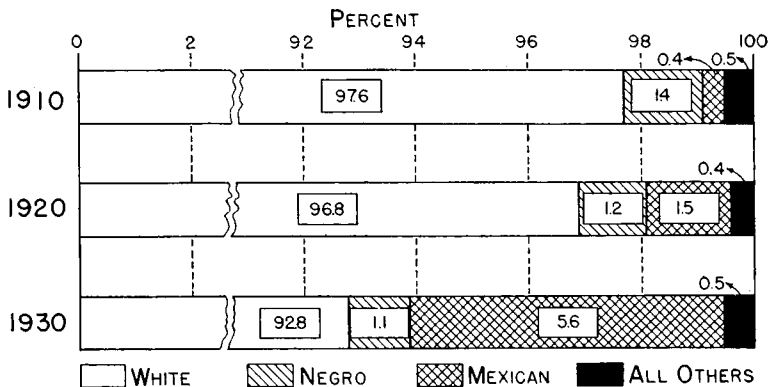


Figure 35.—Percentage changes in the racial distribution of Colorado, 1910 to 1930. The proportion of whites and the proportion of Negroes decreased between 1910 and 1930, the proportion of Mexicans made a large increase, and all other groups combined remained almost constant.

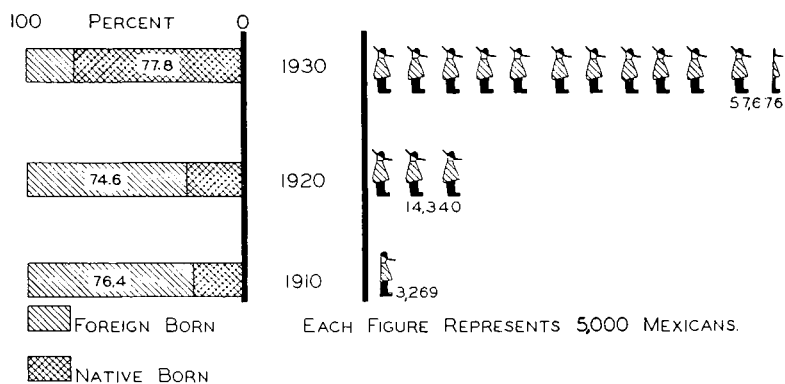


Figure 36.—Numerical increase and changes in the nativity of Colorado's Mexican population, 1910 to 1930. Of the 57,676 Mexicans in Colorado in 1930, 77.8 percent were born in the United States, while of the 3,269 in Colorado in 1910, 76.4 percent were foreign born. The increase in number of Mexicans in the State between 1910 and 1930 represents an increase of 1,664.3 percent.

Summary

Until the beginning of the twentieth century, persons from northern Europe (Germans, English, and Swedish) were the most numerous foreign-born persons in Colorado. Since 1900 the German-Russians, Italians, and Mexicans have been numerically the largest foreign-born groups. Nationalities have tended to congregate in certain sections of the State.

In 1930, Colorado's population was more homogeneous than that in some states in the Rocky Mountain region and less homogeneous than that in others. Three states had a smaller proportion of total population classed as white than did Colorado. Colorado ranked third in percentage of Mexicans, second in percentage of Negroes, and lowest in proportion of Indians.

Arizona and New Mexico had the most heterogeneous racial population, while those of Idaho and Utah were the most homogeneous.

Mexicans are the only large racial group in Colorado which is increasing more rapidly than the whites.

The Family

Some Implications Concerning the Family

Some aspects of the variations, as well as the decline, in the average size of family have been considered earlier. The decrease is undoubtedly related to a number of factors, such as a decrease in the proportion of the total population which is rural, changes in the philosophy of life, emancipation of the woman, development of new values, and other interests and demands. The variations in fertility ratio between rural and urban areas may be reflected

tions of the differences just mentioned or they may be due to differences in a knowledge of birth control.

There are a number of problems related to the differences in sizes of families. Numerous studies have shown rather conclusively that the largest families are found among persons in the lower income levels. Because of the relationship between economic status and other factors it has been concluded that . . . "at present, families in the occupational groups characterized by superior education and enlarged opportunities have on the average fewer children than families handicapped by meager education and limited economic and cultural resources. A negative relationship between level of cultural-intellectual development and reproduction may operate as an imperceptible drag on cultural advance. This drag can be offset by ameliorative social action, extensive provisions for public education and the stimulating impact of technological advance. But no civilization can be stable or progressive over a long period unless it is able to establish a positive relation between reproduction and health, culture and social ideals . . . It is hardly necessary to argue the fact that poverty means handicapped child development. Present differential birth rates subject a disproportionately large number of children in each generation to the blighting effects of poverty. Furthermore, the larger average number of children born to poor parents places an unequal share of the economic burden of replacing the nation's population on the very families that are least able to bear this special responsibility."²⁰

The trends in the proportion of married males and married females between 1890 and 1900 are contrary to expectation. One would anticipate that when there are more males than females in society and the proportion of single males exceeds the proportion of single females, the marriage rate among the females would increase. That this is not the case is seen in figure 43. One partial explanation of the situation is that in any society the proportion of females who possess the attributes and characteristics which lead to marriage remains almost constant and the ratio of marriageable males to females makes little difference in the proportion of females who actually get married.

The increase in percentage of divorced persons, both males and females, reveals a change in the moral code and a lessening of the religious taboos and inhibitions.

Classification by residence shows numerous differences in the marital status of persons 15 years of age and over. The low percentage of single females on the farm confirms the old adage to the effect that there is little use for unmarried females on the farm. The larger proportion of unmarried girls in the city is an index of the opportunities which the city affords them. The large percentage of

²⁰*The Problems of a Changing Population* (National Resources Committee publication [May 1938]), pp. 11-12.

widowed females in the city likewise suggests where the opportunities are available.

That divorce is more tolerated in the city than in the country is shown by the relative proportion of persons who are divorced in each area. Rural people, on the whole, seem to look with more disfavor on divorce. Divorce and the actions of one who is divorced are frequently "juicy" gossip in rural areas, whereas but few know or care about it in the city.

The Family In Colorado

The average Colorado family was smaller in 1930 than it was at any previous decade during the history of the State (fig. 37). The average size was 4.3 persons per family in 1870; it grew to 4.7 persons in 1880, and reached the maximum size of 4.9 persons in 1890. Thereafter it declined gradually until 1930 when it was 3.6 persons.

There were more two-person families in Colorado in 1930 than any other size; approximately one out of every four families (25.2 percent) were so classified (fig. 38). Three-, four-, and one-person families, in order named, were the next most numerous groups. There was a larger proportion of one- and two-person families in Colorado than in the United States. Eight and nine-tenths percent of Colorado's families have seven or more persons, compared to 10.9 percent for the United States as a whole.

There were approximately as many people living in medium-sized families in 1930 as there were in 1890 (fig. 39). In 1890, 49.1 percent of the population belonged to families averaging four to seven members, while four decades later 48.5 percent of the people

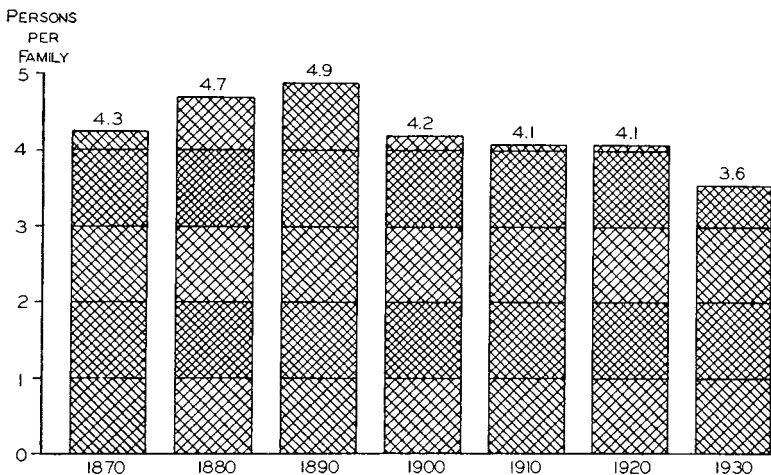


Figure 37.—Average size of family in Colorado by decade, 1870 to 1930. The average Colorado family was smaller in 1930 than at any previous decade in the history of the State.

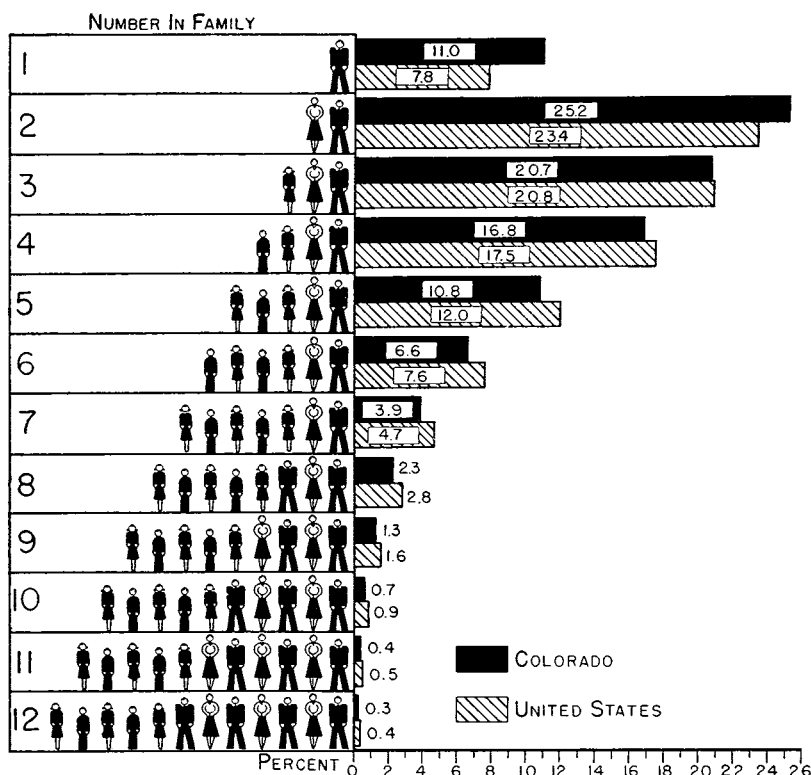


Figure 38.—Percentage distribution of families by size, Colorado and United States, 1930. Colorado had a larger percentage of one- and two-person families than did the United States, while the United States percentages were greater in all other family sizes.

belonged to families of this size. However, there were nearly twice as many people belonging to small families (one to three persons) in 1930 as there were in 1890, while the reverse was true for large families (eight persons and over). Seventeen and five-tenths percent of the population belonged to small families in 1890 compared with 31.9 percent in 1930. One out of three persons (33.4 percent) came from families of eight or more in 1890, compared with one out of five in 1930.

Fertility

The number of children under 5 years of age per 100 women 20 to 44 years of age is one of the best indexes of fertility that is available. Using such a measure it is evident that the fertility rate for Colorado and the United States declined between 1910 and 1930 (fig. 40). In 1910 there were 53.3 children under 5 years per 100

women 20 to 44 years of age in Colorado. This compared with 50.3 children 20 years later.

The fertility of the average urban woman in 1930 was only slightly over half that of the rural woman (36.7 compared with 68.0 children per 100 females). Between 1910 and 1930 the fertility of the average urban female in Colorado decreased less than one-third as much as that of the average rural female (1.7 in contrast to 6.1 children). Comparisons made on the State level for either rural or urban women or for the total of the State show that the decline in the fertility of the average woman of the United States between 1910 and 1930 was more consistent than that which occurred in Colorado.

Size of Family by Residence and County

An examination of figure 41 reveals that the average rural farm family is larger than the rural non-farm or the city family. The average size of the rural farm family in 1930 was 4.3 persons compared with 3.8 persons for the rural non-farm and 3.7 persons for the urban.

There is considerable variation in the counties between the average rural non-farm family and the rural farm family. This is clearly shown by figure 42. Two counties in the State (Denver and San Juan) did not have any rural farm people listed in 1930. In 57

FAMILY SIZE

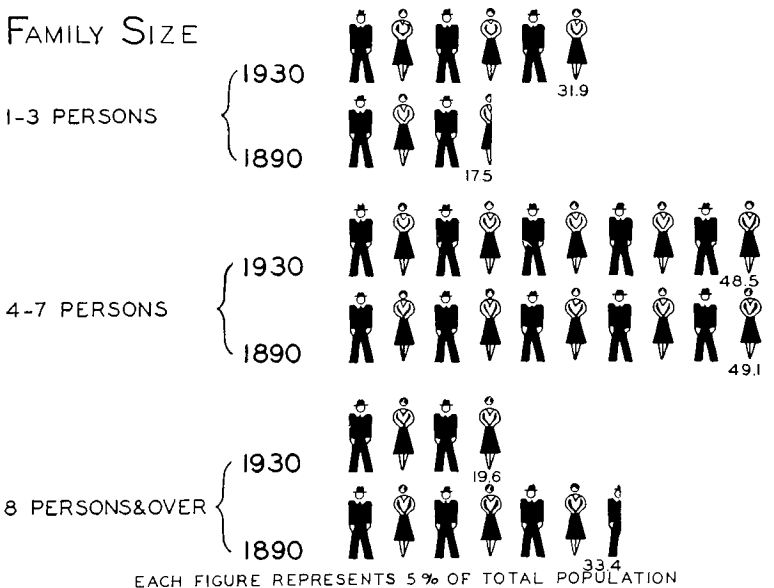


Figure 39.—Proportion of Colorado population in various sizes of families, 1890 and 1930. The percent of Colorado's population in families of 4 to 7 persons was almost the same in 1930 as in 1890, but the proportion in smaller families had increased in 1930 and the promotion in larger families had decreased.

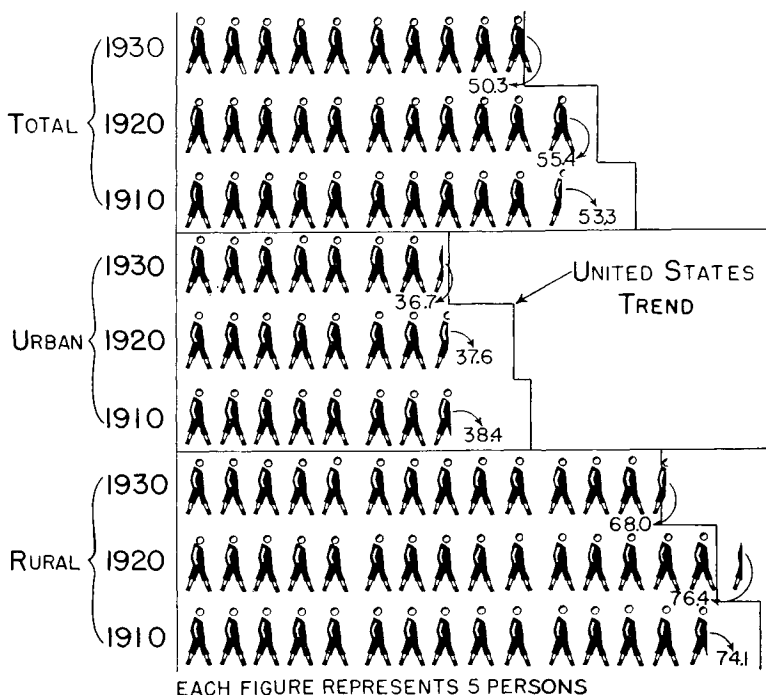


Figure 40.—Number of children under 5 years of age per 100 women 20 to 44 years, by residence, Colorado and United States, 1910 to 1930. The fertility rate for both rural and urban women declined in both Colorado (represented by figures) and the United States (vertical line) between 1910 and 1930. Although the rate declined more sharply among Colorado rural women than among Colorado urban women, the rural women in 1930 were still having almost twice as many children as the urban women.

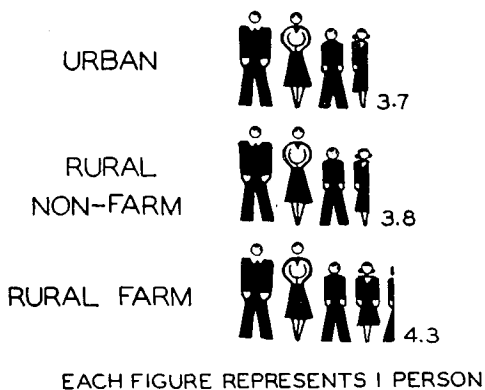
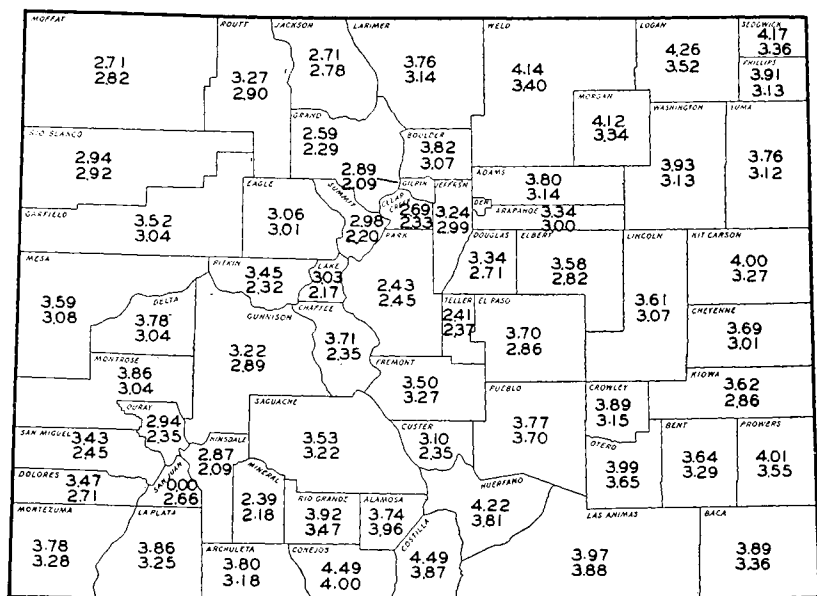


Figure 41.—Size of family by residence, Colorado, 1930. The average size of rural farm family was 4.3 persons compared with 3.8 persons for the rural non-farm family and 3.7 persons for the urban family.



FIGURES: RURAL FARM, TOP NON-FARM, BOTTOM

Figure 42.—Median size of rural farm and rural non-farm families by counties, Colorado, 1930. Sedgwick County, with an average of 4.17 persons per rural farm family and 3.36 persons per rural non-farm family, had the greatest variation within a county.

of the remaining 61 counties rural farm families were larger than the rural non-farm, and in four counties (Alamosa, Jackson, Moffat, and Park) the non-farm family was slightly larger than the farm family. Sedgwick County, with an average of 4.17 persons per rural farm family and 3.36 persons per rural non-farm family, had the greatest variation within a county.

There were a number of differences among counties and also among various sections of the State. Generally speaking, the average rural farm family and rural non-farm family was smaller in the mountain regions than in other regions. The largest families were found in counties which have a relatively large proportion of irrigated land.

Marital Status

A number of changes occurred in the marital status of Colorado's population over 15 years of age during the 40-year period which ended in 1930 (fig. 43). The changes were greatest among the males. In 1890 only 40.7 percent of the males were married, while in 1930, 60.0 percent were married. In other words, two out of five males over 15 years of age were married in 1890, compared with three out of five 40 years later. Other major changes

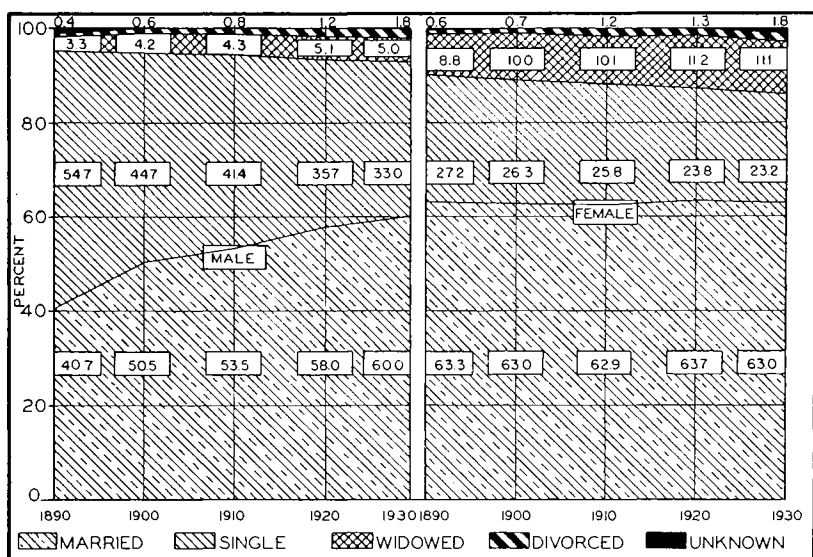


Figure 43.—Trends in marital status of persons 15 years and over by sex, Colorado, 1890 to 1930. Among the males the percentage of those married increased, as did the percentage divorced and the percentage widowed. Among the females, the percentage of those married remained almost constant, the percentage of those who were single decreased, and the percentage divorced and the percentage widowed increased.

which occurred among males during the period studied were as follows: At the earliest date 54.7 percent were single; by 1930 the proportion had dropped to 33.0 percent. The proportion of males who were widowed increased from 3.3 percent in 1890 to 5.0 percent in 1930, while the proportion of divorced persons rose from 0.4 percent to 1.8 percent over the same period (fig. 43).

The percentage of females who were married remained almost constant between 1890 and 1930. The proportion of single women decreased by 4.0 percent, those who were widowed increased 2.3 percent, and the percentage divorced rose from 0.6 percent to 1.8 percent (fig. 43).

Marital Status of Colorado, Rocky Mountain States, and United States Population Compared

The percentage distribution of Colorado's population 15 years of age and over by marital status did not differ materially from that of the Rocky Mountain States or the United States in 1930 (fig. 44). There were a number of variations, however, between the sexes in each area. Among the males of Colorado there were 33.0 percent single, against 23.2 percent for the females. Sixty percent of the men were married, in contrast with 63.3 percent of the women.

More than twice as many women as men were widowed (11.3 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively). The proportion divorced was equal, 1.8 percent for each sex (fig. 44).²¹

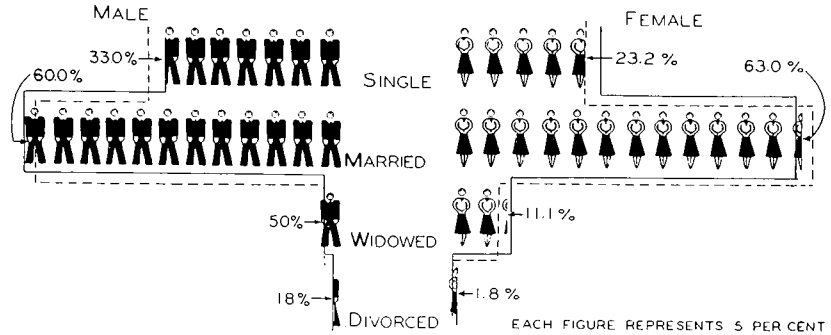
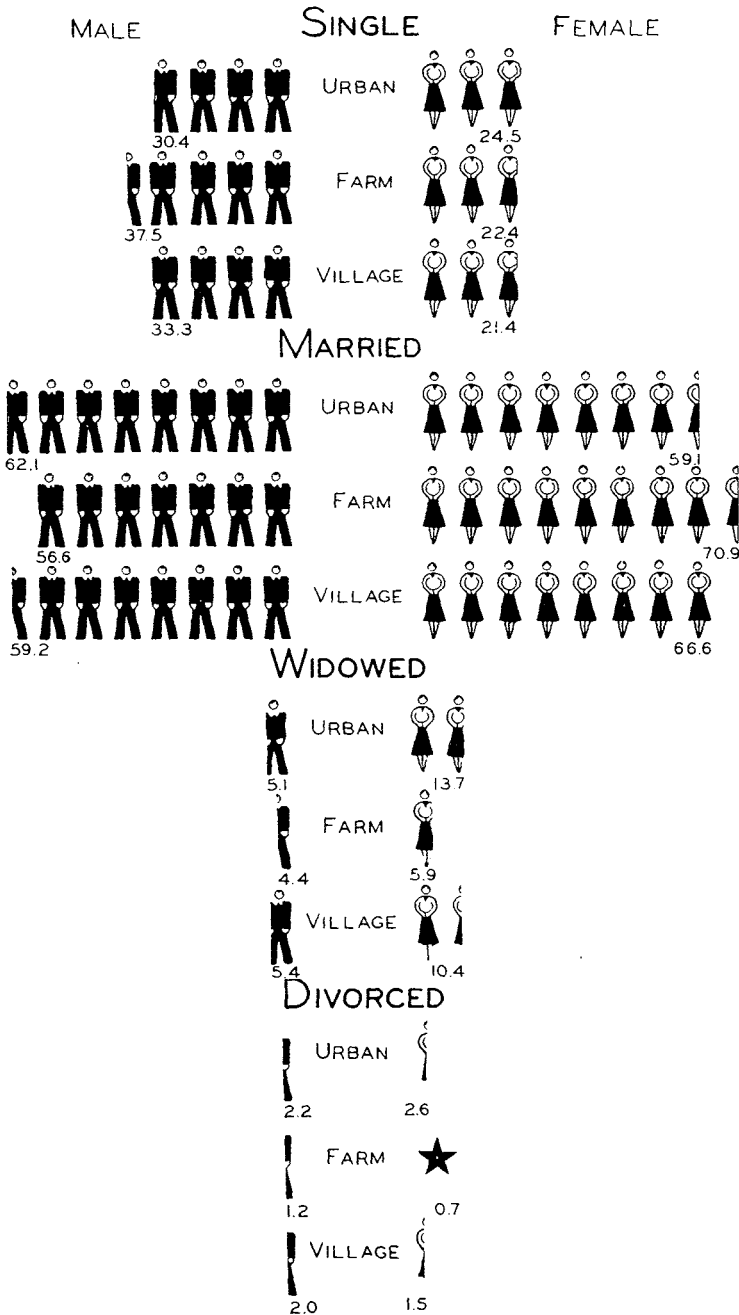


Figure 44.—Percentage distribution of population 15 years and older by marital status, Colorado, Rocky Mountain States, and United States, 1930. The percentage distribution of Colorado's population (represented by the figures) 15 years and older did not differ materially in marital status from that of the Rocky Mountain States (dotted line) or the United States (solid line).

An analysis of the marital status of Colorado's population by sex and residence reveals some rather large variations (fig. 45). There were 7.1 percent more single males on the farm than in the urban areas and 4.2 percent more than in the villages. The percentages of women who were single in urban, farm, and village areas were 24.5, 22.4, and 21.4 percent, respectively. It is interesting to note that the urban areas had a lower percentage of single males and a higher percentage of single females than either of the other residence groups. The proportion of married men was greatest in the city (62.1 percent), the village was next with 59.2 percent, while the farm was third with 56.6 percent. Seven out of every 10 (70.9 percent) farm women were married, compared with 6 out of 10 (59.1 percent) urban women and 2 out of three (66.6 percent) village women.

Persons who were widowed were to be found in greater proportions in the urban and village areas than on the farm. The proportion of widowed females having urban residence was nearly two and one-half times as great as on the farm, (13.7 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively; fig. 45). The percentage of widowed females in the village is nearly twice that of the farm (10.4 percent and 5.9 percent). The percentage of divorced persons was more than twice as great among urban residents as among rural farm people. The percentage of divorced in the villages was less than in the cities, but more than on the farm.

²¹The differences between the sum of the percentages for males and females and 100 percent equals the percentage whose marital status was not ascertainable.



EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS 8 PERCENT.

Figure 45.—Percentage distribution of persons 15 years and over by marital status, sex, and residence, Colorado, 1930. There was a higher percentage of single

Summary

The average-sized family in Colorado was 3.6 persons in 1930. This was the smallest in the history of the State. Colorado had a larger percentage of its population in one- and two-person families in 1930 than did the United States, and the proportion of its people belonging to families of seven or more persons was smaller than in the United States as a whole.

There were practically the same number of middle-sized families (four to seven persons) in 1930 as in 1890. However, the proportion of the population belonging to small families was 17.5 percent in 1890 and 31.9 percent in 1930. Thirty-three and four-tenths percent of Colorado's population lived in families of eight or more persons in 1890, but only 19.6 percent came from this size of family in 1930.

The fertility rate among Colorado women 20 to 44 years of age decreased between 1910 and 1930. There was less decrease among urban than among rural women. The fertility rate in Colorado was less than that of the United States in 1910 and 1920 but greater in 1930.

The average farm family in Colorado was larger than the average non-farm family; this observation was also true on the county basis. Generally, families in the irrigated areas were larger than families in dry-land areas and in mountainous areas.

Trends in the marital status of males 15 years of age and over in Colorado since 1890 indicate the following: A decrease in the proportion who are single and an increase in the proportion of those married, widowed, and divorced. Over the same period the proportion of married females remained almost constant. As with the males, there was a decrease in the proportion of single females and an increase in those widowed and divorced. The marital status of Colorado's population 15 years of age and over corresponds very closely to that of the nation as a whole.

When comparisons of marital status are made on the basis of farm, village, and urban residence, the following is evident: The farm and the city have the greater proportion of single males and females. The highest percentage of persons married is found among the urban men and farm women. Among the city females and village males the greatest proportion of widowed is to be found. The percentage of divorce is higher among both males and females in the city than in the village or on the farm.

Occupation and Employment

Some Implications Concerning Occupation and Employment

the relief roll. It represents a tragic waste of human resources, it lessens the possible contribution to the common good, and it impairs individual development and happiness. All the causes for this decline in the proportion of employed are not known. Undoubtedly replacement by machinery and partial exhaustion of certain natural resources have been contributing factors.

The fact that the trend lines depicting the employment of males and females are opposite would suggest at least three things: First, changes have occurred in the mores or folkways, allowing women to work outside the home; second, females are now performing a number of tasks formerly performed by men; and, third, job opportunities are developing more rapidly for women than for men.

The employment of women, even those married, outside the home raises pertinent questions regarding the future functions of the home and a number of related institutions. Perhaps only a small proportion of married women with children work, but what help is needed for those who do? Should the school curriculum and program of a child whose mother works be the same as that of the child whose mother does not work? Should the church program and other organizations function differently for each? To date society has not been able to measure accurately the various effects upon the family and society which result from the employment of married women.

Changes in the proportion of persons employed in various occupations over a period of time suggest the relative importance of each occupation in the field of total employment. An increase in professional service indicates the trends toward specialization, and also an increased dependence upon others. An increase in clerical service is a reflection of the growth of bureaus, governmental functions, research, experimentation, taxes, and laws.

Aspects of Occupation And Employment Conditions

Between 1910 and 1930 both in Colorado and in the United States there was a decline in the proportion of all persons employed and in the proportion of males employed. The reverse is true for females and for married women (fig. 46). Over the entire period considered, each of the latter two groups experienced an increase in the percentage employed, with the exception of the United States females 10 years of age and over.

Between 1870 and 1900 the proportion of Colorado's total population 10 years of age and over which was gainfully employed was larger than the proportion in the United States as a whole. From

1910 to 1930 the percentage of persons 10 years of age and over who were employed was slightly higher for the United States than for Colorado. The same may be said of Colorado males and United States males (fig. 46).

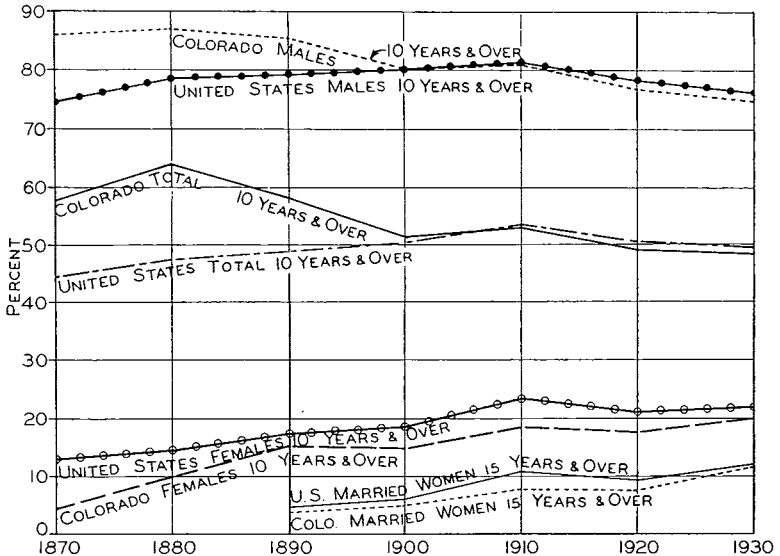


Figure 46.—Trends in the percent of males, total population, females, and married women gainfully employed, Colorado and United States, 1870 to 1930. The percent of Colorado's total population gainfully employed showed a general downward trend after 1880. The percentage of the male population employed was on the downward trend, while the percentage of the female population employed showed an opposite trend.

A greater percentage of United States females 10 years of age and over were employed between 1870 and 1930 than Colorado women of the same age category (fig. 46 and appendix table 7). Identical observations may be made with reference to the employed married women 15 years and over.

Employment rate among women 15 years and older in Denver in 1930 was higher than in either Colorado or the United States (fig. 47). This was true for each marital or nativity status and each color or race, with the exception of the single and unknown (marital status unclassified) foreign-born white. In this last-mentioned classification, employment rate in the United States was 3.8 percent higher than in Denver.

A comparison of the employment rate for women of Colorado and of the United States reveals a higher percentage of employment for Colorado in the following categories: Among the native white, those married, widowed, and divorced; among the foreign-born white, those widowed and divorced; and among the Negroes, the

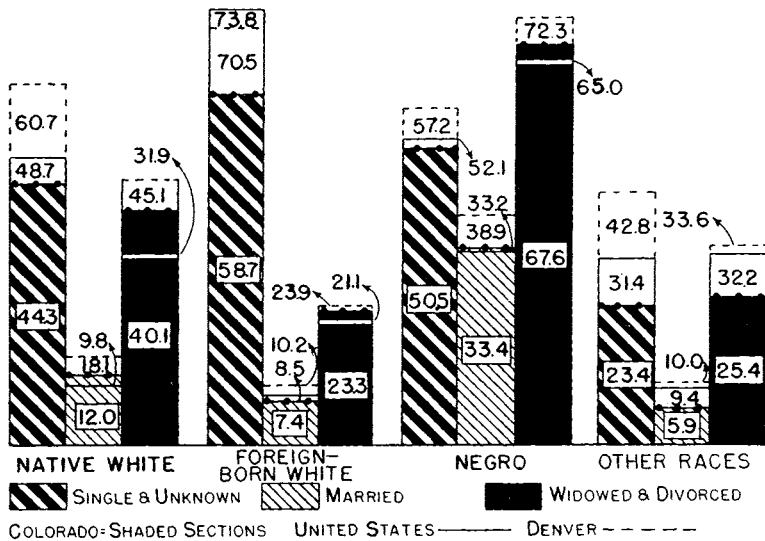


Figure 47.—Percent of women 15 years and over gainfully employed, by nativity, color, and marital condition, Colorado, Denver, and United States, 1930. A greater percentage of the women in Denver (dotted line) were employed than was true for either Colorado or the United States. This was true for each marital or nativity status and each color or race, with the exception of the foreign-born white women who were single or whose marital status was unclassified. In this classification the percentage of the females in the United States as a whole (solid line) was slightly higher than Denver's.

married, widowed, and divorced. With United States women, employment is highest among those who are single and unclassified native whites, single and unclassified and married foreign-born whites, and each of these two marital statuses among the other races.

Employment of Negro women in 1930 was higher as a group than any of the others. The rate of employment of the single and unclassified foreign-born white was also high.

Trends in Gainful Occupations

Trends in the proportion of Colorado population gainfully employed in various occupations have been very erratic in most cases. In 1860, 82.4 percent of the population gainfully employed was engaged in the extraction of minerals; 10 years later only 13.1 percent was so occupied (fig. 48 and appendix table 8). In 1870 the percentage employed in mining rose to 28.7 percent and with the exception of 1900 has been declining in importance since then. This was a decided change. In 1860 mining employed more than four times as many people in Colorado as all other occupations combined, and in 1930 only public service and forestry and fishing employed fewer people.

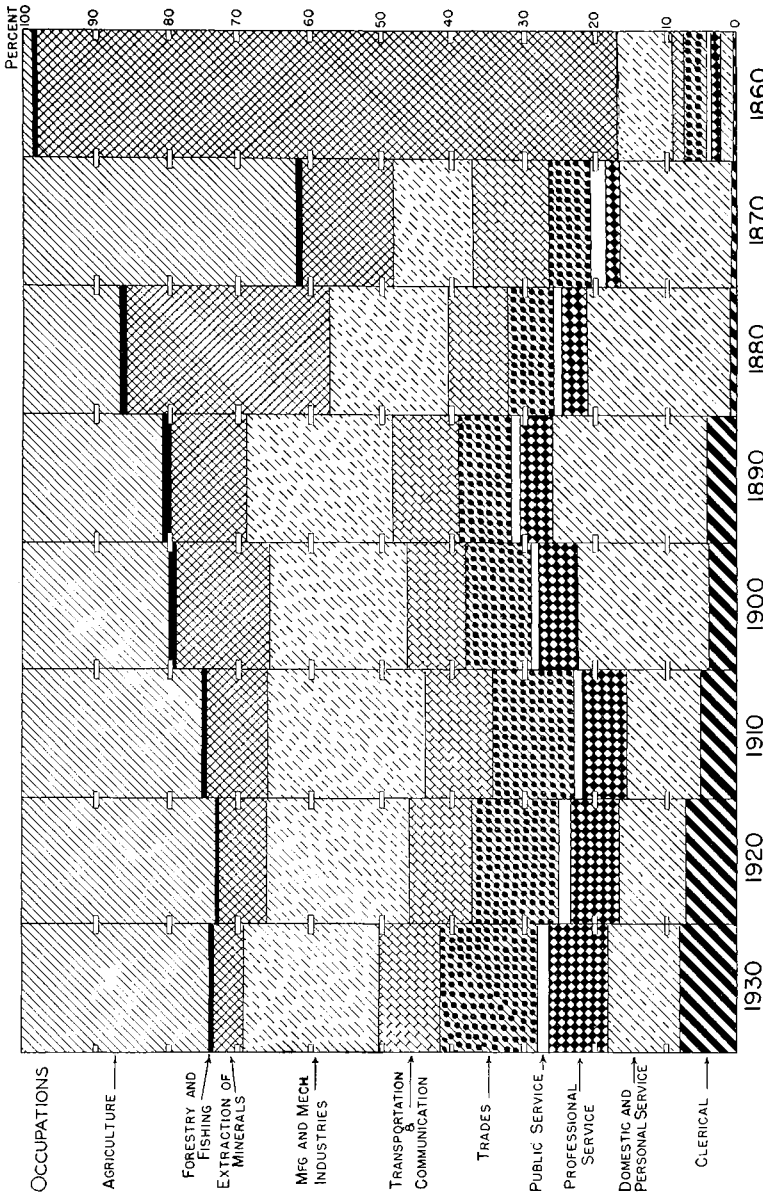


Figure 48.—Percentage distribution of persons 10 years and over gainfully employed, by occupation, Colorado, 1860 to 1930. Major trends shown here are the decline in percentage of the population engaged in extraction of minerals, the rise from 1880 to 1920 in the percentage engaged in agriculture, and slow but consistent gains in the percentage employed in clerical, trade, and professional service occupations.

Agriculture, almost non-existent in 1860, accounted for 38.5 percent of the gainfully employed in 1870 but dropped again to include only 13.4 percent of the workers in 1880. Between 1880 and 1920 there was an increasing proportion of all employees in the State engaged in agriculture. Slightly over one-quarter (26.4 percent) of all persons were gainfully employed in agriculture in 1930—a decrease of 0.7 percent over the preceding decade. The proportion of the total gainfully employed in industries changed but little between 1880 and 1930. This is likewise true for those engaged in public service, in forestry and fishing, and in communication and transportation.

The proportion which found employment in domestic and personal service increased from 1860 to 1890 but declined each decade until 1920, then rose slightly. Three occupations, clerical, professional service, and trades, showed slow but consistent gains in the proportion of persons gainfully employed each decade between 1860 and 1930.

Summary Since 1880 there has been a declining proportion of Colorado's population 10 years of age and over gainfully employed. In 1880, 64.0 percent was so classified. This percentage fell to 48.2 in 1930.

When the total gainfully employed is broken down by sex, it is seen that the proportion of females who were working actually increased from 1870 to 1930; thus the total decrease in employment occurred among the males. The proportion of women in Denver who worked, regardless of marital status, nativity, color, or racial stock was greater than the average in Colorado or in the United States. A larger proportion of Negro women worked than of any other group.

Numerous changes have occurred in the proportions of Colorado's population employed in various occupations. Mining, once very important, employed a relatively small percentage of the total of workers in 1930. Agriculture and industry have always engaged a large proportion of the State's gainfully employed. Public service as well as forestry and fishing employed a relatively small but constant proportion of workers from 1860 to 1930. The proportion of the total group employed in clerical work, professional service, and trades increased each decade. Transportation and communication retained almost a constant proportion of workers.

Education

Some Implications of Education in Colorado

An increase in the proportion of persons of school age attending school means among other things (1) additional educational costs, (2) a higher average educational accomplishment, (3) greater skills, and (4) less illiteracy. If the schools impart the knowledge and skills which they are supposed to, an increase in the per-

centage of persons in school means more intelligent participation of persons in solving the problems which are necessary for constructive, happy, and abundant living in the home, the community, and the nation.

Aspects of Education in Colorado

The trend in the proportion of children 7 to 20 years of age in school was upward between 1910 and 1930. This was true for both Colorado and the United States (fig. 49). During each decade there was a larger percentage of Colorado children 7 to 20 years of age in school than the average for children of the same age in the United States. The proportion of children in school declined as age increased.

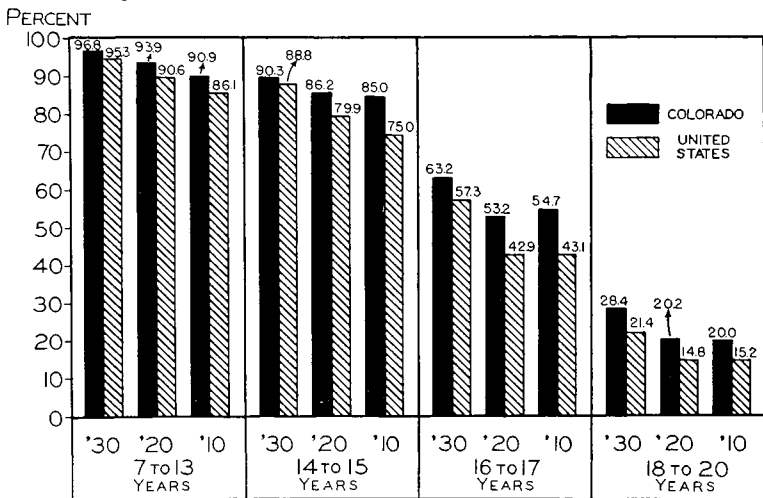


Figure 49.—Percentage of population 7 to 20 years attending school, by age. Colorado and United States, 1910 to 1930. The trend in proportion of persons 7 to 20 in school was upward from 1910 to 1930 in both Colorado and the United States, with Colorado exceeding the United States. The proportion of persons in school declined as age increased.

A classification of children of school age by nativity reveals differences in school attendance (appendix table 9). The differences do not become large, however, in the younger age groups 7 to 13. Among the foreign-born only about half as many persons 7 to 20 years of age attend school as among native white or native white of foreign or mixed parentage (appendix table 9).

Illiteracy

There was a higher rate of illiteracy among females than among males in Colorado in 1930 (fig. 50). Considering persons over 10 years of age, 3.1 percent of the females, compared with 2.5 percent of the males, were illiterate. Among people over 21 years of age the rate of illiteracy rose to 3.9 percent for women and 3.1 percent for men. Illiteracy in rural Colorado in 1930 was nearly twice as

high as in urban areas. The percentage of persons not able to read and write decreased between 1920 and 1930 (fig. 50).

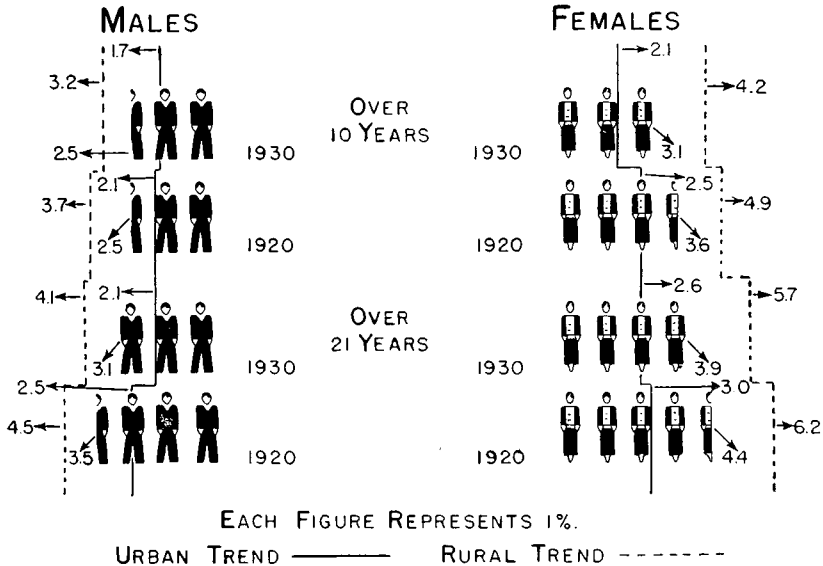


Figure 50.—Percentage of illiteracy in Colorado population by sex, age, and residence. 1920 and 1930. The percentage of illiteracy decreased between 1920 and 1930 in Colorado as a whole (represented by figures), in the State's urban population (solid line), and in the State's rural population (dotted line).

Summary

In each of the decades ending in 1910, 1920, and 1930, there was an increase in the percentage of children who attended school. The percentage of Colorado children in school was above the national average. School attendance of foreign-born white 7 to 20 years of age was much smaller than for native whites of native parentage and native whites of foreign or mixed parentage.

In 1930 the inability to read and write was more prevalent among females than among males; it was nearly twice as high in rural as in urban areas but was less in 1920 than in 1930.

Acknowledgment

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TABLE 1.—Colorado population densities by counties, 1870 to 1930.

Counties	Density per square mile			
	1870	1890	1910	1930
Adams	.....	.....	7.0	16.0
Alamosa	.....	.....	.....	11.8
Arapahoe	1.4	27.5	12.2	26.9
Archuleta	.....	0.7	2.7	2.6
Baca	.....	0.6	1.0	4.1
Bent	0.1	0.9	3.3	6.0
Boulder	2.4	18.8	39.7	42.5
Chaffee	.....	5.7	7.0	7.5
Cheyenne	.....	0.3	2.1	2.1
Clear Creek	3.7	16.4	12.8	5.5
Conejos	0.4	5.2	8.1	7.8
Costilla	1.1	2.0	3.1	4.9
Crowley	.....	.....	.....	7.3
Custer	.....	4.1	2.6	2.8
Delta	.....	2.2	11.4	11.8
Denver	.....	.....	3679.0	4963.2
Dolores	.....	1.5	0.6	1.4
Douglas	0.3	3.4	3.8	4.1
Eagle	.....	2.3	1.8	2.4
Elbert	.....	1.0	2.9	3.5
El Paso	0.4	8.4	20.4	23.4
Fremont	0.4	5.4	11.7	12.1
Garfield	.....	1.4	3.3	3.2
Gilpin	34.7	45.1	31.3	9.2
Grand	.....	0.3	1.0	1.1
Greenwood*	0.1	.....	.....	.....
Gunnison	.....	1.4	1.8	1.7
Hinsdale	.....	0.6	0.7	0.5
Huerfano	1.2	4.5	8.9	11.4
Jackson	.....	.....	0.6	0.8
Jefferson	3.0	10.0	17.6	27.0
Kiowa	.....	0.7	1.6	2.1
Kit Carson	.....	1.1	3.5	4.5
Lake	0.3	37.3	28.6	13.2
La Plata	.....	3.0	5.8	7.0
Larimer	0.2	2.4	9.6	12.6
Las Animas	0.6	3.7	7.0	7.5
Lincoln	.....	0.3	2.3	3.1
Logan	.....	1.7	5.2	10.9
Mesa	.....	1.4	7.0	8.2
Mineral	.....	.....	1.4	0.7
Moffat	.....	.....	.....	1.0
Montezuma	.....	0.6	2.4	3.8
Montrose	.....	1.7	4.5	5.2
Morgan	.....	1.2	7.4	14.2
Otero	.....	2.0	9.8	19.4
Ouray	.....	14.5	6.8	3.4
Park	0.2	1.7	1.1	0.9
Phillips	.....	4.6	4.6	8.4
Pitkin	.....	9.1	4.5	1.7
Prowers	.....	1.2	5.8	9.1
Pueblo	0.9	12.9	21.5	27.1
Rio Blanco	.....	0.3	0.7	0.9
Rio Grande	.....	2.7	7.3	11.1
Routt	.....	0.4	1.1	4.1
Saguache	0.1	1.0	1.3	2.0
San Juan	.....	3.1	6.8	4.3
San Miguel	.....	2.2	3.6	1.7
Sedgwick	.....	2.0	5.8	10.5
Summit	0.1	2.8	3.1	1.5
Teller	.....	.....	26.2	7.6
Washington	.....	2.1	2.4	3.8
Weld	0.2	2.9	9.7	16.2
Yuma	.....	2.2	3.6	5.8

*Existed 1870 to 1874 only.

TABLE 2.—Percentage distribution of Colorado population by nativity group, age, and sex, 1900 and 1930.

	MALES						FEMALES					
	Native white		Native white of foreign or mixed parentage		Foreign-born		Native white		Native white of foreign or mixed parentage		Foreign-born	
	1900	1930	1900	1930	1900	1930	1900	1930	1900	1930	1900	1930
Under 5	12.0	10.7	12.1	6.1	0.4	0.0	13.3	10.8	13.5	6.1	0.5	..
5-14	21.5	21.9	21.7	18.4	2.7	0.7	24.5	22.0	24.7	17.6	4.1	0.8
15-24	17.8	18.0	17.8	19.9	11.2	4.6	19.5	18.8	19.4	20.2	14.5	5.6
25-34	17.4	14.1	17.3	16.1	25.7	11.0	17.1	14.8	17.0	17.1	26.7	11.9
35-44	14.6	13.1	14.6	15.3	28.1	21.2	12.5	13.1	12.4	15.7	24.8	19.1
45-54	8.7	10.0	8.6	11.4	18.0	24.4	6.9	9.5	6.9	11.4	15.7	24.3
55-64	4.3	6.7	4.3	7.5	9.0	19.2	3.7	6.2	3.6	7.3	8.5	19.8
65-74	1.8	3.9	1.8	4.3	3.4	13.7	1.5	3.3	1.6	3.6	3.8	12.9
75 and over	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.2	0.9	4.9	0.5	1.4	0.5	1.0	1.2	5.4
Unknown	1.4	0.1	1.3	..	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	..	0.2	0.1

TABLE 3.—Population and sex ratios, Colorado, Denver, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs, 1890, 1910, and 1930.

Year	Native white			Foreign-born white			Negro		
	Male	Female	Ratio	Male	Female	Ratio	Male	Female	Ratio
1890									
Colorado	185,760	136,202	136.4	54,484	28,022	194.4	3,602	2,613	137.8
Denver	43,785	34,416	127.2	14,299	10,142	141.0	2,660	1,411	188.5
Pueblo	12,373	7,417	166.8	2,763	1,045	264.4	621	339	183.2
Colorado Springs	4,802	4,374	111.1	818	619	132.1	242	225	107.5
1910									
Colorado	250,989	224,147	112.0	78,074	48,777	160.0	5,867	5,586	105.0
Denver	83,064	85,066	97.6	20,895	18,046	115.8	2,652	2,774	95.6
Pueblo	18,459	15,898	116.1	5,418	2,913	186.0	777	721	107.8
Colorado Springs	11,988	12,967	92.4	1,518	1,463	103.7	505	602	83.9
1930									
Colorado	443,117	432,594	102.4	48,004	37,402	128.3	5,730	6,089	94.2
Denver	115,985	125,757	92.2	16,421	14,814	110.8	3,365	3,839	87.6
Pueblo	20,091	20,318	98.9	2,674	2,048	130.6	630	675	93.3
Colorado Springs	13,637	16,024	85.1	1,067	1,100	97.0	430	535	80.4

TABLE 4.—Percentage distribution of Colorado rural-urban population by counties, 1930.

County	1930		County	1930	
	Rural	Urban		Rural	Urban
Adams	83.2	16.8	Lake	23.0	77.0
Alamosa	40.6	59.4	La Plata	58.4	41.6
Arapahoe	64.8	35.2	Larimer	48.7	51.3
Archuleta	100.0	....	Las Animas	67.4	32.6
Baca	100.0	....	Lincoln	100.0	....
Bent	72.4	27.6	Logan	63.9	36.1
Boulder	46.8	53.2	Mesa	60.4	39.6
Chaffee	37.7	62.3	Mineral	100.0	....
Cheyenne	100.0	....	Moffat	100.0	....
Clear Creek	100.0	....	Montezuma	100.0	....
Conejos	100.0	....	Montrose	69.6	30.4
Costilla	100.0	....	Morgan	75.8	24.2
Crowley	100.0	....	Otero	56.5	43.5
Custer	100.0	....	Ouray	100.0	....
Delta	79.3	20.7	Park	100.0	....
Denver	....	100.0	Phillips	100.0	....
Dolores	100.0	....	Pitkin	100.0	....
Douglas	100.0	....	Prowers	71.2	28.8
Eagle	100.0	....	Pueblo	24.1	75.9
Elbert	100.0	....	Rio Blanco	100.0	....
El Paso	32.9	67.1	Rio Grande	73.8	26.2
Fremont	68.6	31.4	Routt	100.0	....
Garfield	100.0	....	Saguache	100.0	....
Gilpin	100.0	....	San Juan	100.0	....
Grand	100.0	....	San Miguel	100.0	....
Gunnison	100.0	....	Sedgwick	100.0	....
Hinsdale	100.0	....	Summit	100.0	....
Huerfano	67.7	32.3	Teller	100.0	....
Jackson	100.0	....	Washington	100.0	....
Jefferson	100.0	....	Weld	81.2	18.8
Kiowa	100.0	....	Yuma	100.0	....
Kit Carson	100.0	....		

TABLE 5.—*Ranking nations in Colorado's foreign-born population, 1880 to 1930.*

1880		1910	
1. England	8,797	1. Germany	16,908
2. Ireland	8,263	2. Italy	14,375
3. Germany	7,012	3. England	12,928
4. Canada	5,785	4. Russia	12,759
5. Sweden	2,172	5. Sweden	12,446
6. Scotland	1,673	6. Austria	11,582
1890		1920	
1. Germany	15,151	1. Russia	16,669
2. England	14,406	2. Italy	12,580
3. Ireland	12,353	3. Germany	11,992
4. Sweden	9,659	4. Mexico	11,037
5. Canada and New Foundland	9,142	5. Sweden	10,112
6. Scotland	4,339	6. England	9,588
1900		1930	
1. Germany	14,606	1. Mexico	13,144
2. England	13,575	2. Russia	12,979
3. Sweden	10,765	3. Italy	10,670
4. Ireland	10,132	4. Germany	9,988
5. Canada	9,797	5. Sweden	8,328
6. Italy	6,818	6. England	6,893

TABLE 6.—*Nationality origins of foreign-born white by counties, Colorado, 1930.*

County	British	German	Swedish	Danish and Norwegian	Russian	Slav	Canadian	Italian	All others
Adams	209	303	170	139	394	103	99	390	326
Alamosa	35	38	35	17	11	5	10	18	44
Arapahoe	359	271	265	177	51	64	142	71	252
Archuleta	10	2	5	6	..	1	6	10	7
Baca	16	22	1	7	12	2	10	..	10
Bent	54	30	38	9	19	5	29	1	54
Boulder	596	246	362	146	266	150	167	315	454
Chaffee	136	72	50	10	12	90	60	224	116
Cheyenne	28	51	22	29	7	8	12	1	26
Clear Creek	80	29	70	20	3	4	28	12	23
Conejos	22	12	8	8	1	5	8	..	22
Costilla	9	10	7	15	1	..	5	5	11
Crowley	15	64	10	5	139	7	13	15	24
Custer	33	68	4	1	1	13	22	7	18
Delta	105	65	48	19	44	39	55	59	114
Denver	6,412	3,969	3,500	1,297	3,885	2,583	2,546	2,874	4,169
Dolores	7	16	5	4	1	15	6	12	25
Douglas	63	39	27	24	3	5	13	..	46
Eagle	51	24	60	23	2	10	34	39	50
Elbert	49	92	41	23	3	88	15	4	42
El Paso	957	445	332	153	115	291	393	198	363
Fremont	409	116	59	33	20	254	91	669	101
Garfield	126	99	40	17	47	23	60	203	137
Gilpin	56	24	25	12	1	1	10	17	28
Grand	23	25	33	14	4	7	15	..	55
Gunnison	84	83	55	6	..	216	14	169	88
Hinsdale	8	2	4	2	1	..	7	1	4
Huerfano	284	83	28	8	16	421	38	553	355
Jackson	27	9	41	6	1	2	8	1	18
Jefferson	419	381	315	102	155	176	138	106	328
Kiowa	14	31	11	2	5	3	3	..	18
Kit Carson	19	78	30	31	97	23	16	1	43
Lake	216	56	115	17	7	276	68	75	156
La Plata	180	99	57	33	8	50	46	175	134
Larimer	287	290	245	135	1,502	24	158	28	145
Las Animas	468	151	40	30	37	315	75	1,723	587
Lincoln	21	65	30	78	33	11	12	4	21
Logan	99	183	54	49	959	33	79	144	98
Mesa	282	168	84	59	48	86	128	224	184
Mineral	14	10	7	2	..	..	6	1	2
Moffat	54	24	12	15	4	45	26	4	44
Montezuma	49	43	22	15	1	5	34	9	21
Montrose	86	65	35	30	156	10	50	69	50
Morgan	76	127	65	174	1,025	29	65	60	100
Otero	89	88	35	94	241	22	67	51	69
Ouray	48	15	32	4	2	4	25	57	41
Park	27	22	27	5	4	2	15	6	12
Phillips	25	98	81	17	11	2	13	..	15
Pitkin	59	31	57	16	..	70	23	108	27
Prowers	64	77	28	30	76	8	35	26	30
Pueblo	892	481	355	126	215	1,737	296	1,458	768
Rio Blanco	32	17	9	8	1	4	13	1	18
Rio Grande	51	56	25	6	7	2	26	8	51
Routt	153	75	45	18	16	88	59	95	292
Saguache	39	33	24	4	1	17	19	20	30
San Juan	60	15	57	8	8	86	10	121	95
San Miguel	27	14	30	8	..	2	19	60	75
Sedgwick	25	70	35	21	129	18	13	1	56
Summit	23	13	45	12	..	3	11	7	10
Teller	165	51	100	19	6	16	41	..	30
Washington	45	149	23	40	91	24	31	..	50
Weld	508	455	812	163	3,029	245	254	159	579
Yuma	34	148	41	34	45	4	26	1	54

TABLE 7.—Percent of persons 10 years old and over gainfully employed, 1870 to 1930, Colorado and United States.

Year	Colorado			United States		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
1930	48.2	74.9	20.0	49.5	76.2	22.0
1920	49.0	76.8	17.8	50.3	78.2	21.1
1910	52.9	81.3	18.5	53.3	81.3	23.4
1900	51.3	80.1	14.9	50.2	80.0	18.8
1890	58.7	85.5	15.3	49.2	79.3	17.4
1880	64.0	87.0	10.1	47.3	78.7	14.7
1870	57.9	86.0	4.2	44.3	74.8	13.1

TABLE 8.—Percentage distribution of persons 10 years and over gainfully employed, by occupation, Colorado, 1860 to 1930.

Occupations	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
Agriculture	0.8	38.5	13.4	19.2	20.3	25.0	27.1	26.4
Forestry and fishing	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Extraction of minerals	82.4	13.1	28.7	10.9	13.0	8.4	6.4	4.3
Manufacturing and mechanical industries	7.9	11.3	16.4	20.5	19.4	22.3	20.2	19.0
Transportation and communication	1.8	10.6	8.4	9.2	8.4	9.5	8.8	8.7
Trade	3.1	6.0	6.8	7.6	9.3	11.6	12.5	13.6
Public service not elsewhere classified	0.2	2.0	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.9	1.7
Professional service	1.4	1.9	3.6	4.6	5.9	6.2	6.8	8.3
Domestic and personal service	2.2	16.1	20.4	21.7	18.5	10.5	9.0	10.2
Clerical occupations	0.1	0.2	0.8	4.3	3.9	4.9	7.1	7.5

TABLE 9.—Percentage of Colorado population 7 to 13 and 7 to 20 years of age, by nativity, attending school, 1920 and 1930.

Nativity and race	7 to 13		7 to 20	
	1930	1920	1930	1920
All classes	96.8	93.9	77.3	73.2
Native white of native parents	97.3	94.1	80.0	75.3
Native white of foreign or mixed	97.8	95.1	73.0	72.5
Foreign-born	96.7	83.7	44.7	49.0
Negro	96.7	93.2	74.7	68.0

Bulletin Service

The following late publications of the Colorado Experiment Station are available without cost to Colorado citizens upon request.

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