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Demographic Profile of the United States

**Early Findings
From the
1980 Census**

Demographic Profile of the United States

Early Findings From the 1980 Census

Prepared by
Bureau of the Census
U.S. Department of Commerce

During the 1970's, the U.S. population grew by only 11.4 percent, the lowest rate since the Great Depression. Even lower rates are expected in the 1980's and 1990's which will significantly affect the levels of economic growth, labor force participation, and the number of persons available for military service. The major contributor to different rates of population growth over time is the level of fertility; death rates and net immigration are the remaining components of population change.

TABLE 1.
**Estimates and Projections of the Population
of the United States: 1900 to 2000**
(Numbers in thousands)

	Population	Change from previous decade	
		Number	Percent
1900	76,094	—	—
1910	92,407	16,313	21.4
1920	106,461	14,054	15.2
1930	123,077	16,616	15.6
1940	132,122	9,045	7.4
1950	152,271	20,149	15.3
1960	180,671	28,400	18.6
1970	203,303	22,632	12.5
1980	226,505	23,202	11.4
1990	248,854	22,349	9.9
2000	265,989	17,135	6.9

Changes in U.S. fertility over the past 40 years have led to dramatic changes in the age structure. As the large cohorts of the baby boom have matured and passed through the various stages of life, such as school enrollment, labor force entry and exit, and family formation and dissolution, many institutions have been affected.

FIGURE 1.

Total U.S. Population, by Age and Sex: 1960, 1970, 1980, and 1990

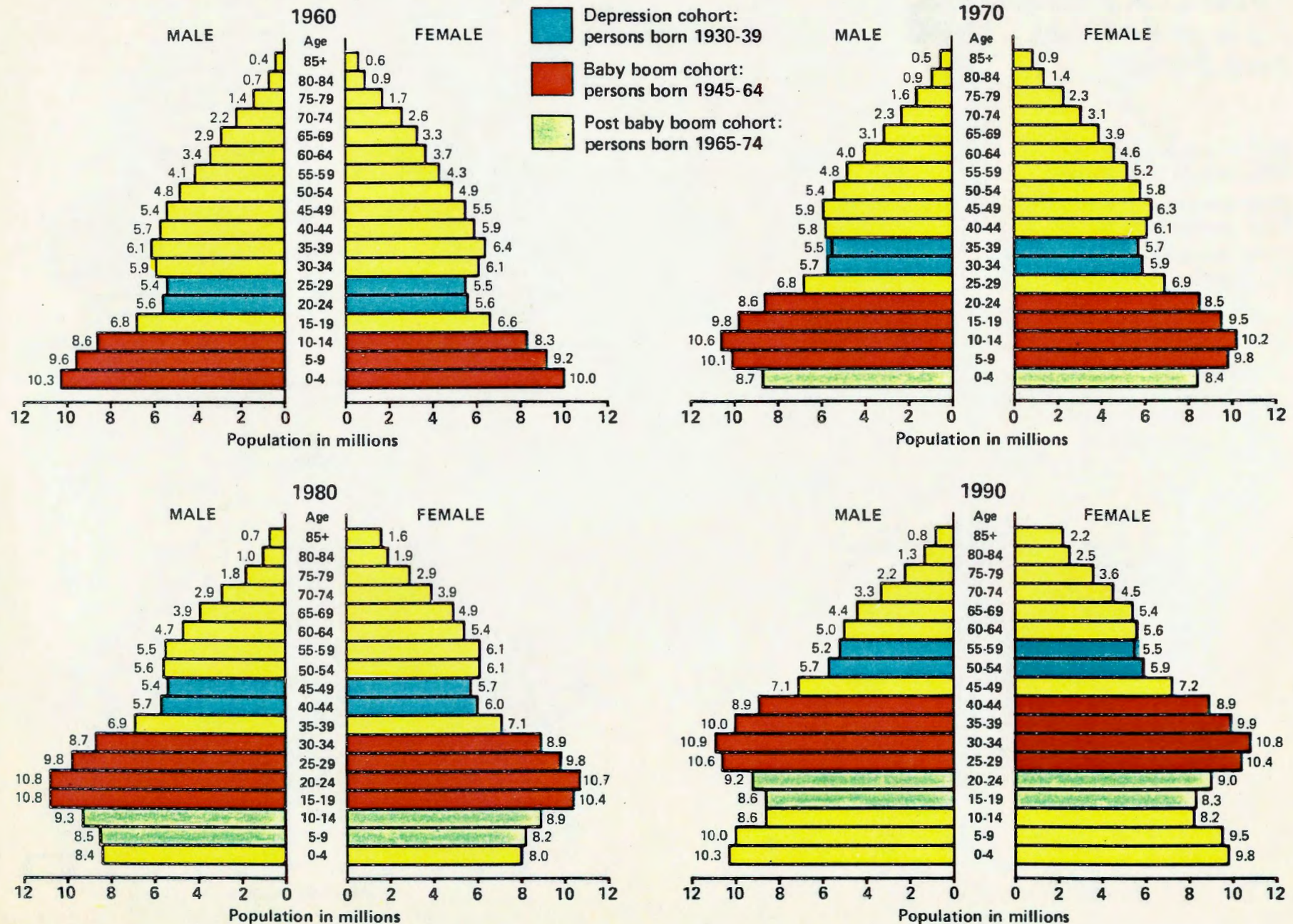
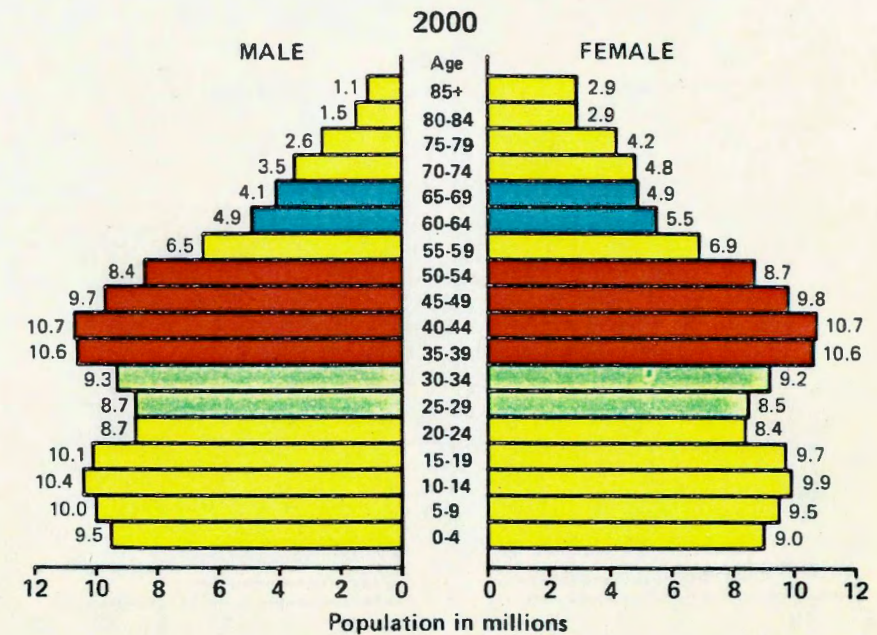
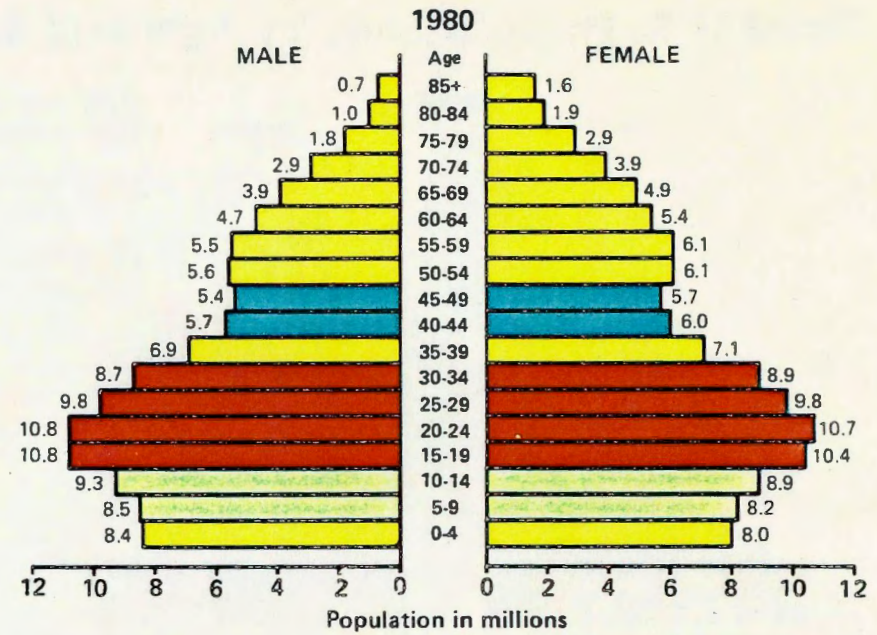


FIGURE 1A.

Total U.S. Population, by Age and Sex: 1980 and 2000

- Depression cohort:
persons born 1930-39
- Baby boom cohort:
persons born 1945-64
- Post baby boom cohort:
persons born 1965-74



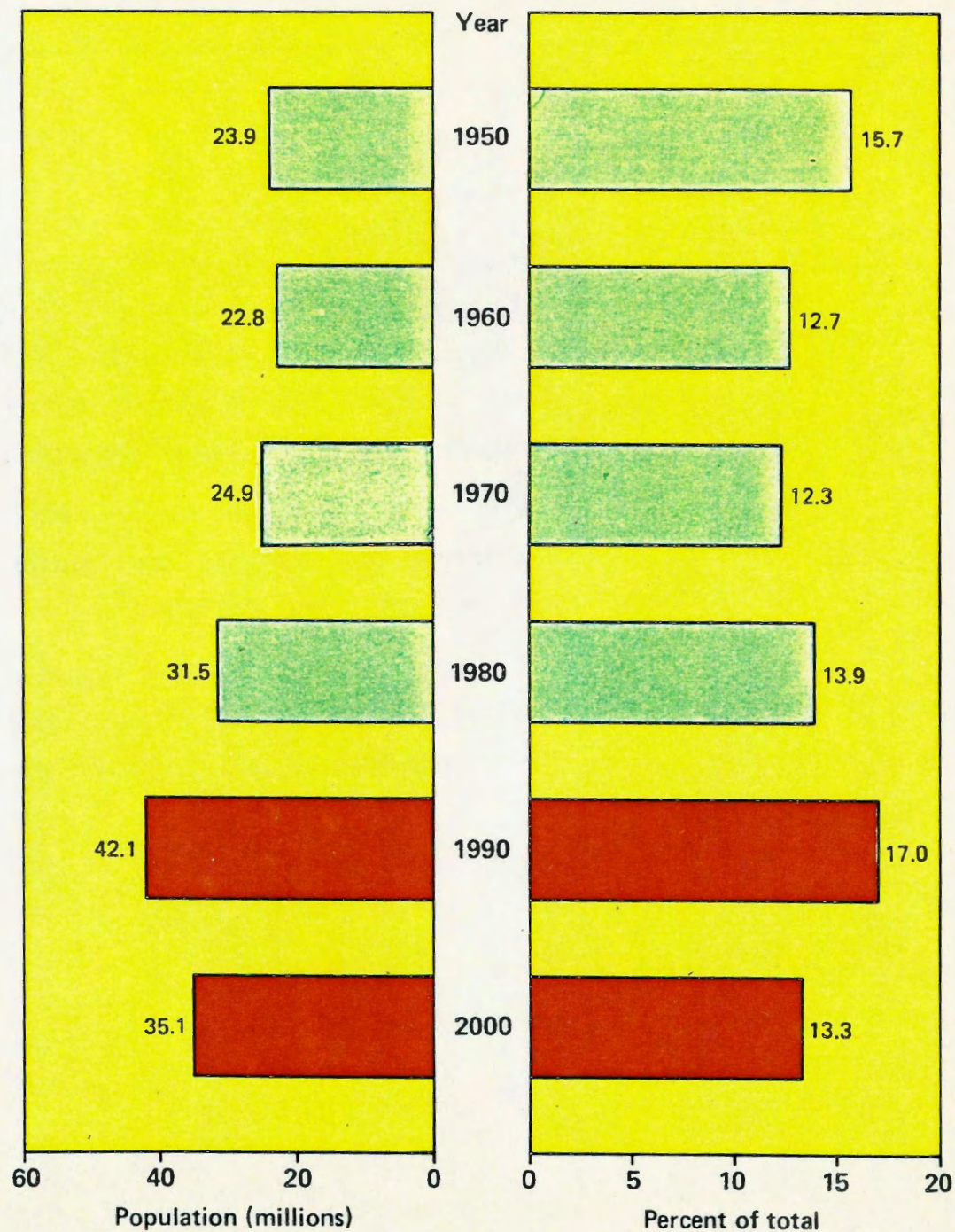
The baby boom cohorts will come of age during the 1980's, getting jobs, marrying, and starting families. At no point in recent history has the population aged 25 to 34 (the prime household-formation ages) constituted such a large portion of the total population.

- The rapid increase in household formation will intensify the demand for housing, as well as for related goods and services.
- Pressures exerted by this growth will significantly affect the educational system, the housing industry, the labor market, and the health-care industry.

FIGURE 2.

**Resident Population
25 to 34 Years Old—
Number and Percent
of Total Population:
1950 to 2000**

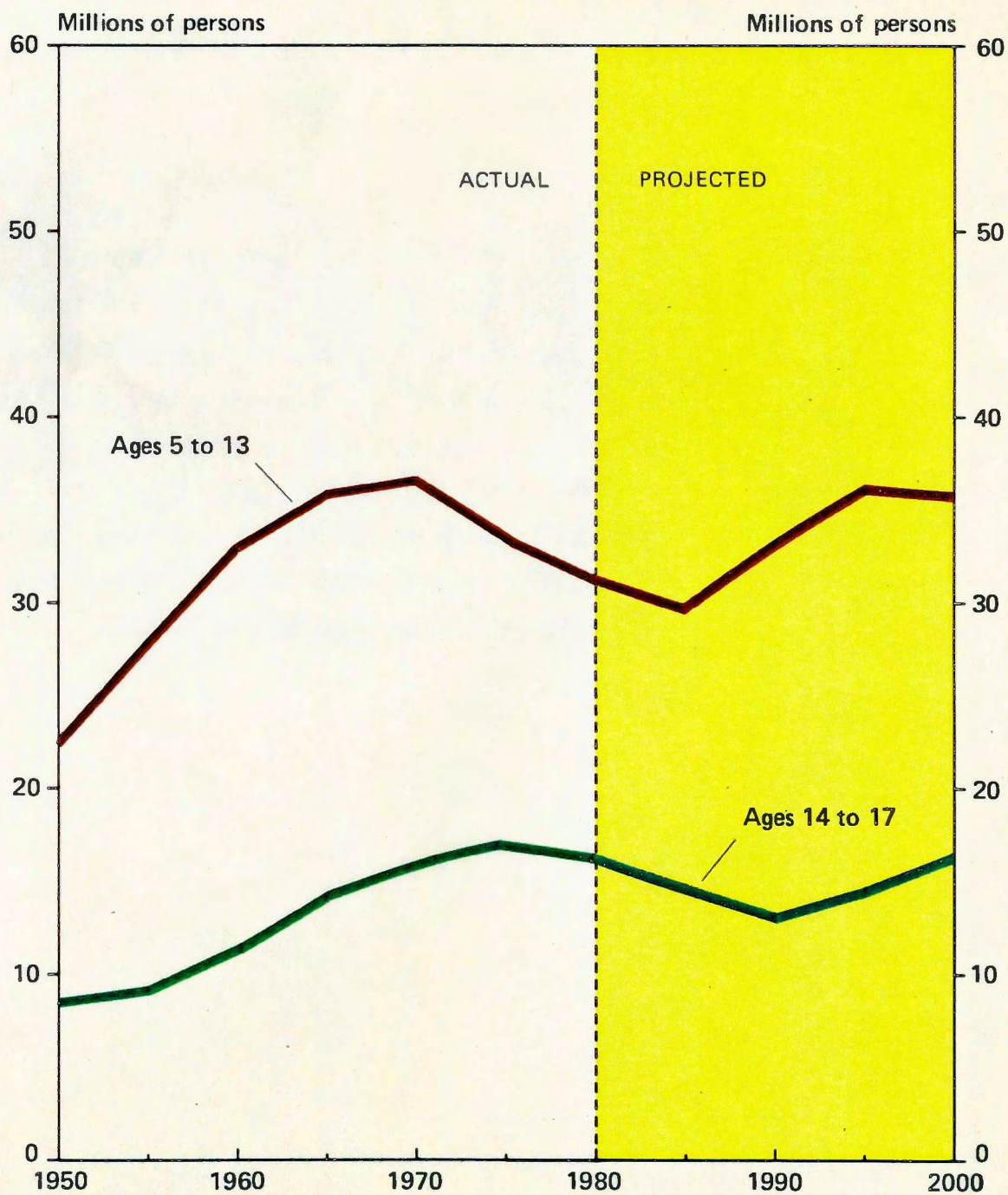
Actual
Projected



The 15-percent decline in the elementary-school-age population during the 1970's caused the closing of many schools. This phenomenon has continued in the high schools as the remaining members of the baby boom are becoming young adults. As this group begins to marry and bear children, the annual number of births will continue to rise and, during the later part of the 1980's, elementary enrollment will rise again—an "echo effect" of the original baby boom.

FIGURE 3.

**School-Age Population
5 to 17 Years Old:
1950 to 2000**

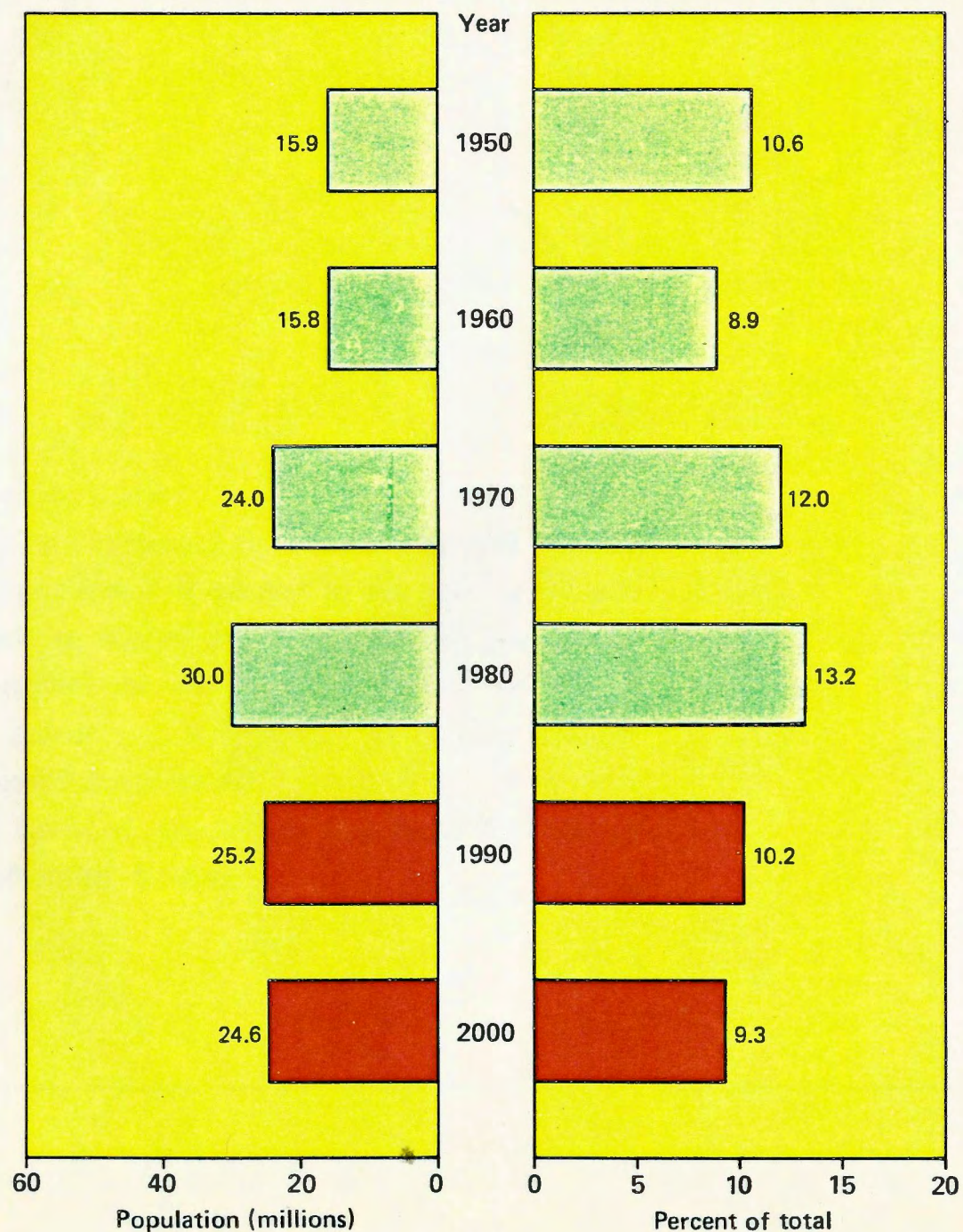


As the young adult population aged 18 to 24 will shrink by 16 percent, the 1980's will show a probable decline in college enrollment, a slowing of the growth in the labor force, and a decrease in the population eligible for military service. Also, because a disproportionate number of crimes are committed by persons in their young adult years, a decline in the size of this age group may be accompanied by a corresponding decline in the incidence of crime.

FIGURE 4.

**Resident Population
18 to 24 Years Old—
Number and Percent
of Total Population:
1950 to 2000**

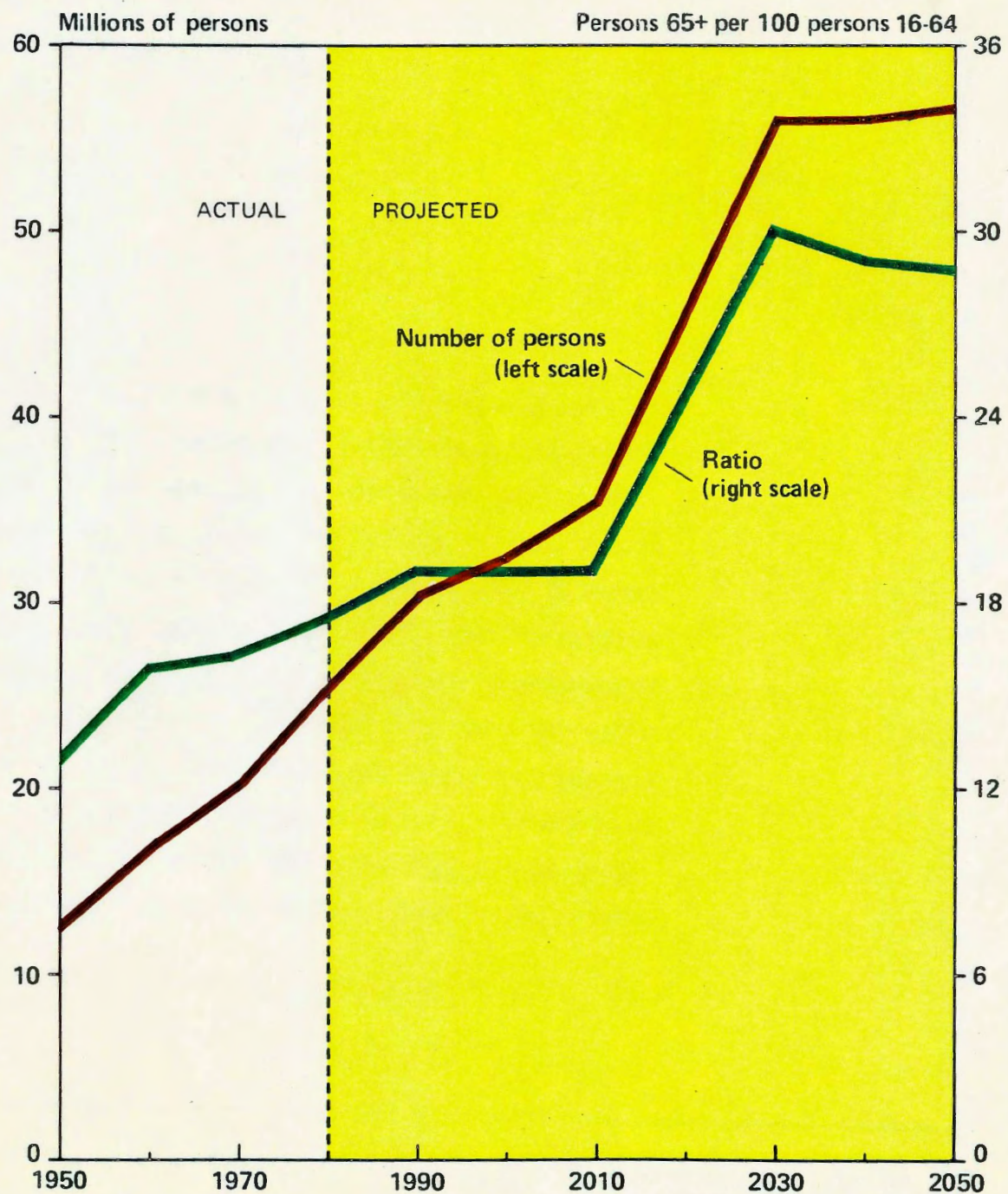
Actual
Projected



The U.S. population will continue to grow older in both absolute and relative terms. Between 2010 and 2030, past patterns in fertility will cause an explosive surge in the number of older persons to be supported by the labor force. This rise in the elderly-to-workers ratio raises important questions about the Nation's retirement policies and Social Security funding. The continued growth of the older population will increase pressure on all agencies in the public and private sectors whose responsibility is to respond to the social and health-care needs of this important population subgroup. Anticipating and planning for these developments is essential.

FIGURE 5.

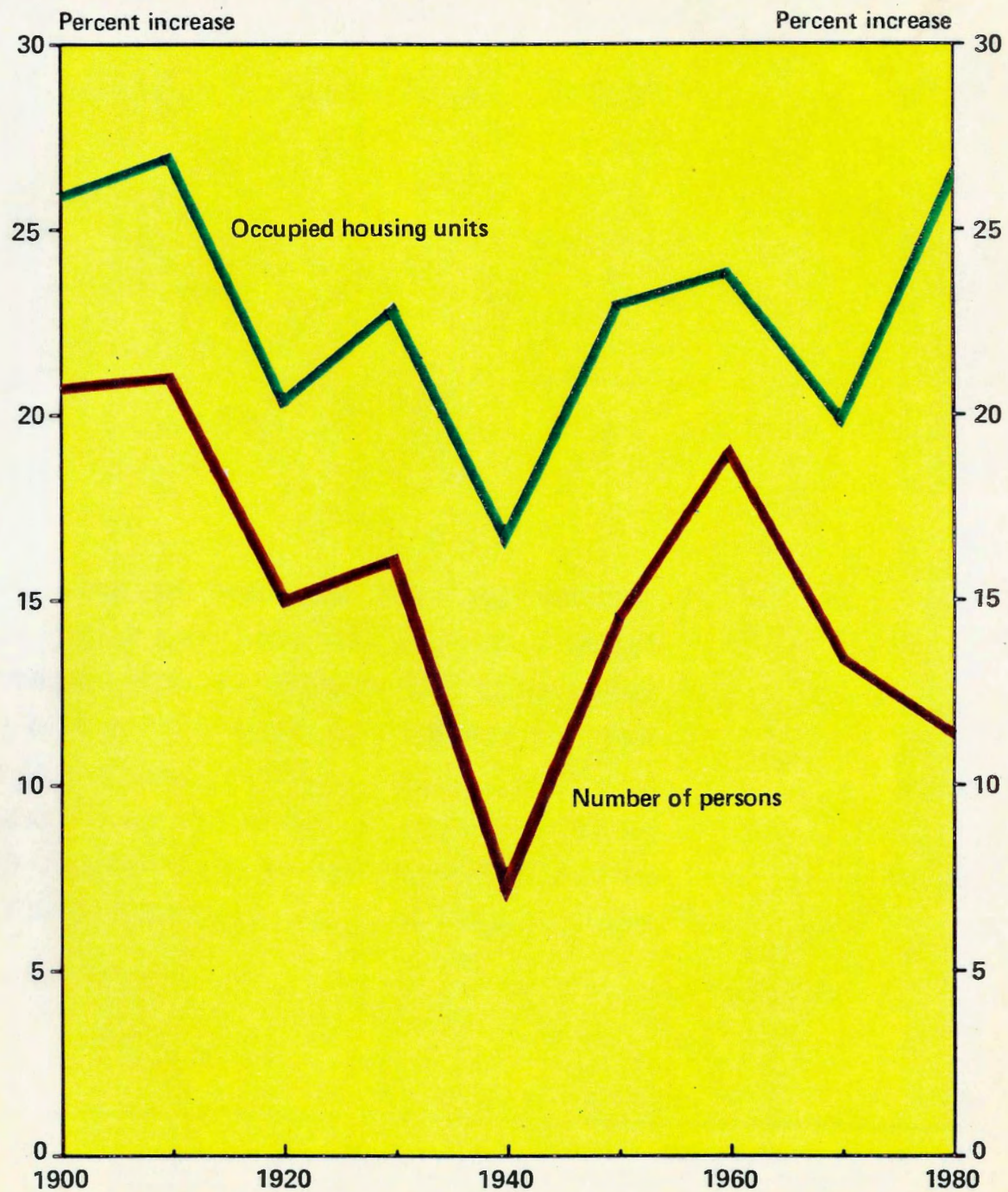
Total Population 65 Years and Over—Number and Ratio to Working-Age Population 16 to 64 Years Old: 1950 to 2050



The rapid growth during the 1980's of persons in the household-forming ages (25 to 34 years old) will cause the total number of households to increase twice as fast as the population. Lower fertility and increasing numbers of people living alone are projected to cause average household size to continue the decline that began in the 1970's. Provisions must be made to enable the housing stock to keep pace with the demand.

FIGURE 6.

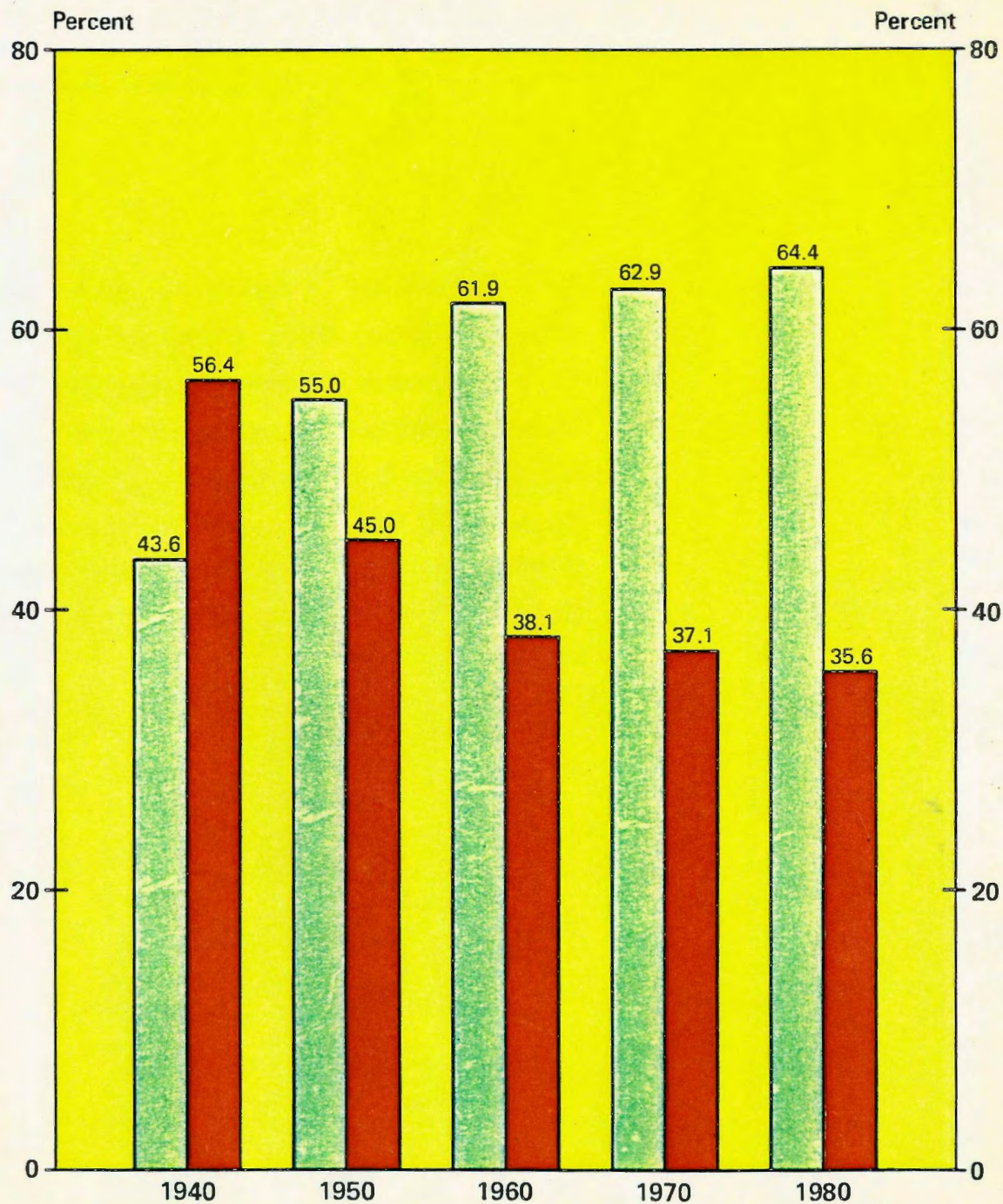
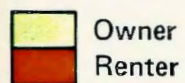
**Percent Growth in
Population and Housing:
1900 to 1980**
(Increase since preceding Census)



Homeownership, a reality for 64 percent of the population, continues to be a goal for many more Americans in this decade. Major housing issues for the 1980's include assuring adequate and economical housing for renters; controlling high costs and interest rates so homeownership is affordable, especially for first-time buyers; and equitably distributing shelter costs for persons on fixed incomes who face increased expenses for energy, fuel, and taxes.

FIGURE 7.

Tenure of Households: 1940 to 1980



Ninety percent of the total U.S. population growth during the 1970-80 period occurred in the southern and western States.

- More than one-half (52.3 percent) of the U.S. population now lives in the South and West.
- Beginning with the 98th Congress, a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives will, for the first time, be elected from the South and West.
- A total of 17 seats have been shifted from northern States to southern and western States.
- Population changes within Congressional Districts ranged from a gain of 94 percent for the 5th and 10th Districts of Florida to a loss of 50 percent for the 21st District of New York.

FIGURE 8. **Percent Change in Total Population, by State: 1970 to 1980**

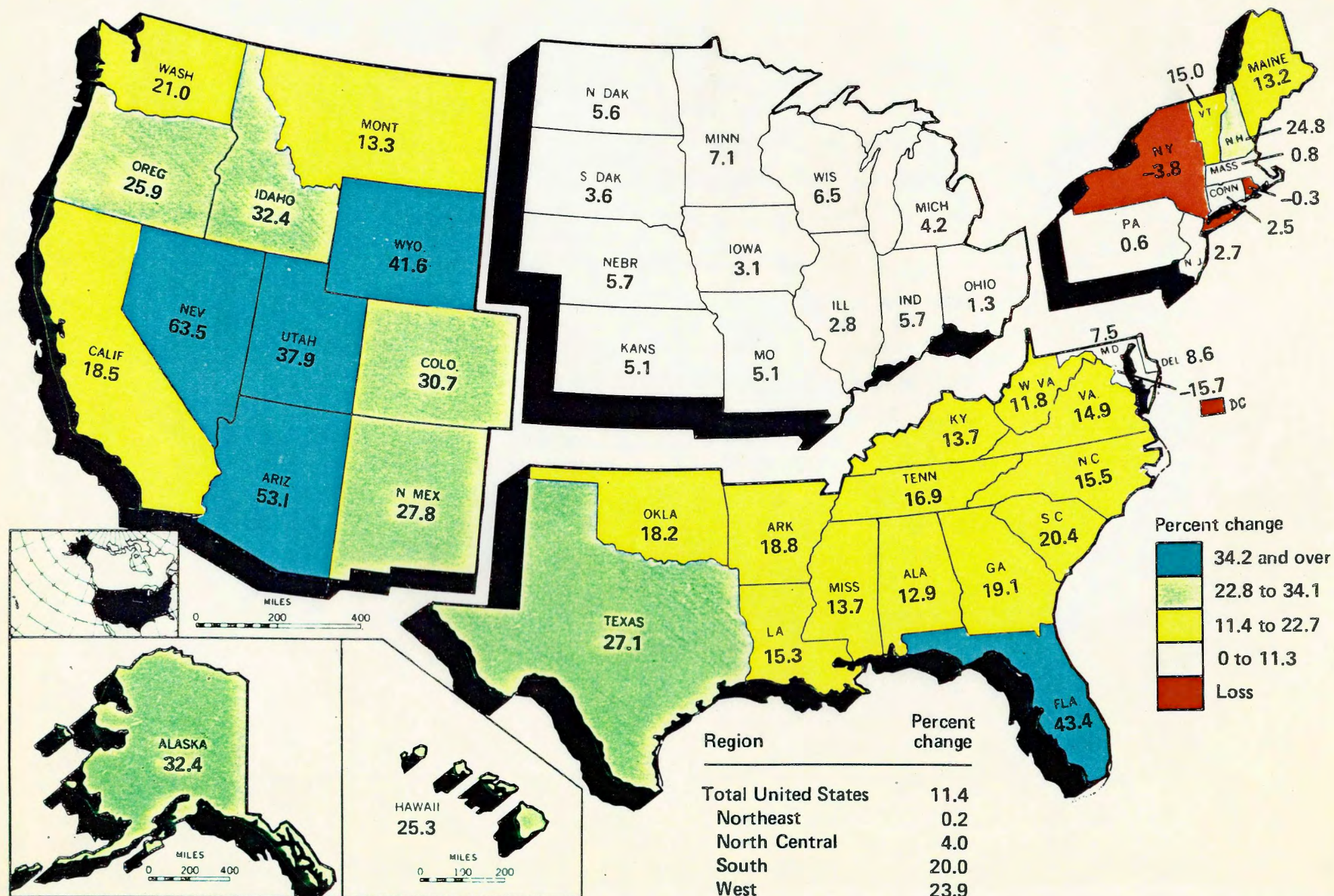


FIGURE 9. Gains and Losses in Seats in the U.S. House of Representatives: 93rd and 98th Congress

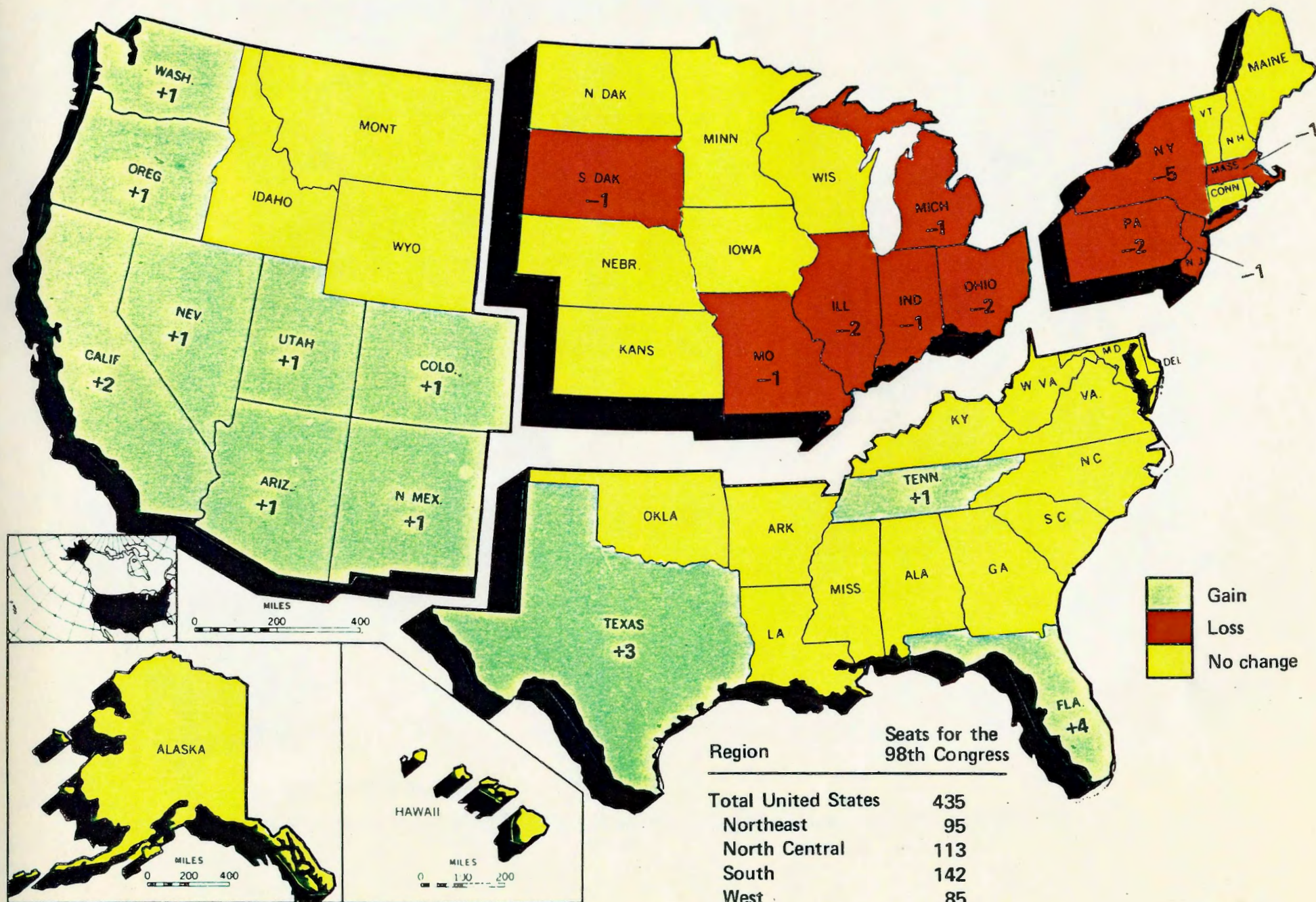
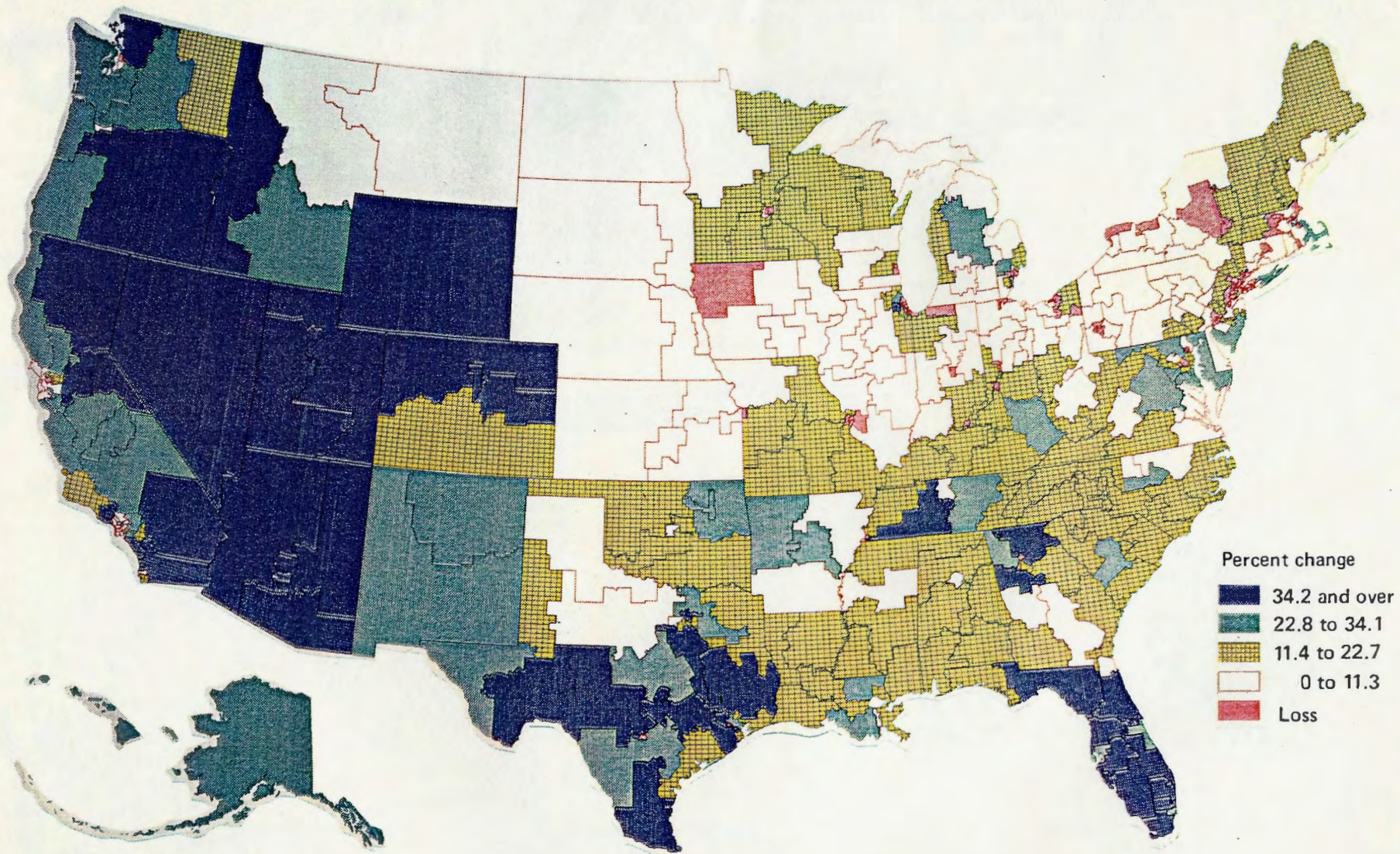


FIGURE 10. **Percent Population Change in Congressional Districts:
1970 to 1980**



The 1980 census has confirmed the earlier finding, based on intercensal estimates, which indicated a complete reversal in metropolitan-nonmetropolitan growth rates with nonmetropolitan areas now growing faster. This new pattern has multifaceted implications, as rapid growth, like decline, brings special problems. How some areas will manage this growth and the attendant problems is a serious concern. This trend, reflecting growing economic opportunities in the less densely settled areas and individual preferences to live in smaller communities, is expected to continue.

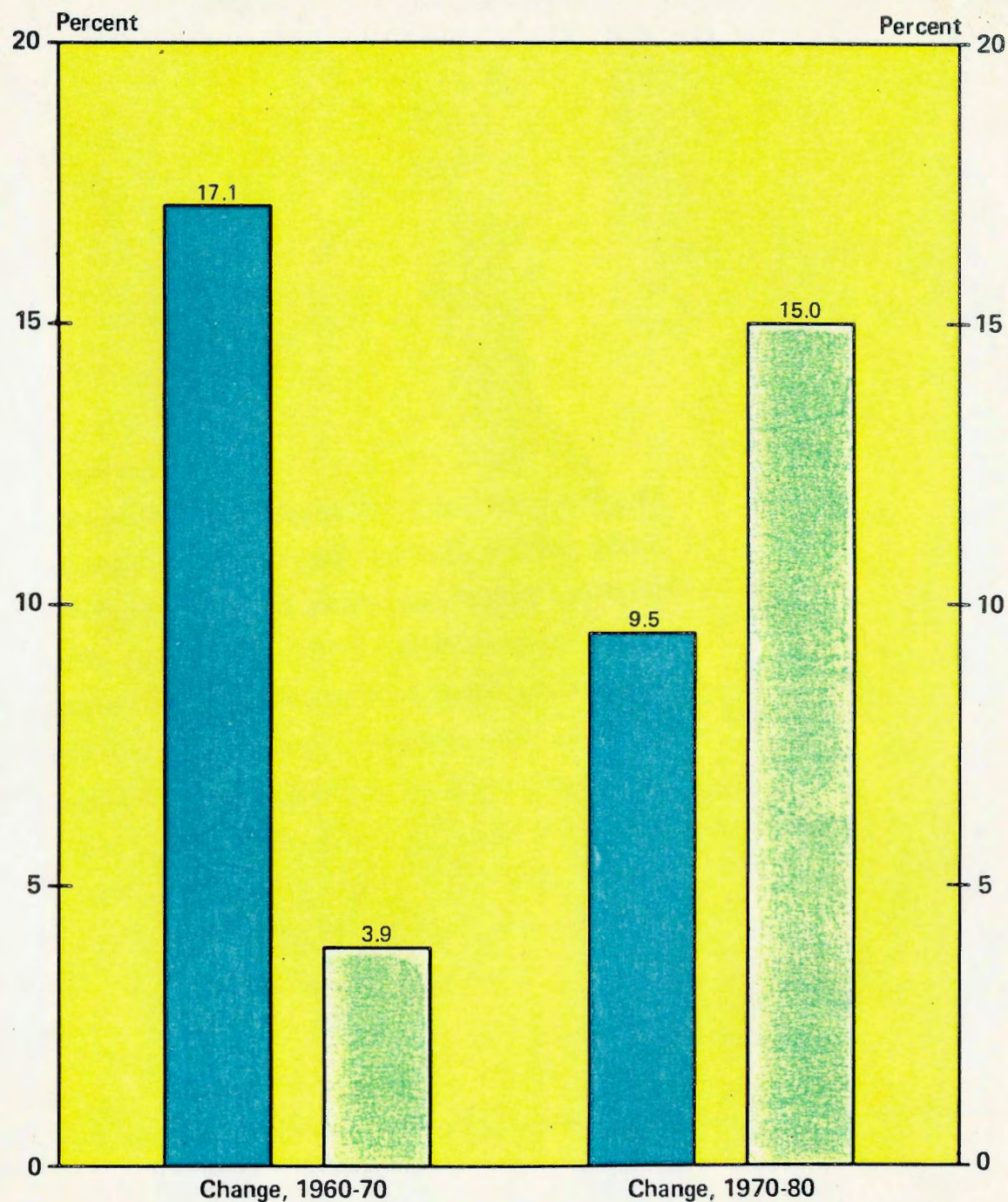
FIGURE 11.

Percent Population Change in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Areas: 1960-70 and 1970-80

(Areas are defined as of
January 1, 1980)

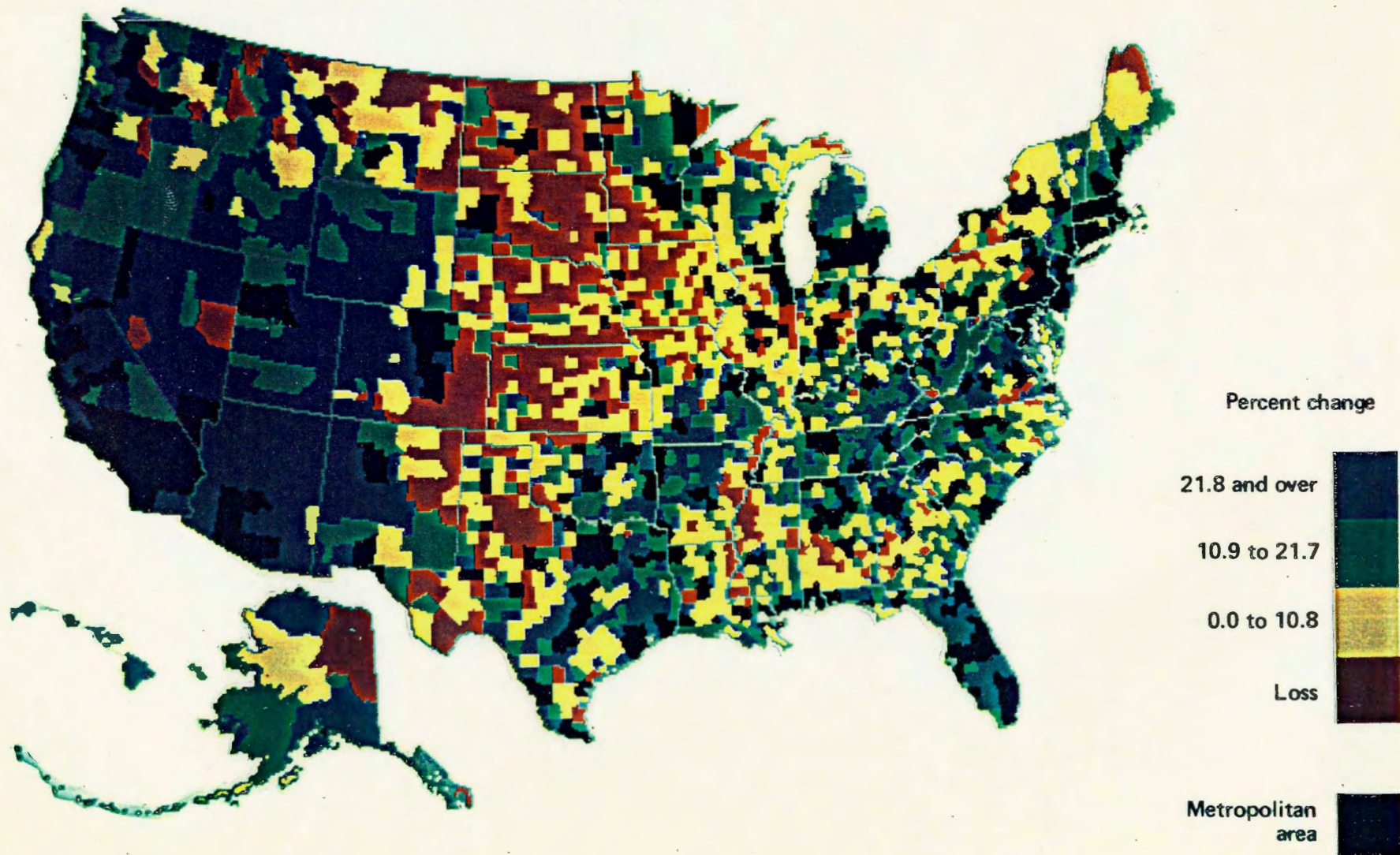


Area	Population in 1970 (millions)	Population in 1980 (millions)
Metropolitan	150.9	165.2
Nonmetropolitan	52.4	60.3



Increases in the nonmetropolitan population have been taking place almost entirely in nonfarm areas; thus, there is no evidence of a significant migration back to farms. Nonmetropolitan growth seems to be associated with outer suburban development, less expensive housing, relocation of retired persons, and new employment opportunities created as industry has spread to these more cost-effective areas. This aspect of geographic distribution implies the need for continued extensions and improvements of interstate highway systems and for expansion and modernization of public service facilities (utilities, water treatment, etc.) for these growing areas.

FIGURE 12. **Percent Population Change in Nonmetropolitan
Counties: 1970 to 1980**
(Areas are defined as of January 1, 1980)



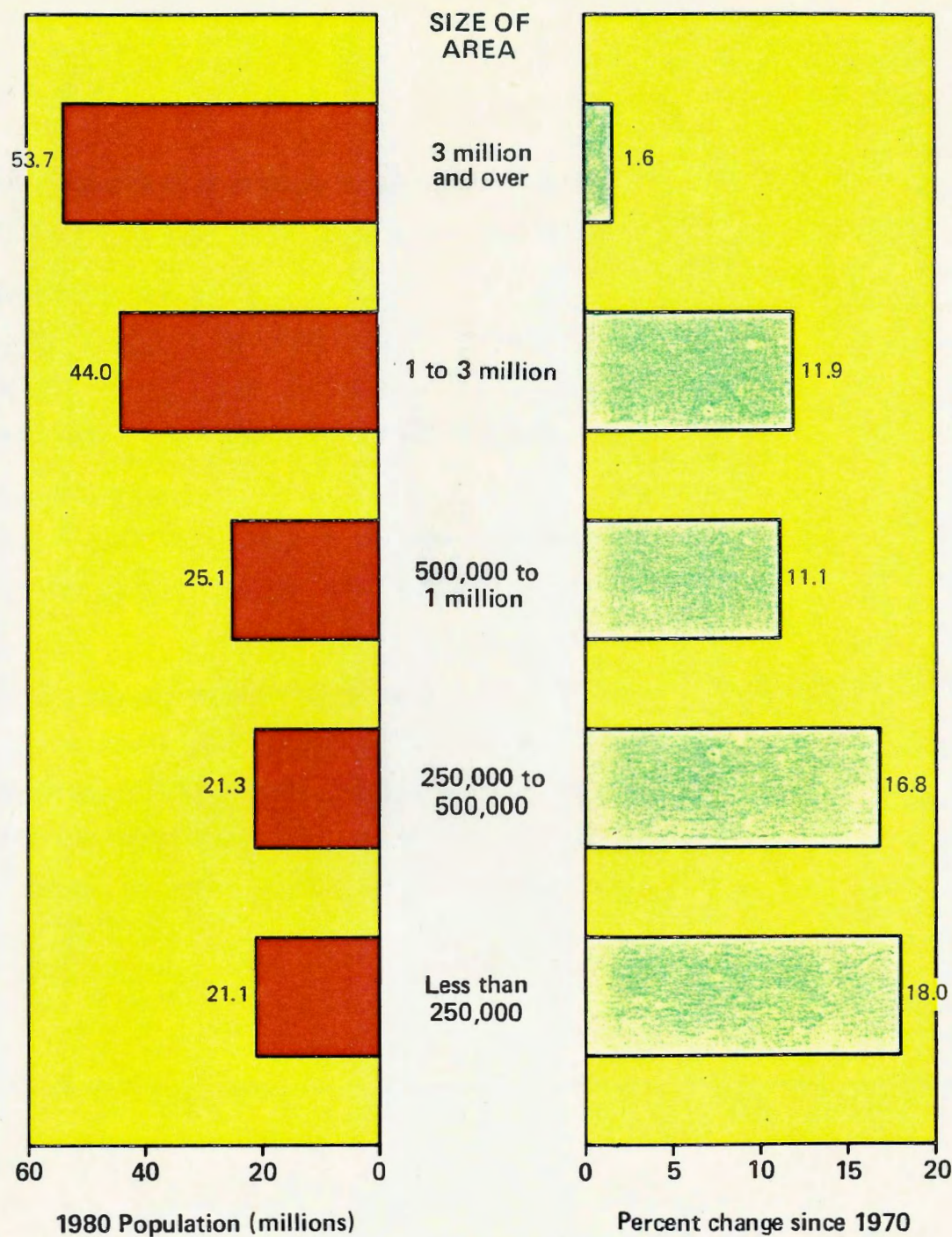
The slow growth of the largest metropolitan areas accounts for the overall metropolitan growth rate being below the national growth rate; during the 1970's, the aggregate growth rates for all metropolitan size categories below 3 million were higher than the national average.

- The New York metropolitan area, the largest of all, experienced a loss of nearly a million persons between 1970 and 1980.
- Of the six other metropolitan areas with a 1970 population of more than 3 million, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Boston showed small losses, while Chicago showed a small gain.
- Only the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas have grown significantly since 1970.

FIGURE 13.

**Number of Persons
in 1980 and Percent
Population Change in
Metropolitan Areas,
by Size, 1970 to 1980**

(Areas are defined as of
January 1, 1980)



Preliminary 1980 census data indicate that the central cities of SMSA's as a group lost about 0.5 percent of their population between 1970 and 1980. Of course, many individual central cities had substantial gains during the decade; this was particularly true of smaller cities in the South and the West. The large central cities of the North lost the most population, and it appears that this will continue in the 1980's, portending economic and social problems for all levels of government.

FIGURE 14. **Percent Population Change in the 30 Largest Cities: 1970 to 1980**

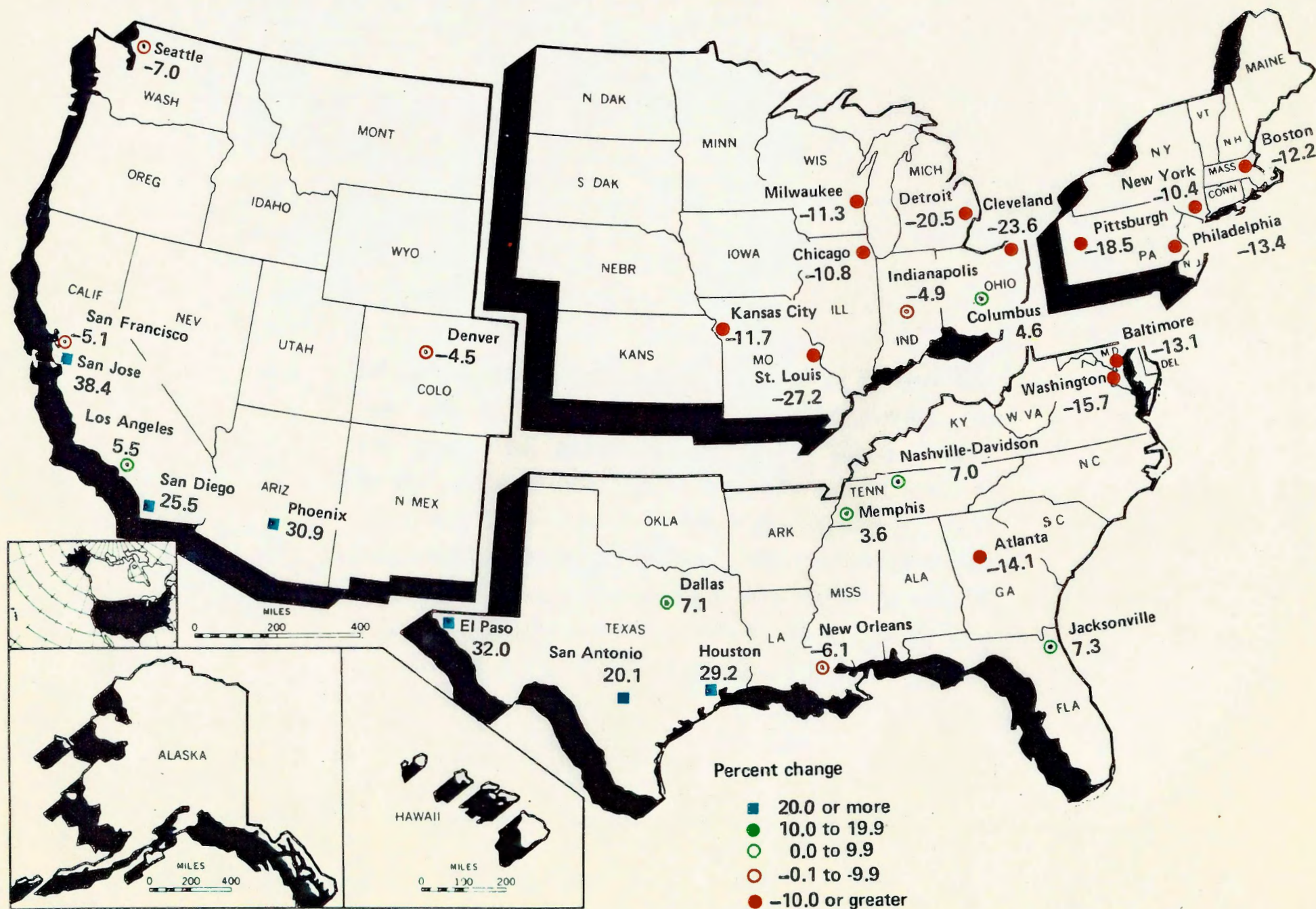


FIGURE 15. **Percent Population Change in Cities Ranked 31 to 60: 1970 to 1980**

