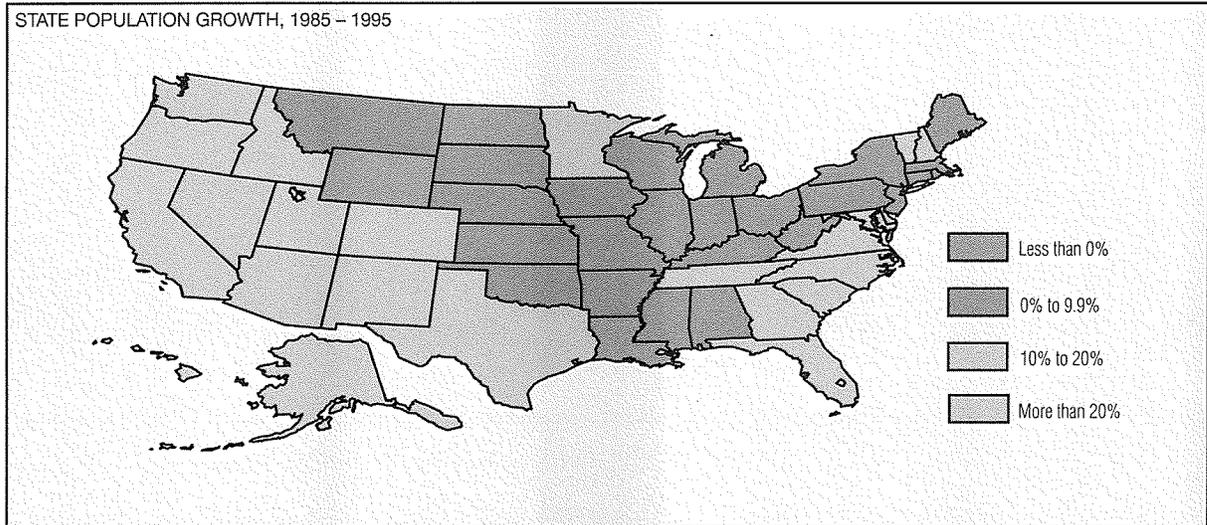
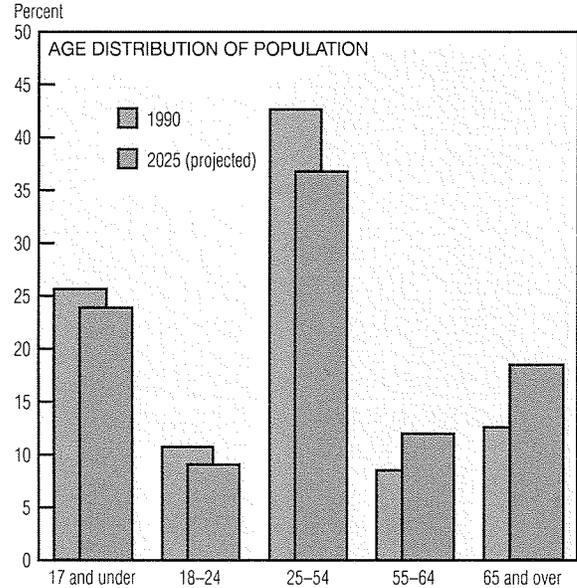
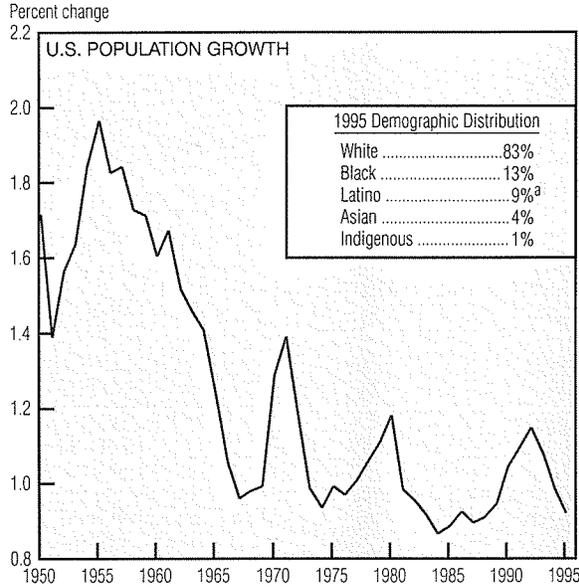


Demographics



a. Latino is not a racial category.
 NOTE: All data refer to resident population.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The Census Bureau estimates that the U.S. population now stands at 265 million—roughly 66 times larger than in 1790, when the first census was taken. This total implies a density of 70 individuals per square land mile. Approximately 83% of the population is white, nearly 13% is black, and about 9% is of Latino background. Women constitute slightly more than half of the total.

Over the last 30 years, the population has expanded at a rate of

about 1% annually. Most of the upturn stems from natural growth, but there has also been a steady rise in immigration. On average, 332,000 individuals immigrated each year in the 1960s, whereas 1.2 million arrived yearly between 1991 and 1993. Approximately 42% of recent immigrants are from North America (notably Mexico and the Caribbean), while 35% come from Asia.

The median age of Americans is currently 34 years, but the population is growing older. In 1990, al-

most 43% of Americans were of prime working age (25 to 54 years), 13% were over 64, and 25% were under 18. Census projections show that by 2025, the proportion in their prime working years will fall to 37%, while those of retirement age will rise to 18%.

The population center of the U.S. continues its southwesterly drift. Over the past 10 years, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Florida, and Georgia have been the fastest-growing states.