

## While the shift to a larger female than male population occurred in every region, the West maintained the highest sex ratio of all U.S. regions throughout the century.

While all four regions had similar trends in the sex ratio to that of the United States, they differed in the degree to which their male and female populations counterbalanced throughout the century (see Figure 2-10). The peak sex ratio for every region occurred in 1910, and the lowest ratio occurred in 1970 in the West, 1980 in the Northeast and the South, and 1990 in the Midwest.

Every region had relatively higher sex ratios during the first half of the century. The sex ratio in the Northeast and the South dropped below 100 during the 1930s, followed by the Midwest during the 1940s. The West, which did not have a larger female population until the 1960s, had the highest sex ratio among the regions for the entire century.

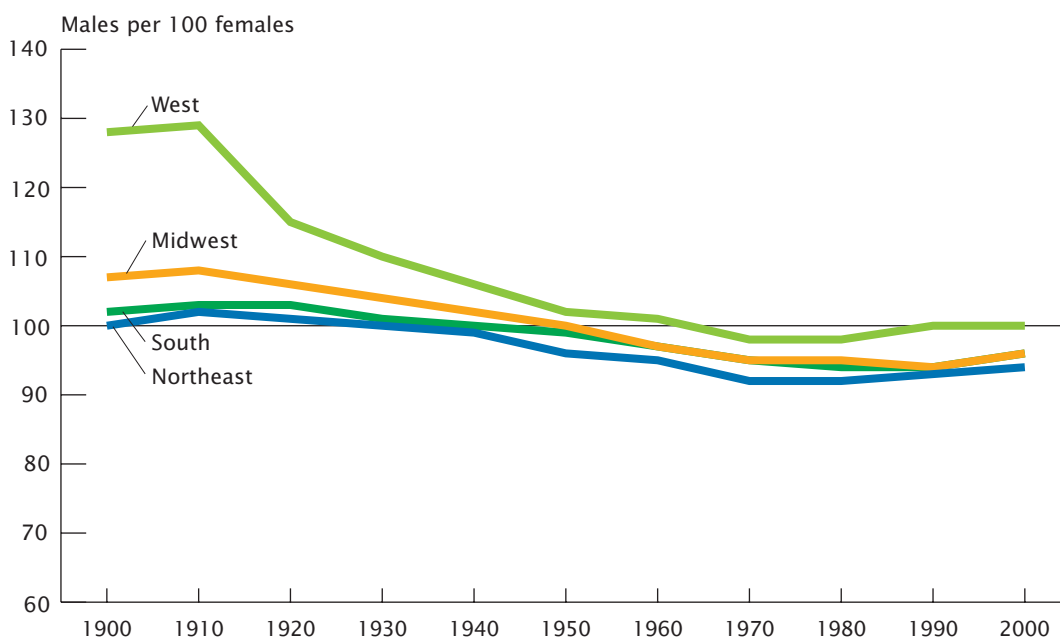
The sex ratios in the West in 1900 (128.1) and 1910 (128.9) were the highest of the 100-year period. In general, the high ratios in the West during the first

several decades of the century reflect the “frontier” character of this region and both international and internal migration starting in the late 19th century of men who were attracted in part by employment opportunities in male-dominated industries, including mining and railroad construction.

During the entire century, the Midwest consistently had the second highest sex ratio (except for 1990), followed by the South, with the third highest sex ratio. The Northeast consistently had the lowest sex ratio of all U.S. regions.

The widest regional difference in the sex ratio occurred in 1900, when the sex ratio ranged from 100.0 in the Northeast to 128.1 in the West. The regional differences narrowed each decade, until 1970, when the sex ratio ranged from 92.5 in the Northeast to 97.7 in the West. In 2000, the sex ratio ranged from 93.5 in the Northeast to 99.6 in the West.

Figure 2-10.  
**Sex Ratio by Region: 1900 to 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1900 to 2000.