

PART II

FRANKLIN COUNTY POPULATION

Growth

Permanent settlers did not begin moving into Franklin County until the latter part of the 1800's because of Indian hostility, lack of transportation, and remoteness from populated areas. The population reached 696 in 1890, then declined to 486 in 1900. Railroad construction brought an upsurge in population after the turn of the century to 5,153 by 1910. Numbers rose very slowly from then until 1940 because of drought conditions and the depression years. From 6,307 in 1940 the population shot to 13,563 in 1950 with the buildup in military and defense industry. Irrigation water provided by the Columbia Basin Project sustained the growth, and 23,342 people were counted in the 1960 census. The county ranked 21st population-wise that year among all Washington counties.

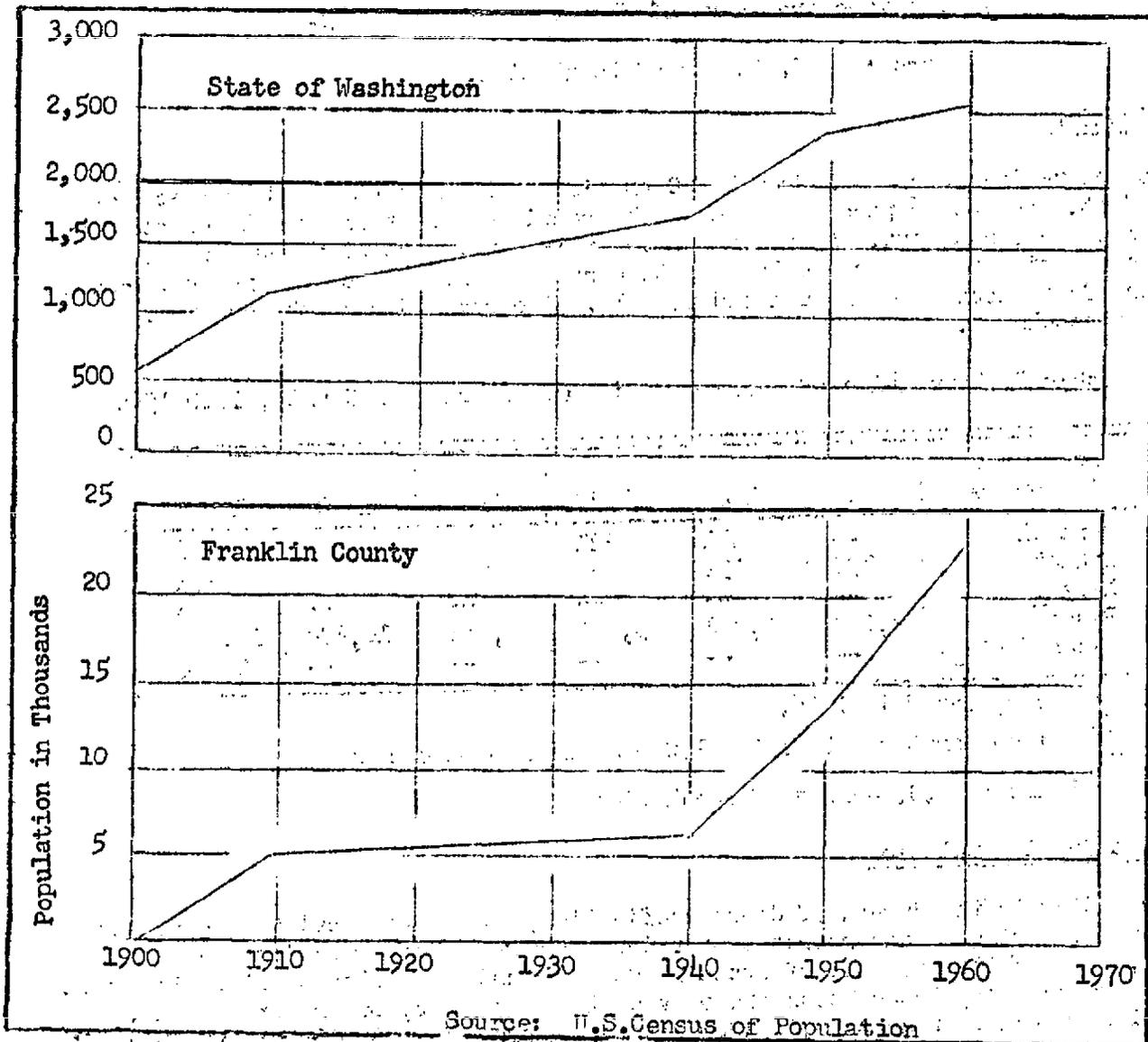


Figure 1. Population Trends: 1900 - 1960.

Table 1. Population of Franklin County, 1890-1860

Year	Population	Rural 1/	Urban
1880 2/	---	---	---
1890	696	696	0
1900	486	486	0
1910	5,153	5,153	0
1920	5,877	2,515	3,362
1930	6,137	2,641	3,496
1940	6,307	2,394	3,913
1950	13,563	3,335	10,228
1960	23,342	5,926	17,416

1/ Those living in the county or towns of less than 2,500.

2/ Organized from part of Whitman County in 1883.

Source: U.S. Census of Population.

Distribution

Seventy-five percent of Franklin County's people in 1960 lived in Pasco and Pasco West. Another 6 percent lived in the remaining incorporated places of Connell, Kahlotus, and Mesa. A map of the county's population distribution shows a dense clustering in and around Pasco with a rather narrow band running north-north-eastward from Pasco through Mesa and Connell. The remainder of the county is sparsely populated.

Table 2. Population of Incorporated Places, Franklin County, 1910-1960

Incorporated City or Town	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960
Connell	--	311	321	365	465	906
Kahlotus	132	151	164	163	151	131
Mesa 1/	--	--	--	--	--	263
Pasco	2,083	3,362	3,496	3,913	10,228	14,522
Pasco West 2/	--	--	--	--	--	2,894

1/ Incorporated in 1956.

2/ Unincorporated but having 1,000 or more inhabitants.

Source: U.S. Census of Population.

Urban and Rural Population

According to the Bureau of Census definition, the urban population consists of those people living in incorporated or unincorporated towns or cities having at least 2,500 inhabitants. All of Franklin County's urban population lives in either Pasco or Pasco West, these being the only centers having 2,500 or more people. Pasco first reached urban size in 1920 with a population of 3,362; all the county's

residents were rural before then. Pasco grew slowly until 1940, then climbed to 10,228 in 1950 and to 14,522 in 1960 as new workers were attracted by industry and irrigation. Pasco West in 1960 was a new, unincorporated suburb having 2,894 people.

Other incorporated places in the county are Connell, Mesa, and Kahlotus. Connell, a farm trade center in a newly irrigated district of the Columbia Basin Project, doubled its population from 465 in 1950 to 906 in 1960. Mesa has also grown by virtue of its location in the irrigation project. Incorporated in 1956, it had 263 inhabitants in 1960. Kahlotus is an older town in the dryland grain farming area of northeastern Franklin County. Its 1960 population of 131 was somewhat lower than that in the years 1920 to 1950.

The rural non-farm population--those people living in the county but not engaged in farming--was 792 in 1930 and 813 in 1940. The number jumped to 2,121 in 1950, largely due to industrial workers who found jobs in Pasco during the war years and commuted from nearby rural areas. Rural non-farm people numbered 2,773 in 1960.

Rural farm inhabitants decreased during the depression and war years, from 1,849 in 1930 to 1,581 in 1940 to 1,214 in 1950. The number more than doubled in the next ten years to 3,153 in 1960 as new irrigation farmers came into the area.

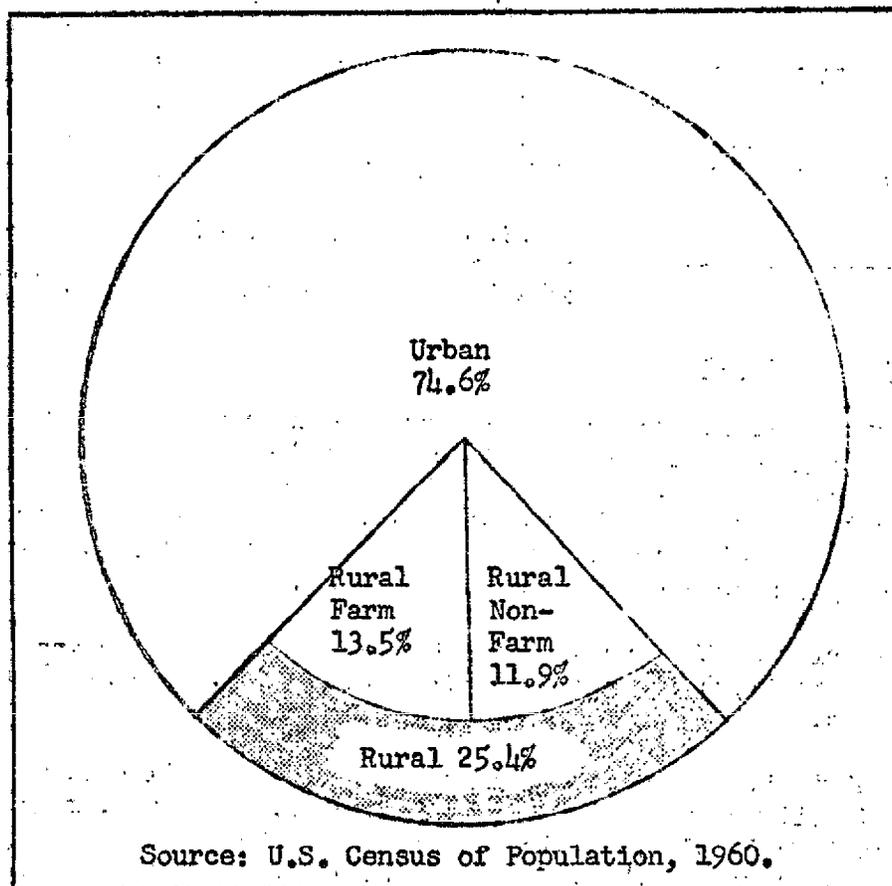


Figure 2. Urban and Rural Population, Franklin County, 1960.

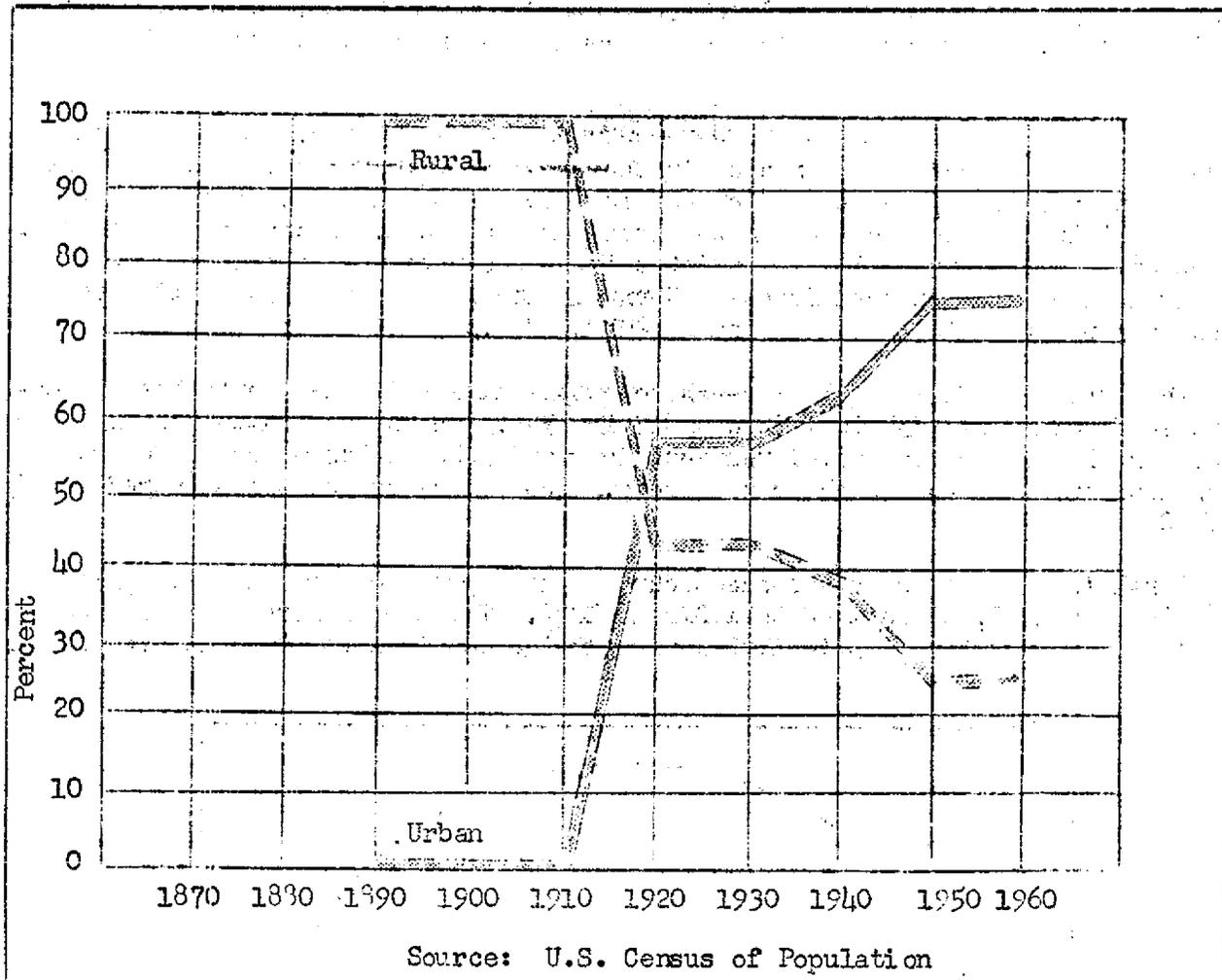


Figure 3. Rural and Urban Population Trends, Franklin County, 1890-1960.

Population Characteristics

Agriculture and allied trading activities have attracted settlers of varied origins. Of the 23,342 inhabitants in 1960, those from first or second generation foreign stock numbered 2,815. Only 415 of these were actually foreign born, indicating immigration has slowed in recent years. The most common countries of origin for those of foreign stock were Canada (607), Germany (434), United Kingdom (373), Norway (239), Sweden (185), and Russia (174).

A large majority of the county's people are of the white race--21,992 in 1960. Nonwhites were Negro (1,230), Japanese (53), Indian (39), Chinese (15), Filipino (3), and 10 others.

Of the county's 1,500 employed workers in 1960, 945 (11 percent) were in agriculture. Miscellaneous services such as finance, insurance, real estate, education, medical facilities, repair services, and others employed 2,051. Retail and wholesale trade claimed 1,499. Another 1,177 worked in construction and 778 in manufacturing. Transportation facilities, communications, and public utilities employed 1,224 and 372 worked in public administration.

The ratio of males to females in the county in 1930 was 124 to 100. For the farm population the ratio was 148 to 100, and for the rural non-farm, 151 to 100. The situation had improved somewhat from the male standpoint by 1960, with 108 males per 100 females. Males outnumbered females 120 to 100 on the farms that year and 110 to 100 in the rural non-farm population.

Table 3. Employment of the Population,
Franklin County, 1960.

Types of Employment	Total Workers
<u>Total employed workers</u>	8,500
Agriculture.....	945
Forestry and Fisheries.....	0
Mining.....	8
Construction.....	1,177
Manufacturing.....	778
Transportation, Communications and other Public Utilities.....	1,224
Retail and Wholesale Trade.....	1,499
Miscellaneous Services.....	2,051
Public Administration (govern- ment employment).....	372
Other employment.....	446

Source: U.S. Census of Population

The age structure reflects the recent expansion and influx of young newcomers in that young age classes account for a larger proportion of the inhabitants than in the rest of the state. Young people under 18 years made up 41 percent of the county's population in 1960, as compared to 36 percent for the state. Median age that year was 26 for the county and 30 for the state. People 65 years old and over accounted for 5 percent of the county's inhabitants and 10 percent of the state's.

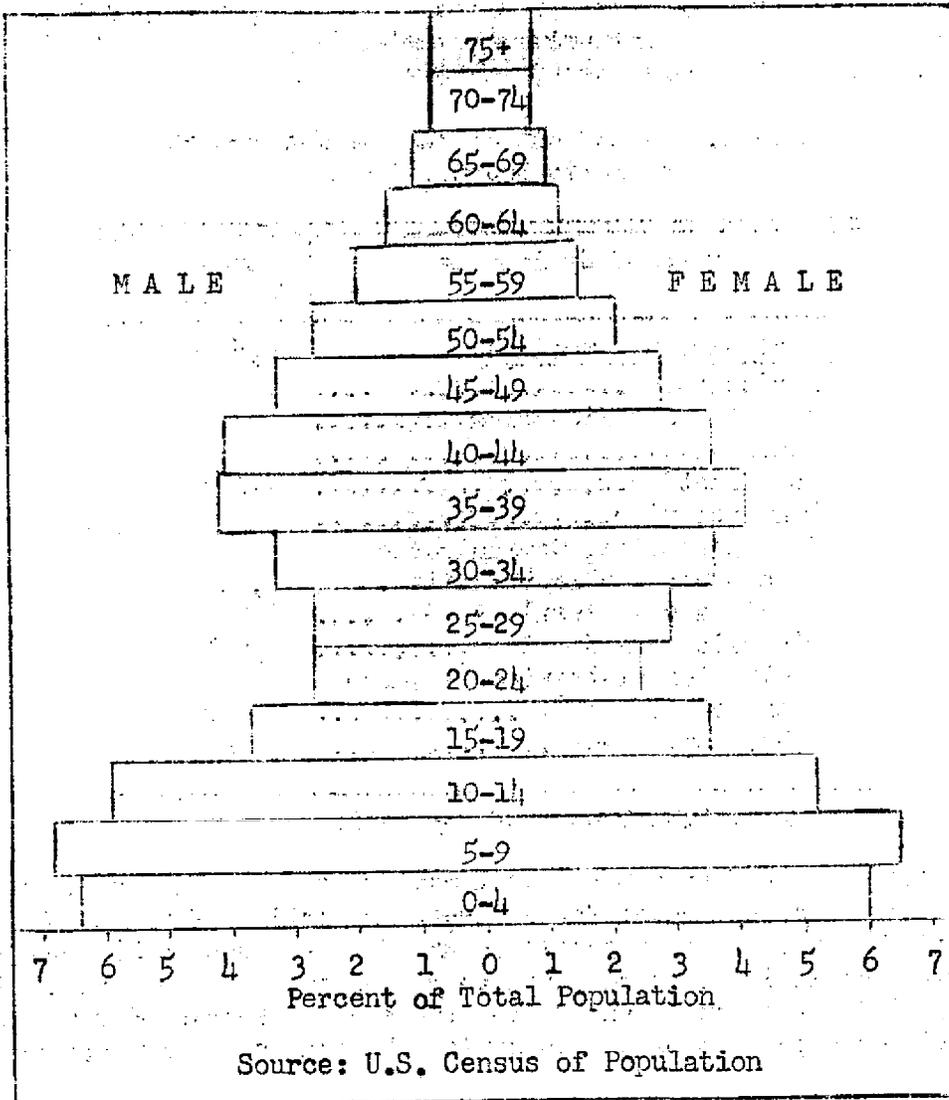


Figure 4. Age Distribution of Population, Franklin County, 1960.