

APPENDIX 2

States and Census Regions

Monty Hindman

The United States is organized under a federal system of government, presently consisting of a national government plus fifty states and the District of Columbia. Each state has its own constitution and governance structure.

Statehood

Authority for admitting new states is vested in Congress by the Constitution's Article IV, Section 3. Once an area has achieved territorial status – a typical preliminary step on the route to statehood – the procedure for becoming a state usually involves three steps: first a territory petitions Congress through its territorial assembly; then Congress passes an enabling act authorizing the territory to write a constitution; finally, Congress passes an act admitting the state to the union. Both the enabling and admission acts require presidential approval.

Table Ap-E provides information concerning the timing of two important stages in that process: the date of legislation conferring territorial status (where applicable) and the effective date of admission to the United States.

There have been many deviations from the procedure just described; in fact, it is just one of the common routes taken to statehood. Three others can be noted.

- The thirteen original states were created through an entirely different political process. For such cases, the date of the state's ratification of the U.S. Constitution is given as the date of effective admission in Table Ap-E.
- Six states bypassed the territorial stage and were admitted directly. Four of them – Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, and West Virginia – had been part of other states prior to admission. California had been an unorganized area under military rule. And Texas was an independent republic before becoming a state.
- Eight states – Colorado, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington – were formally admitted through presidential proclamation, Congress

having authorized this during the enabling phase for these states.

Census Regions

Many tables in *Historical Statistics of the United States* refer to census regions and divisions or rely on the two-letter state codes standardized by the U.S. Postal Service. Refer to Map Ap-F for the current state boundaries and the current census regional classification. Refer to Table Ap-E for a listing of the state codes.

The census regional classifications have a history. Through 1840, the decennial censuses tended not to organize statistical presentations along regional lines. Instead, state-level data were typically shown in tables that simply listed the states in north-to-south fashion. The Census Office introduced many changes to the tabular presentation of data in the 1850 Census, including the use of various regional groupings in summary tables that were published as part of a one-volume compendium. This change was one part of a wide-ranging census reform conducted against the backdrop of a deepening sectional crisis that gave regional summaries new salience.¹

The use of regional tabulations and summaries was continued in subsequent censuses, with a fair bit of variation and experimentation in the groupings as new states were admitted to the nation. A five-region scheme used in the 1880 Census is generally consistent with modern categories, although various regroupings and minor adjustments to nomenclature have occurred since 1880 (see Table Ap-G). Beginning with the 1900 Census, the regional categories were standardized.

References

Anderson, Margo J. 1988. *The American Census: A Social History*. Yale University Press.

¹ For a discussion of the wider reforms and the political context, see Anderson (1988). For details on the regional classifications used in the nineteenth century, refer to the source for Table Ap-G.

TABLE Ap-E Dates of territorial legislation and effective admission to the United States: 1787–1959

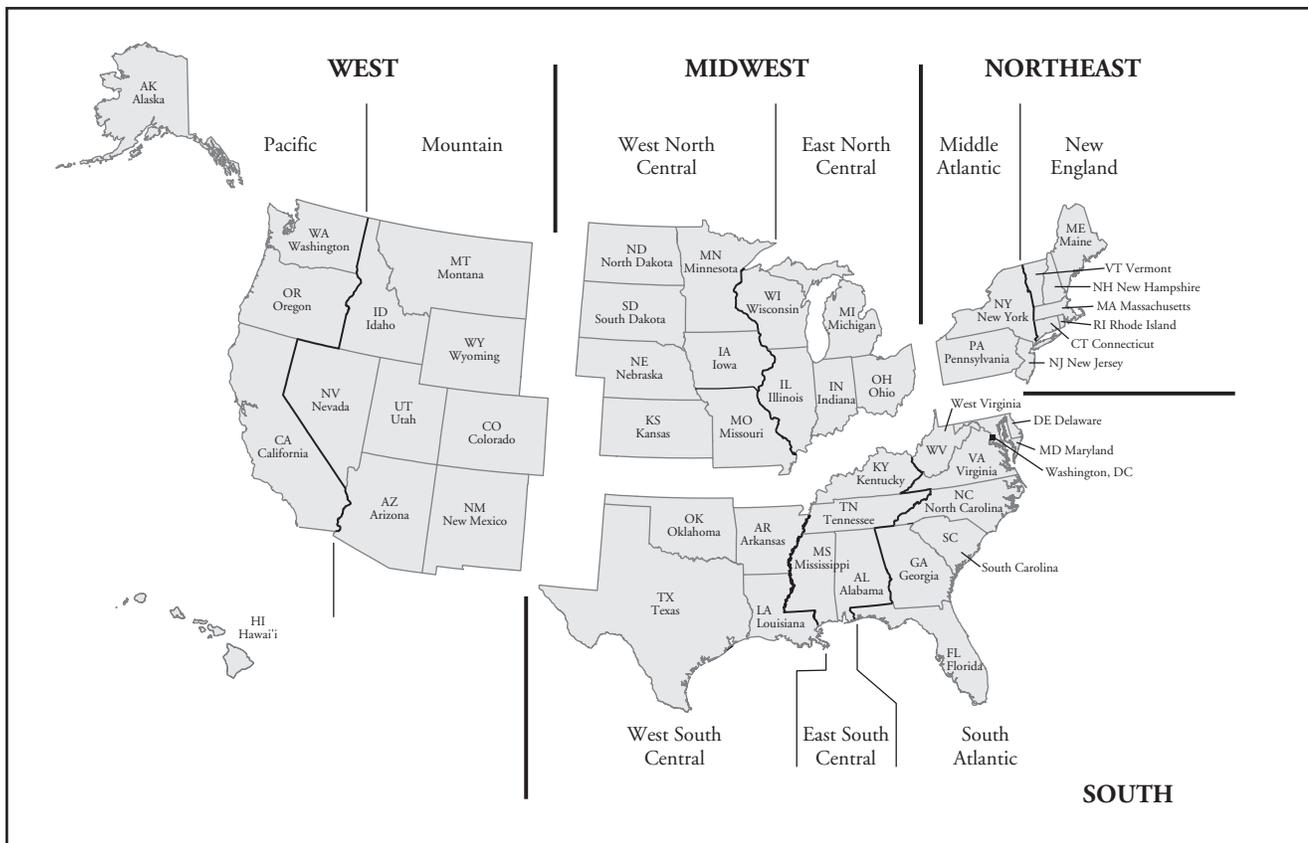
State		Territorial act		Effective admission		State		Territorial act		Effective admission	
Name	Code	Date	Year	Date	Year	Name	Code	Date	Year	Date	Year
Delaware	DE	—	—	Dec 7	1787	Michigan	MI	Jan 11	1805	Jan 26	1837
Pennsylvania	PA	—	—	Dec 12	1787	Florida	FL	Mar 30	1822	Mar 3	1845
New Jersey	NJ	—	—	Dec 18	1787	Texas	TX	—	—	Dec 29	1845
Georgia	GA	—	—	Jan 2	1788	Iowa	IA	Jun 12	1838	Dec 28	1846
Connecticut	CT	—	—	Jan 9	1788	Wisconsin	WI	Apr 20	1836	May 29	1848
Massachusetts	MA	—	—	Feb 6	1788	California	CA	—	—	Sep 9	1850
Maryland	MD	—	—	Apr 28	1788	Minnesota	MN	Mar 3	1849	May 11	1858
South Carolina	SC	—	—	May 23	1788	Oregon	OR	Aug 14	1848	Feb 14	1859
New Hampshire	NH	—	—	Jun 21	1788	Kansas	KS	May 30	1854	Jan 29	1861
Virginia	VA	—	—	Jun 25	1788	West Virginia	WV	—	—	Jun 20	1863
New York	NY	—	—	Jul 26	1788	Nevada	NV	Mar 2	1861	Oct 31	1864
North Carolina	NC	—	—	Nov 21	1789	Nebraska	NE	May 30	1854	Mar 1	1867
Rhode Island	RI	—	—	May 29	1790	Colorado	CO	Feb 28	1861	Aug 1	1876
Vermont	VT	—	—	Mar 4	1791	North Dakota	ND	Mar 2	1861	Nov 2	1889
Kentucky	KY	—	—	Jun 1	1792	South Dakota	SD	Mar 2	1861	Nov 2	1889
Tennessee	TN	May 26	1790	Jun 1	1796	Montana	MT	May 26	1864	Nov 8	1889
Ohio	OH	Jul 13	1787	Mar 1	1803	Washington	WA	Mar 2	1853	Nov 11	1889
Louisiana	LA	Mar 26	1804	Apr 30	1812	Idaho	ID	Mar 3	1863	Jul 3	1890
Indiana	IN	May 7	1800	Dec 11	1816	Wyoming	WY	Jul 25	1868	Jul 10	1890
Mississippi	MS	Apr 7	1798	Dec 10	1817	Utah	UT	Sep 9	1850	Jan 4	1896
Illinois	IL	Feb 3	1809	Dec 3	1818	Oklahoma	OK	May 2	1890	Nov 16	1907
Alabama	AL	Mar 3	1817	Dec 14	1819	New Mexico	NM	Sep 9	1850	Jan 6	1912
Maine	ME	—	—	Mar 15	1820	Arizona	AZ	Feb 24	1863	Feb 14	1912
Missouri	MO	Jun 4	1812	Aug 10	1821	Alaska	AK	Aug 24	1912	Jan 3	1959
Arkansas	AR	Mar 2	1819	Jun 15	1836	Hawai'i	HI	Apr 30	1900	Aug 21	1959

Source

Peter B. Sheridan, *Admission of States into the Union after the Original Thirteen: A Brief History and Analysis of the Statehood Process* (Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, April 2, 1985).

Documentation

This table does not provide dates for the legislation enabling a territory to write a constitution or for the admission legislation itself (as contrasted with the date of effective admission). Refer to the source for such details.



MAP Ap-F Map of the United States, with current census regions and divisions

Source

U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States* (2000), front flyleaf.
Historical Statistics of the United States, Millennial Edition On Line, edited by Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright, © Cambridge University Press 2006.

TABLE Ap-G Census regions and divisions: 1880–2000

1880–1890	1900	1910–1940	1950–2000
North Atlantic	North Atlantic New England	North New England	Northeast New England Maine New Hampshire Vermont Massachusetts Rhode Island Connecticut
	Southern North Atlantic	Middle Atlantic	Middle Atlantic New York New Jersey Pennsylvania
Northern Central	North Central Eastern North Central	East North Central	Midwest East North Central Ohio Indiana Illinois Michigan Wisconsin
	Western North Central	West North Central	West North Central Minnesota Iowa Missouri North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska Kansas
South Atlantic	South Atlantic Northern South Atlantic	South South Atlantic	South South Atlantic Delaware Maryland District of Columbia Virginia West Virginia
	Southern South Atlantic		North Carolina South Carolina Georgia Florida
South Central	South Central Eastern South Central	East South Central	East South Central Kentucky Tennessee Alabama Mississippi
	Western South Central	West South Central	West South Central Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas
Western	Western Rocky Mountain	West Mountain	West Mountain Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico
	Basin and Plateau		Arizona Utah Nevada
	Pacific	Pacific	Pacific Washington Oregon California Alaska Hawai'i

Source

U. S. Bureau of the Census, "Statistical Groupings of States and Counties," Chapter 6 in *Geographic Areas Reference Manual* (1994).

Documentation

Note that the Midwest region was designated as the North Central region until June 1984.