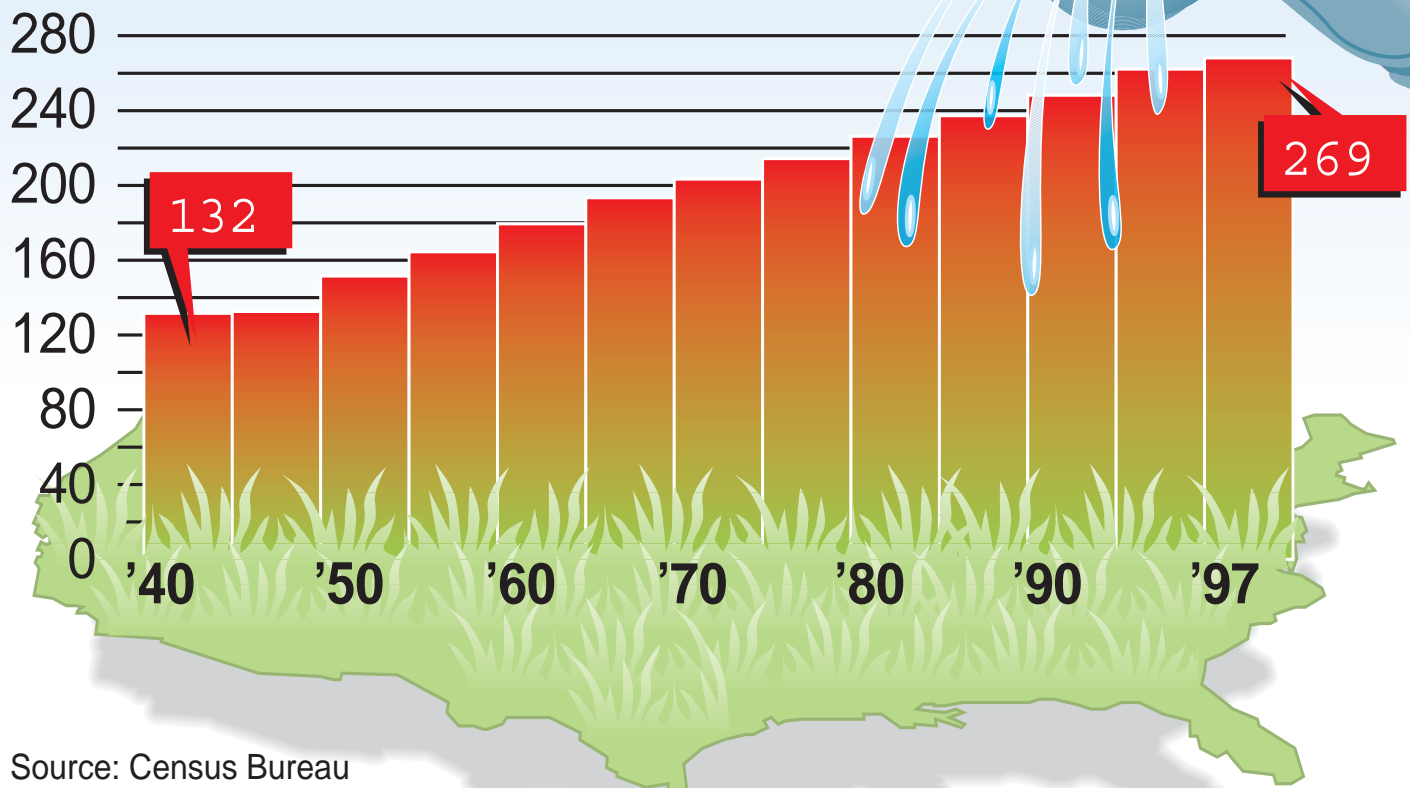


USA SNAPSHOTS®

A look at statistics that shape the nation

More of U.S.

The nation began 1998 with an estimated population of 269 million, an increase of about 2.4 million in the past year. U.S. population growth (in millions):



Source: Census Bureau

By Cindy Hall and Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY