

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

PRELIMINARY COUNTS

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P R E L I M I N A R Y

POPULATION OF URBANIZED AREAS: APRIL 1, 1950

(The figures in this report are preliminary counts of population as compiled in field offices and may differ from the verified population totals which are now being compiled. Final population figures for the United States and each State are given in Series PC-9, No. 1)

One-quarter of the population of the United States is concentrated in 12 urbanized areas of 1,000,000 inhabitants or more with a combined population of 37,595,460, according to preliminary figures from the 1950 Census reported today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. An urbanized area consists of one or more cities of 50,000 or more and all the nearby closely settled suburban territory, or urban fringe. In all, 157 urbanized areas have been established and defined by the Bureau of the Census, accounting for every city of 50,000 or more population in 1940 or at a subsequent special census conducted by the Bureau of the Census prior to 1950. The total population of these 157 urbanized areas on April 1, 1950, was 68,787,978.

The population in urbanized areas represents a large part but not all of the urban population of the country. Also included in the urban population of 1950 were residents of incorporated and unincorporated places of 2,500 or more outside of urbanized areas. Figures for the total urban population will be given in a forthcoming report in this series.

The 12 urbanized areas of 1,000,000 inhabitants or more and their populations are as follows:

New York-Northeastern	
New Jersey.....	12,222,963
Chicago.....	4,902,801
Los Angeles.....	3,970,595
Philadelphia.....	2,913,516
Detroit.....	2,644,476
Boston.....	2,218,893

San Francisco-Oakland....	1,997,303
Pittsburgh.....	1,525,966
St. Louis.....	1,394,051
Cleveland.....	1,372,274
Washington, D. C.....	1,281,572
Baltimore.....	1,151,050

The combined population of the central cities of all urbanized areas was 47,988,213, or 69.8 percent of the total population of the areas. The proportion of the population residing in the central city or cities, however, varied greatly between areas, ranging from a low of 28.3 percent for the Wilkes-Barre Urbanized Area to a high of virtually 100 percent for the Beaumont Urbanized Area. There were 79 urbanized areas with 80 percent or more of their population in the central city or cities, and 150 with half or more of their population in central cities. Of the seven urbanized areas with less than half of the area population concentrated in the central city or cities, four--those having as their central cities Boston, Providence, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre--were in the Northeast, and three--Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Bernardino--were in the West.

The preliminary population counts shown in this report represent the number of persons enumerated in each urbanized area but not the final verified population totals. The final population totals may differ from the preliminary counts because of the allocation to the place of usual residence of persons who were enumerated elsewhere, the inclusion of crews of vessels docked within an area but not included in the preliminary count, and because of other revisions.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Urbanized areas.--The urbanized areas for which data are presented in this report are areas defined for the first time for use in the 1950 Census. The major objective of the Bureau of the Census in delineating these areas was to provide a better separation of urban and rural population in the vicinity of the larger cities. All persons who resided in urbanized areas on April 1, 1950, are included in the urban population in 1950. On the other hand, the urban definition used in the 1940 Census would have included as urban only a portion of the persons in urbanized areas, namely those who lived in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in a relatively few places designated as urban under special rules. In general, the effect of the adoption of the urbanized area concept is to include in the urban population many persons living under distinctly urban conditions in the immediate environs of our larger cities who under the 1940 rules would have been considered as part of the rural population.

The following types of areas are included in a city's urban fringe if they are contiguous to the central city or if they are contiguous to an area already included in the urbanized area.

1. Incorporated places with 2,500 inhabitants or more.
2. Incorporated places with fewer than 2,500 inhabitants containing an area with a concentration of 100 dwelling units or more with a density in this concentration of 500 or more per square mile. This density represents approximately 2,000 persons per square mile and normally is the minimum found associated with a closely-spaced street pattern.
3. Unincorporated territory with at least 500 dwelling units per square mile.
4. Territory devoted to commercial, industrial, transportational, recreational, and other purposes functionally related to the central city.

In addition, outlying noncontiguous areas, incorporated or unincorporated, meeting the residential density requirements are included in the urbanized area in the following cases. All outlying areas within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the central contiguous urban area, measured along the shortest connecting highway, are included. Also, any outlying area within one-half mile of another outlying area, itself within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the central contiguous urban area, is included.

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Since the delineation of the urbanized areas had to be completed prior to the enumeration date of the 1950 Census, urbanized areas have been defined only for those cities having a population of 50,000 inhabitants in 1940 or at some subsequent special census conducted by the Bureau of the Census. Two of the cities for which urbanized areas were defined--Fort Smith and Muskegon--fell below the 50,000 level on April 1, 1950; however, the urbanized areas for these cities were retained in the urbanized area list. There were 20 cities with a population of less than 50,000 in 1940 which passed that size by 1950 and which are not in any urbanized area.

Relationship with other kinds of areas.--The urbanized areas must be distinguished from standard metropolitan areas. These, too, center on cities of 50,000 or more but are in general defined in terms of entire counties. As a result an urbanized area tends to be considerably smaller in area and somewhat smaller in population than the standard metropolitan area having the same central city. Figures for the two types of areas are not comparable.

In the 1940 Census and previous censuses data were provided for a somewhat different kind of area centering on cities of 50,000 or more, the metropolitan district. The metropolitan district was defined in terms of central cities and adjacent minor civil divisions with a population density of 150 or more per square mile. Because of the difference in definition, figures for urbanized areas and metropolitan districts are in general not comparable even though the two kinds of areas may have considerable territory in common in specific cases.

Central cities.--Although an urbanized area may contain more than one city of 50,000 or more, all cities of this size are not necessarily central cities. The largest city of an area is always a central city. In addition, the second and third most populous cities in the area may qualify as central cities provided they have populations amounting to at least one-third of the largest city in the area and have a minimum of 25,000 inhabitants. The names of the urbanized areas indicate the central cities of the areas since the central cities always appear in the title. The one exception to this rule is the New York-Northeastern New Jersey Urbanized Area of which the central cities are New York City, N. Y., Jersey City, N. J., and Newark, N. J.

POPULATION OF URBANIZED AREAS: APRIL 1, 1950

Urbanized area	Preliminary count, 1950 ¹			Percent of population inside central city or cities	Urbanized area	Preliminary count, 1950 ¹			Percent of population inside central city or cities
	Total	Inside central city or cities	Outside central city or cities			Total	Inside central city or cities	Outside central city or cities	
Total, 157 urbanized areas.....	68,787,978	47,988,213	20,799,765	69.8					
Akron, Ohio.....	365,130	273,189	91,941	74.8	Memphis, Tenn.....	404,083	394,012	10,021	97.5
Albany-Troy, N. Y.....	290,209	206,041	84,168	71.0	Miami, Fla.....	453,004	246,983	206,021	54.5
Allentown-Bethlehem, Pa.....	225,155	172,260	52,895	76.5	Milwaukee, Wis.....	823,430	632,651	190,779	76.8
Altoona, Pa.....	66,249	76,844	9,405	89.1	Minnneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.....	977,931	826,761	151,160	84.5
Amarillo, Texas.....	73,935	73,737	198	99.7	Mobile, Ala.....	180,892	127,151	53,741	70.3
Asheville, N. C.....	57,658	52,208	5,450	90.5	Montgomery, Ala.....	106,034	105,098	2,936	97.3
Atlanta, Ga.....	508,204	327,090	177,114	65.1	Muskegon, Mich.....	84,775	49,407	35,368	56.7
Atlantic City, N. J.....	105,326	61,642	43,684	58.5	Nashville, Tenn.....	257,898	173,359	84,539	67.2
Augusta, Ga.....	87,823	71,607	16,216	81.4	New Bedford, Mass.....	125,354	109,033	16,321	87.0
Austin, Texas.....	135,465	131,964	3,501	97.4	New Britain-Bristol, Conn.....	122,619	109,586	13,032	89.3
Baltimore, Md.....	1,151,050	940,205	210,845	81.7	New Haven, Conn.....	242,589	163,344	79,245	67.3
Baton Rouge, La.....	129,108	129,957	18,151	90.4	New Orleans, La.....	655,822	567,257	88,565	86.5
Beaumont, Texas.....	93,746	98,715	31	100.0	New York-Northeastern N. Y.....	12,222,963	8,573,403	3,649,560	70.1
Binghamton, N. Y.....	144,570	81,132	63,438	56.1	Niagara Falls, N. Y.....	97,648	90,875	6,773	93.1
Birmingham, Ala.....	438,726	298,720	140,006	68.1	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.....	351,342	259,895	91,447	74.0
Boston, Mass.....	2,218,893	790,863	1,428,030	35.6	Oklahoma City, Okla.....	273,424	242,450	30,974	88.7
Bridgeport, Conn.....	237,954	159,352	78,602	67.0	Omaha, Neb.....	306,291	247,408	58,883	80.8
Brookton, Mass.....	92,086	62,856	29,230	68.3	Orlando, Fla.....	72,572	51,626	20,946	71.4
Buffalo, N. Y.....	794,747	577,393	217,354	72.7	Peoria, Ill.....	154,084	111,523	42,561	72.4
Canton, Ohio.....	173,215	116,312	56,903	67.1	Philadelphia, Pa.....	2,913,516	2,064,794	848,722	70.9
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	77,990	72,149	5,841	92.5	Phoenix, Ariz.....	214,335	105,442	108,893	49.2
Charleston, S. C.....	116,441	68,243	48,198	58.6	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	1,525,966	678,763	852,203	44.2
Charleston, W. Va.....	130,122	72,818	57,304	55.0	Pontiac, Mich.....	91,799	73,112	18,687	79.6
Charlotte, N. C.....	140,085	133,219	6,866	95.1	Port Arthur, Texas.....	81,763	57,377	24,386	70.2
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	167,031	130,333	36,698	78.0	Portland, Maine.....	112,659	76,936	35,723	68.3
Chicago, Ill.....	4,908,801	3,606,436	1,292,365	73.6	Portland, Oreg.....	509,120	371,011	138,109	72.9
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	808,021	500,510	307,511	61.9	Providence, R. I.....	581,607	247,700	333,907	42.6
Cleveland, Ohio.....	1,372,274	905,636	466,638	66.0	Pueblo, Colo.....	73,102	63,561	9,541	86.9
Columbia, S. C.....	119,747	85,949	33,798	71.8	Racine, Wis.....	76,101	70,749	5,352	93.0
Columbus, Ga.....	118,122	79,510	38,612	67.3	Raleigh, N. C.....	68,190	65,123	3,067	95.5
Columbus, Ohio.....	436,257	374,770	61,487	85.9	Reading, Pa.....	154,571	109,062	45,509	70.6
Corpus Christi, Texas.....	122,354	108,053	14,301	88.3	Richmond, Va.....	229,906	27,517	202,389	89.3
Dallas, Texas.....	586,864	432,927	153,937	80.6	Roanoke, Va.....	105,883	91,089	14,794	86.0
Davenport, Iowa-Rock Island-Moline, Ill.....	193,733	159,530	34,203	82.3	Rochester, N. Y.....	406,923	331,252	75,671	81.4
Dayton, Ohio.....	343,781	243,108	100,673	70.7	Rockford, Ill.....	121,723	92,503	29,220	76.0
Decatur, Ill.....	75,148	67,801	7,347	90.2	Sacramento, Calif.....	210,081	135,761	74,320	64.6
Denver, Colo.....	495,513	412,856	82,657	83.3	Saginaw, Mich.....	105,358	92,352	13,006	87.7
Des Moines, Iowa.....	198,892	176,954	21,938	89.0	St. Joseph, Mo.....	79,280	75,572	3,708	95.3
Detroit, Mich.....	2,644,476	1,838,517	805,959	69.5	St. Louis, Mo.....	1,894,051	852,623	541,428	61.2
Duluth, Minn.-Superior, Wis.....	142,344	139,157	3,187	97.8	St. Petersburg, Fla.....	113,378	95,712	17,666	84.4
Durham, N. C.....	72,369	70,307	2,062	97.2	Salt Lake City, Utah.....	226,880	181,715	45,165	80.1
El Paso, Texas.....	136,430	130,003	6,427	95.3	San Antonio, Texas.....	447,365	406,811	40,554	90.9
Eric, Pa.....	151,282	130,125	21,157	86.0	San Bernardino, Calif.....	135,394	62,792	72,602	46.4
Evansville, Ind.....	133,200	109,869	23,331	82.5	San Diego, Calif.....	413,274	321,465	91,809	77.8
Fall River, Mass.....	117,881	111,759	6,122	94.8	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.....	1,997,303	1,141,339	855,974	57.1
Flint, Mich.....	197,151	162,800	34,351	82.6	San Jose, Calif.....	175,968	95,044	80,924	54.0
Fort Smith, Ark.....	55,947	47,864	8,083	85.6	Savannah, Ga.....	122,190	119,689	2,501	98.4
Fort Wayne, Ind.....	139,529	132,840	6,689	95.2	Schenectady, N. Y.....	123,573	92,070	31,503	74.5
Fort Worth, Texas.....	313,872	277,047	36,825	88.3	Scranton, Pa.....	235,122	124,747	110,375	53.1
Fresno, Calif.....	129,275	90,618	38,657	70.1	Seattle, Wash.....	616,047	462,440	153,607	75.1
Galveston, Texas.....	71,000	65,898	5,102	92.8	Shreveport, La.....	148,296	125,426	22,870	84.6
Grand Rapids, Mich.....	225,427	175,647	49,780	77.9	Sioux City, Iowa.....	90,144	84,035	6,109	93.2
Greensboro, N. C.....	62,719	73,703	9,016	89.1	South Bend, Ind.....	167,879	115,698	52,181	69.0
Hamilton, Ohio.....	83,021	57,717	25,304	69.6	Spokane, Wash.....	174,653	160,484	14,169	91.8
Harrisburg, Pa.....	168,933	89,091	79,842	52.7	Springfield, Ill.....	96,649	80,832	15,817	83.6
Hartford, Conn.....	299,676	177,073	122,603	59.1	Springfield, Mo.....	75,117	66,302	8,815	88.3
Houston, Texas.....	697,287	594,321	102,966	85.2	Springfield, Ohio.....	81,837	78,029	3,808	95.3
Huntington, W. Va.-Ashland, Ky.....	156,136	117,388	38,748	75.2	Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.....	356,471	217,042	139,429	60.9
Indianapolis, Ind.....	499,799	424,683	75,116	85.0	Stamford-Norwalk, Conn.....	172,197	123,042	49,155	71.5
Jackson, Miss.....	99,677	97,674	2,003	98.0	Stockton, Calif.....	113,362	71,650	41,702	63.2
Jacksonville, Fla.....	241,579	203,404	38,175	84.2	Syracuse, N. Y.....	264,610	220,037	44,573	83.2
Johnstown, Pa.....	92,780	62,723	30,057	67.6	Tacoma, Wash.....	166,910	142,975	23,935	85.7
Kalamazoo, Mich.....	82,859	57,326	25,533	69.2	Tampa, Fla.....	178,398	124,073	54,325	69.5
Kansas City, Mo.....	689,350	453,290	236,060	65.8	Terre Haute, Ind.....	77,845	64,047	13,798	82.3
Knoxville, Tenn.....	148,174	124,183	23,991	83.8	Toledo, Ohio.....	361,493	301,358	60,135	83.4
Lancaster, Pa.....	76,087	63,601	12,486	83.6	Topeka, Kans.....	88,100	77,827	10,273	88.3
Lansing, Mich.....	133,625	91,694	41,931	68.6	Trenton, N. J.....	189,276	127,667	61,609	67.6
Lawrence, Mass.....	111,937	80,427	31,510	71.9	Tulsa, Okla.....	203,968	180,586	23,382	88.5
Lincoln, Neb.....	98,048	97,423	625	99.4	Utica, N. Y.....	117,390	101,479	15,911	86.4
Little Rock-North Little Rock, Ark.....	150,758	143,529	7,229	95.2	Waco, Texas.....	92,299	84,300	7,999	91.3
Los Angeles, Calif.....	3,970,595	1,957,692	2,012,903	49.3	Washington, D. C.....	1,281,572	797,902	483,670	62.2
Louisville, Ky.....	470,394	367,359	103,035	78.1	Waterbury, Conn.....	131,442	104,242	27,200	79.3
Lowell, Mass.....	105,783	95,523	9,260	91.2	Waterloo, Iowa.....	83,551	64,354	19,197	77.0
Macon, Ga.....	93,305	70,106	23,199	75.1	Wheeling, W. Va.....	106,151	58,447	47,704	55.1
Madison, Wis.....	109,577	95,594	13,983	87.2	Wichita, Kans.....	192,009	165,306	26,703	86.6
Manchester, N. H.....	84,768	82,581	2,187	97.4	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	270,978	76,638	194,340	28.3
					Wilmington, Del.....	186,265	109,907	76,358	59.0
					Winston-Salem, N. C.....	91,493	86,816	4,677	94.9
					Worcester, Mass.....	217,705	201,885	15,820	92.7
					York, Pa.....	78,495	59,704	18,791	76.1
					Youngstown, Ohio.....	297,084	167,643	129,441	56.4

¹ Preliminary population counts exclude crews of American vessels in ports of the United States and persons enumerated away from home, who have not yet been credited to their specific usual place of residence. For the United States as a whole, there were 841,769 such persons, but the exact number of these who reside in each of the areas shown in this table has not yet been determined.