

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION**ADVANCE REPORTS**

FOR RELEASE

September 2, 1951

Washington 25, D. C.

Series PC-8, No. 8

POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

APRIL 1, 1950

(This is one of a series of reports presenting final population figures for selected areas in each State. In this series, reports are numbered alphabetically by States. Additional reports will be issued as final figures for other States become available)

The total population of the District of Columbia on April 1, 1950, was 802,178, according to final figures released today by Roy V. Peel, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. During the previous 10 years, the population of the District increased by 139,087, or 21.0 percent, over the 663,091 persons enumerated in 1940. The District ranked higher in population than 13 of the States.

As in all previous censuses since that of 1890, the entire population of the District was classified as urban.

Under the urban definition established for use in the 1950 Census, urban territory has been defined to comprise (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, towns,¹ and villages; (b) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and (c) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. All other territory is classified as rural. According to the definition used in previous censuses, urban territory was designated as all incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified

¹ Except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are minor civil divisions of counties and are not necessarily densely settled centers like the towns in other States.

as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

In both definitions, the most important component of the urban territory is the group of incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. A definition of urban territory restricted to such places, however, would exclude a number of equally large and densely settled places, merely because they were not incorporated places. Under the old definition, an effort was made to avoid some of the more obvious omissions by the inclusion of the places urban under special rules. Even with these rules, however, many large and closely built-up places were excluded from the urban territory. To improve the situation in the 1950 Census, the Bureau of the Census set up, in advance of enumeration, boundaries for urban-fringe areas around cities of 50,000 or more and for unincorporated places outside urban fringes. All the population residing in urban-fringe areas and in unincorporated places of 2,500 or more is classified as urban according to the new definition. Consequently, the special rules of the old definition are no longer necessary.

The change in the urban definition had no effect on the distribution of the population of the District by urban and rural residence. Since Washington, D. C., is considered coextensive with the District, the population of the District is classified as urban under both definitions by virtue of residence in an incorporated place of 2,500 inhabitants or more.

Table 1.--POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, URBAN AND RURAL: 1800 TO 1950

Date	Population			Percent urban
	Total	Urban	Rural	
1950 (Apr. 1).....	802,178	802,178	...	100.0
1940 (Apr. 1).....	663,091	663,091	...	100.0
1930 (Apr. 1).....	486,869	486,869	...	100.0
1920 (Jan. 1).....	437,571	437,571	...	100.0
1910 (Apr. 15).....	331,069	331,069	...	100.0
1900 (June 1).....	278,718	278,718	...	100.0
1890 (June 1).....	230,392	230,392	...	100.0
1880 (June 1).....	177,624	159,871	17,753	90.0
1870 (June 1).....	131,700	120,583	11,117	91.6
1860 (June 1).....	75,080	69,855	5,225	93.0
1850 (June 1).....	51,687	48,367	3,320	93.6
1840 (June 1).....	233,745	30,676	3,069	90.9
1830 (June 1).....	230,261	27,267	2,994	90.1
1820 (Aug. 7).....	223,336	20,607	2,729	88.3
1810 (Aug. 6).....	215,471	13,156	2,315	85.0
1800 (Aug. 4).....	228,144	6,203	1,941	76.2

¹ District of Columbia not considered coextensive with Washington city until 1895 but considered entirely urban in 1890.

² Population of present area of District of Columbia; population of District of Columbia as then constituted: 1840, 43,712; 1830, 39,834; 1820, 33,039; 1810, 24,023; 1800, 14,093.

Table 2.--POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY POLICE PRECINCTS: 1950

Police precinct	Population	Police precinct	Population
The District.....	802,178	Precinct 7.....	35,607
Precinct 1.....	18,705	Precinct 8.....	56,030
Precinct 2.....	58,850	Precinct 9.....	89,326
Precinct 3.....	49,864	Precinct 10.....	82,011
Precinct 4.....	30,082	Precinct 11.....	86,344
Precinct 5.....	51,292	Precinct 12.....	53,931
Precinct 6.....	62,396	Precinct 13.....	61,561
		Precinct 14.....	66,161

Table 3.--POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY QUADRANTS: 1950

Quadrant	Population
The District.....	802,178
Northeast.....	187,443
Northwest.....	417,471
Southeast.....	152,738
Southwest.....	44,526