

1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION

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RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES BY STATES: 1950

(This is one of a series of reports presenting summary statistics on selected characteristics of the population for various types of areas. The tables presented here are preprinted from the P-B U. S. Summary bulletin, which provides a fuller description of the terms. The present data supersede corresponding preliminary sample data published in Series PC-6, Nos. 1-10, and Series PC-7, Nos. 1 and 3; and advance data published in Series PC-12, Nos. 1-39)

The decade 1940 to 1950 was characterized by a pronounced movement of Negroes out of the South, according to figures released by Robert W. Burgess, Director, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. In this region the Negro population increased by only 320,788 (3.2 percent); whereas, the number of Negroes in other regions rose by 1,855,980 (62.7 percent). The rate of increase for the West (234.4 percent) exceeded the rate for the Northeast and the North Central States by a wide margin. These regional differences in rate of change are the result of considerable interregional migration.

Despite the movement to the North and West during the 1940's, Negroes were still heavily concentrated in the South in 1950. The South had somewhat more than two-thirds of the total Negro population, and 8 of that region's States were among the 10 States ranking highest in Negro population. Five of the Southern States—Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas—outranked New York, the State with the largest number of Negroes outside the South. Illinois, the second largest State in Negro population outside the South, was outranked by the States already named and three additional States—Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Japanese.—Considerable change in the distribution of Japanese resulted from their evacuation from the Pacific Coast and the resettlement programs developed by the War Relocation Authority. The Japanese population increased by 385.5 percent in the Northeastern, North Central, and Southern States but decreased by 6.9 percent in the West (table A). The most significant regional rise was in the North Central States. There the increase was from 1,571 to 18,734. In spite of these changes, however, in 1950 the number of Japanese in California, 84,956, was still much higher than the number in any other State. Illinois, the next State in rank, had only 11,646.

Chinese.—For the Chinese, the rate of increase was highest in the South (112.5 percent) where there were 10,468 in 1950 as compared with 4,926 in 1940. Numerically, however, their increase of 20,744 for the West was somewhat higher than the combined increases for other regions. The Chinese, like the Japanese, were heavily concentrated in California. California accounted for 58,324, or 49.6 percent, of all Chinese in the United States in 1950.

Indians.—Nationally, the number of Indians increased from 333,969 to 343,410 between 1940 and 1950. The largest regional gain in number of Indians was in the West where they increased to 181,681, or 24,987 (15.9 percent) above their 1940 total. For the Northeastern and North Central Regions, the corresponding increases were from 11,786 to 15,947 (35.3 percent) and from 71,350 to 76,832 (7.7 percent).

There was an apparent decline of 25,189 in the number of Indians in the South because certain mixed racial groups in the Southeastern United States (see "Mixed parentage," below), formerly classified as Indian, were included in the residual group "Other races" in the 1950 Census along with minor races included in this category in 1940.

In 1950 Arizona had the largest number of Indians, 65,761. Oklahoma, with 53,769, and New Mexico, with 41,901, ranked second and third, respectively.

In the "Other races" category the number of persons for the South increased by 37,089 between 1940 and 1950 chiefly because of the reclassification of the mixed racial groups already mentioned in connection with the Indian population of the South. Outside of this region, there was an increase of 22,684 in the number of persons of "Other races." This increase includes, for the most part, increases among Filipinos and other Asiatic groups and only a small number of persons of mixed racial groups.

No major variation occurred in the racial composition of the national population between 1940 and 1950. There was a slight decrease from 89.8 percent to 89.5 percent in the proportion of white persons in the total population. The percentage of Negroes in 1950 was 10.0 in contrast to 9.8 in 1940. The proportion that all other nonwhite races combined formed of the total population rose from 0.4 percent in 1940 to 0.5 percent in 1950.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Race.—The concept of race as it has been used by the Bureau of the Census is derived from that which is commonly accepted by the general public. It does not, therefore, reflect clear-cut definitions of biological stock, and several categories obviously refer to nationalities. The information on race is ordinarily not based on a reply to questions asked by the enumerator but rather is obtained by observation. Enumerators were instructed to ask a question when they were in doubt.

Color.—The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups, white and nonwhite. The group designated as "nonwhite" consists of Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races. Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were classified as white in 1950 and 1940.

Negro.—In addition to full-blooded Negroes, this classification includes persons of mixed white and Negro parentage and persons of mixed Indian and Negro parentage unless the Indian blood very definitely predominates or

unless the individual is accepted in the community as an Indian.

American Indian.—This category includes full-blooded Indians and persons of mixed white and Indian blood if they were enrolled on an Indian reservation or agency roll. Also included are persons of mixed Indian blood if the proportion of Indian blood is one-fourth or more, or if they are regarded as Indians in the community.

Japanese and Chinese.—These groups are identified very largely in terms of country or area of origin.

Other races.—This category includes Filipinos, Koreans, Asiatic Indians, Indonesians, Polynesians, and so forth, similarly identified largely in terms of area of origin. As indicated below, persons of mixed white, Negro, and Indian ancestry in certain communities in the Eastern United States are also included in this category.

Mixed parentage.—Persons are classified according to the race of the nonwhite parent, and mixtures of nonwhite races are classified according to the race of the father, with the special exceptions noted above.

In 1950, for the first time, enumerators were instructed to report persons of mixed white, Negro, and Indian ancestry who live in certain compact communities in the Eastern United States, in terms of the name by which they are locally known. These communities, or "racial islands," are of long standing and are locally recognized by special names such as "Siouian" or "Croatan," "Moor," and "Tunica." There had been considerable variation in the classification of the inhabitants of such communities by race, but in 1950 an attempt was made to avoid this by including them all in the nonwhite total and the category "Other races." As compared with 1940, the major statistical result of the new procedure was an apparent decrease in the number of Indians for several of the Southern States, particularly North Carolina.

Table A.—RACE, BY REGIONS: 1950 AND 1940
(Minus sign (-) denotes decrease)

Census year and region	All classes	White			Negro	Indian	Japanese	Chinese	All other
		Total	Native	Foreign born					
1950									
United States.....	150,697,361	134,942,028	124,780,860	10,161,168	15,042,286	343,410	141,768	117,629	110,240
Northeast.....	39,477,986	37,398,684	32,204,834	5,193,850	2,018,182	15,947	7,438	28,931	8,804
North Central.....	44,460,762	42,119,384	39,407,638	2,711,746	2,227,876	76,832	18,734	10,646	7,290
South.....	47,197,088	36,849,529	36,092,010	757,519	10,225,407	68,950	3,055	10,468	39,679
West.....	19,561,525	18,574,431	17,076,378	1,498,053	570,821	181,681	112,541	67,584	54,467
1940									
United States.....	131,669,275	118,214,870	106,795,732	11,419,138	12,865,518	333,969	126,947	77,504	50,467
Northeast.....	35,976,777	34,566,768	28,545,927	6,020,841	1,369,875	11,786	3,400	19,646	5,302
North Central.....	40,143,332	38,639,970	35,291,033	3,348,937	1,420,318	71,350	1,571	6,092	4,031
South.....	41,665,901	31,658,578	31,032,902	625,676	9,904,619	94,139	1,049	4,926	2,590
West.....	13,883,265	13,349,554	11,925,870	1,423,684	170,706	156,694	120,927	46,840	38,544
PERCENT INCREASE, 1940 TO 1950									
United States.....	14.5	14.1	16.8	-11.0	16.9	2.8	11.7	51.8	118.4
Northeast.....	9.7	8.2	12.8	-13.7	47.3	35.3	118.8	47.3	66.1
North Central.....	10.8	9.0	11.7	-19.0	56.9	7.7	1,092.5	74.8	80.8
South.....	13.3	16.4	16.3	21.1	3.2	-26.8	191.2	112.5	1,432.0
West.....	40.9	39.1	43.2	5.2	234.4	15.9	-6.9	44.3	41.3

Table 59.—RACE, BY REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES: 1950

[Percent not shown where less than 0.1 or where base is less than 100]

Region, division, and State	All classes	White					Nonwhite					Percent of all classes					
		Total	Native	Foreign born	Total	Negro	Other races				White			Nonwhite			
							Total	Indian	Japanese	Chinese	All other	Total	Na-tive	For-ign born	Total	Negro	Other races
United States	150,697,361	134,942,028	124,780,860	10,161,168	15,755,333	15,042,286	713,047	343,410	141,768	117,629	110,240	89.5	82.8	6.7	10.5	10.0	0.5
Regions:																	
North-east	39,477,986	37,398,684	32,204,834	5,193,850	2,079,302	2,018,182	61,120	15,947	7,438	28,931	8,804	94.7	81.6	13.1	5.3	5.1	0.2
North Central	44,460,762	42,119,384	39,407,638	2,711,746	2,341,378	2,227,876	113,502	76,832	18,734	10,646	7,290	94.7	88.6	6.1	5.3	5.0	0.3
South	47,197,088	36,092,010	36,092,010	757,519	10,347,559	10,225,407	122,152	68,950	3,055	10,468	39,679	78.1	76.5	1.6	21.9	21.7	0.2
West	19,561,525	18,374,451	17,076,378	1,498,053	987,094	970,821	416,273	181,681	112,541	67,584	54,467	95.0	87.3	7.7	5.0	2.9	2.1
North-east:																	
New England.....	9,314,453	9,161,156	7,875,105	1,286,051	153,297	142,941	10,356	3,545	732	4,684	1,395	98.4	84.5	13.8	1.6	1.5	0.1
Middle Atlantic.....	30,163,533	28,237,528	24,329,729	3,907,799	1,926,005	1,875,241	50,764	12,402	6,706	24,247	7,409	93.6	80.7	12.9	6.4	6.2	0.2
North Central:																	
E. N. Central.....	30,399,368	28,543,307	26,394,273	2,149,034	1,856,061	1,803,698	52,363	22,223	15,996	8,454	5,690	93.9	86.8	7.1	6.1	5.9	0.2
W. N. Central.....	14,061,394	13,576,077	13,013,365	562,712	485,317	424,178	61,139	54,609	2,738	2,192	1,600	96.5	92.5	4.0	3.4	3.0	0.4
South:																	
South Atlantic	21,182,335	16,041,709	15,671,174	370,535	5,140,626	5,094,744	45,882	7,500	1,393	4,755	32,234	75.7	74.0	1.7	24.3	24.1	0.2
E. S. Central.....	11,477,181	8,770,570	8,717,310	53,260	2,706,611	2,698,635	7,976	4,003	328	1,763	1,882	76.4	75.9	0.5	23.6	23.5	0.1
W. S. Central.....	14,537,572	12,037,250	11,703,526	333,724	2,500,322	2,432,028	68,294	57,447	1,334	3,950	5,563	82.8	80.5	2.3	17.2	16.7	0.5
West:																	
Mountain	5,074,998	4,845,634	4,607,527	238,107	229,364	66,429	162,935	142,098	14,231	3,750	2,856	95.5	90.8	4.7	4.5	1.3	3.2
Pacific	14,486,527	13,728,797	12,468,851	1,259,946	757,730	504,392	253,338	39,583	98,310	63,834	51,611	94.8	86.1	8.7	5.2	3.5	1.7
New England:																	
Maine.....	913,774	910,846	836,504	74,342	2,928	1,221	1,707	1,522	30	77	78	99.7	91.5	8.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
New Hampshire.....	533,242	532,275	474,141	58,134	967	731	236	74	25	93	44	99.8	88.9	10.9	0.2	0.1	0.2
Vermont.....	377,747	377,188	348,435	28,753	559	443	116	30	14	34	38	99.9	92.2	7.6	0.1	0.1	...
Massachusetts.....	4,690,514	4,611,503	3,897,804	713,699	79,011	73,171	5,840	1,201	384	3,627	628	98.3	83.1	15.2	1.7	1.6	0.1
Rhode Island.....	791,896	777,015	663,751	113,264	14,881	13,903	978	385	25	403	168	98.1	83.8	14.3	1.9	1.8	0.1
Connecticut.....	2,007,280	1,952,329	1,654,470	297,859	54,951	53,472	1,479	333	254	450	442	97.3	82.4	14.8	2.7	2.6	0.1
Middle Atlantic:																	
New York.....	14,830,192	13,872,095	11,371,666	2,500,429	958,097	918,191	39,906	10,640	3,893	20,171	5,202	93.5	76.7	16.8	6.5	6.2	0.3
New Jersey.....	4,835,329	4,511,585	3,880,824	630,761	323,744	318,565	5,179	621	1,784	1,818	956	93.3	80.3	13.0	6.7	6.6	0.1
Pennsylvania.....	10,498,012	9,853,848	9,077,239	776,609	644,164	638,485	5,679	1,141	1,029	2,258	1,251	93.9	86.5	7.4	6.1	6.1	...
E. N. Central:																	
Ohio.....	7,946,627	7,428,222	6,985,064	443,158	518,405	513,072	5,333	1,146	1,986	1,542	659	93.5	87.9	5.6	6.5	6.5	...
Indiana.....	3,934,224	3,758,512	3,657,882	100,630	175,712	174,168	1,544	438	318	496	292	95.5	93.0	2.5	4.4	4.4	...
Illinois.....	8,712,176	8,046,058	7,262,781	783,277	666,118	645,980	20,138	1,443	11,646	4,207	2,842	92.4	83.4	9.0	7.6	7.4	0.2
Michigan.....	6,371,766	5,917,825	5,314,090	603,735	453,941	442,296	11,645	7,000	1,517	1,619	1,509	92.9	83.4	9.5	7.1	6.9	0.2
Wisconsin.....	3,434,575	3,392,690	3,174,456	218,234	41,885	28,182	13,703	12,196	529	590	388	98.8	92.4	6.4	1.2	0.8	0.4
W. N. Central:																	
Minnesota.....	2,982,483	2,953,697	2,743,466	210,231	28,786	14,022	14,764	12,533	1,049	720	462	99.0	92.0	7.0	1.0	0.5	0.5
Iowa.....	2,621,073	2,599,546	2,514,964	84,582	21,527	19,692	1,835	1,084	310	310	131	99.2	96.0	3.2	0.8	0.7	0.1
Missouri.....	3,954,653	3,655,593	3,563,543	92,050	299,060	297,088	1,972	547	527	519	379	92.4	90.1	2.3	7.6	7.5	...
North Dakota.....	619,636	608,448	559,216	49,232	11,188	10,331	1,066	10,331	10,766	61	82	22	98.2	90.3	7.9	1.8	...
South Dakota.....	652,740	628,504	597,737	30,767	24,236	22,509	1,727	23,509	23,344	56	44	65	96.3	91.6	4.7	3.7	0.1
Nebraska.....	1,325,510	1,301,328	1,244,055	57,273	24,182	19,234	4,948	3,954	619	202	173	98.2	93.9	4.3	1.8	1.4	0.4
Kansas.....	1,905,299	1,828,961	1,790,384	38,577	76,338	73,158	3,180	2,381	116	315	368	96.0	94.0	2.0	4.0	3.8	0.2
South Atlantic:																	
Delaware.....	318,085	273,878	260,034	13,844	44,207	43,598	609	...	14	85	510	86.1	81.7	4.4	13.9	13.7	0.2
Maryland.....	2,343,001	1,954,975	1,870,535	84,440	388,026	385,972	2,054	314	289	795	656	83.4	79.8	3.6	16.6	16.5	0.1
Dist. of Columbia.....	802,178	517,865	478,368	39,497	284,313	280,803	3,510	330	353	1,825	1,002	64.5	59.6	4.9	35.4	35.0	0.4
Virginia.....	3,318,680	2,581,555	2,546,485	35,070	737,125	734,211	2,914	1,056	193	965	1,100	77.8	76.7	1.1	22.2	22.1	0.1
West Virginia.....	2,005,552	1,890,282	1,855,696	34,586	115,270	114,867	403	160	46	99	98	94.2	92.5	1.7	5.7	5.7	...
North Carolina.....	4,061,929	2,983,121	2,966,987	16,134	1,078,808	1,047,353	31,455	3,742	98	345	27,270	73.4	73.0	0.4	26.6	25.8	0.8
South Carolina.....	2,117,027	1,293,405	1,285,902	7,503	823,622	822,077	1,545	554	34	101	856	61.1	60.7	0.4	38.9	38.8	0.1
Georgia.....	3,444,578	2,380,577	2,363,847	16,730	1,064,001	1,062,762	1,239	333	128	511	267	69.1	68.6	0.5	30.9	30.9	...
Florida.....	2,771,305	2,166,051	2,043,320	122,731	605,254	603,101	2,153	1,011	238	429	475	78.1	73.7	4.4	21.8	21.7	0.1
E. S. Central:																	
Kentucky.....	2,944,806	2,742,090	2,726,022	16,068	202,716	201,921	795	234	74	335	152	93.1	92.6	0.5	6.9	6.9	...
Tennessee.....	3,291,718	2,760,257	2,745,192	15,065	531,461	530,603	858	339	104	230	185	83.9	83.4	0.5	16.1	16.1	...
Alabama.....	3,061,743	2,079,591	2,065,778	13,813	982,152	979,617	2,535	928	88	187	1,332	67.9	67.5	0.4	32.1	32.0	0.1
Mississippi.....	2,178,914	1,188,632	1,180,318	8,314	990,282	986,494	3,788	2,502	62	1,011	213	54.6	54.2	0.4	45.4	45.3	0.1
W. S. Central:																	
Arkansas.....	1,909,511	1,481,507	1,472,218	9,289	428,004	426,639	1,365	533	113	592	127	77.6	77.1	0.5	22.4	22.3	0.1
Louisiana.....	2,683,516	1,796,683	1,767,799	28,884	886,833	882,428	4,405	409	127	526	3,343	67.0	65.9	1.1	33.0	32.9	0.1
Oklahoma.....	2,233,351	2,032,526	2,013,620	18,906	200,825	145,503	55,322	53,769	137	397	1,019	91.0	90.				