

## IV. AREA AND TOTAL POPULATION.

AREA—POPULATION—POPULATION BY AREAS  
OF ENUMERATION—BY STATES AND TER-  
RITORIES—DENSITY OF POPULATION.

In the preceding pages of this publication the origin of census operations has been pointed out from the historical point of view, and there have been successively considered the population of the several colonies in the Colonial and Continental periods, the extent and the material condition of the Republic in the year in which the First Census was taken, and the enactment and operation of the First Census legislation.

The tables and text in this chapter and in those which follow are based upon analysis and inspection of census returns, and constitute the first systematic discussion of the results of the First Census. In many instances the figures presented may be accepted as basic, and thus as furnishing data by which can be measured the changes that have occurred during more than a century of American census taking, in connection with the subjects considered; in others they are offered frankly as approximations, substantially accurate, and bearing upon economic subjects which are of great importance but for which no figures of any kind have ever before been presented.

Prior to 1850 census reports contained no analysis of census returns. The officials of the Department of State, who were charged with the taking and publishing of the Federal census, were content to present tabulations without making any attempt to point out the most important results. A period of more than half a century elapsed after the First Census before the economic significance of census returns—the importance of which had been pointed out by Mr. Madison in the debate in the First Congress upon the act providing for the enumeration—was even partially appreciated.

Under the most favorable conditions, however, comparatively little could have been written in 1792 concerning the results of the First Census. The science of statistics was in its infancy, and analysis and interpretation of statistics were nowhere attempted. Moreover, had the officials of the Federal Government presented an analysis of the returns, the entire discussion necessarily would have been confined to pointing out the more noteworthy facts indicated by the actual census data derived from the five

inquiries comprising the schedule. The chief value of census statistics lies in a comparison of the returns of one period with those of another; but as this was the first census of the United States, no comparable figures existed by which to measure change, unless the partial enumerations and the estimates of population available from the later Colonial and Continental periods be regarded as roughly comparable.

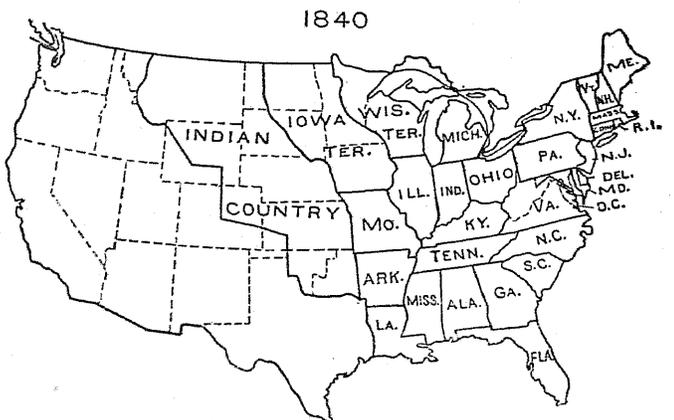
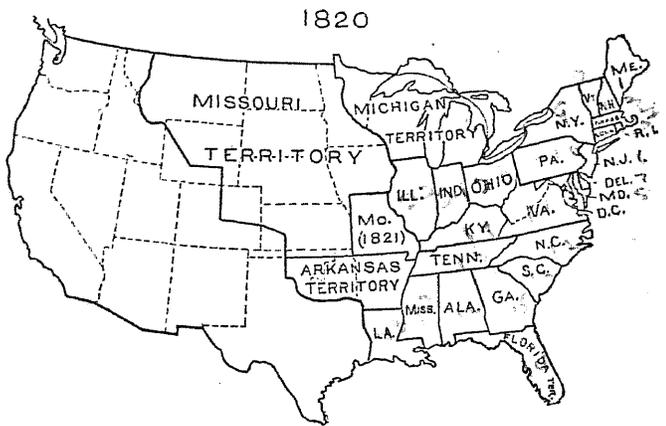
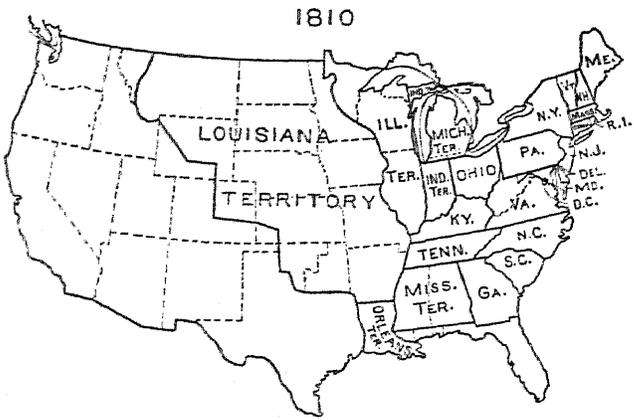
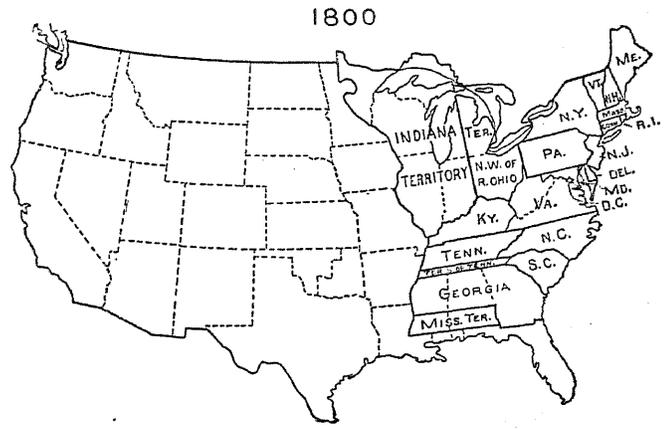
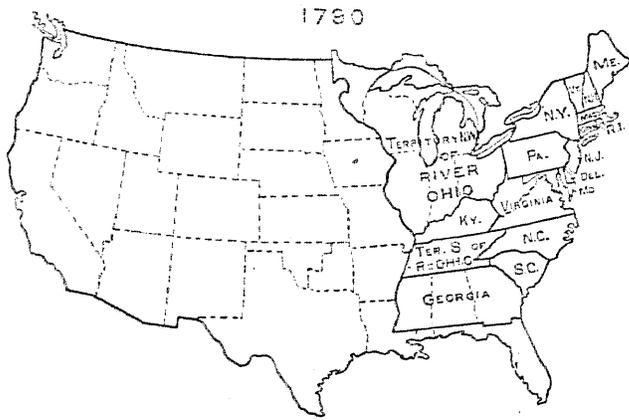
It is clear, therefore, that an analysis and comparison of the meager information secured at the First Census can be made most effective after the lapse of at least a century of periodic census taking. Hence such conclusions as can be drawn from the studies which appear in this publication probably possess greater value, because they cover an entire century of perspective, than conclusions which might have been drawn at some earlier period.

Consideration of the basic facts relating to population which were secured at the First Census confirms the belief that the returns obtained, when carefully tested and examined, supply practically all the statistical information that reasonably could have been expected of that period. In 1790 the United States was a sparsely settled country, and great value attached even to a mere count of population. But as social and economic problems grew more complex with the increase of population, the importance of detailed knowledge concerning the human units comprising the nation became much greater. Moreover, increase in wealth and political influence has created economic problems which were unknown in 1790.

### AREA.

The Republic began its career as a nation nominally possessing an area of 843,246 square miles, of which 820,377 square miles constituted land area. Of the latter total, however, only 417,170 square miles are included within the limits of the states and territories which were enumerated in 1790. The total area of the United States in 1900 was more than four times, and that of continental United States was nearly four times, the total area in 1790. The enumerated area within

CHANGES IN AREA FOR ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS.



CHANGES IN AREA FOR ONE HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS.

1850



1861



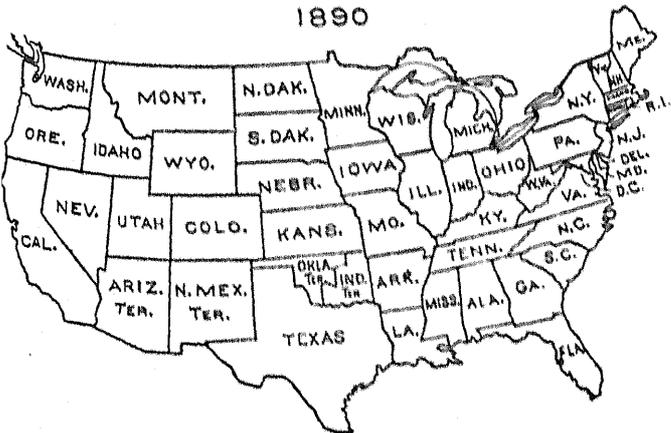
1870



1880



1890



1900



## A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH.

continental United States increased more than sevenfold during the century.

According to the Twelfth Census Statistical Atlas, the "settled" area of the country in 1790—that is, the area having a population density of at least 2 persons per square mile—comprised 239,935 square miles, while in 1900 the settled area of continental United States was 1,925,590 square miles. Deducting 1,000 square miles for settled areas in the Northwest

Territory, which was not enumerated in 1790, it appears that areas having a density of less than 2 persons per square mile formed nearly 43 per cent of the enumerated area in 1790, and but little over 35 per cent of the enumerated area within continental United States in 1900.

The following table embodies the result of an attempt to estimate the area of enumeration within continental United States at each census:

TABLE 8.—LAND AREA OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, OF AREA OF ENUMERATED IN 1790 AND OF ADDED AREA: 1790 TO 1900.

CENSUS YEAR.	LAND AREA (SQUARE MILES) OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.									Unenumerated.		
	Total.	Enumerated.						Total.	Settled (at least 2 persons per square mile). <sup>3</sup>		Unsettled. <sup>3</sup>	
		Continental United States.			Enumerated in 1790. <sup>2</sup>		Added to area of enumeration since 1790.					
		Total.	Settled (at least 2 persons per square mile). <sup>1</sup>	Unsettled.	Settled (at least 2 persons per square mile).	Unsettled.	Total.					Settled (at least 2 persons per square mile).
1790	820,377	417,170	238,935	178,235	238,935	178,235	17,500	10,000	7,500	403,207		
1800	820,377	434,670	305,708	128,962	295,708	121,462	138,840	78,000	60,840	335,707		
1810	1,699,761	556,010	407,945	148,065	329,945	87,225	271,500	150,000	121,500	1,143,751		
1820	1,754,622	688,670	508,717	179,953	358,717	58,453	460,000	250,000	210,000	1,065,952		
1830	1,754,622	877,170	632,717	244,453	382,717	34,453	766,700	410,000	356,700	877,452		
1840	1,754,622	1,183,870	807,292	376,578	397,292	19,878	1,102,000	580,000	522,000	570,752		
1850	2,943,142	1,519,170	979,249	539,921	399,249	17,021	1,534,350	795,000	739,350	1,423,972		
1860	2,974,159	1,951,520	1,194,754	756,766	399,754	17,416	1,709,120	872,000	837,120	1,022,639		
1870	2,974,159	2,126,290	1,272,239	854,051	400,239	16,931	1,166,000	1,144,284	1,144,284	847,869		
1880	2,974,159	2,727,454	1,569,565	1,157,889	403,565	13,605	2,556,989	1,540,000	1,016,989	246,705		
1890	2,974,159	2,974,159	1,947,280	1,026,879	407,280	9,890	1,515,000	1,041,989	1,041,989	.....		
1900	2,974,159	2,974,159	1,925,590	1,048,569	410,590	6,580	.....	.....	.....	.....		

<sup>1</sup> Twelfth Census Statistical Atlas, Plates 2 to 13 and pages 26 to 36. The separation into the area enumerated in 1790 (column 5) and the added area (column 8) is estimated.

<sup>2</sup> For each census, the sum of columns 5 and 6 is 417,170. See footnote 4.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated from the settled area (column 8) by the use of a graduated series of percentages—from 75 per cent in 1800 to 96 per cent in 1870.

<sup>4</sup> The land area shown as enumerated in 1790 includes an estimate of 17,841 for those counties of Georgia which were enumerated in that year; for all other states and territories included in the area of enumeration the total land area is used, because some portion of every county was enumerated.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding an estimate of 1,000 square miles for the settled area in the Northwest Territory, which was not enumerated in 1790.

<sup>6</sup> Land area of Indian Territory and Oklahoma—69,414 square miles, according to Census Bulletin 71—together with the area of Indian reservations in states and organized territories added to the area of enumeration since 1790—amounting to 177,281 square miles, according to the Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1880.

## POPULATION.

March 3, 1792, President Washington reported to Congress that the population of the Republic was 3,929,214. A recount in 1908 of the population enumerated at the First Census, from all those schedules in which the handwriting remains sufficiently legible to indicate that no error of tabulation need occur because of mutilation or age, shows that the official figures reported to Congress and published in 1792 should have been increased by at least 411 persons. It was possible to revise accurately the returns of only nine of the states, since, as it will be remembered, the schedules for New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, and the Southwest Territory are no longer in existence. Those for Maryland and South Carolina, although for the most part

in existence, are in some cases mutilated or illegible, making it impossible to attempt revision of the returns for those states.

So far as is now known, no enumeration was made in the territory northwest of the Ohio river; in fact, an historian of a little later period declares that "the number of inhabitants in this large tract of country has never been ascertained."<sup>1</sup> Governor St. Clair estimated that in 1790 the territory contained only about 4,000 inhabitants, widely scattered in detached settlements between which there was but little communication, and which were so hedged about by hostile Indians that for many years their chief concern was to protect themselves against uprisings and massacres. Jedediah Morse estimated the white pop-

<sup>1</sup> Winterbotham: View of the United States of America (1796), Vol. II, page 487.

ulation of the territory in 1792 at 7,820,<sup>1</sup> scattered among a few frontier settlements and outposts.

<sup>1</sup> From the best data the author has received, the population may be estimated, five years ago, as follows:

Indians (supposed).....	65,000
Ohio Company purchase.....	2,500
Colonel Symmes's settlements.....	2,000
Gallipolis (French settlements opposite Kanaway river).....	1,000
Vincennes and its vicinity, on the Wabash.....	1,500
Kaskaskias and Cahokia.....	680
At Grand Ruisseau, village of St. Philip, and Prairie-du-rochers.....	240
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>72,820</b>

In 1790 there were in the town of Vincennes about 40 American families and 31 slaves, and on the Mississippi, 40 American families and 73 slaves, all included in the above estimate. On the Spanish or western side of the Mississippi there were in 1790 about 1,800 souls, principally at Genevieve and St. Louis. The lands on the various rivers which water this territory are interspersed with all the variety of soil which conduces to pleasantness of situation and lays the foundation for the wealth of an agricultural and manufacturing people.—*Jedediah Morse: American Gazetteer, Boston, 1797.*

Accepting Governor St. Clair's conservative estimate of 4,000 inhabitants in the Northwest Territory, allowing a population of 1,000 for the five districts of the Southwest Territory—three in Greene county, one in Davidson county, and one south of the French Broad river—for which no returns were ever received, and correcting the known shortage of 411, the total population of the United States in 1790 was 3,934,625.

*Population by areas of enumeration.*—The advance of population with each decade, as little by little, vast areas of territory were added to the national domain, is shown in the following table:

TABLE 9.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, CLASSIFIED BY AREAS OF ENUMERATION: 1790 TO 1900.<sup>1</sup>

AREA ENUMERATED—	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890 <sup>2</sup>	1900 <sup>2</sup>
In 1790.....												376,303,387
In 1830.....										62,979,766		76,058,167
In 1850.....										50,189,269	62,721,169	75,167,776
In 1850 and 1870.....								31,443,321	38,558,371	50,155,783	62,689,057	75,204,184
In 1850.....						3,191,876	31,260,793	37,929,731	48,122,957	58,904,079		70,867,006
In 1840.....						17,069,453	22,800,466	30,079,246	36,247,719	45,212,665	54,320,914	64,806,614
In 1830.....					5 12,866,020	17,019,890	22,602,175	29,132,310	34,113,983	42,807,174	51,078,334	60,823,367
In 1810 and 1820.....			7,239,881	9,638,453	12,825,972	16,965,413	22,514,730	29,091,886	34,426,235	42,537,781	50,716,912	60,294,825
In 1800.....		5,308,483	7,142,280	9,404,187	12,439,390	16,131,726	21,105,027	26,766,422	31,493,554	38,626,930	45,780,928	54,494,971
In 1790.....	3,929,625	5,247,355	6,779,338	8,293,869	10,240,232	11,781,231	14,569,584	17,326,157	19,687,504	23,925,639	28,188,321	33,553,630
<b>Total added area.....</b>		<b>61,128</b>	<b>460,573</b>	<b>1,344,584</b>	<b>5 2,625,788</b>	<b>4 5,288,222</b>	<b>8,622,292</b>	<b>14,117,164</b>	<b>18,870,867</b>	<b>26,263,570</b>	<b>34,791,445</b>	<b>42 2,749,757</b>
First in 1800.....		61,128	363,172	1,110,318	2,199,158	4,350,495	6,535,443	9,440,265	11,806,050	14,701,191	17,592,607	20,941,341
First in 1810.....			97,401	234,266	386,582	833,687	1,409,703	2,325,464	2,932,681	3,910,851	4,925,984	5,799,854
First in 1830.....					5 40,048	54,477	87,445	140,424	187,748	269,493	391,422	528,542
First in 1840.....						4 49,563	198,291	846,936	1,633,726	2,405,388	3,222,580	3,983,247
First in 1850.....							391,410	1,181,547	1,682,022	3,010,295	4,583,165	6,060,392
First in 1860.....								182,528	628,640	1,932,826	3,784,978	4,337,178
First in 1880.....									33,426		32,052	63,592
First in 1890.....											2 58,657	2 790,391
First in 1900.....												2 245,220

<sup>1</sup> In compiling this table it was first determined what states, or parts of states, were included within the area of enumeration added to continental United States during each decade. The population of each added area was then compared with the total population of the same states at each succeeding census. The area added during each decade is briefly described in the following paragraphs:

1790 to 1800: The five states entirely within the limits of the Northwest Territory—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin—together with western Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Practically all of this area was within the limits of the United States in 1790, but was not enumerated.

1800 to 1810: Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. The rest of the Louisiana Purchase (1803) was not enumerated in 1810.

1810 to 1820: There was no new state or territory added to the area of enumeration. Florida was purchased in 1819, but was not enumerated in 1820.

1820 to 1830: Florida.

1830 to 1840: Minnesota and Iowa.

1840 to 1850: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and California. Beginning with 1860, the population of the Gadsden Purchase (1853) is included with this area because it could not be obtained separately.

1850 to 1860: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Nevada.

1860 to 1870: There was no new state or territory added to the area of enumeration. Alaska was purchased in 1867, but was not enumerated in 1870.

1870 to 1880: Alaska.

1880 to 1890: Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

1890 to 1900: Hawaii.

<sup>2</sup> The population of Indian reservations, which were first enumerated in 1890, is here included with that of the areas in which located.

<sup>3</sup> Including 91,219 persons stationed abroad, in the military and naval service of the United States.

<sup>4</sup> Including 6,100 persons stationed abroad, in the military and naval service of the United States.

<sup>5</sup> Including 5,313 persons stationed abroad, in the military and naval service of the United States.

Upon comparing the growth, in extent and in population, of the area enumerated in 1790 with that of continental United States as a whole, it appears that the gradual decline in the proportionate extent and population of the original area, as compared with the whole of continental United States, is merely a reflection of the growth of the added area in extent and population.

The added area had outstripped the original area in extent by 1830, but its population did not pass that of the original area until 1880. Increase in the

younger states continued to outstrip increase in the older states, so that in 1900 the original area formed less than one-seventh of the area of continental United States, and its population was less than half of the total. In 1900 the total population of the added area exceeded that of the original area by more than nine millions, the excess being more than one-third of the total population of the original states at the Twelfth Census, and almost three times the entire white population of the Republic in 1790.

## A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH.

TABLE 10.—COMPARISON OF GROWTH IN AREA AND POPULATION, FOR THE TOTAL AREA OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND FOR THE AREA ENUMERATED IN 1790: 1790 TO 1900.

YEAR.	AREA OF ENUMERATION.		POPULATION.			INCREASE OF POPULATION OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.			PER CENT OF INCREASE OF POPULATION OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		
	Square miles.	Per cent area enumerated in 1790 forms of total area enumerated at each census.	Total.	Of area enumerated in 1790.		Total.	For area enumerated in 1790.		Total.	For area enumerated in 1790.	For added area.
				Number.	Per cent of total.		Number.	Per cent of total.			
1790.....	417,170	100.0	3,929,625	3,929,625	100.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1800.....	434,670	96.0	5,308,483	5,247,355	98.8	1,378,858	1,317,730	95.6	35.1	33.5	.....
1810.....	556,010	75.0	7,229,881	6,773,308	93.6	1,931,898	1,531,953	79.3	36.4	29.2	653.5
1820.....	688,670	60.6	9,638,453	8,293,869	86.0	2,398,572	1,514,561	63.1	33.1	22.3	191.9
1830.....	877,170	47.6	12,866,020	10,240,232	79.6	3,227,567	1,946,363	60.3	33.5	23.5	95.3
1840.....	1,183,870	35.2	17,069,453	11,781,231	69.0	4,203,433	1,540,999	36.7	32.7	15.0	101.4
1850.....	1,519,170	27.5	23,191,876	14,569,584	62.8	6,122,423	2,788,353	45.5	35.9	23.7	63.0
1860.....	1,951,520	21.4	31,443,321	17,326,157	55.1	8,251,445	2,756,573	33.4	35.6	18.9	63.7
1870.....	2,126,290	19.6	38,558,371	19,687,504	51.1	7,115,050	2,361,347	33.2	22.6	13.6	33.7
1880.....	2,727,454	15.3	50,189,209	23,925,639	47.7	11,630,838	4,238,135	36.4	30.2	21.5	39.2
1890.....	2,974,159	14.0	62,979,765	28,188,321	44.8	12,790,557	4,262,682	33.3	25.5	17.8	32.5
1900.....	2,974,159	14.0	76,363,387	33,553,630	44.0	13,323,621	5,365,309	40.3	21.2	19.0	22.9

For every decade the percentage of increase in number of inhabitants was less for the area enumerated in 1790 than for the United States as a whole. During the first half of the century, with one exception, the increase in the area enumerated in 1790 was approximately from one-fourth to one-third. Since that period it has exceeded 20 per cent only once—in 1880. The effects of the Civil War and of migration to the West and Southwest are shown by an increase of but 13.6 per cent for 1870. The percentage of increase for 1900, however, was higher than that shown for 1890, and was close to the percentage for 1880—the highest percentage shown during the last half century. This fact suggests certain comparatively recent causes of increase in the original area, some of which are alluded to elsewhere in this report.<sup>1</sup>

Up to 1860 the increase in the population of the added area is not significant, because the continual accessions of territory affect the comparability of the returns. Since that year large areas nominally included within the territory enumerated have been opened up to settlement, but the only definite geographic area added to the area of enumeration is that comprised in Indian Territory and Oklahoma. Since 1860 the percentage of increase in the population of the added area has not reached 40 per cent; from 1880 to the Twelfth Census the percentage steadily diminished until, converging from widely separated extremes in the earlier decades of the century, in 1900 the percentage of increase in both sections had become nearly the same. This fact reflects the rapid settlement of continental United States, and the disappearance of any considerable areas which could be regarded as

unsettled regions. At the close of the century every portion of the national domain had been erected into states, or into territories the boundaries of which are not likely to change materially upon acquiring statehood; and these were again fully subdivided into counties, cities, and towns. In consequence, toward the close of the century conditions in the added area tended to resemble more and more closely those long existing in the original area.

*Population by states and territories.*—Table 11 presents the marvelous growth in population, during the one hundred and ten years which have elapsed, of the states and territories enumerated in 1790.

Attention has already been called, in a preceding chapter, to the significant constancy in the percentage of increase in the population of the colonies for nearly a century and a half prior to the First Census of the United States. The accompanying diagram illustrates this fact and the continuance of practically uniform percentages from 1660 to 1860.

From the First Census to the Twelfth the aggregate population of the states enumerated in 1790 increased almost tenfold. This increase resulted both from the contributions of the original elements (those persons, both white and negro, enumerated at the First Census) and from the addition of large numbers of foreigners arriving after 1790 and locating in the New England and Middle states. In view of the generous contributions which the original states of the Union were making toward the development and peopling of the vast areas opened to settlement (and for the most part erected into states) since 1790—nearly eight times as great as the entire area actually enumerated in 1790—this achievement, during the brief period of one century, must be regarded as a remarkable one.

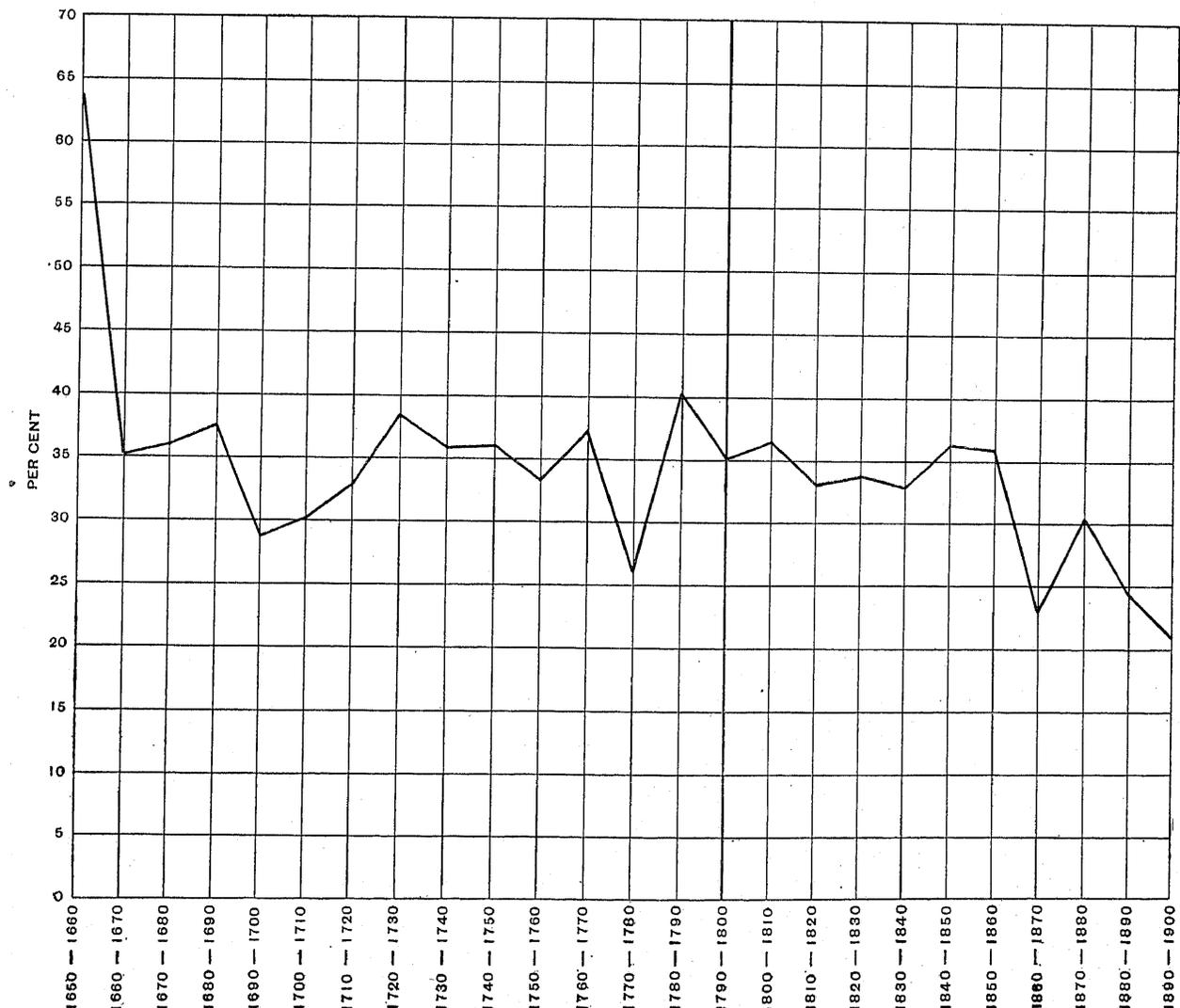
<sup>1</sup> See page 127.

# AREA AND TOTAL POPULATION.

**TABLE 11.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF EACH STATE OR TERRITORY ENUMERATED IN 1790: 1790 TO 1900.**

STATE OR TERRITORY.	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
United States.....	3,929,625	5,308,483	7,239,881	9,638,453	12,866,020	17,069,453	23,191,876	31,443,321	38,553,371	50,189,209	62,979,766	76,303,387
Area enumerated in 1790.....	3,929,625	5,247,355	6,779,308	8,293,809	10,240,232	11,781,231	14,569,584	17,326,157	19,687,504	23,925,639	28,188,321	33,553,630
New England.....	1,009,206	1,233,011	1,471,973	1,660,071	1,954,717	2,234,822	2,728,116	3,135,283	3,487,924	4,010,529	4,700,749	5,592,017
Maine.....	96,643	151,719	228,705	298,335	399,455	501,793	583,169	628,279	626,915	648,936	661,086	694,466
New Hampshire.....	141,899	183,858	214,460	244,161	269,328	284,574	317,976	326,073	318,300	346,991	376,530	411,588
Vermont.....	85,841	154,465	217,895	285,981	280,652	291,948	314,120	315,098	330,551	332,286	332,422	343,641
Massachusetts.....	378,556	422,845	472,040	523,287	610,408	737,699	994,514	1,231,066	1,457,351	1,783,085	2,238,947	2,805,346
Rhode Island.....	69,112	69,122	76,931	83,059	97,199	108,830	147,545	174,620	217,353	276,531	345,566	428,556
Connecticut.....	237,655	251,002	261,942	275,248	297,675	309,978	370,792	460,147	537,454	622,700	746,258	908,420
Middle states.....	1,017,087	1,466,838	2,087,376	2,772,594	3,664,412	4,604,345	5,990,267	7,571,201	8,935,821	10,643,486	12,874,713	15,639,413
New York.....	340,241	589,051	959,049	1,372,812	1,918,608	2,428,921	3,097,394	3,880,735	4,382,759	5,082,871	6,003,174	7,268,894
New Jersey.....	184,139	211,149	245,562	277,575	320,823	373,306	489,555	672,035	906,096	1,131,116	1,444,933	1,883,669
Pennsylvania.....	438,611	602,365	810,091	1,049,458	1,348,233	1,724,033	2,311,736	2,906,215	3,521,951	4,282,891	5,258,113	6,302,115
Delaware.....	59,096	64,273	72,674	72,749	76,748	78,085	91,532	112,216	125,015	146,608	168,493	184,735
Southern states.....	1,903,332	2,547,506	3,219,959	3,861,204	4,621,103	4,942,064	5,851,201	6,619,673	7,263,759	9,271,624	10,612,859	12,322,200
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	319,728	355,641	404,569	440,389	486,874	513,731	634,721	762,129	912,594	1,112,567	1,272,782	1,466,762
Virginia and West Virginia.....	747,610	880,200	974,600	1,065,366	1,211,405	1,239,797	1,421,661	1,596,318	1,667,177	2,131,022	2,418,774	2,812,984
North Carolina.....	395,005	478,103	555,500	638,829	737,987	753,419	869,039	992,622	1,071,361	1,399,750	1,617,949	1,893,810
South Carolina.....	249,073	345,591	415,115	502,741	581,185	594,398	668,507	703,708	705,606	995,577	1,151,149	1,340,316
Georgia.....	82,548	161,414	201,937	226,739	233,831	231,681	272,151	299,411	327,490	441,659	526,052	640,538
Kentucky.....	73,677	220,955	406,511	564,317	687,917	779,828	982,405	1,155,684	1,321,011	1,648,690	1,858,635	2,147,174
Tennessee.....	35,091	105,602	261,727	422,823	681,904	829,210	1,002,717	1,109,801	1,258,520	1,542,359	1,767,518	2,020,616
Added area.....		61,128	460,373	1,344,584	2,625,788	5,288,222	8,622,292	14,117,164	18,870,867	26,263,570	34,791,445	42,749,757

**DIAGRAM 3.—PER CENT OF INCREASE IN POPULATION BY DECADES FROM 1650 TO 1900.**



Dividing the area enumerated in 1790 into three geographic groups, it is found that between 1790 and 1900 the population of the New England states increased slightly more than fivefold; that of the Middle states, more than fifteenfold; and that of the Southern states, more than sixfold. This record of population change suggests that the most striking increase has taken place in the two states which are the greatest centers of commerce, mining, and manufacturing—New York and Pennsylvania.

The per cent of decennial increase in the total population of the United States from 1790 to 1900 was as follows:

1790 to 1800.....	35.1
1800 to 1810.....	36.4
1810 to 1820.....	33.1
1820 to 1830.....	33.5
1830 to 1840.....	32.7
1840 to 1850.....	35.9
1850 to 1860.....	35.6
1860 to 1870.....	22.6
1870 to 1880.....	30.1
1880 to 1890.....	25.5
1890 to 1900.....	21.2

It is significant that from 1790 to 1860, a period of seventy years, the percentages of decennial increase in total population remained reasonably constant. This is illustrated by the fact that the increase of population for the first decade, 1790 to 1800, was 35.1 per cent, while the increase for the seventh decade, 1850 to 1860, was 35.6 per cent.

Such noteworthy uniformity of increase naturally led to opinions and prophecies concerning the future population of the Republic which proved to be erroneous. President Lincoln, in his annual message to Congress in 1862,<sup>1</sup> fell into the error of assuming that the increase of population, because constant for more than half a century, would so continue, and upon that assumption predicted for 1900 a population much greater than was actually realized.

From 1850 to 1900 the decennial percentage of increase for the total population steadily declined, except for the decade 1870 to 1880, following the Civil War; for the last decade of the century only 21.2 per cent increase was shown. It is probable, moreover, that the downward tendency here shown has not been arrested.

*Density of population.*—In 1790 the density of the enumerated area was a little less than 10 persons per square mile. With the passage of the century the

<sup>1</sup> "At the same ratios of increase which we have maintained, on an average, from our first national census of 1790 until that of 1860, we should in 1900 have a population of 103,208,415 (in 1910, 138,918,526). And why may we not continue that ratio far beyond that period? Our abundant room—our broad, natural homestead—is our ample resource. \* \* \* Our country may be as populous as Europe now is at some point between 1920 and 1930—say about 1925—our territory, at 73½ persons to the square mile, being of capacity to contain 217,186,000"—*Messages of the Presidents, Vol. VI, pages 128, 139.*

density of the same area has increased practically ninefold, and that of continental United States as a whole has nearly trebled.

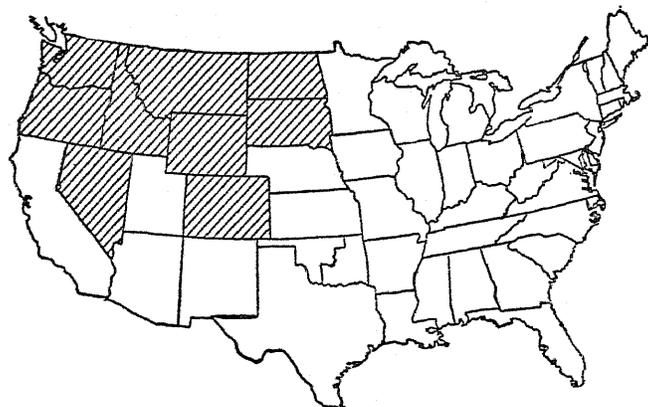
TABLE 12.—Density of population per square mile: 1790 and 1900.

	1790	1900
Continental United States.....	9.4	25.6
Area enumerated in 1790.....	9.4	80.4
New England states.....	16.3	90.2
Maine.....	3.2	23.2
New Hampshire.....	15.8	45.7
Vermont.....	9.3	37.6
Massachusetts.....	47.1	348.9
Rhode Island.....	63.4	407.0
Connecticut.....	49.1	187.5
Middle states.....	10.0	153.2
New York.....	7.1	152.6
New Jersey.....	24.7	250.3
Pennsylvania.....	9.6	140.1
Delaware.....	30.2	94.3
Southern states.....	7.5	49.4
Maryland and District of Columbia.....	32.2	147.9
Virginia and West Virginia.....	11.5	43.4
North Carolina.....	8.1	39.0
South Carolina.....	8.3	44.4
Georgia.....	4.6	35.9
Kentucky.....	1.8	53.7
Tennessee.....	0.9	48.4
Added area <sup>1</sup> .....		18.7

<sup>1</sup> Georgia counties covering an area of 17,841 square miles were enumerated in 1790. The rest of the state is included in the added area.

In 1790 Rhode Island, the smallest state enumerated, reported the largest number of inhabitants per square mile, and in 1900 it still retained first position. But the density of this state increased less than sevenfold during the century; and that of Massachusetts, which was second in rank in 1900, increased less than eightfold. The great increase in density shown during the century for the entire area enumerated in 1790 was contributed principally by those portions of New York, Pennsylvania, and the Southern states which were sparsely populated in 1790. For example, Kentucky increased thirtyfold and Tennessee fiftyfold.

*States showing density, in 1900, less than average for U. S. in 1790.*



Upon inspecting the density of population in the states comprising the Union in 1900, as shown in the Population Reports of the Twelfth Census,<sup>2</sup> it becomes

<sup>2</sup> Twelfth Census, Report on Population, Part I, page xxxiii.

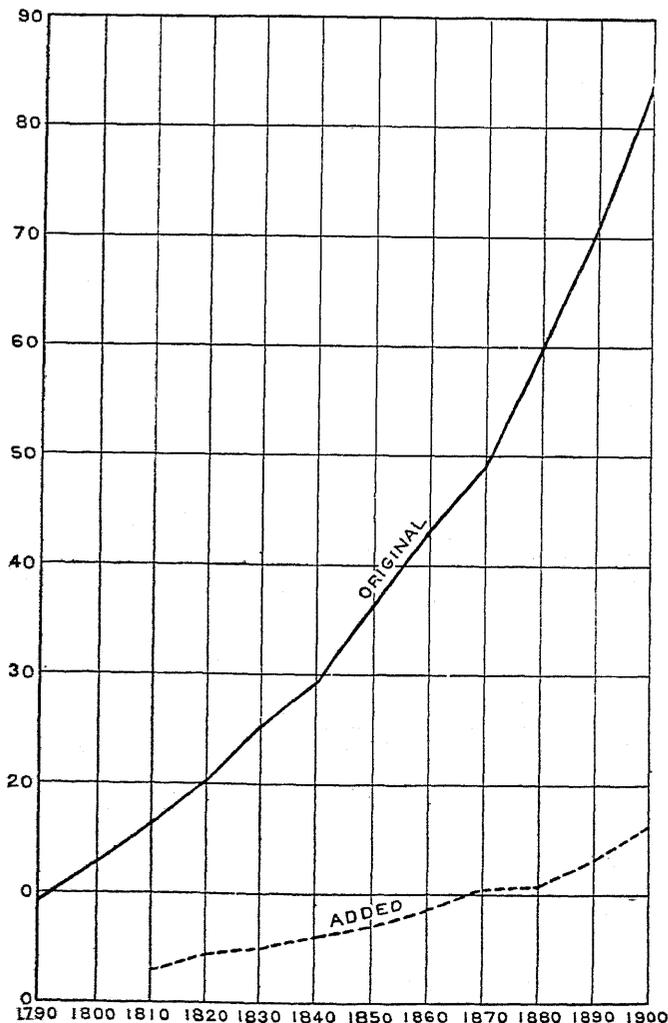
evident that no states except Florida, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Western states now have a density of less than 10 persons per square mile, or, in other words, a density as low as the density of popula-

tion for the entire area enumerated in 1790. Applying to the population of the different areas of enumeration in continental United States the land area of the states and territories included, the following figures result:

TABLE 13.—DENSITY OF POPULATION IN SPECIFIED AREAS OF ENUMERATION WITHIN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES: 1790 TO 1900.

AREA ENUMERATED—	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
In 1590 and 1900.....											21.2	25.6
In 1560, 1870, and 1880.....								10.8	13.3	17.3	21.6	25.9
In 1850.....							11.3	15.2	18.4	23.4	28.6	34.4
In 1840.....						14.7	19.7	20.0	31.3	39.0	46.9	55.9
In 1830.....					12.6	16.6	22.1	28.6	33.8	41.9	50.0	59.5
In 1810 and 1820.....			7.5	10.0	13.3	17.5	23.3	30.1	35.6	44.0	52.4	62.3
In 1800.....		6.6	8.9	11.7	15.5	20.1	26.3	33.4	39.3	48.2	57.2	68.0
In 1790.....	9.4	12.6	16.3	19.9	24.5	28.2	34.9	41.5	47.2	57.4	67.6	80.4
Total added area.....		0.2	0.8	2.4	4.3	7.1	5.3	5.7	7.6	10.6	13.6	16.7
First in 1800.....		0.2	0.9	2.9	5.7	11.3	17.0	24.6	30.8	38.3	45.8	54.6
First in 1810.....			0.6	1.4	2.3	5.0	8.5	14.0	17.6	23.5	29.6	34.8
First in 1830.....					0.6	1.0	1.6	2.6	3.4	4.9	7.1	9.6
First in 1840.....						0.3	1.5	6.2	12.0	17.6	23.6	29.2
First in 1850.....							0.4	1.3	1.9	3.3	5.1	6.7
First in 1860.....								0.2	0.7	2.3	4.5	5.1
First in 1890.....											2.0	8.3

DIAGRAM 4.—Increase in density in original and added area: 1790 to 1900.



Between 1790 and 1900 the density of population in the area enumerated in 1790 increased nearly nine-fold. In the same period the density of the added area as a whole increased from nothing to 16.7, so that in 1900 it was about one-fifth as great as that of the original area.

The above table shows very clearly that detailed comparisons between the original and the added area are likely to be misleading, because of the composite character of the latter. The areas added in 1800, 1810, and 1840, which together comprise practically all of the states lying in the fertile valley of the Mississippi and east of that river, had attained in 1900 a density of from 30 to 50 persons per square mile. In Florida, which includes large areas of swamp land, the density after seventy years was only 9.7 persons per square mile. West of the Mississippi the density is not very great; but it has doubled in the twenty years since 1880, and will doubtless continue to increase.

The changes in density during the century illustrate effectively the influence of industrial development upon the growth and the movement of population. In several states of the original area this influence has produced conditions, and resulting densities, which approximate those of some of the countries of Europe. Thus, the density of Rhode Island (407.0) in 1900 was nearly the same as that of Holland (406.4) in 1899; the density of Massachusetts (348.9) corresponded with that of the United Kingdom (341.6) in 1901; and the density of Connecticut (187.5) corresponded with that of France (190.7) in 1901. Had the density of continental United States been as great as that of Russia in Europe (50.3) in 1897 the population of continental United States in 1900 would have been approximately 150,000,000; had it been as great as that of France, the population would have been more than 500,000,000.