

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SAM. L. ROGERS, DIRECTOR

---

BULLETIN 133

---

ESTIMATES OF POPULATION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES

1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, AND 1916

INCLUDING

RESULTS OF THE STATE ENUMERATIONS  
MADE IN 1915



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1916

## CONTENTS.

	Page.
ESTIMATES OF POPULATION.....	7-9
Introduction.....	7
Method of computing estimates.....	7
State census not used.....	7
Population of the United States at each census.....	8
Description of General Tables 1 to 8.....	8
White and colored population.....	9
STATE CENSUS TAKING.....	9-11
Colonial and Federal enumerations.....	9
States having census laws.....	10
Federal supervision of local censuses.....	10
Description of General Tables 9 to 12.....	10
TABLE:	
I.—Population of the United States and number and population of places of 8,000 or more inhabitants: 1790 to 1916.....	8
II.—Number of municipalities in each group and cumulative total: July 1, 1916.....	9
III.—States taking an interdecennial census under state control in 1915.....	9
IV.—Special enumerations made under Federal supervision.....	10
DIAGRAMS:	
1.—Total population of the United States and proportion in places with 8,000 or more inhabitants: 1790 to 1916.....	8
2.—Per cent of population in municipalities with 8,000 or more inhabitants at each census, 1790 to 1910, and estimated per cent in 1916.....	8

## GENERAL TABLES.

TABLE 1.—Area and population of the United States and its outlying possessions in 1910 and 1900, with their estimated population for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910.....	14
TABLE 2.—Area of the United States, by states, and its outlying possessions and population per square mile: 1916 and 1910.....	14
TABLE 3.—Population of the United States and each state in 1910 and 1900, and estimates of population for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, with land area on July 1, 1916.....	15
TABLE 4.—Number and population of municipalities with a population of 8,000 or more April 15, 1910, with their estimated population for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, and the population outside such municipalities, by states and geographic divisions.....	16
TABLE 5.—Population in 1910 and 1900, and estimates of population for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, for municipalities having 8,000 or more population April 15, 1910, and land area on July 1, 1915.....	18
TABLE 6.—Estimates of population for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, for municipalities having an estimated population of 25,000 or more in 1916.....	30
TABLE 7.—White and colored population April 15, 1910, and estimates of population, by color, for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, for each state.....	34
TABLE 8.—White and colored population April 15, 1910, and estimates of population, by color, for July 1, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, and 1910, for such municipalities having 8,000 or more population April 15, 1910, as had 10,000 or more colored, or at least 10 per cent of their population colored.....	36
TABLE 9.—Population of states taking an interdecennial census with amount and per cent of increase, by five-year periods: 1895 to 1915.....	39
TABLE 10.—Federal and state censuses compared—Number and percentage of increase in ten-year periods: 1900 to 1910 and 1905 to 1915.....	39
TABLE 11.—Population of states and counties in 1915, 1905, and 1895, as shown by the results of the enumerations taken under state control, by state officials.....	39
TABLE 12.—Population in 1915, 1905, and 1895, of municipalities (having 5,000 or more inhabitants in 1915), as shown by the results of the enumerations taken under state control, by state officials.....	44

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

---

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,  
*Washington, D. C., November 1, 1916.*

SIR:

I transmit herewith a bulletin presenting the estimates of population, as of July 1, for each year from 1910 to and including 1916, for the United States, the states and territories, and for cities with 8,000 or more inhabitants in 1910.

Estimates of population are needed principally to furnish population figures upon which to base census mortality rates and averages for intercensal years. It is believed, however, that this bulletin will prove to be more useful than its predecessor in that, in addition to the estimates of population, it also presents the more important results of the enumeration of inhabitants made in ten states in 1915, under the supervision of state officials.

Much of the information upon which the estimates are based was supplied by the city officials and post-masters, and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge their courtesy in supplying maps and detailed information in regard to changes made in the city boundaries, together with statements of the approximate population of the territory annexed or detached.

This bulletin was prepared by Mr. Charles S. Sloane, Geographer, Bureau of the Census.

Respectfully,

SAM. L. ROGERS,  
*Director of the Census.*

To HON. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*

# ESTIMATES OF POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1910 TO 1916, AND RESULTS OF STATE ENUMERATIONS, 1915.

## ESTIMATES OF POPULATION.

### INTRODUCTION.

The present bulletin contains the estimates of population of the United States, the states and territories, and the cities with a population of 8,000 or more on April 15, 1910.

Estimates of population for the years subsequent to the census are required for the annual reports of the Census Bureau and other Government bureaus. They are used in computing annual mortality rates of cities and states, for fixing the compensation of certain county officials, and in several states the census estimates of population are used as a basis for establishing the number of liquor licenses that may be granted. Many public-service corporations use our estimates as a basis for the expansion of their operations.

So much interest has been evinced in these estimates that it has been deemed advisable to publish them in such a form that they may be available for use by health officers in states which have an established system of registration of deaths, also by other statisticians who need population data for years subsequent to the census enumeration. Although subject to some criticism, as all such estimates must be, the demand has been very large and the bureau is constantly in receipt of requests for such figures.

It must be evident to any person who reads the text of the bulletin that the figures presented are not to be considered in any sense as a census and must not be so regarded. Moreover, they are not based upon any detailed investigation of local conditions which would affect the movement of the population, except that, so far as possible, data regarding territory annexed or detached were secured from local officials, with conservative estimates of the population added or withdrawn by such changes; wherever city officials failed to answer our inquiries postmasters have been called upon and have supplied this bureau with valuable information.

### METHOD OF COMPUTING ESTIMATES.

The method of arithmetical progression was adopted for computing the estimates of population. It is the simplest and it has been shown by experience to come nearer in accuracy, in the majority of cases, than any other formula. It is based on the assump-

tion that the increase each year since the enumeration is equal to the annual increase from 1900 to 1910.

In previous bulletins, when the censuses were taken exactly ten years apart, the annual increase was assumed to be equal to one-tenth of the decennial increase but, as the time of taking the enumeration in 1910 was changed from June 1 to April 15, the time elapsed has been considered as 118.5 months. The annual increase from 1900 to 1910 is obtained by dividing the total increase by 118.5 and multiplying the quotient by 12, allowance being made for the population of any annexations and detachments of territory that have been made since April 15, 1910, of which the Census Bureau is advised.

The change in the date of the enumeration of 1910 from June 1 to April 15, necessitated a change in the date of making the estimates. As the statistical data are collected for the calendar year, in computing the rates and averages the mid-year population must be used, consequently, the date of the estimates was fixed as July 1, considering this the mid-year.

### STATE CENSUS NOT USED.

In order that all states and cities may be treated uniformly, it has been decided to use in computing these estimates the population as returned at the Twelfth and Thirteenth Censuses only, abandoning state and local enumerations, except for Chelsea, Mass., and Lackawanna, N. Y.; in estimating their population it was necessary to use the state returns of 1915, otherwise no estimates could have been computed.

As the data for the municipalities in regard to annexations and detachments of territory since July 1, 1915, could not be secured in time for this bulletin, the estimates for places that expanded or contracted their boundaries between July 1, 1915, and July 1, 1916, are liable to revision.

The list of municipal corporations, including the New England towns, with a population of 8,000 or more in 1910, number 779. Of this number, 32 decreased in population from 1900 to 1910, and for 29 of these cities the population returned April 15, 1910, is inserted each year in lieu of an estimate showing a continuous decrease, while for two of these cities, Galveston, Tex., and St. Joseph, Mo., estimates have been computed on a different basis. The decrease in

## ESTIMATES OF POPULATION.

the population of Galveston was due to the storm of September 8, 1900, and, in order to make a fair estimate for the years subsequent to 1910, the population was assumed to have increased since 1910 at the same rate as from 1890 to 1900. The enumeration of St. Joseph in 1900 was evidently incorrect, therefore, the estimate is based on the increase from June 1, 1890, to April 15, 1910, a period of nearly 20 years. The population of Chelsea, Mass., was greatly reduced in 1910, owing to the fire which occurred on April 12, 1908, and its population has been computed by using the Federal return of 1910 and the state census of 1915. Lackawanna city, N. Y., was not reported at the census of 1900 and, in order to supply an estimate, the computation was based on the Federal census of 1910 and the state census of 1915.

The estimated population of continental United States July 1, 1916, was 102,017,312 and the estimated population of the 779 municipalities at the same date was 41,717,853. The proportion, therefore, of the population in such municipalities was 40.9 per cent of the total.

## POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AT EACH CENSUS.

In the following table will be found the total population at each census, from 1790 to 1910, and the estimated population of the United States for July 1, 1916, also the population in cities of 8,000 or more inhabitants at the same dates, together with the number of places, and the per cent of the total population in such places.

TABLE I.—POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND NUMBER AND POPULATION OF PLACES OF 8,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS: 1790 TO 1916.

CENSUS YEAR.	Total population.	PLACES OF 8,000 INHABITANTS OR MORE.		
		Population.	Number.	Per cent of total population.
1916.....	<sup>1</sup> 102,017,312	41,717,853	779	40.9
1910.....	91,972,266	35,734,323	779	38.9
1900.....	75,994,575	25,142,978	556	33.1
1890.....	62,947,714	18,327,987	449	29.1
1880.....	50,155,783	11,450,894	291	22.8
1870.....	38,558,371	8,071,875	228	20.9
1860.....	31,443,321	5,072,256	141	16.1
1850.....	23,191,876	2,897,586	85	12.5
1840.....	17,069,453	1,453,994	44	8.5
1830.....	12,866,020	864,509	26	6.7
1820.....	9,638,453	475,135	13	4.9
1810.....	7,239,881	356,920	11	4.9
1800.....	5,308,483	210,873	6	4.0
1790.....	3,929,214	131,472	6	3.3

<sup>1</sup> Estimated.

Diagrams 1 and 2 present graphically the figures shown in the preceding table. In Diagram 1 the increase in the total population and the increase in the proportion in the larger cities is brought out very clearly, while Diagram 2 shows how slowly the urban element increased from 1790 to 1840 and how rapidly it increased at the later decades.

DIAGRAM 1.—TOTAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND PROPORTION IN PLACES WITH 8,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS: 1790 TO 1916.

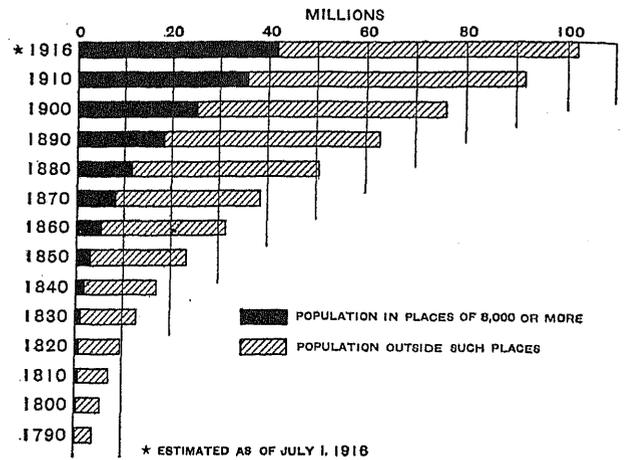
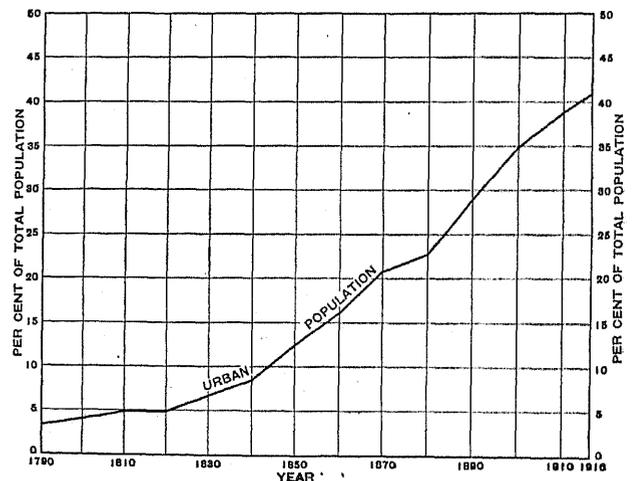


DIAGRAM 2.—PER CENT OF POPULATION IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH 8,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS AT EACH CENSUS, 1790 TO 1910, AND ESTIMATED PER CENT IN 1916.



## DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL TABLES.

Table 1 (p. 14) gives the area of the United States and its outlying possessions in 1916, also the population in 1910 and 1900, with an estimate of the population July 1, each year, from 1910 to and including 1916.

The areas of the United States, the states, and the insular possessions have been computed generally by planimeter measurements from the latest maps. Slight differences in the figures published hitherto by the Geological Survey, the General Land Office, and the Bureau of the Census, due principally to variations in the maps used, were adjusted at a conference of representatives of these bureaus and an agreement was reached in regard to the areas. In Table 2 (p. 14) will be found the figures agreed upon. The total area, land surface, and water surface are there shown; the rank of each state in gross area; and the population per square mile of land area in 1916 and 1910.

In Table 3 (p. 15) is shown, by states and geographic divisions, the land area as of July 1, 1916, the population April 15, 1910, and June 1, 1900, and the estimated population July 1 of each year, 1910 to 1916, inclusive.

Table 4 (p. 16) presents, by states and geographic divisions, the number of municipalities with 8,000 or more population April 15, 1910, with their population at that date and their estimated population July 1 of each year, 1910 to 1916, and the estimated population outside such municipalities.

TABLE II.—NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES IN EACH GROUP AND CUMULATIVE TOTAL, JULY 1, 1916.

GROUP.	Number in each group.	Cumulative total.
1,000,000 and over .....	3	3
900,000 to 1,000,000 .....	3	3
800,000 to 900,000 .....	3	3
700,000 to 800,000 .....	2	5
600,000 to 700,000 .....	1	6
500,000 to 600,000 .....	4	10
400,000 to 500,000 .....	5	15
300,000 to 400,000 .....	5	20
200,000 to 300,000 .....	9	29
100,000 to 200,000 .....	37	66
75,000 to 100,000 .....	21	87
50,000 to 75,000 .....	41	128
25,000 to 50,000 .....	139	267

Table 5 (p. 18) shows each municipality with 8,000 or more population, in 1910, arranged alphabetically by states, the land area July 1, 1915, the population at the Twelfth and Thirteenth Censuses, and the

estimated population for July 1 of each year, 1910 to 1916, inclusive.

In Table 6 (p. 30) will be found the population July 1 of each year, 1910 to 1916, of each municipality having an estimated population of 25,000 or more in 1916, ranked according to population. The number of cities in this class is 267, and the accompanying text table shows the number in each group, with the cumulative total.

#### WHITE AND COLORED POPULATION.

The Census Bureau has received many requests from health officers and other statisticians for estimates of the white and colored population for states and cities having a large number of colored inhabitants; it has, therefore, been deemed advisable to include in this bulletin estimates of the white and colored population for the states and for those cities in which this element is of importance.

In Table 7 (p. 34) will be found a statement of the white and colored population on April 15, 1910, in each state, with estimates of the white and colored population July 1 for each year from 1910 to 1916.

Table 8 (p. 36) shows the white and colored population on April 15, 1910, for cities with more than 8,000 population at that date, and estimates of each of these elements as of July 1 of each year from 1910 to 1916, for the municipalities returned at the Thirteenth Census with 10,000 or more colored population, or at least 10 per cent of their population made up of this element.

#### STATE CENSUS TAKING.

This section presents the population returns for 1915, of the 10 states in which a census was taken in the intercensal period.

In most instances, these state enumerations are made for the purpose of legislative apportionment, and but few of the states attempted to secure information for statistical deductions. The returns, however, can not be regarded as entirely satisfactory from a census standpoint. Methods of enumeration, tabulation, and publication differ greatly and the lack of uniformity becomes specially marked when an attempt is made to combine the returns. Furthermore, there is much irregularity in the date as of which the census is taken in the several states, representing in 1915, for the 10 states which then took a census, as many as seven different dates, as follows: March 1, Kansas and Rhode Island; April 1, Massachusetts and North Dakota; first Monday in April, Wyoming; May 1, South Dakota; June 1, New Jersey and New York; July 1, Florida; and December 31, Iowa.

A comparison of the state census returns with the estimates for the same dates shows that, although in individual cases the computations by the Census Bureau

may be wide of the truth, in a majority of instances they approach the actual figures very closely. The total population of the 10 states which have taken a census since the last Federal census was 23,135,075, according to their own figures, and 23,642,890 as estimated as of the dates of the respective censuses. If allowance be made for error in enumeration, which in many cases amounts to 2 per cent, the slight difference of 507,815, or 2.2 per cent, between the estimates and the state enumerations, is almost balanced. The estimates can, therefore, be accepted as the best available substitute for an actual census. This is particularly true for large and densely populated communities.

#### COLONIAL AND FEDERAL ENUMERATIONS.

The first Federal census was that of 1790, but the idea of official enumeration was by no means a new one, for in several of the older colonies a census at irregular intervals had long been customary. In fact, in New York the first colonial enumeration antedated the first Federal census by nearly a century, and in Rhode Island and New Jersey by more than 50 years.

The following statement gives the dates of the first and last censuses in the 10 states now taking interdecennial censuses, together with the title of the state official in charge of enumeration:

TABLE III.—STATES TAKING AN INTERDECENNIAL CENSUS UNDER STATE CONTROL IN 1915.

STATE.	DATE OF STATE CENSUS.		Official in charge of enumeration.
	First.	Last.	
New York.....	1698	June 1, 1915	Secretary of State.
Rhode Island...	1708	Mar. 1, 1915	Superintendent, Bureau of the Census.
New Jersey.....	1726	June 1, 1915	Secretary of State.
Massachusetts...	1765	Apr. 1, 1915	Director, Bureau of Statistics.
Iowa.....	1838	Dec. 31, 1914	Secretary, Executive Council.
Kansas.....	1855	Mar. 1, 1915	Secretary, State Board of Agriculture.
Florida.....	1895	July 1, 1915	Commissioner of Agriculture.
South Dakota...	1895	May 1, 1915	Superintendent of Census.
North Dakota...	1905	Apr. 1, 1915	Secretary of State.
Wyoming.....	1905	Apr. 5, 1915	Secretary of State.

#### STATES HAVING CENSUS LAWS.

A provision for a census in the period between the Federal enumerations is, or has at one time been, included in the laws of the following states:

Alabama.	Minnesota.	Oregon.
California.	Mississippi.	Pennsylvania.
Colorado.	Montana.	Rhode Island.
Florida.	Nebraska.	South Carolina.
Idaho.	Nevada.	South Dakota.
Iowa.	New Jersey.	Utah.
Kansas.	New York.	Wisconsin.
Massachusetts.	North Dakota.	Wyoming.
Michigan.	Oklahoma.	

In a large majority of these states, however, the legislatures have failed to appropriate funds to defray the cost of enumeration and in several the laws providing for a census have been repealed.

In the law providing for the Tenth Federal Census the following provision appeared:

SEC. 22. That if any state or territory, through its duly appointed officers or agents, shall, during the two months beginning on the first Monday of June of the year which is the mean between the decennial censuses of the United States is by this act directed to be taken, take and complete a census in all respects according to the schedules and forms of enumeration in the census of the United States and shall deposit with the Secretary of the Interior, on or before the first of September following, a full and authentic copy of all schedules returned and reports made by the officers and agents charged with such enumeration, then the Secretary of the Treasury shall, upon receiving a certificate from the Secretary of the Interior, that such schedules and reports have been duly deposited, pay, on the requisition of the governor of such state or territory, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum equal to fifty per centum of the amount which was paid to all supervisors and actual enumerators within such state or territory at the United States census next preceding, increased by one-half the percentage of gain in population in such state or territory between the two United States censuses next preceding: *Provided*: That the blank schedules used for the purposes of the enumeration herein provided for shall be similar, in all respects of form and size of heading and ruling, to those used in the census of the United States.

Only two states, Colorado and Florida, and two territories, Dakota and New Mexico, took advantage

of this section and the provision was omitted from the acts providing for the taking of the Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Censuses.

#### FEDERAL SUPERVISION OF LOCAL CENSUSES.

A system of Federal supervision of local censuses is possible under the legislative authority of section 8 of the act creating the Department of Commerce and Labor, which reads, in part, as follows:

He [The Secretary of Commerce] shall also from time to time make such special investigations and reports as he may be required to do by the President, or by either House of Congress, or which he himself may deem necessary and urgent.

For the six cities given in Table IV satisfactory enumerations were made under the official supervision provided by the Federal Census Bureau and the results have been accepted as official by said bureau.

TABLE IV.—SPECIAL ENUMERATIONS MADE UNDER FEDERAL SUPERVISION.

MUNICIPALITY.	Date.	POPULATION.	
		Special census.	Census, Apr. 15, 1910.
<b>MICHIGAN:</b>			
Hamtramck village.....	June 25, 1915	21,520	3,559
Highland Park village.....	Nov. 15, 1915	27,155	4,120
St. Clair Heights village.....	Nov. 18, 1915	6,853	1,252
<b>NEBRASKA:</b>			
Hastings city.....	Dec. 13, 1915	10,874	9,338
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b>			
Tulsa city.....	Apr. 15, 1915	28,240	18,182
<b>TEXAS:</b>			
El Paso city.....	Jan. 15, 1916	61,902	39,279

These special censuses were taken at the request of the municipal authorities because it appeared that the cities in question had grown so rapidly in population since 1910 that the Federal estimates were not approximating the true population. Three of these municipalities had a population of less than 8,000 in 1910 and would not, therefore, have appeared in the list of cities for which population is estimated each year.

#### DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL TABLES.

Table 9 (p. 39) presents the population of the 10 states as returned by the Federal and state censuses in 1915, 1910, 1905, 1900, and 1895, and the increase and percentage of increase for each five-year period. Three states, Kansas, South Dakota, and Wyoming, decreased in population from 1910 to 1915, the greatest rate of decrease in population being shown for Wyoming, 2.9 per cent. The lowest rate of increase from 1910 to 1915 was in Iowa, which increased 6 per cent, while the highest percentage of increase from 1910 to 1915 was in Florida, 22.5 per cent. The highest percentage of increase shown by any state for any five-year period from 1895 to 1915 was that of Wyoming from 1905 to 1910, during which period it

increased 43.4 per cent. The rate of increase in the total population of the 10 states as indicated for each of the five-year periods was 11.5 per cent from 1895 to 1900; 9.3 per cent from 1900 to 1905; 13 per cent from 1905 to 1910; and 7.4 per cent from 1910 to 1915, indicating that the aggregate growth of these states from 1910 to 1915 was not as rapid as at any of the previous five-year periods specified.

As the states of North Dakota and Wyoming did not make a count of their population in 1895, the totals for that year include the returns for 8 states only.

Each of the 10 states, with one exception, North Dakota, increased from 1905 to 1910 more rapidly than from 1900 to 1905. Iowa, which decreased in population from 1900 to 1905, increased from 1905 to 1910, 0.7 per cent and from 1910 to 1915, 6 per cent. The great changes in the rate of growth at each five-year period indicate clearly that where the movement of the population is so irregular no method can be devised for estimating accurately the population of all the states for the years subsequent to the decennial Federal census.

Table 10 (p. 39) compares for the 10 states which enumerated their population in 1915 the increase in the population by ten-year periods, as returned by the Federal censuses, from 1900 to 1910, and the state census returns, from 1905 to 1915. It will be noted that in 3 states, Florida, Iowa, and Massachusetts, the percentage of increase from 1905 to 1915 was greater than from 1900 to 1910, but in the remaining 7 states the percentage of increase from 1900 to 1910 was much higher than in the period from 1905 to 1915. In the states of Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming the rate of growth from 1900

to 1910 was very much greater (nearly double), than from 1905 to 1915. In Iowa a decrease in population of 7,082 was shown from 1900 to 1910 and an increase of 148,016 from 1905 to 1915 is indicated by the state returns. In New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island slight decreases in the rate of growth were indicated by the state returns of 1905 and 1915, as compared with the increase from 1900 to 1910. A study of the changes in the rate of growth from census to census reveals the difficulty which exists in establishing a method of estimating population which will apply equitably to all states. It also shows that in some of the states, if the estimates were based on percentage of growth instead of the actual numerical increase, the results would have been in error to a much greater degree than the Census Bureau's estimates.

Table 11 (p. 39) shows the total population, by states and counties, for 1915, 1905, and 1895, for the states that made enumerations at each of these years. The presentation of this table was deemed advisable in order that comparative figures of the state censuses by counties could be made available in one publication, and the table will, undoubtedly, prove of value to statisticians and for purposes of comparison with census estimates.

In 1915, according to the returns of the 10 state enumerations, there were 371 municipalities with 5,000 or more inhabitants, and Table 12 (p. 44) presents their population as returned in 1915, also for 1905 and 1895, wherever the figures could be secured. The census estimates are confined to cities with 8,000 or more inhabitants in 1910, but, as there are many requests for the population of smaller cities, this table was enlarged to include all municipalities with more than 5,000 inhabitants.