

# POPULATION CENTRE MOVING EAST, CITIES LEAD: Early Figures of New ...

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New York Times (1857-1922); May 23, 1920; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times

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## POPULATION CENTRE MOVING EAST, CITIES LEAD

### Early Figures of New Census Seem to Promise This and Indicate Slowing Up of General Increase Rate to About Fifteen Per Cent.—Effect of Industrial Progress Speeded Up by War

IN the taking of the census to date, covering about 15 per cent. of the estimated population, 62 cities having a population of 10,000 or more have made a gain of 50 per cent. or above that. Twenty-five of them are in the blue-ribbon class; they more than doubled their population. In this list are two cities which also doubled their population in the preceding decade—Jacksonville, Fla., and Flint, Mich. The location of these places, which have made an advance of 50 per cent. or more, not only has a bearing on the relative growth of the sections of the country—the East competing with the West, the North with the South—but also on the questions of cardinal importance which the census will answer. These are:

Are we entering on a new period in which our proportionate increase in population will be less than in the past?

Is urban population for the first time in the history of the country to take the lead over rural population?

Has the great movement westward, which has been an outstanding feature in every census, slowed up, and, with the vast industrial growth in the East, is the centre of population to be stopped in its westward course and return a few points toward the East?

#### Declining Rate of Increase.

Up to this census there have been three distinct stages in population increase. From 1790 to 1860 the rate was about 35 per cent. In 1790 it was 35.1; in 1860, 35.6. In the next decade there was a drop of ten points, and this held until 1890. In the next two censuses, coming down to 1910, the decline in rate of growth averaged 5 per cent.

Will the present census cut the rate of gain below 20 and taking it into the teens mark off a new period? That is what the returns so far received point to. These are largely from places of 2,500 and over, city enumerations being received first, and they represent that part of the population which for several decades has been gaining much more rapidly.

Eight hundred and seventy-two cities have been heard from. In distribution the West is not so well represented as other sections of the country, but the total compared with that of the previous census is significant. The 872 cities as compared to the same places in 1910 show a numerical gain of 2,521,635, and, while there is no doubt that this census will reveal a much larger absolute gain than ever before, in percentage increase the figures are on the side of those census experts who think we are entering a period of less rapid proportionate growth.

The 1920 total for the 872 cities is 17,909,006; for 1910, 14,387,361. The rate of growth of this urban population in 1920 was 24.5; in 1910, 30.7. If this drop

of over five points, the returns so far received, is representative, the percentage of increase in 1910-20 would be not far from 15 per cent., which would mean that the final returns ought to show a total population in the neighborhood of 105,000,000. A rate of 17 per cent. would carry the total to 107,000,000. Even this would be 3,000,000 fewer than would be the case with the continuance of the 20 per cent. advance of

far below the level maintained when 1,000,000 new people a year came over. The other cause contributing was the smaller size of families. In 1850 the size of the family in the United States, according to the census designation of a family, was 5.6; in 1910 it was 4.5. Actually the decrease is considerably more, because the census family comprises those living in the same household, and a hotel comes under this

ground that the continuous heavy inflow of a foreign supply kept wages down. Obviously, therefore, a reduction of 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 from what the previous rate of growth would have produced may be an element of weight in a struggle between capital and labor.

Results of this census will attract more attention to the problem of food production than ever before, and some broad organized effort to stop the trend from the farm to the city may follow. It is predicted by those whose business is to follow them that complete census returns will show that the urban population has passed that of the country. Farmers are complaining that they have had to reduce acreage in cultivation because of the inability to get help. With immigration cut down, the growth in the cities so far reported means a considerable draft on the country districts and the proportion of rural inhabitants must have decreased. In 1910 only a small margin existed in favor of rural districts. There were three per cent. more people in the country than in the towns. The swing from the farm to the city is shown in these figures from preceding censuses: 1900, 59.5 per cent. rural; 1890, 63.9 per cent. rural. In 1870 70.5 per cent. of the country's population was rural. The war industries drew many to the cities; many who went temporarily are evidently remaining permanently.

#### Halt in Westward Trend.

Returns so far received indicate that the movement Westward, which without a break had borne the centre of population further from the Atlantic Coast, has met with a decided check. The proportion of advance in the West in the last census was far ahead of that of any other part of the country. For the Pacific States it was 73.3; for the Mountain States, 57.3; for the Middle Atlantic States, 25; for the East North Central States 14.2; for the New England States, 17.2; for the West South Central States, 34.5. Washington, in the Pacific Division, was the banner State of the country. It increased 120.4.

Two of its cities, Seattle and Spokane, were in the list of 22 which showed a doubling of population in 1910. Spokane, which made an increase of 183 per cent. in 1910, added 2 per cent. in the 1920 census; Seattle, which went forward 104 per cent. in the preceding decennial count, increased 33.1 per cent. in this census. Yakima, which jumped forward 366.5 per cent. in 1910, made 31.7 gain in 1920, and Everett, with an advance of 216.6 to its credit in 1910, has 11.3 in 1920. No final conclusions can be drawn from these figures, but they create the presumption that the total figures from Washington will reveal a much reduced growth.

Western cities are still going ahead, but the returns from other Western States heard from also, gen-

erally speaking, show a decided drop from the 1910 figures. Alameda, Cal., went down from 42 per cent. to 23.2; Berkeley, Cal., from 206 to 38.2; Redondo Beach, Cal., from 243.3 to 67.4; South Pasadena, Cal., from 304.4 to 64.5; Sacramento from 52.6 to 47.3. Some California places showed a gain in percentage over the preceding census, but they are in the minority.

Some of the stronger indications in other Western States that there has been a break from the rate of growth in the preceding decade are these: Ogden, Utah, with a drop from 54.8 to 28.2; Tucson, Ariz., from 82.7 to 51.4; Grand Junction, Col., from 121.4 to 11.7; Fort Collins, Col., from 168.9 to 6.4; Hibbing, Minn., from 236 to 70.8; Bismarck, N. D., from 64 to 27.7; Colorado Springs, Col., from 37.9 to 1.7. Yankton, S. D.,

#### TABLE SHOWING THE NUMERICAL AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF CITIES OF IMPORTANCE.

—Population—P. C. In-		
	1920.	1910. increase.
Albany, N. Y.	113,344	160,253 13.1
Bridgeport, Conn.	143,152	102,054 40.5
Cincinnati, Ohio	401,158	363,591 10.5
Dayton, Ohio	153,830	116,577 31.1
Indianapolis, Ind.	314,194	223,650 34.5
Louisville, Ky.	234,891	223,028 4.9
Memphis, Tenn.	162,351	131,105 23.8
Milwaukee, Wis.	457,147	374,857 22.3
Minneapolis, Minn.	350,498	301,408 16.2
Nashville, Tenn.	118,342	110,394 7.2
Newark, N. J.	415,609	347,469 19.6
New Orleans, La.	387,408	339,085 14.3
Paterson, N. J.	155,866	125,040 24.2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	588,193	535,965 9.2
Seattle, Wash.	315,652	237,194 33.1
Spokane, Wash.	104,204	104,402 0.2
St. Louis, Mo.	774,090	657,020 17.5
St. Paul, Minn.	234,595	214,744 9.2
Syracuse, N. Y.	171,647	137,249 25.1
Toledo, Ohio	243,109	168,497 44.3
Trenton, N. J.	119,289	96,815 23.2
Washington, D. C.	437,414	331,069 32.1
Wilmington, Del.	110,168	87,411 26.0

on the other hand, is one of those that came back, rising from a loss of 8.2 in 1910 to a gain of 32.7 in 1920.

Thirty of the cities with populations

above 10,000 which have shown a growth of 50 per cent. or more in the last decade are in the Middle West, and indications from other returns from these sections are that the Middle West and the East and the South will make a bet-

#### TABLE OF PLACES WITH A POPULATION OF 10,000 OR MORE WHERE THE RATE OF INCREASE IS 50 PER CENT. OR HIGHER.

—Population—P. C. In-			—Population—P. C. In-		
	1920.	1910. increase.		1920.	1910. increase.
*Hamtramck, Mich.	48,615	3,550 1266.0	Dallas, Texas	158,976	92,101 72.6
*High'd Pk., Mich.	46,599	4,120 1031.0	Kewanee, Ill.	16,026	9,797 72.2
Kenmore, Ohio	12,683	1,561 712.5	Charleston, W. Va.	39,608	22,566 72.2
Casper, Wyo.	11,447	2,639 333.8	Hammond, Ind.	36,004	20,925 72.1
Eldorado, Kan.	10,965	5,129 251.4	Carrick, Pa.	10,594	6,117 71.7
Venice, Cal.	10,385	5,119 235.0	Hagerstown, Md.	23,927	16,507 69.8
Cary, Ind.	55,331	18,802 229.4	Monroe, Mich.	11,573	6,885 67.9
Long Beach, Cal.	55,593	18,809 212.2	Youngstown, Ohio	131,358	79,096 67.4
Cleero, Ill.	44,995	14,577 209.1	Medford, Mass.	38,687	22,150 67.1
Akron, Ohio	238,455	69,067 291.8	Niagara Falls, N. Y.	50,700	30,445 66.7
Port Arthur, Texas	22,251	7,663 193.4	Bellefonte, N. J.	15,296	9,891 64.7
Richmond, Cal.	16,843	6,802 147.6	Jacksonville, Fla.	91,543	57,669 62.7
Cambridge	12,730	5,205 144.6	Charlottesville, Va.	10,688	6,765 62.0
Warren, Ohio	27,059	11,081 144.1	Norwood, Mass.	12,627	8,014 61.9
Flint, Mich.	91,599	38,559 157.6	Bath, Me.	14,731	9,796 66.8
Pontiac, Mich.	54,275	14,332 135.8	Shreveport, La.	43,874	28,015 64.6
Berwick, Pa.	12,181	5,357 127.4	Sallma, Kan.	15,985	9,688 60.7
East Youngst'n, O.	11,237	4,972 126.0	Niles, Ohio	13,080	8,561 59.4
Gastonia, N. C.	12,871	5,759 123.5	Amarillo, Texas	15,494	9,367 60.6
Clifton, N. J.	26,470	11,869 123.0	Wyandotte, Mich.	12,851	8,287 63.7
West New York, N. J.	29,928	13,560 120.7	Hlon, N. Y.	10,169	6,588 64.8
North Platte, Neb.	10,466	4,793 118.4	Norwood, Ohio	24,966	16,185 64.8
Irvington, N. J.	25,466	11,887 114.4	Racine, Wis.	58,595	38,092 64.8
Knoxville, Tenn.	77,818	38,246 114.1	Jackson, Mich.	48,574	31,433 64.7
Winston-S'm, N. C.	48,395	22,700 113.2	Whiting, Ind.	10,140	6,587 63.9
Oak Park, Ill.	39,830	19,444 104.8	Tucson, Ariz.	20,292	13,193 53.8
Beaumont, Texas	40,422	20,640 95.8	Fargo, N. D.	21,961	14,231 53.2
Santa Monica, Cal.	15,252	7,847 94.4	Muncie, Ind.	36,524	24,005 65.7
Bellmont, Mass.	10,744	5,542 93.9	Muskegon, Mich.	36,570	24,062 65.8
East Chicago, Ind.	35,067	19,098 88.3	Asheville, N. C.	28,504	18,762 66.2
Middletown, Ohio	23,591	15,152 79.4	Billings, Mont.	15,100	10,651 50.5
Mason City, Iowa	20,065	11,250 78.7	Madison, Wis.	58,578	25,531 50.3
Kokomo, Ind.	39,067	17,010 76.8	Maywood, Ill.	12,072	8,053 50.3
Clinton, Ind.	10,962	6,229 76.0			
Canton, Ohio	87,091	30,217 73.4			

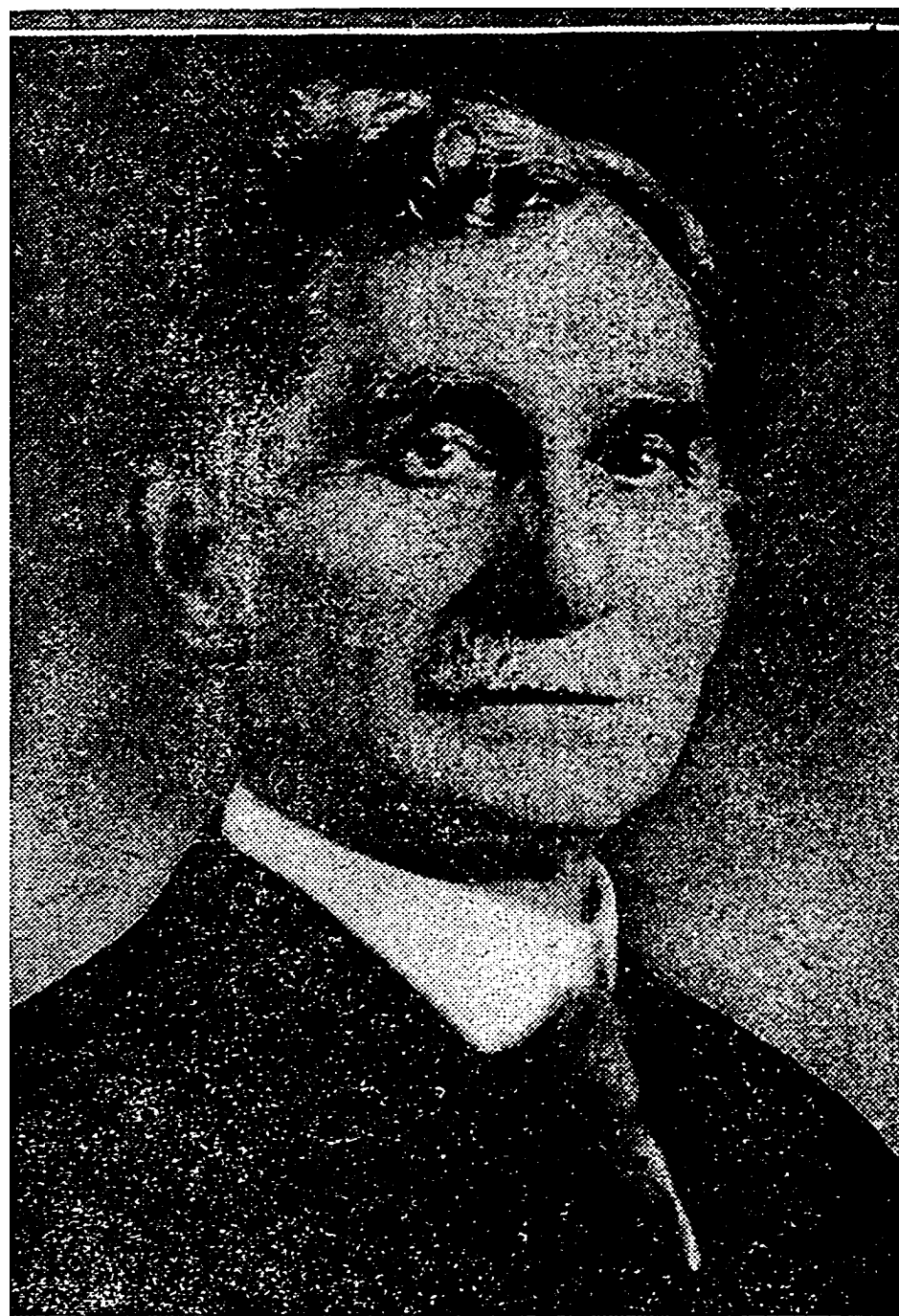
ter showing in comparison with the West than in recent decades. Only seven in the list of places reporting a 50 per cent. growth are in the Pacific and Mountain States, though account should be taken of the slower returns from the further West. In the list of cities which have increased 50 per cent. more trustworthy conclusions are drawn

from those with a population of 25,000 or more, since these are the index of a larger territory and are more important in their relation to the country as a whole.

Six cities of more than 50,000 popula-

tion cannot be typical—produce an average gain of 37.1. Four cities in New England of 30,000 and over, Springfield and Medford, Mass., and Bridgeport and Hartford, Conn., show an average gain of 48.1. In New York State, Binghamton, in this class, had an increase of 57.9; Trenton, N. J., 25.2, and New Castle, Pa., 23.9. While there is significance in all these figures, until more complete returns are in, definite conclusions may not safely be drawn. So far as they go, however, they bear out the predictions of the experts that growth in the Middle West and along the Atlantic seaboard would stand out in this census more prominently. The war drew many workers to the Atlantic seaboard, numbers coming from as far West as the Mountain States. Before the war the increased centralization of industries in the East and secondarily in the Middle West—notably in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana—had showed itself, and this phenomenon is expected to produce a decided effect on the census total, emphasizing at the same time the rise of the United States as an industrial power in contrast to earlier agricultural preponderance.

Among cities of more than 200,000 reported, Toledo, Ohio, leads with a percentage gain in population of 44.3; Indianapolis, Ind., is second with 34.5; Louisville, Ky., is lowest in this class—its percentage is 4.9. Washington, the sixteenth city in the last census, has passed New Orleans, Newark and Cincinnati, which preceded it in that order. This foreshadows a shakeup in the first twenty cities of no small proportion. It has started out to be a census of more than the usual number of surprises, and if, as indicated, the percentage of growth for the first time drops below twenty, the urban population passes the rural population and the centre of population reverses its more than century-old direction, it will go down in history as epochal in character.



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recent decades. Census experts seen in Washington are of the opinion that the total will not exceed 106,000,000, and some think it will be found to be nearer 105,000,000.

The figures agree with expectations based on two causes known to be operating to a greater or less extent. One was the shutting down of immigration by the war, with the likelihood that the shortage of men in Europe would keep it

definition. With the increase in the number and size of hotels the part played by this factor was necessarily much enlarged.

It is expected that this census will show fewer children in all classes. A reduction in the relative gain of population will have a broad bearing, especially in the relation to the labor supply. Labor leaders have long contended for restriction of immigration, on the