

Did You Know?

The Development of Wisconsin Population 1840-1950(1)

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Census year	Total	Urban	Rural	Percent increase over preceding census		Percent of total population	
				Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1950 (new urban def.)(2)	3,434,575	1,987,888	1,446,687	----	----	57.9	42.1
1950 (old urban def.)(2)	3,434,575	1,906,363	1,528,212	13.5	4.8	55.5	44.5
1940 -----	3,137,587	1,679,144	1,458,443	8.1	5.3	53.5	46.5
1930 -----	2,939,006	1,553,843	1,385,163	24.8	-0.1	52.9	47.1
1920 -----	2,632,067	1,244,858	1,387,209	24.0	4.3	47.3	52.7
1910 -----	2,333,860	1,004,320	1,329,540	27.1	4.0	43.0	57.0
1900 -----	2,069,042	790,213	1,278,829	40.5	13.1	38.2	61.8
1890 -----	1,693,330	562,286	1,131,044	77.3	13.3	33.2	66.8
1880 -----	1,315,497	317,204	998,293	53.2	17.8	24.1	75.9
1870 -----	1,054,670	207,099	847,571	85.1	27.6	19.6	80.4
1860 -----	775,881	111,874	664,007	290.9	139.9	14.4	85.6
1850 -----	305,391	28,623	276,768	----	794.4	9.4	90.6
1840 -----	30,945	-----	30,945	----	----	----	100.0

(1) Bureau of Census, 1950 U.S. Census of Population, U.S. Summary, Bulletin P-A1, Table 15, p. 1-20.

(2) Urban and rural areas.--According to the new definition that was adopted for use in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages, (b) incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties, (c) the densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more, and (d) unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe. The remaining population is classified as rural. According to the old definition, the urban population had been limited to all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor civil divisions) classified as urban under special rules relating to population size and density. The areas urban under special rules in 1940 were of 3 types. The first type was limited to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, in which States it is not the practice to incorporate as municipalities places with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. This type was made up of towns (townships) in which there was a village or thickly settled area having 2,500 inhabitants or more, and which comprised, either by itself or when combined with other villages in the same town, more than 50 percent of the total population of the town. The second type of areas urban under special rule was made up of townships and other political subdivisions (not incorporated as municipalities nor containing any areas so incorporated) with a total population of 10,000 or more and a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile. The third type of area urban under special rule consisted of 7 places--1 in Vermont and 6 in Maine-- which had been classified as urban places in 1930 but about whose status as incorporated places some question was raised in 1940.