

# Orleans Parish, Louisiana Census Statistics — 1840

6th Census · Enumeration Date: June 1, 1840

## PART I — TOTAL POPULATION

Metric	Value
Census Year	1840
Census Number	6th Census
Enumeration Date	June 1, 1840
Total Population	102,193
Decadal Change	+52,367
Decadal % Change	+105.1%
U.S. City Rank	3rd

*Note: Largest single-decade gain in parish history; massive influx of Irish and German immigrants; New Orleans ranked 3rd most populous U.S. city.*

## PART II — RACIAL & STATUS COMPOSITION

Category	Count	% of Total
Free White (Free)	59,519	58.2%
Free Colored (Free)	19,226	see note
Enslaved	23,448	see note
Other / Unclassified	—	—

*Note: Massive Irish and German immigration nearly doubled the white population; the free colored community remained substantial but proportionally smaller.*

*Terminology note: 'Free Colored' denotes legally free persons of African descent (gens de couleur libres). 'Enslaved' persons were recorded on separate slave schedules and are not equivalent to 'Free Colored.' Period-accurate terminology is retained for historical fidelity.*

## PART III — FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

Metric	Value
Total Foreign-Born	~30,000 (est.)
% of Total Population	~29.4%
Largest Foreign-Born Groups	Ireland, Germany

*Note: Famine-era Irish immigration had not yet peaked but was substantial; German migration concurrent. Figures estimated from regional rates.*

Sources: Forstall, R.L. (ed.), Population of the States and Counties of the United States: 1790–1990 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996); U.S. Decennial Census Compendiums, 5th–16th (1830–1940), available at census.gov; Walker, F.A., Compendium of the Ninth Census (1872), Table VIII [1870 racial breakdown confirmed]; IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota.

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