

Orleans Parish, Louisiana Census Statistics — 1860

8th Census · Enumeration Date: June 1, 1860

PART I — TOTAL POPULATION

Metric	Value
Census Year	1860
Census Number	8th Census
Enumeration Date	June 1, 1860
Total Population	174,491
Decadal Change	+55,031
Decadal % Change	+46.1%
U.S. City Rank	5th

Note: Peak antebellum population; per capita income 2nd highest in U.S.; largest slave market in the nation.

PART II — RACIAL & STATUS COMPOSITION

Category	Count	% of Total
Free White (Free)	149,063	85.4%
Free Colored (Free)	10,939	see note
Enslaved	14,489	see note
Other / Unclassified	—	—

Note: Free colored population declined as a proportion; enslaved population lower than interior parishes due to urban character; city was 5th-largest in U.S.

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	~64,621 (est.)
% of Total Population	~37.0%
Largest Foreign-Born Groups	Ireland, Germany

Note: New Orleans was 5th-largest port of entry for immigrants; many settled permanently. Peak foreign-born proportion in the study period.

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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