

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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#### WASHINGTON

Ten years of population change in Washington will be measured by the 18th Decennial Census of the United States to be conducted in April 1960 by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The new statistics will bring forward the information last collected in the 1950 Census.

The area which later became the State of Washington had a population of 23,955 in 1870 when this section of the Nation first was counted. Eighty years later, in 1950, the population had risen to 2,378,963 or nearly 100 times the earlier figure.

Population growth was rapid between 1870 and 1900, according to records of the Census Bureau. The population in 1900 was 518,103 or more than 21 times the count in 1870. The rates of growth in the twentieth century ranged from 11.1 percent for the decade 1930 to 1940 to 120.4 percent for the decade 1900 to 1910. The largest numerical increase in the history of the State was recorded between 1940 and 1950. The gain of 642,772 inhabitants for the decade represented an increase of 37.0 percent over the 1,736,191 counted in 1940.

Washington was organized as a Territory in 1853 from part of Oregon Territory, and included an area now comprising the States of Washington, northern Idaho, and part of Montana. In 1859, upon the admission of Oregon as a State, the remaining portion of Oregon Territory, comprising the rest of Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming, was added to the Territory of Washington. The area of the Territory was reduced to the present limits of the State in 1863, upon the organization of Idaho Territory. Washington was admitted to the Union in 1889 as the forty-second State.

The State has a land area of 66,786 square miles. In 1950, there was an average of 35.6 inhabitants per square mile as compared with an average of 25.9 in 1940. Among the States, Washington ranked twenty-third in population and nineteenth in land area.

The 1950 urban population of Washington comprised 1,503,166 persons, or 63.2 percent of the population of the State. This population was living in the 66 urban places in the State and in other territory included in the urban-fringe areas of the three urbanized areas in the State and the Washington part of the urban fringe of the Portland, Oregon urbanized area.

The rural population of Washington comprised 875,797 persons, or 36.8 percent of the population of the State. Of the rural population, 97,857 persons, or 11.2 percent, were living in the 51 incorporated places and the 12 unincorporated places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants.

The 39 counties in Washington ranged in size from Garfield with a population of 3,204 to King with a population of 732,992. Between 1940 and 1950, 33 of the counties increased in population as against 34 in the previous decade. More than one-third of the population gain for the State was accounted for by King County, which had an increase of 228,012. The second and third most populous counties in the State—Pierce and Spokane—had gains in excess of 50,000. The population of Benton County more than quadrupled between 1940 and 1950.

There were 238 places incorporated as cities or towns in Washington in 1950 and 23 unincorporated places of 1,000 inhabitants or more. Of the 1,422,983 inhabitants of the incorporated places, 148,831 were in the 183 places of fewer than 2,500 inhabitants. There were 75,483 persons living in the 23 unincorporated places, 18,600 of whom were in the 12 places of 1,000 to 2,500 inhabitants. The incorporated places ranged in size from Hatton town with a population of 42 to Seattle city with a population of 467,591.

There were three urbanized areas entirely within Washington and another partly within the State in 1950. The Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma urbanized areas had 621,509, 176,004 and 167,667 inhabitants, respectively. The Washington part of the Portland, Oregon, urbanized area had a population of 42,352. Of the 1,007,532 persons in the State living in urbanized areas, 772,985 were in the three central cities—Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma—and 234,547 in the urban-fringe areas. The urban-fringe areas had 68,777 persons living in nine incorporated places and 165,770 in the unincorporated parts.

# WASHINGTON'S POPULATION IN CENSUSES SINCE IT FIRST WAS COUNTED

Census date	Population	Increase over pre- ceding census	
		Number	Percent
1950 (April 1).....	2,378,963	642,772	37.0
1940 (April 1).....	1,736,191	172,795	11.1
1930 (April 1).....	1,563,396	206,775	15.2
1920 (January 1).....	1,356,621	214,631	18.8
1910 (April 15).....	1,141,990	623,887	120.4
1900 (June 1).....	518,103	160,871	45.0
1890 (June 1).....	357,232	282,116	375.6
1880 (June 1).....	75,116	51,161	213.6
1870 (June 1).....	23,955	12,361	106.6
1860 (June 1).....	<sup>1</sup> 11,594	10,393	865.4
1850 (June 1).....	<sup>2</sup> 1,201	.....	.....

<sup>1</sup>Population of Washington Territory; then included present States of Washington and Idaho and parts of present States of Montana and Wyoming.

<sup>2</sup>Population of those parts of Oregon Territory taken to form part of Washington Territory in 1853 and 1859.

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## POPULATION OF COUNTIES FROM EARLIEST CENSUS TO 1950

County	1950	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860
The State..	2,378,963	1,736,191	1,563,396	1,356,621	1,141,990	518,103	<sup>4</sup> 357,232	75,116	23,955	11,594
Adams.....	6,584	6,209	7,719	9,623	10,920	4,840	2,098	( <sup>7</sup> )		
Asotin.....	10,878	8,365	8,136	6,539	5,831	3,366	1,580	( <sup>8</sup> )		
Benton.....	51,370	12,053	10,952	10,903	7,937	( <sup>2</sup> )				
Chelan.....	39,301	34,412	31,634	20,906	14,104	3,931	( <sup>5</sup> )			
Clallam.....	26,396	21,848	20,449	11,368	6,755	5,603	2,771	638	408	149
Clark.....	85,307	49,852	40,316	32,805	26,115	13,419	11,709	5,490	3,081	2,384
Columbia.....	4,860	5,549	5,325	6,093	7,042	7,128	6,709	7,103	( <sup>16</sup> )	
Cowlitz.....	53,369	40,155	31,906	11,791	12,561	7,877	5,917	2,062	730	406
Douglas.....	10,817	8,651	7,561	9,392	9,227	4,926	3,161	( <sup>9</sup> )		
Ferry.....	4,096	4,701	4,292	5,143	4,800	4,562	( <sup>6</sup> )			
Franklin.....	13,563	6,307	6,137	5,877	5,153	486	696	( <sup>10</sup> )		
Garfield.....	3,204	3,383	3,662	3,875	4,199	3,918	3,897	( <sup>11</sup> )		
Grant.....	24,346	14,668	5,666	7,771	8,698	( <sup>3</sup> )				
Grays Harbor..	53,644	53,166	59,982	44,745	35,590	15,124	9,249	921	401	285
Island.....	11,079	6,098	5,369	5,489	4,704	1,870	1,787	1,087	626	294
Jefferson.....	11,618	8,918	8,346	6,557	8,337	5,712	8,368	7,112	1,268	531
King.....	732,992	504,980	463,517	389,273	284,638	110,053	63,989	6,910	2,120	302
Kitsap.....	75,724	44,387	30,776	33,162	17,647	6,767	4,624	1,738	866	544
Kittitas.....	22,235	20,230	18,154	17,737	18,561	9,704	8,777	( <sup>12</sup> )		
Klickitat.....	12,049	11,357	9,825	9,268	10,180	6,407	5,167	4,055	329	230
Lewis.....	43,755	41,393	40,034	36,840	32,127	15,157	11,499	2,600	888	384
Lincoln.....	10,970	11,361	11,876	15,141	17,539	11,969	9,312	( <sup>13</sup> )		
Mason.....	15,022	11,603	10,060	4,919	5,156	3,810	2,826	639	289	162
Okanogan.....	29,131	24,546	18,519	17,094	12,887	4,689	1,467	( <sup>14</sup> )		
Pacific.....	16,558	15,928	14,970	14,891	12,532	5,983	4,358	1,645	738	420
Pend Oreille..	7,413	7,156	7,155	6,363	( <sup>1</sup> )					
Pierce.....	275,876	182,081	163,842	144,127	120,812	55,515	50,940	3,319	1,409	1,115
San Juan.....	3,245	3,157	3,097	3,605	3,603	2,928	2,072	948	554	( <sup>19</sup> )
Skagit.....	43,273	37,650	35,142	33,373	29,241	14,272	8,747	( <sup>15</sup> )		
Skamania.....	4,788	4,633	2,891	2,357	2,887	1,688	774	809	133	173
Snohomish.....	111,580	88,754	78,861	67,690	59,209	23,950	8,514	1,387	599	( <sup>20</sup> )
Spokane.....	221,561	164,652	150,477	141,289	139,404	57,542	37,487	4,262	( <sup>17</sup> )	996
Stevens.....	18,580	19,275	18,550	21,605	25,297	10,543	4,341	1,245	734	
Thurston.....	44,884	37,285	31,351	22,366	17,581	9,927	9,675	3,270	2,246	1,507
Wahkiakum.....	3,835	4,286	3,862	3,472	3,285	2,819	2,526	1,598	270	42
Walla Walla...	40,135	30,547	28,441	27,539	31,931	18,680	12,224	8,716	5,300	1,318
Whatcom.....	66,733	60,355	59,128	50,600	49,511	24,116	18,591	3,137	534	352
Whitman.....	32,469	27,221	28,014	31,323	33,280	25,360	19,109	7,014	( <sup>18</sup> )	
Yakima.....	135,723	99,019	77,402	63,710	41,709	13,462	4,429	2,811	432	

<sup>1</sup>Pend Oreille organized from part of Stevens in 1911.

<sup>2</sup>Benton organized from parts of Klickitat and Yakima in 1905.

<sup>3</sup>Grant organized from part of Douglas in 1909.

<sup>4</sup>Total for 1890 includes population (7,842) of Indian Reservations specially enumerated, not distributed by counties.

<sup>5</sup>Chelan organized from parts of Kittitas and Okanogan in 1899.

<sup>6</sup>Ferry organized from part of Stevens in 1899.

<sup>7</sup>Adams organized from part of Whitman in 1883.

<sup>8</sup>Asotin organized from part of Garfield in 1883.

<sup>9</sup>Douglas organized from part of Lincoln in 1883.

<sup>10</sup>Franklin organized from part of Whitman in 1883.

<sup>11</sup>Garfield organized from part of Columbia in 1881.

<sup>12</sup>Kittitas organized from part of Yakima in 1883.

<sup>13</sup>Lincoln organized from part of Spokane in 1883.

<sup>14</sup>Okanogan organized from part of Stevens in 1883.

<sup>15</sup>Skagit organized from part of Whatcom in 1883.

<sup>16</sup>Columbia organized from part of Walla Walla in 1875.

<sup>17</sup>Population of Spokane County returned as part of Stevens County in 1870.

<sup>18</sup>Whitman organized from part of Walla Walla in 1871.

<sup>19</sup>San Juan formed from the "Disputed Islands" in 1873.

<sup>20</sup>Snohomish organized from part of Island County in 1861.

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## POPULATION OF URBAN PLACES OF 10,000 OR MORE FROM EARLIEST CENSUS TO 1950

[Minus sign (—) denotes decrease. Percent not shown where less than 0.1]

Urban place and census year	Population	Increase over preceding census		Urban place and census year	Population	Increase over preceding census		Urban place and census year	Population	Increase over preceding census	
		Number	Percent			Number	Percent			Number	Percent
<b>Aberdeen city:</b>				<b>Olympia city—Con.</b>				<b>Seattle city—Con.</b>			
1950.....	19,653	807	4.3	1900.....	3,863	—835	—17.8	1890.....	42,837	39,304	1112.6
1940.....	18,846	—2,877	—13.2	1890.....	4,698	3,466	281.3	1880.....	3,533	2,426	219.2
1930.....	21,723	6,386	41.6	1880.....	1,232	29	2.4	1870.....	1,107		
1920.....	15,337	1,677	12.3	1870.....	1,203						
1910.....	13,660	9,013	264.6					<b>Spokane city:</b>			
1900.....	3,747	2,109	128.8	<b>Pasco city:</b>				1950.....	161,721	39,720	32.6
1890.....	1,638			1950.....	10,228	6,315	161.4	1940.....	122,001	6,487	5.6
<b>Bellingham city:<sup>1</sup></b>				1940.....	3,913	417	11.9	1930.....	115,514	11,077	10.6
1950.....	34,112	4,798	16.4	1930.....	3,496	134	4.0	1920.....	104,437	35	
1940.....	29,314	—1,509	—4.9	1920.....	3,362	1,279	61.4	1910.....	104,402	67,554	183.3
1930.....	30,823	5,238	20.5	1910.....	2,083	1,829	720.1	1900.....	36,848	16,926	85.0
1920.....	25,585	1,287	5.3	1900.....	254			1890.....	19,922		
1910.....	24,298			<b>Port Angeles city:</b>				<b>Tacoma city:</b>			
<b>Bremerton city:<sup>2</sup></b>				1950.....	11,233	1,824	19.4	1950.....	143,673	34,265	31.3
1950.....	27,678	12,544	82.9	1940.....	9,409	—779	—7.6	1940.....	109,408	2,591	2.4
1940.....	15,134	4,964	48.8	1930.....	10,188	4,837	90.4	1930.....	106,817	9,852	10.2
1930.....	10,170	1,252	14.0	1920.....	5,351	3,065	134.1	1920.....	96,965	13,222	15.8
1920.....	8,918	5,925	198.0	1910.....	2,286	—35	—1.5	1910.....	83,743	46,029	122.0
1910.....	2,993			1900.....	2,321			1900.....	37,714	1,708	4.7
<b>Everett city:</b>				<b>Pullman city:</b>				1890.....	36,006		
1950.....	33,849	3,625	12.0	1950.....	12,022	7,605	172.2	<b>Vancouver city:</b>			
1940.....	30,224	—343	—1.1	1940.....	4,417	1,095	33.0	1950.....	41,664	22,876	121.8
1930.....	30,567	2,923	10.6	1930.....	3,322	882	86.1	1940.....	18,788	3,022	19.2
1920.....	27,644	2,830	11.4	1920.....	2,440	—162	—6.2	1930.....	15,766	3,129	24.6
1910.....	24,814	16,976	216.6	1910.....	2,602	1,294	98.9	1920.....	12,637	3,337	35.9
1900.....	7,838			1900.....	1,308	440	60.7	1910.....	9,300	6,174	197.5
<b>Hoquiam city:</b>				1890.....	868			1900.....	3,126	—419	—11.8
1950.....	11,123	288	2.7	<b>Puyallup city:</b>				1890.....	3,545	1,823	105.9
1940.....	10,835	—1,981	—15.1	1950.....	10,010	2,121	26.9	<b>Walla Walla city:</b>			
1930.....	12,766	2,708	26.9	1940.....	7,889	795	11.2	1950.....	24,102	5,993	33.1
1920.....	10,058	1,887	23.1	1930.....	7,094	771	12.2	1940.....	18,109	2,133	13.4
1910.....	8,171	5,563	213.3	1920.....	6,323	1,779	39.2	1930.....	15,976	473	3.1
1900.....	2,608	1,306	100.3	1910.....	4,544	2,660	141.2	1920.....	15,503	—3,861	—19.9
1890.....	1,302			1900.....	1,884	152	8.8	1910.....	19,364	9,315	92.7
<b>Kennewick city:</b>				1890.....	1,732	1,435	483.2	1900.....	10,049	5,340	113.4
1950.....	10,106	8,188	426.9	1880.....	297	—15	—4.8	1890.....	4,709	1,121	31.2
1940.....	1,918	399	26.3	1870.....	312			1880.....	3,588	2,194	187.4
1930.....	1,519	—165	—9.8	<b>Renton city:</b>				1870.....	1,394		
1920.....	1,684	465	38.1	1950.....	16,039	11,551	257.4	<b>Wenatchee city:</b>			
1910.....	1,219			1940.....	4,488	426	10.5	1950.....	13,072	1,452	12.5
<b>Longview city:</b>				1930.....	4,062	761	23.1	1940.....	11,620	—7	—0.1
1950.....	20,339	7,954	64.2	1920.....	3,301	561	20.5	1930.....	11,627	5,303	83.9
1940.....	12,385	1,733	16.3	1910.....	2,740			1920.....	6,324	2,274	56.1
1930.....	10,652			<b>Richland (uninc.):</b>				1910.....	4,050	3,599	798.0
<b>Olympia city:</b>				1950.....	21,809			1900.....	451		
1950.....	15,819	2,565	19.4	<b>Seattle city:</b>				<b>Yakima city:</b>			
1940.....	13,254	1,521	13.0	1950.....	467,591	99,289	27.0	1950.....	38,486	11,265	41.4
1930.....	11,733	3,938	50.5	1940.....	368,302	2,719	0.7	1940.....	27,221	5,120	23.2
1920.....	7,795	799	11.4	1930.....	365,583	50,271	15.9	1930.....	22,101	3,562	19.2
1910.....	6,996	3,133	81.1	1920.....	315,312	78,118	32.9	1920.....	18,539	4,457	31.7
				1910.....	237,194	156,523	194.0	1910.....	14,082	10,928	346.5
				1900.....	80,671	37,834	88.3	1900.....	3,154	1,619	105.5
								1890.....	1,535		

<sup>1</sup> Figures given for 1900 and 1890 in Vol. I, 1930, represent the combined population (11,062 in 1900; 8,135 in 1890) of Fairhaven and New Whatcom cities, consolidated and incorporated as Bellingham city in 1903.

<sup>2</sup> Bremerton and Charleston cities consolidated as Bremerton in 1928. Combined population for 1920, 12,256; for 1910, 4,055.