

Map of the Foreign Born Population of the United States, 1900

Introduction

According to the 1900 census, the population of the United States was then 76.3 million. Nearly 14 percent of the population—approximately 10.4 million people—was born outside of the United States. Drawn by America's labor opportunities, immigrants came predominantly from Canada and Europe, migrating from countries such as Germany, Britain, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.

The statistics gathered by the 1900 census were published in 1903 in an atlas that converted the census data into maps and charts. This map uses color gradation to indicate the population density of foreign-born inhabitants. Lighter areas have a lower percentage of immigrants while darker areas have a larger percentage of immigrants. Two charts compiled from census data accompany the map: the first provides the statistical breakdown of the foreign-born inhabitants of each state and territory in 1900, while the second chart indicates the immigrants' country of birth.

Overall, the map and the charts illustrate the diversity of the American population at the turn of the twentieth century.

Questions for Discussion

- According to the Statistical Atlas Map of 1900, which areas of the United States had the heaviest density of immigrants?
 - Why do you think that these selected areas had a very high density of immigrant inhabitants?
- According to the Census of 1900, which states were inhabited with a foreign-born population of less than 1%?
 - Why do you think that this region of states had such a small percentage of immigrant inhabitants?
- The Census of 1900 listed the percentage of immigrants who were living in five United States territories: Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

 - Which two territories had nearly identical percentages of immigrant inhabitants?
 - Which territory had the highest percentage of immigrant inhabitants?
 - Which territory had the lowest percentage of immigrant inhabitants?
 - In your view, to what extent did the geographic location of these two territories in (b) and (c) affect the percentage of their immigrant populations?
- Which continent was the origin of most immigrants who lived in United States in 1900?
 - Which two foreign nations were the largest sources of immigrants to the United States in 1900?
 - Based on the information from these statistical charts, what conclusions and descriptions can be made about the immigrant population who lived in the United States in 1900.

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Image



Henry Gannett, "Proportion of Foreign Born to Total Population of the United States at the Twelfth Census 1900" in *Statistical Atlas of the United States, 1900* (Washington DC, United States Census Office, 1901) (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09668)

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Foreign-born Population of the United States by State of Residence

<u>State or Territory</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Foreign Born Population</u>	<u>Percentage of Population That Was Foreign Born</u>
Alabama	1,828,697	14,592	0.8%
Alaska	63,592	12,661	19.9%
Arizona	122,931	24,233	19.7%
Arkansas	1,311,564	14,289	1.1%
California	1,485,053	367,240	24.7%
Colorado	539,700	91,155	16.9%
Connecticut	908,420	238,210	26.2%
Delaware	184,735	13,810	7.5%
District of Columbia	278,718	20,119	7.2%
Florida	528,542	23,832	4.5%
Georgia	2,216,331	12,403	0.6%
Hawaii	154,001	90,780	58.9%
Idaho	161,772	24,604	15.2%
Illinois	4,821,550	966,747	20.1%
Indiana	2,516,462	142,121	5.6%
Indian Territory	392,060	4,858	1.2%
Iowa	2,231,853	305,920	13.7%
Kansas	1,470,495	126,685	8.6%
Kentucky	2,147,174	50,249	2.3%
Louisiana	1,381,625	52,903	3.8%
Maine	694,466	93,330	13.4%
Maryland	1,188,044	93,934	7.9%
Massachusetts	2,805,346	846,324	30.2%
Michigan	2,420,982	541,653	22.4%
Minnesota	1,751,394	505,318	28.9%
Mississippi	1,551,270	7,981	0.5%
Missouri	3,106,665	216,379	7%
Montana	243,329	67,067	27.6%
Nebraska	1,066,300	177,347	16.6%
Nevada	42,335	10,093	23.8%
New Hampshire	411,588	88,107	21.4%
New Jersey	1,883,669	431,884	22.9%

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<u>State or Territory</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Foreign Born Population</u>	<u>Percentage of Population That Was Foreign Born</u>
New Mexico	195,310	13,625	7%
New York	7,268,894	1,900,425	26.1%
North Carolina	1,893,810	4,492	0.2%
North Dakota	319,146	113,091	35.4%
Ohio	4,157,545	458,734	11%
Oklahoma	398,331	15,680	3.9%
Oregon	413,536	65,748	15.9%
Pennsylvania	6,302,115	985,250	15.6%
Rhode Island	428,556	134,519	31.4%
South Carolina	1,310,316	5,528	0.4%
South Dakota	401,570	88,508	22%
Tennessee	2,020,616	17,746	0.9%
Texas	3,048,710	179,357	5.9%
Utah	276,749	53,777	19.4%
Vermont	343,641	44,747	13%
Virginia	1,854,184	19,461	1%
Washington	518,103	111,364	21.5%
West Virginia	958,800	22,451	2.3%
Wisconsin	2,069,042	515,971	24.9%
Wyoming	92,531	17,415	18.8%
Servicemen Stationed Overseas	91,219	15,368	16.8%
Total	76,273,387	10,460,085	13.7%

Source: *Census Reports Volume 1. Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900. Population Part 1* (Washington, United States Census Office, 1901)

Foreign-born Population of the United States by Country of Origin

<u>Country of Migration</u>	<u>Number of Immigrants</u>
Africa	2,577
Asia (except China, Japan, and India)	11,928
Atlantic Islands	10,955
Australia	7,041
Austria	276,702
Belgium	29,848
Bohemia	156,999

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<u>Country of Migration</u>	<u>Number of Immigrants</u>
Canada	1,183,225
Central America	3,911
China	106,659
Cuba	11,159
Denmark	154,616
England	843,491
Europe (Not otherwise specified)	2,272
Finland	63,440
France	104,534
Germany	2,669,164
Greece	8,655
Holland	105,098
Hungary	145,815
India	2,069
Ireland	1,619,469
Italy	484,703
Japan	81,590
Luxemburg	3,042
Mexico	103,445
Norway	338,426
Pacific Islands	2,659
Poland	383,645
Portugal	37,144
Romania	15,043
Russia	424,372
Scotland	234,699
South America	4,814
Spain	7,284
Sweden	574,625
Switzerland	115,959
Turkey	9,949
Wales	93,744
West Indies	14,468
Other countries (Not otherwise specified)	2,587
Born at Sea	8,310
	10,460,135

Source: *Census Reports Volume 1. Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900. Population Part 3* (Washington, United States Census Office, 1901)