

# Orleans Parish, Louisiana Census Statistics — 1850

7th Census · Enumeration Date: June 1, 1850

## PART I — TOTAL POPULATION

| Metric           | Value        |
|------------------|--------------|
| Census Year      | 1850         |
| Census Number    | 7th Census   |
| Enumeration Date | June 1, 1850 |
| Total Population | 119,460      |
| Decadal Change   | +17,267      |
| Decadal % Change | +16.9%       |
| U.S. City Rank   | 5th          |

Note: Yellow fever epidemics of 1847–1853 suppressed growth; large foreign-born proportion. New Orleans fell to 5th-largest U.S. city.

## PART II — RACIAL & STATUS COMPOSITION

| Category             | Count  | % of Total |
|----------------------|--------|------------|
| Free White (Free)    | 91,431 | 76.5%      |
| Free Colored (Free)  | 9,905  | see note   |
| Enslaved             | 18,124 | see note   |
| Other / Unclassified | —      | —          |

Note: Sharp proportional decline in free colored category, likely a result of stricter manumission laws enacted in Louisiana in the 1830s–1840s and emigration.

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          | ~27,000 (est.)   |
| % of Total Population       | ~22.6%           |
| Largest Foreign-Born Groups | Ireland, Germany |

Note: Large famine-era Irish immigration 1845–1852; German migration concurrent. Many settled in working-class faubourgs upriver.

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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