

Orleans Parish, Louisiana Census Statistics — 1940

16th Census · Enumeration Date: April 1, 1940

PART I — TOTAL POPULATION

Metric	Value
Census Year	1940
Census Number	16th Census
Enumeration Date	April 1, 1940
Total Population	494,537
Decadal Change	+35,775
Decadal % Change	+7.8%
U.S. City Rank	15th

Note: Depression-era slower growth; New Deal projects; city still largest in the South. Lowest decadal growth rate since Civil War decade.

PART II — RACIAL & STATUS COMPOSITION

Category	Count	% of Total
White	344,822	69.7%
Negro	149,034	30.1%
Other / Unclassified	681	—

Note: Per 16th Census. 'Negro' category used in original. First census to show Black population exceeding 30% of total since 1840. Other races: 681 including Chinese (276).

PART III — FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

Metric	Value
Total Foreign-Born	~11,000 (est.)
% of Total Population	~2.2%
Largest Foreign-Born Groups	Italy, Germany

Note: Continued attrition of foreign-born; few new arrivals since 1924 restrictions. Italian and German communities now predominantly 2nd- and 3rd-generation.

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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