

# Population and Migration



*“Immigration, which even the war has not stopped, will land upon our shores hundred of thousands more per year from overcrowded Europe.”*

— Abraham Lincoln

**THE YEARS BETWEEN** 1860 and 1876 were some of the most difficult years in American history. The Civil War had lasted from 1861 to 1865 at a cost of over 600,000 lives. Reconstruction had gone on through the early 1870s, as the south tried to recover political and economic power and four million newly-freed slaves tried to find a new role in the world. Immigration dipped briefly during the war years, but quickly regained momentum. Urban areas grew at rates often exceeding 600 percent annually. It was also a period of tremendous economic growth, with the Industrial Revolution taking hold with the expansion of mills and factories; at the same time the 1870s would bring about a severe economic depression whose effects would be felt into the early 1900s. This was also the great age of westward expansion, with millions of people moving onto the distant frontiers. As a result, thousands of Native Americans were forced into a war of resistance that ended in their defeat and removal to reservation lands by the mid-1880s.

A good approach to the study of population and migration within the United States from 1860 to 1876 is to look into the censuses conducted in 1860, 1870, and 1880. The Bureau of the Census compiled data on far more than just the number of people in the country. Each census was an increasingly in-depth attempt to capture a picture of life in America, from the number of people living in each county down to the number of pounds of beeswax produced on its



An 1866 engraving of an afternoon of leisure. "General good health prevailed, and peace reigned throughout the country," the U.S. Census noted for the period.

farms, and to compare these statistics to the decade before as a way to measure the nation's progress.

The growing sophistication of the country, its population, economy, and government, can be clearly seen in the development of the census itself. In 1860 all the data collected fit in two volumes, and the report had been completed in a matter of months after the final returns from the field were received. By 1880 it had grown to 22 volumes and took almost the entire decade to compile the returns. For the 1890 census, the bureau began using punch-cards and automatic tabulating machines, direct ancestors of modern computers.

### THE CENSUS: 1860

The Eighth Census of the United States was delivered to Congress in May 1862, having taken more than two years to tabulate and arrange the data. Collecting the information had taken the work of 64 marshals and 4,417 assistants, at a cost of \$1,045,206.75 in salary and payments. With the nation on the brink of war as the final returns were coming in from around the country, another \$247,000 was held back "on account of the presumed or known disloyalty of officers, or the existence of some good reason for suspending payment."

## Paddy's Lamentation

The Irish were a critical part of the Union war effort, with more than 150,000 donning the uniform 1861–65. But as the war dragged on, the U.S. government was facing declining volunteer enrollments, and turned to the military draft to fill the ranks. Because it was possible to buy one's way out of conscription, for the price of about \$300 to hire a substitute to go in one's place, the draft hit the poor and the immigrant community particularly hard. Many of the estimated 50,000 protesters of the New York City Draft Riots of June 1863 were Irish-born men. Some Irish immigrants barely made it off the boats before being conscripted into service, an experience commemorated in a song probably written during the war era. Originally known as "By the Hush," the tune is also known as "Paddy's Lamentation":

Well it's by the hush, me boys, and sure that's to hold your noise  
 And listen to poor Paddy's sad narration  
 I was by hunger pressed, and in poverty distressed  
 So I took a thought I'd leave the Irish nation

Chorus:

Here's to you boys, now take my advice  
 To America I'll have ye's not be going  
 There is nothing here but war, where the murderin' cannons roar  
 And I wish I was at home in dear old Dublin

Well I sold me ass and cow, my little pigs and sow  
 My little plot of land I soon did part with  
 And me sweetheart Bid McGee, I'm afraid I'll never see  
 For I left her there that morning broken-hearted

Well meself and a hundred more, to America sailed o'er  
 Our fortunes to be made [sic] we were thinkin'  
 When we got to Yankee land, they shoved a gun into our hands  
 Saying "Paddy, you must go and fight for Lincoln"

General Meagher to us he said, if you get shot or lose your head  
 Every murdered soul of youse will get a pension  
 Well meself I lost me leg, they gave me a wooden peg,  
 And by God this is the truth to you I mention

Well I think meself in luck, if I get fed on Indian buck  
 And old Ireland is the country I delight in  
 With the devil, I do say, it's curse Americay  
 For I think I've had enough of your hard fightin'

Loosely translated, this means most southern census-takers did not get paid for their services. Still the Census Bureau had collected information from all 34 states and five territories, enough to build a complete picture of the 31,403,321 people that called America home.

## The Panic of 1873

The Panic of 1873 was one of a series of financial depressions in America during the 19th century. The immediate cause was the collapse of financier Jay Cooke's banking empire in September 1873. Cooke and his investors had poured millions into the development of the Northern Pacific Railroad, only to find themselves forced into bankruptcy. This sent shockwaves through financial community, even leading the New York Stock Exchange to close its doors for 10 days. Over the next two years around 18,000 American businesses failed, and unemployment rose to 14 percent. Even those who remained employed saw their wages depressed. The Panic, also known as the Long Depression, was particularly hard on poor urban dwellers. Unskilled laborers in New York City made about \$1.75 a day in 1874. A tailor earned around \$2.26 in 1874 (or about \$14 a week), but many saw drops in wages over the height of the depression. The average working family with one child living in New York City in 1874 was faced with weekly expenditures nearly equal to their weekly income:

Flour & Bread	\$0.84
Meats	\$2.82
Butter	\$0.50
Lard	\$0.08
Cheese	\$0.22
Sugar & Molasses	\$0.34
Milk	\$0.49
Coffee	\$0.19
Tea	\$0.25
Fish	\$0.15
Soap, starch, salt, pepper, vinegar	\$0.40
Eggs	\$0.25
Vegetables	\$1.00
Fruits	\$0.28
Fuel	\$1.00
Oil & other light sources	\$0.06
Beer & tobacco	\$0.50
Rent	\$3.60
Educational & religious material	\$0.15
Clothing	\$1.79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14.91</b>

Since the 1850 census, the country had added three new states and organized five new territories. The borders of America were now firmly set, with the census noting that the only new land acquired since 1850 was “a narrow strip to the southward of the Colorado River, along the Mexican line, not yet inhabited.” The Gadsden Purchase had added 45,535 square miles to the United States at a cost of around \$10 million. The treaty had been signed by President Franklin Pierce in June 1854.

“As general good health prevailed, and peace reigned throughout the country,” the census report noted, “there was no apparent cause of disturbance or interruption to the natural progress of population.” The states were only growing in population, with none losing in population from a decade earlier. Vermont, which saw its population increase by only one-third of one percent, was almost an exception to that rule, while the neighboring state of New Hampshire grew at only two percent. Texas, little more than a empty wilderness in 1850, was now home to 604,215 people, an increase of 184 percent. New York was the most populous state in the Union, with 3,880,735 residents; Pennsylvania was close behind with 2,906,215. At the other end of the population spectrum was Dakota Territory, with just 4,837 inhabitants, and Nevada Territory, with 6,857.

### SLAVE STATES AND FREE STATES: 1860

The 15 slaveholding states of the south had a total population of 12,240,000. This was broken into three categories: 8,039,000 whites, 3,950,000 African-American slaves, and 251,000 free African Americans. Overall the population of the region had grown by 27.33 percent since 1850. By comparison the 19 free states and seven



An 1867 wood engraving by Winslow Homer. *Coming to America by ship*, many immigrants to the United States basically walked off the pier and vanished into society.

free territories of the north and west had a total population of 19,203,008. Here, too, demographers could break the total into three categories: 18,920,771 whites, 237,283 free African Americans, and 41,725 “civilized” Native Americans (those who owned land or were otherwise considered to be assimilated). The population of the free states had increased by 41.24 percent, or 5,624,101 people, largely due to the higher rate of immigration into northern and western communities.

### **IMMIGRATION: 1860**

Counting the number of immigrants arriving in the United States was tricky business. There was no centralized bureau to document each person as they stepped off the boat in American ports; immigrants basically walked off the pier and vanished. For purposes of the census, it was easier to ask people where they were born. The number of foreign-born Americans in 1850 was 2,210,839. By 1860 it had almost doubled, to 4,136,175.

A total of 1,611,304 gave their country of origin as Ireland, and 1,301,136 came from Germany. Another 431,692 were British, and 249,907 were Canadian. There were also 109,870 Frenchmen, 108,518 Scots, 53,372 Swiss, and 35,565 Chinese. New York had seen the biggest influx in its foreign-born population, with close to a million of its 3.9 million residents hailing from abroad. Illinois, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Ohio also experienced significant increases.

### **URBANIZATION AND POPULATION DENSITY: 1860**

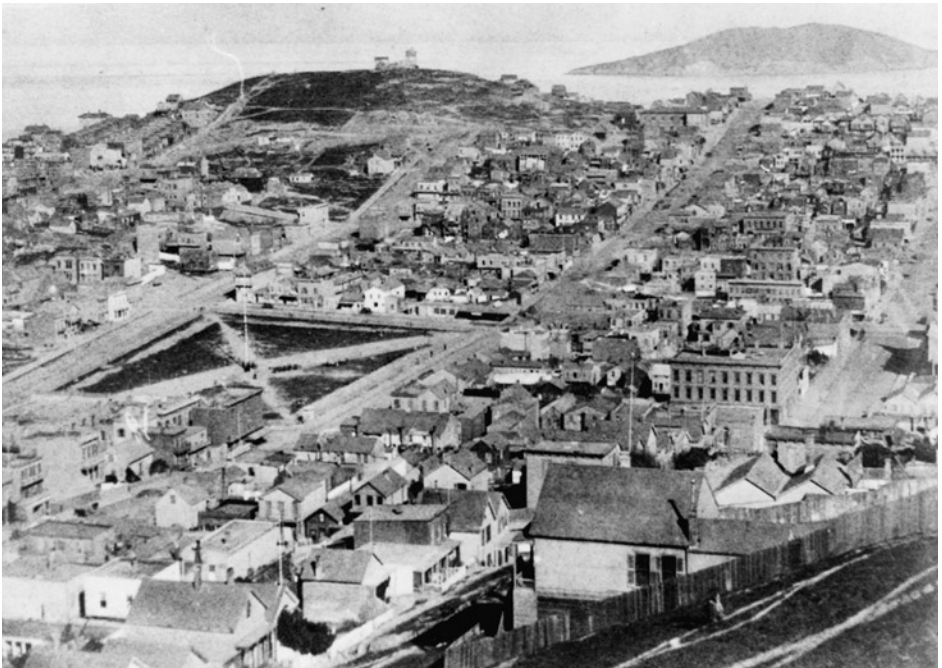
America was getting more and more crowded. In 1850 population density in the New England states was 43.92 per square mile. By 1860 it had climbed to 50.47 per square mile. In the middle states, which included New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, density rose from 56.36 to 69.83 per square mile. Even distant California had seen its density jump—from 0.87 inhabitants up to 2.01 per square mile.

More and more Americans were living in cities and towns. Urbanization had risen from six percent in 1815 to over 20 percent in 1860. New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Cincinnati, St Louis, and Chicago all had populations over 100,000 in 1860. New York City was still America’s largest, having grown 56 percent over the decade to 805,651 people. So many people were moving into New York that the population spilled out past the borders of the city. Brooklyn grew 175 percent, from 96,838 to 266,661 inhabitants. Jersey City, New Jersey, saw a 326 percent increase, from a village of 6,850 to a city of 29,963 people. Newly-founded cities saw the highest growth rates, sometimes exceeding 600 percent—although in the case of towns like La Fayette, Indiana, the 672 percent increase moved the population from a tiny 1,215 to a still-modest 9,387. Chicago grew 265 percent in a decade, from 29,963 in 1850 to 109,260 in 1860, mostly due to the development of the 15 separate railroad lines running into the once sleepy lakeside town.

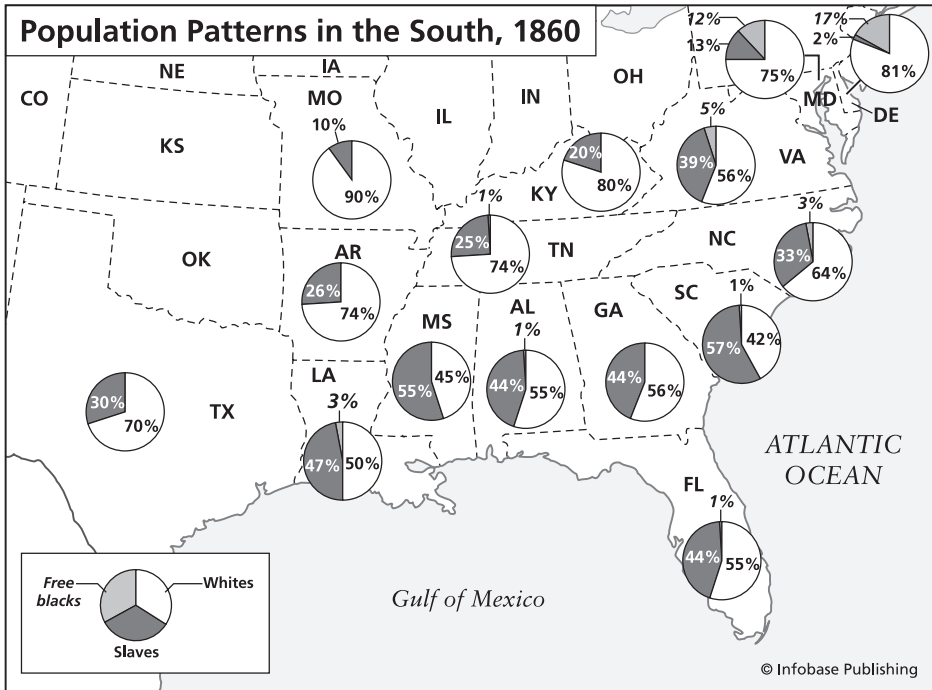
### INTERNAL MIGRATION AND SEX RATIO: 1860

In general, about three-fourths of Americans lived in the state of their birth, with one-fourth removing to other states or territories. Most internal migrants did not go too far, usually just moving across the border to an adjacent state. Residents of Alabama, for example, were most likely to move to Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, or Louisiana. New Yorkers tended to head for the open lands of Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, or Ohio. A few years later, the same people might move over by another state, as the landscape filled up. For every American that packed up the wagon and trekked to the distant Pacific Coast in one epic move, there were probably 10 who made the same journey in fits and starts over a period of a decade or more.

In 1860 males outnumbered females in America by about 730,000, although deaths of men in the Civil War soon brought the overall proportions quite a bit closer. In some areas, particularly on the frontier, the gender disparity was significant. In Colorado Territory, there were 20 men to every one woman. In California there were 67,000 more men than women, about a fifth of the total population, and it would take some years of settlement to equalize the ratios there. The average age in the United States in 1860 was 23.53 years—a young population in the prime of their reproductive life. The census tallied 224,682 marriages that year. There were 933,721 recorded births. The young states of



An 1866 photograph of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. Immigration was not just an East Coast phenomenon—many came to America via West Coast ports.



Oregon, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas had the highest birth rates per capita, while the older New England states like New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine had the lowest, along with California, which was suffering from a shortage of females.

The same period saw 394,123 deaths. Major causes of death included consumption, pneumonia, and “dropsy” or edema (a swelling of the tissues often indicative of congestive heart failure). The major infectious diseases included scarlet fever, typhoid fever, common fevers, croup, and dysentery. The number of violent deaths jumped from 12,174 in 1850 to 20,115 in 1860. Some of these deaths were murders, but most were accidents in the home, including falls and burns, or industrial or railroad accidents. There were about 1,000 reported suicides. A total of 466 deaths in 1860 were in people over 100 years of age. The census was somewhat skeptical of some of the claims. Two Alabama slaves were said to be 130 years old at their death, while a slave in Georgia was allegedly 137 years old. A Mexican in California was reportedly 120 at her death, while two southern women were said to be 115 years old.

### WORK AND WEALTH: 1860

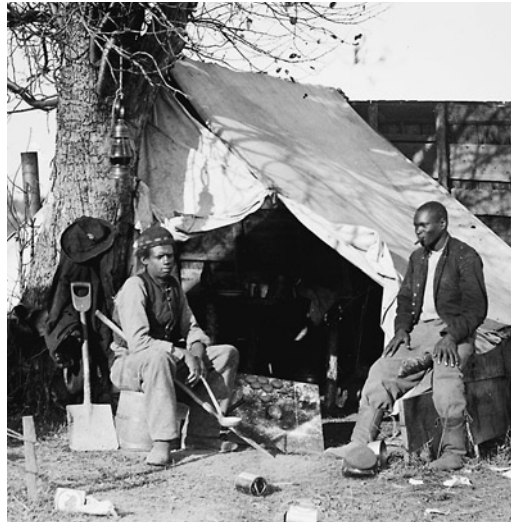
Financially, the population of 1860 seemed to be doing well. Americans owned \$6,973,106,049 worth of real estate and \$5,111,553,995 worth of per-

sonal property. Per capita incomes were also on the rise, in some places to a staggering degree. In 1850 Iowans earned \$123 per capita. In 1860 it had jumped to \$366, an increase of 197 percent. In Pennsylvania, income rose by a more modest 46 percent, from \$312 to \$487 per capita.

America was still an agricultural nation. The total assessed value of farms in 1860 was \$6.65 billion; farm implements added another \$247 million. These farms were home to six million horses, one million mules, 8.7 million cows, 2.2 million oxen, over 20 million sheep, and 32 million hogs. Crop output was equally staggering. In 1860 American farms produced 830 million bushels of corn, 171 million bushels of wheat, 172 million bushels of oats, and 21 million bushels of rye. Southern farms produced 187 million pounds of rice and 429 million pounds of tobacco. Cotton production had jumped 110 percent over the decade, with the 1860 crop totaling 5,198,077 bales of ginned cotton—over two billion pounds of fiber.

This bounty did not stay on the family farm. It traveled to the great cities through an ever-expanding network of railroads. In 1850 there had been just about 8,539 miles of track laid in the entire United States. A decade later there were 30,794 miles. The climbing population had also spurred a huge boom in construction.

There were five million dwellings in the United States in 1860, an increase of almost 50 percent in less than a decade. The population was hard at work in a variety of occupations, with close to 600 different job categories listed in the census tables, including 2.4 million farmers and 800,000 farm laborers, down to nine “globe-makers” and 104 lightning rod makers.



*Poverty crossed racial lines: An 1863 photograph shows two African Americans, one with a soup ladle, the other with a cigar.*

The census did not tabulate the size of the Regular Army in 1860, but it did calculate the number of men of military age—that is, between the age of 18 and 45—on the eve of the Civil War. It reported a military-age population of 5,624,065. Of this number, 898,831 lived in the 11 Confederate States. By comparison, New York State alone had 796,881 military-age residents, and Pennsylvania had 555,172. Since most immigrant males were in the 18–45

age range, and most ended up in the north, they too were expected to increase the Union war effort.

### THE CENSUS: 1870

Much had changed by the time Francis Walker, chief of the Census Bureau, transmitted the Ninth Census to Congress in August 1872. The Civil War had been over for seven years; immigration rates had returned to normal; and the whole population seemed to be on the move. The Homestead Act of 1862 had promised 160 acres to anyone willing to claim a piece of frontier land and live on it for a period of years, and tens of thousands of Americans were ready to take the challenge.

The 1870 Census had proven quite a challenge in itself. The country was more complex than it had been, and the amount of data had also increased.

## Death and the Centennial

July 4, 1876 was supposed to be a joyous Independence Day in America—the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. But this was also the day many Americans learned of a terrible tragedy in their morning newspapers: Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer's entire detachment of the 7th Cavalry had been wiped out in a desperate battle with a large force of Native Americans in the Little Bighorn Valley of the Montana Territory on June 25. The 7th had lost 268 men, including 16 officers, 10 civilian scouts, and 242 enlisted men; among the dead were the 37-year old Custer, his younger brothers Thomas and Boston, his 18-year-old nephew Henry Reed, and his brother-in-law James Calhoun. The news hit the small community of Monroe, Michigan, with particular force. Custer had lived in Monroe in his youth, and his wife, Elizabeth, had grown up there. "Libbie" Bacon and "Autie" Custer were well known in town, particularly after his heroics during the Civil War. Sixty-two years after the fact, a Monroe resident told a newspaper reporter about the scene that July morning:

*I was sitting upstairs by the window mending. I saw Father coming up the street, his coat off, his vest off, his hat in hand, waving a paper, the old Tribune. It was about eleven o'clock in the morning. He came in and called "Minnie! Minnie!" Minnie was not my name but Father often called me by it. I flew downstairs for I knew something awful had happened. There he stood, white and chalky, with the paper shaking in his hands. "General Custer's entire brigade has been wiped out," he gasped. "Think of it Autie, Lieutenant Calhoun, Ross, Tom, they're all gone!" A great silence came over Monroe, then all the bells began to toll—church bells, firehouse bells, every bell in the town. To this day, I never hear a bell toll that it does not bring back the memory...*

Information had been delayed for more than six months in some cases. Since the census determined the apportionment of congressional seats, and with new states up for grabs, along with a reapportionment of southern seats due to the emancipation of slaves, the political community must have been waiting for the final report with bated breath. "These delays," said Walker in his official report, "most vexatious and most discreditable in a national work of such importance...were, as you are aware, absolutely unavoidable, with existing census machinery."

U.S. territory had expanded once again with the purchase of Alaska from Russia's Tsar Alexander II in 1867. The final asking price for the 600,000 square miles of northern wilderness was \$7.2 million, or about 1.9 cents per acre. The public was divided over the wisdom of the buy. "Already, so it was said, we were burdened with territory we had no population to fill. The Indians within the present boundaries of the republic strained our power to govern aboriginal peoples," wrote the powerful editor of the *New York Tribune*, Horace Greeley. "Could it be that we would now, with open eyes, seek to add to our difficulties by increasing the number of such peoples under our national care?" But the land was rich in fur, timber, fish, and mineral deposits, and Congress ultimately approved the treaty in July 1868.

Since the 1860 census the number of states had increased, with Nevada and Nebraska moving from territorial status to full statehood, and West Virginia having split off from Virginia proper during the Civil War. The new territories of Alaska, Arizona, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico had been formed. There had been talk in the north immediately after the war of abolishing the states of the Confederacy, breaking them up and reforming them into new states with new names, but in the end, cooler heads had prevailed, and the old slave states had retained their names and their borders. Even with the upheaval and displacement caused by the war and Reconstruction, no state or territory lost population between 1860 and 1870.

### **THE MISSING TWO MILLION: 1870**

The total population of the United States in 1870 was 38,558,371, or 22.22 percent higher than it had been in 1860. This was a respectable rate of growth, but about two or three million short of what demographers had predicted a decade earlier. Most had believed the 1870 population would easily top 40 million, but, said Walker, he and others "took counsel rather of their patriotism than their judgment." Simply put, the Civil War had caused a ripple effect through the population for most of the decade. The war had killed or seriously wounded around 500,000 northern soldiers and 350,000 Confederates—the majority of them young men who would have likely gone on to father many children had they lived to old age.

Then there were the potential children not born during the four years that an average of 1.25 million men were off fighting. There had also been a sharp drop



An 1869 engraving showing emigrants crossing the Plains. Prior to the railroads, the only option most Americans had to reach the western frontier was an overland trip by wagon.

in immigration during the war years, again robbing the population pool not just of adults, but of the native-born children they might have had. More worrisome to Walker was the overall drop in the birth rate that had continued even after the soldiers had returned home. "Luxury, fashion and the vice of 'boarding' combine to limit the increase of families to a degree that in some sections even threatens the perpetuation of our native stock," he fretted in his report.

Of the 38.6 million Americans alive in 1870, 33,589,377 were white, 4,880,009 were African American, 63,254 were Chinese or Japanese, and 25,731 were Native American. For the first time in 80 years, the column for "slaves" was blank in the census tables. The number of Native Americans had dropped by about 18,000 from 1860, but the census-takers generally counted only those Native Americans who were landowners or taxpayers. The ratio of males to females was more balanced that it had been in 1860, having dropped to only 429,000 more men than women over the decade. This might reflect the impact of the large number of men killed during the war.

In some frontier areas, the disparity between men and women remained high. Most notably, the Chinese community was comprised of 58,680 men, but only 4,574 women. The 1870 census found 5.6 million immigrants in the United States, with two million hailing from Ireland and the British Islands and 1.7 million from Germany.

**INTERNAL MIGRATION: 1870**

The war had slowed, but hardly stopped westward migration. The Homestead Act, passed in 1862, had brought 15,000 new settlers to the frontier in its first three years. Between 1860 and 1870 the number of Americans living in the territories had grown from 184,496 to 311,030. The movement from the countryside to the cities also continued. In 1860 the urban population had been about 16 percent of the total United States population. In 1870 it was close to 21 percent. The number of cities had grown from 141 to 226.

**WORK AND WEALTH: 1870**

The assessed value of American farms had risen from \$6.65 billion to \$9.3 billion in a decade. Farm implements added another \$337 million. In terms of bushels or pounds produced and the number of work animals and livestock dotting the landscape, increases over 1860 outputs were minimal. That being said, the cash value of crops and livestock in 1870 was still over \$310 billion.

The census tables recorded the ongoing struggle to recover southern agriculture in the aftermath of war and the traumas of Reconstruction. The 1870 cotton crop was 3,011,996—more than two million bales short of what it had been in 1860. Rice and tobacco production had fallen by more than half. Figuring out what constituted a farm in the south in the post-war era had been nothing but a headache for census-takers. “The plantations of the old slave States are squatted all over by the former slaves, who hold small portions of the soil, often very loosely determined as to extent, under almost all varieties of tenure.” The sharecropping system, in which a landowner parceled out their fields to a former slave or landless white farmer in exchange for a portion of the crops they produced, had been born. The manufacturing sector continued to grow. The total product of the mills, factories, and shops of America was \$1.9 billion in 1860; by 1870 it was up to \$4.2 billion, or about a 108 percent increase. Unfortunately even census statisticians could not really say how much of this was due to real growth, and how much this reflected the depreciation of currency in the country in the late 1860s. After studying the numbers, they reported the real increase in manufacturing over the decade was 52 percent.

In all there were 232,148 manufacturers operating in 1870, almost double the number in 1860. These factories employed 2,053,996 people, including 323,770 women and 114,628 children under the age of 16. In 1870 they paid out \$775,584,343 in wages. American factories were churning out an enormous amount of stuff, with 23,428 shoe manufacturers and 33,207 producers of building materials (including glass, paint, and roofing tiles). Reflecting the growing ranks of the leisure class, there were 53 producers of children’s sleds. There were also 24 factories in the United States producing artificial limbs for the hundreds of thousands of amputees arising from the war years.

Unemployment was low. Of the 10.4 million American men between the ages of 16 and 59, the census-takers found that 9.5 million were gainfully employed.



*"American Homestead Spring"—An 1869 Currier & Ives lithograph offering an idyllic view of the American migration west and the rewards that awaited homesteaders.*

Of the 980,000 men over the age of 60, at least 635,000 were still at work. Women were not as much of an oddity in the working world as they had been. Of 9.75 million women aged 16 to 50, fully 1.6 million were employed.

Agriculture was still the main occupation of Americans in 1870, totaling 5,922,471 farmers and farm laborers that year. Industrial workers came next, with 2,707,421 employed in manufacturing in some capacity. Those engaged in professional and personal services had grown to 2,684,703 workers, running the gamut from one million common laborers and 985,000 domestic servants, to 62,383 physicians, 40,736 lawyers, 2,653 actors, and 35,185 restaurateurs. The trades and transportation workers were also on the rise, mostly due to the expansion of the railroads and shipping; of the 1,191,238 workers in this category, at least 168,000 were working for the rail companies.

### POPULATIONS SHIFTS

The development of the railroads, particularly the establishment of the first transcontinental railway in 1869, made internal migration an easier process for many Americans. Prior to the railroads the only option most people had to reach the frontier was an overland trip by wagon—a long and dangerous proposition. Where once a family might only move over to an adjacent state, it was now possible to get on a train in Chicago and be standing in a boom town in Arizona in a matter of days. From there, it was a relatively simple mat-

ter to collect the supplies needed to form a homestead and head out in search of a new home. Blank spaces on the map were becoming increasingly rare. The northwest Pacific Coast was seeing rapid settlement, and settlers were quickly fanning across Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas. Railroads were

## **Come to South Carolina**

The loss of slave labor created an unstable labor force throughout the south following the Civil War. Southern states, forced to compete with industrial centers in the north and renewed western expansion, often passed laws creating commissions charged with advertising the benefits of living in their state. Excerpted below is legislation passed by the state of South Carolina designed to increase immigration to the state.

*An act for the encouragement and protection of European immigration, and for the appointment of a commissioner and agents, and for other purposes therein expressed.*

1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that for the purpose of encouraging, promoting, and protecting European immigration to and in this state, the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated from the contingent fund, to be expended under the direction of the government, for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter provided.*

2. *That the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a commissioner of immigration, who shall open an office in the fireproof building in Charleston, to perform such duties as may appertain to his office, and shall be paid for his services the salary of \$1,500 per annum out of the fund aforesaid in quarterly payments.*

3. *That it shall be the duty of said commissioner of immigration to advertise in all the gazettes of the state for lands for sale; to cause such lands, after having been duly laid off, platted and described, at the expense of the owner or owners of said lands, to be appraised by three disinterested persons, and their title to be examined by the attorney general or solicitors of the state, and endorsed by them, as the case may be; to open a book or books for the registry of the same, together with the price demanded and the conditions of payment. And in case such lands be selected by an immigrant, to superintend the transfer of title and other necessary instruments and proceedings of conveyance.*

4. *That the said commissioner shall periodically publish, advertise, and cause to be distributed in the Northern and European ports and states, descriptive lists of such lads as have been registered and offered for sale, together with this act, and a statement of such advantages as this state offers in soil, climate, productions, social improvements, etc., to the industrious, orderly, and frugal European immigrant....*

helping bring populations into once isolated parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Even long-settled eastern states were seeing the population penetrate into areas that had always been ignored, including the interior of Maine and the Adirondacks of New York. Most of the Florida peninsula and the Gulf Coast were free of vacant spaces. Urbanization had also continued to build in the 1870s, rising to 22.5 percent of the total U.S. population. Over 11.3 million Americans lived in urban areas by the end of 1879.

The country was just beginning to recover from the Panic of 1873. There were 17.4 million workers in America in 1880, including 2.6 million women and just over one million children between the ages of 10 and 16. Agriculture was still the primary occupation of most Americans, with a total workforce of seven million. Another four million worked in professional or personal services, while three million worked in manufacturing and mining, and 1.8 million worked in trades and transport.

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