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# Population Trends in Oklahoma

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## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
Residential Distribution of Oklahoma Population.....	4
Inter-State Migration .....	8
Trends in the Farm Population of Oklahoma.....	10
Trends in Age and Sex Composition of Oklahoma Population .....	14
Racial and National Origin of Oklahoma Population.....	18
Marital Condition of Oklahoma Population.....	19
Trends in Occupational Distribution of Oklahoma Population .....	21
Changes in Illiteracy in Oklahoma Population.....	25
Summary and Conclusions .....	27
Literature Cited .....	29
Appendix .....	30

## POPULATION TRENDS IN OKLAHOMA

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## Introduction

The history of population movements in the area now comprising the State of Oklahoma may be divided into four periods. First, Spanish and French occupancy, 1539 to 1803; second, the era of Indian migration and occupancy which extended from 1803 to 1889; third, the openings to white settlers from the states from 1889 to 1893; and fourth, the era of statehood expansion, 1893 to the present.<sup>1</sup> It is the purpose of the present paper to study the changes in the population of Oklahoma that have taken place from 1890 to 1934 with reference to (1) geographic concentration and dispersion, (2) inter-state migration, (3) quantitative growth of farm population, (4) age distribution, (5) sex composition, (6) marital condition, (7) racial and national origin, (8) occupational description, and (9) educational advancement. The principal sources of data for these comparisons, necessarily, are the Federal Census Reports, there being no official state census materials available, and only a few fragmentary research reports up to 1934. Not even the State Health Department can render wholly reliable service on the natural increase of the population, because registration of births and deaths in Oklahoma is both a new thing and rather defective.

It is necessary, therefore, to state in the beginning that this study has all the limitations of any census investigation. It is largely a reclassification of the published census figures which are gathered at intervals of ten years. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered a simple head-count of the population in order to determine the number of representatives Oklahoma should have in the lower house of Congress. This special census was not analytical in any sense. Likewise, the Agricultural Census of 1925 is concerned with only the farm population in rather broad and unwieldy classifications. Since the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's program was inaugurated, it has been discovered that many "suitcase" farms in western Oklahoma were entirely omitted from the Census of 1930. For example, the 1930 Census gives 1204 farms for Harper county, while the State Allotment Board received over 2000 wheat contracts in that county in 1934. It is improbable that the number of farms could have increased so phenomenally as that in so short a time as four years, and in an area where the size of farms was doubtless increasing because of mechanization of agricultural production. Furthermore, changes in county line boundaries have been so numerous since statehood was granted in 1907 that it is frequently impossible to determine whether population changes are really shifts in population or changes in territorial allocation of the population. In some counties whole townships were transferred, while in others only indefinite parts of several townships were shaved off one county and appended to another. Finally, the rapid growth of the population in an inconceivably short time is in itself a source of great error in any attempt to interpolate for changes between census enumerations.

In view of these recognized shortcomings, it has been thought best to deal with the aggregate population rather than to attempt to show county shifts. However, there is a valuable source of information on population movements which for lack of time has not been utilized in this study.

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A concise resume of the first two periods is given in the writer's paper, *The Fusion of White, Negro, and Indian Cultures*, *Swn. Soc. Sci. Quart.* XIV, March 1934. For a discussion of a typical opening, see Joe B. Milam, *The Opening of the Cherokee Strip*, unpublished Master's Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Library 1931.

namely, the Annual Scholastic Census which is available from the state and county superintendents of public instruction.<sup>2</sup> This census covers the population from 6 to 20 years of age inclusive, which is ordinarily about one-third of the total for the State. It seems reasonable to believe that the utilization of this material, which is seldom done, would aid materially in the intercensal interpolation of both the total population and its territorial mobility, not only in Oklahoma but also in each of the respective states of the Union.

#### Residential Distribution of Oklahoma Population

Prior to 1920, the census definition of "rural population" was simply on the basis of size of the community. A population center of 2499 inhabitants or less was a rural community, and one with 2500 or more was urban. The vagary of this procedure is too well known and too obvious to require discussion. It was always grossly misleading. In Table 1, the population of Oklahoma is shown from 1890 to 1930 according to place of residence, varying from rural farm communities to cities of 100,000 and over. In Figure I the estimated growth of the farm is shown in comparison with the total population of the State.

TABLE 1.—Distribution of Population in Oklahoma for Census Years by Type of Community of Residence.

Type of community	POPULATION OF OKLAHOMA, CENSUS YEAR				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
Total	2,396,040	2,028,283	1,657,155	790,391	258,657
100,000 and over	326,647	-----	-----	-----	-----
25,000 to 100,000	58,425	193,647	89,483	-----	-----
10,000 to 25,000	168,698	123,617	79,383	20,043	-----
5,000 to 10,000	162,358	104,193	44,072	5,681	5,333
2,500 to 5,000	105,553	118,023	107,217	32,693	4,151
1,000 to 2,500	160,698	157,792	108,650	43,483	1,134
Under 1,000 (Towns)	137,734	134,180	121,717	39,773	2,069
Unincorporated villages	254,853	180,932	59,183*	86,703	} 245,970**
Rural farm	1,021,074	1,015,899	1,047,450*	562,015*	

Source: U. S. Census, 1920, Population, Oklahoma 2nd Series, p. 5.

\*Estimated.

\*\*Impossible to make separate estimates for two reasons. First, no data on the number of farms in the Indian Territory for 1890 are available. Second, private sources on village population in either of the territories are too fragmentary to be at all usable for 1890.

Fortunately, R. L. Polk and Company of Detroit published several business directories of Oklahoma during the later territorial and early period of statehood. Two of these directories, one published in 1902, the other in 1912, gave local estimates of population, presumably by postmasters and other prominent local leaders, for all the trade centers of the State, whether incorporated or not. These estimates corresponded with the regular census years. Frequently they were highly erroneous, but a careful study of their estimates shows that they were not biased in any one direction; they were as often under-estimated as over-estimated, so that while the population figure

<sup>2</sup>C. Warren Thornthwaite, Internal Migration in the United States, Univ. Pennsylvania Press, 1934, pp. 38-52, has prepared a series of maps based on School Census data which show population shifts by counties from 1910 to 1934. Those interested will find this source helpful in understanding internal population changes in Oklahoma.

of a given village may be useless, the total population of all villages is substantially accurate, as may be seen later. The Census gave the population of all "rural" territory and of all unincorporated territory. (By deducting the population of all incorporated villages of less than 2,500 as given by the Census from that of all villages of less than 2,500 as given by Polk's Directory, the population of all unincorporated villages was obtained. Then

Growth of Oklahoma Population, 1890 to 1935

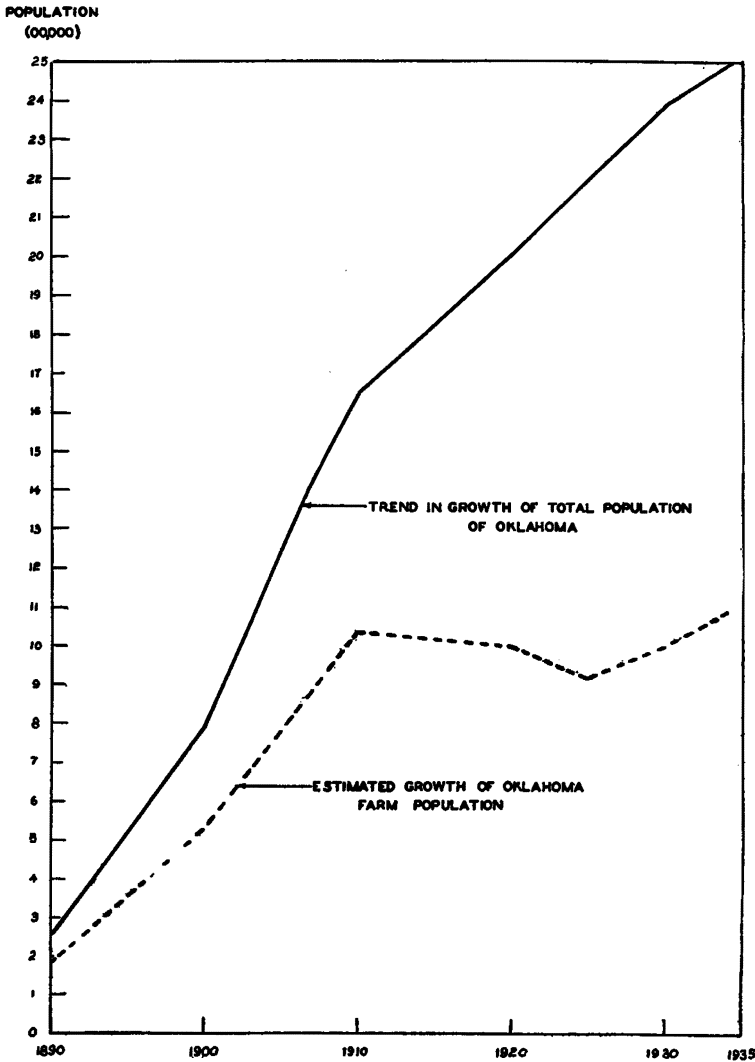


Figure I. Data taken and estimated from Tables 1 and 5. This graph shows the estimated annual changes in the size of the farm population in comparison with the total population of the State.

by subtracting the population of all unincorporated villages from that of all unincorporated territory which was given by the Census, it was possible to approximate the farm population. This procedure was followed in order to obtain an estimate for the farm population for both 1900 and 1910. The figures obtained in each case were quite satisfactory, judged by the average number of people per farm which was obtained when the estimated farm population was divided by the total number of farms given by the Census for these same years. The averages found in this way were in surprisingly close agreement with those for 1920, 1925, and 1930, which were obtainable directly from the Census. The computations, admittedly, are not exact to the last cipher, but they are sufficiently accurate to admit of practical use in computing the trend of the farm population in Oklahoma. It was impossible to use this procedure for 1890, because not even the private estimates were available. In order to solve an equation of  $N$  terms, at least  $N-1$  terms must be reducible either to known or to constant quantities. The same principle applies in making population estimates.

**TABLE 2.—Percentage Distribution of Population in Oklahoma for Census Years by Types of Community of Residence.**

Type of community	PERCENT OF OKLAHOMA POPULATION, CENSUS YEARS				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
Total .....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
100,000 and over ----	13.6	-----	-----	-----	-----
25,000 to 100,000 ----	2.4	9.6	5.4	-----	-----
10,000 to 25,000 ----	7.0	6.1	4.8	2.5	-----
5,000 to 10,000 ----	8.8	5.1	2.7	.7	2.1
2,500 to 5,000 ----	4.4	5.8	6.5	4.2	1.6
1,000 to 2,500 ----	6.7	7.8	6.6	5.5	.4
Under 1,000 ----	5.7	6.6	7.2	5.0	.8
Unincorporated villages .....	10.7	8.9	3.6	11.0	} 95.1
Rural farm .....	42.7	50.1	63.2	71.1	

In Table 2, it is possible to see the percentage change in the populations of different types of communities in Oklahoma from 1890 to 1930. The time interval is so short that it is unsafe to say precisely what trends have been established, except in cases in which the variations are both pronounced and consistent. Two decidedly distinct trends here may be recognized. First, there has been a rapid decline in the proportion of the population living on farms. Roughly speaking, the proportion of farm people in the total population declined on an average by about one percent per year between 1900 and 1930. The bulk of the relative loss of farm population has been absorbed mostly by cities with populations of 10,000 and over, and by those of 2,500 to 10,000 population. In 1920, cities of 10,000 inhabitants comprised 2.5 percent of the total population and in 1930, 23.0 percent, or a relative increase of 900 percent. Cities in the 2,500 to 10,000 population class comprised 4.9 percent of the total population in 1900, and 11.2 percent of the total in 1930, or a relative increase of 229 percent. On the other hand, the relative increase of all villages of less than 2,500 population was only 19 percent during this period. These changes are shown graphically in Figure II.

The foregoing statements must be accepted as applicable only within limits. A possible inference from them is that, if such trends should continue, the farm population would in a comparatively short time be reduced

Percent Distribution of Oklahoma Population by Type of Community of Residence For Census Years.

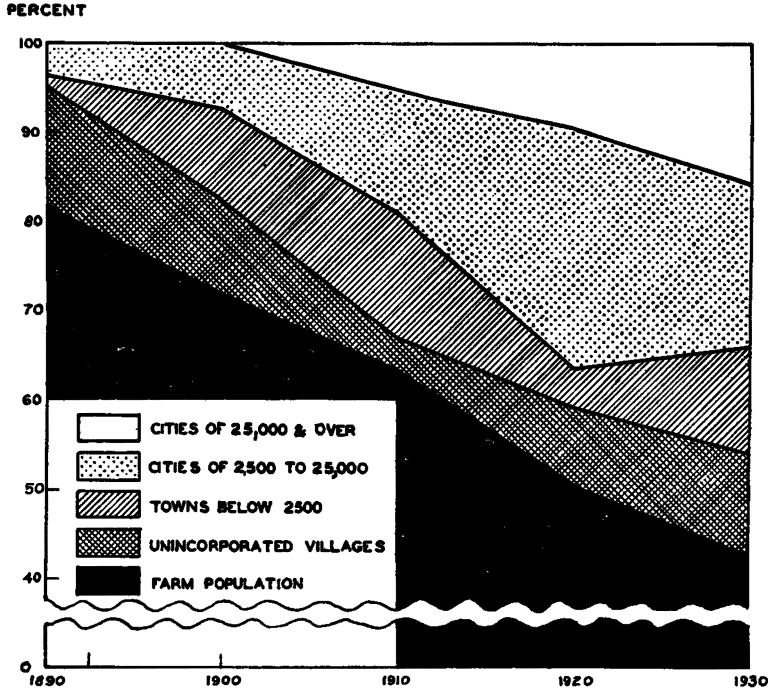


Figure II. The data from which this graph was constructed are given in Table 2. It is to be noted that while there has been a marked decline in the proportion the farm population was of the total for the State, the absolute size of the farm population in 1934 was the largest it had ever been in the history of the State. The principal changes which have occurred in the total population have been a phenomenal growth of towns and cities. While the natural increase of the farm population is great, the urban-ward migration of farm people has been so rapid as to keep the relative increase in the numbers of people on farms from rising.

to almost nothing, the village population would become stationary, while that of cities in that 10,000 and above class would expand to infinity. The truth of the matter is that from 1930 to 1934 there was a slowing down in the growth of cities in Oklahoma and a heavy landward movement of population. In a later portion of this study, two movements of the farm population will be described which will offset this rectilinear conception of population growth. There is, however, a high degree of probability that the small village of Oklahoma will either become an almost constant factor in the demography of the state or that it will decline to comparative insignificance. It is practically certain that the small rural town does not represent a necessary stage in the evolution of cities. They are more likely to become vestigial organs of both the large cities and the farm communities. Their growth is circumvented on both sides by farms and larger cities. The village can grow commercially only to the extent that the farmer finds it inconvenient to go to a larger center to do his trading on the one hand, and only to the extent that the larger cities find them useful as their own arms of trade on the other. These are a priori statements, to be sure, but they appear supportable in the light of the apparent trends in village growth in

Oklahoma thus far. There are exceptions to this principle, as for example, that occasioned by the discovery of oil on the outskirts of a village. However, there are only negligible exceptions to the rule that oil villages become mere ghost towns when the oil activities have ceased. What the limiting factors in the growth of large cities are, no one can say; and as for the limits to the growth of farm population in the immediate future, it seems at the present time to be a struggle between biology and public politics for agriculture.

#### Inter-State Migration

Inter-state migration is a phase of population movements which is not well understood by students of demography. This phenomenon is not amenable to any but subjective explanations. Neither the census nor any individual study known to the writer has made a serious attempt to classify its causes and effects. A large part of this type of mobility may be traceable to the search for employment, the discovery of new sources of wealth, the search for health, desire for a change of climate, and hosts of other more or less valid reasons which may be equally as applicable to intra-state movements as to inter-state migrations. A large part of it seems to arise in random, aimless wandering which sooner or later leads the rover across state lines. Furthermore, a great deal of inter-state migration may have no more socio-economic or political significance than local inter-neighborhood movements of farm tenants, or the change of apartments by urban residents. Whatever its importance, the fact remains that about one person in four of the native white population of the United States was born in some other state than that in which he now resides, and conversely almost one-fourth of the population of the United States has migrated away from the state of nativity.

In Table 3, the percentage of all persons born in Oklahoma who at the time of census enumeration were living elsewhere in the United States is shown in comparison with the average for the United States. These data show that the proportion of native whites born in Oklahoma but living elsewhere in the United States has practically doubled since 1890. This is somewhat surprising because the white population living in Oklahoma and Indian Territory prior to 1890 included mostly temporary residents, such as soldiers, surveyors, Indian agents, traders, squatters, and missionaries to the Indians, who would be expected to move away and take their families with them after only short periods of residence. Prior to 1889 only a very few white people had acquired title to land in Oklahoma, and most of these either were of sufficient Indian blood to entitle them to land allotments or

**TABLE 3.—Percent of All White Persons Born in Oklahoma Who at the Time of Census Enumeration Were Living Elsewhere in the United States Compared with United States Average.**

Census year	Percent born in Oklahoma but residing elsewhere in United States	United States average percent living outside state of birth
1930	28.6	23.4
1920	23.5	22.5
1910	20.6	22.4
1900	17.9	21.5
1890	14.8*	22.0

Sources: C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny, *Interstate Migrations Among the Native White Population*, U. S. Bur. Agri. Econ., Washington, D. C., 1934, p. 6.

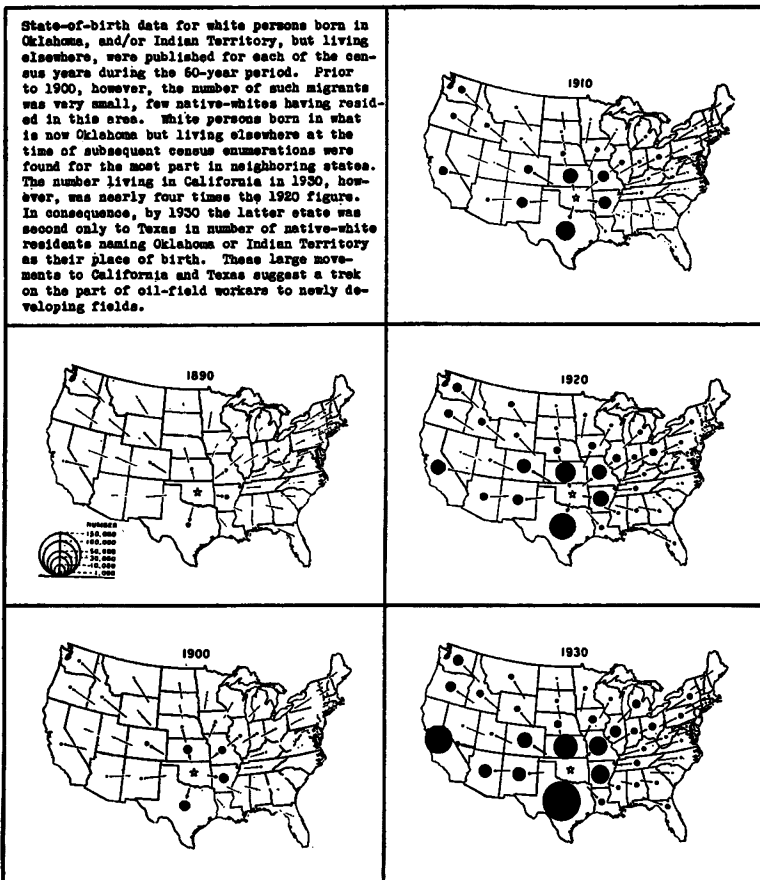
\*Includes Oklahoma Territory only, no census data on state of birth being available for Indian Territory in 1890.



had acquired the right to hold land through marriage to persons of Indian origin. White men having Indian wives were allowed to live with the tribes of their wives, and it is not improbable that this fact tended to anchor them more or less permanently because they often did not own property in other states. Their children, therefore, would be likely to remain in Oklahoma in order to benefit by the allotments when they reached maturity.

In 1890, only 14.8 percent of the native whites born in the territories lived elsewhere in the United States, while an average of 22.0 percent of the native white population of the United States lived outside the state of their birth. While there has been a gradual increase between 1890 and 1930 in the percentage of the population of the United States who have migrated away from the state of their birth, the exodus of Oklahomans to other states

**Native White Migrants Born in Oklahoma Living Elsewhere**



U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
 Figure III. Maps supplied by C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny, Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, United States Department of Agriculture. See study by these authors, *Interstate Migrations Among the Native White Population*, (planographed) Washington, D. C., 1934, p. 82.

has been rapid, the increase being 1.4 percent for the United States average as compared with 13.8 percent for Oklahoma. Why the tendency for natives of Oklahoma to emigrate should increase ten times as rapidly as that for the country as a whole is not even suggested by the comparative data on the growth of population. However, it is known that few people were born in Oklahoma prior to 1890, and there is comparatively little migration before adult ages are reached. From 1890 to 1930, the population of Oklahoma increased by 926.3 percent while that of the United States increased by only 100 percent during the same time. Evidently the growth of the population of Oklahoma has been limited by natural increase in only a minor degree. The absorption of native white population born in Oklahoma into other states is shown in Figure III.

**TABLE 4.—Percent of Total Native White Population of Oklahoma at the Time of Census Enumeration Who Were Born Elsewhere in the United States Compared with United States Average.**

Census year	Percent born elsewhere but residing in Oklahoma	United States average percent residing in other than state of birth
1930	51.9	23.4
1920	60.3	22.5
1910	71.2	22.4
1900	79.6	21.5
1890	97.8*	22.0

Source: C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny, *op. cit.*, p. 7.

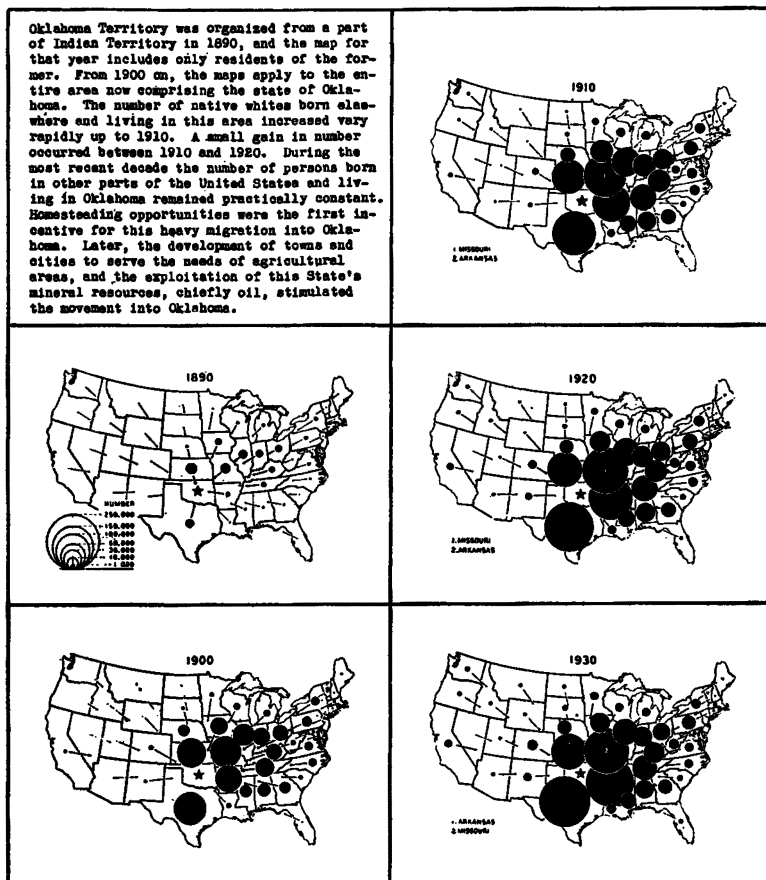
\*Includes Oklahoma Territory only. No data on state of birth for Indian Territory in 1890.

In 1890, the native white population of Oklahoma composed 97.8 percent of persons born elsewhere in the United States, and perhaps over 90 percent of these had resided in the territory less than one year. The increase in the proportion of native Oklahomans in the population has been rapid. In four decades, the proportion of non-native Oklahomans declined by 45.9 percent, or practically 1.6 percent per year. (See Figure IV for absolute numbers of migrations to Oklahoma from other states.) This, of course, was accelerated by the high proportion of young children in the population. In view of the tendency prevalent in the United States as a whole, it seems that this proportion will continue to decline until it reaches about 25 percent, which at the present rate will require approximately 20 years subsequent to 1930. In other words, by 1950 it may be expected that the proportion of non-migrants among the population of Oklahoma will approximate the average for the United States, other things remaining constant.

#### Trends in the Farm Population of Oklahoma

During the past four years the writer has been engaged in an effort to obtain reliable computations on the annual changes in the farm population of Oklahoma. Reports on these studies have been issued at various intervals. In June, 1934, estimates were prepared with the aid of census material and published data on rural migration released by the Division of Rural Life in the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The 1935 Census of Agriculture will be an invaluable aid in revising the estimates for the years since 1930. While at work on the present study, computations were established by the procedure already described for 1910 and 1900, and interpolations were made for the intervening years. It is expected that the annual estimates thus obtained will prove to be highly useful in future researches dealing with the interrelations of demographic factors

Native White Migrants Into Oklahoma From State of Birth



U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
 Figure IV. Maps supplied by C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny. *Ibid.*, p. 83.

and other socio-economic data. The admitted inaccuracies of the data which have been computed are not believed to be of sufficient weight as to preclude their use in time-series studies.

It will be understood that in this part of the discussion the data for 1930, 1925, and 1920 are taken directly from the Census, and that those for 1910 and 1900 are derived by subtractions of rather tangible quantities from aggregates given by the Census, and that the figures for intervening years are interpolations derived partially from the intercensal trends and partly from other general sources. It is assumed that these data actually represent the trends in farm population changes. These data are given in Table 5, together with the index of purchasing power of farm commodities, 1910 to 1934, inclusive.

From Table 5, it will be observed that the growth of farm population in Oklahoma has been cyclical in nature, and that between 1900 and 1934,

**TABLE 5.—Changes in the Size of Oklahoma Farm Population and the Index of Purchasing Power of Oklahoma Farm Commodities.**

Year	Total population on Oklahoma farms*	Index of farm purchasing power for Oklahoma** (1910-14=100)
1934	1,097,280	---
1933	1,090,944	67
1932	1,056,000	48
1931	1,026,432	50
1930	1,021,174	71
1929	976,515	96
1928	941,766	99
1927	920,436	101
1926	913,312	81
1925	925,690	103
1924	940,800	104
1923	953,600	112
1922	966,400	94
1921	989,200	79
1920	1,015,899	98
1919	1,019,054	126
1918	1,022,209	134
1917	1,025,364	142
1916	1,028,519	114
1915	1,031,674	101
1914	1,034,829	89
1913	1,037,984	106
1912	1,041,139	99
1911	1,044,294	93
1910	1,047,450	113
1909	998,907	---
1908	950,363	---
1907	901,819	---
1906	853,276	---
1905	804,732	---
1904	756,189	---
1903	707,645	---
1902	659,102	---
1901	610,558	---
1900	562,015	---

\*Figures for 1920, 1925, and 1930 are taken from the Census. Those for years after 1930 are estimates, and will be checked as soon as the 1935 Census of Agriculture is available. For intercensal estimates see, *Current Farm Economics*, Okla. Agri. Exper. Sta. Series 49, Vol. 5, No. 6, pp. 110-114; Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 39-41. Figures prior to 1920 are interpolated on the basis of computations (See fn. 1 Table 1) for 1900 and 1910.

\*\*Indexes prepared by L. S. Ellis, Dept. Agri. Econ., Oklahoma A. and M. College, see his *Oklahoma Farm Prices*, *Current Farm Economics*, Supplement Table 82, p. 89, for figures 1910-1932. Later figures have been computed and inserted in this table. No indexes of purchasing power of farm commodities have been computed for Oklahoma prior to 1910.

there are four cyclical movements discernable. At once the criticism may be raised that the cyclical swings are only reflections of the method by which the computations were made. In part this objection will be granted. However, it will not be admitted, without substantial evidence to prove the point, that the movements are due to this solely. Between 1920 and 1934 estimates on rural migration were made by C. J. Galpin and T. B. Manny on the basis of census areas of the United States by means of questionnaires. Four states, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, comprise one of these census areas. The annual estimates for Oklahoma were computed in the same proportion of the total change for these states for the intercensal years as the farm population of Oklahoma bore to the total farm population of the area in the census year, and the result was added to or subtracted from the trend in natural increase corrected for changes in the size of families on farms. This would in some measure obviate the tendency toward the generation of an automatic cyclical movement. Furthermore, the number of farms increased by 181.4 percent between 1900 and 1930 according to census reports, while the farm population determined independently by the method already described increased by 180 percent. Apparently the trends in farm population are not altogether due to the clumsiness of the interpolations, but rather in a large degree to demographic factors.

In Figure V, an effort has been made to represent the trend in the growth of the Oklahoma farm population in comparison with the trend in the purchasing power of Oklahoma farm commodities since 1910. In other words, this is an attempt to show the relation of farm population changes to farm business conditions. The index of farm purchasing power is with reference to the 1910-1914 average, while the population changes are absolute. On this basis it will be observed that the population movement appears to be much more inert than the index of business conditions, which is to be expected. Even if the index of purchasing power had been represented in a smoothed curve, this relationship would hold true.

It may seem peculiar that the increases of the farm population seem to occur when the index of purchasing power of farm products is low, and the farm population declines when the purchasing power is high. There are several plausible explanations for this. First, real wages in urban industries tend to be even higher than farm purchasing power when the latter is at its highest, except for short periods of time.<sup>3</sup> In the second place, when agriculture is prosperous, larger numbers of farmers are able to retire and move to town to educate their children or to engage in business. Third, during a prosperous period of agriculture, making a living is less difficult and children are therefore comparatively free to emigrate from the farms as soon as they are old enough to take care of themselves. Fourth, when agriculture is prosperous, the alternative opportunities for young people off farms are usually more numerous, and they have comparative freedom of choice in mobility.

On the other hand, when agriculture is depressed, there are seldom many demands for labor off the farm, and young people stay at home because they cannot go elsewhere. In the second place, the high natural increase of the farm population and its small outlet during a depression causes the farm population to rise like water impounded in a stream. Third, when a depression has been prolonged for several years, the problem of unemployment in the cities becomes unwieldy and the city population starts moving landward. For these reasons the quantitative changes in the farm popu-

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<sup>3</sup>See Otis Durant Duncan, *The Farmers' Standard of Living As a Factor in Public Policies of Farm Relief*, (unpublished paper read before Agricultural Economics Division, Sw. Soc. Sci. Assn. Oklahoma City, April 3, 1931).

**Growth of Oklahoma Farm Population Compared With the Index of Purchasing Power of Oklahoma Farm Commodities, 1910-1934.**

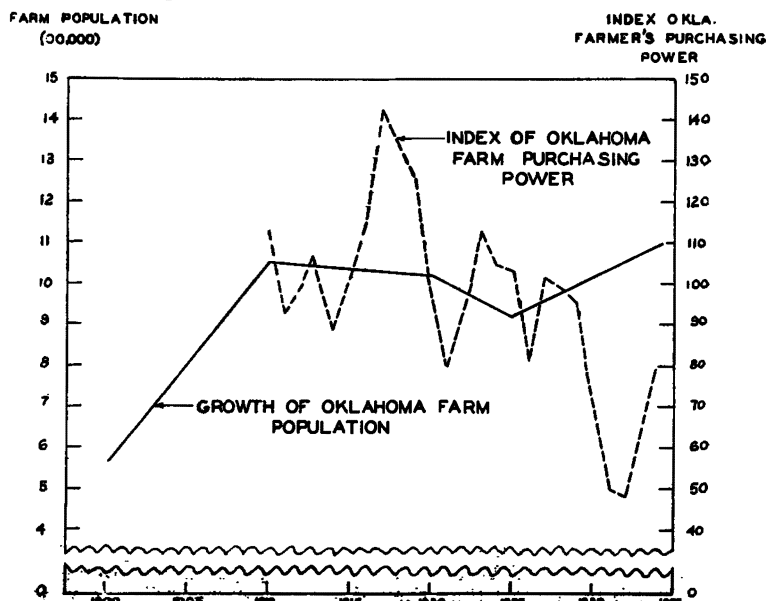


Figure V. Data for this graph will be found in Table 5. The growth of the farm population in Oklahoma since 1910 exhibits a slight tendency to vary in the opposite direction from the trend in purchasing power of farm products, although the movements of population lag a little behind the major fluctuations in the index of purchasing power of farm products.

lation may often take the opposite course to that of the index of farm business conditions. Furthermore, the exodus of farm population is a stimulus to farm prosperity because fewer people are left to produce the food supply, and this makes possible both higher wages and higher prices for farmers. Machinery can be substituted for labor, and farm production per man may be allowed to expand.<sup>4</sup>

As a check on the estimates of farm population trends in Oklahoma, Table 6 has been arranged. The manner in which the estimated number of persons actually living on farms was obtained for 1900 and 1910 has been described in previous paragraphs. This table is significant because it shows approximately the average number of persons per farm in Oklahoma for Census years.

In Table 6, it will be seen that the number of farms in Oklahoma has remained fairly constant since 1910, while the total population on farms has varied somewhat. The estimates for 1900 show that the average number of people on farms was the lowest for any year up to 1920. Although the figure is only an estimate, the writer believes it is reasonably accurate because the population of Oklahoma was increasing very rapidly at that time through the process of migration. Many of the early settlers of the territory were either single people, young married people whose families were

<sup>4</sup>See also, Rupert B. Vance's paper, *Regional Reconstruction: A Way Out for the South*, joint publication, Foreign Policy Association, New York, and the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1935.

**TABLE 6.—Number of Farms, Total Farm Population, and Average Number Persons per Farm in Oklahoma for Census Years 1900 to 1930.**

Census year	Number of farms	Total number farm population	Average number persons per farm
1930	203,866	1,021,074	5.0
1925	197,218	925,690	4.7
1920	191,988	1,015,899	5.3
1910	190,192	1,047,450	5.5
1900	108,000	562,015	5.2

SOURCE: U. S. Census, *Agriculture*, 2nd Series, Oklahoma, 1930, p. 5.

yet small, or large numbers of unmarried men in late middle life, as succeeding data on sex and age composition will show. By 1910, these young families had matured considerably, the number of their children had increased and large numbers of unmarried migrants had married and had children. Between 1910 and 1920, the towns and cities had begun to absorb the surplus farm population rapidly, as was seen in Table 2. This reduced the average number of persons on farms to an appreciable extent. Furthermore, this process of urbanization went on with increasing momentum until about 1926, when there was a slowing down in the cityward migration, and a tendency was begun for the farm population to grow somewhat faster than it did during the period of the World War. All in all, these data seem to be closely in line with the trend of historical events in Oklahoma, and for that reason the validity of these averages appears to the writer to be defensible.

#### Trends in Age and Sex Composition of Oklahoma Population

At least three factors are responsible for changes in the age composition of the population of Oklahoma. First, there has been an increase in the proportion of the population who were born in Oklahoma. Second, there has been a decline in the death rates of children and even an increase in the relative number of persons dying in old age. And, third, as in other areas of the country, there has been some decline in the birth rates during recent years. These phenomena are well known and require little comment.

The percentage increase in Oklahoma residents who were born in Oklahoma has been given (in Table 4) above. The recent trends in infant mortality and the death rates due to causes of senility have been presented by the writer in another study.<sup>5</sup> It was found in that study that, for the decade 1920 to 1929, the infant mortality rates declined from 120 per 1000 living births to 61.4 per 1000 living births in the rural parts of Tulsa county, and from 90.8 to about 63.2 per 1000 living births for the city of Tulsa, although the variations for individual years were not always consistent. The smoothed trend in infant mortality for the city of Tulsa during this time showed a decline from around 115 to approximately 75 deaths per 1000 living births. The death rate from causes of senility increased from 44.1 to 64.5 per 100,000 of the population during this period. Unquestionably, vital processes have been of great importance in recent years in changing the general age composition of the population of Oklahoma.

The most conspicuous changes in the age composition of the population of Oklahoma from 1890 to 1930 have been an almost constant decline in the proportion of the population under 15 years of age, and a comparatively rapid increase in the proportion who are 65 years of age and over. As may be seen by reference to Table 7 and Figure VI, the population in all adult

<sup>5</sup>See Otis Durant Duncan, *Some Social and Economic Aspects of the Problem of Rural Health in Oklahoma*, Okla. Agri. Exper. Sta. Cir. No. 78, Sept., 1931, pp. 14-17.

ages shows a tendency either to increase or to remain almost constant in proportion to the totals. There seems to be no doubt that a part of the proportionate increase in older people in the total population has been due to the settlement of Oklahoma mostly by people of middle age and under. In the passing of time, these have grown older, and the birth rates have declined appreciably. Even if the death rates for those past middle life had remained constant, there would have been a perceptible increase in the relative numbers of older people among the total population.

**Age Distribution of Oklahoma Population for 1890 Compared with 1930.**

PERCENT OF  
TOTAL POPULATION

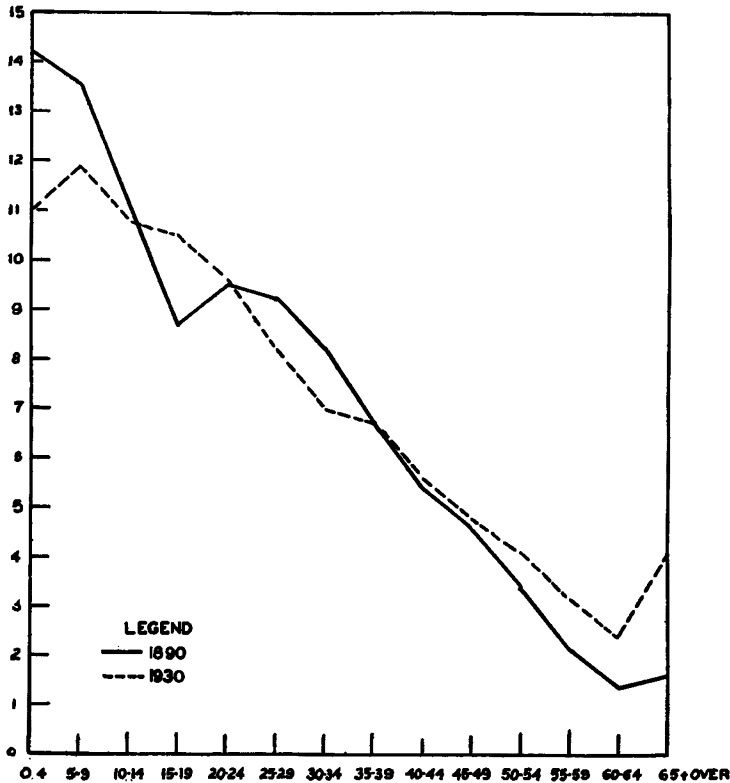


Figure VI. Data from Table 7. It is noticeable that the proportion of children in the total population has decreased materially while the proportion of people 45 years of age and over have increased appreciably between 1890 and 1930.



**TABLE 7.—Age Distribution of Oklahoma Population Shown as Percent of Total Population in Quinquennial Age Groups for Each Census Year.**

Age group	PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE GROUP, CENSUS YEAR				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-4 years	11.0	12.5	14.6	15.0	14.2
5-9	11.9	12.9	13.1	14.0	13.6
10-14	10.8	12.2	11.2	12.3	11.2
15-19	10.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	8.7
20-24	9.6	9.0	9.6	9.3	9.5
25-29	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.2	9.2
30-34	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.6	8.2
35-39	6.7	6.6	6.3	5.6	6.7
40-44	5.6	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.4
45-49	4.8	4.6	3.8	4.0	4.6
50-54	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.5
55-59	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.2
60-64	2.4	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.4
65 and over	4.1	3.2	2.7	2.5	1.6

Sources: 1930 and 1920, 15th U. S. Census. *Population*, 1930, Vol. II, Ch. 10, p. 646; 1910, 14th U. S. Census. *Population*, 1920, Vol. II, p. 256; 1900, 13th U. S. Census. *Population*, Vol. III, 1910, p. 463; 1890, 11th U. S. Census. *Population* Pt. II, pp. 74-75, includes Oklahoma Territory only, population of Indian Territory not being separated by five-year age groups.

**TABLE 8.—Number of Males to 100 Females in Oklahoma Population by Age Groups for Population of Known Age 1890-1930.**

Age group	MALES TO 100 FEMALES, CENSUS YEAR				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890*
Total	106.1	109.0	113.7	115.6	128.2
0-4 years	102.9	103.3	103.2	102.1	109.0
5-9	103.1	101.7	103.2	103.5	108.2
10-14	102.9	103.6	104.5	105.7	106.5
15-19	100.2	99.6	104.4	105.2	97.8
20-24	98.2	99.1	105.4	109.7	114.8
25-29	99.3	101.9	112.0	110.2	141.3
30-34	102.9	105.3	118.9	129.2	159.8
35-39	105.6	115.2	126.5	138.8	160.9
40-44	109.8	117.3	130.9	150.3	155.5
45-49	111.2	131.9	134.2	143.5	178.1
50-54	126.2	147.0	163.9	151.0	181.6
55-59	129.1	147.0	155.0	143.9	201.8
60-64	133.3	146.4	151.0	144.8	217.5
65-69	132.9	143.2	140.3	153.7	184.8
70-74	134.0	138.7	137.7	140.3	187.8
75-79	126.1	122.0	135.0	119.8	107.9
80-84	122.6	112.3	120.6	126.1	147.4
85 and over	99.3	98.8	85.5	81.3	61.5

Sources: U. S. Census, Vol. II, 1930, p. 646; Vol. II, 1920, p. 257; Vol. I, 1910, p. 395; Vol. II, 1900, pp. 36-37, 60-81; Pt. II, 1890, pp. 74-75.

\*Includes Oklahoma Territory only.

In Table 8 the sex ratios, the number of males to each 100 females, are given for the population of each census year by five-year age classifications. These data are indispensable to an understanding of qualitative changes in the population, and throw important light upon the family and economic relationships, although these do not come within the pale of the discussion at this point.

As is characteristic of new populations generally, particularly those of agricultural regions and areas of extractive industries and forestry, there was a heavy predominance of males in the population of Oklahoma in 1890. One feature of Table 8 which the writer cannot explain, however, is that there was a greater predominance of males among children in 1890 than has been typical of later years. Why should there have been an unusual excess of males over females among children 15 years of age and below in 1890? Beginning with 1900, the sex distribution in these age groups approached the same proportions as have been maintained constantly ever since. Even children four years of age and under showed a greater disparity of males than is usually found of those under one year of age. In the population 25 years of age and over there was an enormous excess of masculinity. For the most part the male excess has declined continuously since 1890, which was to be expected, but even in 1930 it was at least 25 percent greater than the proportion of females. In 1930, there was almost equality in sex proportions for the population from 15 to 29 years of age, if any difference, a slight excess of females; but in all other age groups, except those over 85 years of age, males were in pronounced predominance.

#### Racial and National Origin of Oklahoma Population

The population of Oklahoma is somewhat distinctive as to its racial and national origin. There are three important racial elements, the white, the Indian, and the negro, and only an insignificant proportion of other races. The foreign and mixed whites in the population are too small in number to be considered except to say that since 1900 they have continuously decreased in proportion to the total population. Oklahoma has never been an important area of absorption of European immigrants. The State has been populated by a tertiary migration of European stocks whose original ancestors came direct from the mother country to the Atlantic Coastal Plain, thence by a secondary migration to the central Mississippi Valley, and finally to Oklahoma.

TABLE 9.—Percentage Distribution of Oklahoma Population in National and Racial Groups for Census Years.

National and racial group	PERCENT OF POPULATION, CENSUS YEAR				
	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
Total .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Native white .....	87.5	87.8	84.8	82.2	65.7
Native parentage .....	83.2	82.8	79.1	76.1	63.9
Foreign parentage ..	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.1	.9
Mixed parentage .....	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.0	.9
Foreign born white*..	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	1.0
Negro .....	7.2	7.4	8.3	7.0	8.4
Indian, Chinese, Etc..	3.9	2.8	4.5	8.2	24.9

Sources: U. S. Census. *Population, Oklahoma, 1930*, 2nd Series, Table 13; *Population 1920*, Vol. II, Table 12; *Population, 1910*, Vol. III, Table 1, p. 461.

\*Includes Mexicans in 1930 to be comparable with earlier years, the proportion of Mexicans being only 0.3 percent of the total population.

The principal states which have contributed to the population of Oklahoma are Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas. Nationally the population of Oklahoma is highly homogeneous, but thinking in terms of regional social characteristics it is rather heterogeneous. Oklahoma is neither east, west, north nor south, but an unamalgamated agglomeration of the characteristics of all these areas. There is no typical Oklahoman in the sense in which this descriptive would apply in Virginia, Connecticut, or Iowa. There are Texans, Kansans, Missourians, and expatriates from other states who are transplanted into Oklahoma. Only in an almost imperceptible degree is it possible to detect a tendency toward an "Oklahomanization" of the population. The data which are shown on race and nativity are, therefore, distinctive enough as to race, but not as to nativity except in the general sense that the people are natives of the United States.

In Table 9, there are three significant trends to be observed. First, the native white population is increasing rapidly in relative importance. Second, the foreign-born and mixed elements of the white population are fading out, and may be expected to become increasingly obscure owing to the national restriction of European immigration. Third, Indians and negroes are falling to hold their own demographically as compared with the white race. The absolute increase in these races is too small to maintain their original positions in the total population. A secondary observation of importance is that there is a high degree of probability that the Indians are being assimilated in the white population. As rapidly as Indians become more white than Indian in blood, they tend to lose their identity as Indians. However, in spite of the fact that the slightest trace of negro blood classes an individual as a negro, the negro population does not increase, but rather diminishes relative to the total population. This may be seen clearly by consulting Figure VII.

#### Marital Condition of Oklahoma Population

There are many factors which affect the marital condition of a population. First, the proportion of each sex who are married is limited by the numerical proportions of the two sexes to each other. If there is a great predominance of males over females, a larger proportion of females than of males will be married. The second limiting factor is the age composition of the population. If the proportion of children in the population under 15 years of age is unduly large, the proportion of married people will be decreased. The third limiting factor is the nature of migrations. If large numbers of single or unmarried people of adult age are emigrating, the proportion of married people in the population from which these migrants are going will be increased, while that in the group to which they are going will be decreased. If the emigrants are predominantly of one sex, the proportion of married people of the same sex will be increased in the population group from which the emigration is taking place, but it will be decreased in the group which is absorbing them. If unemployment is relatively unfavorable to persons of one sex in a given area, an exodus of that sex is to be expected, and a corresponding shift in the proportions of the population of the same sex will be registered both in the area from which they go and in that into which they are absorbed. Thus it is that a knowledge of social and economic factors is highly important in gaining an understanding of the marital behavior of a population group.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>See the writer's paper, *Sex Ratios and Marital Condition of Adult Populations of Different Types of Communities in the United States in Relation to Population Changes*, *Social Forces*, XII, No. 2, Dec. 1933, pp. 222-229.

**Percentage Distribution of Oklahoma Population by National and Racial Groups for Census Years.**

PERCENT

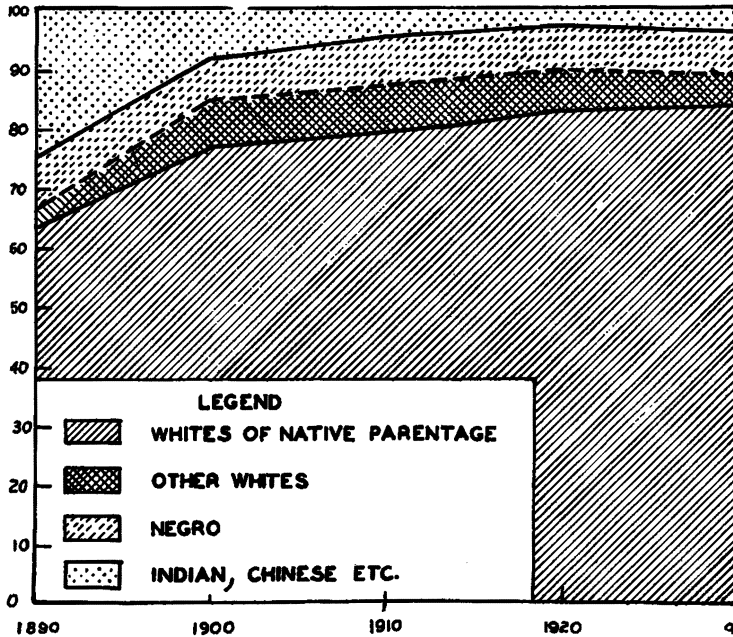


Figure VII. Data from Table 9. The characteristic trend in racial and national origin of the population of Oklahoma is a continuous relative increase in the proportion of native whites of native parentage, while other groups have either decreased relatively or have remained stationary in relation to the total population.

In Table 10, the percentage distribution of the population of Oklahoma 15 years of age and over according to marital condition is given for census years from 1890 to 1930. It is the purpose of this table to show the trends in marital behavior of the Oklahoma population which have occurred since the settlement of the State.

The data of this table show in general that there has been an increase in the proportion of married males and a relative decline in the numbers of adult males who are single or never married, while the proportion of widowed males has remained almost constant, except for chance variations. The proportion of married males having increased, there has been an increase in the proportion of divorced males. Part of this increase in divorced males may be only a manifestation of a tendency to increasing divorce that has been prevalent throughout the United States, rather than to circumstances peculiar to Oklahoma. The Census shows that the percentage of divorced males in the adult population of the United States increased continuously from 2 percent in 1890 to 1.1 percent in 1930, while in Oklahoma the corresponding figures were .4 percent in 1890 and 1.5 percent in 1930.

For the adult female population of Oklahoma the percent who were single, or never married, has decreased by a small fraction, but not sufficiently to be ascribed to anything but chance. On the other hand the percentage of females in the adult population who were married has declined consistently from 72.3 in 1890 to 67.2 in 1930. On the other hand the

**TABLE 10.—Percentage Distribution of Oklahoma Population 15 Years of Age and Over by Marital Condition of Each Sex for Census Years.**

Sex and marital condition	PERCENT OF MARITAL CONDITION, CENSUS YEAR				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
<b>Males</b> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single -----	30.9	32.6	35.7	38.4	41.0
Married -----	62.9	61.4	58.2	55.6	53.9
Widowed -----	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.5
Divorced -----	1.5	.8	.6	.4	.4
Unknown -----	.1	.4	.7	.7	.2
<b>Females</b> -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single -----	21.3	22.3	21.9	22.3	21.5
Married -----	67.2	67.7	69.3	68.2	72.3
Widowed -----	9.5	8.7	7.9	8.4	5.9
Divorced -----	1.9	1.0	.6	.6	.3
Unknown -----	.1	.3	.3	.5	.0

SOURCE: U. S. Census. *Population*, Vol. II, Tables 13-14, pp. 853-854.

proportion of widowed females increased from 5.9 percent in 1890 to 9.5 percent in 1930, and that of divorced females from .3 percent in 1890 to 1.9 percent in 1930. In the general population of the United States the proportion of widowed females has remained practically constant at about 11 percent during this period, while that of divorced females has increased from .4 percent in 1890 to 1.3 percent in 1930.

The significance of this table is that the early population of Oklahoma was composed largely of two marital groups, comparatively young families in which most of the unmarried females were daughters moving into the territories with their parents, and of unmarried men who came seeking to establish themselves economically before marriage. As the population has grown older, there has been an increase in widowed females because the men, being older than their wives, have either died more rapidly or remarried more often when widowed than widowed females, or both. The relative decline in single men is partly explained by the fact that after they established residence they took wives as fast as the young women reached marriageable age, while the tendency of the proportion of single women to remain constant is an indication that their numbers have been increased comparatively little by migration, and most of those in adult ages have grown up in families who moved to Oklahoma intact. In other words the changes in marital behavior of the adult population have been only a manifestation of a process of demographic assimilation and absorption which has been in progress since the great waves of immigration which occurred during the first two decades of the State's history began to subside and Oklahomans began to assume a settled mode of living.

**Trends in Occupational Distribution of Oklahoma Population**

One of the most important characteristics of a population group which needs to be known in studying its cultural and social evolution is the method by which it earns its living, or its occupational description. When Oklahoma was settled, agriculture was the chief source of livelihood for the people, in relative as well as in absolute terms. During the first two decades of the State's existence, agricultural production in Oklahoma expanded greatly as also did the actual number of people engaged in agriculture. However, a number of circumstances have been operative since

1910 which reduce to some extent the absolute numbers of people occupied in agriculture as well as their proportion in the total employed population. Mechanization of productive processes in agriculture and the appearance of alternative opportunities in other industries have been jointly responsible for the decline in the significance of farming as a source of employment.

**TABLE 11.—Occupational Classification of Oklahoma Population Ten Years of Age and Over as Gainfully Employed at the Time of Census Enumeration.**

Occupational classification*	NUMBERS ENGAGED IN OCCUPATIONS, CENSUS YEAR			
	1930	1920	1910	1900
All occupations -----	828,029	681,428	598,629	266,405
Agriculture -----	305,986	306,493	346,274	186,704
All non-agricultural occupations -----	522,043	374,935	252,355	79,701
Trade and transportation -----	159,510	108,258	72,502	22,411
Mfg. and mech. industries ----	105,820	104,785	66,264	15,275
Domestic and personal -----	71,119	42,398	33,985	27,400
Extractive industries -----	60,210	38,349	10,460	4,201**
Professional services -----	49,226	34,275	30,489	9,520
Miscellaneous -----	76,158	46,870	48,655	758

\*Classification made from Census Reports by John H. McClure. See his unpublished Master's Thesis, *A Study of the Composition and Characteristics of the Rural and Urban Population of Oklahoma*, 1932, p. 172, on file at Okla. Agri. and Mech. College Library.

\*\*Includes those working in mines and quarries only.

Table 11 shows the actual numbers of people 10 years of age and over who were employed in various broad occupational groups on the date of census enumeration from 1900 to 1930. The division of the population according to this classification was not attempted for two reasons. First, the population of 1890 had arrived so recently that an occupational classification made in 1890 would not have been reliable. Second, the numbers of people engaged outside of agriculture at that time was so small as to be insignificant. The data are valuable in that they furnish an idea of the physical importance of various types of occupations in the maintenance of the State's population.

**TABLE 12.—Percentage Distribution of Gainfully Employed Population of Oklahoma by Occupational Classification.**

Occupational classification*	PERCENT ENGAGED IN OCCUPATION, CENSUS YEAR			
	1930	1920	1910	1900
All occupations -----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture -----	37.0	45.0	57.8	70.1
All non-agricultural occupations	63.0	55.0	42.2	29.9
Trade and transportation -----	19.3	15.9	12.1	8.4
Mfg. and mech. industries -----	12.8	15.3	11.0	5.8
Domestic and personal -----	8.5	6.3	5.8	10.3
Extractive industries -----	7.3	5.6	1.7	1.6
Professional services -----	5.9	5.0	3.4	3.5
Miscellaneous -----	9.2	6.9	8.2	.3

\*See John H. McClure, *ibid.*, p. 173.

In Table 12, the percentages of the population gainfully employed in the different types of occupations are shown in order that changes in the relative importance of each occupational group may be seen.

In Table 12, it will be observed immediately that there has been a decline in the relative importance of agriculture as a source of employment which, despite absolute changes in the numbers of people engaged in agriculture, has been continuous. In 1900, 70.1 percent of the employed population were engaged in some form of agriculture while in 1930 the number had declined to 37 percent of the total employed population. Conversely the number of people employed in non-agricultural occupations increased from 29.9 percent to 63 percent of the total between 1900 and 1930. The occupational groups which increased regularly in relative importance during this period are trade and transportation, which increased almost two and one-half times; extractive industries, which increased almost five times; and professional services, which increased a little more than one and one-half times. The proportion of persons employed in domestic and personal services declined appreciably from 1900 to 1910, then increased slightly from 1910 to 1930.

TABLE 13.—Number of Persons in Total Population of Oklahoma for Each Worker Gainfully Employed in Specified Occupational Class.

Occupational classification*	NUMBER IN TOTAL POPULATION FOR EACH PERSON EMPLOYED IN OCCUPATION GIVEN			
	1930	1920	1910	1900
All occupations -----	2.89	2.98	2.77	2.97
Agriculture -----	7.83	5.86	4.79	4.23
All non-agricultural occupations -----	1.59	1.82	2.37	3.32
Trade and transportation -----	15.02	18.74	22.86	35.27
Mfg. and mech. industries -----	22.64	19.36	25.01	50.91
Domestic and personal -----	33.69	47.84	48.76	28.85
Extractive industries -----	39.79	52.86	158.40	188.14
Professional services -----	48.67	59.18	80.88	83.02
Miscellaneous -----	31.46	43.27	34.06	1006.87

\*See John H. McClure, *ibid.*, p. 175.

In studying occupational classifications, it is necessary to bear in mind that technologies are changing all the time, and while the census designations are kept as uniform as possible, even they must be changed. It is often impossible to follow the same census designations consecutively through several censal periods. For this reason the data on occupational changes may be only nominal. For example, a type of work which may be regarded as personal service at one time may come to be known as a profession or a business later on. A laundress doing private family laundry work may be given a different status from one working at a mangel in a commercial laundry. Hair dressers and barbers are beginning to insist that they are professionals; and hotel operators may be regarded as business men, while rooming-house keepers are considered to be engaged in personal service. Many census categories of employment are purely arbitrary, and there is no good reason why they should or should not be changed. If they are altered, it causes the subjective characteristics of the working population to appear to be modified, while objectively their socio-economic status is unchanged. This is a definite limitation of the data under discussion at this point.

A popular belief is that there has been a decline in the proportion of employed people to the total population since machinery came into wide-

spread use. While this may be true in certain highly specialized types of work it does not appear to be a general phenomenon in Oklahoma.' Table 13 has been prepared for the purpose of testing this viewpoint for Oklahoma.

In 1900 there were 2.97 persons in the general population of Oklahoma for each person employed. In 1910 the corresponding figure was 2.77 persons, in 1920 it was 2.98 persons, and in 1930 it was 2.89 persons for each individual employed. If the difference between the ratios in 1900 and 1930 be taken as the trend, the decline is only .08 persons more in the general population per employed worker in 1930 than in 1900. In view of a great increase in unemployment even before the cataclysm of 1929, it would seem that this small difference could be explained as being far more the result of economic disturbances than of technological changes. Nevertheless, tomes have been written to prove that machine progress has been at the expense of the jobs of workers. Again, it is entirely possible that the small displacement shown here could be attributed in some measure to the sudden acquisition of fortuitous wealth, the inheritance of estates, or even in 1930 to the retirement of successful business men and farmers. At any rate, the data do not prove that fewer people are working now than formerly because machines have displaced men.

In 1930 each person engaged in agriculture was producing food and other basic raw materials for 1.85 times as many non-agricultural and unemployed people as in 1900. But this means only that these additional persons are employed outside of agriculture, and that there is now a greater division of labor in all productive processes than was true in 1900. There were 3.32 persons in the general population for each worker employed in all non-agricultural industries taken together in 1900, while in 1930 the ratio had declined to 1.59 persons, a decline of slightly more than 100 percent. A decline in a given ratio means a relative increase in employment in that field. The greatest relative increase in absorption of non-agricultural labor has been in the extractive industries, which in 1930 employed about four and one-half times as great a proportion of the population as in 1900. Trade and transportation employed relatively two and one-third times as many people in 1930 as in 1900, and professional services almost twice as many, while employment in professional services experienced a slight decline relative to the general population in 1930 as compared with 1900. On the whole, the problem of employment is one of constantly making new allocations of the human in relation to all other factors in production, rather than a general decline in employment.

There is a distinct social problem in the reallocation of human materials to productive processes which arises in the division of labor between the sexes. Table 14 shows the trend in the employment of women in all industries from 1900 to 1930 for Oklahoma.

TABLE 14.—Percent Females Were of Total Gainfully Employed Population of Oklahoma at Time of Census Enumerations.\*

Year of census	Number gainfully employed	Percent females	Number in total population per female worker
1930	828,029	18.6	18.6
1920	681,428	16.1	21.4
1910	598,629	15.0	22.1
1900	266,405	9.2	35.2

\*See John H. McClure, *ibid.*, p. 177.

\*See further the writer's paper, *Will the Machine Wreck Civilization?* (Unpublished.). On file at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Library, 1934.



The data in Table 14 indicate quite clearly that women are increasingly important in industry. In 1900, only 9.2 percent of all employed persons in Oklahoma were women, while in 1930, 18.6 percent of all employees were women. In absolute terms the number of women workers increased from 22,473 in 1900 to 129,811 in 1930, or an increase of 577.6 percent, while during the same time the number of male workers increased from 243,932 to 698,218, or by only 286.2 percent. Putting the matter in still another light, in 1900 there were 35.2 persons in the general population as compared with 18.6 in 1930 for each female gainfully employed. This disproportionate increase in the employment of women is partly due to only an arbitrary definition of employment. A housewife is not registered as being gainfully employed, but domestic servants, maids in hotels, waitresses, hair dressers, and janitresses are. However, as has been seen already, there has been no marked relative increase in the numbers employed in these types of occupations. Women are working in secretarial, managerial, teaching, business, and numerous other types of employment in which they enter into direct competition with male labor; and the statistics seem to indicate that it is in the fields where women meet masculine competition that their employment has increased most rapidly.

While not *apropos* to this discussion, it may be said subjectively that female employment affects the standards of living of the population in a serious way. First, it tends to lower the common wage level because women will work for lower wages than are ordinarily paid men in the same occupation. Second, a large number of women workers are without families, and their employment displaces men with families. Third, the employment of married women is a potential source of psycho-social disruption of family life because it removes the woman from the more intimate family functions which cannot be delegated successfully to their husbands. Furthermore, the necessity for a family to subsist upon the wages of a female breadwinner induces an economic strain upon the family, for as has been said, the wages of women are usually low compared with those of men, and the per capita spendable income is generally reduced in cases in which the wife works rather than the husband. In spite of all this, there has been a disproportionate increase in the employment of women in Oklahoma up to 1930, and in all probability an even greater relative increase since 1930.

#### **Changes in Illiteracy in Oklahoma Population**

The proportion of illiteracy by no means an adequate measure of the educational advancement of a population group. However, there are no other criteria for which data can be had for the State as a whole except for a few single years. In the main, it can be assumed with justification that as the proportion of illiteracy declines, the average level of education attained by the population is rising. Furthermore, a decline in the percentage of illiteracy is indicative of increasing acculturation of the population because the ability to write necessarily implies the acquisition collaterally with it of other forms of knowledge. Thus the spread of literacy implies not only a widening of the culture base, but also an increase in the height of the culture pyramid. Unfortunately, there are no available data which indicate the proportions of the whole population who have carried their education through the grade school, the high school, and college.

In Table 15, the percentage of illiteracy among different population groups 10 years of age or over is shown for Oklahoma from 1890 to 1930. For 1890, the census division of the illiterate population is less detailed than for succeeding census years. This is not to be deplored, however, for the reason that the total population of the territory was so small, and the minor racial and national groups were smaller still, that the more minute divisions used in later years probably would not have been statistically significant.

**TABLE 15.—Percent of Illiteracy in Population of Oklahoma 10 Years of Age and Over, by Racial and National Origin.**

Racial and national groups	PERCENT ILLITERATE, CENSUS YEAR				
	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890
All groups .....	2.8	3.8	5.6	12.1	5.4
Native white of native parentage .....	1.8	2.4	3.5	8.1	} 3.4
Native white of foreign or mixed parentage .....	.9	1.2	4.3	3.1	
Foreign born white .....	5.6	14.0	9.8	10.8	6.1
Negro .....	9.3	12.4	17.7	37.0	} 39.2
Indian, Chinese, etc. ....	31.1	16.9	25.2	35.2	

SOURCES: U. S. Census, *Population*, 1930, Vol. II, pp. 131, 1255; 1920, Vol. III, p. 829; Vol. III, 1910, p. 463; 1890, Part II, p. XXXV.

At first it is striking that the proportion of illiteracy more than doubled between 1890 and 1900. There are two plausible explanations for that. First, there is an indication that a great deal of the migration which occurred during that decade was from the less highly cultured social strata. Second, this was the period of the State's history when the absorption of population was most rapid in absolute numbers, and there were few schools, churches, or other educational opportunities available for either those who immigrated during that decade or had moved in to the territory prior to that time. This was an era of social origins rather than of social assimilation in Oklahoma.

From 1900 onward the proportion of illiteracy in the total population 10 years of age and over has diminished rapidly. It was reduced by 53.7 percent between 1900 and 1910, by 34.3 percent between 1910 and 1920, and by 35.7 percent from 1920 to 1930. No doubt this has been due to improvement of school facilities, the building of roads, the provision of transportation for school children, the creation and enforcement (even if lax) of compulsory school laws, and a general widening of cultural horizons.

During the period since 1900, the proportion of illiteracy has been decreased by two-thirds in the white population of foreign and mixed parentage, and in 1930 the proportion of illiteracy in this group was only one-half as great as in the native white population of native parentage. This is explained by the fact that the mixed elements of the white population are descended from Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic stocks primarily, and that these people reside mostly in the counties of Oklahoma in which educational opportunities are far better than average for the State. In the foreign born white population illiteracy increased from 6.1 percent in 1890 to 14.0 percent in 1920, but declined to 5.6 percent in 1930. Most of the foreign born whites are either Mexicans or Southeastern Europeans whose educational advantages at home were limited. Furthermore, these people live for the most part around the coal and zinc mines and in the counties of Oklahoma which are below the average of the State in educational advancement.

The proportion of negroes who are illiterate has declined with phenomenal rapidity since 1900. At that time, 37.0 percent of those 10 years of age and over were illiterate while at present only 9.3 percent are illiterate. The support of negro education in Oklahoma, though probably inadequate even now, has not been totally neglected. From 1910 to 1930, negro children between the ages of 7 and 20 years who were attending school increased from

65.1 percent to 72.0 percent. Among the Indian population illiteracy declined from 35.2 percent in 1900 to 16.9 percent in 1920, but it had risen again to 31.1 percent in 1930. It would be only a speculation to attempt an explanation of this phenomenon, and it could not be done except at the hazard of wrongfully charging the responsibility for it either to the Indian himself or to the Federal and State governments, which would be insupportable by available facts in either case. The phenomenon may be only a difference in the adequacy of census reports as between various census years.

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

Population trends in Oklahoma represent the coordination of diverse cultural traits. Scarcely would it be possible in any state of the union to find at once greater similarities and contrasts than in Oklahoma. The population is predominately native white, born mostly outside of Oklahoma. It partakes of the nature of all the regions of the United States; and in spite of that, it has a uniqueness all its own. The State has been up to now primarily an area of absorption. In respect to nationality, the population is 98.6 percent American, and it is 87.5 percent native white. At the same time, it is composed of three distinct racial elements, which socially are impervious to each other, but in which there is constant biological mixing. In place of a bi-racial problem there is a racial triangle in Oklahoma which is highly obtuse. The white race is culturally allied with the negro, the religion, education, occupation, and politics of the two races being practically the same. The negro has almost completely forgotten his primitive culture, and has adopted that of the white man. In terms of sociability and intermarriage there is a coalescence between the whites and the Indian, but the underlying elements in their cultural and psychological heritages are as far removed from each other as the poles of the earth.

Territorially, the population of Oklahoma has shifted greatly toward the towns and cities since 1890. From 1910 onward the growth of population has been mostly an urban increase because of a tremendous rural exodus. In absolute numbers the farm population has remained almost constant, which has shifted the relative increase mostly to non-farming communities. Movements in the aggregate of the farm population have a tendency to be associated inversely with business prosperity. The more favorable business conditions are, the greater is the likelihood of an increased rural emigration. While there has been a decline in the proportion of residents of Oklahoma who were born in other states, there has been an increase in the proportion of persons born in Oklahoma but who live in other states which now exceeds the average for the United States by 5.2 percent. The explanation of this is not apparent.

Like most new agricultural areas, Oklahoma was settled by a population composed predominantly by males and comparatively young people. In recent years there has been an increasing tendency toward a balance in the age and sex ratios of the population. However, it will be sometime yet before an equilibrium can be established in either of these two characteristics if the present rate of change continues. In racial composition, there is a tendency for the population to become increasingly white. Foreign born population has never been statistically important in Oklahoma. The negro population is at a standstill in relation to the total, if not actually declining in relative importance. The Indian population is in danger of utter extinction as a distinct group through the operation of demographic processes. Miscegenation of Indians and whites is proceeding rapidly, and the remaining Indian population is regarded as being almost stationary.

In marital condition there is a slowly approaching equilibrium between the sexes, especially among those who have been married. However, the proportion of marriageable males who have never married is about one and

one-half times as great as that of marriageable women. In 1890 there were twice as many marriageable men as women in the population. Widowhood of females has increased rapidly, while among males it has remained almost constant. The proportionate increase in divorce has been about 400 percent for males and 600 percent for females since 1890. This is believed to be in a large measure lost motion in the process of cultural assimilation, although divorce has increased rapidly throughout the entire country during this same time.

The principal trends in occupational distribution of the population since 1890 have been a relative decline in the significance of agriculture as a means of employment, and a compensating increase in the relative importance of non-agricultural occupations. Business, professions, and extractive industries have emerged in large proportions. There was, up to 1930 and possibly after, an increase in the proportion of females among the employed population which threatens to assume a geometric configuration. Education has advanced in the lower cultural strata of the population probably with greater rapidity than in the upper strata, due to increase in public support of schools and other political policies which have tended all the time to broaden the scope of public services and to equalize opportunities as between social classes.

Judging the future by the present, it appears likely that in the near future the dynamic, restless, surging forces behind the population movements in Oklahoma will have begun to lose their momentum. It is apparent that the tide of immigration has been checked already, and an exodus from the State is proceeding rapidly. Future increases in the population will depend more and more upon vital processes. One of the chief causes of concern is the disparity between the sexes, which not only is a factor retarding natural increase but also one which induces a heavy strain upon the family institution itself. Technological changes have reduced employment but little on the whole, but economic conditions have been out of balance for a long time. Oklahoma has depended far too much upon booms and rushes to give impetus to its industry. In the light of what can be seen now, Oklahoma over-built itself in the beginning. Villages expected to become cities, and cities hoped to be metropolises. At the present time Oklahoma is faced with the necessity of ceasing to grow and taking a little time to ripen. The results of an exaggerated optimism are beginning to be felt while the State has to perform the difficult tasks incidental to digesting and assimilating the enormous intake it has received during the past four decades and forging all these factors into a secure civilization.

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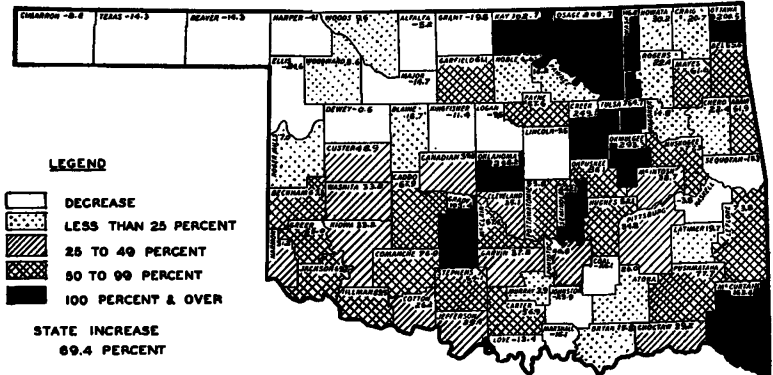
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APPENDIX

The accompanying appendix table comprises all the existing official information on total population changes in Oklahoma by counties from 1907 to 1930. Prior to 1907 only a few of the present counties of the State had been organized. Since that time, there have been numerous changes in the boundaries of the counties for which corrections in making this table have been impossible. However, corrections and adjustments have been made in cases in which new counties have been formed and in which whole townships have been transferred from the jurisdiction of one county to that of another.

The purpose of this table is to make available in convenient form a compact summary of the growth of population in Oklahoma by counties since the State was organized. These data, it is believed, will serve a highly useful function as a ready reference for persons interested in the State's growth but who do not have direct access to the regular United States census volumes.

Percentage Increase in Oklahoma Population by Counties, 1907 to 1930.



Data from which this map was made are given in the Appendix table. Corrections have been made for changes in county lines in all cases for which census information was available.



**APPENDIX**  
**Growth of Population in Oklahoma From 1907 to 1930 by Counties.**

County	Popula- tion 1907 (1)	Density 1907 (2)	Popula- tion 1910 (1)	Density 1910 (2)	Percent increase 1907-10 (3)	Popula- tion 1920 (1)	Density 1920 (2)	Percent increase 1910-20 (3)	Popula- tion 1930 (1)	Density 1930 (2)	Percent increase 1920-30 (3)	Percent increase 1907-30 (2)	Density increase 1907-30 (2)
State, total	1,414,177	20.4	1,657,155	23.9	17.2	2,028,283	29.2	22.4	2,396,040	34.5	18.1	69.4	14.1
Adair	9,115	15.6	10,535	18.0	15.6	13,703	23.5	30.1	14,756	25.3	7.7	61.9	9.7
Alfalfa	16,070	18.5	18,138	20.9	12.9	16,253	18.7	-10.4	15,228	17.6	-6.3	-5.2	-0.9
Atoka	12,113	12.1	13,808	13.8	14.0	20,862	20.9	51.1	14,533	14.6	-30.3	20.0	2.5
Beaver	13,364	7.4	13,631	7.5	2.0	14,048	7.7	3.1	11,452	6.3	-18.5	-41.3	-1.1
Beckham	17,758	19.4	19,699	21.5	10.9	18,989	20.7	-3.6	28,991	31.6	52.7	63.3	12.2
Blaine	17,227	18.5	17,960	19.3	4.3	15,875	17.1	-11.6	20,452	22.0	28.8	18.7	3.5
Bryan	27,865	30.0	29,854	32.2	7.1	40,700	43.9	36.3	32,277	34.8	-20.7	15.8	4.8
Caddo	30,241	22.0	35,685	25.9	18.0	34,207	26.5	-4.1	50,779	39.4	48.4	67.9	17.4
Canadian	20,110	22.6	23,501	26.4	16.9	22,288	25.0	-5.2	28,115	31.6	26.1	39.8	9.0
Carter	26,402	31.8	25,358	30.5	-4.0	40,247	48.4	58.7	41,419	49.8	2.9	56.9	18.0
Cherokee	14,274	18.0	16,778	21.2	17.5	19,872	25.1	18.4	17,470	22.7	-12.1	22.4	4.7
Choctaw	17,340	21.9	21,862	27.7	26.1	32,144	40.7	47.0	24,142	30.6	-24.9	39.2	8.7
Cimarron	5,927	3.2	4,553	2.5	-23.2	3,436	1.9	-24.5	5,408	2.9	57.4	-8.8	-0.3
Cleveland	18,460	33.3	18,843	34.0	2.1	19,389	35.0	2.9	24,948	45.0	28.7	35.1	11.7
Coal	15,585	29.7	15,817	30.1	1.5	18,406	35.1	16.4	11,521	21.9	-37.4	-26.1	-7.8
Comanche*	19,500	17.8	25,067	22.9	28.5	26,629	24.3	6.2	34,317	31.3	28.9	76.0	13.5
Cotton*	12,238	19.4	16,422	26.1	34.2	16,679	26.5	1.6	15,442	24.5	-7.4	26.2	5.1
Craig	14,955	19.8	17,404	23.0	16.4	19,160	25.3	10.1	18,052	23.8	-5.8	20.7	4.0
Creek	18,365	19.1	26,223	27.3	42.8	62,480	64.9	138.3	64,115	66.6	2.6	249.1	47.5
Custer	18,478	18.5	23,231	23.3	25.7	18,736	18.8	-19.3	27,517	27.6	46.9	48.9	9.1
Delaware	9,876	12.4	11,469	14.4	16.1	13,868	17.5	20.9	15,370	19.4	10.8	55.6	7.0
Dewey	13,329	13.5	14,132	14.3	6.0	12,434	12.6	-12.0	13,250	13.4	6.6	-0.6	-0.1
Ellis	13,978	11.5	15,375	12.6	10.0	11,673	9.6	-24.1	10,541	8.7	-9.7	-24.6	-2.8
Garfield	28,300	26.7	33,050	31.1	16.8	37,500	35.3	13.5	45,588	43.0	21.6	61.1	16.3
Garvin	22,787	27.8	26,545	32.3	16.5	32,445	39.5	22.2	31,401	38.2	-3.2	37.8	10.4



<b>Grady</b>	<b>23,420</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>30,309</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>33,943</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>47,638</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>103.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>Grant</b>	<b>17,638</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>18,760</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>16,072</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>-14.3</b>	<b>14,150</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>-12.0</b>	<b>-19.8</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Greer*</b>	<b>13,083</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>16,449</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>15,836</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>20,282</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>Harmon*</b>	<b>10,541</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>11,328</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>11,261</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>13,634</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Harper</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>8,189</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7,623</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>7,761</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Haskell</b>	<b>16,865</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>18,875</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>19,397</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>16,216</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>-16.4</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Hughes</b>	<b>19,945</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>24,040</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>26,045</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>30,334</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>15.1</b>
<b>Jackson</b>	<b>17,087</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>23,737</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>22,141</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>28,910</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>13,439</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>17,430</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>17,392</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Johnston</b>	<b>18,672</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>16,734</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>20,125</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>13,082</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>-35.0</b>	<b>-29.9</b>	<b>-8.5</b>
<b>Kay</b>	<b>24,757</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>26,999</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>34,907</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>50,186</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>27.2</b>
<b>Kingfisher</b>	<b>18,010</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>18,825</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>15,671</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>15,960</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>-11.4</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Kiowa</b>	<b>22,247</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>27,526</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>23,094</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>-16.1</b>	<b>29,630</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Latimer</b>	<b>9,340</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>11,321</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>13,866</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>11,184</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>-19.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>LeFlore</b>	<b>24,678</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>29,127</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>42,765</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>42,896</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>37,293</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>34,779</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>33,406</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>33,738</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
<b>Logan</b>	<b>30,711</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>31,740</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>27,550</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>27,761</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-9.6</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
<b>Love</b>	<b>11,134</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>10,236</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	<b>12,433</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>9,639</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>-22.5</b>	<b>-13.4</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
<b>McClain</b>	<b>12,888</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>15,659</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>19,326</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>21,575</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>McCurtain</b>	<b>13,198</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>20,661</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>37,905</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>34,759</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>-8.3</b>	<b>163.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>McIntosh</b>	<b>17,975</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>20,961</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>26,404</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>24,924</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Major</b>	<b>14,307</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15,248</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>12,426</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>-18.5</b>	<b>12,206</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Marshall</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>11,619</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>-11.6</b>	<b>14,674</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>11,026</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>-24.9</b>	<b>-16.1</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
<b>Mayes</b>	<b>11,064</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>13,596</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>16,829</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>17,883</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>
<b>Murray</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>12,744</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>13,115</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>12,410</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Muskogee</b>	<b>37,467</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>52,743</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>61,710</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>66,424</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Noble</b>	<b>14,198</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>14,945</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>13,560</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>15,139</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Nowata</b>	<b>10,453</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>14,223</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>15,899</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>13,611</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>-14.4</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Okfuskee</b>	<b>15,595</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>19,995</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>25,051</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>29,016</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>21.2</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>55,849</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>85,232</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>116,307</b>	<b>162.2</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>221,738</b>	<b>309.3</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>298.2</b>	<b>231.4</b>

## APPENDIX—(Continued)

County	Popu- lation 1907 (1)	Density 1907 (2)	Popu- lation 1910 (1)	Density 1910 (3)	Percent increase 1907-10 (3)	Popu- lation 1920 (1)	Density 1920 (4)	Percent increase 1910-20 (4)	Popu- lation 1930 (5)	Density 1930 (6)	Percent increase 1920-30 (5)	Percent increase 1907-30 (2)	Density increase 1907-30 (2)
Okmulgee	14,362	21.2	21,115	31.1	47.0	55,072	79.0	160.8	56,558	81.1	2.7	293.8	59.9
Osage	15,332	6.7	20,101	8.8	31.1	36,536	16.0	81.8	47,334	20.8	29.6	208.7	14.1
Ottawa	12,827	26.9	15,713	32.9	22.5	41,108	86.2	161.6	38,542	80.8	-6.2	200.5	53.9
Pawnee	17,112	29.3	17,332	29.7	1.3	19,126	32.8	10.4	19,882	34.0	4.0	16.2	4.7
Payne	22,022	32.5	23,735	35.0	7.8	30,180	44.5	27.2	36,905	54.4	22.3	67.6	21.9
Pittsburg	37,677	27.5	47,650	34.8	26.5	52,570	38.4	10.3	50,778	37.1	-3.4	34.8	9.6
Pontotoc	23,057	31.7	24,331	33.4	5.5	30,949	42.5	27.2	32,469	44.6	4.9	40.8	12.9
Pottawatomie	43,272	54.6	43,595	55.0	0.7	46,028	58.0	5.6	66,572	83.9	44.6	53.8	29.3
Pushmataha	8,295	5.8	10,118	7.1	22.0	17,514	12.2	73.1	14,744	10.3	-15.8	77.7	4.5
Roger Mills	13,239	11.7	12,861	11.3	-2.9	10,638	9.4	-17.3	14,164	12.5	33.1	7.0	0.8
Rogers	15,485	21.5	17,736	24.3	14.5	17,605	24.8	-0.7	18,956	26.7	7.7	22.4	5.2
Seminole	14,687	23.2	19,964	31.5	35.9	23,808	37.6	19.3	79,621	125.8	234.4	442.1	102.6
Sequoyah	22,499	32.5	25,005	36.1	11.1	26,786	36.7	7.1	19,505	28.1	-27.2	-13.3	-4.4
Stephens	20,148	22.5	22,252	24.8	10.4	24,692	27.5	11.0	33,069	36.9	33.9	64.1	14.4
Texas	16,448	8.0	14,249	6.9	-13.4	13,975	6.8	-1.9	14,100	6.8	0.9	-14.3	-1.2
Tillman	12,869	17.6	18,650	25.4	44.9	22,433	26.4	20.3	24,390	28.2	8.7	89.5	10.6
Tulsa	21,693	38.4	34,995	61.9	61.3	109,023	186.4	211.5	187,574	320.6	72.0	764.7	282.2
Wagoner	19,529	35.8	22,086	40.5	13.1	21,371	39.2	-3.2	22,428	39.7	4.9	14.8	3.9
Washington	12,813	30.1	17,484	41.1	36.5	27,002	63.5	54.4	27,777	65.4	2.9	116.8	35.3
Washita	22,007	21.9	25,034	24.9	13.8	22,237	22.1	-11.2	29,435	29.3	32.4	33.8	7.4
Woods	15,517	12.4	17,567	14.0	13.2	15,939	12.7	-9.3	17,005	13.5	6.7	9.6	1.1
Woodward	14,595	11.8	16,592	13.5	13.7	14,663	11.9	-11.6	15,844	12.8	8.1	8.6	1.0

\*Population for Comanche and Cotton counties apportioned from Comanche county for 1907 and 1910. Population for Greer and Harmon counties apportioned from Greer county for 1907. Cotton county was organized from part of Comanche county in 1912. Harmon county was organized from part of Greer county in 1909.

<sup>1</sup>United States Census, State Compendium—Oklahoma, 1920, Table 2.

<sup>2</sup>Calculated.

<sup>3</sup>United States Census, Vol. III, 1910, Oklahoma, Table 1.

<sup>4</sup>United States Census, State Compendium—Oklahoma, 1920, Table 1.

<sup>5</sup>United States Census, Population, Vol. I, 1930, Oklahoma, Table 3, pp. 879-880.