



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Pamphlet: The Color Line Series No. 2: 5,000,000 Jobs: The Negro at Work in the United States

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I.

POPULATION

Three significant changes have taken place in the population shift of Negroes in the United States:

General Changes

(1) For the past 110 years the per cent of Negroes in the total population has been gradually decreasing. In 1810 they formed 19.0 per cent of the population, and in 1930 they were only 9.7 per cent of the population.

(2) While this decrease in their relative numbers has taken place, their actual numbers increased between 1920 and 1930 by 13.6 per cent, or 1,428,012, the largest gain on record. Compared with the previous decade, when the increase was 6.5 per cent, the 1920-1930 record represents a gain of more than 100 per cent. During this same period the percentage increase for whites declined. The table below indicates white and Negro population changes from 1790 to 1930.

TABLE I.

WHITE AND NEGRO POPULATION of THE UNITED STATES 1790-1930

[[6 Column Table]]

Year	NUMBER White	NUMBER Negro	Per Cent Increase White	Per Cent Increase Negro	Per Cent White in Population	Per Cent Negro in Population
1930	108,864,207	11,891,143	14.8	13.6	9.7	9.7
1920	94,820,915	10,463,131	16.0	6.5	9.9	9.9
1910	81,731,957	9,827,763	22.3	11.2	10.7	10.7
1900	66,809,196	8,833,994	21.2	18.0	11.6	11.6
1890	55,101,258	7,488,676	27.0	13.8	11.9	11.9

Nine

1

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