

(from the 1857 Texas Almanac)

UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1850

Population. — The United States census of 1850 gave Texas a total population of 212,592, of which 154,034 were white, and 58,558 colored. There were on the 1st of June, 1850, 7 paupers in Texas, and 6 criminals imprisoned in the county jails, the Penitentiary not being open at that time. Of the total population in 1850, 7,327 were engaged in manufactures, commerce and trade, 25,299 in agriculture, 6,194 in labor not agriculture, 584 in the army, 321 in sea and river navigation, 1,368 in the professions of law, medicine, and divinity, 996 in other pursuits requiring learning, 677 in the Government civil service, and 90 in other occupations. 137,050 of the total population were born in the United States, and 16,774 were of foreign birth.

Plantations. — In 1850 there were in Texas, 12,198 plantations, embracing 643,976 acres of improved land, against 10,852,363 acres unimproved. The farms averaged 952 acres each, valued at an average of \$1,533 each, including farming implements. Of the whole number of plantations 2,262 raised cotton, and 165 were devoted to sugar.

Real Estate. — The gross value of real estate returned in 1850 was 28,149,671 dollars, and of personal estate 25,417,000, making a total of 53,563,671 dollars. The total revenue of the State, per annum, was 140,688 dollars, and the expenditures 156,622 dollars.

Newspapers. — Five tri-weekly and 29 weekly papers were printed in Texas, in 1850, with an aggregate circulation of 771,524 copies, annually.

Churches. — There were 328 churches in Texas, in 1850, with an aggregate capacity for accommodating 64,000 persons. Of these churches, 70 were Baptist, 5 Christian, 5 Episcopal, 7 Free, 173 Methodist, 47 Presbyterian, 13 Roman Catholic, 2 Union, and 6 of other minor sects. The total value of church property was 206,930 dollars.

Navigation. — The shore line of the rivers of Texas, to the head of tide water navigation, embraces 1,210 miles; i.e., the distances from the coast on all Texas rivers where navigation for steamers is permanent. The shore line of Texas, including bays, islands and all irregularities is 1,330 miles, and exclusive, on the continent line, 392 miles. The distance from Boston to Galveston is 2,256 miles.

POPULATION OF TEXAS

Of course, we have no reliable data by which to estimate the population of this State since the last census taken by the United States authorities. Our most correct data is probably the vote of the people at our general elections. The total vote given to all the candidates for Governor at any one election, is doubtless our best guide.

The aggregate vote for Governor in 1851 was	-	-	28,309
“ “ “ 1853 was	-	-	36,152
“ “ “ 1855 was	-	-	45,412

The 45,412 votes, given for Governor at the last election, is shown as follows:

Governor Pease received	-	-	-	-	26,336
D. C. Dickson	“	-	-	-	17,965
G. T. Wood	“	-	-	-	276
M. T. Johnson	“	-	-	-	809
Scattering,	-	-	-	-	26
					45,412
Total,	-	-	-	-	45,412

If we assume that 10 per cent of the legal voters neglected to vote, (which is probably near the truth,) the actual number of voters at the last election will be increased to about 50,000, and the actual vote of 1857 will probably amount to fully 60,000, and by adding 10 per cent for those not voting, we shall then have a voting population of near 70,000. The increased vote of 1855 over 1853 was 28 per cent. All who had not been in the State one year could not vote; and therefore the vote of 1855 only consisted of those who were in the State in August, 1854. If we assume, what is probably near the truth, that there are eight inhabitants in the State for every legal voter, our present population cannot be much short of 500,000.

We should be glad to give the population of our principal cities, but can find no reliable data to enable us to do so. We understand that the census of Austin was recently taken, showing a population of over 3,000 within the city limits, and, including the out lots, of about 5,000.

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