

Figure 2-8.

Ten Largest Cities in the United States: 1790 to 2010

(Numbers in thousands. Includes towns and other urban places. See Chapter 1 text)



1790		1800		1810		1820	
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY
2	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
3	Boston, MA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
4	Charleston, SC	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA
5	Baltimore, MD	Charleston, SC	Charleston, SC	Charleston, SC	Charleston, SC	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans, LA
6	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA	Charleston, SC	Charleston, SC
7	Salem, MA	Southwark, PA	Southwark, PA	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans, LA	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA
8	Newport, RI	Salem, MA	Salem, MA	Southwark, PA	Southwark, PA	Southwark, PA	Southwark, PA
9	Providence, RI	Providence, RI	Providence, RI	Salem, MA	Salem, MA	Washington, DC	Washington, DC
10	(two places) ¹	Norfolk, VA	Norfolk, VA	Albany, NY	Albany, NY	Salem, MA	Salem, MA
33		61		96		124	
29		41		54		64	
18		27		47		63	
16		25		34		43	
14		19		25		27	
10		11		20		25	
8		10		17		20	
7		9		14		15	
6		8		13		13	
6		7		11		13	
1830		1840		1850		1860	
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY
2	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
3	Philadelphia, PA	New Orleans, LA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY
4	Boston, MA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
5	New Orleans, LA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	New Orleans, LA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA
6	Charleston, SC	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans, LA
7	N. Liberties, PA	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH
8	Cincinnati, OH	N. Liberties, PA	N. Liberties, PA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO
9	Albany, NY	Albany, NY	Spring Garden, PA	Spring Garden, PA	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL
10	Southwark, PA	Charleston, SC	Charleston, SC	Albany, NY	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo, NY
203		313		516		814	
81		102		169		566	
80		102		137		267	
61		94		121		212	
46		93		116		178	
30		46		115		169	
29		36		97		161	
25		34		78		161	
24		34		59		112	
21		29		51		81	
1870		1880		1890		1900	
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY
2	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL
3	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
4	St. Louis, MO	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Brooklyn, NY	Brooklyn, NY	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO
5	Chicago, IL	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	Boston, MA	Boston, MA
6	Baltimore, MD	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
7	Boston, MA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH
8	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA	Buffalo, NY	Buffalo, NY
9	New Orleans, LA	San Francisco, CA	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco, CA
10	San Francisco, CA	New Orleans, LA	New Orleans, LA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Cincinnati, OH	Cincinnati, OH
942		1,206		1,515		3,437	
674		847		1,100		1,699	
396		567		1,047		1,294	
311		503		806		575	
299		363		452		561	
267		351		448		509	
251		332		434		382	
216		255		299		352	
191		234		297		343	
149		216		261		326	
1910		1920		1930		1940	
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY
2	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL
3	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
4	St. Louis, MO	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI
5	Boston, MA	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA
6	Cleveland, OH	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH
7	Baltimore, MD	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
8	Pittsburgh, PA	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO
9	Detroit, MI	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Boston, MA
10	Buffalo, NY	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA
4,767		5,620		6,930		7,455	
2,185		2,702		3,376		3,397	
1,549		1,824		1,951		1,931	
687		993		1,569		1,623	
671		797		1,238		1,504	
561		773		900		878	
558		748		822		859	
534		734		805		816	
466		588		781		771	
424		577		670		672	
1950		1960		1970		1980	
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY
2	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL
3	Philadelphia, PA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA
4	Los Angeles, CA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA
5	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	Houston, TX	Houston, TX
6	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Houston, TX	Houston, TX	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI
7	Cleveland, OH	Houston, TX	Houston, TX	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD	Dallas, TX	Dallas, TX
8	St. Louis, MO	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Dallas, TX	Dallas, TX	San Diego, CA	San Diego, CA
9	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	Washington, DC	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix, AZ
10	Boston, MA	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis, MO	Cleveland, OH	Cleveland, OH	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
7,892		7,782		7,895		7,072	
3,621		3,550		3,367		3,005	
2,072		2,479		2,816		2,967	
1,970		2,003		1,949		1,688	
1,850		1,670		1,511		1,595	
950		939		1,233		1,203	
915		938		906		904	
857		876		844		876	
802		764		757		790	
801		750		751		787	
1990		2000		2010			
1	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY	New York, NY		
2	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles, CA		
3	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL	Chicago, IL		
4	Houston, TX	Houston, TX	Houston, TX	Houston, TX	Houston, TX		
5	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia, PA		
6	San Diego, CA	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix, AZ	Phoenix, AZ		
7	Detroit, MI	San Diego, CA	San Diego, CA	San Antonio, TX	San Antonio, TX		
8	Dallas, TX	Dallas, TX	Dallas, TX	San Diego, CA	San Diego, CA		
9	Phoenix, AZ	San Antonio, TX	San Antonio, TX	Dallas, TX	Dallas, TX		
10	San Antonio, TX	Detroit, MI	Detroit, MI	San Jose, CA	San Jose, CA		
7,323		8,008		8,175			
3,485		3,695		3,793			
2,784		2,896		2,696			
1,631		1,954		2,099			
1,586		1,518		1,526			
1,111		1,321		1,446			
1,028		1,223		1,327			
1,007		1,189		1,307			
983		1,145		1,198			
936		951		946			

¹ Marblehead, MA and Southwark, PA (each with a population of 5,661)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census publications, and Campbell Gibson (1998), "Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States, U.S. Bureau of the Census," Population Division Working Paper No. 56. See www.demographicchartbook.com, References.

Copyright © 2013 by Campbell Gibson. Graphics may be copied for personal use or for educational purposes, but may not be sold.