

Abstract of the  
Twelfth Census  
1900

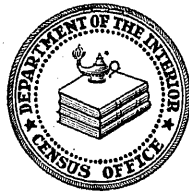
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United States Census Office  
William R. Merriam, Director

Abstract  
of

The Twelfth Census  
of the  
United States

1900



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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

HON. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM,  
*Director of the Census.*

SIR: The committee appointed by your order of June 13, 1902, to prepare the "Abstract of the Twelfth Census" have the honor herewith to submit their report.

The Abstract is an epitome or digest of the contents of the ten volumes of the Twelfth Census, and is designed for the use of the general public who may not have access to the main volumes or may find this digest more convenient for ready reference. For this purpose the volume should be small; the information should be presented in tables because an item of information is found far more easily in a table than in text; and the tables should be arranged in a simple, orderly way so that any table wanted may be found without delay. We have endeavored to make the present volume fulfill these requirements.

This Abstract conforms in the main to the one prepared for the Eleventh Census. The present volume, however, contains no sections upon fisheries, mineral industries, transportation, insurance, wealth, debt and taxation, real estate mortgages, education, churches, insane, feeble-minded, deaf and dumb and blind, or crime, pauperism and benevolence. Reports on these subjects are not yet available, because in accordance with the requirements of the act providing for the Twelfth Census all special inquiries were postponed until the main reports were completed. Future editions of the Abstract may incorporate their results.

The Abstract is divided into four parts, Population, Mortality, Agriculture, and Manufactures, corresponding to the four main lines of inquiry ordered by the census act of March 3, 1899.

In each part the first series of tables is for the largest area, the second series is for the states and territories, the third for the cities, the order being thus, as a rule, that from the greater to the less. For obvious reasons, in the part relating to agriculture, the series of tables for cities is lacking.

The area, to which the first series of tables for population, agriculture, and manufactures relates, is continental United States, by which is meant that part of the United States lying on the continent of North America south of the Canadian boundary. It thus excludes Alaska and the recent insular accessions of Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippine Islands, Guam, Samoa, and, if it be a part of the United States, the Isle of Pines. As all this territory except Alaska has been acquired since 1890, as the Twelfth Census covers no part of it except Alaska and Hawaii, and as it comprises populations living under peculiar conditions and having distinctive characteristics, it has been deemed best to confine the first series of tables, with one exception (Table 1), to the area comprised in continental United States, and not to attempt to cover either the entire United States, for which we have practically no statistical information, or the area covered by the Twelfth Census, which includes Alaska, Hawaii, and the military and naval stations outside continental United States. However, in the second series of tables, those for states and territories, the figures for Alaska, Hawaii, and the military and naval stations are given, but at the end of the table rather than in one alphabetical series with the states and territories of continental United States. The latter is divided geographically into five divisions, which, with the states and territories included under them, are as follows:



*Letter of Transmittal.*

## NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.

Maine.	Massachusetts.	New York.
New Hampshire.	Rhode Island.	New Jersey.
Vermont.	Connecticut.	Pennsylvania.

## SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION.

Delaware.	Virginia.	South Carolina.
Maryland.	West Virginia.	Georgia.
District of Columbia.	North Carolina.	Florida.

## NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION.

Ohio.	Wisconsin.	North Dakota.
Indiana.	Minnesota.	South Dakota.
Illinois.	Iowa.	Nebraska.
Michigan.	Missouri.	Kansas.

## SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION.

Kentucky.	Mississippi.	Indian Territory.
Tennessee.	Louisiana.	Oklahoma.
Alabama.	Arkansas.	Texas.

## WESTERN DIVISION.

Montana.	New Mexico.	Washington.
Idaho.	Arizona.	Oregon.
Wyoming.	Utah.	California.
Colorado.	Nevada.	

These five groups have been placed at the head of each table for states and territories directly under continental United States.

Census statistics for 1900 relate either to the census day—June 1, 1900—or to the census year—June 1, 1899, to May 31, 1900, inclusive—except that crop statistics are reported for the crop year, 1899, and all manufacturing statistics for the business year most nearly conforming, in each case, to the census year.

This Abstract differs from that of the Eleventh Census in reproducing the figures for the Twelfth Census with much greater completeness than those for the Eleventh Census were reproduced in the previous Abstract. No small part of the additional pages required for these extensions has been gained by the exclusion of figures for earlier censuses from all tables except those for continental United States. This exclusion is due to our belief that detailed figures of censuses prior to 1890 are less desired by the majority of persons who will use the Abstract than approximately complete figures for 1900, or at most for 1890 and 1900, the two together indicating present conditions and the amount and direction of changes now in progress.

At the head of each table a reference in brackets is given to the volume and page of the extended Census Reports from which the figures have been drawn. If information regarding the subject is desired in greater detail or for smaller territorial subdivisions, it may usually be found at or immediately following the place referred to. The Abstract will thus serve to a degree as a classified index of the ten quarto volumes of figures and interpretations constituting the Twelfth Census of the United States.

The Census Office often finds it necessary to give to words, which in ordinary speech have a vague and indefinite meaning, a more exact and precise signification. In so doing, the popular interpretation, while always the basis of the definitions, is often

narrowed or widened to meet special requirements. For example, ordinary speech does not regard a canal boat or hotel as a dwelling, a person living alone as a family, or a greenhouse requiring for its care the entire time of at least one person as a farm; yet in each of these instances the Census Office finds itself obliged thus to widen the popular definition. That the special meaning assigned to such words or phrases may be made clear, a glossary is provided (pages 387 to 389) which contains the definition of all terms employed in the Abstract in an unusual or technical sense.

On pages 391 to 395 will be found a list of all publications of the Census Office designed for distribution. While the large quarto volumes are printed in small editions and can not be freely supplied, any person desiring special information can often find in the list of publications a bulletin on the subject he is investigating. If copies of the bulletin are on hand, they can be obtained by addressing a request to the Census Office.

We desire to express our obligation to our colleagues, Mr. W. C. Hunt, Mr. W. A. King, and Mr. L. G. Powers for important and helpful suggestions regarding the matter to be included in the Abstract, and to Mr. W. B. Hunter for efficient supervision of the details of its preparation.

Yours respectfully,

S. N. D. NORTH,  
WALTER F. WILLCOX,  
HENRY GANNETT,  
*Committee.*

UNITED STATES CENSUS OFFICE,  
*Washington, D. C., November 1, 1902.*