

Immigration Review (from Wikipedia.org, emphasis and notes by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School)

The original **United States Naturalization Law of 1790** limited naturalization to immigrants who were free white persons of good character. It thus excluded American Indians, indentured servants, slaves, free blacks, and Asians. It also provided for citizenship for the children of U.S. citizens born abroad, but specified that the right of citizenship did "not descend to persons whose fathers have never been resident in the United States". It specifies that such children "shall be considered as natural born citizens" -- the only U.S. statute to ever use the term "natural born citizen." The Act of 1790 was superseded by the **Naturalization Act of 1795**, which extended the residence requirement to five years, and by the **Naturalization Act of 1798**, which extended it to 14 years. [Alien Acts... John Adams attempt to secure national interest during quasi-war with France... The **Alien Friends Act** allowed the president to imprison or deport aliens considered "dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States" at any time, while the **Alien Enemies Act** authorized the president to do the same to any male citizen of a hostile nation, above the age of 14, during times of war.] The 1798 act was **repealed by the Naturalization Law of 1802**. [Jefferson repealing Adams]

There was relatively little immigration from 1770 to 1830; indeed there was significant emigration to **Canada**, including about 75,000 **Loyalists** as well as **Germans** and other looking for better farms in what is now **Ontario**. **Large scale immigration resumed in the 1830s from Britain, Ireland, Germany and other parts of Central Europe as well as Scandinavia**. Most were attracted by the cheap farm land. Some were artisans and skilled factory workers attracted by the first stage of industrialization. The **Irish Catholics** were unskilled workers who built most of the canals and railroads, and settled in urban areas. Many Irish went to the emerging textile mill towns of the Northeast, while others became longshoremen in the growing Atlantic and Gulf port cities. Half the **Germans** headed to farms, especially in the Midwest (with some to Texas... New Braunfels founded in 1845), while the other half became craftsmen in urban areas.

(Drawing of German immigrants heading to Texas)



Nativism took the form of political anti-Catholicism directed mostly at the Irish (as well as Germans). It became important briefly in the mid-1850s in the guise of the **Know Nothing party**.

Between 1831 and 1840, immigration more than quadrupled to a total of 599,000. These included about 207,000 **Irish**, starting to emigrate in large numbers following Britain's easing of travel restrictions, and about 152,000 **Germans**, 76,000 **British**, and 46,000 **French**, constituting the next largest immigrant groups of the decade. Between 1841 and 1850, immigration nearly tripled again, totaling 1,713,000 immigrants, including at least 781,000 **Irish**, 435,000 **Germans**, 267,000 **British** and 77,000 **French** immigrants. The Irish, with the **Potato Famine** (1845–1849) driving them, emigrated directly from their homeland to escape poverty and death. The failed revolutions of 1848 brought many intellectuals and activists to exile in the U.S. **Bad times and poor conditions in Europe drove people out, while land, relatives, freedom, opportunity, and jobs in the US lured them in.**

Though conducted since 1790, **the census of 1850** was the first in which place of birth was specially asked. The foreign-born population in the U.S. likely reached its minimum around 1815, at approximately 100,000 or 1.4% of the population. By 1815, most of the immigrants who arrived before the American Revolution had died, and there had been almost no new immigration. **Nearly all population growth up to 1830 was by internal increase**; about **98.5% of the population was native-born**. By 1850, this had shifted to about 90% native-born. The first significant Catholic immigration started in the mid-1840s, shifting the population from about 95% Protestant down to about 90% by 1850.

| Population and Foreign Born 1790 to 1849 Census Population, Immigrants per Decade | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Census | Population | Immigrants ¹ | Foreign Born | % |
| 1790 | 3,918,000 | 60,000 | | |
| 1800 | 5,236,000 | 60,000 | | |
| 1810 | 7,036,000 | 60,000 | | |
| 1820 | 10,086,000 | 60,000 | | |
| 1830 | 12,785,000 | 143,000 | 200,000 ² | 1.6% |
| 1840 | 17,018,000 | 599,000 | 800,000 ² | 4.7% |
| 1850 | 23,054,000 | 1,713,000 | 2,244,000 | 9.7% |

1. The total number immigrating in each decade from 1790 to 1820 are estimates.
2. The number foreign born in 1830 and 1840 decades are extrapolations.

In 1848, the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, concluding the **Mexican War**, extended U.S. citizenship to approximately 60,000 **Mexican** residents of the New Mexico Territory and 10,000 living in California. An additional approximate 2,500 foreign born **California** residents also become U.S. citizens.

In 1849, the **California Gold Rush** brought in over 100,000 would-be miners from the eastern U.S., **Latin America, China, Australia, and Europe**. California became a state in 1850 with a population of about 90,000.