

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
POPULATION OF MARYLAND



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
OF THE
BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
POPULATION OF MARYLAND

BY

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MARYLAND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

OF THE

BALTIMORE ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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Foreword.

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The Maryland Development Bureau of the Baltimore Association of Commerce was established in 1930 through the cooperation of the State Government of Maryland.

General Purpose - To promote a more intensive development of the natural resources of Maryland - farms, timber lands, fisheries, mineral deposits - and of the State's manufacturing industry.

General Functions - To conduct a comprehensive economic survey of Maryland - To inaugurate measures designed to accomplish a greater and more intensive development of the State's natural resources - To serve as a clearing-house for complete and accurate information regarding the State.

Scope of Survey - Among the subjects being treated in this survey are the following: Natural conditions having a bearing on State development, human activities, living and working conditions; population; agricultural, mineral, timber and fishery resources; industrial development and opportunities for further industrial expansion throughout the State; transportation; public utilities; commerce; government - State, county and municipal; tax conditions as affecting State development; real property; labor; water; education; resorts and recreational development; wealth, income and general standards of living; the nature of the conflict of interest as well as the interrelationship existing between town and country.

The Bureau is now actively engaged in the conduct of the Survey, the results of which are expected to form a sound basis for the correctional, promotional and developmental work which will be undertaken later. Survey reports covering the subjects mentioned above will be issued by the Bureau from time to time.

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Preface.

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Economic, political and social structures result from and are constantly influenced by population conditions. The degree of development in a region depends largely upon the size, distribution, stability, composition, needs and enterprise of the resident population. Wherever human activities are in progress, or further development work is contemplated, an adequate knowledge of population conditions is an important guide to intelligent action.

The fundamental information that is available regarding the population of the United States has been procured largely through enumerations and examinations made every ten years by the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Such enumerations cover the size, distribution, composition and certain characteristics of the population of the Country, of individual States, and of subdivisions thereof. It is the established policy of the Bureau to report such enumerations in most cases in the form of base, or general purpose, tables from which further analytical and interpretative studies may be made. In some cases analyses are made by the Bureau of the Census of the statistics presented.

It is not a function of the Bureau of the Census, however, so to analyze or interpret the statistics as to make them readily usable for specific purposes, or to indicate the general effects which population changes may have upon particular lines of human activity. The Bureau generally leaves the making of such interpretations to those who may require information of this character.

This study of population conditions in Maryland has been made by the Maryland Development Bureau under the direction of W. L. Fairbanks, Director of Survey, assisted by W. S. Hamill, Assistant Director of Survey. It was considered essential as a basis for the economic survey of the State now being conducted by the Bureau, inasmuch as it constitutes, perhaps, the best possible index to the general drift of conditions in the State, and permits an evaluation of the effects which population increases, decreases, shifts and composition changes may have upon economic, political and social conditions and development.

The study was designed, also, to meet the need in Maryland for an exposition of population conditions within the State that will quickly supply information on the subject for use in the conduct of present activities, particularly those of a business or governmental nature, and that will permit a quick appraisal of the possible effects which such conditions might have upon specific developmental enterprises being planned for future execution.

The essential importance of information of this character in many lines of endeavor is indicated by the fact that during the preparation of this study the Maryland Development Bureau received approximately 200 requests for data relating to the population of Maryland, and for services based upon the distribution and composition of the State's population. Such requests were received from public utility companies, manufacturing concerns, retail establishments, banks, newspaper and magazine publishers and from the general public, as well as from the Federal Government, the State Government of Maryland, and from the Municipal Government of Baltimore.

This study is also a definite contribution to existing literature regarding the State, covering a subject of much importance which has heretofore been treated in a general rather than in an analytical manner. The results presented constitute, perhaps, one of the most comprehensive population analyses of a State that have so far been published.

It is helpful at times to make comparisons between conditions in one State with those prevailing in other States, in order to determine whether conditions in the first State are normal, abnormal or subnormal. Very few such

comparisons have been made in this study, inasmuch as the 1930 Census returns that are requisite to such a comparison are not available at this time. It is possible, however, that a supplement containing information of such a comparative nature may be issued at a later date.

In most cases, the cartograms used in illustrating the distribution of population are not intended to show, except in a very general manner, the number of persons involved. Their purpose is to illustrate, rather, the general relative distribution of population throughout the State. The exact percentage for each county is usually shown in the insert boxes on the cartograms, while the actual number of persons involved is shown in the table by which each cartogram is supported.

This study should not be construed as a comprehensive interpretation of the population changes that have occurred in Maryland. As a general rule it does not specify the causes for those changes, nor does it indicate, except in a general way, the effects which such changes may have upon specific lines of activity, or upon individual enterprises. It was intended, rather, as a portrayal of conditions and trends instead of a discussion of their effects. As such, its preparation was essential to the proper conduct of the work of the Maryland Development Bureau. The making of interpretations that are applicable to specific conditions or activities should be initiated by the particular interests involved. To such interests the Bureau will render all proper assistance. Such interests are relieved by this study, however, of the detailed preliminary analysis of the primary census figures that is requisite to a proper understanding of population conditions and trends in the State.

This study is the first of a series of reports that will be issued by the Maryland Development Bureau to cover the results of the economic survey of the State now being conducted by it. It is believed that these reports will constitute a portrayal of conditions in Maryland that will be of material assistance in the further development of the State. It is hoped that this study of population conditions may contribute to a clearer understanding of some of the economic problems by which the State is now confronted.

June, 1931.

W. L. F.

Introduction.

Importance of Population Developments.

Any material growth in the population of a given area is nearly always the consequence of economic opportunities or developments therein which involve investment or employment. To a limited extent it follows the establishment of educational and correctional institutions, and of military and naval bases, and the presence of recreational opportunities. Other minor factors contribute to the growth of population.

Such developments become, in turn, the primary cause of expansions of those commercial and other activities which are dependent upon the existence of population in any given area. They have an important influence, therefore, upon the economic progress and stability of a State.

Not only are population changes an important factor in real estate and building operations, in wholesale and retail marketing, in banking activities, in the expansion and operation of public utilities, and in other branches of modern enterprise, but they also have an important bearing upon elections and legislation, and upon state, county and municipal revenues and expenditures.

Importance of a population study. - A careful analysis of population trends and shifts is consequently one of the best indices to the general drift of economic conditions and progress in a State. It is especially essential to the formulation of a scientifically-constructed policy of State development, and to the erection of a practical program of promotional activities.

Such a study may disclose conditions which will vitally affect the future welfare of a State. It may indicate whether the State will find its interests and principal activities in the future intimately related to, and chiefly concerned with, industrial and commercial development, or whether climatic, soil, geographical and other conditions point to intensive agricultural operations. It may also indicate the importance as factors in a State's economic structure, and in its material progress, of other natural resources which the State may possess, and the value, in this connection, of other major activities, such as manufacturing. It frequently discloses conditions that are acting as a handicap or drag upon the development of a State.

Intelligent planning for the future in many lines of effort must be based, therefore, upon an adequate knowledge of population trends and conditions.

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The Population of Maryland.

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Chapter I.

The Importance of a Population Study in Maryland.

Basic conditions in Maryland favorable to material progress. - Maryland ranks high among the other States in conditions that favor material progress and population growth.

With a central location on the Atlantic seaboard; with natural conditions to make residence in the State attractive; with genial climate and fertile soils of varying types to encourage a high class of agricultural development; with mineral, timber, and fishery resources capable of extensive development; with almost ideal working and operating conditions for manufacturing activities; with adequate means of rail and water transportation and easy communication with other States, and with especially favorable railroad freight rates; with the largest markets of the country at her doors for agricultural and manufactured products, and a closer proximity to the great consuming and producing territory of the Middle West than have most of the other States on the Atlantic seaboard - Maryland possesses especially helpful fundamental advantages.

Comparative rates of population growth in Maryland and other States. - In 1790, the year of the first U. S. Census and 156 years after the establishment of the Colony at St. Marys, Maryland had a population of 319,728 persons, and ranked sixth among other States on the basis of the total number of inhabitants. In that year, also, Maryland ranked 4th among the other States, as then constituted, in density of population, having an average of 32 inhabitants per square mile.

The density of Maryland's population has since been exceeded on any census year by only six States. While a high standing among other States has been maintained on this basis, the rapidity of population increase has been less than in many other States. From 1790 to 1900 Maryland's rank among the other States on the basis of total population dropped from 6th place to 26th. In 1910 the State ranked 27th, and in 1920 and 1930, 28th.

The percentage rates of population increase for all States for the period between 1900 and 1930 ranged between 4.6 per cent and 282.3 per cent. With a rate of increase of 37.3 per cent for the thirty-year period, Maryland ranked 34th among the other States.

The percentage rates of population development for all States for the decade between 1920 and 1930 ranged from a loss of 2.1 per cent to a gain of 65.7 per cent. The population of Maryland increased 12.5 per cent during this period, giving the State a rank of 23rd among the other States on this basis.

Population losses in Maryland. - The population of the State as a whole, of Baltimore City, and of many of the counties has increased - decade by decade - with much regularity since 1790. In other counties, however, population development is practically at a standstill, and in some of the counties the number of inhabitants has decreased during recent years with alarming rapidity. In three counties the population was less in 1930 than it was in 1790, 140 years before.

The population of nine of Maryland's twenty-three counties decreased from 1920 to 1930, while during the preceding decade the population of thirteen counties diminished. Although these declines were more than offset by increases that occurred in other counties and in Baltimore City, it is probable that the decline of population in such a large section of the State will, if continued, have a retarding effect upon Maryland's economic development.

The rapid rate of population growth and of material progress that has occurred in Baltimore City and some of the counties during the last few decades has to a material extent obscured the consequences of those less favorable conditions in other sections of the State. It is important, for many reasons, that an adequate appraisal of these consequences be made. Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the serious economic reactions that sometimes follow a diminishing of the population of any district or community. Commercial activities may contract, and investment remain practically at a standstill. There is usually no special urge, under such conditions, to keep in step with modern progress. A public spirit that is characterized by its recognition of the requirements of modern civilization, and a determination to meet such requirements, is frequently absent.

Widespread effects of recent change in the character of Maryland's population, and importance of a proper evaluation thereof. - Since 1890 the general character of the population of Maryland and of many other States in the country has changed from rural to urban, that is, the number of residents of urban centers now exceeds the population of the country districts.

Prior to 1890 the United States was predominantly a rural nation, with agriculture as its most important industry and the controlling factor in its economic structure. The introduction of steam power for manufacturing, with large-scale production commencing to gain momentum about 1900, somewhat changed the economic status of the farmer, and involved him in developments which have affected the scope of his activities and the independent character of his life.

This new power development brought about a revolutionary change in the production and use of manufactured articles, was responsible for the removal of agriculture from its position as the predominant industry of the country, and was the primary cause for the eventual change from rural to urban that took place in the character of the country's population.

Developing along with the new type of manufacturing unit was the entire organism required for the sale and distribution of manufactured articles, together with the great number of new enterprises and occupations that urban life encouraged. The requirements and attractions of the urban centers caused an extensive migratory movement from country districts to cities, towns and villages, especially throughout the northeastern section of the country. Active interest in agriculture as an occupation, and the relative importance of the rural districts as factors in the economic progress of the country, commenced relatively to decline with the realization that urban employment might provide a larger and more stable income, easier work, more comfortable living conditions and more enjoyable social relations.

One of the most serious of the effects resulting from the urban movement in many sections of the country was the loss by the rural districts of a type of leadership which would probably have strengthened the growth and development of the rural communities. Many of the persons who left such communities later became outstanding leaders in urban enterprise and community life.

Extent of urban movement. - This transformation of population from rural to urban has been confined, however, to a limited section of the country, primarily to the Territory east of the Mississippi River and north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers. This section is now, and will probably continue to be, the "workshop" of the United States, where the country's manufacturing and commercial

activities are largely centralized.

In 1890 the population of only three States in this area was predominantly urban. In all the States in the area, with the exception of Maine and Vermont, the urban population is now predominant. In Maryland the urban percentage of the State's total population increased from 47.6 per cent in 1890 to 59.8 per cent in 1930. The urban population is now larger than the rural in only six States west of the Mississippi River, and in only one State east of the Mississippi River and south of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers.

The momentum attained by the growth of urban enterprises in Maryland during the last few decades, and the trends that have characterized the development of the natural resources of the State during that period, point to a continuing reduction for some time to come in this State, as in most of the other Northeastern States, in the number of persons engaged in strictly rural pursuits.

Principal features of Maryland's recent population development. - The principal features of the development of the population of Maryland since 1890 are the following:

1. A constant increase by decades in the total population of the State and of Baltimore City;
2. The outstanding importance in population growth of Baltimore City when compared with population development in individual counties;
3. The growth of the urban centers, and the marked change from rural to urban that has occurred in the fundamental character of the State's population;
4. Declines in the total population, the rural population, and the farm population of numerous counties;
5. The increasing concentration of the State's population in certain areas.

General character of Maryland's present population. - The present character of the State's population, as a consequence of these changes, is indicated to some extent in the following statement, based upon the U. S. Census returns for 1930:

1. Total population	1,631,526 persons	
2. Urban population, (persons living in incorporated places having 2,500 or more inhabitants,)	974,869	"
3. Rural population	656,657	"
a) Population of incorporated places having less than 2,500 inhabitants ...	78,847	"
b) Farm population	236,172	"
c) Population of unincorporated places, and other residents of country districts not on farms	341,638	"

Need for a population study in Maryland, and an indication of the essential elements thereof. - In view of the existing lack of uniformity in the population development of the counties of Maryland, a correct picturization and interpretation of population trends and shifts in the State has therefore become essential to intelligent planning for the future, not only in connection with general business operations but especially in the conduct of corrective and promotive work designed to stimulate the material progress of the State.

The following queries indicate in a general way the essential elements in, and the comprehensive scope of, a population study of this character. Population trends and shifts will be described in this section of the complete economic survey report. Later sections of the survey report will describe the effects of such population movements.

1. What have been the population trends in Maryland, and what factors have contributed to them?
2. What is the present distribution of the population of the State? What factors or influences have caused this distribution, and are they likely to maintain a determining influence upon present population trends?
3. What effects have the factors of race and national origin had upon the growth and distribution of the population of the State, and upon the State's development?
4. Has the marked growth of the urban centers of Maryland, and of other forms of community life, resulted in any material slowing down of the development of country districts, and of agricultural operations?
5. Have population trends in Maryland been peculiar to this State, or do they reflect similar trends throughout the Country, or in groups of States where basic conditions are similar to those in Maryland?
6. What has been the effect of population trends upon the general prosperity and economic stability of the State and upon general business conditions, not only in the more rural communities but in the larger urban centers?
7. How has the growth of the urban communities affected the revenues of the State? Are the country districts carrying their fair share of the costs of governmental operations and of State improvement activities, or is the tax burden carried principally by the urban centers?
8. What effect will a decreasing population, and a possible shrinking of taxable assets have upon future expenditures for highway, educational and other improvements?
9. What has been the effect of declines of population in certain counties upon the maintenance and expansion of county governmental activities?
10. What can be expected of the future? Can the present rate of population increase in Maryland, as well as the present trends of population development and distribution, be accepted as satisfactory? Are there "quiescent" sections of the State where population declines and quiet business conditions will develop into a "drag" upon the rest of the State? Are existing conditions correct for a healthy, progressive development of the State as a whole?

During the last few decades important changes have occurred in the distribution of the State's population. These changes have established new conditions which must be recognized in the conduct of business operations and of governmental activities. Safe estimates of present or future needs and possibilities must be based to a material extent, therefore, upon an adequate knowledge of the present size, composition and distribution of the population of the State, and upon a correct interpretation of recent population trends.

Chapter II.

Total Population.

The State.

Importance and influence of population. - Probably the most important feature of a population analysis of any given region is the total number of persons resident therein, considered as a group, and the influence of that group in molding the general character of the region.

The greatest asset of any region is, of course, its population. The most powerful impulse to progress is to be found in a population of large size, the general character and state of development of the region being determined largely by the number of persons residing therein. The size of population governs, to a great extent, the scope of human endeavor in any given area. The thought, ambitions and activities of regions with large populations are entirely different in character, as a rule, than in sparsely-settled regions.

A great variety of functions, both public and private, are considered essential to the maintenance of a large population. Our present elaborate economic organization, for instance, is justified and made possible only through the satisfying of the ever-increasing wants of a large number of persons. This is also true of the highly-developed governmental activities of today that are considered essential to the guidance and progress of a large population. In a sparsely-settled region neither a wide range of governmental functions nor an elaborate economic organization is necessary. In other words, the degree of a region's importance and power - political, social and economic - is indicated in large measure by the size of its population.

It is in our economic life that population reaches its paramount importance. It is essential to the development of the natural resources and manufacturing possibilities of a given area. It creates a demand for proper housing, food and other necessities and luxuries of life, schools, roads and other means of transportation, recreational facilities, means for the maintenance or recovery of health, charitable and other institutions, and other services of numerous kinds.

Constant increase of Maryland's population. - Chart No. 1 on the following page graphically shows the constant upward trend by decades in the population growth of Maryland from 1790 to 1930, inclusive, together with the number of inhabitants on each census year during the intervening period.

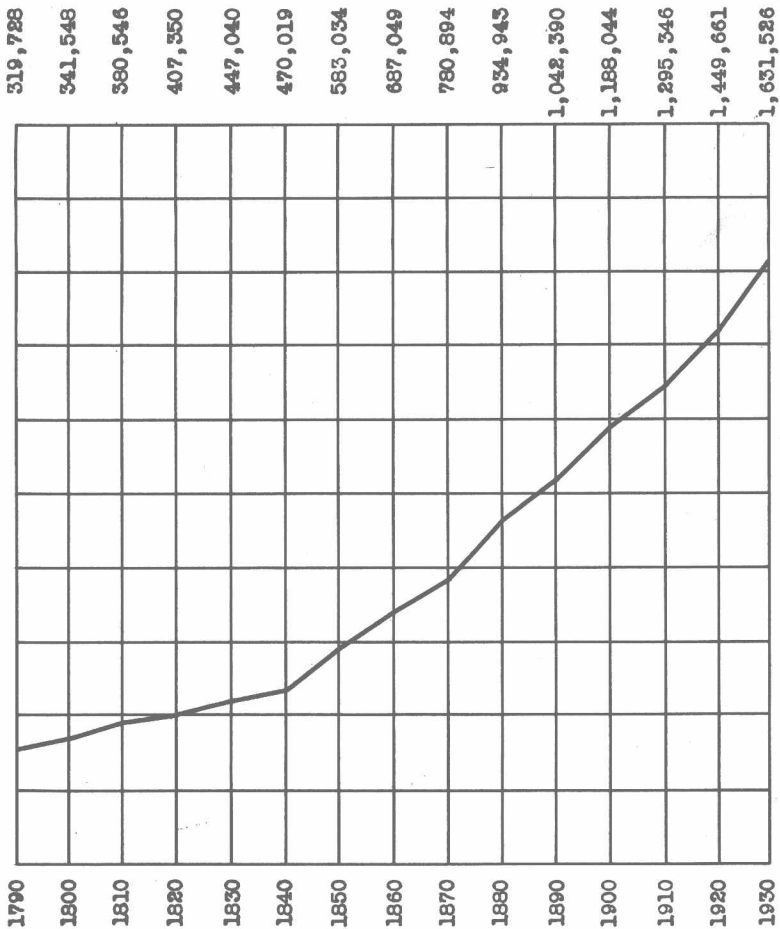
Table No. 1 on page 8 shows the numerical and percentage increase of the State's population by decades from 1790 to 1930, together with the average annual increase by decades during the 140-year period.

Rate of population growth from 1790 to 1930. - Between 1790 and 1930 the population increase of the State per decade has ranged from a minimum of 21,820 persons to a maximum of 181,865 persons. The percentage of increase has varied by decades from 5.1 per cent to 24 per cent, and the average annual increase from 2,180 persons to 18,186 persons.

Since the Census of 1890 the population of the State has exceeded 1,000,000 persons, Maryland being the 27th State to achieve this distinction.

Steady increase of population from 1900 to 1930. - Since 1900 there has been a constant increase by decades in the total number of inhabitants in the State, in the percentage of increase, and in the average annual growth of the State's population. While the percentage of increase for the decade between

Chart No. 1.
The Total Population of Maryland
from 1790 to 1930.



Authority: U. S. Bureau of the Census.
Prepared by The Maryland Development Bureau,
Baltimore Association of Commerce.

1920 and 1930 was much less than for certain other decades in the period between 1790 and 1930, the actual population growth for the last ten years was greater than for any preceding decade in the State's history.

Table No. 1.
Development of the Population of Maryland by Decades
from 1790 to 1930, Inclusive.

Year	Total population	Increase since preceding census			
		Maryland		United States	Average annual increase in Maryland.
		Number	Per cent	Per cent	
1930	1,631,526	181,965	12.5	16.1	18,186
1920	1,449,661	154,315	11.9	14.9	15,431
1910	1,295,346	107,302	9.0	21.0	10,730
1900	1,188,044	145,654	13.9	20.7	14,565
1890	1,042,390	107,447	11.4	25.5	10,744
1880	934,943	154,049	19.7	30.1	15,404
1870	780,894	93,845	13.6	22.6	9,384
1860	687,049	104,015	17.8	35.6	10,401
1850	583,034	113,015	24.0	35.9	11,301
1840	470,019	22,979	5.1	32.7	2,297
1830	447,040	43,690	9.7	33.5	3,969
1820	407,350	26,804	7.0	33.1	2,680
1810	380,546	38,998	11.4	36.4	3,899
1800	341,548	21,820	6.8	35.1	2,180
1790	319,728	-	-	-	-

Authority: U. S. Bureau of the Census.

Percentage of population increase in Maryland compared with that for the United States. - Material fluctuations from year to year in the actual increases of population, and in the percentages of such increases, have characterized population trends in both Maryland and the United States since 1790. The percentage of population growth for the country has ranged by decades from 1790 to 1930 between 14.9 per cent and 36.3 per cent, and in Maryland from 5.1 per cent to 24 per cent. Since 1850, however, percentages of increase have been maintained at a fairly constant level.

In many of the States the percentage of population growth for ten-year periods has exceeded the rate for the country. This was true in sixteen States during the decade from 1920 to 1930, rates for those States ranging from 16.4 per cent to 65.7 per cent. This condition has not existed in Maryland, where, in no census year, has the rate of population increase equalled that for the entire country.

The Counties.

The "county" unit occupies a position of particular significance in Maryland. It serves as the sole unit of division of the State's territorial area. Although incorporated places are established from time to time within individual counties, such places having well-defined boundaries, the counties themselves are not divided into townships as is the case in many other States. Also, while the counties are divided into "minor civil divisions", or election districts, such subdivisions were not established as political entities, clothed with governmental powers or functions, but were erected primarily to secure convenience

in the conduct of elections. They are also utilized in Census enumerations.

The practice of erecting separate county units within the territorial limits of the Colony was adopted at an early date, St. Marys County having been established in 1637, about three years after the Colony was first settled. Eleven of Maryland's twenty-three counties were established between 1637 and 1695, inclusive. Eight additional counties were established before the end of the 18th Century, while the remaining four were erected between 1836 and 1872.

The State Constitution of 1867 empowers the General Assembly of Maryland to provide for the organization of new counties and the changing of county lines, projects of this nature, however, to be subject to the approval of a majority of the voters residing in the areas affected. It also provides that no new county shall contain less than 400 square miles, nor less than 10,000 white inhabitants, nor shall any change be made in county lines which will reduce areas and population below the prescribed limits. The restriction regarding area was not made retroactive upon counties established before 1867; and in ten counties the area is less than that prescribed.

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Establishment of Counties. - As of interest in the study of population trends in the twenty-three counties of Maryland there is presented below a statement showing the years in which those counties were established:

<u>County</u>	<u>Year of erection</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Year of erection</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Year of erection</u>
St. Marys	1637	Dorchester	1668	Washington	1776
Kent	1642	Cecil	1674	Montgomery	1776
Anne Arundel	1650	Prince Georges	1695	Allegany	1789
Calvert	1650	Queen Annes	1706	Carroll	1836
Charles	1658	Worcester	1742	Howard	1851
Baltimore	1659	Frederick	1748	Wicomico	1867
Talbot	1662	Caroline	1773	Garrett	1872
Somerset	1666	Harford	1773	Baltimore City	1851 *

* Year in which Baltimore City was separated from Baltimore County and established as a separate political entity.

Total population of Counties. - Table No. 2 on page 10 shows the total population of each county in Maryland on each census year from 1790 to 1930, inclusive.

The relative importance of the different Counties on the basis of total population numbers has changed with the passing decades, some of the Counties with a large population in 1790 being superseded in position by others. These changes have materially influenced the character of the development that has occurred in different parts of the State, and will probably continue to have an important bearing upon State activities.

The fluctuations that have so occurred during the 140-year period are indicated by Chart No. 2 on page 11.

Development of county population from 1790 to 1930. - The growth of population in Maryland has been very "spotty" in location. While the number of inhabitants of Baltimore City and of most of the north-central and western counties has increased with more or less regularity, decade by decade, this has not been so in other parts of the State.

The earliest settlements in the State were established in Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. All five of the Southern Maryland Counties were erected prior to 1700, as were five of the Eastern Shore Counties. As a