

The Socio-economic Status of Negroes

Chapter V State Analyses FLORIDA

Unless otherwise indicated all data are from the 1930 U. S. Census except school data which are of 1937-38, from State Departments of Education or the United States Office of Education.

1. Population

Total population 1,463,211; Negro population 431,828, or 29.4 percent of the total. Of the 67 counties in Florida, 66 had 5 percent or more of the population Negro, while 4 counties had 50 percent or more of the population Negro. It should be noted that the map shows the number of Negroes rather than the percent in each county.

From 1920 to 1930 the white population of Florida increased 62.2 percent; the Negro population 31.1 percent. Of the Negroes born in Florida 17.5 percent were living in other States, while 38.1 percent of the 1930 Negro population of the State were born elsewhere. Of the total population 39.2 percent were under 20 years of age; 39.7 percent of the Negro population were under 20.

2. Urbanization

In 1930, 51.7 percent of the total population were urban - 53.0 percent of the white population and 48.7 percent of the Negro population. There was an increase from 1910 to 1930 of 20.0 in the percent Negroes were urban. Twenty-nine counties (43.9 percent) had no urban Negroes, while 19 counties had 50 percent or more of their Negro population urban. Seven counties had metropolitan cities of 25,000 or over.

3. County Types

Of the 67 counties in Florida, 24 were non-farm counties. Seven of the 24 were metropolitan. Of the 43 farm counties 32 were farm other than cotton, while 11 were cotton counties.

Twenty-nine of the farm counties were industrially diversified, while 14 had no industrial diversification.

Seven of the counties were metropolitan; 17 were other non-farm; there were 4 farm city counties (10,000 to 25,000); 15 farm town counties (2,500 to 10,000) and 24 rural counties.

The economy, industrialization, and urbanization of any county can be determined from the map. The first figure of the tripartite symbol represents the economy, the second the industrialization, the third the size of the largest city. Thus IAO is a cotton county with no industrial diversification and no town. A county marked IIB2 is farm other than cotton, industrially diversified, with a city of 10,000 to 25,000. A county marked III-3 is a non-farm county with a metropolitan city.

4. Communication

The heavy black lines on the map indicate the boundaries of trade areas. That is, the counties which constitute such an area generally use as a retail shopping center the starred city within the area. The trade centers indicate in some measure the general direction of communication lines.

5. Occupation

Slightly more than one-fourth (25.7 percent) of all Negro gainful workers were engaged in agriculture; 33.0 percent were in domestic and personal service; 22.1 percent were in manufacturing and mechanical industries; 2.7 percent were in professional service.

Of the Negro farm operators 50.5 percent were owners and 49.5 percent were tenants. Of the 25 counties for which information on tenancy was given 3 had from 80 to 90 percent of the farm operators in the status of tenants.

6. Economic and Cultural Levels

The median Plane of Living Index for the 66 counties having 5 percent or more Negroes was 76.0. Fourteen of these counties had an Index of 100 or over and 5 of the 14 had an Index of 120 or over. Only 8 of the total counties had an Index of less than 50.

The per capita wealth of the total population in 1936 as estimated by the National Industrial Conference Board (World Almanac, 1940) was \$1250, and the population per individual income tax return in 1936 (Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1939) was 33.

In home ownership, 46.6 percent of the white families, and 27.3 percent of the Negro families owned their homes.

In 1930, 2.0 percent of the native white population and 18.8 percent of the Negro population were illiterate.

7. Education - (1937-38 unless otherwise indicated; school data refer only to counties having 5 percent or more Negroes)

The median length of the Negro school term was 160.4 days, and 51.5 percent of the counties had a school term for Negroes as long or longer than the school term for white children. The median current expenditure per Negro pupil was \$20.53, which was 40 percent of the white school expenditure (median ratio). The median percent of the total Negro school enrollment in high school was 6.0, which was 30.9 percent of the proportion of the white school enrollment in high school (median ratio). The median annual salary for Negro high school teachers was \$637.50, with a median ratio to white teachers' salaries of 52.2. The median percent of Negro teachers with 2 or more years college training was 75.0; and the median ratio to white teachers with such training was 97.5. There were 43.5 Negroes in college for each 1,000 Negroes of college age (1938-39, all counties).

When 58 Florida counties were ranked with reference to the proportion of Negroes of college age in college (979 counties were ranked), 20 counties were in the highest quartile, 13 were in the second quartile, 11 in the third, and 14 in the lowest. The quartile rank of each county is indicated on the map by the figures 1 to 4 which appear under the county type symbols. Counties having less than 100 Negroes age 15-19 were not ranked.

8. Negro Colleges

There were 5 Negro colleges in Florida, located as follows:

1. Bethune-Cookman College (2 year private) Daytona Beach, Volusia County
2. Edward Waters College (2 year private) Jacksonville, Duval County
3. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College (4 year public) Tallahassee, Leon County
4. Florida Memorial College (2 year private) Live Oaks, Suwannee County
5. Florida Normal and Industrial Institute (2 year private) St. Augustine, St. Johns County.