

# MISSOURI.

## NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF INHABITANTS.

Population of the state.—According to the Fourteenth Census, taken as of January 1, 1920, the population of Missouri is 3,404,055, which represents an increase of 110,720, or 3.4 per cent, since 1910. During the same period the population of the United States increased by 14.9 per cent.

The following summary shows the population of

Missouri from 1810 to 1920, inclusive, together with the number and per cent of increase for each decade, in comparison with the per cent of increase for the United States as a whole. Although the area of Missouri territory in 1820 was much greater than that of the present state, the figures given for 1810 and 1820 relate to substantially the present area.

POPULATION OF MISSOURI: 1810 TO 1920.

CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		Per cent of increase for the United States.
		Number.	Per cent.	
1920.....	3,404,055	110,720	3.4	14.9
1910.....	3,293,335	186,670	6.0	21.0
1900.....	3,106,665	427,480	16.0	20.7
1890.....	2,679,185	510,805	23.6	25.5
1880.....	2,168,380	447,085	26.0	30.1
1870.....	1,721,295	539,283	45.6	22.6
1860.....	1,182,012	499,968	73.3	35.6
1850.....	682,044	298,342	77.8	35.9
1840.....	383,702	243,247	173.2	32.7
1830.....	140,455	73,869	110.9	33.5
1820.....	66,586	46,803	236.6	33.1
1810.....	19,783			

Counties.—Missouri is divided into 114 counties and the independent city of St. Louis. The city and 25 of the counties show increases in population since 1910, while decreases appear for the remaining 89 counties. (See Table 1.) No changes in county boundaries have been made since 1910.

Density of population.—The total land area of the state is 68,727 square miles. The average number of inhabitants to the square mile in 1920 is 49.5 (see Table 1), as against 47.9 in 1910 and 45.2 in 1900.

Minor civil divisions.—The political units into which the counties are divided are collectively termed

**HISTORICAL NOTE.**—The state of Missouri takes its name from the Missouri River, which forms a portion of its western boundary and crosses it in an easterly direction. The name of the river is derived from Indian words meaning "muddy water."

The first well authenticated visit of white men to the region now constituting Missouri occurred in 1673 when the French missionaries Marquette and Joliet descended the Mississippi as far as the mouth of the Arkansas. De Soto, a Spaniard, may, however, have ascended the Mississippi in 1541 as far as the present site of New Madrid, in the southeastern part of the state. French traders and adventurers followed the early explorers, and rumors of rich lead and silver mines led to a search for these minerals. Lead was found in abundance, and its mining was begun about the year 1720. The first permanent settlement was at Old St. Genevieve, which was founded by the French in the early part of the eighteenth century, probably about 1735. St. Louis was founded as a trading post in 1764.

Missouri was formed from a portion of the vast area originally known as Louisiana. This region was claimed by the French by virtue of the discoveries of Marquette and Joliet, and of La Salle, who sailed down the Mississippi to its mouth in 1681-82.

The Louisiana region, comprising practically all of the west watershed of the Mississippi, was ceded by France to Spain in 1762, retroceded to France in 1800, and

purchased by the United States in 1803. In 1804 the region was divided by the thirty-third parallel (the present northern boundary of Louisiana) into the territory of Orleans on the south and the district of Louisiana on the north. In the following year the district of Louisiana became the territory of Louisiana, and in 1812, when the present state of Louisiana was organized, principally from the territory of Orleans, and admitted to the Union, the name "territory of Louisiana" was changed to "territory of Missouri."

A few years before the purchase of Louisiana a steady immigration from the United States to the region now forming Missouri began. After the war of 1812 immigration became more rapid and the people were eager to be admitted to the Union. In 1820 a state constitution was adopted, under authority of Congress, and in the following year Missouri was admitted to the Union as the twenty-fourth state, with northern, eastern, and southern boundaries as at present. At this time the entire western boundary of the state was formed by the meridian which now constitutes its western line south of the Missouri River. It was not until 1837 that the tract lying between this line and the Missouri River and south of the parallel forming the northern boundary of the state (the Platte Purchase) was added.