

Map
MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

African American Population

Census data show a series of "Great Migrations"

For the complete maps with media resources, visit:
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/maps/african-american-population-maps/>

Changes in the [distribution](#) of the African-American [population](#) are documented in [U.S. Census data](#), and displayed in the [maps](#) in this gallery.

African Americans moved out of the South in two "waves"—the [First Great Migration](#), following the Civil War, and the [Second Great Migration](#), following the Great Depression. About 40 years ago, African Americans began reversing this pattern and moving to the South, instead of away from it. This is the so-called ["New Great Migration."](#)

VOCABULARY

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
Civil War	<i>noun</i>	(1860-1865) American conflict between the Union (north) and Confederacy (south).
data	<i>plural noun</i>	(singular: datum) information collected during a scientific study.
distribution	<i>noun</i>	the way something is spread out over an area.
First Great Migration	<i>noun</i>	(~1915-~1930) movement of African Americans from the South, mostly to urban areas in the North.
map	<i>noun</i>	symbolic representation of selected characteristics of a place, usually drawn on a flat surface.
New Great Migration	<i>noun</i>	(~1970-present) movement of African Americans to the South.
population	<i>noun</i>	total number of people or organisms in a particular area.
Second Great Migration	<i>noun</i>	(~1930-~1970) movement of African Americans from the South, mostly to urban areas in the Midwest and West.
South	<i>noun</i>	loosely defined geographic region largely composed of states that supported or were sympathetic to the Confederate States of America (Confederacy) during the U.S. Civil War.
U.S. Census	<i>noun</i>	count of everyone in the U.S., conducted every 10 years.

For Further Exploration

Audio & Video

- NPR: Fresh Air—Great Migration: The African-American Exodus North

Interactives

- The Phillips Collection: Jacob Lawrence—The Migration Series

Websites

- The Kennedy Center: The Great Migration



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