



Omaha's Growth in Population

The compilers of the Omaha city directory estimate the population of the city on January 1, 1908, at 157,000. On the basis used in making such computations, those familiar with the marked growth of the city in the last eight years will be disposed to believe that the estimate is conservative. The population bulletin of the census bureau at Washington placed the population of the city in 1906 at 142,000.

These figures furnish material for some striking comparisons, showing Omaha's growth from a pioneer village to a place among towns of the third and fourth class and finally to metropolitan size—against some of the old and rich places that were called cities when Omaha was laid out as a mere village. Taking some of the population statistics for 1860, and comparing them with the figures for 1908, Omaha shows a percentage of growth exceeded only by a very few cities on the continent. The population of Omaha as fixed by the federal census in 1860, was 1,883. The increase from 1860 to 1906 was about 8,000 per cent. The percentage of growth in other cities for the period between 1860 and 1906 is as follows, as shown by the federal census reports:

City.	Percent of Growth from 1860 to 1906.
Omaha	8,000
Minneapolis	7,800.3
Kansas City	3,802.4
Buffalo	334.3
Cincinnati	102.3
Cleveland	77.4
Detroit	55.7
Indianapolis	80.8
San Francisco	505.3
Milwaukee	530.5

In 1860, Omaha was ranked as a village in the census reports. In 1900 it was thirty-third in the list of American cities, in point of population and the growth since 1900 warrants the prediction that it will be not lower than twenty-fifth place in the census of 1910. The annexation of South Omaha and other suburbs would raise Omaha to twentieth place or better. In the matter of proportionate gain in population, Omaha leads the list of American cities and has far distanced many places that had a population of 40,000 to 50,000 when the first shacks were built in Omaha. Backed by the richest, and only partially developed, country on the continent the future growth of the city promises to even eclipse the record of the past.

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