



Colonial Population

The population of the thirteen colonies was less than most people think. Enumerations during the period were made at the insistence of the British Board of Trade rather than any other body. The colonial governors were responsible to conduct the census, and were assisted in this activity by the various sheriffs, justices of the peace, and other administrative officials. There was no methodology. As you can imagine, it was a hit or miss affair.

In many cases estimates were used. For example, for New Hampshire, it was estimated in 1742 that 24,000 people resided within the existing boundaries. By 1749 this estimate had grown to 30,000. Rhode Island provided an estimate of 30,000 people in 1742 and did a census in 1748 which listed 34,000 people within the colony.

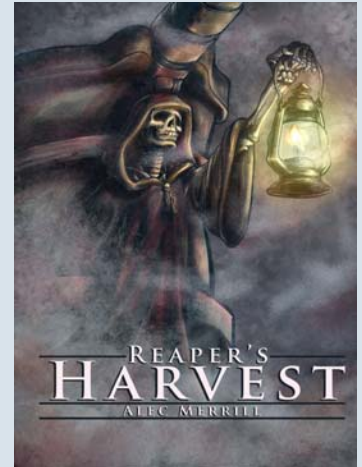
Pennsylvania and Delaware did a census in 1740 listing 100,000 people. This had risen to 150,000 by 1750.

Further south the composition of the population changed. No thorough enumeration was ever made in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia prior to the Federal Census of 1790. Estimates provided in 1732 for North Carolina indicate 36,000 people of which 6,000 are negroes.

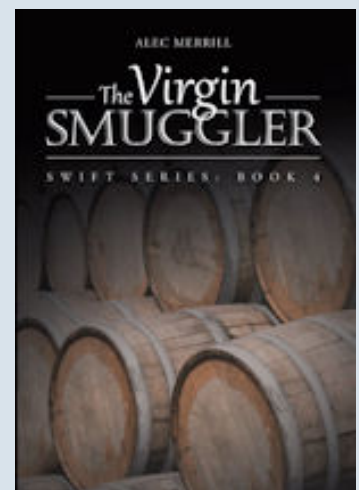
| Colony | 1740 (in 000s) | 1750 (in 000s) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| New Hampshire | 22 | 31 |
| Massachusetts | 158 | 180 |
| Rhode Island | 24 | 35 |
| Connecticut | 70 | 100 |
| New York | 63 | 80 |
| New Jersey | 52 | 66 |
| Pennsylvania | 100 | 150 |
| Delaware (included in Pennsylvania) | 0 | 0 |
| Maryland | 105 | 137 |
| Virginia | 200 | 275 |
| North Carolina | 50 | 80 |
| South Carolina | 45 | 68 |
| Georgia | 0 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 889 | 1,207 |

By 1754 the figure rose to an estimated 90,000 with 20,000 negroes. In South Carolina 1720 estimates were 20,928 with only 9,000 of these being white. By 1749 the overall population increased to 64,000 with 25,000 white and 39,000 negroes. In Georgia in 1752 the estimates were 5,000 in total. By 1760, this had risen to 9,000 with 6,000 white and 3,000 negroes.

| City | 1730 (in 000s) | 1740 (in 000s) | 1750 (in 000s) | 1760 (in 000s) | 1770 (in 000s) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Philadelphia | 8.5 | 10.5 | 13.4 | 18.7 | 28 |
| New York | 8.5 | 11 | 13.3 | 14 | 21 |
| Boston | 13 | 17 | 15.7 | 15.6 | 15.5 |
| Charles Towne (Charleston, SC) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 10.8 |
| Baltimore | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salem | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newport | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 38.5 | 42.4 | 56.3 | 84.3 |



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