U.S. cities by decade The 10 Most Populous U.S. Cities Every Decade 7,894,862 7,322,564 Since 1790 When the United States first became a sovereign nation in 1776, 5,620,048 Philadelphia had the largest population of any American city. By the time the first U.S. census was finished in 1790, New York City had grown to be the most populous and has held that title ever since. 4,766,883 3,437,202 Northeast Southeast 3,694,820 West and 1,515,301 Southwest 3,485,398 3,005,072 3,376,438 3,366,957 3,396,808 3,550,404 3,620,962 942,292 DECADE 1790 1,109,850 1,698,575 847,170 515,547 674,022 565,529 1,046,964 102,313 396,099 53,722 2,695,598 136,881 2,896,016 80,462 2,966,850 1,293,697 2,816,061 2,783,726 1,823,779 310,864 503,185 1,549,008 1,950,961 33,787 2,479,015 298,977 30,289 28,872 451,770 350,518 250,526 448,477 687,029 2,099,451 216,239 1,568,662 1,623,452 1,953,631 1,688,210 1,948,609 434,439 255,139 1,630,553 191,418 670,585 1,970,358 2,002,512 233,959 298,997 391,768 560,663 \* The Territory 296,908 1,238,048 of Orleans 772,897 1,504,277 1,595,138 1,585,577 became 1,517,550 558,485 the State 1,511,482 of Louisiana 1,849,568 in 1812 1,670,144 748,060 900,429 \*\* Absorbed Philadelphia in 1854 1,232,802 821,960 along with 423,715 949,708 Southwark, 859,100 588,343 Northern 1,027,974 904,078 Liberties 804,874 1,223,400 905,759 Township, and others 576,673 914,808 816,048 875,538 876,050 Dallas 114 1,006,877 1,188,580 856,796 770,816 \*\*\* Absorbed 789,704 669,817 into New York 992,551 756,510 City in 1898 671,659 802,178 783,956 1,144,646 786,775 750,903 935,933
San Antonio TX 801,444 750,026 The Population History of U.S. Cities That Have Been Among the Top 10 Most Populous Since 1790 KEY Northeast and Southeast In the top 10 most populous for that decade West and Southwest Philadelphia PA New York NY Chicago Phoenix AZ San Diego CA Los Angeles CA **Houston TX** San Antonio TX Cleveland OH Detroit MI Dallas TX San Francisco CA Baltimore MD Washington DC San Jose CA Boston MA Buffalo NY Providence RI Salem MA Norfolk VA Pittsburgh PA New Orleans LA St Louis MO Cincinnati OH 1790 1810 1830 1850 1970 1970 1970 1990 Southwark PA Marblehead MA Spring Garden District PA Albany NY Brooklyn NY Northern Liberties Township PA Charleston SC Newport RI

Absorbed

in 1854

into Philadelphia

Absorbed

into Philadelphia

Absorbed

in 1854

into Philadelphia

Absorbed into

New York City in 1898