<http://www.library.illinois.edu/hpnl/guides/newspapers/american/1800-1860/country.html>

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/hpnl/guides/newspapers/american/1800-1860/city.html>

. The number of daily papers grew from 971 to 2226, 1880 to 1900. Weekly newspapers were published in smaller towns, especially county seats, or for German, Swedish and other immigrant subscribers. They grew from 9,000 to 14,000, and by 1900 the United States published more than half of the newspapers in the world, with two copies per capita.

In 1800 there were 200 newspapers being published in the United States. By 1860 there were 3000.**1** Many of the new urban papers that were founded in the 1830s and 40s reached unprecedented circulation numbers. According to one estimate, the total annual circulation of all newspapers between 1828 and 1840 doubled from 68 million to 148 million copies.**2**

It's important to remember that, despite the tremendous success of the penny papers, the majority of newspapers during the 1830s and 40s were partisan. Until the 1870s, political papers like the Washington Globe, the Albany Argus, and the Charleston Mercury continued to be important sources for information about political speeches, elections, and legislative activity. What took place in 19th-century American newspaper publishing was not a simple replacement of one kind of paper by another, but a process of mutual influence. The partisan papers became more like the penny papers by publishing more timely news, seeking wider audiences, and relying more on advertising revenue. At the same time, some penny papers adopted partisan practices, especially as editors became more managerial and had more time for politics.**13**

Local news appeared with increasing frequency in the 1840s and 1850s. Not until the 1860s and 1870s, however, did local news become standard in country newspapers. The local news that did appear had often been submitted by subscribers and other correspondents, sometimes in response to solicitations published in the newspaper itself.**21**

The leading partisan newspaper was the [*New York Tribune*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Tribune), which began publishing in 1841 and was edited by [Horace Greeley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horace_Greeley). It was the first newspaper to gain national prominence; by 1861, it shipped thousands of copies of its daily and weekly editions to subscribers throughout the door.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_American_journalism>

The population of the United States almost doubled from 40 million in 1870 to 76 million in 1900

[http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp? ItemID=WE52&iPin=EAHVI221&SingleRecord=True](http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=WE52&iPin=EAHVI221&SingleRecord=True)

In 1870, there were only two American cities with a population of more than 500,000 (Philly and NY), but by 1900, there were six, and three of these, [New York](https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/definition/new-york), Chicago, and [Philadelphia](https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/definition/philadelphia), had over one million inhabitants.

Source: Boundless. “The Rise of the City.” Boundless U.S. History. Boundless, 21 Jul. 2015. Retrieved 30 Jan. 2016 from https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/textbooks/boundless-u-s-history-textbook/the-gilded-age-1870-1900-20/the-rise-of-the-city-145/the-rise-of-the-city-766-1356/

Urban Rural

1870 26% 74%

1880 28% 72%

1890 35% 65%

1900 40% 60%