Cencus Information Since 1920

Census Data Since 1920 for Southern Illinois

Age in Years	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
0-9	78,066	64,714	54,401	53,434	43,655	39,128	38,471	36,009	33,416
10-19	-	67,536	61,904	46,122	43,444	47,627	47,920	41,430	41,055
20-29	-	45,691	51,440	36,753	25,706	38,856	53,279	46,382	42,995
30-39	-	41,624	42,884	38,946	28,623	24,969	35,414	41,021	38,997
40-49	-	38,527	38,333	36,573	32,593	28,092	26,616	33,671	39,153
50-59	-	28,270	33,768	31,940	30,736	30,385	29,329	25,945	33,868
60-69	-	17,463	23,000	27,470	26,660	27,439	30,735	26,952	24,398
70-79	-	8,877	10,539	13,488	18,685	18,022	21,220	22,105	19,817
80-84	-	1,292	1,730	4,387	4,845	6,295	7,277	9,269	8,468
85+	-	1,288	1,721	1,327	1,056	1,478	2,022	2,636	6,514
Unknown	-	172	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	78,066*	315,454	319,720	290,439	256,003	262,291	292,283	285,420	288,681

Population by County Since 1920 for Southern Illinois

County	1920*	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Alexander	4,668	22,542	25,496	20,316	16,061	12,015	12,264	10,626	9,590
Franklin	15,239	59,442	53,137	48,685	39,281	38,329	43,201	40,319	39,018
Gallatin	3,088	10,091	11,414	9,818	7,638	7,418	7,590	6,909	6,445
Hardin	1,873	6,955	7,759	7,530	5,879	4,914	5,383	5,189	4,800
Jackson	8,266	35,680	37,920	38,124	42,151	55,008	61,522	61,067	59,612
Johnson	2,798	10,203	10,727	8,729	6,928	7,550	9,624	11,347	12,878
Massac	3,009	14,081	14,937	13,594	14,341	13,889	14,990	14,752	15,161
Perry	5,126	22,767	23,438	21,684	19,184	19,757	21,714	21,412	23,094
Pope	2,157	7,996	7,999	5,779	4,061	3,857	4,404	4,373	4,413
Pulaski	3,342	14,834	15,875	13,639	10,490	8,741	8,840	7,523	7,348
Saline	9,473	37,100	38,066	33,420	26,227	25,721	28,448	26,551	26,733
Union	4,221	19,883	21,528	20,500	17,645	16,071	17,765	17,619	18,293
Williamson	14,806	53,880	51,424	48,621	46,117	49,021	56,538	57,733	61,296
TOTALS	78,066*	315,454	319,720	290,439	256,003	262,291	292,283	285,420	288,681

* Age 0-9 only.

How We Used this Census Data

For this study, Southern Illinois is limited to the southernmost thirteen counties in Illinois, which include Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, and Williamson counties.

The population was tracked by ten-year age groups, not accounting for deaths, migration patterns, etc. In order words, all the babies born in the 1920s would be grouped in the 0-9 age group when the 1930 Census was taken. This ten-year age group, or ten-year "generation", was tracked by each subsequent Census count, for example, in the 1940 Census the babies born in the 1920s would be represented by the 10-19 age group, in the 1950 Census by the 20-29 age group, etc.

Our Census data charts, therefore, group the population in age groups from age 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, etc. in order to easily track each generation of babies born every ten years and how their numbers changed as they reached the age groups we wished to study, disregarding deaths and migration patterns in or out of the region.

Unfortunately, the Census data we obtained does not always group data into the ten-year age groups we required for this study. Often the Census Bureau would indicate population age groups using mid-decade ages (i.e., age 45-54, age 55-64, etc.) When ages from the Census were ranged from mid-decade to mid-decade, that figure was divided in half and each half was redistributed between the age ranges we needed for this study. When the dividend resulted in a fraction, the younger age range was increased and the older age range was decreased in order to bring them each to a whole number. Therefore, some statistical error may have been introduced as a result of our methods, however, the overall trends we found probably were not affected.

The 1930 Census data was the first we found that grouped the Census count by county and age groups. The Census data that is available to us prior to 1930 require us to hand-count the number of individuals in each age group in every county. We decided not to pursue this labor-intensive count with the pre-1930 Census data.

We did, however, find a source for the 1920 Census that indicated age groups by county for ages 0-6 and ages 7-13. We used this data to determine the number of individuals in the 0-9 age group for each of our counties for the 1920 Census. In order to do this we added the number of individuals aged 0-6 to a percentage (3/7ths or 42.8571 percent) of those in the 7-13 age group. We did not try to determine the data for any other age group for the 1920 Census.

On the county census data sheets, formulas may actually vary somewhat from county to county and decade to decade based on how federal census reflected age brackets and whether or not there were fractions resulting from dividing age ranges.