

BROWARD-by-the-NUMBERS

The First Census of Broward County

In honor of Broward County's 90th birthday, this edition looks at data from the 1920 Census, when only 5,135 people and 1,418 families lived in the County.

Broward County was formed from parts of Palm Beach and Dade counties in 1915. At that time, the population was 4,763 (Florida State Census). Five years later, the U.S. Bureau of Census conducted its first enumeration of Broward County residents. In 1920, Broward County had 5,135 residents. The tri-county area had a population of 66,542, which was less than seven percent of the state's population. Today, Broward is the second most populous county in the state and one-third of Floridians live in the tri-county area.

County	Population in 1920
Broward	5,135
Palm Beach	18,654
Miami-Dade	42,753
Florida	968,470

In 1920, Broward County had no incorporated places with more than 2,500 residents, so it was classified as a rural county. The largest of its three municipalities, the City of Fort Lauderdale, had 2,065 residents. One third of the population lived in the Unincorporated Area (including Davie, Deerfield and Hallandale areas that incorporated between 1925 and 1927).

Municipality	Incorporation Year	Population in 1920
City of Ft. Lauderdale	1911	2,065
Town of Dania	1904	762
Town of Pompano	1908	636

Broward County was mostly undeveloped in 1920. According to the Census, less than eight square miles of the County had been "improved in operating enterprises" (developed). There were 280 farms, covering 20,400 acres (31.9 sq miles), of which 9,092 acres were improved farmland. Most farms covered less than 50 acres, with an average value per acre of \$73.84. Vegetables were the primary crop.

Broward County, 1920



U.S. Railroad Administration Map, 1920, reproduced with permission from University of South Florida Center for Instructional Technology.

The 1920 Census divided Broward into six precincts (precursors to census tracts), which included incorporated and unincorporated areas. Fort Lauderdale was the most populous precinct.

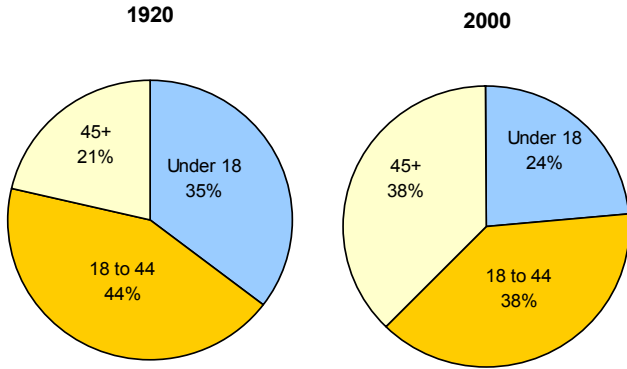
Precinct	Incorporated	Unincorp.	Total
1. Deerfield	0	437	437
2. Pompano	636	117	753
3. Ft. Lauderdale	2,065	192	2,257
4. Dania	762	198	960
5. Hallandale	0	516	516
6. Davie	0	190	190
Seminole Indians ¹	n/a	n/a	22
Broward County	3,463	1,672	5,135

The 1920 Census recorded 1,418 occupied housing units, of which 843 (59 percent) were rentals and 503 were owner occupied. With 1,418 families living in Broward County, the average family size was 3.62 persons. This was much larger than the average household² size of 2.45 persons in 2000.

¹ The 1920 Census did not tabulate this population by precinct.

² Households were not defined in the 1920 census, however, the average family size is comparable with average household size in Census 2000.

In 1920, Broward County had a much younger population, than it does today. At that time, 21 percent of the population was age 45 or older; today that proportion has doubled to 43 percent.



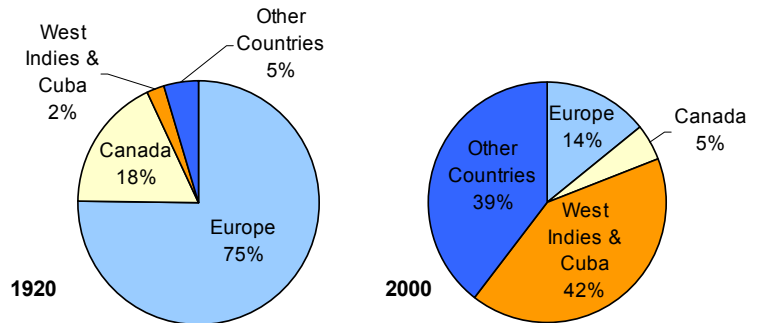
Age	Population (1920)	
Under 7	769	15.0%
7 to 13	718	14.0%
14 to 17	326	6.3%
18 to 44	2,230	43.4%
45+	1,092	21.3%

In 1920, parents could send six-year olds to first grade; however, children were not required to attend school until age seven. Education and literacy indicators from the 1920 Census showed that most children age 7 to 13 were enrolled in school. However, from age 14 a significant number of children dropped out of school, most likely finding full-time employment. The Census also recorded that 5.3 percent of the population age 10 and over was illiterate (213 persons).

Age	Enrolled in School	
7 to 13	677	94.3%
14 and 15	119	72.6%
16 and 17	81	50.0%
18 to 20	21	9.1%

In 1920, 69 percent of Broward County residents were white, 31 percent were black and less than one percent were Asian or other races. (Persons of Hispanic origin were not identified in the 1920 Census.) Slightly more than half the population (54 percent) were men.

In 1920, 231 Broward residents were listed as foreign-born, most of whom were Europeans. However, the 1920 Census only enumerated the white population by place of birth. It is likely that there were additional foreign-born black residents, especially immigrants from the Bahamas, who were not included in the data. Of the 231 foreign-born residents, 219 were adults age 21 and over, including 125 that were naturalized citizens, and 12 that were under age 21.



Sources:

U.S. Bureau of Census:
 14th Census of United States, 1920
 Census of Manufacturing, 1920
 Census of Agriculture, 1920
 Census 2000

Florida State Census, 1895-1935

University of South Florida: "Exploring Florida" (Aug. 2005) at <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/county/broward/broward.htm>

Acknowledgements

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TECHNICAL APPENDIX

TABLE 1 – POPULATION GROWTH IN BROWARD COUNTY, 1920-2000

Date	Population	Population Growth		Unincorporated Area	
		(10 years)			
1920	5,135			1,672	32.5%
1930	20,094	14,959	291.3%	3,927	19.5%
1940	39,794	19,700	98.0%	3,738	9.4%
1950	83,933	44,139	110.9%	14,562	17.3%
1960	333,946	250,013	297.9%	138,015	41.3%
1970	620,100	286,154	85.7%	124,137	20.0%
1980	1,018,257	398,157	64.2%	167,620	16.5%
1990	1,255,488	237,231	23.3%	155,757	12.4%
2000	1,623,018	367,530	29.3%	129,437	8.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 2 –FORMATION HISTORY OF BROWARD COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES, 1904 to 2005.

No.	Original Name at Incorporation	Incorporation Date	Law	Dissolution Date	Law
1	Town of Dania	Nov. 30, 1904 ⁽¹⁾	LF, 07-5799		
2	Town of Pompano	June 6, 1908 ⁽²⁾			
3	City of Fort Lauderdale	March 27, 1911	LF, 11-6343		
-	<i>Broward County</i>	<i>April 30, 1915</i> <i>Effective Oct. 1, 1915</i>			
4	Town of Davie	Nov. 16, 1925 ⁽³⁾			
5	Town of Deerfield	June 11, 1925 ⁽⁴⁾			
6	Town of Floranada	Nov. 25, 1925	LF, 25-11462	June 10, 1929 ⁽⁵⁾	LF, 29-14041
7	City of Hollywood	Nov. 25, 1925	LF, 25-11519		
8	Town of Hallandale	May 11, 1927 ⁽⁶⁾	LF, 27-12791		
9	Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea	Nov. 30, 1927	LF, 27-26449		
10	City of Oakland Park	June 10, 1929 ⁽⁷⁾	LF, 29-14041		
11	Town of Hillsboro Beach	June 12, 1939	LF, 39-19868		
12	Village of Wilton Manors	May 13, 1947 ⁽⁸⁾			
13	Hacienda Village	Oct. 29, 1949 ⁽⁹⁾		June 29, 1984	LF, 84-420
14	Ferncrest Village	April 29, 1953	LF, 53-29070	July 1, 1970 ⁽¹⁰⁾	LF, 69-1053

No.	Original Name at Incorporation	Incorporation Date	Law	Dissolution Date	Law
15	City of Plantation	April 30, 1953	LF, Special Acts, Vol.2, part 2, 1953		
16	Village of Lazy Lake	June 3, 1953	Senate Bill 873, LF, 1953		
17	Town of Hollywood Ridge Farms	1953		July 2, 1964 ⁽¹¹⁾	
18	City of Miramar	May 26, 1955 ⁽¹²⁾			
19	City of Margate	May 30, 1955 ⁽¹³⁾			
20	Town of Lighthouse Point	June 13, 1956 ⁽¹⁴⁾			
21	Town of Pembroke	Dec. 10, 1957 ⁽¹⁵⁾			
22	City of Cooper City	June 20, 1959 ⁽¹⁶⁾			
23	City of Lauderhill	June 20, 1959			
24	Village of Pembroke Pines	March 2, 1959 ⁽¹⁷⁾			
25	Village of Sea Ranch Lakes	Oct. 6, 1959 ⁽¹⁸⁾			
26	City of Lauderdale Lakes	June 22, 1961			
27	City of Sunrise Golf Village	June 22, 1961 ⁽¹⁹⁾	LF, Special Acts, vol.2, part 3, 1961		
28	City of Coral Springs	July 10, 1963 ⁽²⁰⁾			
29	City of North Lauderdale	July 10, 1963			
30	City of Parkland	July 10, 1963	LF, 63-1758		
31	City of Tamarac	Aug. 15, 1963			
32	City of Coconut Creek	Feb. 20, 1967 ⁽²¹⁾			
33	City of Weston	Sept. 3, 1996	LF, 96-472		
34	Town of Southwest Ranches	June 6, 2000	LF, 2000-475		
35	Town of West Park	March 1, 2005	LF, 2004-454		

Sources:

Laws of Florida (1903-1997).

Division of Archives, History and Record Management, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida. Series 1655, Box 1.

A List of Municipal Incorporations in Florida, Revised. 1941, prepared by the Historical Records Survey, Division of Communities Service Programs, Works Progress Administration, Jacksonville, Florida (1941).

Broward County Incorporation Records, Broward County Courthouse.

Official web sites for City of Hallandale, City of Hollywood, Town of Davie

City Clerk, City of Dania Beach and City of Hallandale

Footnotes:

1. Town of Dania: November 30, 1904, Broward County Incorporation Records, vol. A, page 300. Charter amended, (LF, 23-9721) and the town became incorporated into the City of Hollywood then was reincorporated as the City of Dania on June 6, 1927 (LF, 27-12652). By referendum vote, November 3, 1998, the name was changed to City of Dania Beach

2. Town of Pompano Beach: June 6, 1908. On June 6, 1947 the Town of Pompano and the Town of Pompano Beach and the intervening territory merged to form the City of Pompano Beach.
3. Town of Davie: November 16, 1925. Originally known as Zona, it was incorporated as the Town of Davie after the developer R.P Bert Davie. Broward County Incorporation Records, vol. 2, page 416. Initially, the Town did not exercise its charter. On September 19, 1963, voters of Davie adopted a charter by a vote of 188 to 144.
4. Town of Deerfield: June 11, 1925. Incorporated as the Town of Deerfield. On May 12, 1939, the name was changed to Deerfield Beach (see LF, 39-19774). On June 13, 1945, however, there seems to have been another legislative act passed to change the name to City of Deerfield Beach LF, Special Acts, vol. 2, 1949.
5. Town of Floradana: November 25, 1925. On June 10, 1929 the Town of Floradana was abolished and reincorporated as the City of Oakland Park LF, 29-14041.
6. Town of Hallandale: May 11, 1927. Subsequently the town was incorporated into Hollywood. In 1947, it was reincorporated as a the City of Hallandale. On August 27, 1999, the city officially changed its name to City of Hallandale Beach (City Ordinance 1999-15).
7. See note 5.
8. Village of Wilton Manors: May 13, 1947. Referendum for village held on April 28, 1947 and vote to incorporate 86 to 10 and council sworn in on May 13, 1947, Clerk of Wilton Manors. Village abolished and City of Wilton Manors created with an Act filed with the Secretary of State. LF, Special Acts, vol.2, part 2, 1953.
9. Hacienda Village: October 29, 1949. Broward County Incorporation Records, Book 13, page 550. Charter was amended to update on May 5, 1970. Then was disincorporated in 1984.
10. Ferncrest Village: This area was subsequently annexed into the Town of Davie.
11. Town of Hollywood Ridge Farms: 1953. Disincorporated by Court Decreed Judgement of Ouster on July 2, 1964. The area was subsequently annexed into the Town of Pembroke Park.
12. City of Miramar: May 26, 1955. Legislative act filed with the Secretary of State on May 26, 1955.
13. City of Margate: May 30, 1955. Legislative act filed with the Secretary of State filed on May 30, 1955. The same filed to form the City of Margate on June 22, 1961.
14. Town of Lighthouse Point: June 13, 1956 the Town of Lighthouse Point was formed. The City of Lighthouse Point was formed on June 11, 1957.
15. Town of Pembroke: December 10, 1957. Created by referendum vote in favor 47 to 0 on December 10, 1957. Town of Pembroke was abolished and the Town of Pembroke Park was created on June 20, 1959. LF, Special Acts, 1959, vol 2.
16. City of Cooper City: June 20, 1959. Created by Special Act of Florida Legislature.
17. Village of Pembroke Pines: March 2, 1959. Referendum held and passed on February 23, 1959 and Mayor and Councilmen sworn in on March 2, 1959 (Miami Herald and Sun-Tatler, March 2 and 3, 1959). Controversy surrounded the Village of Pembroke Pines for months. On December 1, 1959 the Village of Pembroke Pines was abolished and on January 16, 1960 referendum and election re-instituted Village of Pembroke Pines. Village of Pembroke Pines became the City of Pembroke Pines on May 22, 1961 LF, Special Acts, 1961.
18. Village of Sea Ranch Lakes: October 6, 1959. Became Town of Sea Ranch Lakes.
19. City of Sunrise Golf Village: June 22, 1961. City of Sunrise Golf Village created and act filed with the Secretary of State on June 22, 1961, LF, Special Acts, vol.2 part 3, 1961. The name City of Sunrise Golf Village changed to the City of Sunrise on March 2, 1971 by referendum vote of 610 to 446.
20. City of Coral Springs: July 10, 1963. Legislative bill filed with Secretary of State on July 10, 1963.
21. City of Coconut Creek: Freeholder election held on February 19 and validated by Broward County Circuit Court February 20, 1967. Broward County Incorporation Records, Broward County Courthouse and Coconut Creek Charter, 1, July 1981.