

HISTORICAL CENSUS STATISTICS ON THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1990

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Table 6. Mother Tongue of the Foreign-Born Population: 1910 to 1940, 1960, and 1970-con.

(See text for sources, definitions, and explanations)

Language	All races		White					
	1970*	1960*	1970*	1960*	1940*	1930	1920	1910
Other languages.....	325,074	360,019	273,500	314,745	389,240	446,026	481,543	382,048
Uralic languages.....	199,543	266,286	198,749	265,963	338,300	378,196	423,986	349,180
Finnish.....	38,290	53,168	38,069	53,094	97,080	124,994	132,543	119,948
Hungarian.....	161,253	213,118	160,680	212,869	241,220	250,393	290,419	229,094
Caucasian.....	421	192	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Basque.....	2,169	1,580	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Semitic languages.....	110,527	88,516	72,024	48,782	50,940	67,830	57,557	32,868
Arabic.....	73,657	49,908	72,024	48,782	50,940	67,830	57,557	32,868
Hebrew 2/.....	36,112	38,346	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
African languages.....	6,605	982	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Native American languages.....	5,809	2,463	2,727	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Mother tongue n.e.c.....	189,170	8,113	377,970	222,965	63,880	3,352	1,228	646
Mother tongue data not available.....	96,147	377,976	82,014	331,334	248,500	42,233	7,166	116,272

* Indicates sample data.

(NA) Not available.

1/ For 1970, assumes that all individuals with Celtic mother tongue are White.

2/ For 1910-1940, Hebrew included with Yiddish.

3/ For White in 1960, the published estimate (794,714) includes Basque. The estimate here assumes that all individuals with Basque mother tongue (1,580) are White.

4/ For 1920, probably includes a "considerable proportion" of individuals of Yiddish mother tongue erroneously reported as of Russian mother tongue. See sources in text.

5/ For White in 1960, the published estimate (87,997) includes Dalmatian. The estimate here assumes that all individuals with Dalmatian mother tongue (1,137) are White.

6/ For 1970, includes 10,031 cases of Breton (which appears to be an unrealistically large number), and 10,208 cases of Other Balto-Slavonic languages. In 1960, the 535 cases of Breton were included with French. For 1960, includes 49,610 cases of Other Balto-Slavonic languages.

Table 6. Mother Tongue of the Foreign-Born Population: 1910 to 1940, 1960, and 1970

Sources: For 1910, 1920 census, Vol. II (Dubester #453), Ch. X, Table 1, p. 973. For 1930-1940, 1940 census, Nativity and Parentage of the White Population (Dubester #1001), Mother Tongue, Table 1, p. 7. For 1960, 1960 census, Vol. II, Subject Reports, Report 1E, Mother Tongue of the Foreign Born, PC(2)-1E, Tables 1-2, pp. 1-2. For 1970, 1970 census, Vol. II, Subject Reports, Report 1A, National Origin and Language, PC(2)-1A, Table 19, p. 492.

Data on mother tongue are based on a question on language spoken in this person's home when he was a child or, when the question was limited to the foreign-born population, on a question on what language was spoken in this person's home before he came to the United States. Data on mother tongue for 1910 to 1940 were tabulated only for the White population, which represented over 98 percent of the foreign-born population during this period (Table 9). For 1960 and 1970, data are shown for both the White foreign-born population (to compare with data for 1910 to 1940) and for the total foreign-born population. Starting with the 1980 census, a question on language spoken at home replaced the question on mother tongue. Data on language spoken at home for the foreign-born population are shown in Table 5.

To the extent possible, the language groups and families used to group data on mother tongue are the same as used in Table 5 to group data on language spoken at home. However, the concepts of mother tongue and language spoken at home differ considerably, and thus data in Tables 5 and 6 are not comparable.