



**The U.S. in 1810.** In 1803, the U.S. had purchased “The drainage of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers” (Louisiana) from France. In 1804, the Louisiana Purchase was divided into Orleans Territory and Louisiana Territory, as shown on the map. In October 1810, in a proclamation by President James Madison, the U.S. arbitrarily annexed Spain’s West Florida from the Mississippi River to the Perdido River. The area included Baton Rouge, Biloxi, and Mobile, but was not organized nor included in the 1810 census. Spain did not recognize the annexation, and continued their claim to West Florida in dispute with the U.S. **Map Source:** Page 3, [Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920](#) by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide.

## Third Census of the United States - 1810

### Description

**Location of Original Records:** National Archives, Washington, DC.

**U.S. Population:** 7.2 million (6.0 million free and .9 million slave).

**1810 Census Legislative Act:** 2 Stat. 564, 26 March 1810.

**Responsibility:** The President of the United States (James Madison), with authority delegated to the Secretary of State (Robert Smith). Reporting to the Secretary of State, the U.S. Marshal of each U.S. Federal Court District hired and managed Assistant Marshals as the door-to-door census

takers within his district. Territories without a federal court district were enumerated by local militia captains, under the supervision of the Territorial Governor.

**Census day:** the first Monday in August (6 Aug 1810). All of the questions asked by the census taker were related to a person’s age or place of residence as of the census day.

**Time Allowed:** In the first act, nine months; but extended to ten months (2 Stat. 658, 2 March 1811).

**1810 Jurisdictions:** 25. The 1810 federal census included one new state, Ohio, admitted in 1803, bringing the total to seventeen (17) states in the Union. The census also included the District of Columbia, the Federal Court District of Maine,