

## Selected Statistics on Slavery in the United States

Region	Number of Slaves	Percentage of Total Population
Lower South	2,312,3522	47%
Upper South	1,208,758	29%
Border States	432,586	13%

Almost one-third of all Southern families owned slaves. In Mississippi and South Carolina the slave population approached one half of the total population. Eighty-eight percent of slave owners held fewer than twenty slaves, and nearly fifty percent owned fewer than five.

To make these figures easier to understand consider that in the 1950s, only two percent of American families owned stock equal in value to the 1860 value of a single slave. Slave owning was far more widespread in the South than corporate investment in America in the 1950s. On a plantation holding more than twenty slaves, the value of the slaves was greater than the capital value of the land and implements.

The increased value of slaves made the institution highly profitable. While the South was home to only 30% of the nation's free population, it had sixty percent of the wealthiest men. The 1860 per capita income in the South in 1860 was \$3,978, while in the North it was but \$2,040.

The table below illustrates the extent of slave ownership in 1860 in each of the states that allowed it. The figures show the percentage of slave-owning families as a fraction of total free households in the state.

Mississippi	49%	Louisiana	29%	Kentucky	23%
S. Carolina	46%	Texas	28%	Arkansas	20%
Georgia	37%	N. Carolina	28%	Missouri	13%
Alabama	35%	Virginia	26%	Maryland	12%
Florida	34%	Tennessee	25%	Delaware	3%

- In the Lower South, where the first states seceded—SC, GA, MS, AL, TX, FL—about 37% of the white families owned slaves.
- In the Middle South, the states that seceded only after Fort Sumter was fired upon—VA, NC, TN, AR—the percentage is about 25%.
- The total for the two combined regions is about 31%.
- In the Border States—DE, MD, KY, MO—the percentage of slave ownership was about 16%. These slave-holding states did not secede and remained in the Union.
- The total throughout the slave states was 26%.