



## How did Key West's population growth in the 1830s affect its development

Key West's population growth in the 1830s significantly influenced its development. The population increased to over 500, leading to the establishment of 160 wooden structures and a mapped town layout with 64 blocks<sup>[1] [2]</sup>. This growth boosted the wrecking industry, salt production, and maritime trade, making Key West the wealthiest U.S. city per capita<sup>[1] [3]</sup>. However, rapid expansion also highlighted infrastructure challenges, such as inadequate fire response systems<sup>[2]</sup>. The influx of settlers, including professionals and merchants from New England, diversified the economy and solidified Key West as a key military and economic hub<sup>[1] [3]</sup>.

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1. <https://www.keyshistory.org/keywest.html>
2. <https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/250/Our-History>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key\\_West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_West)
4. <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/rise-of-industrial-america-1876-1900/american-west-1865-1900/>
5. <https://www.kwahs.org/overseas-railway-timeline/>
6. <https://library.fiveable.me/hs-florida-history/unit-5/population-growth-territorial-expansion-state/study-guide/jR1GNIIQn2zwNfEX>