

## How many emigrants followed the trails to California, the Pacific Northwest, and Utah?

Probably about 500,000. Perhaps 1 out of every 250 emigrants left some kind of written account.

[Merrill Mattes, *Platte River Narratives*, p, 5.]

**1812-1848:** 5,000 to Salt Lake; 10,000 to Oregon; 2,000 to California.

**1849:** Perhaps as many as 40,000. This includes northsiders and those who failed to register either at Fort Kearny or Fort Laramie.

**1850:** 65,000 is a defensible figure. This was the most disastrous of the migration years with perhaps 5,000 deaths, mostly caused by cholera.

**1851:** Less than 10,000.

**1852:** Probably close to 70,000.

**1853:** About 35,000.

**1854:** Some 20,000, with over half going to California and the rest to Utah.

**1855:** The majority of an estimated 7,000 went to Utah.

**1856:** An estimated 12,000; two-thirds went to California.

**1857:** Not more than 6,000, with two-thirds again going to California.

**1858:** An estimated 7,500.

**1859:** Perhaps 80,000; 60,000 went to Colorado because of the discovery of gold on Cherry Creek.

**1860:** On the order of 20,000. This figure is more of an estimate than those for other years.

**1861:** Less than 10,000.

**1862:** About 20,000. The increase was caused by the discovery of silver and gold in Montana and in eastern Oregon.

**1863:** About the same level as 1862.

**1864:** About 40,000; most went to Montana.

**1865:** Did not exceed 20,000; most traveled to Colorado and Utah.

**1866:** 25,000

[Merrill Mattes, *Platte River Narratives*, pp. 2-5]