

Back to School: 2007-2008

It is that time of year again, summertime is winding down, summer vacations are coming to an end, and it's almost time to go back to school for over 75 million children and adults enrolled in schools and colleges throughout the country. It's a time that many children look forward to eagerly, to catch up with old friends, make new ones and settle into a new daily routine. Parents and children alike are scanning the newspapers and Web sites looking for upcoming sales to shop for a multitude of school supplies and the latest clothing fads and essentials. This monthly brief presents data from the US Census Bureau on many interesting statistics related to the return to classrooms by our nation's students and teachers.

Key Indicators

Students

75.8 million

The number of children and adults enrolled in school throughout the country



– from nursery school to college. That amounts to more than one-fourth of the US population age 3 and older.

Shopping

\$7.1 billion

The amount of money spent at family clothing stores in August 2006. Only in November and December - the holiday shopping season - were sales higher. Similarly, bookstore sales in August 2006 totaled \$2.1 billion, an amount approached in 2006 only by sales in January and December. To do your back-to-school shopping, choices of retail establishments abound: In 2005, there were 24,659 family clothing stores, 6,305 children and infants clothing stores, 26,416 shoe stores, 9,501 office supplies and stationery stores, 23,195 sporting goods stores, 11,077 bookstores and 9,589 department stores.

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by
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Pre-K through 12

Enrollment

54%

Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school in October 2005.

70%

Percentage of children enrolled in kindergarten who attend all day, as of October 2005.



55.8 million

The projected number of students to be enrolled in the nation's elementary and high schools (grades K-12) this fall.

11%

Projected percentage of elementary and high school students enrolled in private schools this fall.

41%

Percentage of elementary and high school students who are minorities (i.e., people who are other than non-Hispanic white), as of October 2005.

22%

Percentage of elementary and high school students with at least one foreign-born parent in October 2005.

42%

Percentage of children 12 to 17 years who participated in sports as of 2003. Sports was the most popular extracurricular activity, followed by club activi-

ties (33 percent), and lessons in subjects like music, dance, language, computers and religion (29 percent).

24%

Percentage of children 12 to 17 years who were in special class for gifted students or did advanced work in any subject, as of 2003.

Languages

10.5 million

Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home. These children make up nearly 1-in-5 in this age group. Most of them (7.5 million) speak Spanish at home.

Lunchtime

30.1 million

Average number of children participating each month in the national school lunch program in 2006.

10 billion

The nation's total apple production, in pounds, in 2006. The chances are good that the apples your children present to their teachers or enjoy for lunch were grown in Washington state, which accounted for more than half of the nation's total production.

College

18 million

The projected number of students enrolled in the nation's colleges and universities this fall. This is up from 12.8 million twenty years ago.

37%

Percentage of all college students age 25 and older in October 2005. The majority of these older students (56 percent) attended school part-time.

69%

Percentage of undergraduates enrolled in four-year colleges in October 2005.



Of these undergraduate students 81 percent attended college full time.

Learning and Earning

21%

Percentage of high school students who were employed as of October 2005.

50%

Percentage of full-time college students who were employed as of October 2005.

How Many Schools?

95,726

Number of public elementary and secondary schools in 2003-04. The corresponding number of private elementary and secondary schools is 28,384.

3,294

The number of public charter schools nationwide in 2004-05. They enrolled 887,000 students and are exempted from selected state and local rules and regulations.

4,276

Number of institutions of higher learning that grant college degrees in 2005. 1.1 million
Number of students who are home-schooled in 2003. That is 2 percent of all students ages 5 to 17.

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Teachers and Other School Personnel

6.8 million

Number of teachers in the United States in 2006. The bulk of them (2.7 million) teach at the elementary and middle school levels. The remainder include those teaching at the postsecondary, secondary, preschool and kindergarten levels.

\$57,300

Average annual salary of public elementary and secondary school teachers in Connecticut as of the 2003-2004 school year - among the highest of any state in the nation. Teachers in South Dakota received among the lowest pay - \$33,200. The national average was \$46,800. High school principals earned \$86,938 annually in 2004-05.

\$14.18

Average hourly wage for the nation's school bus drivers in 2004-05. Custodians earned \$12.61 while cafeteria workers made \$10.33.

Technology

14.2 million

Number of computers available for classroom use in the nation's 124,110 elementary and secondary schools as of the 2005-2006 school year; that works out to one computer for every four students.

100%

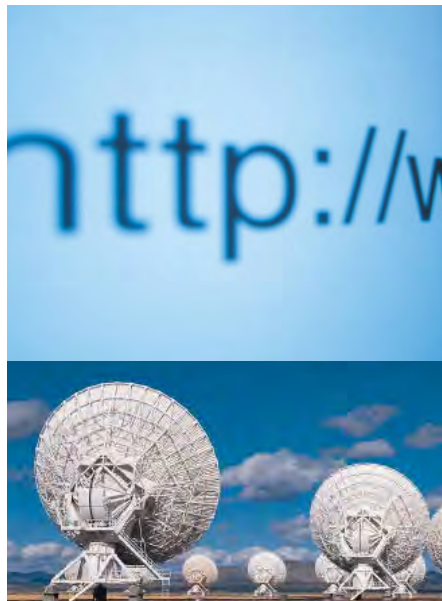
Percentage of public schools with Internet access as of fall 2003.

83% and 43%

Percentage of children ages 3 to 17 using a computer and the Internet, respectively, at school as of fall 2003.

75%

The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 accessing the Internet in fall 2003 - whether at home, school or elsewhere - to complete school assignments. This was the most common reason for children to use the Internet.



66%

The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 using a computer at home in fall 2003 to complete school assignments. This was the second most common home computer use for children, behind playing games.

The Rising Cost of College

\$13,425

Average tuition, room and board (for in-state students) at the nation's four-



year public colleges and universities for an entire academic year (2005-06); that is more than double the corresponding figure in 1990.

\$36,510

Average tuition, room and board at the nation's four-year private colleges and universities for one complete academic year (2005-06); that is more than double the corresponding figure in 1990

\$6,291

The average amount of aid received by full-time college students in 2001-02. More than 50 percent of college students receive some type of financial aid from outside their families to pay for their education.

The Rewards of Staying in School

\$74,946

Average annual 2005 earnings of workers age 18 and older with an advanced degree. This compares with \$54,689 a year for those with bachelor's degrees, \$29,448 for those with a high school diploma only and \$19,915 for those without a high school diploma.

\$67,069

Average starting salary offered to bachelor's degree candidates in petroleum engineering in 2006, among the
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Government Spending on Education

\$8,701

The per-pupil expenditure on elementary and secondary education nationally in 2005. New York (\$14,119) spent the most among states or state-equivalents, followed by New Jersey (\$13,800), the District of Columbia (\$12,979), Vermont (\$11,835) and Connecticut (\$11,572). Utah (\$5,257) spent the least per student, followed by Arizona (\$6,261), Idaho (\$6,283), Mississippi (\$6,575), and Oklahoma (\$6,613).

highest of any field of study. At the other end of the spectrum were those majoring in the humanities; they were offered an average of \$31,183.

Graduation

3.3 million

Projected number of high school diplomas that will be awarded in 2007-08 school year.

3 million

Number of college degrees expected to be conferred in 2007-08 school year.

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