



## Facts for Features

### Back to School: 2007-2008

Summertime is winding down, and summer vacations are coming to an end. It's back-to-school time! It's a time that many children eagerly anticipate — catching up with old friends, making new ones and settling 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 edition of Facts for Features highlights the many statistics associated with the return to classrooms by our nation's students and teachers.

#### Back-to-School 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 significantly higher. Similarly, sales at bookstores in August 2006 totaled \$2.1 billion, an amount approached in 2006 only by sales in January and December.  
<<http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>>

For 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. <[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county\\_business\\_patterns/010192.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/county_business_patterns/010192.html)>

#### Students

##### **75.8 million**

The number of children and adults enrolled in school throughout the country in October 2005 — from nursery school to college. That amounts to about one-fourth of the U.S. population 3 and older. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

## Pre-K through 12 Enrollment

### 54%

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

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### 70%

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

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### 55.8 million

The projected number of students to be enrolled in the nation's elementary and high schools (grades K-12) this fall. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### 11%

Projected percentage of elementary and high school students enrolled in private schools this fall. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### 41%

Percentage of elementary and high school students who were minorities, as of October 2005.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### 22%

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

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### 42%

Percentage of children 12 to 17 who participated in sports as of 2003, which was the most popular extracurricular activity. About one-third of children this age participated in club activities and 29 percent in lessons. Lessons include those taken after school or on the weekend in subjects like music, dance, language, computers or religion.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html>>

### 75%

Percentage of children 12 to 17 who were enrolled in school and academically "on-track" (i.e., enrolled in school at or above the grade level for peers their age) as of 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html>>

### 24%

Percentage of children 12 to 17 who were in a special class for gifted students or did advanced work in any subject, such as honors and advanced placement classes, as of 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html>>

[Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html)>

### **41%**

Percentage of children 12 to 17 who had ever attended or been enrolled in first grade or higher and had changed schools at some point as of 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/children/009412.html>>

## **Languages**

### **10.5 million**

Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home, about one in five in this age group. Most of them (7.5 million) speak Spanish at home. (Source: 2005 American Community Survey)

## **Lunchtime**

### **30.1 million**

Average number of children participating each month in the national school lunch program in 2006. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### **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.

<<http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>>

## **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 20 years ago. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### **37%**

Percentage of all college students 25 and older in October 2005; 56 percent of these older students attended school part time.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### **69%**

Percentage of undergraduates enrolled in four-year colleges in October 2005. Of those enrolled in such schools, 81 percent attended full time.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

### **49%**

Percentage of 18- and 19-year-olds enrolled in college in 2005.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

**56%**

Percentage of undergraduates who were women in October 2005. Among graduate students, the corresponding percentage was even higher: 59 percent.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007909.html>>

**Learning and Earning****21%**

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

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>>

**50%**

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

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html>>

**How Many Schools?****95,726**

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

<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Tables 228 and 252.

**4,276**

Number of institutions of higher learning that granted college degrees in 2005. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

**1.1 million**

Number of students who were home-schooled in 2003. That was 2 percent of all students 5 to 17.

<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Table 227.

**3,294**

The number of public charter schools nationwide in 2004-05. These schools, granted a charter exempting them from selected state and local rules and regulations, enrolled 887,000 students. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

**Teachers and Other School Personnel****6.8 million**

Number of teachers in the United States in 2006. Some 2.7 million teach at the elementary and middle school level. The remainder include those teaching at the postsecondary, secondary and preschool and kindergarten levels. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

**\$57,300**

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

principals earned \$86,938 annually in 2004-05.  
<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Tables 240 and 241

### **\$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.  
<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Table 241

## **Technology**

### **14.2 million**

Number of computers available for classroom use in the nation's elementary and secondary schools as of the 2005-2006 school year. That works out to one computer for every four students. <<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Table 248

### **100%**

Percentage of public schools with Internet access as of fall 2003.  
<<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>>, Table 246

### **83% and 43%**

Percentage of children 3 to 17 using a computer and the Internet, respectively, at school as of fall 2003. <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/computer.html>>

### **75%**

Among children 3 to 17 accessing the Internet in fall 2003, whether at home, school or elsewhere, the percentage who used it to complete school assignments. This was the most common reason for children to use the Internet. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/miscellaneous/005863.html>>

### **66%**

Among children 3 to 17 using a computer at home in fall 2003, the percentage who used it to complete school assignments. This was the second most common home computer use for children, behind playing games. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/miscellaneous/005863.html>>

## **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. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### **\$36,510**

Average tuition, room and board at the nation's four-year private colleges and universities for one academic year (2005-06). That also is more than double the corresponding 1990 figure. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

**\$6,291**

Average amount of aid received by full-time college students in 2001-02. More than half of college students receive some form of financial aid from outside their families to help pay for their education. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/007383.html>>

### **The Rewards of Staying in School**

**\$79,946**

Average annual 2005 earnings of workers 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. <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/009749.html>>

**\$67,069**

Average starting salary offered to bachelor's degree candidates in petroleum engineering in 2006, among the 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. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### **Graduation**

**3.3 million**

Projected number of high school diplomas that will be awarded in the 2007-08 school year. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

**3 million**

Number of college degrees expected to be conferred in the 2007-08 school year. (Source: Upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*)

### **Government Spending on Public Education**

**\$8,701**

The per-pupil expenditure on public 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).

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/010125.html>>

### **Satisfaction**

**7%**

Among households with a child in the local public school, the percentage who expressed dissatisfaction with the schools in 2003. Fifteen percent of these households said they would prefer a different school for their child. <[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families\\_households/009884.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/families_households/009884.html)>

**Editor's note:** The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; fax: 301-763-3762; or e-mail: <[pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov)>.