

U.S. POPULATION; 300 million's a crowd

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Body

The **U.S. population** clock will click over to its **300** millionth person at 7:46 a.m. Tuesday, according to the Census Bureau. It could be a newborn in Atlanta or Detroit, or it could be an immigrant flying in from Venezuela or an illegal immigrant walking in from Mexico. Wherever that person comes from, having 600 million feet tramping about the country has consequences. Here's a statistical snapshot of the impact we're having.

On the clock

7 seconds: Time elapsed for every American birth

13 seconds: Time elapsed for every American death

31 seconds: Time elapsed for every international migrant (net)

11 seconds: Time elapsed for the net gain of one person

Where Americans live

* More than half (51%) the people in America live in just 10 states: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

* More than half the people in America live within 50 miles of a coast.

Suburbs: 50 percent

Cities: 30 percent

Rural areas: 20 percent

Source: Center for Environment and **Population**, 2006

Energy

5 percent: **U.S.** share of world **population**

25 percent: **U.S.** consumption of world's oil

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Top 5 oil consumers (barrels per day), 2002

1. **U.S.**.....19.8 million
2. Japan....5.3 million
3. China....5.2 million
4. German ..2.7 million
5. Russia ..2.6 million

Source: **U.S.** Energy Information Administration

Effect on the environment

Climate change

The **U.S.** is the No. 1 emitter of carbon dioxide in the world, producing nearly 25 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions.

Per capita annual emissions

U.S......20 tons

World....4 tons

Europe ..8 tons

Polluted waterways

40%: Rivers too polluted for fishing or swimming

46%: Streams too polluted for fishing or swimming

50%: Estuaries too polluted for fishing or swimming

A third of **U.S.** lakes, a quarter of rivers, all of the Great Lakes and two-thirds of the nation's coastline were under a fish consumption advisory from pollutants in 2004, often because of mercury contamination.

Source: Center for Environment and **Population**, 2006

Biodiversity

6,700: Plant and animal species are considered at risk of extinction in the **U.S.**

1,000: Species listed as endangered by the government

300: Species listed as threatened

(A "threatened" species is one that is likely to become endangered in the near future.) In 85 percent of these cases, the threat results from habitat loss or alteration.

Endangered by humans

Alaska sea otter

Thrived from Alaska to Baja California. Hunted nearly to extinction, otters are thought to number about 6,000.

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Louisiana black bear

More than 80 percent of this animal's habitat has been lost to development. Illegal kills are also a serious problem.

Florida panther

Once roamed the entire Southeast; now, habitat is limited to south Florida; fewer than 100 remain.

Shenandoah salamander

Virginia amphibian survives only in Shenandoah National Park.

Loggerhead sea turtle

Human encroachment on beach nesting sites and commercial fishing threaten these animals.

Right whale

Hunted to near extinction, this is the most endangered of all whale species. Only about 600 are believed to remain.

How Americans roll

The nation's population hit 200 million in 1967. The comparisons below use that year or a census year close to it.

Motor vehicle registrations

1967....98.9 million

2006 ..237.2 million

Source: Census Bureau, 2006

Miles of streets and highways

1960....3.55 million

2000....3.93 million

Source: U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Vehicle miles traveled

1970....875 billion

2005....3 trillion

Source: Federal Highway Administration, World Almanac, 1971

Coming to America

27.3 million: Foreign-born residents who entered the U.S. from 1980 through 2005

16.8 million: Authorized

10.5 million: Illegal

6.5 million: Illegals from Mexico

Source: Department of Homeland Security

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The face of America

1 in 3: Americans are a member of a racial or ethnic minority. (For children younger than 5, the figure is more than 45 percent.)

Source: **U.S.** Census Bureau, 2006

A young nation

Immigration keeps America young. The lack of it is aging Japan and much of Europe.

World

0-14.....28%

65-older7%

United States

0-14.....21%

65-older....12%

Germany

0-14.....14%

65-older....19%

France

0-14.....18%

65-older....16%

Italy

0-14.....14%

65-older....20%

Japan

0-14.....14%

65-older....20%

Note the youth-to-aging ratios in these developing economies:

China

0-14.....21%

65-older8%

India

0-14.....31%

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65-older5%

Brazil

0-14.....26%

65-older6%

Source: CIA World Factbook, 2005

Illegals in Georgia

California, Texas and Florida, in that order, are the top states that attract illegal immigrants. But the raw percentage gain of illegals coming to Georgia between 2000 and 2005 --- 114 percent --- was greater than in any other state. Georgia is now home to an estimated 470,000 illegal residents.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

How Americans compare

Five most populous countries

20062050

China.....1.3 billionIndia1.6 billion

India.....1.1 billionChina1.4 billion

U.S.**300** million**U.S.**.....420 million

Indonesia..225 millionNigeria ..**300** million

Brazil187 millionPakistan..295 million

Source: **Population** Reference Bureau, 2006

Fertility rates

Average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime

Niger7.9

Mali.....7.1

Afghanistan 6.8

Iraq.....4.8

U.S......2.0

Britain1.8

Germany1.3

Switzerland 1.4

Per capita income

United States\$39,710

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World.....\$8,540

Europe.....\$19,980

Developing countries \$4,450

Infant mortality

(selected countries, per 1,000 births)

Japan3

Britain5

U.S......6

China.....23

Iraq49

India.....55

Afghanistan 160

Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006

Life expectancy

.....Men ..Women

United States.....75....80

World.....65....69

Europe71....79

Developing countries 63....67

Source: **Population** Reference Bureau, 2006

Graphic

Photo: Oregon ZooAlaska sea otter </ImageData* <ImageData*

Photo: **U.S.** Fish and Wildlife ServiceLouisiana black bear </ImageData* <ImageData*

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Photo: National Park ServiceShenandoah salamander</ImageData* <ImageData*

Photo: Miami SeaquariumLoggerhead sea turtle</ImageData* <ImageData*

Photo: Oregon State UniversityRight whale</ImageData*

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