One in three people registering to vote does so at a motor vehicle office, according to the newest edition of the Census Bureau’s annual desktop compendium of statistics about America.

The 1998 Statistical Abstract of the United States shows, among other facts, that the average fee for using another bank’s automated teller machine is about $1, that people who enjoy watching wildlife outspend hunters by more than 2 to 1 and that two-thirds of elderly nursing-home patients are in wheelchairs.

Glenn King, chief of the abstract staff, notes, “The Abstract is packed with almost 1,600 tables and graphs, including nearly 100 new tables.

“New in this year’s edition is information on employment and wages in the information technology industry, criminal victimization at school and breast-feeding of infants.”

The Statistical Abstract says that –
• In the spring of 1998, 62 million persons 18 years old and over had Internet access, either at home or at work. About 44 million – 54 percent males and 46 percent females – had accessed the Internet within the previous 30 days.
Census Bureau Adopts Six-Person Questionnaire for Census 2000

Shift from a five-person form will save time and money.

Citing a need to reduce the followup workload and expected overall coverage improvements, especially among hard-to-enumerate populations, the Census Bureau has adopted a six-person questionnaire design.

This will apply to both the short and long forms in the Census 2000 plan, which includes scientific sampling, and in an alternative plan that calls for traditional census-taking methods.

The Census Bureau anticipates that the change from a five-person to a six-person questionnaire will cut followup workload for large households.

Planning estimates put the number of mailback households with seven or more persons at slightly more than 1 million households versus about 4 million households with six or more.

The issue was revisited during discussions about ways to increase coverage in a census that does not include statistical sampling to supplement traditional methods.

With deadlines for advertising printing specifications scheduled for October 1998, it was found to be more cost-effective to require six-person forms only, notwithstanding a final decision on sampling. The alternative would have necessitated printing two sets of questionnaires for the entire country, a prohibitive expense.

The six-person questionnaire allows us to retain the design initiatives used to make the questionnaire “friendlier” and easier to complete. It also is compatible with the Census Bureau’s system for data capture and mailback questionnaire processing.
Harris County (Texas) Tops in Gain in Black Population

Black population over a million in Cook County and Los Angeles County.

Harris County, part of the Houston metro area, recorded the nation’s largest increase in Black population between 1990 and 1997. As the chart on the right shows, Harris County remains the sixth largest in the country in the number of African Americans, the rank it had in 1990.

Cook County (Chicago) and Los Angeles County remained the nation’s two largest counties in Black population, each with a population over a million, though Los Angeles showed a decrease since ’90.

Jefferson County, Mississippi, was the county with the highest concentration of African-Americans (87 percent). Next in line were Macon County, Alabama (86 percent); Claiborne County, Mississippi (82), Hancock County, Georgia (82) and Greene County, Alabama (81).

Among states, New York had the largest Black population (3.2 million). Florida registered the biggest increase between 1990 and 1997 (480,255). The District of Columbia had the highest percentage of Blacks (63 percent). Highest among states was Mississippi (36 percent).


Contact:
Larry Sink <lsink@census.gov>
Amy Smith <amy.symens.smith@ccmail.census.gov>
301-457-2461
Nassau-Suffolk, New York, Leads Largest Metro Areas in Homeownership

In 1997, about 80.6 percent of the housing units in the Nassau-Suffolk, New York metro area were occupied by their owners, the highest rate in any of the 75 largest metro areas. The metro area with the lowest rate was right next door – the New York metro area (33.4 percent).

The rate for all metro areas was 63.7 percent. In all, 16 of the 75 largest metro areas had rates of 70 percent or more (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeownership in America’s Largest Metro Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of housing units occupied by owners in 75 largest metropolitan areas: 1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside metropolitan areas</th>
<th>63.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akron, OH</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin-San Marcos, TX</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>71.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen-Passaic, NJ</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, MA-NH</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>67.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC</td>
<td>74.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dayton-Springfield, OH</td>
<td>63.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
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<td>Fresno, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale, FL</td>
<td>67.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, MI</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensboro-Winston Salem- High Point, NC</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville-Spartanburg- Anderson, SC</td>
<td>73.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>48.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>58.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville, FL</td>
<td>67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City, MO-KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Las Vegas, NV-AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Louisville, KY-IN</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memphis, TN-AR-MS</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterson, NJ</td>
<td>67.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Housing Vacancies and Homeownership, Annual Statistics 1997.

Also, 18 states had rates of 70 percent or more. Highest was Minnesota (75.4 percent); the lowest, Hawaii (50.2 percent). The rate for the District of Columbia was 42.5 percent.

The Census Bureau releases national and regional rates every quarter and state and metro rates every year. The rates are shown too by the characteristics of the owners. Look for the 1998 state and metro statistics during the first quarter of 1999.


Contact:
Bob Callis <robert.r.callis@ccmail.census.gov>
Linda Cavanaugh <linda.b.cavanaugh@ccmail.census.gov>
301-457-3199

Rentals Toughest to Find in San Francisco

Looking to rent in San Francisco? Good luck!

The San Francisco metro area had a rental vacancy rate of 1.7 percent – lowest among the nation’s 75 largest metro areas. The San Jose (2.0 percent), Ventura (2.1), Bergen-Passaic, New Jersey (2.2), Denver (2.4) and Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterson, New Jersey (2.6) metro areas were fairly close behind.

At the other end of the spectrum, you should have no trouble finding a flat in the Buffalo, New York (15.4), West Palm Beach-Boca Ratson, Florida (14.8) or Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazeltown, Pennsylvania (14.6) metro areas.

Longer Life Expectancy Comes With A Price

Gains mean health-care challenges, especially for women.

Major improvements in life expectancy in many parts of the world during the past 100 years have set the stage for health-care challenges in the 21st century for both developed and developing countries.

The findings are reported in Gender and Aging: Mortality and Health, the second in a series of four international profiles on aging.

Census Bureau analyst Kevin Kinsella, co-author of the profile with Yvonne Gist, said: "While the pace of aging varies, all nations are, or soon will be, facing important issues regarding health care for their expanding older populations. Most issues will affect elderly women who outnumber elderly men in most nations."

In more than half of all developed countries, women's life expectancy at birth is at least 80 years, which is seven years higher on average than men. In developing countries, the average gender gap in life expectancy at birth is only three years.

Women who reach old age can expect to live more disability-free years than their male counterparts.

According to official Russian estimates, one-third of Russia's people were poor in 1992, one year after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Consumer prices increased 26 times, and earning power fell one-third in these first 12 months.

Who were Russia's poor? Households where householder was unemployed, female, under age 64 or never got beyond high school were more likely to be poor than counter-parts who are employed, male, over age 64 or went on to higher education.

According to Marc Rubin, author of the Census Brief, Russia's New Problem – Poverty, a significant factor determining if one is poor in Russia is the availability of "transfer income," defined as disability allowances, pensions, private gifts, stipends for dependent children and unemployment benefits.

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Poverty in Russia

Continued from page 5

“These income sources generally are not as available to younger workers, hence this group’s much higher risk status,” Rubin said. “In fact, 60 percent of poor households with householders between the ages of 18 and 54 had no such supplemental income.”

The study presents findings from a Census Bureau analysis of data collected by the Russian State Statistical Bureau, Goskomstat. It also shows that female householders were 3.7 times more likely to be poor than male householders and that householders under age 64 were 3.2 times more likely to be poor than those in households with elderly householders.


Contact:
Marc Rubin
301-457-1362
<marc.rubin@ccmail.census.gov>

State Governments Employed Nearly 3.5 Million Full-Timers

State governments employed 3.5 million full-time workers in 1997.

Census Bureau tabulations show most full-time workers were employed in education (1.1 million), followed by hospitals (431,000) and correctional activities (428,000).

Others worked in police protection, streets and highways, public welfare, financial and central government administration and other governmental activities.


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- In 1997, more than 4.1 million persons were self-employed in home-based businesses, with about half of them engaged in service industries and slightly more than half of them, men.

- In 1997, the average minimum monthly balance to avoid a checking account fee was $1,052 at banks that offered single-fee accounts.

- In the 1996-1997 school year, about 200,600 men and 128,000 women participated in National Collegiate Athletic Association-sanctioned sports, with the highest participation being the 54,000 men who played college football.


A CD-ROM version of the book will be available early next year.

Contact:
Glenn King
301-457-1171
<glenn.w.king@ccmail.census.gov>

Population of Insular Areas

The Census Bureau has released population estimates for the insular areas of the United States (July 1, 1998).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insular Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>149,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
<td>118,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
<td>66,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>62,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population estimates are based on births, deaths and net migration.

People Stay Put About 5 Years, Then Move

Majority move June through October.

Pointing up the mobile nature of America, the Census Bureau said that in 1993 the median length of time people ages 15 and over lived in their homes was 5.2 years. Half the people lived in their home for less than 5.2 years and half for a longer period.

Nearly half of the moves occurred during the summer months, with June leading the way at 13.1 percent and August a close second at 12.6 percent.


Contact:
Kristin Hansen
301-457-2454
<kahansen@census.gov>