

FACTS & FEATURES



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★ Special Edition ★

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-8)

In 1944, Mattye Whyte Woodridge, an Arkansas teacher, began corresponding with political and educational leaders about establishing a national observance to honor teachers. This effort bore fruit when Congress proclaimed National Teacher Day in 1953. But the proclamation referred to that year only. In the late 1970s, the National Education Association (NEA) and its affiliates began observing Teacher Day on the first Tuesday in March. That continued until 1985 when the NEA and the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) expanded this to a full week and moved it to the first week of May. At the same time, the Tuesday of Teacher Appreciation Week became National Teacher Day. To pay tribute to the nation's educators, the Census Bureau presents a selection of statistics about teachers and their work.



6.2 million

Number of all teachers in the United States.

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eoindex/page_c.html?

71%

The percentage of teachers who are women.

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eoindex/page_c.html?

8.4%

Proportion of teachers who are non-Hispanic black. Another 5.5 percent are Hispanic, 2.9 percent are non-Hispanic Asian and 0.5 percent are non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska native.

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eoindex/page_c.html?



3.1 million

Number of elementary and middle school teachers. These teachers, of whom 79 percent

are women, comprise about half of all teachers. The remaining teachers are made up of:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent women</u>
Preschool and kindergarten	442,000	98
Secondary	772,000	59
Postsecondary	1.1 million	46
Special education	175,000	87
Other teachers and instructors	562,000	67

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eeoindex/page_c.html?>



\$54,300

Average annual salary paid to public elementary and secondary school teachers in California — highest of any state in the nation. Teachers in South Dakota received the lowest pay — \$31,300. The national average was \$44,700.

See Table 250: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.

\$101,200

Average annual salary paid to private college professors. Their public college counterparts made an average of \$84,100 per year.

See Table 294: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.

17%

Percentage of public elementary and secondary school teachers who are under 30 years old. A similar percentage (19 percent) of their private school counterparts fall in this age group.

See Tables 249 and 263 at <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.



51%

Proportion of public elementary and secondary school teachers over 50 years old whose highest degree is a master's. About 2 percent of these older teachers have doctorates.

See Table 249: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.

315,000

The projected increase in the number of postsecondary teachers this decade. The number of elementary school teachers is projected to grow by 202,000.

See Table 617: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.

16

Average number of pupils per elementary and secondary school teacher.

See Table 248 at <<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>.

From time to time, special editions of the U.S. Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* are issued to commemorate anniversaries or observances or to provide background information for topics in the news. Below is a listing of previous such editions:

U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans (April 10, 2003)

Tax Time (April 11, 2003)

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial (May 12, 2003)

Dialing for Dollars (Sept. 24, 2003)

First Flight Centennial (Dec. 3, 2003)

Social Security COLA (Dec. 11, 2003)

The 2004 Presidential Election (Jan. 6, 2004)

Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary (Feb. 4, 2004)

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (March 10, 2004)

50th Anniversary of 'Wonderful World of Color' in Television (March 11, 2004)

Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.