

U.S. Census Bureau News

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Facts for
Features

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The Fourth of July 2008

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

2.5 million

In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab.html>>

304 million

The nation's population on this July Fourth.

Source: Population clock <<http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>>

Fourth of July Cookouts

More than 1 in 4

The chance that the hot dogs and pork sausages consumed on the Fourth of July originated in Iowa. The Hawkeye State was home to 17.6 million market hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008.

This represents more than one-fourth of the nation's total. North Carolina (9 million) and Minnesota (6.7 million) were the runners-up.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

6.8 billion pounds

Total production of cattle and calves in Texas in 2007. Chances are good that the beef hot dogs, steaks and burgers on your backyard grill came from the Lone Star State, which accounted for about one-sixth of the nation's total production. And if the beef did not come from Texas, it very well may have come from Nebraska (4.7 billion pounds) or Kansas (4.1 billion pounds).

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

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Number of states in which the revenue from broiler chickens was \$1 billion or greater between December 2006 and November 2007. There is a good chance that one of these states — Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi or Texas — is the source of your barbecued chicken.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

About 4 in 10

The odds that your side dish of baked beans originated from North Dakota, which produced 42 percent of the nation's dry, edible beans in 2007. Another popular Fourth of July side dish is corn on the cob. Florida, California, Georgia and New York together accounted for 60 percent of the sweet corn produced nationally in 2007.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

Please Pass the Potato Salad

Potato salad and potato chips are popular food items at Fourth of July barbecues. More than half (52 percent) of the nation's spuds were produced in Idaho or Washington state in 2007.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

More than three-fourths

Amount of the nation's head lettuce production in 2007 that came from California. This lettuce may end up in your salad or on your burger.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

Nearly 3 in 4

The chances that the fresh tomatoes in your salad came from Florida or California, which combined accounted for 73 percent of U.S. tomato production last year. The ketchup on your burger or hot dog probably came from California, which accounted for 96 percent of processed tomato production in 2007.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

Georgia

The state that led the nation in watermelon production last year (1 billion pounds). Other leading producers of this popular Fourth of July dessert included California, Florida and Texas, each with more than 400 million pounds.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service <<http://www.nass.usda.gov>>

More than 74 million

Number of Americans who said they have taken part in a barbecue during the previous year. It's probably safe to assume a lot of these events took place on Independence Day.

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008, Table 1213

<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract.html>>

Fireworks

\$207 million

The value of fireworks imported from China in 2007, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imported (\$217 million). U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$14.9 million in 2007, with Japan purchasing more than any other country (\$3.8 million).

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

\$17.3 million

The value of U.S. manufacturers' shipments of fireworks in 2002.

Source: 2002 Economic Census <<http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/ec0231i325998t.pdf>>

Flags

\$4.7 million

In 2007, the dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags. The vast majority of this amount (\$4.3 million) was for U.S. flags made in China.

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

\$2.4 million

Dollar value of U.S. flags exported in 2007. Mexico was the leading customer, purchasing \$1.2 million worth.

Source: Foreign Trade Statistics <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

\$349.2 million

Annual dollar value of shipments of fabricated flags, banners and similar emblems by the nation's manufacturers, according to the latest published economic census data.

Source: 2002 Economic Census <<http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/ec0231i314999t.pdf>>

Patriotic-Sounding Names

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Number of places nationwide with "liberty" in their name. The most populous one as of July 1, 2006, is Liberty, Mo. (29,581). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

- Thirty-one places are named "eagle" — after the majestic bird that serves as our national symbol. (Places include cities, towns, villages and census-designated places.) The most populous such place is Eagle Pass, Texas, with 26,401 residents.

- Twelve places have "independence" in their name. The most populous of these is Independence, Mo., with 109,400 residents.

- Nine places adopted the name “freedom.” Freedom, Calif., with 6,000 residents, has the largest population among these.
- There is one place named “patriot” — Patriot, Ind., with a population of 192.
- And what could be more fitting than spending the Fourth of July in a place called “America”? There are five such places in the country, with the most populous being American Fork, Utah, population 25,596.

Sources: Population estimates <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/010315.html>> and American FactFinder <www.census.gov>

The British are Coming!

\$107.2 billion

Dollar value of trade last year between the United States and the United Kingdom, making the British, our adversary in 1776, our sixth-leading trading partner today.

Sources: Foreign Trade Statistics <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/top/top0712.html>> <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau’s *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)	Labor Day (Sept. 1)
Super Bowl XLII (Feb. 3)	Grandparents Day (Sept. 7)
Valentine’s Day (Feb. 14)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Women’s History Month (March)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 21-27)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick’s Day (March 17)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Older Americans Month (May)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)	Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27)
Mother’s Day (May 11)	The Holiday Season (December)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	
Father’s Day (June 15)	
The Fourth of July (July 4)	
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)	
Back to School (August)	

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. Facts for Features are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. 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>.