

U.S. Population Hits 300 Million



Have places seemed more crowded this month? Most people did not notice a difference, but the U.S. population increased to more than 300 million people in October.

Officials from the U.S. Census Bureau think that the U.S. population hit the 300 million mark on October 17. But they are not sure whether the person who put the U.S. at 300 million was a newborn baby or someone who moved to the U.S. from another country.

The U.S. now has the third largest population in the world. China and India are first and second. The population of the U.S. is growing very fast. Officials estimate that the country gains one new person every 11 seconds. This happens because many people are moving to the country and because people are being born faster than they are dying. While a baby is born in the U.S. every seven seconds, someone dies every 13 seconds.

NEWS WORD BOX

Census Bureau
population resources
estimate million
heavily increase

It took 52 years, from 1915 to 1967, for the U.S. population to increase from 100 million to 200 million, but it took only 39 years to increase from 200 million to 300 million. Some people are worried that the U.S. population is getting too big too fast. They are afraid that having so many people could harm the environment because more people will be using water, land, and other resources.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE U.S. POPULATION

- The Northeastern U.S. is the most heavily populated part of the country.
- Experts think the U.S. population will reach 400 million by 2043.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

What are some ways to save resources such as water, land, and energy so there will be enough to meet the needs of a growing population?