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Internet Access in the United States

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Cornhusker Economics

Cooperative Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Internet Access in the United States

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	7/6/01
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Average Prices for Week Ending</u>			
Slaughter Steers, Ch. 204, 1100-1300 lb Omaha, cwt	\$67.06	\$76.50	\$71.08
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame, 600-650 lb Dodge City, KS, cwt	*	102.75	*
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame 600-650 lb, Nebraska Auction Wght. Avg	*	106.73	*
Carcass Price, Ch. 1-3, 550-700 lb Cent. US, Equiv. Index Value, cwt	107.20	120.78	109.72
Hogs, US 1-2, 220-230 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	49.75	51.50	53.50
Feeder Pigs, US 1-2, 40-45 lb Sioux Falls, SD, hd	*	*	*
Vacuum Packed Pork Loins, Wholesale, 13-19 lb, 1/4" Trim, Cent. US, cwt	134.50	127.20	123.50
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 115-125 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	82.87	*	58.50
Carcass Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 1-4, 55-65 lb FOB Midwest, cwt	190.00	168.75	161.71
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Cash Truck Prices for Date Shown</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Omaha, bu	2.97	3.18	3.10
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu	1.54	1.75	1.77
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu	4.60	4.51	4.73
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Kansas City, cwt	2.66	3.37	3.46
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Sioux City, IA, bu	1.20	1.50	*
<u>Hay,</u>			
<u>First Day of Week Pile Prices</u>			
Alfalfa, Sm. Square, RFV 150 or better Platte Valley, ton	105.00	105.00	102.50
Alfalfa, Lg. Round, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	52.50	67.50	75.00
Prairie, Sm. Square, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	*	112.50	105.00
* No market.			

The rapid expansion of Internet has changed the business landscape throughout the United States. But as Internet becomes a larger part of everyday life, do we all have equal access to its resources? How does Internet access differ across categories such as geography, race and ethnicity, income and education?

While Internet availability continues to increase rapidly (42% of U.S. households had Internet access in August 2000 vs. only 26% in December 1998), adoption has been occurring unevenly across the U.S. However, this uneven adoption shows that some groups typically lagging behind are now catching up to the rest. For example, rural households have seen lower adoption rates in the past, but appear to be catching up to their urban counterparts. By August 2000, 39% of rural households had Internet access compared with only 22% two years earlier. Urban inclusion grew from 28% to 42% over the same time period. Rural households are still behind, but now trail by fewer percentage points.

Differences across income categories continue. While access has increased across all income categories, households with higher incomes continue to lead those with lower income levels. For example, by 2000, only 13% of households with an income less than \$15,000 had Internet access, compared to 78% of households with an annual income over \$75,000.

Do households with differing education levels access Internet at different rates? As with income, Internet access grew across all education levels, with higher education households leading in the year 2000.



Race and ethnic differences also show differing rates of inclusion. Access again increased across all categories, however, large differences between categories continue to exist. By 2000, Asian American and Pacific Islander households led with 57%, while White, Black and Hispanic households followed with 46%, 24% and 24% respectively.

And finally, how does Nebraska compare with the rest of the U.S.? By 2000, 37% of Nebraska households had Internet access, compared to the U.S. average of 42%.

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Percent of U.S. Households with Internet Access

	1998	2000
Overall	26%	42%
By Region		
☞ Urban	28%	42%
☞ Central City	25%	38%
☞ Rural	22%	39%
By Household Income		
☞ <\$15,000	7%	13%
☞ \$15,000 - \$24,999	11%	21%
☞ \$25,000 - \$34,999	19%	34%
☞ \$35,000 - \$49,999	30%	46%
☞ \$50,000 - \$74,999	44%	61%
☞ >\$75,000	60%	78%
By Education (Head of Household)		
☞ Less than High School Diploma	5%	12%
☞ High School Diploma	16%	30%
☞ Some College	30%	49%
☞ Bachelor's Degree	49%	64%
☞ Post Graduate Degree	53%	70%
By Race and Ethnicity		
☞ White	30%	46%
☞ Black	11%	24%
☞ Asian American & Pacific Islander	38%	57%
☞ Hispanic	13%	24%
By State		
☞ Nebraska		37%

Source: *Falling Through the Net: Towards Digital Inclusion. A Report on Americans' Access to Technology Tools.* United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. October, 2000. <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/digitaldivide/>