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Household Internet Subscriptions in ND

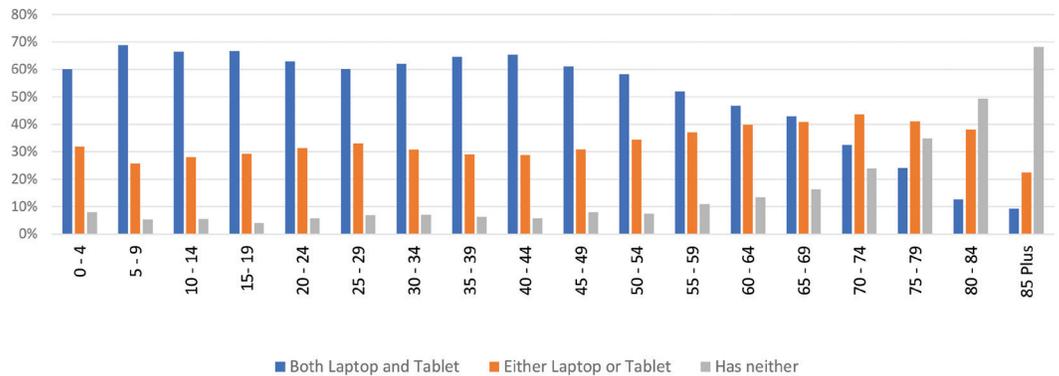
From 2013 to 2017, an estimated 78 percent of households in the U.S. and in North Dakota had an internet subscription. Five counties in ND had more than 80 percent of households with this service. Ward County is estimated to have the highest state rate at 85 percent, followed by Cass at 83 percent and Burleigh at 81. Both Cavalier and Grand Forks counties were estimated to have an 80-percent rate. Counties with the lowest percentages: Benson (55%) and Emmons and Sioux (56%).

Ward County also was the least likely to not have some form of internet service in the household, with Cass and Burleigh closely behind.

Benson, Emmons and Sioux, similar to the presence of computers, were the most likely to be lacking internet services in the household.

Sources: Census Bureau ACS 2017 5-Yr Table S2801

Presence of Computers and Internet Access in Households



The Census Bureau asked respondents if they had a laptop (desktops were included in this category) or wireless tablet (or similar device). North Dakota households with children ages 5-9 appear to be most likely to have both. Individual in the older age groups were most likely to have neither a laptop or a tablet computer. Sex of the resident appears to play no role in the probability they have a computer in their household.

Source: Census Bureau ACS 2017 5-year PUMS data

In 2013, the Census Bureau updated the list of questions in the American Community Survey (ACS) asking about the presence and types of computers, as well as internet access, in the household. For areas of less than 65,000 residents, data is only published in five-year tables. Previous to the most recent release of five-year ACS table, data in these areas was only available for the four counties and two cities in the state with more than 65,000 residents. With five full years of data, we can now compare all areas of the state.

Computers and computer usages tends to be fast-changing. In

reviewing the data, it is important to remember that the statistics are "period data" and do not represent a point in time or the most recent point in time.

North Dakota's overall percentage of households having computer devices and internet services is uncharacteristically almost a perfect match with that of the U.S. compared to numerous other statistics in ACS. Both the U.S. and North Dakota saw more than 90 percent of the households with computers in 2017, up from 83 percent in 2013, the first year in which questions regarding computers in the household was tabulated.

Twenty-three other states had a higher percentage of computers in the household, led by Utah with 96 percent and followed by Alaska and Colorado with 94 percent each. States with the lowest percentage were Mississippi and West Virginia at 85 percent, followed by Louisiana at 86 percent.

There appears to be a close relationship between the presence of a computer in the household and finances of the household. When responding to the question "Do you have a laptop or desktop computer," individuals

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Dial-up? Still?

The Census Bureau asks a number on questions about internet subscriptions, one of which is if you have "dial-up service." Nationally, less than 1 percent of respondents indicated they have a dial-up internet subscription. In North Dakota, the results were similar.

However, a couple of counties in the state report substantially higher rates of dial-up subscriptions for the period in which data is available at the county level, that being 2013-2017. Nearly 3 percent of respondents in Billings and Foster counties reported having a dial-up subscription. These counties were nowhere near the top of the list nationally. In Rosebud County in Montana, 11 percent of households reported having dial-up services. A total of five counties in Montana, Virginia and North Carolina had 5 percent or more of their households with dial-up services.

Source: Census Bureau ACS 2017 5-year data, Table S2801

Joe Cicha
Census Specialist

Phone
701-328-7283

E-mail
jcicha@nd.gov

Web
NDCensus.gov

Computers in Households by Age of Resident

While North Dakota is nearly perfectly matched with the nation for the presence of computers and internet subscription, the presence of computers differs significantly given the age of the individual in the household. Data suggests North Dakota exceeds the national average when younger individuals are present in the household but lags where older individuals are present.

Between 2013 and 2017, when children were in the household, computers were present in 95 percent of households nationally. North Dakota slightly beat the national average at 97 percent. Of these, 85 percent had a broadband subscription nationally. Again, North Dakota bested the national average for

households with children present with 88 percent having a broadband subscription. In this age range, North Dakota ranks 17th for presence of a computer.

In the primary workforce age range of 18 to 64 years of age, nationally an estimated 93 percent of households with individuals in this age range report the presence of computers and 85 percent report the household having a broadband subscription. In this age group, North Dakota slightly exceeds the national average again with 95 percent of these households having a computer present and 86 percent reporting a broadband subscription. In this age range, North Dakota ranks 14th for presence of a computer.

At the top of the age range, the presence of computers was less likely. Nationally, in households where individuals ages 65 and older were present, 77 percent had a computer presence and 68 percent reported having a broadband subscription. This is the only one of the three major age ranges in which North Dakota lags behind the U.S. average. In the state, 69 percent of these individuals reported having a computer and 60 percent reported having a broadband subscription. North Dakota ranked 43rd for presence of computers in households with individuals ages 65 and above.

Sources: Census Bureau ACS Tables DP02 1-Yr File, 2013 and 2017, Table S2801, 5-Yr Table B28005, 2013-2017

Computers: Story Continued from Page 1

in approximately 61 percent of households with incomes of less than \$20,000 annually responded yes. For those households with incomes in excess of \$75,000, 94 percent indicated the presence of one of these devices.

Difference in ownership of tablets or similar portable wireless devices was even more skewed. Only 36 percent of individuals in households with incomes of less than \$20,000 indicated they owned one of these, while

71 percent of individuals in households with incomes of at least \$75,000 owned computers. When asked do you own either a laptop or a wireless device such as a tablet, 31 percent of individuals with incomes of less than \$20,000 owned both, while 34 percent indicated they owned neither. The remainder owned one or the other, in which case desktops were far more common. For the cohort with household incomes of \$75,000 or more, 68 percent indicated they owned both types of devices while a

mere 3 percent indicated they owned neither.

When comparing ownership of either laptop or table computers by the sex of the respondent, the two sexes were almost perfectly matched for ownership of both types of devices with 55 percent owning both a laptop or a tablet and 15 percent owning neither.

Sources: Census Bureau ACS 2017, Table S2801, 5-Yr Tables S2801, B28005

North Dakota Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58503 701.328.5300

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