

Population growth slows as New Orleans reaches 72 percent and the metro area 87 percent of pre-Katrina households

Immediate Release

Contact: Allison Plyer, Deputy Director of the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center.
allisonp@nocdc.org (504) 304-8260 x225

New Orleans, LA. (Aug. 26, 2008) – In July 2008, the population of Orleans Parish continued to hover around 72 percent of pre-Katrina levels. US Postal Service counts of households actively receiving mail suggest that New Orleans’ population growth in the third year after Katrina has slowed significantly compared to the previous two years. Orleans Parish recovered nearly half of the pre-Katrina number of households in its first year after the storm, and gained an additional 20 percentage points by the close of the second year. In the third year, however, active residences increased less than 3 percentage points in New Orleans.

Similarly, by July 2008, the 7-parish New Orleans metro area was home to 87 percent of its pre-storm number of households – up only 1 percentage point from August 2007. Across the metro area 7,002 additional households began actively receiving mail between August 2007 and July 2008, with gains in Orleans Parish representing the majority of this growth.

Population growth slowed across all parishes in the metro area. In the third year after Katrina, St. Bernard’s population recovery increased by six percentage points, compared with seven percentage points in the second year of recovery. St. Tammany, St. John, and St. Charles all saw continued population growth but at slower rates than in the first two years following Katrina. And Jefferson Parish’s number of households receiving mail has been essentially flat since August 2006 with only minor fluxuations.

New Orleans Area Residences Actively Receiving Mail

	Orleans Parish		Plaquemines Parish		Jefferson Parish		St. Bernard Parish	
Jul-05	198,232	100.0%	8,439	100.0%	187,612	100.0%	25,604	100.0%
Aug-06	98,141	49.5%	8,381	99.3%	183,308	97.7%	na	na
Sep-06	102,244	51.6%	8,371	99.2%	183,189	97.6%	na	na
Oct-06	108,048	54.5%	8,350	98.9%	183,126	97.6%	6,736	26.3%
Nov-06	109,437	55.2%	8,375	99.2%	183,099	97.6%	7,301	28.5%
Dec-06	116,276	58.7%	8,383	99.3%	183,156	97.6%	6,807	26.6%
Jan-07	117,450	59.2%	8,414	99.7%	183,199	97.6%	7,379	28.8%
Feb-07	119,438	60.3%	8,528	101.1%	183,291	97.7%	7,838	30.6%
Mar-07	122,699	61.9%	8,532	101.1%	183,810	98.0%	8,211	32.1%
Apr-07	126,441	63.8%	8,526	101.0%	183,719	97.9%	8,511	33.2%
May-07	129,179	65.2%	8,536	101.1%	184,150	98.2%	8,730	34.1%
Jun-07	130,796	66.0%	8,461	100.3%	184,287	98.2%	9,204	35.9%
Jul-07	133,966	67.6%	8,379	99.3%	184,354	98.3%	9,350	36.5%
Aug-07	137,082	69.2%	8,412	99.7%	184,165	98.2%	10,098	39.4%
Sep-07	138,683	70.0%	8,402	99.6%	184,206	98.2%	10,119	39.5%
Oct-07	138,364	69.8%	8,422	99.8%	184,369	98.3%	10,421	40.7%
Nov-07	139,744	70.5%	8,422	99.8%	184,377	98.3%	10,568	41.3%
Dec-07	140,365	70.8%	8,408	99.6%	184,071	98.1%	10,782	42.1%
Jan-08	141,208	71.2%	7,938	94.1%	184,132	98.1%	10,866	42.4%
Feb-08	141,825	71.5%	7,937	94.1%	184,141	98.1%	10,953	42.8%
Mar-08	142,317	71.8%	7,968	94.4%	184,139	98.1%	11,015	43.0%

Apr-08	142,490	71.9%	8,012	94.9%	183,935	98.0%	11,122	43.4%
May-08	142,811	72.0%	8,017	95.0%	183,934	98.0%	11,392	44.5%
Jun-08	142,427	71.9%	8,008	94.9%	183,650	97.9%	11,562	45.2%
Jul-08	142,240	71.8%	7,650	90.7%	183,236	97.7%	11,631	45.4%

New Orleans Area Residences Actively Receiving Mail (Cont'd)

	St. Charles Parish		St. John Parish		St. Tammany Parish		7-parish area	
Jul-05	14,847	100.0%	14,555	100.0%	83,467	100.0%	532,756	100.0%
Aug-06	15,160	102.1%	14,979	102.9%	84,226	100.9%	406,839	76.4%
Sep-06	15,167	102.2%	14,975	102.9%	83,358	99.9%	418,695	78.6%
Oct-06	15,212	102.5%	15,045	103.4%	83,747	100.3%	420,264	78.9%
Nov-06	15,207	102.4%	15,110	103.8%	83,865	100.5%	422,394	79.3%
Dec-06	15,223	102.5%	15,126	103.9%	84,080	100.7%	429,094	80.5%
Jan-07	15,292	103.0%	15,202	104.4%	84,514	101.3%	431,450	81.0%
Feb-07	15,320	103.2%	15,205	104.5%	84,756	101.5%	434,376	81.5%
Mar-07	15,393	103.7%	15,290	105.0%	85,120	102.0%	439,055	82.4%
Apr-07	15,401	103.7%	15,311	105.2%	85,443	102.4%	443,352	83.2%
May-07	15,420	103.9%	15,321	105.3%	85,810	102.8%	447,146	83.9%
Jun-07	15,456	104.1%	15,368	105.6%	86,177	103.2%	449,749	84.4%
Jul-07	15,480	104.3%	15,398	105.8%	86,338	103.4%	453,265	85.1%
Aug-07	15,501	104.4%	15,408	105.9%	86,614	103.8%	457,280	85.8%
Sep-07	15,480	104.3%	15,525	106.7%	86,817	104.0%	459,232	86.2%
Oct-07	15,531	104.6%	15,451	106.2%	86,913	104.1%	459,471	86.2%
Nov-07	15,539	104.7%	15,470	106.3%	87,035	104.3%	461,155	86.6%
Dec-07	15,581	104.9%	15,486	106.4%	87,250	104.5%	461,943	86.7%
Jan-08	15,620	105.2%	15,527	106.7%	87,486	104.8%	462,777	86.9%
Feb-08	15,642	105.4%	15,536	106.7%	87,533	104.9%	463,567	87.0%
Mar-08	15,573	104.9%	15,546	106.8%	87,549	104.9%	464,107	87.1%
Apr-08	15,578	104.9%	15,551	106.8%	87,571	104.9%	464,259	87.1%
May-08	16,274	109.6%	14,912	102.5%	87,721	105.1%	465,061	87.3%
Jun-08	15,637	105.3%	15,611	107.2%	87,985	105.4%	464,880	87.3%
Jul-08	15,660	105.5%	15,624	107.3%	88,241	105.7%	464,282	87.1%

Source: USPS Delivery Statistics Product

Note: For more information on using U.S. Postal Service Delivery Statistics to track the repopulation of New Orleans and the Metropolitan Area, see www.gnocdc.org/reports/GNOCDC_research_note_May07.pdf

[In July 2005, the Census population estimates for each of these parishes were: Orleans: 453,726; Jefferson: 449,640; Plaquemines: 28,588; St. Bernard: 64,683; St. Charles: 50,164; St. John: 45,602; St. Tammany: 217,551]

The New Orleans Index, which is co-published by the Brookings Institution and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, tracks these population indicators. To download the full report, go to www.gnocdc.org.

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