

## May 2008 population estimates confirm decelerated growth in first quarter 2008

### Immediate Release

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**New Orleans, LA.** (June 26, 2008) – In May 2008, the population of Orleans parish reached 72 percent of pre-Katrina levels, up from 49.5 percent in August 2006. Estimates from the first five months of this year consistently indicate decelerated population growth. This suggests that, compared to the same time period last year, the pace of population recovery has slowed.

The rate of increase fell most visibly in Orleans and St. Tammany parishes. However, since March 2008, there has been continued population growth in both St. Bernard and St. Charles parishes. In May 2008, residences actively receiving mail in St. Bernard parish increased by 377, up 1.5 percentage points since March. The most notable population growth occurred in St. Charles parish; in May, there were 701 more residences actively receiving mail, an increase of 4.7 percentage points since March. In contrast, St. John parish saw a 634 residences decrease in the number actively receiving mail, representing a drop of 4.3 percentage points since March 2008.

With only 905 additional residences actively receiving mail in the 6-parish metro area in May, the gains in St. Charles parish represent approximately the majority of population growth since March 2008. As of May, the 6-parish New Orleans region was home to 87.2 percent of its pre-storm number of households – up only 0.7 percentage points from December 2007.

### New Orleans Area Residences Actively Receiving Mail

	Orleans Parish		Jefferson Parish		St. Bernard Parish		St. Charles Parish	
<b>Jul-05</b>	198,232	100.0%	187,612	100.0%	25,604	100.0%	14,847	100.0%
<b>Aug-06</b>	98,141	49.5%	183,308	97.7%	na	na	15,160	102.1%
<b>Sep-06</b>	102,244	51.6%	183,189	97.6%	na	na	15,167	102.2%
<b>Oct-06</b>	108,048	54.5%	183,126	97.6%	6,736	26.3%	15,212	102.5%
<b>Nov-06</b>	109,437	55.2%	183,099	97.6%	7,301	28.5%	15,207	102.4%
<b>Dec-06</b>	116,276	58.7%	183,156	97.6%	6,807	26.6%	15,223	102.5%
<b>Jan-07</b>	117,450	59.2%	183,199	97.6%	7,379	28.8%	15,292	103.0%
<b>Feb-07</b>	119,438	60.3%	183,291	97.7%	7,838	30.6%	15,320	103.2%
<b>Mar-07</b>	122,699	61.9%	183,810	98.0%	8,211	32.1%	15,393	103.7%
<b>Apr-07</b>	126,441	63.8%	183,719	97.9%	8,511	33.2%	15,401	103.7%
<b>May-07</b>	129,179	65.2%	184,150	98.2%	8,730	34.1%	15,420	103.9%
<b>Jun-07</b>	130,796	66.0%	184,287	98.2%	9,204	35.9%	15,456	104.1%
<b>Jul-07</b>	133,966	67.6%	184,354	98.3%	9,350	36.5%	15,480	104.3%
<b>Aug-07</b>	137,082	69.2%	184,165	98.2%	10,098	39.4%	15,501	104.4%
<b>Sep-07</b>	138,683	70.0%	184,206	98.2%	10,119	39.5%	15,480	104.3%
<b>Oct-07</b>	138,364	69.8%	184,369	98.3%	10,421	40.7%	15,531	104.6%
<b>Nov-07</b>	139,744	70.5%	184,377	98.3%	10,568	41.3%	15,539	104.7%
<b>Dec-07</b>	140,365	70.8%	184,071	98.1%	10,782	42.1%	15,581	104.9%
<b>Jan-08</b>	141,208	71.2%	184,132	98.1%	10,866	42.4%	15,620	105.2%
<b>Feb-08</b>	141,825	71.5%	184,141	98.1%	10,953	42.8%	15,642	105.4%
<b>Mar-08</b>	142,317	71.8%	184,139	98.1%	11,015	43.0%	15,573	104.9%
<b>Apr-08</b>	142,490	71.9%	183,935	98.0%	11,122	43.4%	15,578	104.9%
<b>May-08</b>	142,811	72.0%	183,934	98.0%	11,392	44.5%	16,274	109.6%

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

	St. John Parish		St. Tammany Parish		6-parish area	
<b>Jul-05</b>	14,555	100.0%	83,467	100.0%	524,317	100.0%
<b>Aug-06</b>	14,979	102.9%	84,226	100.9%	406,690	77.6%
<b>Sep-06</b>	14,975	102.9%	83,358	99.9%	410,324	78.3%
<b>Oct-06</b>	15,045	103.4%	83,747	100.3%	411,914	78.6%
<b>Nov-06</b>	15,110	103.8%	83,865	100.5%	414,019	79.0%
<b>Dec-06</b>	15,126	103.9%	84,080	100.7%	420,668	80.2%
<b>Jan-07</b>	15,202	104.4%	84,514	101.3%	423,036	80.7%
<b>Feb-07</b>	15,205	104.5%	84,756	101.5%	425,848	81.2%
<b>Mar-07</b>	15,290	105.0%	85,120	102.0%	430,523	82.1%
<b>Apr-07</b>	15,311	105.2%	85,443	102.4%	434,826	82.9%
<b>May-07</b>	15,321	105.3%	85,810	102.8%	438,610	83.7%
<b>Jun-07</b>	15,368	105.6%	86,177	103.2%	441,288	84.2%
<b>Jul-07</b>	15,398	105.8%	86,338	103.4%	444,886	84.9%
<b>Aug-07</b>	15,408	105.9%	86,614	103.8%	448,868	85.6%
<b>Sep-07</b>	15,525	106.7%	86,817	104.0%	450,830	86.0%
<b>Oct-07</b>	15,451	106.2%	86,913	104.1%	451,049	86.0%
<b>Nov-07</b>	15,470	106.3%	87,035	104.3%	452,733	86.3%
<b>Dec-07</b>	15,486	106.4%	87,250	104.5%	453,535	86.5%
<b>Jan-08</b>	15,527	106.7%	87,486	104.8%	454,839	86.7%
<b>Feb-08</b>	15,536	106.7%	87,533	104.9%	455,630	86.9%
<b>Mar-08</b>	15,546	106.8%	87,549	104.9%	456,139	87.0%
<b>Apr-08</b>	15,551	106.8%	87,571	104.9%	456,247	87.0%
<b>May-08</b>	14,912	102.5%	87,721	105.1%	457,044	87.2%

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](http://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. The update will be July 2008. To download the full report, go to [www.gnocdc.org](http://www.gnocdc.org).

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