

**ONLINE POPULATION**

**The percentage of the population with Internet access in each state.**

**Why Is This Important?** The number of people online is probably the most basic indicator of a state’s progress toward the digital economy. At the end of 1998, one-third of American households were online; by November 2001, 50 percent were and even a greater percentage of adults were online. (Some people have access at work or school and not at home.)<sup>19</sup> The average income and education levels of Internet users continue to drop so that the online population is looking like the American population in general.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, as more and more places get Internet access, the percentage of Internet users in rural areas is now almost even with the national average.

**The Rankings:** States differ significantly in the degree to which their residents are online. At the end of 2001, approximately 69 percent of Alaska’s population had Internet access compared to 43 percent in Louisiana and 42 percent in Mississippi. In general, residents of Southern and Plains states are less likely to be online than residents of Pacific, Mountain, and Northeast states.

The top five		Percentage of population online
1	Alaska	69%
2	Minnesota	64%
3	New Hampshire	64%
4	Wyoming	62%
5	Utah	61%
<b>U.S. average</b>		<b>54%</b>

Source: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 2001 data.

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