

COMPARATIVE CASE: THE UNITED STATES, 2008

1. What are the three most important economic activities that people in the country are engaged in?
1st **Services (78.6%)** 2nd **Industry (20.4%)** 3rd **Agriculture (0.9%)**
2. What is the unemployment rate? **4.8%**
3. What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)? **\$12.98 trillion**
4. What is the GDP per capita? **\$43,500**
5. What is the economic growth rate? **3.4%**
6. What is the country's debt? **\$10.04 trillion**
7. List three of the country's major exports:
 - A. **Consumer goods (such as automobiles, medicine)**
 - B. **Capital goods (such as computers, aircraft, motor vehicle parts)**
 - C. **Industrial supplies (such as organic chemicals)**
8. List three of the country's major imports:
 - A. **Petroleum products**
 - B. **Machinery**
 - C. **Consumer goods (such as clothing, toys)**
9. List the country's top three major trading partners:
 - A. **Canada**
 - B. **Mexico**
 - C. **China**
10. List three of the country's major industries:
 - A. **Petroleum refining**
 - B. **Steel**
 - C. **Motor vehicles**
11. List three of the country's chief agricultural products:
 - A. **Wheat**
 - B. **Corn**
 - C. **Fruits & vegetables**
12. What regional economic organizations does the United States belong to?
NAFTA, APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), IADB (Inter-American Development Bank), AfDB (African Development Bank Group), and many others.
13. How many refugees and internally displaced persons are in the country?
In 2006, 41,150 refugees were given asylum. There are no internally displaced persons in the U.S.*
14. What is the percentage of people living below the poverty line?
12%
15. How many kilometers or miles of paved road does the country have? **4,165,110 km (2,588,079 miles)**
Expressways? **75,009 km (46,608 miles)**
16. How many airports does the country have? **14,858**
17. What is the life expectancy in the country? **78 years**
18. What is the country's literacy rate? **99%**
19. Approximately how many people are Internet users? **205 million** Percentage of population? **69%**

Sources: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2007*, except for the refugee data which was taken from Homeland Security, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2006*.

* Many official sources do not include internally displaced persons by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

However, organizations such as The American Society of International Law and Harvard Educational Review argue that these natural disasters displaced more than 350,000 in the United States.