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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Netflix raises monthly subscription prices in U.S., Canada



Small toy figures are seen in front of displayed Netflix logo in this illustration taken March 19, 2020. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration/File Photo

LOS ANGELES, Jan 14 (Reuters) - Netflix Inc has raised its monthly subscription price by \$1 to \$2 per month in the United States depending on the plan, the company said on Friday, to help pay for new programming to compete in the crowded streaming TV market.

The standard plan, which allows for two simultaneous streams, now costs \$15.49 per month, up from \$13.99, in the United States.

Prices also rose in Canada, where the standard plan climbed to C\$16.49 from C\$14.99. Shares of Netflix gained nearly 3% to \$533.84 on Nasdaq after Reuters broke the news of the price rises. They closed 1.3% higher at \$525.69.

The increases, the first in those markets since October 2020, took effect immediately for new customers. Existing members will see the new prices in the coming weeks when they receive their monthly bills.

"We understand people have more entertainment choices than ever and we're committed to delivering an even better experience for our members," a Netflix spokesperson said.

"We're updating our prices so that we can continue to offer a wide variety of quality entertainment options. As always we offer a range of plans so members can pick a price that works for their budget," the spokesperson added.

The world's largest streaming service is facing the most competition ever from companies looking to attract viewers to online entertainment. Walt Disney Co (DIS.N), AT&T Inc's (T.N) WarnerMedia, Amazon.com Inc and Apple Inc (AAPL.O) are among the rivals pouring billions into new programming. Netflix has added customers despite prior price increases, which shows its members have been willing to accept higher costs, Evercore ISI analyst Mark Mahaney said.

"This is evidence that Netflix has pricing power," Mahaney said.

Netflix had said it would spend \$17 billion on programming in 2021. The company has not disclosed spending for 2022.

The U.S. price of Netflix's premium plan, which enables four streams at a time and streaming in ultra HD, was increased by \$2 to \$19.99 per month. For Netflix's basic plan, with one stream, the cost rose by \$1 to \$9.99 per month.

In Canada, the premium plan rose by C\$2 to C\$20.99, and the basic plan was unchanged at C\$9.99.

At \$15.49 per month, the standard U.S. plan from Netflix now costs more than competitors. HBO Max, owned by AT&T Inc (T.N), is currently offering an \$11.99-a-month promotion for 12 months.

The price of Walt Disney Co's (DIS.N) Disney+ is \$7.99 a month or \$79.99 a year.

The United States and Canada is Netflix's largest region with 74 million streaming customers as of September 2021.

Labor talks begin Thursday on national U.S. refinery workers contract

HOUSTON, Jan 12 (Reuters) - Negotiators for the United Steelworkers union and Marathon Petroleum Corp (MPC.N), which is representing oil refiners and chemical makers, are scheduled to begin talks on Thursday on a new contract for 30,000 workers across the United States. The talks come as oil demand has nearly returned to 2019 levels before the coronavirus pandemic hit. The decline in demand contributed to refineries halting operations. U.S. petroleum and liquid fuels consumption this year is projected to surpass 2019 levels. The existing national bargaining agreement expires Feb. 1.

"We're looking forward to getting an agreement that's good for our members who have been working hard in difficult times for the past two years," said Mike Smith, chairman of the USW's National Oil Bargaining Program.

Marathon spokesperson Jamal Kheiry declined to comment.

The three-year contract would set pay, benefits and certain policies to be incorporated into contracts that will be then hammered out between local unions and plant operators. USW-represented refinery workers make about \$44 an hour after about four years on the job. The 2019 agreement set an 8.5% pay increase over three-year term of the deal. In August, a conference of USW-represented workers laid out a series of objectives seeking an unspecified pay increase, improved health insurance and severance pay for workers who lose their jobs. Those proposals were ratified by local unions in the fall. The USW will issue at the first session a notice to strike if sufficient progress is not being made by the time the current national agreement expires at 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 1. That is a routine part of union practice, Smith said.

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Cyberattack hits Ukraine as U.S. warns Russia could be prepping for war

KYIV/WASHINGTON, Jan 14 (Reuters) - The United States said it feared Russia was preparing a pretext to invade Ukraine if diplomacy fails to meet its objectives, after a massive cyberattack splashed Ukrainian government websites with a warning to “be afraid and expect the worst”.

Moscow dismissed such warnings, though it has amassed more than 100,000 troops on its neighbour’s frontiers and on Friday released pictures of more of its forces on the move.

The cyberattack - which Kyiv’s state security service said showed signs of Russian involvement - unfolded hours after security talks wrapped up on Thursday with no breakthrough between Moscow and Western allies.

Ukraine said its president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, had proposed a three-way meeting with the leaders of Russia and the United States. Zelenskiy’s chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said the “life and death” of his country hung in the balance.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters the United States was concerned that Russia was preparing for the possibility of a new military assault on a country it invaded in 2014. [read more](#)

“As part of its plans, Russia is laying the groundwork to have the option of fabricating a pretext for invasion, including through sabotage activities and information operations, by accusing Ukraine of preparing an imminent attack against Russian forces in eastern Ukraine,” Psaki said.

A U.S. official said the United States had information that indicated Russia had already positioned a group of operatives to conduct “a false-flag operation” in eastern Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov dismissed such reports as based on “unfounded” information, TASS news agency reported.

Russia denies plans to attack Ukraine but says it could take unspecified military action unless its demands - including a promise by the NATO alliance never to admit Kyiv - are met.



A laptop screen displays a warning message in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish, that appeared on the official website of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry after a massive cyberattack, in this illustration taken January 14, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko/Illustration

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Russia hoped security talks with the United States would resume but that this would depend on Washington’s response to Moscow’s proposals.

“We categorically will not accept the appearance of NATO right on our borders, especially so given the current course of the Ukrainian leadership,” he said.

Asked what Moscow meant by threatening this week to take “military-technical action” if talks fail, Lavrov said: “Measures to deploy military hardware, that is obvious. When we take decisions

with military hardware we understand what we mean and what we are preparing for.”

Russian Defence Ministry footage released by RIA news agency showed armoured vehicles and other military hardware being loaded onto trains in Russia’s far east, in what Moscow called an inspection drill to practice long-range deployments.

“This is likely cover for the units being moved towards Ukraine,” said Rob Lee, a military analyst and a fellow at the U.S.-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

A general view shows the headquarters of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kiev, Ukraine March 26, 2018. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko/File Photo

A laptop screen displays a warning message in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish, that appeared on the official website of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry after a massive cyberattack, in this illustration taken January 14, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko/Illustration

Editor’s Choice



Ilzete is embraced by her daughter Joelma in front of a flooded house during floods caused by heavy rain in Imperatriz, Maranhao state, Brazil January 6. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



Nora and Willa Stief prepare for online school while their parents work from home and take care of a toddler amid surging COVID-19 cases caused by the coronavirus Omicron variant, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada January 7, 2022. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



A healthcare worker takes a swab sample from a woman to be tested for the coronavirus at Princess Isabel Palace, where a healthcare unit specializing in COVID-19 and flu symptoms has been set up, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil January 12. REUTERS/Lucas Landau



Bas Dakar Ktm Racing Team’s Mason Klein in action during stage 11 of the Dakar Rally from Bisha to Bisha, January 13. REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed



A REACT EMS paramedic talks with a home health nurse in the home of an 82 year old woman suffering from possible coronavirus symptoms after she was exposed to a COVID-19 positive family member in Shawnee, Oklahoma, January 12. REUTERS/Nick Oxford



A man walks his dog past a mural depicting a frontline worker amid the spread of the coronavirus in Dublin, Ireland, January 12. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne

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Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.
Martin Luther King Day 2022
“I Have A Dream”



Reverend Martin Luther King, American civil rights leader, was invited to Berlin by West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt and visited the Berlin Wall on September 13, 1964. Here (left) he is seen at the border Potsdamer Platz, West Berlin, Germany. (on right)The Stone of Hope at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC. (PhotoGraphic/John T. Robbins)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Today is the observance of the national holiday honoring the life and legacy of slain civil rights leader and advocate for nonviolent social change Martin Luther King Jr. The holiday falls on the third Monday of January, near King’s Jan. 15 birthday. He was born in 1929. This month is the 91st anniversary of his birth. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the nonviolent struggle for racial equality in the United States. The third Monday in January marks Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a U.S. holiday that honors King’s legacy and challenges citizens to engage in volunteer service in their communities.



Beginning the journey

Born on January 15, 1929, to a long line of Baptist ministers, King grew up in Atlanta at a time when Jim Crow laws made segregation and discrimination a daily reality for blacks in the South. King attended

Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he came to view religion as a powerful catalyst for social change. He received his doctorate from Boston University’s School of Theology before returning to the South, where he served as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Today, King’s Atlanta birthplace is registered as a National Historic Site with the National Park Service.



Civil rights struggle in the 1950s

King helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott, a year-long campaign touched off when seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. After the Supreme Court overturned Alabama’s bus segregation laws in 1956, King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and promoted nonviolent action for civil rights throughout the South. He was influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and traveled to India in 1959.



An iconic figure of the 1960s

Joining his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King continued to use his oratorical gifts to urge an end to segregation and legal inequality. Throughout the 1960s, he was arrested during nonviolent protests in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. While incarcerated after one such arrest, in 1963, King penned the Letter from Birmingham City Jail, outlining the moral basis for the civil rights movement. That August, he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech to more than 200,000 people gathered on the National Mall in Washington. March 7, 1965, became known as Bloody Sunday because voting-rights marchers were beaten by state troopers and civilians as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. The violence turned them back, but the ordeal led King to call for another, longer march (pictured) — an 87-kilometer-long, Selma-to-Montgomery march for voting rights.



Civil rights victories

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act, which banned discrimination in employment, public accommodations and other aspects of life. King attended the signing of the act into law (pictured). He continued to press for a law to ensure that blacks could not be denied the right to vote by discriminatory practices such as literacy tests, and, in 1965, Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



In the wake of assassination

On April 4, 1968,

King was assassinated on the balcony outside his Memphis, Tennessee, hotel room. At his funeral, thousands of mourners marched through Atlanta behind a mule-drawn wagon bearing his coffin. In a posthumously published essay titled “A Testament of Hope,” King urged black Americans to continue their commitment to nonviolence, but also cautioned that “justice for black people cannot be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society.”



King’s legacy: Nonviolent protest

In a 1959 radio address during his visit to India, King said: “Today we no longer have a choice between violence and nonviolence; it is either nonviolence or nonexistence.” His philosophy was inspired by Gandhi’s nonviolent action to end British rule in India. In his turn, King inspired others to change their societies through nonviolent means, from the Solidarity movement’s cracking of Soviet occupation in Poland to Nelson Mandela’s struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.



King’s legacy: Fighting prejudice

During the 1963 March on Washington, King declared that all people should be judged not “by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.” The King Center in Atlanta is a living memorial to King’s vision of a free and equal world dedicated to expanding opportunity, fighting racism and ending all forms of discrimination.



King’s legacy: Pursuing social justice

The Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University is home to the King Papers

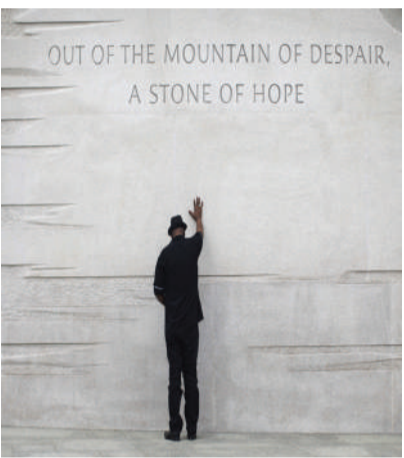
Project, a comprehensive collection of all of King’s speeches, correspondence and other writings. The institute is also involved with the Liberation Curriculum Initiative and the Gandhi-King Community, both of which use King’s life and ideas to connect social activists around the world working to promote human rights.

King’s legacy: Service to others



President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama paint Martin Luther King Jr. quotes as part of a volunteer community service project. In the U.S., Martin Luther King Day is designated a national day of service. Americans are urged to celebrate “a day on, not a day off” in honor of King’s commitment to improving the lives of others. President Obama promotes volunteerism as a way to help meet the challenges facing our world.

Keeping the dream alive



A national memorial to King was built near the Lincoln Memorial, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. The memorial invites visitors to reflect on King’s life and legacy. (Courtesy shareamerica.gov) (© AP images)

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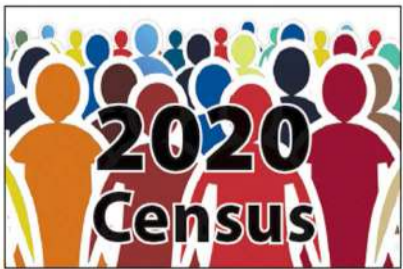
Were Many People Of Color Left Out Of The 2020 Census?
COVID Makes It Harder To Tell



A person wearing a mask walks past posters encouraging census participation in Seattle in April 2020. The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted not only last year’s national head count, but also a critical follow-up survey that the U.S. Census Bureau relies on to determine the tally’s accuracy. (Photo/Ted S. Warren/AP)

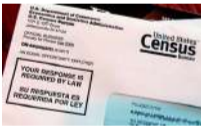
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The U.S. Census Bureau is extending a final round of door knocking into early 2022 for a key survey that is expected to help determine the accuracy of last year’s national head count, NPR has learned. The change is the latest in a series of delays to the little-known but critical follow-up survey. The disruptions have raised concerns about whether the bureau can produce important indicators about who was missed and which groups were over- or undercounted in a census that was upended by both the coronavirus pandemic and interference by former President Donald Trump’s administration. The results of the Post-Enumeration Survey are factored into population statistics that guide how an estimated \$1.5 trillion a year in federal funds are distributed to local communities, as well as how to better carry out future once-a-decade counts that are used to reallocate each state’s share of congressional seats and Electoral College votes.



In a statement on Friday, the bureau confirms what was expected to be a month-long operation for gathering information on housing units starting in late October, is now set to begin sometime in November and end in February. “We adjusted the start date and operational length as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the schedule of the preceding census operations,” the bureau said of the change to the Post-Enumeration Survey, which does not involve college dorms, prisons or other group-living quarters and is not conducted in re-

mote areas of Alaska. About 1,100 of the bureau’s field representatives — who, like all federal government employees, must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by Nov. 22 — will try to interview people at some 14,000 housing units while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Some census watchers outside the bureau say they’re worried the difficulties of conducting in-person interviews during the pandemic could limit the usefulness of the survey’s findings, which the bureau has said it plans to start releasing within the first three months of 2022.



Were people of color undercounted by the census?

Decade after decade, the U.S. census has overcounted people who identify as white and not Latino, while undercounting other racial and ethnic groups. That unevenness often translates into inequities when census data is used to redraw voting districts and inform research and planning. “I’m just worried that we’re going to have a starting point for the next 10 years of enumeration counts that undercount people of color,” Robert Santos, president of the American Statistical Association and President Biden’s pick for the next Census Bureau director, told NPR in an interview before his April nomination. Santos, who is waiting for the Senate to vote on whether to confirm him, added that not having reliable PES results runs the risk of baking racial inequities into other government statistics that rely on census data. “I don’t think that that’s acceptable,” Santos said.



Many people don’t want to talk to Census Bureau workers because of COVID-19

Door knocking for the PES, which takes place in multiple phases, started as originally planned in January 2020. It was supposed to wrap up by mid-2021. But COVID-19 quickly intervened. Lower-than-expected levels of participation from the public in the final months of 2020 led the bureau to add another round of interviews about people’s demographic information. Those early response rates were hurt by a devastating new reality — “people don’t want to open their doors to talk to a stranger during a pandemic,” the bureau acknowledged in a March presentation to its scientific advisory committee. That raises

the risk of the bureau missing certain people not only in the census, but also in the follow-up survey that determines who was not counted.



Could COVID-19 stop the bureau from releasing survey results?

The delays to the survey make it harder for the bureau to collect accurate data. Tallying for the 2020 count has been over for nearly a year, and some people interviewed for the PES may have a hard time remembering exactly where they were living on Census Day, which was April 1, 2020. People who moved during the pandemic may not know who used to live at their current address. And many households are experiencing census fatigue. Data quality issues brought on by the pandemic have already forced the bureau to cancel a release of American Community Survey results this year and replace them with “experimental” estimates. Some census watchers fear the Post-Enumeration Survey may be headed toward a similar fate.



There are early signs of a likely undercount of Black people

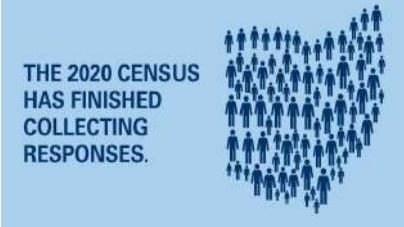
In the meantime, researchers outside the bureau have been comparing the latest census numbers with a set of benchmark data based on birth and death certificates, Medicare enrollment files and other government records about the country’s residents. “It does look like the 2020 census had some undercount problems for some groups,” says Citro, who recently conducted an independent analysis that was not part of her work with the committee. Using publicly available data and a method that is different from what’s used for the PES, Citro estimates that nationally, the 2020 census may have produced a net undercount rate for Black people similar to what the bureau’s PES estimated for the 2010 count (2.05%) or more than two times as high (4.36%). “The Census Bureau did just a heroic and really outstanding job, but they faced a combination of circumstances for conducting a census that was unprecedented in our history,” Citro, who once worked as a social science analyst at the bureau early

in her career, says of the pandemic and the push by Trump officials to end counting early.



Children were likely undercounted in 2020, too

There are also signs the 2020 census likely didn’t correct a decades-long flaw with the national tally: undercounting children. “All the evidence I’m seeing from the 2020 census suggests that that’s going to be a continuing problem,” says Bill O’Hare, a demographer and former research fellow at the bureau who wrote the book The Undercount of Young Children in the U.S. Decennial Census. O’Hare, who is currently consulting with the Count All Kids Campaign, estimates that the net undercount rate for children bumped up to 2.1% last year, while adults had a net overcount rate of less than a percent for the 2020 census, according to a report released this week. The report also cites preliminary estimates by Citro that suggest the net undercount rates for Black and Latinx children were about double that for all children. Still, both Citro and O’Hare say they’re waiting for the PES results to reveal a more comprehensive look at the count’s accuracy. Jeri Green, a former senior adviser for civic engagement at the bureau, remains concerned that the 2020 census — which the agency recently estimated to cost around \$14.2 billion — will repeat the undercounting of Black people and Latinos, as well as Native Americans who live on reservations, in the 2010 census.



“The American taxpayer is being cheated, the congressional appropriators who funded the census also are not getting their dollars’ worth, if the PES and the undercount are not accurate,” Green says. “And we have to live with this for the next 10 years.” (Courtesy npr.org)