



**B**etween 1999 and 2007, the share of U.S. gross domestic product coming from consumer spending increased from 68% to 72%. In other countries, U.K., 66%; Germany, 59%; and Canada and Japan, 57% each.

[www.kiplingerbiz.com](http://www.kiplingerbiz.com)

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**N**anotechnology may be growing in popularity in business and research circles, but in a public survey 42% responded they have heard “nothing at all” and 29% “just a little” about the rapidly growing technology.

[www.wilsoncenter.org](http://www.wilsoncenter.org)

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**E**xperts estimate that 80% of motor vehicle crashes involve some form of driver inattention. It is believed that 73% of wireless phone subscribers use their phones while driving, and a recent study found that 66% of people between the ages of 18 and 24 confess to texting while driving.

**State Legislatures**

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**I**n the mid-1970s, 25% of state legislators were attorneys. Lawyers remain the largest occupational group in legislatures, but the percentage has dropped to 15%.

[www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)

**O**nly 1% of Americans had a tattoo 30 years ago. Today, that number stands at 24%, with 14% having body piercings in places other than the ear. A business survey found that 58% of managers would be less likely to hire an applicant with visible tattoos or body piercings.

[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

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**T**he top-ranked 2008 sporting event, measured by overall interest in travel to the event, is the Major League Baseball All-Star Game (being played at Yankee Stadium in New York in its final year). That tops the Olympics, Ryder Cup, Super Bowl, Daytona 500 and NCAA Final Four.

[www.tseworld.com](http://www.tseworld.com)

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**O**nly 27% of U.S. workers in a study said their company’s performance and reputation improved over a recent 12-month period. The worldwide average was 36%, with China (50%) and India (40%) leading the way.

[www.kenexa.com](http://www.kenexa.com)

**T**op business challenges facing companies in the next five years, according to chief information officers: attracting/growing customer base, 24%; revenue growth, 19%; improving competitiveness, 16%; and improving business processes, 14%.

[www.usa.siemens.com](http://www.usa.siemens.com)

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**T**he estimated number of thoughts that the brain produces in an average day is 70,000.

[www.brainhealthandpuzzles.com](http://www.brainhealthandpuzzles.com)

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**S**eventy-four percent of Ivy Tech Community College students work while taking classes, with 56% working at least 20 hours per week.

[www.ivytech.edu](http://www.ivytech.edu)

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**A**s many as one-third of U.S. employees use instant messaging at work, many without the knowledge of their employers.

[www.amanet.org](http://www.amanet.org)

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**T**he 16th Amendment created the federal income tax in 1913. In its first year, it taxed incomes of more than \$3,000 at 1% and incomes of more than \$20,000 (about \$400,000 adjusted for inflation) at rates from 2% to 7%.

[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)

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**L**os Angeles is the nation’s largest county, with 100,000 employees and a \$20 billion budget.

[www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com)

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**T**he vocabulary of the average person consists of 5,000 to 6,000 words.

[www.corsinet.com/trivia](http://www.corsinet.com/trivia)

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**S**ubprime was voted word of the year (2007) by the American Dialect Society. Googleganger, meaning a person with your name who shows up when you google yourself, receives the top votes as the most creative word.

[www.americandialect.org](http://www.americandialect.org)

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**A** customer who received this notice – “Sorry, we cannot fill your order until your previous order is paid for” – replied with: “Cancel my order. I can’t wait that long.”

**Source unknown**