

**AVIAN FLU**

**130** cases of avian flu found in humans as of November 20, 2005. Specifically,  
**2** in China (1 death)  
**4** in Cambodia (4 deaths)  
**21** in Thailand (13 deaths)  
**92** in Vietnam (42 deaths)  
**11** in Indonesia (7 deaths)

Source: World Health Organization

**I SURF, THEREFORE I BUY**

**627 Million**

is the number of people who made at least one purchase on the Internet in 2004, but the type of product most clicked on is still in the field of technology:  
**135** million people bought DVDs and/or videogames.  
**135** million made airplane reservations, **128** million bought clothing, accessories, shoes. **112** million downloaded music and/or CDs, **106** million bought electronic devices, **98** million bought computer hardware, **86** million for trips, hotel reservations.

Source: AcNielsen

**OVERSIZE**

Diets, cosmetic surgery, liposuctions & Co. All useless: in America the growth of the market for plus sizes “for her” is double that of the market for women of normal weight. **13.2%** the increase in sale of women’s “plus sizes”, **14.2%** increase in sales of “plus sizes” for teenagers. **5.6%** the increase in sales of women’s clothing.

Source: Cotton Incorporated Lifestyle Monitor

**GUINNESS CHOCO RECORD**

**5,980 kg** is the weight of the biggest “Bacio” in the world.  
**1,000** are the hours worked by ten professional pastry chef to make it, **460,000** normal “Baci” equal to the maxi chocolatino which is seven meters wide, **2.15** meters high and is wrapped in thirty-five square meters of aluminum foil. **29,900,000** the total calories in this “Bacione.”

Source: Eurochocolate.com

**ILLITERATES**

**882** million illiterates in the world, of which **600** million are women. In Africa, **74%** of the population is illiterate. **47%** in Asia. **24%** in South America. To send all the children in the world to school, **7** billion dollars per year is required: less than what is spent in Europe on ice cream every year.

(Source: UNESCO)

In Italy **6** million citizens don’t know how to read or write – equal to **12%** of the population.

(Source: a study done by the University of Castel San Angelo dell’UNLA – National Union for the Fight Against Illiteracy).

**GOLD HEARTED BILLIONAIRES**

How much do Uncle Scrooges give to charity? The ranking of the ten most generous, showing the amounts given for good works over the last four years:

1. Gordon and Betty Moore (Intel): **7,046** million dollars
  2. Bill e Melinda Gates (Microsoft): **5,458** million
  3. Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway): **2,622** million
  4. George Soros (financier): **2,367** million
  5. Eli and Edythe Broad (SunAmerica): **1,475** million
  6. James e Virginia Stowers (American Century): **1,205** million
  7. The Waltons (Wal-Mart): **1,100** million
  8. Alfred Mann (MannKind Corporation): **993** million
  9. Michael and Susan Deli (Deli): **933** million
  10. George Kaiser (Kaiser Oil): **617** million
- In the list of the top 50 we find also Ted Turner (16th) with **453** million, Michael Bloomberg (13th) with **528** million, and Oprah Winfrey (32nd) with **212** million.

Source: “BusinessWeek”

**BAREFOOT ON THE SUMMIT**

**2,729** meters: is how high the 43 year old Bulgarian Kostadin Marguin climbed to reach the summit of Mount Malyovitsa and enter the Guinness World Records. It would not have been worth noting if he hadn’t done it barefoot.

Source: “Sofia News”

**HIGH TOWERS**

The seven highest towers in the world? Almost all in the East.

1. Taipei 101 Tower (Taipei): inaugurated on New Year’s Eve 2004 – it’s **1,671** feet high.
2. Petronas Tower One and Tower Two (Kuala Lumpur):

connected by a sky-bridge, they are **1,482** feet high.

3. Sears Tower (Chicago): built for Sears Roebuck, it climbs to **1,450** feet.
4. Jin Mao Tower (Shanghai): here you find the highest hotel rooms in the world. And 88 stores. At **1,380** feet in the air.
5. Two International Financial Center (Hong Kong): it’s the highest building in Hong Kong with its **1,362** feet.
6. Citic Plaza (Guangzhou): for a short time it was the highest skyscraper in all of Asia. **1,283** feet.
7. Shun Hing Square (Shenzhen): the building was constructed very fast in 1993, four floors at a time up to **1,260** feet.

Source: “Forbes”

**CRIMES**

**2,000** is the number of assaults on Scots every week. This figure places Scotland at the top of the rankings for developed countries with the highest incidence of crime. In second place is England and Wales.

The study, carried out in 21 countries, revealed that **3%** of Scots have been victims of at least one assault during their lifetime, three times more than Americans (**1.2%**).

On the other hand, **0.2** is the percentage in Italy, **0.8** in Austria, and **0.1** in Japan, while in England and Wales it goes up to **2.8%**.

(Source: UN Research Institute)