Vacation Homes

The U.S Census defines vacation homes as housing units that are used primarily for recreation, are occupied seasonally, or only used occasionally. The most recent data from the Census reports that there are 174,458 vacation homes in Wisconsin. That means that about 6.7 percent of the 2.6 million housing units in Wisconsin are classified as vacation homes.

According to the Census, there are 313,521 housing units in the nineteen northernmost Wisconsin counties. What percentage of the 313,521 units are vacation homes?

a) 19 percent  
b) 24 percent  
c) 31 percent  
d) 39 percent

ANSWER: c) 31 percent: The Census estimates that there are 97,201 vacation homes in northern Wisconsin. Vacation homes comprise almost one third of all the homes in northern Wisconsin.

Only 12 percent of all the housing units in the state are located in the nineteen northernmost Wisconsin counties. However, over half (55.7 percent) of the vacation homes in the state are located in those nineteen counties.

For comparison, an estimated 8.2 percent of all housing units in the state are located in Dane County, but vacation homes comprise less than 1 percent of the 216,027 housing units in the county.

Similar information for every county in the U.S. is available free online from the U.S. Census at www.census.gov.

Source: Table B20054, American Community Survey,(5 year 2008-2012)

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