



# Number-crunching Obama's Inauguration

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(Reuters) - Planning for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration in Washington on January 20 means crunching some mind-boggling numbers.

## TRANSPORT:

**- The American Bus Association and Washington D.C. officials are bracing for a possible influx of up to 10,000 tour buses. If placed end to end, the buses would cover a distance of 85 miles. That number of buses could carry half a million people.**

- Airlines have added extra flights and bigger planes, while national rail operator Amtrak will be operating a more frequent service on the day.

- Washington's Metro rail service says it will deploy 850 rail cars capable of carrying 120,000 people every hour from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## CROWD SIZE:

- Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty says up to 4 million people could converge on downtown Washington for the inauguration, although the Secret Service says that figure is too high. But officials are expecting the crowd size to exceed the record set during the 1965 inauguration of Lyndon B. Johnson, when 1.2 million people attended. Some 240,000 will attend the swearing-in ceremony on the steps of the Capitol while the rest of the crowd will have to squeeze into the National Mall, which stretches 2 miles (3km) from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial on the Potomac River, and along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

## ACCOMMODATION

- The city's tourism association says at least 900 hotel rooms were still available last week out of a total of 29,000 in the city, and at least 1,700 in the greater metropolitan area.

## SECURITY

- Some 4,000 city police officers will be deployed along with 4,000 from 96 other law enforcement agencies across the country, police said. About 7,500 active duty U.S. military personnel and about 4,000 National Guard personnel will also be involved, either in a ceremonial role or assisting civilian authorities, according to the commander of U.S. Northern Command, the U.S. military headquarters responsible for protecting the United States. Members of the Secret Service, FBI and Capitol Police will also be on duty that day. Every one of the 240,000 people attending the actual swearing-in ceremony will be screened by walk-through or hand-held metal detectors.

(Reporting by Ross Colvin and Andrew Gray, Editing by Frances Kerry) © Thomson Reuters 2008.