

The U.S. Census Bureau: At Work for You



USCENSUSBUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



Pledge of Confidentiality

Title 13 of the U.S. Code explicitly prohibits Census Bureau employees from revealing confidential census information that would identify any individual, household, or establishment.

Data collected may be used only for statistical purposes. Title 13, as amended, provides a fine of up to \$250,000 or up to 5 years in jail, or both, for any Census Bureau employee who violates this statute.

All employees are sworn to secrecy at the time they are hired. Employees are reminded annually of this pledge.

The Census Bureau is committed to producing quality statistical data, while upholding its mandate to safeguard privacy and protect confidentiality of all individuals who share their information with us.

The U.S. Census Bureau: At Work for You

The U.S. Census Bureau does more than just count the number of people in the country once every 10 years. About 12,000 Census Bureau employees gather, analyze, and regularly deliver helpful information on hundreds of topics about the nation's people and its economy. The readiness of the Census Bureau staff to innovate continually improves the quality of the data we deliver.

Why Is the Census of Population and Housing Important?

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution places the decennial census at the core of our democratic system of governance. It mandates a count of the nation's populace every 10 years. The decennial census provides information that is the cornerstone of knowledge about the American people. It is the basis for virtually all demographic information used by educators, policymakers, and community leaders.

Information collected by the Census Bureau directly affects decisions made on matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, veterans' services, public health care, rural development, the environment, transportation, and housing.

- Many federal programs are statutorily required to use information from censuses to develop, evaluate, and implement their programs.
- Federal, state, and county governments use Census Bureau information to guide the annual distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in critical services.
- Congressional seats are reapportioned and legislative districts are drawn based on decennial census data.
- Statistics from the Census Bureau are also used to monitor and enforce compliance with civil rights statutes, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and employment, housing, lending, and education antidiscrimination laws.

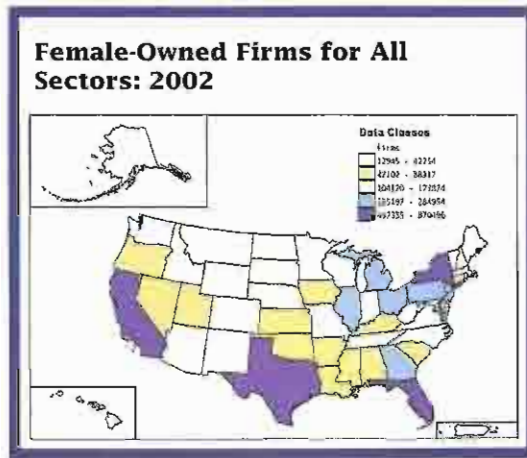
The American Community Survey (ACS) is part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program. It is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data every year. Since the ACS is conducted every year rather than once every 10 years, it will provide more current data throughout the decade.

What Is the Economic Census and Why Is It Important?

The Census Bureau conducts an economic census every 5 years, in years ending in "2" and "7." The economic census collects and produces useful business statistics and publishes summary information about each industry and geographic area. The economic census is important because it produces complete "snapshots" of the economy and widely used business statistics. Census Bureau statistics feature economy-wide coverage, exceptional accuracy, encyclopedic detail, and historic comparability. They are used in private business plans, public policy development, and statistical program quality control.

What Is the Census of Governments and Why Is It Important?

Like the Economic Census, the Census Bureau conducts a Census of Governments every 5 years, in years ending in "2" and "7." The Census of Governments is the only source of comprehensive and uniformly classified data on economic activities of state and local governments. The Census of Governments provides public and private data users with the necessary information to understand government functions, relationships among governments, and the impact of governments on people and the community.



What Other Information Does the Census Bureau Collect?

Besides the decennial census, economic census, and census of governments, the Census Bureau conducts nearly 100 other demographic and economic surveys and censuses every year. Information is obtained monthly, quarterly, or annually and released accordingly. Many of these are done on a cost-reimbursable basis for other federal agencies such as:

- Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Why Are Demographic Surveys Important?

With a population as changing and diverse as ours, separate surveys of households provide more in-depth and current information on characteristics of the American people such as labor force participation, income, crime victimization, incarceration rates, and measures of health.

Recurring demographic surveys include:

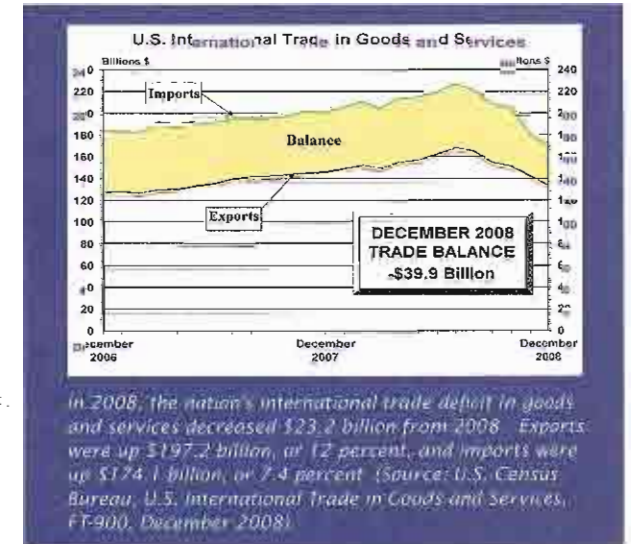
- American Housing Survey (AHS)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CES)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Why Are Economic Surveys Important?

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts numerous economic surveys in addition to the economic census. These surveys help present a clear picture of the many facets of our diverse and changing economy, and are used by planners and analysts in both the public and private sector. The data gathered from economic surveys are also used by the White House, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis to develop important economic indicators.

Economic surveys include:

- Construction Spending
- Manufacturers Shipments, Inventories, and Orders
- Monthly Retail Trade Survey
- Service Annual Survey
- U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services



Who Uses Census Bureau Data?

Data from censuses and surveys are used to make short- and long-range decisions by government officials at all levels, business and industry executives, educators, librarians, transportation planners, market researchers, real estate developers, think tanks, health and emergency service providers, and many others.

What Other Programs, Products, and Services Are Offered by the Census Bureau?

- Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing, or TIGER®, is the name of the system and digital database developed at the Census Bureau to support mapping needs.

It defines the location and relationship of streets, rivers, railroads, and other features to each other and to the numerous geographic entities for which the Census Bureau tabulates data from its censuses and surveys, and automates mapping and related geographic activities. For more information about TIGER® or other geographic products, visit <www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html>.

- The Statistical Abstract of the United States, the Census Bureau's flagship publication, has been published every year since 1878, and is available online, in print, and on CD-ROM. It provides valuable statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States. Also included are data and nearly 1,400 tables from many statistical publications, both government and private. Learn more about the Statistical Abstract of the United States at <www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>.
- The International Data Base, available on the Census Bureau Web site, provides population-related data for countries and areas around the world. Visit <www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb>.

How Can I Obtain Census Bureau Data?

Accessing Census Bureau data is free and easy. Most Census Bureau statistical data are housed at <www.census.gov>. A specially designed database called American FactFinder is located on the Census Bureau Web site and provides quick and easy access to major demographic and economic data files. If you need local assistance obtaining Census Bureau data, you may contact one of our 12 regional offices. See back page for contact information. Printed maps, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and on-demand printed reports are available at nominal prices from the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282.

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'U.S. Census Bureau' on the left, and 'FAQs', 'Subjects A to Z', 'Help', and a search box on the right. Below the navigation bar, there are several main content areas. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with links: 'New on the Site', 'Data Tools', 'American FactFinder', 'Jobs@Census', 'Catalog', 'Publications', 'Are You in a Survey?', 'About the Bureau', 'Regional Offices', 'Doing Business with Us', and 'Related Sites'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Back to School Facts for Features' (with a '2010 Census' banner), 'People & Households' (with links to 'Estimates', 'Projections', 'Housing', 'Income | State Median Income', 'Poverty', 'Health Insurance', 'International', 'Genealogy', and 'More'), 'Business & Industry' (with links to 'Economic Census', 'Get Help with Your Firm', 'Economic Indicators', 'NAICS', 'Survey of Business Owners', 'Government', 'E-Stats', 'Foreign Trade | Export Sales', and 'Local Employment Dynamics'), 'Geography' (with links to 'Maps', 'TIGER', 'Gazetteer', and 'More'), 'Newsroom' (with links to 'Releases', 'Facts For Features', 'Minority Links', 'Broadcast & Photo Services', and 'Embassy/News Release Subscriptions'), and 'Special Topics' (with links to 'Phishing & Email Scams', 'Census Bureau Data and Emergency Preparedness', 'Events Calendar', 'Training', 'For Teachers & Students', 'Statistical Abstract', 'FedStats', 'USA.gov', and 'Recovery Act at the Census Bureau'). On the right side, there is a 'Data Finders' section with 'Population Clocks' showing 'U.S. 306,865,057' and 'World 6,769,826,016' as of 20:42 GMT on July 18, 2009. Below this is a 'Population Filter' with a search box for 'city/town, county, or zip' or 'state' and a 'Select a state' dropdown. Further down is 'Find An Area Profile with Quickfacts' with a 'Select a state to begin' dropdown. At the bottom right, there are 'Latest Economic Indicators' (with links to 'Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders' and 'Construction Spending') and 'Economic Indicators' with a 'Select an indicator' dropdown. The footer contains the 'U.S. CENSUS BUREAU' logo and the tagline 'Helping You Make Informed Decisions', along with links for 'Accessibility', 'Information & Privacy', 'Title', 'Press Release', 'Financial Data', and 'Site Map & Feedback'.

**Bookmark us:
www.census.gov**

Need More Information?

- Visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov> or call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282.
- Call or visit a Census Bureau regional office. For the address and phone numbers of the regional office nearest you, visit <www.census.gov/field/www/>.
- Visit your local library. Many major university and public libraries participate in the Federal Depository Library Program and receive copies of Census Bureau reports and discs. Learn more about the program at <www.gpoaccess.gov/libraries.html>.
- Call or visit one of 1,800 state and local planning groups, libraries, chambers of commerce, and others that participate in the Census Bureau State Data Center and Census Information Center program. For contact information, see <www.census.gov/sdc/www/> and <www.census.gov/cic/>.