

U.S. Census Bureau's Budget Fiscal Year 2026

As Presented to the Congress June 2025



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Executive Summary, Fiscal Year 2026
Congressional Budget Justification Submission
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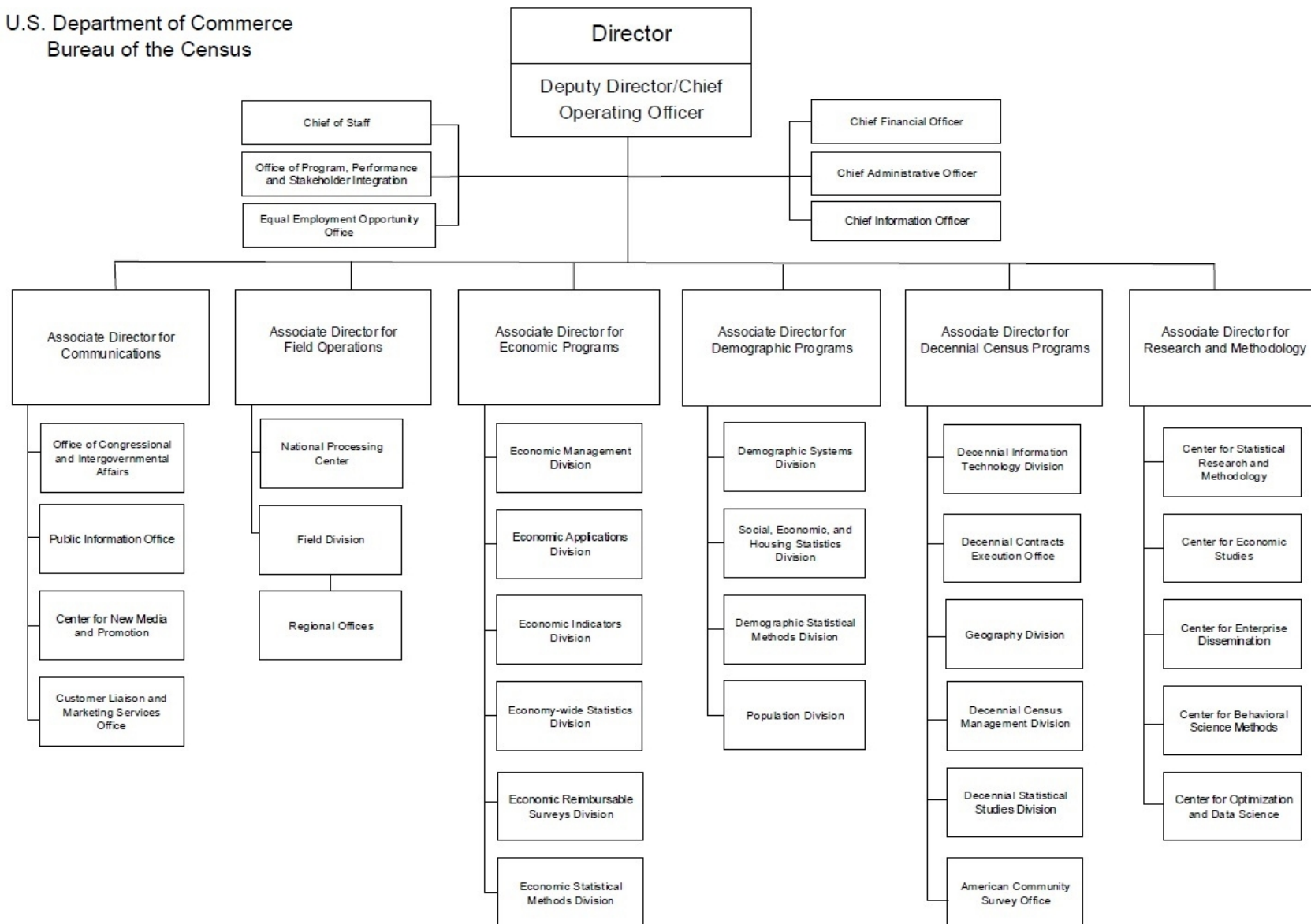
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Exhibit 2 Organization Chart

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census



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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Budget Estimates, Fiscal Year 2026**

Executive Summary

The Census Bureau continues to transform its organization and operations from a survey-centric model to a data-centric model that blends survey data with administrative and alternative digital data sources. This approach, and opportunities to expand secure access to administrative data sources, will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Census Bureau to provide more timely and relevant data products to stakeholders and the American public. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget request supports reinforcing the statutory requirements and other core operations of the Census Bureau, while implementing efficiencies in data collection and analysis, increasing cost effectiveness, and reducing respondent burden. A significant focus of the FY 2026 funding is to facilitate the initial testing for the upcoming 2030 Census. The Census tests are crucial as they will incorporate improved methodologies and technologies derived from the insights and lessons learned during the 2020 Census. By doing so, the Census Bureau aims to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the 2030 Census, ensuring that the data collected are reliable and reflective of the population of the United States.

The Census Bureau's FY 2026 request also supports the President's Budget proposal to reorganize the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Census Bureau at the Department of Commerce.

The FY 2026 request for the Census Bureau is \$1,676.5 million. Major programmatic changes are summarized below.

2030 Census: Fiscal Year 2026 is a critical year for the 2030 Census program. As the program moves into FY 2026, the Design Selection phase will be completed, and the Development and Integration phase will be well underway. In FY 2026, the Census Bureau will conduct the 2026 Census Test, which will be the first major field test for the 2030 Census. This will provide the opportunity to test new or significantly changed design components for operational viability, system build-out, and staffing scale-up necessary to ensure these changes can be effectively implemented. In addition, the Census Bureau will continue awards of major contracts and begin engineering and integration activities for the 2030 Census IT infrastructure at scale, including mobile, field office, cloud, network, and security capabilities. For more information, see CEN-37.

Driving Operational Efficiency and Modernization to Maximize Taxpayer Value: The Census Bureau is committed to modernizing operations and strengthening the workforce to serve the American public. By making more efficient use of existing personnel resources and funding, the Census Bureau aims to enhance service delivery, improve internal processes, and support data-driven decision-making across the Federal government. These efforts are part of the broader goal to streamline operations, reduce redundancies, and foster a workplace that empowers employees to contribute to the mission more effectively. Through continuous improvement, the Census Bureau strives to deliver greater value to the public and uphold the integrity and impact of the work.

By the end of FY 2026, the Census Bureau will have eliminated functions that are not statutorily mandated or core to the Bureau's mission while providing high-quality, efficient delivery of statutorily required functions. The Census Bureau will have consolidated areas of the agency that are duplicative; consolidated management layers; and continued to implement technological solutions that automate routine tasks while enabling staff to focus on higher-value activities.

Exhibit 3

Current Demographic Statistics: The Census Bureau is making a pivotal change by developing alternate ways to deliver estimates currently provided by the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The data are used to estimate eligibility, use, future costs, and coverage for government programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and to provide improved statistics on the distribution of income in the country. The Census Bureau is transitioning to a more effective approach that merges modern survey techniques with advanced data science methods. This innovative strategy will allow the Census Bureau to focus on a smaller, more targeted sample while utilizing non-survey data to lower costs, lessen the burden on respondents, and enhance both the timeliness and accuracy of statistical outputs. The Census Bureau plans to streamline the collection to deliver the critical, legally mandated socio-economic and demographic data traditionally provided in the SIPP. While SIPP has played an important role in shedding light on the economic well-being of Americans, its data collection has been expensive and challenging for respondents. This new approach plans to deliver crucial insights more efficiently and effectively, ultimately benefiting both the Census Bureau and the public. For more information, see CEN-19.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
FY 2024 to FY 2026 PROGRAM INCREASES / DECREASES / TERMINATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)
(By Appropriation, Largest to Smallest)

Increases

Page No in CJ	Appropriations	Budget Program	Title of Increase	Positions	Budget Authority
CEN-37	Periodic Censuses and Programs	Demographic Statistics Programs	Decennial Census	281	\$383,072
Total, Increases				281	\$383,072

Decreases

Page No in CJ	Appropriations	Budget Program	Title of Decrease	Positions	Budget Authority
CEN-19	Current Surveys and Programs	Current Demographic Statistics	Household Surveys	(678)	(\$40,000)
CEN-29	Periodic Censuses and Programs	Economic Statistics Programs	Periodic Economic Statistics	(132)	(18,305)
CEN-47	Periodic Censuses and Programs	Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems	Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems	(133)	(17,045)
CEN-42	Periodic Censuses and Programs	Geographic Support Program	Geographic Support Program	(108)	(13,722)
Total, Decreases				(1,051)	(\$89,072)

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Exhibit 5

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs – Discretionary
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Page No in
CJ

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	2,426	1,698	\$328,500	\$328,500
Plus: Program changes	(665)	(214)	(40,000)	(40,000)
2026 Estimate	1,761	1,484	288,500	288,500

**Comparison by activity/subactivity
with totals by activity:**

Comparison by activity/subactivity with totals by activity:			2024		2026		Increase/Decrease	
			Enacted		Estimate			
			Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
	Current Surveys and Statistics							
CEN-9	Current Economic Statistics	Pos./BA	1,176	\$215,997	1,189	\$215,997	13	0
		FTE/Obl.	1,049	215,997	1,056	215,997	7	0
CEN-15	Current Demographic Statistics	Pos./BA	1,250	112,503	572	72,503	(678)	(40,000)
		FTE/Obl.	649	112,503	428	72,503	(221)	(40,000)
	Total	Pos./BA	2,426	328,500	1,761	288,500	(665)	(40,000)
		FTE/Obl.	1,698	328,500	1,484	288,500	(214)	(40,000)

Adjustments for:

Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated balance, start of year	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, end of year	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, expiring	0	0	0

Appropriation	328,500	288,500	(40,000)
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Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs – Mandatory
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Page No in
CJ

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	224	157	\$18,860	\$18,860
Plus: Changes from 2024	(12)	(11)	0	0
2026 Enacted	212	146	18,860	18,860

**Comparison by activity/subactivity
with totals by activity:**

			2024 Enacted		2026 Enacted		Increase/Decrease	
			Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
CEN-21	State Children's Health Insurance Program	Pos./BA	224	18,860	212	18,860	(12)	0
		FTE/Obl.	157	18,860	146	18,860	(11)	0
Total		Pos./BA	224	18,860	212	18,860	(12)	0
		FTE/Obl.	157	18,860	146	18,860	(11)	0

Adjustments for:

Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated balance, start of year	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, end of year	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, expiring	0	0	0
Sequestration	1,140	1,140	0
Appropriation	20,000	20,000	0

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Current Surveys and Statistics
Subactivity: Current Economic Statistics

Goal Statement

The Census Bureau's Economic Statistics programs provide timely, accurate, and essential data on the structure and performance of the U.S. economy, supporting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimation, fiscal and monetary policymaking, and private sector decision-making. FY 2026 funding will sustain critical Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs) as well as annual survey programs while advancing modernization through integration of administrative and third-party data, open source, cloud-based processing, and streamlined data collection to enhance efficiency, reduce burden, and increase data usage.

Program Description

The Census Bureau's Economic Statistics programs produce critical monthly, quarterly, and annual measures that capture the structure, performance, and evolution of the U.S. economy. These programs support the full survey/data lifecycle including sampling and data collection through processing, estimation, quality control, and dissemination. The data include key sectoral statistics for retail, wholesale, services, manufacturing, construction, foreign trade, and government. These data are statutorily mandated, are vital inputs for GDP estimation, and are widely used by Federal agencies, state and local governments, businesses, and researchers to inform economic policy, investment decisions, and public programs. The programs also support transformation efforts by integrating administrative and commercial data sources, implementing open-source technologies, and expanding cloud-based operations to improve efficiency, reduce burden, and ensure the continued relevance and timeliness of official economic statistics.

Statement of Operating Objectives

In FY 2026, the Census Bureau's Economic Statistics programs objective is to produce timely, reliable, and detailed data on the structure, activity, and performance of the U.S. economy. These data support the development of key national economic indicators, inform public and private decision-making, influence global markets, serve as critical inputs to the estimation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the formulation of monetary and fiscal policy.

Explanation and Justification**Business Statistics**

The Business Statistics programs, which include the Current Retail, Wholesale, and Service Trade Reports, measure the economic activity of the distribution and service trade sectors in the United States. These programs are the primary source of up-to-date facts on the structure and functioning of the distributive trades and service sectors of the economy.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- Monthly Retail Trade (including Quarterly Retail E-commerce): www.census.gov/retail/index.html
- Monthly State Retail Sales: www.census.gov/retail/state_retail_sales.html
- Monthly Wholesale Trade: www.census.gov/wholesale/index.html
- Quarterly Services: www.census.gov/services/index.html
- E-STATS: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/e-stats.html

Construction Statistics

The Construction Statistics programs, including Building Permits, Housing Starts, New Home Sales, and Construction Put In Place Data, provide national, state and regional performance indicators for the construction sector of the economy. The programs cover activities, such as residential building permit authorizations, housing starts, new home sales, characteristics and prices of new housing, and value of construction put in place. The data from the construction statistics programs supplement the data collected in the Economic Census.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- Building Permits Survey: <https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/>
- New Residential Sales: <https://www.census.gov/construction/nrs/index.html>
- Construction Spending: www.census.gov/construction/c30/about_the_survey.html
- Characteristics of New Housing: <https://www.census.gov/construction/chars/>

Manufacturing Statistics

The Manufacturing Statistics programs measure the performance of the U.S. manufacturing sector, as well as the investment behavior of all U.S. businesses. These programs also measure annual capital expenditures for structures, equipment, information and communication technology, and computer software by U.S. businesses.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- Monthly Manufacturing: www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3/index.html
- E-STATS: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/e-stats.html

General Economic Statistics

The Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) will continue working together to increase the accuracy and timeliness of a substantial number of key economic indicators cumulatively leading to a more precise measure of GDP. The Census Bureau will continue developing practical innovations that harness data from administrative or commercial records, and other forms of Big Data (large volumes of data sets that may be combined and analyzed to reveal patterns and trends, complementing and supplementing surveys) to create more timely, relevant, and granular economic and social measurements.

General Economic Statistics includes the following activities:

Business Register - This program identifies the business populations covered by economic censuses and surveys. The Business Register (BR) covers more than 190,000 multi-establishment companies, representing 2.1 million affiliated establishments, 6.5 million single establishment companies, and nearly 27 million non-employer businesses. It maintains information about company affiliation and organizational structure, and serves as a consolidated source for name, address, and other contact information needed for cost-effective data collection methods. Finally, it supports census and survey processing operations. By providing consistent industrial, geographic, and size classifications, it supports the construction of efficient, representative samples and enumeration lists.

Industry and Commodity Classification - The Census Bureau classifies all businesses and their products so that new entities are added, mergers are recorded, and emerging product lines are accounted for. Accurate and timely industrial classifications are essential to providing high-quality estimates for industrial statistics. The classifications serve as the foundation for all sample work of economic programs and ensure a quality mail frame for the Economic Census. This program ensures that Census Bureau industry and classification operations are complete, consistent, and comparable with the Office of Management and Budget and other agency standards. It coordinates and supports the continued maintenance and revision of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) structure, which provides a consistent industry classification system for the United States, Canada, and Mexico every five years. The program is also responsible for the continued development of the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS), which will enable product-tracking data from the Economic Census that are integrated across industries.

Economic Studies - This program enables the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) to evaluate economic, decennial, and demographic data programs; and develop new and improved economic measures. In these endeavors, the CES also relies upon outside experts including those working in the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDC) where qualified researchers can access restricted-use

microdata from a variety of Federal agencies for statistical purposes. Research results from CES and the FSRDCs have generated substantial new insights into the quality of census and survey data, led to new public-use data products, identified gaps in existing programs, and suggested areas where new programs are needed.

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) - This program leverages existing data sources to create new information about the economy. Through data sharing agreements with state and other Federal agencies, the program produces three main public-use data products that highlight businesses and workers by characteristics and geography: The Quarterly Workforce Indicators, Job-to-Job Flows, and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES). These tools are essential for local area users, such as county and city governments, and those involved in disaster recovery activities.

Business Formation Statistics (BFS) – This program provides reliable and timely measures of entrepreneurial economic activity at the national and subnational levels in addition to demographic detail such as the race and sex of applicants. BFS helps businesses, policy makers, regional planners, and researchers assess the current state of early entrepreneurship. The data are used to study a variety of issues in entrepreneurship, including the high-frequency dynamics of entrepreneurial activity, the effects of business cycles on entrepreneurship, the effects of regional economic development policies on new business formation, the impact of state tax policies and regulations on business initiation, and the formation of new industrial clusters and agglomerations.

Quarterly Financial Report - This program is a principal economic indicator that provides quarterly statistics on corporate financial conditions, including sales, profits, assets, liabilities, and stockholders' equity. It also provides industry and asset size data for small, medium, and large manufacturing corporations in the mining, wholesale trade, retail trade, information, and professional and technical industries. The data are used by BEA in constructing the national income accounts, and by the Federal Reserve Board in the flow of funds accounts. The data also are used in the public and private sectors to analyze corporate profits and financial conditions by industry and asset size. The collection and publication of these statistics are mandated in U.S. Code Title 13, chapter 3, section 91.

High Frequency Data Program - The High Frequency Data Program provides near-real time data in response to emergent conditions in the economy and society. The program continues to evolve from an instrument that measured COVID-19 era impacts into a useful tool and model for improving data collection techniques, evaluating new content, serving as a testing platform for other economic surveys, and reducing the overall footprint of the Census Bureau.

This program expands the Census Bureau's capability to conduct these types of surveys, to include the Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS), which provides the only biweekly collection of qualitative data to give insights into the volatility of the U.S. economy. For Demographic Statistics, this program allows the Census Bureau to cooperate with other Federal agencies to produce near real-time data at Federal, state, and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) levels as needed to support policy and decision makers. The Census Bureau supplements its expertise and infrastructure for primary data collection and development of products using existing data to address needs for high-frequency and/or rapid response information that guide response to dynamic or emergent social and economic conditions. This program supports the advancement of demographic and economic frames yielding near real-time insights into the economy. The expansion of frames and refined methodologies cultivates more inclusive data collection panels encompassing diverse entities such as large corporations, industries, geographic regions, and communities.

Annual Integrated Economic Survey - As part of the Census Bureau's transformation into a data-centric organization, to streamline data collection, reduce respondent burden, and increase usefulness of data products, the Economic Directorate launched the Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES). Under AIES respondents receive one consolidated collection instrument annually and data users get more timely and more geographically detailed data. AIES provides for more harmonized content of the Company Organization Survey, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, M3-Unfilled Orders, Annual Capital Expenditures Survey, Annual Retail Trade Survey, Annual Wholesale Trade Survey, and the Services Annual Survey. In addition, it provides a platform for consistent business classification, rotating modules for content, alignment to the Business Ecosystem (BE), leveraging of alternative data, direct company data feeds, and ultimately delivering economy- wide data.

- Annual Manufacturing: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html
- Annual Capital Expenditures Survey: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces.html>
- Annual Retail Trade Survey: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts.html
- Annual Wholesale Trade: www.census.gov/awts
- Services Annual Survey: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sas.html

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) - The PSEO program produces experimental tabulations to provide earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, post-secondary institution, and state of institution. PSEO uses earnings records from unemployment insurance wage records and Office of Personnel Management files, W-2 and 1099 records from the IRS to report earnings outcomes for all graduates by institution, degree, and field of study from participating post-secondary institutions.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- NAICS: www.census.gov/naics/
- NAPCS: www.census.gov/naics/napcs/
- LEHD: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/restricted-use-data/lehd-data.html
- Business Formation Statistics: www.census.gov/econ/bfs
- Quarterly Financial Reports: www.census.gov/econ/qfr/
- Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS): [Business Trends and Outlook Survey \(BTOS\) \(census.gov\)](http://www.census.gov/econ/btos/)
- Annual Integrated Economic Survey: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aies.html>
- Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO): [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes \(PSEO\) \(census.gov\)](http://www.census.gov/pse/)

Foreign Trade Statistics

The Foreign Trade Statistics programs provide official monthly statistics on imports, exports, and balance of trade for all types of merchandise moving between the United States and its international trading partners.

The trade data is a principal economic indicator that is essential to understanding the health of the economy, as well as the U.S. economic relationships with the rest of the world. The collection and publication of these statistics are mandated in U.S. Code Title 13, Chapter 9, Section 301. In addition, the trade statistics are important inputs to the BEA's estimation of GDP, and to the Federal Reserve Board and Council of Economic Advisors for the formulation of monetary and fiscal policies and analysis of economic policies.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following website:

- Foreign Trade: www.census.gov/foreign-trade

Government Statistics

The annual Government Statistics programs provide statistical information on revenues, expenditures, debt, and financial assets for state and local governments. The programs also provide data in the areas of state and local government financial activity and public employment and payroll. Public pensions data and state and local government tax revenue are also released on a quarterly basis. The Quarterly Summary of State & Local Tax Government Revenue (QTAX) Webscraping Project scrapes tax data from state and local government publicly available records. This reduces both respondent burden and resources spent on data collection, increases timeliness and frequency of data availability, and increases data product output and the ability to respond quickly to data needs.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following website:

- Government Statistics: www.census.gov/topics/public-sector.html

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Current Surveys and Statistics
Subactivity: Current Demographic Statistics

Goal Statement

The goal of Current Demographic Statistics is to provide elected officials, government agencies, businesses, and the public with updated estimates of the U.S. population and reliable social and economic data needed to make effective, data-driven decisions. These data fulfill federal mandates and are the primary source of accurate and timely information decision-makers depend upon to ensure key program and policy decisions are well informed and cost-effective.

Program Description

The Current Demographic Statistics programs provide social and economic information on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis to inform effective public and private decision-making.

Data from these programs are used to create the U.S. official measures of employment, unemployment, poverty, and widely used measures of income and health insurance coverage. These data meet a variety of federal mandates and are the source of significant insight for decision-makers on topics such as immigration, families and children, economic well-being, the geographic patterns of change in population and characteristics, and for participation of various individuals and households in Federal, state, and local assistance programs.

The programs also provide updated estimates of the U.S. population for the country, states, counties, cities, and townships. This allows government officials, policymakers, and program managers to better understand the size of their population, basic characteristics, such as age, sex, race, and ethnicity, and estimates of the number of housing units in the years between the decennial censuses.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The U.S. population grows and changes between each decennial census – and governments base many of their funding decisions on the size and basic characteristics of the population - therefore effective and efficient government requires high quality and objective sources of information.

Explanation and Justification**Household Surveys**

The Household Surveys program funds the Current Population Survey, modernization of the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and the Supplemental Poverty Measure.

Current Population Survey (CPS) - The Census Bureau conducts the CPS, which is a monthly survey providing detailed labor force characteristics of the civilian non-institutional population and the monthly unemployment rate - a leading economic indicator. In addition, it collects data on population demographics, health insurance, and income, including the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The CPS is a jointly funded program between the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that has been in existence for more than 70 years. This survey is the only real-time survey to measure the growth of America's economy by participation in the labor force and changes in income and earnings. The Census Bureau's field representatives (FRs) collect the CPS data for monthly employment statistics either in-person or via telephone interview. CPS is currently testing an internet self-response option, along with other modernizations.

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Modernization - The Census Bureau is making a pivotal change by developing alternate ways to deliver estimates currently provided by the SIPP. The data are used to estimate eligibility, use, future costs, and coverage for government programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and to provide improved statistics on the distribution of income in the country. The Census Bureau is transitioning to a more effective approach that merges modern survey techniques with advanced data science methods. This innovative strategy will allow the Census Bureau to focus on a smaller, more targeted sample while utilizing non-survey data to lower costs, lessen the burden on respondents, and enhance both the timeliness and accuracy of statistical outputs. The Census Bureau plans to streamline the collection to deliver the critical, legally mandated socio-economic and demographic data traditionally provided in the SIPP. While SIPP has played an important role in shedding light on the economic well-being of Americans, its data collection has been expensive and challenging for respondents. This new approach plans to deliver crucial insights more efficiently and effectively, ultimately benefiting both the Census Bureau and the public.

Survey Improvements - The Census Bureau continues its research to improve demographic surveys, continues a field quality monitoring program that provides cross-survey analytics and paradata to identify potential areas of improvement, and maintains an online nationally representative survey panel to support the timely and efficient collection of high-quality data for production and research purposes.

Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) - The SPM uses new data and methodologies to obtain an improved understanding of the economic well-being of American families and of how Federal policies affect those living in poverty. The SPM complements, and is released alongside, the official poverty measure.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- CPS: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>
- SPM: <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/supplemental-poverty-measure.html>

Population and Housing Analysis

The Population and Housing Analysis program supports a variety of approaches to refine the statistical data collected in surveys into value-added, insightful, and useful information. This program increases the knowledge base with varied sources of information, adds context and perspective to survey data, and maintains statistical infrastructure through the compilation of records and development and maintenance of standards.

The Population and Housing Analysis program has two major components: Population Characteristics and Housing Statistics.

Population characteristics - The Population Characteristics program:

- Produces a wide variety of population analyses, tables, and reports based on data collected by the CPS and other surveys;
- Continues to formalize the capacity of the Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) program

Population characteristics products are produced by demographic experts at Census Bureau headquarters, using data the Census Bureau already collects. These recurring Current Population Reports are used by Federal, state, and local agencies to design, implement, and evaluate programmatic activities and by a wide variety of organizations in the private sector as the official baseline estimates of various social, demographic, and economic phenomena and trends. The program also provides a wide variety of data and research products relating to the distribution of income, wealth, and poverty in the United States. These recurring reports from the CPS and other data sources are the official source of the U.S. poverty and income statistics.

Additional information about this program may be found at the following website:

- CRE: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/community-resilience-estimates.html>

Housing statistics - The Housing Statistics program conducts the Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS), which produces key data points about the Nation's housing markets on a quarterly basis. The survey collects and provides rental and homeowner vacancy rates, as well as homeownership rates and other information about housing in the country. The HVS data is collected as a supplement to the CPS, occurring when an interviewer encounters an unoccupied housing unit. Collected data is released on a quarterly basis via press release and data tables.

The rental vacancy rate from the HVS is designated as a Principal Federal Economic Indicator. Homeownership rates and vacancy rates from the HVS are used by HUD, the Federal Reserve Board, and other federal agencies to assess the impact of various housing programs as well as track the changes in housing markets across the country. Both public and private organizations use the data to evaluate housing markets, determine the number and characteristics of available units, and the level of homeownership. The White House, HUD, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and academic researchers use these data to measure progress toward the goal of increasing the success of homeownership among American families.

Additional information about these programs may be found at the following websites:

- Population characteristics: <https://www.census.gov/topics/population.html>
- Housing statistics: <https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/index.html>

Intercensal Demographic Estimates

The Intercensal Demographic Estimates program produces estimates of population, demographic components of change, and housing units at varying levels of geography. These data are produced annually by utilizing current data on births, deaths, migration, and housing stock to calculate change since the most recent decennial census and produce a time series of estimates. Trends in the population and demographic components are evaluated and used to project the population and components for future dates.

More details on the specific estimates and projections data products and the methods employed are available at:

- Population and housing unit estimates: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>
- Population projections: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj.html>

These legislatively mandated estimates of population factor into the distribution of trillions of dollars in federal funds. The geographic distribution and demographic characteristics of the population, presently and projected, inform decisions pertaining to state and local government services, planning of utility services, redefining metropolitan areas, and locating retail outlets and manufacturing establishments. These estimates provide elected officials, policymakers, and program managers with updated insight into the population's size and basic characteristics, such as age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin as well as the number of housing units, in the years between the decennial censuses. Additionally, these estimates have a major impact on the accuracy of the country's key measures, such as birth and death rates, unemployment, inflation, income, poverty, and health insurance coverage. Finally, intercensal estimates are essential to controlling variability in the surveys that provide these measures by serving as a common source of population and housing unit controls.

Demographic Surveys Sample Redesign

The Demographic Surveys Sample Redesign program produces sampling and survey innovations for major household surveys.

More details on survey-specific redesign may be found at:

- CPS: https://www.bls.gov/cps/methods/sample_redesign_2025.htm

The Redesign program researches and develops innovations that benefit multiple surveys, such as creating new samples following the release of census data, developing customized address lists, and finding ways to use administrative data to mitigate nonresponse.

As the characteristics of the American population change, survey samples and methods need to be revised to maintain confidence in the reliability of the Census Bureau's economic indicators and other estimates.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs
PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Current Demographic Statistics	Pos./BA	1,250	\$112,503	572	\$72,503	(678)	(40,000)
	FTE/Obl.	649	112,503	428	72,503	(221)	(40,000)

Household Surveys (-\$40,000, -221 FTE/-678 Positions)

The Census Bureau will transition to a more effective approach, in FY 2026, to provide data previously collected by the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) by merging modern survey techniques with advanced data science methods. This innovative strategy will allow the Census Bureau to focus on a smaller, more targeted sample while utilizing non-survey data to lower costs, lessen the burden on respondents, and enhance both the timeliness and accuracy of the statistical outputs.

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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs - Mandatory
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: State Children's Health Insurance Program
Subactivity: State Children's Health Insurance Program

Goal Statement

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) budget is under the Current Surveys and Programs account. The goal of this mandatory program is to produce statistically reliable annual data for each state on the number of low-income children who do not have health insurance coverage.

Program Description

The funds for SCHIP were authorized by 42 USC 1397ii(b)(1)(4). The program was established and funded through a mandatory appropriation by the Medicare, Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program Bill (P.L. 106-113). The SCHIP program was reauthorized in 2009 (P.L. 111-3) and provided an additional \$10.0 million to cover rising data collection costs and to improve state estimates of children's health insurance coverage. Data collection required to meet the intent of SCHIP will continue as part of the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS. The program uses adjustments to the CPS to increase the reliability of state-level estimates of the number of uninsured low-income children. The adjustments include, where appropriate, expanding the number of households included in the survey, collecting data in additional months, and exploring alternative methods to enhance state-level estimates by incorporating data from other sources.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Under the SCHIP, Census Bureau survey data are used to allocate funds to states based on the number of children without health insurance living in low-income families.

Explanation and Justification

State Children's Health Insurance Program

SCHIP collects annual data on the number of low-income children who do not have health insurance coverage.

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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Surveys and Programs
APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE AND CODE CITATION**

FY 2026

Current Surveys and Programs

1. For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$288,500,000: Provided, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

13 U.S.C. §§4, 6, 8(b), 12, 61-63, 81, 91, 181, 182, 301-307, 401; 15 U.S.C. §§1516, 4901 et seq.; 19 U.S.C. §§1484(e), 2354, 2393; 44 U.S.C. §1343.

13 U.S.C. §4 authorizes the Secretary to "perform the functions and duties imposed upon him by this title," or he may delegate any of them "to such officers and employees of the Department of Commerce as he may designate."

13 U.S.C. §§6, 8(b), 12, 61-63, 81, 91, 182, 301-307 provide for (1) acquisition of information from other organizations, public and private; (2) conducting joint statistical projects with nonprofit organizations or agencies; (3) conducting mechanical and electronic developmental work as needed; (4) collection and publication of statistics on fats and oils; (5) collection and publication of statistics relating to the domestic apparel and textile industries; (6) collection and publication of quarterly financial statistics of business operations; (7) conducting current surveys on statistical subjects covered by periodic censuses; and (8) compilation and publication of information on imports, exports, and mode of transportation.

13 U.S.C. §181 provides that "The Secretary...shall annually produce and publish for each state, county, and local unit of general purpose government which has a population of fifty thousand or more, current data on total population and population characteristics and shall biennially produce and publish for other local units of general purpose government current data on total population."

13 U.S.C. §401 provides that "The Bureau of the Census shall exchange with the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce information collected under this title, and under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act, that pertains to any business enterprise that is operating in the United States, if the Secretary of Commerce determines such information is appropriate to augment and improve the quality of data collected under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act."

15 U.S.C. §1516 provides that "The Secretary of Commerce shall have control of the work of gathering and distributing statistical information naturally relating to the subjects confided to his department...He shall also have authority to call upon other departments

of the government for statistical data and results obtained by them; and he may collate, arrange, and publish such statistical information so obtained in such manner as to him may seem wise."

15 U.S.C. §4901 et seq. provides that "The Secretary [of Commerce] shall establish the [National Trade] Data Bank. The Secretary shall manage the Data Bank."

19 U.S.C. §1484(e) provides that "The Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the United States International Trade Commission are authorized and directed to establish...an enumeration of articles...comprehending all merchandise imported into the United States and exported from the United States, and shall seek, in conjunction with statistical programs for domestic production and programs for achieving international harmonization of trade statistics, to establish the comparability thereof with such enumeration of articles."

19 U.S.C. §2354 provides that "Whenever the [International Trade] Commission begins an investigation...with respect to an industry, the Commission shall immediately notify the Secretary [of Commerce] of such investigation, and the Secretary shall immediately begin a study of:

- (1) the number of firms in the domestic industry producing the like or directly competitive article which have been or are likely to be certified as eligible for adjustment assistance, and
- (2) the extent to which the orderly adjustment of such firms to the import competition may be facilitated through the use of existing programs."

19 U.S.C. §2393 provides that "The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall establish and maintain a program to monitor imports of articles into the United States which will reflect changes in the volume of such imports, the relation of such imports to changes in domestic production, changes in employment within domestic industries producing articles like or directly competitive with such imports, and the extent to which such changes in production and employment are concentrated in specific geographic regions of the United States."

44 U.S.C. §1343 provides that "In addition to the usual number of the Statistical Abstract of the United States, twelve thousand copies shall be printed: three thousand for the Senate, six thousand for the House of Representatives, and three thousand for distribution by the Secretary of Commerce.

Exhibit 5

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Page No in
CJ

	Positions	FTE	Budget Authority	Direct Obligations
Appropriation Available, 2024	5,988	4,091	\$1,054,000	\$1,168,691
Plus: Program changes	(92)	23	334,000	219,309
2026 Estimate	5,896	4,114	1,388,000	1,388,000

**Comparison by activity/subactivity
with totals by activity:**

Comparison by activity/subactivity with totals by activity:			2024		2026		Increase/Decrease	
			Enacted		Estimate			
			Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
CEN-27	Economic Statistics Programs							
	Periodic Economic Statistics	Pos./BA	690	\$162,254	558	\$143,949	(132)	(18,305)
		FTE/Obl.	558	169,737	476	143,949	(82)	(25,788)
CEN-31	Demographic Statistics Programs							
	Decennial Census	Pos./BA	4,283	599,861	4,564	982,933	281	383,072
		FTE/Obl.	2,662	682,905	2,945	982,933	283	300,028
CEN-39	Geographic Support Program							
	Geographic Support	Pos./BA	413	112,201	305	98,479	(108)	(13,722)
		FTE/Obl.	372	116,549	276	98,479	(96)	(18,070)
CEN-43	Enterprise Data Collection & Dissemination Systems							
	Enterprise Data Collection and	Pos./BA	602	179,684	469	162,639	(133)	(17,045)
	Dissemination Systems	FTE/Obl.	499	199,500	417	162,639	(82)	(36,861)
	Total	Pos./BA	5,988	1,054,000	5,896	1,388,000	(92)	334,000
		FTE/Obl.	4,091	1,168,691	4,114	1,388,000	23	219,309

Exhibit 5

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Adjustments for:

Recoveries	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unobligated balance, start of year	(114,691)	0	114,691
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, end of year	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, expiring	0	0	0
<hr/>			
Appropriation	1,054,000	1,388,000	334,000

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Economic Statistics Programs
Subactivity: Periodic Economic Statistics

Goal Statement

The goal of the Census Bureau's Economic Statistics Programs is to provide key monthly, quarterly, and annual measures of the U.S. economy. The program also provides key benchmark measures about the economy that set the baseline for current economic statistics and ensure that the current measures of the economy remain relevant, accurate, and timely. The data provided are critical to understanding the structure and function of the Nation's economy.

Program Description

Every five years, the Census Bureau collects extensive statistics about businesses and state and local governments that are essential to understanding the American economy. The Economic Census and the Census of Governments serve as the foundation for the measurement of U.S. businesses and their economic impact and identifies and describes all units of government in the U.S.

As part of the Census Bureau's mission to provide timely information on the health of the U.S. economy, this program includes the Economic Census which serves as the most extensive collection of data related to business activity. Approximately 4 million businesses, large, medium, and small, covering most industries and all geographic areas of the United States receive surveys tailored to their primary business activity. Economic census data serve as the foundation for the gross domestic product (GDP) and other leading economic indicators for the nation. Trade associations, economic development agencies, governments, and individual businesses also use the data to inform their decisions and policymaking.

Additionally, the Periodic Economic Census Program includes the Census of Governments which identifies the scope and nature of the Nation's state and local government sector. These data provide authoritative benchmark figures of public finance and public employment; classifies local government organizations, powers, and activities; and measures state, and local fiscal relationships.

Statement of Operating Objectives

Fiscal Year 2026 represents the second year of the 2027 Economic Census and 2027 Census of Governments cycles. In FY 2026, the Census Bureau will disseminate the last releases from the 2022 Economic Census. The 2027 Economic Census will finalize the content to be collected, and work on activities related to the development of systems and processes. The 2027 Census of Governments will implement innovative methods to existing government records to reduce response burden on state and local governments.

Explanation and Justification

Economic Census

Major activities for the Economic Census in FY 2026 include continued review of data related to the 2022 Economic Census final data releases, data on franchises and industry specific releases. Staff prepare data for delivery to the public by reviewing pre-released publications, gaining approvals, updating metadata tables, and ensuring quality standards are met.

General planning and project management for the 2027 survey cycle will continue in FY 2026. In collaboration with data users, other Economic Directorate surveys, and stakeholders, staff will work to finalize content to be collected for the 2027 Economic Census, as well as move to enterprise systems and directives for blended sampling, collection including direct company feeds, processing, and curation of the 2027 Economic Census data. Staff will build relationships with respondent stakeholders, and design open source and cloud systems necessary for efficient data collection and processing in preparation for the data collection operations in FY 2028.

For more information about the Economic Census visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/year/2022/about.html>.

Census of Governments

Major activities for the Census of Governments in FY 2026 include the expanded use of existing government administrative records and the implementation of innovative methods and strategies for data collection. Additionally, the Census of Governments will continue to implement system improvements, in both process and technology, for more effective data editing strategies to increase efficiencies in data processing. The improved data collection and processing activities will reduce burden and costs and allow the program to focus data review efforts on cases with the most impact on the data quality. Additionally, the review of data user feedback from the 2022 Census of Governments and a complete and comprehensive review of public sector survey's content will improve the next iteration of the Census of Governments' data gathering and dissemination processes.

In FY 2026, activities will include the continued preparation of a detailed project plan and content determination for all components of the 2027 Census of Governments, as well as legislative review and leveraging of direct agreements with states to identify and classify active governments.

For more information about Census of Governments visit <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cog/about.html>.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Periodic Economic Statistics	Pos./BA	690	\$162,254	558	\$143,949	(132)	(18,305)
	FTE/Obl.	558	169,737	476	143,949	(82)	(25,788)

Periodic Economic Statistics (-\$18,305, -82 FTE/-132 Positions)

The FY 2026 request will allow the Census Bureau to finalize and disseminate data related to the 2022 Economic Census, including data on franchise and industry specific releases. This request will also enable finalization of the content to be collected for the 2027 Economic Census and move to enterprise systems and directives for data sampling, collection, and processing. The request will fully support Census Bureau efforts to focus on outreach, planning, and research and development activities, including research on the use of administrative records to limit collections and update processes, in preparation for the 2027 Census of Governments. This request also supports mailout of the 2026 Government Units Survey (GUS), allows for implementation of innovative methods and strategies increasing efficiencies in data collection and processing, and supports the use of user feedback and public sector surveys to improve the next cycle.

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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Demographic Statistics Programs
Subactivity: Decennial Census

Goal Statement

The Decennial Census subactivity furthers the Census Bureau's mission to serve as the leading source of quality data about the Nation's people and economy by providing foundational benchmark measures about the U.S. population.

Program Description

The Decennial Census has been conducted since the early years of the Nation. Decennial Census data provides the official population counts for determining the allocation to states of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the block-level data necessary for each state to re-draw congressional, state, and local legislative district boundaries. The provision of these data is mandated in the U.S. Constitution, and Title 13 of the U.S. Code. This includes the American Community Survey (ACS), which is the premier source of social, demographic, economic, and housing information for the Nation, states, counties, cities, and towns. The Decennial Census, including the ACS, provides fundamental demographic information about people living in the United States. This information is not only used to determine Federal allocations to states and local governments, but also is critical to America's economic growth. This information helps businesses decide where to locate manufacturing facilities, where to open the next location, where to find the right workforce, and how to choose the products to put on the store shelves.

The Decennial Census subactivity will conduct a high-quality 2030 Census even more efficiently than the 2020 Census by researching, developing, and testing an enhanced census design that maximizes the use of technology, administrative and third-party data, and other innovative tools and procedures to reduce cost per housing unit (adjusted for inflation) while maintaining quality. The ACS will continue to gather necessary data for critical government and business decision-making while reducing respondent burden and increasing efficiency.

Statement of Operating Objectives

In FY 2026, the Census Bureau will expand 2030 Census program management and conduct the 2026 Census test intended to test key IT systems and infrastructure, integration of collection and processing systems, introduce field modernization efforts, and other activities. The American Community Survey will continue data collection, release survey data collected in previous years, and make use of alternative data sources for improved data quality.

Explanation and Justification**2030 Census**Program Management

FY 2026 is a critical year for the 2030 Census as it transitions from design to development and integration. The Program Management framework supports the governance necessary to oversee schedule, cost, risk, performance, requirements, and acquisitions throughout this period of rapid development and implementation. In FY 2026, the Census Bureau will expand its Government Program Management Offices (GPMOs) to oversee the award and execution of several major contracts foundational to the program's success. These include:

- A call center solution for Internet and paper response assistance
- Application development for the Statistical Processing Ecosystem
- Mobile and IT equipment solutions for field staff
- A public-facing communications campaign
- A human resources system for recruitment, onboarding, and training

Census/Survey Engineering

The Census/Survey Engineering framework supports the delivery of systems and solutions aligned to the program's requirements and architecture. FY 2026 efforts focus on initiating and validating IT systems through engineering management, system integration planning, and architecture design. This includes integrating enterprise platforms such as the Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) and other reusable infrastructure from across the Census Bureau.

Key among these efforts is the 2030 Census Statistical Processing Ecosystem, which enables real-time response processing and centralized quality controls. The Census Bureau will test components of this ecosystem using the 2026 Census Test Application contract and begin longer-term development through a Decennial Transformation and Application Modernization (DTAM) contract. These systems reduce redundancy, improve efficiency, and allow data quality efforts to be monitored and corrected in near real-time – earlier and more holistically than in any prior census.

Frame

The Frame program focuses on the geographic and demographic universe from which the population is counted. In FY 2026, the Census Bureau will conduct planning for several critical address and spatial frame activities – including Local Update of Census Addresses, Participant Statistical Areas Program, New Construction, and Boundary Validation – to improve coverage and ensure local input in geographic boundaries. These operations form the backbone of enumeration and support redistricting and funding allocation in the decade ahead.

The Person Characteristic Frame, which incorporates administrative and third-party data, will undergo further testing in FY 2026. Activities will include assessing alternative data sources, testing imputation models, and developing quality metrics for these data. These efforts will reduce costs by limiting in-person follow-up and improving data quality for nonresponding households.

Response Data

The Response Data program covers how the Census Bureau collects, manages, and processes response data. FY 2026 is the first opportunity to test the integration of collection and processing using components of the Statistical Processing Ecosystem. The 2026 Census Test will pilot near real-time data processing and data quality assessment, allowing early detection and correction of anomalies in the field.

The test will also evaluate updated self-response strategies, including improvements to Internet Self-Response (ISR), revised mail materials, and QR-code-based in-field response options. In-Office Enumeration will test modeling approaches to determine contact strategies, and In-Field Enumeration will explore use of multi-operational enumerators and early operations at colleges and seasonal locations. These innovations are intended to reduce cost, streamline operations, and enhance data quality.

Provide Results

FY 2026 activities under the Provide Results program focus on laying the groundwork for the accurate, secure, and timely dissemination of 2030 Census data products. This includes developing tabulation systems for apportionment and redistricting, preparing data for public dissemination, and advancing the Census Bureau's Disclosure Avoidance System to protect respondent confidentiality.

Ongoing system development and integration in FY 2026 will ensure that final data products can be released without delay after the 2030 Census and meet evolving privacy, legal, and public trust requirements.

Analyze and Research

The Analyze and Research program supports planning, evaluation, and redesign activities. While the Coverage Estimation operation will not be directly tested in 2026, the 2026 Census Test will inform its redesigned methodology. By FY 2026, the Census Bureau will finalize that design, implement AI and machine learning tools for matching, and explore operational efficiencies in staffing and quality assurance. These efforts aim to improve the reliability of the coverage estimates and reduce cost and risk during execution in 2030.

Infrastructure

The Infrastructure framework includes IT hardware, systems support, space management, logistics, and field staffing systems. The 2026 Census Test will introduce major field modernization efforts, including paperless onboarding, virtual office models, and digitized training and HR functions. These shifts are intended to reduce reliance on expensive temporary office space and streamline support for temporary field staff.

The 2026 Census Test will validate key infrastructure elements, including the Business Ecosystem, in a live environment. Simultaneously, contract acquisition activities for IT equipment, call centers, and support services must be executed on time to ensure readiness for the 2028 Dress Rehearsal.

American Community Survey

The ACS provides detailed data on demographic, social, economic, and housing information about all of America's communities, from the largest cities to small rural communities. Major ACS products are released each year, covering the previous calendar year. These include data on all ACS subjects released for all communities each year. Learn more about [American Community Survey Data](#).

Each year, the Census Bureau releases billions of estimates through multiple formats including:

- ACS 1-Year Data
- ACS 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File
- ACS 1-Year Supplemental Data
- ACS 5-Year Data
- ACS 5-Year PUMS File

The collection of ACS data from sampled addresses each year is a major logistical undertaking. Documentation of the methods used in the ACS, the basic design and methodology, and key developments in the ACS can be found in the [ACS Design and Methodology Report](#).

The Census Bureau is constantly researching and testing ways to ensure that customers trust and value the survey. Increasing the agility of the ACS ensures that the Census Bureau continues to deliver public value to the Nation's communities. More information on the ACS's [Agility in Action](#).

The ACS content is designed to meet the needs of Federal government agencies and is a source of detailed local area information. However, constraining the content of the ACS is critical due to the mandatory reporting requirement and burden to the public. Content tests involve the testing, research, and evaluation processes used to determine the best wording, format, and placement of proposed new questions or revisions to existing questions on the ACS. More information on the ACS's [Content Change Process](#).

The work of the Census Bureau is valuable to a wide-ranging number of uses and users and the amount of Federal funds distributed using Census Bureau data is frequently used to illustrate the value of the data. More information on the [Uses of Decennial Census Programs Data in Federal Funds Distribution: Fiscal Year 2021](#).

Mail and Internet Response Data

This activity covers printing, mailing, and data capture for a multiple mail approach to mailable addresses selected for the survey across every county and most tribal government areas in the United States. Additionally, respondents are offered an option to respond to the ACS survey via the internet.

Computer-Assisted Personal Interview Response Data

This activity covers addresses from across every county and tribal government area in the United States that have not responded by mail, internet, or telephone (respond via calling the Census Bureau's toll-free number). Field representatives across the Nation contact the addresses to conduct an interview in person or by telephone. Costs include salaries for field and regional office staff, mileage and other travel expenses, and quality control.

Puerto Rico Response Data

This activity covers all activities for data collection, including printing and mailing to addresses across the 78 county-equivalent areas in Puerto Rico. Data are collected via forms mailed in by households selected for the sample and via telephone interviews for those who wish to respond by calling the Census Bureau's toll-free number. For households that do not respond by mail or telephone, personal visit nonresponse follow-up interviews are conducted by Field Representatives. All interviewing and responses through the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance System are provided in Spanish. The survey is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey to avoid confusion and improve response.

Group Quarters Response Data

This activity covers the ongoing collection of data from persons from a representative sample of Group Quarters (GQs) – such as college dorms, skilled nursing facilities, or correctional facilities – spread across the United States and Puerto Rico over the entire year. Costs are for field staff, regional office staff, travel, mileage, and quality control.

Data Processing, Weighting, and Review

This activity covers all data processing activities and review of output to make certain the data are correct. It includes all the computer programming required for the control system processing, and calculation of variances. It also includes review of these operations to ensure that the editing and weighting are done correctly.

Published Data

This activity includes developing all specifications and completing all computer processing, including statistical weighting and disclosure avoidance processing, to create data tabulations and data products for one- and five-year estimates. The data products cover all the detailed characteristics collected in the ACS, such as income, poverty, educational attainment, migration, journey to work, and so forth. The products include tables, rankings, profiles, and public use microdata sample files. The data are disseminated electronically on the Census Bureau's website, <https://data.census.gov/>.

Communications

This activity provides funding for support of all aspects of the ACS, coordination and representation for the ACS program at events across the country, and for production of various informational and educational materials. Operational assistance, technical consultations, training, responses to a wide variety of data user needs and requests, managing and updating content on the ACS website, disposition of information to the National Archives and Records Administration, and support for contracts to develop improved communication and training methods are also conducted in this activity.

Program Management

This activity includes the development and implementation of program management processes for the ACS, which includes document, schedule, risk, change control, and portfolio management as well as the development of agreements and budget activities for reimbursable projects. This activity funds the development of schedules for all ACS operations (frame/sample, data collection, processing, dissemination, and research), ensuring that key products are produced on time.

Survey Engineering, Test, and Evaluation

This activity provides funding for testing, and evaluating the ACS, aimed at improving overall data quality, achieving survey efficiencies, and developing and improving questionnaire content and related data collection materials. A regularly scheduled ACS Content Test is planned every five years for the purpose of improving the questionnaire content, related data collection materials as well as the survey response data.

Frame and Sample

This activity includes the development and maintenance of the universe of the household addresses that will form the survey frame used to create the sample. Funding also allows for the creation and maintenance of the sample of household addresses.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Decennial Census	Pos./BA	4,283	\$599,861	4,564	\$982,933	281	383,072
	FTE/Obl.	2,662	682,905	2,945	982,933	283	300,028

Decennial Census (+\$383,072, 283 FTE/281 Positions)

The FY 2026 request will allow the Census Bureau to begin building and testing the integrated systems and operations that will shape the 2030 Census. Specifically, the 2026 Census Test will be conducted, exercising significant design enhancements for operational viability (streamlined field staffing and office models, near real-time response processing, and new approaches to group quarters enumeration) to validate major innovations in the field, before the 2028 Dress Rehearsal. The request also enables the 2030 Census program to begin full-scale development of core IT infrastructure, including cloud platforms, mobile tools, and the Statistical Processing Ecosystem. The FY 2026 funding supports award and management of critical major contracts for application development, field devices and IT equipment, the communications campaign, recruiting and hiring platforms, and call centers for telephone assistance. Dedicated Government Program Management Offices will be staffed to oversee these procurements, ensuring delivery and readiness ahead of 2028 dress rehearsal operations. A temporary expansion of technical expertise over the second half of the decade will begin to fully support rigorous and efficient planning, implementation, and management throughout the 2030 Census Life Cycle. The request will also enable the Census Bureau to continue data collection and publication for the American Community Survey, including the Puerto Rico Community Survey and the group quarters sample, while reducing respondent burden compared to prior years. It also supports ACS content enhancements, employing alternative data sources for improved data quality, and operation modernization efforts to further reduce costs.

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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Geographic Support Program
Subactivity: Geographic Support Program

Goal Statement

The Geographic Support Program (GSP) is an integrated program that creates and maintains the most current, accurate, and complete address, boundary, feature, and imagery data to the Census Bureau's customers and data users. The GSP provides the geographic foundation for every social and economic data product produced by the Census Bureau. The GSP also supports all the geospatial goals of the Nation, as outlined in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan 2025 – 2035.

Program Description

The GSP provides the infrastructure necessary for the Census Bureau's data collection, processing, tabulation, and dissemination programs for the United States and its territories, including the statutorily mandated 2030 Census apportionment and redistricting, as well as high priority Census Bureau surveys and censuses including the Economic Census, Population Estimates Program, Current Population Survey, American Community Survey, Local Employer Household Dynamics, Community Resilience Estimates, and more. The GSP is comprised of the addresses, features, and boundaries that make up the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System, along with geospatial reference data, frames, partnerships, and expertise/leadership.

Statement of Operating Objectives

In Fiscal Year 2026, the GSP will update and maintain the MAF/TIGER System to provide the geospatial data products associated with critical Census Bureau priority programs, including the 2030 Census, Economic Census, Population Estimates Program, Current Population Survey, American Community Survey, Local Employer Household Dynamics, and Community Resilience Estimates. The GSP will continue leading at the national level by providing 20 percent of the Nation's geospatial data.

Explanation and Justification**Geographic Support Program**

The GSP provides the Nation's most complete and accurate national geospatial database of addresses, boundaries, and features every year. The geospatial products are foundational to the accuracy of the statistical data produced by the Census Bureau about the Nation's people and economy. The 2030 Census Program relies on the GSP to continuously improve the accuracy and completeness of address, boundary, and feature data in the MAF/TIGER System, which is critical to establishing where to count for the 2030 Census. This includes GSP providing the universe of housing units and group quarters for inclusion in the 2030 Census; delineation of assignment areas; accurate geocoding results; and the creation of input files for data collection, processing, tabulation, and dissemination. Ongoing GSP innovations, such as automated change detection, support efforts to increase the use of in-office address canvassing for the 2030 Census, a significant efficiency booster that will minimize 2030 Census in-field address canvassing costs. Providing accurate and complete boundary and feature data for use during the 2030 Census will not be possible without this critical work to build the geospatial foundation.

Additionally, the GSP is necessary for the Census Bureau to fulfill legal mandates, including:

- Management and sharing of 20 percent of the Nation's geospatial data, as per the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (U.S. Code, Title 43, Chapter 46).
- Conducting the decennial census and release of apportionment counts, as per Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.
- Dissemination of population and housing data for congressional and state legislative redistricting, as per Public Law 94-171.
- Implementation of the Local Update of Census Addresses, as per Public Law 103-430.

Ongoing work in Fiscal Year 2026 is outlined, by pillar and foundational element, below:

Addresses

As the Census Bureau prepares for the 2030 Census, it is prioritizing the continued review and update of the MAF through partnerships and advanced methods using satellite imagery and machine learning to detect changes on the built landscape and reduce reliance on costly fieldwork. These innovations enhance efficiency, lower costs, and ensure the MAF/TIGER System remains accurate and responsive to evolving technology, stakeholder needs, and Census Bureau priorities.

Features

The Census Bureau maintains a nationwide network of roads, waterways, and landmarks to support accurate housing placement, boundary delineation, and census data operations. Using satellite imagery, machine learning, and partner data, the Bureau efficiently detects, and updates changes to these geographic features, even in remote areas.

Boundaries

The annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) ensures boundary data in the MAF/TIGER System are accurate and up to date, providing a critical foundation for census operations and serving as an authoritative resource for the Nation.

Imagery

The Census Bureau relies on a combination of satellite and aerial imagery to support its geographic operations, using data from sources like the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP), and partner governments. Continued acquisition and integration of current imagery are essential to maintaining the quality of geographic data and enhancing the efficiency of the GSP.

Partnerships, Sharing Expertise, and Advancing Geospatial Programs through Collaboration

The GSP relies on authoritative data from over 40,000 government partners, and other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Postal Service to update the MAF/TIGER System, aided by tools like the cloud-based Partner Portal and Geographic Update Partnership Software. The GSP provides an ongoing, cooperative data exchange of the Census Bureau's roads for use in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) portfolio of geospatial products, including the Geographic Names Information System, U.S. Topo Map series, and The National Map. The GSP provides geographic data, tools, and applications to every cabinet-level department within the U.S. Government, working most closely with the Departments of Commerce, Defense, and Treasury to publish interactive map viewers in support of infrastructure investment programs. The GSP also provides geospatial data and support to the Departments of Agriculture and Homeland Security.

The GSP shares expertise with national and international organizations as related to geographic concepts, tools, and methodologies. This occurs through consultation and advice, and by leading and participating in national and international collaborative efforts. The GSP supports Data.gov and the GeoPlatform.gov, which are shared infrastructure data discovery and collaboration platforms.

Continually Sustaining Enterprise-Wide Linked Frames through the GSP

The GSP continues support for ongoing research and development, data curation, and production for the enterprise-wide frames included in the Frames Program, one of the four major components of the Census Bureau's Business Ecosystem.¹ The Census Bureau's four frames are the Geospatial Frame (i.e., the MAF/TIGER System), the Business Frame, the Job Frame, and the Demographic Frame. The Frames Program maximizes the utility of geospatial, economic, job, and demographic data, enabling the Census Bureau to use its data assets in more innovative ways, including supporting 2030 Census innovations, integration of economic data, modernized demographic and household surveys, and expansion of data related to jobs.

¹ The other three components of the Business Ecosystem are described in the Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems Exhibit 12.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Geographic Support	Pos./BA	413	\$112,201	305	\$98,479	(108)	(13,722)
	FTE/Obl.	372	116,549	276	98,479	(96)	(18,070)

Geographic Support Program (-\$13,722, -96 FTE/-108 Positions)

The FY 2026 request will continue to provide the necessary geographic support services such as updating addresses, features, boundaries, imagery, and geographic entities in support of the 2030 Census, including apportionment and redistricting, and in support of the American Community Survey. In addition, the request will focus the Boundary and Annexation Survey to only legal boundary changes and corrections and continues minimum support of the Business and Demographic Frames.

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems
Subactivity: Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems

Goal Statement

The goal of the Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems (EDCaDS) program is to provide large cyclical systems that must be scaled for peak operations for the Decennial Census, the Economic Census, and the Census of Governments.

Program Description

EDCaDS includes Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE), Enterprise Data Lake (EDL), Enterprise Dissemination Services (EDS), Administrative Records Research and Integration (ARRI), and Census Personnel and Employment Check Systems (CPECS). These programs directly support and are critical to the success of the Census Bureau. EDCaDS provides modern user-centric data dissemination systems and capabilities including three of the four key innovation areas of what the Census Bureau refers to as the Business Ecosystem.² The first major component of the Business Ecosystem, the DICE program, offers modernized and reusable solutions for collection modes common to multiple surveys and censuses. The second major component, EDL, modernizes data storage and data analysis capabilities across all directorates with appropriate roles-based access control. The third major component, EDS, both protects the data that households and businesses provide by applying disclosure avoidance practices and policies to data before they are released publicly and disseminates data from across the Census Bureau. It also leverages partnerships to support the enterprise. ARRI seeks new sources of data held by government and third parties that can supplement, or even replace, data collected from sample surveys. CPECS is comprised of systems used to ensure the Census Bureau hires, manages, and vets temporary Decennial field staff.

For more information on the Business Ecosystem visit <https://www.census.gov/about/what/transformation/maximizing-operational-efficiency/data-centric-business-ecosystem.html>.

Statement of Operating Objectives

The EDCaDS subactivity will continue scaling for peak operations related to the 2030 Census, the Economic Census, and the Census of Governments as well as continuing support for selected enterprise level efforts related to administrative records and methodological research initiatives.

² The fourth major component of the Business Ecosystem, the Frames Program, is described in the Geographic Support Program's Exhibit 12 on CEN-39.

Explanation and Justification**Administrative Records Research and Integration**

In FY 2026, ARRI program will advance its enterprise-wide efforts to expand the strategic use of administrative records to enhance the quality and efficiency of key Census Bureau surveys, particularly the ACS and the CPS. The program will continue developing and testing methods to blend administrative and survey data to improve estimates of income, housing, and socio-demographic characteristics. ARRI will also conduct longitudinal research to assess economic well-being among population subgroups and geographic areas using integrated data sources. To support these efforts, the program will enhance administrative data ingest workflows, refine linkage techniques, and expand metadata systems to facilitate secure access and discovery. In addition, ARRI will manage interagency agreements to support data acquisition and statistical research, while operating the Administrative Records Clearinghouse (ADREC) and supporting the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs). These activities will be coupled with improved privacy protections, governance protocols, and data quality assessments to enable the expanded use of administrative records as a cost-effective alternative to traditional survey collection, in support of the Census Bureau's modernization strategy.

The Census Bureau will accomplish the objectives of ARRI program in FY 2026 by leveraging a combination of targeted research, infrastructure investments, and interagency collaboration. Specifically, the Census Bureau will deploy multidisciplinary teams to evaluate the quality, coverage, and alignment of administrative records with existing survey data and develop new methodologies for integrating these sources into survey processing. It will enhance technical infrastructure to support secure and automated ingest, linkage, and provisioning of administrative data, including improvements to metadata systems that facilitate data discovery and reuse. The Census Bureau will also maintain and expand over 300 interagency agreements to ensure the timely acquisition and authorized use of high-value administrative datasets from Federal, state, and other entities. Additionally, the program will continue to prioritize data stewardship, privacy protection, and transparency to maintain public trust and ensure the responsible use of administrative data in support of cost-effective, high-quality statistical programs.

For more information on administrative data and ARRI visit: <https://www.census.gov/topics/research/guidance/restricted-use-microdata/administrative-data.html>.

Census Personnel and Employment Check Systems

CPECS will help support the 2026 Census Test by investing in operational viability of new and revamped systems and methods researched and developed for the 2030 Census. The intent is to ensure feasibility of anticipated changes before selecting and baselining the 2030 Census operations. CPECS, which includes the Decennial Applicant, Personnel, and Payroll system (DAPPS) and the Census Hiring and Employment Check (CHEC) system, supports the recruiting, selecting, hiring, and support for temporary decennial field staff enumerating group quarters and housing units. The goals are to test 1) a centralized and virtual office infrastructure; 2) a new online job application and onboarding solution; 3) a virtual hiring process; 4) direct shipping materials to field and virtual office staff; 5) a revised Training Plan using virtual training and metrics to inform supervisory and training decisions; and 6) use of smartphones with larger screens.

Enterprise Dissemination Services

Aligned with the Federal Digital Strategy, the Census Bureau aims to unlock the full potential of its data to better serve the public. The Enterprise Dissemination Services program funds tools and products that help users—from policymakers to businesses—make informed decisions through accessible, secure, credible, and high-quality statistical products. Broad dissemination of statistical products supports economic growth, local planning, program evaluation, and innovation.

Center For Enterprise Dissemination Services and Consumer Innovation (CEDSCI) modernizes Census Bureau data dissemination systems to increase public access, usability, and interoperability. In FY 2026, the program will maintain current production systems at 99.9% uptime while migrating content to a cloud-based platform using open-source tools. This supports a major transition effort before FY 2027 large-scale physical data center decommissioning while enhancing data.census.gov and expanding API availability.

The program streamlines data flows across surveys and censuses while building scalable applications for dynamic access to statistical products. It coordinates with stakeholders via API optimization, metadata harmonization, and infrastructure upgrades, and integrates census.gov with data.census.gov for improved discoverability. CEDSCI is critical to the Census Bureau's ability to meet the statutory data release requirements and public expectations for accessible, timely, and accurate Federal statistics.

For more information visit: <https://data.census.gov>.

Disclosure Avoidance ensures protection of respondent data by: reviewing all Census Bureau projects, including those executed in the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers, for confidentiality risks; supporting the Census Bureau's Disclosure Review Board, which approves publications stemming from protected data; researching the use of synthetic data and validation as a framework for public data releases; and performing reidentification attacks to assess weaknesses in the Census Bureau's confidentiality infrastructure. Disclosure Avoidance accomplishes these tasks through a combination of internal expertise in statistical and machine learning analysis, and contract resources to bolster the use of cloud-based resources, thereby supporting the Census Bureau's legal requirements for confidentiality of respondent's data.

Digital Communications Platforms – In compliance with the Federal Digital Strategy, the Census Bureau is investing in new technologies and digital platforms to gather customer insights to make data-driven decisions that can improve customer experience, increase access to statistics, and improve overall customer satisfaction. This program focuses on maintaining the Census.gov website and sustaining the most critical pieces of the website. The Census Bureau maintains its commitment to improve customer experience skills across the Census Bureau, including journey mapping and human-centered solution designs.

Enterprise Partnership Program – The Census Bureau has worked with a variety of organizations for decades in support of its mission – to serve as the Nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. The Census Bureau implemented a successful, nationwide partnership program to increase awareness and drive response to the 2020 Census and has continued the partnership program throughout the decade to benefit other Census Bureau programs like the Economic Census, Census of Governments, and the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau continues to prioritize the development and sustainability of top-tier national partnerships that have the capacity to generate a multiplier effect across businesses and communities.

Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise

The DICE Program, a key component of the Census Bureau's Business Ecosystem, offers modernized and reusable solutions for Census Bureau survey collection modes, including internet self-response, paper response, and person interview. In FY 2026, DICE will gradually migrate 13 priority surveys onto the platform. These new production data collections include 4 Demographic surveys, 3 Economic surveys, 5 operational components of the 2030 Census program's 2026 Census Test, and 1 additional Test survey for the 2030 Census program. DICE will focus development to deliver support for the 2026 Census Test operations with a view toward additional development required prior to the 2028 Dress Rehearsal. In FY 2026, DICE will complete the development and implementation of Phase 2 of the enterprise, cloud-based Data Ingest solution. Concurrently with these migration efforts, the DICE Program will support ongoing operations and maintenance costs for 6 surveys in full production from FY 2024-2025, including the CPS's field tests that includes an online questionnaire and Computer-Assisted Personal Interview deployment, and the Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES). In addition, development continues to prepare for the production data collection of 19 more surveys to DICE in FY 2027.

Surveys able to be migrated to DICE in FY 2026 will immediately benefit from streamlined questionnaire design, seamless integration with secure identity authentication services, and browser-agnostic internet questionnaires that feature optimized, multi-language, and fully ADA-compliant user experiences for both respondents and Census Bureau field representatives. DICE enables cloud-based processing and data storage capabilities using EDL that eliminates the need for costly on-premises hardware, licensing, and support environments. The DICE investment centralizes funding for these features across all participating surveys and eliminates the requirement to pass variable development and maintenance costs on to external agency survey sponsors.

Maintaining the DICE migration schedule for several higher priority surveys enables the coordinated planning and usability testing with external agency survey sponsors and respondent audiences required to adopt new technology with minimal disruption to statistical product quality. Migration to the use of DICE also enables the faster evolution of program methodologies to the use of ingested data from existing administrative record, web-scraping, and artificial intelligence sources as opposed to relying solely on data sourced from sample surveys.

Enterprise Data Lake

The EDL, a key component of the Census Bureau's Business Ecosystem, is an enterprise-wide, big data management platform that modernizes data storage and data analysis capabilities across all its directorates with appropriate role-based access control. The EDL supports the Census Bureau's data and analytical needs in a secure, scalable, high-performing storage and computing cloud environment. This platform increases the capability to ingest the ever-increasing volume of administrative records, improve the quality of data products and apply disclosure avoidance to protect PII data as required by Title 13, Title 26 and other data protection laws.

EDL directly supports the data storage needs of the Census Bureau's most significant programs and priorities, including the 2030 Census, American Community Survey, Geographic Support Program, Periodic Economic Statistics, and the Economic indicator programs.

In FY 2026, EDL will continue to ingest over 300 datasets using modern technology to parse structured and unstructured data. The EDL will continue to onboard data, surveys, systems, and support production and operation activities of the 2026 Census Test and many other programs, including AIES, Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), and the Frames Program.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems	Pos./BA	602	\$179,684	469	\$162,639	(133)	(17,045)
	FTE/Obl.	499	199,500	417	162,639	(82)	(36,861)

Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems (-\$17,045, -82 FTE/-133 Positions)

The Census Bureau is transforming the Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems (EDCaDS) program to maximize efficiency and productivity, while focusing resources on core operations and statutory survey programs, including reprioritizing resources from the Research and Applications program. The FY 2026 request will right-size the staffing levels needed to continue expanding the use of administrative records for improving sample survey operations, data quality, and data products across the Census Bureau, and to continue the onboarding and pay of temporary Decennial field staff. This request transfers the critical Data Curation program responsibilities to the individual Census programs. The Digital Communications Platforms will focus on maintaining the Census.gov website and sustaining the most critical pieces of the website. The Enterprise Partnership Program will prioritize the development and sustainability of top-tier national partnerships that have the capacity to generate a multiplier effect across businesses and communities. Enterprise Data Lake, Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise, and Center for Enterprise Dissemination Services and Consumer Innovation will focus efforts on the 2026 Decennial Census Test while continuing the development and onboarding of a limited set of other surveys into production. The request also supports ensuring currency of technology with the goal to deliver customer-centric platforms that drive insight, spur innovation, and deliver tangible value to Federal, state, and local governments, the private sector, and the public.

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**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE AND CODE CITATION**

FY 2026

Periodic Censuses and Programs

1. For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$1,388,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

13 U.S.C. §§4, 6, 8(b), 12, 61-63, 81, 91, 181, 182, 301-307, 401; 15 U.S.C. §§1516, 4901 et seq.; 19 U.S.C. §§1484(e), 2354, 2393; 44 U.S.C. §1343.

13 U.S.C. §4 authorizes the Secretary to "perform the functions and duties imposed upon him by this title," or he may delegate any of them "to such officers and employees of the Department of Commerce as he may designate."

13 U.S.C. §§6, 8(b), 12, 61-63, 81, 91, 182, 301-307 provide for (1) acquisition of information from other organizations, public and private; (2) conducting joint statistical projects with nonprofit organizations or agencies; (3) conducting mechanical and electronic developmental work as needed; (4) collection and publication of statistics on fats and oils; (5) collection and publication of statistics relating to the domestic apparel and textile industries; (6) collection and publication of quarterly financial statistics of business operations; (7) conducting current surveys on statistical subjects covered by periodic censuses; and (7) compilation and publication of information on imports, exports, and mode of transportation.

13 U.S.C. §181 provides that "The Secretary...shall annually produce and publish for each state, county, and local unit of general purpose government which has a population of fifty thousand or more, current data on total population and population characteristics and...shall biennially produce and publish for other local units of general purpose government current data on total population."

13 U.S.C. §401 provides that "The Bureau of the Census shall exchange with the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce information collected under this title, and under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act, that pertains to any business enterprise that is operating in the United States, if the Secretary of Commerce determines such information is appropriate to augment and improve the quality of data collected under the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act."

15 U.S.C. §1516 provides that "The Secretary of Commerce shall have control of the work of gathering and distributing statistical information naturally relating to the subjects confided to his department...He shall also have authority to call upon other departments

of the government for statistical data and results obtained by them; and he may collate, arrange, and publish such statistical information so obtained in such manner as to him may seem wise."

15 U.S.C. §4901 et seq. provides that "The Secretary [of Commerce] shall establish the [National Trade] Data Bank. The Secretary shall manage the Data Bank."

19 U.S.C. §1484(e) provides that "The Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the United States International Trade Commission are authorized and directed to establish...an enumeration of articles...comprehending all merchandise imported into the United States and exported from the United States, and shall seek, in conjunction with statistical programs for domestic production and programs for achieving international harmonization of trade statistics, to establish the comparability thereof with such enumeration of articles."

19 U.S.C. §2354 provides that "Whenever the [International Trade] Commission begins an investigation...with respect to an industry, the Commission shall immediately notify the Secretary [of Commerce] of such investigation, and the Secretary shall immediately begin a study of:

- (1) the number of firms in the domestic industry producing the like or directly competitive article which have been or are likely to be certified as eligible for adjustment assistance, and
- (2) the extent to which the orderly adjustment of such firms to the import competition may be facilitated through the use of existing programs."

19 U.S.C. §2393 provides that "The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall establish and maintain a program to monitor imports of articles into the United States which will reflect changes in the volume of such imports, the relation of such imports to changes in domestic production, changes in employment within domestic industries producing articles like or directly competitive with such imports, and the extent to which such changes in production and employment are concentrated in specific geographic regions of the United States."

44 U.S.C. §1343 provides that "In addition to the usual number of the Statistical Abstract of the United States, twelve thousand copies shall be printed: three thousand for the Senate, six thousand for the House of Representatives, and three thousand for distribution by the Secretary of Commerce."

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Working Capital Fund
SUMMARY OF RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

	Positions	FTE	Direct Obligations
2024	5,465	2,493	\$1,025,874
Plus: Changes from 2024	1,059	400	27,198
2026 Estimate	6,524	2,893	1,053,072

**Comparison by activity/subactivity
with totals by activity:**

		2024 Enacted		2026 Estimate		Increase/Decrease	
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
External Reimbursable Programs:							
Economic Programs	Pos./BA	595		384		(211)	
	FTE/Obl.	301	55,696	247	47,961	(54)	(7,735)
Demographic Programs	Pos./BA	4,745		5,893		1,148	
	FTE/Obl.	2,090	318,721	2,535	365,953	445	47,232
Decennial Programs and Special Censuses	Pos./BA	1		139		138	
	FTE/Obl.	3	739	25	3,126	22	2,387
Other Programs	Pos./BA	124		108		(16)	
	FTE/Obl.	99	23,563	86	19,200	(13)	(4,363)
Internal Reimbursable Programs ³ :							
Management, Administration, & IT Infrastructure	Pos./BA	0		0		0	
	FTE/Obl.	0	521,918	0	525,215	0	3,297
Cost Collection	Pos./BA	0		0		0	
	FTE/Obl.	0	105,237	0	91,617	0	(13,620)
Total	Pos./BA	5,465		6,524		1,059	
	FTE/Obl.	2,493	1,025,874	2,893	1,053,072	400	27,198

³ FTE and Positions in the Internal Reimbursable Programs in the WCF are distributed to appropriated and external reimbursable programs via an algorithm based on contributions. They are not shown here in order to avoid double counting.

Exhibit 5

Adjustments for:

Recoveries	(\$37,250)	(\$24,000)	\$13,250
Unobligated balance, start of year	(467,425)	(429,384)	896,809
Unobligated balance, transferred	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, end of year	406,126	414,082	7,956
Unobligated balance, expiring	0	0	0
Unobligated balance, canceled	0	(15,000)	(15,000)
Rescission	10,000	0	(10,000)
<hr/>			
Collections	937,325	1,028,770	91,445

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Working Capital Fund
JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

Activity: Working Capital Fund

Goal Statement

As a revolving account, the Working Capital Fund (WCF) supports Census enterprise-wide services, and a significant reimbursable survey line of business conducted mostly for other Federal agencies.

Program Description

The WCF was created by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (P.L. 104-208). The fund was established for the purpose of providing services that are more advantageously provided on a centralized basis. The fund supports major administrative services and Information Technology (IT) infrastructure, as well as statistical research and methodological work that benefits the enterprise. The fund also includes a large portfolio of survey and statistical projects conducted on a reimbursable basis for other Federal agencies and state and local governments. It finances a limited catalog of product sales to the public. Finally, the WCF contains a Cost Collection account that aggregates funding for non-severable projects that are funded from more than one source where employees working on these projects cannot reasonably divide their salaries among multiple sources of funding.

Statement of Operating Objectives

In FY 2026, the WCF account will continue to provide centralized services and encompass any reimbursable activity occurring in the fiscal year.

Explanation and Justification**External Reimbursable Programs**

The Census Bureau conducts numerous surveys for other Federal and non-Federal organizations on a reimbursable basis annually. The reimbursable work will be conducted subject to the availability of resources and direction from partnering agencies. In FY 2026, the Census Bureau expects to conduct about \$436.2 million in reimbursable surveys. The Census Bureau manages this data collection through six regional offices that direct the work of thousands of field representatives, the National Processing Center and its associated telephone centers, and headquarters management and program divisions. Most of the costs associated with these efforts consist of salary and mileage costs for field representatives and statisticians in program divisions that process and analyze the data, as well as contracts and equipment for the information technology infrastructure supporting these surveys. The Census Bureau's field survey infrastructure is unique in the Federal Government and allows reimbursable customers to take advantage of the economies of scale that this offers and pursue the data collection that benefits their missions at a much lower cost than would be the case if those agencies had to collect the data directly.

Economic Reimbursable Programs

The Census Bureau's Economic Directorate conducts over 20 programs for various Federal agencies including the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Demographic Reimbursable Programs

The Demographic Reimbursable Surveys include some of the most important surveys conducted by the Federal Government including the Current Population Survey, conducted jointly with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is the Nation's primary source of labor force data and includes a wide variety of demographic and job characteristics. It is also the source of the widely reported U.S. national and state unemployment rates. Other key programs include the Consumer Expenditure Survey, the National Crime Victimization Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the American Housing Survey.

Decennial Reimbursable Programs

The most significant of the Decennial Reimbursable programs are Special Censuses. A Special Census is a basic enumeration of population, housing units, group quarters and transitory locations, conducted by the Census Bureau at the request and cost of a governmental unit.

Other Reimbursable Programs

These consist of reimbursable activity conducted by the Census Bureau on behalf of others that do not fit into the major categories. They include work done directly with the Census Bureau's Field Directorate, like Age Search Service and the Census of Agriculture; Research and Methodology Directorate, like administration in the Research Data Centers; and Mission Support areas for shared services assistance.

Internal Reimbursable Programs

Management, Administration, & IT Infrastructure

The WCF conducts enterprise-wide services that support both appropriated and reimbursable programs. These services cover a wide range of critical administrative, management, research, and technical activities that are critical for the successful performance of the Census Bureau's mission and are key components of change that will position the bureau to respond effectively.

The key management, administration, and IT activities and services of the WCF include:

- *Executive Direction and Policy Coordination:* Manage the agency's program portfolio and enterprise risk register. Promotes and sustains policy and privacy principles that comply with data stewardship and privacy laws for protecting the confidentiality of respondents.
- *Research and Methodology:* Researches and conducts individual and collaborative research projects with internationally recognized experts that focus on issues critical to executing the Census Bureau's mission and the broader Federal statistical community. Develops, maintains, and administers systems for disclosure protection of Census Bureau information products to ensure respondent confidentiality.
- *Human Resources, Equal Opportunity, and Administrative Services:* Encompasses an array of services that ensure the recruitment and retention of a highly skilled workforce that is aligned with program needs, promotes a competency-based and results-oriented performance culture, ensures equal opportunity in all employment matters, and administers the health and safety program of the Census Bureau; manages and directs the facility, property, and records management programs, oversees all aspects of contractor and employee security and pre-employment screening, and manages the Bureau's continuity of operations program.
- *Communications and Outreach Services:* Manages the Census Bureau's internal and external communications program, advises Bureau leadership and staff on Congressional matters, and coordinates with other governmental stakeholders. In addition, this activity develops integrated communications campaigns and explores innovative ways of communicating through social media and other evolving channels.
- *Field Operations Management, Infrastructure, and Services:* Provides administrative, logistical, and infrastructure support necessary to carry out operations of the National Processing Center and the field data collection program supported by the six regional field offices.
- *Budget, Financial Management, and Acquisition:* Prepares the official budget estimates for the Census Bureau working with the Department of Commerce, and the Office of Management and Budget; and manages the execution of the enacted budget and coordinates the management of the Census Bureau WCF; provides timely, accurate, and complete financial information to stakeholders; establishes accounting policies; makes payments, collections, and prepares financial reports; performs internal control and compliance reviews; provides contracting services; and processes purchase actions for Census Bureau programs.
- *Rent and Federal Protective Service Charges:* Centralizes bills related to rent and security to reduce administrative burden without increasing costs to the programs and supports the Census Bureau's flexible system of space allocations.

Information Technology (IT) Management: Manages the development of strategic, operational, and business IT plans for the Census Bureau and the implementation of IT program/project management and the Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC).

- *Application Services:* Provides software solutions in the procurement, development, use, and maintenance of software applications and products that support the broad spectrum of Census Bureau business needs and builds enterprise applications that serve multiple Census business areas.
- *Information Security:* Ensures compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), develops, and maintains the Census Bureau IT security program, and assures that the bureau complies with procedures and safeguards for protection of IT resources and the confidentiality of program and administrative data.
- *Network, Data Center, and Telecommunications:* Provides enterprise-wide office automation, desktop, and peripherals support and services, manages the IT Service Help Desk and inventory management and control; delivers data communication services, maintains telecommunications resources; designs solutions for data communications objectives; operates and maintains the data center and maintains the stable and secure computing environment.

The WCF provides the vehicle where these services may be centrally executed, thus reducing duplicated services in each individual program. The centralization also provides the Census Bureau with the opportunity to standardize these services, which results in efficiencies, process improvements, and potential cost savings. All programs and projects, whether supported by direct or reimbursable funding sources, pay predetermined shares of the enterprise-wide services to ensure full recovery of the cost, based on actual usage and beneficiary.

Stewardship of the WCF is a major priority of the Census Bureau and it respects the desire of the Congress that the WCF contain only those programs and services necessary for the efficient functioning of the programs that these services support.

Cost Collection

The Cost Collection activities continue to be established and charged to the WCF as an accounting mechanism to allow programs receiving mutual benefits from a single activity, but through a variety of funding sources, to share the cost of a single survey or project. In these situations, the program activities are executed in one funding project, so that employees at Census Bureau headquarters and in the field can charge their time accurately. An example of a survey that utilizes a Cost Collection project is the Current Population Survey. A joint program between the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), this survey collects data utilizing questions and modules that serve both agencies' mission needs. However, when a field representative is interviewing an individual household, dividing time of the interview between the Census Bureau's portion and the BLS portion is infeasible. Instead, the field representative charges their time to a Cost Collection project and these non-severable costs are distributed to the appropriated and/or external reimbursable programs that fund these activities using an algorithmic spread based on specific level of participation in these combined efforts.

**Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF GAO AND OIG RECOMMENDATIONS**

31 U.S.C. 720, as amended January 3, 2019, requires the head of a Federal agency to submit a written statement of the actions taken or planned on Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with the agency's first request for appropriations made more than 180 calendar days after the date of the report.

The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act), passed on January 3, 2019, (P.L. 115-414) requires each agency to include, in its annual budget justification, a report that identifies each public recommendation issued by GAO and the agency's office of the inspector general (OIG) which has remained unimplemented for one year or more from the annual budget justification submission date. In addition, the Act requires a reconciliation between the agency records and the IGs' Semiannual Report to Congress (SAR)

Section 1. Recommendations for which action plans were finalized since the last appropriations request.

Report Number	OIG-25-013-I
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Develop a Workforce Plan to Address Field Representative Staffing Gaps
Issue Date	3/13/25
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	We recommend that the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau develop and implement a comprehensive workforce plan for FRs that includes setting strategic direction; conducting workforce analysis; and developing, implementing, and monitoring the workforce action plan to meet the bureau's workforce needs.
Action(s) Planned	The Census Bureau will develop a comprehensive workforce plan for Field Representatives (FRs). The Bureau will analyze current FR workforce demographics, tenure, and attrition rates to develop strategies for recruiting and hiring future FRs. The Census Bureau will enhance dashboards to track the recruitment, hiring, and onboarding activities, and will develop additional tools to assess the skill gaps in the workforce. We will evaluate barriers and challenges and plan mitigation strategies.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress
Target Completion Date	3/31/26
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Report Number	OIG-25-015-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Should Address Challenges Form the 2020 Post-Enumeration Survey Ahead of the 2030 Census.
Issue Date	3/25/25
Recommendation Number	#1

Exhibit 41

Recommendation	<p>As the 2030 PES design undergoes substantial changes, the Census Bureau should consider the corrective actions below to inform its PES redesign. Addressing these issues during the redesign will help ensure that opportunities for improvement are maximized, promoting overall operational improvements to the PES. The Census Bureau could improve the transparency and accuracy of PES results by considering the actions presented below when finalizing its plan for the 2030 PES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing approaches to mitigate missing data and conducting research to better understand groups most likely to be impacted by missing data. • Analyzing and quantifying major sources of non-sampling error, to include the cumulative effect of multiple sources of error, and ensuring the results are communicated to the public. • Ensuring that sampling designs undergo appropriate analysis prior to production and are designed to support their intended uses. • Establishing a detailed and effective strategy to ensure computer system relocations are completed on schedule to minimize operational disruptions. • Ensuring changes to quality assurance processes are documented, approved, and widely communicated across all affected divisions and their operational components. • Strengthening the bureau's quality assurance plan to ensure re-interviewers complete cases within prescribed time frames. • Strengthening the clerical matching QC plan to adhere to applicable QC review thresholds. • Establishing procedures to ensure analysts review flagged clerical matching cases and documentation of analyst reviews is maintained. • Ensuring that the bureau's records retention schedule for 2030 Census records prescribes only fixed retention periods that also allow records to be available for a sufficient period following the end of operations for internal and external oversight activities.
Action(s) Planned	The Census Bureau agrees with this recommendation and will consider the suggestions in the recommendation for future coverage estimation activities. The Census Bureau is committed to transparency and accuracy as demonstrated by the 2020 PES. The Census Bureau is currently researching substantial innovations to the coverage estimation program that will improve the already high degree of transparency and accuracy.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress
Target Completion Date	12/31/27
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	Acquisition personnel, contracting officers, and CORs administer and execute contracts and task orders in accordance with Federal regulations and department requirements.

Exhibit 41

Action(s) Planned	The Census Bureau's Acquisition Division will conduct a refresher training for Contracting Officers and Contracting Officer Representatives that addresses acquisition responsibilities and contract administration matters. Further, as indefinite delivery contracts are awarded job aids will be developed to highlight critical administrative elements to improve consistency between orders. The "job aid" will be an "at a glance" summary of the Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity, (IDIQ) contract (i.e. authorized order types, estimated ceiling, negotiated labor rates, performance standards, order level requirements: key personnel/individualized quality control plan/performance location, additional deliverables, etc.) At-a-glance job aids will assist order -level designated CORs understand the critical elements of the base contract, since there is typically little overlap to provide intensive quality assurance training.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	Complete
Target Completion Date	9/31/2024
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In Progress

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	Contracts and task orders include measurable performance standards (quality, timeliness, quantity, etc.) and the method for assessing contractor performance against standards, as required by FAR § 37.601.
Action(s) Planned	The Census Bureau's Acquisition Division has enhanced its oversight efforts since the time the subject contract was awarded in 2016. One enhancement is a robust Contract Review Board (CRB) that reviews all non-competitive and incentive actions, as well as competitive pre-solicitation and pre-award actions >\$1M. The review package includes the solicitation/award and all referenced documents. The CRB membership includes senior acquisition analysts with extensive Federal acquisition experience, including performance-based contracting. In order to reinforce the importance of measurable performance standards, the CRB review request form will be modified to include a section that the CS, CO and Branch Chief confirm quality standards are included in the requirement package. Additionally, refresher training will be conducted, as discussed in Recommendation 1.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	Complete
Target Completion Date	11/30/24
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#3

Exhibit 41

Recommendation	Quality assurance surveillance plans prepared by either the government or a contractor include all work requiring surveillance and the method of surveillance, as required by FAR § 46.401.
Action(s) Planned	As stated in the Action Plan for Recommendation 2, the Census Bureau's Acquisition Division has enhanced its oversight efforts since the time the subject contract was awarded in 2016. One enhancement is the CRB review includes greater attention to how various elements of a solicitation package compliment to achieve a robust competition and ultimately successful contract performance. Accordingly, the CRB considers not only review for appropriate clauses and provisions, but also reviews Section L Proposal Preparation Instructions to ensure it compliments Section M Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Award. Likewise, the CRB recommends including the government's Quality Assurance Plan in solicitations and evaluating the vendor's complimenting quality control plan as part of its technical proposal. This approach reinforces the government's commitment to quality and provides early insight into how the contractor intends to ensure quality performance. Census Management will issue an internal acquisition procedural memo to reinforce the surveillance requirements per CAM 1306.70 and 1316.1 and include draft solicitation language to standardize the process of evaluating a contractor's quality control plan as part of its technical proposal. Census intends to elevate the importance of quality surveillance by modifying the CRB request form (Recommendation 2) to identify that quality standards are included in the requirement. Further, by standardizing the contractor's quality control plan as part of its technical proposal the evaluation team, inclusive of the COR, will have additional time to consider appropriate monitoring methods and documentation. The Census Bureau believes a combination of the new CRB request form, a procedural memo standardizing evaluation of the contractor's quality control plan, and internal training will produce enhanced contract monitoring and documentation.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In Progress
Target Completion Date	3/31/25
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#4
Recommendation	CORs use all QASPs, whether contract-level or order-level, to monitor contractor compliance with the
Action(s) Planned	As stated in the Action Plan for Recommendation #1, the Census Bureau's Acquisition Division will conduct a refresher training for Contracting Officers and Contracting Officer Representatives that addresses acquisition responsibilities and contract administration matters. Further, as indefinite delivery contracts are awarded job aids will be developed to highlight critical administrative elements to improve consistency between orders. The envisioned job aid will identify "at-a-glance" contract and order level requirements. It is intended to avoid broader, contract-level, quality surveillance plans being overlooked and/or failing to create order-level surveillance plans when required by the terms and conditions of the master contract.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress
Target Completion Date	3/31/25
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Exhibit 41

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#5
Recommendation	CORs maintain surveillance documentation of contractor performance in contract files, as required by FAR §§ 1.604 and 4.803.
Action(s) Planned	The Census Bureau's Acquisition Division will conduct a training for Contracting Officer Representatives that targets contract file documentation. Additionally, a COR File Checklist will be created for each award >\$50M requiring a quality surveillance plan and ACQ will perform random annual compliance inspections of COR files.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress
Target Completion Date	12/31/24
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Report Number	OIG-24-021-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Did Not Effectively Manage and Monitor Contractor Performance for Paid Advertising in the 2020 Census Integrated Communications Contract
Issue Date	5/8/24
Recommendation Number	#6
Recommendation	CORs receive and maintain in the COR file documentation supporting invoice payments, as required by contract terms and FAR.
Action(s) Planned	For any contracts with excessive amounts of file documentation supporting invoice payments that cannot be stored on internal servers or in the cloud, the Census Bureau will include a deliverable to provide that documentation on a portable storage unit with an census.gov 4 interface to allow for easy navigation and review. This will provide the Census Bureau with a manageable way of maintaining and storing the required files while also providing access should it be necessary for review during any internal/external audits.
Action Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress
Target Completion Date	12/31/25
Recommendation Status (Planned, In-Progress, or Complete)	In-Progress

Section 2. Implementation of GAO public recommendations issued no less than one year ago that are designated by GAO as ‘Open’ or ‘Closed-Unimplemented.’

Open Recommendation(s) the Department has decided not to implement.

Nothing to report.

Open Recommendations the Department plans to implement.

Report Number	GAO-24-105979
Report Title	IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost and Schedule Estimates
Issue Date	4/29/24
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should direct the Director of the Census Bureau to ensure that the CEDSCI program consistently documents user stories to ensure bidirectional traceability with requirements.
Target Implementation Date	11/30/24
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-24-105979
Report Title	IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost and Schedule Estimates
Issue Date	4/29/24
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should direct the Director of the Census Bureau to ensure that the CEDSCI program develops reliable cost estimates using best practices described in GAO's <i>Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide</i> , particularly those practices related to the comprehensive and credible characteristics.
Target Implementation Date	12/31/24
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-24-105979
Report Title	IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost and Schedule Estimates
Issue Date	4/29/24
Recommendation Number	#3
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should direct the Director of the Census Bureau to ensure that the CEDSCI program develops its schedule using the best practices described in GAO's <i>Schedule Assessment Guide</i> .
Target Implementation Date	3/31/25

Exhibit 41

Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-24-105979
Report Title	IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost and Schedule Estimates
Issue Date	4/29/24
Recommendation Number	#4
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should direct the Director of the Census Bureau to ensure that the OCIO incorporates key elements, such as time frames, into its DevSecOps strategy and finalizes it in a timely manner.
Target Implementation Date	12/31/24
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-24-105979
Report Title	IT Modernization: Census Bureau Needs Reliable Cost and Schedule Estimates
Issue Date	4/29/24
Recommendation Number	#5
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should direct the Director of the Census Bureau to ensure that the American Community Survey program develops a plan, including time frames, for the steps they intend to take to determine the most appropriate methods to protect respondent privacy in the publicly available data releases.
Target Implementation Date	12/31/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 23-105819
Report Title	2020 Census: A More Complete Lessons-Learned Process for Cost and Schedule Would Help the Next Decennial
Issue Date	3/2023
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau document and take steps during the 2030 Census to evaluate the Bureau's comprehensive lessons-learned process.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-23-105819
Report Title	2020 Census: A More Complete Lessons-Learned Process for Cost and Schedule Would Help the Next Decennial
Issue Date	3/2023
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau include steps in its 2030 schedule management plans for learning lessons from systematic ex-post evaluation of the Bureau's extensive decennial and related schedule data.

Exhibit 41

Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-22-104357
Report Title	2020 Census: Lessons Learned from Planning and Implementing the 2020 Census Offer Insights to Support 2030 Preparations
Issue Date	2/11/22
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should develop a plan to improve resiliency of its 2030 Census research and testing activity in response to Bureau-identified budget uncertainty, including but not limited to specifying the tests and projects that are most important to conduct.
Target Implementation Date	02/04/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-22-104357
Report Title	2020 Census: Lessons Learned from Planning and Implementing the 2020 Census Offer Insights to Support 2030 Preparations
Issue Date	2/11/22
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should develop a plan to improve resiliency of its 2030 Census research and testing activity in response to Bureau-identified budget uncertainty, including but not limited to specifying the tests and projects that are most important to conduct.
Target Implementation Date	02/04/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-21-104071
Report Title	2020 Census: Office Managers' Perspectives on Recent Operations Would Strengthen Planning for 2030
Issue Date	7/27/21
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should use relevant data from our 2020 survey of area census office managers to inform planning decisions for the 2030 Census.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/26
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-21-104071
Report Title	2020 Census: Office Managers' Perspectives on Recent Operations Would Strengthen Planning for 2030
Issue Date	7/27/21

Exhibit 41

Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should collect and consider perspectives of selected former area census office managers on future design options and their implementation and use them as formal input to the planning of the 2030 Decennial Census.
Target Implementation Date	4/3/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	Yes
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-21-104071
Report Title	2020 Census: Office Managers' Perspectives on Recent Operations Would Strengthen Planning for 2030
Issue Date	7/27/21
Recommendation Number	#3
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should develop and document a plan to address our long-standing recommendation that the Bureau develop mechanisms to increase coordination and communication between the partnership program and census office staff.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-21-478
Report Title	2020 Census: Innovations Helped with Implementation, but Bureau Can Do More to Realize Future Benefits
Issue Date	6/14/21
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau should for future decennials research and test how innovations or design changes affect the methodologies and time required for post-data collection steps.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 20-17
Report Title	2020 Census: Actions Needed to Improve Census Bureau's Process for Working with Governments to Build Address List
Issue Date	10/23/19
Recommendation Number	#4
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau identifies and tracks specific costs for related address list development efforts.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/30
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 20-17
Report Title	2020 Census: Actions Needed to Improve Census Bureau's Process for Working with Governments to Build Address List

Exhibit 41

Issue Date	10/23/19
Recommendation Number	#7
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau uses the Bureau's data on hard-to-count areas to inform geographic activities such as: targeting LUCA outreach to tribal, state, and local governments; planning additional rounds of in-office address canvassing; and providing feedback to tribal, state, and local governments on gaps in their respective address data.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/30
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-20-17
Report Title	2020 Census: Actions Needed to Improve Census Bureau's Process for Working with Governments to Build Address List
Issue Date	10/23/2019
Recommendation Number	#8
Recommendation	<p>The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau, as part of the Bureau's strategic planning process for geographic programs, reexamines LUCA in conjunction with stakeholders, other Federal agencies as appropriate, and Congress to address the issues we have identified, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying and assessing alternatives and describing corresponding effects on the decennial census.• Reporting out on the assessment of alternatives, including justifications.• Developing legislative proposals, as appropriate, for any changes needed to LUCA and address data in order to implement preferred alternatives.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/30
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-19-140
Report Title	2020 Census: Actions Needed to Address Challenges to Enumerating Hard-to-Count Groups
Issue Date	12/10/18
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau identifies and implements changes to align census field supervisor screening, authorities, and information flows to allow greater use of the census field supervisor position to provide supervisory support to enumerators.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO-19-140
Report Title	2020 Census: Actions Needed to Address Challenges to Enumerating Hard-to-Count Groups
Issue Date	12/10/2018
Recommendation Number	#3
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce should ensure that the Director of the Census Bureau enables area census offices to prepare targeted, mid-operation training or guidance as needed to address procedural changes or implementation issues encountered locally during Non-Response Follow-Up.

Exhibit 41

Target Implementation Date	9/30/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 17-191
Report Title	2020 Census: Additional Actions Could Strengthen Field Data Collection Efforts
Issue Date	01/26/17
Recommendation Number	#4
Recommendation	The Secretary of Commerce and Under Secretary for Economic Affairs should direct the Census Bureau to revise and test procedures on how to better leverage enumerator-collected information on the best time or day to conduct interviews, and ensure enumerators are properly trained on these procedures.
Target Implementation Date	5/13/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	Yes
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 14-59
Report Title	2020 Census: Bureau Needs to Improve Scheduling Practices to Enhance Ability to Meet Address List Development Deadlines
Issue Date	12/19/2013
Recommendation Number	#3
Recommendation	To help maintain a more thorough and insightful 2020 Census development schedule in order to better manage risks to a successful 2020 Census, the Secretary of Commerce and Undersecretary of Economic Affairs should direct the U.S. Census Bureau to improve the credibility of schedules, including conducting a quantitative risk assessment.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 11-45
Report Title	2010 Census: Key Efforts to Include Hard-to-Count Populations Went Generally as Planned; Improvements Could Make the Efforts More Effective for Next Census
Issue Date	12/14/2010
Recommendation Number	#2
Recommendation	To help improve the effectiveness of the Bureau's outreach and enumeration efforts, especially for HTC populations, should they be used again in the 2020 Census, and improve the Bureau's marketing/outreach efforts, the Secretary of Commerce should require the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs as well as the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau to develop mechanisms to increase coordination and communication between the partnership and local census office staff. Possible actions include offering more opportunities for joint training, establishing protocols for coordination, and more effectively leveraging the partnership contact database to better align partnership outreach activities with local needs.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/29
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Exhibit 41

Report Number	GAO 11-45
Report Title	2010 Census: Key Efforts to Include Hard-to-Count Populations Went Generally as Planned; Improvements Could Make the Efforts More Effective for Next Census
Issue Date	12/14/2010
Recommendation Number	#7
Recommendation	To help improve the effectiveness of the Bureau's outreach and enumeration efforts, especially for HTC populations, should they be used again in the 2020 Census, and to improve some of the Bureau's key efforts to enumerate HTC populations, the Secretary of Commerce should require the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs as well as the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau to evaluate the extent to which each special enumeration activity improved the count of traditionally hard-to-enumerate groups and use the results to help inform decision making on spending for these programs in 2020.
Target Implementation Date	01/01/30
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Report Number	GAO 10-59
Report Title	2010 Census: Census Bureau Has Made Progress on Schedule and Operational Control Tools, but Needs to Prioritize Remaining System Requirements
Issue Date	11/13/2009
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	To improve the Bureau's use of its master schedule to manage the 2020 decennial census, the Secretary of Commerce should require the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau to include estimates of the resources, such as labor, materials, and overhead costs, in the 2020 integrated schedule for each activity as the schedule is built and prepare to carry out other steps as necessary to conduct systematic schedule risk analyses on the 2020 schedule.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Closure Request Pending with GAO (Yes/No)	No
Clear Budget Implications (Yes/No)	No

Recommendations designated by GAO as "Closed-Unimplemented for the past 5 years (2015-2019). Future reports will cover a one-year period.

Nothing to report.

Section 3. Implementation of OIG public recommendations issued no less than one year for which Final Action has not been Taken or Action Not Recommended has been Taken

Exhibit 41

Report Number	OIG 19-008-A
Report Title	2020 Census: Issues Observed During the 2018 End-to-End Census Test's Address Canvassing Operation Indicate Risk to Address
Issue Date	2/6/19
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	Evaluate how the number of incorrectly categorized passive blocks will affect Census quality and how those errors may affect demographic groups.
Target Implementation Date	1/1/30
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	Ensure that the 2030 EAE reports are released in a timely manner.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/33
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#4
Recommendation	Utilize existing processes and tools as intended to ensure rigorous and disciplined management of the decennial census.
Target Implementation Date	2/01/26
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#5
Recommendation	Ensure that integrated project teams (IPTs) responsible for OAs provide the required report elements and document when required
Target Implementation Date	2/01/26
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Exhibit 41

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#6
Recommendation	Develop guidelines for the querying and reporting of cost data that permit comparisons between planned and actual costs.
Target Implementation Date	2/01/26
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#7
Recommendation	Extend the Bureau's analysis of scheduling delays to examine variances between originally planned baseline start and finish dates and
Target Implementation Date	2/01/26
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-24-011-I
Report Title	Independent Evaluation of the 2020 Decennial Census Evaluations and Experiments (EAE) Operation
Issue Date	2/5/24
Recommendation Number	#10
Recommendation	Develop mechanisms to better account for the required resources to complete EAE activities to aid in the planning and execution of
Target Implementation Date	9/1/29
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable Surveys Program
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#1
Recommendation	Evaluate alternative strategies to achieve target response rates, particularly in underrepresented units.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Exhibit 41

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable Surveys Program
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#5
Recommendation	Ensure that regional offices adhere to prescribed telephone interview rates or work with BLS to adjust them as needed.
Target Implementation Date	6/30/25
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	Planned actions complete
Closure Request Pending	Yes

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#6
Recommendation	Ensure all surveys and regional offices maximize the use of data analysis and monitoring tools to oversee survey quality and performance.
Target Implementation Date	11/30/24
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress (meeting held with OIG for further guidance on 3/25/25)
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#7
Recommendation	Ensure RI requirements are met and completed in a timely manner.
Target Implementation Date	12/31/28
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#12
Recommendation	Ensure that staff are trained on completing adequate falsification investigations.

Exhibit 41

Target Implementation Date	12/30/25
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#13
Recommendation	Strengthen the quality control plan for the CPS by evaluating cases worked by FRs with confirmed falsifications to assess the impact
Target Implementation Date	9/30/25
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress
Closure Request Pending	No

Report Number	OIG-23-025-A
Report Title	The Census Bureau Needs to Improve Its Performance Management Processes and Quality Control Program for the Reimbursable
Issue Date	8/30/23
Recommendation Number	#15
Recommendation	Implement a system for tracking FRs with confirmed falsifications so that applicants for FR positions can be appropriately vetted prior to reemployment.
Target Implementation Date	9/30/24
Reason No Final Action Taken or Action Not Recommended Taken	In-Progress (working on extension request)
Closure Request Pending	No

Section 4. Discrepancies between this report and the semiannual reports submitted by the Commerce Office of Inspector General or reports submitted by the GAO

Nothing to report.

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Periodic Censuses and Programs
DESCRIPTION OF TRIBAL CONSULTATIONS
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

		2024		2026		Increase/Decrease	
		Enacted		Estimate			
		Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount	Personnel	Amount
2030 Census	Pos./BA	1	\$325	1	\$370	0	\$45
	FTE/Obl.	1	325	1	370	0	45

Summary Description of Tribal Consultations:

The Census Bureau held tribal consultations in advance of the 2020 Census to incorporate tribal input into its design. Consultations with the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population on the development of data products continued after the 2020 Decennial Census.

Maintaining these partnerships and consultations with tribal nations is necessary for the 2030 Census because they result in:

- Greater engagement for a more accurate count of tribal citizens
- Broader awareness of the relationship between census results and the flow of Federal funding to tribal areas, fair representation, and state and local planning and economic development
- Consideration of tribal perspectives on new methods and measures such as data disclosure avoidance methodology and the development of the 2030 AIAN data products

In FY 2026, continuing engagements will have these priorities:

- Increasing trust in censuses and surveys
- Expanding the use of data products by and for the AIAN population
- Seeking input on a comprehensive tribal consultation schedule for the 2030 Census
- Gathering critical feedback on program areas such as tribal geography and enumeration methods, outreach, and promotion

In advance of the 2026 Census Test the Census Bureau met with three selected American Indian Areas during FY 2024 to gain approval to conduct the 2026 Census Test on their American Indian Reservation. The Census Bureau will begin structured 2030 Census tribal consultations in FY 2027, based on detailed planning during FY 2026.

Summary Description of Tribal Input: Tribal consultation is essential in gathering feedback on the design of 2020 Census data and data products and recommendations for the 2030 Census. Tribal consultation and listening sessions on plans for the 2030 Census will be scheduled for FY 2027 with Federally and state recognized tribes, designated tribal representatives and with regional and tribal organizations representing Federal and state recognized tribes.

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