Results of Census Bureau Surveys Provide a Wealth of Information—Reflecting Our Nation's Economic and Social Environment!

How Census Data Affect Our Economy . . .

Data on every subject and aspect of social, economic, and cultural matters are distributed through a constantly growing group of data users—the general public as well as governments worldwide. For example, these data form the basis for the national unemployment rate, official poverty/income statistics, Consumer Price Index, monthly housing statistics, and other economic indicators.

Confidentiality of personal information is recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as a major factor in gathering accurate data.

How Census Data Affect Your Community . . .

The surveys undertaken by the Census Bureau provide vital information about emerging social problems, such as the condition of education in the United States, pregnancy and infant death, the prevalence of alcohol consumption, and crime. The data also describe the health, housing, employment, unemployment, income, and consumer expenditures of the population.

U.S. Census Bureau Regional Offices

If you have additional concerns regarding confidentiality of Census Bureau data, please contact your local regional office:

Atlanta	1-800-424-6974
Boston	1-800-562-5721
Charlotte	1-800-331-7360
Chicago	1-800-865-6384
Dallas	1-800-835-9752
Denver	1-800-852-6159
Detroit	1-800-432-1495
Kansas City	1-800-728-4748
Los Angeles	1-800-992-3530
New York	1-800-991-2520
Philadelphia	1-800-262-4236
Seattle	1-800-233-3308

www.census.gov

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

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The U.S. Census Bureau Respects Your Privacy and Keeps Your Personal Information Confidential

It's the Law! (Title 13, U.S. Code)

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

The Public's Privacy

No idle pledge!

Safeguards for Your Privacy

The Law . . .
Title 13, U.S. Code

Simply stated, information collected by the U.S. Census Bureau is used only for statistical purposes.

When the Census Bureau says it will keep your information confidential, that also means it will not release results that could be used to identify you. That's the law!

The Oath . . .

All Census Bureau employees, including temporary employees, swear under oath that they will not disclose any information about individuals or businesses gathered by the agency.

The Penalties . . .

Substantial penalties are in place for violators of the law. Disclosing confidential census information is a felony; the penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine. (Under the Sentencing Reform Act, the fine for wrongful disclosure currently is up to $250,000.)

Confidentiality Is a Must

Only authorized Census Bureau employees can see your personal identifiable information.

Even copies of census questionnaires cannot be used as evidence in a court of law.

Census data on individuals or establishments are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

No authority can obtain personal identifiable data from the Census Bureau. The airtight law applies to the White House, U.S. Supreme Court, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, police, military, and welfare agencies—everybody!

The law protects you and your information!

Technology Safeguards

Modernized automated computer systems and programs, used to store and process information collected, are configured to ensure that an individual's information is protected from any unauthorized access—for any reason!

Names and addresses are separated from the electronic files that contain an individual's answers when no longer needed, to protect the respondent's confidentiality.

The Census Bureau even withholds statistical totals if they represent a geographic area so small that the numbers might identify someone.

Access to Census Bureau computer systems from outside the Census Bureau is strictly controlled through secure technology, including passwords, firewalls, encryption, and auditing, to prevent unauthorized access.