

A Message from the Census Bureau Director

Without you, the country doesn't have timely statistical information about how we are doing economically, educationally, or socially. This is a fundamental way that the American public can make sure that our democracy is well informed.

For statistical surveys to work, those chosen at random to be surveyed must respond. We want you to feel safe doing this. The Census Bureau has successfully protected respondents' answers for over 100 years.

Our highest priority at the Census Bureau is using your answers only for determining how the country is doing. By law, we cannot share your answers with anyone—including other federal agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies. In 2010, the Justice Department determined that no provision of the U.S. Patriot Act overrides the confidentiality law that protects census data.

We pledge to keep your answers confidential. This commitment means you can provide honest answers to our questions knowing that they will only be merged into thousands of others to paint a portrait of the country. The Census Bureau knows that our pledge of confidentiality is key in obtaining accurate data.

For More Information

Call our national Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 or one of our Regional Offices listed below.

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

Go to www.census.gov/regions/ for a complete listing of the states or counties covered by each Regional Office.

Learn more about our data protection and privacy policy at www.census.gov/privacy/.

census.gov

Connect with us today:



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

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



We Will Protect Your Information.

It's Safe

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone.

The Law

Title 13 of the U.S. Code ensures that all information collected by the Census Bureau is used for statistical purposes only.

The Oath

All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are **sworn for life to protect the confidentiality** of all data collected by the agency.

The Penalties

The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

Safety in the Digital Age

The Census Bureau protects your information with technological safeguards. Our computer systems are strictly controlled through passwords, firewalls, encryption, and auditing to prevent unauthorized access.

It's Confidential

We will not release or share any data that could be used to identify you.

- Only authorized Census Bureau employees can see your personal identifiable information.
- 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!
- Copies of census questionnaires cannot be used as evidence in a court of law.
- Census data on individuals or establishments may not be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Statistical totals are even withheld if they represent a geographic area so small that someone might be identified.

It's Important

The Census Bureau measures America's people, places, and economy. By participating in a census or survey, you help shape the future for yourself, your community, and the country.

Census Data and Your Community

The data that you provide tells us vital information about emerging trends, such as the condition of education, hospital care, retail sales, and crime. The data also describe the health, housing, employment, income, and consumer expenditures of our population.

Census Data and Our Economy

Economic data collected by the Census Bureau form the basis for the national unemployment rate, official income and poverty statistics, Consumer Price Index, monthly housing statistics, and other economic indicators.