

We Protect Your Information.

It's Safe

Participating in Census Bureau censuses and surveys is safe. Your answers are protected by law and are not shared with anyone.

The Laws

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

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) also provides strong confidentiality protections for statistical information collections.

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 of information protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code and CIPSEA 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 through passwords, firewalls, encryption and other technological safeguards.

It's Confidential

The Census Bureau is bound by strict laws and solemn commitment to protect the confidential information we collect.

- We protect the identity of individuals and businesses, starting from the point at which the data are collected and continuing decades after statistics are published.
- Only authorized Census Bureau employees who have a business need to know can see your personal identifiable information.
- No authority can obtain your personal information from the Census Bureau—not even the White House.
- Copies of census questionnaires cannot be subpoenaed for use in a court of law nor released to anyone until after 72 years.
- Data collected 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 the nation's people, places, and economy. By participating in a census or survey, you help shape the future for yourself, your community, and the country.

Your Community

The Census Bureau is often the only source of statistics at the local level every year, giving even the smallest communities accurate, timely information that is essential for decision-making.

The data that you provide tells us vital information about emerging trends, such as the condition of education, hospital care, retail sales, and crime.

Our Economy

The Census Bureau provides critical, timely information on the health of the U.S. and local 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.

A Message from the Census Bureau Director

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.

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 more than 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 provisions of Title 13 that protects the confidentiality of Census Bureau data.



For More Information

- About our data protection and privacy policy, go to census.gov/privacy.
- About how your information is used to help measure the nation's people, places and economy, go to census.gov.
- About Census Bureau products and services, call our national Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 or visit ask.census.gov.
- About statistics on your community, visit quickfacts.census.gov.
- About Census Bureau activities in your region, visit census.gov/regions for contact information and a complete listing of the states or counties covered by each Regional Office.

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



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