

A Message From the Census Bureau Director

We pledge to keep your answers confidential. This commitment means you can provide honest answers to our surveys, knowing your answers will only be used in combination with thousands of others to paint a portrait of our country.

Without you, the country would not have timely statistical information about how we are doing economically, educationally, or socially. This is fundamental to an informed, well-functioning democracy.

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

In 2010, the U.S. Justice Department determined that no provision of the U.S. Patriot Act overrides the law that protects the confidentiality of Census Bureau data.

Our highest priority at the Census Bureau is to protect your confidentiality, and to use your answers only to determine how the country is doing.

We thank you for your participation.



For More Information About...

- Our data protection and privacy policy:
Visit **[census.gov/privacy](https://www.census.gov/privacy)**.
- How your response helps measure the nation's people, places, and economy:
Visit **[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)**.
- Census Bureau products and services:
Call our national Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282 or visit **ask.census.gov**.
- Statistics on your community:
Visit **[census.gov/quickfacts](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts)**.
- Census Bureau activities in your area:
Visit **[census.gov/regions](https://www.census.gov/regions)**.

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



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We Protect Your Personal Information.

It's Safe

Participating in U.S. Census Bureau censuses and surveys is safe. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information and keep your responses strictly confidential. It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you, your household, or your organization.

Safety in the Digital Age

From the moment we collect your response, while we process it, and when we store it, your response is secure. The Census Bureau protects your information through passwords, firewalls, encryption, and other technological safeguards. All our systems are certified and accredited in accordance with federal IT security requirements.

The Oath

All Census Bureau employees take a lifetime oath to protect the confidentiality of your data.

The Laws

Title 13 of the U.S. Code and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) prohibit the Census Bureau from using your data for anything other than to produce statistics.

The Penalties

Any employee who unlawfully discloses information protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code or CIPSEA is subject to either a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

It's Confidential

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

- We protect the identity of individuals and businesses from the time we collect the data and continuing for decades after we publish the statistics.
- No court of law can subpoena your responses.
- Your data can't be released under the Freedom of Information Act.
- We won't publish a statistic if it represents a geographic area so small that someone could figure out a respondent's identity behind the statistic.

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.

This information forms the basis for the national unemployment rate, official income and poverty statistics, Consumer Price Index, monthly housing statistics, and other economic indicators.