

Centuries of Transformation



ORGANIZATION

1800-1899

The temporary U.S. Census Bureau headquarters moves from New York City to Washington, DC.

1849 >

The U.S. Department of the Interior assumes control of the census operations from the U.S. Department of State.

Specially trained supervisors and enumerators replace U.S. marshals to collect census data.

1900-1999

The Census Bureau becomes a permanent agency within the Department of the Interior. The following year, it moves to the Department of Commerce and Labor.

1942 >

Census Bureau headquarters moves to Suitland, MD.

1958 >

The Data Processing Division opens in Jeffersonville, IN.

1998 >

The Data Processing Division in Jeffersonville, IN, changes its name to the National Processing Center.

2000-CURRENT

2013-2017 >

Business Case for Change focused on four goals:

1. Mission excellence
2. Customer service excellence
3. Organizational excellence
4. Workforce excellence

2010 >

Formed Office of Innovation and Implementation.

2016-2019 >

Various directorates reorganize.

2018-2022 >

Strategic Plan for the Census Bureau released.

2018 >

Program Performance Stakeholder Integration.

2019 >

New transformation effort launched and championed by the Office of the Deputy Director.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

1800-1899

1872 >

Charles Seaton introduces a mechanical tallying machine to speed tabulation of census data.

Herman Hollerith's electric tabulator speeds tabulation of data.

1900-1999

Census Bureau receives UNIVAC I, the first nonmilitary computer.

The Census Bureau develops the Film Optical Sensing Device for Input into Computers to replace punch cards.

All data products are available on magnetic computer tape.

First CD-ROMs containing census data released.

2000-CURRENT

2011 >

Innovation and Operational Efficiency launches to provide an avenue for the workforce to submit ideas to enhance what we do and how we do it.

2012 >

Field test for the Internet Self-Response (ISR) instrument in support of the first online Decennial Census.*

2013 >

Future On, an employee engagement campaign created to drive organizational change of business processes. The program creates a culture of learning and empowerment for employees.

2015 >

Strategic Priority Projects

Center for Enterprise Dissemination Services and Consumer Innovation.
Customer Relationship Management.

2016 >

Strategic Priority Project

Big Data.

2017 >

Strategic Priority Projects

Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise.
Enterprise Data Lake.

*Additional strategic priority projects will be funded in FY21.



RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

1790

Under the leadership of the Secretary of State, U.S. marshals conduct the nation's first census that asks six questions.

1800-1899

U.S. marshals use uniform, printed schedules to collect census data. They do not collect manufacturing data due to its poor quality in 1810 and 1820.

Six questionnaires collect population, slave, mortality, agriculture, manufacturing, and government data.

The census enumerates American Indians not living on tribal lands in their own racial category.

1900-1999

The Census Bureau studies the use of statistical sampling and conducts Census of Unemployment.

First enumeration of the Americas abroad, including U.S. armed forces and federal civilian personnel.

Populations in the urban area receive questionnaires by mail before enumeration starts.

Hispanic-origin asked of 5 percent of the U.S. population.

Hispanic-origin is asked of all households.

95 percent of U.S. households receive mailout/mailback questionnaires.

2000-CURRENT

Multiple responses to the race question permitted. First use of paid advertising campaign.*

2000 >

The annual American Community Survey replaces the decennial census long form.

Releases American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

2019

Modernizing Disclosure Avoidance.