

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

OVERVIEW

MARCH 5, 2024



CENSUS BUREAU OVERVIEW

Mission

To measure America's people and economy.

Every 10 Years (Decennial Census)

Count every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.

Every Year

Produce annual demographic statistics through the American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, population estimates, and 100+ other surveys/programs.

Collect economic data through monthly and annual surveys, as well as the Economic Census every 5 years.

- [U.S. Census Bureau at a Glance](#)
- [About the Bureau \(census.gov\)](#)

U.S. Census Bureau at a Glance

How well do you know the 50 states?

The Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all the information the Census Bureau collects.

OUR STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

Censuses

- The **Decennial Census** is the once-a-decade population and housing count required by the U.S. Constitution. The Census Bureau counts all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The results of the decennial census determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts and to distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year.
- The **Economic Census** measures the nation's economy every 5 years, providing vital statistics for virtually every industry and geographic area in the country.
- The **Census of Governments** provides comprehensive data about the nearly 90,000 state and local governments in the nation every 5 years.

Surveys

- The **American Community Survey (ACS)** is an ongoing annual survey that shows what the U.S. population looks like and how it lives. The ACS helps communities decide where to target services and resources.
- **Demographic surveys** measure income, poverty, education, health insurance coverage, housing quality, crime victimization, computer usage, and many other subjects.
- **Economic surveys** are conducted monthly, quarterly, and annually. They cover selected sectors of the nation's economy and supplement the Economic Census with more frequent information about the dynamic economy. These surveys yield more than 400 annual economic reports, including principal economic indicators.
- **Sponsored surveys** are demographic and economic surveys that we conduct for other government agencies. They include the Current Population Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the National Survey of College Graduates.
- The **Small Business Pulse Survey** provides detailed information on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses as well as their participation in federal programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

Our Mission

The U.S. Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.



Our History

Thomas Jefferson directed the first census in 1790. As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census has been taken every 10 years thereafter. In 1840, the Census Act authorized the establishment of a centralized Census Office. In 1902, the Census Office became a permanent organization within the Department of Interior. A year later, it was renamed the Bureau of the Census and moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor.

// [Census.gov](#) / Newsroom

Newsroom

The latest news releases and statements from the U.S. Census Bureau. Also, find upcoming events, and useful information for media.

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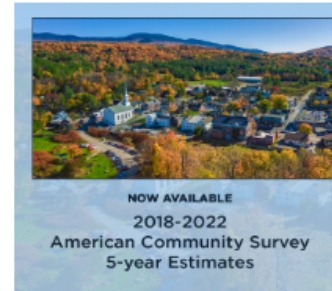
News Releases



Stats for Stories



Tip Sheets



Director's Blog

Next Steps on the American Community Survey Disability Questions

February 06, 2024

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.



Newsroom
(census.gov)

AMERICA COUNTS: STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS



America Counts

features stories using U.S. Census Bureau data that give real-world application and context to the data.

Estimated Revenue of Some Outdoor Recreation Industries Grew During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Some Indoor Recreation Industries Still Recovering

January 17, 2024
Written by: Maria B. Villarreal

The U.S. Census Bureau's *Service A* revenue of employer firms for selected 2019 and a glimpse into their recovery. Many fitness, recreation and other sectors saw a rebound in 2020.

An estimated 7.1 million more Americans participated in fitness, recreation and other leisure activities in 2020 than in 2019, according to the *Participation Trends Report*.

Estimated revenues of selected sectors rebounded from 2020 to 2021 levels.

The Opportunity Project Finds Ways to Funnel Investment to American Indian and Alaska Native Communities

January 12, 2024

Written by: Victoria Elizabeth Fine and Thera Naiman

For the first time, *The Opportunity Project (TOP)* recently focused its efforts solely on improving access to funding for indigenous communities, more than a quarter of whom live in poverty.

"These products provide indigenous thought leaders, economic development practitioners, and private and public funders data-driven, human-centered tools to thoughtfully deploy capital in indigenous communities."

— Thomas Hitz, management and program analyst in EDA's Performance, Research and National Technical Assistance Division.

In partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), TOP teams used data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other federal agencies and worked over the course of 12 weeks

MLK Day: Only Federal Holiday Designed as National Day of Service

Rising Cost of Child Care Services a Challenge for Working Parents

Related America Counts Stories



Population

2020 CENSUS

- [2020 Census Releases](#)
- [2020 Census Demographic Profile and DHC Press Kit](#)
 - Provides demographic and housing characteristics of local communities and data on homeownership and vacant and occupied housing units.
- [2020 Census Detailed DHC-A Press Kit](#)
- Go to [About 2020 Census Data Products](#) for more information on key dates

Tentative Key Dates

- September 2024: Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File B (Detailed DHC-B)
- September 2024: Supplemental Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (S-DHC)

2022 ECONOMIC CENSUS

- Official 5-year measure of businesses in the United States and their economic impact.
- Data from over 8 million businesses are represented, but not every business will be contacted.
- Invitations to respond will be sent to over 4 million business locations.
- Approximately 800 versions will be sent, tailored to specific industries/groups of industries.
- The Economic Census is conducted every 5 years, for years ending in 2 and 7.

[2022 Economic Census](#)

[2022 Economic Census Press Kit](#)

Key Dates

- January 2024: First release of 2022 Economic Census data
- March 2025: Geographic Area Series
- March 2026: Final release of 2022 Economic Census data
- Full Release Schedule:
www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census/year/2022/news-updates/releases.html

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses/year.
- Produces timely data for small areas and population groups previously collected on the decennial long form.
- Covers 35+ topics (employment, occupation, veteran status, commuting, etc.) and supports 300+ known federal government uses.
- Annual releases of 1-year and 5-year estimates.
- Data goes back to 2005.

[American Community Survey \(ACS\) \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/acs)

[Press Kit: 2021 American Community Survey Single Year Estimates \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/presskit/2021/2021acs-single-year-estimates.html)

[American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-Year Data Release \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/2017-2021-acs-5-year-data-release.html)

Key Dates

- September 2024: 2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates
- December 2024: 2019–2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

- One of the oldest, largest and most well-recognized surveys in the United States.
- Primary source of monthly labor force statistics and monthly demographic statistics on 30+ topics such as:
 - [Educational Attainment](#)
 - [Families and Living Arrangements](#)
 - [Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance](#)

[Current Population Survey \(CPS\) \(census.gov\)](#)

Key Dates

- January: Geographic Mobility
- February: Educational Attainment
- September: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance
- November: Families and Living Arrangements
- December: School Enrollment

POPULATION ESTIMATES

- Produces most up-to-date population numbers between decennial censuses.
- Provides population counts for nation, state, counties, and incorporated places.
- Housing unit totals are available at national and state levels.

[Population and Housing Unit Estimates \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov)

Key Dates

- March 2024: County, Metro/Micro and Puerto Rico Municipios
- April 2024: National by age and sex
- May 2024: Cities and towns
- May 2024: National, state, and county housing units
- June 2024: National, state, and county demographics
- December 2024: National, state, and Puerto Rico

HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY

- Experimental survey that provides near real-time data on how COVID and changes in social and economic conditions are affecting people's lives.
- Effort by the Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies.
- Each phase may include new or updated questions. Available on a monthly basis.

[Household Pulse Survey \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/household-pulse-survey)

Key Dates

- Phase 3.10: August 23, – October 30, 2023
- Phase 4.0: February 22, March 21 and April 18

BUSINESS TRENDS AND OUTLOOK SURVEY

- Experimental survey to measure business conditions on an ongoing basis.
- Successor to the Small Business Pulse Survey.
- Data available by sector, state, and the 25 most populous metropolitan statistical areas.

[Business Trends and Outlook Survey](#)

Key Dates

- Upcoming biweekly data release dates: March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3

DATA EQUITY

- Census Bureau surveys and programs have long measured equity gaps across demographic groups.
- Publicly available data and tools can help identify vulnerable and underserved communities.
- The Census Bureau is committed to raising awareness about data, tools, and resources available to help federal, state, local governments, and community groups identify underserved communities and equitably distribute resources.

The image displays five data tool cards arranged in a grid. Each card includes a map, a title, a description, and interactive buttons.

- Community Resilience Estimates:** The capacity of individuals and households to absorb, endure, and recover from the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster such as a hurricane or pandemic. Buttons: Watch video, Dashboard, See PPT.
- The Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM):** Developed to make it easier to identify hard-to-survey areas and to provide a socioeconomic and demographic characteristic profile of these areas. Buttons: Watch video, Explore Data, See PPT.
- Opportunity Atlas:** A comprehensive Census tract-level dataset of children's outcomes in adulthood using data covering nearly the entire U.S. population. Buttons: Explore Data, See PPT.
- LEHD:** Data from the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership provide unprecedented detail about America's jobs, workers, and local economies. Buttons: Watch video, Explore Data, See PPT.
- Census Business Builder (CBB):** The Census Business Builder (CBB) is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a simple to access and use format. Buttons: Explore Data, See PPT.

[Advancing Equity with Data \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/advancing-equity-with-data)

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www.census.gov/newsroom.html

[**pio@census.gov**](mailto:pio@census.gov)

301-763-3030 *or* **877-861-2010**

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