



2017 Economic Census

The U.S. Census Bureau measures the nation's population once every 10 years. It also measures U.S. businesses every 5 years with the Economic Census.

- The Economic Census is the most comprehensive measure of the U.S. economy, providing industry and market statistics at the national, state and local levels.
- The Economic Census is the official five-year measure of the American businesses collected for years ending in "2" and "7." The current Economic Census is underway with companies reporting their 2017 year-end numbers.
- Economic Census data serve as the foundation for the gross domestic product (GDP) and other leading economic indicators for the nation. These statistics are also used by trade associations, economic development agencies, governments and individual businesses for business decisions and policymaking.

The Economic Census gives businesses the information they need to make informed decisions that affect the health of America's economy. To reduce the burden on the business community, not all companies receive the Economic Census.

- The Economic Census is not sent to businesses without paid employees.
- Less than 4 million of the nearly 8 million employer businesses are required to respond to the Economic Census, including those located in the U.S. territories.
- Administrative records data will be used in lieu of direct reporting for more small businesses than ever before. Administrative data are available for key data items, such as revenue, payroll, employment and inventories.
- Account managers are assigned to the largest companies, representing nearly 25 percent of establishments.

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Response to the Economic Census was due on June 12th. Businesses who have not yet responded are now receiving past due notices with instructions on how to comply and get assistance. Response is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code).

- Federal law protects your Economic Census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.
- Responses are confidential. Company data are used for statistical purposes only. The Census Bureau is required by law to keep information private and secure.
- Response to the Economic Census is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code).
- This is the first ever all online Economic Census collection. Online reporting is easy, improves accuracy, and reduces cost and processing times.
- One exception — small companies located in U.S. territories will have a paper option available, including a Spanish version for Puerto Rico.
- The Economic Census asks companies to report information for each location, including employment, payroll, and value of goods or services produced in 2017. Questions are tailored by industry and size.
- For secure online reporting, instructions and a unique company code will be provided to respondents by the Census Bureau via official U.S. mail. Respondents will be instructed to set up an online account on the secure website to complete the survey.

