2012 Economic Census

Facts for Public Agencies

The Economic Census is the U.S. Government's official five-year measure of American business and the economy. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, and response is required by law. Published data cover more than 1,000 industries at the national and local level, 15,000 products and services, every state, every county, 15,000 cities and towns, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas. As part of the U.S. Census Bureau's mission to measure America's economy, this Economic Census covers the year ending December 2012.

Economic Census Facts:

- Economic Census forms were sent to nearly 4 million employer businesses between October and December, 2012.
- Response is required by law. Responses are confidential. (Title 13, U.S. Code)
- The forms that companies receive are tailored to their size and primary business activity.
- Businesses can report electronically. For the first time, small businesses have a web form to completed online.
- Help for respondents is available at econhelp.census.gov.

Why an Economic Census?

- Federal agencies rely on Economic Census data as the basis for key measures of economic activity, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and monthly retail sales.
- State and local agencies use the data for economic development and regional planning.
- Trade and business associations and chambers of commerce use Economic Census data to report key business facts and for economic development and business decisions.
- Businesses use Economic Census data to support business decisions and planning, such as identifying potential markets for growth, starting a new business, evaluating location and investment decisions, and applying for a loan.

More...

Visit business.census.gov for more information, examples of how the data are used, and industry and local area business profiles.

Questions?

econ@census.gov | phone 301.763.2547 | 877-790-1876

YOUR RESPONSE MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

2012 Economic Census

Key Dates

December 2012
Forms mailed to most companies. Awareness campaign: "Fill out your Economic Census form."

Due Date
Feb 12, 2013

March 2013
Awareness campaign: "It's not too late to fill out your Economic Census form." If you need more time, request and extension at econhelp.census.gov.

December 2013
First data published.

United States Census Bureau
Economic Statistics

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