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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 4, 2021

This letter is in response to your correspondence, dated January 1, 2021, to the U.S. Census Bureau's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office. We received your request in this office on January 1, 2021, and have assigned to it tracking number DOC-CEN-2021-000604. We are responding under the FOIA to your request for a digital/electric copy of the transition briefing document(s) (late 2020) prepared by the Census Bureau for the incoming Biden Administration.

Enclosed are three (3) documents (25 pages) that are responsive to your request; these records are fully releasable under the FOIA. There are no charges for these records.

Please contact Chauvez Bennett or Deloris Reed of my staff by telephone at 301-763-2127 or by email at census.foia@census.gov if you have any questions regarding your request.

Sincerely,

Vernon Curry

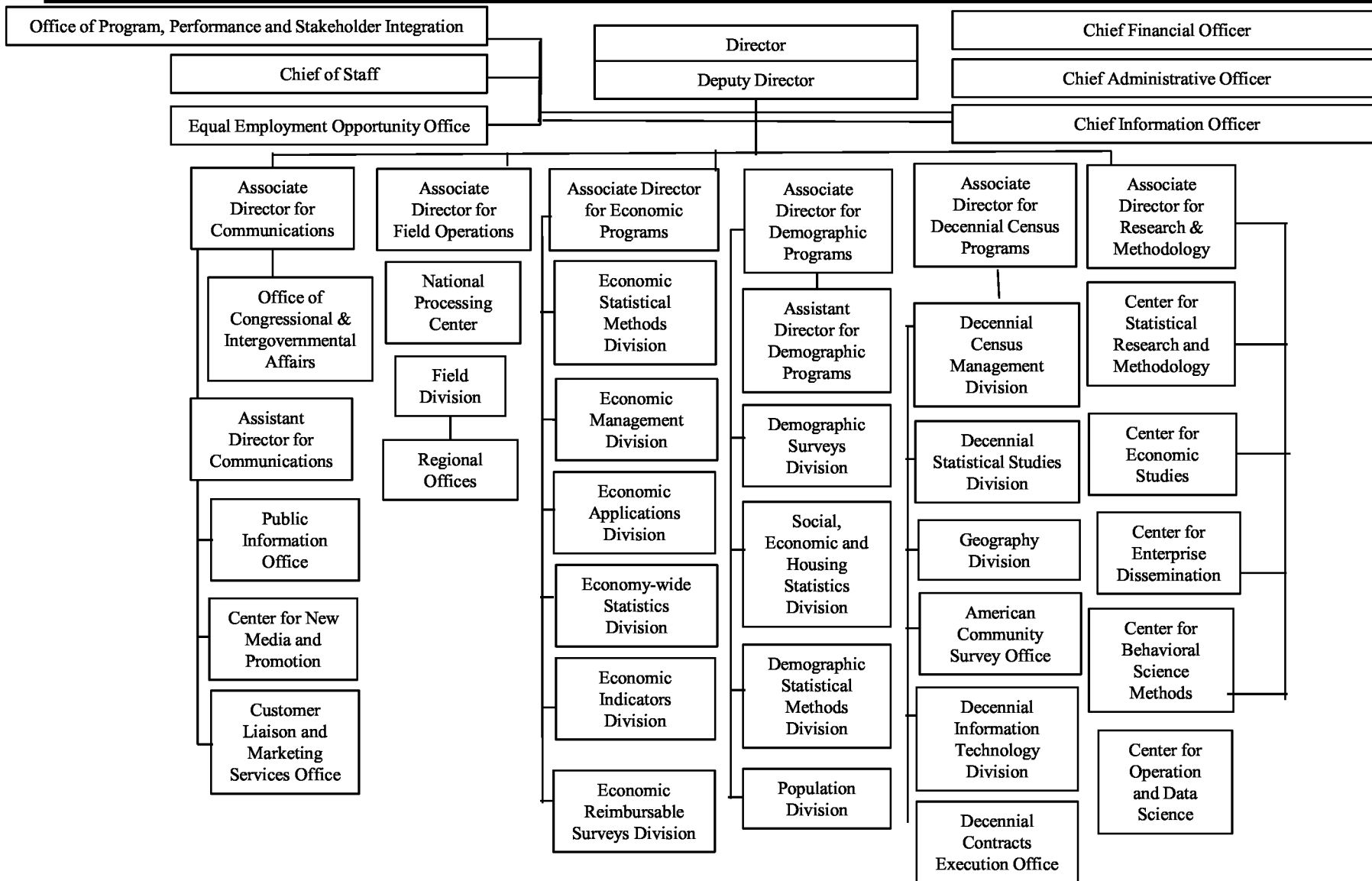
Vernon E. Curry, PMP, CIPP/G
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Officer
Chief, Freedom of Information Act Office

Enclosures

Enclosures



Census Bureau



Differences from effective DOO dated 5/19/2017

1. CFO, CAO, and CIO moved to top with no sub-division info
2. Program Performance and Stakeholder Integration added to top
3. All Assistant Directors removed
4. Sub-division changes made to Associate Director for Economic Programs Division, Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs Division, and Associate Director for Research and Methodology Division



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau
Census Bureau Director
Dr. Steven Dillingham

Dr. Steven Dillingham was sworn in as the 25th Census Bureau Director on January 7, 2019.

Dillingham has more than 25 years of statistical, research, senior management, and legal experience in the federal government. Dillingham previously served as Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Both agencies support national surveys in partnership with the Census Bureau.

Before joining the Census Bureau, Dillingham served as Director of the Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning. Other federal service includes directing research and planning for the Department of Justice Trustee Program and directing surveys for the Office of Personnel Management. He was a career member of the Federal Senior Executive Service.

In addition, Dillingham was the Deputy Director for the National District Attorneys Association and Administrator of the American Prosecutors Research Institute. Dillingham has served on the faculties of the University of South Carolina and George Mason University. He is a Senior Certified Professional with the Society for Human Resource Management.

Dillingham earned his B.A. at Winthrop University, received his J.D., M.P.A., and Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, and completed his M.B.A. at George Washington University and LL.M. at Georgetown University.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau
Deputy Director and Chief
Operating Officer
Dr. Ron S. Jarmin

Dr. Ron S. Jarmin is the U.S. Census Bureau's deputy director and chief operating officer.

Jarmin performed the nonexclusive functions and duties of the director from July 2017 to January 2019 and previously served as the associate director for economic programs. He led the team for the 2017 Economic Census, overseeing a move to 100 percent Internet data collection and leveraging enterprise investments to minimize system, application, and dissemination costs. Data products from the economic census provide the foundation for key measures of economic performance, including the nation's gross domestic product.

From 2011 to 2016, Jarmin served as the assistant director for research and methodology. He oversaw a broad research program in statistics, survey methodology, and economics aimed at improving economic and social measurement within the federal statistical system. Since beginning his career at the Census Bureau in 1992, he has also served as the chief economist, chief of the Center for Economic Studies, and a research economist.

Jarmin holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Oregon. An elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, he has published papers in the areas of industrial organization, business dynamics, entrepreneurship, technology and firm performance, urban economics, data access, and statistical disclosure avoidance.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau

Chief of Staff

Christa D. Jones

Christa D. Jones, Chief of Staff, U.S. Census Bureau. Since joining the Census Bureau in 2002, Jones has served in various roles, advising on matters related to privacy, confidentiality, and statistical policy. Among her roles, she previously served as a senior advisor to three directors, the Chief Privacy Officer, and the Deputy Chief of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, and has led many special agency projects, including the Census Bureau's response to Hurricane Katrina. In 2017, she took a brief assignment at the Department of Homeland Security's Privacy Office where she was the Senior Director for Privacy Policy and Oversight.

Before joining the Census Bureau, she worked in the Department of Commerce's Economics and Statistics Administration for the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, covering decennial census and population issues. From 1998 to 2001, she was with the U.S. Census Monitoring Board, Congressional Members.

Jones is a native of Virginia. She graduated from Queens College in Charlotte, NC, and has a master's degree from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau
Chief Administrative Officer
Laura Furgione

Laura Furgione is the chief administrative officer (CAO) at the U.S. Census Bureau. As CAO, Furgione provides leadership to a diverse group of offices and divisions—the Administrative and Customer Services Division, Census Investigative Services Division, Human Resources Division, and the Office of Employee Engagement. Previously, she served as the chief of the Office of Program, Performance, and Stakeholder Integration, where she worked to improve strategic management, requirements engineering, program/project management, cost estimation, quality assurance and evaluation, and external stakeholder integration.

Furgione joined the Census Bureau in December 2016 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she served as deputy assistant administrator for weather services and the deputy director of the National Weather Service. She was responsible for the day-to-day civilian weather operations for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. Prior to that, she was the assistant administrator for the NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration. In that role, she was responsible for annual planning as well as long-term strategic planning, performance evaluation, and program integration through matrix management. Her vast experience with data, field operations, and organizational transformation helps the Census Bureau translate its vision into action.

Furgione holds a Bachelor of Science in atmospheric science from the University of Missouri–Columbia and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Alaska–Southeast.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau
Chief Financial Officer
Ben Page

Ben Page joined the U.S. Census Bureau in June of 2019 as the Census Bureau's chief financial officer. Since joining the Census Bureau, Page has overseen efforts to secure and execute FY 2020 appropriations, provide acquisition support to the 2020 Census, and improve the positions of the Census Bureau in the annual financial statement audit. He continues to implement process changes and financial changes to ensure alignment of the operations of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer with program operations and the use of financial data to support enterprise business decisions.

Prior to joining the Census Bureau, Page served as chief of the Commerce Branch at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). At OMB, he worked with the Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, Federal Communications Commission, and other related agencies to develop and execute the President's budget. In this capacity, he worked closely with White House policy councils, congressional stakeholders, and leadership at the Department of Commerce to develop and implement policy recommendations through the enactment of legislation, promulgating regulations, or taking administrative actions. In addition, his office at OMB was responsible for carrying out OMB's statutory responsibilities for spectrum management and advising the director on policy matters related to spectrum and telecommunications.

In his previous role at OMB, Page served as an advisor to three different OMB directors. His responsibilities included covering macro fiscal issues, working with the House Budget Committee covering science, space, and energy policy; and serving as a budget analyst responsible for national security and criminal justice issues.

Prior to OMB, Page worked for the Homeland Security Institute, a federally funded research and development center supporting the Department of Homeland Security. Page received a Bachelor of Arts in public administration from the University of Tennessee and a master's in public policy from George Washington University.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau Associate Director for Communications

Ali Ahmad

Ali Ahmad is the associate director for communications at the U.S. Census Bureau. He is responsible for leading the internal and external communications activities of the United States' largest statistical agency. This includes oversight of marketing, public affairs, congressional and intergovernmental affairs, partner engagement, and media relations.

The 2020 Census will not only be the largest civic engagement campaign in U.S. history, but it will also be the first decennial census with an online component open to all respondents. The Communications Directorate has a critical role in motivating self-response by deploying creative strategies to reach hard-to-count populations, recruiting national partners to help drive local outreach activity, protecting the Census Bureau's brand and public perception, and rapidly responding to questions and concerns from the American people.

Prior to joining the Census Bureau in 2018, Ahmad worked in several policy and communications positions at the federal, state, and local levels and with a national trade association. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, with a degree in economics and history.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau
Associate Director for Field
Operations
Timothy Olson

Tim Olson is the associate director for field operations. He has executive responsibility for data collection conducted through the U.S. Census Bureau's censuses and surveys.

Field regional offices, area census offices, call centers, and data processing facilities, which form the backbone of the Field Directorate that Olson oversees, are located in Los Angeles, Tucson, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, and southern Indiana. The directorate employs approximately 11,000 people during years without a decennial census, most of whom conduct surveys. During the 2020 Census, the directorate will swell to more than 500,000 employees, mostly home-based interviewers located in every county of the nation, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Olson began his career at the Census Bureau in 1987 as a temporary employee in the Seattle region during the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses. He joined the Census Bureau's headquarters team in 2001, supporting the Field Division's Special Census program. In 2013, he became the agency's first respondent advocate, and in 2014 became the chief of the Field Division.

Olson is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Commerce Department's Gold and Silver Awards, two Census Bureau Bronze Medal Awards, and the Director's Award for Innovation. Olson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from St. Paul Bible College in 1983 and a Master of Divinity from the Alliance Theological Seminary in 1986.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau

Associate Director for Economic Programs

Nick Orsini

Nick Orsini is the Associate Director for Economic Programs at the U.S. Census Bureau. The directorate conducts more than 60 monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys covering various sectors of the economy, including 12 economic indicators and an economic census and census of governments in years ending in 2 and 7. The directorate also conducts reimbursable surveys for other government agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Transportation, the Energy Information Administration, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The economic directorate has more than 1,200 employees and an annual budget of more than \$350 million.

Orsini has nearly 30 years of experience working with economic data. He has been chief of the Economic Indicators Division and chief of the Manufacturing and Construction Division. Additionally, as chief of the Foreign Trade Division, he was responsible for developing several advanced indicator measures to improve the quality of the gross domestic product estimate, overseeing the processing and results of millions of import and export transactions each month developing several innovative data products, and collaborating with other public and private organizations on mutually beneficial projects.

Orsini has received a Gold Medal Award and Silver Medal Award from the Department of Commerce and two Bronze Medal Awards from the Census Bureau for distinguished and superior achievements. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of New Mexico.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau

Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs

Albert E. Fontenot Jr.

Albert E. Fontenot Jr. is the U.S. Census Bureau's associate director for decennial census programs. He is responsible for providing executive leadership and direction for the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and the Census Bureau's geographic programs. Fontenot was named to the position in October 2017 after serving as the assistant director for decennial census programs. Previous to his positions in the Decennial Directorate, Fontenot served as the Census Bureau's assistant director for field operations, where he oversaw the Field Division, the six regional offices, the National Processing Center, and the Office of Survey and Census Analytics.

Arriving at headquarters in March 2016, Fontenot delivered outstanding leadership to the Field Division and worked closely with the Decennial Directorate to help drive a coordinated approach to 2020 Census preparation. During that time, he represented the Field Division on the 2020 Concept of Operations Team and was instrumental in helping craft the 2020 Operations Plan and in preparing, executing, and evaluating the early census tests.

Named director for the Chicago Regional Office in 2014, Fontenot's motivation, leadership, and disciplined process led the region to strong performances on major surveys and reversed downward trends while maintaining effective cost controls. Fontenot joined the Census Bureau in 2009 as a temporary census employee and served in numerous roles during the 2010 Census, starting as a field operations supervisor and culminating as the area manager of Los Angeles County and the state of Hawaii. Following the 2010 Census, he worked as a survey supervisor, program coordinator, and assistant regional director in the Los Angeles Region.

Prior to the Census Bureau, Fontenot developed extensive executive leadership experience in the private sector, including 12 years as president and chief executive officer of midsized corporations. He led successful major product and organizational initiatives, organizational development, business redesign, and reorganizational activities. Fontenot is a decorated military veteran, having served as an Army officer with combat service in Vietnam.

Fontenot received a bachelor's degree in management and a Master of Business Administration in corporate finance and marketing from DePaul University in Chicago. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in pastoral ministry.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau

Associate Director for Demographic Programs

Dr. Victoria Velkoff

Dr. Victoria (Tori) Velkoff is the U.S. Census Bureau's associate director for demographic programs. She has worked at the Census Bureau for nearly 30 years, serving in several key leadership positions. As head of the Demographic Programs Directorate, she is responsible for providing relevant and accurate information on the size, distribution, and characteristics of the nation's population, income and poverty, and housing. Additionally, she gathers international demographic data; provides other government agencies with survey and statistical services, such as survey design, data collection, and data processing; maintains strong partnerships with sponsors and stakeholders; and designs and markets new products that meet national and international information needs.

From 2016 to 2018, as chief of the American Community Survey Office in the Decennial Directorate, Dr. Velkoff provided executive leadership and direction for the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is the principal source of social, demographic, economic, and housing information for the nation, states, counties, cities, and towns. Data from the ACS are used every day to make decisions that improve the quality of life for people throughout the United States. Dr. Velkoff led the research effort to reduce respondent burden while maintaining the quality of the ACS.

Dr. Velkoff also held leadership positions in the Demographic Programs Directorate. She directed the Census Bureau's research on home ownership rates, income, poverty, and health insurance, new measures for same-sex relationships, and the development of the supplemental poverty measure. She also directed research and outreach on race and Hispanic origin data, the production of population estimates and projections for the United States and other countries, and international assistance work. Dr. Velkoff has a Ph.D. in sociology and demography from Princeton University. She has an M.A. in Russian and East European studies and a B.A. in economics from the University of Michigan. She has received several Bronze Medal Awards from the Census Bureau in recognition of her contributions to projects that support the agency's mission.



Section 4-3 b - Census Bureau Leadership Biographies



U.S. Census Bureau

Associate Director for Research and Methodology and Chief Scientist

Dr. John M. Abowd

John Abowd is the U.S. Census Bureau's associate director for research and methodology, and chief scientist. He was named to the position in June 2016. The Research and Methodology Directorate leads critical work to modernize our operations and products. Abowd is an internationally renowned scholar whose research on privacy and statistical disclosure limitation helps the Census Bureau improve products and honor the commitment to confidentiality of data.

His long association with the Census Bureau began in 1998 when he joined the team of distinguished research fellows that helped found the longitudinal employer-household dynamics program. In 2008, he led the team that created the world's first application of a differentially private protection system for the program's OnTheMap job location tool.

He is currently leading the agency's efforts to create a differentially private protection system for the 2020 Census and future data products. The 2020 Census will be the world's first large-scale data product to use the new safeguards. The system will provide formula-driven, finely calibrated protection against attempts to reidentify individuals in the statistics we publish. These emerging threats are a consequence of today's powerful computers, advances in data science, and the proliferation of easily accessible "Big Data" outside our control.

Abowd joined the faculty of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 1987. He is the Edmund Ezra Day Professor of economics, statistics, and information science. Abowd is a fellow and past president of the Society of Labor Economists. He is also a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the Econometric Society, as well as an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

From 2011 until 2016, he was the principal investigator for the Cornell University node of the National Science Foundation—Census Research Network (NCRN) and co-principal investigator of the NCRN coordinating office. He is the winner of the American Statistical Association's Roger Herriot Award (2014 from the Government and Social Statistics Sections) and Julius Shiskin Award (2016 from the Business and Economic Statistics Section). Abowd earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and an A.B. from the Department of Economics at the University of Notre Dame.



U.S. Census Bureau

Mission

To serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.

Locations and Workforce Demographic Trends

Overall Workforce: 23,272 federal employees

Headquarters: Suitland, MD, 4,487 federal employees as of September 30, 2020.

Field Offices: 8 field/processing offices outside of Washington DC, ~ 18,785 federal employees as of September 30, 2020.

Historical Total Staffing Levels (Positions)

FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 President's Budget
14,465	16,733	46,117	406,461	17,115

Budget Trend – Discretionary and Mandatory Appropriations (\$ in Millions)

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 President's Budget
Non-2020 Census	\$733.0	\$738.2	\$822.7	\$878.8	\$876.0
2020 Census	\$757.0	\$2,095.0	\$3,018.7	\$6,699.5	\$816.0
Total	\$1,490.0	\$2,834.0	\$3,841.4	\$7,578.3	\$1,692.0

Principal Responsibilities

The Census Bureau released its FY 2021 President's budget request on February 10, 2020, the Administration's scheduled President's budget release date. The request continues to position the Census Bureau as the Nation's premier statistical agency. The Census Bureau's FY 2021 request includes \$1,692 million to continue targeted investments to:

1. Release data for apportionment and redistricting from the 2020 Decennial Census.
2. Leverage innovations initiated through the Decennial Census operations to position the Census Bureau for the future.
3. Embark on a multi-year process of creating an operating model that blends survey data with administrative and alternative data sources.



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Of note, the Census Bureau's FY 2021 budget includes several initiatives that will lay the groundwork for transformation at the Census Bureau by providing enterprise-wide infrastructure for data management, survey sample frames, user-centric dissemination systems, and enhanced administrative records research, while keeping our data confidentiality promise to the American people through improved data disclosure methods and management.

In addition, this budget continues critical investments in the post-enumeration operations for the 2020 Census and release of apportionment and redistricting data; finalizes the last data releases of the 2017 Economic Census; begin activities for the 2022 Economic Census and Census of Governments; and continued efforts to collect and release monthly, quarterly, and annual statistics.

Decennial Programs (2020 Budget \$916.8 million) - The Decennial Census Directorate is comprised of three programs: the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey (ACS), and Geographic Support. These are supported by additional offices for Statistical Studies, IT, Administration, Program Management, and Communications, as well as the separate Decennial Translation and Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data offices. The 2020 Census (every decade) and ACS (ongoing), together with their supporting programs, comprise the demographic and geographic data framework that underpins virtually all business and governmental decision-making in the United States.

Economic Programs (2020 Budget \$328.9 million) - The Economic Programs Directorate oversees the statistical programs that count and profile U.S. businesses and government organizations. It is responsible for economic and government censuses taken every five years; more than 70 separate surveys taken monthly, quarterly, and annually, including 12 principal federal economic indicators; merchandise export and import statistics produced monthly; extensive compilations of administrative records; and numerous special research and technical studies. The economic surveys conducted span 19 of the 20 industry sectors and cover approximately 99 percent of GDP.

Demographic Programs (2020 Budget \$89.3 million) - The Demographic Programs Directorate develops and manages over 30 demographic surveys (monthly, quarterly, and annually) from which data are used to create official U.S. measures of employment, unemployment, poverty and widely used measures of crime, housing, education, income and health insurance coverage. Of the survey work conducted by the Demographic Directorate, \$270 million was planned for federal and nonfederal organizations through the Census Bureau's reimbursable program in FY 2020. The directorate provides data on topics such as immigration, families and children, and participation of individuals and households in federal, state, and local assistance programs.

Research and Methodology (2020 Budget \$161.9 million funded by other Census directorates, direct appropriation, and Reimbursable activities) - The Research and Methodology Directorate performs research into innovative methods and products. It establishes and refines methodologies that lead to new products and processes. The directorate explores ways that the Census Bureau can collect, process, and disseminate data more efficiently, while still providing high-quality statistical results and fully meeting our legal and ethical obligation to protect respondents' confidentiality. The directorate's research areas include adaptive design, behavioral science,



Section 4-3 c – Census Bureau Overview Fact Sheet

disclosure avoidance, survey management, statistical research and methodology, data science, and longitudinal analysis.

Chief Administrative Officer (2020 Budget \$112.7 million funded by other Census directorates and direct appropriation) - The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provides human resources, administrative services, health and safety, and investigative services to all components of the U.S. Census Bureau. In FY 20, the CAO established the Census Bureau COVID-19 Task Force to ensure the safety of the American public and the Census workforce as well as incorporate all appropriate guidance into Census operations related to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the CAO is leading the modernization of the Suitland Federal Center to include ensuring space to support a more mobile workforce, improved conference and reservation functions, and accommodating a new federal agency.

Information Technology (2020 Budget: \$1.97 billion includes \$1.3 billion for the Decennial Census and \$587 million other IT investments) - The Office of the Chief Information Officer delivers innovative, responsive, and trusted IT services and capabilities for over 200 program-specific and Enterprise applications. Its employees are located primarily at headquarters and the data center located in Bowie, MD. The directorate leads the bureau effort to design and deliver the Enterprise Data Lake (EDL) which will provide the first high performance, secure and scalable multitenant cloud computing environment to develop data products using modern infrastructure and open source tools that support high speed parallel processing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Office of Program Performance & Stakeholder Integration (PPSI) (Budgetary Authority Requested in FY2021 Budget) - The Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program is a follow-on effort of the Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing (CEDCaP) program to integrate the remaining Census Bureau censuses and surveys for the Enterprise, and incorporates lessons learned from the 2020 Census operations. DICE is a new way of doing business that focuses on minimizing redundancy, lowering complexity, and avoiding duplicative costs for the Census Bureau's business and household data collection operations.

For more information about the specific initiatives in the FY 2021 Census Bureau budget, please see our budget summary at www.census.gov/about/budget.html.

Summary of Major Organizational Improvement Initiatives

Facilities Modernization – The Census Bureau's National Processing Center needs to move from its current campus into a new, leased facility in the Jeffersonville, Indiana, area. The current facility, which consists of 10 separate 1930–1940 era buildings, requires substantial maintenance and does not meet Federal fire and life safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency standards. The General Services Administration (GSA) has determined that it would not be cost effective to rehabilitate the current facility to resolve these issues. The Census Bureau will require approximately \$45 million to support its share of the costs associated with the move.

Data Dissemination Modernization – The Census Bureau's multifaceted data dissemination effort takes place in four areas: controlled and coordinated access to data through the Federal



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Statistical Research Data Centers and Research Project Coordination Area, privacy protection through the Center for Enterprise Dissemination-Disclosure Avoidance, and disseminating all public data releases through the Center for Enterprise Dissemination Services and Consumer Innovation (CEDSCI).

Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program – DICE is a follow-on effort of the Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing (CEDCaP) program to integrate the remaining Census Bureau censuses and surveys for the Enterprise, and incorporates lessons learned from the 2020 Census operations. DICE is a new way of doing business that focuses on minimizing redundancy, lowering complexity, and avoiding duplicative costs for the Census Bureau’s business and household data collection operations.

Community Resilience Estimates (CRE) – CRE provide a measure of the capacity of a community to absorb, endure, and recover from the health, social and economic impacts of a disaster.

Household Pulse Survey – A 20-minute online survey to measure household experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Data is disseminated in near real-time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning.

Small Business Pulse Survey – Provides high frequency data about the impacts and challenges small businesses are facing due to the coronavirus pandemic. Weekly data tabulations and visualizations were disseminated in near real-time as experimental data products.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) move into Suitland Federal Center (SFC) – In September 2019, the Census Bureau was presented a scenario by GSA where the BLS would move into the SFC during the summer of 2022. Since that time, we have worked with GSA, BLS, and the other tenant of SFC, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), to understand the details and impacts of such a move. The proposal will reduce the Census Bureau footprint by 38%.

Strategic Partnerships, Key Stakeholders, and Interagency Groups

The Census Bureau’s robust data collection and acquisition infrastructure is integral to the operation of the Federal Statistical System (led by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs). Members include BEA, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, and others. For example, the Census Bureau provides 66 percent of the data that the BEA uses to generate its flagship statistic, GDP.

The Census Bureau works closely with the oversight bodies that monitor major programs’ execution. These include Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), and the OMB. The bureau also maintains strategic partnerships with our data users—both federal (Congress and other agencies) and nonfederal (businesses, nonprofit organizations, state, local, and tribal government agencies, researchers, and the public). Finally, the agency seeks advice from the Census Advisory Committees, the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC), and other experts on methodology, population and demography issues, technical issues, and others.



Any Potential Congressional or Media Issues (first 100 days from 1/20/21)

The House Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committees will continue active oversight of the 2020 Census, particularly concerning the quality of the census and the disclosure avoidance methods to ensure respondent privacy. The Census Bureau anticipates possible congressional hearings, but dates have not been determined. In addition, the DOC OIG and the GAO are conducting audits on an ongoing basis of various 2020 Census programs outcomes, as well as monitoring the Census Bureau's assessments of the 2020 Census operations. Release dates for, and possible congressional testimony on these audits have not been determined.

Awaiting Decisions (first 100 days from 1/20/21)

The Census Bureau anticipates continued litigation regarding the execution of the 2020 Census, including the generation and delivery of the state population counts used for congressional apportionment, redistricting data, Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) data, and the application of privacy protection techniques. The Bureau is committed to meeting its statutory obligations to deliver decennial counts that are "as accurate as possible, consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States" (P.L. 105-119, §209) and to protect census respondent privacy in the promulgation of census data. It is possible that questions and challenges to the privacy methods chosen will be raised.

Quick Wins (first 100 days from 1/20/21)

The FY21 Budget is an important first step to modernize the Census Bureau and allow it to adapt to challenges facing Federal statistical agencies; seize opportunities to provide timely, customer-centric data; and more fully contribute to the federal evidence-based policymaking agenda, as well as timely completion of the 2020 Census and strategic planning for the 2030 Census. Securing funding in the first 100 days for the initiatives proposed in the FY 21 Budget and making investments in long term infrastructure improvements, such as modernization of the Suitland Federal Center and transition functionality developed for the 2020 Census into other survey operations, will kickstart the transformation of Census Bureau operations.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau fielded two "pulse surveys" to measure the impacts of the public health and economic disruptions on households and small businesses. These surveys provided near real time data to inform policy decisions and provide insights before the scheduled release of major indicators or survey results. If the country is still in a period of economic recovery and public health uncertainty, these surveys could continue to provide data, but would require reauthorization of the data collection proposals by the OMB and a reprogramming of funding once FY21 appropriations are passed.

Points of Contact

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Statistical Modernization: Better Data to Drive Economic Recovery and Growth (BEA and Census Bureau)

Executive Summary

The Department's statistical agencies—the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau—are widely known as the world's most trusted sources of U.S. economic and demographic information. These data have the potential to spur improvements in how the economy works and fuel increases in economic and social well-being, as well as inform pressing policy and investment decisions. The rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread economic consequences have only further heightened the need for timely and accurate information on the U.S. economy to guide decisions by government officials, business executives, and households. To meet this demand, BEA and the Census Bureau are advancing efforts to continually modernize their statistics and produce cutting-edge data tools. This includes releasing new information on the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak, such as the Census Bureau's Pulse Surveys; expanding detail on areas of increasing importance, like BEA's international trade in services statistics; and developing datasets with more regional granularity, for example, GDP by county. In parallel, these two agencies continue to transform their data processes and procedures, ensuring that the Department remains on the forefront of statistical measurement and stands ready to respond to evolving and future data needs.

By supporting the ongoing improvement of Department of Commerce statistical data, the Secretary and Administration ensure that the American public and policymakers have earlier access to more accurate and in-depth statistics on U.S. economic and social activity as needed to understand the multifaceted effects of the pandemic, spur economic recovery, and drive future investment and economic development decisions.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the need for reliable economic and business information into even sharper focus. The crisis renewed demands for timelier statistics and reinforced the value of consistent, accurate data for comparisons across time, sectors, and geographies. The outbreak has given BEA and Census the opportunity to innovate in a rapid-fire environment and to leverage statistical improvements released over the last couple of years that highlight the impacts of emerging economic events.

Key Progress to Date

Major new and improved data products and services that equip public and private decision-makers with critical information and insights are described below. This list includes both quickly developed initiatives stood up in response to the pandemic and larger, multi-year projects.

- **Small Business Pulse Survey.** The purpose of this Census Bureau effort is to measure the effect of changing business conditions during the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's small businesses. The results inform local, state, and federal policymakers as they seek to understand and address pandemic small business challenges.



- **Household Pulse Survey.** As part of a joint effort by Census and other federal statistical agencies, this survey aims to document temporal trends in how individuals are experiencing business curtailment and closures, stay-at-home orders, school closures, changes in the availability of consumer goods and consumer patterns, and other abrupt and significant changes to American life.
- **Real-time consumer spending estimates.** Since the emergence of COVID-19, dramatic and fast-moving changes to the U.S. economy have increased policymakers' need for more frequent and timelier economic data. BEA economists are leveraging daily feeds of credit card data to track consumer spending trends that started at the end of March. The bureau will harness these data to inform its estimates going forward and will post research updates regularly. This work is part of groundbreaking efforts by BEA and the Census Bureau to use "big" data and data science tools to extend, enhance, and supplement official economic statistics (for more information, see below).
- **Weekly Business Formation Statistics.** The Census Bureau's Business Formation Statistics (BFS) are released at a quarterly frequency; this project allowed for the release of the experimental products related to a subset of BFS products, business applications, on a weekly basis to help measure the economic impacts of a disaster, such as the current pandemic.
- **Community Resilience Estimates.** The goal of this Census project is to estimate 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.
- **More accurate early GDP data.** Over the past several years, BEA and Census have joined forces to speed up the release of key inputs that feed into the early GDP estimates, including data on business inventories, international trade, and services spending. These efforts notably reduced revisions to the GDP statistics, providing data users and policymakers with more accurate and timely snapshots of the U.S. economy, which is especially important during the pandemic. The two bureaus continue to work together to produce faster, better GDP and other economic statistics.
- **Accelerated GDP releases.** In September 2020, BEA issued, for the first time, the industry-by-industry breakdown of U.S. GDP and the GDP of each state and DC alongside the "third" estimates of national-level GDP. This synchronization of datasets, previously released months apart, gives users a fuller and more timely view of the U.S. economy, providing a powerful tool for analyzing rapid shifts in U.S. economic activity related to the pandemic.
- **International trade in services expansion.** Over the last few years, BEA has greatly improved and expanded the information it provides on services trade. This effort resulted in publishing greater geographic detail on the destination of U.S. services exports and the source of U.S. services imports; issuing more in-depth data for some of the most dynamic industries, including R&D, cloud computing, and intellectual property transactions; and accelerating the release of the most comprehensive annual datasets by country and by type of service. This enhanced information on U.S. trade in services informs trade negotiations and supports U.S. trade promotion efforts.
- **GDP by county.** In 2019, BEA published its first official GDP estimates for the nation's over 3,100 counties, marking a critical step in BEA's ongoing plan to expand the information it provides on the health of regional economies. These data help local



governments target resources to attract investment, guide businesses in identifying favorable markets for their products, and inform households' relocation decisions by highlighting areas with high demand for their skills or lower costs of living. Moving forward, BEA will gather feedback to enhance this dataset and will continue to update and extend the GDP by county estimates.

- **Puerto Rico GDP.** In September 2020, BEA released prototype GDP statistics for Puerto Rico, reaching another major milestone by the bureau to develop comprehensive economic accounts for the Island that are consistent with international guidelines and that are directly comparable to data for other territories, states, and countries. BEA's longer-term goal is to fold Puerto Rico GDP statistics, along with data for the other territories, into its standard catalog of regional measures.
- **Digital economy.** Over the last couple of years, BEA has released preliminary statistics on the digital economy, including the contributions of digital infrastructure (primarily information and communications technologies), e-commerce, and priced digital services to GDP. Looking to the future, BEA plans to expand its detail on the digital economy, including developing statistics on the transactions of the sharing economy (like the activity of ride-sharing companies), tracing the flows of digital services around the globe, and valuing "free" content (like internet searches, online games, and social media posts).
- **Income distribution.** In March 2020, BEA released prototype statistics that take one of its primary economic indicators—total U.S. personal income—and measure how it is distributed across households in different income groups; the bureau will update and expand these data in December 2020. The datasets are fully consistent with BEA's measures of GDP, offering more timely and complete insights into how U.S. households share in overall economic growth and providing government officials with a new tool for targeting resources and driving economic development. Moving forward, BEA will begin publishing these statistics on a regular schedule and will seek out other mechanisms for better measuring economic well-being and growth.

BEA and Census would not be able to provide these products without continuous modernization efforts that impact each phase of the statistical development lifecycle—from improving data collection, sourcing, and accessibility to enhancing statistical indicator estimation and disseminating more data, faster. Major recent and ongoing improvements that maintain the integrity of the Department's data and pave the way for future innovations are described below.

- **Data collection.** BEA and Census are committed to modernizing survey data collection and processing to ensure high-quality statistics, while minimizing respondent burden. This includes streamlining data validation, enriching cross-survey comparisons, expanding electronic filing, and combining human and programmed survey editing. For instance, the Census Bureau is integrating its censuses and surveys into an enterprise suite of systems for collecting data and ingesting commercial and administrative records (Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE)) that preserves access to federal and federally sponsored administrative data for policymakers through the Administrative Records Clearinghouse.
- **Alternative and new data sources.** As mentioned above, the two agencies are exploring ways to use non-survey data and advanced analytical techniques to improve survey



operations, data quality, and data products. For example, BEA is applying information from millions of patients and billions of medical care claims to provide new perspectives on health care spending and is testing a dataset from Zillow to inform its housing statistics. In addition, the Census is working to access the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) and the KIDLINK, a prototype linkage between children and parents on Census and administrative records. Access to these files will provide timely, rich, and broad information that could enhance numerous statistical products.

- **Disclosure avoidance.** The 2020 Census will evaluate and use powerful new privacy protection techniques and systems. One system being studied is known in scientific circles as “differential privacy,” designed specifically for the digital age, to help prevent the tracing of a statistic back to a specific respondent. The Census Bureau will transition to state-of-the-art and more effective privacy protection systems to keep pace with emerging threats in today’s digital world, while continuing to ensure data accuracy.
- **Data storage and analysis.** The Census Bureau is modernizing data storage and analysis capabilities through mechanisms like the Enterprise Data Lake, which allows for more efficient data processing, sharing, and collaboration.
- **Data dissemination.** BEA and Census are implementing and maintaining high-performance dissemination systems with responsive and modern user interfaces and well-documented application programming services. In 2018, BEA launched a more intuitive user experience and website architecture centered on the bureau’s products. Likewise, the Census Bureau utilizes data.census.gov to improve the customer experience by making data available from one central place. Moving forward, the two agencies will continue to improve and enhance the dissemination of the Department’s statistics to respond to expanding communication channels and customer bases.

Key Challenges to Date

- Needed resources remain a critical ingredient to expanding the Department’s data products and modernizing its statistical processes. Consistent, and in some cases additional, resources are needed to realize these opportunities. For example, Census work with frame integration, administrative records research, disclosure avoidance, DICE, and the Enterprise Data Lake all hinge on Congressional approval of FY 2021 budget initiatives.
- The COVID-19 outbreak touched nearly every aspect of how BEA and Census carry out their work—with mandatory telework, increased schedule flexibilities, and the expanded use of online conferencing and virtual collaboration tools. The agencies tackled these challenges by enhancing IT systems and support functions and opening new communication channels with colleagues, survey respondents, data providers, and customers. Through all of this, the Department stands in an even stronger position to deliver exceptional service to the American public in the face of uncertain times.

Planning for the Future

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 lays out a comprehensive, government-wide plan to fully leverage the value of data for mission, service, and the public good. The principles and practices of the Evidence Act impact how the Department builds a culture that values data; governs, manages, and protects data; and promotes efficient and



appropriate data use. Moving forward, the guidelines of the Evidence Act will increasingly shape how BEA and the Census Bureau develop new datasets and innovate statistical operations.

Relevant Internal Stakeholders

- BEA and Census have a long history of partnering with other Commerce agencies to improve and expand their data products.
- All Commerce bureaus rely on economic and demographic statistical information to meet many of their core mission goals.

Relevant External Stakeholders

- Commerce statistical agencies are forging relationships with private-sector experts to leverage new datasets, including developing products in exchange for access to industry databases and contracting with private-sector data providers to tap into massive, real-time datasets more effectively. For example, BEA was able to lean on an existing contractual relationship with a credit card data provider to offer new research on the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak in a short timeframe—long before traditional government datasets were available.
- Business executives, government officials, academic researchers, and consumers rely on Commerce data to make informed economic and demographic decisions.

Relevant Inter-Agency Groups

- The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) coordinates statistical work across federal agencies, exchanges information about agency programs and activities, and provides advice and counsel to the Office of Management and Budget on statistical matters. For example, ICSP supports agencies as they implement the guidelines of the Evidence Act and provides coordination and general guidance on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next Steps/Upcoming Deadlines/Timing

- Phase 3 of the Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS) is currently under review for potential collection starting in early November and scheduled to last 9 weeks. Currently, a request is before OMB to extend the authority to collect the SPBS through 2023 to ensure the Census Bureau is prepared to collect the SBPS for as long as the pandemic effects small businesses, policymakers and other stakeholders require access to this high frequency data.
- Phase 3 of the Household Pulse Survey is also under review for potential release in late 2020/early 2021 with collection efforts to last 9 weeks.
- During the first 6 months of 2021, the Electronic Export Information (EEI) Working Group will produce recommendations related to the request to remove EEI filing requirements for shipments between the United States and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Currently, BEA relies on critical trade data for estimating GDP for these areas that only exist as a result of this reporting requirement.



Complete the 2020 Decennial Census (Census Bureau)

Executive Summary

Based on an October 13, 2020, decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Census Bureau ended data collection for the 2020 Census on October 15, 2020 with a final response rate of 99.98 percent nationwide. After the completion of data collection operations, the next major step in the census is post-processing. Post processing refers to the Census Bureau's procedures to summarize the individual and household data into usable, high-quality, tabulated data products. The Census Bureau is working hard to process the data in order to deliver complete and accurate state population counts as close to the December 31, 2020, statutory deadline as possible. Additionally, the Census Bureau will be producing data in furtherance to a Presidential Memorandum relating to the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from the apportionment counts.

After delivery of the apportionment counts, the next statutorily required data delivery is a requirement that the Census Bureau deliver redistricting data before April 1, 2021. Also, on the agenda is delivery of a Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) file that includes citizenship data.

Background

The U.S. Constitution requires that an "actual Enumeration" be conducted every 10 years and vests Congress with the authority to conduct that census "in such Manner as they shall by Law direct." (U.S. Const. art. I, § 2, cl. 3) Through the Census Act, 13 U.S.C. § 141, Congress has delegated to the Secretary of Commerce the responsibility to conduct the decennial census "in such form and content as he may determine." The Census Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to report to the President the "tabulation of total population by States . . . within 9 months after the census date," meaning by December 31, 2020. (13 U.S.C. § 141[b]) After receiving the Secretary's report, the President, under a different statutory provision, calculates "the number of Representatives to which each State would be entitled" and transmits the resulting information to Congress. (2 U.S.C. § 2a[a]) The Census Act further requires the Census Bureau to transmit redistricting data to governors of each state and public officials responsible for legislative redistricting within 1 year after the census, meaning by April 1, 2021.

The Census Bureau prepared extensively for the 2020 Census. It completed its early field operation, Address Canvassing, on time in 2019 and began the self-response phase of the census in March 2020 along with certain field operations. In March 2020, it became clear that COVID-19, and the various restrictions recommended by public health officials and imposed by state and local governments to reduce its spread, would require the Census Bureau to change its plans. On March 18, 2020, the Census Bureau announced a 2-week suspension of field operations and on March 28 announced a further suspension. Self-response continued during this period online, by phone, and by mail. On April 13, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the Census Bureau jointly announced a new census schedule and stated that they would seek statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days. This new schedule set a



completion date for field data collection and self-response of October 31, 2020. Apportionment counts were to be delivered by April 1, 2021, and redistricting data by July 31, 2021.

However, in late July, the Census Bureau began to replan the census operations to enable delivery of the apportionment counts by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2020. On August 3, 2020, the Secretary and the Director jointly announced a new compressed schedule designed to permit the Census Bureau to meet its December 31, 2020, statutory deadline. Several lawsuits were filed in U.S. District Courts across the nation challenging this new compressed schedule, resulting in a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on October 13, 2020, lifting a court order that had required the Census Bureau to extend data collection until October 31, 2020. Shortly after that decision, the Census Bureau announced that it would end data collection on October 15, 2020.

On July 11, 2019, the President issued an "[Executive Order on Collecting Information about Citizenship Status in Connection with the Decennial Census](#)." This Executive Order declared that it was "the policy of the United States to develop complete and accurate data on the number of citizens, non-citizens, and illegal aliens in the country" and directed identified federal agencies to convey administrative records on this subject to the Census Bureau. Related to the Executive Order, the Secretary directed the Census Bureau to produce CVAP data that distinguishes citizens and noncitizens of voting age, 18 and older, in the same time frame as redistricting data are delivered.

On July 21, 2020, the President issued the "[Memorandum on Excluding Illegal Aliens from the Apportionment Base Following the 2020 Census](#)." This Memorandum directed the Secretary to provide information that would permit the President to exercise his discretion to carry out a policy excluding illegal aliens from the apportionment base. Various lawsuits have been filed challenging the legality and constitutionality of this Memorandum; oral argument on this subject in the U.S. Supreme Court is set for November 30, 2020.

To address any concerns about the quality of the 2020 Census data due to COVID-19 or the accelerated schedule, the Census Bureau set up a Data Quality Executive Governance Group (EGG) to provide guidance and vet statements about the quality of the 2020 Census data. The EGG draws upon expertise within the Census Bureau in the fields of census operations, statistical methodology, acquisition and utilization of administrative records, and in the social, economic, and housing subject areas.

The Census Bureau is working to produce data responsive to the Secretary's direction relating to the Executive Order, including a CVAP file with block-level citizenship information.

Key Progress to Date

The Census Bureau has completed all operational phases of the 2020 Census, except post-processing and production of data. As of October 16, well over 99.9 percent of addresses nationwide have been accounted for in the 2020 Census, with 67.0 percent accounted for through self-response online, by phone, or by mail, and 32.9 percent accounted for through our



Nonresponse Followup Operation. The self-response rate is higher than the final self-response rate for the 2010 Census. Over 99.9 percent of addresses have been resolved in 49 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The remaining state, Louisiana, was 99.0 percent complete as of October 16.

Key Challenges to Date

COVID-19 challenged data collection and delayed the subsequent processing of responses. A decennial census is challenging by nature; uncertainty from COVID, changing deadlines, and pending litigation have created significant additional operational challenges with this census.

Planning for the Future

Key decisions about the remaining phases of data delivery from the 2020 Census will need to be made in early 2021. These issues include whether data associated with the Presidential Memorandum should be produced (if it has not already been produced) and whether the CVAP data should be produced. Immediate coordination on budget matters will be required to allow timely completion of the 2020 Census and strategic planning for the 2030 Census. This may include operation under a Continuing Resolution for the FY21 budget and finalization of the FY22 budget proposal.

Relevant External Stakeholders

- Congress
- State legislatures and other redistricting bodies
- Advisory Committees (Census Scientific Advisory Committee, National Advisory Committee)
- Federal, state, and local governments
- Researchers

Next Steps/Upcoming Deadlines/Timing

October 15, 2020	Completion of data collection
December 31, 2020	Statutory deadline for delivery of apportionment counts
April 1, 2021	Statutory deadline for delivery of redistricting data