



Census 2020: America Is Counting on You

Starting this month, the U.S. government will begin its largest effort outside of **wartime**. It will count every single person in America.

The count will include all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and five U.S. **territories** (*TEYR-ih-tor-eez*). That should add up to about 330 million people.

This count is called a census (*SEN-suhs*). The U.S. Census Bureau (*BYOOR-oh*) does the count every 10

years. It is so important that it is part of the U.S. Constitution.

The census doesn't just count official citizens. It doesn't just count voters. It doesn't just count adults. It counts each person.

That means the 2020 census needs everyone to take part.

What Questions Are Asked?

The official Census Day is April 1. A lot of work is done before then to

make sure the count goes **smoothly**. By April 1, each household will receive a census form in the mail.

For the first time, people can now respond online. You can also answer the questions by phone or by mail. If you do not respond, a person working for the Census Bureau will follow up. They will ask you the questions in person.

(STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)

A Timeline of the 2020 Count

Counting every person in the U.S. is a huge project. Planning for the census begins years ahead of time. The U.S. Census Bureau has opened almost 250 offices around the nation. Here is a timeline for the 2020 census:

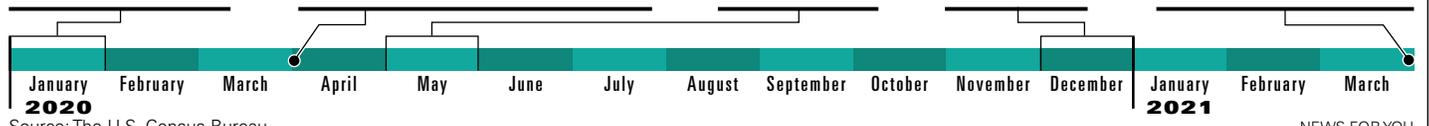
January The Census Bureau will start to count the people in far-away parts of Alaska. Ads will start to tell people about the census and what to **expect**.

April 1 is Census Day. There will be events across the nation. By this day, the Census Bureau will send a form to each household. Census workers will also visit students living on college campuses. They will visit people living in senior centers.

May Census workers will begin to visit homes that have not given answers to the census questions.

December The Census Bureau will give the total count to the president and Congress.

March 31, 2021 The Census Bureau will give counts to each state. Those counts will then be used to draw new lines for voting and school districts if they are needed.



Source: The U.S. Census Bureau

The questions are very simple. They ask:

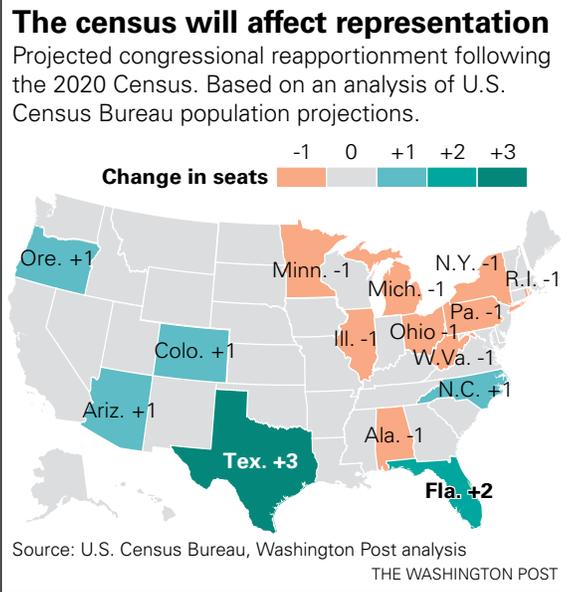
- ▶ how many people are living in your home;
- ▶ how those people are related to each other;
- ▶ the age, sex, and race of each person; and
- ▶ whether you own or rent your home.

Your answers will be added to answers from other homes. Those **facts and figures** will help the government understand the people and the economies (*ih-KON-uh-meez*) of U.S. towns, cities, and states.

They also help decide how many seats each state gets in Congress. But they also help you and your family in other ways.

How the Data Work for You

The government also uses census data to help decide how to spend about \$675 billion. Here are some of the ways that money is spent:



Roads, highways, and bridges: Is your town or city growing? Census data help decide funding for things like wider roads, new bridges, and **carpool** lanes.

Schools: Census information can help predict (*prih-DIKT*) the need for more or fewer schools in certain areas. It also can help school districts plan for special services.

Those might include low-cost meals, after-school programs, or new computers.

Emergency services: Population (*pop-yuh-LEY-shuhn*) data help towns and cities get funds for new hospitals and fire departments. Data can also help them prepare for natural disasters (*dih-ZAS-terz*).

Social services: Data on age groups help make sure people have the services they need. Having lots of children in an area might result in more playgrounds and parks. Having lots of other people might

attract more health care providers and senior centers.

Businesses also use census data. They use the data to decide where to open new stores. The information helps them choose which products and services to offer. They use it to decide how many workers they might need.

SOURCES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

VOCABULARY

Census 2020: America Is Counting on You

wartime – *n.* time when a country is in a war

territories – *n.* areas of land that belong to or are controlled by a government

smoothly – *adv.* without problems

related – *v.* having a family connection

facts and figures – *n.* details about something

data – *n.* facts or information used to plan or analyze something

carpool – *n.* (used as *adj.*) groups of people who share a ride to get somewhere

A Timeline of the 2020 Count

expect – *v.* think that something will probably happen

A Guide to Census Terms

Here are some terms you may see in ads, online, or on your census form:

apportionment (*uh-POHR-shuhn-muhnt*) – *n.* the decision on the number of House of Representative members for each state, based on population

confidential (*kon-fih-DEN-shuhl*) – *adj.* spoken or written in private or secretly. All census answers are confidential and are not shared with any other U.S. agency.

decennial (*dih-SEN-ee-uhl*) – *adj.* something that happens every 10 years

enumerate (*ih-NOO-muh-reyt*) – *v.* to count people one at a time

household (*HOUS-hold*) – *n.* all of the people living in a house or apartment. They do not have to be related to each other.

mandatory (*MAN-duh-tohr-ee*) – *adj.* required by law. Taking part in the census is mandatory.

occupancy (*OK-yuh-puhn-see*) – *n.* the act of living in a home

population (*pop-yuh-LEY-shuhn*) – *n.* the total number of people in a certain area

redistricting (*ree-DIS-trikt-ing*) – *v.* making new voting or other types of districts in a city or state. The final census count often means redrawing districts.

statistical (*stuh-TIS-tih-kuhl*) – *adj.* based on numbers or statistics

Most Americans Plan to Respond to Census, but Some Have Doubts

Almost all Americans know the census is coming in 2020. That's according to the latest findings from the Pew Research Center. And 84% of Americans say they will respond or very likely will respond.

Still, 16% said they had at least some **doubts** about responding. That could be a problem. It is very important to get a high response **rate**.

Race and Wealth

The Pew Research Center contacted 6,878 adults online for the recent survey. The survey was done in English and Spanish.

Results showed that 94% of Americans think the census is very important or **somewhat** important. All groups seem to be aware of the census. But some groups have more doubts about whether to respond.

Black, Hispanic, and low-income people had greater doubts about the census. They were more likely to say they would not or very likely

would not respond. They were also more likely to say they might not respond.

In the past, those groups have been **undercounted** or hard to count. An undercount can lead to lower funding and representation (*rep-rih-zen-TAY-shuhn*) for those groups.

About 3% of adults feared the census would hurt their community (*kuh-MYOO-nih-tee*). That might be due to an early plan to ask people about their citizenship (*SIT-uh-zuhn-ship*). The Supreme Court **ruled** against that question (*KWES-chuhn*). It will not be on the census.

Age and Schooling

There was no real difference in **awareness** or planned response rates between Democrats and Republicans.

But people with less schooling were less aware of the census. They

were less likely to say they planned to respond.

Age also makes a big difference. Out of four age groups, adults between 18 and 29 were least likely to say they planned to respond.

Self-Response Saves Money

The U.S. Census Bureau expects (*ik-SPEKTS*) 60.5% of people to respond at first.

Research shows that the real response rate is always lower than the percent of adults who say they will respond. The lower the response rate, the more money the Census Bureau has to spend.

When people don't respond, the Census Bureau sends out more workers to knock on doors.

SOURCES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS,
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

VOCABULARY

Most Americans Plan to Respond to Census, but Some Have Doubts

doubts – *n.* feelings of being unsure about something

rate – *n.* number of times something happens in a specific time

somewhat – *adv.* moderate or middle amount

undercounted – *v.* officially counted as a smaller number than the real amount

ruled – *v.* made a legal decision about something

awareness – *n.* knowledge about something



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROTESTERS OPPOSE a citizenship question on the census in April 2019. The question will not be on the 2020 census.

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Census Bureau Works to Keep Lies and Rumors From Spreading Online

Social (*SOH-shuhl*) media (*MEE-dee-uh*) can be a great way to share with friends and strangers. But it is also an easy way to **spread** lies and false **rumors** (*ROO-merz*). The U.S. Census Bureau wants to make sure that doesn't happen with the 2020 census.

Experts are worried that other countries might want to **disrupt** the U.S. census. That could cause real problems. The census helps decide (*dih-SAHYD*) many important things about funding and politics.

In 2016, Russia used social media posts to disrupt the U.S. election. Experts worry that Russia and China could **target** the census.

“If you want to disrupt a democracy [*dih-MOK-ruh-see*], you can certainly [*SUR-tuhn-lee*] go about it by disrupting a census,” said John Thompson. He used to run the Census Bureau.

Online Lies

The Census Bureau is working with Facebook, Twitter, and Google to try to stop lies from spreading online. There have already been false posts. They have been viewed thousands of times.

One false post claimed thieves were pretending to be census workers to get into people's homes. The lie was spread on Facebook and on a neighborhood (*NEY-ber-hood*) group called Nextdoor.

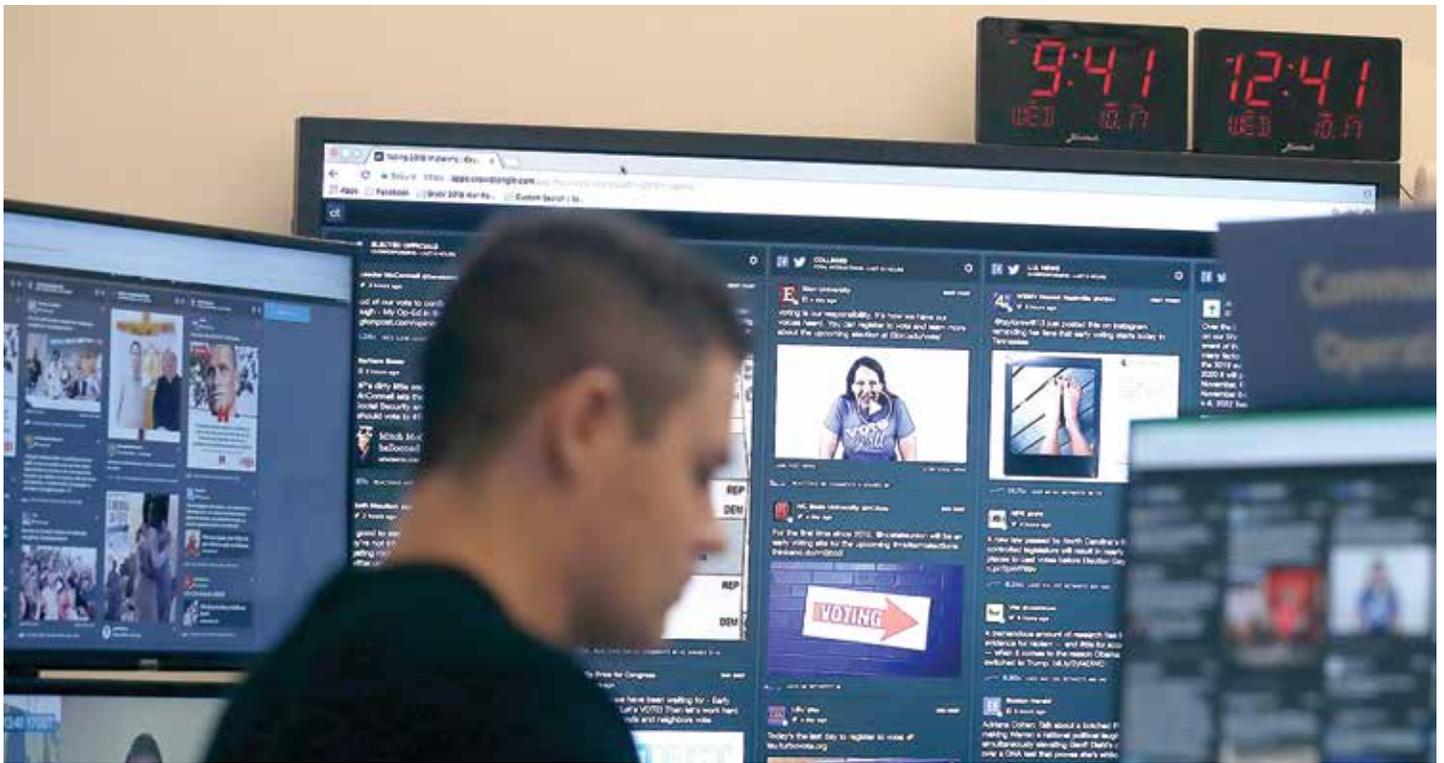
The bureau got the post taken down. It didn't want people to worry about census workers who will be knocking on doors.

(STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CENSUS WORKER Danielle Forino used snowshoes to count people in 2010. Officials don't want people to believe false rumors about workers.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A FACEBOOK worker checks posts for misinformation in Menlo Park, California. The site will have a team to check for lies about the census.

Fighting Back with Facts

Facebook, Twitter, and Google now have teams to fight lies about the census. A team of census workers is also looking for false posts. The Census Bureau will post its own “fact checks” online.

But it is very hard to stop lies from spreading online. It is harder on closed sites, like private (*PRAHY-vit*) groups, than on open sites.

People in Missouri kept spreading the robber rumors even after police said they were false.

SOURCES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS,
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Don't Get Scammed

There are a few things you should know about the census that will help you avoid scams.

The Census Bureau will never ask you for your social security (*sih-KYOOR-ih-tee*) number. It will never ask for your bank account or credit card numbers. It will never ask for money. It will not contact you for a political party.

If a census worker comes to your door, don't be afraid. They will be wearing an ID. It will have their picture on it. It will have a mark from the Department of Commerce. It will also list a date when it is no longer good.

If you are still worried about the worker's identity (*ahy-DEN-tih-tee*), you can call 1-800-923-8282.

VOCABULARY

Census Bureau Works to Keep Lies and Rumors From Spreading Online

spread – *v.* pass information from person to person

rumors – *n.* information and stories passed to others that are not true

disrupt – *v.* cause something to not continue in a normal way

target – *v.* direct an action at something

scams – *v.* dishonest ways to make money by deceiving people

mark – *n.* symbol or shape that identifies something

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSES LINE STREETS in Las Vegas, Nevada. Nevada was the nation's fastest-growing state.

In 2010, the Census Told a Story of Growth and Diversity

A census is all about numbers. It is a count of the nation's people. It is a count of where those people live. It is a look at the numbers of people who call themselves members of different races or **ethnicities** (*eth-NIS-ih-teez*).

At first look, the results of a census can be hard to understand.

But census numbers do tell a story. They explain who we are. They explain where the population has gone up or down. They also give us other details about how our country has changed. For **at least** 10 years, those numbers become the story of America itself.

U.S. Is Still Growing

The last U.S. census was in 2010. The results of the count showed a lot of change.

The total number of people in the U.S. was 308.7 million. In the year 2000, there were 281.4 million people. That was an increase of 9.7%.

The U.S. Census Bureau also does a separate count for a few million households each year. It helps to provide a look at the U.S. between

census years. It also helps to predict some changes. In 2018, the Census Bureau said the total number of people had grown to 327.2 million.

The 2020 census could show another increase. Or it could show that the population has gone down.

We're Moving South and West

Even if the U.S. population stays the same, it moves around.

The 2010 census showed that growth was faster in the South and West. The South and West made up 84.4% of the nation's growth between 2000 and 2010.

Which state grew the fastest? The winner was Nevada. It grew by 35.1% in 10 years. The next-fastest-growing states were Arizona, Utah, and Idaho.

The slowest-growing states grew by less than 2%. They were Rhode Island, Louisiana, and Ohio. The state of Michigan lost 0.6% of its people.

We're More Diverse

Non-Hispanic whites were still the biggest group of U.S. residents (*REZ-ih-duhnts*) in 2010. They

made up 72% of all people.

But Hispanic and Asian groups grew the fastest. The number of Hispanics grew 43% between 2000 and 2010. That made them 16% of the total population. That is more than the black population at 13%.

The number of people who reported as Asian also grew by 43%. That made them 5% of the population.

This year's census is sure to show changes since 2010. But what will those changes be? And what will they mean? That story is still to be told.

SOURCE: THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

VOCABULARY

In 2010, the Census Told a Story of Growth and Diversity

ethnicities – *n.* groups of people with the same common national or cultural background

at least – *adv.* not less than a specific amount

made up – (*phrasal verb*) were

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Do You Need a Job? Census Bureau Is Hiring Thousands of People

Want a job? It pays well. It will only last a short time. You will meet new people.

The Census Bureau is hiring. In fact, it is hiring a lot of people.

The bureau will start the largest count of people in U.S. history this spring. To do so, it wants to hire as many as 500,000 workers.

The Census Bureau hopes to have a group of 2.7 million job seekers to choose from. Most of the hiring will happen in the first three months of this year.

The Bureau Wants You!

The job market in the U.S. is tight right now. That means there aren't too many people without jobs. So the Census Bureau needs to **attract** (*uh-TRAKT*) job seekers.

One way it's doing so is by offering good pay. The pay for census work depends on where you live. But it is between \$13.50 and \$30 per hour.

Most workers will go door-to-door. They will stop at each home in an area. They will talk to people who didn't fill out their census form online or by mail. They will collect answers to the census questions (*KWES-chuhnz*).

But there are other jobs to do, too. There are office jobs in some places.

Who Can Apply

For most census jobs, workers have to be citizens (*SIT-uh-zuhnz*). But non-citizens who speak a needed language (*LANG-gwij*) can be hired.

Job seekers need to be fingerprinted. They need to pass **background checks**. They need to be at least 18 years old. They need to have an email address.

There are other requirements (*rih-KWAHYR-muhnts*), too.

What You Will Do

Each worker who is hired will be trained. The training will be paid. It will start in March and run through mid-May.

Training will happen about 60 days after the job offer. That will allow time for a full background check.

Most workers will need to have a car they can use. Most will need to work some weekend hours.

The work will **run** from mid-March until July.

To learn more, visit 2020census.gov/en/jobs

SOURCES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

VOCABULARY

Do You Need a Job? Census Bureau Is Hiring Thousands of People

attract – *v.* make someone want to do something

background checks – *n.* the act of looking up criminal or other formal records about people

run – *v.* continue



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A CENSUS worker talks to people at a job fair at the Yuma Civic Center in Yuma, Arizona. The Census Bureau is hiring a lot of people for the 2020 count.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMMUTERS PASS through the World Trade Center in New York City. Over the next 40 years, the U.S. will become more diverse.

The 2020 census will show what the U.S. looks like this year. But what will the U.S. look like in the future (*FYOO-cher*)?

The Census Bureau has offered some hints. Based on the latest data, the bureau predicted (*prih-DIK-tid*) some future trends.

More Diverse

Over the next 40 years, the U.S. will become more diverse (*dih-VURS*). That means there will be more people of different backgrounds living in the U.S.

The change will largely come from children. Starting this year, no single race group alone will make up more than **half** of U.S. children.

People who identify (*ahy-DEN-tuh-fahy*) as two or more races will be the fastest-growing group. Their population will grow.

The share of non-Hispanic whites will fall below 50%. It will decrease by about 20 million by 2060.

The share of people of color will increase. Fast-growing groups will include Asian and Hispanic people.

Older

Over the next 40 years, the U.S.

population will also grow older. In 15 years, the number of people over the age of 65 will be larger than the number of children for the first time in U.S. history.

The median (*MEE-dee-uhn*) age will increase from 38 to 43. The median is the middle number in a set of numbers.

The last members of the group known as baby boomers will reach the age of 65 in 10 years. That group was born between 1946 and 1965. They are a very large **generation** (*jen-uh-REY-shuhn*).

Many people stop working at the age of 65. They start to collect money from **Social Security**. But as the population ages, there will be fewer working-age Americans to pay into Social Security. That could put a **strain** on the system (*SIS-tuhm*).

Right now, there are about 3.5 working-age adults for every person of **retirement** age. That number will drop to 2.5 by 2060.

Fewer People, but Still Plenty

Population growth will start to slow as more Americans age. Young adults are marrying and having

children at later ages. They are having fewer children than people used to have.

Right now, the population growth rate is 2.3 million people per year. By 2060, it will slow to 1.6 million people a year.

Still, the U.S. will probably have 400 million people by 2058. Right now, about 326 million people live in the U.S.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOCABULARY

What Does America's Future Look Like?

half – *n.* 50%

generation – *n.* group of people born and living at the same time

Social Security – *n.* program where the government gives money to people who are unable to work

strain – *n.* extra difficulty

retirement – *n.* period of time when people are no longer working

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CROSSWORD

Across

1. Bit of snow
6. Stringed instruments with a triangle shape
11. Gone up
12. Forced removal from one's country
13. Him and me
14. Margin
16. Cat's foot
17. This thing
18. Removes the skin from, as a carrot
20. Omaha's state, for short
21. First two-digit number
23. State between MD and NJ
24. From a thrift shop, say
26. Move the head as a signal
28. In one's right mind
30. Adult females
32. Dance that has a clicking sound
35. Washington, ___
37. Atlanta's state, for short
38. From rags ___ riches
40. Sacramento's state, for short
41. Cooks slowly in the oven
44. Catch crabs with them
46. Curve of a circle
47. Warm embrace
49. Large number
50. Tiny
51. About 30 days, for short
52. Title for a man

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13			14		15			16		
17			18				19		20	
21		22		23			24	25		
	26		27		28	29				
		30		31				32	33	34
35	36		37			38	39		40	
41		42			43		44	45		
46				47		48		49		
50					51			52		

Down

1. Apples, oranges, and plums
2. Pay attention to music
3. Quick ___ a wink
4. Hold onto instead of throwing away
5. Brought to a halt
6. Back part of the foot
7. Tool for chopping wood
8. Tear

9. A jet is one
10. Stitched up
15. Large birds that honk
19. Star nearest to Earth
22. At the present time
25. Place for filming a movie
27. Collies and poodles
29. Tiny insect in a colony
31. Class where you learn about numbers
33. Person playing a role
34. Time gone by
35. Take, as a card
36. Seedy center of an apple
39. ___ the double (quickly)
42. Card that's higher than a king
43. Answer to an adding problem
45. Kind of tree
48. Take a turn in a game

LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

L	A	S	T		P	T	A		O	D	D
I	R	A	N		A	I	R		R	A	Y
P	E	N		A	L	E	R	T		W	E
S	A	D	D	L	E		I	R	O	N	
				A	T		E	V	E	N	
B	L	A	D	E		N	E	E	D	L	E
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P	E	A			K	E	Y		F	L	E

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