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Overview of FY2026 Appropriations for the Census Bureau

Introduction

As a Department of Commerce agency, the U.S. Census Bureau is primarily funded through the annual Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill. This In Focus provides an overview of FY2026 appropriations for the U.S. Census Bureau; certain comparisons to previous years' appropriations; and congressional action to date. Information presented is drawn from the Census Bureau's FY2026 *Congressional Budget Justification*, the enacted FY2026 CJS bill, and other relevant congressional documents.

The FY2026 appropriations are divided between two accounts: Current Surveys and Programs, and Periodic Censuses and Programs. For these two accounts, comparisons are made here between the FY2026 enacted level, the FY2026 request, and enacted amounts for FY2024 and FY2025. (The FY2025 full-year continuing resolution [CR] funded these accounts in the same amounts and under the same authorities and conditions as enacted in FY2024.) The FY2026 budget justification also includes requested amounts below the account level in more detail, which are compared here to corresponding actual FY2024 amounts (the budget justification document does not provide this level of detail for FY2025 actual amounts).

the Trump Administration's FY2026 budget request of \$1.677 billion and a \$108 million increase from the FY2024 and FY2025 enacted levels of \$1.383 billion.

Current Surveys and Programs

The bill includes \$319 million for the Current Surveys and Programs account, which is \$30 million above the Administration's FY2026 requested \$289 million and a decrease of \$10 million from the FY2024 and FY2025 enacted amounts of \$329 million. This account includes funding for Current Economic Statistics and Current Demographic Statistics.

Current Economic Statistics

Current Economic Statistics include business, construction, manufacturing, general economic, foreign trade, and government statistics. According to the FY2026 budget justification, Current Economic Statistics programs "provide timely, accurate, and essential data on the structure and performance of the U.S. economy, supporting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimation, fiscal and monetary policymaking, and private sector decision-making."

The FY2026 request for Current Economic Statistics was \$216 million, the same as FY2024 and FY2025 actual amounts.

Current Demographic Statistics

Current Demographic Statistics includes the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP); the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau; and the Population Estimates Program. The SIPP is an ongoing survey that measures distribution of government assistance programs. The CPS provides estimates of income, poverty, and other indicators. The Population Estimates Program calculates population change over time. The Census Bureau's population estimates are used in a variety of federal programs to determine funding allocations or eligibility.

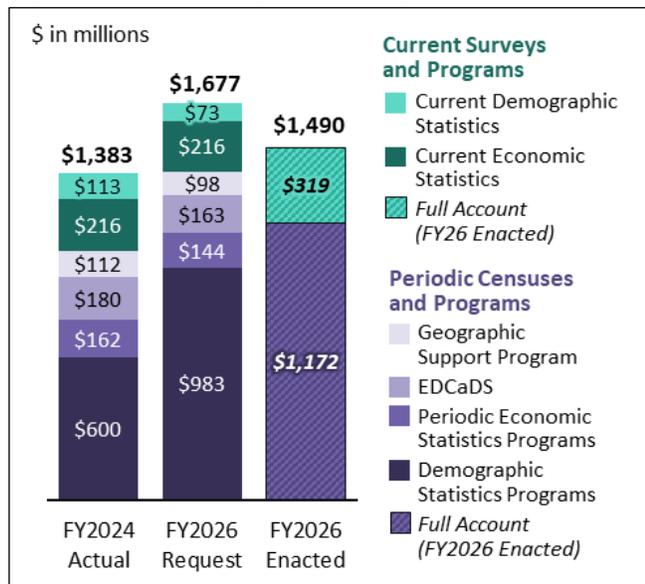
The FY2026 request for Current Demographic Statistics was \$73 million, which is a \$40 million decrease from FY2024 and FY2025 actual amounts of \$113 million.

Proposed changes to these programs include testing internet self-response for the CPS and using some nonsurvey data to reduce costs for the SIPP.

Periodic Censuses and Programs

The bill includes \$1.172 billion for the Periodic Censuses and Programs account, which is \$216 million less than the Administration's FY2026 requested \$1.388 billion and a \$118 million increase from the FY2024 and FY2025

Figure 1. Census Budget Authority



Source: Data from U.S. Census Bureau, *FY2026 Congressional Budget Justification* and FY2026 Appropriations.

Notes: Values may not add evenly due to rounding.

FY2026 Appropriations

The enacted FY2026 CJS bill (P.L. 119-74) includes \$1.490 billion for the Census Bureau. This is \$186 million less than

enacted amount of \$1.054 billion. This account consists of funding for several programs discussed below.

Decennial Census

The FY2026 request for the decennial census account was \$983 million, a \$383 million increase from the FY2024 actual amount of \$600 million. Requested FY2026 funding for the decennial census includes support for the 2026 Census Test and preparation for the 2028 Dress Rehearsal, full-scale development of core IT infrastructure, award and management of contracts, and continued data collection and publication for the American Community Survey (ACS). Unlike previous budget documents, the FY2026 budget justification does not specify the respective amounts for the 2030 decennial census and the ACS within the decennial census account.

Periodic Economic Statistics

The FY2026 request for the Periodic Economic Statistics Program, which contains the Economic Census and the Census of Governments, was \$144 million, an \$18 million decrease from the FY2024 actual level of \$162 million. Specific funding levels for these two surveys are not provided in the FY2026 budget request.

The Economic Census, conducted every five years, collects statistics on businesses in the United States to help understand the U.S. economy. Requested FY2026 activities for the Economic Census include the continued review of 2022 Economic Census data releases.

The Census of Governments, conducted every five years, collects statistics on state and local governments across the United States. Requested FY2026 activities for the Census of Governments include the expanded use of administrative records and other data collection methods in preparation for the 2027 Census of Governments.

Geographic Support Program

The purpose of the Census Bureau's Geographic Support Program (GSP) is to support and maintain the geospatial infrastructure required to conduct survey data collection, processing, tabulation, and dissemination across covered regions. The Census Bureau considers the GSP to be foundational for all of its social and economic data products. Congressional district wall maps are produced by the GSP. The Census Bureau aims to utilize the GSP to minimize 2030 Census in-field enumeration costs.

The FY2026 request for the GSP was \$98 million, a \$14 million decrease from the FY2024 and FY2025 actual level of \$112 million.

Enterprise Data Collection and Dissemination Systems (EDCaDS)

The EDCaDS generally supports the data collection, processing, and dissemination systems that are associated with Census Bureau programs.

The FY2026 request's stated goal for the EDCaDS is "to provide large cyclical systems that must be scaled for peak operations for the Decennial Census, the Economic Census, and the Census of Governments."

The FY2026 request for the EDCaDS was \$163 million, a \$17 million decrease from the FY2024 and FY2025 actual level of \$180 million.

Congressional Action

The House Appropriations Committee CJS subcommittee marked up the House version of the FY2026 CJS appropriations bill on July 15, 2025. The bill, as approved by the subcommittee, would have provided \$1.677 billion in total for the Census Bureau: \$288.5 million for Current Surveys and Programs and \$1.388 billion for Periodic Censuses and Programs. The bill, as reported, would have prohibited the Census Bureau from using any funds provided in the measure to include "aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States" in rendering apportionment determinations. It also included similar prohibitions on using any funds provided to enforce mandatory response requirements for certain Census Bureau surveys or to inquire more than twice to solicit voluntary survey responses. These provisions were not included in the version of the bill subsequently enacted into law. The bill advanced from the subcommittee by a 9-6 vote. The full committee ordered the bill reported by a 34-28 vote on September 10, 2025.

The Senate Appropriations Committee marked up its FY2026 CJS appropriations bill on July 17, 2025. The bill, as reported, would have provided \$1.520 billion in total for the Census Bureau: \$328.5 million for Current Surveys and Programs and \$1.192 billion for Periodic Census and Programs. Furthermore, the committee report accompanying the bill directs the Census Bureau to provide information regarding the removal of Census and BEA data sets; the termination of Census Bureau advisory committees; ACS modernization efforts; 2030 decennial census operation plans; and the effects of field office closures. The report directs the Census Bureau to continue outreach to public libraries as partners for surveys and to prioritize carrying out the 2026 Census Test. The committee ordered the bill reported by a 19-10 vote.

Census Bureau appropriations lapsed from October 1 through November 12, 2025. The lapse ended when a CR providing appropriations for certain agencies (including the Commerce Department) through January 30, 2026, became law. The FY2026 CJS appropriations bill was included as part of a consolidated appropriations measure, which passed the House by a vote of 397-28 on January 8, 2026, and passed the Senate by a vote of 82-15 on January 15, 2026. The bill was signed into law by President Trump on January 23, 2026. The explanatory statement for the FY2026 CJS bill was filed in the *Congressional Record* by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee on January 8, 2026. The explanatory statement specifies that the Appropriations Committee reports accompanying the House and Senate versions of the FY2026 CJS appropriations bill carry "the same weight as language included in this joint explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement or in the act."

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