



Census 101

What is the Census?

The census is a count of every person living in the United States, regardless of citizenship status. Required by the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the count once every 10 years.

Why does the Census Matter to SLC?

Census data provides us with a snapshot of our communities. It tells us where communities are growing and where residents need critical services like schools, hospitals or new roads. It also helps us tap into federal funding to make those resources available.

When does the 2020 Census start?

Households will receive their census materials by mail starting in mid-March. The online and telephone response options will be available starting on March 12, 2020. You have until July to complete the questionnaire.

How to Complete the Census

How do I complete the Census?

It's your choice; you can respond online, by mail or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person.

How long does it take to fill out the form?

10 minutes to complete the census questionnaire, depending on the number of people in the household.

Do people have to respond online?

No, you have the option to respond online, by telephone, or using a paper questionnaire.

Can people respond on a smartphone or tablet?

Yes, the online form will be optimized to allow people to respond on a smartphone or tablet.

Can people respond if they have misplaced or never received the unique ID mailed or hand-delivered to their address?

Yes, people can respond online or by telephone using an option called Non-ID Response, which allows them to complete their census forms without the unique ID, if they provide a valid home address.

Will there be a problem if multiple people respond online from the same location or IP address?

The Census Bureau will only restrict IP addresses as a security precaution. For example, they may block an IP address if its activity appears to pose a security threat. They are anticipating and planning for multiple responses from computers in places like libraries, or generated through other outreach activities, such as block parties.

What happens if a person misses a question?

The Census Bureau strongly encourages respondents to answer every question for every person in the household, but will allow submission of incomplete questionnaires. Bureau staff may follow up on incomplete submissions.

Languages on the Census

In what languages will the online form be available?

The online form will be available in English and 12 non-English languages: Arabic, Chinese [Simplified], French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

In what languages will the paper form be available?

The paper form will be available in English and bilingual English-Spanish.

In what languages will telephone assistance be available?

Census Questionnaire Assistance will be available in English and the same 12 non-English languages referenced above, with Mandarin and Cantonese. People will also be able to use their Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) when calling.

What if I need some other language?

If a census taker knocks on a door and encounters a non-English speaker, they can show a language identification card that shows a short message in 59 languages. After the resident identifies the language they speak, the field interviewer can take this back to the office to find an interpreter to either call or visit the home again.

The Census Bureau will provide language guides in 59 non-English languages:

Albanian	French	Lao	Swahili
American Sign Language	German	Lithuanian	Tagalog
Amharic	Gujurati	Malayalam	Tamil
Arabic	Greek	Marathi	Telugu
Armenian	Haitian	Navajo	Thai
Bengali	Hebrew	Nepali	Tigrinya
Bosnian	Hindi	Polish	Turkish
Bulgarian	Hmong	Portuguese	Twi
Burmese	Hungarian	Punjabi	Ukrainian
Chinese	Igbo	Romanian	Urdu
Creole	Ilocano	Russian	Vietnamese
Croatian	Indonesia	Serbian	Yiddish
Czech	Italian	Sinhala	Yoruba
Dutch	Japanese	Slovak	
Farsi	Khmer	Somali	
	Korean	Spanish	

Is My Information Safe?

Is the online system secure?

Yes, the Census Bureau has taken significant steps to protect online responses. All information entered online is encrypted as soon as the respondent hits “submit.”

Can census responses be shared with law enforcement or other government agencies?

No, responses to the census are confidential. Your information is legally protected by the United States Constitution. Personal information can't be shared with any court, government agency, law enforcement or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

How do I identify an official census worker in person or over the phone?

Census workers must present an ID badge that includes their photo, the U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. To verify, people can also contact Census Questionnaire Assistance, enter the name into the Census Bureau Staff Search, or contact the Utah area office.

What should people do if they have a question or problem?

People can call Census Questionnaire Assistance toll-free for answers to questions or to provide their household responses by phone. The phone number is 1-800-852-6159.

More Information

Visit www.slc.gov/census/ or census.gov or email census2020@slcgov.com