



DEPARTMENT OF
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Plans Underway for 2017 Economic Census

Hagåtña - U.S. Census Bureau officials Bill Samples, Economic Census Assistant Survey Director, and Robert Nusz, Economic Census Assistant Survey Director Staff Chief, are currently on Guam to finalize plans for the 2017 Economic Census. During their visit they will be meeting with business organizations and government officials as part of the Census Bureau's outreach efforts. The economic census is the official five-year measure of businesses and provides a comprehensive measure of economic activity by industry and election district for the island.

The Guam Department of Labor encourages all businesses for their cooperation in making this another successful report on the health of the economy for Guam. "Results of this survey will help businesses and policy makers to see industry trends, identify areas of strength in the economy, and allow businesses to make data driven decisions," Samples said.

Businesses on Guam will receive census forms by mail in early May of this year. Completed forms are due on June 12, 2018. Response to the 2017 Economic Census is required by law under Title 13 of the United States Code. The same law provides for the confidentiality of all responses, and states the data can be used for statistical purposes only.

If businesses have questions when they receive the economic census letter requesting a response, there will be a local contact phone number provided. The 2017 Economic Census will be an all online data collection. "Online reporting is easy, improves accuracy, and reduces cost and processing time," Nusz said. For secure online reporting, instructions and a unique company code will be provided to respondents via official U.S. mail. Small businesses in Guam will have a paper option available.

The economic census report contains aggregate and industry level tables on number of establishments, sales, payroll, number of employees, size of firm, capital expenditures, and election district, as well as statistics on legal form of organization, and citizenship and gender of the owners. It also includes sales by type of business and class of customer.

Small and large businesses can use census statistics to develop business plans, identify business opportunities, define markets, assess competition, attract investment, manage sales and evaluate efficiency.

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Business organizations, industry professionals, economic analysts and business reporters can use census statistics to assess industry growth and change, prepare economic forecasts, define legislative priorities, and produce educational materials.

Federal and local agencies use census statistics to design economic development and regulatory programs, evaluate program effects, conduct trade negotiations, and prepare revenue and spending plans. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses the statistics to develop estimates of gross domestic product (GDP).

Final census results for Guam are expected to be released in October 2019.

More Information on the 2017 Economic Census and access to results from the 2017 Economic Census are available at: www.census.gov/EconomicCensus

The Guam Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics division is assisting with survey design and logistics planning regarding dissemination of the survey instruments.

A Press Conference will be held on **Thursday, April 12, 2018** at **11:00 a.m.** at the Guam Department of Labor Conference Room located at the GCIC Building, 414 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 400 (4th floor) in Hagåtña.

For more information, contact Gary A. Hiles, Chief Economist, Guam Department of Labor at 475-7062.

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