

NWX-US DEPT OF COMMERCE (US)

**Selected Findings from the 2017 Economic Census of Island Areas
February 10, 2021**

Operator: Good afternoon and thank you all for holding. Your lines have been placed on a listen-only mode until the question and answer portion. At that time if you would like to ask a question please press Star 1. And I would like to remind all parties the call is now being recorded. If you have any objections please disconnect at this time. And I would now like to turn the call over to Andrew Hait. Thank you. You may begin.

Andy Hait: Greetings, thank you so much. Thank you everyone for joining us this afternoon, or this morning for any of our West Coast or Pacific Island attendees. My name is Andy Hait. I'm an Economist at the U.S. Census Bureau at our office in Maryland and today we are going to be talking about some data that we just actually completed in the Economic Census of Island Areas.

This is one of our key economic programs at the Census Bureau, our business surveys, and today we're going to be talking a little bit about this program. We're going to talk about where you can go to access the information and we're going to provide some key selected findings. So let's go ahead and get started.

Again, our agenda today is going to be first starting off with an overview. Many of you are familiar, I'm sure, with the Census Bureau's Demographic surveys. We just completed for example our big population census that we do every ten years. No, that is not the only thing we do at the Census Bureau, so

we'll talk a little tiny bit about the business programs we have at Census and will talk about the Economic Census of Island Areas.

I'm going to do a very quick comparison between the information that is available in the Economic Census versus the Economic Census of Island areas. They are very similar but there are a couple of differences which I will highlight on that slide.

Then we'll spend a little bit of time talking about where you can actually go to access the data from the Economic Census of Island Areas. They have a really nice website where they've loaded a number of their data files up there for you to be able to view and download. But the main dissemination platform for our data, including the Economic Census of Island Areas, is data.census.gov. This is our new enterprise dissemination platform and is where the data are available. And they are also available in a few other tools and I'll very briefly talk about those.

Then I'm going to spend just a few minutes providing some selected findings from this program. I'm going to focus primarily at the sector level, for example, manufacturing, retail, and accommodation and food services. But I do want to remind you all now (and you'll hear it in a few more minutes) that the data program itself actually includes a lot more information than what I'm going to cover today. You wouldn't want me to review every single statistic or we'd be on here for three or four hours.

We will also speak a little bit about the county level data that is available from the Economic Census of Island Areas. And again, I want to remind you that there's more than just simply county level information; state and county level data. And then finally at the end we'll take some questions.

I do want to let you all know that I have a couple of my data expert colleagues with me on the call today. So, if there are any real “stump Andy” kinds of questions that come up, my colleagues from this program area will be able to be on to answer those questions.

And I want to remind you all also that you today have two ways that you can ask your question. For those of you who called in on the telephone today you will actually be able to ask your question via our operator, via the phone. So at the very end of the presentation I’ll make an announcement to our operator that we are ready to take some questions, she will be able to queue up your questions and then you’ll be able to ask of them out loud to us.

In addition you can use the chat feature in WebEx. And for those of you who actually used the audio broadcast feature in the WebEx you will only be able to ask your questions via the chat. So, if you’re – if you did not actually physically call in on the telephone, you will have to actually ask your questions in the chat feature in WebEx.

My colleagues will be monitoring the chat during the presentation so if there's some burning question that you have that you really want to ask while we're going please go ahead and ask of that. Otherwise we'll answer the questions at the very end.

So to get us started. The Census Bureau is way more than just simply the Decennial Census, the population census. In fact, we conduct more than 130 monthly, quarterly annual and periodic censuses, surveys and other kinds of programs each and every single year. They include demographic programs like the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey. These are two programs that provide really rich data - demographic, socioeconomic and housing data about the nation’s population.

And I do want to quick – make a quick mention - that there is a Puerto Rico Community Survey component of the American Community Survey. So ACS, as we like to call it, does include demographic socioeconomic and housing data for Puerto Rico so just a key point.

Every five years, though, we do a Census of Governments and an Economic Census. These are the official five-year measures of American businesses and American state and local government. These are two key programs.

Those business surveys are best visualized in the pyramid on the right. And this is a slide I use a lot when I'm doing presentations.

At the very top of the pyramid is our monthly and quarterly surveys. These are our most timely programs, but they tend to be the least detailed in terms of geographic coverage and in terms of other dimensions like industry data.

For example, the monthly retail trade survey publishes monthly information on retail sales, but it is only available at the national level. There are no state or local area data, and currently there are no monthly and quarterly surveys that cover the five U.S. territories.

Below there are our annual surveys. We do 20 annual programs that publish data for selected sectors of the U.S. economy and/or programs that cover all sectors of the U.S. economy.

For example there's a program called County Business Patterns. It's one of our key annual programs that I direct a lot of users to. That program provides information each and every single year on employer businesses. Data are published on number of businesses, employment, and payroll and yes, the

County Business Patterns program does include some data for the U.S. territories - for the island areas. So, here's an annual program that you can turn to get some information for the U.S. territories.

At the bottom of the pyramid is our baseline and Benchmark Economic Census. This program is done each and every five years and it provides the most detailed information that is available from the Census Bureau on businesses.

This slide provides a little bit of information about the complexity, that detail that is shown in the Economic Census. The Economic Census covers every two through six-digit NAICS code, with a couple of exceptions. We, for example, do not cover agriculture, which is NAICS 11, North American Industry Classification System Code 11 because U.S. Department of Agriculture does.

This is also our most detailed program in terms of geographic coverage. The Economic Census covers data at the national, state, metro, county and even place levels. And place is the term that we use in the United States to primarily talk about cities, towns, villages and boroughs. Hold that thought though, because in just a moment you'll see what we define as a place in the U.S. territories.

The Economic Census also produces data on other dimensions. For example we get a lot of questions about small business. Does the Census Bureau publish information on business size? The answer is yes in the Economic Census; franchise status and a wealth of other types of data.

It is also our most detailed program in terms of the number of data variables that are published. Across all sectors of the U.S. economy we publish over

200 unique data variables. They include basic statistics like number of establishments (which is a business location), employment, payroll, and some measure of output like sales, shipments, receipts or revenue, but it also includes a lot of other sector specific data variables. For example, in the manufacturing sector, we publish detailed data on inventories and capital expenditures and assets, depreciation, et cetera.

The Economic Census also publishes something called product lines data. These are detailed breakouts of the product and services provided by businesses. For the 2017 Economic Census we introduced a brand-new classification system called NAPCS, North American Product Classification System, that publish these product line data.

And we actually did a webinar about a month ago on the NAPCS classification system. I would encourage you all to check out the Recorded Webinars page to view that webinar. That is the same page also where today's webinar will be posted.

And one key point about the Economic Census is in 2017 we did not use any paper forms for the Economic Census. We collected all of the data electronically, and those data are released on a number of platforms including data.census.gov, the Census Business Builder suite of tools, and some other data platforms.

In contrast, the Economic Census is very similar. First it publishes (just like in the Economic Census) nearly every industry but these data are only shown down to the five-digit NAICS code. They do not publish statistics down to the full six-digit. And the single biggest reason for this is privacy.

The Census Bureau is committed to protecting privacy of businesses who respond to our programs. And sometimes when you slice and dice that data down to very small levels of industry detail, you may end up (even at the state level) with a very few number of businesses in a specific six-digit NAICS code. So, in the Economic Census of Island Areas, because the size of the five US territories is so much smaller than most U.S. states, we only publish data down to the five-digit NAICS level.

Now in terms of geography, the geographies are also similar. Data are published in the U.S. territories at the state or state equivalent area. Data are published by metropolitan areas just in Puerto Rico and they are just available for the manufacturing and construction sectors. We don't publish metropolitan area level data for the other sectors.

Data are also published at the county equivalent and place (and place equivalent) levels. And right below this line you can see what we define as the county equivalent. So, for example, municipios in Puerto Rico are considered county equivalents. The districts in American Samoa, the municipalities in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and in Guam and finally the islands themselves in the U.S. Virgin Islands are all considered county equivalents. So, if you were interested in looking at something about the retail sector in St. Thomas, you would be able to actually see that data as an island.

At the place level, we do publish data for American Samoa and for the U.S. Virgin Islands. American Samoa places are actually the counties in American Samoa. And in the Virgin Islands we publish data for some of the selected towns in the Virgin Islands.

And finally, for Puerto Rico, we have a very special type of geography called a planning region. These are all published in the Economic Census of Island Areas.

Like the Economic Census the Econ Census of Island areas also publishes data on other dimensions including business size data. So, if you wanted to understand the importance of small businesses, for example in Puerto Rico, you could actually access that data.

The number of data variables published in the Economic Census of Island Areas is a little lower than it is in the regular Economic Census. There's over 100 data variables shown, but these data are also available by product line. So those new NAPCS data that I mentioned we have for the Econ Census are also available for the Economic Census of Island Areas.

Now one interesting difference between ECIA and the Economic Census is that unlike the Economic Census (that only collected data in 2017 electronically) for the Econ of Island Areas did actually continue to use paper forms; there are a variety of reasons why we do that. We want to make sure that businesses have a good opportunity to respond and in some of the U.S. territories paper really is the best way of collecting that information.

And finally on this slide you'll see that the data that we're going to be talking about today are released on data.census.gov and a few other Census data tools. Currently the Economic Census of Island Areas data are not available in Census Business Builder but we're actually working on that in getting those added.

Now let's talk a little bit about where you can actually go to access these data. What you see on your slide is a list of some of the key Census Bureau data

tools that we have that allow you to access census business data. At the very top of the list is a tool called QuickFacts. It allows you to select a state, a county a city, et cetera and see some basic business information for those geographies. And as you work your way down through the list you can see the tools get a little bit more complicated.

At the bottom of the list is our data.census.gov platform and the Application Programming Interface or API. The Economic Census of Island Areas data are available both in data.census.gov and in the Census Bureau's API. So for any of you on the call today who are sort of real data nerds and are very interested in accessing that raw data to incorporate it into your own tools, into your own displays, into your own visualizations, being able to access the data from the API can be very, very helpful.

Now in talking about data.census.gov I want to provide a couple of tips that I have learned over the years of about how best to access these data from the Economic Census of Island Areas on this new data.census.gov platform.

First, I very, very, very much recommend you all please use the Advanced Search feature in data.census.gov. When you first go to that platform you will be given a little search box where you can type in something. And right below there's a link to Advanced Search. This is where you'll want to go to get the ECIA data. I would – I will recommend you not use that search box. I think the results will be better using the advanced search.

When you then use that advanced search you are then presented with a series of filters that allow you to access the data that you are interested in. The first of those filters you're going to come to is something that says Surveys. When you look at that list of surveys you're going to see a whole bunch of surveys

that mention U.S. territories but that start with the letters DEC which stands for decennial.

Please skip all of those DEC ones unless you really are interested in demographic data for the U.S. territories. If you're looking for the business data you will not find it under those surveys.

The one survey you do want to select is titled "ECN Economic Census of Island Areas." If you choose that survey you will give full access to all of the 2017 and the 2012 Economic Census of Island Areas data. I'm really happy about that because right now both of those years of data are available via that one survey selection.

You will see some other surveys that are listed including one that says, "ECN Economic Census of the United States." Skip that. That's where you're going to get data for the U.S. states. You are not going to get data for the five U.S. territories.

Now in terms of those filters, another important filter is the Geographies filter. All of the five U.S. territories are included in the state, county, metro micro and economic census place menus. So for example, if you were interested in looking at data for the San Juan municipio in Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico state total, you would find both Puerto Rico and the San Juan municipio in the state and county menus in data.census.gov.

I encourage you all to not use the Place menu. You will actually see something that says Place. And if you scroll down further you will find Economic Census Place.

All of our economic places, which includes those cities and counties that I mentioned just a moment ago for the U.S. territories, those are available under the Economic Census Place menu, not the regular place menu.

Finally the last menu that you're going to want to use to access these data is the Codes menu. If you're interested in accessing those NAICS based data, you want to go in (like you're going to see in just a minute) and look at some data on the retail sector or manufacturing sector in the U.S. territories, you want to use the Industry Codes menu to access those NAICS data.

I remind you that the data are only available at the two through five-digit NAICS code levels. Don't bother drilling down to the six-digit levels because you won't get any data. And in fact, if you actually go through the menus in the order that I have them presented here - do Surveys first, then choose your geography and then choose your codes. You'll never actually be able to select the six-digit NAICS codes. It won't let you click on it because the survey selection will have already sort of filtered them out.

We did publish, again, NAPCS based (the North American Product Classification System) data for the 2017 ECIA. They are available under the NAPCS Collection menu. So, if you want to see those detailed products and services information for Puerto Rico, for example, you can go in and do that.

That'll give you the 2017 data. If you want to go back and look at the 2012 product line data those are available under a separate menu that says Product and Services codes. So again just another tip.

And finally, under these Codes menus don't bother going to either the commodity code or the materials fuel menus in data.census.gov. There are no

Economic Census of Island Areas data available for either of those two menus. We just don't publish data for those two categories in the ECIA.

The last tip that I want to mention -- and this is a general tip that I tell all users -- is that when you want to really go in and filter the data and do interesting comparisons with it, download the full data set into Excel and then use Excel or whatever spreadsheet application you're comfortable using to do that further filtering.

I talked to a lot of users who often say, "I'm interested specifically in the retail and accommodation food services sectors for this particular area. I want to go in and download that data." They then download it just for those two sectors and then not five minutes after they're done downloading it their colleague or their boss comes into their office and says, "Oh can you also add manufacturing?" Okay the way to fix that is download all of the data, get all of the industries all together, bring it down to your computer and then use your computer for some further filtering.

Now the next couple of slides I'm going to walk through is some findings that I actually found as I was exploring the ECIA data. This is just going to give you a small sampling of the types of information that are all available from the Economic Census of Island Areas. It is certainly not the full breadth. And in fact, when you're looking at this, I hope you will then want to go in and explore it further to understand more about what you're going to actually see.

I do also want to mention to you that we are actually in the process of writing an America Count story on this Economic Census of Island Areas data. It is not available right now but I would encourage you all to check out the America Counts website. You'll see the link to it in a few minutes where you can go and in the coming weeks and actually see that story. And some of the

data that I actually have included here on these slides are data that we actually incorporated into the America Counts story.

So, the first thing I wanted to share with you all is sort of this discussion of how the five U.S. territories compare to the United States as a whole. We all I'm sure know that one of the largest sectors in the . economy is the retail trade sector. Are you curious to find out how does that compare in the U.S. territories? And as you can see in the United States about 14% of all business locations establishments are retail whereas in American Samoa it's about 37.2% so a substantially larger percentage. Puerto Rico is slightly lower than that at about 22% and then the Virgin Islands just below there at 20%. So, you can clearly see that the retail sector in the five U.S. territories is clearly important.

So we then looked at the sales shipments or receipts or revenue type of statistic. One of the industries or sectors that is very important in the United States is the wholesale trade sector. In the United States the wholesale trade sector makes up about 23.6% of the total share of sales, shipments, receipts, or revenue, whereas you can see in the five U.S. territories wholesale is not quite as dominant. In Guam about 12% of the territory total revenue comes from wholesale businesses.

However, if we look at the manufacturing sector, we can see that in the United States manufacturing accounts for about 15% of the total sales shipments, receipts, or revenue whereas, in Puerto Rico and in American Samoa, manufacturing are clearly a dominant and very strong sectors in those two islands. In Puerto Rico about 45% or so of the total revenue of the island comes from the manufacturing sector.

Now changing gears and looking at employment, this is going to quickly compare employment in the health care sector and in the accommodation and food services sector. You can see it on the healthcare side the U.S. share of total employment in healthcare is about 15.5% whereas it's a little lower in some of those U.S. territories -- about 13% for Puerto Rico. However on the accommodation and food services sector, in the United States about 11.2% of the total employment in the U.S. is in this particular sector, whereas we can see in Guam and in the Virgin Islands and in CNMI we can see that the accommodation food services sector is actually quite higher. It's a much more dominant sector in terms of total employment.

In the America Counts story that we're working on that we're releasing we do a comparison between the U.S. territories and some other very tourism dependent states like Nevada and Hawaii, for example. And the ratios are similar where the accommodation food service sector is very important in those very tourism heavy sort of states.

Now I want to look a little bit more about the general distribution of all businesses and sales in some of the different territories. You've already heard me say that the retail trade sector is the dominant sector in American Samoa. You can see there's about 190 businesses in retail trade in American Samoa and this chart clearly shows just how dominant that retail trade sector is in that territory. The next largest is the accommodation and food services sector at - with 52.

Now you will notice there's a couple of sectors – utilities, management companies and enterprises, educational services, and arts and entertainment and recreation - that don't show up here. As many of you know, we do have to suppress data to protect the privacy of individual businesses in certain industries, in certain sectors.

And while it's not nearly as common to have to suppress a two-digit NAICS total, these very broad sector level totals at the state equivalent level, you can see that it does actually happen. Some of these cases are ones where the data had to be suppressed and there may even be some of these where there are truly zero businesses in that sector. So this is the kind of thing that you're going to see when you're looking at our data.

Then, changing gears and looking at the data for Guam, you can see in terms of the retail trade sector how dominant it is in Guam in terms of the sales, shipments or receipts or revenue, but it's not quite as dominant as retail is in American Samoa in terms of number of businesses. The retail trade sector in Guam accounts for about \$2 billion worth of their total revenue whereas the next rank sector accommodation and food services is about \$1.1 billion and right behind that is about \$1 billion is the wholesale trade sector. So again you can see, sort of see the distribution of businesses.

Now many of you may be saying "Okay this is really interesting. I wonder which specific industry within retail trade are so dominant in American Samoa?"

This is – this chart here are just looking at data at the detailed - excuse me at the broad two-digit NAICS level. I would encourage you all to go in and explore that some to look at which specific three-digit or four-digit or five-digit NAICS codes are really the dominant ones in American Samoa and in Guam so again just encouraging you all to check this out in more detail.

Now, one of the other statistics we published in the Economic Census of Island Areas is annual payroll. You can clearly see that in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the accommodation and food services sector

is the largest one in terms of the total annual payroll -- about \$72.5 million in annual payroll for those businesses. Right behind there looks to be the retail trade sector about \$45 million and right behind their healthcare and social assistance sector at \$43 million.

Now because we publish employment and payroll, users can also create ratios, things like annual payroll per employment. So if we were curious to see what is the sector in the U.S. Virgin Islands that pays the most per employee on average, we could actually see that the finance and insurance sector interestingly is the one that actually had the highest average annual payroll per employment at about 64,925.

Right behind there is the wholesale trade sector which typically is a pretty high-paying sector in the United States. And then you can see how does those averages compare to the total average for the entire island. So the total for all sectors averages out to about \$33,373 as compared to like I said \$64,000 for folks who work in the finance and insurance sector.

Last couple of slides I have here talk about employment in Puerto Rico. We can see just like we just saw before that the retail trade sector is clearly the top employer in the island in Puerto Rico. Behind there is actually the healthcare and social assistance sector, then the accommodation and food services, and manufacturing which we saw a moment ago is pretty important in Puerto Rico. And finally the administrative and support and waste management and remediation services. Boy that's a mouthful.

There are a lot of very different types of businesses in that one last sector I mentioned. I would definitely encourage you all to check that out.

Now in my last slide I want to talk something about how the distribution of businesses are across the different counties or county equivalents in the U.S. – in these U.S. territories. So the first chart in the upper left-hand corner is going to look at the three municipalities that are in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

The blue bar that you can just barely see is the municipality of Rota. The orange bar is Saipan and the gray bar is Tinian and you can clearly see that the vast majority of the businesses are in Saipan. There's lots of interesting notes about why that is and I would encourage you all to check out the data to understand sort of how businesses respond. It has a lot to do with where businesses typically get their mail in the CNMI.

So, to the right of there, a list of distributions of businesses in the U.S. Virgin Islands -- St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas. You can clearly see that in terms of the establishments share of businesses the vast majority of the establishments are in St. Thomas, same thing on the sale share and same thing on the employment share. But we can see that that share is a little different when we think about it in terms of the different breakouts there within the islands.

And then finally at the very bottom I pulled out ten municipios for Puerto Rico. These are the top ten municipios ranked on number of establishments. You can see that in San Juan that sector, that municipio is by far the largest, and accounts for the largest share of both the establishments, the sales and the employments.

But there is some interesting things that you can see here. Three of the other municipios (Guaynabo, and I want to apologize if I'm pronouncing this terribly, Carolina, and Humacao -- again I'm probably am butchering that)

you can see that the sales share of sales, shipments, receipts and revenue is different for those three municipios than it is in San Juan.

And when I saw that I was sort of curious to find out I wonder what's going on there while in San Juan you've got a lot – a large share of the establishments and the employment is in that municipio but not as large a share of the sales. The tip is it's all in the industry, the types of businesses that are located in San Juan versus these other three municipios.

So again encouraging you all to go in and check out the more detailed data that's available here so you can kind of learn more about what it is about the economies of these municipios that is making them dominant in certain industries in their areas.

So, to summarize, the Economic Census and the Economic Census of Island Areas provide an amazing wealth of data that a wide variety of users can use in their work. We know that businesses use data from our economic programs a lot to decide about plans for expansion of their business. Maybe they're going to be opening a new business and they want to understand something about the characteristic of businesses like them in the area that they're considering. Is the market open and good one to open a certain type of business?

We know the community planners use our data a lot to help attract businesses in certain industries to their area to help meet the needs of the residents who live in that area. If a community has plenty of restaurants but now they need some grocery stores these data can be really valuable to understand the distribution of those businesses to make the case that this is a good place to open that business.

The Economic Census of Island Areas data is available in a couple of places. They have some great resources available on their website. We've already talked about data.census.gov and some tips. And as I mentioned at the very beginning we are going to be adding data from the Economic Census of Island Areas to Census Business Builder. This is a tool that has been pretty popular. And one of the complaints I've received over the last few years is that they would like us to include more of the U.S. territory data in this tool. We do have some from County Business Patterns we just don't have the ECIA data so that'll be - that's being added.

The point I was making about how the economies in the U.S. territories are in some respects very similar to those that are in the U.S. states and but there's some that are a little different and the different distribution of those businesses by geography also sort of mirrors the U.S. We have U.S. states where a very large portion of the business activity is in a fairly small number of counties. We saw that in some of the US territory data. And there are other U.S. states where the businesses are more evenly distributed across all of the counties in that state.

We do want you to check out this America Counts website. I've included the URLs here for the story that we're going to be releasing on the Economic Census of Island areas. I promise you it will be sort of an interesting look at some of what we talked about today but also a lot of other really interesting things.

So, I want to say thank you to you all for taking time out of today's - out of your schedule today to attend the webinar. Let's go ahead and see if anybody has any questions.

Operator: Thank you. And at this time if you would like to ask a question please press Star 1, please unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. Once again if you would like to ask a question please press Star 1. And I do have a question from (Nicole).

Andy Hait: Great.

(Nicole): Good afternoon, hello.

Andy Hait: Hi.

(Nicole): Hello. Can you hear me well?

Andy Hait: Yes I can.

(Nicole): Okay. Well I didn't get to see the charts or whatever. I'm a kind of a visual person, but what I gather from what I heard I'm trying to get a clear concise understanding so I can be able to convey this information to the human capital stakeholders in my community. So I was trying to see the Economic Census is for business versus demographic, it's community metropolitan areas versus municipality areas and then the NAP, North American Product.

I'm sorry I kind of brainstormed through some of the questions. And then I was trying to see do the GPA the - what is that the Growth Population Data, is that defined through Census Tract?

And then finally but not least so infrastructure priorities will go to commercial and not the infrastructure community. And then I know a lot of - I don't know, it might be I know I know personally so is it retail, is a mass of territories in

the five regions, is that therefore outweigh of the community infrastructure usage?

Andy Hait: Okay so...

((Crosstalk))

Andy Hait: ...you had a lot of questions there. So the data that I included in the presentation today is all going to be made available to you all. So you might have seen the chat message that my colleague may have put out saying that today's Webinar was recorded. We are going to be posting the recording, the presentation materials themselves and the transcript will be posted in a week or so. That will include all those charts. I would also encourage you all to...

(Nicole): So then...

Andy Hait: ...browse the data to be able to go in and do some things with the numbers that we don't - that we didn't do in this particular Webinar today.

(Nicole): And (unintelligible).

((Crosstalk))

Andy Hait: Yes go ahead.

(Nicole): The DCIA I think it's - I didn't get that acronym or did I say that correctly DCIA?

Andy Hait: It's ECIA is what I was mentioning which stands for the Economic Census of Island Areas. So this is a program that we conduct at the Census Bureau that

collects information about businesses in the five U.S. territories. And so that...

(Nicole): And that was ECIA?

Andy Hait: ECIA right, Economic Census of Island Areas ECIA. So that's what today's Webinar was about. There's great information available that you could help - that could help community planners decide where do you want to invest our resources to be able to encourage certain types of businesses to move here.

So for example you might look at the data and say there are certain sectors of the economy that are very strong in this particular territory. We probably don't need any more of those types of businesses, but maybe you might say in this particular area of Puerto Rico let's say for example there's less healthcare businesses like say maybe then there are in other areas. So maybe that's a great place to open a healthcare business because the market, the demographic characteristics, the people that live there, their needs are not being as well served as in other communities that has more healthcare businesses. So this data can be very...

((Crosstalk))

(Nicole): However how would that overlap - especially how would that overlap businesses and territories that have already been grandfathered in for 200 years with TIF and then would that overlap infrastructure or that - that was - so that's two different checks and balance for - excuse me for lack of terminology, because I know a lot of communities have grandfather clause in and TIF dollars and other economic growth to keep those businesses within those sectors.

However, I know Census Tract is collected to improve infrastructure. So then is that a violation of federal law if you would use that infrastructure money to then keep those particular commercial business that's already grandfather cloused in, infrastructure of support and neglect, the blighted areas that the Census tract is taken a census for?

Andy Hait: So it sounds like your question is getting a little bit more detailed then we probably have time to talk about here. What I'd encourage you to do is either send me an email. My email address is here on the screen. It's andrew.w.hait, H-A-I-T@census.gov. And my direct desk phone number is 301-763-6747.

Please give me either a call or send me an email and we can definitely go over this in more detail. I just - I kind of feel like the questions you're asking are things that I could be on the phone with you for an hour for it. I don't think we want to have everybody here hear all of that so that'd be okay?

(Nicole): Yes I sir respectfully so, I do apologize.

Andy Hait: Yes, that's okay, no problem. Thank you for your questions, really good - really great question.

Operator: And once again if you would like to ask a question please press Star 1. One moment please for the next question. And I am showing no further questions at this time.

Andy Hait: Great. So I did see a couple of questions that came in on the chat and I will just kind of read back a couple of them so you all can see that. As many of you know we do a special program at the Census Bureau called the Survey of Business Owners, SBO.

That program measures information on the race, ethnicity, gender and veteran status of the business owner. And one of the attendees today asked a question about whether or not that particular survey had been merged in with the Economic Census and that Econ Census was now including the data for both the Regular Econ Census data and the old SBO data.

The short answer is no. They are still two distinct programs. But the slightly longer answer is that the actual survey of business owners, SBO is actually no longer. That survey used to be done every five years in the same years as we do the Econ Census but it was actually replaced a couple of years ago with a new program called the Annual Business Survey, ABS.

ABS publishes similar information as we used to have on the SBO, information on the race, ethnicity, gender and (unintelligible) of the business owner but it is not part of the Economic Census. And I will also add this. We do not publish data and that survey for the five U.S. territories, so it just covers the U.S. states. So unfortunately those of you who are interested in that, that is not in that program.

Looking through the list of other questions that we got, I want to see if I can see a few other ones. The user asked a question about self-employed people. As some of you know, we do a special program at Census called Non-employer Statistics which is a program that publishes information on self-employed people.

In the Economic Census we do not include those self-employed people in the Economic Census. They are only published in the economic – in the Non-employer Statistics program. And that is also true for the Economic Census of Island Areas. That program only covers employer businesses just like the regular Economic Census.

For the non-employers you need to - for those self-employed people you need to go to the non-employer statistics. Unfortunately, too there are no non-employer statistics data available for the U.S. territories. That non-employer data only cover the United States states and counties, et cetera So great question. I wish that I could give you actual - a better answer than that but again it doesn't cover that.

Let's see here I think I saw one more question over here that I thought would be good to read back to you all. I didn't see that one. So I think that looks like it's pretty good. (Bobby) - I have one of my colleagues on the phone - did you see any other questions that you might want to repeat back before we end for today?

(Bobby): Somebody just now asked about the ECIA that was annual. But it's once every five years for years that end in two and seven.

Andy Hait: Right, right. The one thing I do want to let you all know that I'm actually kind of proud to say is the ECIA is done every five years and it actually covers all five U.S. territories. I mentioned that the American Community Survey is this great annual program but it only publishes data for Puerto Rico and not the other our territories.

The only time that we have data on the demographic side of census for the four other territories other than Puerto Rico is every ten years as part of the economic - as part of the Decennial Census. So, I'm pretty happy that we've got business data every five years for all five U.S. territories where we don't quite have that level of detail available for the other four territories on the demographic side. So again, thank you to all the businesses in the five U.S. territories who filled out their forms to allow us to publish this great data.

So I think that's the main questions that I saw. Again I want to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend today's Webinar. If you have any questions that come up after you think about this some more and when you start looking at the data please again feel free to contact me at the email address shown and have a great afternoon.

Operator: Thank you. This does conclude today's conference. You may disconnect at this time.

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