The Economic Census is the U.S. Government’s official five-year measure of American business and the economy. In October through December 2012, forms were sent out to nearly four million businesses, including large, medium and small companies representing all industries and regions of the country. Respondents were asked to provide a range of operational and performance data for their companies. Local trade associations and chambers of commerce, government agencies, and national business organizations rely on economic census data for economic planning and making business decisions.

2012 Economic Census Geographic Areas

Economic census data is not tabulated for all of the geographic areas included in the Decennial Census and American Community Survey (ACS). For the 2012 Economic Census, data is available for:

- Economic Places
- Consolidated Cities
- Counties and county equivalents
- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
- Combined Statistical Areas
- Metropolitan Divisions
- Planning Regions (Puerto Rico only)

In addition to these areas, data will be published in American FactFinder using Geographic Component codes for areas outside metro areas, statewide areas, and offshore areas.

Economic Census Planning Regions

Planning regions are areas in Puerto Rico that replace the Commercial Regions published for the 2007 and earlier economic censuses. The Puerto Rico Planning Board grouped municipios into 11 planning regions, which are used only to tabulate economic census data.

Economic Places

The concept of an economic census place (EC place) varies from that of a place used to tabulate data for the decennial census and ACS. Entities that may be included as an EC place include incorporated places, census designated places (CDPs) in selected states, minor civil divisions (MCDs) in selected states, and balances of MCDs or counties.

An incorporated place, CDP, MCD, or balance of MCD or county qualifies as an EC place if it contains:

- 2,500 or more people according to the 2010 Decennial Census,
- 2,500 or more jobs according to data from the 2006-2010 5-year ACS period estimates, or
- Is a new or significantly revised place since the 2010 Census and has an estimated population of 2,500 or greater.

For the 2007 Economic Census, 5,000 or more people or jobs were required to qualify as an economic place. The lower requirement for 2012 allows for data for more small communities, a total of nearly 5,000 additional economic places.

Other 2012 Economic Census Geographic Areas

The economic census county and consolidated city boundaries are similar to the corresponding current boundaries, except that they are as of January 1, 2012. The economic census metropolitan/micropolitan statistical area, combined statistical area, and metropolitan division delineations are as of February 2013; however, the component county and equivalent area boundaries are as of January 1, 2012, in order to match the vintage of the 2012 Economic Census.

More Geographic Area Information

More detailed descriptions of the Economic Census geographic areas can be found in the 2014 TIGER/Line Shapefiles technical documentation.
TIGER/LINE SHAPEFILES

The 2012 Economic Census geographic area layers will be included in the 2014 TIGER/Line Shapefiles release, available on the TIGER/Line Shapefiles page:

http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html

DATA AND MORE INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC CENSUS

Some 2012 Economic Census data is currently available through the American FactFinder:

http://factfinder2.census.gov

Find out more about the 2012 Economic Census and the available data:

http://www.census.gov/econ/census

Just Released from the 2012 Economic Census

Employment by School and Employee Bus Transportation businesses increased by 26,589 from 2007-2012 (up nearly 13%).