Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Transition of the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) to the Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS)

Date: December 19, 2024

Release Note on Transition of the Household Pulse Survey

The cross-sectional data collection for the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) ended with Phase 4.2 on September 16, 2024, with the final data released on October 3, 2024. As part of the Census Bureau's efforts to ensure these vital data are produced in an efficient, less burdensome manner that enhances their richness for informing policy, the Census Bureau is introducing new methods for conducting the survey. Since early October 2024, HPS content has been incorporated into a longitudinal design which will benefit HPS data by allowing direct measurement of change over a much longer period of time in critical elements like spending, inflation, and other social and economic indicators of well-being. This first release of the longitudinal HPS was collected October 15 – 29, 2024. Data users can access the October 2024 HPS questionnaire and data on the HPS Technical Documentation and Public Use File pages, respectively.

In January 2025, the HPS will be relaunched as the Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS). The HTOPS will continue the strong tradition of the HPS by rapidly providing insight into national events that have social and economic impacts on U.S. households. It will complement more traditional federal surveys by producing data much closer to real time as the events develop. The HTOPS will begin producing an experimental data product, like the HPS, but the goal is to produce an official data product as the methodology matures.

Along with HPS content, HTOPS will enable the Census Bureau to address research and content development needs for its census and survey programs. The HTOPS will be one more tool among the Census Bureau's data collection efforts to provide the nation with quality, up-to-date information that informs our future. Additionally, HTOPS addresses several challenges identified during the implementation of HPS. These include improving response rates, reducing respondent burden, and expanding coverage to include non-internet households. More information on the transition to HTOPS is available at the following blog post: Evolving the Household Pulse Survey.

Additionally, a special implementation of the Household Pulse was fielded in December 2024 to measure impacts of Hurricanes Milton and Helene in the Southeast United States. Data will be released in early 2025.