United States Census 2000

Navigating the Census:

A Guide for Merchant Mariners and Their Onshore Advocates

The Census Bureau will work with the U.S. Maritime Administration to identify vessels in operation at the time of the census — including factory trawlers, floating processors, tuna boats and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessels.

Some merchant mariners will receive both an onshore census questionnaire and a shipboard census questionnaires.

Where Will You Be Counted?

The majority of people in the United States will be counted at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting residence or legal residence. Determining their usual residence is easy for most people — but it may not be so apparent for those who go to sea. Here are the rules:

- Crews of U.S. flag merchant vessels engaged in inland waterway transportation are counted at their usual onshore residence, (the place where they live and sleep most of the time when they are onshore).
- Crews of U.S. flag merchant vessels docked in a U.S. port or sailing from one U.S. port to another U.S. port are counted at their usual onshore residence if they report one (the place where they live and sleep most of the time when they are onshore) or otherwise on the vessel.

How Will You Receive Your Census Questionnaire?

If you have an onshore home in the U.S., your census questionnaire will be delivered to you there. If you are at sea during the census, questionnaires will be delivered to your ship. Some of you will receive both an onshore census questionnaire and a shipboard census questionnaire. Please respond to both.

Are You or Someone in Your Family Looking for Part Time, Temporary Work?

Hiring from the community is an important part of Census 2000's strategy for success. Census workers receive up to three days of structured, paid training in organizing work, reading maps, filling out forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations. They will work in their own communities with daily hands-on coaching from a supervisor. In addition to performing work important to the community, successful employees will receive a letter from the Census Bureau documenting their acquired skills. The Census Bureau is actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census. Call **1-888-325-7733** toll-free for more information about Census 2000 jobs.

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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U.S. Census Bureau

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The best way to make sure people like yourself are represented in the census is to simply fill out the form and encourage others to do so.

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at http://www.census.gov or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573

Boston 617-424-4977

Charlotte 704-344-6624

Chicago 312-353-9759

Dallas 214-655-3060

Denver 303-231-5029

Detroit 248-967-9524

Kansas City 816-801-2020

Los Angeles 818-904-6522

New York City 212-620-7702 or 212-620-7703

Philadelphia 215-597-8312

Seattle 206-553-5882

Answering the Questionnaire that Comes to Your Residence Will Be Easy.

- Census 2000 questionnaires will be easy-to-read and simple to complete.
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers will be opened in neighborhoods across the U.S.
- A toll-free telephone help line to reach a multilingual staff will be listed on the census questionnaire.

Answering the Census is Important, Easy and Safe.

The Constitution directs the Census Bureau to conduct a complete accounting of every resident in the United States every 10 years. Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest. People who answer the census help their communities obtain state and federal funding, as well as providing valuable information for building hospitals and highways, and providing housing assistance and more. Census information helps decision-makers understand which neighborhoods need new schools and which ones need greater services for the elderly. The best way to make sure people like yourself are represented in the census is to simply fill out the form and encourage others to do so.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share the individual answers it receives with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to 5 years in prison and $5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.