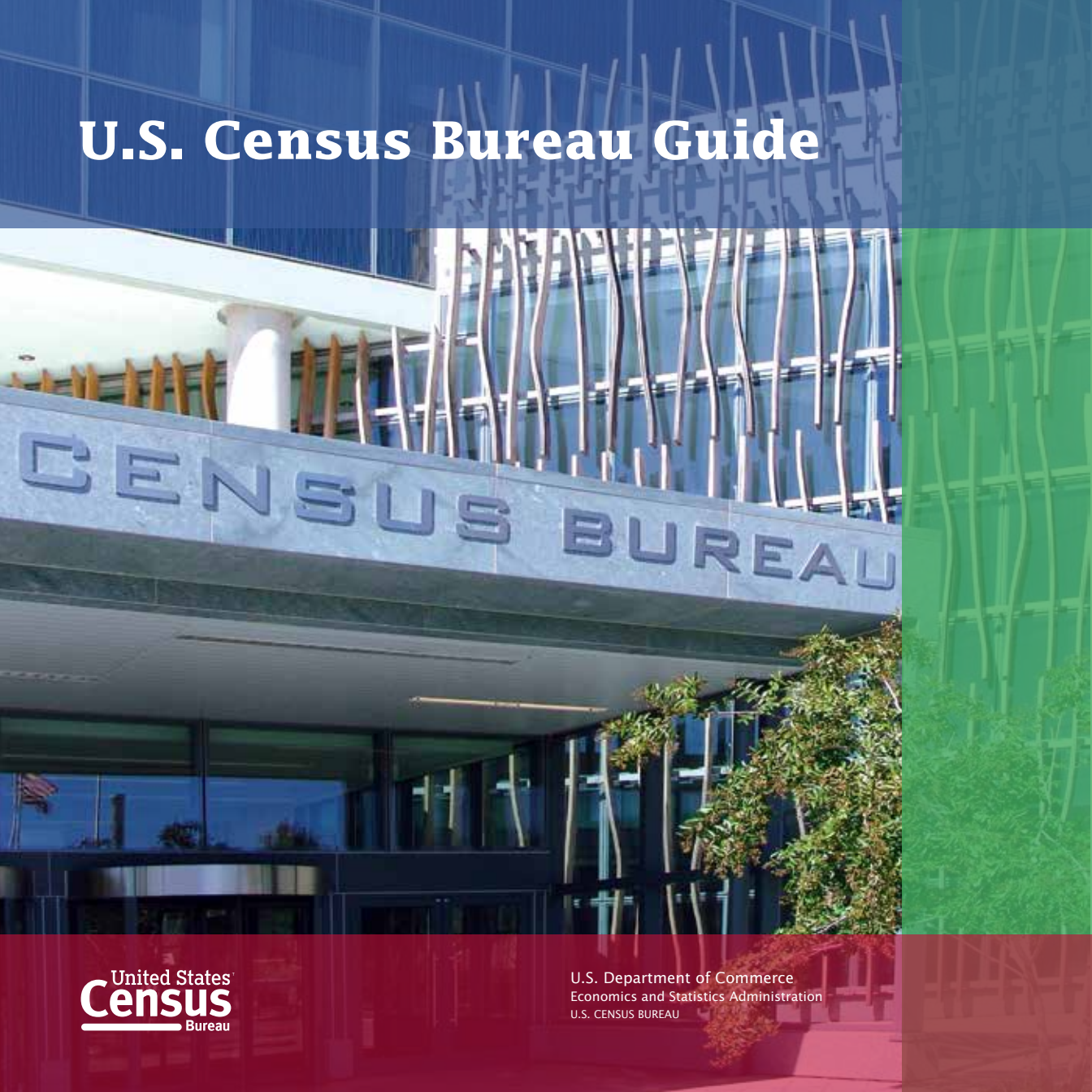


# U.S. Census Bureau Guide



United States  
**Census**  
Bureau

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



The U.S. Census Bureau headquarters, located in Suitland, Maryland, houses about 5,000 permanent employees.

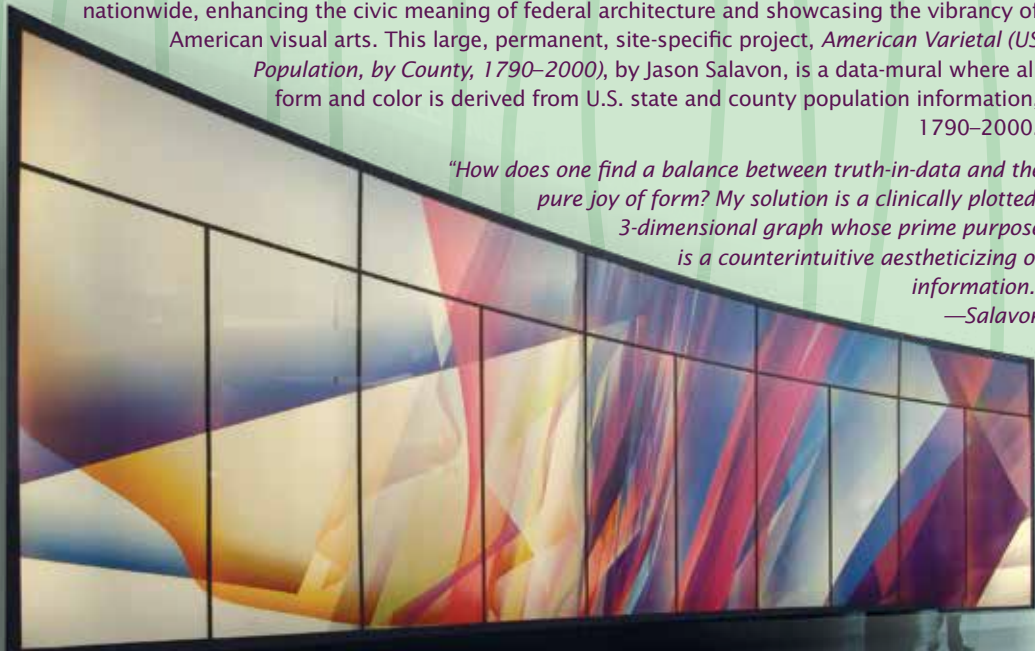
The U.S. Census Bureau headquarters is a state-of-the-art workplace, whose elegant and efficient design has received widespread praise. The building has won the General Service Administration (GSA) Design Excellence Award and has achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver rating.

The facility consists of two eight-story towers with a total floor area of 1.5 million square feet. The amenities include a full service food facility; a snack shop; the Census Federal Credit Union; and a convenient office supply store, PaperClips.

The building officially opened on August 7, 2006, and the employees moved into their office spaces on a weekly basis through April 2007.

The GSA Art in Architecture Program oversees the commissioning of artwork for new federal buildings nationwide, enhancing the civic meaning of federal architecture and showcasing the vibrancy of American visual arts. This large, permanent, site-specific project, *American Varietal (US Population, by County, 1790–2000)*, by Jason Salavon, is a data-mural where all form and color is derived from U.S. state and county population information, 1790–2000.

*“How does one find a balance between truth-in-data and the pure joy of form? My solution is a clinically plotted, 3-dimensional graph whose prime purpose is a counterintuitive aestheticizing of information.”*  
—Salavon



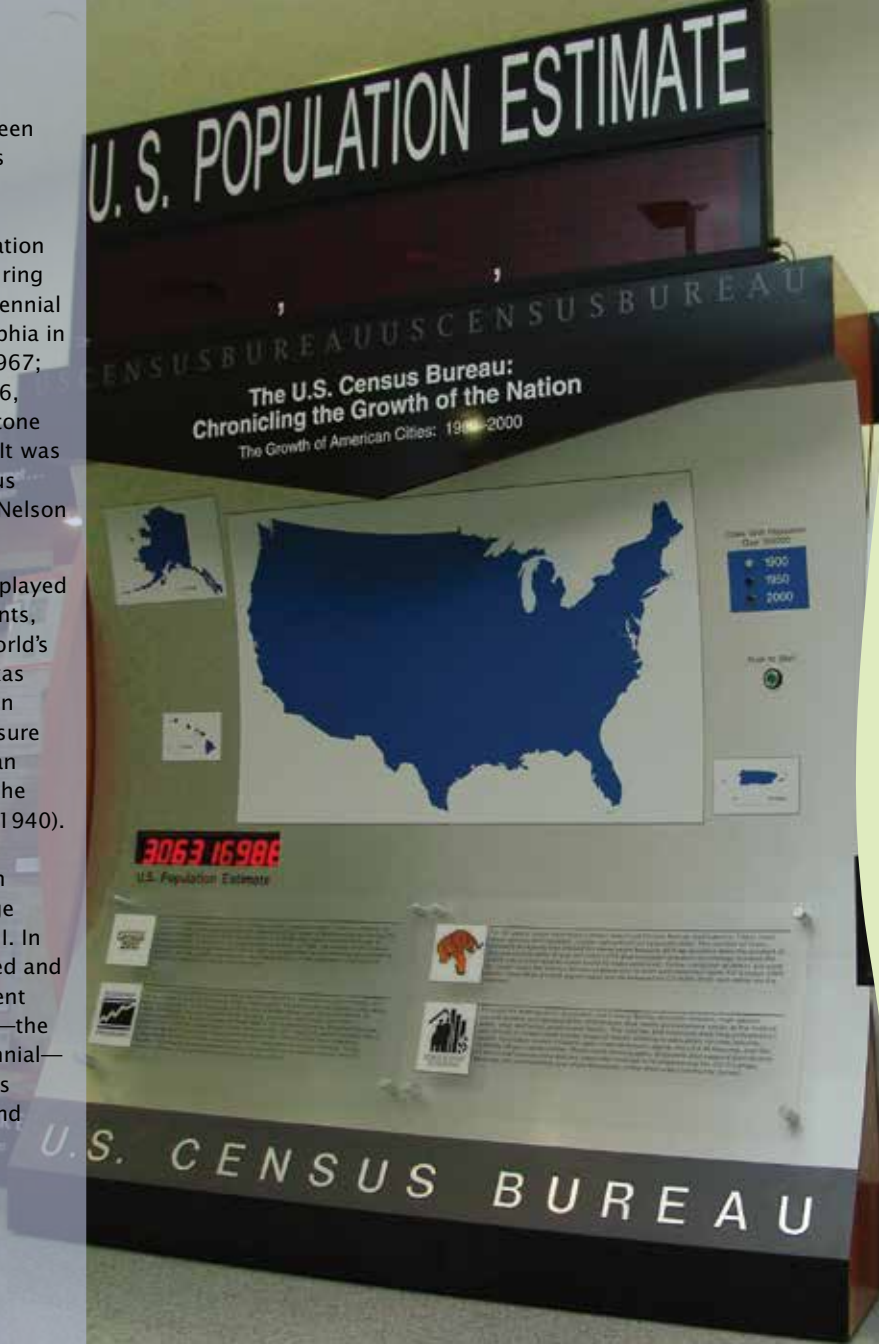
main entry/hallway

The main entrance to census headquarters



Since 1926, the U.S. population clock has been a natural point of focus for the U.S. population as it approaches major milestones. The population reached 117 million during the nation's Sesquicentennial Celebration in Philadelphia in 1926; 200 million in 1967; and 300 million in 2006, signifying a new milestone in our nation's history. It was designed by two Census Bureau employees, Ed Nelson and Ralph Phillius.

The clock has been displayed at a number of big events, such as the Chicago World's Fair (1933–34), the Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas (1936), the Treasure Island World's Fair in San Francisco (1939), and the New York World's Fair (1940). In 1940, the big clock returned to Washington and remained in storage throughout World War II. In 1951, it was refurbished and placed at the Department of Commerce. In 2002—the Census Bureau's centennial—it was moved to Census Bureau headquarters and remains there today.



From a distance, this work of art appears to be just a quilt, but it is much more. It is the graphic history of the Census Bureau's first 100 years and the role it has played, from "Inkwell to Internet," in chronicling our nation's past. At the center of the artwork is the Census Bureau seal, surrounded by 100 compass points—one for each year of our existence as an organization until 2002. At each major directional compass point is a ten-pointed star, created from two five-pointed stars. These represent the decennial census conducted every 10 years and the economic census every 5 years—another illustration of our 100 years of service to our nation.

The story begins at the lower left corner and moves clockwise.

The quilt depicts the years before 1902 by giving examples of our constitutional mandate and the growth of the original 13 colonies, along with the advancements made in trade, industry, and transportation by the United States.



The Census Bureau Tree of Honor was created in remembrance of two Census employees, Marion Britton and Waleska Martinez, who died in

the crash of the hijacked plane in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Additionally, it is a tribute to the men and women of the Census Bureau who made significant contributions in furthering the mission of the Census Bureau to be the preeminent collector and provider of timely, relevant, and quality data about the people and economy of the United States.

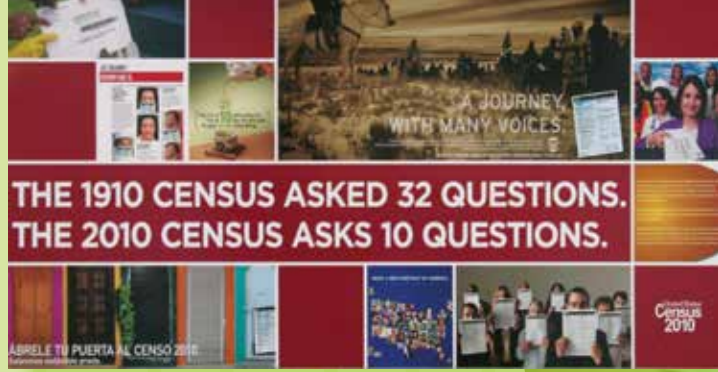
main entry/hallway





The 2010 Census had one of the most extensive and far-reaching marketing campaigns in census history. The 10 Questions, Nascar, and Totem Pole were three exhibits in the "Road Tour." According to Census Bureau Director Dr. Robert Groves, "The Road Tour was a cross-country interactive experience specifically designed to encourage participation in the 2010 Census by reaching out to historically hard-to-count audiences."

The 10 Questions exhibit is a ten-panel display that shows each of the 10 questions included on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. Greg Biffle drove the 2010 Census-sponsored No.16 Ford Fusion. His race car featured the 2010 Census logo on the hood, sides, and rear, along with a Post-it notes paint job that read "mail it back!"



How the years have changed—the 1910 Census consisted of 32 questions compared to the 2010 Census, which had 10 questions.

The Totem Pole by Tlingit artist Tommy Joseph was conceived by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and commissioned by the Seattle Regional Census Center. It illustrates the support for the 2010 Census by Alaskan Natives. "The artist envisioned the colorful 2010 Census hands logo symbolizing all peoples on a robe worn by a figure of a man, between an eagle and raven," said Deni Luna, census media specialist who documented the process on video. "The two Tlingit moieties, the eagle and raven, depicted together symbolize all people."



Employees walk through the white corridor.



## Exhibit in Two Parts: America in Numbers and Innovation and Invention

The Census Bureau exhibits include an interactive kiosk with decade by decade census facts, a rack displaying the latest Census Bureau publications, and a static reader rail with information about Census Bureau programs and products such as the decennial census, economic census, TIGER, LED, and Landview.

These two exhibits were 8 years in the making and the result of the combined efforts of a community of data enthusiasts. America in Numbers celebrates the wide range of data collected by the Census Bureau to support the changing needs of the American people. Innovation and Invention describes technical innovations in collecting, storing, and analyzing data; methodological innovations in capturing and processing data; and data innovations in statistics, demography, interpretation, and representation of data.



Employee exploring the exhibit interactive screens.





Operated by Eurest Dining Services, the Census Café offers freshly prepared meals daily for breakfast and lunch. It features nine food stations where employees can watch Eurest staff toss fresh ingredients to assemble a selection of culturally diverse entrees or choose from a variety of prepared foods such as soups, sandwiches, and desserts.



The Census Café is located on the first floor of the North Building along Main Street near the blue core elevators. It features a dining area bathed in natural light and an outdoor terrace eating area strategically located to face the woods next to the Suitland House.







The Census Federal Credit Union (CFCU) is located on the first floor of the South Building along Main Street near the green core elevators. The CFCU offers a variety of products and services from credit cards to home equity loans. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Paperclips Etc., an office supply company, is located on the first floor of the South Building along Main Street near the yellow core elevators. Paperclips Etc. is part of Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind and provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.



The Sunny Spot is located on the first floor of the South Building along Main Street near the green core elevators. It features freshly baked muffins, pastries, croissants, cold sandwiches, ice cream, fruits, chips, and the 10 best-selling candy brands of candy bars. Also included are greeting cards, nylons, balloons, and knickknacks. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Census Weight and Endurance Training (CWET) Shop is a state-of-the-art facility that offers both group and individual programs such as aerobics, kickboxing, muscle works, power yoga, sports conditioning, and Zumba.







The Census Bureau Health Unit is a federal occupational health unit staffed by federal nurses and a contracted, part-time board certified occupational health physician. The Health Unit provides the health service listed below:

- Allergy shots
- Annual influenza immunizations
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Health screenings
- On-the-job injuries
- Physical exams
- Response to medical emergencies
- Conducts monthly body fat analysis
- Facilitates monthly support groups
- CPR Training
- Maintains a variety of health videos
- Coordinates Red Cross Blood Drives



The Suitland Federal Child Development Center, which is used by employees of the Census Bureau, NOAA, and the Office of Naval Intelligence, opened in 2003. It features an outdoor playground, completely fenced in for the safety of the children.



The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers professional counseling and referral services to all Census Bureau employees, including supervisors and managers. Assistance with substance abuse, mental or emotional issues, marital/family conflict, stress, and other problems is provided. The program is voluntary and all information is kept confidential.



The Census Bureau Library houses four collections: (1) the Census Collection, (2) the General Collection, (3) the International Collection, and (4) the Special Collection. The Census Collection includes materials from the 1980–2000 Censuses of Population and Housing, economic censuses, agriculture censuses, statistical abstracts from 1878 to the present, Survey of County Business Patterns, and other publications from the Census Bureau. These items may be checked out.

The General Collection includes books and periodicals focusing on population, housing, agriculture, industry, business, foreign trade, economics, government, statistical and survey methodology, management and administration, computer science, and law. These items may be checked out.

Formerly stored at the International Library at Washington Plaza II, the International Collection, consisting of international statistical data from foreign countries, is now housed in room 1L001 (red section) at Census Bureau headquarters.

Materials in the Special Collection are located in the old storage room in room 1L001 (red section) and must be used in the Library. The Special Collection includes census materials from 1700–1970, Census Authors' Papers, a centralized collection of materials published by Census Bureau employees, and the Microforms Collection which includes U.S. censuses, foreign trade statistics, back issues of the Federal Register, and major newspapers.



This piece, designed by Sam Gilliam, was commissioned by the General Service Administration Art in Architecture Program.

Sam Gilliam is widely recognized as one of the foremost contemporary African American artists, whose work reflects the school of art known as color field painting. Inspired by laundry hanging outside his studio, he was the first artist to champion displaying a painted canvas hanging without stretcher bars.



The Census Bureau Library is an outstanding building with a double-height circulation area and reading room. The mezzanine level houses the International Collection, with corporate and special collections on the ground level. Study carrels and reading tables are available to patrons.



Typical branch chief's office space.



Typical associate director's office space.



There are 47 group rooms located throughout the Census Bureau. Typically each can accommodate up to 20 people.



Employee breakroom.



There are six pantry stations located on floors three through eight. Each pantry contains two coffmakers, a refrigerator, and a microwave.

The office areas are organized by individual workstations into open-plan "bull pens." Throughout the entire building, open workspaces with low partitions surround the perimeter to allow for natural light exposure and easy communication. Offices with glass fronts and internal support rooms are located in the core, easily accessible to each work group.





There are 23 training rooms dispersed throughout the complex. Each training room can seat 20 to 40 people. The training rooms can be configured into multiple furniture settings for training sessions.



Four conference rooms can be used individually or expanded as needed. Each contains full audiovisual and interactive video conferencing call capability.



The Census Bureau has its own state-of-the-art production center. Its mission is to facilitate the development of full media pieces for programs of high quality, diversity, creativity, excellence, and innovation when telling the census story.



The auditorium seats 500 in a theater-like arrangement with a retractable stage and views of the landscape. It is column free and can be divided into three separate areas. Maximum flexibility has been incorporated into the space to accommodate a variety of events.





The area where Census Bureau headquarters is located is named after Colonel Samuel Taylor Suit, a nineteenth century businessman and entrepreneur, whose farm, "Suitland," was located near the current intersection of Suitland and Silver Hill Roads.

Col. Suit's son, Arthur, owned some 41 acres of land where the federal center is now located and sold all but 3 acres to William Harrison in 1892. Arthur Suit and his wife moved into a house near the corner of Suitland and Silver Hill Roads.

One of the properties acquired by the federal government was the 52-acre Minear tract, which was purchased for \$100,000. The tract included the colonial-style house, now known as Suitland House, which was built in 1937 by Lovell O. Minear, developer of Fort Lincoln Cemetery. Prince George's County designated Suitland House a historic site in 1999, and it will remain part of the federal campus.



Old Census Bureau Building was abolished in 2009.





To commemorate the significant achievements of past Census Bureau directors and supervisors, 35 trees and plaques line the Director's Walk.



"Census Walk" created by Anita Glesta.

Images of the Arab, Ethiopian, Mayan, Native American, Persian, and Sumerian numeric systems are part of Glesta's design.



**Census Walk** is a seven-acre outdoor art project created by Anita Glesta for the GSA Art in Architecture Program. The large-scale work includes a winding path and a series of oversized numbers laid horizontally on the earth that serve as places to sit. A variety of numerical systems, including Native American and Sumerian, appear on walls, benches, and the sculptural mounds that appear as though they rose from the earth. Glesta said the project attempts to humanize the abstraction of the decennial census as it draws attention to the history of numbers and the diversity of people in the United States.







Employees take a break outdoors.



The parking garages, which can house up to 3,000 vehicles, have walls of ivy that pump oxygen into a fume-filled environment and provide natural camouflage.

On top of the building are four green roofs to reduce thermal loads and capture rainwater. The green roofs encompass about 88,000 square feet of space. They are located over the lobby and atop the fourth floor of the North Building and the fifth floor of the South Building.





## Directions to the U.S. Census Bureau, Suitland Federal Center

### From Northern Virginia:

- Take Capital Beltway-Outer Loop to Exit 11B, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington.
- Left on Silver Hill Road (approximately 2.5 miles, 5 traffic lights).
- Right into the Suitland Federal Center at Gate 5 (4th traffic light at Swann Road).
- Guard will provide directions to the Visitor's Center. Photo identification and the name and telephone number of the Census Bureau point of contact is required to obtain a visitor's pass.



### From Bethesda/Silver Spring/Wheaton:

- Take Capital Beltway-Inner Loop to Exit 11B, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.
- Left on Silver Hill Road (approximately 2.5 miles, 5 traffic lights).
- Right into the Suitland Federal Center at Gate 5 (4th traffic light at Swann Road).
- Guard will provide directions to the Visitor's Center. Photo identification and the name and telephone number of the Census Bureau point of contact is required to obtain a visitor's pass.

### From Baltimore:

- Take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway or Interstate 95 toward Washington to Capital Beltway South (Inner Loop toward Andrews Air Force Base).
- Exit at 11B, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington.
- Left on Silver Hill Road (approximately 2.5 miles, 5 traffic lights).
- Right into the Suitland Federal Center at Gate 5 (4th traffic light at Swann Road).
- Guard will provide directions to the Visitor's Center. Photo identification and the name and telephone number of the Census Bureau point of contact is required to obtain a visitor's pass.

### From Washington, DC:

- Take Pennsylvania Avenue to right on Silver Hill Road (approximately 2 miles from the Maryland-DC line).
- Right into the Suitland Federal Center at Gate 5 (4th traffic light at Swann Road).
- Guard will provide directions to the Visitor's Center. Photo identification and the name and telephone number of the Census Bureau point of contact is required to obtain a visitor's pass.



### From Metro:

- Take the Green Line to the Suitland Metro Station, exit the station at the upper level and proceed through canopy-covered walkway next to the metro parking garage to Census Bureau Gate 7.
- Photo identification and the name and telephone number of the Census Bureau point of contact is required to obtain a visitor's pass. Upon receiving a building pass, the guard will direct you to the main entrance.





# Census Bureau Headquarters Main Floor (1st Floor)



**Legend**

Main Building Cores  
 1 2 3 4 5 6

Building Entrance  
 ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼

Main Road  
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