

June 10, 2022

Ms. Christine Borman  
Chief, Nonresponse Operations Branch  
Decennial Census Management Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233

RE: Special Census Program (*Federal Register* Request for Comment published May 25, 2022  
(Docket Number USBC–2022–0009))

Dear Ms. Borman:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the Census Bureau request for a reinstatement of the Special Census Program as described in FR Doc. 2022–11218. The Special Census Program gives the Census Bureau the authority and tools needed to conduct more frequent population and housing unit data collections, should they be requested by governmental units.

BEA uses population and housing data in its estimates of GDP for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas (i.e., American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), specifically for the measures of consumer spending. Currently, federal survey data on population and housing for certain U.S. geographic areas, such as the U.S. Island Areas, are collected only once every 10 years through the Decennial Census. Should a government unit request a Special Census of these geographic areas—for example in the event of a natural disaster—the data would improve BEA’s annual estimates of GDP for the same time frame and allow for the calculation of additional measures of interest to the public, such as per capita consumer spending.

For additional information on the value of the Census Bureau’s population and housing unit data to BEA, please contact Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, at 301-278-9618, or by email at [Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov).

Sincerely,

Dennis Fixler  
Chief Economist  
Bureau of Economic Analysis