2020 Census Operational Adjustments Changes Due to COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau adapted and shifted some of its 2020 Census operations. This table outlines the original dates planned for each of these operations as well as the actual implementation dates that resulted because of the pandemic. For more information, go to<www.census.gov/ programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planningmanagement/operational-adjustments.html>.

 Planned schedule
Actual dates
Pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Operation	Adjustments ¹	2020 through 2021
Remote Alaska: Census takers enumerated residents in remote areas of Alaska before the spring thaw.	Extended 4 months.	Jan. 21-April 30 Jan. 21-Aug. 27
Self-Response: Residents self-responded online, by	Extended 2.5	March 12–July 31
phone, or by mail.	months.	March 12-Oct. 15
Update Leave: Census takers delivered	Paused 7 weeks,	March 15-April 17
questionnaires to households without postal service delivery.	then resumed for 3 months.	March 15–18 and May 6–Aug. 13
Update Enumerate: In select remote areas, census	Paused 3 months,	March 16-April 30
takers updated addresses and conducted census interviews.	then resumed for 2.5 months.	March 16-18 and June 14-Aug. 31
Mobile Questionnaire Assistance: In low self-	Shifted 3.5	March 24-July 31
response areas, Census Bureau staff held events to answer questions about the 2020 Census.	months.	July 6-Oct. 15
Nonresponse Followup: Census takers conducted	Shifted 3 months.	April 9-July 31
in-person interviews with residents who had not yet responded. ²		July 16-Oct. 28
Group Quarters: Census Bureau staff worked with	Extended 1	April 1-July 31
managers of group quarters (such as university student housing) to enumerate residents.	month.	April 1-Sept. 3
Service-Based Enumeration: Census takers counted	Shifted 6 months.	March 30-April 1
people experiencing homelessness at places like shelters and soup kitchens.		Sept. 22-29
Enumeration at Transitory Locations: Census takers	Shifted 5 months.	April 9-May 4
counted people living in transitory locations such as hotels and campgrounds.		Aug. 31-Sept. 29
Island Areas Censuses: Census takers enumerated	Extended 4	Feb. 3-June 30
residents in four U.S. territories.	months.	Feb. 3-Nov.3
Delivery of Apportionment Data: Census Bureau	Shifted 4 months.	Dec.28
released population counts for all 50 states.		April 26
Delivery of Redistricting Data: Census Bureau	Shifted 6 months.	Feb. 18-March 31
released population counts for redrawing legislative boundaries.		Aug. 12 and Sept. 16

¹ The timeframes described as "adjustments" are approximate for illustrative purposes. The blue bars correspond to the original planned schedule, and the green bars correspond to the actual implementation dates.

² All in-field data collection ended on October 15. In-office processing continued until October 28.



U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. CENSUS BUREAU census.gov

Source: U.S. Census Bureau schedule data.