

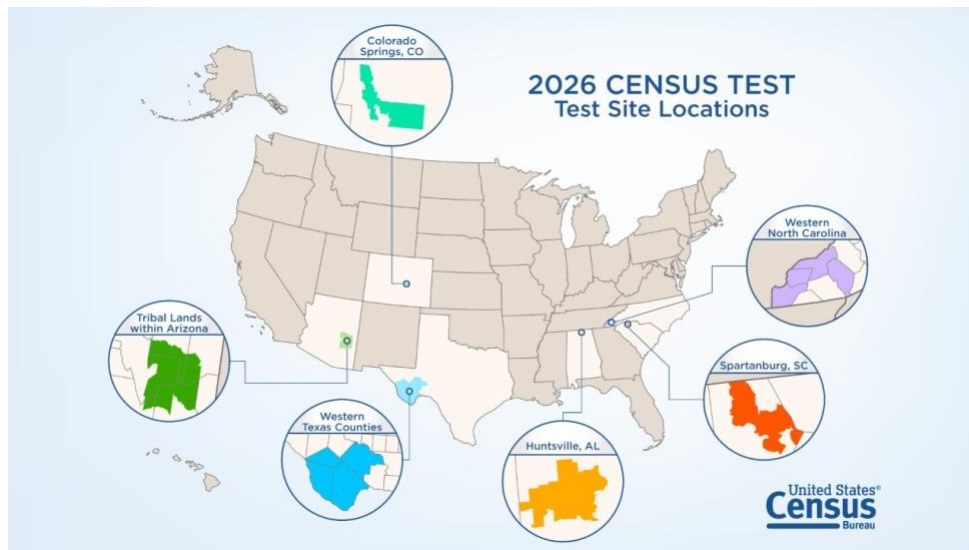
THE CENSUS PROJECT

The 2026 Census Test

The [2026 Census Test](#) will be the first of two major on-the-ground tests that the U.S. Census Bureau conducts to evaluate operation and methodological innovations for the 2030 Census. The 2026 Census Test will focus on: (1) self-response; (2) counting in the field; (3) counting people in group quarters; (4) outreach efforts; (5) support infrastructure; and (6) processing data concurrently with collection. It will also include a nationally representative self-response testing component.

The six planned 2026 Census Test locations are:

1. Colorado Springs, CO
2. Huntsville, AL
3. Tribal Lands Within Arizona (Fort Apache and San Carlos Reservations)
4. Spartanburg, SC
5. Western North Carolina (Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, and Swain counties, and Qualla Boundary)
6. Western Texas (Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, and Presidio counties)



Funding delays and denials in FY 2012-2017 led to the Census Bureau cancelling almost all 2020 Census testing, particularly in rural/remote areas and American Indian reservations which ended up suffering from high undercounts.¹

Adequate resources for 2030 Census prep now will reduce the need for emergency funding at the end of the decade, improving the odds of a complete, accurate, and cost-efficient headcount.

¹ The Bureau's check of its work showed a net undercount of 5.64 percent on American Indian reservations, and a net undercount of 2.58 percent in areas counted with a modified census packet delivery method called "Update/Leave," which is used primarily in rural areas.