80 Things You Can’t Do Without U.S. Census Figures
(Including the Decennial Census, American Community Survey, Economic Censuses and Agricultural Census)

1. Draw federal, state, and local legislative districts
2. Provide the information by which to attract new businesses to states and local areas
3. Evaluate the effects of potential policies on particular geographical areas, groups of people, or businesses
4. Distribute over $300 billion in federal funds and even more in state funds to the right people or places
5. Forecast future transportation needs for all segments of the population
6. Develop a Homeland Infrastructure Protection Plan
7. Plan for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services
8. Forecast future housing needs for all segments of the population
9. Produce the economic indicators used by the Federal Reserve to set interest rates.
10. Direct funds for services for people in poverty
11. Design public safety strategies
12. Develop rural areas
13. Allocate the right amount of funds to communities where military bases are located, so the communities can properly support our military members
14. Measure the nation’s food security
15. Estimate the number of people displaced by natural disasters
16. Evaluate growth trends among minority and women-owned firms
17. Develop assistance programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives
18. Create maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance
19. Deliver goods and services to local markets
20. Site facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children
21. Predict criminal activities like methamphetamine production.
22. Plan investments and evaluate financial risk
23. Identify transportation shortfalls for delivery of food, fiber, feed and fuel
24. Provide the public with economic and statistical reports about the U.S. and its people
25. Direct messages in appropriate languages to people in places where they are commonly spoken
26. Conduct social scientific research
27. Develop “intelligent” maps for government and business
28. Identify populations at risk in order to plan for disaster responses
29. Obtain proof of age, relationship, or residence certificates
30. Differentiate rural from urban areas for program purposes
31. Do research as backup for news stories
32. Provide evidence in litigation involving land use, voting rights, and equal opportunity
33. Draw school district boundaries
34. Compare indices of child well-being across U.S states
35. Calculate reliable price indices
36. Plan budgets for government at all levels
37. Measure and spot trends in the economic well-being of the nation
38. Identify pockets of poverty
39. Plan health and educational services for people with disabilities.
40. Establish fair market rents and enforce fair lending practices
41. Direct services to children and adults with limited English language proficiency
42. Plan urban land use
43. Rapidly respond to threats to the American food supply
44. Understand the labor supply
45. Assess the potential for spread of communicable diseases.
46. Track the likely path of the spread of agricultural pest infestations
47. Analyze military potential
48. Make sound business decisions
49. Locate factory sites and distribution centers.
50. Determine the value of agricultural exports by State
51. Distribute catalogs or develop direct mail pieces
52. Set the benchmark for credible survey design for both the public and private sectors
53. Evaluate programs in different geographic areas.
54. Conduct genealogical research
55. Plan outreach strategies for programs that differentially reach/ affect groups of people
56. Develop adult education programs where they are most needed
57. Research historical records on people, places, and business
58. Determine whether agricultural productivity trends are adequate to meet future demands for food
59. Determine areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loan.
60. Apply commuting data to transportation planning
61. Measure the exact extent of migration
62. Determine where to build public child care and senior centers
63. Locate areas with low access to healthy foods — “Food Deserts”
64. Plan future government services
65. Permit small businesses to benchmark performance against others in their industry
66. Analyze military recruitment
67. Identify cancer “hot spots”
68. Estimate economic losses resulting from flooding or other natural disasters
69. Gauge the effect of various policies or actions on local jobs numbers
70. Determine the effectiveness of programs such as minority contracting guidelines
71. Target guaranteed loan opportunities to beginning farmers, minority and other special farm populations
72. Make mass casualty projections for public health preparedness
73. Develop land protection and “smart growth” policies in rapidly growing areas.
74. Identify clusters of people with difficulties that affect their ability to live independently to aid planning for eldercare assistance
75. Project the social implications of an aging American
76. Measure and project political, business and social implications of changes in the racial and ethnic population of the U.S.
77. Give farm lenders benchmarks on farm structure, technology and other characteristics that relate to credit risk
78. Identify the need for services or programs important to immigrants
79. Measure the productivity of the U.S, economy
80. Conduct a private sector survey of any group that represents the profile of the U.S. and thus can be used to report findings on the percent of American households that...own dogs, voted in the last election, prefer one product over another, ...etc.