



COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ON FEDERAL STATISTICS
WWW.COPAFS.ORG

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.