

Maryland Federal Facilities Profile

Census Bureau



4600 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
301-763-4636
Prince George's County
www.census.gov

Director - Acting: Dr. Ron Jarmin
Department: Department of Commerce (DOC)
Maryland Employees: 4,539

History & Mission: In 1902 the temporary Census Office was established as a permanent bureau in Washington, D.C. The Census Bureau moved to Suitland Federal Center in spring 1942 and remained there until a new headquarters building, also in Suitland, officially opened on August 7, 2006. The move-in process was complete by April 1, 2007.

The Census Bureau is mandated to collect statistics about the nation, its people and economy. Although the Census Bureau carries out hundreds of surveys every year, its most well-known duty is still to conduct the decennial census. It also conducts economic surveys of manufacturing, retail, service, and other establishments and of domestic governments.

Census results have several high-profile applications: they are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives, to realign congressional districts, and as a factor in the formulas that distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year. Coupled with data from the separately conducted economic census and demographic and economic surveys, the Census Bureau provides governments, scholars, and planners with the data they need to build schools, plan highways, and distribute the billions of dollars in federal spending that sustains a growing population.

Maryland Facilities

Census Bureau- Bowie Computer Center (Prince George's Center)

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Census Bureau

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Census Bureau- Bowie Computer Center

The Census computer center in Suitland was built in the 1940s. It was updated and relocated to Bowie in 1997. The U.S. Census Bureau is the world's leader in data collection and processing. As these processes changed over the decades, storage, efficiency and access to this information has become ever more important. The Census Bureau's computer facility in Bowie is a state-of-the-art, security-enhanced building open 24 hours a day.

At the Bowie Computer Center, census forms are electronically scanned directly by computers and demographic facts are stored in vast memory banks. The Bowie center is also the source of most of the Census Bureau's regular calculations of gross domestic product, unemployment, retail sales, poverty, inflation, income, housing starts and crime.

Department: Department of Commerce (DOC)

Parent Agency: Bureau of the Census

Employment: 197

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