




June 6, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: John H. Thompson
Director, U.S. Census Bureau

FROM: Ann C. Eilers 
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: The U.S. Census Bureau's Regional Office Realignment and Field Management Reforms

As part of our fiscal year 2014 audit and evaluation plan, we will conduct an audit of the Census Bureau's regional office realignment and field management reforms in order to determine if the bureau is meeting, or on pace to meet, its goals of reduced cost, improved efficiency and responsiveness, and improved data quality across the many surveys it conducts annually.

Our objectives are to:

- Identify and assess the benchmarks—including the manner in which response rates are calculated and reported on surveys such as the American Community Survey—that the bureau is using to measure the success of the reorganization effort; and assess whether or not the bureau is achieving its cost-savings and efficiency goals.
- Assess the impact of the reorganization on survey sponsors and customers. Determine whether external sponsoring agencies and internal Census Bureau offices are satisfied with the survey content and design process, survey administration, data quality, costs, and any other issues deemed important.

We will contact the audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. In the interim, we will send you a request for documents. Please provide us with the information requested within 2 weeks of receiving this request. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, call Carol Rice, Division Director, at (202) 482-6020. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

cc: Pam Moulder, Senior Program Analyst, Economics and Statistics Administration
Adam Miller, Census Audit Liaison