

2026 Census Test Sites

Summary of Sites Selected by Criteria

The 2026 Census Test is the first of two major on-the-ground tests planned in preparation for the 2030 Census.

We followed a rigorous, data-driven approach to identify the sites where we will conduct the 2026 Census Test. This combination of test sites meets criteria related to geography, living quarters, staffing, technical characteristics, as well as available budget, systems, and resources. The sites are located within two Census Bureau regions.

Learn more!

www.census.gov/2026test

TEST SITE CRITERIA

	DENVER REGION			ATLANTA REGION		
	Western Texas	Tribal Lands Within Arizona*	Colorado Springs, CO	Western North Carolina	Spartanburg, SC	Huntsville, AL
GEOGRAPHY						
Rural area with historically undercounted populations and lower self-response rates	X	X		X		
Area with a colonia	X					
Tribal area		X		X		
Area with nonmailable addresses	X	X		X		
LIVING QUARTERS						
Seasonally vacant housing	X			X		
Complex housing units			X	X	X	X
High instances of new construction			X			
Multiunit structures and/or hidden housing units			X	X	X	X
Wide range of group quarters types			X	X	X	X
STAFFING						
Recruiting field staff has been historically challenging						X
Low unemployment						X
TECHNICAL						
Little to no cell phone or internet service	X			X		
Comprehensive and minimal administrative record data			X			

* Selected tribal reservations.

Note: This table summarizes how testing requirements are distributed across the six test sites. These locations provide optimal opportunities for us to implement all of the changes and enhancements we have planned for the test. Updated November 13, 2024, to reflect the level of seasonally vacant housing in Tribal Lands Within Arizona does not meet the criteria.