



United States Department of Commerce

COMMERCE GEOSPATIAL STRATEGY

Fiscal Years 2021–2024



NIST



Contents

- 1. Executive Summary3**
- 2. Why Geospatial Data Matters to Commerce and the Nation5**
- 3. Commerce Geospatial Goals and Objectives10**
 - Strategic Goal 1: Govern and Manage Geospatial Data 11
 - Strategic Goal 2: Advance and Expand Geospatial Data Assets 12
 - Strategic Goal 3: Enable and Promote Collaborative Partnerships 13
 - Strategic Goal 4: Foster a Diverse Commerce Geospatial Workforce 14
- 4. Governance, Management, and Implementation15**
- 5. Appendix A: Commerce National Geospatial Data
Asset Themes and Datasets17**
- 6. Appendix B: United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management18**

1. Executive Summary

Everything happens somewhere. On a daily basis, people and organizations benefit from ubiquitous location-based information in today’s knowledge-driven world. For example, without geospatial data, our smartphones could not provide directions with digital maps to get us to our destinations easily.

Digital spatial information provides the means to integrate a wide variety of data and services that contribute to public health, national security, environmental sustainability, and national prosperity. The Department of Commerce’s (Commerce or the Department) technologies and data are used every day to illuminate the connection between places, people, and their activities and illustrate where, when, how, and why.

Within Commerce, use of these technologies and data has grown over the past four decades, and they are imperative to meeting Commerce’s mission. This includes critical capabilities such as weather forecasting, early flood warnings, land titling and administration, transportation network analysis, survey administration (e.g., decennial census), water resources management, food production, supply chain management, urban service delivery, economic growth, and response to disease outbreaks. Commerce is also one of the leading federal contributors of geospatial data to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Through the geospatial activities of its bureaus, Commerce stewards multiple critical national geospatial datasets, leads numerous geospatial standards initiatives, and provides key decision support tools and technologies for a diverse community of users.

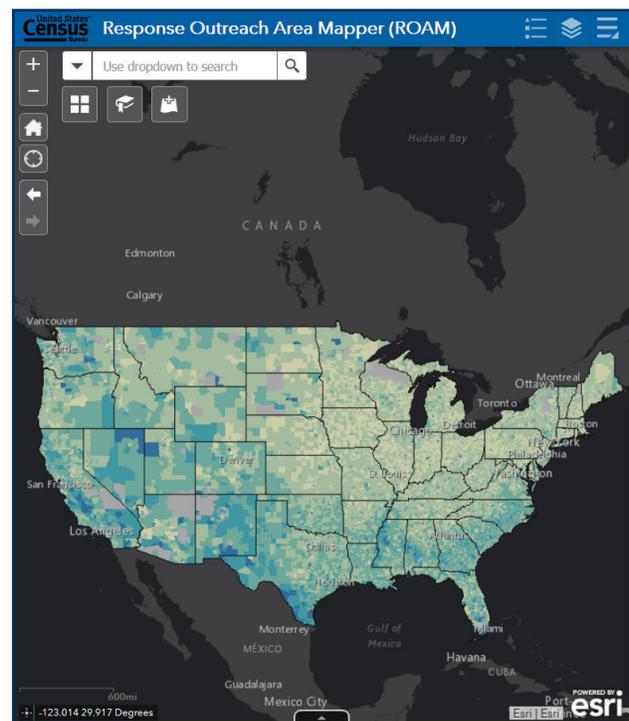


Figure 1. Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) Viewer. This is a national map of census tracts shaded by predicted mail non-response rate, otherwise known as Low Response Score (LRS). Users interpret the LRS as a percentage of households predicted to NOT self-respond to the decennial census. The higher the LRS is in a census tract, the harder that area may be to survey.

The Department of Commerce Geospatial Strategy (Strategy) includes goals and supporting objectives that directly support the Department of Commerce Data Strategy (2021–2024), the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan (2021–2024). This Strategy was developed by the Commerce Geospatial Working Group under the Commerce Data Governance Board (CDGB) with input from all Commerce bureaus, per the requirement of a lead covered agency (LCA) under the GDA.

The Strategy charts a course forward for making geospatial data, technologies, and services more widely available, well managed, and more useful to Commerce, its partners, and the public. In particular, Commerce will enhance the management and promote the use of its geospatial programs, leverage shared services (both within and outside the Department), and continue to lead the national and international geospatial community by engaging with other sectors and users of its geospatial data and services.

This Strategy is provided by the CDGB to define a path to successfully maximize the positive impact of Commerce geospatial data and services. The Strategy will be executed through the four interdependent goals outlined below:

Table 1: Commerce Geospatial Strategy Goals

Goal	Page
1. Govern and manage geospatial data	<u>11</u>
2. Advance the maturity and expand the sources of Commerce National Geospatial Data Assets	<u>12</u>
3. Enable and promote collaborative partnerships to meet Commerce geospatial needs, priorities, and missions	<u>13</u>
4. Foster a diverse Commerce geospatial workforce to meet current and emerging needs	<u>14</u>

2. Why Geospatial Data Matters to Commerce and the Nation

2.1 Introduction

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA)¹ directs the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to develop a strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), which provides strategic direction to support and leverage the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to promote the sharing of geospatial data. The GDA extends existing components of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A–16,² expands congressional oversight of federally funded geospatial activities, and codifies the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) as a statutory advisory committee. It also aligns with other recent data initiatives, such as the Federal Data Strategy³ and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018⁴—including Title II, the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act.⁵ These statutes and policies underscore the growing importance of data development and coordination as key drivers in economic growth, policy development, and informed decision making.

As of 2020, more than 100 nations have spatial data infrastructures, including the United States. Because they have embraced open international standards for geospatial data and technologies, these spatial data infrastructures have enabled greater levels of data sharing on topics that extend beyond political boundaries. The NSDI Strategic Plan (2021–2024)⁶ ensures that the nation has consistent, trusted, geospatial data to promote effective governance, economic growth, and technological innovation at local and national scales.

Commerce recognizes that the FGDC’s mission and goal is to provide access to high-quality geospatial data and the tools to make use of these datasets for broad societal benefit. In order to ensure success in meeting this requirement, Commerce actively supports the key success factor in the development of the NSDI, intergovernmental, and cross-sector collaboration. The substantive and ongoing consultation between tribal, federal, state, and local governments—as well as with other sectors—will help lead to more effective and resilient relationships and policies.

1. Geospatial Data Act is codified at 43 U.S.C. §§2801-2811.

2. [whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Circular-016.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Circular-016.pdf).

3. strategy.data.gov/overview.

4. Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Pub. Law No. 115-435, 132 Stat. 5529 (2018).

5. Open Government Data Act, Public Law No. 115-435, Title II, 132 Stat. 5534 (2018).

6. www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan.

2.2 How Commerce is Advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)

Commerce is a dedicated leader in the federal geospatial community and fully engaged in the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) process. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Chief Data Officer serves as the Commerce Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) on the Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee and the Commerce Data Governance Board (CDGB). The CDGB was established to meet the requirements under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018. The CDGB chartered the Commerce Geospatial Working Group, co-chaired by NOAA and Census, to coordinate the implementation of the GDA requirements for the development of this Commerce Geospatial Strategy. The Commerce SAOGI is also a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and has assisted NGAC members in understanding the federal approach to addressing the GDA requirements, as well as helping to develop NGAC’s role in the GDA reporting process.

The NSDI’s National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data themes represent conceptual topics describing digital spatial information for the United States and consist of associated datasets with attribute records and coordinates (see Appendix A). NGDA data themes are the primary topics and subjects for which the coordinated development, maintenance, and dissemination of geospatial data is led by a covered agency. Commerce geospatial data represents 30 percent of the NGDAs in the NSDI, and Commerce either leads or co-leads 6 of the 18 NGDA themes.

Commerce’s geospatial efforts are distributed throughout the Department evidenced by the geospatial activities of its bureaus in stewarding multiple critical national geospatial datasets, leading numerous geospatial standards initiatives, and providing key decision support tools and technologies for a diverse community of users.

Critical capabilities that depend on geospatial information include weather forecasting, early flood warnings, land titling and administration, transportation network analysis, water resources management, food production, supply-chain management, urban service delivery, economic growth, and response to disease outbreaks. Commerce’s technologies and data are used every day by Commerce missions, partners, and by the American public to illuminate the connection between places, people, and their activities and to illustrate where, when, how, and why.

Examples of Commerce Geospatial Activities

U.S. Census Bureau

The Census Bureau serves as an integrator of boundary, address, and street data from authoritative data providers, including tribal, state, and local governments, federal agencies, and non-profit regional and community planning organizations. As part of the NSDI, the Census Bureau maintains the authoritative data for the nation’s governmental units and statistical and administrative boundaries. The Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographically Encoded Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System is the national repository for all of the spatial, geographic, and residential address data needed for the census and survey data collection, data tabulation, data dissemination, geocoding services, and map production. This system provides the geographic foundation for the decennial census and ongoing data collection through partnership and jurisdictional updates of address, boundary, and geospatial data. The Census Bureau utilizes aerial and satellite images to identify housing unit and street feature change on the landscape and captures those changes in the MAF/TIGER System.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Geospatial data is at the core of supporting NOAA’s mission, and geospatial technologies provide the framework to collect, store, analyze, and disseminate NOAA’s environmental intelligence. NOAA is also the authoritative source for multiple national datasets that form the foundation for the NSDI, to include geodetic control, nautical charts, coastal elevation, weather and climate models, critical habitat, and satellite and observational platforms. As the lead for the Geodetic Control Theme, NOAA is the authoritative source for all four of the NGDA datasets that are involved in defining, maintaining, and providing access to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). The NSRS provides a consistent coordinate system that defines latitude, longitude, height, scale, gravity, and orientation throughout the United States and its territories. It underpins all other geospatial datasets and is applicable to all other themes. Within the Water - Oceans & Coast (W-O&C) Theme, NOAA’s Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) and Raster Navigational Charts (RNC) are produced by collecting and applying geospatial data in U.S. coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Collection of data in support of producing these products is done so in close partnership with states, tribes, academia, the private sector, other federal agencies, and localities, adhering to strict international and national standards (i.e., International Hydrographic Organization Standards for Hydrographic Surveying).

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Gross Domestic Product and Personal Income Mapping. The BEA Regional Economic Accounts provide a wealth of statistics that detail the geographic distribution of U.S. economic activity and growth and provide a consistent framework for analyzing and comparing individual state and local area economies.

Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)

BIS is responsible for administering an effective export control system on items with both military and civilian applications. This includes controls on certain geospatial data and data analysis tools, for example, [*Addition of Software Specially Designed To Automate the Analysis of Geospatial Imagery to the Export Control Classification Number 0Y521 Series.*](#)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

EDA is, first and foremost, a consumer of geospatial data produced by other bureaus within Commerce. These data, used in concert with geographically specific economic data, are essential in developing a deep understanding of the areas in which proposed economic development projects would be located. Additionally, EDA uses geospatial data to develop and deploy [*mapping of Economic Development Districts*](#) across the United States.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. NIST is designated by Congress as the Lead Agency for the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP). This office coordinates the NWIRP research and implementation activities for the four NWIRP agencies: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, NIST, NOAA, and the National Science Foundation.

Precise Measurements. NIST, in coordination with NOAA, is preparing to drop the U.S. survey foot as a unit of measurement and instead adopt the international survey foot in a move towards more precise positioning.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

BroadbandUSA Map. NTIA’s BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and meaningful use across America. BroadbandUSA serves local and state governments, industry, and nonprofits that need to enhance broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion.

Other Bureaus

The following Commerce bureaus do not produce or directly apply geospatial data, but they may be key partners or users of geospatial data, products, and services.

- International Trade Administration
- Minority Business Development Agency
- National Technical Information Service
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

3. Commerce Geospatial Goals and Objectives

Table 2: Commerce Geospatial Strategy Goals and Objectives

Goals	Objectives
1. Govern and manage geospatial data	Objective 1.1: Align Commerce policies
	Objective 1.2: Establish data governance bodies and priorities
	Objective 1.3: Promote cross-bureau initiatives to leverage geospatial expertise and innovation throughout Commerce
2. Advance the maturity and expand the sources of Commerce National Geospatial Data Assets	Objective 2.1: Update, validate, and streamline Commerce’s National Geospatial Data Asset portfolio management practices
	Objective 2.2: Develop and implement improvements in technical and administrative procedures
	Objective 2.3: Increase visibility and utility of Commerce products and services
	Objective 2.4: Develop best practices for licensing
3. Enable and promote collaborative partnerships	Objective 3.1: Support the international geographic communities
	Objective 3.2: Foster partnerships to support National Geospatial Data Asset themes
	Objective 3.3: Develop a Commerce geospatial partnership plan
4. Foster a diverse Commerce geospatial workforce	Objective 4.1: Identify and execute plans to close workforce skills gaps
	Objective 4.2: Develop an innovative workforce that welcomes and supports opportunities for learning

Strategic Goal 1

Govern and Manage Geospatial Data

Govern and manage geospatial data to support the NSDI goals and advance the agencies’ mission responsibilities. Commerce will take actions and meet milestones that directly support implementation of the GDA, NSDI Strategic Plan (2021–2024) and Commerce Data Strategy (2021–2024).

Strategic Objectives

1.1 Align Commerce Policies with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan (2021–2024) and the Commerce Data Strategy (2021–2024). The Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI), as a member of the Commerce Data Governance Board (CDGB), will assist with establishing data governance policies and priorities consistent with existing laws, regulations, and policies related to geospatial data.

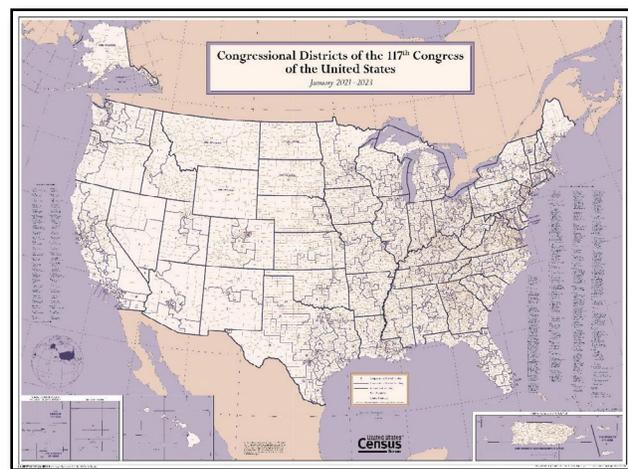


Figure 2. Congressional Districts of the 117th Congress of the United States Map. The congressional district map suite includes three map types (national, state-based, and congressional district-based) that depict the congressional districts in effect for the 117th Congress of the United States (January 2021–2023).

1.2 Establish data governance bodies and priorities. Establishment of the Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG) as the decision-making body, with representatives from all Commerce

bureaus, to establish geospatial data governance policies and priorities consistent with existing laws, regulations, and policies. The CGWG will advise the SAOGI on the priorities of the Commerce geospatial community and develop guidance and policies to implement the GDA, NSDI Strategic Plan (2021–2024), and the Commerce Data Strategy (2021–2024).

1.3 Promote cross-bureau initiatives to leverage geospatial expertise and innovation throughout Commerce. Working groups under the CGWG, such as the Commerce Imagery User Group, will facilitate the completion of Commerce-wide tasks, provide consultation to small offices and bureaus, and cultivate a forum for discussion of shared solutions to common problems. Commerce will further enable cross-bureau knowledge-sharing by facilitating coalition-building and data relationships and coordinating activities such as Commerce-wide presentations.

Strategic Goal 2

Advance and Expand Geospatial Data Assets

Advance the maturity and expand the sources of Commerce National Geospatial Data Assets to maximize findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability and to meet a wide range of needs.

Strategic Objectives

- 2.1 Update, validate, and streamline Commerce’s NGDA portfolio management practices for Commerce’s NGDA data themes and associated datasets (see Appendix A).** The Commerce National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) theme leads will review established portfolio management practices for their NGDA data themes and associated data sets. The Commerce NGDA theme leads will develop strategic plans based on the GDA and NSDI Strategic Plan (2021–2024). The CGWG will ensure management practices are effective and efficient and facilitate standardized reporting of NGDA status information.
- 2.2 Implement improvements in technical and administrative procedures for efficient and secure access to and use of multiple data sources.** The SAOGI will oversee the continued leadership and participation with internal and external geospatial data communities to identify data management best practices and metadata standards for enhanced interoperability and equitable access. Disseminated data will conform to the greatest extent possible to voluntary consensus standards supported by external stakeholders to improve relevancy and searchability. By engaging with data users and academic, federal, and private industry partners, Commerce will implement strategies to disseminate geospatial data under the FAIR principles: findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.
- 2.3 Increase visibility and utility of Commerce products and services.** The CDGB is tasked to build and promote a comprehensive data inventory (44 U.S.C §3511 (a)) with sufficient completeness, quality, and metadata to facilitate discovery and collaboration to answer key agency questions, promote appropriate data use, meet user community needs, and support mission execution. The CGWG will develop and maintain an inventory of NGDAs (43 U.S.C. 2808(b)(2)(B)) that will support the Commerce comprehensive data inventory as well as increase visibility of Commerce’s geospatial data. Commerce makes geospatial information and services more useful to the public by providing open, online access to current and accurate data products created using industry-standard formats and catalogued in standardized locations on agency websites, Data.gov, and the National GeoPlatform for Commerce’s NGDA theme datasets and many others as appropriate⁷ to meet our geospatial mission.
- 2.4 Develop best practices for licensing of Commerce and industry-acquired datasets.** The CGWG will lead development of guidance and best practices for data licensing and intellectual property protection for data from many sources, including collected, acquired, and created data assets. This will include clear descriptions of relationships between intellectual property and data licensing practices and address considerations such as attribution and third-party rights in data. To inform this guidance, the CGWG will collect information on geospatial data usage and bureau needs and consult with other Commerce agencies, as appropriate, to maximize the benefit of expertise across Commerce missions.

7. All geospatial data that Commerce produces from its programs and partnerships is openly available online with the exception of data protected from disclosure. For example, Commerce does not release Personally Identifiable Information as defined by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Strategic Goal 3

Enable and Promote Collaborative Partnerships

Enable and promote collaborative partnerships to meet Commerce geospatial needs, priorities, and missions.

Strategic Objectives

3.1 Support the international geographic communities and share our expertise globally.

Commerce will lead and influence the global spatial ecosystem through interoperability, data sharing, and collaboration; Commerce will continue its leading role in the global geospatial forum by serving as the Head of the U.S. Delegation for the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and by chairing and engaging with several committees and working groups. Commerce will continue to lead and participate in the UN-GGIM U.S. delegate activities (see Appendix B).

3.2 Foster partnerships to support NGDA themes by engaging with external and internal groups and communities.

To increase awareness and prevent duplication of effort, the SAOGI will work with the CGWG for geospatial data-related requirements. The SAOGI will continue to provide geospatial data leadership across the federal government by engaging in government-wide groups, such as the Federal Chief Data Officer Council, Federal Geographic Data Committee and the GDA Working Group. Commerce will leverage federal advisory committees where appropriate and other cross-sector engagements to harness relevant technologies and anticipate future and unmet data needs.

3.3 Develop a Commerce geospatial partnership plan to engage collaboratively with other sectors and users of Commerce's geospatial data and services.

Commerce will encourage two-way partnerships with industry, other federal agencies, and state, local, and tribal governments as well as other stakeholders. The CGWG will develop a standardized approach to leveraging partnerships effectively to advance the value of Commerce geospatial data. In order to inform this strategy, the CGWG will assess current partnership agreements and identify new opportunities and to address the needs of Commerce geospatial data user communities. This strategy will promote upstream and downstream assessments to help identify and develop standards and best practices to support Commerce's management of geospatial data.

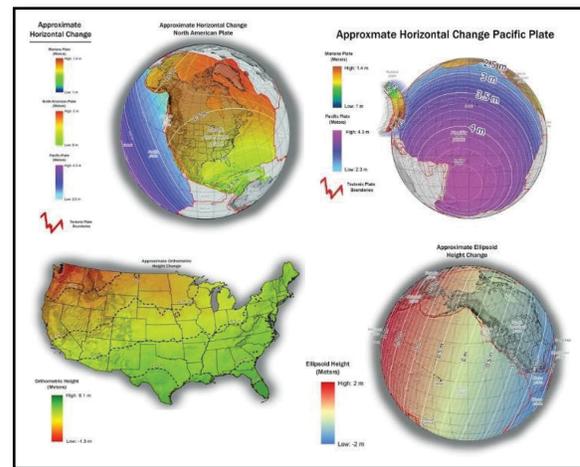


Figure 3. Forecast changes in geospatial coordinates due to implementing the modernized National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). Images show shifts in ellipsoidal height and horizontal coordinates and orthometric height changes. This will bring all non-Department of Defense U.S. geospatial data into a common geodetic reference frame consistent with international standards.

Strategic Goal 4

Foster a Diverse Commerce Geospatial Workforce

Foster a diverse Commerce geospatial workforce to meet current and emerging needs.

Strategic Objectives

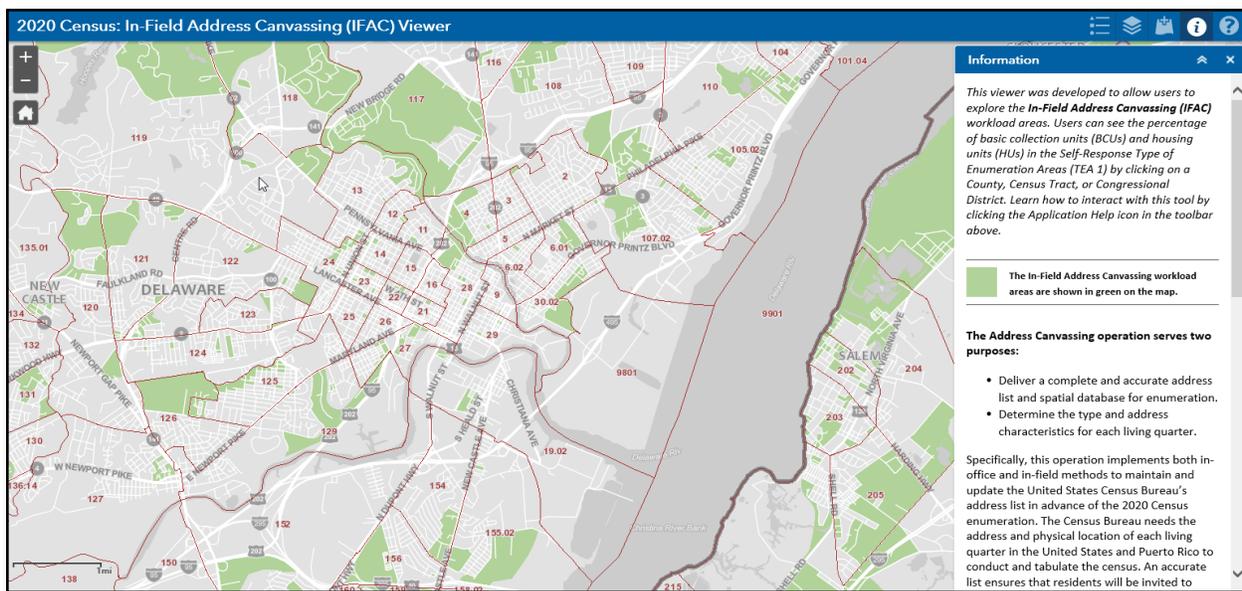


Figure 4. In-Field Address Canvassing (IFAC) Viewer. This viewer was developed to allow users to explore the IFAC workload areas. It shows the percentage of basic collection units (BCUs) and housing units (HUs) in the Self-Response Type of Enumeration Areas (TEA 1) when clicking on a county, census tract, or congressional district.

4.1 Identify and execute plans to close workforce skills gaps by improving data acumen and data skills for the workforce supporting geospatial data analysis and management. Commerce will leverage mature approaches to current workforce professional development and contracting. Bureaus and offices will establish clear priorities and short- and long-term plans to facilitate needs-based upskilling of the federal geospatial workforce. Commerce will utilize existing CDGB priorities and working groups such as the Maturity and Data Skills (MADSkills) Working Group to help facilitate the completion of Department-wide tasks, provide consultation to small offices and bureaus, and cultivate a forum for discussion of shared solutions to common problems.

4.2 Develop an innovative workforce that welcomes and supports opportunities for learning through both top-down and bottom-up approaches. CGWG will develop strategies to facilitate and incentivize the use of new geospatial data tools, services, and techniques to encourage employees to test new software. The CGWG will continue to leverage the breadth of bureau geospatial expertise, enhance knowledge-sharing, and build a diverse and inclusive community through projects and a workshop series designed and presented by internal geospatial experts.

4. Governance, Management, and Implementation

4.1 Governance and Management

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018, and the Federal Data Strategy direct agencies to move from a paradigm of “apps” and “datasets” to “data as a strategic asset.” These new laws provide the required authorities to establish data management practices and institute new requirements and deadlines towards the end goal of a data-driven federal government. By design, the opportunities and requirements must be addressed across disciplines and operating units.

The Department’s efforts, therefore, are driven through close collaboration among the Commerce Chief Data Officer (CDO), Evaluation Officer, and Statistical Official, the Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI), as well as the data stewards, data architects, and thought leaders in all bureaus.

The newly established Commerce Data Governance Board (CDGB) sets policy and establishes the initiatives that will execute the Commerce Data Strategy. The CDGB is chaired by the Commerce CDO and includes CDOs or other designated representatives from all bureaus and offices, including the SAOGI. Government-wide efforts to upgrade data management and utility are coordinated through the Federal Chief Data Officers Council, the Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the Office of Management and Budget.

The Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG) was recently established by the SAOGI under the CDGB and serves as the primary coordinating body for Commerce participation in the Federal Geographic Data Committee, as well as compliance with all requirements under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

The purpose of the CGWG is to ensure that Commerce geospatial programs, data, and systems are fully leveraged as a strategic asset by:

- Serving as a decision-recommending body to the CDGB to establish and apply geospatial governance policies and priorities consistent with existing laws, regulations, and policies;
- Developing strategies for the effective management and sharing of Department geospatial data and services;
- Seeking opportunities for cross-Commerce coordination on geospatial programs, systems, contracts, and other activities within the geospatial domain;
- Promoting effective reporting and communications for geospatial programs and operations; and
- Enabling effective collaboration with non-federal stakeholders, federal interagency partners, and the Department’s bureaus and offices.

4.2 Conclusion

Together with the Commerce Data Strategy, this Commerce Geospatial Strategy will guide a cohesive and coordinated approach to data and geospatial data management activities across Commerce.

Upon approval of this strategy, Commerce will begin developing a strategy to implement and monitor its geospatial activities. Through oversight and coordination led by the CDGB, the development of strategies for both the Commerce Data Strategy and the Commerce Geospatial Strategy will also be done in tandem. We expect within the next 2 years to develop the next version of each of the strategies.

The strategy will include a system of internal controls that ensures that the Commerce Geospatial Strategy is effectively implemented across the Department. The CDGB will monitor progress against the Commerce Geospatial Strategy and ensure the activities are tracked, documented, reported, and made available to oversight bodies and shared within the federal geospatial community, and will remain consistent with the requirements of the GDA and align with the NSDI Strategic Plan. We will continue to address GDA Sec 759 requirements in our annual Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency reports.

5. Appendix A: Commerce National Geospatial Data Asset Themes and Datasets

The Department of Commerce leads or co-leads 6 of the 18 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) themes. The Census Bureau leads or co-leads two NGDA themes and participates in the activities of five others, while National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) leads or co-leads four NGDA themes and participates in the activities of three others. Summary information on each of the Commerce NGDA themes can be found on the National Geospatial Platform website (geoplatform.gov/ngda/), and Commerce’s specific NGDA themes can be found on each of the GeoPlatform.gov Community pages listed below.

5.1 National Geospatial Data Asset Data Themes Lead/Co-Lead and Geo Platform.gov Community Pages

- **NOAA**
 - » Lead: [Geodetic Control](#) and [NGDAs](#)
 - » Lead: [Water – Oceans and Coasts](#) and [NGDAs](#)
 - » Lead: [Climate and Weather](#) and [NGDAs](#)
 - » Co-lead: [Elevation](#) and [NGDAs](#)
- **Census**
 - » Lead: [Governmental Units Theme Page](#) and [NGDAs](#)
 - » Co-lead: [Addresses](#) (NGDA pending approval)

6. Appendix B: United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

6.1 About the UN-GGIM

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM or Committee) was formed by resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2011, out of recognition of the need to strengthen international cooperation in the area of global geospatial information management.

The Committee makes joint decisions on, and sets directions for the production, application, and use of geospatial information within national, regional, and global policy frameworks.

The Committee provides a forum where member states may develop and strengthen their national geospatial information management, systems, capabilities, and capacities. Delegates to the Committee represent the national geospatial information authorities in member states.

6.2 Other Commerce-Led or Co-Led International Geospatial Activities

The U.S. Department of Commerce participates in a variety of international activities. The activities listed in Table 3 on page 19, are led or co-led by NOAA or the Census Bureau.

Table 3: Commerce-led International Geospatial Activities

Commerce-led International Geospatial Activities	Census Bureau	NOAA
UN-GGIM: Head of U.S. Delegation	Lead	
UN-GGIM: Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information Work Stream on Geocoding	Lead	
Group on Earth Observations		Lead
Group on Earth Observations, American Continent (AmeriGEO)		Lead
UN-GGIM: Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information		Lead
Science for Disaster Reduction International Disasters Risk Reduction (SDR IDRR)	Member	Lead
UN-GGIM: Americas—Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame for the Americas		Lead
Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) U.S. National Section	Lead	
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)		Member
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)		Member



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