



# COMMERCE GEOSPATIAL STRATEGY

Fiscal Years 2026 – 2029  
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## Summary

The FY 2026-29 Geospatial Strategy for the U.S. Department of Commerce (the Department) outlines a vision for optimizing the Department's geospatial data assets and tools, recognizing that location-based data is a cornerstone of evidence-based decision-making. As the nation's largest steward of public data, the Department leverages geospatial information to address critical national challenges—from extreme weather and national security to economic disparity and public health. To maximize the impact of these strategic assets, the Department is transitioning toward **high-quality, AI-ready data** that streamlines operations and enhances public accessibility.

## Four Strategic Goals

To achieve its geospatial strategy vision, the **Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG)**, in alignment with the **National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan (2025-2035)** and the **Geospatial Data Act (GDA)**, has focused on four primary strategic goals:

### 1 Ensure Governance of Geospatial Data

The Department will strengthen and ensure continued alignment of geospatial data governance frameworks by advancing coordinated policies, priorities, and decision-making consistent with the GDA and the NSDI Strategic Plan (2025–2035). The Department will also foster cross-bureau collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and innovation to effectively leverage geospatial expertise, address shared challenges, and support Commerce-wide mission outcomes.

### Manage Geospatial Data Assets and Services

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The Department will ensure that Commerce's National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) are accurate, well-managed, visible, and broadly accessible by strengthening portfolio management, modernizing technical and administrative practices, and implementing FAIR—Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable—aligned geospatial standards. The Department will enhance interoperability, discovery, and use of geospatial data through coordinated governance, modern technologies, and open access to support efficient decision-making and mission execution.

### Foster Collaborative Partnerships

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The Department will establish new and advance existing collaborative partnerships in the global geospatial community by sharing expertise, strengthening partnerships across all levels of

government, collaborating with data producers and standards organizations, and promoting national priorities to enhance interoperability, data sharing, and effective geospatial governance worldwide.

#### 4 Support Workforce Development

The Department will cultivate an innovative, data- and geospatial-enabled workforce by promoting continuous learning, knowledge-sharing, and adoption of emerging tools and in-demand skills—including AI and machine learning—through collaboration with bureaus, academia, industry, and government partners, consistent with the Department’s Data Strategy commitment to continued investment in employee skill development.

### Moving Forward

The **Department of Commerce Geospatial Strategy** provides a roadmap to make geospatial services more useful and accessible. By leveraging shared services and engaging with the global geospatial community, Commerce will continue to lead in providing the digital framework necessary for a resilient and informed nation.

### Alignment to Mission

The Department’s Geospatial Strategy aligns with the Department’s mission by strengthening the use of high-quality, trusted geospatial data to support economic growth, innovation, and effective governance. By advancing coordinated data stewardship, modern technologies such as AI and machine learning, and FAIR data principles, the Strategy enables Commerce bureaus to deliver core services—from weather forecasting and census operations to environmental monitoring and economic analysis—more efficiently and accurately. It also reinforces cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration, ensuring geospatial investments directly support the missions of Commerce agencies and the needs of businesses, communities, and the public.

### Implementation

The Commerce Geospatial Working Group—chaired by the Census Bureau and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, composed of representatives from across the Department and part of the Commerce Data Governance Board—will oversee the implementation of this strategy, ensuring that strategic goals and objectives translate into success across the Department. Collaboration and alignment with Department and National priorities are critical to successful implementation.