

About Facts and Figures

OSBM provides thousands of data items to state agencies and the public for use in budgeting, planning, research, and general information about the state. These data come from a variety of sources, including

- State agency socioeconomic annual statistics,
- Decennial census information collected by the US Bureau of the Census and repackaged as value-added products for North Carolina and distributed by the NC State Data Center,
- Official population estimates and projections for the state's counties and municipalities (with age, race, and gender for counties),
- State agency performance measures and other results-based data, and
- Other socioeconomic data on NC geographic areas from the federal surveys.

Official population and economic estimates for budgeting and planning

Historically, State Budget has worked under a mandate for [statistical coordination](#) of all state government data, with special emphasis on a consistent set of population and economic projections for use by all agencies and the public to ensure a common base for determining future needs.

In the mid 1960s, North Carolina became a participant in the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates and Projections, which combines demographic expertise from the US Bureau of the Census with that from states to produce valid [population estimates and projections](#) for the state and all counties. The North Carolina population estimates developed under this program, along with municipal population estimates developed independently by OSBM, are used for state revenue sharing with local governments in several programs. There are several NC laws that determine allocations based on official population estimates.

OSBM produces projections for state [revenues](#), expenditures, and inflation in support of the statewide budgeting process.

Ready access to detailed state census data

In the late 1970's, North Carolina became one of the first states to enter into a new federal-state cooperative program for disseminating decennial, economic, agricultural, and government census and survey data to citizens. Called the [State Data Center](#) program, North Carolina was one of the first 4 states to participate and has since developed a wealth of products for accessing the data on North Carolina's counties, municipalities, and other areas, including down to the city block in some cases.

Permeating its efforts in statistical coordination has been OSBM's insistence on documentation of data with definitions that help a user understand the meaning of and any idiosyncrasies surrounding a particular data series. OSBM's policy has been that metadata, or data about data, is essential to extensive data dissemination.

Budget and performance data

A more recent data development in OSBM is the collection of performance measures and other results-based budgeting information from agencies and making it publicly available. Users interested in data on budgeting, management, and accountability may view the annual [certified budget](#), access [societal indicators](#) or [agency performance measures](#), or examine [agency fees](#).

OSBM serves data to agencies and the public

OSBM develops, collects, and organizes a variety of state and federal agency statistics to inform the budgeting process and to meet the data needs of the public. Much of the data are served in online systems for ease in extraction and manipulation. Frequently used data descriptions inform users, especially concerning population and social data, of the difference between a family and a household, changes in the way surveys are administered, reasons for blips in data, etc.

Affiliated state and local agencies

OSBM provides training and one-on-one assistance with locating particular types of data, data definitions, explanation of the hierarchical geographic areas for which census information is released, and explanations of statistical concepts is important to OSBM. To handle the many requests for assistance of this type, the State Data Center has a 40-member team of other [state and local agencies](#) to serve as first contacts for data users. The [State Library of North Carolina](#) provides daily assistance in handling user requests, as do other state agencies and 40 affiliated local agencies (public libraries, lead regional organizations, educational institutions, and others).

Important links

To find demographic, social, and economic data items, use the [population estimates and projections](#) pages, the [Log into North Carolina](#) data system with county and municipal information, decennial [Census Lookup](#), [State Comparisons](#), or the many other federal and state Web links under [Data Website by Topic](#).

Check the [statistical publications](#) section for OSBM reports dealing primarily with socioeconomic information.

For addition information and leads to other state, federal, and local data sources, check the [State Data Center](#) pages.