

The presentation will focus on how the U.S. Census Bureau defines and implements project management (PM) standards and processes specific to the 2017 Economic Census (EC) and related surveys. The EC, conducted every 5 years for reference years ending in 2 and 7, is vital to the measurement of GDP, input/output tables, production and price indices, and other statistical series and surveys that measure the U.S. economy. The 2017 EC provides a new set of challenges with the migration to an all-web data collection. To manage this new collection philosophy, the Census Bureau is reshaping its PM efforts to better support the EC and other survey program planning. We are using PM tools to achieve consistency across programs in developing, monitoring, managing, and reporting schedules, risks, change control, and documentation throughout the survey life cycle.

A newly created Project Management Office (PMO) is implementing standard, repeatable processes across survey programs and integrating four main tenets of PM:

- Schedule management – developed and managed within the Census Bureau’s Enterprise Portfolio tool (Microsoft Project Server), implementation of a standard Work Breakdown Structure across Censuses and surveys in support of Enterprise Activity Based Costing efforts
- Risk management - developed and managed within Project Server
- Change control – change management processed and monitored through automated tool
- Project communication/documentation – use of corporate standard SharePoint for team collaboration; creation and utilization of program/project level templates and artifacts for standard reporting on program/project status

The presentation will demonstrate the value-added associated with methods and practices we implement to integrate these four PM tenets in preparation for the 2017 EC. We will provide examples and discuss next steps for implementing PM techniques during EC data collection, processing, and dissemination.