

DEC 17 2010



Ms. Pamela Schenker  
Chair, State Data Center Steering Committee  
Office of Economic and Demographic Research  
The Florida Legislature  
111 West Madison Street, Suite 574  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6588

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Ms. Schenker:

This is in response to your cosigned letter of November 30, 2010, regarding the incorporation of a Statistical Calculator into the American FactFinder (AFF). The AFF is in the final stages of a major redesign that simplifies the way users find and access information from the Decennial Census, the American Community Survey, the Economic Census, a number of annual Economic Surveys and the Population Estimates data. The new AFF is adding functionality and is significantly changing the way users will find and access the information contained in the system by shifting to a topic and geographic-based search and navigation paradigm.

The new AFF will be launched on January 18, 2011, with enhanced features and functionality. The U.S. Census Bureau will continue to add additional functionality with two major updates to the system later in 2011 and a third planned update to the system in late spring to early summer 2012. The releases in 2011 focus on improving search and navigation, updating and improving functionality, and providing mapping and charting services not available in the current version of AFF.

The release planned for 2012 includes some basic functionality outlined in the Statistical Calculator recommendation, which you have submitted. The Census Bureau will be adding functionality to allow users to aggregate subcategories within a table and the system will recalculate the Margins of Error (MOE) for the aggregated estimates. We will also allow users to create a user-defined geography and aggregate estimates for this user-defined geography, including recalculating the MOEs. In addition to aggregating data based on subcategories or geographies, we will allow users to perform some simple arithmetic functions to create new estimates (for example, ratios or percents of total) and calculate the MOEs for the new estimates. The added functionality, while not providing the full scope of the Statistical Calculator described in your recommendation, will provide users with more flexibility and functionality than currently available within AFF. The new functionality will also be available across all the data we have within AFF rather than confined only to a single program.

We will review the Statistical Calculator recommendations to see if there are additional features that can be incorporated into the AFF 2012 release that fit within the overall vision for AFF and can be accomplished within resource and budget constraints. There may also be opportunities to incorporate some of the Statistical Calculator functionality into other tools the Census Bureau provides for public users.

Thank you for your continued support of the Census Bureau and the AFF. We will review your recommendation and determine the feasibility of adding some of the requested functionality.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves  
Director