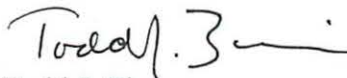




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Inspector General  
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 1, 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR CENSUS DIRECTOR JOHN H. THOMPSON**

**FROM:**   
Todd J. Zinser

**SUBJECT:** Issuance of Public Report Concerning OIG Investigation 14-0073;  
Unsubstantiated Allegations of Data Falsification to Decrease the National  
Unemployment Rate

In November 2013, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation into allegations of systemic data falsification within the Census Bureau's Philadelphia Regional Office. These allegations were repeated in various media outlets, accompanied by additional information alleging that falsification was aimed to influence the national unemployment rate in advance of the 2012 presidential election.

OIG exhaustively investigated these allegations and found them to be unsubstantiated. However, during our review, we identified several areas where the Census Bureau could implement policies and improve processes to better prevent survey data falsification. As a result, we made several recommendations to strengthen Census Bureau programs, and would appreciate a response detailing the agency's plans for addressing these recommendations within 60 days.

The results of our investigation are attached. Our report has been edited in compliance with applicable privacy laws. Following this, the report will be released to the public immediately, and you may distribute within your organization at your discretion.

If you have any questions about our investigation, our findings, or recommendations, do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-4661.

cc: The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce  
Patrick Gallagher, NIST Director Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary  
Mark Doms, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs  
Kelly Welsh, General Counsel  
Bruce H. Andrews, Chief of Staff  
Ellen Herbst, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Nancy Potok, Deputy Director, Census Bureau

