



Report In Brief

U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Inspector General

December 3, 2009



Why We Did This Review

The U.S. Census Bureau's financial statements were audited in conjunction with the annual audit of the Department of Commerce's consolidated financial statements, which is required by law.

Background

The Office of Inspector General engaged KPMG, an independent public accounting firm, to audit the Census's FY 2009 balance sheet, including an assessment of the IT controls supporting its financial management systems.

KPMG conducted the audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards and Office of Management and Budget Bulletin 07-04, Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements, as amended, and measured Census's IT controls against the five criteria in GAO's Federal Information System Controls Audit Manual.

We defined the scope of work for the audits, oversaw their performance and delivery, and reviewed the final reports.

U.S. Census Bureau

FY 2009 Financial Statement Audits (FSD-19651)

What We Found

KPMG's audits found that Census's balance sheet was fairly presented in all material respects and in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. KPMG found no instances of material noncompliance with laws, regulations, or contracts. The audit results indicate that Census's internal control structure facilitates the preparation of reliable financial and performance information.

The IT review found that while Census has taken positive steps to correct previous IT findings, there are still weaknesses related to IT controls supporting the bureau's financial management systems. These weaknesses are not considered a significant deficiency in Census's IT controls.

What We Recommend

The results of KPMG's IT audit have been summarized in a limited distribution report. We requested that Census provide us an audit action plan by January 9, 2010, to address the report's findings and delineate the actions it plans to take to fix the IT vulnerabilities. We also asked that Census provide the rationale or legal basis behind its decision should it choose not to implement KPMG's recommendations.