



Department of Commerce

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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PRESS RELEASE

The Economic Census

Capitol Hill, Saipan – Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Statistics and CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, would like to remind all businesses in the CNMI that the 2012 Economic Census is under way. All island businesses should have received their forms since the end of December 2012.

A total of 1,286 Questionnaires were mailed in December 2012. As of January 2013, a total of 14 Questionnaires have been filled and returned back to the US Census Bureau.

Three (3) Mail Follow ups will be conducted during the months of March, April and May followed by telephone and in person follow up during the months of June and July by staff of the department's Central Statistics Division.

The Economic Census of Island Areas is the major source of facts about the structure and functioning of the economy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Data from the Economic Census is important for everyone involved with the economy from the government policy makers trying to assess potential impact of proposed legislation to the trade associations looking to assess trends within their industries to the individual businesses trying to analyze potential new markets. This data has been so useful in the past in large part due to businesses completing their Economic Census forms.

In issuing this notification, Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar added, "It is with these types of data that shape my department's economic recommendations to the policy makers. I want to extend my appreciation for the support from the local business community".

Secretary Igisomar further added that it is advisable for all the businesses to complete the questionnaire forms on-line or through the mail by the due date of February 12, 2013.

This reminder will also be accessible at www.commerce.gov.mp; for any questions or comments please contact Central Statistics Director, Alfonis M. Sound at e-mail director.csd@commerce.gov.mp or call (670)-664-3023/45.