

OVER 100 DAYS FREE!
SERIOUSLY, THAT MANY.

SUBSCRIBE



JOHN CRUDELE

EXCLUSIVE BUSINESS

Census 'faked' 2012 election jobs report

By John Crudele

November 18, 2013 | 8:06pm



Photo: AP/Pablo Martinez Monsivais



MORE FROM
JOHN CRUDELE

'Taper' a bow, Ben

Fed's problem is lack of interest

Brooklyn Census Bureau also falsified data in 2010

In the home stretch of the 2012 presidential campaign, from August to September, the unemployment rate fell sharply — raising eyebrows from Wall Street to Washington.

The decline — from 8.1 percent in August to 7.8 percent in September — might not have been all it seemed. The numbers, according to a reliable source, were manipulated.

And the Census Bureau, which does the unemployment

Free SHIPPING

Get yours today **FREE**
NEW 2 YR. ACTIVATION REQ'D.

shop now

TRENDING NOW



8695

20-something Buffett protégé freezes paint firm pensions



3668

Tips for victims of Target's credit card breach



1958

Hard Rock in talks to buy troubled Revel Casino: sources

Green shoots and 'weeds' in job numbers

Budget deal is no triumph

survey, knew it.

Just two years before the presidential election, the Census Bureau had caught an employee fabricating data that went into the unemployment report, which is one of the most closely watched measures of the economy.

And a knowledgeable source says the deception went beyond that one employee — that it escalated at the time President Obama was seeking reelection in 2012 and continues today.

“He’s not the only one,” said the source, who asked to remain anonymous for now but is willing to talk with the Labor Department and Congress if asked.

The Census employee caught faking the results is Julius Buckmon, according to confidential Census documents obtained by The Post. Buckmon told me in an interview this past weekend that he was told to make up information by higher-ups at Census.

Ironically, it was Labor’s demanding standards that left the door open to manipulation.

Labor requires Census to achieve a 90 percent success rate on its interviews — meaning it needed to reach 9 out of 10 households targeted and report back on their jobs status.

Census currently has six regions from which surveys are conducted. The New York and Philadelphia regions, I’m told, had been coming up short of the 90 percent.

Philadelphia filled the gap with fake interviews.

“It was a phone conversation — I forget the exact words — but it was, ‘Go ahead and fabricate it’ to make it what it was,” Buckmon told me.

Census, under contract from the Labor Department, conducts the household survey used to tabulate the unemployment rate.

Interviews with some 60,000 household go into each month’s jobless number, which currently stands at 7.3 percent. Since this is considered a scientific poll, each one of the households interviewed represents 5,000 homes in the US.

Buckmon, it turns out, was a very ambitious employee. He conducted three times as many household interviews as his peers, my source said.

By making up survey results — and, essentially, creating people out of thin air and giving them jobs — Buckmon’s actions could have lowered the jobless rate.

Buckmon said he filled out surveys for people he couldn’t reach by phone or who didn’t answer their doors.

But, Buckmon says, he was never told how to answer the questions about whether these nonexistent people were employed or not, looking for work, or have given up.

But people who know how the survey works say that simply by creating people and filling out surveys in their name would boost the number of folks reported as employed.

Census never publicly disclosed the falsification. Nor did it inform Labor that its data was tainted.

“Yes, absolutely they should have told us,” said a Labor spokesman. “It would be normal procedure to notify us if there is a problem with data collection.”

NOW ON



Did Rachel Maddow get Alec Baldwin axed?

Star snaps of the day

Nigella’s ex-aides acquitted of fraud after spending \$1M in luxe spree

Parties of holidays past

Lindsay Lohan too ‘childish’ for new teen pals

SEE ALL

PAGE SIX VIDEO



Two hot and a not: Jennifer Lawrence, Warren Buffett, Will and Kate

MOST POPULAR THIS WEEK ON NYPOST.COM

How the West was lost by the selfie president

What happened to Lady Gaga?

Inside the Saudi 9/11 coverup

440 lb virgin sends lover to ER during his first time

Lesbian boss ‘fired me for being straight’

Census appears to have looked into only a handful of instances of falsification by Buckmon, although more than a dozen instances were reported, according to internal documents.

In one document from the probe, Program Coordinator Joal Crosby was ask in 2010, "Why was the suspected ... possible data falsification on all (underscored) other survey work for which data falsification was suspected not investigated by the region?"

On one document seen by The Post, Crosby hand-wrote the answer: "Unable to determine why an investigation was not done for CPS," or the Current Population Survey — the official name for the unemployment report.

With regard to the Consumer Expenditure survey, only four instances of falsification were looked into, while 14 were reported.

I've been suspicious of the Census Bureau for a long time.

During the 2010 Census report — an enormous and costly survey of the entire country that goes on for a full year — I suspected (and wrote in a number of columns) that Census was inexplicably hiring and firing temporary workers.

I suspected that this turnover of employees was being done purposely to boost the number of new jobs being report each month. (The Labor Department does not use the Census Bureau for its other monthly survey of new jobs — commonly referred to as the Establishment Survey.)

Last week I offered to give all the information I have, including names, dates and charges to Labor's inspector general.

I'm waiting to hear back from Labor.

I hope the next stop will be Congress, since manipulation of data like this not only gives voters the wrong impression of the economy but also leads lawmakers, the Federal Reserve and companies to make uninformed decisions.

To cite just one instance, the Fed is targeting the curtailment of its so-called quantitative easing money-printing/bond-buying fiasco to the unemployment rate for which Census provided the false information.

So falsifying this would, in essence, have dire consequences for the country.

FILED UNDER [CENSUS](#), [JOBS](#), [LABOR DEPARTMENT](#), [UNEMPLOYMENT](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



Ann Romney: Mitt is frustrated Obama didn't tell...
FOX Business



Letting Go of Keeping Up
Bring Your Challenges



Did You Know These Hot Women Under 40
Were Jewish?
Rant Lifestyle

