

Happy Birthday America!

On **July 4, 1776**, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, setting the **13** colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As we celebrate Independence Day, we reflect on how our Founding Fathers enshrined the importance of statistics as a vital tool for measuring America **in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution**.

 **Did you know?** There were **56** signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock was the **first** signer. Benjamin Franklin was the **oldest** signer at age **70**, and Edward Rutledge was the **youngest** signer at age **26**.

There were an estimated [2.5 million](#) people living in the newly independent United States in July 1776.

Flash forward to April 1, 2020, and the 2020 Census shows the nation's population was **331,449,281**.

For more fun facts about the Fourth of July, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Facts for Features page on [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).