



BRIEFLY...

DOL CONTINUES TO MAKE LIMITED PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLIANCE WITH THE GEOSPATIAL DATA ACT OF 2018

Why We Did the Audit

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018, to foster efficient management of geospatial data, technologies, and infrastructure through enhanced coordination among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, along with the private sector and academia. According to the GDA, the covered agency Inspectors General, which includes DOL, must complete an audit every 2 years regarding their agencies' progress toward implementing GDA requirements.

To address this mandatory audit requirement, we performed an audit to answer the following question:

To what extent has DOL fulfilled the requirements of the GDA of 2018 to date?

We assessed the status of DOL's implementation efforts by conducting interviews and analyzing evidence provided.

What We Found

DOL made progress in addressing the 13 specific GDA Requirements; however, more remains to be done. Of the 13 Requirements, we determined DOL initiated action and made progress on 7, completed or met 5, and made no progress to date on the remaining 1 (see Table).

In the following table:

- Red hexagon = No progress or Requirement not met
- Yellow triangle = Limited progress or Requirement partially met
- Green star = Requirement met

Table: OIG Assessment of DOL's Implementation of GDA Requirements

GDA Requirement	2022	2024	2026
1. Strategy	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
2. Support Data Sharing	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
3. Promote Data Integration	Red hexagon	Green star	Green star
4. Agency Record Schedules	Red hexagon	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle
5. Allocation of Resources	Red hexagon	Red hexagon	Red hexagon
6. Use Data Standards	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
7. Coordination and Partnerships	Green star	Green star	Green star
8. Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets	Red hexagon	Green star	Green star
9. Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
10. Declassified Data	Green star	Green star	Green star
11. Search all sources of Data Before Acquisition	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
12. Ensuring High-Quality Data	Red hexagon	Yellow triangle	Yellow triangle
13. Appointment of Contact	Green star	Green star	Green star

Source: OIG analysis from our Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2024, and 2026 GDA audits

DOL's progress toward GDA compliance has been hindered by several factors. During this audit cycle (2024–2026), there were three different Chief Data Officers. While DOL has published a Geospatial Data Strategy, the policy has not been updated since FY 2022. Previous audits have also highlighted the lack of sufficient funding, which continues to result in insufficient resources for completing the inventory, improving data quality processes, and adopting standards.

What We Recommended

We made four recommendations to improve DOL's GDA compliance. We recommended that the Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO) update the strategy, establish a process to improve data accuracy and quality, and provide training for agencies. We also recommended that the Secretary of Labor develop a plan to secure sufficient funding for GDA work. The CDAO agreed with our recommendations and provided corrective action plans for three of the four. The fourth recommendation was sent to the Secretary.

Read the Full Report

For more information, go to:

<https://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2027/23-26-002-01-001.pdf>