

American Community Survey (ACS) Comparing Estimates

August 7, 2018

Presented for: Government Publishing Office

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U.S. Census Bureau**

Outline

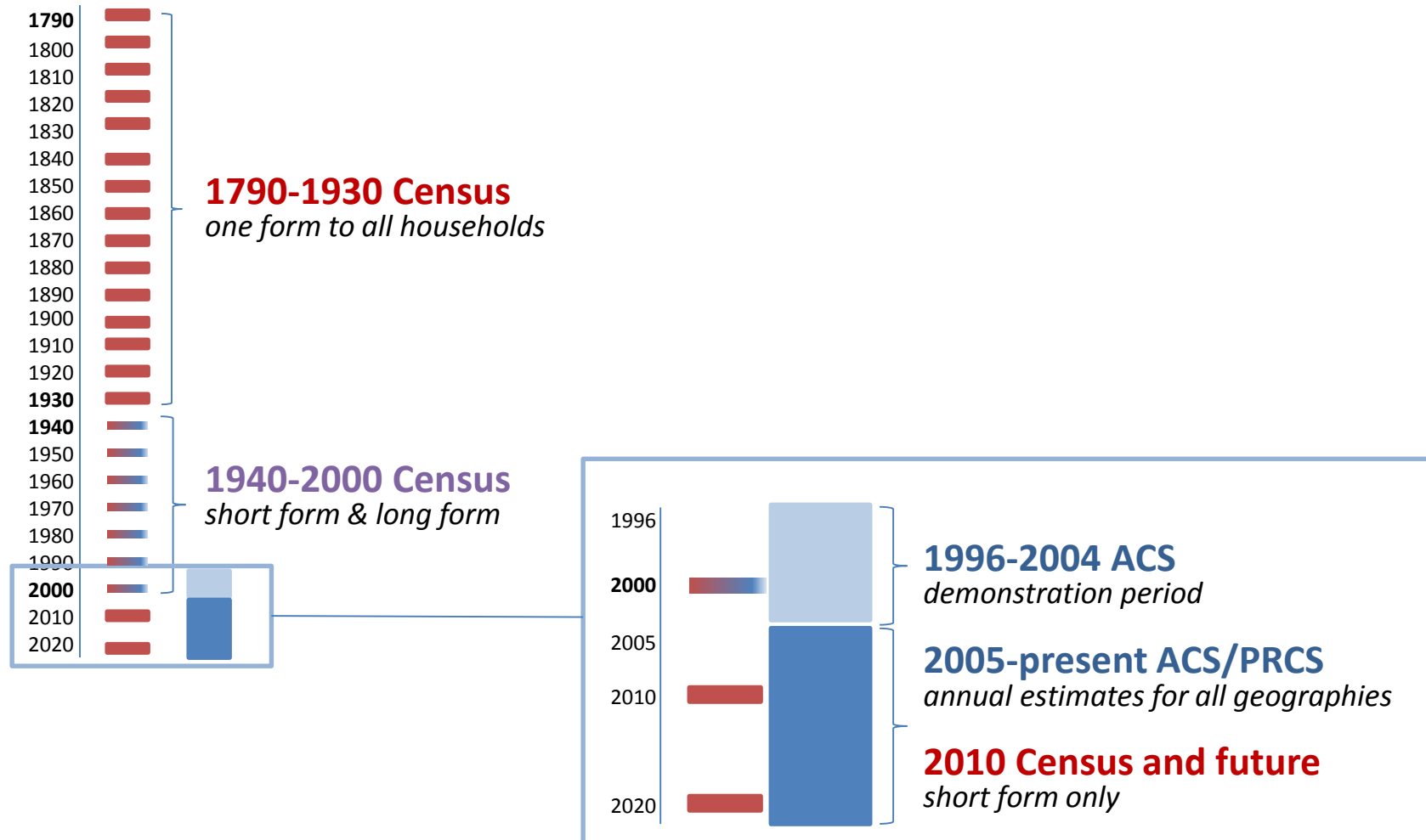
- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- Accessing ACS data products
- Comparing Estimates
- Resources for Learning More
- Questions

ACS Basics

- Ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses per year to produce detailed population and housing estimates each year
 - Visit 20,000 Group Quarter facilities and sample approximately 194,000 residents each year
- Designed to produce *critical information on small areas and small population groups* previously collected on the decennial long form
- Covers 35+ topics and supports over 300 known Federal Government uses
- Data released three times each year
 - 1-year estimates (12 months of data)
 - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (12 months of data)
 - 5-year estimates (60 months of data)

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the American Community Survey (ACS) forms. The top screenshot shows the 'Housing' section, which includes questions about the type of building (e.g., mobile home, detached house, etc.) and various amenities like running water, flush toilet, shower, sink, stove, and refrigerator. The middle screenshot shows the 'United States Census Bureau' logo and a 'Please Log In' section with a barcode and a field for the 10-digit User ID. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Welcome to the American Community Survey' message and a 'Please Log In' section with a barcode and a field for the 10-digit User ID. The forms are presented in a layered, overlapping manner to show different parts of the survey process.

Census & ACS



ACS Data Collection Process

Online



Mail



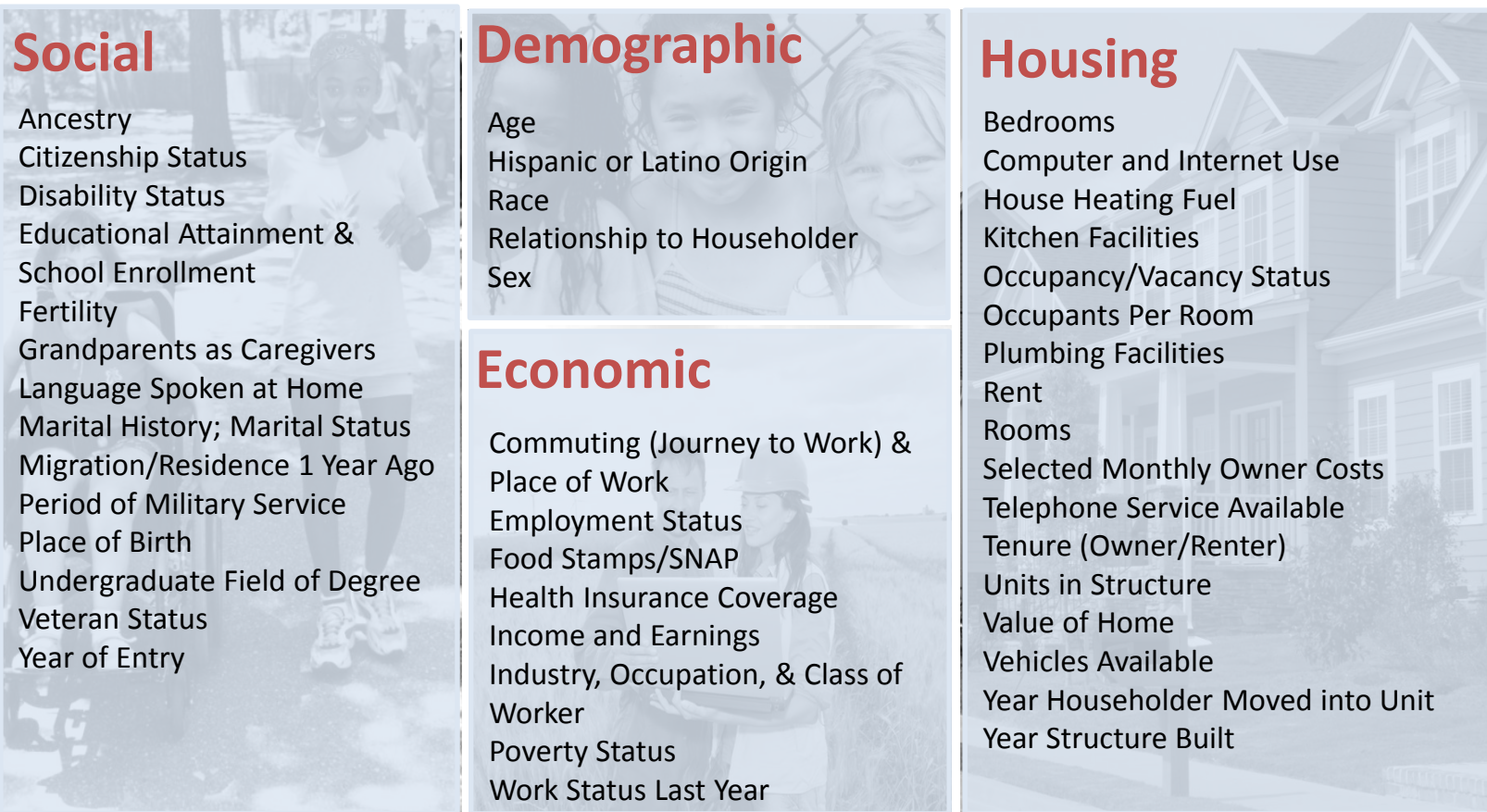
Personal Visit



Self-Response Modes

Non-Response Mode

ACS Content



Social

- Ancestry
- Citizenship Status
- Disability Status
- Educational Attainment & School Enrollment
- Fertility
- Grandparents as Caregivers
- Language Spoken at Home
- Marital History; Marital Status
- Migration/Residence 1 Year Ago
- Period of Military Service
- Place of Birth
- Undergraduate Field of Degree
- Veteran Status
- Year of Entry

Demographic

- Age
- Hispanic or Latino Origin
- Race
- Relationship to Householder
- Sex

Economic

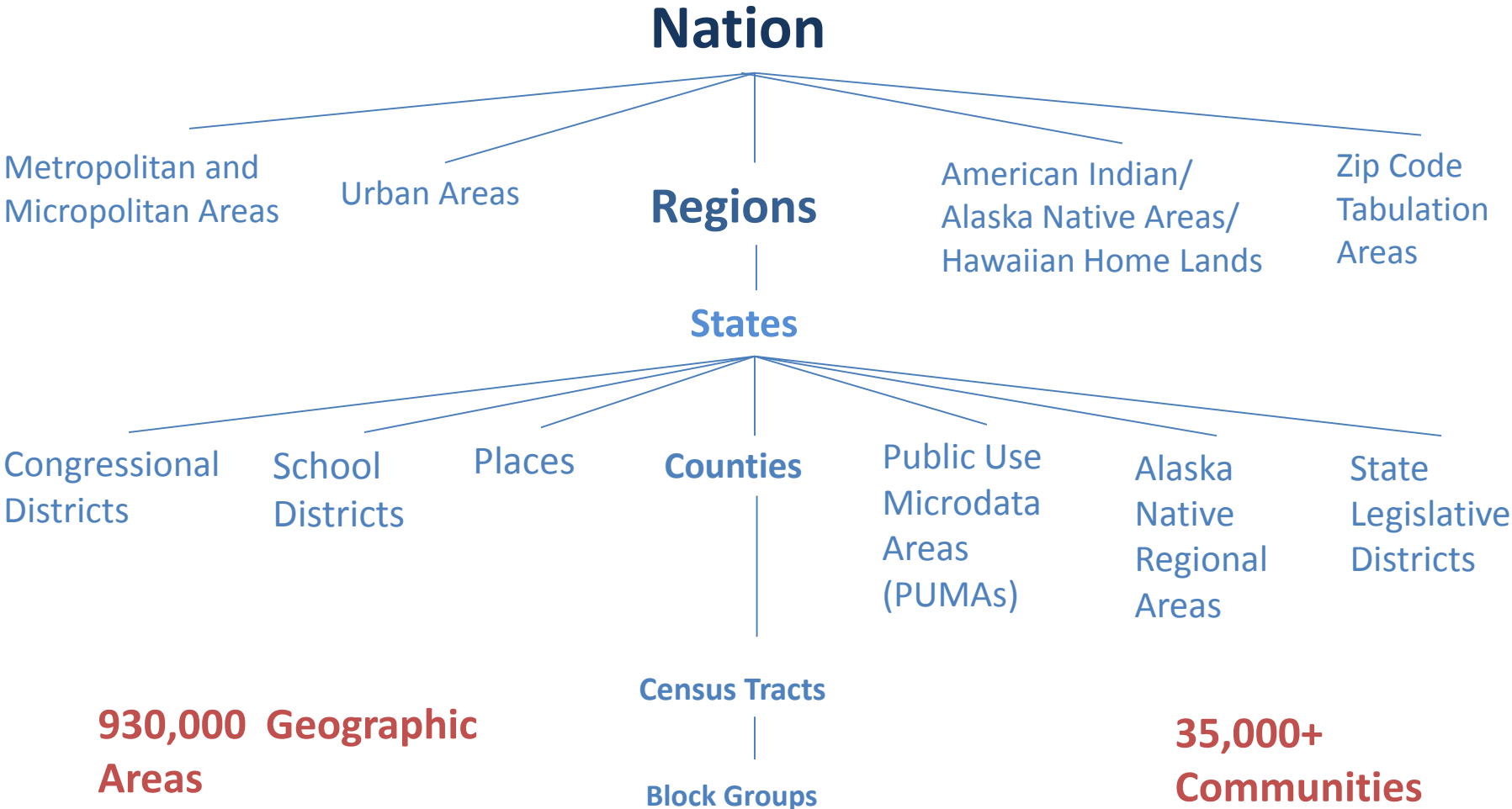
- Commuting (Journey to Work) & Place of Work
- Employment Status
- Food Stamps/SNAP
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Income and Earnings
- Industry, Occupation, & Class of Worker
- Poverty Status
- Work Status Last Year

Housing

- Bedrooms
- Computer and Internet Use
- House Heating Fuel
- Kitchen Facilities
- Occupancy/Vacancy Status
- Occupants Per Room
- Plumbing Facilities
- Rent
- Rooms
- Selected Monthly Owner Costs
- Telephone Service Available
- Tenure (Owner/Renter)
- Units in Structure
- Value of Home
- Vehicles Available
- Year Householder Moved into Unit
- Year Structure Built

35+ Topics → **1000+ Tables** → **11 Billion Estimates**

Selected Census Geographic Concepts



Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Release Date	September 14	October 19	December 7

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html

Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- **Accessing ACS data products**
- Comparing Estimates
- Resources for Learning More
- Questions

Selected Ways to Access Data

- QuickFacts
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- Census Business Builder
- American FactFinder
- Data.census.gov

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/data-tools-chart.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/data-tools-chart.html)

Find Data Tools on Census.gov

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the United States Census Bureau website. The 'Data Tools, Developers' link is circled in red. Below it, the 'Data Tools & Apps' dropdown menu is also circled in red, and the 'Data Tools & Apps Main' link within that menu is circled in red. The page content includes a search bar, a navigation menu with links for Topics, Geography, Library, Data, Surveys/Programs, Newsroom, and About Us, and a main content area with buttons for Data Main, Data Tools & Apps, Developers, and Product Catalog. A list of tools is displayed, including American FactFinder, Census Business Builder, Census Explorer, My Congressional District, My Tribal Area, QuickFacts, U.S. and World Population Clock, Related Sites, Combining Data, Software, Training & Workshops, and Visualizations.

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQs

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Respond, Survey Data

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About Us
Our Research

Data Main

Data Tools & Apps ▾

Developers

Product Catalog

Find information using interactive applications to get statistics from multiple surveys.

Data Tools & Apps Main

American FactFinder
Census Business Builder
Census Explorer
My Congressional District

My Tribal Area
QuickFacts
U.S. and World Population Clock

Related Sites

Combining Data

Software

Training & Workshops

Visualizations

census.gov/data/data-tools.html

QuickFacts

QuickFacts

selected: **Van Buren County, Michigan; Kalamazoo County, Michigan; UNITED STATES**

[What's New & FAQs >](#)
[Tell us what you think >](#)

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.



Table

All Topics	Van Buren County, Michigan	Kalamazoo County, Michigan	UNITED STATES
Population estimates, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	75,223	261,654	323,127,513
PEOPLE			
Population			
Population estimates, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	75,223	261,654	323,127,513
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2016)	76,265	250,327	308,758,105
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2016, (V2016)	-1.4%	4.5%	4.7%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	76,258	250,331	308,745,538
Age and Sex			
Persons under 5 years, percent, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	6.2%	6.1%	6.2%
Persons under 5 years, percent, April 1, 2010	6.4%	6.3%	6.5%
Persons under 18 years, percent, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	23.8%	21.8%	22.8%
Persons under 18 years, percent, April 1, 2010	25.5%	22.7%	24.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	17.0%	14.3%	15.2%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, April 1, 2010	13.8%	12.3%	13.0%
Female persons, percent, July 1, 2016, (V2016)	50.2%	51.0%	50.8%
Female persons, percent, April 1, 2010	50.4%	51.0%	50.8%

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

- Main
- Applications
- Data
- Learn More
- Research
- State Partners
- Partner with Us
- LED in Action

Applications

- J2J Explorer (Beta)
- QWI Explorer
- OnTheMap
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- LED Extraction Tool

Useful Links

- Center for Economic Studies
- QWI Data
- LODES Data
- LED Workshop

Contact Information

Email us:

[General](#)

[LODES/OnTheMap](#)

[QWI/QWI Explorer](#)

[J2J/J2J Explorer](#)

or

Call us at (301) 763-8303

[Further contact information](#)

[Join an LEHD mailing list](#)

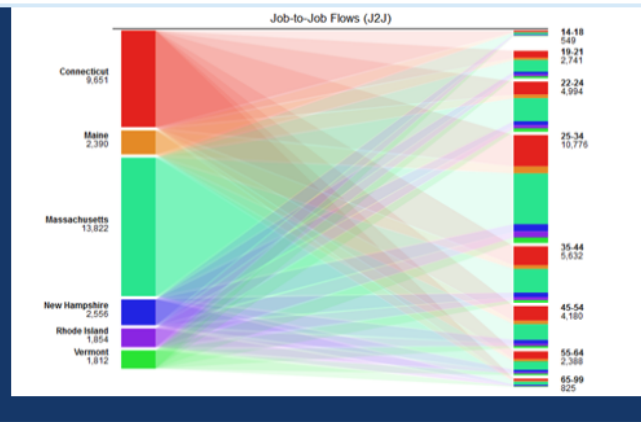
Beta Release of J2J Explorer

Job-to-Job Flows Explorer (Beta) is a new web-based analysis tool that enables comprehensive access to an innovative set of statistics on worker reallocation in the United States. J2J Explorer unlocks these statistics through an interactive analysis and visualization interface that allows for the construction of tables, maps and charts to compare, aggregate and analyze flows by worker and firm characteristics.

[Learn more](#) (95 KB)

[Start J2J Explorer](#)

< 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 >



What's New?

There are no new announcements at this time.

[View all announcements](#)

About Us

The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is part of the [Center for Economic Studies](#) at the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). The [LEHD program](#) produces new, cost effective, public-use information combining federal, state and Census Bureau data on employers and employees under the [Local Employment Dynamics \(LED\) Partnership](#). State and local authorities increasingly need detailed local information about their economies to make informed decisions. The LED Partnership works to fill critical data gaps and provide indicators needed by state and local authorities.

Under the LED Partnership, states agree to share Unemployment Insurance earnings data and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data with the Census Bureau. The LEHD program combines these administrative data, additional administrative data and data from censuses and surveys. From these data, the program creates statistics on employment, earnings, and job flows at detailed levels of geography and industry and for different demographic groups. In addition, the LEHD program uses these data to create partially synthetic data on workers' residential patterns.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have joined the LED Partnership, although the LEHD program is not yet producing public-use statistics for Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. The LEHD program staff includes geographers, programmers, and economists.

Our mission is to provide new dynamic information on workers, employers, and jobs with state-of-the-art confidentiality protections and no additional data collection burden. [See this one-page document on LED](#) (153 KB) for more information.

OnTheMap for Emergency Management

OnTheMap for Emergency Management LEHD Home OnTheMap Help and Documentation

Search: Filter U.S. Census Bureau data for disasters, natural hazards, and weather events. Click for more information on Pacific Storms.

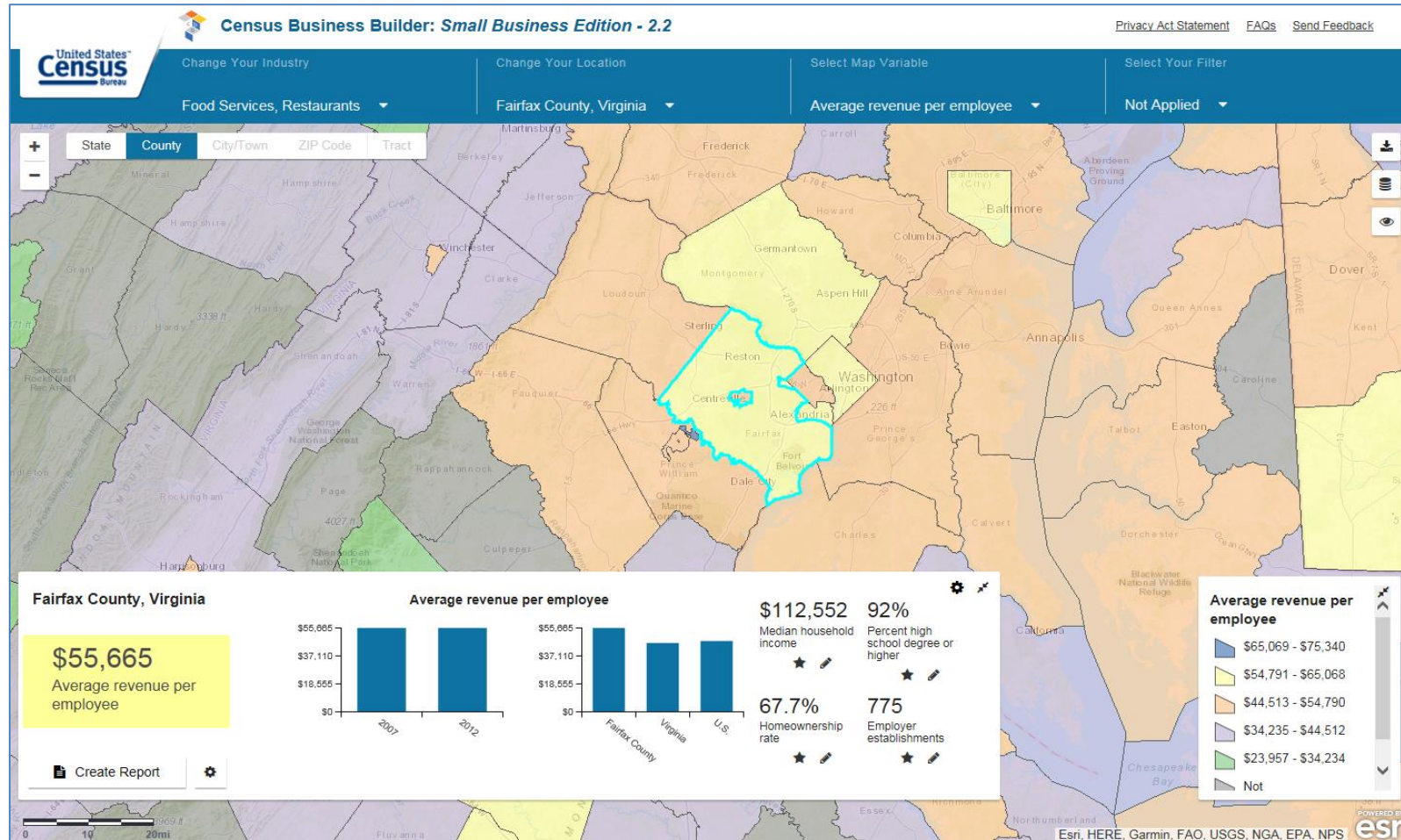
Events as of 11/06/2017

- Hurricanes**
 - Tropical Depression Nineteen
No data
Affected Population: 0
- Wildfires**
 - Abney Fire
California, Oregon
Affected Population: 7
 - Trout Creek Fire
No data
Affected Population: 0
 - Tank Hollow Fire
Utah County, UT
Affected Population: 0
 - CROWN Fire
No data
Affected Population: 0
 - 2017 Windfall Mnt Overwinter 1 Fire
Zip 70549
Affected Population: 0
 - Bear Mountain Fire
No data
Affected Population: 0
- Federal Disaster Declarations**
 - DR-4305
Inyo County, CA, Kern County, CA, Riverside County, CA and 19 other Counties
Affected Population: 25,369,369
 - DR-4337
Monroe County, FL, Miami-Dade County, FL, Palm Beach County, FL and 64 other Counties
Affected Population: 18,801,310
 - DR-4223
Edwards County, TX, Duval County, TX, Harris County, TX and 110 other Counties
Affected Population: 17,594,564

The map displays the United States with various disaster locations marked. A large purple shaded area covers the northern United States and southern Canada. Numerous orange and red circular icons are scattered across the country, primarily in the western and southern regions. A pink star icon is visible in the central US. The map includes state and provincial boundaries and labels for major cities and bodies of water.

Privacy Policy | 2010 Census | Data Tools | Information Quality | Product Catalog | Contact Us | Home
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD | e-mail: CES.OnTheMap.Feedback@census.gov

Census Business Builder



census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html

American FactFinder

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website. At the top left is the United States Census Bureau logo. The main header features the text 'AMERICAN FactFinder' with a magnifying glass icon over the word 'FactFinder'. To the right of the header are links for 'Feedback', 'FAQs', 'Glossary', and 'Help'. Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for 'MAIN', 'COMMUNITY FACTS', 'GUIDED SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', and 'DOWNLOAD CENTER'. On the far right of the navigation bar are language options: 'English' and 'Español'. A blue banner below the navigation bar contains an information icon and the text: 'Check out the early preview of our new dissemination platform at data.census.gov.' The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a 'Community Facts' section with a description: 'Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.' Below this is a search input field with the placeholder text 'e.g., Atlanta, GA' and a 'GO' button. Underneath are three more sections: 'Guided Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Download Center', each with a right-pointing arrow icon. The right column features a large photograph of a smiling family: a man, a woman, and a young girl. Below the photo is a section titled 'Popular Tables' which lists various data categories and their corresponding table identifiers. The categories are: 'Population and Housing' (with tables: Annual Population Estimates (2016 PEP, PEPANNRES), Demographic and Housing Estimates (2015 ACS, DP05), General Housing Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP04), and General Demographic Characteristics (2010 Census, DP-1)), 'Poverty and Income' (with table: General Economic Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP03)), and 'Age, Race, Sex and Education' (with tables: Selected Social Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP02) and Educational Attainment (2015 ACS, S1501)).

United States Census Bureau

AMERICAN FactFinder

Feedback FAQs Glossary Help

MAIN COMMUNITY FACTS GUIDED SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH DOWNLOAD CENTER

English Español

i Check out the early preview of our new dissemination platform at data.census.gov.

Community Facts
Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.
Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code:

Guided Search

Advanced Search

Download Center

Popular Tables

Population and Housing

- Annual Population Estimates (2016 PEP, PEPANNRES)
- Demographic and Housing Estimates (2015 ACS, DP05)
- General Housing Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP04)
- General Demographic Characteristics (2010 Census, DP-1)

Poverty and Income

- General Economic Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP03)

Age, Race, Sex and Education

- Selected Social Characteristics (2015 ACS, DP02)
- Educational Attainment (2015 ACS, S1501)

factfinder.census.gov

Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Accessing ACS data products
- **Comparing Estimates**
- Resources for Learning More
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Comparison Guidance

Do	Do Not
Use ACS for population characteristics (i.e., percents, means, medians, rates)	Use ACS for population totals (instead use decennial census or the Population Estimates Program)
Compare non-overlapping datasets (i.e., 2005-2009 to 2010-2014)	Compare overlapping datasets (i.e., 2005-2009 to 2006-2010)
Compare similar period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 1-year)	Compare estimates from different period lengths (i.e., 1-year to 5-year)
Conduct statistical testing when making comparisons between estimates	Look at estimates alone to decide if they are higher or lower than one another

Comparison Guidance

About the Survey

Respond to the Survey

News & Updates

Data

Guidance for Data Users

Subjects Included in the Survey

Which Data Table or Tool Should I Use?

When to Use 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year Estimates

Handbooks

Comparing ACS Data

ACS/Census Table Comparisons

2016

2015

2014

2013

Comparing ACS Data



The strength of the American Community Survey (ACS) is in estimating characteristic distributions. If you are looking for population totals, we recommend the 2010 Census or Population Estimates Program.

It is also important to keep in mind that **all ACS data are estimates**. We collect data from a sample of the population in the United States and Puerto Rico rather than from the whole population. To help you interpret the reliability of the estimates, the Census Bureau publishes a margin of error (MOE) for every ACS estimate.

Can I compare ACS estimates?

Yes	Compare non-overlapping datasets (example: compare 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates to 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates).
No	Do not compare overlapping datasets (example: do not compare 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates to 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimates).

Because ACS variables change over time, some areas and subjects must be **compared with caution**, or **not compared at all**. Use the years in the **left navigation** to get yearly guidance on specific topics/subjects.

Can I compare ACS estimates with Census 2000?

Yes	Compare ACS 1-year, 3-year or 5-year estimates with Census 2000 data. However, differences in the universe , question wording , residence rules , reference periods , and the way in which the data are tabulated can impact comparability with Census 2000.
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Use our [Table Comparison Lookup Tool](#) to check for a comparable table for your topic of interest. You can enter ACS table numbers or Census 2000 table numbers.

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/comparing-acs-data.html

What is Statistical Testing?

- **Definition** : A test to determine if a difference is unlikely to occur by chance
- To be “statistically different”, there must be statistical evidence that there is a difference between two estimates
- Testing should be conducted for all comparisons, both implicit and explicit

What is the Margin of Error?

- **Definition:** An MOE is a measure of the possible variation of the estimate around the population value
- At a given confidence level, the estimate and the actual population value will differ by no more than the value of the MOE
 - 90% confidence level is the Census Bureau Standard
- ACS MOEs are provided in the same units as their respective estimates

« < 1 - 18 of 804 > »

Subject	Adams County, Pennsylvania							
	Total		Percent		Males		Percent Males	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population 18 to 24 years	9,969	+/-74	(X)	(X)	5,049	+/-56	(X)	(X)
Population 25 years and over	70,365	+/-75	(X)	(X)	34,186	+/-71	(X)	(X)
Percent high school graduate or higher	(X)	(X)	87.3%	+/-0.8	(X)	(X)	86.1%	+/-1.0
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	(X)	21.7%	+/-0.9	(X)	(X)	20.9%	+/-1.1

We are 90% confident that the true percentage of high school graduates or higher in Adams County, PA is somewhere within 0.8% of the estimate (87.3%)

Statistical Testing Tool

Algebraically, the significance test can be expressed as follows:

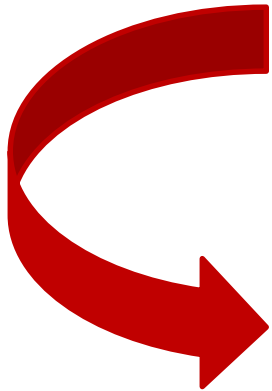
$$\text{If } \left| \frac{\hat{X}_1 - \hat{X}_2}{\sqrt{SE_1^2 + SE_2^2}} \right| > Z_{CL}, \text{ then the difference}$$

between estimates \hat{X}_1 and \hat{X}_2 is statistically significant at the specified confidence level, CL

where \hat{X}_i is estimate i ($i=1,2$)

SE_i is the SE for the estimate i ($i=1,2$)

Z_{CL} is the critical value for the desired confidence level (=1.645 for 90 percent, 1.960 for 95 percent, 2.576 for 99 percent).



Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Guidance for Data Users > Statistical Testing Tool

American Community Survey (ACS)

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Subjects Included in the Survey

Which Data Table or Tool Should I Use?

When to Use 1-year, 3-year, or 5-year Estimates

Handbooks

Comparing ACS Data

Statistical Testing Tool

Training Presentations

Geography & ACS

Technical Documentation

Methodology

Statistical Testing Tool

Tweet Share

Comparing American Community Survey (ACS) estimates involves more than determining which statistic is higher or lower. Users should also conduct statistical testing to make sure differences are statistically significant and are unlikely to have occurred by chance. This testing takes into account the margin of error (MOE) associated with survey estimates, which are based on responses from only a sample of the full population.

Looking for an easy way to conduct statistical testing? Try the Census Bureau's new [Statistical Testing Tool](#). Simply copy or download ACS estimates and their MOEs into the spreadsheet to get instant results of statistical tests.

Tool Features:

- Compares up to 3,230 pairs of estimates at once
- Compares multiple estimates simultaneously (up to 150 estimates)
- Displays statistical testing results ("Yes", "No") automatically
- Handles special formatting and characters, such as the '+/-' in front of the MOE, without additional editing by the data user
- Uses the Census Bureau's standard 90% confidence level, but can also process statistical testing at 95% or 99% confidence levels
- May be used to conduct statistical testing for other Census Bureau surveys



Download Statistical Testing Tool
[XLSX - 3.5 MB]

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/statistical-testing-tool.html

AFF: Comparison Profiles



- ✓ CP02: Social Characteristics
- ✓ CP03: Economic Characteristics
- ✓ CP04: Housing Characteristics
- ✓ CP05: Demographic Characteristics

Subject	District of Columbia								
	2016 Estimate	2015 Estimate	2016 - 2015 Statistical Significance	2014 Estimate	2016 - 2014 Statistical Significance	2013 Estimate	2016 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2016 - 2012 Statistical Significance
\$35,000 to \$49,999	7.6%	9.2%	*	8.8%	*	9.2%	*	10.6%	*
\$50,000 to \$74,999	12.9%	12.9%		13.0%		14.6%	*	13.3%	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10.0%	11.1%		11.8%	*	10.4%		9.9%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15.7%	16.0%		14.8%		15.9%		15.9%	
\$150,000 to \$199,999	9.4%	8.7%		8.5%		8.1%	*	8.0%	*
\$200,000 or more	15.1%	14.9%		13.7%	*	12.8%	*	13.3%	*
Median household income (dollars)	75,506	75,991		72,273		69,703	*	69,283	*
Mean household income (dollars)	114,432	116,049		104,954	*	106,009	*	106,794	*
With earnings	80.4%	80.6%		79.6%		80.6%		80.6%	
Mean earnings (dollars)	119,777	119,264		112,310	*	112,592	*	113,074	*
With Social Security	20.0%	18.4%	*	18.7%	*	18.9%		18.2%	*
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	15,926	16,013		14,882	*	14,961	*	15,340	
With retirement income	13.8%	13.8%		14.1%		14.5%		14.3%	
Mean retirement income (dollars)	45,565	45,798		41,053		39,618		39,730	
With Supplemental Security Income	5.4%	5.5%		5.8%		5.7%			
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	9,329	9,958		8,808		9,236			
With cash public assistance income	3.9%	3.3%		3.7%		4.2%			
Mean cash public assistance income (dollars)	3,420	3,037		3,303		3,549			
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	14.5%	15.1%		15.7%		15.7%			

Asterisk indicates if there is statistical significance

For geographies with 65,000 persons +, you can use 1-year estimate ACS Comparison Profile Tables that test Statistical Significance for you. The look-back is the prior four years.



AFF: Comparison Profiles

Comparison Profile Tables also come in a five-year estimate version. The look back is the next 5-year dataset that is non-overlapping

Most Recent 5-year look-back

- ✓ CP02: Social Characteristics
- ✓ CP03: Economic Characteristics
- ✓ CP04: Housing Characteristics
- ✓ CP05: Demographic Characteristics

Subject	District of Columbia		
	2012-2016 Estimates	2007-2011 Estimates	Statistical Significance
INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2016 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)			
Total households	276,546	260,136	*
Less than \$10,000	10.2%	10.0%	
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.4%	4.5%	
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.1%	7.6%	
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6.7%	7.0%	
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9.1%	10.8%	*
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13.4%	14.7%	*
\$75,000 to \$99,999	10.5%	11.3%	*
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15.6%	14.3%	*
\$150,000 to \$199,999	8.7%	8.0%	*
\$200,000 or more	14.2%	11.8%	*
Median household income (dollars)	72,935	65,903	*
Mean household income (dollars)	110,614	102,615	*

Most recent non-overlapping 5-year look-back

Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Accessing ACS data products
- Comparing Estimates
- **Resources for Learning More**
- **Questions**

ACS Main Page

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Census
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Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS)

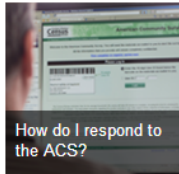
American Community Survey (ACS)

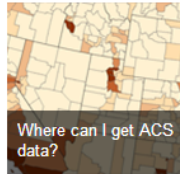
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Contact Us



Respond to the ACS
Learn how

The American Community Survey helps local officials, community leaders and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed information about the American people and workforce.


What is the ACS?


How do I respond to the ACS?


Where can I get ACS data?



Latest

Data | News | Events | Library

2016 Data Release
Learn more about ACS data releases, including the October 19th release of 2016 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates and Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files.

2011-2015 ACS 5-Year Selected Population Tables and American Indian and Alaska Native Tables
Discover new statistics released July 13 on detailed race, Hispanic Origin, ancestry, and tribal population groups, based on the 2011-2015 ACS.

Data Tables and Tools
The ACS provides data tables including Comparison and Selected Population Profiles, and Subject, Detailed, Ranking, and Geographic Comparison Tables.

census.gov/acs

Data Tables & Tools

The screenshot shows the 'Data Tables & Tools' section of the American Community Survey website. The page features a navigation menu at the top with categories like Topics, Geography, Library, Data, Surveys/Programs, Newsroom, and About Us. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a vertical menu with options such as 'Data Tables & Tools', 'Data Profiles', 'Narrative Profiles', and 'Subject Tables'. The middle column is the primary content area, featuring a 'Data Profiles Selector' section with a paragraph explaining that these profiles provide a broad statistical view of a geography. Below this is a 'Narrative Profiles' section, which states that it is the only place to find current narrative profiles and offers a link to generate a profile. The 'Subject Tables' section explains that these tables provide ACS statistics for mid-sized populations (20,000 to 64,999) and provides a link to choose a subject table. The 'Supplemental Tables' section describes these as simplified tables for lower population thresholds. The right column contains a 'Data by Topic' section with two sub-sections: 'People' and 'Housing'. The 'People' section lists 12 topics, and the 'Housing' section lists 2 topics. A 'Tell Us What You Think!' link is also present at the top right of the main content area.

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs

Search

United States Census Bureau

Topics: Population, Economy | Geography: Maps, Products | Library: Infographics, Publications | Data: Tools, Developers | Surveys/Programs: Respond, Survey Data | Newsroom: News, Blogs | About Us: Our Research

American Community Survey

About the Survey

Respond to the Survey

News & Updates

Data

- Data Tables & Tools**
- Data Profiles
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- American FactFinder
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- Variance Replicate Tables
- Race/Ethnicity & AIAN Data
- Custom Tables

Guidance for Data Users

Geography & the ACS

Technical Documentation

Methodology

Library

Data Tables & Tools

Data Profiles Selector

Data Profiles consist of four tables (Social, Economic, Housing, Demographic) to give a broad statistical view of a particular geography. We provide an easy to use [Data Profiles geography selector](#) for the most popular geographies: state, county and place. Our full data website, [American FactFinder](#), provides additional geographies for this table type and many more.

Narrative Profiles

The only place to find the current Narrative Profiles is right here on American Community Survey website. Narrative Profiles contain much of the same information found in the Data Profiles, except it is a text-based report with plenty of colorful graphs and charts. Use the map selector or the dropdown boxes to [generate a Narrative Profile](#) for your favorite place.

Subject Tables

More interested in a particular topic than a particular geography? Check out our listing of ACS Subject Tables. Subject tables have both numbers and percentages making them the versatile choice for data seekers. You can search/filter the listing, and then link to American Factfinder (AFF) where you can change geographies and go back in time! [Choose your subject table here!](#)

Supplemental Tables

Looking for statistics about people and households located in geographies with mid-sized populations? Check out our new Supplemental Tables! These simplified tables provide the most recent ACS statistics at a lower population threshold than the standard 1-year Detailed Tables. In fact, they are the only source of **1-year data for geographies with populations of 20,000 to 64,999**. Use the [geography selector](#) to get links to the tables on American FactFinder.

Tell Us What You Think!

Data by Topic

People

- [Age and Sex / Aging](#)
- [Ancestry](#)
- [Disability](#)
- [Commuting to Work](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Family/Relationships](#)
- [Health Insurance](#)
- [Income and Earnings](#)
- [Language](#)
- [Migration / Mobility](#)
- [Place of Birth](#)
- [Poverty](#)
- [Race and Ethnicity](#)
- [Veterans](#)

Housing

- [Financial Characteristics](#)
- [Physical Characteristics](#)

census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/

Technical Documentation Page

Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Technical Documentation

American Community Survey (ACS)

About the Survey

Respond to the Survey

News & Updates

Data

Guidance for Data Users

Geography & ACS

Technical Documentation

Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy

User Notes

Errata

Data Suppression

Table & Geography Changes

Table Shells

Summary File Documentation

PUMS Documentation

Variance Replicate Tables Documentation

Race/Ethnicity and American Indian & Alaska Native Documentation

Technical Documentation

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The American Community Survey provides various documentation to assist users with our data releases. Click on the links below to learn more about these resources.

Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy
View the detailed codes and definitions for variables, statistical testing, and an explanation of sample design, methodology, and accuracy for the ACS.

User Notes
Learn more about issues impacting the ACS, including design, collection, production, and data release.

Data Suppression
October 01, 2016
Learn more about why certain ACS estimates are not available due to data suppression.

Summary File Documentation
View technical documents and user tools available for the ACS Summary File.

Race/Ethnicity and American Indian & Alaska Native Documentation
View documentation for the American Community Survey Selected Population Tables and American Indian and Alaska Native Tables

Related Information

[Tell Us What You Think!](#)

Tell Us What You Think!
[contact us](#) | [email updates](#) | [site map](#)

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation.html



- Purpose:
 - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
 - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users
- 2017 ACS Data Users Conference, May 11-12 (recordings available)
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Users group website and online community

acsdatacommunity.prb.org

Census Academy

Census Academy

Data Gems

Webinars

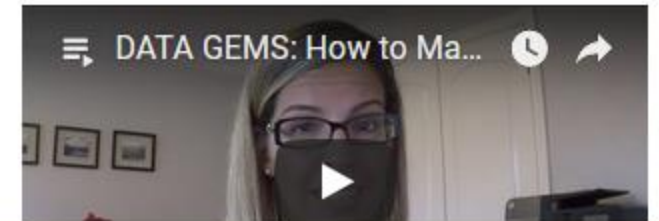
Courses - Coming
Soon!



Upcoming Webinars

- June 14th [Using the Census API with the American Community Survey Webinar](#)
- June 20th [2018 Economic Programs Webinar Series: Construction](#)
- June 27th [Using the Census Bureau 2018 Planning Database](#)

Data Gem of the Week

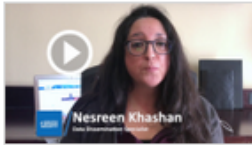


Census Academy: Data Gems

Data Gems

All

2018



How to Access Data for My Congressional District

May 16, 2018

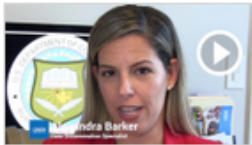
How to use the My Congressional District tool to access demographic, social, economic, housing and business statistics for your district.



How to Map Data Using the American FactFinder

May 16, 2018

How to create data visualization for your area using the American FactFinder.



How to Save Your Work in the American FactFinder

May 16, 2018

How to save your work when accessing data using the American FactFinder. Check this Data Gem and learn the trick that is a lifesaver!



Infographics - How to Find Census Data Visualizations

May 16, 2018

Whether you're looking for data visualizations about veterans, income, or race, we have a library of visualizations that you can use to enhance your project.



What is a CDP? Making Sense of Census Geography

May 16, 2018

Working with census geography can be confusing. If you need to access data for cities and towns, it is important to learn more about CDPs.

Is it



Census Academy: Webinars

Data Tools and Apps
Developers
Product Catalog
Related Sites
Software
Training & Workshops
Visualizations

Upcoming Trainings



Training Opportunities

We Can Help You!

Let us show you how to find and use Census data for your everyday uses, including informing your business planning, supporting grant proposals and research projects, planning of local schools and hospitals, and much more! Whether you're looking for economic or demographic data, we can teach you how to get what you need for your various projects.

Options for Learning

There are three main ways that you can learn to find Census data. And all of it is free!

- Webinars – see the list below for our upcoming webinars. No registration is needed. We also have a network of Data Specialists who can provide training throughout the nation.
- Video Tutorials – We have a growing number in our Training Resources Library.
- Classroom Training – We do this when distance and staff resources allow. Often, as an alternative to a classroom training, we can schedule a webinar for you on the topic you're interested in!

Take Advantage of the Data Today!

On this Page:

- [July 26, 2018 - CEDSCI \(data.census.gov\) Update](#)
- [August 2, 2018 - 2018 Economic Programs Webinar Series: Professional/Scientific](#)
- [August 8, 2018 - Directorate Defense Trade Controls IT Modernization Project](#)
- [September 12, 2018 - 2018 Economic Programs Webinar Series: Hidden Gems](#)

July 26, 2018 - CEDSCI (data.census.gov) Update

Description: The Census Bureau is establishing a new paradigm in data dissemination – one where data users will no longer need to know which tools to use on www.census.gov – instead, they will simply start searching to find statistics, maps, web pages, and the other great Census Bureau products they need. In this session, participants will be provided with an update on the new platform as well as a demo of

Related Information

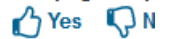


Training & Workshops



Recorded Webinars

Is this page help



Continue the Conversation #ACSdata



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Questions or Feedback?

Please feel free to contact me!

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