

American Community Survey Overview

for Goldschmidt Data Immersion Workshop

February 12, 2015

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Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- Resources for learning more
- Accessing ACS data products
- Stay in touch
- Questions/Exercises

What is the ACS?

- Is an ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses to produce detailed population and housing estimates each year
- Is designed to produce critical information on small areas and small population groups previously collected on the decennial long form
- Annually releases over 11 billion estimates for over 35,000 communities
- Annually releases 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods
- Has four data collection modes: Internet, Mail, Telephone, Personal Visit



Census / ACS History

1790-1930

Census: one form to all households

1940-2000

Census: short form and long form

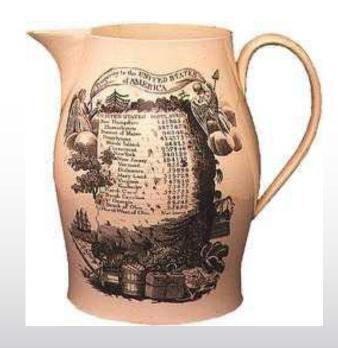
2000

ACS: large-scale demonstration

2005-present
 ACS / PRCS: full implementation

2010

Census: short form only



2010 Census vs. ACS

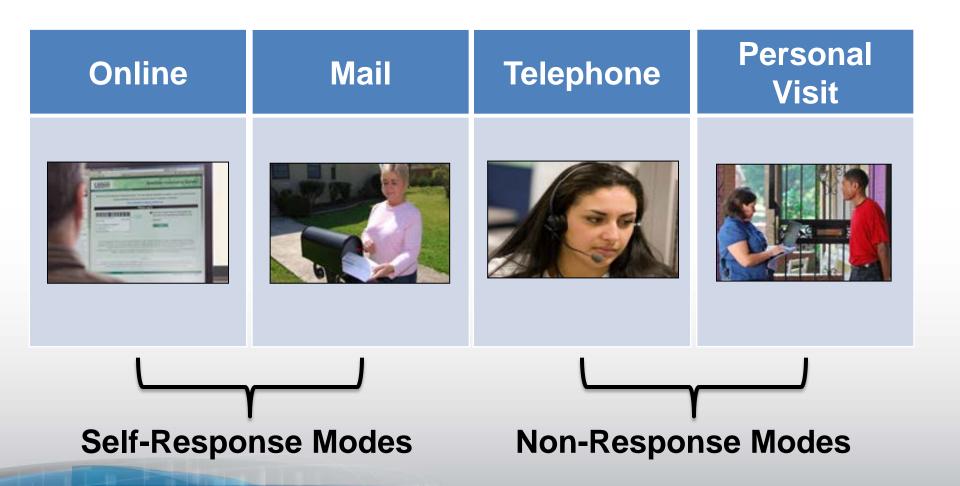
2010 Census

ACS

- Official counts
- Population totals
- Every 10 years
- Point in time

- Sample estimates
- Population characteristics
- Yearly
- Period of time

ACS Data Collection Process



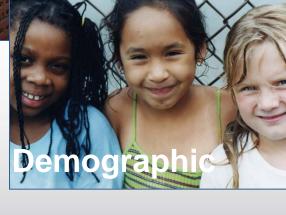
American Community Survey

Content









ousing

ACS Articles

nerdwallet

Best Cities for Singles

CIVIL BEAT

How Are Hawaii's Millennials Doing These Days?

UPDATED. The latest data from the American Community Survey shows differences between generations of young adults.

■ THE HOME OFFICE

♥ FiveThirtyEight

People Working From Home In A Snowstorm May Be Producing More Than You Are

The New York Times

Where Working Women Are Most Common



The Most Common Jobs For The Rich, Middle Class And Poor

Changes to Content

- 2008: New/modified questions added for
 - Marital history
 - Health insurance coverage
 - Service connected disability status and rating
 - Disability
- 2009: New question added for Bachelor's field of degree
- 2013: New questions added for Computer ownership/Internet access

Selected Census Geographic Concepts

Legal/Administrative Areas

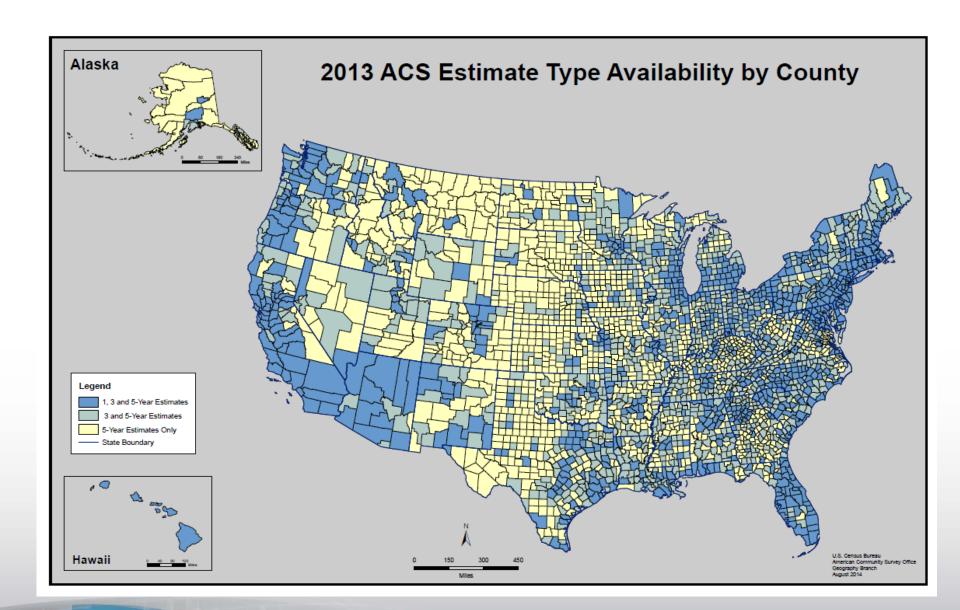
- Nation
- States
- Counties
- Incorporated Places
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Congressional Districts
- State Legislative Districts
- School Districts
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)

Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups

Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	3-Year Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Planned Release Date	September 2015	October 2015	December 2015



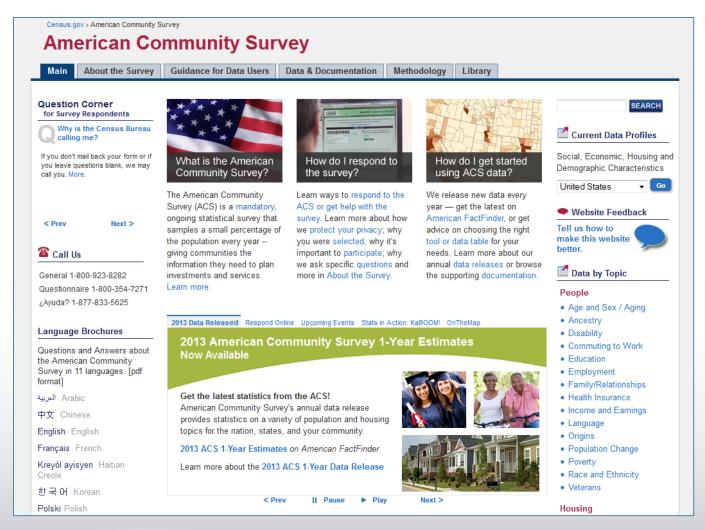
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American Community Survey Learning More

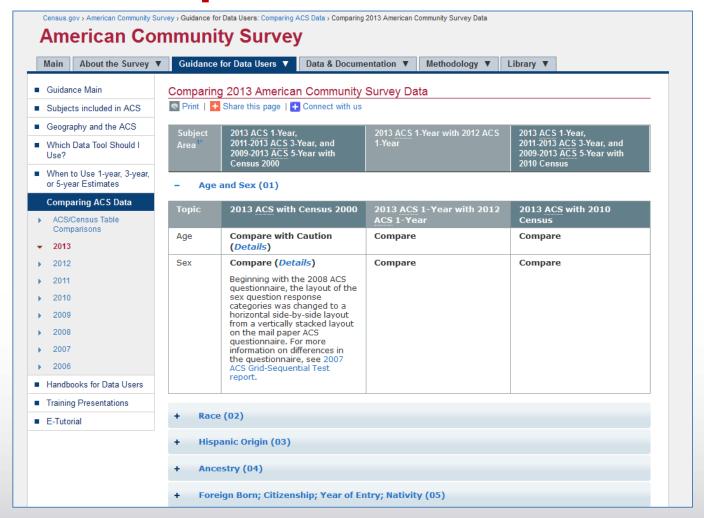
- ACS Main Page
- Guidance on Comparing ACS Data to Other Sources
- ACS Compass Products
- Data Release and Documentation Pages
- Design and Methodology Report

ACS Main Page



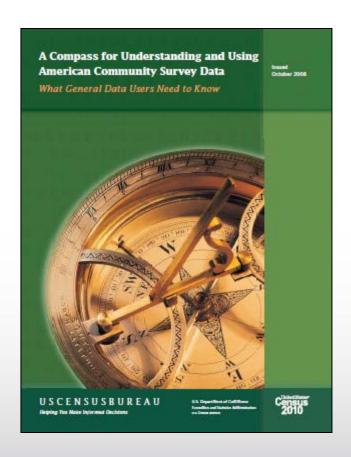
census.gov/acs

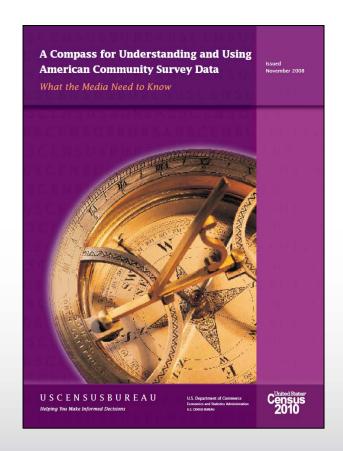
Comparison Guidance



census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/

Compass Handbooks

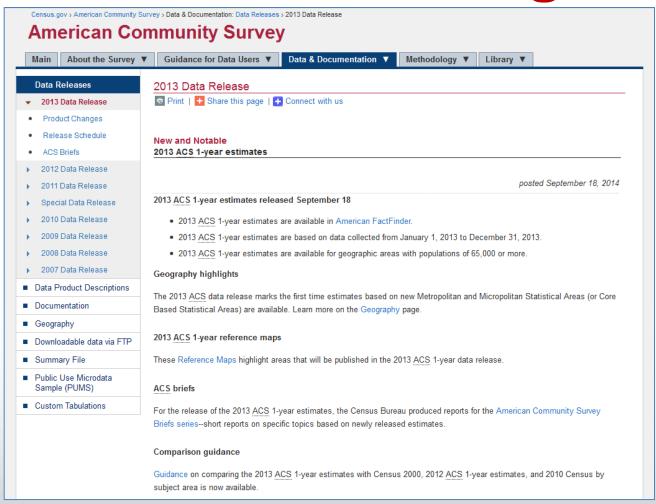




census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/handbooks

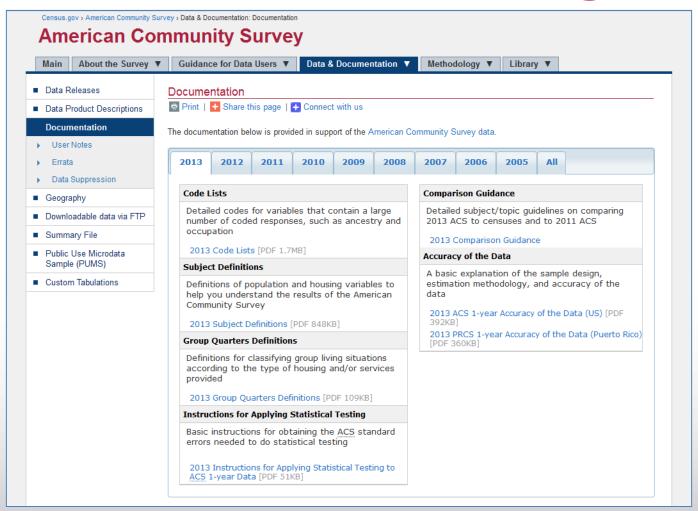


Data Release Page



census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2013_release/

Documentation Page



census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/

Design and Methodology



census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/

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Ways to Access

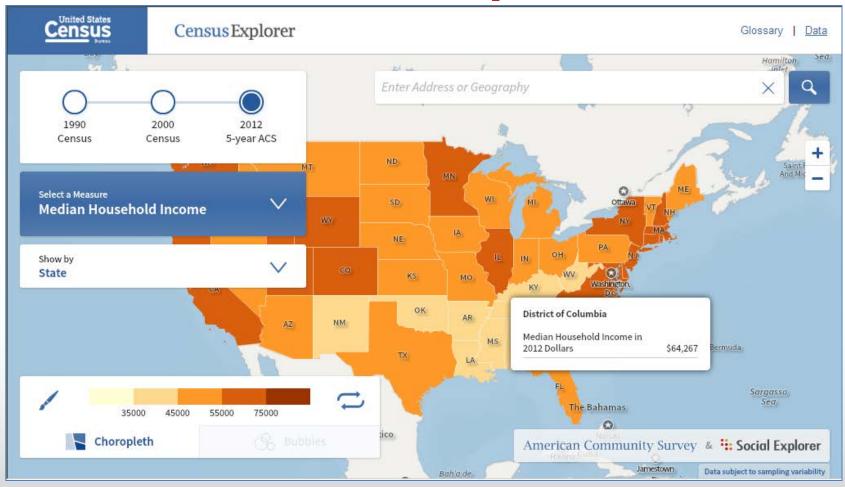
- QuickFacts
- Census Explorer
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- Narrative Profiles
- American FactFinder
- Application Programming Interface (API)

QuickFacts



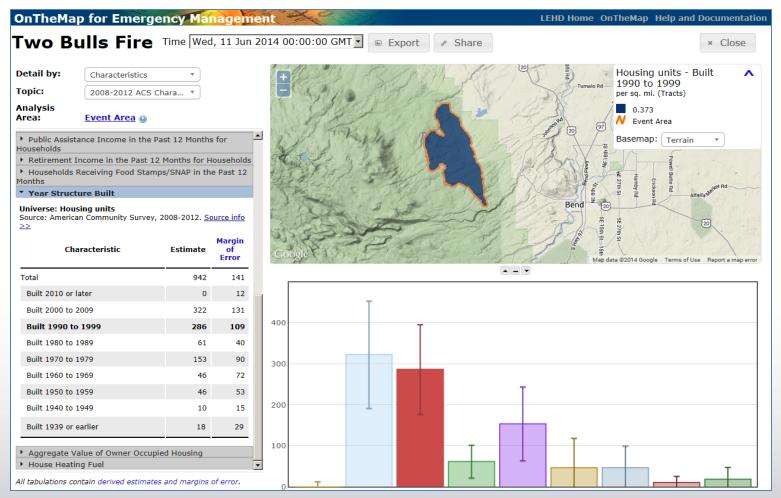
census.gov/quickfacts

Census Explorer



census.gov/censusexplorer

OnTheMap for Emergency Management

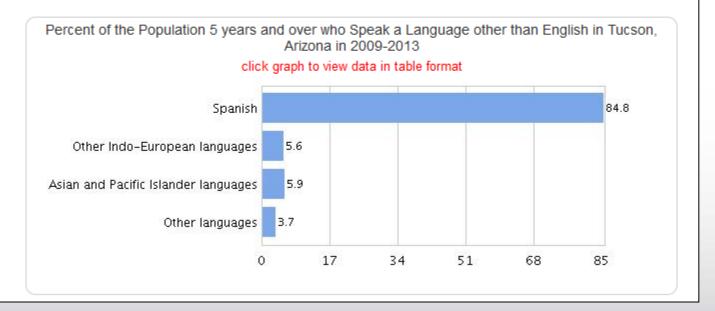


onthemap.ces.census.gov/em.html

Narrative Profiles

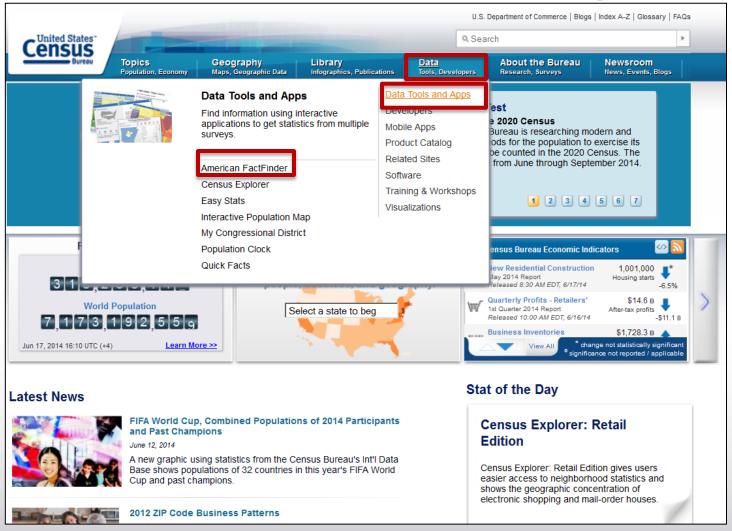
Language

Among people at least five years old living in Tucson, Arizona in 2009-2013, 34 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 85 percent spoke Spanish and 15 percent spoke some other language; 32 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."



census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_narrative_profiles/

Census Bureau Homepage



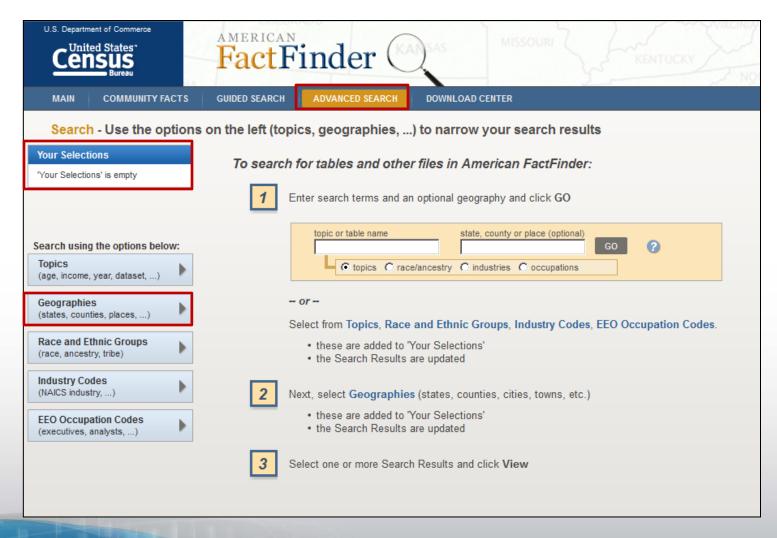
census.gov

American FactFinder

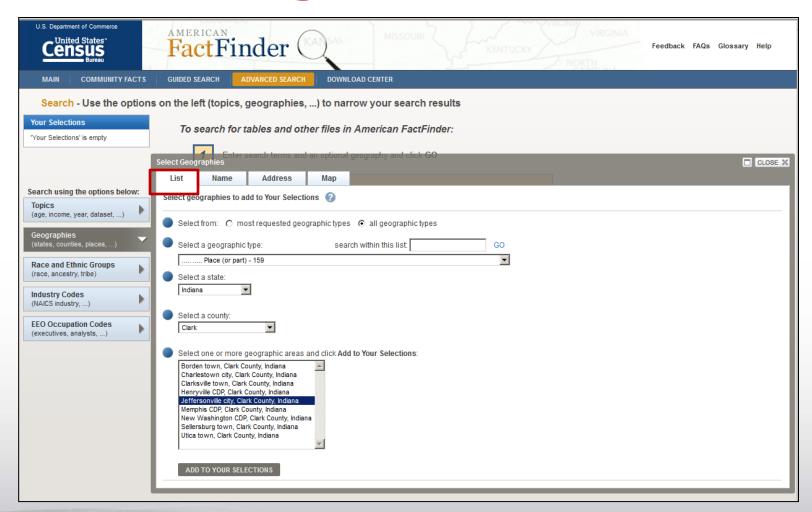


factfinder.census.gov

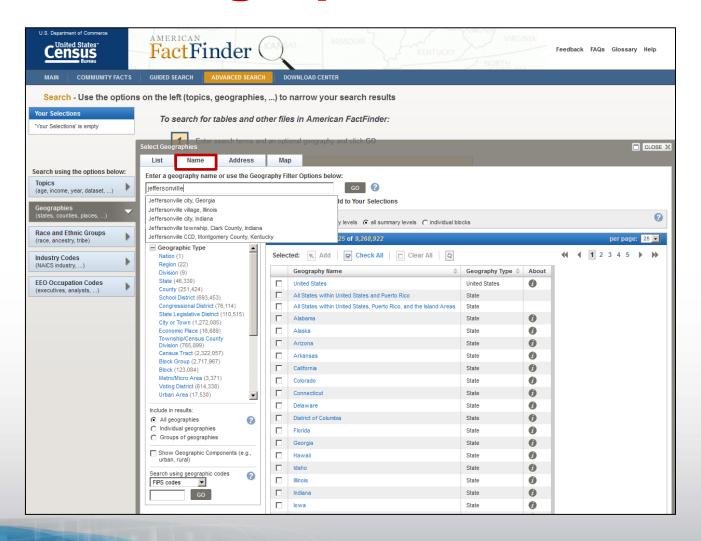
AFF Advanced Search



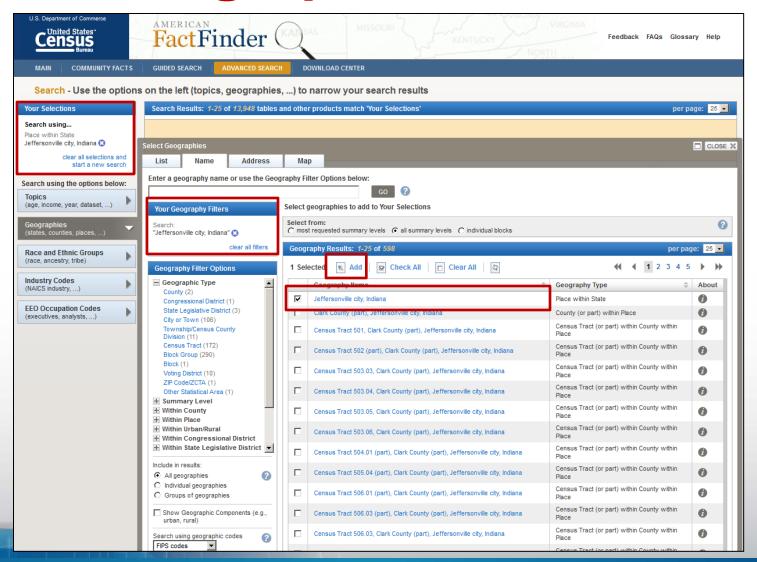
AFF Geographies-List Tab



AFF Geographies-Name Tab



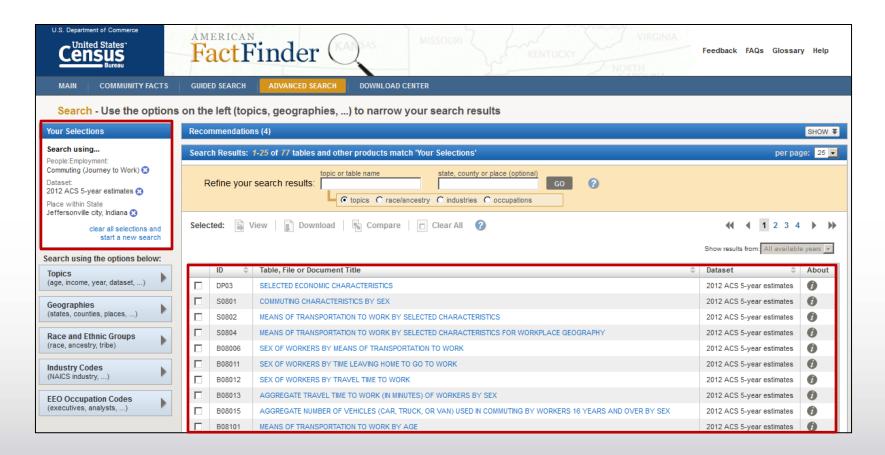
AFF Geographies-Name Tab II



AFF Topics



Selecting Topics in AFF



Data Product Types

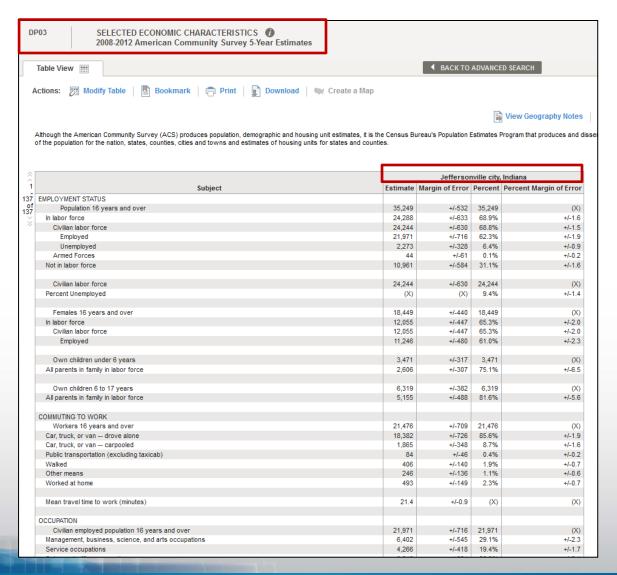
Profiles

- Data Profiles (DP)
- Narrative Profiles (NP)
- Comparison Profiles (CP)
- Selected Population Profiles (S0201)

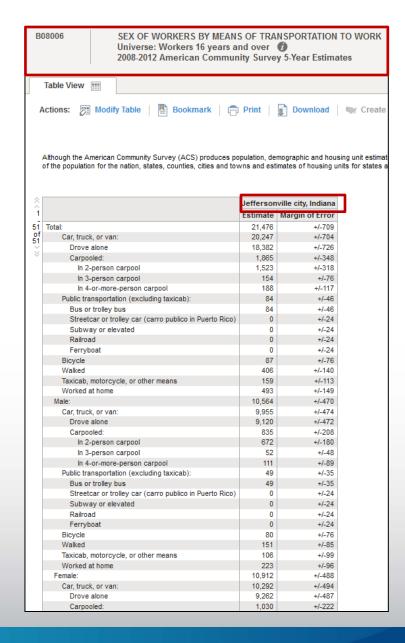
Tables

- Detailed Tables (B or C)
- Subject Tables (S)
- Ranking Tables (R)
- Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)

Data Profile-DP03



Detailed Table-B08006



Application Programming Interface (API)

Developers

API Forum

About this Section

App Gallery

Available APIs

Geography

News

Terms of Service

Updates

The Census Bureau has begun rolling out our datasets via APIs. Check out our Discovery Tool. Sign up for our newsletter to get the latest updates and newest dataset addition. We also invite you to make requests for features / data via our forum.

Read More











Latest

Available APIs

News

Updates



New ACS 5-Year Estimates: See How Young Adults Today Compare

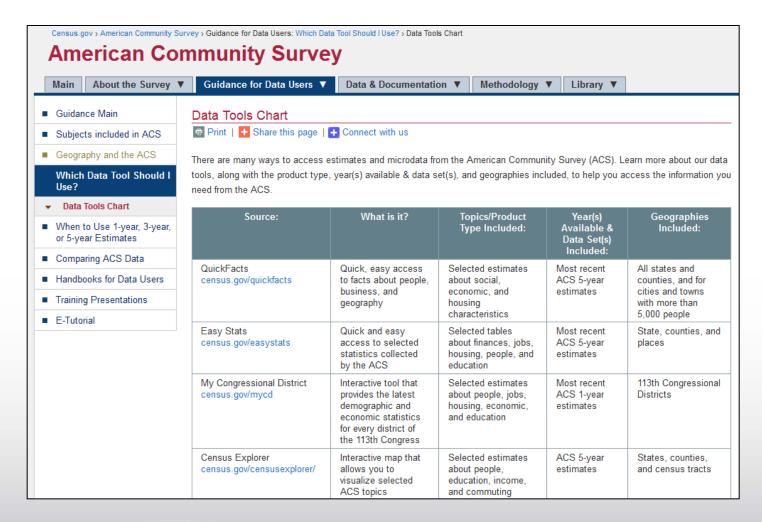
December 04, 2014

Young adults today are more likely to be foreign born and speak a language other than English at home, compared with young adults in 1980.

census.gov/developers



Data Tools Chart



census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/data_tools_chart/

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Continue the Conversation



@uscensusbureau
#ACSdata



facebook.com/uscensusbureau

Source us:

- -U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey
- -YYYY-YYYY American Community Survey 1/3/5-year estimates/statistics/data release

(2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year data release)



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
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Next data users conference: May 11-13, 2015 in College Park, MD
- Users group website and online community

acsdatausers.org



Contact Information

Visit the ACS/PRCS website: census.gov/acs

Contact PIO:

301-763-3030 pio@census.gov

Email updates:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ USCENSUS/subscriber/new

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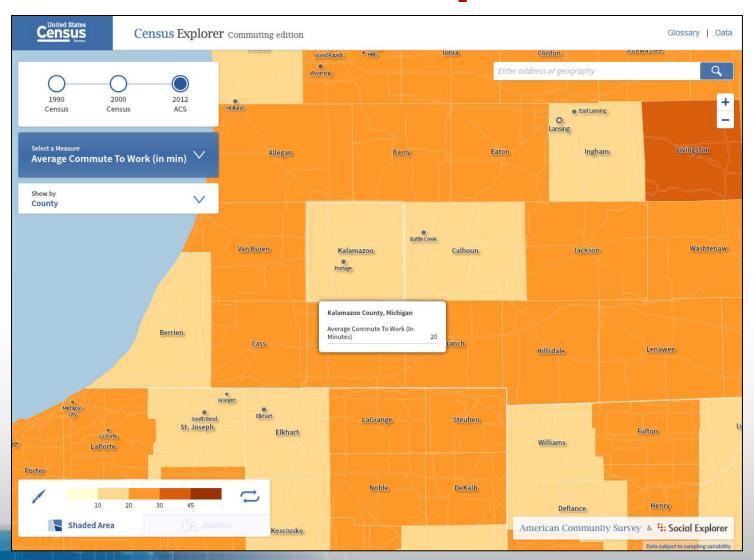
Exercises

- Use the following tools to find the average commute to work for your county of choice:
 - QuickFacts (quickfacts.census.gov)
 - Census Explorer (census.gov/censusexplorer)
 - Narrative Profiles
 (census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_narrative_profiles)
 - American FactFinder (factfinder.census.gov)

QuickFacts



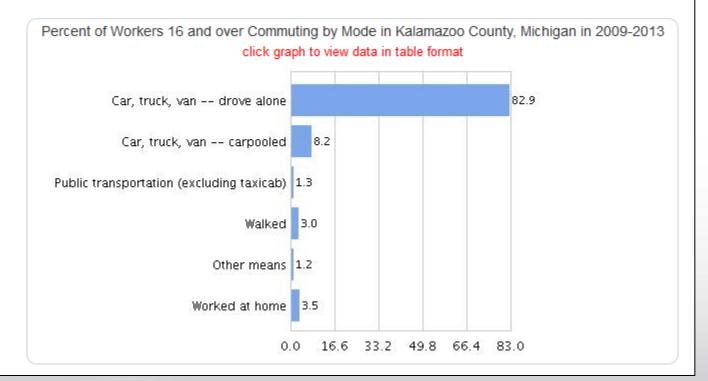
Census Explorer



Narrative Profiles

Commuting to Work

An estimated 83 percent of Kalamazoo County, Michigan workers drove to work alone in 2009-2013, and 8 percent carpooled. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 20 minutes to get to work.



American FactFinder

Subject		Kalamazoo County, Michigan			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Erro	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS					
Population 16 years and over	202,264	+/-248	202,264	(X)	
In labor force	133,416	+/-1,220	66.0%	+/-0.6	
Civilian labor force	133,293	+/-1,224	65.9%	+/-0.6	
Employed	117,581	+/-1,317	58.1%	+/-0.7	
Unemployed	15,712	+/-1,003	7.8%	+/-0.5	
Armed Forces	123	+/-73	0.1%	+/-0.1	
Not in labor force	68,848	+/-1,230	34.0%	+/-0.6	
Civilian labor force	133,293	+/-1,224	133,293	(X)	
Percent Unemployed	(X)	(X)	11.8%	+/-0.7	
Females 16 years and over	104,313	+/-180	104,313	(X)	
In labor force	64,565	+/-969	61.9%	+/-0.9	
Civilian labor force	64,552	+/-969	61.9%	+/-0.9	
Employed	57,362	+/-981	55.0%	+/-0.9	
Own children under 6 years	18,058	+/-392	18,058	(X)	
All parents in family in labor force	13,065	+/-543	72.4%	+/-2.6	
Own children 6 to 17 years	36,532	+/-519	36,532	(X)	
All parents in family in labor force	27,421	+/-886	75.1%	+/-2.1	
COMMUTING TO WORK					
Workers 16 years and over	114,940	+/-1,354	114,940	(X)	
Car, truck, or van drove alone	95,261	+/-1,416	82.9%	+/-0.9	
Car, truck, or van carpooled	9,410	+/-821	8.2%	+/-0.7	
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1,448	+/-379	1.3%	+/-0.3	
Walked	3,448	+/-434	3.0%	+/-0.4	
Other means	1,328	+/-333	1.2%	+/-0.3	
Worked at home	4,045	+/-406	3.5%	+/-0.4	
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	20.0	+/-0.4	(X)	(X)	



BREAK

Stats in Action: Kaboom!

http://youtu.be/EVO314Sm9Bg

Stats in Action: Infectious

Diseases

http://youtu.be/Cpus_ieYNX4