

# How to Find American Community Survey Data in American Factfinder (AFF)

Issued July 2009

**American FactFinder**, the U.S. Census Bureau's primary online data access tool, is the source for population, housing, economic, and geography data produced by the Census Bureau. Look inside for ways to use AFF to access American Community Survey data products, such as data tables, detailed profiles, thematic maps, and Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files.



**The  
American  
Community  
Survey  
in  
AFF**

## Subjects Found in American Community Survey

### Housing

- ◆ Vehicles Available
- ◆ Year Structure Built
- ◆ Units in Structure
- ◆ Year Moved Into Unit
- ◆ Rooms
- ◆ Bedrooms
- ◆ Kitchen Facilities
- ◆ Plumbing Facilities
- ◆ House Heating Fuel
- ◆ Telephone Service Available
- ◆ Farm Residence
- ◆ Tenure (Owner/Renter)
- ◆ Housing Value
- ◆ Rent
- ◆ Selected Monthly Owner Costs



### Population

- ◆ Age
- ◆ Sex
- ◆ Hispanic Origin
- ◆ Race
- ◆ Relationship to Householder (e.g., Spouse)
- ◆ Income
- ◆ Food Stamps Benefit
- ◆ Labor Force Status
- ◆ Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker
- ◆ Place of Work and Journey to Work
- ◆ Work Status Last Year
- ◆ Marital Status
- ◆ Marital History
- ◆ Fertility
- ◆ Grandparents as Caregivers
- ◆ Ancestry
- ◆ Place of Birth
- ◆ Citizenship
- ◆ Year of Naturalization
- ◆ Educational Attainment
- ◆ Residence One Year Ago
- ◆ Veteran Status
- ◆ Period of Military Service
- ◆ Disability
- ◆ Undergraduate Field of Degree
- ◆ And Other Subjects!



The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest household survey in the United States and provides the most up-to-date social, economic, housing and demographic data for communities in the U.S.

The area to the left displays the many subjects produced from the ACS data collection. Data for the subjects are shown in a variety of ways and inside you will find descriptions of the ACS data products available through AFF.

Similar information is also available for Puerto Rico through the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS).

<[www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov)>

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**Census  
2010**

# Inside American FactFinder (AFF)

## AFF-QUICK AND EASY

Go to [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov), under "Fast Access to Information", and simply type in your city/town or county to access a fact sheet of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics. The fact sheet shows you the latest ACS multiyear data available for your area.

If ACS data are not available for your city or county (because the population is below 20,000) AFF will automatically display Census 2000 data. Additional tables and maps are available in the people and housing sections.

U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder

Main Search Feedback FAQs Glossary Site Map Help

POPULATION FINDER Main Fact Sheet

FACT SHEET

United States

city/town, county, or zip UNITED STATE

state -- select a state -- GO

search by address

2005-2007 2000

**Fast Access to Information**

Get a Fact Sheet for your community...

city/ town, county, or zip

state -- select a state -- GO

or select a state using a map >>

15 years and over	50,165,050	48.5	+/-44,418	
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	54,327,142	19.5	+/-77,002	map
Household population	290,655,225	00	00	
Group quarters population	00	00	00	
<b>Economic Characteristics - show more &gt;&gt;</b>				
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	151,062,383	64.7	+/-71,512	map
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)	25.1	00	+/-0.1	map
Median household income (in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars)	50,007	00	+/-45	map
Median family income (in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars)	60,374	00	+/-76	map

U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder

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POPULATION FINDER Main Data Sets

FACT SHEET AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

PEOPLE Load Query | Clear all selections

HOUSING

BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

ABOUT THE DATA

DATA SETS

Decennial Census

American Community Survey

Puerto Rico Community Survey

Annual Population Estimates

Economic Census

Annual Economic Surveys

DOWNLOAD CENTER

MAPS

TOOLS AND REFERENCES

Other Resources

The American Community Survey is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. The Puerto Rico Community Survey is the equivalent of the American Community Survey for Puerto Rico. [more...](#)

2007 Quick Guide | [Errata Notes](#)

2008

2006-2008 American Community Survey Estimates

- Data from the American Community Survey
- Collected during calendar year
- Available for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more

[Explain 1-year vs. 3-year estimates](#)

2007

2005-2007 American Community Survey Estimates

- Data from the American Community Survey
- Collected during calendar year
- Available for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 or more

[Explain 1-year vs. 3-year estimates](#)

**Explain Table and Map Formats**

Select from the following:

- [Data Profiles](#)
- [Selected Population Profiles](#)
- [Subject Tables](#)
- [Detailed Tables](#)
- [Geographic Comparison Tables](#)
- [Thematic Maps](#)
- [Reference Maps](#)
- [Custom Table](#)

[Enter a table number](#)

[List all tables](#)

[List all maps](#)

[Download PUMS data](#)

[About this data set](#)

## ACS Data Products in AFF

**Data Profiles**—Discover highlights of demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics including a narrative summary with graphs.

**Selected Population Profiles**—View highlighted country of birth characteristics for race, ethnic, and ancestry groups that meet a population threshold.

**Ranking Tables**—Compare key indicators across states.

**Subject Tables**—See more detail on frequently requested information for a single geographic area.

**Detailed Tables**—Access hundreds of data tables indexed by topic and available geography.

**Geographic Comparison Tables**—Compare data across available geographies in the same table (i.e., all the available counties in a state by topic).

# Steps to Accessing ACS Data

Get Started—[www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov)

- Choose **Data Sets**, then **American Community Survey**
  - For example, choose **2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates**
  - Click **Detailed Tables**

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website interface. The 'Data Sets' menu is expanded, and the '2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates' page is selected. A callout box provides details about the data set, including that it covers the years 2006, 2007, and 2008, and is available for areas with populations of 20,000 or more. The 'Detailed Tables' link is highlighted.

- Select the **Geographic Type**; for example, choose **County**
  - Select the specific **State**, choose **Virginia**
  - Select the specific **County** choose **Fairfax County**
  - Click the **Add** button to move the area to the [**Current Geography Selections**]
  - Click **Next** to move to step 3

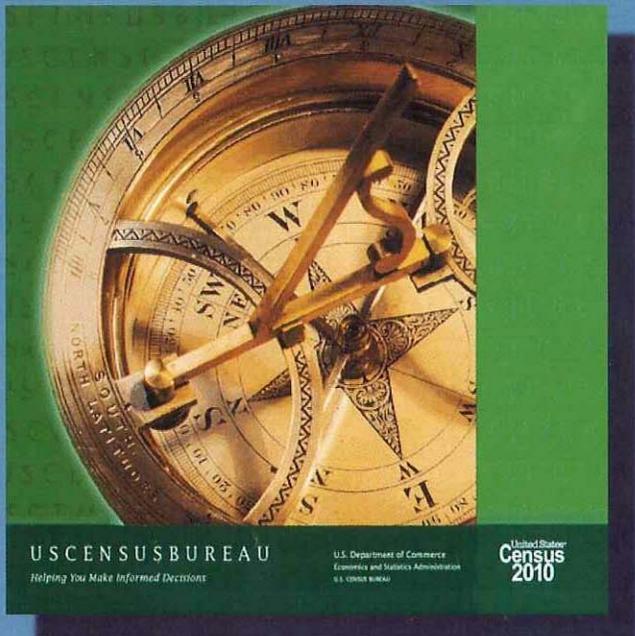
The screenshot shows the geographic selection interface. It includes dropdown menus for 'Select a geographic type' (set to County) and 'Select a state' (set to Virginia). A list of counties in Virginia is shown, with 'Fairfax county' selected. An 'Add' button is visible at the bottom.

- Choose the **by Keyword** tab
  - Type **Veteran Status** in the search box; click **Search**
  - Select table **B21002: Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over**
  - Click the **Add** button to move the table to [**Current Table Selections**]
  - Click the **Show Result** button to see the table for Fairfax County, Virginia

The screenshot shows the search results page for 'Veteran Status'. A list of tables is displayed, with 'B21002: Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over' selected. The 'Add' button is highlighted, and the 'Current table selections' section shows the selected table. A 'Show Result' button is visible at the bottom.

# Learn More About ACS Data

## The ACS Compass Products:



The series includes three dynamic components that are user-friendly and easily accessed by the Internet:

- User-specific handbooks
- Fully-scripted PowerPoint presentations
- E-learning

The ACS Compass Products use illustrated examples, case studies, practice exercises, and other real-world applications intended to help you get the most out of ACS data.

Go to [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/compass\\_series.html](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/compass_series.html) to access these materials.

## Customer Service Center:

Call the Census Bureau's Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or 1-800-923-8282 during normal business hours, Eastern time.

## American FactFinder FAQs:

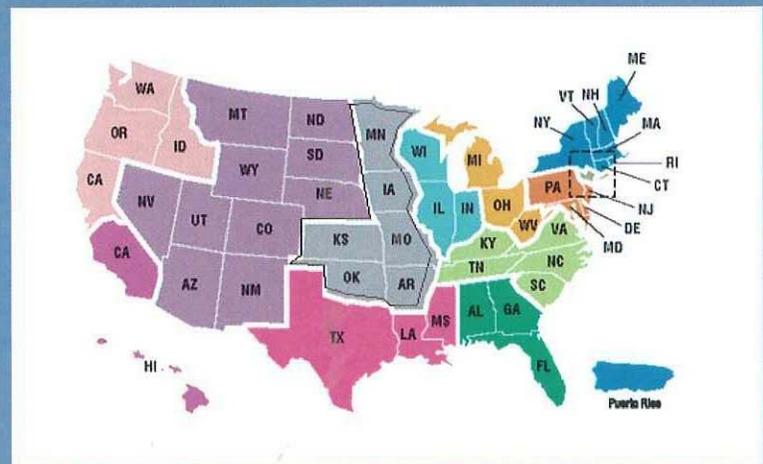
- Click the FAQs link at the top of any American FactFinder page.
- Visit the Questions and Answers page via the Contact Us link at the bottom of any American FactFinder page.

## Regional Offices Partnership and Data Services:

Call or visit Partnership and Data Services in your Census Bureau Regional Office for local data and assistance, workshops, and presentations.

Atlanta	1-800-424-6974	Detroit	1-800-432-1495
Boston	1-800-562-5721	Kansas City	1-800-728-4748
Charlotte	1-800-331-7360	Los Angeles	1-800-992-3530
Chicago	1-800-865-6384	New York	1-800-991-2520
Dallas	1-800-835-9752	Philadelphia	1-800-262-4236
Denver	1-800-852-6159	Seattle	1-800-233-3308

Go to [www.census.gov/field/www](http://www.census.gov/field/www) for a complete listing of regional offices with contact information.



**Four ways to find answers to your ACS Data questions.**