

TheDataWeb

DataFerrett • FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why do I have to use my email to log on to DataFerrett? What will happen if I type the wrong email address in?

A: Your email address is used as a username and a means for providing you with data extracts and, on very rare occasions, emails with important information related to the system. Entering an incorrect email address will only be a problem if you are extracting data in batch mode which sends you an message with information on accessing your extract file. Please note that your email address will never be shared.

Q: How do I get a password to login? Do I need to register for an account to use the application?

A: You do not need to register to use DataFerrett. Public users do not need and cannot get a password. The password field is only used for data partners that need to access and approve their data before it is released to the public.

Q: What are the hardware requirements for using DataFerrett? Will it work on my Mac? Ipad? Tablet?

A: We do our best to make sure works on an any operating system that has a modern browser installed and that has settings to allow popups and has java installed ([test for java](#)).

Q: I am interested in a variable that appears in multiple datasets, which one should I use?

A: Different datasets often carry similar variables but one dataset may be better than another for several reasons.

1. Does the dataset contain the geographic level for which you want to get data?
2. Does the dataset cover the time period you are interested in?

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3. Is the dataset designed to provide information on that variable, or is it a secondary variable for a dataset designed to measure something completely different?

These questions are often difficult to answer.

TheDataWeb/DataFerrett help desk can help guide you to the appropriate dataset, or refer you to subject matter experts who can guide you. The help desk can be reached by phone at 1-866-437-0171 or by email at dsd.ferret@census.gov.

Q: Can I use multiple datasets at the same time?

A: Yes, in certain cases. DataFerrett has the ability to tabulate data from two or more datasets providing they have a common dimension or variable. Currently, several standard geographies (e.g. state, county, tract) have been defined to allow for tabulation across datasets. Please refer to [this example](#) on our website

Q: Do you provide mapping shape files? How can I combine DataFerrett data with shape files?

A: No, but DataFerrett allows you to create thematic maps on the fly for any table you create that contains a mappable geography in one of the dimensions. If you want to extract data and put it into mapping software, the data extractions will contain the fully qualified geographic codes for datasets that contain geography.

Q: Who should I contact with questions about interpreting variables or selecting a dataset?

A: TheDataWeb/DataFerrett help desk can help guide you, or refer you to subject matter experts who can guide you. The help desk can be reached by phone at 1-866-437-0171 or by email at dsd.ferret@census.gov.

Q: Who should I contact with questions about differences in geography vintages?

A: TheDataWeb/DataFerrett help desk is the best starting point. The help desk can be reached by phone at 1-866-437-0171 or by email at dsd.ferret@census.gov.

Q: I found a bug, how do I report it?

A: Please report bugs to TheDataWeb/DataFerrett help desk by email at dsd.ferret@census.gov or by phone at 1-866-437-0171. Email is the preferred method, and if possible you should attach a saved DataBasket or Tabulation session which can assist in replicating the bug so it can be fixed.

Q: I believe I have discovered an error in the data, what should I do?

A: TheDataWeb/DataFerrett help desk is the best starting point. The help desk can be reached by phone at 1-866-437-0171 or by email at dsd.ferret@census.gov.

