

TheDataWeb

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DataFerrett

DataFerrett is a web-based data analysis tool developed by the U.S. Census Bureau designed to equip users with the ability to analyze large amounts of data and create customized reports to support decision making. Its users work for a myriad of organizations, such as agencies of the Federal Government, state and local governments, universities, private enterprise, non-profit organizations and divisions within the Bureau of the Census. DataFerrett draws upon the DataWeb, a distributed network of public and private databases providing a vast amount of statistical information that is continually updated and expanded

This free web application enables users to create tables, graphs and maps to visualize analytical results, which can be pasted into documents and presentations without installing expensive statistical or mapping software. DataFerrett supports:

- Variable browsing and real-time variable and value selection
- Data manipulation through universe restrictions, variable recoding, and simple spreadsheet calculations
- Table creation – from simple frequencies to multi-dimensional (including nesting and pivots)
- Saving analysis inputs (dataset, selected variables, table layout) and analysis outputs (tables, graphs, maps) as .csv, .html, .pdf, or .jpeg, depending on the output type

DataFerrett provides powerful tabulation capabilities through a simple and flexible table layout, returning results quickly for even the largest dataset. Tables are created by using a simple drag and drop approach, with the ability to:

- Use complex nesting of variables
- Create formulas for custom and robust analysis
- Automatically apply weights for sample surveys
- Hide columns and rows
- Re-use tabulations for all periods of the data where comparable

DataFerrett and TheDataWeb use a sophisticated metadata database that facilitates access to multiple data types, including microdata (individual survey or census records), aggregate data (pre-summarized data), time series data (a measure over time), and longitudinal data (follows a person over time). The metadata supports data usage rules to ensure proper results without having

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in-depth knowledge about a specific data type. TheDataWeb metadata is also the key to allowing for re-use of saved analyses and for the creation of analyses over time using recurring datasets.

For more information or to start exploring DataFerrett, go to <http://dataferrett.census.gov/>.