

FINDING CENSUS DATA

STEP 1: USING AMERICAN FACTFINDER

Open a browser and navigate to the US Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov. There, **navigate** to the American FactFinder by **clicking** through Data > American FactFinder.



By default, you will land on the "Main" page of the FactFinder site (below). Take a moment to **familiarize** yourself with the interface.



The American FactFinder is a portal through which we can access an incredible amount of information gathered and compiled by the US Census Bureau. You can access tabular data through either a "Guided Search" or an "Advanced Search."

Click "Advanced Search" to access the search options. Here, information is grouped by **Topic**, **Geography**, and **Race**.

Click "Topics" in the panel of search options on the left of the interface.

Notice that a panel of specific topic options appears. Variables collected by the Census Bureau are collected and presented here thematically.

Notice that the text of this panel asks you to "Select Topics to add to 'Your Selections'" and that the panel of "Your Selections" at the upper left of the window is currently empty. The FactFinder works by a simple logic: You (the user) will make a series of selections, specifying exactly what you're looking for and adding parameters (or "selections"), and the FactFinder will populate the tables that fit your selection criteria in the "Search Results" panel.

Next you need to specify the desired geographies of our data. Without making this selection, the FactFinder has no way of knowing whether to prepare a table of census block data in one particular county or state-level data for all fifty states. Click "**Geographies**" on the left to access the Geography selection panel.

Notice that the first step is to select a Geography Type. At this point, we have to make a decision about the geographic units of our analysis.

Some common geographic units of analysis for Census data include: Urban Area, County, or Census Tract. Once you choose a geographic unit, you will be prompted to specify the state in which you are looking, and if you narrow your search even further, the specific County or Census Tract too.


Once you have selected your area, you will have a list of tables available to you that satisfy your search criteria.







The screenshot shows the FactFinder search results for the query "Black or African American". The interface includes a sidebar with search filters and a main results table. The results table has columns for ID, Table/File or Document Title, Dataset, and About. A red box highlights the "Dataset" column, which lists various data sources such as "2014 ACS 5-year estimates", "2010 SF 1 100% Data", and "2007 Survey of Business Owners".


ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
DP05	ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
P9	HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE	2010 SF 1 100% Data	?
DP-1	Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010	2010 SF 1 100% Data	?
	The Black Population: 2010 (C2010BR-06)	2010 SF 1 100% Data	?
SB0700CSA01	Statistics for All U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2007	2007 Survey of Business Owners	?
B01001B	SEX BY AGE (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B01001B	SEX BY AGE (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B01002B	MEDIAN AGE BY SEX (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B01002B	MEDIAN AGE BY SEX (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B02001	RACE	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B02001	RACE	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B02003	DETAILED RACE	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B02009	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B02009	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B05003B	SEX BY AGE BY NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B05003B	SEX BY AGE BY NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B06004B	PLACE OF BIRTH (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) IN THE UNITED STATES	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B06004B	PLACE OF BIRTH (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) IN THE UNITED STATES	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B06004BPR	PLACE OF BIRTH (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) IN PUERTO RICO	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B06004BPR	PLACE OF BIRTH (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) IN PUERTO RICO	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B07004B	GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) FOR CURRENT RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B07004B	GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) FOR CURRENT RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?
B07004BPR	GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) FOR CURRENT RESIDENCE IN PUERTO RICO	2014 ACS 5-year estimates	?
B07004BPR	GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE) FOR CURRENT RESIDENCE IN PUERTO RICO	2014 ACS 1-year estimates	?

If you click on a particular table, it will bring you to an abbreviated page showing you the contents of that table:

B02001 RACE
Universe: Total population
2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table View  [BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

Actions:  [Modify Table](#) |  [Add/Remove Geographies](#) |  [Bookmark/Save](#) |  [Print](#) |  [Download](#) |  [Create a Map](#)

This table is displayed with default geographies.  [Click Back to Search to select other geographies using the search options on the left.](#) [View Geography Notes](#) | [View Table Notes](#)

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

Versions of this table are available for the following years:

- 2014 ▾
- 2013
- 2012
- 2011
- 2010
- 2009

	United States	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
1 Total	314,107,084	*****
10 White alone	231,949,713	±51,275
10 Black or African American alone	39,564,785	±23,056
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,565,520	±13,782
Asian alone	15,710,659	±20,032
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	535,781	±5,203
Some other race alone	14,754,895	±89,429
Two or more races:		
Two races including Some other race	9,125,751	±77,164
Two races excluding Some other race, and three or more races	1,528,902	±28,527
	7,590,649	±53,798

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Explanation of Symbols:
 An "N" entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
 An "X" entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
 An ">" following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
 An "<" following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
 An "N" entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
 An "*****" entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.
 An "N" entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
 An "X" means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.

Once you've found the dataset you want, click "**Download.**" A new dialog of download options will appear.

Select that you'd like to download a **comma delimited .csv file** with "**Data and annotations in separate files.**" It's helpful to keep the annotations separate -- if you included them in the data file, you would just end up deleting them to prepare your data file.

Click OK.

When the data is ready for download, click "Download" and save your data.

The data will be downloaded in a .zip file. Unzip the file and notice that you have multiple csv files, along with a "read me" text file with user information.

An example download would include:

ACS_11_5YR_B16001.csv - your actual dataset

ACS_11_5YR_B16001_ann.csv – the annotated dataset with information describing each column of your set.

ACS_11_5YR_B16001_metadata.csv – a data dictionary also describing the information for each column in your set.

Using your dataset and the metadata, you are now ready to begin exploring, organizing, analyzing and mapping your data!