Housing Vacancy Rate, version 2

Note: EIG does not include seasonally occupied homes as vacant.

The long way:

1. Go to “factfinder.census.gov” and select the “Guided Search” option from the top menu.
2. On the “1 Start” page, select “I’m looking for information about housing” and click the “Next” button.
3. On the “2 Topics” page, select the “Occupancy Characteristic,” and then “Occupancy and Vacancy Status.” Click the “Next” button.
4. On the “3 Geographies” page, select geographic type “5-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Area – 860.” A list box will appear, containing “All 5-Digit ZIP Code Tabulation Areas within United States and Puerto Rico.” Click that text in the list box, then click the “Add to Your Selections” button, then click the “Next” button.
5. On the “4 Race/Ethnic Groups” page, click the “Skip This Step” button.
6. On the “5 Search Results” page, click “Occupancy Status” for 2015 ACS 5-year estimates (not 2016) – it is the 12th table title.

The short way:

1. Copy the following link to the URL box of your browser:

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_B25002&prodType=table>

In either case:

1. On the line of “Actions,” click on “Modify Table.”
2. In the first column of the table, click on the blue button with a funnel icon.
3. In the “Filter Dimension” dialog box, check the box for “Estimate” and click on the “OK” button.
4. In the first column of the table, click on the blue button with a minus sign to hide the “Occupied” and “Vacant” rows, leaving only the “Total” row.
5. On the line of “Table Tools,” click on “Transpose Rows/Columns.”
6. On the line of “Actions,” click on the “Download” link.
7. In the “Download” dialog box, select “Use the data.” Two content options are available for the CSV download and both checkboxes should be checked. Click the “OK” button.
8. The “Download” message box will display a progress bar as the website creates your file. Afterwards, it will say “Your file is complete.” Click on the “Download” button.
9. Use the “Save As” dialog box to save “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25002.zip.”
10. Near the top of the web page, click on “5 Search Results” to return to the table selection.
11. Click “Vacancy Status” for 2015 ACS 5-year estimates (not 2016) – it is the 13th table title.
12. On the line of “Actions,” click on “Modify Table.”
13. In the first column of the table, click on the blue button with a funnel icon.
14. In the “Filter Dimension” dialog box, check the box for “Estimate” and click on the “OK” button.
15. In the first column of the table, click on the checkboxes of each row (to uncheck the box and hide that row) except “Total” and “For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.”
16. On the line of “Table Tools,” click on “Transpose Rows/Columns.”
17. On the line of “Actions,” click on the “Download” link.
18. In the “Download” dialog box, select “Use the data.” Two content options are available for the CSV download and both checkboxes should be checked. Click the “OK” button.
19. The “Download” message box will display a progress bar as the website creates your file. Afterwards, it will say “Your file is complete.” Click on the “Download” button.
20. Use the “Save As” dialog box to save “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25004.zip.”
21. Open Windows File Explorer.
22. Double click on “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25002.zip” in File Explorer to view its contents. Double click on “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25002\_with\_ann.csv” to open it in Excel.
23. In Excel, delete columns A and B.
24. Change A1 from “GEO.display-label” to “Zip\_Code”. Change B1 from “HD01\_VD01” to “Housing\_Units”. Delete row 2.
25. Use the “Find & Select” function on the “Home” ribbon to replace “ZCTA5 ” (note the trailing space) with “Z” (replace all). This will preserve the leading zeroes and the character data type of the zip codes.
26. Save the worksheet as “Housing.csv” and close Excel.
27. The worksheet contains the estimated number of housing units in each zip code.
28. Double click on “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25004.zip” in File Explorer to view its contents. Double click on “ACS\_15\_5YR\_B25004\_with\_ann.csv” to open it in Excel.
29. In Excel, delete columns A and B.
30. Change A1 from “GEO.display-label” to “Zip\_Code”. Change B1 from “HD01\_VD01” to “All\_Vacancy”. Change C1 from “HD01\_VD06” to “Seasonal”. Delete row 2.
31. Use the “Find & Select” function on the “Home” ribbon to replace “ZCTA5 ” (note the trailing space) with “Z” (replace all). This will preserve the leading zeroes and the character data type of the zip codes.
32. Save the worksheet as “Vacancy.csv” and close Excel.
33. The worksheet contains the estimated number of vacant housing units and the number that EIG considered to not really be vacant in each zip code.