

CENSUS DATA

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has provided a very powerful tool to access Census data over the Internet. Information can be found from the national level down to the individual “block” level for certain types of information. While the tools are powerful, learning to use them is not simple, so **BE PATIENT!** You should also understand the general nature of the Census data you are seeking as well as Census geographies. (See below for a chart showing the different geographies at which the Census tabulates data.)

The Bureau of the Census has provided a basic tool called “American Factfinder” to help you with your search for data. You can use American FactFinder to view, print, or download statistics about population, housing, industry, and business. Using FactFinder, you can also find U.S. Census Bureau products; create reference and thematic maps; and search for specific data.

If, for example, you are looking for population, race, and age information for your neighborhood area, you could select Census blocks within your area and get table for each block. These tables can be downloaded and imported into a spreadsheet program.

Privacy Restrictions on Data:

To protect the privacy of respondents, certain types of information such as income are suppressed for geographic levels with fewer than 100 households. This means that you may only be able to get information at the “block group” level or higher.

Basic data sets:

Summary File 1 (SF1) contains 286 detailed tables focusing on age, sex, households, families, and housing units. These tables provide in-depth figures by race and Hispanic origin; some tables are repeated for each of nine race/Latino groups. Counts also are provided for over forty American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and for groups within race categories. The race categories include eighteen Asian groups and twelve Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups. Counts of people of Hispanic origin (twenty-eight Hispanic or Latino groups) are also shown. Information is available down to the block level.

Summary File 2 contains 100-percent population and housing characteristics, but the tables in this file are iterated for a selected list of detailed race and Hispanic- or Latino-origin groups, as well as American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Various Quick Tables and Geographic Comparison Tables are derived from Summary File 2.

Summary File 3 presents in-depth population and housing data collected on a sample basis from the Census 2000 long form questionnaire, as well as the topics from the short form 100-percent data (age, race, sex, Hispanic or Latino origin, tenure [whether a housing unit is owner- or renter-occupied], and vacancy status). It includes population totals for ancestry groups. It also includes selected characteristics for a limited number of race and Hispanic or Latino categories.

This file presents data from the population and housing long form, also known as the "Sample Data" because they are obtained from questions asked of a sample (generally 1-in-6) of persons and housing units. Data are provided on the following Census 2000 subjects not previously released in Summary Files 1 and 2: Information is available down to the block group level.

Help features and tutorial:

The Help feature found in the top menu bar should be used frequently to help guide you through the process. It also provides access to a tutorial that can give you step-by-step instructions.

