

Census Factfinder

The following document outlines the steps necessary in accessing Census / American Community Survey data from the American Factfinder website using the “Advanced Search” function.

1. Think about what type of information is needed first (e.g. population, income, race, etc.), at what scale (e.g. block group, census tract, city-wide), and for what year.
2. Navigate to <https://factfinder.census.gov/>
3. Click “Advanced Search” and “SHOW ME ALL”



4. To find data, select options from the buttons on the left side of the page



SELECT GEOGRAPHY

5. Navigate to the desired geography level by selecting from the various drop downs in the “Geographies” window
 - a. There are several geographies to choose from in this section, so make sure the appropriate one is selected based on the project requirements.

- b. Common geographies for work within the City include “County,” “Census Tracts,” “Block Groups,” and “Place.”
- c. *Note* when selecting data for Arlington as a whole, select “**Place**” from the drop down (i.e. there is no geography called “city”)
- d. Once the geography window looks good, click “ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS”

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections
 "Your Selections" is empty
 load search | save search

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:
 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

Select Geographies

List | Name | Address | Map

Select geographies to add to Your Selections ?

Select from: most requested geographic types all geographic types

Select a geographic type:
 Place - 160

Select a state:
 Texas

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

- Anson city, Texas
- Anthony town, Texas
- Anton city, Texas
- Appleby city, Texas
- Aquilla city, Texas
- Arkansas Pass city, Texas
- Archer City city, Texas
- Arcola city, Texas
- Argyle city, Texas
- Arlington city, Texas

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS ABOUT THIS GEOGRAPHY

Didn't find your geographic type? Click the 'all geographic types' radio button above, or try the Name, Address or Map geography search options instead.

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections
 "Your Selections" is empty
 load search | save search

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:
 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

Select Geographies

List | Name | Address | Map

Select geographies to add to Your Selections ?

Select from: most requested geographic types all geographic types

Select a geographic type:
 Census Tract - 140

Select a state:
 Texas

Select a county:
 Tarrant

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

- All Census Tracts within Tarrant County, Texas
- All fully/partially Urban Census Tracts within Tarrant County, Texas
- All fully/partially Rural Census Tracts within Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1001.01, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1001.02, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1002.01, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1002.02, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1003, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1004, Tarrant County, Texas
- Census Tract 1005.01, Tarrant County, Texas

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS ABOUT THIS GEOGRAPHY

Didn't find your geographic type? Click the 'all geographic types' radio button above, or try the Name, Address or Map geography search options instead.

6. Once the geography is added, it will show up in the “Your Selections” box in the top left.

*Note – at any point in the selection process, the user can type a key word into the box labeled “Topic or Table Name” to search for specific tables.

Your Selections

Search using...
Place within State
Arlington city, Texas

clear all selections and start a new search

load search | save search

Search using the options below:

- Topics (age, income, year, dataset, ...)
- Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
- Race and Ethnic Groups (race, ancestry, tribe)
- Industry Codes (NAICS industry, ...)
- EEO Occupation Codes (executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 38,212 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

Select Geographies

List | Name | Address | Map

Select geographies to add to Your Selections

Select from: most requested geographic types all geographic types

Select a geographic type:
..... Place - 160

Select a state:
Texas

Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

- All Places within Texas
- Abbott city, Texas
- Abermathy city, Texas
- Abilene city, Texas
- Abram CDP, Texas
- Abram-Perezville CDP, Texas
- Ackerly city, Texas
- Adrian town, Texas

SELECT DATASET

- Typically, the R&A team uses American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year data for projects. The 5-Year dataset has a good balance between accuracy and *up-to-dateness*. Documentation regarding Census/American Community Survey datasets can be found here <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/estimates.html>
- Navigate to the “Topics” window and expand the “Dataset” button

Your Selections

Search using...
Place within State
Arlington city, Texas

clear all selections and start a new search

load search | save search

Search using the options below:

- Topics (age, income, year, dataset, ...)
- Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
- Race and Ethnic Groups (race, ancestry, tribe)
- Industry Codes (NAICS industry, ...)
- EEO Occupation Codes (executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 38,212 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

Select Topics [CLOSE X]

Select Topics to add to 'Your Selections'

- People
- Housing
- Year
- Product Type
- Program
- Dataset
 - 2017 ACS 5-year estimates (1,051)
 - 2017 ACS 1-year estimates (1,283)
 - 2017 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates (57)
 - 2016 ACS 5-year estimates (1,024)
 - 2016 ACS 1-year estimates (1,275)
 - 2016 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates (57)
 - 2015 ACS 5-year estimates (1,024)
 - 2015 ACS 1-year estimates (1,272)
 - 2015 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates (57)
 - 2015 ACS 5-year Selected Population Tables (151)
 - 2014 ACS 5-year estimates (1,011)
 - 2014 ACS 1-year estimates (1,264)
 - 2014 ACS 1-year Supplemental Estimates (56)

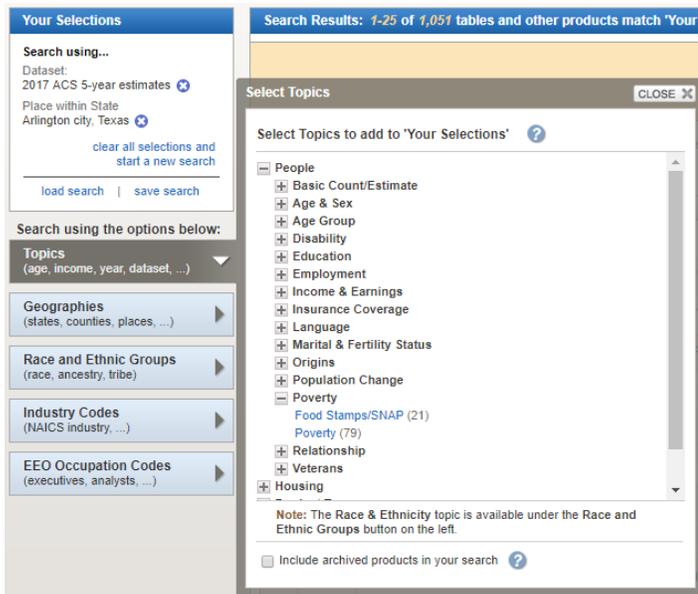
Note: The Race & Ethnicity topic is available under the Race and Ethnic Groups button on the left.

Include archived products in your search

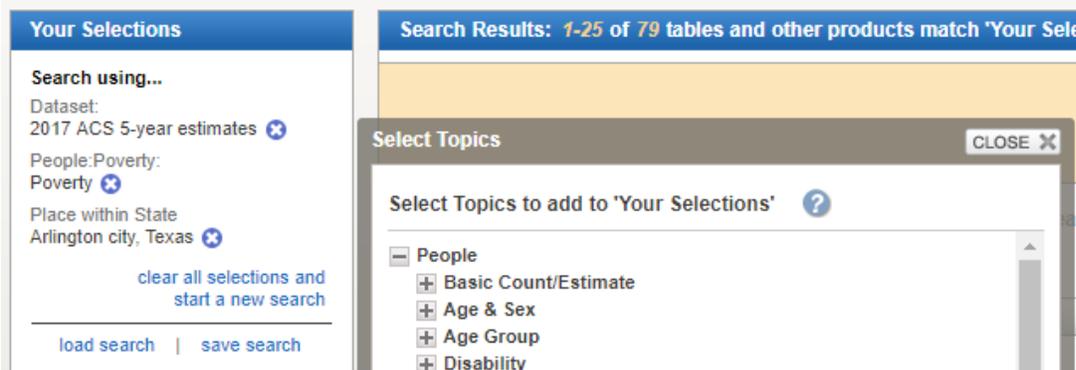
9. Depending on the specific project, the appropriate dataset will need to be selected. Again, for R&A use, the **most recent 5-year estimate** is the typical dataset used. In this instance, “2017 ACS 5-year estimates.”
10. Click on the dataset and see that it’s added to the “Your Selections” box.

SELECT TOPIC

11. Click the Topic button again to select the appropriate topic.
 - a. **Note** that multiple topics can be selected at the same time, which will result in more tables in the search results.
12. Expand the appropriate dropdown (People, Housing, etc.) and navigate through the topics. The following screenshot shows the user selecting the topic of “Poverty.”



13. Next to the word “Poverty” is the number (79). This means that there are 79 tables available for the City of Arlington (the geography selected) from the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates.
14. Click the blue text (e.g. “Poverty”) and see it move to the “Your Selections” box.



15. At any time, selections can be removed by clicking on the blue circle/white “x” in the “Your Selections” box.

RACE AND ETHNIC GROUPS

16. Another useful selection may be to narrow down a search using a specific race or ethnic group using the “Race and Ethnic Groups” button on the left hand menu.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a sidebar on the left and a main content area. The sidebar has a 'Your Selections' section with the following criteria: Dataset: 2017 ACS 5-year estimates; People:Poverty: Poverty; Place within State: Arlington city, Texas. Below this are buttons for 'load search' and 'save search', and a link to 'clear all selections and start a new search'. The main content area has a blue header that says 'Search Results: 1-25 of 79 tables and other products match "Your Selections"'. A modal window titled 'Select Race and Ethnic Groups' is open, showing a list of race and ethnicity categories under the 'Basic Groups' tab. The categories include Alaska Native (3), American Indian (3), Asian (3), Black or African American (3), Hispanic or Latino (3), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (3), Race/Ethnicity of Householder (9), Race/Ethnicity of Individual (16), Some Other Race (3), Two or More Races (3), White (3), and White, Not Hispanic or Latino (3). A table below the modal shows a search result for 'B07412 GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN THE PAST YEAR BY POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE UNITED STATES'.

17. If desired, select a race or ethnic group to narrow down the results of the search to include data particular to that specific group. Here, “Hispanic or Latino” will be selected.

The screenshot shows the same search interface as in the previous image, but with the 'Hispanic or Latino' group selected in the 'Race & Ethnicity' section of the modal window. The sidebar now includes 'Race & Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino' as a selection. The main content area header now says 'Search Results: 1-3 of 3 tables and other products match "Your Selections"'. The modal window shows the following categories under the 'Basic Groups' tab: Race/Ethnicity of Householder (1) and Race/Ethnicity of Individual (1). A table below the modal shows a search result for 'B17020 POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE, RACE, HISPANIC OR LATINO'.

RESULTING TABLES

18. The following tables are a result of the search parameters. The three tables contain information regarding Poverty within the Hispanic/Latino community in Arlington disseminated in the 2017 ACS 5-year estimates.

Refine your search results:
 topics race/ancestry industries occupations

Selected: << < 1 > >>

Show results from: All available years | All available programs

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
B17001I	POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO)	2017 ACS 5-year estimates	<input type="button" value="i"/>
B17010I	POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OF FAMILIES BY FAMILY TYPE BY PRESENCE OF RELATED CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS BY AGE OF RELATED CHILDREN (HISPANIC OR LATINO)	2017 ACS 5-year estimates	<input type="button" value="i"/>
B17020I	POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO)	2017 ACS 5-year estimates	<input type="button" value="i"/>

Selected: << < 1 > >>

VIEWING DATA TABLES

19. Once the user clicks on a table, they will be redirected to a Table Viewer Page.

Advanced Search - Search all data in American FactFinder

1 Advanced Search | 2 Table Viewer

B17020I | **POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO)**
 Universe: Hispanic or Latino population for whom poverty status is determined
 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table View

Actions: | | | | |

Annotations:
 - Table ID for easy search later (B17020I)
 - Table Name (POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO))
 - Dataset (2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
 - "Universe" = the population from which the data is displayed (will often change between tables)
 - Options to customize table layout (Modify Table)
 - Bookmark for easy retrieval later (Bookmark/Save)
 - Download Options (Download)

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

Toggle years to view previous data (within same dataset type (i.e. 5-year estimates))

Versions of this table are available for the following years: 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009

Selected Geography/Geographies: Arlington city, Texas

	Arlington city, Texas	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	111,167	+/-2,894
Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:	25,447	+/-2,748
Under 6 years	4,785	+/-695
6 to 11 years	4,640	+/-704
12 to 17 years	3,200	+/-666
18 to 59 years	11,818	+/-1,388
60 to 74 years	927	+/-298
75 to 84 years	39	+/-37
85 years and over	38	+/-50
Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level:	85,720	+/-3,046
Under 6 years	8,899	+/-802
6 to 11 years	8,996	+/-703
12 to 17 years	8,758	+/-824
18 to 59 years	53,068	+/-2,197
60 to 74 years	4,721	+/-692
75 to 84 years	949	+/-247
85 years and over	329	+/-228

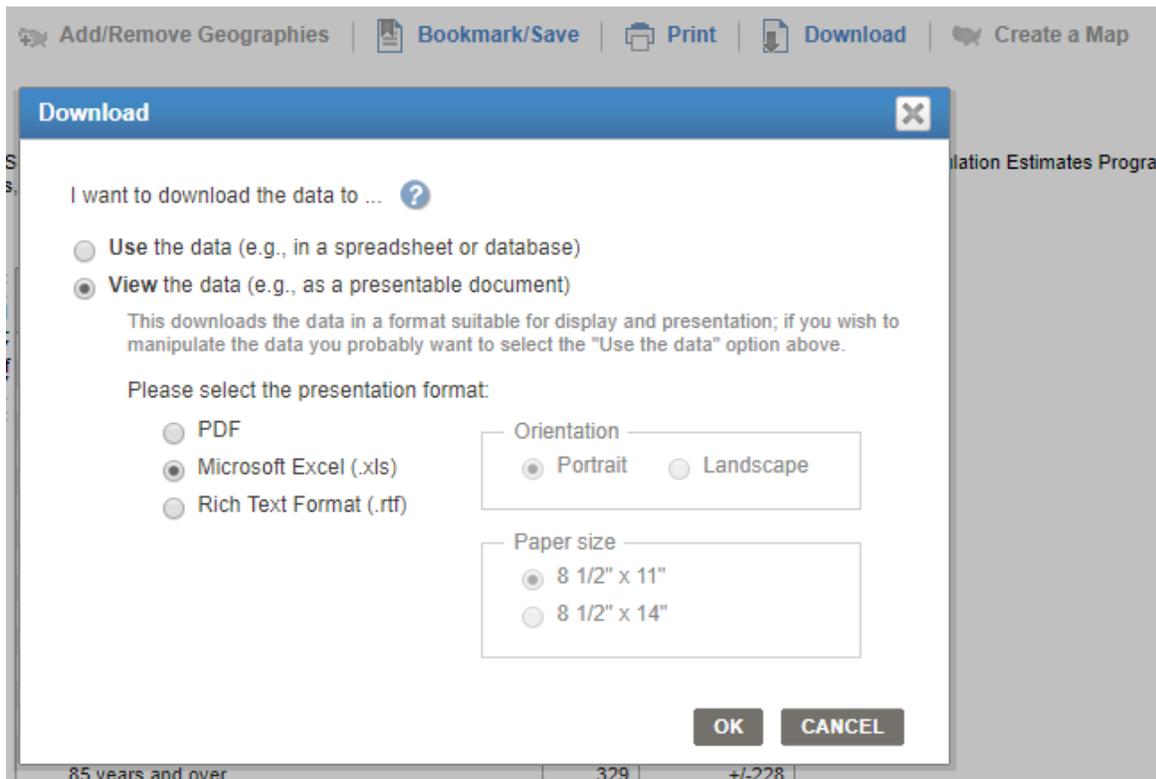
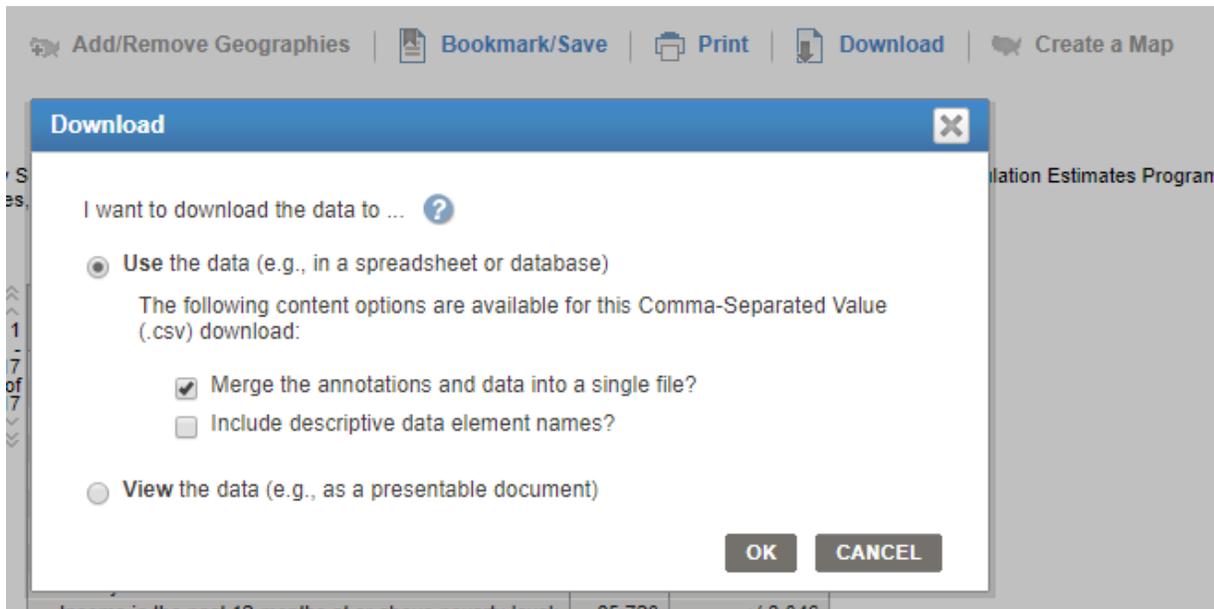
Annotations:
 - Estimate = total number of people/families/housing units, etc. (depending on the table)
 - Percent is not always shown on tables and may need to be calculated later in Excel

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

DOWNLOADING DATA TABLES

20. Tables can be downloaded for two uses: “Using” the data and “Viewing” the data. If the tables are going to be used for more qualitative purposes without much additional analysis, downloading the data to “view” may be more appropriate. If the user wants to provide further calculations with the data or import it into ArGIS, it will be more appropriate to download the data for “use.”

21. Click “Download” and a new box will appear with these options.



22. Sample PDF document when the option to “View” the data is selected:

U.S. Census Bureau
 AMERICAN FactFinder

B170201 POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY AGE (HISPANIC OR LATINO)
 Universe: Hispanic or Latino population for whom poverty status is determined
 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Technical Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

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.

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75 to 84 years	949	+/-247
85 years and over	329	+/-228

23. Downloading a table for “use” is often used for importing data into ArcGIS (often times joining Census data to tract or block group geographies). The downloaded table is less intuitive and clear to read. When downloading in this way, the resulting table will be in .csv format – the zip file will include the following files, depending on the options selected in the download window:

This PC > Downloads > ACS_17_5YR_B170201 (1)

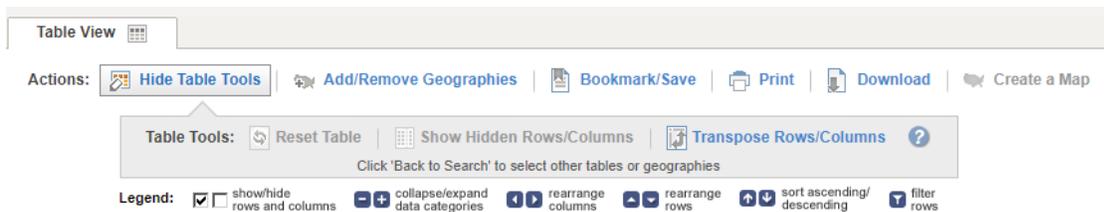
Name	Type	Compressed size	Password ...	S
ACS_17_5YR_B170201	Text Document	2 KB	No	
ACS_17_5YR_B170201_metadata	Microsoft Excel Comma S...	1 KB	No	
ACS_17_5YR_B170201_with_ann	Microsoft Excel Comma S...	1 KB	No	
aff_download_readme_ann	Text Document	1 KB	No	

24. In this case, the .csv file ending in “with_ann” contains the actual Census data and will look like this in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1	GEO.id	GEO.id2	GEO.display-label	HD01_VD01	HD02_VD01	HD01_VD02	HC
2	Id	Id2	Geography	Estimate; Total:	Margin of Error; Total:	Estimate; Income in th	M:
3	1600000U	4804000	Arlington city, Texas	111167	2894	25447	
4							
5							

MODIFYING DATA TABLES

- It's possible to modify and "customize" the layout of data tables before downloading to exclude unwanted elements (i.e. margin of error or percent).
- Back on the table page (on the Census Factfinder website) click on the "Modify Table" button. This will open a table tools dialogue like this:



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

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85 years and over		329	+/-228

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

- Use the arrows and check boxes to shift or turn off rows or columns in the table. The filter button (next to the word "Estimate" in the image above) pulls up a new window. Here the user can select which rows they want in the table (this is useful when downloading Census tract data when certain fields like margin of error may not be particularly useful for the analysis).

