

PATHWAYS Institute Workshop
Sponsored by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning
College of Science, Engineering, and Technology

“Accessing and Using Census Data”

Presented by Sheryl L. Bacon, Research Associate/Analyst
Mississippi Urban Research Center
Tuesday, June 1, 2021



I. Introduction

Census data plays an essential role in not only tracking demographics and social characteristics, but also in emergency management and disaster preparedness planning. It is used to determine where schools, hospitals, businesses, and other developments will be located, and how grants and other federal funds are distributed. Census data is also used in the process of **apportionment**, or dividing the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states based on population. As such, access to census data is critical tool for planners, managers, elected officials, social scientists, and other public administrators.

This document is a supplement to the Census Data training workshop hosted by the JSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning on June 1, 2021. It is designed to list resources, and give step-by-step instructions on accessing data, and other census-related information for research purposes. It is intended to help facilitate access and usage of census data across multiple platforms.

II. Major Areas of Interest Available on Census Bureau Website:

<https://www.census.gov/>

(a) Data – The main website for the U.S. Census Bureau contains tables and other datasets including (but not limited to) the following topics: Age and Sex, Business and Economy, Congressional Apportionment, Education, Employment, Families and Living Arrangements, Geography, Health, Housing, Income and Poverty, Population Estimates, Race, and Voting and Registration.

(b) Publications/Reports – Articles and reports by census experts; these publications can be used as secondary data sources, in literature reviews, or to inspire and guide research around census topics and emerging issues. (<https://www.census.gov/library/publications.html>)

(c) Infographics & Visualizations – Maps, charts, and graphs of census data; these can be used in the same manner as publications, and also to underscore the significance of data findings through visual depictions. (<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations.html>)

(d) Training Videos/”Data Gems” – Videos, online course modules, and webinar links designed to provide self-directed training resources for census data users; the training videos (called “Data Gems”) offer instruction on numerous functions and can be browsed by topic or by date. There is also an option to contact the Census Bureau directly a request data training from a representative. (<https://www.census.gov/data/academy.html>)

III. Basic Data Search Tools

(a) QuickFacts – <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>

QuickFacts
United States
QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

What's New & FAQs >

Enter state, county, city, town, or zip code -- Select a fact -- CLEAR TABLE MAP CHART DASHBOARD MORE

Table

All Topics	United States
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	328,239,523
PEOPLE	
Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	328,239,523
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	308,756,105
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	6.3%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	308,745,538
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	331,449,281
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent	22.3%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	16.5%
Female persons, percent	50.8%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	76.3%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	1.3%
Asian alone, percent (a)	5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.2%
Two or More Races, percent	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	18.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	60.1%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2015-2019	18,230,322
Foreign born persons, percent, 2015-2019	13.6%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	139,684,244

(b) Census Reporter – <https://censusreporter.org/>

Census Reporter

Profile Start typing to pick a place...

Find facts
Populations and dollar figures are broken down by category: Demographics, Economics, Families, Housing and Social.

Visualize
Our library of charts gives you insight into data from the places you research. Look for them on profile pages. You can even [embed the charts](#) on your own site.

Get context
Pre-computed statistics are presented alongside each data point, so you can see how each place fits into a larger context.

Explore Find a topic by table or column name...

Explore
Census data is massive, and sometimes it's hard to find the table you're looking for. Search by table and column keywords.

Visualize
We want to help you tell great stories. Maps and distribution charts help uncover what's interesting, so you can take it from there.

Download
From any comparison, save the data you're viewing in CSV, Excel or a variety of geographic data formats.

Using this site
Census Reporter is an independent project to make it easier for journalists to write stories using information from the U.S. Census bureau. Place profiles and comparison pages provide a friendly interface for navigating data, including visualizations for a more useful first look.

Videos

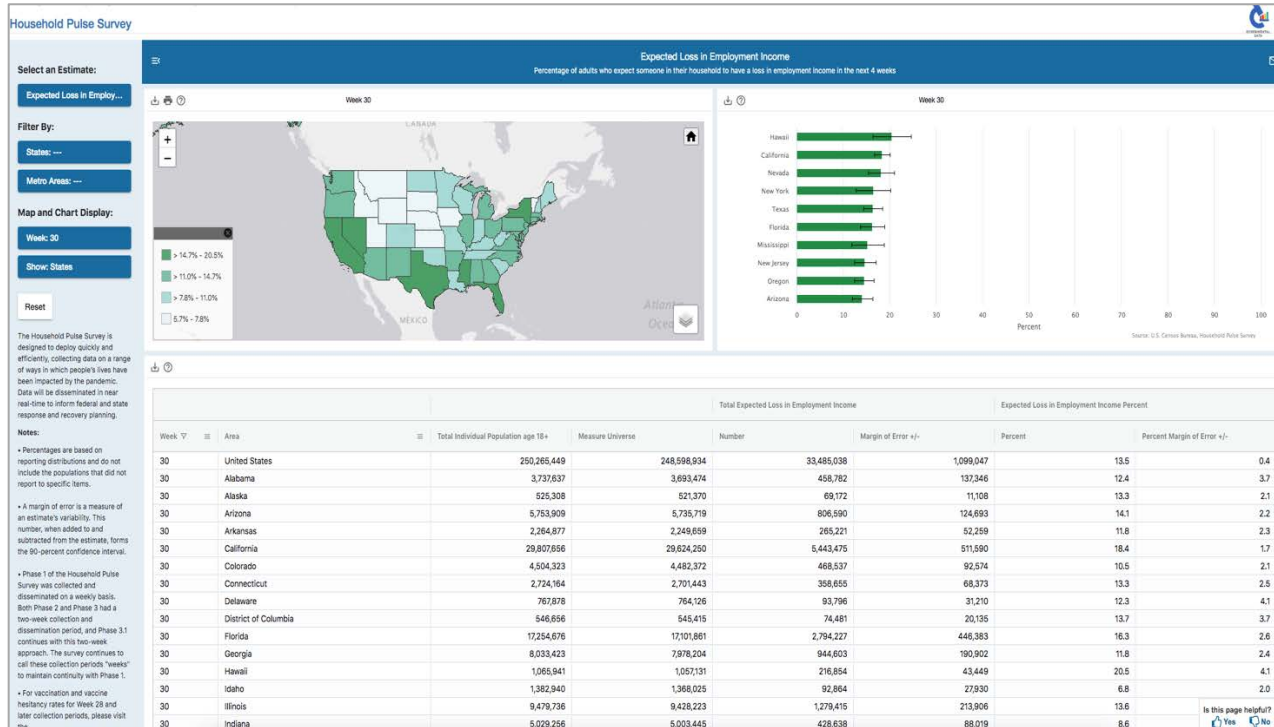
Introduction to Census Reporter
Using Profile Pages on Census Reporter
Using Data Search on Census Reporter

(c) Census Main Data Portal/“Explore Census Data” – <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

IV. Other Helpful (More Advanced) Data Search Tools

(a) Census Business Builder – <https://www.census.gov/data/data-tools/cbb.html>

(b) Household Pulse Survey – <https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#/>



(c) My Congressional District – <https://www.census.gov/mycd/>

My Congressional District

117th Congress

1 Select a State
2

People Workers Housing Socio-Economic Education Business

My Congressional District gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau through the **American Community Survey (ACS)** and **County Business Patterns (CBP)**. The ACS provides detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing statistics every year for the nation's communities. CBP provides annual statistics for businesses with paid employees at a detailed geography and industry level. My Congressional District is powered by ACS and CBP data through the **Census Application Programming Interface (API)**.

Sources: 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates and 2019 County Business Patterns

Need help finding your Congressional District?
Enter ZIP code
Window opens in new tab.

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

POWERED BY
The American Community Survey and County Business Patterns

(d) COVID-19 Data Hub – <https://covid19.census.gov/>

US Census Bureau COVID-19 Site

Census Programs What's New FAQs

COVID-19 Demographic and Economic Resources

United States Census Bureau

Share via:

Covid-19 Surveys and Estimates **Data Equity Tools** **Additional Federal Datasets** **Demographic and Economic Analysis** **Highlighted Datasets** **Categorical Datasets Search**

V2.2 - 4/13/2021 Release.
[Sign up here](#) to stay connected. Your [Feedback](#) would be greatly appreciated.

US Demographic and Economic Data At A Glance

Population Aged 65 Years and Older	Total Uninsured Population	Total Employer Establishments	Total Non-Employer Establishments
50,783,796	28,248,613	7,912,405	26,485,532
American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019	American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019	County Business Patterns (CBP) 2018	Nonemployer Statistics (NES) 2018

[Census COVID-19 Impact Report](#) **Select State:** New York **Select County:** Back to State

(e) Interactive Mapping Tools – <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/data/interactive-maps.html>

United States Census Bureau

Search

BROWSE BY TOPIC EXPLORE DATA LIBRARY SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS INFORMATION FOR... FIND A CODE ABOUT US

Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > Geography Program > Data > Interactive Maps

Interactive Maps

Work with interactive mapping tools from across the Census Bureau.

GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM
Errata Notes
Interactive Maps
Back to Data

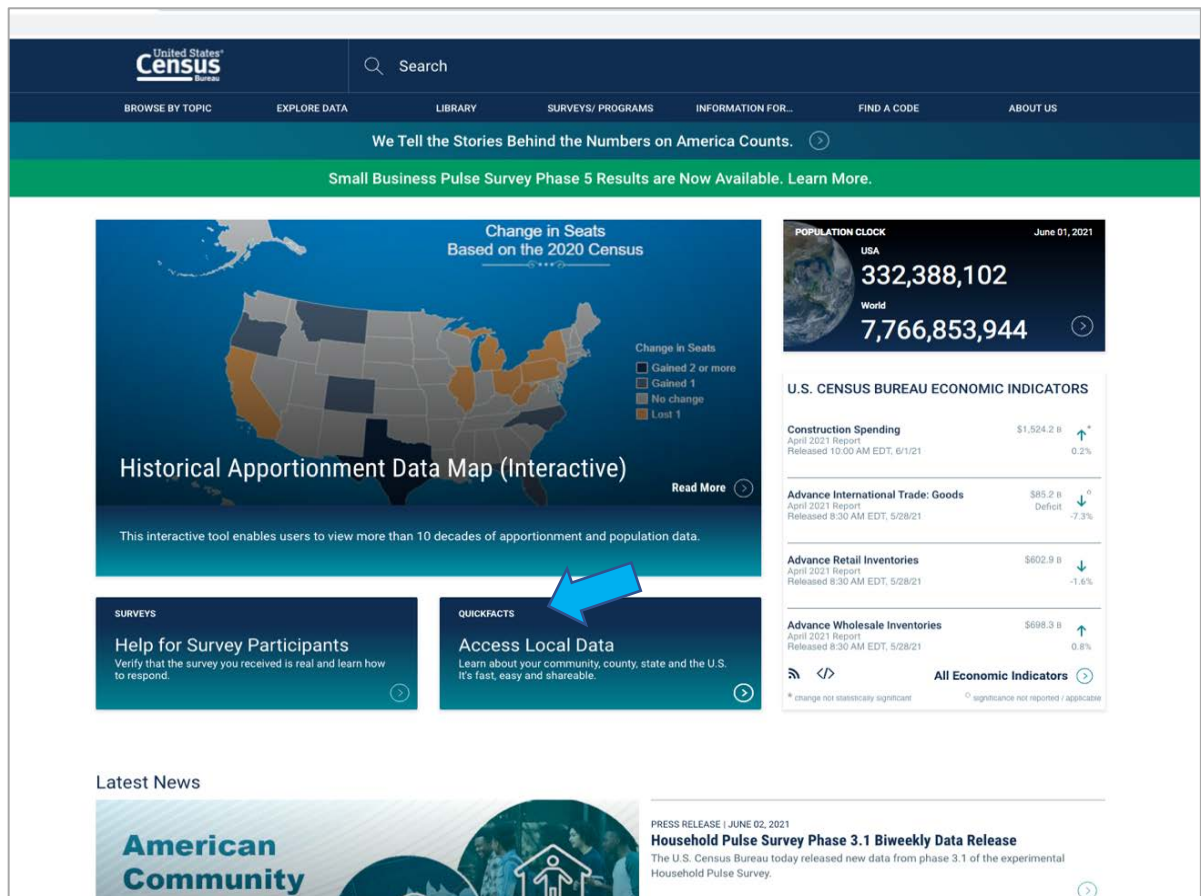
- Census Business Builder
- Census Flows Mapper
- Data Visualization Gallery
- OnTheMap (Employment)
- OnTheMap for Emergency Management
- Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM)
- Rural America: A Story Map
- SAHIE Interactive Data Tool (Health Insurance)
- SAIPE Interactive Data Tool (Poverty)
- TIGERweb

V. Examples of Locating Basic Data Profiles by Geography or Topic

○ QuickFacts

Example: Locate data table/profile for the city of Jackson, MS

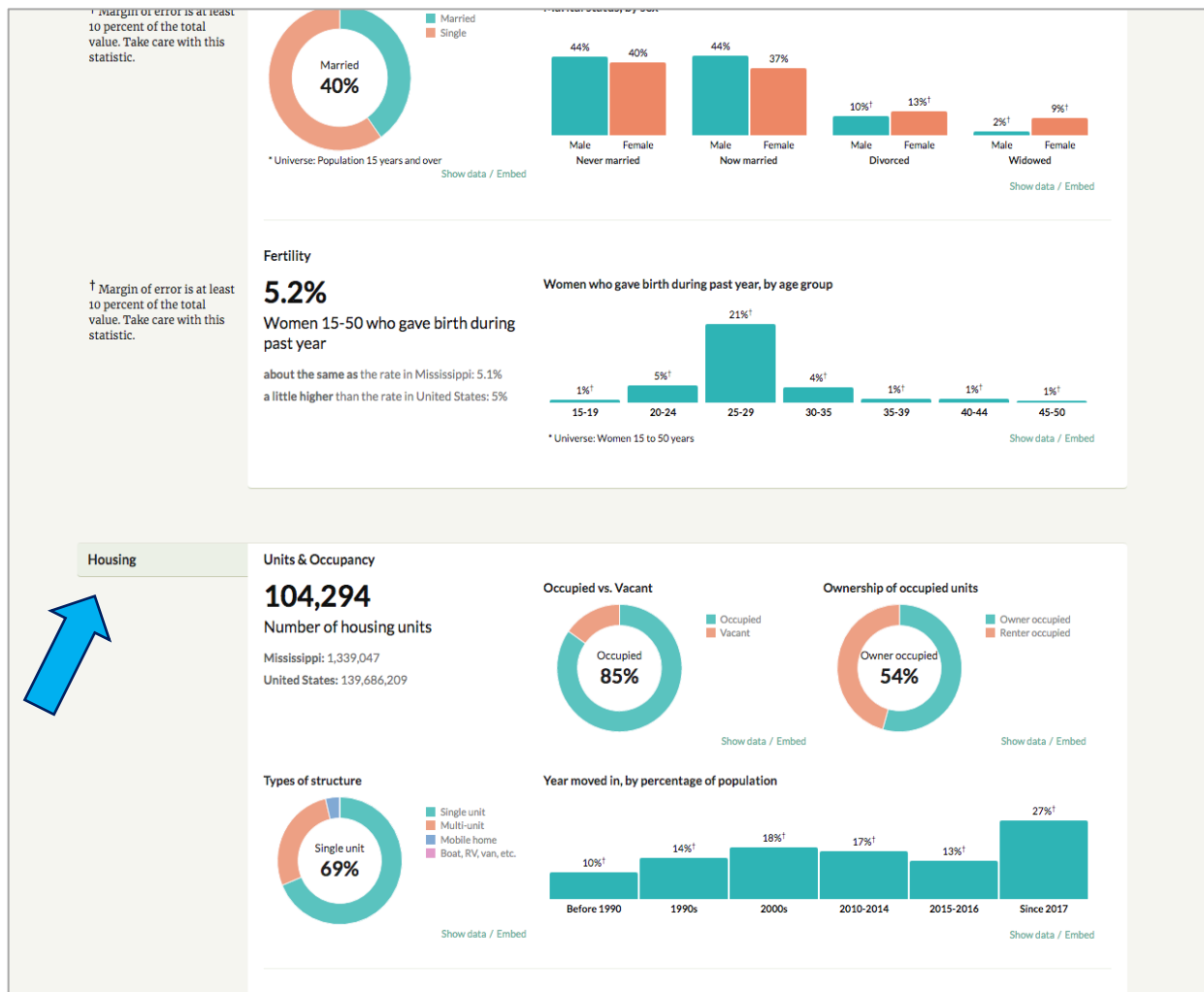
- ⇒ Step 1: Go to census.gov and click the tab labeled “Access Local Data” (see picture below; *you can also directly Google ‘QuickFacts’*)
- ⇒ Step 2: In the search window, begin typing ‘Jackson’ until your chosen geography (in this case, ‘Jackson city, Mississippi’) appears in the drop-down selections; once it appears, use cursor or arrow keys to select it
- ⇒ Step 3: Screen will refresh with data table for Jackson, MS added
- ⇒ Use the ‘More’ tab (far right) to export tables to Excel, or to print or email tables



○ Census Reporter

Example: Locate Housing data for Hinds County, MS

- ⇒ Step 1: Go to <https://censusreporter.org/> and type 'Hinds county' into the search bar labeled 'Profile'; select 'Hinds County, MS' from the drop-down selections
- ⇒ Step 2: Scroll down the Profile page for Hinds County until the 'Housing' topic is seen in the left-hand column of table (see picture below)



○ **Census Main Data Portal/“Explore Census Data”**

Example: Locate Income information for African-Americans in Pearl, MS

- ⇒ Step 1: Go to census.gov and hover over tab labeled ‘Explore Data.’ Choose ‘Data Tools and Apps’ and scroll down to find and select data tool called ‘Explore Census Data’ (*you can also go directly to <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>*)
- ⇒ Step 2: Click ‘Advanced Search’ (underneath main search bar) to add filters
- ⇒ Step 2: Under the two search bars is a column labeled ‘Browse Filters’ – click ‘Browse Filters,’ then click ‘Topic’ in the middle column, and select ‘Income and Poverty’ in the far right column
- ⇒ Step 3: Go back to the ‘Topics’ column and select ‘Race and Ethnicity,’ and then select ‘Black or African-American’ in the proper column, followed by ‘Black or African American alone’ in the far right column
- ⇒ Step 4: Go back to the “Browse Filters” column and select ‘Place’ under Geography filters
- ⇒ Step 5: Select Mississippi under the column for states, and then select ‘Pearl city, Mississippi’ under the new far right column
- ⇒ Step 6: Go to the bottom right of the page and click the ‘Search’ button
- ⇒ Step 7: Select the desired or most relevant table from the list onscreen

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page of the Census data portal. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation tabs for 'ALL', 'TABLES', 'MAPS', and 'PAGES'. Below the search bar, the 'Advanced Search' section includes a 'Table ID' field and a 'Narrow search with filters' section. The 'FIND A FILTER' section has a search box with the text 'e.g. 336111 - Automobile Manufacturing'. The 'BROWSE FILTERS' section on the left has a sidebar with 'Topics', 'Geography', 'Years', 'Surveys', and 'Codes'. The 'GEOGRAPHY' section is expanded, showing 'Place' as the selected filter. The 'WITHIN (STATE)' section lists states, with 'Mississippi' selected. The 'MISSISSIPPI' section lists various locations, with 'Pearl city, Mississippi' selected. At the bottom, the 'Selected Filters' section shows '004 - Black or African American alone', 'Income and Poverty', and 'Pearl city, Mississippi'. There are 'CLEAR FILTERS' and 'SEARCH' buttons at the bottom right.

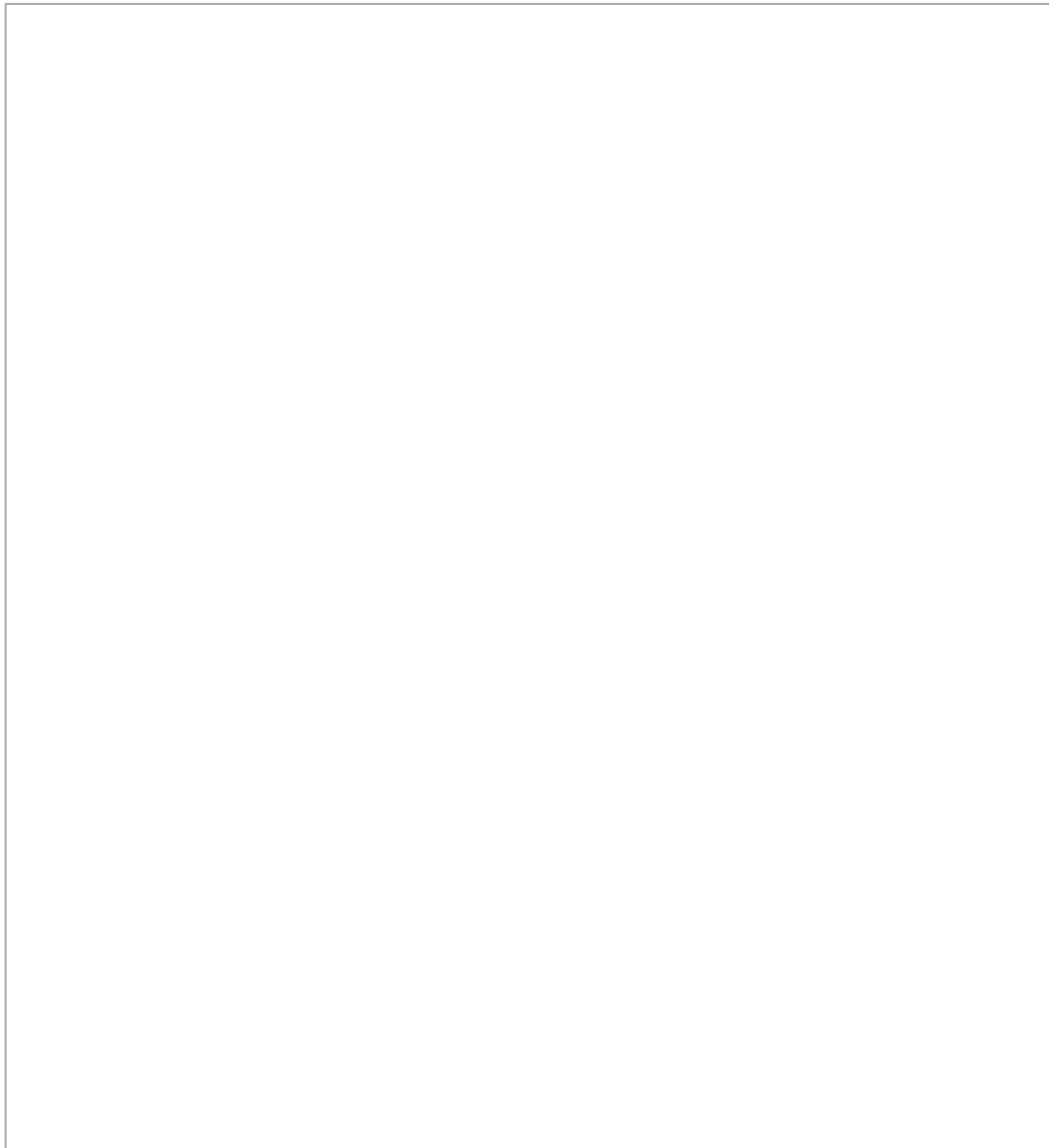
VI. Other Helpful Tips & Resources

QuickFacts

You can add multiple geographies by entering new locations in the Search bar after a table for a specific place has been created; click the small red 'X' to remove them.

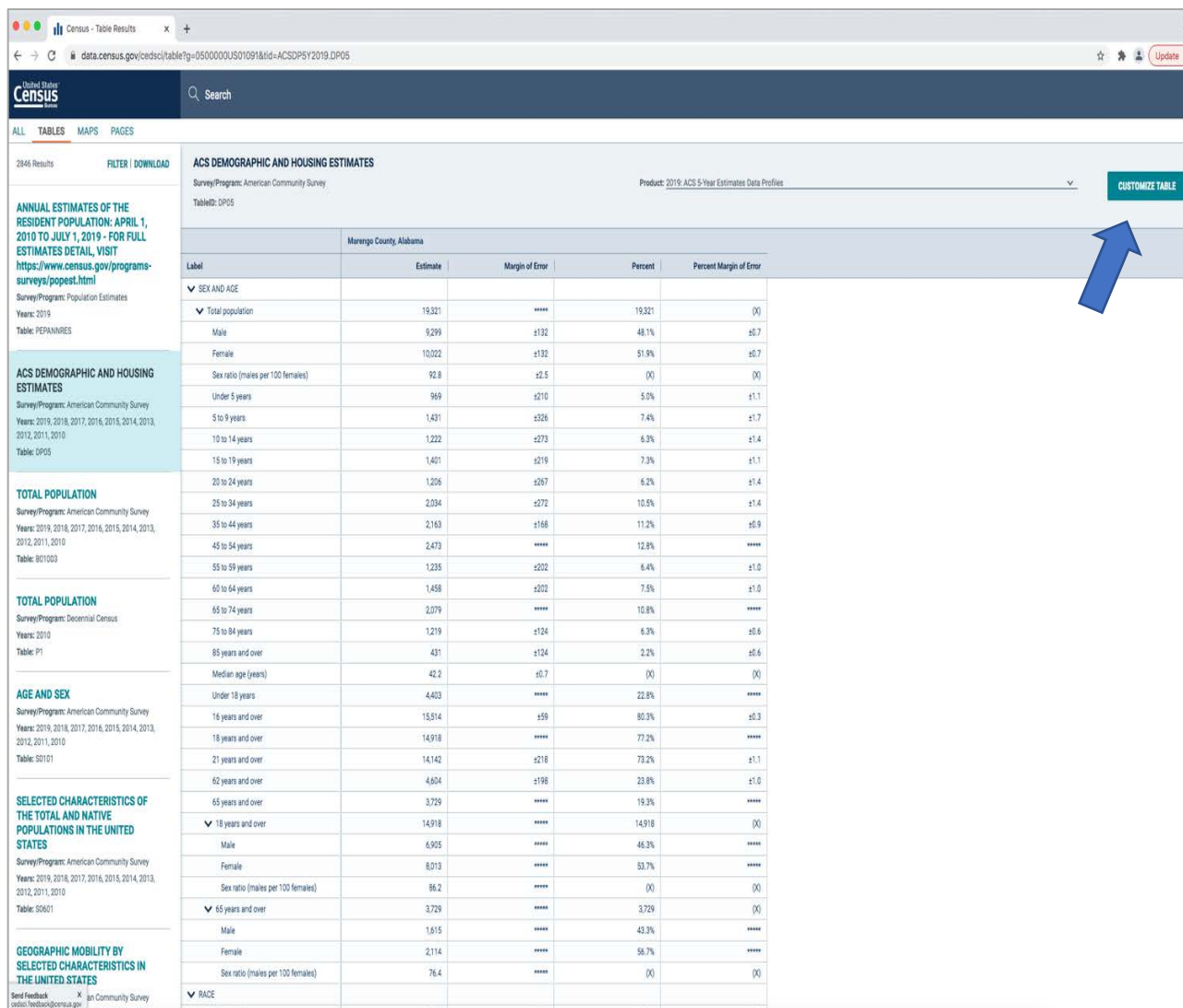
Census Reporter

You can use [**https://censusreporter.org/locate**](https://censusreporter.org/locate) to determine geographic census information about an address (see screen capture below for an example); this information then can be used to conduct Advanced Searches at data.census.gov.



Census Main Data Portal/“Explore Census Data”

- Once you have created your data table, use the ‘Customize Table’ button (upper right) to do any of the following:
 - Change column size or hide columns
 - Change filters
 - Download or print tables, or export data to Excel
 - Create map visualizations of data tables
- To save and re-use searches, add filters and then save the URL (web address) either as a bookmark in your Internet browser, or by copying and pasting into a separate document



The screenshot displays the Census Main Data Portal interface. The browser address bar shows the URL: data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0500000US01091&tid=ACSDPSY2019.DP05. The page title is "Census - Table Results". The left sidebar contains navigation links: ALL, TABLES, MAPS, and PAGES. Below these, there are sections for "2846 Results", "FILTER | DOWNLOAD", and a list of related tables including "ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION: APRIL 1, 2010 TO JULY 1, 2019 - FOR FULL ESTIMATES DETAIL, VISIT https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html", "ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES", "TOTAL POPULATION", "AGE AND SEX", "SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOTAL AND NATIVE POPULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES", and "GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES". The main content area displays a table titled "ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES" for "Marengo County, Alabama". The table includes columns for "Label", "Estimate", "Margin of Error", "Percent", and "Percent Margin of Error". The data is organized into sections: "SEX AND AGE", "TOTAL POPULATION", "AGE AND SEX", "SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOTAL AND NATIVE POPULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES", and "GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES". A blue arrow points to the "CUSTOMIZE TABLE" button in the upper right corner of the table area.

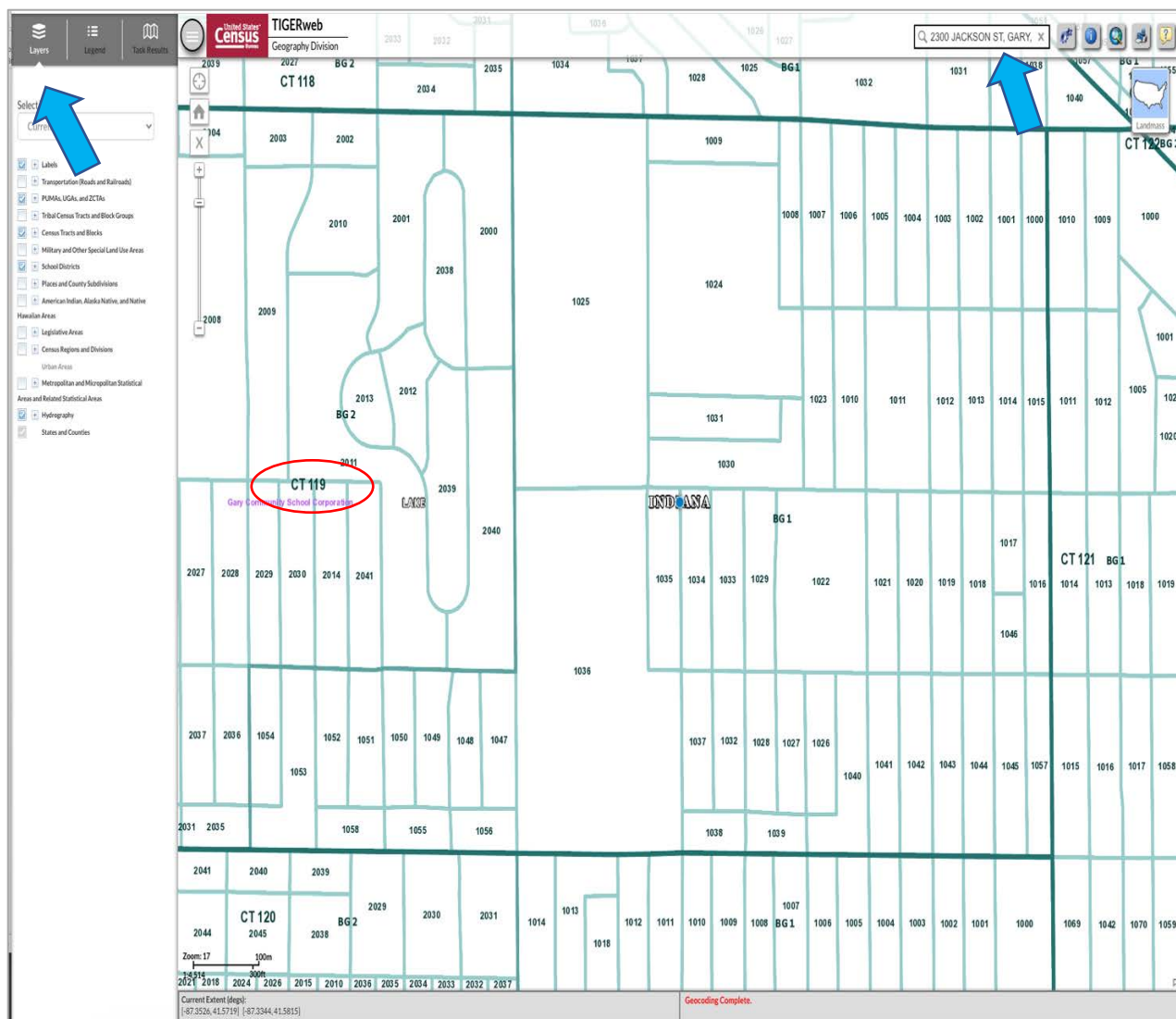
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
SEX AND AGE				
Total population	19,321	*****	19,321	(X)
Male	9,299	±132	48.1%	±0.7
Female	10,022	±132	51.9%	±0.7
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	92.8	±2.5	(X)	(X)
Under 5 years	969	±210	5.0%	±1.1
5 to 9 years	1,431	±226	7.4%	±1.7
10 to 14 years	1,222	±273	6.3%	±1.4
15 to 19 years	1,401	±219	7.2%	±1.1
20 to 24 years	1,206	±267	6.2%	±1.4
25 to 34 years	2,034	±272	10.5%	±1.4
35 to 44 years	2,163	±168	11.2%	±0.9
45 to 54 years	2,473	*****	12.8%	*****
55 to 59 years	1,235	±202	6.4%	±1.0
60 to 64 years	1,458	±202	7.5%	±1.0
65 to 74 years	2,079	*****	10.8%	*****
75 to 84 years	1,219	±124	6.3%	±0.6
85 years and over	431	±124	2.2%	±0.6
Median age (years)	42.2	±0.7	(X)	(X)
Under 18 years	4,403	*****	22.8%	*****
18 years and over	15,514	±59	80.3%	±0.3
18 years and over	14,918	*****	77.2%	*****
21 years and over	14,142	±218	73.2%	±1.1
62 years and over	4,604	±198	23.8%	±1.0
65 years and over	3,729	*****	19.3%	*****
18 years and over	14,918	*****	14,918	(X)
Male	6,905	*****	46.3%	*****
Female	8,013	*****	53.7%	*****
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	86.2	*****	(X)	(X)
65 years and over	3,729	*****	3,729	(X)
Male	1,815	*****	43.3%	*****
Female	2,114	*****	56.7%	*****
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	76.4	*****	(X)	(X)
RACE				

TigerWeb – <https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/>

This site can be used to find geographic census information about a specific residential address; this information then can be used to conduct Advanced Searches at data.census.gov.

Example: Determine what census tract the address of 2300 Jackson Street, Gary, IN falls within

- ⇒ Step 1: Go to <https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/> and enter the address into the search bar in the top right position on the screen; click the magnifying glass and select the matching address from the drop-down selection (see screen capture below)
- ⇒ Step 2: Click the tab at the top left labeled 'Layers' to choose which areas you want defined; in this example, select 'Census Tract and Block'
- ⇒ Step 3: Use the 'Legend' tab to identify boundary lines, then determine which area your address/data point falls within – CT is 'Census Tract' and BG is 'Block Group'



Missouri Census Data Center website – <https://mcdc.missouri.edu/applications/geocorr2018.html>

This site can be used to compare and determine overlap between geographical areas.

Example: Determine which census tracts are within Attala County, MS

- ⇒ Step 1: Go to <https://mcdc.missouri.edu/applications/geocorr2018.html>, select 'Mississippi' as the state to process, then select 'County' as the Source geography, and 'Census Tract' as the Target geography
- ⇒ Step 2: Scroll down and click the button labeled 'Run Request' – it will take a few moments for the request to process; when the next screen opens, you can choose whether to open the file as a .CSV file (Excel) or an .HTML file (webpage).

The screenshot shows the 'Geocorr 2018: Geographic Correspondence Engine' web application. The header includes navigation links: Home, Data, Population, Geography, Help, News, and About MCDC. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main heading is 'Geocorr 2018: Geographic Correspondence Engine', followed by a subheading 'Beta version, revised 12/04/2018 with 2016 geographies'. A paragraph explains that the application accesses the MABLE geographic database to generate custom correlation lists. A 'Note' states that the application is a 'beta' version and that county name/code changes in 2015 will affect results from AK and SD. Below the note are links for 'Help', 'Examples', 'Notes', and 'Other Geocorr versions'. The 'INPUT OPTIONS' section contains three main areas: 1. 'Select the state(s) to process:' with a dropdown menu showing states like Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi (selected), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. 2. 'Select one or more source geographies:' with a list of geographies including County (selected), County Subdivision/Town(ship)/MCD Place, Census Tract, Census Block Group, Census Block*, ZIP/ZCTA, Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA), CBSA Type, Metropolitan Division, Combined Statistical Area, NECTA, State Legislative District, Unified School District, Elementary School District, Secondary School District, Best School District, Best School District Type, County Size Category, Place Size Category, Within-a-place Code, and Census Place Code. 3. 'Select one or more target geographies:' with a similar list of geographies including County (selected), County Subdivision/Town(ship)/MCD Place, Census Tract, Census Block Group, Census Block*, ZIP/ZCTA, Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA), CBSA Type, Metropolitan Division, Combined Statistical Area, NECTA, State Legislative District, Unified School District, Elementary School District, Secondary School District, Best School District, Best School District Type, County Size Category, Place Size Category, Within-a-place Code, and Census Place Code. To the right of these lists are 'Notes for geography selectors' and a link to the 'geographic glossary'. At the bottom, there is a 'Weighting variable:' section with radio buttons for 'Population (2010 census)' (selected), 'Population (2016 est.)', and 'Land area (square miles)'. A note below the radio buttons states: 'Note: This estimate is based on county-level growth factors and is unreliable for small subcounty geographies.'

- ⇒ Step 3: If using the .CSV file, Column B will contain the census tract numbers for each county (the .HTML file will display in a more clearly defined table); Column E will contain the allocation factor, or percentage of that county within that Census tract
(NOTE: in Excel values, a value of 1 = 100; so a value of .15 = 15%)
- ⇒ ***For this example, it is determined that census tracts 601 – 606 are within Attala County***



Additional Resources for More Information



Mississippi Urban Research Center

*Census Information Center (CIC) at
Jackson State University*

101 W. Capitol Street, 5th Floor

Jackson, MS 39201

Ph: 601.979.1400

Email: murc@jsums.edu



State Data Center of Mississippi

State Data Center (SDC) at Ole Miss

537 Lamar Hall

University, MS 38677

Ph: 662.915.7295

Email: cps@olemiss.edu



U.S. Census Bureau

Atlanta Regional Office

101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 3200

Atlanta, GA 30303-2700

Ph: 404.730.3832 or 800.424.6974

Email: atlanta.regional.office@census.gov