

Using American FactFinder

What is American FactFinder? American FactFinder is a search engine that provides access to the population, housing and economic data collected by the Census Bureau. American FactFinder can be used to retrieve data from the 1990 and 2000 Census, Population Estimates, Economic Census and Surveys and American Community Survey (ACS). Some of the data from these programs not be available for rural communities.

Obtaining Data from American FactFinder

1. Link to American FactFinder at <http://FactFinder.census.gov/>.
2. **Quick Data Summaries** are available using the **Fast Access to Information** area. Enter the name of the city or town and use the pull-down menu to choose the state name. Then click the **GO** button. A table with general, social, economic and housing data will appear.
3. **Detailed Data** can be retrieved by clicking on the word **Data Sets** in the menu on the left side of the page. This area of American FactFinder can be used to search for data from the:

Decennial Census (2000 and 1990) - provides information on population, age, race, ancestry, income, education, employment, language, occupation, poverty status, housing and other subjects.

American Community Survey – a collection of data on age, race, income, commute time to work, home values, veteran status, and other data on U.S. households. This data is presently only available for communities with a population that is greater than 20,000.

Annual Population Estimates - population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for the nation, states and counties. The only data provided at the community level is the estimated population.

Economic Census – provides information on the number of businesses in a particular industry and their sales, receipts, revenues, shipments, payroll and number of employees. To preserve privacy, detailed data may not be available for all industries in smaller towns.

Annual Economic Surveys – provides statistics on manufacturing industries' employment and expenses and business patterns (County Business Patterns).

Click on the word **Data Sets** and choose the data set to be searched.

4. **Decennial Census Data** can be obtained for the entire population (SF 1 & SF 2) or a sample of the population (SF 3 & SF 4). SF 1 contains data on population, age, sex, race, Hispanic/Latino origin, people in households and residence ownership. SF 2 contains data on population and housing by race and ethnicity. SF 3 contains data on place of birth, ancestry, education, employment, income and home value and age from a sample of the population (1 in 6). SF 4 contains population and housing data for racial and ethnic groups from a sample of the population. To protect privacy, some of the data for SF 3 and SF 4 may not be available for

areas with small populations. For more information about these data sets, click on the **About this Data Set** link to see the type of data available in each file.

- a. Choose the summary file to be searched.
- b. Select the type of table to be created (quick, detailed or comparison).
- c. Identify the type of area for which data is needed (Nation, Region, Division, State, County, County Subdivision [townships], Census tract, block group, block, or Place [city]).
- d. Use the pull-down menus to identify the name of the area for which data is needed. Click the **Add** button to select the area. To select more than one area, hold down the shift key and then click on multiple locations. When all geographic areas of interest have been selected, click **Show Result**.
- e. The table of interest can be selected by subject, performing a keyword search or browsing for the table that has the data of interest by clicking on the tabs near the top of the Select Tables page. Click on the table of interest with the mouse to select it and then click **Add**. To select more than one table, hold the **Control** key down and then click on the tables of interest. When all selections have been made, click on **Show Result**.
- f. A page with one or more tables will appear. If the file is short, it can be printed from the display on the screen. Data can be downloaded in several different formats, including csv (comma separated values) or as an Excel spreadsheet if needed. Click on the words **Print/Download** on the display screen to print the data or download it to a file.

5. **Annual Population Estimates** can be retrieved by clicking on the words **Data Sets** at the left side of the FactFinder page. Then highlight **Annual Population Estimates**. The 2007 and 2006 Population Estimates can be searched. The 2007 population estimates will only give information to the county level, while the 2006 estimates can be used to get estimates for places (communities). The only community-level data that can be retrieved are estimates of the population (number of people). All other data (on housing, race, sex, age, etc.) is only available for counties.

- a. Choose the estimate to be searched (2007 or 2006).
- b. Click on **Detailed Tables**. Select the **Geography Type**. The possible geography types are: Nation, Nation-Region, Nation-Division, Nation-State and Nation-State-County. Choose **Nation-State-County**. A pull-down menu will appear.
- c. Select the state of interest. Another pull-down menu will appear.
- d. Select the name of one or more counties for which data will be retrieved and click **Add**. To select more than one county, hold the *Control* key down and select the counties of interest.
- e. Select the type of data to be retrieved and click **Add**. Then click **Show Result**.

6. **Economic Census** data can be retrieved by clicking on the words **Data Sets** at the left side of the FactFinder page. Then highlight the words **Economic Census**. Data for the 2002 and the

1997 Economic Censuses can be retrieved. Very little economic data is available at the community level. For the most part, the data can only be retrieved for counties.

- a. Choose the data to be retrieved (key or detailed statistics). The most data will be available using the **Quick Reports** option.
- b. Under **Geography Quick Reports**, click on **2002 Economic Census**.
- c. Choose the geographic type. The options available for Illinois are: Nation, State, County or Economic Place. Choose **Economic Place**.
- d. A pull-down with state names will appear. Choose the state of interest (Illinois).
- e. The economic places in Illinois will appear in a pull-down menu. Choose the place of interest and click **Show Result**. A table with the number of businesses in various industries will appear. If only one business in an industry exists for that place, no data will be given.

7. **Annual Economic Survey** data is only available at the county level, in the form of **County Business Patterns**. To retrieve data for a county, click on Data Sets and then choose **Annual Economic Surveys**.

- a. Click on **County Business Patterns** at the upper right corner of the page. Several viewing and retrieval options are offered. Choose **American FactFinder**.
- b. Choose **Quick Reports** to search for data by county or industry.
- c. Click on the link after the words **2005 County Business Patterns**.
- d. Select a geography type. The options offered are Nation, State, County or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Most rural counties are not included in an MSA, so choose **County**.
- e. A pull-down with state names will appear. Choose the state of interest (Illinois).
- f. A pull-down with county names for Illinois will appear. Choose the county of interest.
- g. A series of tables on industry sectors, number of establishments, number of employees, and payroll will appear for 2-digit NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes. Data for 3, 4 and 5-digit codes can also be viewed, however, data may not be supplied for areas with small populations or few establishments in that industry.

Mapping Data with American Factfinder

1. Get into American Factfinder (<http://factfinder.census.gov>). Click on the words **get data** under the **Decennial Census** heading.
2. Choose the data set to be mapped (SF1, SF2, SF3, SF4).
3. Click on the words **Thematic Maps** beneath the words **Select from the following**: at the right hand side of the window. The geography selection screen will appear.

4. The Select Geography page offers users the opportunity to map data by a specific geography, such as Census Tract, Census County Subdivision [townships] or other geographic subdivision. The smallest geographic feature that can be mapped is Census Tract. Under **Select a geographic type** choose **County**.

5. Under **Select a state** choose **Illinois**.

6. Under the words **Select a geographic area and click 'Show Result'** choose the name of the county of interest. Click on the **Show Result** button. A map of the county will appear.

Editing Map Contents

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder interface. At the top, the U.S. Census Bureau logo and 'American FactFinder' are visible. The navigation bar includes links for Main, Search, Feedback, FAQs, Glossary, and Help. The main content area displays a thematic map titled 'TM-H001. Total Housing Units: 2000'. The map shows Fulton County, Illinois, with various census tracts color-coded according to the number of housing units. A legend on the left provides the color key for the data classes. Callout boxes A, B, and C are overlaid on the interface to highlight specific features.

Callout A: Points to the 'Display map by' dropdown menu, which is currently set to 'County Subdivision'. The legend indicates that items in gray text are not visible at this zoom level.

Callout B: Points to the 'Themes' link in the navigation bar.

Callout C: Points to the 'Data Classes' link in the left sidebar.

A The type of geographic feature on the map can be changed by using the pull-down menu above the map. The possible choices are: County Subdivision (civil townships), Census Tract, Census Block Group, Place and 5-digit Zip Code.

B The theme of the map can be changed by clicking on the word Themes. A wide variety of options are available.

C By clicking on the words **Data Classes**, it is possible to change the colors, number of data classes and classification type for the features mapped.