Accessing Census Data in 2019: The Transition to data.census.gov

Tyson Weister
Center for Enterprise Dissemination (CED)
U.S. Census Bureau
Outline

• Vision
• Current Snapshot
• Using data.census.gov: Tips/tricks & live demo
• Looking Ahead
• Q&A
Census Bureau Mission

To serve as the leading source of quality data about the nation’s people and economy.
Census Bureau Online History
New Enterprise Dissemination

- Streamline access to data
- Maintain the best of our current tools
- Reduce redundancies and operational costs
- Provide greater access to Census Bureau API
Vision – Integrate new platform with census.gov
Current Snapshot
## Data in the New Platform: American Community Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian Alaska Native Tables (5-Year)</td>
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✓: Available now  
Blank cell: Coming soon
Data in the New Platform: Decennial and Econ

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decennial Census (Summary File 1, 113th &amp; 115th Congress Detailed Tables)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Census US Basic Data</td>
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<td>County Business Patterns</td>
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<td>Non-Employer Statistics</td>
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<td>Survey of Business Owners (Company Summary &amp; Characteristics of Business Owners)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓: Available now

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Upcoming Milestones

Spring 2019

• First data releases exclusively on new platform (Nonemployer and Public Sector)

Summer 2019

• End of new data releases on American FactFinder

Fall 2019

• Major releases 2018 ACS & 2017 Economic Census
Feedback on data.census.gov we recently implemented

“No easy way to change years or datasets when looking at a table.”

“Advanced Search: Find results with...is very confusing.”

“The table names are truncated and you have to do a lot of clicking to find the table you need.”

“There seems to be a lot of white space in the tables, limiting how much is visible when first navigating to the table.”

“Occasionally I had to wait five whole minutes for it to load. The system was often slow and froze.”

“If you hadn't said something about the tiny "t", I would have kept thinking that the only data loaded in EDDE were data for 2017 ACS 1-Year.”

“ Seems to be no back buttons to change search variables, just browser buttons.”
Tips & Tricks and Live Demo
Use for quick wins to find things like:

- **Simple statistics**
  e.g. health insurance in Arizona

- **Profile for a single geography**
  e.g. Arizona profile

- **NAICS**
  531110

- **Table ID**
  B19001

- **Groups of tables**
  CP
Search for Groups of Tables

**CP:** Provides all 5 Comparison Profiles

**B27:** Provides all 32 Detailed Tables for Health Insurance

**B19001:** Provides main table plus race iterations B19001A-I

Wildcard (*) functionality is still in the process of being added, but many searches already behave as expected.

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html
Search by NAICS Code (e.g. 4451)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area Name</th>
<th>2012 NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of 2012 NAICS code</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Paid employees for p including March 12 (in 1000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegany County, Maryland</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel County, Maryland</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert County, Maryland</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline County, Maryland</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>Grocery stores</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Search – More Complex Searches

- **Survey/Program or Table Type**
  e.g. ACS 1-Year Detailed Tables

- **Geographies with complex names**
  e.g. Census Tract 100.01, Bibb County, AL

- **Collections of geographies**
  e.g. All places in the United States

- **Cross tabulations**
  e.g. Health insurance by full/part-time by sex

- **Detailed pop groups**
  Race, Tribal, Hispanic Origin, Ancestry, and country of birth groups

Explore the new layout of topics in the advanced search
Looking Ahead
“After backing out and starting over, I received the message "Sorry, that table is too large to display."

“The geo selection feature in data.census.gov is very poorly designed as of right now!”

“Is it possible to have the column heading wrap in a cell rather than have to be 'stretched' out because it is on one line?”

“When selecting geographies, the list also is somewhat in alphabetical order but also somewhat not. It is confusing.”

“I get that many users don't want to bother with MOEs...but as a scientific bureau, we should have MOEs displayed as a default. They're very important for understanding an estimate.”

“I want the ability to select more geographies in bulk like “All census tracts in the US and PR”
Current Geo Filter Experience

- Long list
- No hierarchy
- Common summary levels buried
- Lazy loading (geographies pull up in sections from the API)
Plans to Improve the Geo Filter

Make it easier for users to:

• Select their desired geographic level
• Select geographies from long lists of results

*This is a wireframe only to show some of the user needs that we are working to meet. The exact build may differ and could come incrementally across multiple future releases.
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• Select their desired geographic level

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>TX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All counties in Texas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson County, Texas</td>
<td></td>
<td>Andrews County, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson County, Texas -- Urban</td>
<td></td>
<td>Andrews County, Texas -- Rural</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anderson County, Texas -- Urban</td>
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<td>Andrews County, Texas -- Urban</td>
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<td>Angelina County, Texas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Plans to Add More Checkboxes to Select All Geos in a List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Our Development Depends on YOUR Feedback

Check out our preview platform at data.census.gov and provide comments at cedsci.feedback@census.gov.
Questions/Feedback

Media:

Public Information Office
U.S. Census Bureau
pio@census.gov
301-763-3030

Public:

Center for Enterprise Dissemination
U.S. Census Bureau
cedsci.feedback@census.gov
Learn More – Release Notes and FAQs

Includes:
• Answers to common questions
• Chart of available data
• List of features and functionality
• Known Issues

Data.census.gov:
Census Bureau’s New Data Dissemination Platform

Frequently Asked Questions and Release Notes
March 28, 2019

data.census.gov/assets/faqs-release-notes.pdf
Upcoming Webinars

data.census.gov Update
June 2019

Using the Census API with the ACS
June 26 at 2pm

Census Academy Series
April-June (58 webinars)

census.gov/data/academy/webinars/upcoming.html
Next Week’s Release on American FactFinder

Population Estimates (July 1, 2018) on American FactFinder for:

- Counties
- Puerto Rico Municipios
- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

**Embargo:** April 16

**Public Release:** April 18

census.gov/newsroom.html
Webinar Evaluation

https://questionweb.com/59212/