

README File for ACS 2007 Data Products Delivered via FTP

I) Data Available at this FTP Site

Data Products

Four types of Data Products are provided on this site for the Wave 1 American Community Survey (ACS) Income, Earnings and Poverty Data Release – Base Tables, Subject Tables, Ranking Tables, and Geographic Comparison Tables. All data products contained in this FTP site will be released by August 26 on American FactFinder. Information about these Data Product and ACS published geographies are available at the Data Product Details page, http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/.

Base Tables provide basic housing and population characteristics. These tables are the foundation upon which higher-level profiles are built. The base tables come complete with the margin of error as well as the lower bound and upper bound of a confidence interval. Both the margin of error and the confidence interval were based on the 90% level of confidence.

Ranking Tables show how States compare to each other for selected characteristics.

Geographic Comparison Tables are single-variable tables comparing selected characteristics for geographies other than states.

Subject Tables highlight a particular subject of interest. Each subject table is accompanied by its margin of error and the confidence intervals were based on the 90% level of confidence.

NOTE. The data products include group quarter's population in the 2007 data release. The group quarter's population includes individuals living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.

Margin of error (MOE)

A margin of error is the maximum difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Add the margin of error to the estimate (for an upper bound) and subtract the margin of error from the estimate (for a lower bound) to create a confidence interval. In doing this, it is important not to allow either the lower bound or the upper bound of the confidence interval to go beyond the range of possible values for an estimate. For example, an estimate of children enrolled in school in a geographic area cannot be less than 0. Therefore, its lower bound can also not be less than 0. All published margins of error for the American Community Survey are based on a 90 percent confidence level.

II) Documentation Available at this FTP Site

1) The Accuracy of the Data document for 2007 is available on <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Accuracy/Accuracy1.htm> . This document provides data users with a basic understanding of the sample design, estimation methodology, and accuracy of the data.

2) A list of base tables that contain geographic restrictions can be found at:
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/ACS2007_Data_Product_Geographic_Restrictions.xls

3) There is also a Footnotes document for the data products named Footnotes.xls located in the ftp upper directory. This document contains the footnotes that a data user will see when viewing any of these data products.

4) ACS 2007 Base Table Shells for Data Release are located on the Guide to the ACS Data Products Webpage located on the following URL:
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/users_guide/2007_wave1_tables.xls

III) Finding the Data

Under the FTP directory ‘http://www2.census.gov/acs2007_1yr/prod/’, there are two sub-directories, *BaseTablesSubjectTables*, *GeographyCompTables* and one file: Footnotes.xls.

A. Tables&Profiles&SubjectTables

The *BaseTablesSubjectTables* directory contains two .CSV files for the United States; one containing Base Tables and one containing Subject Tables. Also, included are separate directories named *States*, *UnitedStates*, *Division*, and *Region*. The *UnitedStates* directory contains data .CSV files for the United States, sub-directories containing .CSV files for the following Components, and Urban/Rural areas:

Geography Component	Description
01	Urban
43	Rural
52	In metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area
55	Not in metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area
56	In metropolitan statistical area
57	In metropolitan statistical area—in principal city
58	In metropolitan statistical area—not in principal city
59	Not in metropolitan statistical area (Coming Soon)
60	In micropolitan statistical area
61	In micropolitan statistical area—in principal city
62	In micropolitan statistical area—not in principal city
89	American Indian reservation and trust land –Federal Tribe
91	Oklahoma tribal statistical area
92	Tribal designated statistical area
93	Alaska Native village statistical area
94	State designated American Indian statistical area

The *State* directory contains a directory for each state (I.E. Iowa) in each of these state directories there are corresponding state .CSV files (For example:

http://www2.census.gov/acs2007_1yr/prod/BaseTablesSubjectTable/States/Iowa/IowaBaseTables04000US19.csv and [IowaSubjectTables04000US19.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2007_1yr/prod/BaseTablesSubjectTable/States/Iowa/IowaSubjectTables04000US19.csv)) and, depending

upon the data available in each state, up to 18 subdirectories for the following geographic levels:

Geography summary level	Description
050	State-County
060	State-County-County Subdivision
160	State-Place
230	Alaska Native Regional Corporation
250	American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land
310	Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area
312	Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area-State-Principal City
314	Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Division
330	Combined Statistical Area
335	Combined New England City and Town Area
350	New England City and Town Area
352	New England City and Town Area-State-Principal City
355	New England City and Town Area (NECTA)-NECTA Division
400	Urban Area
500	State-Congressional District (109th)
795	State-Public Use Microdata Area (5%)
950	State-School District (Elementary)
960	State-School District (Secondary)
970	State-School District (Unified)

Within each of the directories are two files:

Base Tables – Contains the Base Tables released for that geography

Subject Tables – Contains 6 to tables that highlight particular subjects of interest depending on the geography.

The Base Table CSV file contains the following file layout:

- Column 1 – Table ID
- Column 2 – Line Number within Table
- Column 3 – Line Description
- Column 4 – Direct Estimate
- Column 5 – Margin of Error
- Column 6 – Lower Bound Estimate
- Column 7 – Upper Bound Estimate

The Subject Tables vary depending on the size of the Subject Table:

C. Geographic_Comparison_Tables

Under the *GeographyCompTables* directory there is a subdirectory for each published geographic

summary level (I.E. www2.census.gov/acs2007_1yr/GeographyCompTables/CountyUS/) and a .CSV file for each characteristic.

The Geographic Comparison Tables file contains the following file layout (all summary levels except CountyUS):

- Column 1 – Geographic Area
- Column 2 – Estimate
- Column 3 – Margin of Error

CountyUS

- Column 1 – Rank
- Column 2 – Geographic Area
- Column 3 – Estimate
- Column 4 – Margin of Error

The files have the following naming conventions

Table ID	Title
Gct1701	Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (For Whom Poverty Status is Determined)
Gct1702	Percent of Related Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months
Gct1703	Percent of People 65 Years and Over Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months
Gct1704	Percent of Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (For Whom Poverty Status is Determined)
Gct1901	Median Household Income (In 2006 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)
Gct1902	Median Family Income (In 2006 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)
Gct1903	Percent of Households With Retirement Income
Gct1904	Percent of Households With Cash Public Assistance Income
Gct2001	Median Earnings for Male Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (In 2006 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)
Gct2002	Median Earnings for Female Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (In 2006 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)

IV) FTP File Transfer

To facilitate transferring files, we suggest using features commonly found in most vendors' FTP utility. When testing the download in a PC environment, we used the ws_ftp product. This product, and many other FTP products developed for the PC environment, allows individual or multiple file selection using the control key or block multiple file selection using the shift key.