6. Instructions for Downloading the TIGER/Line Shapefiles

6.1 Software requirements

To download the shapefiles, you will need:

- Internet Browser or
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP) client,
- Unzipping Utility (e.g., WinZip)

The files downloaded are zipped to save space and ensure you download all the necessary files. Most operating systems have an unzipping utility built-in.

6.2 Getting Started

There are five methods for downloading TIGER/Line Shapefiles from the Census Bureau:

- Website Interface
- Website Interface (FTP Archive)
- Direct from FTP Site
- Connect via FTP Client
- Direct from Data.gov

The examples below are from the 2019 version of the TIGER/Line Shapefiles but apply to all recent TIGER/Line Shapefile versions.

New TIGER/Line Shapefiles are on the census site at:

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>

Data.gov gets information and links to new TIGER/Line Shapefiles as they become available.

6.3 Website Interface

The Website Interface download method requires the least amount of technical knowledge.

Start at the Census Bureau's TIGER/Line Shapefiles website:

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>

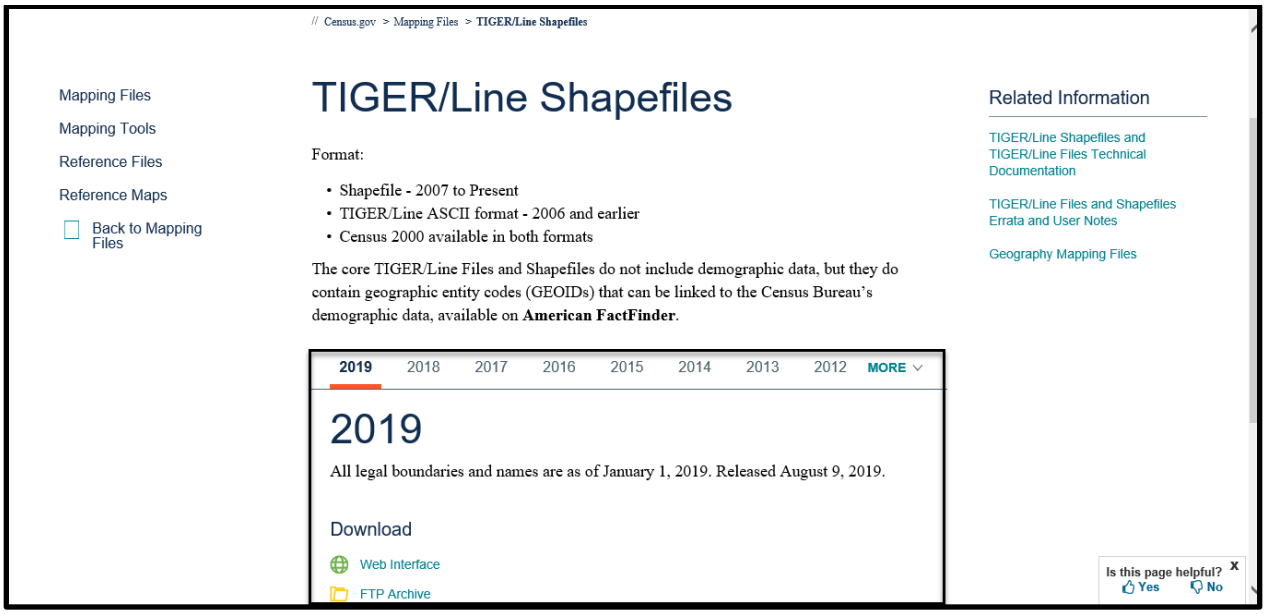


Figure 33: TIGER/Line Shapefiles base screen

Select the tab for the year version of TIGER/Line Shapefiles (e.g., 2023) (See Figure 34 black box).

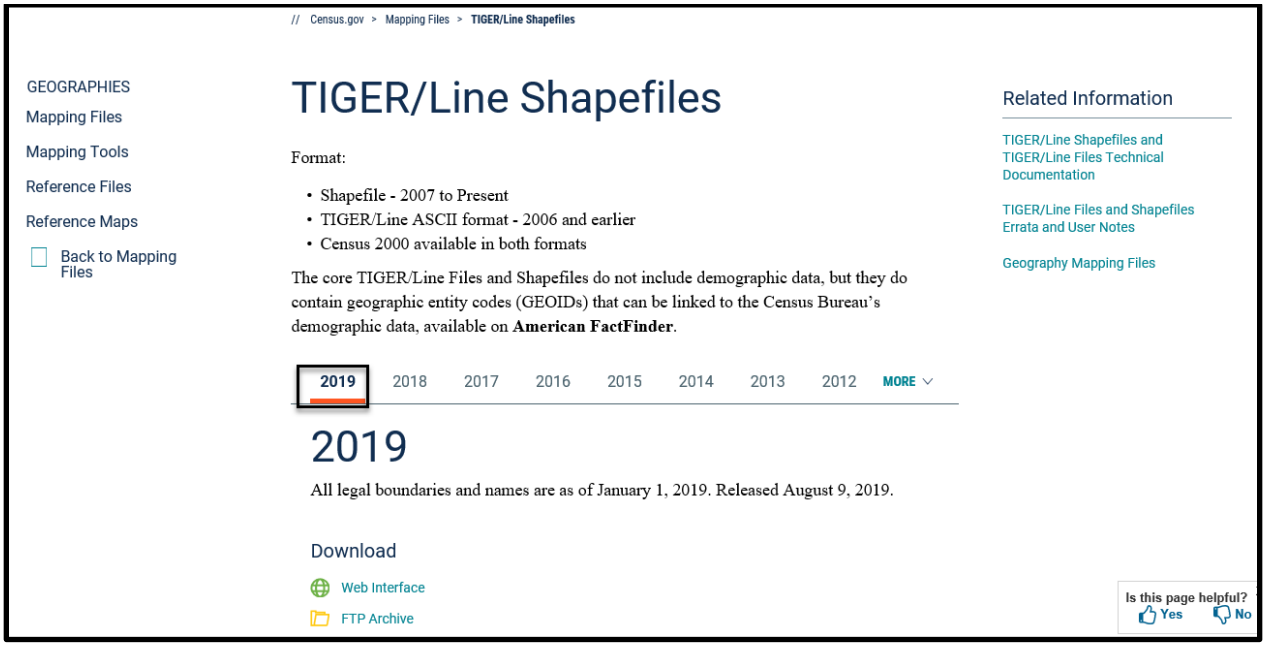


Figure 34: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: Pick Year Version

Click Download, Web Interface (see Figure 35 black box).

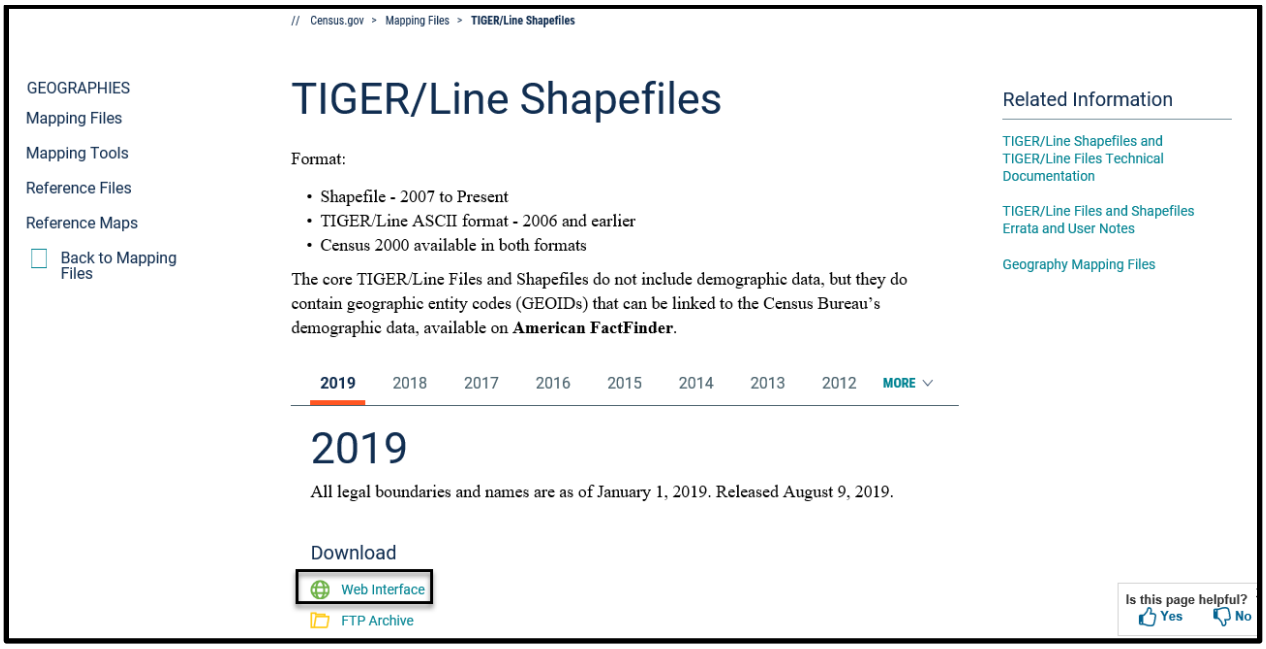


Figure 35: TIGER/Line Shapefiles Selecting Web Interface

The following screen is shown (see Figure 36)

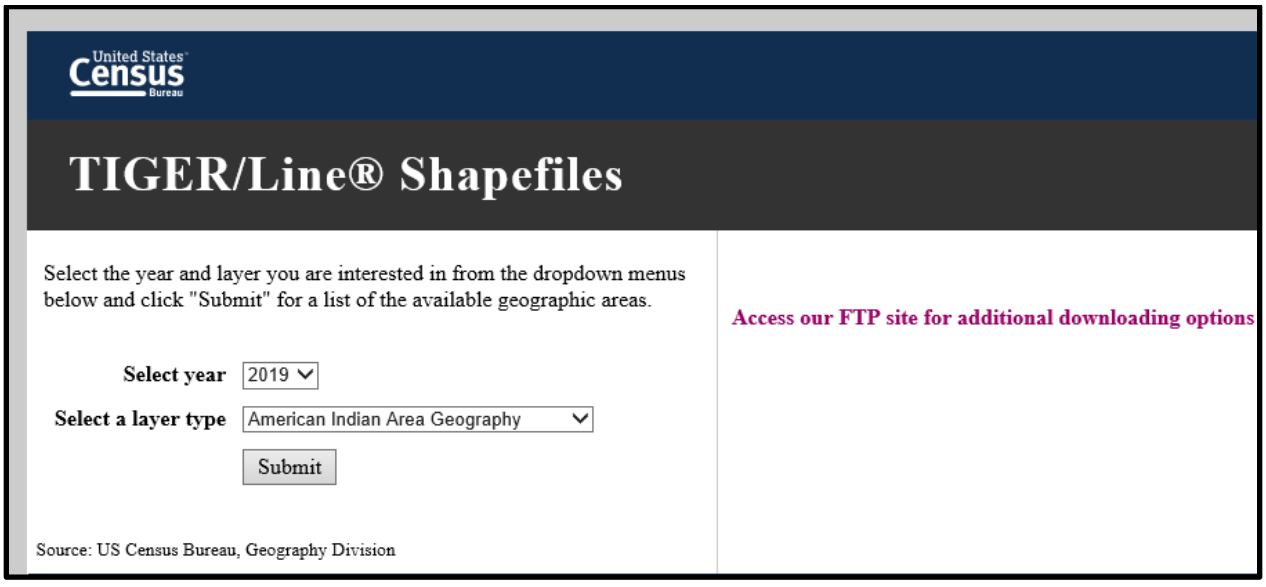


Figure 36: TIGER/Line Shapefiles year and website interface base screen

Different geographies will have different screen options for the download options.

If Submit is pressed, you will see (see Figure 37):

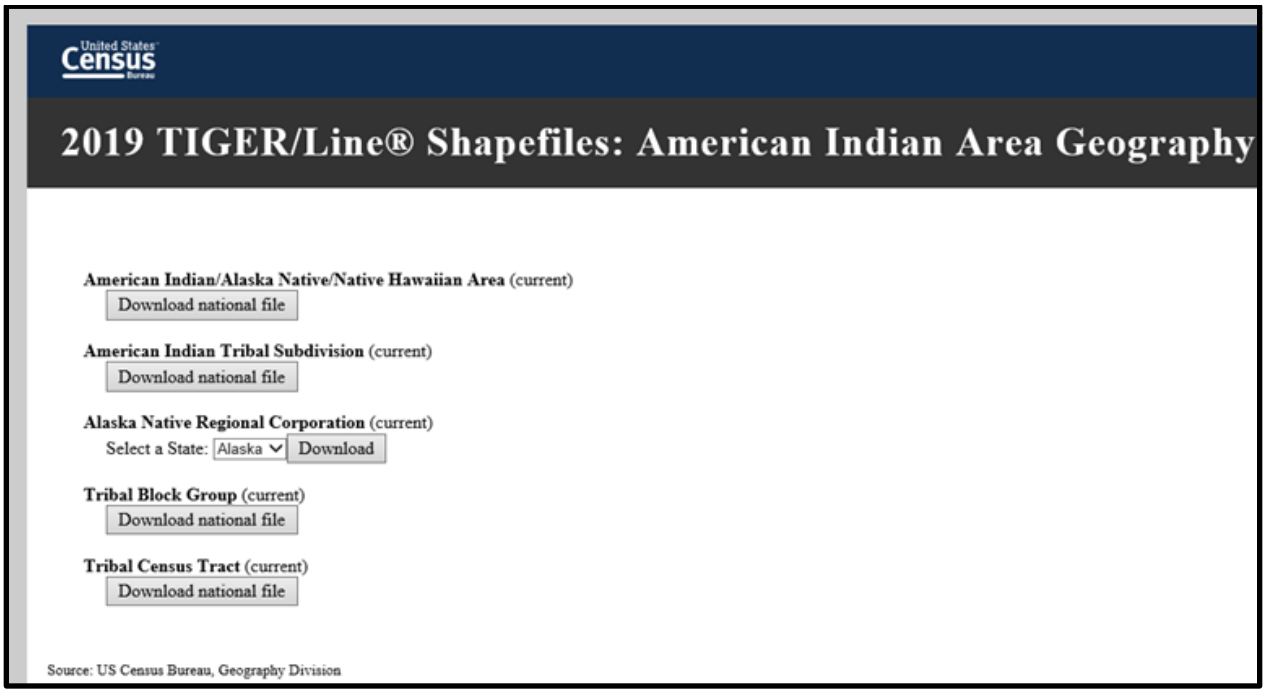


Figure 37: TIGER/Lines Shapefiles menu after Submit is pressed

For example: Select American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Area (current) (see Figure 38 black box)

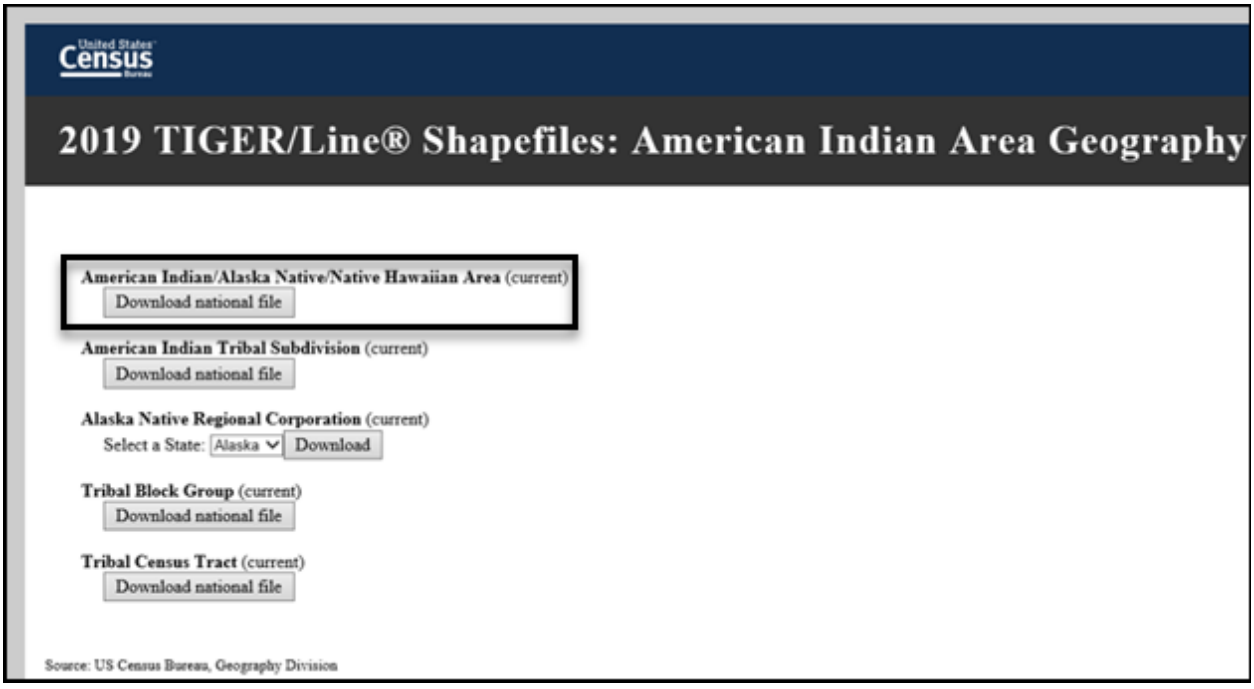


Figure 38: TIGER/LINE Shapefiles selecting American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian Area

Then the following box would appear (see Figure 39): (options to open [in browser] or save [or specify its name and file location] or cancel [quit]).



Figure 39: TIGER/Line Shapefiles open, save, cancel options

6.3.1 Geographic Areas by State (or Island Area):

- Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) (Alaska only)
- Blocks
- Block Groups
- Census Tract
- Congressional Districts
- Consolidated City
- County Subdivisions
- Estates (U.S. Virgin Islands Only)
- Places
- Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)
- Subbarrios (Subminor Civil Divisions) (Puerto Rico Only)

6.3.2 Features by State:

- All Lines

6.3.3 National Files:

- American Indian Area Geography
    - American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Area
    - American Indian Tribal Subdivision
    - Tribal Block Group
    - Tribal Census Tract
- County and Equivalent
- States and Equivalent
- Urban Areas
- ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA5)

6.3.4 National Features:

- Coastlines
- Rails
- Military Installations

6.3.5 Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA)

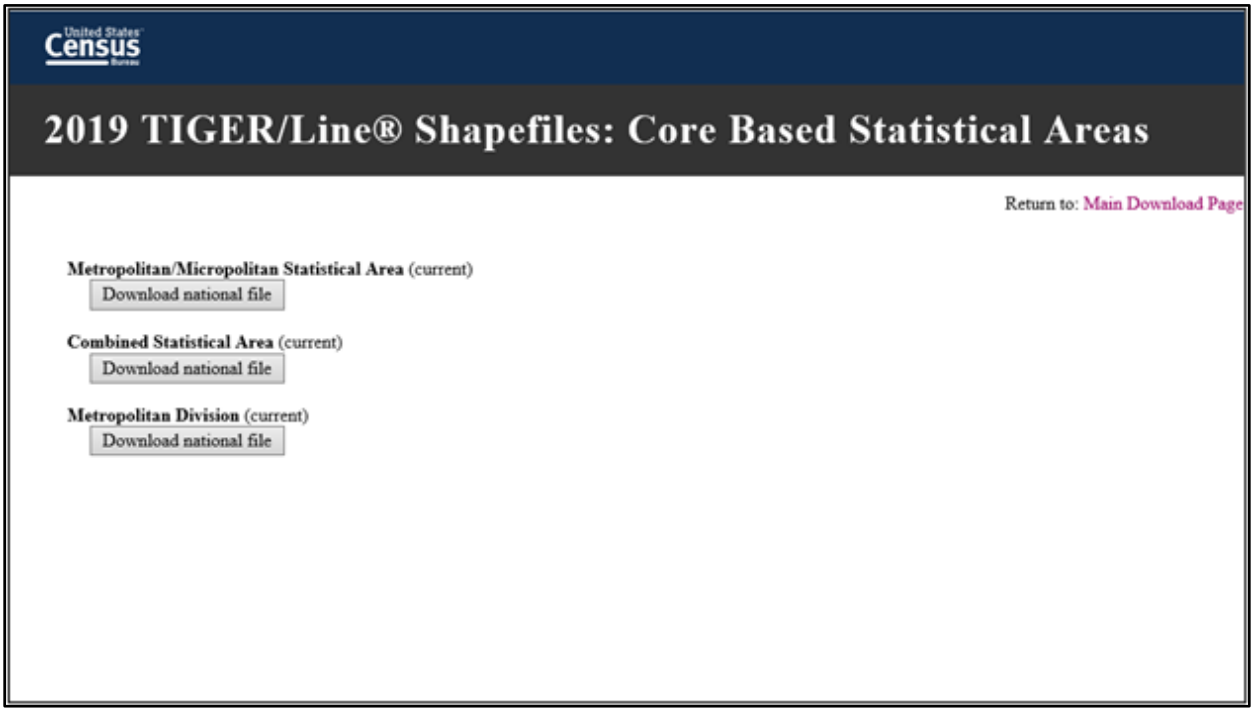


Figure 40: TIGER/Line Shapefiles Core Based Statistical Areas menu

- Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area (Current)
- Combined Statistical Area (current)
- Metropolitan Division (current)

6.3.6 School Districts

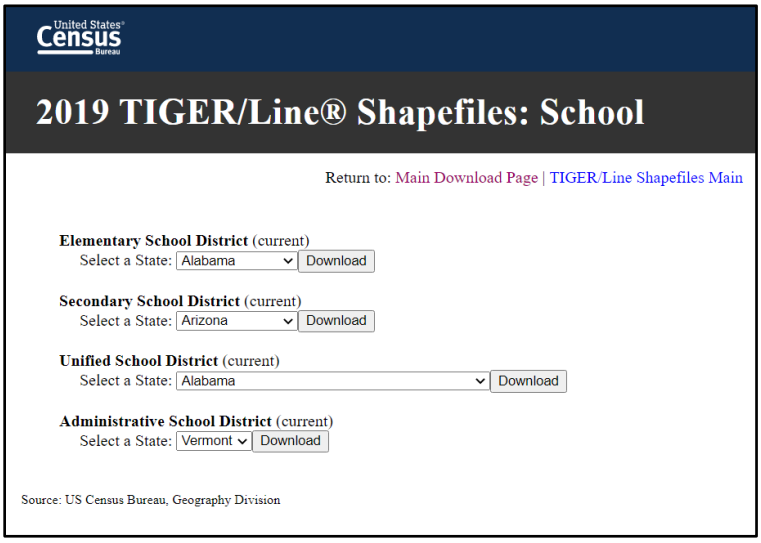


Figure 41: TIGER/Line Shapefiles School Districts Menu

- Elementary School District (current)
- Secondary School District (current)
- Unified School District (current)
- Administrative School District (current)

6.3.7 State Legislative District

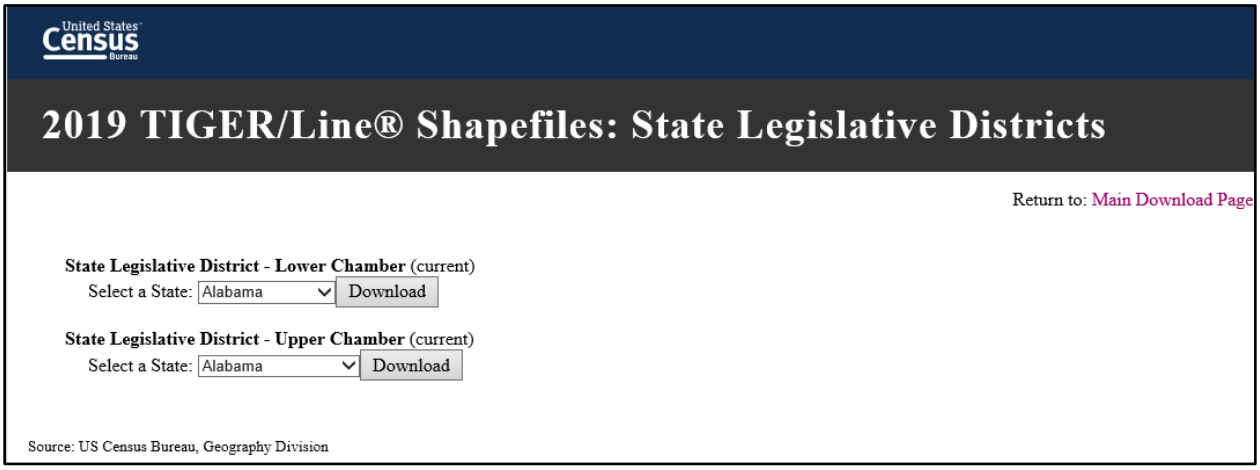


Figure 42: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: State Legislative Districts Menu

- State Legislative District - Lower Chamber (current)
- State Legislative District - Upper Chamber (current)

6.3.8 Features: Landmarks

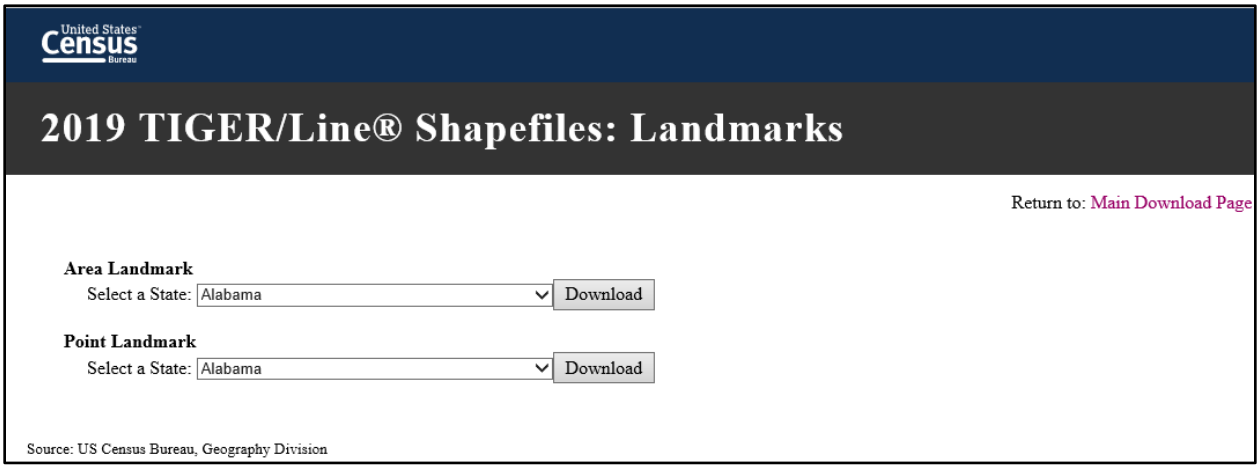


Figure 43: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: Landmarks Menu

- Area Landmark (State file)
- Point Landmark (State file)

6.3.9 Features: Roads

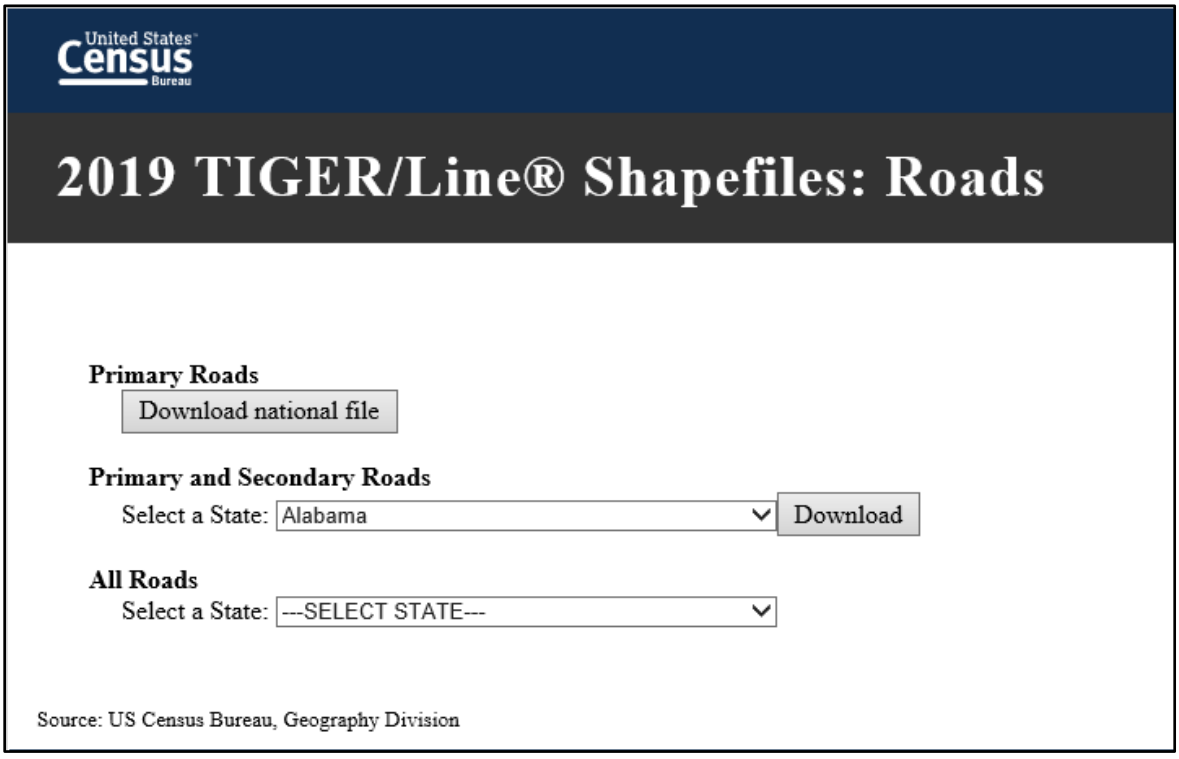


Figure 44: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: Roads Menu

- Primary Roads (National file)
- Primary and Secondary Roads (State file)
- All Roads (State file)

6.3.10 Features: Water

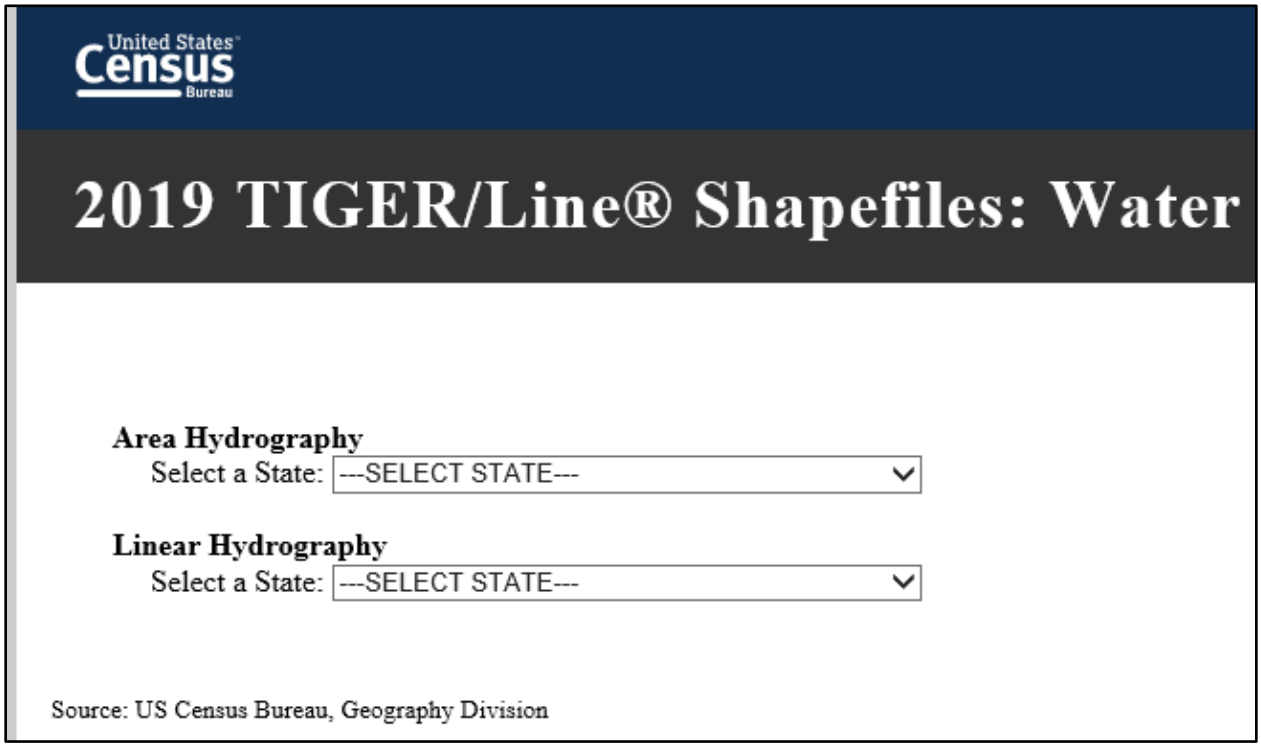


Figure 45: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: Water Menu

- Area Hydrography (State file)
- Linear Hydrography (State file)

6.3.11 Relationship files

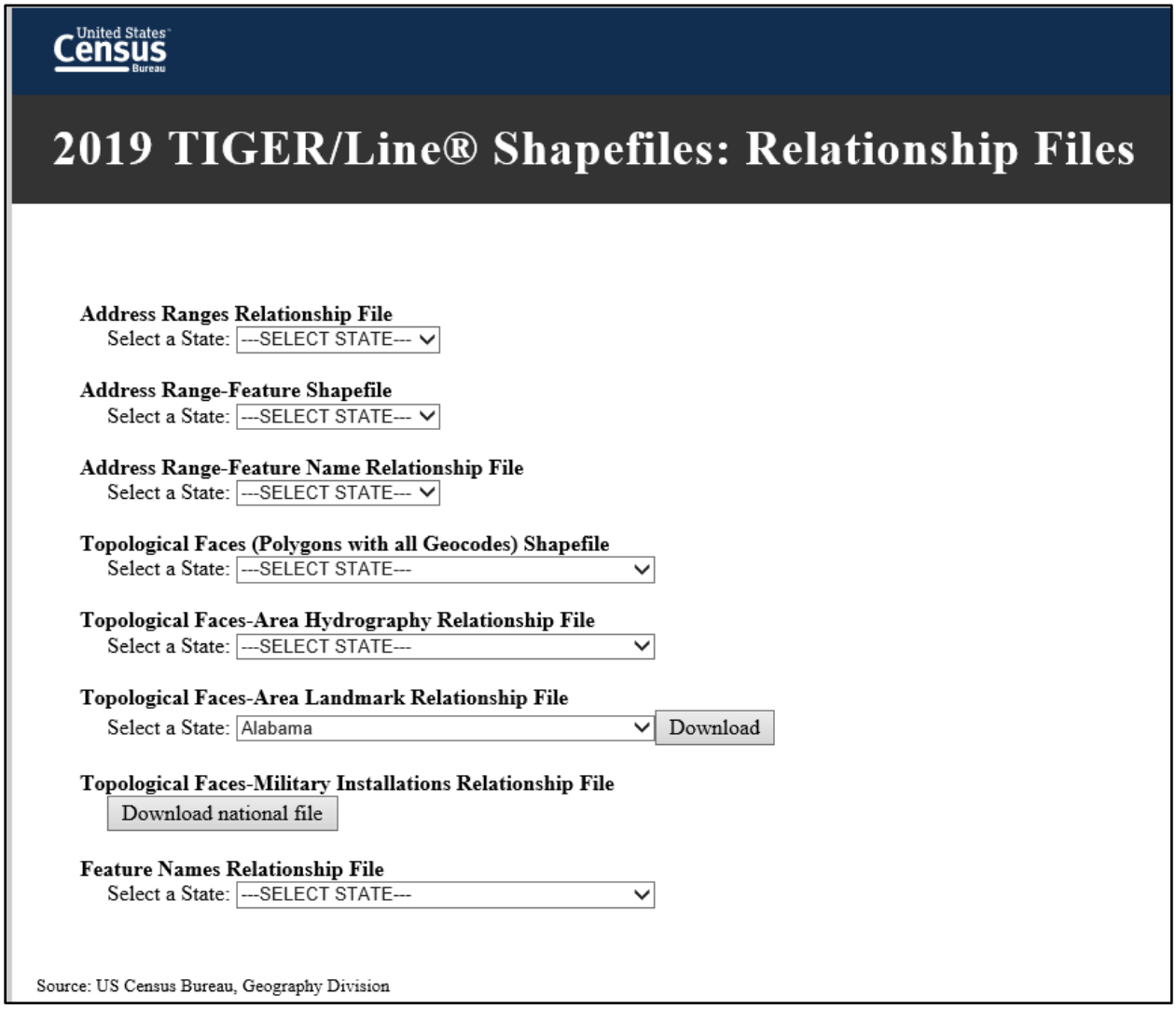


Figure 46: TIGER/Line Shapefiles: Relationship Files Menu

- Address Ranges Relationship File (State file)
- Address Range-Feature shapefile (State file)
- Address Range-Feature Name Relationship File (State file)
- Topological Faces (Polygons with all Geocodes) shapefile (State file)
- Topological Faces-Area Hydrography Relationship File (State file)
- Topological Faces-Area Landmark Relationship File (State file)
- Topological Faces-Military Installations Relationship File (National file)
- Feature Names Relationship File (State file)

The Connect via FTP Client (6.5) can also accessed from this screen by pressing the “Access our FTP site for additional downloading options” (See figure 47 black box).

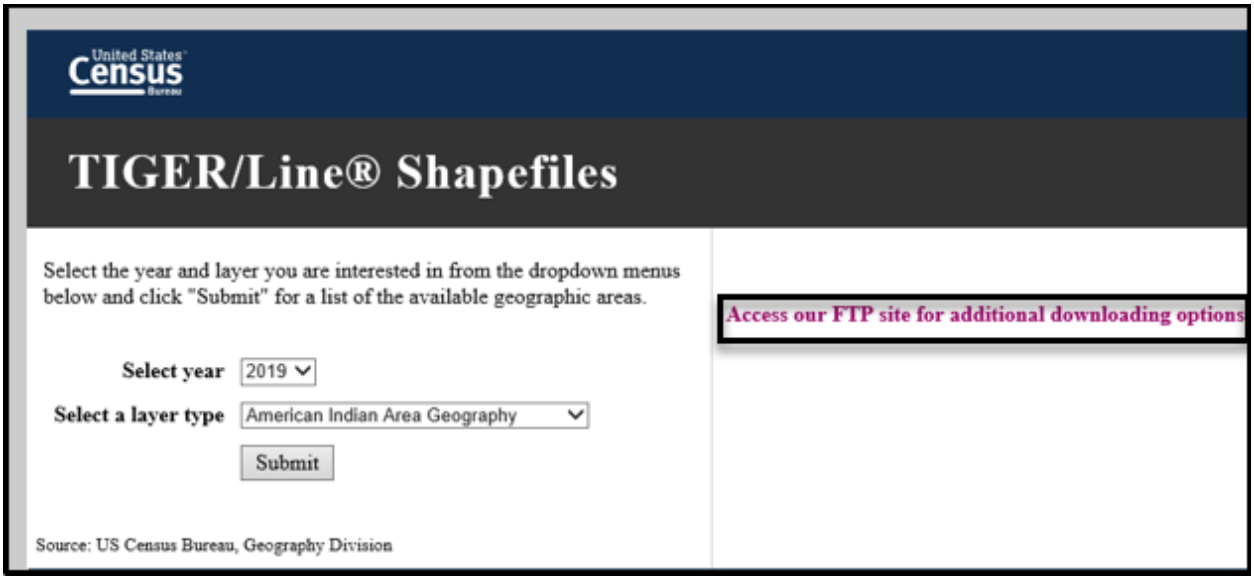


Figure 47: TIGER/Line Shapefiles, FTP site for download

6.4 Web Interface, Archive FTP

Start at the Census Bureau’s TIGER/Line Shapefiles website:

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/tiger-line-file.html>

Then the TIGER/Line Shapefiles menu (Figure 48) will appear.

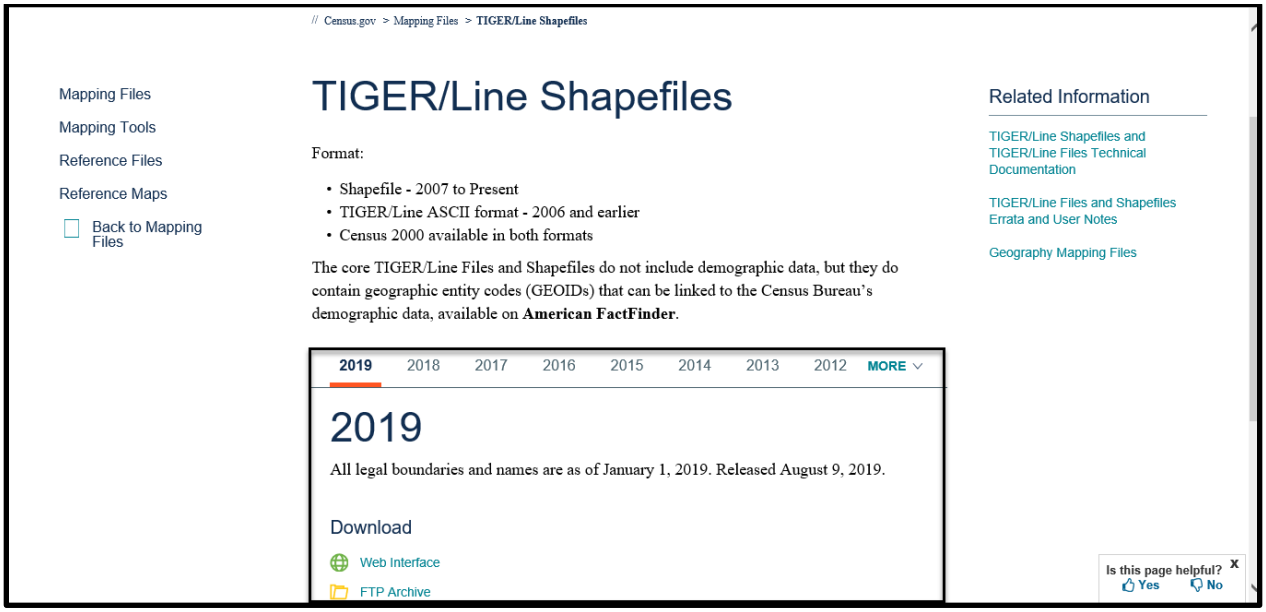


Figure 48: TIGER/Line Shapefiles start menu

Choose FTP Archive (see Figure 49 with black box)

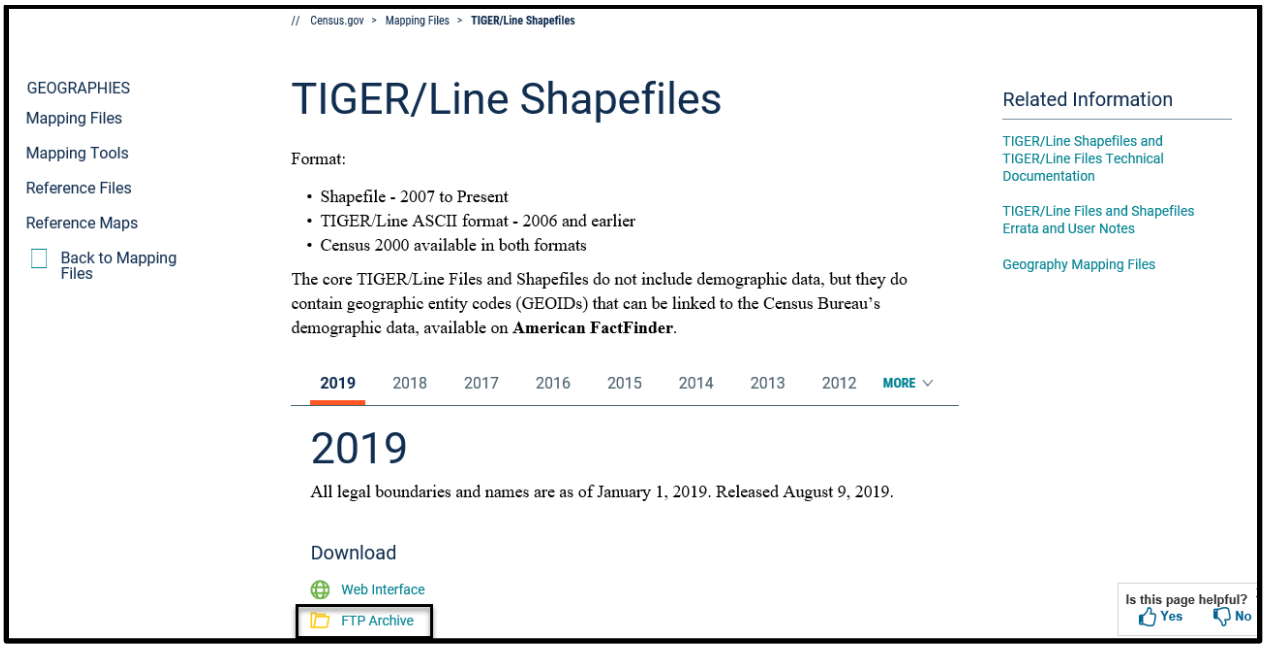
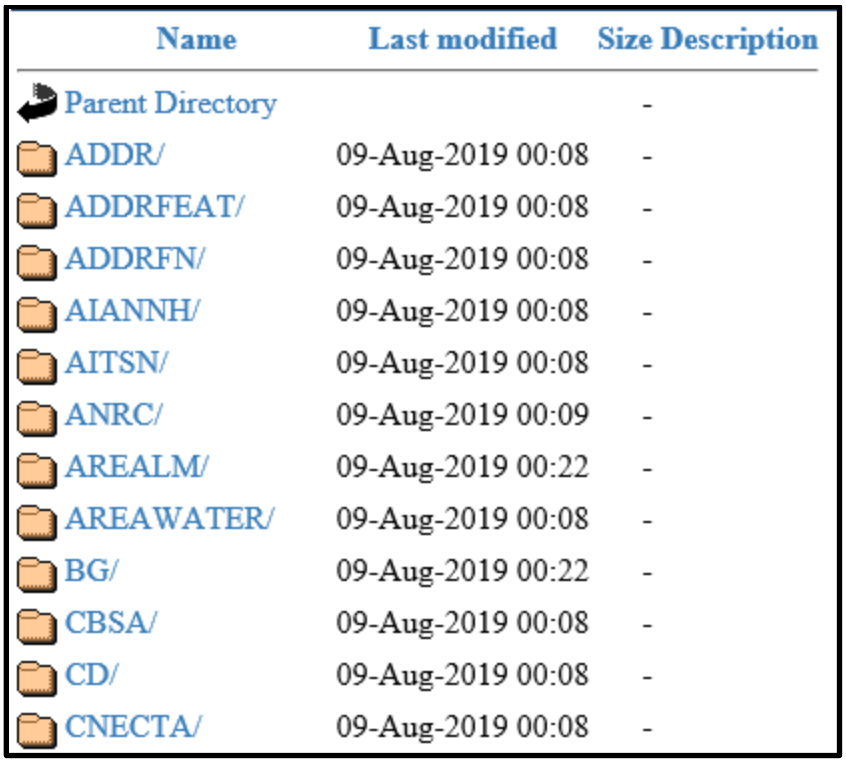


Figure 49: TIGER/Line Shapefiles, FTP Archive

Then the following screen will appear (see Figures 50-52)



Name	Last modified	Size Description
Parent Directory		-
ADDR/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
ADDRFEAT/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
ADDRFN/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
AIANNH/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
AITSN/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
ANRC/	09-Aug-2019 00:09	-
AREALM/	09-Aug-2019 00:22	-
AREAWATER/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
BG/	09-Aug-2019 00:22	-
CBSA/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
CD/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
CNECTA/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-

Figure 50: FTP Archive, Part 1



COASTLINE/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
CONCITY/	09-Aug-2019 00:19	-
COUNTY/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
COUSUB/	09-Aug-2019 00:22	-
CSA/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
EDGES/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
ELSD/	09-Aug-2019 00:22	-
ESTATE/	09-Aug-2019 00:22	-
FACES/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
FACESAH/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
FACESAL/	09-Aug-2019 00:23	-
FACESMIL/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
FEATNAMES/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
LINEARWATER/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
METDIV/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
MIL/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
NECTA/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
NECTADIV/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
PLACE/	09-Aug-2019 00:23	-
POINTLM/	09-Aug-2019 00:23	-
PRIMARYROADS/	09-Aug-2019 00:08	-
PRISECROADS/	09-Aug-2019 00:23	-
PUMA/	09-Aug-2019 00:23	-

Figure 51: FTP Archive, Part 2

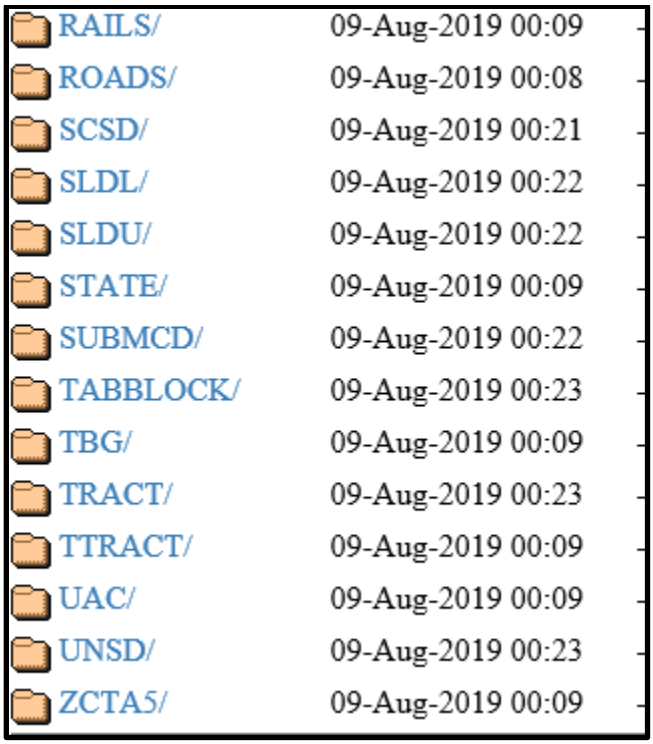


Figure 52: FTP Archive, Part 3

Select which entity folder to display (e.g., TRACT) (See Figure 53 with Black box)

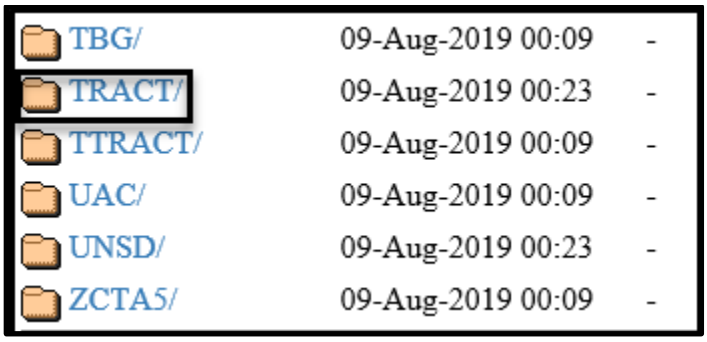
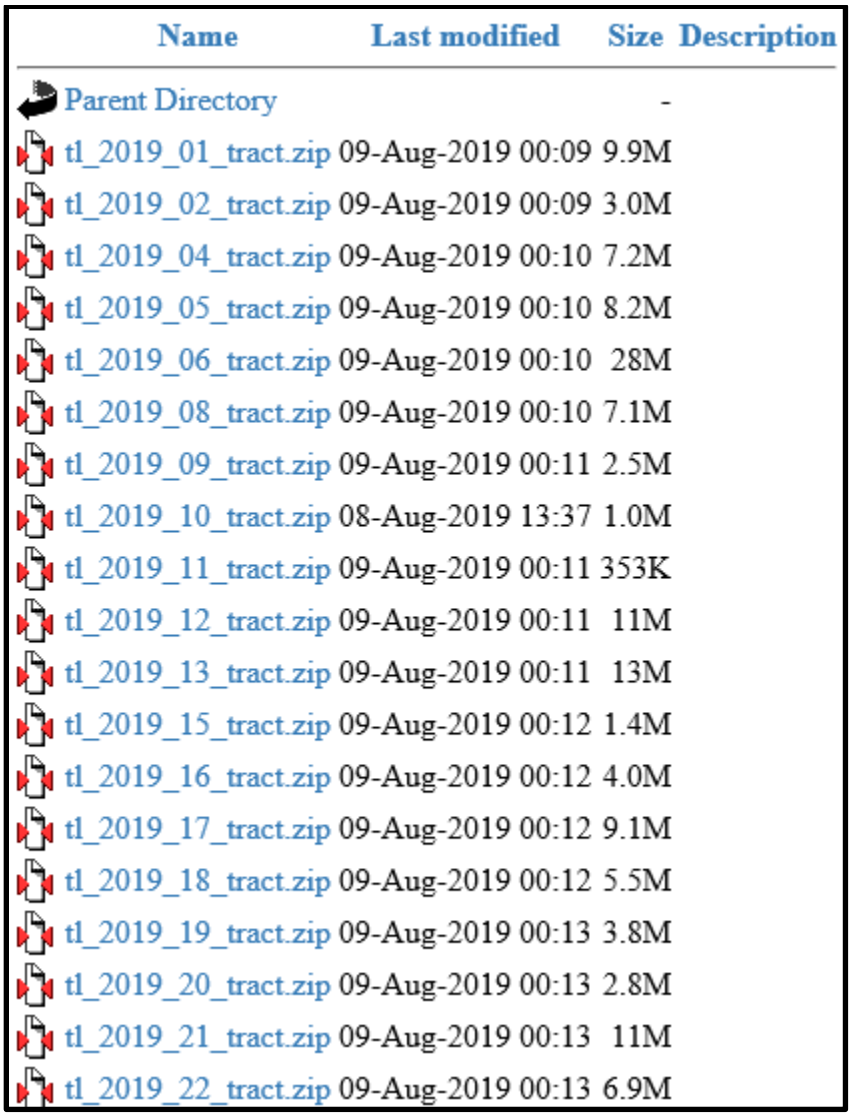


Figure 53: TRACT Selection

The following screen will appear (see Figures 54-56)



Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory		-	
tl_2019_01_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:09	9.9M	
tl_2019_02_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:09	3.0M	
tl_2019_04_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:10	7.2M	
tl_2019_05_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:10	8.2M	
tl_2019_06_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:10	28M	
tl_2019_08_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:10	7.1M	
tl_2019_09_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:11	2.5M	
tl_2019_10_tract.zip	08-Aug-2019 13:37	1.0M	
tl_2019_11_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:11	353K	
tl_2019_12_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:11	11M	
tl_2019_13_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:11	13M	
tl_2019_15_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:12	1.4M	
tl_2019_16_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:12	4.0M	
tl_2019_17_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:12	9.1M	
tl_2019_18_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:12	5.5M	
tl_2019_19_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:13	3.8M	
tl_2019_20_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:13	2.8M	
tl_2019_21_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:13	11M	
tl_2019_22_tract.zip	09-Aug-2019 00:13	6.9M	

Figure 54: TRACT individual files, Part 1

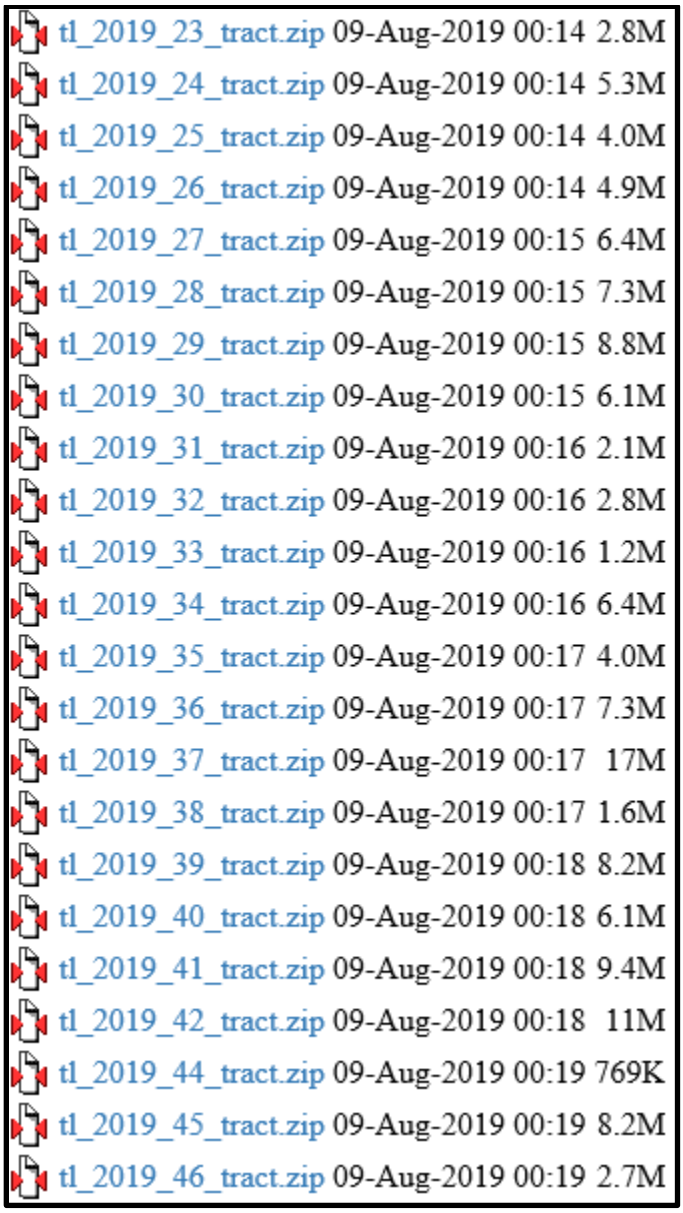


Figure 55: TRACT individual files, Part 2

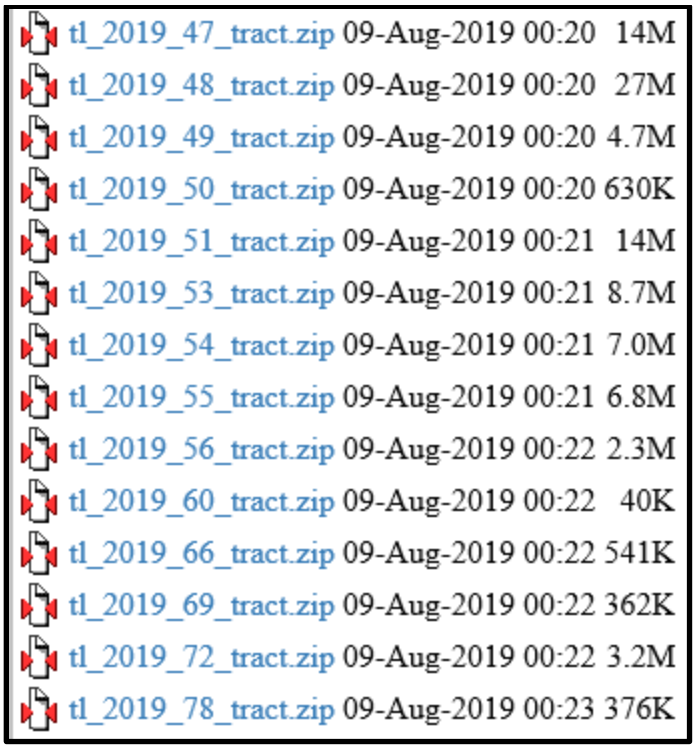


Figure 56: TRACT individual files, Part 3

Select which tract file to view.

6.5 Direct from FTP Site

Another option is to go directly to the Census Bureau's File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site through a web browser. The web address for the TIGER/Line Shapefiles is:

<https://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/>

- Navigate to the version of the TIGER/Line Shapefiles to download (e.g., TIGER2023). (See figure 49.)
- Navigate to the geographic entity to download (e.g., TRACT) (see Figure 53). See Appendix S for the shapefile naming convention.

6.6 Data.gov

The TIGER/Line Shapefiles and Relationship files are also available through the following website <https://www.data.gov/>

<https://catalog.data.gov/organization/census-gov>

Then the following screen appears (see Figure 57).

Refer to Appendix T for the shapefile naming conventions.

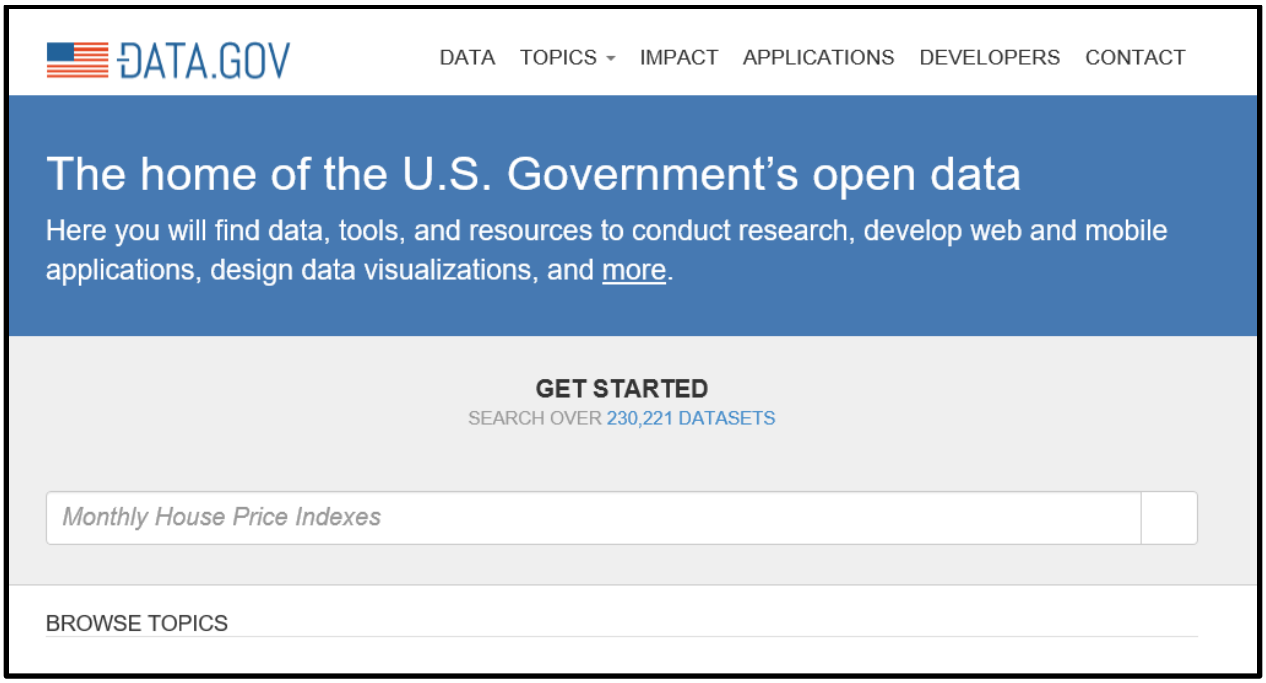


Figure 57: Data.gov

To narrow your search, you can select the DATA tab (to search by data sets) on the top of the screen (See Figure 58 black box)

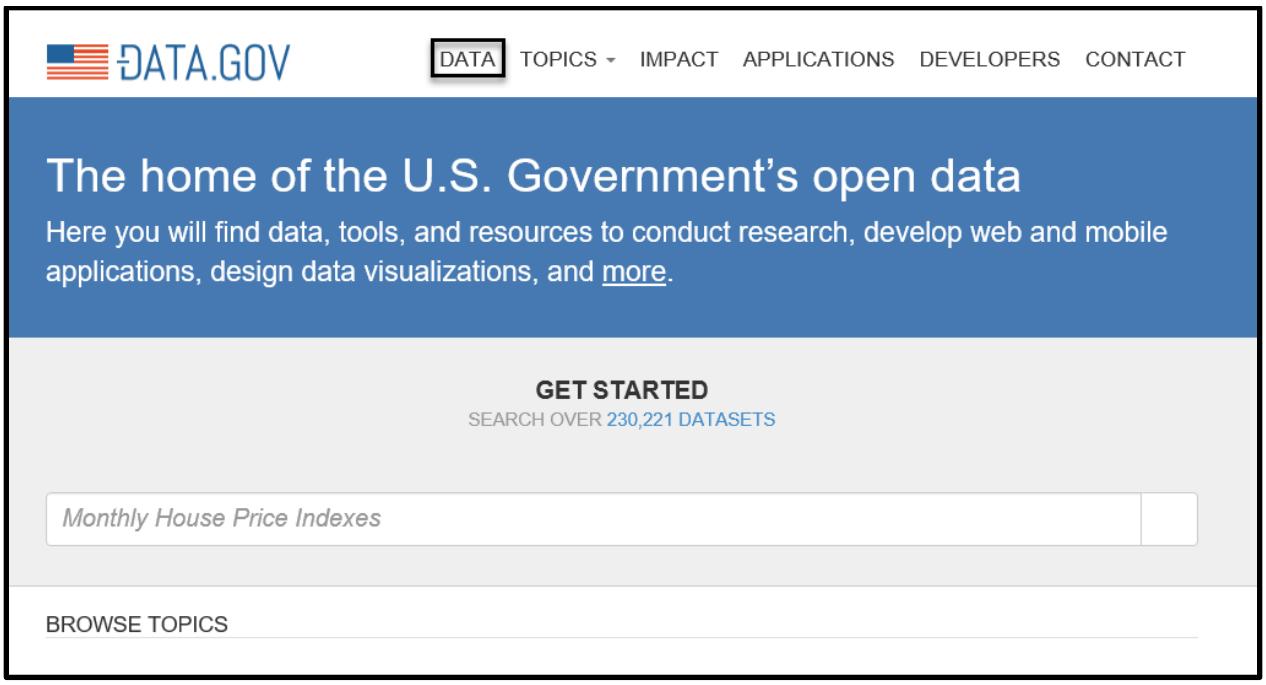


Figure 58: Data.gov Data tab selection

Then the following screen appears (see Figure 59):

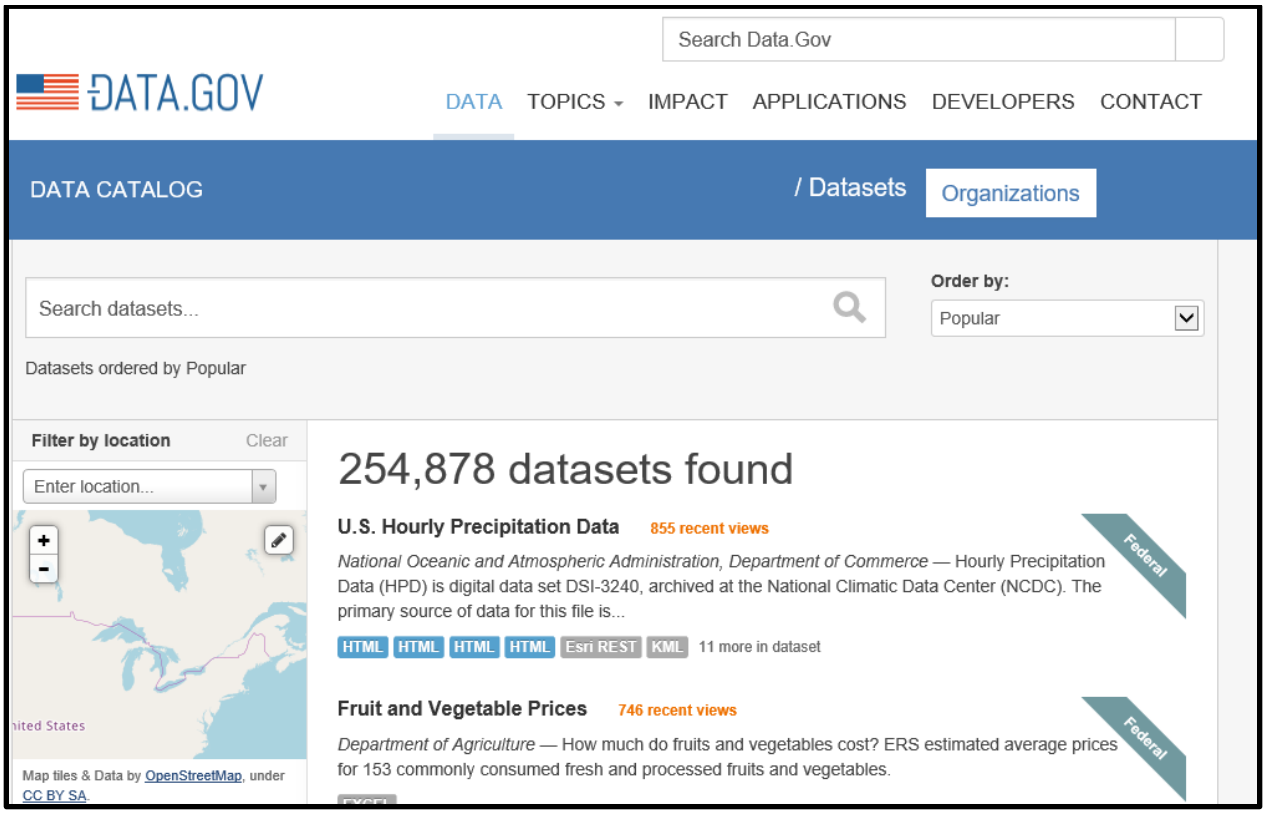


Figure 59: Data.gov Data tab results

To narrow the search results down to only the US Census Bureau data sets.

Click Organizations box (shown in figure 60 with black box)

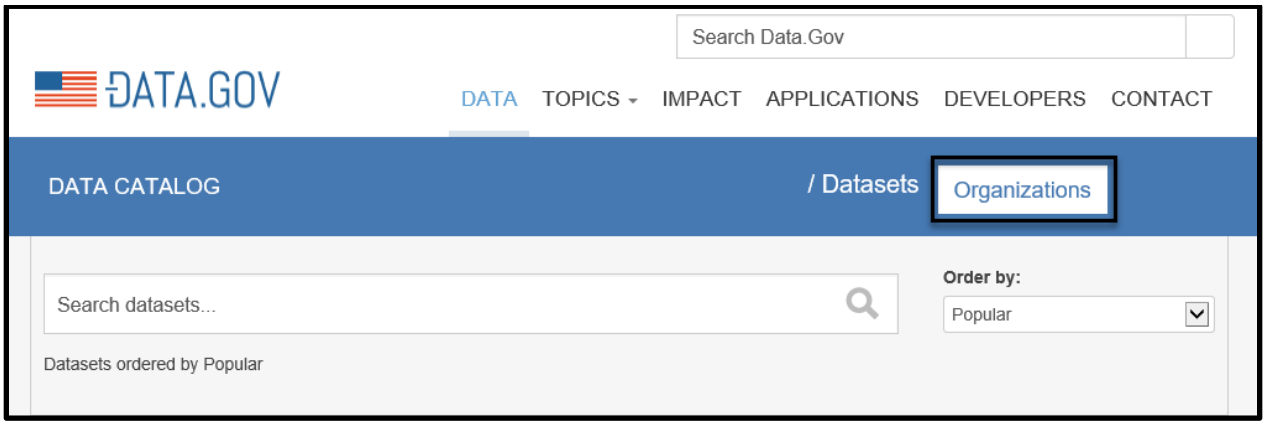


Figure 60: Data.gov Organization selection

Then the following screen appears (see figure 61):



Figure 61: Data.gov Organization menu

Either put “Census Bureau” in the Search organizations box or scroll down to the US Census Bureau box and click. Then the following screen appears (see figure 62).

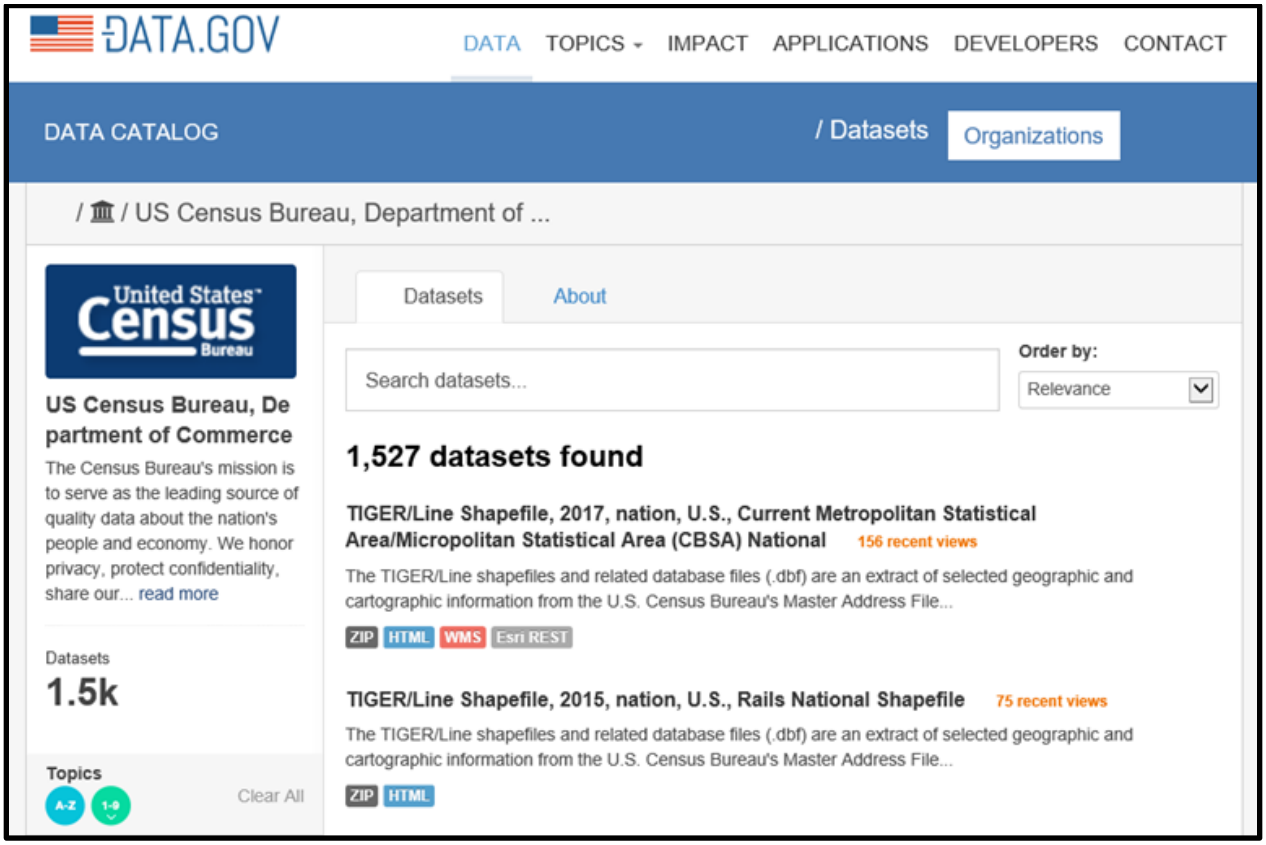


Figure 62: Data.gov Census Bureau menu

Search for the shapefile in the search datasets box.

Some shapefiles are available in multiple output formats.

Select the format of the shapefile to view.