Data Tables: 2005 Gulf Coast Area Data Profiles

Geographic Areas

"Geography" is a collective term referring to the types of geographic areas used by the Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations, including their structure, designations, and relationships to one another. A geography can be a geographic unit of any type, legal or statistical, such as a state, county, place, county subdivision, census tract, or census block.

Several geographic levels are available in the 2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area:

1) entire state,
2) FEMA-designated IPA area of the state,
3) balance of the state,
4) Metropolitan Statistical Areas,
5) groupings of counties and parishes, and
6) individual counties and parishes.

Entire State
The estimates for the entire state include all data collected from all counties throughout the state for the January through August 2005 time period and the September through December 2005 time period.

FEMA-designated IPA Area of the State
The FEMA-designated IPA area of the state is the sum of all the counties in the state that were designated by FEMA as counties receiving individual and public assistance. For example, the state of Louisiana has 37 parishes that were identified as FEMA-designated IPA counties. The estimate for this level of geography displays all of those affected counties as a single entity, i.e., the sum of the FEMA-designated IPA area in Louisiana.

Balance of the State
The balance of the state consists of the remaining counties in a state that were not FEMA-designated IPA counties. For example, Texas has a total of 254 counties. Twenty-two of those counties were designated as IPA counties. The 232 remaining counties comprise the balance of the state for Texas.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas
The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines metropolitan statistical areas for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistical data. A metropolitan statistical area is composed of one or more whole counties or equivalent entities and contains at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting. For example, the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Area includes the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany.

Groupings of Counties and Parishes
Groupings of counties exist for several reasons. To ensure that individual responses are kept confidential, ACS estimates have not been released in counties with an insufficient number of interviews in the September through December 2005 period. Counties with an insufficient number of interviews were combined with surrounding counties to form a single geography.

For example, Hale County in Alabama did not meet the minimum threshold of interviewed persons required for the production of estimates specific to Hale County. Therefore, the data for Hale County are published along with data from Greene, Pickens, and Sumter Counties in Alabama. The data for the area representing these counties are distinguished as "Greene/Hale/Pickens/Sumter, AL." Looking at a map, these four counties are geographically grouped together. Geographically, it would also make sense to include Tuscaloosa County in this group; however, Tuscaloosa County met the minimum threshold of interviewed persons so data specific to Tuscaloosa County alone have been published. Census Bureau staff worked closely with local officials in forming these county groupings.

In many cases, counties were grouped together because local officials indicated that having single estimates for identified county groupings would be useful. These groupings include Planning and Development Districts (PDDs), Labor Market Areas, and other established local entities. For example, Hinds County in Mississippi met the minimum threshold of interviewed persons required for county-specific estimates. It is also included in the Central PDD, along with Copiah, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties, as identified by officials in the state of Mississippi.

Individual Counties and Parishes
Data have been published for many individual counties and parishes. In order for a county to have published data exclusive to itself, a minimum number of interviews must have been conducted in that county during the last four months of 2005. This threshold was established to ensure the integrity and quality of the data as well as to protect the confidentiality of the respondents.
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**Gulf Coast Area Full Size Maps**
- 2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area
- FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area
- FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area by State

**County Level Tabulation Areas**
- Map1 - User Defined Tabulation Areas
- Map2 - User Defined Tabulation Areas
Legend
- ACS Special Product Area
- State Boundary
- FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area
- Balance of Special Product Area
- Outside Special Product Area

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Content

Four data profiles for each geography were created. Estimates of general demographic characteristics, selected social characteristics, general economic characteristics, and selected housing characteristics are available for both time frames for all published geographies. The data for the two time periods are displayed side-by-side to facilitate comparison. The statistical significance of the difference between each estimate for both time periods is also listed. Below is a more detailed listing of the characteristics that are included in each of the four profiles.

- **General Demographic Characteristics**
  - Sex and age
  - Race
  - Hispanic origin
  - Relationship of the household population
  - Households by type

- **Selected Social Characteristics**
  - School enrollment
  - Educational attainment
  - Marital status
  - Veteran status
  - Disability status
  - Residence 1 year ago
  - Place of birth
  - Language spoken at home

- **General Economic Characteristics**
  - Employment status
  - Commuting to work
  - Occupation
  - Industry
  - Class of worker
  - Income and benefits
  - Poverty

- **Selected Housing Characteristics**
  - Housing occupancy
  - Units in structure
  - Year structure built
  - Rooms
  - Bedrooms
  - Housing tenure
  - Year householder moved into unit
  - Vehicles available
  - House heating fuel
  - Occupants per room
  - Value
  - Mortgage status and selected monthly owner costs
  - Gross rent
  - Selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income
  - Gross rent as a percentage of household income

The 2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area includes the margin of error for each estimate, which is the 90 percent confidence interval. The sample estimate and its standard error permit the construction of a confidence interval that represents the degree of uncertainty about the estimate. A 90 percent confidence interval can be interpreted roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the true number falls between the upper and lower bounds. A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds.