

User Notes on Statistical Significance

2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

The weighting methodology used to produce final weights for this special data product did not include the usual adjustment to housing and population controls. For this reason, count estimates that are usually controlled and do not include a margin of error in the regular data products, such as the total population, are accompanied with a margin of error. Also, estimates that are closely related to the controls, such as the population age 3 and over for school enrollment may have much larger margins of error than if controls were applied. Results of the statistical test performed for this class of estimates should be interpreted and used with caution. For this special product statistical tests on levels or count estimates are not as meaningful as are significance tests for percents and characteristic distributions.

User Notes on Specific Profile Estimates

2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

- The ACS sample is designed for the production of single-year and multi-year estimates, not partial-year estimates as are presented in this product. Because of the reduced sample sizes for both period estimates (relative to the full-year sample), sampling errors on these estimates will generally be larger than the sampling error for corresponding estimates in the full-year 2005 ACS estimates.
- The Census Bureau introduced a new skip pattern for the disability questions in the 2003 ACS questionnaire. This change mainly affected two individual items -- go-outside-home disability and employment disability -- and the recode for disability status, which includes the two items. Accordingly, comparisons of data from 2003 or later with data from prior years are not recommended for the relevant questions. For more information, see the ACS Subject Definitions for disability at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm>. (Note: Table 2)
- Employment and unemployment estimates may vary from the official labor force data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics because of differences in survey design and data collection. For guidance on differences in employment and unemployment estimates from difference sources go to <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor/laborguidance082504.html>. (Note: Table 3)
- Occupation codes are 4-digit codes, but are still based on Standard Occupational Classification 2000. (Note: Table 3)

- Industry codes are 4 digit codes and are based on the North American Industry Classification System 2002. However, the Industry categories adhere to the guidelines issued in Clarification Memorandum No. 2, "NAICS Alternate Aggregation Structure for Use By U. S. Statistical Agencies," issued by the Office of Management and Budget. (Note: Table 3)
- Workers include members of the Armed Forces and civilians who were at work last week (Note: Table 3)
- For the characteristic Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, the percent distributions are calculated based on the total number of Owner-occupied Housing Units With a Mortgage and Owner-occupied Housing Units Without a Mortgage minus the number of Owner-occupied Housing Units in the not computed category. (Note: Table 4)
- The median gross rent excludes no cash renters. (Note: Table 4)
- For the characteristic Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income, the percent distributions are calculated based on the total number of Renter Occupied Units minus the number of units in the not computed category. (Note: Table 4)
- For the characteristic Gross Rent, the percent distributions and medians are calculated based on the total number of Renter Occupied Units minus the number of units in the no cash rent category. (Note: Table 4)