

# README for 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Data Products Delivered via FTP

## Data Available at this FTP Site

This README document provides information about the location and layout of files for the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data release that are not typically included on the file transfer protocol (FTP) site. This includes the following data products:

- Detailed Tables
- Data Profiles
- Comparison Profiles
- Ranking Tables
- Geographic Comparison Tables

More information about when each data product will be released can be found at the [2018 Data Release Schedule web page](#).

Each data product is explained below. Information about all ACS data products, as well as additional applications and tools, is available on the [Data Tables & Tools](#) page.

**Detailed Tables** provide basic housing and population characteristics. These tables are the foundation upon which higher-level profiles are built. The Detailed Tables come complete with the margin of error (MOE) which is based on a 90 percent level of confidence.

**Data Profiles** provide estimates of selected demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics. The profiles come complete with the margin of error (MOE).

**Comparison Profiles** use estimates from the single-year profiles to show year-to-year changes, the related percentage distributions, and whether the differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

**Ranking Tables** show how states compare to each other for more than 80 selected characteristics.

**Geographic Comparison Tables** are single-variable tables comparing selected characteristics for geographies other than states. These tables use the same Table IDs as the Ranking Tables, except that the Ranking Table IDs start with "R" and the Geographic Comparison Table IDs start with "GCT".

## Finding the Data

Under the FTP directory 'https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary\_file/2018/data/' there are sub-directories for each data product listed above. There are also three other sub-directories (1\_year\_by\_state, 1\_year\_entire\_sf, and 1\_year\_seq\_by\_state) related to the ACS Summary File and not explained in this documentation. The image below shows the file directory and the naming convention used for each folder.

			
<b>TOPICS</b> Population, Economy			
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b> Maps, Products			
<b>LIBRARY</b> Infographics, Publications			
<hr/>			
Name	Last modified	Size	Description
<hr/>			
 <a href="#">Parent Directory</a>			-
 <a href="#">1_year_by_state/</a>	10-Sep-2019 07:56		-
 <a href="#">1_year_comparison_profiles/</a>	11-Sep-2019 09:00		-
 <a href="#">1_year_data_profiles/</a>	10-Sep-2019 15:19		-
 <a href="#">1_year_detailed_tables/</a>	10-Sep-2019 15:21		-
 <a href="#">1_year_entire_sf/</a>	10-Sep-2019 07:58		-
 <a href="#">1_year_geographic_comparison_tables/</a>	11-Sep-2019 09:27		-
 <a href="#">1_year_ranking/</a>	10-Sep-2019 09:48		-
 <a href="#">1_year_seq_by_state/</a>	10-Sep-2019 08:04		-
 <a href="#">2018_1yr_Summary_FileTemplates.zip</a>	10-Sep-2019 16:03	2.1M	

# Using the Data

## Introduction

In this section, we will show you how to access your table of interest and what each of the column headings mean in each file. We will also present useful notes to keep in mind when using each type of file.

## Detailed Tables

- Open the folder 1\_year\_detailed\_tables
- The directory is organized by the geographic levels available on the FTP site: Congressional District, County, Metro Area, Nation, Place, and State. These geographies are available for areas with more than 65,000 people. Click on your geography of interest.
- Comma-separated value (.csv) files are available for each Detailed Table. Learn more about the ACS table naming convention on the [Table IDs Explained](#) page. You can also access a spreadsheet with information about these tables, including table IDs, titles, universes, 1-year/5-year available, on the [Table Shells and Table List](#) page.
- Open your .csv file of interest, and you will see the following columns:

Column	Description
<b>tblid</b>	Table ID
<b>geoid</b>	Geographic ID
<b>geoname</b>	Geography name
<b>order</b>	Line number
<b>title</b>	Label
<b>estimate</b>	Estimate
<b>mg_error</b>	Margin of error

The first two lines under the column headings are not filled with estimates. The first line contains the name of the table. The second line contains the universe from which the table is derived. The third line under the column names contains the first estimates.

## Data Profiles

- Open the folder 1\_year\_data\_profiles
- The directory is organized by the geographic levels available on the FTP site: Congressional District, County, Metro Area, Nation, Place, and State. These geographies are available for areas with more than 65,000 people. Click on your geography of interest.
- Comma-separated value (.csv) files are available for each Data Profiles. Learn more about the ACS table naming convention on the [Table IDs Explained](#) page. You can also access a spreadsheet with information about these tables, including table IDs, titles, universes, 1-year/5-year available, on the [Table Shells and Table List](#) page.
- Open your .csv file of interest, and you will see the following columns:

Column	Description
<b>tblid</b>	Table ID
<b>geoid</b>	Geographic ID
<b>geoname</b>	Geography name
<b>proftbl</b>	Table number
<b>profln</b>	Line number
<b>title</b>	Label
<b>prf_estimate</b>	Estimate
<b>prf_mg_error</b>	Margin of error
<b>pct_estimate</b>	Percentage
<b>pct_mg_error</b>	Percentage margin of error

There are lines that do not contain any data or estimates. These rows are titles, headings, and table descriptions. These lines are typically denoted by a line number of "0" or a line number that is not a whole number.

## Comparison Profiles

- Open the folder 1\_year\_comparison\_profiles
- The directory is organized by the geographic levels available on the FTP site: Congressional District, County, Metro Area, Nation, Place, and State. These geographies are available for areas with more than 65,000 people. Click on your geography of interest.
- Comma-separated value (.csv) files are available for each Comparison Profile. Learn more about the ACS table naming convention on the [Table IDs Explained](#) page. You can also access a spreadsheet with information about these tables, including table IDs, titles, universes, 1-year/5-year available, on the [Table Shells and Table List](#) page.
- Open your .csv file of interest, and you will see the following columns:

Column	Description
<b>tblid</b>	Table ID
<b>geoid</b>	Geographic ID
<b>geoname</b>	Geography name
<b>proftbl</b>	Table number
<b>profln</b>	Line number
<b>title</b>	Title
<b>est_18</b>	2018 estimate
<b>est_17</b>	2017 estimate
<b>sig90_18_17</b>	Statistical significance between 2018 and 2017 denoted by an asterisk
<b>est_16</b>	2016 estimates
<b>sig90_18_16</b>	Statistical significance between 2018 and 2016 denoted by an asterisk
<b>est_15</b>	2015 estimates
<b>sig90_18_15</b>	Statistical significance between 2018 and 2015 denoted by an asterisk
<b>est_14</b>	2014 estimates
<b>sig90_18_14</b>	Statistical significance between 2018 and 2014 denoted by an asterisk

There are lines that do not contain any data or estimates. These rows are titles, headings, and table descriptions. These lines are typically denoted by a line number of "0" or a line number that is not a whole number.

## Geographic Comparison Tables

- Open the folder 1\_year\_geographic\_comparison\_tables
- Comma-separated value (.csv) files are available for each Geographic Comparison Table. Learn more about the ACS table naming convention on the [Table IDs Explained](#) page.
- Open your .csv file of interest, and you will see the following columns:

Column	Description
<b>tblid</b>	Table ID
<b>geoid</b>	Geographic ID
<b>geoname</b>	Geography name
<b>profln</b>	Line number
<b>estimate</b>	Estimate
<b>mg_error</b>	Margin of error

The first line under the column headings does not contain any estimates. The first line contains the title of the table.

## Ranking Tables

- Open the folder 1\_year\_ranking
- Excel workbooks (.xlsx) are available for each Ranking Table. Learn more about the ACS table naming convention on the [Table IDs Explained](#) page.
- Open your excel workbook of interest, and you will see the following columns:

Column	Description
<b>Rank</b>	Rank of estimate
<b>Geography</b>	Geography Name
<b>Estimate</b>	Estimate
<b>Margin_of_Error</b>	Margin of Error
<b>Statistical_Significance</b>	Indication of statistical significance from selected geography

The file contains data for the nation, each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

## Contact Information

For additional information, visit [census.gov/acs](https://census.gov/acs) or email [acso.users.support@census.gov](mailto:acso.users.support@census.gov).

Last revised: 10/7/19



U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
*census.gov*