

Last update 12/17/2010 12:00 AM

## README File for 2005-2009 American Community Survey (ACS)

### 5-Year Data Products Delivered via FTP

FTP Site URL: [http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod)

#### Note to Users of the 2005-2009 ACS 5-YEAR FTP Site

- Some of these files on this site contain more than 65,000 rows and may not be loaded completely into some spreadsheets. Therefore, we recommend user open with a text editor such as WordPad.
- FTP Site contains all 2005-2009 ACS 5-year data products including all detailed tables that are not available on American FactFinder (AFF). For the list of detailed tables not on AFF, please visit the ACS website, URL: [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/2009\\_5yr\\_data/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2009_5yr_data/).
- Subject tables in the following summary levels

State-State Legislative District (Lower Chamber)  
State-State Legislative District (Lower Chamber)-County  
State-Public Use Microdata Sample Area (PUMA)  
State-School District (Elementary)/Remainder  
State-School District (Secondary)/Remainder  
State-School District (Unified)/Remainder

can be found in:

State Legislative District (Lower Chamber)  
State Legislative District (Lower Chamber)-County  
Public Use Microdata Sample Area (PUMA)  
School District (Elementary)/Remainder  
School District (Secondary)/Remainder  
School District (Unified)/Remainder

- Profiles in the summary level Place can be found in State-Place (updated 12/14/10)
- Detailed Tables and Profiles in the following summary levels

Congressional District  
Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area -- Principal City

can be found in:

**State-Congressional District  
State- Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area --  
Principal City (updated 12/14/10)**

- **A data error was discovered in several files containing tables B25079, B25080, B25082, B25108, and B25110. Each of those tables contains at least one 14-digit number that was incorrectly truncated to have 13 digits. The corrected tables contain the full 14 digits. On 12/17/2010, the following files were updated to correct for this problem:**

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United\\_States/Detailed\\_Tables\\_United\\_States.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United_States/Detailed_Tables_United_States.csv)

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United\\_States/Components/In\\_metropolitan\\_or\\_micropolitan\\_statistical\\_area/Detailed\\_Tables\\_United\\_States;\\_In\\_metropolitan\\_or\\_micropolitan\\_statistical\\_area.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United_States/Components/In_metropolitan_or_micropolitan_statistical_area/Detailed_Tables_United_States;_In_metropolitan_or_micropolitan_statistical_area.csv)

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United\\_States/Components/In\\_metropolitan\\_statistical\\_area-not\\_in\\_principal\\_city/Detailed\\_Tables\\_United\\_States;\\_In\\_metropolitan\\_statistical\\_area--\\_not\\_in\\_principal\\_city.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United_States/Components/In_metropolitan_statistical_area-not_in_principal_city/Detailed_Tables_United_States;_In_metropolitan_statistical_area--_not_in_principal_city.csv)

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United\\_States/Components/In\\_metropolitan\\_statistical\\_area/Detailed\\_Tables\\_United\\_States;\\_In\\_metropolitan\\_statistical\\_area.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United_States/Components/In_metropolitan_statistical_area/Detailed_Tables_United_States;_In_metropolitan_statistical_area.csv)

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United\\_States/Components/Urban/Detailed\\_Tables\\_United\\_States;\\_Urban.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/United_States/Components/Urban/Detailed_Tables_United_States;_Urban.csv)  
(Updated 12/17/10)

**This README file covers the following topics:**

- I) Data Products Available at this FTP Site**
- II) Margin of error (MOE)**
- III) Geography Areas published in the 5-year ACS estimates**
- IV) Documentation Available at this FTP Site**
- V) Finding the Data**
- VI) Finding Place of Work and Migration Data, and**
- VII) Instructions on Connecting to ACS FTP Server**

**I) Data Products Available at this FTP Site**

Four types of Data Products are provided on this site for the release of the 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates – Detailed Tables, Data Profiles, Subject Tables, and Geographic Comparison Tables.

- 1) **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 the 90 percent level of confidence.
- 2) **Data Profiles** provide estimates of selected demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics. The profiles come complete with the margin of error (MOE), which represent the 90 percent confidence interval.
- 3) **Subject Tables** highlight a particular subject of interest. Each subject table is accompanied by its margin of error and the confidence intervals are based on the 90 percent level of confidence.
- 4) **Geographic Comparison Tables** are single-variable tables comparing selected characteristics for geographies other than states. Geographic Comparison 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”.

## **II) Margin of error (MOE)**

A margin of error is the 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 cannot be less than 0. Therefore, its lower bound can also not be less than 0.

## **III) Geography Areas published in the 5-year ACS estimates**

American Community Survey data are tabulated for a variety of different geographic areas ranging in size from broad geographic regions to cities, towns, neighborhoods, and census tracts. For more information on geography areas published in the 5-year ACS estimates, here is the URL: [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/geography/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/geography/). Also, for a full list of ACS 5-Year Summary Levels/Components for Detailed Tables, here is the URL: [http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/Geography\\_Summary\\_Levels\\_and\\_Components.doc](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/Geography_Summary_Levels_and_Components.doc).

## **IV) Documentation Available at this FTP Site**

- 1) The Accuracy of the Data document for 2009 is available on the ACS Website, here is the URL: [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/documentation\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/). This document provides technical information on sample design, estimation methodology, and accuracy of the data.
- 2) There is also a Notes document for the data products located on the same directory level as the readme file. The filename is 2009\_5yr\_Headnotes\_Footnotes\_FTP.xls. This file contains Headnotes and Footnotes associated with the 2005-2009 ACS 5-year estimates.
- 3) Some data values represent unique situations where either: A) the information to be

conveyed is an explanation of the absence of data, represented by a symbol in the data display, such as “(X)”, or; B) the information to be conveyed is an open-ended distribution, such as 115 or greater, represented by 116 or 115+. These data values are referred as Jam Values. For a full list of Jam Values, here is the URL:

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/JAM\\_VALUES.doc](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/JAM_VALUES.doc).

## V) Finding the Data

User can get to the Census Bureau’s file transfer protocol (FTP) server through ACS website, URL: [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/data\\_via\\_ftp/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via_ftp/) or user can go straight through the FTP server, URL: [http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/).

Under the FTP directory ‘[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/)’ there are two sub-directories, *TablesProfilesSubjectTables* and *GeographicComparisonTables*.

The ACS data products for the FTP site are organized by the following directories:

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/GeographicComparisonTables/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/GeographicComparisonTables/)

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/)

***TablesProfilesSubjectTables***: This directory consists of four separate sub-directories.

- Division
- Region
- States
- United\_States

***Division*** is a grouping of states within a census geographic region, established by the Census Bureau for the presentation of census data. The current nine divisions are intended to represent relatively homogeneous areas that are subdivisions of the four census geographic regions. The nine divisions are listed below.

1. **New England Division:** Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island
2. **Middle Atlantic Division:** New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
3. **South Atlantic Division:** Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
4. **East South Central Division:** Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi
5. **West South Central Division:** Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana
6. **East North Central Division:** Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois
7. **West North Central Division:** North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota
8. **Mountain Division:** Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico
9. **Pacific Division:** Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii

***Region*** is four groupings of states (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West) established by the Census Bureau in 1942 for the presentation of census data. The four regions are listed below.

1. **Northeast Region:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
2. **South Region:** Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
3. **Midwest Region:** North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio
4. **West Region:** Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii

Each sub-directory contains CSV files, for example, the *United\_States* directory contains: Detailed Tables in the file *DetailedTables\_United\_States.csv*, Data Profiles in the file *Profiles\_United\_States.csv*, Non-Iterated Selected Population Profiles in the file *NonIterSPP\_United\_States.csv* and Subject Tables in the file *Subject\_United\_States.csv*. Also, under the *United\_States* directory, a separate *Components* sub-directory resides which contains directories to CSV files for the United States. For more information on Components or geographies, please see the section of Geography Areas published in the 5-year ACS estimates for more details.

The *States* directory contains a directory for each state including District of Columbia (DC) and Puerto Rico (PR) in each of these state directories there are corresponding state CSV files (For example: [http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/Tables/ProfilesSubjectTables/States/Iowa/DetailedTablesIowaBaseTables\\_Iowa.csv](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/Tables/ProfilesSubjectTables/States/Iowa/DetailedTablesIowaBaseTables_Iowa.csv) or *Subject\_Iowa.csv*, etc.)

Within each of the Summary Level directories there are four types of files:

- 1) **Detailed Tables** – Contains the Detailed Tables released for that geography. For detailed tables, FTP file name starts with “Detailed\_Tables-“ and follow by the name of the geography area and ends with the file extension of .csv. For example, the detailed tables of Prince George’s County is named, *Detailed\_Tables-Prince\_George’s\_County,\_Maryland.csv*.

The Detailed Table CVS file contains the following file layout:

- Column 1 – Geographic ID Code
- Column 2 – Geographic Name
- Column 3 – Table Number
- Column 4 – Line Number (Order)
- Column 5 – Line Description (Stub)
- Column 6 – Estimate
- Column 7 – Margin of Error

- 2) **Data Profile** - Contains four sections; Selected Social Characteristics which contains the profile estimates for selected social characteristics profile; Selected Economic Characteristics which contains the profile estimates for selected economic characteristics; Selected Housing Characteristics which contains the profile estimates for selected housing characteristics; ACS Demographic And Housing Estimates which contains the profile estimates for selected demographic and housing characteristics. For example, the data profile of Prince George’s County is named, *Profiles\_Prince\_George’s\_County,\_Maryland.csv*.

The Data Profile CVS file contains the following file layout:

Column 1 – Geographic ID Code  
Column 2 – Geographic Name  
Column 3 – Table Number  
Column 4 – Line Number (Order)  
Column 5 – Line Description (Stub)  
Column 6 – Estimate  
Column 7 – Margin of Error  
Column 8 - Percent  
Column 9 - Percent Margin of Error

- 3) **Subject Tables** – Contains tables that highlight particular subjects of interest depending on the geography. The Subject Tables may vary depending on the size of the Subject Table. For example, the subject tables of Prince George’s County is named, *Subject\_Prince\_George’s\_County,\_Maryland.csv*. For a full list of Subject Tables, here is the URL:  
[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/SUBJECT\\_TABLES\\_5YRS.doc](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/SUBJECT_TABLES_5YRS.doc).
- 4) **Non-Iterated Selected Population Profiles**, which are similar to the Subject Tables, provide detailed information for a population group such as teenagers, people in poverty, the older population, workers, children, grandchildren, and the foreign born. The Non-Iterated Selected Population Profiles may vary in size. For example, the non-iterated selected population profiles of Prince George’s County is named, *NoniterSPP\_Prince\_George’s\_County,\_Maryland.csv*. For a full list of Subject Tables, here is the URL:  
[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/SUBJECT\\_TABLES\\_5YRS.doc](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/SUBJECT_TABLES_5YRS.doc).

### ***GeographicComparisonTables (GCTs)***

This directory contains GCTs for each published geographic summary level (e.g. */acs2009\_5yr/prod/GeographicComparisonTables/CountyUS/* and a CSV file for each characteristic. For a full list of GCTs, here is the URL:  
[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/GeographicComparisonTables/GCT\\_5YRS.doc](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/GeographicComparisonTables/GCT_5YRS.doc).

## **VI) Finding Place of Work and Migration Data**

### ***POW (Place of Work Tables)***

Place of work tables refer to the geographic location at which workers carried out their occupational activities during the reference week. Data users interested in the number and characteristics of workers, who work in a specific area, should use the place of work (workplace-based journey-to-work) tables.

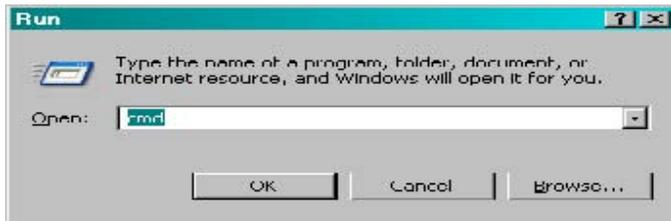
Under the */acs2009\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/States* directory there will be subdirectories for all of the Place of Work geographies. For example:

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/States/Iowa/Place\\_of\\_Work\\_Combined\\_Statistical\\_Area/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/States/Iowa/Place_of_Work_Combined_Statistical_Area/). The specific state directories contain a directory for each Place of Work geographic areas.

### **MIG (Migration Tables)**

Migration Tables refer to tables for geographical mobility for residence 1 year ago. These detailed tables include estimates based on outmigration. The estimates are similar to those available for the geographic mobility tables for current residence but instead of using the current location of the respondent they use the location of the respondent one year ago.

Under the */acs2009\_5yr/prod/TablesProfilesSubjectTables/States* directory there will be subdirectories for each Migration geography. The specific state directories contain Migration directories for each state. In each of these Migration sub-directories there is one corresponding state CSV files.



### **VII) Instructions on Connecting to ACS FTP Server**

There are two ways to connect to ACS FTP Server, user can access through HTTP browser with this URL:

[http://www2.census.gov/acs2009\\_5yr/prod/](http://www2.census.gov/acs2009_5yr/prod/) or user can access through FTP, the instructions on connecting to ACS FTP server through FTP browser is below.

1) Click on Start > Run > type cmd > then hit "OK"

2) At the prompt, type as illustrate below

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - ftp ftp.census.gov
Microsoft Windows XP [Version 5.1.2600]
(C) Copyright 1985-2001 Microsoft Corp.

G:\Documents and Settings\spann001\Desktop>ftp ftp.census.gov
Connected to backup03.csud.census.gov.
220-This is a U.S. Government computer system.
220-THERE IS NO RIGHT OF PRIVACY IN THIS SYSTEM.
220-All data contained herein is owned by the U.S. Government and
220-may be used in any way by authorized personnel.
220-USE OF THIS SYSTEM CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE ABOVE.
220-Use of this computer without authorization or for unauthorized purposes is a
220-violation of federal law and punishable by fines or imprisonment (Public Law
99-474).
220-Evidence of crime found on this system will be reported to appropriate autho
rities.
220 Authorized uses only
220
User (backup03.csud.census.gov:(none)):
```

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - ftp ftp.census.gov
220-All data contained herein is owned by the U.S. Government and
220-may be used in any way by authorized personnel.
220-USE OF THIS SYSTEM CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE ABOVE.
220-Use of this computer without authorization or for unauthorized purposes is a
220-violation of federal law and punishable by fines or imprisonment (Public Law
99-474).
220-Evidence of crime found on this system will be reported to appropriate autho
rities.
220 Authorized uses only
220
User (backup03.csud.census.gov:(none)): ftp
331 Please specify the password.
Password:
230-server: ftp2.census.gov
230-
230 Personal Identifiable Information (PII) shall not be placed on the FTP
230-server without prior special arrangement and in conjunction with ITS0.
230-
230-NOTE: The data available for anonymous FTP download on this FTP server is
230-also available over the Web:
230-http://www2.census.gov
230-
230 Login successful.
ftp>
```

- 3) Use the username “ftp” and password “ftp” to access the ACS FTP site
- 4) If successfully logging in, user should see the screen like below:

## FTP File Transfer

In the UNIX environment, the “mget” command allows the transferring of single or multiple files. Using the ftp command mget, followed by a single filename, will allow a single file to be downloaded. Using the command mget followed by a wildcard character, such as \* or \*. \*, allows multiple files to be downloaded. For example, once you have navigated into the directory for California, you can download all of the spreadsheets in the state-county subdirectory with the following ftp commands:

ftp>lcd c:\temp	(local path where files from the FTP site will be saved)
ftp>cd acs2009_5yr/prod	(path to prod ACS ftp site)
ftp>cd States	(path to a specific directory)
ftp>prompt off	(to avoid being asked for verification of each file, optional)
ftp>mget Alabama.csv	(to copy a specific single file - file should be now copied to c:\temp)
ftp>mget *.csv	(to copy multiple files)