

Quick Guide to American FactFinder

1. Search Terms.....	2
2. Finding Neighborhoods.....	6
3. Downloading the Tables.....	13
4. Interpreting the Numbers.....	18

Introduction

The American FactFinder is a useful online tool for accessing data from the U.S. Census. This user-friendly guide is designed to teach a few basic navigation skills for retrieving and interpreting this information. Section one (Search Terms) will show you how to search for specific topic information. We walk through finding tables for our example of fertility by age in a specified geographic region. Section 2 (Finding Neighborhoods) shows in more detail how to identify specific geographic areas and goes through an example of entering in an address to find the census tract in which that address falls. Section 3 (Downloading the Tables) is a guide to finding and downloading tables of data into Excel and the last section, Section 4 (Interpreting numbers), explains how to create statistics from the numbers in the American FactFinder tables.

1. Search Terms

In this section, search terms or search topics will be used to find different research information. We will be using two census tract areas within Wood County, Ohio and examining a table that details fertility rates by age, which can be used to calculate age-specific fertility rates.

Open [American FactFinder](http://factfinder2.census.gov) (also referred to as AFF) either by typing in 'factfinder2.census.gov' or using a search engine, type in 'American FactFinder,' and click on the link for it that appears in your search results. First, we want to specify the geographic region in which you are interested in getting data. In section 2 there will be more detailed instructions on picking geographic locations, but for now this section will walk you through retrieving two specific census tracts for the sake of the example. Click on **Advanced Search** and then **SHOW ME ALL** (figure 1).

Figure 1

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'MAIN', 'COMMUNITY FACTS', 'GUIDED SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', and 'DOWNLOAD OPTIONS'. The 'ADVANCED SEARCH' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: 'Community Facts', 'Guided Search', and 'Advanced Search'. The 'Advanced Search' section is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to the 'SHOW ME ALL' button below it. To the right of these sections is a large graphic featuring a person's hand pointing at a globe with various data charts overlaid. Below the main content area, there are several informational sections: 'Using American FactFinder', 'What We Provide', 'News and Notes', 'Address Search', and 'Reference Maps'. The 'News and Notes' section includes a date 'Aug 01, 2013' and a link to 'view all news, release schedules, and more'. The 'Address Search' section has a search input field and a 'GO' button. The 'Reference Maps' section includes a dropdown menu set to 'United States' and a 'GO' button.

On the next page that appears, click on **Geographies**, which is number 2. This will fast track you for quickly picking a neighborhood/region for the sake of this example.

Figure 2

To search for tables and other files in American FactFinder:

1 Enter search terms and an optional geography and click GO

topic or table name state, county or place (optional) GO ?

topics race/ancestry industries occupations

-- or --

Select from **Topics, Race and Ethnic Groups, Industry Codes, EEO Occupation Codes.**

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

2 Next, select **Geographies** (states, counties, cities, towns, etc.)

- these are added to 'Your Selections'
- the Search Results are updated

3 Select one or more Search Results and click **View**



Next, using the dropdown boxes, select **Census Tract- 140** as the geographic type. As you enter each selection, more options appear. Select **Ohio** as your state and **Wood County** as your county. The last step is to select your tract that you are interested in. For this example, select **Census Tract 219.01, Wood County, Ohio** by clicking and highlighting it, then click **ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS**.. This area should then appear in the **Your Selections** box to the left of your screen. Then select **Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio** and click **Add to Your Selections** again. Now you should have both areas in the selection box on the right as seen in figure 3. This will limit our search to information on the census tract level of these two areas.

Figure 3

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections

Search using...

Census Tract
Census Tract 219.01, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio

clear all selections and start a new search

Search using the options below:

Topics
(age, income, year, dataset, ...)

Geographies
(states, counties, places, ...)

Race and Ethnic Groups
(race, ancestry, tribe)

Industry Codes
(NAICS industry, ...)

EEO Occupation Codes
(executives, analysts, ...)

Select Geographies

List Name Address Map

Select geographies to add to Your Selections ?

Select from: most requested geographic types all geographic types

Select a geographic type:
Census Tract - 140

Select a state:
Ohio

Select a county:
Wood

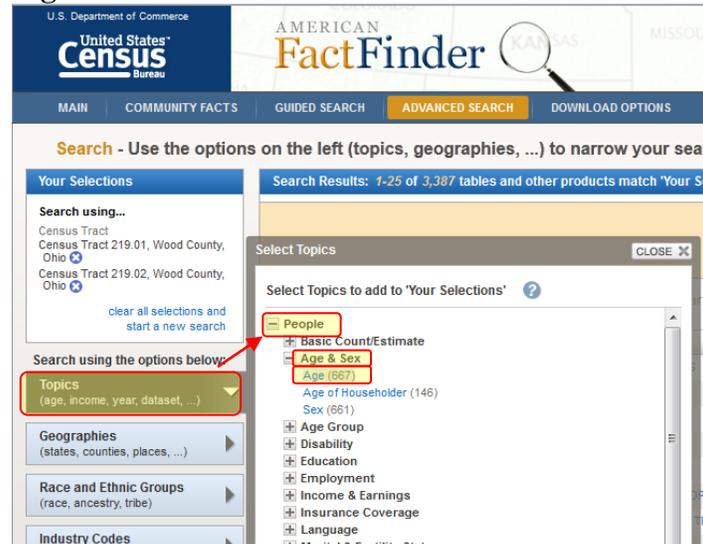
Select one or more geographic areas and click Add to Your Selections:

Census Tract 214, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 215, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 216, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 217.01, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 217.02, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 218, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 219.01, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 221, Wood County, Ohio
Census Tract 222, Wood County, Ohio

ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS

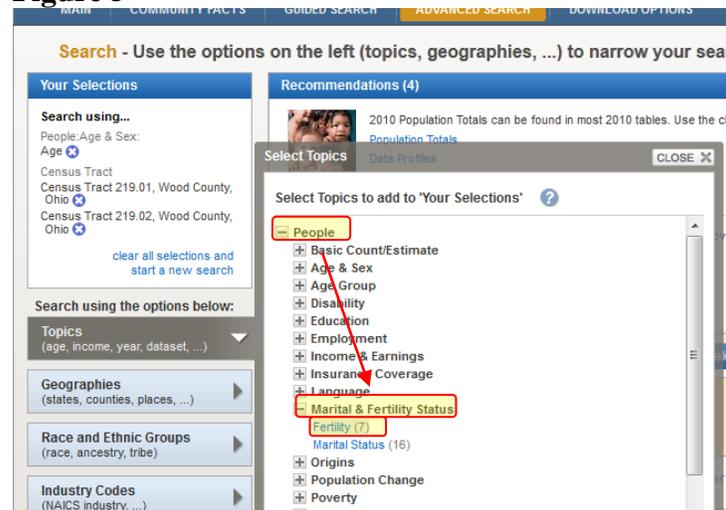
Now that you have a specific area to search in, we will start searching for a specific topic. Open the **Topics** tab by clicking on it as shown in Figure 4, expand the option for **People**, expand the option for **Age & Sex**, and select **Age**. This will prompt FactFinder to look for tables that distribute statistics by different age groups such as people 15 to 19 years old or 20 to 24 years old.

Figure 4



In addition to searching tables by age groups, you can also add other research topics if they are available. For instance, in Figure 5, as you expand the **Marital & Fertility Status** option in a similar way to Figure 4, you will notice that **Fertility** has 7 in the parentheses next to it, which represents that there are 7 tables available after accounting for all other search terms, including by age.

Figure 5



Using this section as a guide, you now can pick different search topics according to your interests. Just remember to check **Your Selections** at the top left of the page so that your search boundaries (topic and region) include the parameters you desire. If you want change the parameters then you can simply hit the **x** next to a specific criterion or you can click **clear all selections and start a new search**.

2. Finding Neighborhoods

If you have not already, open [American FactFinder](http://AmericanFactFinder) (also referred to as AFF) either by typing in 'factfinder2.census.gov' or using a search engine, type in 'American FactFinder,' and click on the link for it that appears in your search results.

Once you are on the AFF site, the page should look like that seen in figure 6. To start using the search, either open **Advanced Search** and click **SHOW ME ALL** or click on **street address** in the Address Search section.

Figure 6

The screenshot displays the American FactFinder website. At the top, there is a header with the U.S. Department of Commerce logo, the 'United States Census Bureau' logo, and the 'AMERICAN FactFinder' title. Navigation tabs include MAIN, COMMUNITY FACTS, GUIDED SEARCH, ADVANCED SEARCH, and DOWNLOAD OPTIONS. A language selector shows 'English' and 'Español'. The main content area features a sidebar with navigation options: Community Facts, Guided Search, Advanced Search (highlighted with a red box and arrow), and Download Options. The 'Advanced Search' section includes the text 'Search all data in American FactFinder, with access to all geographic types and datasets.' and a 'SHOW ME ALL' button. Below the sidebar, there are sections for 'Using American FactFinder', 'What We Provide', 'News and Notes', 'Address Search', and 'Reference Maps'. The 'Address Search' section has a red box around the text 'Find Census data by entering a street address.' and a blue arrow icon. The 'Reference Maps' section includes a dropdown menu set to 'United States' and a 'GO' button.

Make sure that the **Geographies** tab is open and you are in the **Address** tab. To follow the example in this tutorial, type in *706 Napoleon Rd* in the **street address** box and *43402* in the **zip** box. Click **GO** to get a list of different geographies that your address is in. Note both the county and state that you live in, as well as the Census Tract number under **Geography Name**, found in the search results. You will need this information later.

Figure 7

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder search interface. On the left, the 'Geographies' dropdown menu is expanded, and the 'Address' tab is selected. The search form contains the following information:

street address	city	state	zip
706 Napoleon Rd		-- select a state --	43402

The 'GO' button is highlighted in red. Below the search form, the results are displayed in a table:

Geography Name	Geography Type	Geography Code
Ohio	State	040
Wood County, Ohio	County	050
Bowling Green city, Wood County, Ohio	County Subdivision	060
Block 1017, Block Group 1, Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio	Block	100
Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract	140

In the **Name** tab within the **Geographies** window, type in the name of the county and state, and click **GO**. To follow this example, type *Wood County, Ohio*. Choose **140 – Census Tract** for your **Summary Level** or type of geography. At the top of the list in the results should be an option for **All Census Tracts within** (Your county and state). Select that option and hit the “**Add**” button to add it to your search selections (found on the upper right of your screen). Finally, click **CLOSE** to return to the main page of Advanced Search.

Figure 8

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections
 Search using...
 Census Tract
 All Census Tracts within Wood County, Ohio

Search using the options below:
 Topics (age, income, year, dataset, ...)
Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
 Race and Ethnic Groups (race, ancestry, tribe)
 Industry Codes (NAICS industry, ...)
 EEO Occupation Codes (executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 4,717 tables and other products match 'Your Selections' per page: 25

Select Geographies
 List Name Address Map
 Enter a geography name or use the Geography Filter Options below:
 Wood County, Ohio GO

Your Geography Filters
 Search: "Wood County, Ohio"
 Geographic Type: Census Tract

Geography Filter Options
 Summary Level
 080 - Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder (124)
 085 - Urban/Rural within Census Tract (144)
140 - Census Tract (32)
 156 - Census Tract (or part) within County within Place (58)
 511 - Census Tract (or part) within County within Congressional District (64)
 631 - Census Tract (or part) within County within State Legislative District (Upper) (28)
 636 - Census Tract (or part) within County within State Legislative District (Lower) (28)

Select geographies to add to Your Selections
 Select from:
 most requested summary levels all summary levels individual blocks

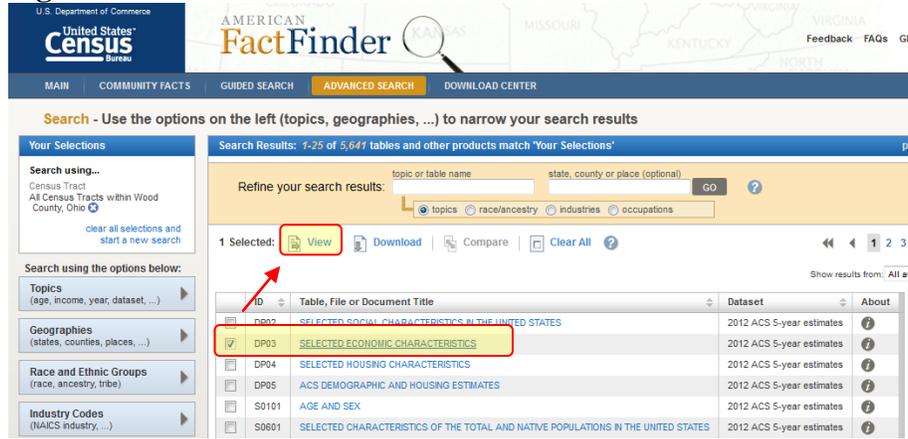
Geography Results: 1-25 of 948 per page: 25

Selected: Add Check All Clear All

Geography Name	Geography Type	About
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts within Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within Bloom township, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within Bowling Green city, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within Center township, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within Fostoria city, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within Freedom township, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract (or part) within Place/Remainder	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Census Tracts (or parts) within ...	Census Tract (or part) within ...	

In the list of tables that are available, we can find poverty estimates in the **SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS** table. Select this and click **View** to see this Demographic Profile (DP) table, which gives summarized estimates for an area.

Figure 9



One of the easiest ways to compare estimates is through a thematic map, which is available through FactFinder. To make a thematic map for poverty rates by Census Tract, click **Create a Map**.

Figure 10

Subject	Census Tract 201, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 202, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 203, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 204.01, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 204.02, Wood County, Ohio		
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS																			
Population 16 years and over	4,148	+/-168		(X)	2,427	+/-189	2,427	(X)	4,104	+/-239	4,104	(X)	4,305	+/-306	4,305	(X)	4,077	+/-227	
In labor force	2,765	+/-186	66.7%	+/-4.1	1,599	+/-158	65.9%	+/-4.1	2,858	+/-266	69.6%	+/-4.7	2,697	+/-257	62.6%	+/-4.7	2,870	+/-230	
Civilian labor force	2,765	+/-186	66.7%	+/-4.1	1,593	+/-158	65.8%	+/-4.1	2,858	+/-266	69.6%	+/-4.7	2,697	+/-257	62.6%	+/-4.7	2,858	+/-231	
Employed	2,436	+/-183	58.7%	+/-4.0	1,468	+/-146	60.5%	+/-4.9	2,544	+/-250	62.0%	+/-5.2	2,551	+/-250	59.3%	+/-4.9	2,696	+/-243	
Unemployed	329	+/-120	7.9%	+/-2.9	125	+/-64	5.2%	+/-2.5	314	+/-131	7.7%	+/-3.0	146	+/-69	3.4%	+/-1.6	162	+/-114	
Armed Forces	0	+/-16	0.0%	+/-0.7	8	+/-11	0.2%	+/-0.4	0	+/-16	0.0%	+/-0.7	0	+/-16	0.0%	+/-0.7	12	+/-19	

Poverty estimates are at the bottom of the table on the page. Note the distinction between ‘All families’ and ‘All people.’ These refer to the universe that is being measured and can be thought of as a denominator when calculating percentages. In this case, the numbers are already calculated into percentages, but in most tables, the information is presented as a count estimate. We are going to make a map for poverty rates of people, and in order to do so make sure to click on a percent value that represents **All people** in poverty (e.g. 9.7% indicated in figure 11 in Census Tract 201, Wood County, Ohio). You might need to scroll down to find this value.

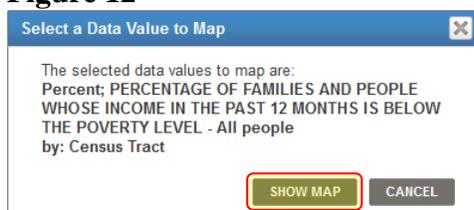
Figure 11

Subject	Census Tract 201, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 202, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 203, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 204.01, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 204.02, Wood County, Ohio	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL																		
All families	(X)	(X)	8.9%	+/-5.1	(X)	(X)	6.9%	+/-4.7	(X)	(X)	6.9%	+/-5.1	(X)	(X)	4.1%	+/-3.7	(X)	(X)
With related children under 18 years	(X)	(X)	15.4%	+/-10.2	(X)	(X)	13.7%	+/-9.9	(X)	(X)	5.2%	+/-8.2	(X)	(X)	6.7%	+/-7.7	(X)	(X)
With related children under 5 years only	(X)	(X)	33.3%	+/-37.1	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-37.4	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-23.4	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-27.5	(X)	(X)
Married couple families	(X)	(X)	4.4%	+/-3.7	(X)	(X)	4.8%	+/-5.7	(X)	(X)	1.7%	+/-2.7	(X)	(X)	1.6%	+/-2.5	(X)	(X)
With related children under 18 years	(X)	(X)	9.2%	+/-8.8	(X)	(X)	11.2%	+/-14.9	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-8.1	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-7.6	(X)	(X)
With related children under 5 years only	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-54.8	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-63.7	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-27.2	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-30.9	(X)	(X)
Families with female householder, no husband present	(X)	(X)	29.8%	+/-23.0	(X)	(X)	15.7%	+/-14.6	(X)	(X)	24.2%	+/-26.4	(X)	(X)	13.9%	+/-19.7	(X)	(X)
With related children under 18 years	(X)	(X)	27.8%	+/-26.6	(X)	(X)	20.9%	+/-18.7	(X)	(X)	17.0%	+/-27.1	(X)	(X)	27.0%	+/-33.1	(X)	(X)
With related children under 5 years only	(X)	(X)	44.4%	+/-55.2	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-46.2	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-65.4	(X)	(X)	-	**	(X)	(X)
All people	(X)	(X)	9.7%	+/-4.4	(X)	(X)	6.7%	+/-4.0	(X)	(X)	6.7%	+/-4.2	(X)	(X)	6.7%	+/-3.6	(X)	(X)
Under 18 years	(X)	(X)	14.0%	+/-9.3	(X)	(X)	12.3%	+/-9.5	(X)	(X)	3.0%	+/-4.5	(X)	(X)	10.2%	+/-11.8	(X)	(X)
Related children under 18 years	(X)	(X)	14.0%	+/-9.3	(X)	(X)	12.3%	+/-9.5	(X)	(X)	2.8%	+/-4.5	(X)	(X)	10.2%	+/-11.8	(X)	(X)
Related children under 5 years	(X)	(X)	33.3%	+/-25.8	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-18.0	(X)	(X)	0.0%	+/-11.3	(X)	(X)	17.8%	+/-21.5	(X)	(X)
Related children 5 to 17 years	(X)	(X)	9.2%	+/-7.0	(X)	(X)	15.9%	+/-11.8	(X)	(X)	3.6%	+/-5.8	(X)	(X)	7.9%	+/-9.8	(X)	(X)
18 years and over	(X)	(X)	8.3%	+/-3.4	(X)	(X)	5.1%	+/-2.9	(X)	(X)	7.6%	+/-4.7	(X)	(X)	5.9%	+/-2.5	(X)	(X)
18 to 64 years	(X)	(X)	8.8%	+/-3.8	(X)	(X)	5.6%	+/-3.4	(X)	(X)	9.2%	+/-5.9	(X)	(X)	6.7%	+/-3.2	(X)	(X)
65 years and over	(X)	(X)	6.0%	+/-9.5	(X)	(X)	3.2%	+/-5.5	(X)	(X)	1.7%	+/-2.9	(X)	(X)	3.2%	+/-3.7	(X)	(X)
People in families	(X)	(X)	8.7%	+/-5.0	(X)	(X)	6.6%	+/-4.7	(X)	(X)	5.8%	+/-4.5	(X)	(X)	5.2%	+/-5.0	(X)	(X)
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	(X)	(X)	14.4%	+/-7.7	(X)	(X)	7.1%	+/-5.2	(X)	(X)	10.8%	+/-9.1	(X)	(X)	10.4%	+/-5.3	(X)	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

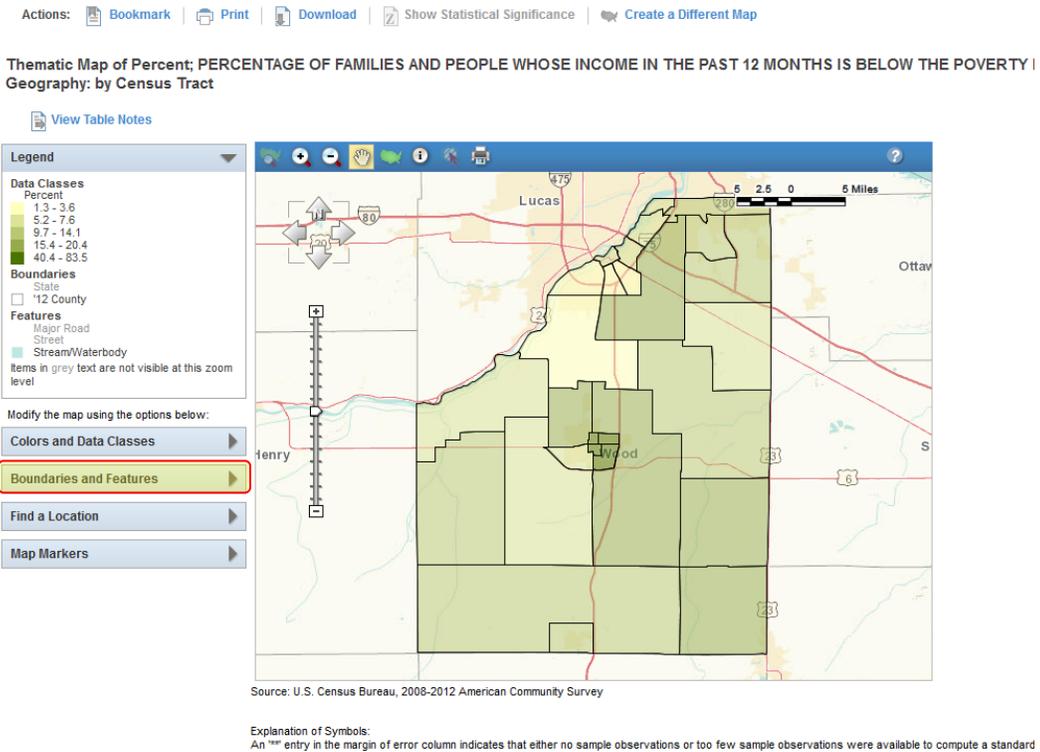
Once you click on the percentage you wish to map, the message in figure 12 should appear, telling you what type of map will be made. In some cases you will have to scroll to the top of the page in order to see this message. Click **SHOW MAP**.

Figure 12



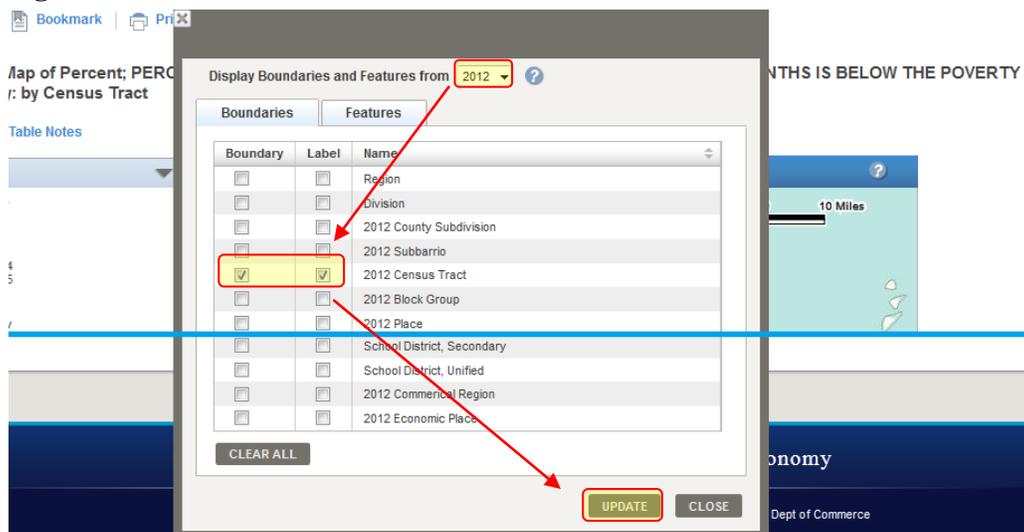
If the page appears to be blank, scroll up. The map should be towards the top of your new window. To make the Census Tracts identifiable, open up **Boundaries and Features**.

Figure 13



Select the year 2012 in the dropdown menu, and select the **Boundary** and **Label** options for 2012 Census Tract by checking the boxes. Click **Update** to change the map.

Figure 14



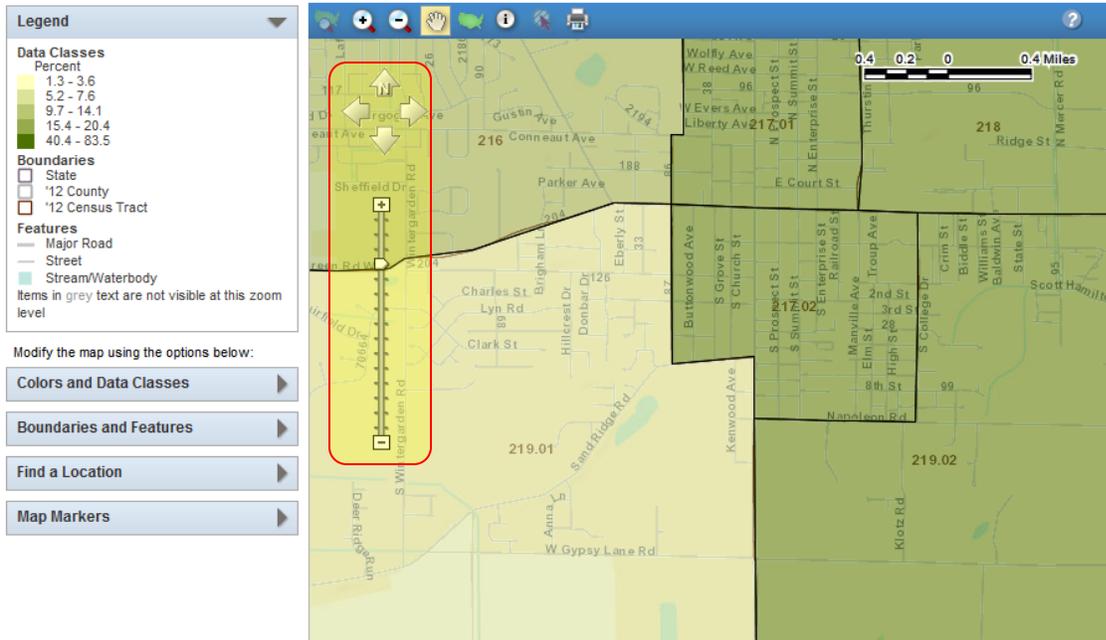
Using the Zoom tool (highlighted in figure 15), we can get a clearer look at the numbers for each Census Tract. In this case, 219.01 will be chosen for use in the next section of this tutorial where we will be building a table with two adjacent Census Tracts.

Figure 15

Actions: [Bookmark](#) | [Print](#) | [Download](#) | [Show Statistical Significance](#) | [Create a Different Map](#)

Thematic Map of Percent; PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL
Geography: by Census Tract

[View Table Notes](#)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

3. Downloading the Tables

With Section 1 and Section 2 showing you different ways to find data by topic and location, now Section 3 will show you how to download those data into tables in Excel. To restart the search process from the previous section, click **BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH**. In the advanced search window, click **clear all selections and start a new search**. In the **Address** tab of the **Geographies** window, after typing in the address (using 706 Napoleon Rd, 43402 to follow the example) and getting back results, select the record for Census Tract under **Geography Name** in order to select the tract that contains your address of interest. Then change to the **Map** tab.

Figure 16

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections
 Search using...
 Census Tract
 Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio

Search using the options below:
 Topics (age, income, year, dataset, ...)
Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)
 Race and Ethnic Groups (race, ancestry, tribe)
 Industry Codes (NAICS industry, ...)
 EEO Occupation Codes (executives, analysts, ...)

Select Geographies
 List Name **Address** Map

Enter a street address, city and state, or a street address and ZIP code. Click 'Go'.
 Note: address search will use the latest available address data beginning with 2012 and working backwards, based on the contents of Your Selections.

street address city state zip
 706 Napoleon Rd -- select a state -- 43402 GO

Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio successfully added to Your Selections.

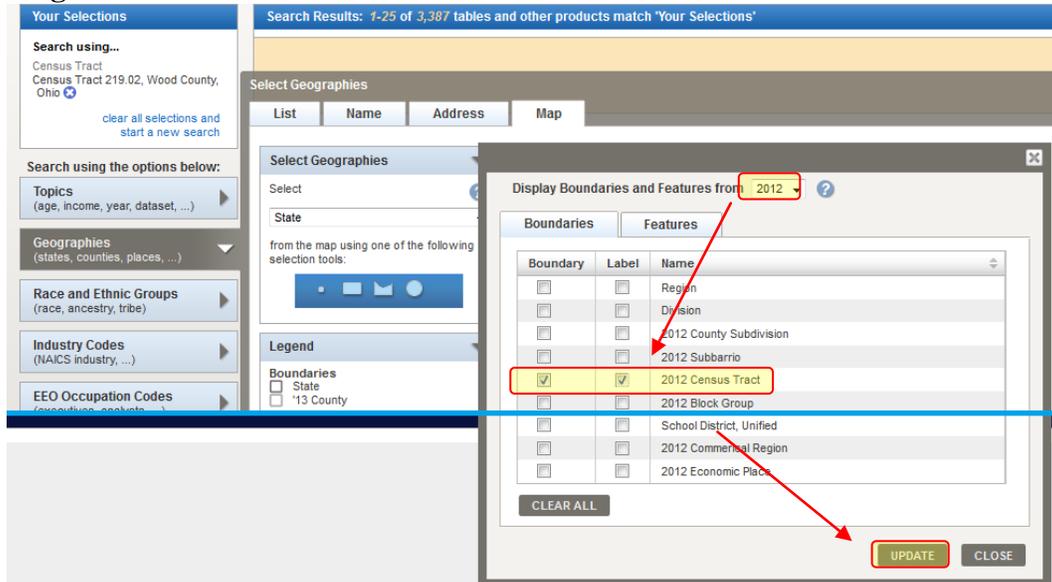
Geography Results:

Geography Name	Geography Type	Geography Code
Ohio	State	040
Wood County, Ohio	County	050
Bowling Green city, Wood County, Ohio	County Subdivision	060
Block 1017, Block Group 1, Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio	Block	100
Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio	Census Tract	140
Block Group 1, Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio	Block Group within Census Tract	150
Bowling Green city, Ohio	Place within State	160
Toledo, OH Metro Area	Metro/Micro Statistical Area	310
Toledo, OH MSA	MSA/CMSA	380
Bowling Green, OH Urban Cluster (2010)	Urban Area	400
Congressional District 5 (111th Congress), Ohio	Congressional District	500
Congressional District 5 (113th Congress), Ohio	Congressional District	500
State Senate District 2 (2010), Ohio	State Legislative District (Upper)	610
State House District 6 (2010), Ohio	State Legislative District (Lower)	620
BOWLING GREEN 2-D Voting District, Wood County, Ohio	Voting District/Remainder	700
PUMA5 00202, Ohio	Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)	795
ZCTA5 43402	5-Digit ZCTA	860
ZIP 43402 (Bowling Green, OH)	5-Digit ZIP Code	861
Bowling Green City School District, Ohio	School District (Unified)/Remainder	970
Bowling Green city, Ohio	Economic Place	E60

factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t#none

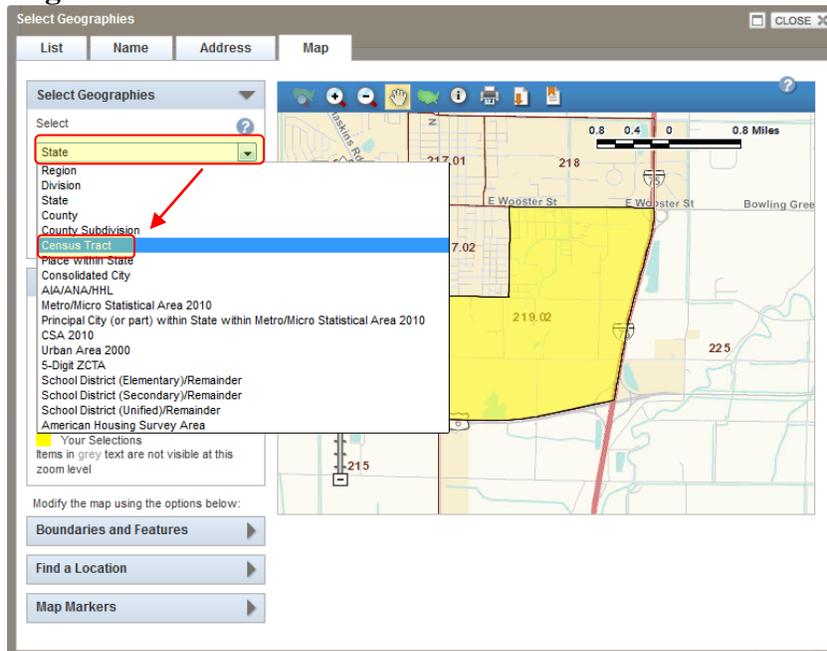
Open the **Boundaries and Features** tab which is toward the bottom left-hand side of the **Select Geographies** window in the webpage. Select **2012** in the dropdown menu for the year (as seen in figure 17) and ensure that **Boundary** and **Label** are checked for the 2012 Census Tract. Click **UPDATE**.

Figure 17



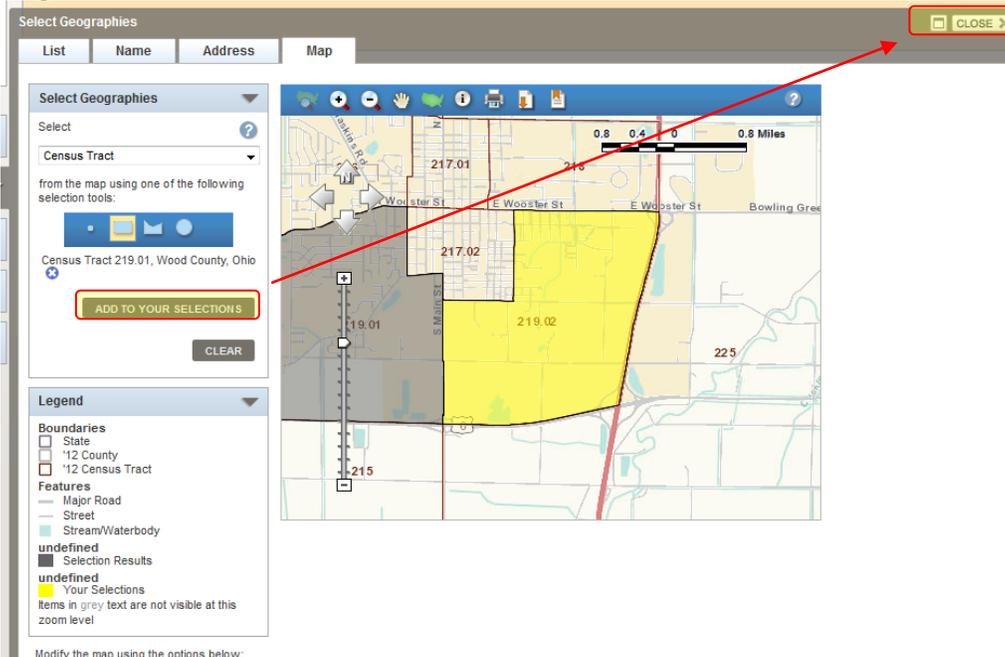
In order to select other Census Tracts, select **Census Tract** from the dropdown menu as shown below in Figure 18.

Figure 18



Use one of the selection tools in the blue rectangle to select another Census Tract. For instance, using the leftmost tool, **select a point** by clicking on any tract in the map to select it or you can use the rectangle tool and drag a rectangle over the area of interest. Then select **ADD TO YOUR SELECTIONS** as shown in Figure 19. You should now see two Census Tract areas in the box on the left side including the tract you just selected. Select **CLOSE** at the top-right corner in the open window.

Figure 19



In this example, **DP02 – SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES** will be used. To do this, either click on the title of the table or check the box of the table and click **View**.

Figure 20

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections: Census Tract 219.01, Wood County, Ohio; Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio

Search Results: 1-25 of 3,387 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

Refine your search results: topic or table name, state, county or place (optional)

1 Selected: **View** | Download | Compare | Clear All

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DP02 SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	DP03 SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	DP04 SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	DP05 ACS DEMOGRAPHIC AND HOUSING ESTIMATES	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0101 AGE AND SEX	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0601 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TOTAL AND NATIVE POPULATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	S0701 GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	?

At the top of the table is a series of count estimates for different types of family households. The universe is designated as Total Households, or the number of housing units occupied by people. Instead of identifying single-parent households, they are labeled as **Male householder, no wife present, family** (e.g. single dad) and **Female householder, no husband present, family** (e.g. single mom) which are shown in Figure 21.

Figure 21

U.S. Department of Commerce
United States Census Bureau
AMERICAN FactFinder

Feedback FAQs Glossary Help

MAIN COMMUNITY FACTS GUIDED SEARCH ADVANCED SEARCH DOWNLOAD CENTER

Advanced Search - Search all data in American FactFinder

1 Advanced Search 2 Table Viewer

Result 1 of 1 VIEW ALL AS PDF

DP02 SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES
2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table View BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH

Actions: Modify Table **Bookmark** Print Download Create a Map

View Geography Notes View Table Notes

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

Subject	Census Tract 219.01, Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 219.02, Wood County, Ohio			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE								
Total households	1,540	+/-128	1,540	(X)	2,414	+/-235	2,414	(X)
Family households (families)	1,025	+/-129	66.6%	+/-8.5	889	+/-212	36.8%	+/-8.0
With own children under 18 years	372	+/-117	24.2%	+/-7.6	457	+/-195	18.9%	+/-7.5
Married-couple family	896	+/-117	58.2%	+/-8.3	485	+/-154	20.1%	+/-6.4
With own children under 18 years	313	+/-108	20.3%	+/-7.1	154	+/-110	6.4%	+/-4.5
Male householder, no wife present, family	42	+/-41	2.7%	+/-2.6	55	+/-39	2.3%	+/-1.6
With own children under 18 years	0	+/-11	0.0%	+/-1.9	26	+/-30	1.1%	+/-1.2
Female householder, no husband present, family	87	+/-51	5.6%	+/-3.2	349	+/-172	14.5%	+/-6.7
With own children under 18 years	59	+/-38	3.8%	+/-2.4	277	+/-165	11.5%	+/-6.5
Nonfamily households	515	+/-151	33.4%	+/-8.5	1,525	+/-242	63.2%	+/-8.0
Householder living alone	397	+/-122	25.8%	+/-7.3	852	+/-222	35.3%	+/-8.1
65 years and over	143	+/-78	9.3%	+/-5.0	144	+/-76	6.0%	+/-3.0
Households with one or more people under 18 years	430	+/-117	27.9%	+/-7.5	457	+/-195	18.9%	+/-7.5
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	511	+/-89	33.2%	+/-5.2	262	+/-89	10.9%	+/-3.5
Average household size	2.43	+/-0.25	(X)	(X)	2.18	+/-0.22	(X)	(X)
Average family size	3.00	+/-0.30	(X)	(X)	2.49	+/-0.31	(X)	(X)

A convenient way to save progress and return to your selected Census Tracts later on is to click the **Bookmark** button seen in Figure 21. A window will pop up which has a created link as shown in Figure 22. Make sure to copy this link somewhere so you can reuse it when you want to access it later.

Figure 22

Bookmark

Click "Create Bookmark" or copy the url below and paste into email or browser.

CREATE BOOKMARK <http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en>

- or -

Use the "Save Query" button to save the viewed products's geography and table selections to a file on your local drive. This option does not save the data but only the selections for the currently viewed result.

To retrieve a saved query, use the "Load Query" button from the Main Page.

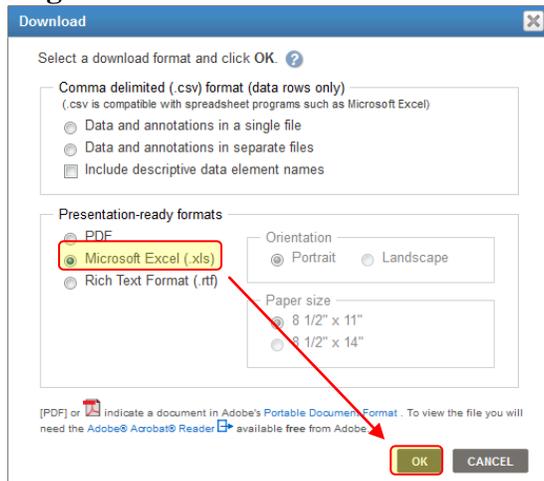
SAVE QUERY

CLOSE

Open the download window by clicking **Download** shown in Figure 21. Select **Microsoft Excel (.xls)** as the Presentation-ready formats. Click **OK** to begin the download process.

There is another way to create comma delimited (.csv) files, these types of files come in a very different format that is designed for data analysts and Graphic Information Systems (GIS) users. There is an option to **Include descriptive data element names**, which does not matter if you are creating a Microsoft Excel (.xls) file.

Figure 23



The excel file will have the same estimates and a similar setup as the web browser.

Figure 24

Subject	Census Tract 219.01. Wood County, Ohio				Census Tract 219.02. Wood County, Ohio			
	Estimate	Margin of	Percent	Percent	Estimate	Margin of	Percent	Percent
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE								
Total households	1,540	+/-128	1,540	(X)	2,414	+/-235	2,414	(X)
Family households (families)	1,025	+/-129	66.6%	+/-8.5	889	+/-212	36.8%	+/-8.0
With own children under 18 years	372	+/-117	24.2%	+/-7.6	457	+/-195	18.9%	+/-7.5
Married-couple family	896	+/-117	58.2%	+/-8.3	485	+/-154	20.1%	+/-6.4
With own children under 18 years	313	+/-108	20.3%	+/-7.1	154	+/-110	6.4%	+/-4.5
Male householder, no wife present	42	+/-41	2.7%	+/-2.6	55	+/-39	2.3%	+/-1.6
With own children under 18 years	0	+/-11	0.0%	+/-1.9	26	+/-30	1.1%	+/-1.2
Female householder, no husband	67	+/-51	6.8%	+/-3.2	349	+/-172	14.5%	+/-6.7
With own children under 18 years	59	+/-38	3.8%	+/-2.4	277	+/-165	11.5%	+/-6.5
Nonfamily households	515	+/-151	33.4%	+/-8.5	1,525	+/-242	63.2%	+/-8.0
Householder living alone	397	+/-122	25.8%	+/-7.3	852	+/-222	35.3%	+/-8.1
65 years and over	143	+/-78	9.3%	+/-5.0	144	+/-76	6.0%	+/-3.0

4. Interpreting Numbers

In this section we are going to discuss how to use the information to create statistics you can use to interpret the numbers. When using estimates that tell you the number of people in a certain category you have to convert them into proportions and percentages if you want to compare between different areas. Take for instance the poverty rate of two adjacent Census Tracts using Table B17021 - POVERTY STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT (obtained in section 3 of this tutorial). In the example below (figure 25), we have Tract 219.01 which includes parts of Bowling Green, OH that are West of Main Street and we have Tract 219.02 which includes parts of Bowling Green, OH that are East of Main Street.

Figure 25

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

	Census Tract 219.01,		Census Tract 219.02,	
	Estimate	Margin of	Estimate	Margin of
Total:	3,723	+/-392	5,301	+/-652
Income in the past 12 months below	193	+/-124	2,401	+/-601
In family households:	87	+/-84	508	+/-270
In married couple families:	0	+/-11	134	+/-120
All relatives	0	+/-11	88	+/-97
Non-relatives	0	+/-11	46	+/-71
In other families:	87	+/-84	374	+/-247
Male householder, no wife present:	0	+/-11	31	+/-50
All relatives	0	+/-11	31	+/-50
Non-relatives	0	+/-11	0	+/-16
Female householder, no husband	87	+/-84	343	+/-239
All relatives	87	+/-84	343	+/-239
Non-relatives	0	+/-11	0	+/-16
In non-family households and other	106	+/-90	1,893	+/-581
Householder:	51	+/-43	807	+/-231
Living alone	30	+/-26	354	+/-183
Not living alone	21	+/-33	453	+/-182
Other living arrangement	55	+/-77	1,086	+/-425
Income in the past 12 months at or	3,530	+/-391	2,900	+/-573
In family households:	2,984	+/-458	1,783	+/-572
In married couple families:	2,700	+/-452	1,206	+/-481
All relatives	2,700	+/-452	1,206	+/-481
Non-relatives	0	+/-11	0	+/-16
In other families:	284	+/-164	577	+/-336
Male householder, no wife present:	157	+/-127	116	+/-110
All relatives	157	+/-127	103	+/-98
Non-relatives	0	+/-11	13	+/-21
Female householder, no husband	127	+/-100	461	+/-311

Let's suppose we want to know the poverty rate in each Census Tract. To do that, we need to identify our numerator and our denominator. For the numerator, we need to find the category that describes people who are in poverty, which is 'Income in the past 12 months below poverty level:'. For the denominator, we find the category describing the total population, which is 'Total:'. For Tract 219.01, the number of people in poverty is 193 and the number of people that poverty is measured for is 3723 so the poverty rate is $(193 / 3723) = 5.2$ for every 100 persons or 5.2%. In 219.02, the percent in poverty is 45.3% which is calculated by dividing 2,401 by 5,301.

The poverty rate in one tract is certainly higher. However, this could be the case because Tract 219.02 has a noticeably higher percent of people that are 18 to 24 years old, attending college, and having low income.

In making a statistic to compare between different areas it helps to pay attention to the indentation of the tables. Each indentation in each category indicates that the estimate is a part of a larger category. Take for instance the number of people in poverty that are in family households in Census Tract 219.02; 134 people in poverty are in married-couple family households, while 374 people in poverty are in other types of family households. When you add 134 and 374, you get the number of people in family households that are also in poverty which is 508.

This completes the tutorial on how to use American FactFinder. With this, you should now have the basic tools you need to search for data on specific topics, locate information on regions of interest, be able to download the data you searched for, and turn these data into percentages and proportions for comparison purposes. Good luck in your analyses!