

AMERICAN FACTFINDER – QUICK TIPS

American FactFinder provides access to a number of US Census Bureau data products including the 1990 and 2000 Censuses of Population and Housing, the Economic Census, the American Community Survey, etc.

4 Main points of entry:

1.) Start with Basic Facts

Use this if you need a general overview.

Alabama State	
Under 1 year	45,427 2,226
1 and 2 years	181,238 29,146
3 and 4 years	165,238 2,493
5 years	55,218 12,940
6 years	43,524 13,622

The Population and Housing (QT) is good to use for assignments where you need to answer a bunch of basic questions (population, age, sex, etc.). If you need to answer a question regarding a census tract, then you need to use the *Data Sets* box.

- This will allow you to access some basic reports based on the geographic level you select.
- Not all geographic levels are available.
- Restricted to a subset of variables.
- Includes Quick Tables (QT) and Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT). Geographic Comparison Tables allow you to compare several geographic areas.
- Can't access Quick Tables below the place level. This means you can't use Quick Tables to access census tract, block group or block data.
- Geographic Comparison Tables will allow you to compare census tracts, but only for pre-selected subjects.

2.) Search

Use this if you don't know where to start or if you are having trouble finding your subject.

Search

keyword

geography

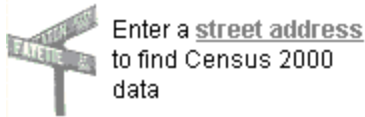
Go

If you are not sure where to start you can type in basic keywords into this box. This option should lead you to the correct table numbers, reports, etc.

Example) if you don't know where to find information on marital status, you can type marital status in the box and it will list the reports that include information on your subject.

3.) Street Address

Use this if you are doing research based on a street address.



If you are doing a profile of your neighborhood (or any other place for which you have a street address) this is the easiest option to use.

4.) Data Sets

Gives you the most flexibility. Use this if you need to tailor your selections or know exact table number/variable you need. You also need to use this if you want tract level data.



- Click on the Go button
- On the next page choose the data set you are interested in.
- Once you click the button for your data set, a box will appear on the right of the screen. From this box you have the option of choosing:

Detailed Tables – You will be prompted to choose the geographic level and then your table/subject.

Geographic Comparison Tables – Choose your geographic level and then select one of the preformatted tables.

Quick Tables -- Choose your geographic level and then select one of the pre-formatted tables.

Thematic Maps – Choose your geographic level and then select a thematic map.

Reference Maps – Allows you to create your own map.

Enter a table number – Use this if you already know your table number

List all tables – Choose the table you are interested in from a list.

List all maps – Lists all of the available maps.

**** If you are interested in a specific topic, then you need to choose Detailed Tables or List all tables.****

- After you select one of the options, you will be taken to another screen.
- On the next screen(s) you will be prompted by FactFinder to make a series of geographic or subject selections. Make each selection as prompted.
- When you are finished making selections, click on the **Show Table** button to see your results. Depending on where you are, you may be prompted with a **Next** or **Go** button.
- Once you have your final results you can print or download. The menus for this are in the upper right of the screen.
 - Printing will print what is on the screen
 - Downloading will give you the option of saving your file in a comma or tab delimited format. This will allow you to import the table into other software packages such as Microsoft Excel.

****If you need more assistance, please ask at the Reference Desk.****

How do I find my census tract or block number?

To find your census tract or block number:

- 1.) Click on the Street Address icon on the left side of FactFinder's main page. Enter your street address. A list of geographies displays.

The standard format of a Census 2000 tract number is 4 digits followed by a 2-digit suffix (e.g., 9702.12). However, FactFinder drops leading and following zeros for ease of display -- therefore, Census Tract 0007.00, for example, becomes Census Tract 7. Keep in mind that to uniquely identify a location, a census tract and block number must be used along with the county and state name (e.g., Block 3012, Census Tract 1042.01, Los Angeles County, California).

How do I find all the census tracts in my town or city?

To identify all the census tracts for a geographic area:

- 1.) Click the Data Sets button on the main page.
- 2.) Click 'Census 2000 Summary File 1' and then, 'Detailed Tables'.
- 3.) In the Select a geographic type bullet, click the 'show all geography types' box. Then, in the drop-down box, select 'Census tract (or part)' under the State, Place, County, Census Tract (or part) path.
- 4.) FactFinder will prompt you for more information.

Hillman Library has additional resources that can help you located census tract numbers. Ask at the Reference Desk for assistance.

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