Mapping Census Data with American FactFinder 2

What is American FactFinder 2? American FactFinder 2 is a search engine that provides access to the population, housing and economic data collected by the Census Bureau. American FactFinder 2 can be used to retrieve data from the 2000 and 2010 Census, American Community Surveys (ACS), Population Estimates and the Economic Census and Surveys. Some of the data from these programs may not be available for rural communities.


2. Identify the data that you wish to map:
   a. Select the date of the data of interest by selecting Topics and then Year. Choose the appropriate year of the data to be mapped.
   b. Select the Geography of interest. To map areas within a state, select the State and then the name of the state.
   c. Only data in geographic comparison tables (GCT) can be mapped. To find a GCT on a topic, enter the words Geographic Comparison Table in the search box. A list of tables available for the chosen geographic area will be presented. Select the table which matches the topic of interest by clicking in the check box beside the table.
   d. Once a table has been selected, the word View at the top of the page becomes active. Click View. The table will appear.

3. When the table appears, click on Create a Map. The items in the data table will become active (hyperlinked). Click on one of the numbers. A message will appear showing the data that has been selected for the map. To view the map, click on Show Map. To change the variable to be mapped, click on Cancel.

4. Sometimes, long tables will not become hyperlinked when Create a Map is clicked; the table must be modified before a map can be produced. Click on Modify Table. A series of check boxes appear next to the Geographic Areas and in each data column. All of the boxes will be checked. Select the geographic areas and the data of interest by clicking in the check box next to the areas and topics that should not be mapped. Then click Hide Table Tools. The data table will appear without the items that were deselected. (The table can be restored by clicking on Modify Table and Reset Table.) Click on Create a Map. Hopefully, the items in the data table will become active (hyperlinked). Click on one of the numbers. A message will appear showing the data that has been selected for the map. To view the map, click on Show Map. To change the variable to be mapped, click on Cancel.

5. Several tools appear at the top of the map window. Click on the Identify tool and then click on one of the geographic features in the map. A new window will open showing information and data about that feature.
Mapping Census Data with the 2010 Census Mapping Web Site

American Factfinder 2 offers users the option to map data on a wide variety of topics, but it is not very user friendly. 2010 Census data can be mapped with another web site: http://2010.census.gov. This site can be used to search for and map data.

1. Connect to the http://2010.census.gov web site. At the left side of the page, users are offered several options: Population Finder, Interactive Map or Census Briefs and Reports. Click on the words Interactive Population Map under Interactive Map.

2. The Census 2010 Interactive Population Map will appear. It shows the top 5 states by population (Illinois is one of them). At the top of the mapping window are 5 buttons with different themes: Population, Race, Ethnicity, Age / Sex and Household. Click on one of these buttons (not all themes are ready at this time, so just use Population).

3. The next window is the 2010 Census Portrait of America, which asks the user to input the name of a city and state of interest (a state name can also be input). It is also possible to close the selection window and select data interactively using the map.

4. When using the interactive selection method, data for the selected topic for all states will be rendered at first. To select a state from the map, move the map around to center the state in the box that appears when clicking on the map. It will be possible to change the data theme by clicking on the tab at the top of the map (not ready yet) or the geography by clicking on the appropriate geography in the Geographic Levels menu above the legend at the left side of the map. Data can be mapped at the following geographic levels:

   a. American Indiana & Alaska Native Areas  
   b. Congressional Districts  
   c. County / Municipio  
   d. County Subdivision (township)  
   e. Place  
   f. Census Tract  
   g. Census Block Group  
   h. Census Block

5. Information and data about a given geographic area can be viewed by moving the cursor around over the map. When an individual geographic area is selected by clicking on it, the data for that area will be shown. Users are also offered the option to zoom in to that area, compare data for that area with another area, or print information about that area. To compare data between two areas on the map, click on a second area. It is also possible to change the geographic level and display comparative data for a smaller and larger area, such as a Census tract and County.