

Applied Demography Conference

# ACS Online Community

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[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)

# Overview

- Background:
  - What is the American Community Survey?
  - About the ACS Data Users Group and the Online Community
- Features:
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  - ACS Resources
  - Webinars
  - Conferences

# Overview

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  - Threads and Replies
  - Page Views
  - Response Rates
  - Top Discussion Forum Topics
- Site Upgrade
- Get Involved
  - Who Can Join?
  - How to Become a Member

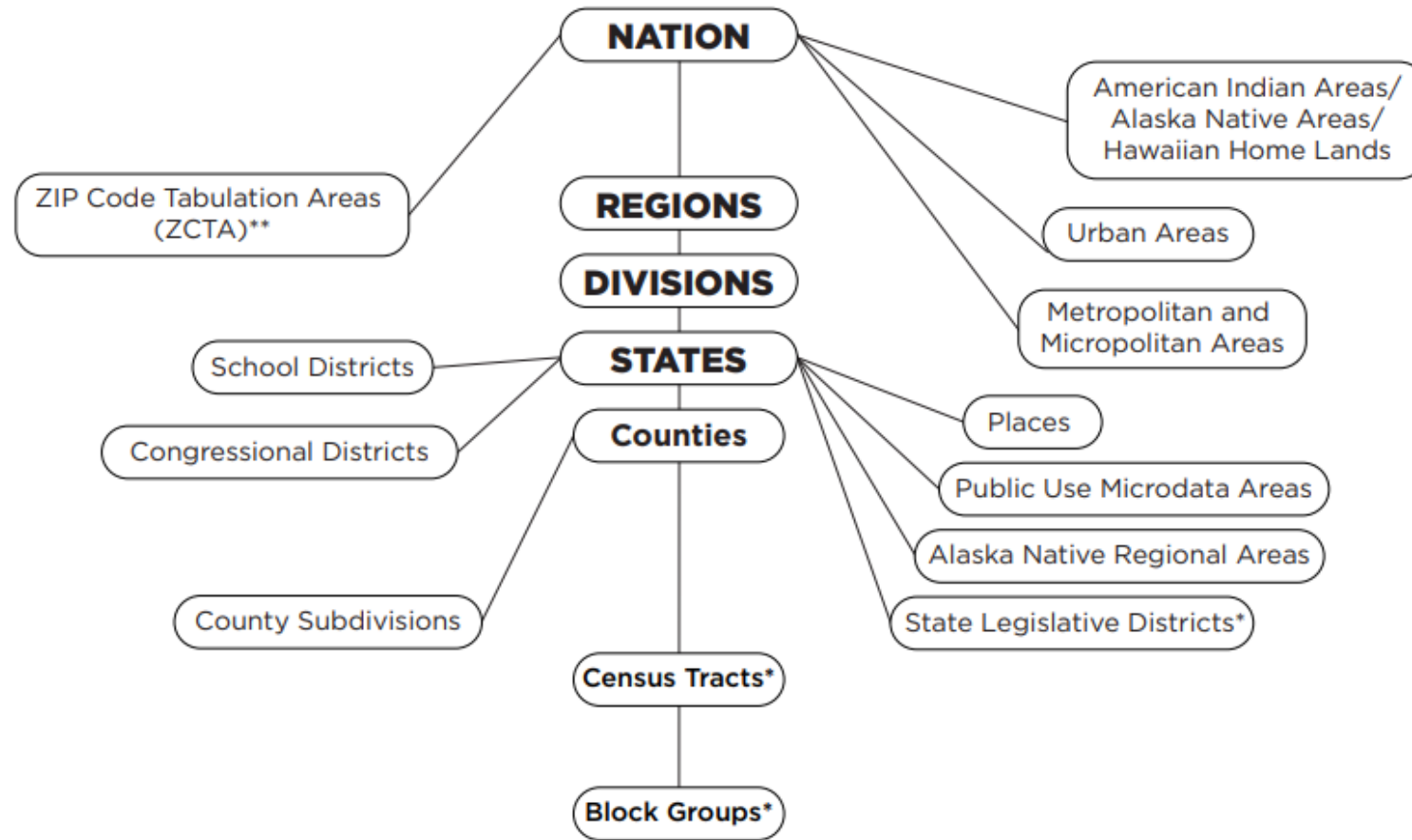
SECTION 1

# Background

# Background: What is the American Community Survey?

- Topics:
  - Social (Educational attainment, language spoken at home, veteran status, etc.)
  - Economic (Poverty status, health insurance coverage, place of work, etc.)
  - Housing (Computer and internet use, occupancy/vacancy status, tenure (owner/renter), etc.)
  - Demographic (Age and sex, race, relationship to householder, total population, etc.)
- Data Products Released Every Year:
  - 1-year
  - 1-year Supplemental
  - 5-year
  - Tables, Summary File, PUMS

# Background: Geographies



# Background

- About the ACS Data Users Group and the Online Community:
  - In partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) maintains an American Community Survey (ACS) Data Users Group.
  - The ACS Online Community is a site where members can share messages, materials, and announcements related to ACS data, methods, and events.
  - Membership in the group is free and open to all interested ACS data users.
  - The group is led by a Steering Committee representing a broad spectrum of ACS data users with different interests.



SECTION 2

# Features



# Features: Home page



# Features: Discussion forum

## Minority-Owned Businesses



● **Robin DiSalvo** 75.112.118.90 7 days ago

Does anyone know where/how I can pull stats for minority-owned businesses? I found this excerpt below from the U.S. Census, but cannot find the data:

The U.S. Census Bureau today released [new estimates](#) on the characteristics of employer businesses. According to the 2022 [Annual Business Survey](#) (ABS), which covers reference year 2021, there were approximately 5.9 million employer firms in total, of which, 1.2 million (21%) were **minority-owned**, 304,823 (5.2%) were veteran-owned, and around 1.3 million (22%) were owned by women.

Thanks,

Robin

Reply

Like

More

Oldest

Votes

Newest



● **David Dorer** 209.6.146.78 7 days ago

There is an API <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs.html>

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs/data.html>

## Related Forum Threads



how do you define "minority"?

*I'm curious how others in this g...*

5 replies

540 subscribers

732 views

1 member is here

annual estimates

Business

Mute

Feature

Share

Manage subscriptions

# Features: Discussion forum

## Federal Register Notice-Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Test



● **Gretchen Gooding** 148.129.129.156 4 months ago

On September 19, 2023, the Census Bureau released a *Federal Register* notice, soliciting comments on the “[American Community Survey Methods Panel Test: 2024 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Test](#).” The notice, published with a 60-day comment period, requests feedback from interested parties on the testing plans for the American Community Survey. The Census Bureau proposes to test question wording, response categories, and placement of sexual orientation and gender identity questions on the survey. Responses to this *Federal Register* notice will assist the Census Bureau in making final design decisions for the upcoming test.



● **Mark Mather** 75.75.135.52 over 2 years ago

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau is changing the 2020 ACS release schedule. Instead of providing the standard 1-year data products, the Census Bureau will release a series of experimental estimates from the 1-year data no later than November 30th. This will include a limited number of data tables for the nation, states, and District of Columbia.

Census Bureau staff have posted several resources to help data users prepare for this change on an [Experimental Data web](#)

# Features: ACS Resources

## Census Bureau Resources

- [About the American Community Survey](#)
- [ACS Information Guide](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau's ACS website](#)
- [Data.census.gov](#)
  - [data.census.gov Resources](#)
- [Guidance for ACS Data Users](#)
- [ACS Training Presentations](#)
- [ACS Handbooks for Data Users](#)
- [ACS Documentation](#)
- [ACS Methodology](#)
- [Geography and the ACS](#)
- [Publications and Working Papers](#)
- [API Developers](#)
- [ACS Data User GitHub](#)

## PRB Resources

- [Join the ACS Online Community](#)
- [ACS Online Community Tutorial](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Conference Presentations](#)
- [Data 101 Videos on the ACS](#)

## ACS Handbooks for Data Users

[Understanding and Using ACS Data: What All Data Users Need to Know](#)



- [What Congress Needs to Know](#)
- [What Puerto Rico Community Survey Data Users Need to Know](#)
- [What ACS Public Use Microdata Sample File Users Need to Know](#)
- [What Researchers Need to Know](#)
- [What Users of the Census Data API Need to Know](#)
- [What Journalists Need to Know](#)
- [Geography and the American Community Survey](#)
- [What ACS Summary File Data Users Need to Know](#)
- [What Users of Data for Rural Areas Need to Know](#)
- [What Users of Data for Amer. Indians and Alaska Natives Need to Know](#)

# Features: Webinars

## Archived PRB webinars

- [How to Access and Use Newly Released ACS State Legislative District Data](#), March 16, 2023
- [Disaggregating ACS Data by Race and Ethnicity](#), September 20, 2022
- [Accessing American Indian and Alaska Native Data from the ACS: Opportunities and Challenges](#), June 9, 2022
- [Understanding the New ACS Summary File Format](#), June 2, 2022
- [Visualizing American Community Survey \(ACS\) Data](#), May 26, 2022
- [Proposed Format Change to Simplify the ACS Summary File](#), October 28, 2020
- [ACS Operations Update and Data User Applications in Response to the Pandemic](#), June 25, 2020
- [Introduction to the American Community Survey](#), May 8, 2019
- [Preparing for Census 2020: Resources for Local Communities](#), March 13, 2018

## Recent Census Bureau webinars

- [Using the American Community Survey Summary File](#), September 28, 2022
- [Introduction to the American Community Survey](#), August 24, 2022

# Features: Conferences



## 2023 ACS DATA USERS CONFERENCE

Over 700 ACS data users attended the 2023 ACS Data Users Conference, which was held on May 16-18, 2023.

The conference program is posted below. To view PDF versions of the presentations, click on the links in the "Presentation Title(s)" column. Video recordings of the breakout and plenary sessions are posted on [PRB's YouTube channel](#), or you can click the "Video" links in the conference program below.

If you have questions about the ACS Conference, please contact Diana Elliott ([delliott@prb.org](mailto:delliott@prb.org)) or Mark Mather ([mmather@prb.org](mailto:mmather@prb.org)).

### 2023 ACS Data Users Conference Program

#### Tuesday, May 16

Session Title	Time (EDT)	Presenter(s)	Presentation Title(s)
Registration / Networking	9:30 AM-10:30 AM		
<a href="#">Welcome/ Introduction (Video)</a>	10:30 AM-10:45 AM	Diana Elliott, PRB; and Donna Daily, U.S. Census Bureau	

#### 2023 ACS Conference Links

[Conference Planning Committee](#)

#### Previous Conference Presentations and Videos

[2021 ACS Data Users Conference](#)

[2019 ACS Data Users Conference](#)

[2017 ACS Data Users Conference](#)

[2015 ACS Data Users Conference](#)

[2014 ACS Data Users Conference](#)

[2014 ACS Workshop: Benefits and Challenges of the ACS](#)

[Sessions at Professional Meetings](#)

#### Not a Member? Join the ACS Online Community

[Join](#) the American Community Survey (ACS) Online Community, where people can share messages, materials, and announcements related to ACS data, methods, and

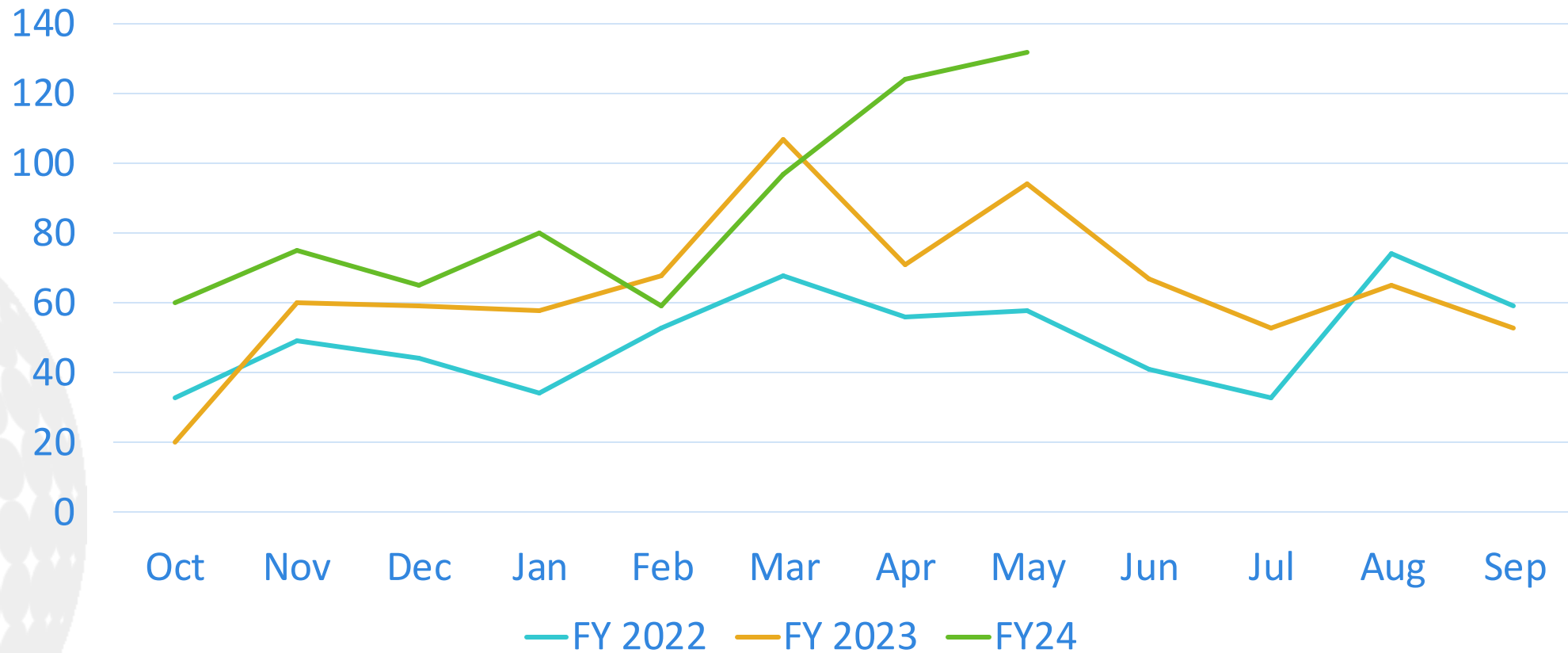
SECTION 3

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# Statistics

# Statistics: Over 5,600 Members

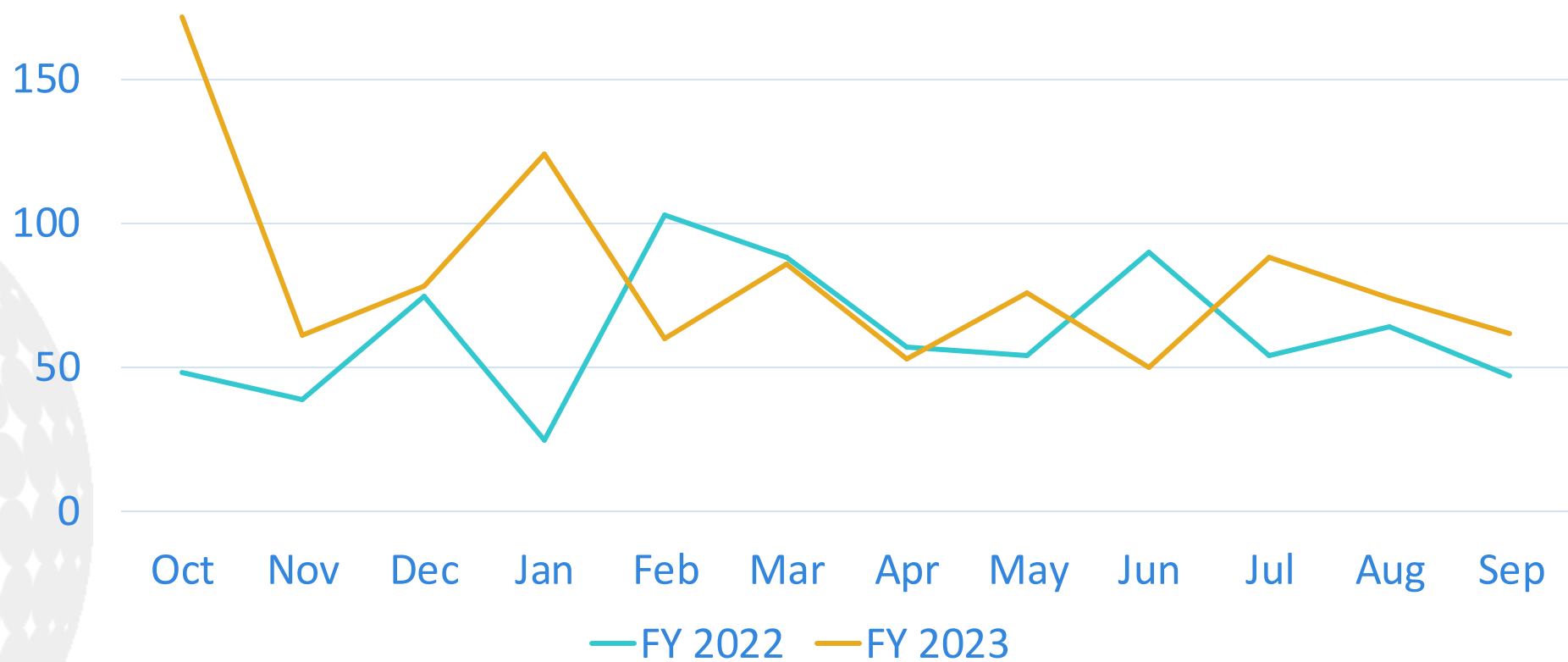
New ACS Online Community Members, by Month, FY 2022-2023



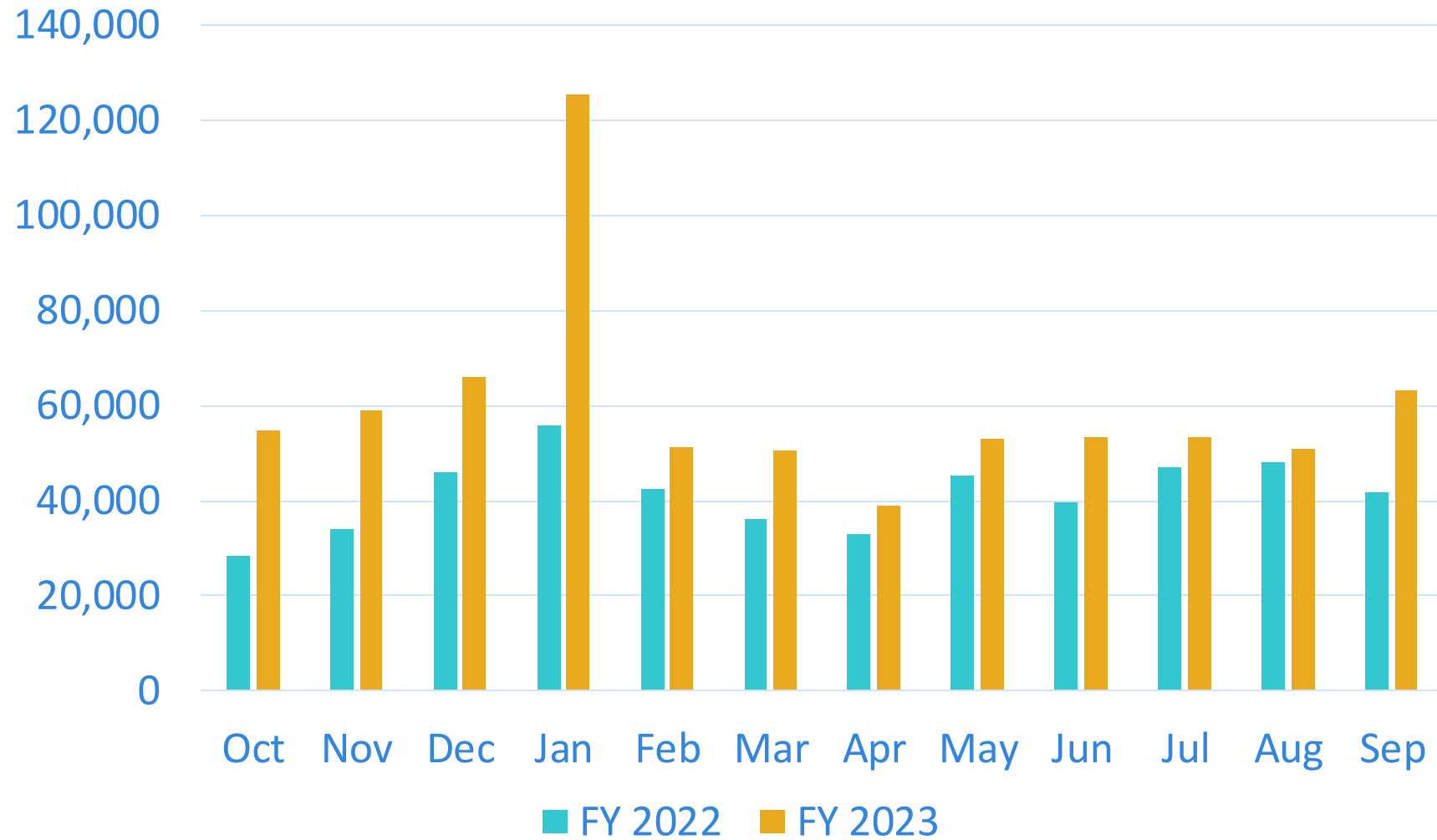


# Statistics: Discussion Forum Threads and Replies

New Forum Threads and Replies, by Month, FY 2022-2023



# Statistics: Page Views



# Statistics: Response Rate for Discussion Forum Posts\*

	FY22	FY23
Within 1 day	61%	58%
Within 3 days	65%	68%
Within 7 days	67%	72%

\* Includes announcements that may not solicit a response

# Statistics: Top-10 Discussion Topics in the ACS Online Community Based on Total (All-Time) Views

Discussion Topic	Views
Calculate MOE on aggregate percentages	98,077
ACS data download at zip code level	55,630
ACS 2013 5-year data available in MS Access 2007	29,695
Geography file change?	28,257
Zip Code Median Income Data	27,146
List of census tracts associated with Central Business Districts (CBD)	26,765
Calculating MOEs from derived ACS estimates	25,072
Unemployment Rate by Census Tract	23,946
Census Bureau plans to stop production of 3-year ACS data	20,507
2020 Census Data by Zip Code	17,572



SECTION 4

# Site Upgrade

# Site Upgrade: Home Page



Q Search for topics, people, or keywords

Log in

Sign Up

Home

Discussion Forum

ACS Resources

Webinars

Conferences

Welcome to the

## American Community Survey Data Users Group

online community

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# Site Upgrade: Discussion Forum



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


Home Discussion Forum ACS Resources Webinars ▾ Conferences More ▾

 David Nelson • 2 months ago


**Small area estimation and the Census Supplemental Poverty Measure** [1 reply](#) [116 views](#)

Submit a Post +

 Turn Forum notifications off

 AG • 2 months ago

**create civilian non-institutionalized sample from Census beta analysis tool** [0 replies](#) [93 views](#)

 Bookmark this forum

 Brandon Eubank • 2 months ago

**Finding the best variable characteristics** [5 replies](#) [408 views](#)

Browse by Topic

ACS basics (209)

PUMS (165)

ACS (164)

Small area data (133)

 Bert Sperling • 2 months ago



SECTION 5

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# Get Involved



# Get Involved: Who Can Join?

- Why join the ACS Data Users Group Online Community?
  - You do not need to be a member to view the ACS Data Users Group Online Community, however, you must become a member to create, comment, and upvote discussion forum threads.
  - Create custom email notifications to be alerted to new threads and comments on your discussion forum threads. Email notifications are completely optional.
  - Bookmark discussion forum threads.
- Who can join?
  - Anyone who is interested in learning more about ACS data.
  - Membership is free. Signing up takes just a few minutes.

# Get Involved: How to Become a Member



Q Search for topics, people, or keywords

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Sign Up

[Home](#)

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## American Community Survey Data Users Group

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# Get Involved: How to Become a Member

## Sign Up

Username

Email Address

Are you affiliated with (mark all that apply):

- A federal agency
- A state government agency
- A local government agency
- A private nonprofit organization
- A private for-profit organization
- A college or university
- A metropolitan or regional planning agency
- Other

Other Affiliations

Which comes closest to describing your level of KNOWLEDGE about the ACS?

Which comes closest to describing HOW OFTEN you use ACS data?

Register

Already a member? [Log in here](#)

A large, modern conference room with a high ceiling and recessed lighting. Numerous people are seated at round tables covered with white tablecloths, engaged in conversations. In the background, a large presentation screen displays a slide with the text "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT" and "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PURPOSE". The room has a clean, professional atmosphere.

**We look forward to your  
engagement! We are open to  
your feedback and  
suggestions.**



# Thank You

Lillian Kilduff

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[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)