

# New ACS Summary File Format

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## The Foundation

- Quick introduction to the ACS Summary File
- Overview of the new format
- Example program of the new format
- Resources
- Questions

## **The ACS Summary File:**

- is a set of comma-delimited text files that contain all of the ACS Detailed Tables
- 3 files: estimates, margins of error, and geography files
- found in the FTP site, accessible through the Summary File Data page

## **The problem with the current format:**

- confusing for data users
- extra work for ACS staff to support two different deliveries

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## Overview of the New Format - General

### **Proposed change:**

- ACS Summary File will now be one delivery
- Split by table ID (no longer split by state and sequence number)
- Therefore – 1 file for each table containing estimates, MOEs, for all geographies

### **Benefits of the change:**

- For Data Users:
  - Estimates and margins of error for each table are combined into one file
  - All geography identifiers and labels combined into one file
  - Simplified documentation
- For Census Bureau:
  - Save time and resources

**The new format is a beta version only.**

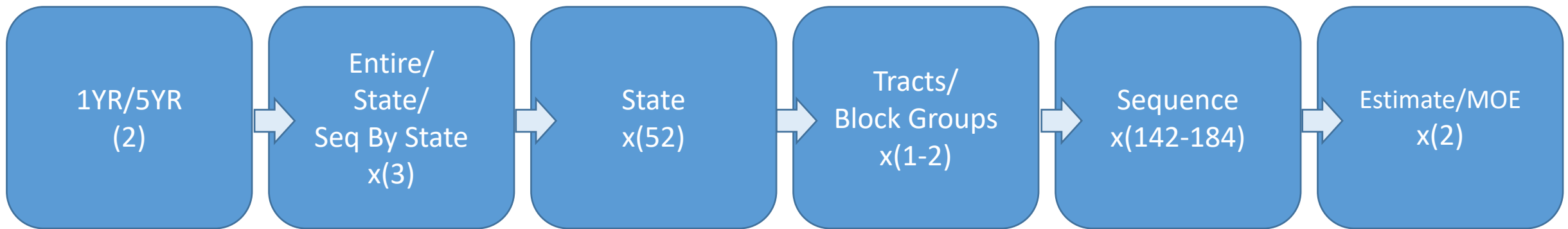
**The beta version will be released in parallel with the regular 2020 ACS Summary File production file this September.**

**There are no changes for the regular 2019 ACS Summary File production file itself planned at this time, and it is not a final decision for the 2020 ACS Summary File.**

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## Overview of the New Format - Detailed

### ACS Produces over 140,000 files for the summary file each year

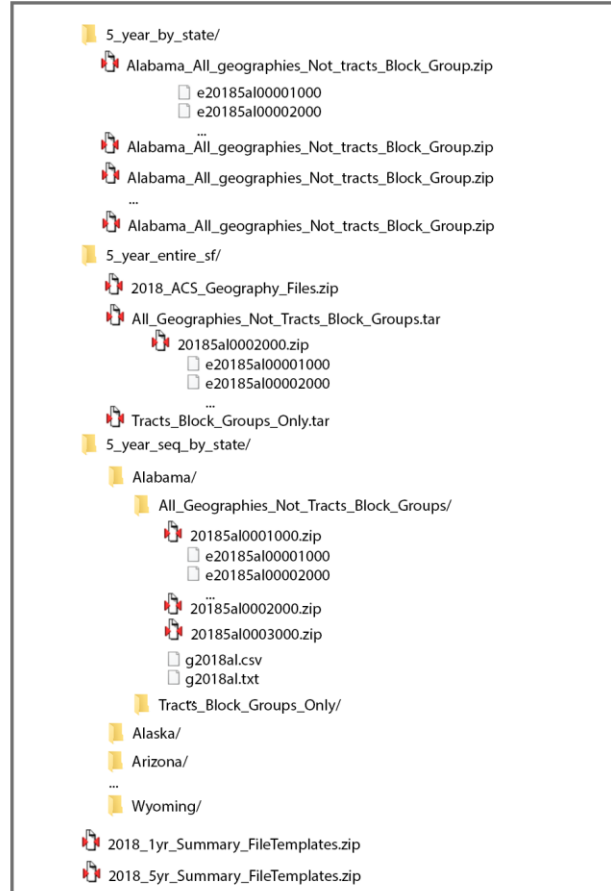


[https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary\\_file/2018/data/](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary_file/2018/data/)

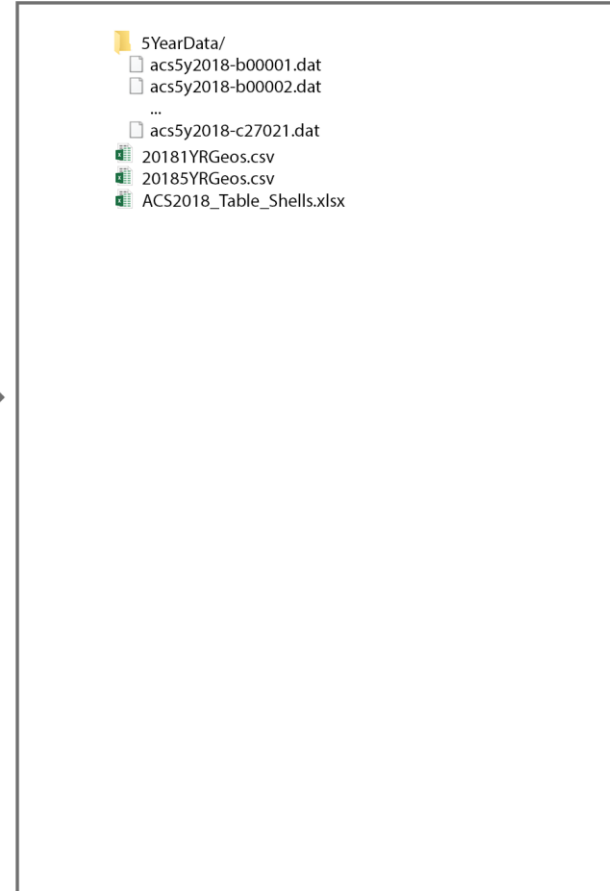
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## Overview of the New Format - Detailed

Current Summary File



Proposed Summary File



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## Overview of the New Format - Detailed

Figure 2.7. Excerpt of Estimate File for the State of Maryland

ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000001,	2804022,2389014,2135024,253990,192590,33311,28089,153222,
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000002,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000003,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000004,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000005,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000006,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000007,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000008,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000009,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000010,	
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000011,	31785,705,4331,5034,6434,4416,22
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000012,	291454,264734,240994,23740,17901,3456,2383,4263,3555,288,8
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000013,	368593,319033,286262,32771,27160,3310,2301,19414,17889,0,1
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000014,	22253,389,2457,4225,3781,3494,74
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000015,	55677,1577,5974,8536,8636,7698,4
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000016,	33645,1616,2924,5013,4548,6590,2
ACSSF,2017e1,md,000,0038,0000017,	41962,352,2464,7056,5652,5320,32

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 ACS Summary File, e2017lmd0038000.txt, <[https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary\\_file/2017/data/1\\_year\\_seq\\_by\\_state/Maryland/](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/summary_file/2017/data/1_year_seq_by_state/Maryland/)>.



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## Overview of the New Format - Detailed

### B01001A: SEX By AGE (WHITE ALONE) 2019 5YR

1	GEO_ID B01001A_E001 B01001A_M001 B01001A_E002 B01001A_M002 B01001A_E003 B01001A_M003 B01001A_E004 B01001A_M004 B01001A_E005 B01001A_M005
2	0100000US 235377662 54551 116386410 31478 6701950 6505 6827736 13962 7235
3	0100001US 180906078 85003 88897800 46521 5242515 8449 5223241 14032 54861
4	0100043US 54471584 53222 27488610 27855 1459435 5896 1604495 6508 1749205
5	0100089US 376742 3463 191867 1979 9732 454 9869 400 10943 465 6757 362 40
6	0100090US 129 45 57 23 7 10 2 4 3 6 0 12 0 12 4 6 4 6 8 10 5 5 6 9 10 9 8
7	0100091US 1867761 2545 923787 1654 53899 451 55744 974 58507 814 35409 34
8	0100092US 41057 378 19764 296 865 107 817 75 895 78 607 66 255 37 748 76
9	0100093US 163701 1107 86241 606 5060 130 5103 270 5816 297 3285 100 1729
10	0100094US 591821 4432 291553 2623 18700 590 17789 758 18578 915 10848 434
11	0100095US 1436 146 669 81 15 12 19 13 8 8 11 13 0 24 26 14 19 12 57 19 11
12	01000A0US 219956016 54767 108660795 31559 6283467 6391 6380926 13640 6760
13	01000C0US 197069529 54468 97273680 30928 5639013 6031 5708748 13543 60536
14	01000C1US 65010664 41009 32570431 125727 1025700 19253 1800425 18027 1802026

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## Example SAS program of the New Format

```
12 /*-----ADD INPUT HERE -----*/
13 %let Table_ID =b01001;
14 %let State =ca;
15 %let Data_Dir =H:\Work\SAS programs\New Summary Files\Demo\1YRData;
16 %let Geo_File =H:\Work\SAS programs\New Summary Files\Demo\Geos20191YR.csv;
17 /*-----*/
18
19 libname out "H:\Work\SAS programs\New Summary Files\Demo\";
20
21 /** Import Data **/
22 proc import datafile = "&Data_Dir./acsdtly2019-&Table_ID..dat"
23     out = out.&Table_ID
24     dbms = dlm
25     replace;
26     getnames = yes;
27     delimiter = '|';
28     GUESSINGROWS=10000;
29 run;
```

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## Example SAS program of the New Format

```
31 /* import geography labels */
32 proc import datafile="&Geo_File"
33     out=Geos
34     dbms=csv
35     replace;
36     getnames=yes;
37     GUESSINGROWS=10000;
38 run;
39
40 /* merge data with geography labels and output */
41 proc sql;
42     create table out.&Table_ID as
43     select geo.name, tbl.*
44     from out.&Table_ID as tbl
45     left join Geos as geo
46     on tbl.GEO_ID =geo.DADSID
47     where geo.stusab = upcase("&State");
48 quit;
```

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## Example SAS program of the New Format

Excerpt of the Geos20191YR.csv

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	AW	AX	AY	AZ
1	FILEID	STUSAB	SUMLEVEL	COMPONE	LOGRECNO	US	REGION	GEOID	DADSID	NAME	BTTR
2	ACSSF	US	10	0	1	1		01000US	0100000US	United States	
3	ACSSF	US	10	1	2	1		01001US	0100001US	United States -- Urban	
4	ACSSF	US	10	43	3	1		01043US	0100043US	United States -- Rural	
5	ACSSF	US	10	89	4	1		01089US	0100089US	United States -- American Ir	
6	ACSSF	US	10	91	5	1		01091US	0100091US	United States -- Oklahoma	
7	ACSSF	US	10	93	6	1		01093US	0100093US	United States -- Alaska Nati	
8	ACSSF	US	10	94	7	1		01094US	0100094US	United States -- State Desig	

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## Example SAS program of the New Format

### Excerpt of the SAS output

	NAME	GEO_ID	B01001_E001	B01001_M001	B01001_E002	B01001_M002	B01001_E003	^
1	California	0400000US06	39512223	-555555555	19640794	6786	1215418	
2	California -- Urban	0400001US06	37384721	38006	18534519	22754	1155915	
3	California -- Rural	0400043US06	2127502	38006	1106275	21540	59503	
4	California -- In metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area	04000A0US06	39239334	-555555555	19501876	6732	1207625	
5	California -- In metropolitan statistical area	04000C0US06	38674939	-555555555	19216331	5685	1193995	
6	California -- In metropolitan statistical area -- in principal city	04000C1US06	18020496	3202	8961653	22423	551477	
7	California -- In metropolitan statistical area -- not in principal city	04000C2US06	20654443	3202	10254678	22316	642518	
8	California -- In micropolitan statistical area	04000E0US06	564395	-555555555	285545	2753	13630	
9	California -- In micropolitan statistical area -- in principal city	04000E1US06	149751	8033	77966	4718	2818	

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Resources and Feedback on the New Format

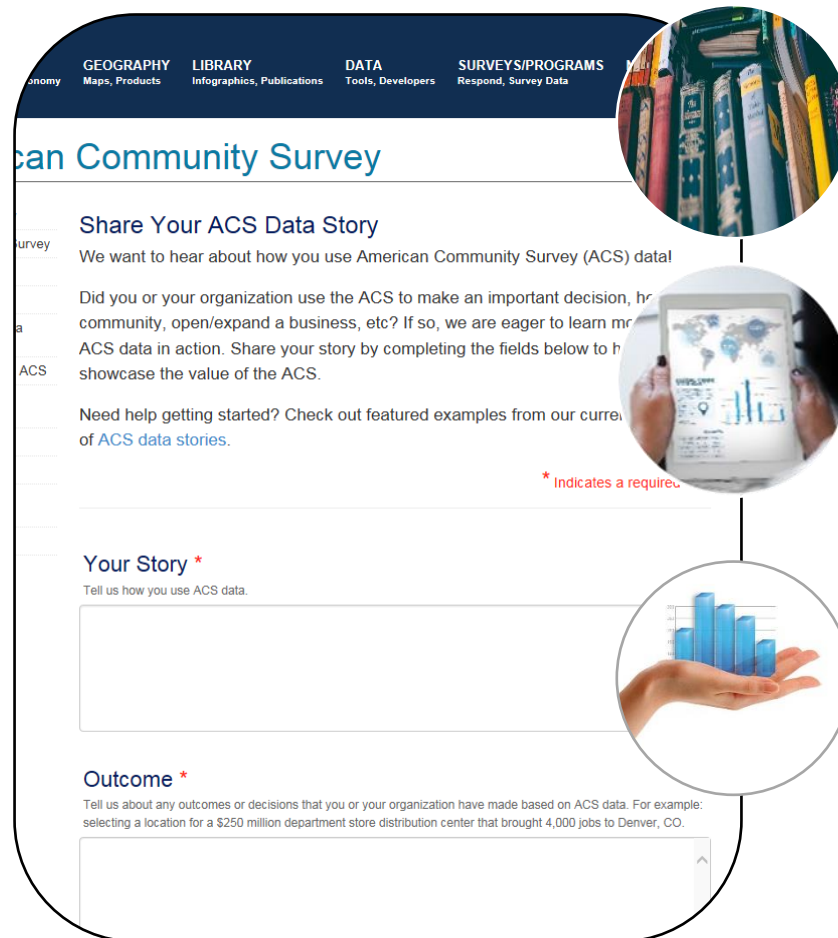
Access all necessary information on the Updates to the ACS Summary File webpage at:

[www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file](http://www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file)

To provide feedback, visit [census.gov/developers](https://census.gov/developers) and click the Slack icon. In slack, you will be able to provide feedback, ask questions, and share files/pictures of the SF data for assistance or feedback.

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## Data Tell Stories. Tell us Yours!



**Share Your ACS Data Story**

We want to hear about how you use American Community Survey (ACS) data!

Did you or your organization use the ACS to make an important decision, hire someone, open/expand a business, etc? If so, we are eager to learn more about your story and how you used ACS data in action. Share your story by completing the fields below to help us showcase the value of the ACS.

Need help getting started? Check out featured examples from our current collection of [ACS data stories](#).

\* Indicates a required field

**Your Story \***

Tell us how you use ACS data.

**Outcome \***

Tell us about any outcomes or decisions that you or your organization have made based on ACS data. For example: selecting a location for a \$250 million department store distribution center that brought 4,000 jobs to Denver, CO.

**Your story**

**Your data details**

**Your outcome**

# The American Community Survey Questions?

Questions?

Webpage link:

[www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file](http://www.census.gov/updates-acs-summary-file)