

DIY Exercises



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QuickFacts



Census.gov (middle of page -- U.S. map) > Select a state to begin

- Benefits: current data, easy access, variety of demographic and business topics
- Links to historic data (through "Browse data sets")
- Geographies: State, county, place
 - Incorporated city or town
 - Census Designated Place (CDP)
- Limitations: Population threshold of 5,000

1. **Use QuickFacts to find recent information on the city of *Mount Vernon* from a variety of data sources: the 2010 Census, the Population Estimates Program, the American Community Survey (ACS), and the 2007 Survey of Business Owners.**

(a) What was the 2014 population estimate for Mount Vernon? What was the percent population growth in Mount Vernon between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014?

(b) In 2010, what percent of Mount Vernon's population was Hispanic or Latino?

(c) In the period 2009-2013, what percent of Mount Vernon residents were foreign born?

Instructions:

Census.gov > (center page) QuickFacts > Select a state to begin = Washington
(Note that Washington and USA appear side by side for quick comparisons.)

Below the QuickFacts Beta box: Select a city = Mount Vernon (city) > Go
(Mount Vernon and Washington now appear side by side.)

Answer (a): The 2014 population estimate for Mount Vernon was 33,132. The population in Mount Vernon grew 4.3% between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014.

Answer (b): In 2010, the percent of Hispanic or Latino persons was 33.7%.

Answer (c): In the period 2009-2013, 16.3% were foreign born.

Click "*Browse data sets for Mount Vernon*" at top of data columns for more information.

Easy Stats

Census.gov > Data (blue ribbon) > Data Tools & Apps > Easy Stats

- Benefits: Topics all cross-tabulated by race and ethnicity
- Geographies: State, county, city
- Topics: financial (6 tables) , jobs (5), housing (3) , people (5), education (2)
- Limitations: Tables are pre-selected

2. How many Hispanic females 25 years and over in Skagit County had some college or an associate's degree? What is the margin of error for this estimate? What is the dataset? Is this a reliable estimate?

Census.gov > Data tab > Data Tools & Apps > Easy Stats

Select Geography = Washington > Refine by County

Please Choose (drop-down) = Skagit County, Washington > Choose a topic = Education

Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and Over > Get Results

Answer: 1,162 Hispanic females

Click checkbox below table, left side: Display Margin of Error

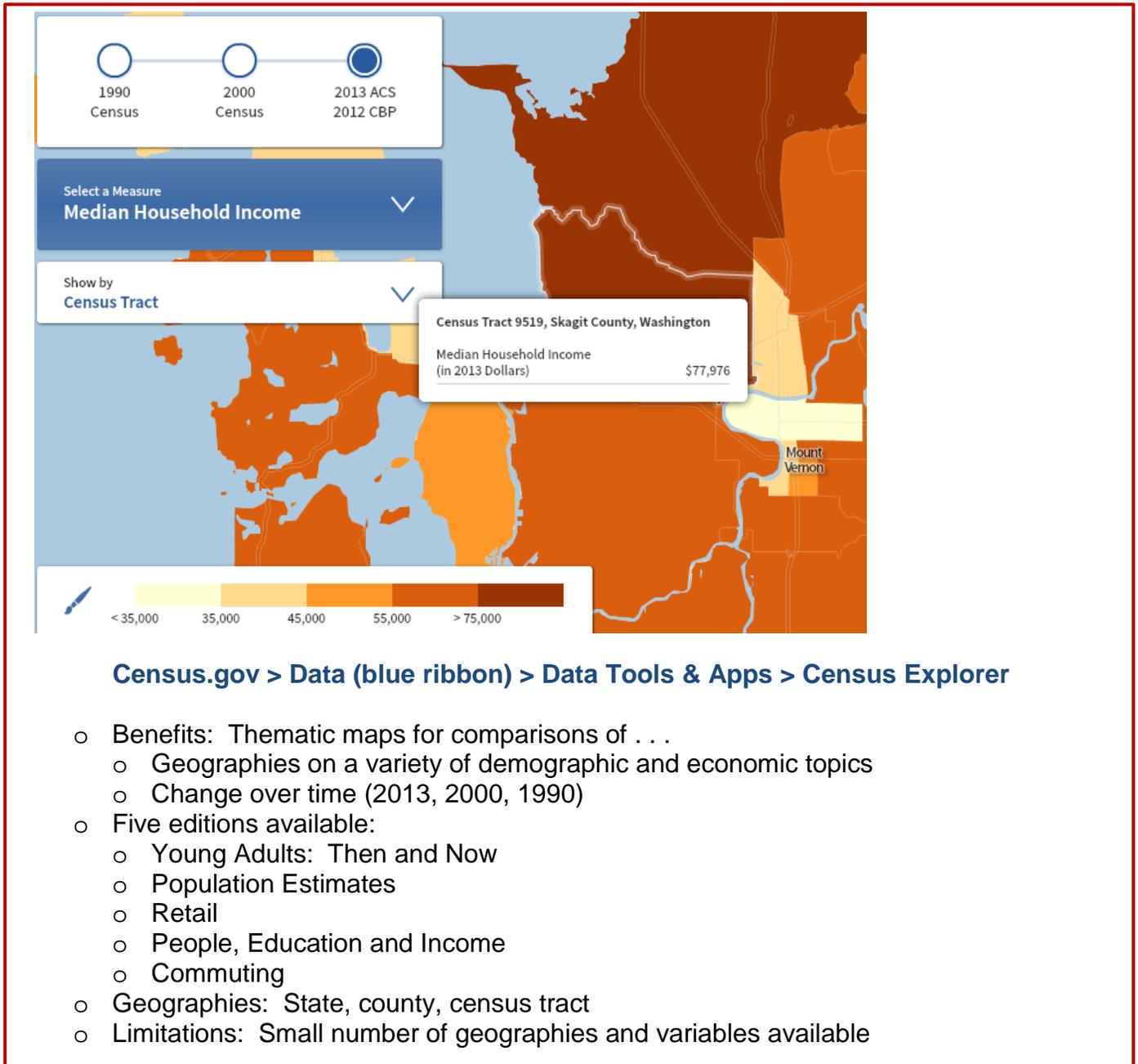
Answers: Margin of error is +/-238; dataset is 2009-2013 ACS 5-year estimates

Yes, this is a reliable estimate.

TIP: Calculate the relative margin of error (MOE), the MOE divided by the estimate

Example above: 238 divided by 1,162 equals 20.5%

Census Explorer



3. ***Make thematic maps of median household income by census tract in and around Skagit County, Washington: for 2013, 2000, and 1990.***

Census.gov > Data tab > Data Tools & Apps > Census Explorer

Census Explorer: People, Education and Income

(text box, upper right) skagit county, wa (highlight drop-down)

Select a Measure = Median Household Income (default) > Show by = Census Tract

Click “+” (upper right) to zoom in and move cursor to pan across map

Change dataset from 2013 5-year ACS to 2000 Census, then to 1990 Census

Population Finder

2010 Demographic Profile
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WA - Mount Vernon city

Population

Total Population	31,743
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Housing Status
(In housing units unless noted)

Total	12,058
Occupied	11,342
Owner-occupied	6,604
Population in owner-occupied (number of individuals)	17,689
Renter-occupied	4,738
Population in renter-occupied	13,415

Census.gov footer > FIND DATA column > Population Finder

- Benefits:
 - Many geographies available
 - Summary of 2010 Census Demographic Profile (100% count)
 - All-inclusive: No population threshold
- Geographies: State, county (minor civil divisions, census tract, block group, block), city, American Indian / Alaska Native area
- Limitations: Data now 5 years old

4. How do you find a summary of the 2010 Census Demographic Profile for the city of Mount Vernon? In 2010, how many of the 12,058 homes in Mount Vernon were vacant? How many were owner-occupied?

Instructions:

Census.gov (homepage) footer > (Find Data column) Population Finder
(Select a state . . .) Washington > Areas Within > (drop-down menu) Places > Search
(drop-down menu) Mount Vernon city > (box below) Display

Answer: 716 homes were vacant, and 6,604 were owner-occupied

American FactFinder Key Word Search: Data Profiles

DP03

SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

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	Mount Vernon city, Washington			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
EMPLOYMENT STATUS				
Population 16 years and over	23,692	+/-428	23,692	(X)
In labor force	14,566	+/-627	61.5%	+/-2.3
Civilian labor force	14,434	+/-631	60.9%	+/-2.3

Census.gov > Data (blue ribbon) > Data Tools & Apps > American FactFinder Advanced Search tab (continue instructions below)

- Benefits: Most popular product--four profiles with more than 450 topics
- Geographies: State, county, city, metro area, American Indian Reservation, census tract, ZIP code tabulation area
- Limitations: None noted

5. **Create the most current (2014) ACS Data Profiles for Skagit County, WA**

On the blue menu bar (below the American FactFinder logo), select Advanced Search

Easiest method to get data profiles: Use the two key word text boxes

(left side: topic or table name) > enter data profile

(right side—state, county or place) > enter skagit county, washington

(On the type-ahead drop-down menu, you may highlight Skagit County, Washington)

Click GO to move your selections to the Your Selections box (upper left of page)

The ACS 1-year estimates are the most current.

Choose the 2014 ACS 1-year estimates for each selection (**released 09-17-15**)

Click the checkboxes for DP02, DP03, DP04, and DP05 > click View link at the top of list
DP02 will be the first profile displayed

To display the next one, click the right arrow top right of page, Result 1 of 4

You may view each profile consecutively by clicking right arrow again

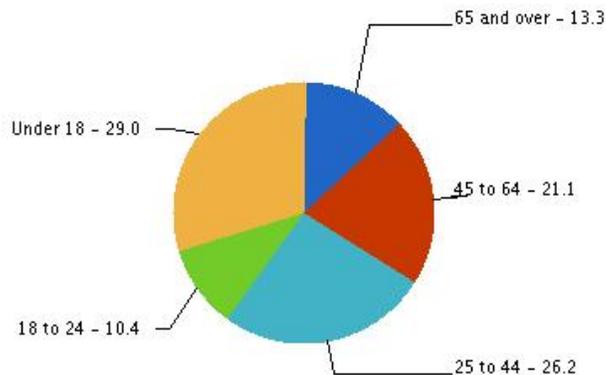
American Community Survey Narrative Profiles

► Population

In 2009-2013, Mount Vernon, Washington has a total population of 32,100 -- 16,200 (51 percent) females and 15,900 (49 percent) males. The median age was 32.2 years. An estimated 29 percent of the population was under 18 years and 13 percent was 65 years and older.

Age Distribution of People in Mount Vernon, Washington in 2009-2013

[click graph to view data in table format](#)



Census.gov footer > PEOPLE & HOUSEHOLDS column > American Community Survey (continue instructions below)

- Benefits: The four data profiles in text, with colorful pie charts and bar graphs; statistically and grammatically correct
- Geographies: State, county, city, metro area, American Indian Reservation, census tract, ZIP code tabulation area
- Limitations: Some sections may be omitted due to lack of reliable data

6. **Create a current Narrative Profile for Mount Vernon (city), Washington**

Instructions:

Census.gov footer > People & Households column > American Community Survey (left column) Data > Data Tables & Tools (blue link mid-page center) generate a Narrative Profile (WAIT until page loads and a map of the U.S. appears!)

Step 1: move radio button to Search Using Dropdown Menus

Step 2: Place

Step 3: Choose a state = Washington > Choose place = Mount Vernon (city), Washington
Get Profile

