

1. Go to www.factfinder.census.gov
2. Under “American Community Survey,” click on “get data”
3. On the ACS page, click the radio button next to year of years of the American Community Survey and then click on “Custom Table”
4. The next step is to choose the geography. You can choose more than one geographic entity, such as county, MSA, central city, etc. You can combine different kinds of entities in the same table. Keep in mind that the ACS (so far) releases data only for entities with populations of 65,000 or more. Thus, small counties will not be available.
5. After adding all the geography you want, click on “Next” to choose the data elements.
6. Click on the “by subject” tab. Choose “...Renter Statistics” and click the Search button.
7. Scroll through the “select a table” box and look for “Household Income by Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income.” You will find two, B25074 and C25074. The former divides the range into more (narrower) categories, while the latter just provides a few ranges (including breaks at 30% and 50%).
8. After choosing one of the tables, click on “go.”
9. You will then be given a set of data elements. You can select the ones you want. Selecting all of them isn’t a bad idea, if tedious.
10. After choosing the elements you want, click “Add.” The elements you selected will be added to the “Current data selection elements” box.
11. At this point, you could go back to the previous screen and select more tables if you want them, or you could click “Next” to select filters.
12. For this demonstration, we are using no filters. Select “Show Results.”
13. The results are displayed as a table, with a row for each geographical entity and columns for the data elements. For each element, the table displays the estimated number of households and a 90% confidence interval.
14. At this point, you could back up and change any previous actions, to add or delete geography, data elements, filters, etc. Use the “you are here” list at the top of the screen to jump to the section you want to change.
15. To save your results, click on the “print/download” menu near the top of the screen. Choose “download.”
16. You will get a screen that gives you some choices about download formats. In this example, we save to an Excel spreadsheet.
17. Press “OK” when you’ve made your choices.
18. You will get a standard dialog box asking whether to save or open the zip file containing the spreadsheet. You will generally want to click on “save to disk” and then “OK.”
19. You will get a standard save dialog box asking where to save the file. Choose whatever folder you want. In this example, we have renamed the zip file to something more descriptive than “output.zip.”
20. The zip file contains two spreadsheets, one describing the geography, and one describing the data. Your table is in the data spreadsheet. You can extract the spreadsheet using whatever zip tools you are accustomed to using. It is generally a good idea to rename the spreadsheet to some name that makes more sense to you.
21. Now that you have the table in a spreadsheet, you can rearrange the table, copy, paste, etc., as needed.