Updates to American FactFinder

January 2016

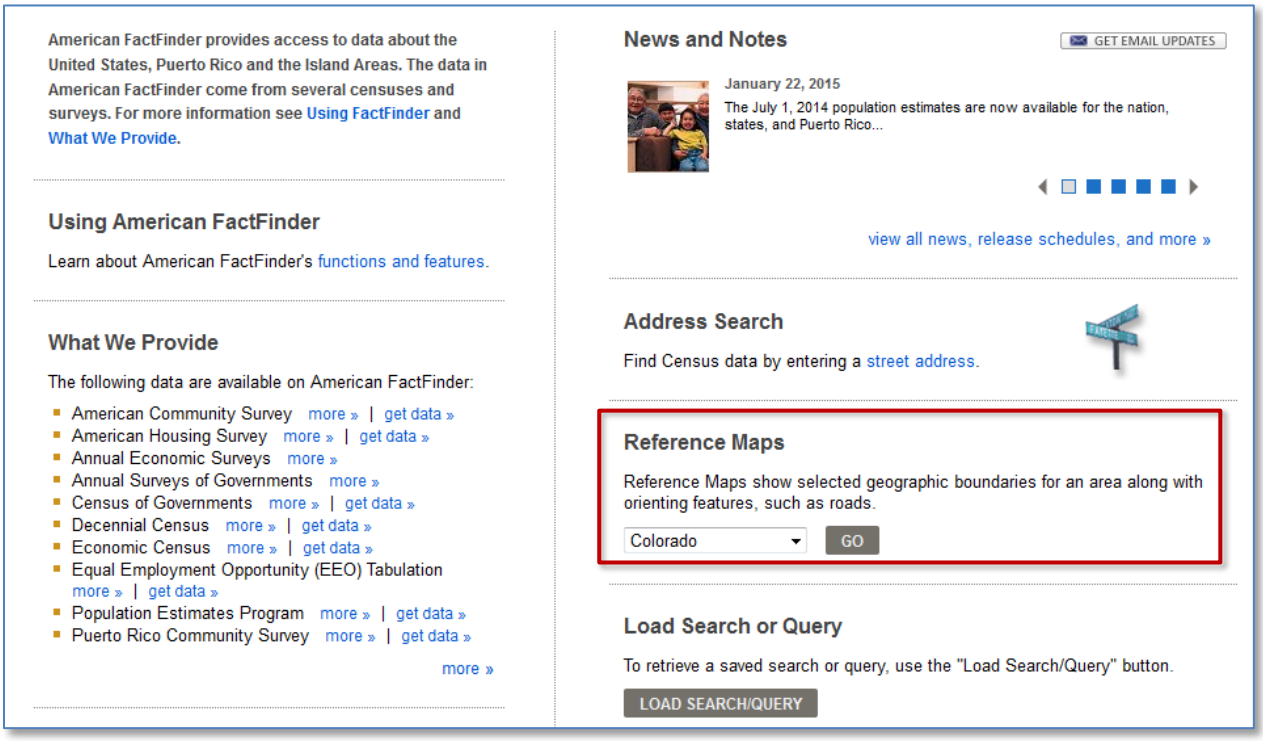
Maps in American FactFinder

The January 2016 release provides a major upgrade to the mapping functions in American FactFinder. The speed that maps display has been dramatically improved. You can easily select geographies from a map by clicking a point or drawing a rectangle, radius, or polygon on the map. Several basemaps are now available (topographic, satellite imagery, etc.) to help orient users to the boundaries and data displayed on the map.

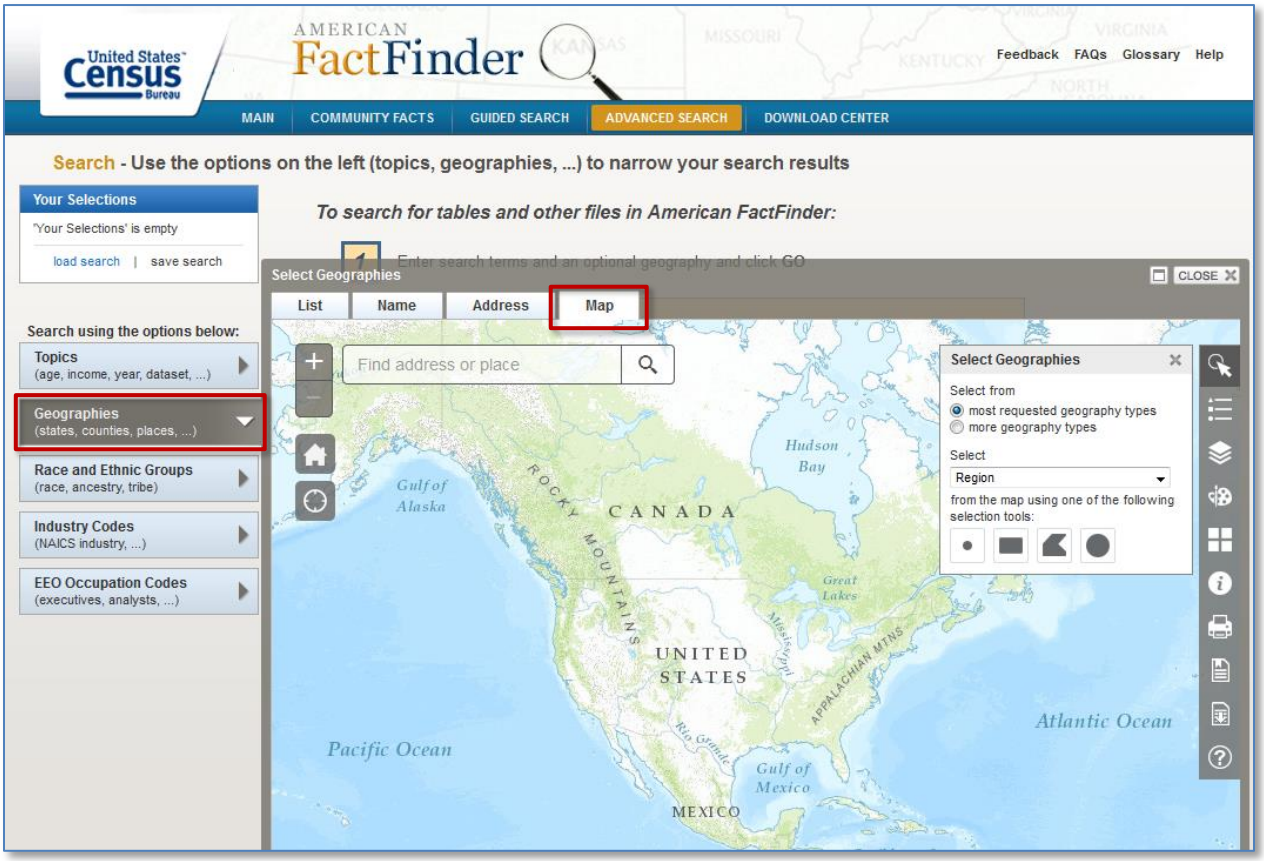
Reference Maps

Reference Maps are available from the Reference Maps section of the Main Page, and from the Advanced Search Geography Overlay.

- On the Main Page, select a state from the reference map dropdown and click **Go**.

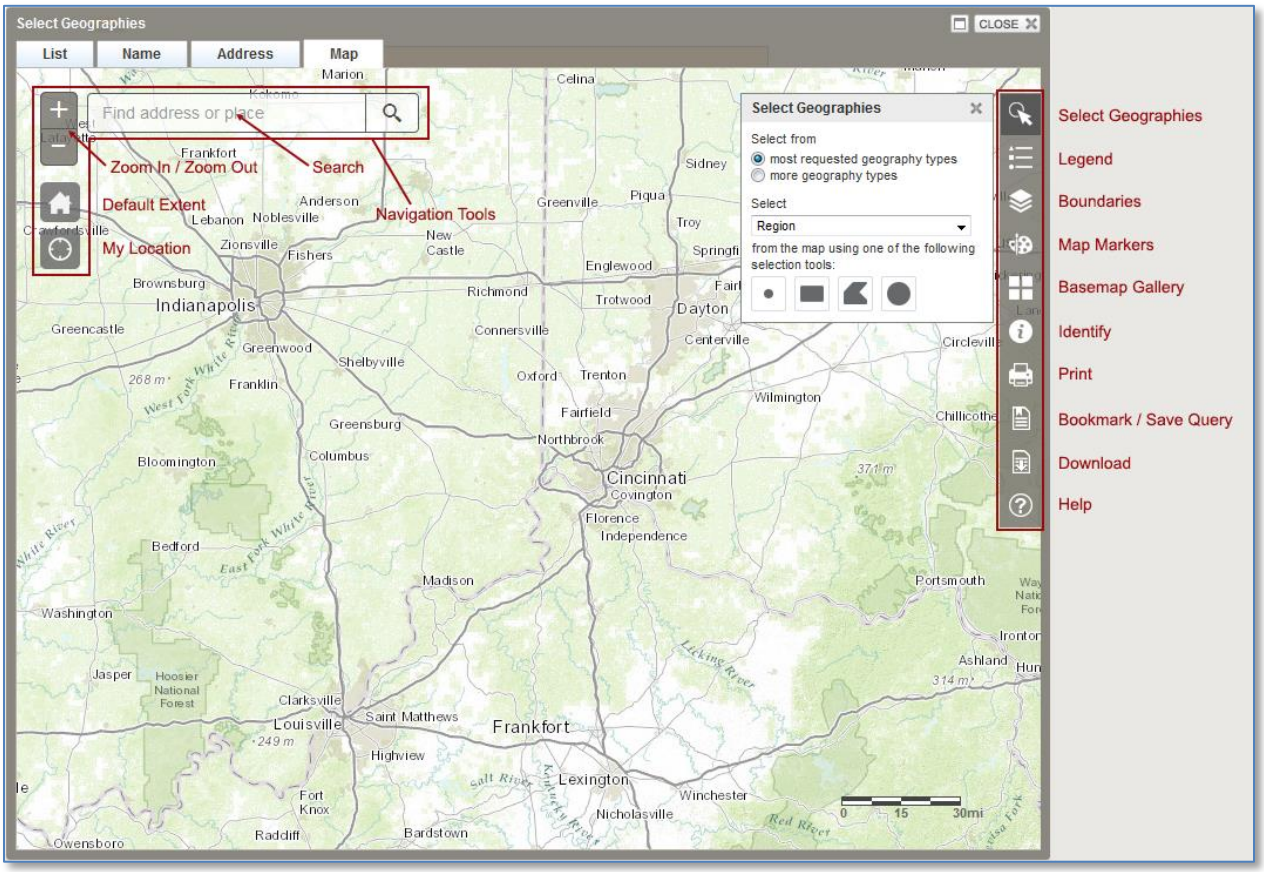


- Another way to access Reference Maps is by clicking **Advanced Search**, selecting the **Geographies** button on the left side of the page and clicking the **Map** tab.



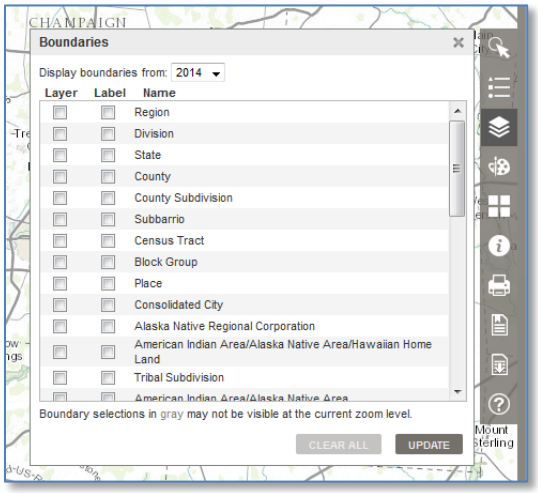
Pan the map by clicking the map, holding the mouse button down and dragging the map. Change the map position and zoom level using the Navigation Tools in the upper-left corner of the map:

- Use the zoom in button to view smaller areas of the map in more detail.
- Use the zoom out button to view a larger area of the map.
- The default extent button redraws the map at its initial zoom level and position.
- Click the find my location button to reposition the map to your current location. This function is dependent on your browser's security settings, and may not be available on older browsers.
- Use the search box Find address or place to search for an address, city, town, zip code and more. You can enter the name of a landmark, for example 'Mount Rushmore' or 'Washington Monument'. You can also enter airport codes (e.g., DCA or SFO). Reposition the map to a longitude and latitude coordinate by entering the numeric longitude and latitude separated by a comma (e.g., -104.67, 39.86).

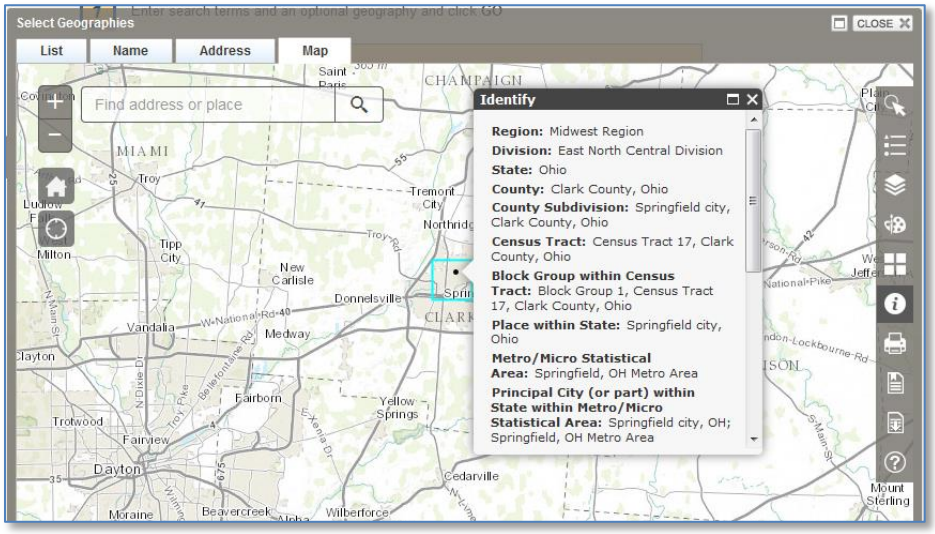


Use the tools on the right side of the map to select geographies, display boundaries, change the basemap, print, download, and more.

- Use the Boundaries button to select boundaries and boundary labels to display on your reference map or thematic map.



- Click the Identify button and then click on the map to reveal information about geographies at the clicked point:



Note that the boundaries offered for selection and the geographies showing in the Identify window depend on the year selected and on the zoom level: the lower the zoom level, the more detailed the information provided.

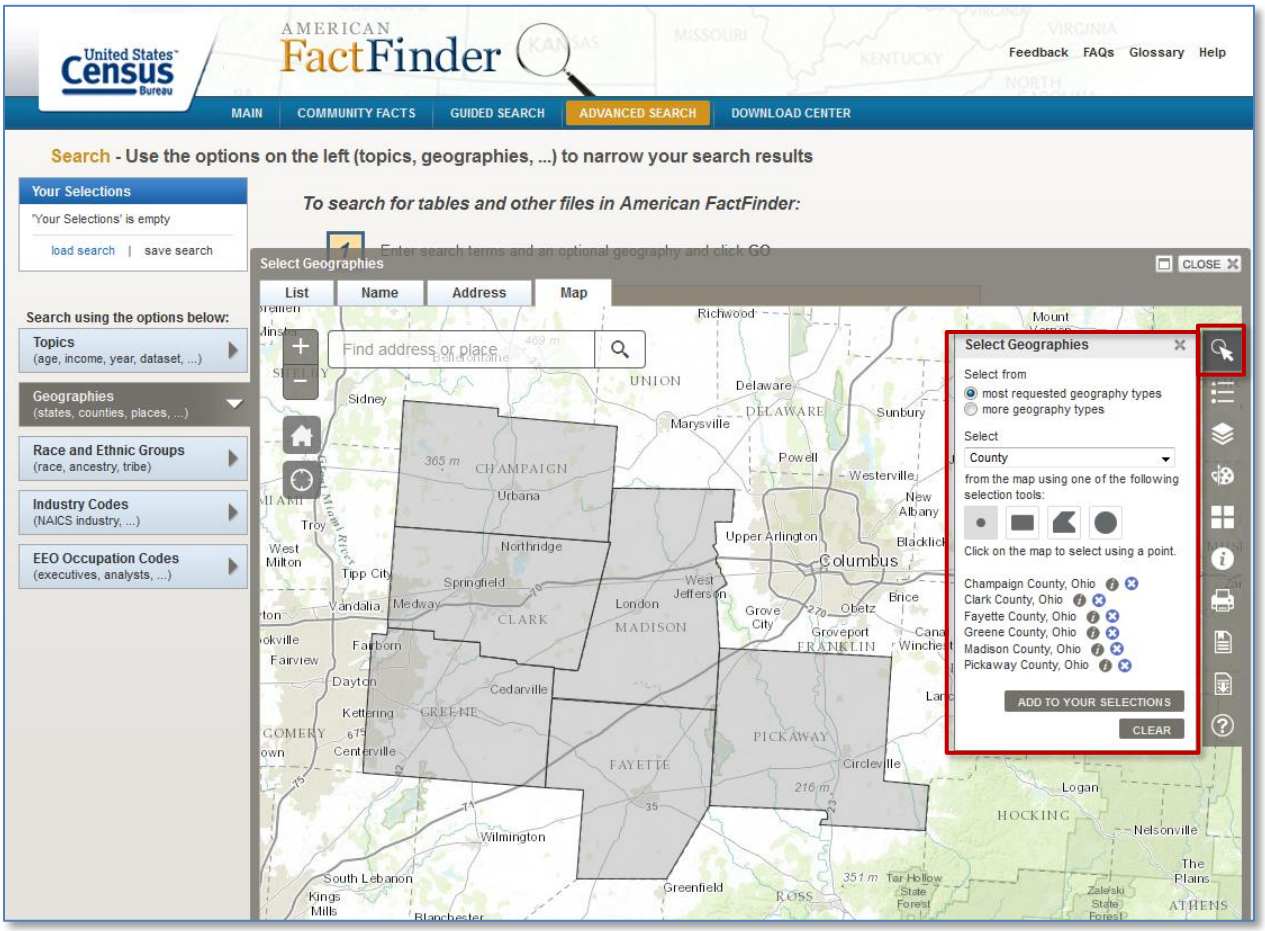
See **Basic Map Tools** in American FactFinder Help for more information.

Selecting Geographies on a Map

Use the Select Geographies tool to add geographies to Your Selections.

1. Choose a geography type from the dropdown list.
2. Choose a selection tool (point, rectangle, polygon, or radius), and use the mouse to select geographies from the map.
3. Click 'Add to Your Selections'.

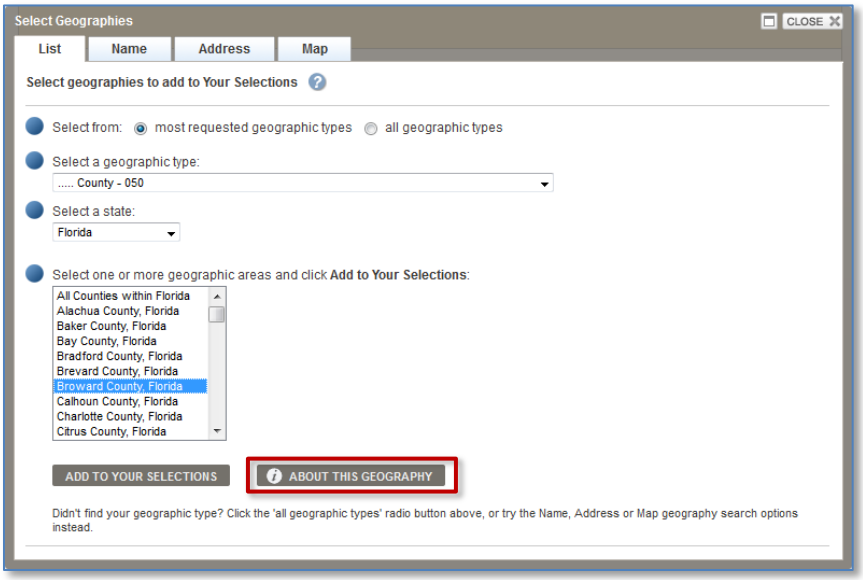
Note: The limit for the number of geographies you can add to 'Your Selections' is 250.



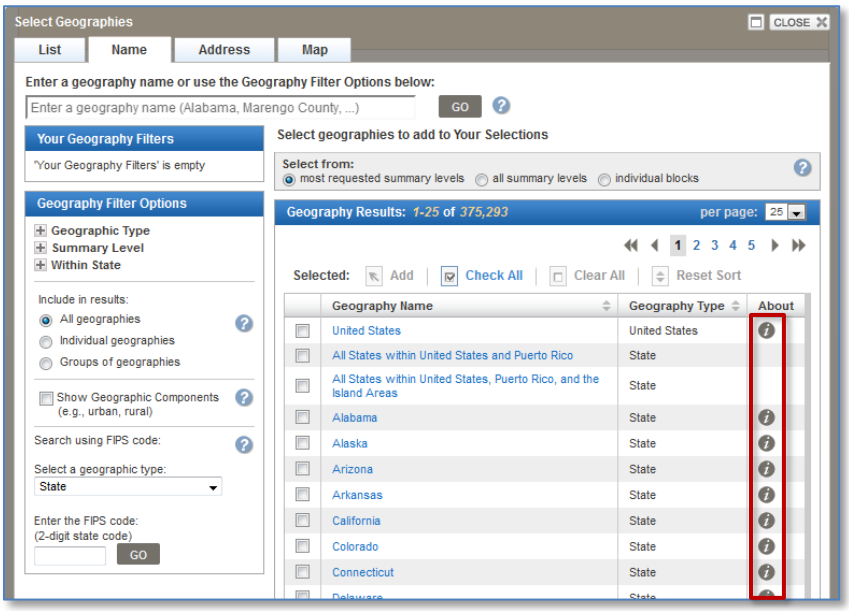
‘About this Geography’ Maps

A new feature in this release is the ability to display boundaries and view boundary changes over time for a geography.

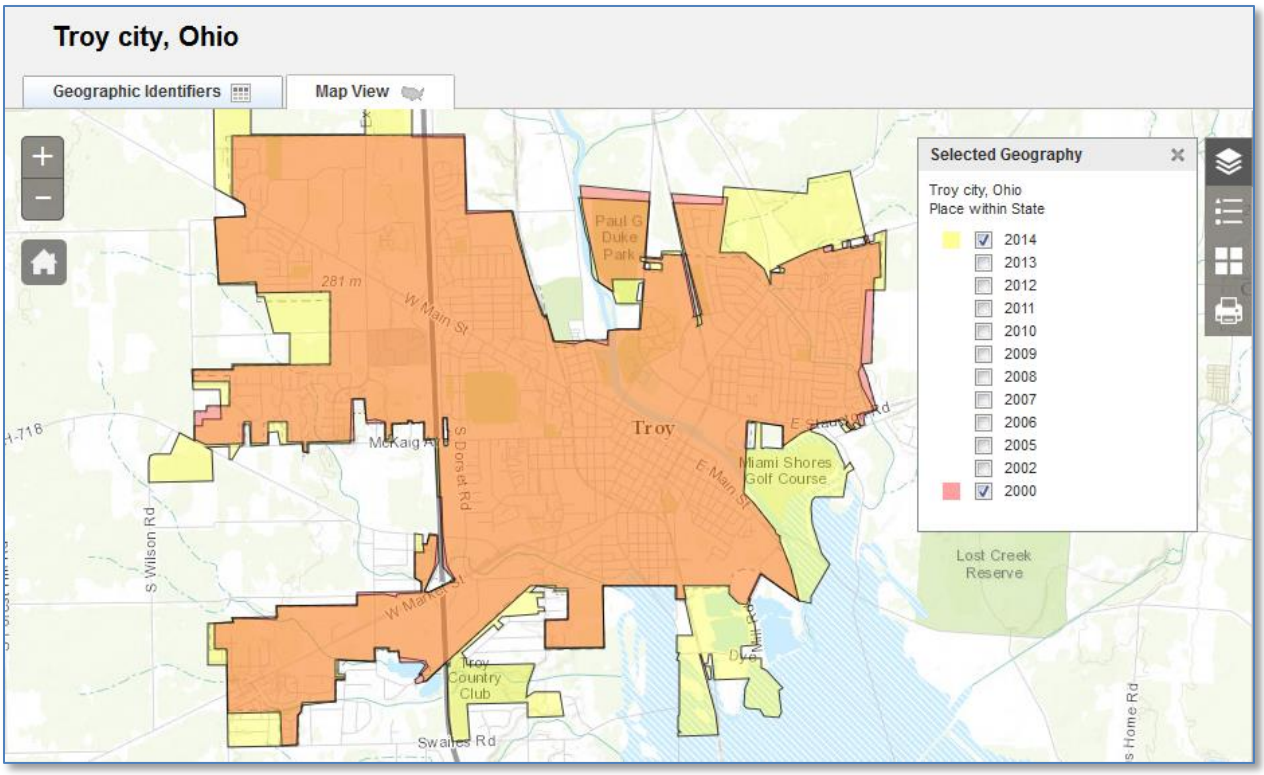
1. From the List tab of the Geographies overlay, click the ‘About this Geography’ button after selecting a single geography from the list box to display the ‘About this Geographies’ window.



From the Name, Address, or Map tabs, click the ‘About’ button displayed next to the geography name.

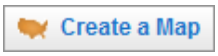


2. A new window displays. Click the ‘Map View’ tab.
3. A map displays with the selected geography’s most recent boundary year highlighted in yellow. You can select up to 3 years from the ‘Selected Geography’ box to display.


Troy city, Ohio
Geographic Identifiers
Map View
Selected Geography
Troy city, Ohio
Place within State
2014
2013
2012
2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006
2005
2002
2000
Troy
Paul G Duke Park
Miami Shores Golf Course
Lost Creek Reserve
Troy Country Club
W Main St
E Main St
S Dorset Rd
S Wilson Rd
McKaig Ave
Swailes Rd
281 m

Thematic Maps

Create a thematic map from a value in a table. The table must contain at least two geographies of the same type (at least two states, two counties, etc.)

1. Select at least two geographies of the same type in Advanced Search.
2. Select a table.
3. Click the 'Create a Map' button 

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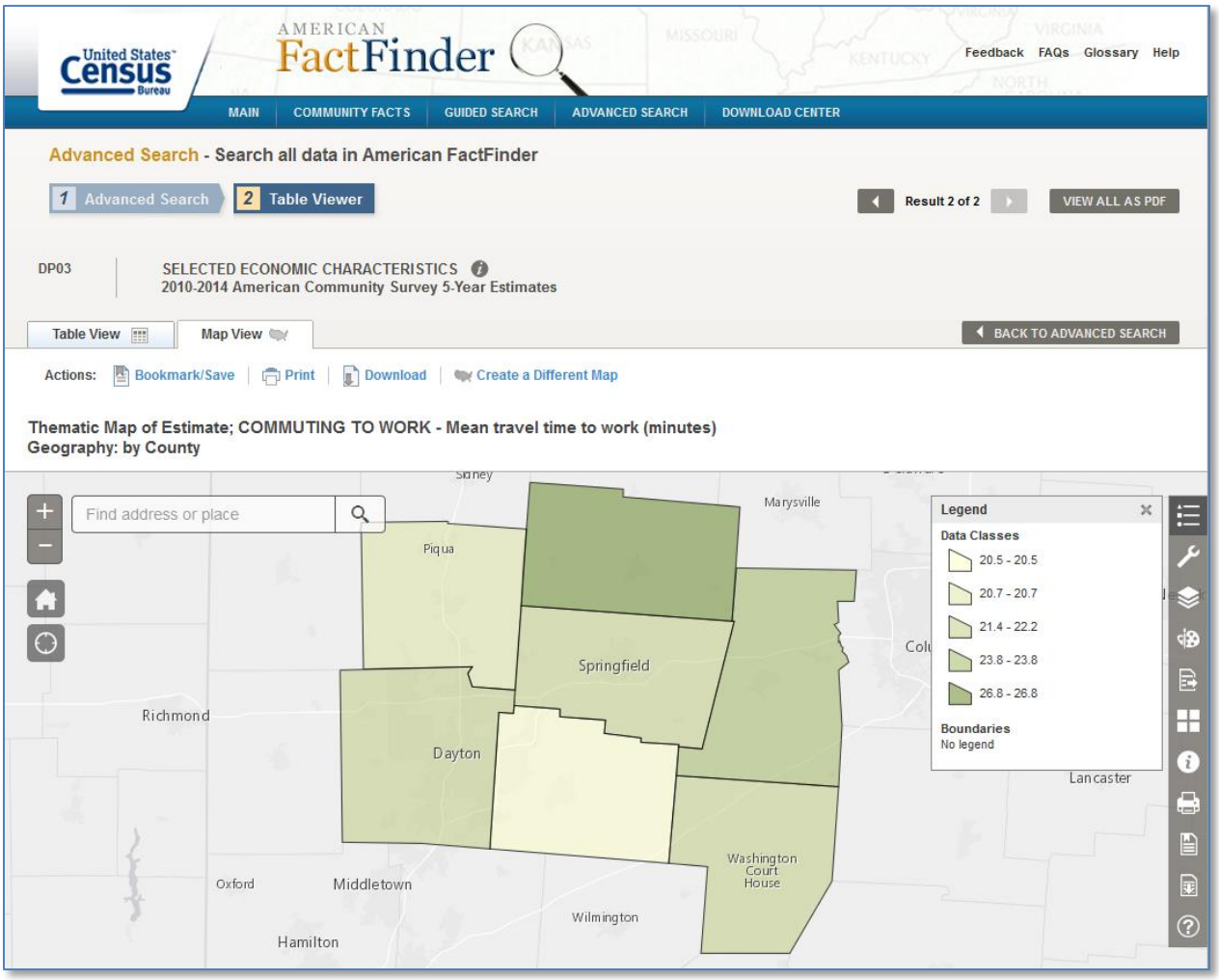
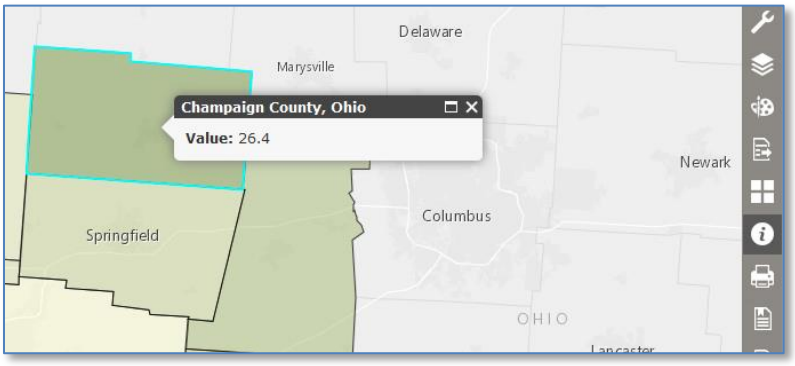
4. Click on a data item in the table to map.

The thematic map displays.

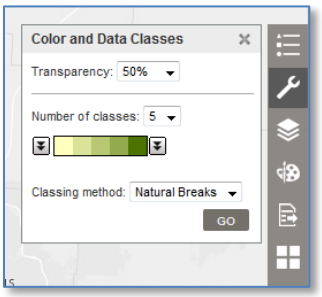


You can use the tools on the right-hand side of the map to change the classification method, colors, and transparency. You can add boundaries and labels, add map markers or text, and print and download your map.

- Click the Identify button and then click a geography on the map to view the value of the data point being mapped.



- Click the Colors and Data Classes button to change transparency, number of classes, colors, or classification method of the data displayed on the map.



American Factfinder Web Services

The mapping upgrades in this release required a new technical solution that uses open service calls to provide the mapping functions for geographic, statistical, and spatial data. The resulting mapping web services are available with the following application programming interfaces (APIs):

Map Layer Data

- Get Map Configuration
- Get Map Layers
- Get Map Location

Map Statistical Data

- Get Statistical Data
- Get Statistical Data Size

Map Geographic Data

- Search Geography by Drill Down
- Search Geography by Address
- Get Selectable Summary Levels
- Get Geography Metadata

The ***Map Layer Data*** APIs provide access to boundary layers for numerous American FactFinder geographic summary levels for years 2000 through current (2015 at the time of this release). This helps discover availability of spatial layers per year, geographic summary level and zoom level, as well as the spatial data access information.

The ***Map Statistical Data*** APIs provide access to statistical data in American Factfinder to allow the creation of thematic maps.

The ***Map Geographic Data*** APIs enable the mapping functions to locate and reposition the map to the desired map locations, help users select geographies by map and to show the correct names for the selected geographies.

Documentation for these APIs is available at http://factfinder.census.gov/service.

Use American FactFinder **Feedback** (located in the upper-right corner of every American FactFinder page) to submit questions regarding AFF web services.

Deep Linking Guide

American FactFinder provides website developers the ability to create URLs to tables, maps, search results and more. See the how-to guide for Building Deep Links into American Factfinder (PDF).