



TECHNICAL NOTE



Sociology FL-03

May 2007

Limited Resource Area Data

Introduction

A Limited Resource Area (LRA), as defined in the National Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Manual and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 7, §624.4, is a county where all of the following criteria are met:

- Housing values are less than 75 percent of the State housing average value.
- Per capita income is 75 percent or less than the median income of the Nation.
- Unemployment is twice the U.S. average over the past three years based upon the most recent national census information available.

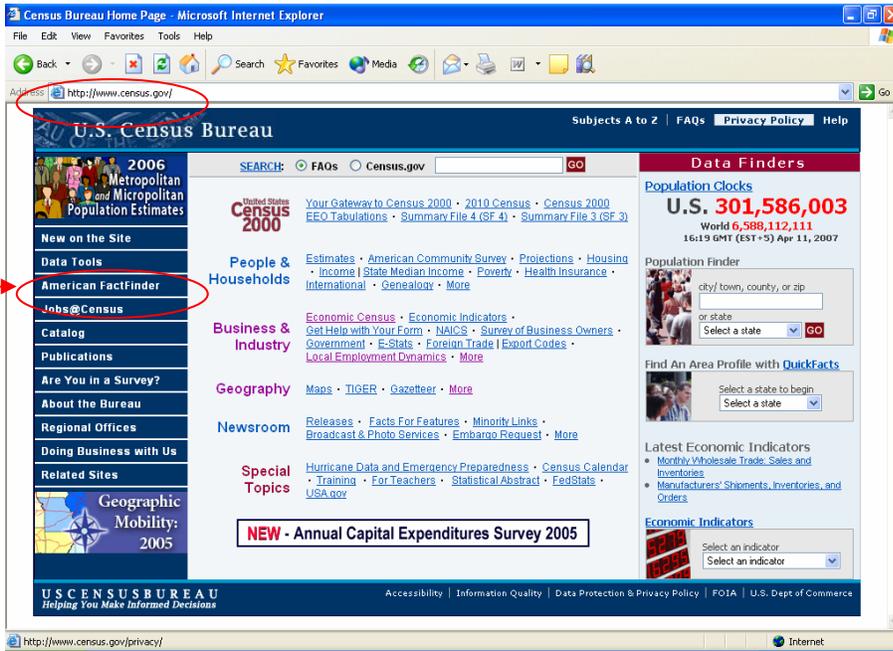
As stipulated by the CFR, the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data will be used when determining median housing values and per capita income. The unemployment rate may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Currently, Florida has only one designated county as a Limited Resource Area, which is Hardee County. However, these LRA designations may change over time depending on the economic and social climate. All the LRA data for each county is available in spreadsheet format on the Florida NRCS homepage at www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/economics.html under the header **Sociology** listed as LRA data.

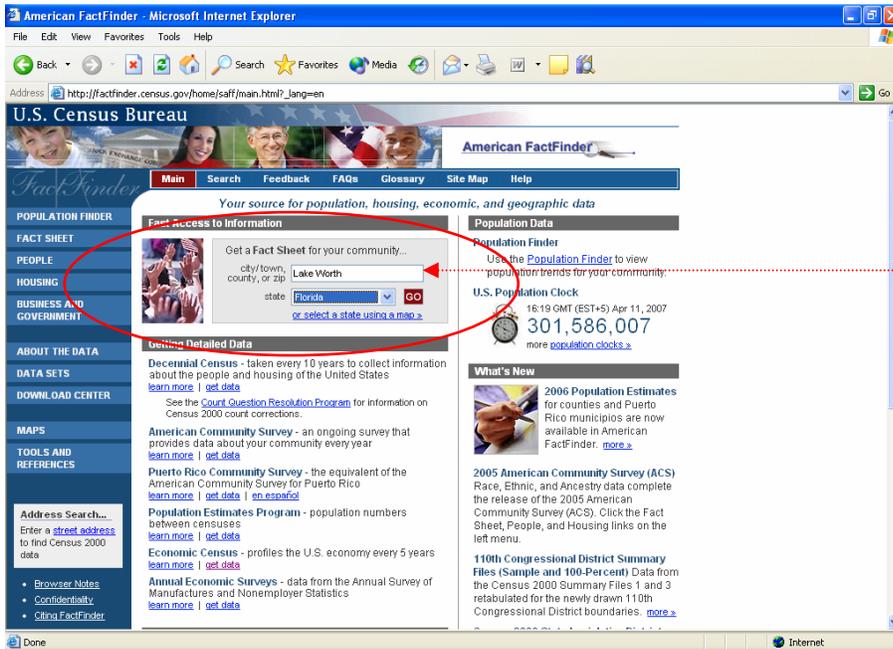
You may, however, want to review specific geographic areas that are not based on county boundaries. For example, if the Sponsoring Local Organization (SLO) is a city or town that is not necessarily representative of the county data, a waiver may be required and justification is necessary.

Fortunately, both the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics allow you to narrow your search geographically based on SLO city or town so that the data will be more indicative of that area. In order to obtain city or town data for per capita income and median housing values, use the step-by-step instructions as follows:

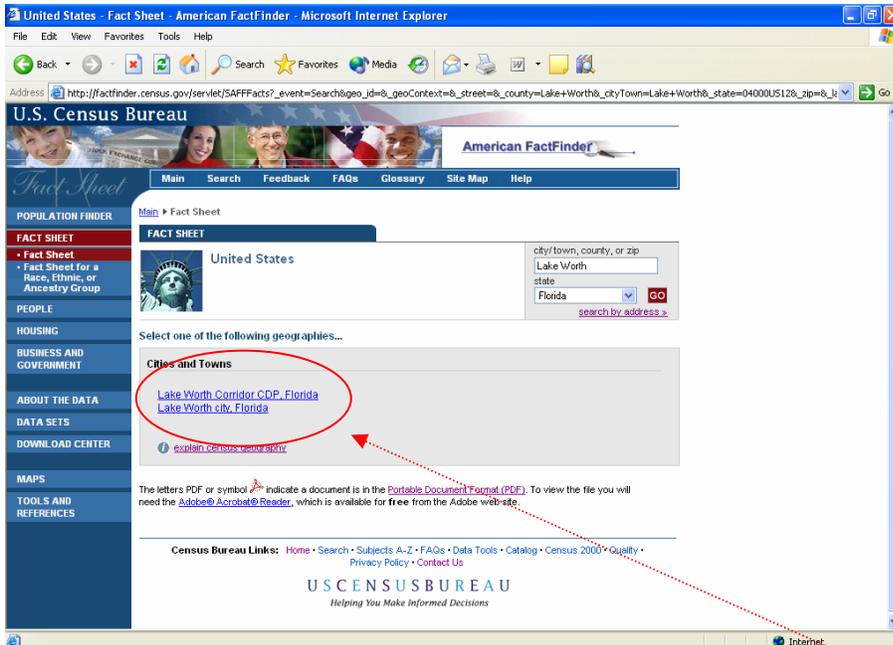
Go to <http://www.census.gov>



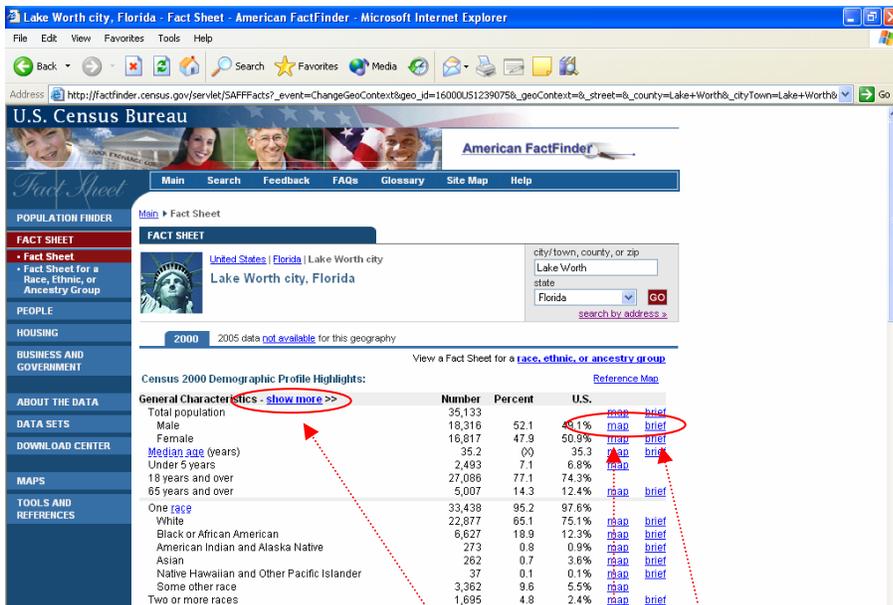
Click on *American Factfinder* on the left margin.



You may then type in a city or town within Florida and select *GO*.

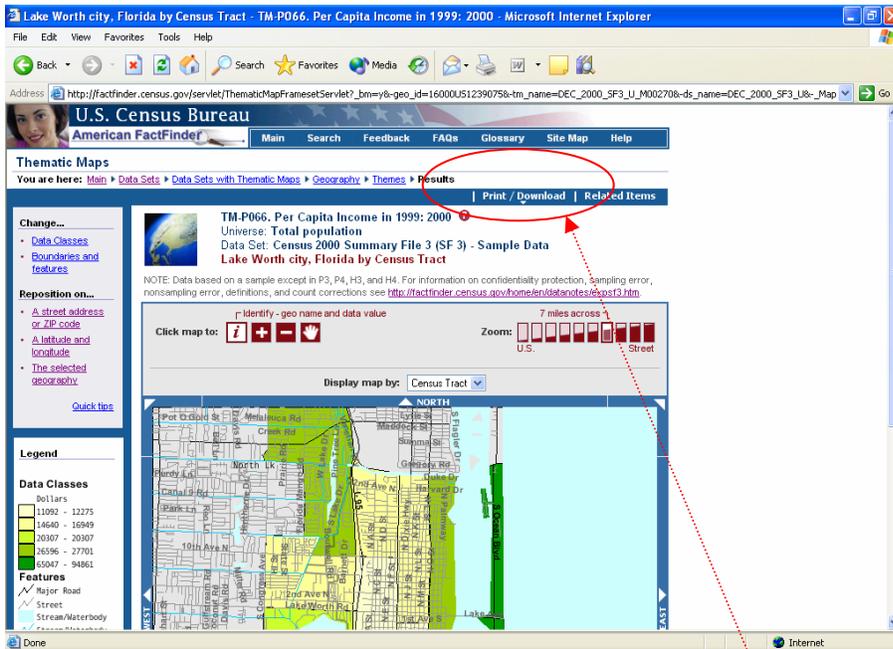


In some instances, you may have to specify between two categories such as a CDP or City. A CDP, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau is an area “*comprised of a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name.*” So CDPs could actually be larger than where the city limits are identified.



A fact sheet is then available listing the General, Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics of the city or town you specified. The “*show more*” option allows you to obtain more specific data within each “*Characteristics*” category. A *map* and *brief* is also available for some of the subjects listed within each “*Characteristics*” category. Per capita income is listed under the

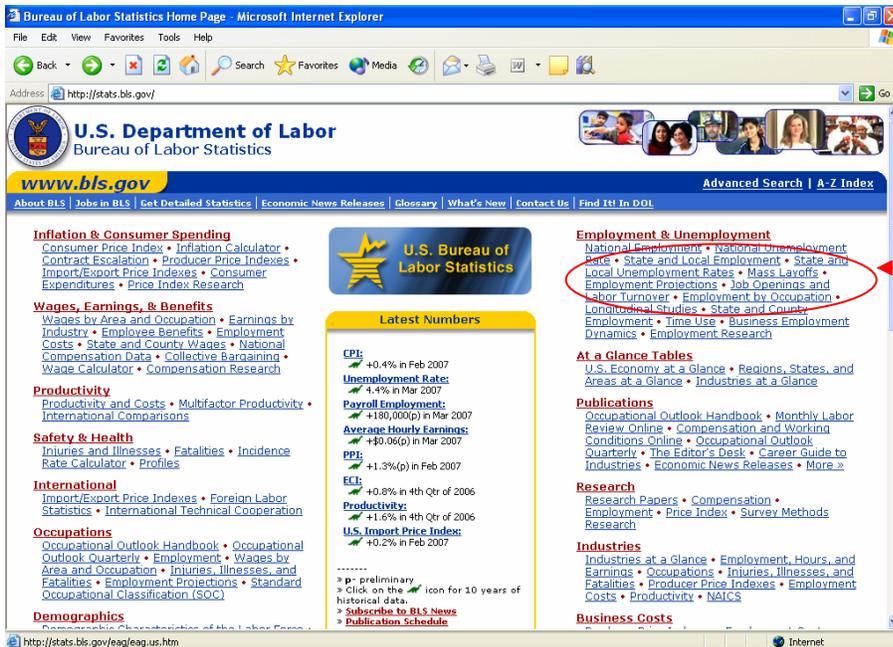
Economic Characteristics category. Housing value data is listed under the “Housing Characteristics” category. This data is also available on a nationwide basis, which is listed under the U.S. column, so that the per capita income and the median housing value of single-family, owner occupied homes data can be compared to the Nation as required by the LRA criteria.



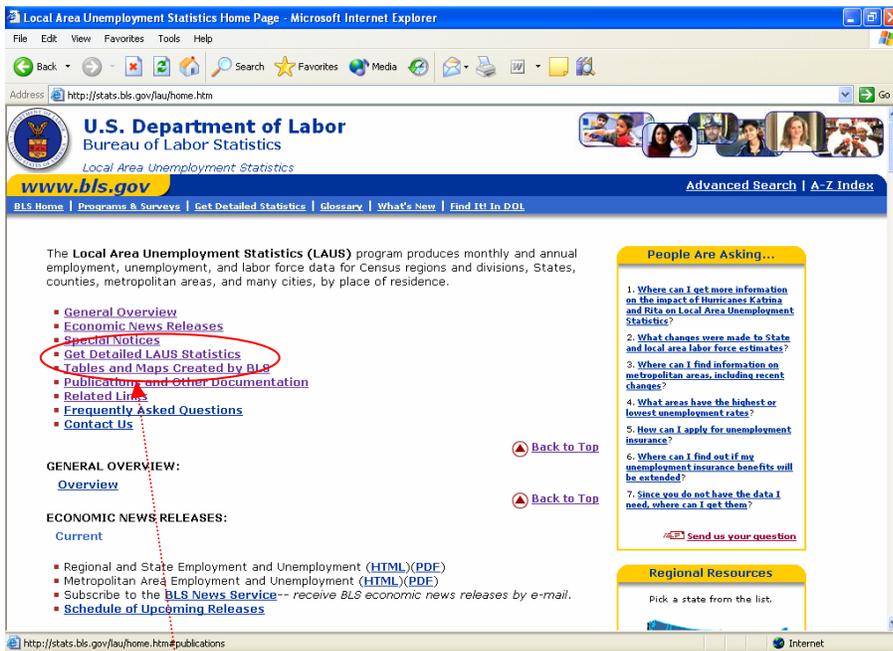
Displayed above is the result of selecting the map option for the per capita income within the census tract for the city Lake Worth, FL. The legend located in the left margin displays the per capita income within each shaded area. You may also use the “*Print / Download*” button to print the map or download the map (.pdf) or the data (.xls or .txt).

If you wanted to conduct a more specific geographical data for unemployment rates you may use the following step-by-step procedures:

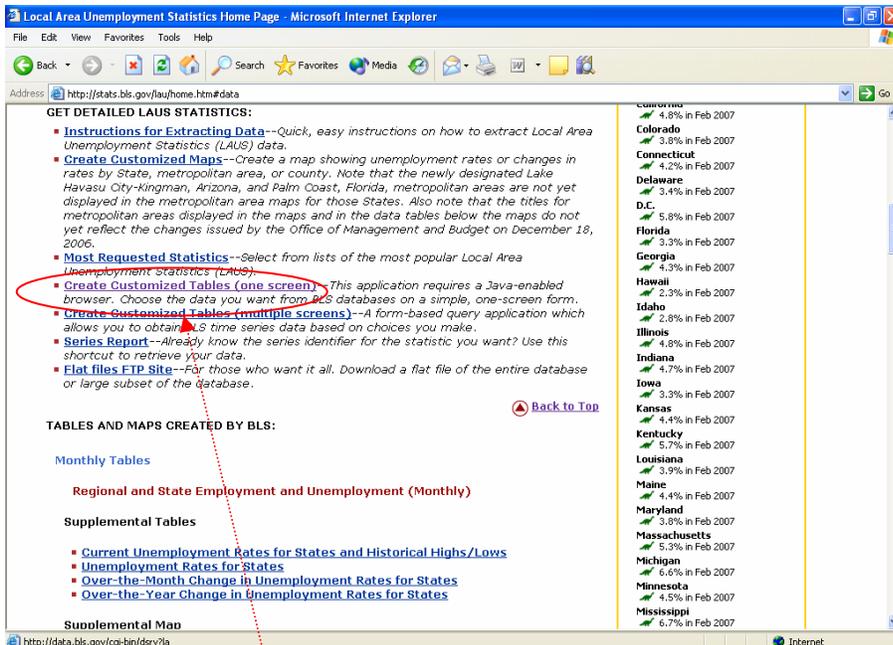
Go to <http://www.bls.gov>



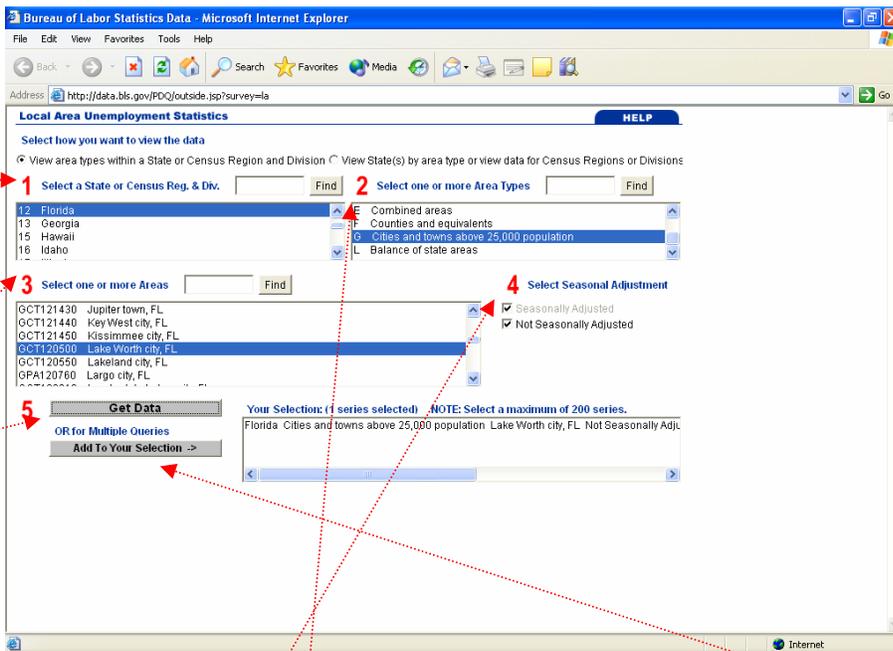
Select “*State and Local Unemployment Rates.*”



Then select “*Get Detailed LAUS Statistics.*” For your information, LAUS is an acronym for Local Area Unemployment Statistics.



At this time, select “*Create Customized Tables (one screen)*”.



Populate the (1) State, (2) G Cities and towns above 25,000 population, then select (3) One or more Areas and (4) Not Seasonally Adjusted – (if that is an option), then finally (5) Add to Your Selection. Once all fields have been populated, select (5) Get Data.

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links like 'BLS Home', 'Programs & Surveys', 'Get Detailed Statistics', 'Glossary', 'What's New', and 'Find It! In DDI'. Below this, there are search and filter options. The main content area is titled 'Local Area Unemployment Statistics' and displays a table of data for Lake Worth city, FL. A red circle highlights the 'More Formatting Options' link, which is used to adjust the data presentation.

Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
1997	Jan	16688(s)	15487(s)	1201(s)	7.2(s)
1997	Feb	16730(s)	15588(s)	1142(s)	6.8(s)
1997	Mar	17010(s)	15837(s)	1173(s)	6.9(s)
1997	Apr	16897(s)	15775(s)	1122(s)	6.6(s)
1997	May	17032(s)	15874(s)	1158(s)	6.8(s)
1997	Jun	17065(s)	15737(s)	1328(s)	7.8(s)
1997	Jul	17199(s)	15854(s)	1345(s)	7.8(s)
1997	Aug	17281(s)	15861(s)	1420(s)	8.2(s)
1997	Sep	17273(s)	15864(s)	1409(s)	8.2(s)
1997	Oct	17292(s)	16116(s)	1177(s)	6.8(s)

You may also select “*More Formatting Options*” in order to adjust the formatting for your specific needs. The annual and monthly unemployment rates are available, but only the **annual** unemployment rate is needed, not the monthly percentage.

Once the necessary data has been gathered, there may be some instances where the data may not exactly reflect the socio-economic characteristics of the geographical area that is being evaluated. Because of the specific methodologies used by both the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, consultation with the Agricultural Economist may be necessary to assist with analyzing the appropriate data to support the justification for a designation of a Limited Resource Area (LRA).

REFERENCES

- NRCS National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manual, July 2006.
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Part 624.
- U.S. Census Bureau website, <http://www.census.gov>, 2000 data.
- U.S. Bureau of Labor website, <http://www.bls.gov>, 1997 – 2007 data.