

Data Tables: 2005 Gulf Coast Area Data Profiles

Geographic Areas

"Geography" is a collective term referring to the types of geographic areas used by the Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations, including their structure, designations, and relationships to one another. A geography can be a geographic unit of any type, legal or statistical, such as a state, county, place, county subdivision, census tract, or census block.

Several geographic levels are available in the *2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area*:

- 1) entire state,
- 2) FEMA-designated IPA area of the state,
- 3) balance of the state,
- 4) Metropolitan Statistical Areas,
- 5) groupings of counties and parishes, and
- 6) individual counties and parishes.

Entire State

The estimates for the entire state include all data collected from all counties throughout the state for the January through August 2005 time period and the September through December 2005 time period.

FEMA-designated IPA Area of the State

The FEMA-designated IPA area of the state is the sum of all the counties in the state that were designated by FEMA as counties receiving individual and public assistance. For example, the state of Louisiana has 37 parishes that were identified as FEMA-designated IPA counties. The estimate for this level of geography displays all of those affected counties as a single entity, i.e., the sum of the FEMA-designated IPA area in Louisiana.

Balance of the State

The balance of the state consists of the remaining counties in a state that were not FEMA-designated IPA counties. For example, Texas has a total of 254 counties. Twenty-two of those counties were designated as IPA counties. The 232 remaining counties comprise the balance of the state for Texas.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget defines metropolitan statistical areas for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistical data. A metropolitan statistical area is composed of one or more whole counties or equivalent entities and contains at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting. For example, the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, Louisiana Metropolitan Statistical Area includes the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany.

Groupings of Counties and Parishes

Groupings of counties exist for several reasons. To ensure that individual responses are kept confidential, ACS estimates have not been released in counties with an insufficient number of interviews in the September through December 2005 period. Counties with an insufficient number of interviews were combined with surrounding counties to form a single geography.

For example, Hale County in Alabama did not meet the minimum threshold of interviewed persons required for the production of estimates specific to Hale County. Therefore, the data for Hale County are published along with data from Greene, Pickens, and Sumter Counties in Alabama. The data for the area representing these counties are distinguished as "Greene/Hale/Pickens/Sumter, AL." Looking at a map, these four counties are geographically grouped together. Geographically, it would also make sense to include Tuscaloosa County in this group; however, Tuscaloosa County met the minimum threshold of interviewed persons so data specific to Tuscaloosa County alone have been published. Census Bureau staff worked closely with local officials in forming these county groupings.

In many cases, counties were grouped together because local officials indicated that having single estimates for identified county groupings would be useful. These groupings include Planning and Development Districts (PDDs), Labor Market Areas, and other established local entities. For example, Hinds County in Mississippi met the minimum threshold of interviewed persons required for county-specific estimates. It is also included in the Central PDD, along with Copiah, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties, as identified by officials in the state of Mississippi.

Individual Counties and Parishes

Data have been published for many individual counties and parishes. In order for a county to have published data exclusive to itself, a minimum number of interviews must have been conducted in that county during the last four months of 2005. This threshold was established to ensure the integrity and quality of the data as well as to protect the confidentiality of the respondents.

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Gulf Coast Area Full Size Maps

[2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area](#)

[FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area](#)

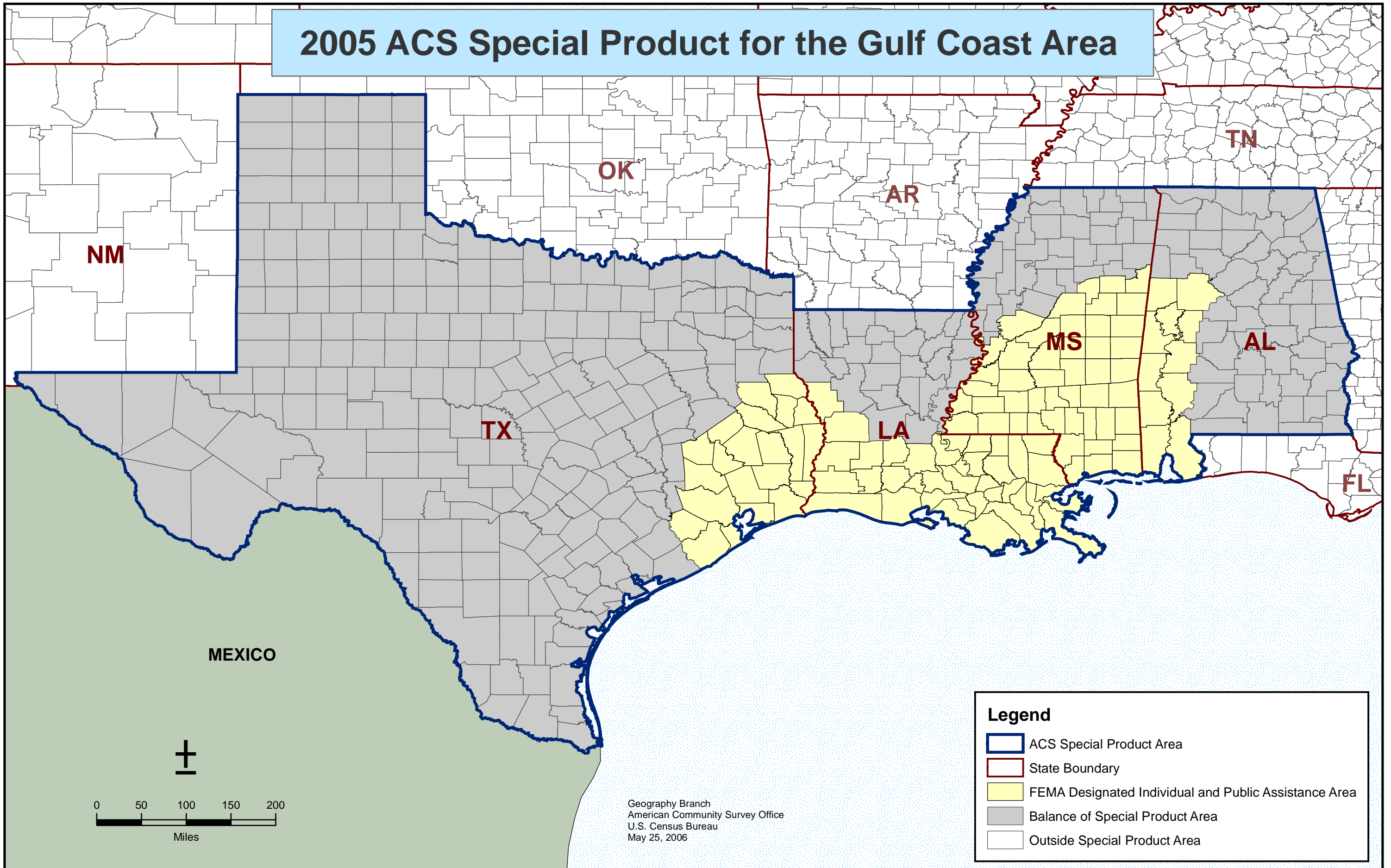
[FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area by State](#)

[County Level Tabulation Areas](#)

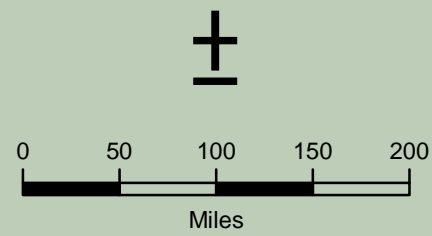
[Map1 - User Defined Tabulation Areas](#)

[Map2 - User Defined Tabulation Areas](#)

2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

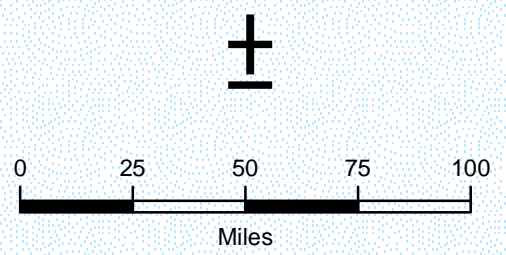
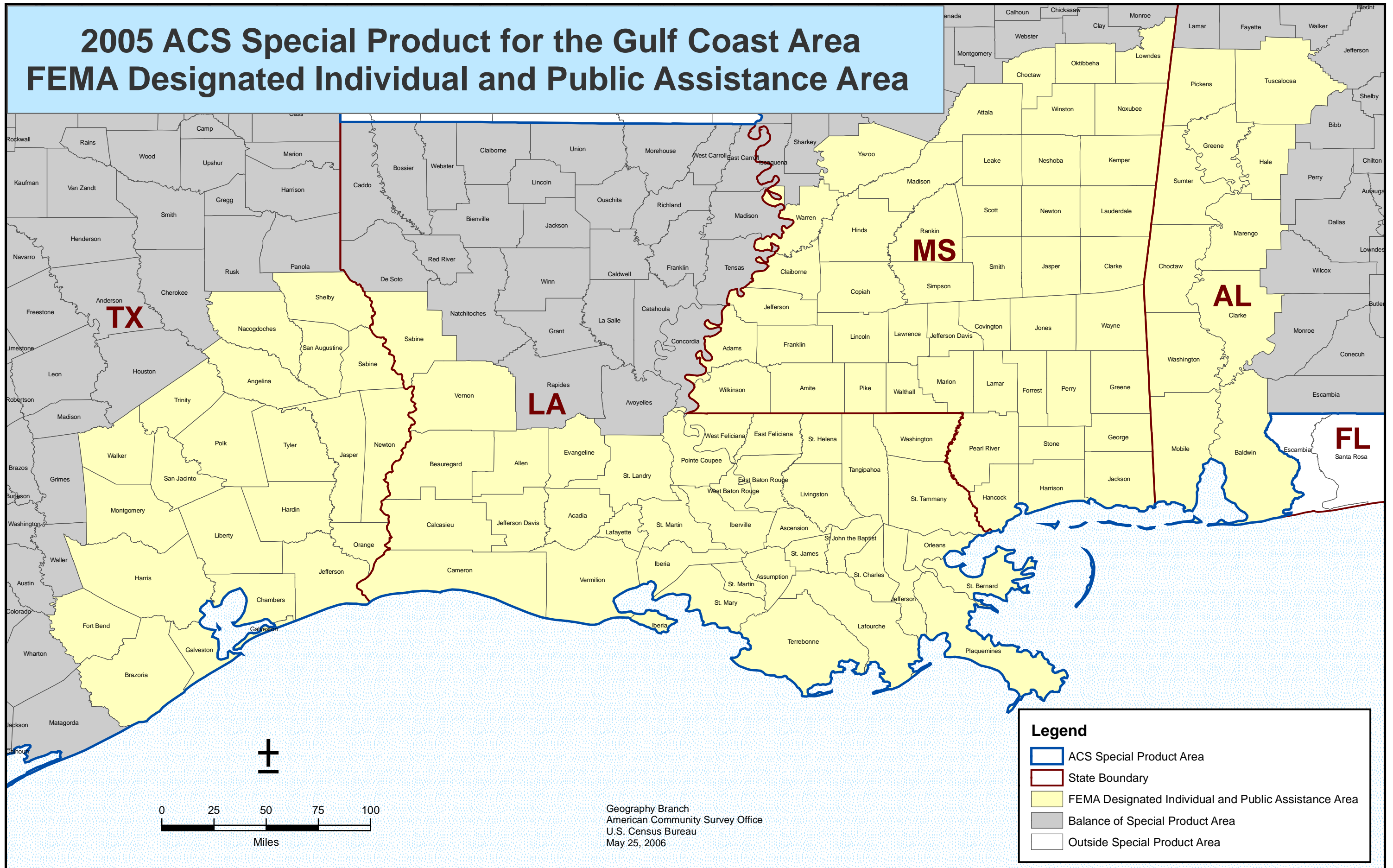


MEXICO



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American Community Survey Office
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May 25, 2006

2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area

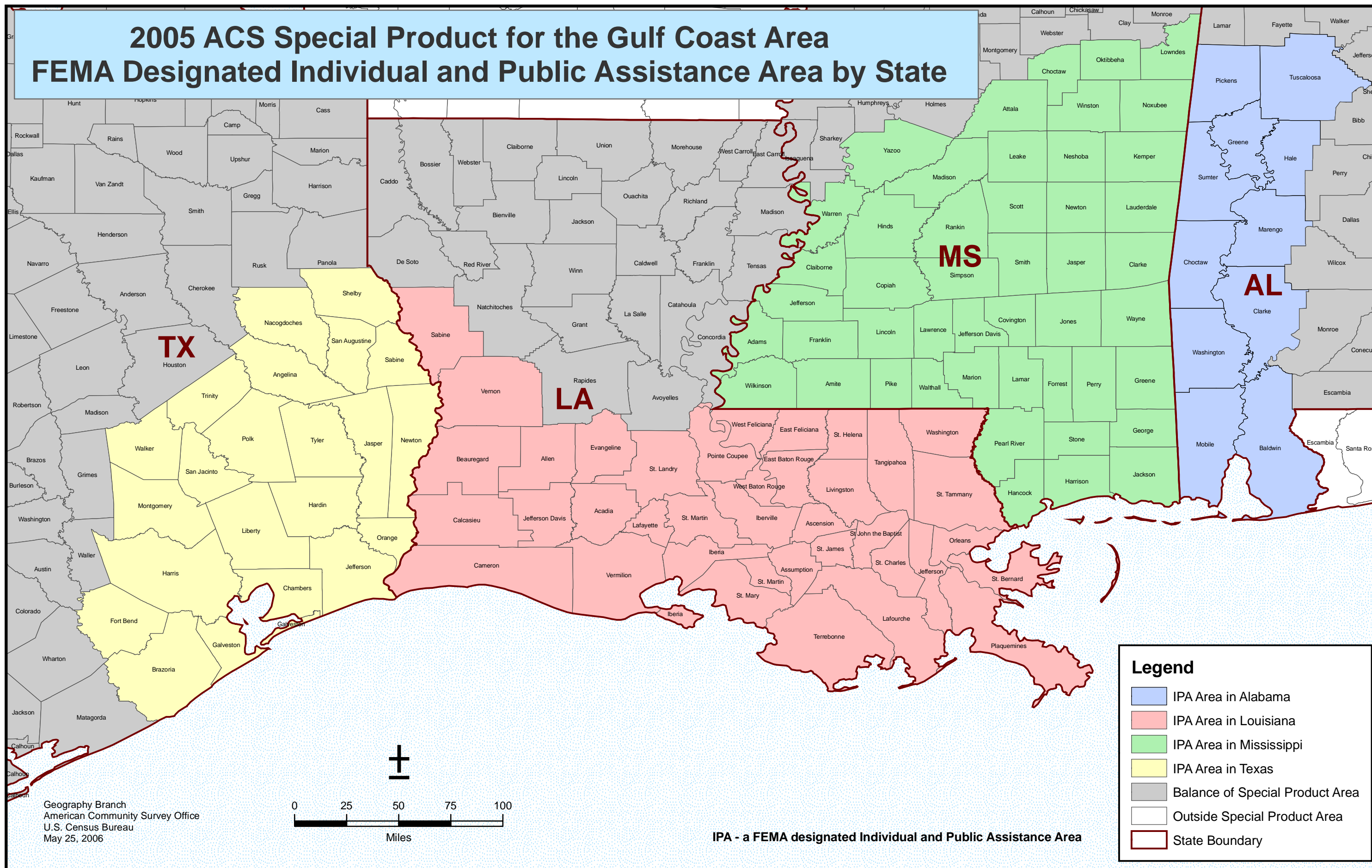


Legend

- ACS Special Product Area
- State Boundary
- FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area
- Balance of Special Product Area
- Outside Special Product Area

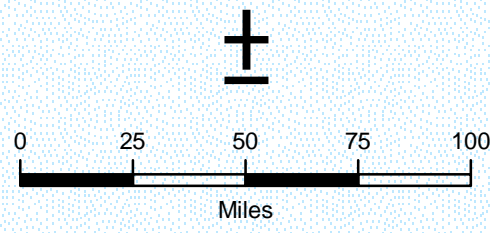
2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

FEMA Designated Individual and Public Assistance Area by State



Legend

- IPA Area in Alabama
- IPA Area in Louisiana
- IPA Area in Mississippi
- IPA Area in Texas
- Balance of Special Product Area
- Outside Special Product Area
- State Boundary

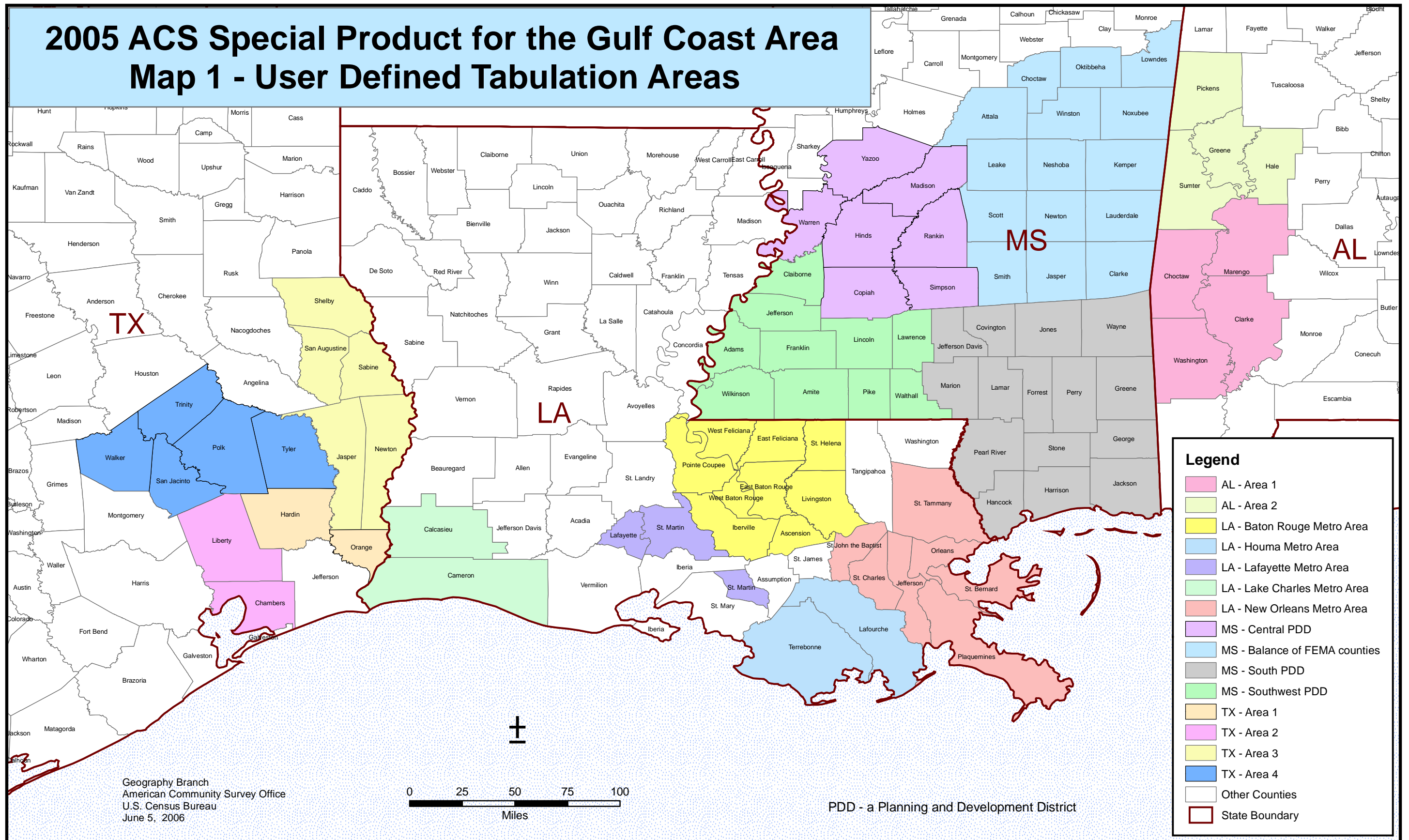


IPA - a FEMA designated Individual and Public Assistance Area

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May 25, 2006

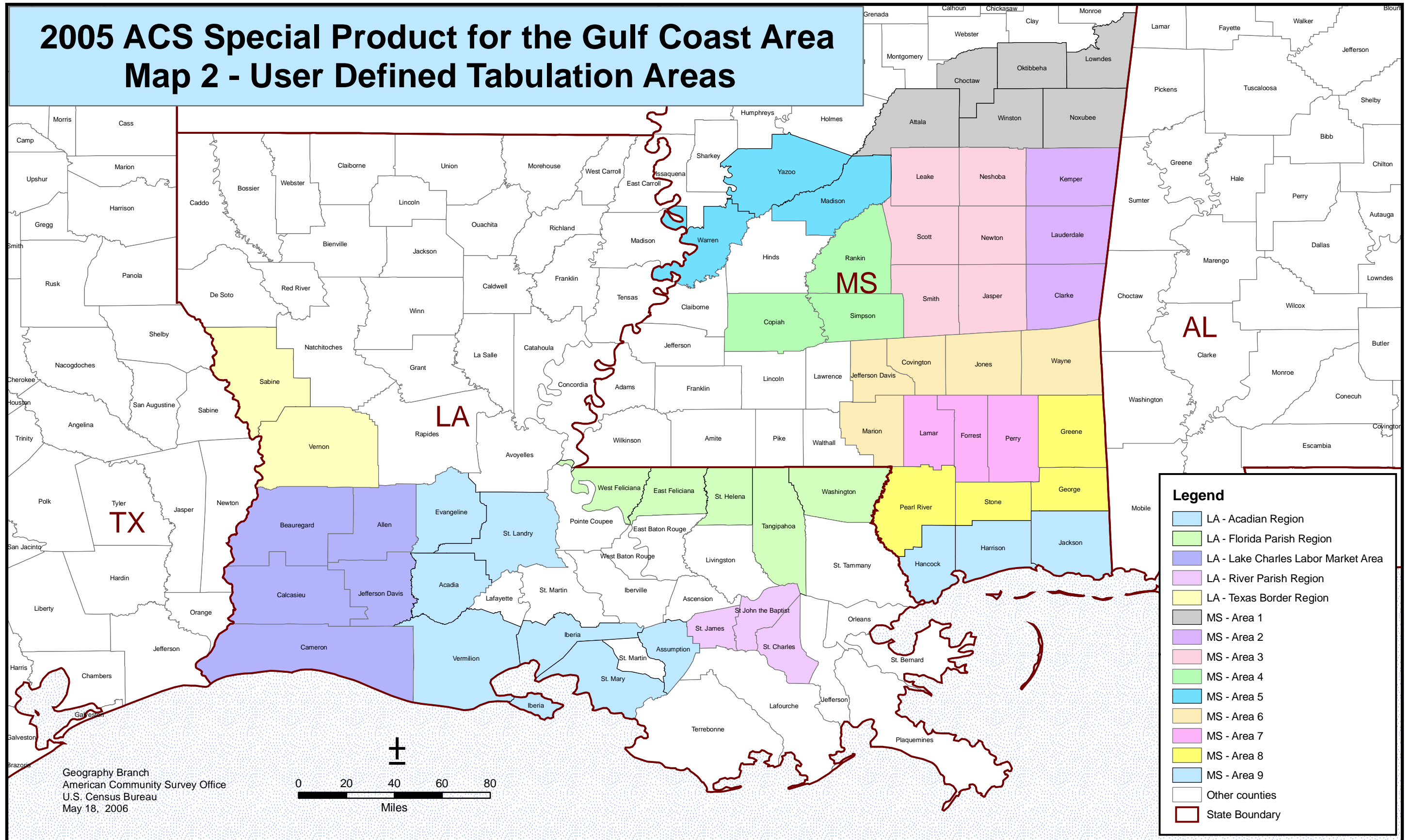
2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

Map 1 - User Defined Tabulation Areas



2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area

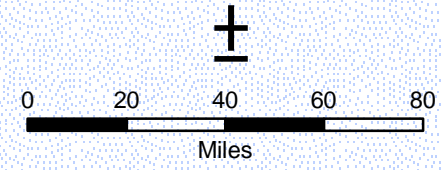
Map 2 - User Defined Tabulation Areas



Legend

- LA - Acadian Region
- LA - Florida Parish Region
- LA - Lake Charles Labor Market Area
- LA - River Parish Region
- LA - Texas Border Region
- MS - Area 1
- MS - Area 2
- MS - Area 3
- MS - Area 4
- MS - Area 5
- MS - Area 6
- MS - Area 7
- MS - Area 8
- MS - Area 9
- Other counties
- State Boundary

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Content

Four data profiles for each geography were created. Estimates of general demographic characteristics, selected social characteristics, general economic characteristics, and selected housing characteristics are available for both time frames for all published geographies. The data for the two time periods are displayed side-by-side to facilitate comparison. The statistical significance of the difference between each estimate for both time periods is also listed. Below is a more detailed listing of the characteristics that are included in each of the four profiles.

General Demographic Characteristics

Sex and age
Race
Hispanic origin
Relationship of the household population
Households by type

Selected Social Characteristics

School enrollment
Educational attainment
Marital status
Veteran status
Disability status
Residence 1 year ago
Place of birth
Language spoken at home

General Economic Characteristics

Employment status
Commuting to work
Occupation
Industry
Class of worker
Income and benefits
Poverty

Selected Housing Characteristics

Housing occupancy
Units in structure
Year structure built
Rooms
Bedrooms
Housing tenure
Year householder moved into unit
Vehicles available
House heating fuel
Occupants per room
Value
Mortgage status and selected monthly owner costs
Gross rent
Selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income
Gross rent as a percentage of household income

The *2005 ACS Special Product for the Gulf Coast Area* includes the margin of error for each estimate, which is the 90 percent confidence interval. The sample estimate and its standard error permit the construction of a confidence interval that represents the degree of uncertainty about the estimate. A 90 percent confidence interval can be interpreted roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the true number falls between the upper and lower bounds. A margin of error is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds.