Census 2010 Data and How to Find It
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New Mexico 2010 redistricting files were released on March 15, 2011. As data users, we are all excited to see the new counts! For a quick peek, check out the Census news release for New Mexico data at http://2010.census.gov/news/releases/operations/cb11-cn87.html. This webpage is also a great place to find links to the 2010 Census data and a couple of quick charts. The Census Bureau has updated the look of the traditional data site American FactFinder for the 2010 Census at http://factfinder2.census.gov/. The new American FactFinder offers many nice features for finding and viewing 2010 Census data, including a mapping function. Data users will need some practice to become comfortable with the new features. The Workforce Information Tip in this issue provides a practical example to help navigate the new site.

Currently, the new American FactFinder includes both 2010 and 2000 Census data. Other data sets from the Census, such as the American Communities Survey, are still available in the older American FactFinder at http://factfinder.census.gov/, but they are scheduled to be moved to the new site by this fall. To find out which data sets are in the new American FactFinder, select Topics from the left-hand navigation of the main page http://factfinder2.census.gov/ and choose the data set filter in the Topics box. All currently available data sets will be displayed.

There are alternatives for locating the data if you find the Census web page a bit difficult. One option is to access a selection of the information from the State Data Center. UNM’s Bureau of Business & Economic Research Data Bank is associated with the U.S. Census Bureau through the State Data Center/Business and Industry Data Center (SDC/BIDC) Program at http://bber.unm.edu/index.html. The State Data Center provides a variety of easily accessible tables, charts, and profiles using the 2010 data. Another option is the Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico website at http://www.mrcog-nm.gov/region-aamp-people-mainmenu-186/census-data/2000-census-mainmenu-204#downdata. These data are easy to use but limited geographically to the five counties represented by the council.