

## Workforce Information Database

### COMMUTE Table Contents

#### American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-10 County-to-County Commuting Flows

### Introduction

The 2010 Decennial Census was the first in several decades that did not gather information through a sample of the population. This sample had received an expanded questionnaire, also known as the “long form.” This form was used to gather additional social, economic, housing and other information that was not included in basic census questionnaire. The census sample data have been replaced with estimates derived from five-year American Community Survey (ACS) results. For more information about the use of ACS to replace census sample data, see Census Bureau [information](#) on the topic.

One of the products of the 2006-10 five-year ACS estimates was county-to-county commuting flows. Links to the ACS commuting pattern estimates can be found on the Census Bureau’s [Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas](#) page. Contents for the COMMUTE table populated by the NCSC were taken from Table 1 on that page. Links to the Census Bureau’s latest information about the files can be found on their [Commuting \(Journey to Work\)](#) main page.

### About the Data

While importing the estimates into the WID COMMUTE table structure was a relatively straightforward process, two additional fields were added to the table, and several coding conventions were developed to deal with file contents.

#### Additional Fields:

- WORKERMOE: The source file contained margin-of-error estimates. Those were included in the file.
- WORKNAME: A small number of records (4,737 or 3.5 percent) included a commuting destination that is outside the United States (including Puerto Rico). This field is populated with the names of those areas.

#### Geographic Coding for areas outside the U.S.:

- WKSTFIPS was set to ‘99’
- WKAREATY was set to ‘31’ (unused value, signaling outside the U.S.)
- WKAREA was set to ‘000’ + three-character area code supplied with the file
- Supplemental file (FOREIGN) contains these values in a format consistent with the WID GEOG table

#### Period Coding:

- PERIODTYPE was set to ‘10’ (multi-year ACS estimates)
- PERIOD was set to ‘60’ (five-year ACS)
- PERIODYEAR was set to ‘2010’ (terminal year of multi-year estimates)

### Future Work

The NCSC plans to import the contents of Table 3: Residence MCD/County to Workplace MCD/County flows into the COMMUTE table structure.

### For More Information

Contact the NCSC at [ncsc@iowa.gov](mailto:ncsc@iowa.gov) or by telephone at 515-242-5034.