

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Geography Division plans, coordinates, and administers all geographic and cartographic activities needed to facilitate the Census Bureau's statistical programs. Much of this work revolves around the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) database. Some of our many activities include:

UPDATING FEATURES AND GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

Continually updating features and boundaries in the MAF/TIGER database allows us to create accurate maps for use in data collection and provide accurate boundaries for data tabulation and dissemination.

MAINTAINING THE MASTER ADDRESS FILE AND GEOCODING

A complete and accurate address list enables the mailing of questionnaires. Geocoding those addresses (coding them to the geographic entities in which they exist) aids in locating them on the ground and in tabulating incoming data.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The best resources for accurate and up-to-date features, boundaries, and addresses are often state, local, and tribal governments. Through programs such as the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), and the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I), we work to build strong partnerships for collecting local geographic data.

RESEARCHING GEOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS

The geographic entities for which data are disseminated affect how the data are understood. Throughout each decade we research how to effectively define and delineate statistical geographic areas.

CREATING GEOGRAPHIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Using the MAF/TIGER database, we create a wide range of maps, tools, and geographic files used by other divisions within the Census Bureau and the general public.



PRODUCTS

TIGER/LINE SHAPEFILES

Allows users to map census geography and join statistical data to their map using GIS software.

TIGERWEB

An interactive, web-based mapping tool that enables users to view census geography without additional software.

CENSUS DATA MAPPER

Allows users to create nationwide, county-based thematic maps of various statistical data.

FIND OUT MORE:

<http://www.census.gov/geo/>

QUESTIONS?

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GEOGRAPHERS IN OTHER DIVISIONS

Many geographers in divisions outside of the Geography Division work to create maps and interactive tools that display the data collected in their areas.

Some also work on organizing samples of households and field staff into geographic areas for effectively conducting surveys.

Others make global population maps to support the work of other federal agencies and to aid in international humanitarian relief and crisis planning.

Find Out More

The Census Website:

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

Interactive Maps

http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/outside_sources.html



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Questions about Census Geography

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