

README for “Urbanized Areas (BOC) 2002-Present” dataset.

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]
2021-03-22

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Urbanized Areas 2002-Present dataset is from the United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB), and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). The TIGER/Line shapefiles and related database files (.dbf) are an extract of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File / Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Database (MTDB). The MTDB represents a seamless national file with no overlaps or gaps between parts, however, each TIGER/Line shapefile is designed to stand alone as an independent data set, or they can be combined to cover the entire nation. After each decennial census, the Census Bureau delineates urban areas that represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the "urban footprint." There are two types of urban areas: urbanized areas (UAs) that contain 50,000 or more people and urban clusters (UCs) that contain at least 2,500 people, but fewer than 50,000 people (except in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam which each contain urban clusters with populations greater than 50,000). Each urban area is identified by a 5-character numeric census code that may contain leading zeroes.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. General Information
- B. Sharing/Access & Policies Information
- C. Data and Related File Overview
- D. Methodological Information
- E. Data-Specific Information for: Urbanized Areas 2002-Present [datasets]
- F. Update Log

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

0. Title of Dataset:

Urbanized Areas 2002-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:

The Urbanized Areas 2002-Present dataset is from the United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB), and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). The TIGER/Line shapefiles and related database files (.dbf) are an extract of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File / Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Database (MTDB). The MTDB represents a seamless national file with no overlaps or gaps between parts, however, each TIGER/Line shapefile is designed to stand alone as an independent data set, or they can be combined to cover the entire nation. After each decennial census, the Census Bureau delineates urban areas that represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the "urban footprint." There are two types of urban areas: urbanized areas (UAs) that contain 50,000 or more people and urban clusters (UCs) that contain at least 2,500 people, but fewer than 50,000 people (except in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam which each contain urban clusters with populations greater than 50,000). Each urban area is identified by a 5-character numeric census code that may contain leading zeroes.

2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

Address: 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Washington D.C. 20233

Email: geo.bas@census.gov

Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: ntad@dot.gov

4. Date of data collection and update interval:

Annually

5. Geographic location of data collection:

United States of America.

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION

0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Urbanized Areas 2002-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520798>

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:

These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:

No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

1. File List for the bts_UrbanizedAreasBOC_20210311.zip collection

A. Filename:

boc_uza_XXXX.zip

Short description:

Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Urbanized Areas BOC 2002-Present dataset. Listed below are the names of the compressed file folders, classified by vintage date:

boc_uza_2002.zip, boc_uza_2003.zip, boc_uza_2013.zip, boc_uza_2014.zip, boc_uza_2015.zip

B. Filename:

bts_UrbanizedAreasBOC_DMP_20210311.pdf

Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

C. Filename:

bts_UrbanizedAreasBOC_20210311_README.txt

Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

2. File List for the airport_XXXX.zip collection

A. Filename:

boc_uza.shp

Short description:

A shapefile containing the geospatial data for Urbanized Areas BOC 2002-Present dataset. This includes associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

B. Filename:

boc_uza.txt

Short description:

A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology, procedures, data dictionary, etc.

D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

TIGER/Line Shapefiles are extracted from the Census MAF/TIGER database by nation, state, county, and entity. Census MAF/TIGER data for all of the aforementioned geographic entities are then distributed among the shapefiles each containing attributes for line, polygon, or landmark geographic data.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. XXXXXX data table

Data is updated annually. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update. The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at <https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>

A. Number of variables (columns):

The data dictionary found in (PDF documentation) provides definitions for the variables

B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file boc_uz.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

C. Missing data codes:

None

F. UPDATE LOG

This bts_UrbanizedAreas_20210322_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-03-22 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-03-22: Original file created