

README for “Populated Places 1996-Present” dataset.

U.S. Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
(BTS)[distributor]
2021-03-24

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520805>

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Populated Places dataset is 1996-Present with updates every two weeks and from the U.S. Census Bureau and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). This map layer includes cities and towns in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A city or town is a place with a recorded population, usually with at least one central area that provides commercial activities. Cities are generally larger than towns; no distinction is made between cities and towns in this map layer.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

0. Title of Dataset:

Populated Places 1996-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:

The Populated Places dataset is 1996-Present with updates once every two weeks and from the U.S. Census Bureau and part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). This map layer includes cities and towns in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A city or town is a place with a recorded population, usually with at least one central area that provides commercial activities. Cities are generally larger than towns; no distinction is made between cities and towns in this map layer.

2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520805>

3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

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

Email: geo.bas@census.gov/ geo.geography@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:

Updates every two weeks

5. Geographic location of data collection:

Cities and towns in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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

U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Census Bureau

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION

0. Recommended citation for the data:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Populated Places 1996-Present [datasets].

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520805>

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_NTAD_Populated_Places_Data_Package.zip collection

A. Filename:

place_XXXX.zip

Short description:

Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Populated Places 1996-Present dataset.

B. Filename:

bts_Populated_Places_Census_DMP_20210324.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_Populated_Places_Census_20210324_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 place_XXXX.zip collection

A. Filename:

place.shp

Short description:

A shapefile containing the geospatial data for Populated Places 1996-Present dataset. This includes associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

B. Filename:

place.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:

The database assigns a unique, permanent feature identifier, the Feature ID, as a standard Federal key for accessing, integrating, or reconciling feature data from multiple data sets. The GNIS collects data from a broad program of partnerships with Federal, State, and local government agencies and other authorized contributors. The GNIS provides data to all levels of government and to the public, as well as to numerous applications through a web query site, web map and feature services, file download services, and customized files upon request.

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 every two weeks, as applicable. 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 place.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

C. Missing data codes:

None

F. UPDATE LOG

This `bts_Populated_Places_Census_202010324_README.txt` file was originally created on 2021-02-24 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

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

2021-03-24: Original file created