

1 Introduction

1.1 What are TIGER/Line Shapefiles?

The TIGER/Line Shapefiles are extracts 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. The shapefiles include information for the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands). The shapefiles include polygon boundaries of geographic areas and features, linear features including roads and hydrography, and point features. They do not contain any sensitive data, areas used for administering censuses and surveys, or attributes used only in internal processing. The TIGER/Line Shapefiles are designed for use with geographic information system (GIS) software.

1.2 Relationship of the TIGER/Line Shapefiles to Census Statistical Data

The TIGER/Line Shapefiles contain a standard geographic identifier for each boundary that links to the geographic identifier in the data from censuses and surveys such as the Decennial Census, Economic Census, American Community Survey, and the Population Estimates Program. Other, non-census, data often has this standard geographic identifier as well. The TIGER/Line Shapefiles do not include demographic data from these surveys and censuses. Data from many of the Census Bureau's surveys and censuses, including the geographic codes needed to join to the TIGER/Line Shapefiles, is in American FactFinder (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>).

For more information regarding the geographic entity codes please refer to Section 2.7 Codes for Geographic Entities.

1.3 History of TIGER/Line Files and Shapefiles

The first release of the TIGER/Line Files was in 1989. These files provided the first nationwide street centerline coverage of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas in a series of ASCII format fixed tables or record types. Periodic versions were released throughout the 1990s and 2000s in ASCII format. Beginning with the 2007 version, the format of the TIGER/Line Files changed from the ASCII file format to shapefile.

Where to locate the TIGER/Line Files and Shapefiles:

TIGER/Line Shapefiles (2007 and beyond)

All versions of the shapefiles are available from the TIGER Products website at <http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html>.

TIGER/Line Files

The 1992 version, the Census 2000 versions, the 108th Congressional District version, and the 2006-second edition of the TIGER/Line files in ASCII format are available at <http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html>.

1.4 File changes/updates for the 2013 TIGER/Line Shapefiles

The 2013 TIGER/Line Shapefiles include the following updates:

- 113th Congressional District Shapefiles
- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and Related Statistical Areas (February 2013 definition)
- Subminor Civil Division has been renamed Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division)
- National Coastline Shapefile added

1.5 TIGER/Line Shapefile Legal Disclaimers

No warranty, expressed or implied, is made with regard to the accuracy of the data in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles, and no liability is assumed by the United States Government in general, or the Census Bureau specifically, as to the positional or attribute accuracy of the data. The boundary information in the TIGER/Line Shapefiles is for statistical data collection and tabulation purposes only. Their depiction and designation for statistical purposes does not constitute a determination of jurisdictional authority or rights of ownership or entitlement and they are not legal land descriptions.

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1.6 Questions and Contact Information

Questions about TIGER/Line Shapefiles obtained from the Census Bureau can be directed to the Geographic Products Branch, Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau. The TIGER/Line Shapefiles are offered to the public free of charge through the Census Bureau's website. If you obtain the TIGER/Line Shapefiles from a third party, we recommend you contact that vendor for assistance as it is possible that they made changes to the files that we are unaware of or unable to support.

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