

## U.S. Census Bureau Participant Statistical Areas

		Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	Census 2000 population criteria	Other criteria/ information	Summary of changes to the criteria for the 2010 Census
Participant Statistical Areas	<b>Census Tracts</b>	Boundary continuity	Yes	County	Optimum: 4,000	Merge and split tracts to meet thresholds, not change	Lower the minimum population threshold for most tracts. Minimum: 1,200      Maximum: 8,000      Optimum 4,000
					Minimum: 1,500 (1,000 within AIRs)		Housing unit counts may be used to meet tract thresholds. Minimum: 480      Maximum: 3,200      Optimum: 1,600
		Data comparability			Maximum: 8,000		All types of populated tracts must meet the same thresholds.
							Wherever possible conform to American Indian reservations. Special tracts may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).
	<b>Block Groups (BGs)</b>	Small area characteristics data	Yes	Census Tract	Optimum: 1,500	Smallest area for ACS <sup>1</sup> sample data	Population thresholds: Minimum: 600      Maximum: 3,000      Optimum: none
					Minimum: 600 (300 within AIRs)	Between 1 and 9 BGs nest within a census tract	Housing unit counts may be used to meet BG thresholds. Minimum: 240      Maximum: 1,200      Optimum: none
		Meet minimum thresholds			Maximum: 3,000	Census tract boundaries are always BG boundaries	All types of populated BGs must meet the same thresholds.
							Wherever possible conform to American Indian reservations. Special BGs may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).
	<b>Census County Divisions (CCDs)</b>	Set of subcounty units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names	CCDs and MCDs together	County	None	Usually represents one or more communities, trading centers, or major land uses	<i>No significant changes.</i>
		CCDs exist in 22 states					
	<b>Census Designated Places (CDPs)</b>	Place-level statistics for well-known, closely settled localities	No, CDPs capture distinct communities	State	None	Named community	A CDP cannot have zero population and zero housing units.  A CDP must represent a single, distinct community. A CDP that represents multiple, distinct communities, and the hyphenated name typically assigned to represent such CDPs, will not be permitted. Exceptions will be made for communities whose identities have merged and in which both names commonly are used together.
		Mix of residential, commercial, and retail areas				Not part of an incorporated place or other CDP	
					Nucleus of relatively high residential population density		

These statistical areas are for statistical uses only. All comprise relatively compact, contiguous land areas.

<sup>1</sup> The American Community Survey (ACS) is conducted in the United States and Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico the survey is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS).