



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

BAS-4I

Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) Response Methods

Digital BAS

Commercial GIS

The U.S. Census Bureau designed its Digital BAS program to accept digital spatial updates from its BAS participants. Participants with GIS experience have the option to use their own GIS software to create and submit spatial updates to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau does require that all participants using the 'Commercial GIS' option use and render Census Bureau supplied spatial data (currently Esri Shapefiles) for all updates. This ensures that all participants use the same spatial base as the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau Digital BAS guidelines contain all the information needed to guarantee a smooth update process. Participants can download shapefiles and instructions from the BAS website at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>.

Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)

GUPS is a Census Bureau provided customized GIS application that enables participants without GIS software, or limited GIS skills, the ability to participate digitally in the BAS. GUPS is similar to the 'Commercial GIS' option, but contains built-in BAS-specific tools allowing participants to accurately make spatial and attribute updates in a standardized format. These features make GUPS the Census Bureau's preferred method for digital participation in the BAS. GUPS participants can request the software and shapefiles using the online BAS Annual Response form at http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html.

Paper BAS

Paper BAS is designed for participants who prefer to update their boundary and attribute information on paper maps. In order to reduce the cost of the BAS, the Census Bureau requests that participants first view their boundaries online at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html> prior to requesting paper maps. Paper BAS participants can request maps using the online BAS Annual Response form at http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas/bas_ar_form.html. If specific maps sheets are needed, email geo.bas@census.gov or call 1-800-972-5651.