

Master Address File (MAF)

The Master Address File (MAF) is a Census Bureau file that contains an accurate, up to date inventory of all known living quarters in the United States, Puerto Rico and associated island areas. The MAF is used to support most of the census and surveys that the Census Bureau conducts including the decennial census, the American Community Survey and ongoing demographic surveys. The content of the MAF includes address information, Census geographic location codes, as well as source and history data.

Master Address File Auxiliary Reference File (MAFARF)

The Master Address File Auxiliary Reference File (MAF-ARF) is a Census Bureau file that contains a Master Address File Identifier (MAFID) and a protected identification key (PIK). The MAFID is drawn from the MAF. The PIK is a resulting field from the verification of a record Social Security Number (SSN). At the completion of the SSN Verification process, the SSN is replaced with PIK as a form of anonymization of the record.