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Census Pro Documentation

Introduction:

Census Pro is a unique product which takes our Census Demographics data, and allows our clients to select just the data they need, in the format they need it. For instance, the Census provides 23 different age breakdowns (0-4, 5-9, etc.). We allow our clients to select *and aggregate* the ages they want (Children from 0-19, for instance).

You can also download all of our data from our web site. The file is **tu-census.zip**. It contains both a CSV file and an Excel spreadsheet, optimized for easy viewing.

Product Info:

5-Digit ZIP Code:

The Census Bureau created what's called ZCTAs. These are *approximations* of ZIP Codes and are a combination of Census Blocks (the smallest Census areas) which would be found in a ZIP Code. Because of overlaps and other factors, they won't cover exactly the same area as a ZIP Code, but are the closest approximation of a ZIP Code which exists.

Our Census Pro product contains only ZCTAs, but we often will refer to them as ZIP Codes for simplicity and because we will combine Census data with our ZIP Code information.

Note: if a ZIP Code was not in existence at the time of the last Census, then we won't have information on that area.

Also note: There are about 33,000 ZCTAs and over 41,000 ZIP Codes. The 'extra' ZIP Codes are mainly PO Boxes and business ZIP Codes where there are no residences. This product only contains ZCTAs. We have a **Parent ZIP Codes** product that will map PO Boxes and other ZIPs which don't have a ZCTA (they are called 'Point ZIPs') to the 'parent' ZIP Code (the ZIP that the PO Box is located within).

Data Extraction Tool:

The Census data that is available on-line consists of tens of thousands of fields of information and often requires downloading multiple files and 'pasting them together.' We have spent many hours downloading what we believe is the most important Census and related data elements from various locations and combined them with our existing ZIP Code data. We then created a unique tool that allows you to pick and choose just the fields that you want and export them into the format that is best for you. Following are some instructions for using our Census Data Extraction tool:

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PO Box 1999 • Andrews, NC 28901 • phone: (828) 629-7001 • fax: (888) 617-1595



Go to the free demo site:

Here's a link to access our Census data extraction tool with sample data:

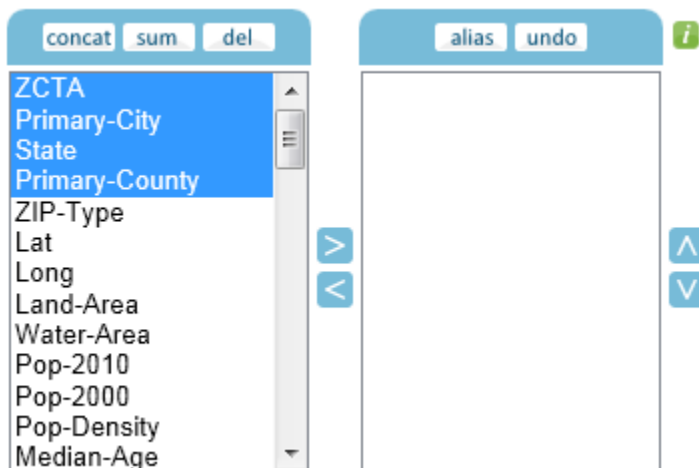
<http://greatdata.com/secure/downloadpages/downloadzipcounts.aspx?sample=yes>

Just log in with the following as the user name *and* password: **sample@greatdata.com**

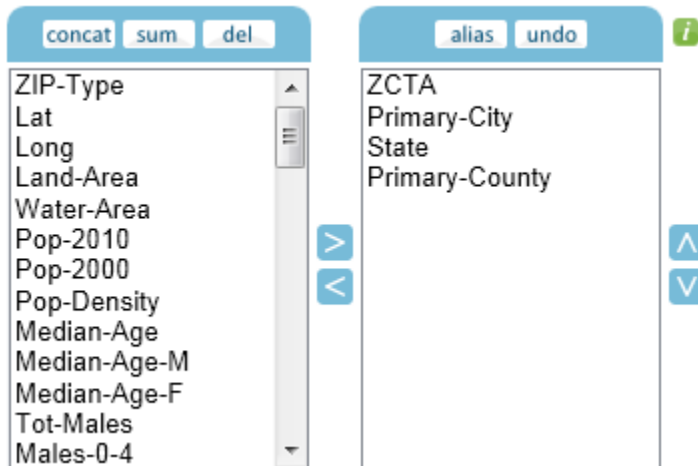
When you purchase the product, you'll create your own user and password and can then download all of the records that you need.

Basic Info:

We recommend that you initially choose the ZCTA, along with its corresponding Primary City, State, and Primary County:



You select them by clicking on them, holding down the Ctrl key (or click on the first item and hold down Shift and select the last item). After making your selection, click on the right arrow to move them into the right-hand column (they are no longer in the left-hand column):

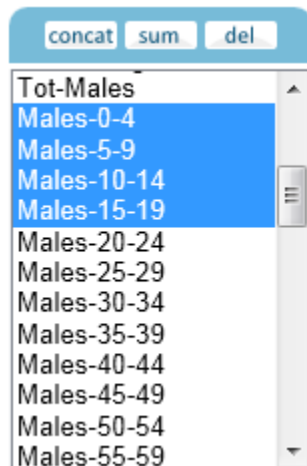


Aggregating Data:

One of the big limits with downloading the data from the Census web site is that much of the demographics are too detailed for most users. For instance, they group most ages in 5-year sections (0-4, 5-9, 10-14, etc.) They further break that down between males and females.

What if you want one total of all children ages 0-19 (male and female). With the Census data, you would have to be very good with Excel or be a programmer. Not with our extractor! Here's how:

- Select all of the Males, ages 0-19:



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- Scroll down and hold down Ctrl and select the same ages for Females.
- Click on the **Sum** button.
- Enter '**Children**' as the summarized fields name and click **Apply**:

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The screenshot shows two columns. The left column has a list of fields: Males-80-84, Males-85-89, Males-90-Up, Tot-Females, Females-0-4 (highlighted), Females-5-9, Females-10-14, Females-15-19, Females-20-24, Females-25-29, Females-30-34, Females-35-39, Females-40-44. The right column has: ZCTA, Primary-City, State, Primary-County. A dialog box at the bottom says 'Summarize values of selected to: Children' with an 'Apply' button.

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- This will create a field '{Children}'. Select it and click on the right-hand arrow to move into the right column:

The screenshot shows the same two columns. The left column now contains: ZIP-Type, Lat, Long, Land-Area, Water-Area, Pop-2010, Pop-2000, Pop-Density, Median-Age, Median-Age-M, Median-Age-F, Tot-Males, Males-0-4. The right column contains: ZCTA, Primary-City, State, Primary-County, {Children}.

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- You could now choose other fields and double-click on them to move them to the right hand column. Once they are in the right-hand column, feel free to re-order them by selecting one or move item and moving them up or down by clicking on the up and down arrows:



The image shows two side-by-side panels from a data management tool. The left panel has a header with buttons 'concat', 'sum', and 'del'. It contains a list of demographic fields: ZIP-Type, Lat, Long, Median-Age, Median-Age-M, Median-Age-F, Tot-Males, Males-0-4, Males-5-9, Males-10-14, Males-15-19, Males-20-24, and Males-25-29. The right panel has a header with buttons 'alias' and 'undo' and an information icon 'i'. It contains a list of geographic and population fields: ZCTA, Primary-City, State, Primary-County, {Children}, Pop-2010, Pop-2000, Land-Area, Pop-Density, and Water-Area. The 'Water-Area' field is highlighted in blue. There are navigation arrows between the panels: a right arrow on the left and left arrows on the right.

Exporting the Data:

You can choose the type of field delimiter that you want, limit to a state and / or a ZIP Code range, you can even only select records with certain values. When done, click on 'View Sample'. You can cut and paste this to a file (for paid subscriptions, you can download the file):

Export File Type: i

Delimited Text File Delimiter: ▼
 XML

Filters: i

State: ▼ ZIP Code: ▼
Compare: ▼ = ▼

Census Data Elements Available:

Our data contains information from the last Census taken (every 10 years) and from annual surveys that the Census Bureau conducts. Prior to 2010, the Census Bureau would send a 'Short Form' to most people and a 'Long Form' to a certain percentage of the population. The Long Form would have much more detailed info than the Short Form, and since it was done at the time of the Census, there would be a high percentage of people that filled it out and it was statistically accurate.

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Starting in 2010, the Census Bureau just sends the Short Form to people every 10 years and now conducts annual surveys of detailed info, similar to the Long Form, to a select sample of the total population. This is called the American Community Survey. They then release a 1-year survey and a 5-year combined survey. Their sample rate is small, so we've found that the 5-year info seems to be more precise than the 1-year.

Note: Besides individuals, the Census Bureau defines housing units, households (all people in the housing unit) and families (related people in the housing unit).

Important Note: to distinguish between the 2010 counts and the latest estimates, you should see '2010' or 'Estimate' / 'Estimated' in the tooltips that show up in the first column in the Excel Spreadsheets and in our Extractor (when you mouse over a field).

The new demographics added in 2016 are in **bold**.

The following data elements are available per ZIP Code:

- Basic Information:
 - ZCTA, along with its primary City, State and County (note: a ZIP Code can cross multiple cities, states and counties, so we just include the primary).
 - ZIP Code Type (blank-General Delivery, e-Exclusively used for PO Boxes, b-Business / Government private use, m-Military use)
 - Latitude / Longitude, Land Area, Water Area
- Population Information:
 - 2010 Population
 - 2000 Population
 - Population Density (persons per square mile of land)
 - Population Estimate ACS & MOE (Margin of Error) – this is the American Community Survey estimate at the ZCTA level. Note: we recommend that you *don't* rely on this too heavily. Over time, the ACS data should become more accurate, but we recommend using our Population Estimate Factor which has proven to be more reliable overall.
 - Population Estimate Factor (since the last Census). *This is something that we create on our own (it's not available from the Census or competitors)*. This is our estimate of how the population has changed since the last decennial census. Currently, that's the 2010 Census. To get a current estimate, multiply that figure (2010 Population) by the Population Estimate Factor to get the latest estimate. For instance, if the factor is 1.1 and the population was 1,000, it's now estimated to be 1,100. We plan on updating this estimate annually with our October release.



- Population Estimate Level. This is the Level of detail that we were able to achieve in determining our Population Estimate Factor. It will be either 'City' or 'County.' The Census releases some accurate city estimates for larger cities, so we use that when available, but for smaller towns, we use the county estimates.
- **Projections:** these are unique to GreatData and are figures that we derived estimating what the population will be in 5 and 10 years. We also give you a factor that you can use in adjusting our population figures in order to get an estimate of what that figure will be in 5 or 10 years.
- Total Males
- Total Females
- **Group Quarters:**
 - These are people living in institutional group quarters (correctional institutes and nursing homes), plus non-institutional group quarters (College dorms, Military barracks, other).
- **Military Status:**
 - Active Military: currently in the military, reserves or National Guard.
 - Veterans: no longer in the military and not in the reserves.
 - Civilians 18 and Over.
- **In School:**
 - Estimates of those currently in preschool, kindergarten, elementary school (up to 8th grade), high school or college / graduate school.
- **Educational Attainment:**
 - We break down those who are over 18 and have attained No High School, Some High School, High School Graduate /GED, Some College, Associates Degree, Bachelor's Degree or Graduate / Professional Degree.
- Household Information (families are included in these figures):
 - Total Households Last Census, Latest Estimate, Estimate Margin of Error
 - Average Household Size
 - Average and Median Household Income and Margins of Error
 - Estimated Number and Amount of Households with Income from:
 - Earnings
 - Retirement
 - Social Security
 - Social Security Supplemental Income
 - Cash Assistance
 - Estimated Number of Households receiving Food Stamps



- **Household Income:** these are breakdowns of households with income in various ranges from less than \$10,000 to over \$200,000.
- **Worker Earnings:**
 - These breakdown wages from earnings (average worker, average male, average female).
- **Family Information:**
 - Total Families as of the last Census
 - Average Family Size
 - Latest Estimate of Number of Families and the Margin of Error
 - Average / Median Family Income and the Margins of Error
- **Individual Income Information:**
 - Per Capita Income and the Margin of Error
- **Poverty Statistics:**
 - This includes the poverty universe, which is slightly less than the total population (.65%). Not sure who is excluded from this number.
 - The poverty estimate of the number of people determined to be in poverty, plus the Margin of Error.
 - Breakdowns by age groups of those in poverty (under 18, 18-64, 65 and up) and the Margin of Error.
- **Age Information:**
 - Median age – All
 - Median age – Males
 - Median age – Females
 - Age Breakdowns (available by Male & Female)
 - 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49,
 - 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+
 - **Age Groupings:** Under 18, Over 18, Over 18 Males/Females, Over 21, Over 65, Over 65 Males/Females and Over 85.
- **Miscellaneous info:**
 - Percentage of people foreign born.
 - Total Business establishments
- **Racial Information, broken down various ways:**
 - White
 - **White, Non-Hispanic**
 - Black
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native



- Asian
- Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- **Asian Indian**
- **Chinese**
- **Filipino**
- **Japanese**
- **Korean**
- **Vietnamese**
- **Other Asian**
- **Mexican**
- **Puerto Rican**
- **Cuban**
- **Other Hispanic**
- **Total Hispanic**
- **Non-Hispanic**
- Total other race than above
- Total with two or more races
- Racial Information concerning Hispanic or Latino:
 - Total Hispanic or Latino
 - Total non-Hispanic / Latino
- Racial Information – basic info:
 - Total White Alone
 - Total Black Alone
 - Total American Indian or Alaskan Native alone
 - Total Asian Alone
 - Total Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Alone
 - Total other than above
 - Total with two or more races
- Housing Units:
 - Total Housing Units
 - Total Occupied Housing Units
 - Total Owner Occupied Housing Units
 - Total Renter Occupied Housing Units
 - Vacant (Total, For Sale, For Rent & Seasonal) Housing Units



- Heating Fuel / Source (Utility Gas, LP or Bottled Gas, Electric, Oil, Coal, Wood, Solar, Other)
- Housing Age: includes housing build since 2005, 2000-2004, each decade from 1940-1999, and housing built prior to 1940. We include Margin of errors for each of these breakdowns.
- The Average and Median Gross Rents paid, along with the Margin of Error. This includes average utilities.
- Average and Median Home Values based on the latest Census Bureau's American Community Survey, including the Margin of Error.
- **Estimate of the number of Homes valued in various price ranges.**
- **Mortgage information** (units with and without a mortgage, plus costs and if over 30% of Household Income).