

U.S. Census Bureau

ZIP Code[®] Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs[™])

ZCTAs are not U.S. Postal Service ZIP Codes. ZCTAs are *approximate area representations* of United States Postal Service (USPS) ZIP Code service areas. The U.S. Census Bureau has created ZCTAs to meet requests by data users for statistical data by ZIP Code area. The term ZCTA was originated to differentiate between true USPS ZIP Codes and these approximations.

The ZCTAs for the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal data products represent a prototype release, and may not reflect the final specifications for the Census 2000 ZCTA products currently under development. The U.S. Census Bureau has prepared one-time-only, supplementary ZCTA data files to help data users evaluate and use the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal ZCTAs. These files show where the delineation is based on actual ZIP Code data and where blocks contain data for several ZIP Codes. Data users should not assume that the U.S. Census Bureau will provide supplementary ZCTA data files for the Census 2000 ZCTAs.



The technical documentation and the record layout are in [Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#). In order to view these, you will need the [Adobe[®] Acrobat[®] Reader](#) which is available [free](#) from the Adobe web site.

The following items are available for ZCTAs:

- [ZCTA Brochure](#)
- [Technical Documentation](#) for the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal ZCTAs.
- [Record Layout](#) for the Supplementary Data files.
- The Supplementary Data files for the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal sites are compressed for ease of transmission. There is one file for each county and each file must be decompressed into their native ASCII format before use. The files were compressed using a format (compatible with pkunzip, version 1.93A) widely accessible for most computer platforms. If you do not have a decompression utility try this location to [download](#) the appropriate software.
 - [Chester County, SC](#)
 - [Chesterfield County, SC](#)
 - [Darlington County, SC](#)
 - [Fairfield County, SC](#)
 - [Kershaw County, SC](#)
 - [Lancaster County, SC](#)
 - [Lee County, SC](#)
 - [Marlboro County, SC](#)
 - [Newberry County, SC](#)
 - [Richland County, SC](#) (Plus all of Columbia City and Irmo in Lexington Co.)
 - [Union County, SC](#)
 - [Menominee County, WI](#)
 - [City of Sacramento, CA](#)

Nationwide ZCTA boundaries will NOT be available until early 2001

ZCTA is a trademark of the U.S. Census Bureau, ZIP Code is a registered trademark of the U.S. Postal Service.

The Census Bureau does not have ZIP Code boundary files and does not have information on possible sources of such files. The only Census Bureau data sets available that are tabulated by ZIP Code are from the [1990 Census](#) and the [County Business Patterns](#) data.

Only comments and questions about ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) should be sent to:
zcta@geo.census.gov

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