

Statistics New Zealand data for GIS and Mapping



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Statistics New Zealand has an extensive range of data that is suitable for use with geographic information systems (GIS) and mapping software. We can provide you with:

- digital boundary data
- Streets Files
- statistical information

Information is available based on various geographic variables, so it is important to understand these terms: meshblocks, area units, wards, territorial authorities and regions. You can easily customise your area of interest based on these variables

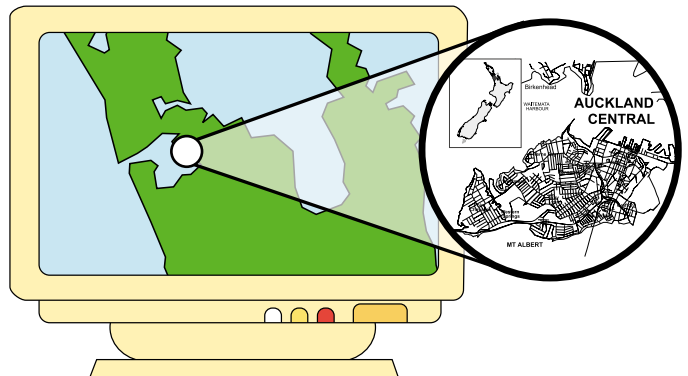
Main Geographic Variables

Meshblocks – are the building blocks for all other Statistics New Zealand geographic areas. They range in size from a neighbourhood block to large areas of sparsely populated land. An urban meshblock typically encompasses around 110 people. There are 38,366 meshblocks covering New Zealand.

Area units – are groupings of meshblocks that form a specific area. Urban area units typically encompass around 3,000 to 5,000 people. There are 1860 area units covering New Zealand.

Urban areas – are concentrated settlements based on central groupings of people which are classified as either main, secondary or minor depending on population counts.

Wards – are areas used for local government electoral purposes and are based on meshblocks. There are 337 wards in the country, however not all cities and districts have wards.



Territorial authorities – are cities or districts. There are 74 for all of New Zealand.

Regions – are areas defined by the 16 regional councils that cover New Zealand.

Digital boundary data

Electronic files containing various digitised geographic boundaries are available for use in GIS and mapping software.

Digital boundary data may be used with statistical data to present a wide range of information in a map format including: areas of high and low density, personal characteristics of residents, business locations and likely travel routes from home to work.

There is a choice of two levels of accuracy:

- **Level One boundaries** match those held in the Land Information New Zealand's Landonline database. They are used when a high level of accuracy is important, for instance, with cable laying.
- **Level Two boundaries** are a filtered version of the Level One boundaries. They take less storage and are often used for statistical mapping.



Digital boundary data is available in a number of formats so it can be used with most mapping software packages, such as ArcInfo, MapInfo and Genamap.

Streets File

The Streets File is an electronic list of address ranges and street names that fall within meshblocks. The Streets File may be leased annually by users wishing to relate customer databases to meshblocks or higher geographic levels.

Statistical Information

A vast range of information can be found for geographically defined areas covering the following topics:

- Census of Population and Dwellings (population, demographics, housing, living conditions)
- population projections
- births and deaths
- business statistics
- employment and unemployment
- income
- external migration
- commercial accommodation industry
- consumer spending
- inflation
- building activity
- overseas trade.

For further details see the “Regional Statistics at a Glance” information sheet, where information available is listed by statistical collection.

2001 Census Meshblock Database

The Meshblock Database holds single counts for a wide range of variables from the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings. This database is a large file to be used mainly with analytical or mapping systems. If data is directly comparable and relevant across censuses, output from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses is also included.

The database can be ordered through redistributors, including MapData Sciences (info@mapds.co.nz) and Critchlow Associates (census@critchlow.co.nz), as well as directly from Statistics New Zealand. The price for the complete file is \$1,200 plus GST. Regional council and territory authority packages are available at lower prices. Users purchasing on behalf of multiple organisations or wishing to provide the database to other users will be subject to a redistributor fee of \$5,000 plus GST.

