Census Tract Maps User’s Guide

Go to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Factfinder. Scroll down and look in the right column for the “Address Search” section. Click on the hyperlink for entering a street address. Then you will be able to make your selections from a map showing the area of your census tract and surrounding census tracts, and you can access data tables with information about your census tract(s).

Example: To find the census tract of Los Angeles’ Central Library, enter the Library’s address of 630 W 5th St, Los Angeles CA 90071 in the search box.
Click on the “Go” button to view all the various Census geographies and federal political districts for the Library. The Library’s census tract is 2077.10:

Click on “Census Tract 2077.10” to select this tract. Click on the “Map” tab to select additional census tracts. Otherwise, close the Geographies option and use the Topics option above to view demographic data about Census Tract 2077.10.
The Map tab displays the selected census tract in yellow. Add boundaries and labels by clicking on the Boundaries icon along the right side, then selecting the Layer and Label options for Census Tract:

After clicking on Update, the current census tract numbers and boundaries for each tract are displayed. American Factfinder displays census tract boundaries back to the year 2000. To select a different year, use the drop-down menu at the top of the Boundaries selection box.

Additional census tracts can be added by using the Select Geographies icon. Be sure to select “Census Tract” from the drop-down menu, and click on the “Select using a point”
option. Use the other options to select all the census tracts within a user-defined circle, rectangle, or custom polygon:

Using the point option, click within each desired census tract boundary. The initial selection is yellow, while the additional selections are gray. Below is a representation of
the census tracts in downtown Los Angeles as defined by Alameda St, the 10 Freeway, 110 Freeway and the 101 Freeway:

![Census Tract Map](image)

Click on “Add to your selections”, so all of the selections are moved to the “Your Selections” section in the upper left corner.

This is a useful method to analyze demographics of neighborhoods or areas in Los Angeles not recognized by the Census Bureau, such as Echo Park, Boyle Heights, and Van Nuys. Consult existing sources for suggested neighborhood boundaries, such as the Los Angeles Times' [Mapping L.A.](https://www.latimes.com/mapping-la) project.

Census tracts are reviewed and updated by local governments and organizations prior to each decennial census. Census tract boundaries are determined by nonvisible legal boundaries such as county lines and incorporated city lines. Within the geographic area, visible acceptable boundaries include highways, major avenues, local roads, perennial streams or rivers, ridge lines, or railroad tracks. For more information, see Appendix C of [2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program](https://www.census.gov/geo/parker/2010-participant-statistical-areas-program/).

Upon selecting the desired census tract(s), close the map option and continue on to the Topics option on the left side to view demographic criteria for the selected census tracts.

### Census Tract Reference Maps

The Census Bureau also provides census tract reference maps for the [1990 Census](https), [2000 Census](https) and [2010 Census](https). The files are in Adobe’s PDF format and measure 36
by 32 inches. These maps provide an alternative to the American Factfinder’s dynamic interface.

Example: Find the Los Angeles Central Library’s census tract number for the 2010 Census using the reference maps.


Select “California” from the drop-down menu and click on “Go”.

The list of counties are displayed alphabetically. Click on the “L” tab. This page shows that Los Angeles County consists of 28 map sheets, while smaller and more sparsely populated counties such as Lake and Lassen counties consist of one map sheet.

Click on the link for Los Angeles. If a county consists of more than one parent map sheet, then the Census Bureau includes an index map sheet showing how the parent map sheets are configured. Index map sheet files are numbered as ’000’. Parent map
sheets are numbered '001' through '999'. Inset map sheets are designated as 'A01' through 'Z99'.

Click on “DC10CT_C06037_000.pdf” to open the index map sheet in your browser. Zoom if necessary to read the text and to make the freeways more visible. On the index map sheet, use the 5 freeway and 10 freeway as landmarks, as well as the 110 and 101
freeways that aren’t labeled, to determine that downtown Los Angeles area is mostly displayed on parent map sheet number 18:

Return to the file directory shown above and click on DC10CT_C06037_018.pdf to open this map sheet in your browser.
After zooming in on the downtown area, the map shows that West 5th Street is on the border between census tract 2077.10 and 2075.02. Because Central Library is on the south side of West 5th St., it resides within census tract 2077.10. Anything on the north side of West 5th St resides within census tract 2075.02. It may be necessary to refer to a web-based mapping service (e.g. Google Maps, Bing Maps, Mapquest) to verify the exact location of a building to select the correct census tract.

To research demographic data on census tract 2077.10 or others, go to American Factfinder’s Advanced Search page. In the Geography search box, enter “2077.10” as shown below:

![American FactFinder Advanced Search](image)

Enter more census tracts as desired. Each census tract selected will appear in the “Your Selections” area in the top left. The most recent relevant demographic files will be
listed in the center column. Refine the list by making selections from the Topics category on the left: