Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries 2025 Release Notes

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OVERVIEW

The Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries data set presents information about wireless and landline communications service area boundaries and descriptions of services provided. Claritas extends this core offering by translating service areas to census, metropolitan, and postal geographies.

Claritas also links data from other sources to the telecommunications service areas provided. For instance, data about consumer demographics, financial and insurance product behavior, and segment distributions are all associated with telecommunications service areas. These data product links provide users of the Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries data set a richer, more detailed profile of telecommunications service area markets.

WHAT'S NEW

The landline data in this release of the Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries data set has been updated based on the latest definitions from TomTom North America, Inc. (TomTom) Telecommunications Suite 2024.03. The definitions for wireless boundaries are static.

Cross references to other geographies have also been updated based on the latest definitions.

DATA DESCRIPTION

Each Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries release consists of the following types of products:

- Boundaries
- Cross-reference files
- Descriptive data

Boundaries

Boundaries are available for landline and wireless service areas.

Landline Boundaries

Since landline telecommunications services are not available throughout the United States, service area boundaries sometimes appear as non-contiguous territories. These territories may or may not have any correlation to county or state boundaries. In addition, there are instances where no service provider is tracked for a particular geography.

TomTom® defines a Wire Center as a location where the telephone company terminates the local lines, which is usually also the central office. A Wire Center boundary is a representation of the area served by the switching equipment housed at this physical location.

To provide an integrated presentation of landline service provider coverage, Claritas uses Wire Center as the base geography to which other levels are aggregated. For example, the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (abbreviated as ILEC or LEC) level is an aggregation of wire centers that have the same dominant ILEC assignment. The Local Access and Transport Area (abbreviated as LATA or LAT) level is similarly aggregated. ILECs are company based, representing areas within which a public telephone company provides local service, while LATAs are regional, representing areas covered by one or more local telephone companies.

The table below provides a summary of landline boundary levels:

LEVEL	AGGREGATION	STATE REMAINDERS
ILEC	Wire Center	No
LATA	Wire Center	No
WIRE CENTER	Wire Center	No

Wireless Boundaries

Boundary information is available for PCS (Personal Communications Service) Basic Trading Areas (BTA) and Major Trading Areas (MTA), as well as Metropolitan and Rural Service Areas (MSA/RSA), which are also known as Cellular Market Areas (CMA). BTAs are areas where a company is awarded a Broadband PCS license by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which allows them to transmit frequencies. MTAs are groups of BTAs. MSAs and RSAs are areas where cellular operators are licensed by the FCC to provide service. Please note that the two PCS boundaries are treated as separate geographies, while the two cellular boundaries are treated as a

single combined geography (MSA/RSA). All three are based on counties or groupings of counties. Please note that, in the state of Connecticut, due to their static nature, these areas are still based on the old counties and not the Planning Regions that became county equivalents.

Cross-Reference Files

Cross-reference files allow users to observe relationships between various levels of census, postal, and telecommunications industry geographies. These relationships are based on census blocks. A list of available cross-reference files is provided in the "Current Listing" section.

Descriptive Data

Landline Service Areas

Descriptive data is provided for select landline service areas. A list of available descriptive data is provided in the "Current Listing" section. The table below includes a listing of the data available for landline geographic levels:

LEVEL	BOUNDARIES	DESCRIPTIVE DATA	DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	CROSS-REFERENCES
ILEC	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
LATA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
WIRE CENTER	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Wireless Service Areas

Descriptive data is not available for wireless service providers. The table below includes a listing of the data available for wireless geographic levels:

LEVEL	BOUNDARIES	DESCRIPTIVE DATA	DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	CROSS-REFERENCES
BTA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
MTA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
MSA/RSA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

DATA SOURCE

The landline data in this release of the Claritas Telecommunications Boundaries data set is based on TomTom Telecommunications Suite 2024.03. The definitions for wireless boundaries come from the FCC and are static.

METHODOLOGY

Boundaries

Landline Boundaries

Wire Center boundaries are provided by TomTom. Claritas then aggregates Wire Center boundaries to create Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and Local Access and Transport Area (LATA) boundaries using appropriate assignments provided by TomTom.

Wireless Boundaries

All Wireless Boundaries are aggregated from Claritas county boundaries, using definitions from the FCC.

Associated Data

Claritas assigns data, such as consumer demographics, to wire centers based on a block group-to-wire center correspondence, which is updated annually. This correspondence is based on the location of block centroids (latitude/longitude points) within current wire center boundaries. If a block's centroid falls within a wire center boundary, the population for that block is allocated to that wire center. These block-to-wire center allocations determine the percentage of each block group assigned to a given wire center. Wire center data is then aggregated to ILEC and LATA.

Claritas assigns data to wireless boundaries based on aggregations of counties to BTA, MTA and MSA/RSA.

Cross-Reference Files

Cross-reference percent inclusion, when available, is based on data of the blocks in the union of the two geographies.

A cross-reference with zero percent inclusion between a telecommunications service area and another geography is valid based on our method of calculating percent inclusion. This indicates a link resulting from at least one common or shared block; furthermore, the block or blocks included in the join have no data associated with them. With the 2020 Census, there are over seven million blocks in the U.S. and approximately two million have no population associated with them. Examples of these blocks include business districts, state parks, and other non-residential areas.

CURRENT LISTING

Descriptive Data

The following descriptive data is available at the Wire Center level:

COLUMN NAME	DESCRIPTION
CTR_GCODE	Wire Center ID
CTR_CODE	Wire Center Code
DOMINANT_SWITCH	Dominant Switch Site (11-digit CLLI Code)
LEC_GCODE	Operating Company Number (LEC Code)
LEC_NAME	Operating Company Name (LEC Name)
LEC_CATEGORY	Operating Company Category (LEC Category)
LAT_GCODE	LATA (Local Access & Transport Area) Code
LATA_NAME	LATA Name
CITY_NAME	Locality (City Name)
ST_ABBRV	State Abbreviation
CLL_GCODE	Network Site (8-digit CLLI Code)
RATE_CENTER_ID	Rate Center ID
RATE_CENTER_NAME	Rate Center Name
RATE_CENTER_ABB_NAME	Rate Center Name Abbreviation
SWITCH_VERTICAL_POSITION	Dominant Switch Vertical Position
SWITCH_HORIZONTAL_POSITION	Dominant Switch Horizontal Position
LATITUDE	Switch Latitude
LONGITUDE	Switch Longitude

Cross-Reference Files

This section includes lists of cross-reference files to show the relationships between various levels of census, postal, and industry geographies.

Metropolitan and Rural Service Areas (MSA/RSA) **–** Wireless, Cellular

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO MSA/RSA	MSA/RSA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	No
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	No
CBSA	No	No
CSA	No	No
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO MSA/RSA	MSA/RSA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	No
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	No	No
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	Yes	No
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	Yes	No
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	No	No
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	No

Basic Trading Areas (BTA) – Wireless, PCS

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO BTA	BTA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	No
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	No
CBSA	No	No
CSA	No	No
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO BTA	BTA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	No	No
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	No

Major Trading Areas (MTA) – Wireless, PCS

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO MTA	MTA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	No
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	No
CBSA	No	No
CSA	No	No
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO MTA	MTA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	Yes	No
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	Yes	No
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	No	No
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	No

Local Access and Transport Area (LATA) **–** Landline

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO LATA	LATA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	No
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	Yes
CBSA	No	Yes
CSA	No	Yes
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO LATA	LATA TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	No	No
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	No

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) – Landline

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO ILEC	LEC TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	No
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	Yes
CBSA	No	Yes
CSA	No	Yes
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO ILEC	LEC TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	Yes	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	No	No
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	Yes	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	No	No
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	No

Wire Center – Landline

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO WIRE CENTER	WIRE CENTER TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Block Group	Yes	No
Tract	Yes	Yes
Place	Yes	No
Minor Civil Division (MCD)	Yes	No
County	Yes	Yes
CBSA	No	Yes
CSA	No	Yes
State	No	Yes

OTHER GEOGRAPHIES	GEOGRAPHY LEVEL TO WIRE CENTER	WIRE CENTER TO GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL
Nielsen DMA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless Cellular MSA/RSA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS BTA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Wireless PCS MTA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline LATA	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline ILEC	No	Yes
Telecommunications – Landline Wire Center	No	No
ZIP Code – 3-Digit ZIP	No	Yes
ZIP Code – 5-Digit ZIP	Yes	Yes

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you need further assistance, not provided in the release notes, please contact the Claritas Solution Center between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday, EST) at 800.866.6511.

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