**UMass Donahue Institute LUCA 2020 Resources**

**FAQs for Resource Product #1:** [**Housing Unit Change by Census Block, 2010-2017**](https://public.tableau.com/views/HUchange2010-2017_test/HousingUnitChangebyCensusBlock2010-2017?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&publish=no?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showVizHome=no)

**Q: How do I find my city/town?**

At the top right corner, where it says “select your city/town” select your town’s name from the drop down menu. This will bring up the map of your town. It may take a few seconds to load. If the map appears to be focused on the wrong location, put your cursor to the top left corner of the map and a button that looks like a house will appear. Click it, and it will bring you to the town specified in the dropdown.

**Q: Looking at the map, I see that a block’s housing unit count has changed a lot from 2010 to 2017. How do I see the counts?**

Hover your mouse over the block you are interested in. The following information will appear for the block: tract number, block number, 2010 Census housing unit count, 2017 Census housing unit estimate, and the difference in housing units between 2010 and 2017. Also, you can download housing unit count data for your town by clicking the red box next to “Click the box to download the data for your city/town”.

**Q: How do I download count data for my town?**

Select your town from the drop down menu at the top right corner. Then, double click the red box next to “Click the box to download the data for your city/town”, located below the drop down. This will download an Excel worksheet that has housing unit counts for the 2010 Census and 2017 estimates by block, as well as the difference between the two counts. (You may have to turn off a pop-up blocker or choose “allow” if you do not see a prompt to download the data after clicking the red button).

Clicking the Excel worksheet icon will download data for the entire state. If you only want your town, click the red box, NOT the worksheet icon.

**Q: I have downloaded the housing unit count file for my town. What do the field headings mean?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Field** | **Description** | **Source** |
| BLOCKID co | Unique identifying block number. Also called GEOID. It consists of the state ID ("25" for Massachusetts), 3-digit county ID (may include leading zeros), 6-digit tract ID (may include leading zeros), and 4-digit block ID (may include leading zeros). | 2010 Series Information File for the 2010 Census Block State-based Shapefile with Housing and Population data, 2010. tabblock2010\_25\_pophu.zip at ftp://ftp2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2010BLKPOPHU/ |
| County | County ID number. |  |
| Town | Name of the town the block is in. |  |
| Town Id | ID number of the town the block is in. |  |
| 2010 HU Count | Residential housing unit count from 2010 Census as of April 1, 2010. | 2010 Series Information File for the 2010 Census Block State-based Shapefile with Housing and Population data, 2010. tabblock2010\_25\_pophu.zip at ftp://ftp2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2010BLKPOPHU/ |
| 2017 HU Count | Residential housing unit count from Census as of 2017. | From the Census Bureau's Master Address File as published in the 2020 Census LUCA Address Block count, Oct. 2017. https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/partnerships/luca/add\_block\_count/st25\_ma/ST25\_Massachusetts\_AddressCountListReport\_102017.txt |
| HU Change 2010-2017 | Change in housing unit counts from 2010 to 2017. | 2017 Census housing unit counts minus Census 2010 Master Address File housing unit counts. |

**Q: I zoomed in to examine a block and now I want to go back to the town overview map and/or change towns and see a different map. How do I do that?**

To get back to the original extent of the map, click the home button (the button that looks like a house). If you want to see a different town, and you are zoomed in or out, click the home button first. Then select the next town you want from the drop down.

**Q: I can’t find the home button/ zoom buttons. Where are they?**

Hover your mouse in the top left hand corner of the map near the white text box. A button that looks like a house (home button) and a + (zoom in) and – (zoom out) button will appear.

**Q: How do I use this count information?**

We made this particular resource available to help towns get a head start on identifying potential “problem areas” so that they can start to identify addresses missing from the Census Master Address File (MAF). If you know that you have had a lot of new residential building or residential conversions in some areas of your town since 2010, you can look at the map and the corresponding Excel spreadsheet to see if that new growth appears to have been captured by the Census Bureau. If it has not, start compiling a list of addresses for that new growth. You might search your assessor’s records, building or adaptation permit records, or other development records to start putting these together.

**Q: How do I see major roads?**

You can zoom in and out on the map either with the roller button on your mouse (similar to other web map applications) or with the + and – buttons at the top left corner of the map. When you zoom in, main roads should be labeled. The map may take a few seconds to load. If you want to look at a different town after you have zoomed in, be sure to click the home button on the map first (the button that looks like a house). Then, select the next town you want from the drop down menu.

**Q: I need to see more detailed/minor street names within each block. How can I look at these?**

The online Tableau interface we use for this resource only includes major street names. If you need to see more detailed street names you have a few options:

* [TigerWeb](https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/) Use the TigerWeb map interface to navigate to your town. Using [this link](https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/) to the website, go to the selection menu to the left of the map and select both the labels and layers boxes for: 1) places and county subdivisions > county subdivisions; 2) census tracts and blocks > census 2010 blocks (you will need to zoom in close to see these); and 3) transportation (roads and railroads.)
* [PDF maps](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/) are also available at the Census Bureau website. Using [this link](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/) to the website, go to the selection menu on the right and choose: County Subdivision > Massachusetts > (your city or town). Open the webpage in Adobe Reader and zoom in to see detail.

**Q: Do you have the addresses associated with these block counts?**

With this resource, we only provide block count comparisons. In December, we will be releasing a second product that compares 2017 MAF housing unit counts by block to our own UMDI Master Address Database (MAD) counts by block. When we release this tool, towns will also have the option of requesting our corresponding address lists. The Secretary of the Commonwealth will notify LUCA participants once this second resource is available, and it will be posted on our website [here](http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/business-groups/economic-public-policy-research/massachusetts-population-estimates-program/population-estimate-program-projects-and-initiatives/resources-for-cities-towns).

**Q: How accurate are the 2017 block counts?**

Note that both the Census MAF counts and the UMDI MAD counts may be inflated in some areas. In both cases, unless a record could be confirmed as non-residential or as a duplicate, it was left in the database, erring on the side of inclusivity.

See question below.

**Q: I only have street addresses and don’t know the blocks for them. How do I use this map?**

The map and data we have published currently don’t include associated addresses with the housing unit counts. This product is intended as a way to get cities and towns started with their LUCA process, and to get people to familiar with the format of the next product we intend to publish later this fall. The next product will show the differences between our housing unit estimates and the census estimates, and when that is rolled out, we will make our associated address list available. In the meantime, there are a few ways in which you can find the blocks for your addresses.

If you prefer a spatial reference, Census has published maps in pdf format that have street names and block boundaries that you can use as a reference: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010. (Click here for the direct Massachusetts County Subdivision link: <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/cousub/dc10blk_st25_cousub.html>) Click on the tab with the letter that corresponds with the first letter of your county, and then scroll down to find your town. When you click your town’s link, you will be taken to a page with links to pdf maps. These are viewed best with Microsoft Edge or Microsoft Explorer, or you can download them directly to your desktop.

If you prefer to search by address, the Census has a geocoder available where you can look up census blocks by single address or batches of addresses using the “Find Geographies” tool (<https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/>).

***For other questions*,** please contact Meghan Flanagan at [mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu](mailto:mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu)

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