

Metadata

Language

Language Code

eng

Character Set

Character Set Code

utf8

Hierarchy Level

Scope Code

dataset

Hierarchy Level Name

dataset

Contact

Responsible Party

Individual Name

Geospatial Team

Organisation Name

Stats NZ

Contact Info

Contact

Phone

Telephone

Voice

0508 525 525

Address

Address

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geography@stats.govt.nz

Online Resource

Online Resource

Linkage

URL

<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz>

Role

Role Code

owner

Date Stamp

Date

2021-11-24

Metadata Standard Name

**Metadata Standard Version**

2007

**Spatial Representation Info****Vector Spatial Representation****Topology Level Code**

geometryOnly

**Geometric Object Type Code**

composite

**Integer**

56982

**Reference System Info****Reference System****Reference System Identifier****Identifier****Code**

2193

**Code Space**

EPSG

**Version**

7.9.4(9.0.0)

**Identification Info****Data Identification****Citation****Citation****Title**

GMS\_Core.DBO.MB2022\_V1\_00

**Date****Presentation Form****Presentation Form Code**

mapDigital

**Abstract**

This dataset is the definitive set of meshblock boundaries for 2022 as defined by Stats NZ. Stats NZ maintains an annual meshblock pattern for collecting and producing statistical data. This allows data to be compared over time. A meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected and processed by Stats NZ. A meshblock is defined by a geographic area, which can vary in size from part of a city block to a large area of rural land. Each meshblock borders on another to form a network covering all of New Zealand, including coasts and inlets and extending out to the 200-mile economic zone. Meshblocks are added together to build up larger geographic areas such as statistical area 1 (SA1), statistical area 2 (SA2), and urban rural. They are also used to define electoral districts, territorial authorities, and regional councils. Meshblock boundaries generally follow road centre-lines, cadastral property boundaries or topographical features (e.g. rivers). Expanses of water in the form of lakes and inlets are defined separately from land. There are two ways of amending meshblock boundaries. Splitting is subdividing a meshblock into two or more meshblocks. Nudging is shifting a boundary to a more appropriate position. Reasons for splits and nudges include:- to accommodate changes to local government boundaries, which are required by the Local Government Act 2002 to follow meshblocks for electoral purposes- to accommodate changes to parliamentary electoral boundaries, following each Electoral

Representation Commission review after each five-yearly Census of Population and Dwellings- to make changes to statistical boundaries such as statistical area 1 (SA1), statistical area 2 (SA2), and urban rural- to enable changes to census collection districts- to improve the size balance of meshblocks in areas where there has been population growth- to separate land and water – e.g.mainland, islands, inlets, and oceanic are defined separately.- to accommodate requests from other users of the meshblock pattern e.g.NZ Police for their station, area, and district boundaries.Meshblock numbering process until 2014 (MB 2014)Meshblocks were allocated a unique seven-digit number. The first five digits were unique and referred to the original 1976 meshblock code. The two end numbers referred to sequential meshblock splits to the original meshblock. When a meshblock was split the final two digits of the original meshblock number were changed. Stats NZ maintains a concordance file to ensure that boundaries relating to earlier meshblock patterns can also be produced.Meshblock numbering process from 2015 (MB 2015)Due to new technology being introduced for splitting and nudging meshblocks, the process for allocating a unique seven-digit number was changed. New meshblock numbering is approximately sequential. The first meshblock number in this new sequential numbering pattern was 4000000. This differentiates meshblocks split from MB2015 onwards and allows for a large number of unique seven digit identifiers to be allocated. Now when a meshblock is split it takes on the next available number, rather than following the former process described above. For example, a meshblock numbered 3254000 is split into two meshblocks. Using the new numbering process the system will assign the first available sequential numbers. The following table shows how the two meshblocks would be numbered based on the old and new processes.

Original meshblock	New numbering
3254000	3254001
3254000	3254002

The digital geographic boundaries are defined and maintained by Stats NZ. Meshblocks cover the land area of New Zealand, the water area to the 12-mile limit, the Chatham Islands, Kermadec Islands, sub-Antarctic islands, off-shore oil rigs, and Ross Dependency. The following 16 meshblocks are not held in digitised form.

Meshblock	Location (statistical area 2 name)
0016901	Oceanic Kermadec Islands
0016902	Kermadec Islands
1588000	Oceanic Oil Rig Taranaki
3166401	Oceanic Campbell Island
3166402	Campbell Island
3166600	Oceanic Oil Rig Southland
3166710	Oceanic Auckland Islands
3166711	Auckland Islands
3195000	Ross Dependency
3196001	New Zealand Economic Zone
3196002	Oceanic Bounty Islands
3196003	Bounty Islands
3196004	Oceanic Snares Islands
3196005	Snares Island
3196006	Oceanic Antipodes Islands
3196007	Antipodes Islands

The annual pattern of digital boundaries is used for the full calendar year from 1 January. Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007.

## Purpose

This dataset is the definitive version of the annually released meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2022, as defined by Stats NZ. This version contains 56,982 meshblocks.

## Credit

Stats NZ

## Point Of Contact

### Responsible Party

#### Individual Name

Geospatial Team

#### Organisation Name

Stats NZ

### Contact Info

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#### Address

Address

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Role  
Role Code  
owner

#### Descriptive Keywords

##### Keywords

Keyword  
Statistics New Zealand

Keyword  
mb

Keyword  
Stats NZ

Keyword  
MB

Keyword  
Meshblock

Keyword  
meshblock

#### Descriptive Keywords

##### Keywords

Keyword  
Downloadable Data

#### Resource Constraints

##### Constraints

Use Limitation  
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

#### Spatial Representation Type Code

vector

#### Language

Language Code  
eng

#### Character Set

Character Set Code  
utf8

#### Topic Category Code

boundaries

Extent

EX\_Extent

Geographic Element

EX\_Geographic Bounding Box

Extent Type Code

Boolean

true

-180180-47.841491-33.559984

Extent

EX\_Extent

Geographic Element

EX\_Geographic Bounding Box

Extent Type Code

Boolean

true

-180180-47.841491-33.559984

Distribution Info

Distribution

Distribution Format

Format

Name

SDE Feature Class

Data Quality Info

DQ\_Data Quality

Scope

DQ\_Scope

Level

Scope Code

dataset

Lineage

LI\_Lineage

Statement

The digital meshblock boundaries are stored and maintained by Stats NZ. Non-alignment of meshblock and cadastral boundaries are one of a number of reasons for meshblock boundary adjustments. Other reasons include requests from local authorities, Local Government Commission, Electoral Representation Commission and to make census enumeration processes easier. From the generalised meshblock pattern, higher geographies are dissolved using the dissolve tool in the Arc GIS suite to create multiple output datasets.