

Access to Census 2B microdata in the RDCs began in 2007. The RDC Program now has data from 1981 to 2006. The lowest levels of geography on these files are Census Tract (CT), where used, and Census Sub-Division.

Researchers have requested lower levels of geography be available in the RDCs. In response, a proposal was presented to the Microdata Access Committee to add Dissemination Area (DA) & Forward Sortation Area (FSA) to files housed in the RDCs. The proposal was approved. Vetting rules were developed and approved and added to the Survey Specific Guidelines.

The documentation and data files required to append DA and FSA variables to the 1981 to 2006 Census files housed in the RDC are now available. New geography variables by Census year are as follows:

RDC 2006: FSAName, PRCDDA, PWPRCDDA

RDC 2001: FSAName, PRCDDA, PWPRCDDA

RDC 1996: FSAName, Pedea, PWEA

RDC 1991: FSA, Pedea

RDC 1986: FSAName, Pedea

RDC 1981: Pedea

In addition, the data files include **ID** and **Persno**, identifier variables that provide a link to the original RDC files as follows:

Variable	Identifier required
FSA	ID
FSAName	ID
Pedea	ID
PRCDDA	ID
PWEA	ID & Persno
PWPRCDDA	ID & Persno

In the future, new years of the Census will include these variables.

Researchers using Census data who want to do their analyses at a lower level of geography should contact their RDC analyst.