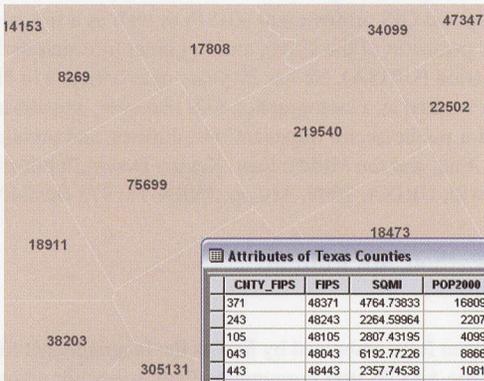


# Make Numeric Labels More Readable

Using table number field formatting is a quick solution

When labeling map features using a numeric field, you may need to add some basic formatting to those numbers. Often, the formatting required can be as simple as inserting a thousands separator character to make values more easily read. Although you could use a labeling expression to accomplish this effect, if you have write permission for the table used for labeling, formatting the labeling field can achieve the same effect more quickly and with less effort.

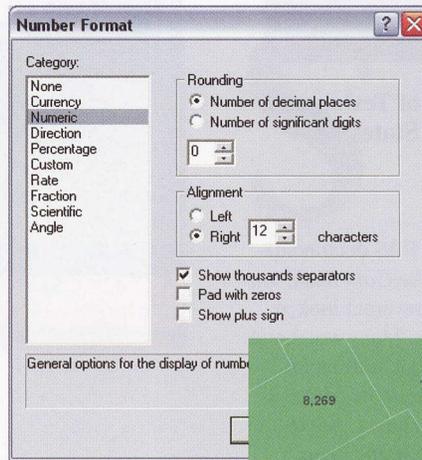
Changing the way numbers are displayed in tables and labels does not change the underlying data, because this formatting is only saved in the map layer. In addition to inserting thousands separators, this method can be used to adjust alignment, pad a number with zeroes, include a plus sign to indicate a positive number, and specify the number of decimal places or significant digits that will be displayed. Follow this



◀ These labels, showing the population of various counties in Texas, would be easier to read with some formatting.

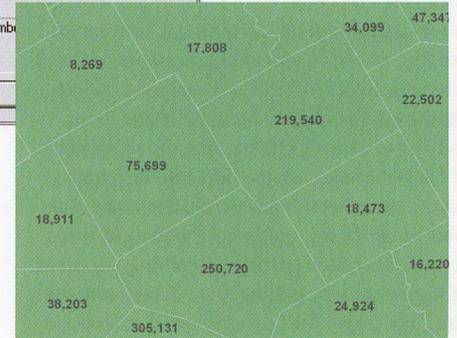
▶ To quickly remedy this problem, open the table and right-click the heading for the field used for labeling.

CNTY_FIPS	FIPS	SQMI	POP2000	POP2003	POP00_SQMI
371	48371	4764.73833	16809	16474	3.5
243	48243	2264.59964	2207	2276	1
105	48105	2807.43195	4099	3917	1.5
043	48043	6192.77226	8866	8912	1.4
443	48443	2357.74538	1061	1013	0.5
377	48377	3856.24436	7304	7615	1.9
109	48109	3812.68754	2975	2638	0.8
229	48229	4571.92792	3344	3453	0.7
141	48141	1014.66408	679622	706155	669.8
079	48079	775.30692	3730	3660	4.8
501	48501	799.76433	7322	7070	9.2
165	48165	1502.83973	14467	14338	9.6
003	48003	1500.99525	13004	12767	8.7
495	48495	841.23432	7173	6761	8.5
389	48389	2641.95333	13137	12403	5
301	48301	676.85033	67	62	0.1
475	48475	835.74011	10909	10327	13.1
107	48107	901.69238	7072	6928	7.8



◀ Select Numeric and check the Show thousands separators box.

▶ After closing all dialog boxes, refresh the map to apply the changes.



simple procedure to make any of these formatting changes:

1. Open the table being used for labeling.
2. Right-click the field heading for the field used for labeling and choose Properties. Click the ellipsis button next to Number Format.
3. On the Number Format dialog box, choose Numeric and check the box to display a comma separator.
4. Click OK to exit all dialog boxes. Click the refresh button on the lower left side of the map canvas to see the formatting changes.

Note: This dialog box can be used to format numbers for currency, directions, percentages, rates, fractions, scientific notation, and angles as well as applying a custom format.