

ZIP CODE DATABASE

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

There are two versions of our ZIP Code database: Standard and Premium. The only difference between the two is how Latitude & Longitude is derived (shape-based vs. population-based).

Data Fields:

| Field | Type / Size | Description |
|------------|----------------|--|
| ZIPCode | Integer | 5-digit ZIP Code |
| State | String (2) | State Abbreviation ¹ |
| City | String (30) | Preferred City Name |
| County | String (30) | County Name |
| Latitude | Decimal (18,6) | The coordinates of our Standard product are the approximate graphical center of a Zip Code shape (shape-based). The coordinates of our Premium product use population density (population-based). |
| Longitude | Decimal (18,6) | Same as Latitude except it should be noted that most U.S. Longitudes are negative numbers. The exceptions are some U.S. territories in the Pacific that are past the International Date Line. |
| Population | Integer | The very latest population count from the Census Bureau. Updated annually. On non-census years, updates are statistical estimates. ZIP Codes with a zero population are usually P.O. Boxes, military, unique/private organizations, industrial areas, or those that were created after census counts were taken. |
| AreaCode | Integer | Telephone area code for a ZIP Code ² |
| StateFIPS | Integer | 2-digit State FIPS Code |
| CountyFIPS | Integer | 3-digit County FIPS Code |
| MSACode | Integer | 4-digit MSA Code (Metropolitan Statistical Area). ZIP Codes in rural areas will not have an MSA code. ¹ |
| TimeZone | Integer | Number of hours from Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) (formerly GMT). Western hemisphere records are negative (exam. -5 is Eastern Standard Time). |
| DST | String (1) | 1-character (Y/N) Daylight Savings Time Flag. 'Y' = observes Daylight Savings Time. |
| ZIPClass | String (1) | USPS ZIP Code classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (blank) – Standard ZIP Code for a general area • M – Military APO / FPO • P – PO Boxes • U – Unique to a single organization / private |
| AltCities | String(2000) | City names that the USPS considers acceptable for each ZIP Code but not their 'preferred' City (The USPS preferred city is in the City field). Pipe delimited. |
| USPSKey | String (12) | A unique key that combines the 5-digit ZIP Code with the 6-digit CityState key used by the USPS (the two are separated by a hyphen). Both correlate to other official USPS databases. |

ADDITIONAL FILES

The following are free files to supplement your purchase. These are available at <https://greatdata.com/product/supplement> (login required).

- `states.csv`: list of U.S. and Canadian state and province abbreviations and names along with the country abbreviation. Includes all U.S. territories (Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, etc.).
- `msa-list.csv`: This is the master list of MSA codes. It contains the code, type (MSA, PMSA, or CMSA) and the name of the metropolitan area.
- `cmsa-all.csv`: This is a master list of all PMSAs within a CMSA.

MSAs, CMSAs and PMSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management & Budget (OMB). The definitions are often obscure, but an MSA usually includes one city with 50,000 or more inhabitants and the county which the city falls within. It can also include nearby counties if they are within commuting distance. A CMSA is a Consolidated MSA. It will contain a larger area where the combined population is one million or more people. If an area falls within the CMSA, then the individual cities comprise PMSAs (Primary MSAs). For instance, Abilene, Texas has a population of about 124,000 and is MSA code 0040. Akron, Ohio is PMSA 0080 because it is part of the Cleveland-Akron CMSA (1692). We do not use CMSA codes in our data, just the PMSA, because the PMSA is the smaller unit and more precise. Please refer to the `cmsa-all.csv` file for a list of all PMSAs in a CMSA.

¹ Includes free supplemental file containing full names or extended data that correspond to codes or abbreviations found in product file (see Additional Files section above)

² Primary area code for a ZIP Code. Note: our Multiple Area Codes per ZIP Code product contains all.