

pdZIP – Getting Started Guide

pdZIP is an up-to-date 5-digit ZIP Code database covering all 42,000+ ZIP Codes in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and territories.

The core of this product is the essential information provided at ZIP Code level: Latitude and Longitude coordinates, Preferred City and abbreviation, State name and abbreviation, County name, FIPS codes, Area Code, Time Zone and geographic size.

Additionally included are numerous counts from the 2000 American national Census relating to population, age, race, home value, income and employment.

Included Database Files

Four different file formats are included to insure compatibility with any database system. Each of the files contains the same data.

- pdZIP.xls (MS Excel)
- pdZIP.csv (comma-delimited ASCII text—CSV)
- pdZIP.txt (fixed length ASCII text)
- pdZIP.dbf (dBase/FoxPro—easily imports into MS Access)

Included User Documentation

- README.txt (general information)
- This Getting Started Guide
- pdZIP-Layout.pdf (layout & data definitions)
- Distance-Formulas.pdf (distance calculation formulas & instructions)
- Site License (see Licensing below)

Version Number

pdZIP is updated 4–6 times each year. The version number of each copy is written in the first or second row of the first column of the database files in

YYYY.X.X format. The first four numbers is the year of release. The number after the first dot is the update for the year indicated. The number after the second dot references a minor revision.

Layout & Data Definitions

File specifications can be found in the included *pdZIP-Layout.pdf* file. This gives the name of each field, the character type (character/alphanumeric or numeric), the width (including any decimal points, the starting point and the ending point) and the definition of the field contents.

Instructions

Users can match the **ZIP** field against their lists to append the information contained in the fields beginning with **CITY**. Note that while coverage is very high, not all information is included for all records.

In some cases the information provided represents the ZIP Code but may not precisely correspond to certain addresses in your database. This is because some ZIP Codes fall into multiple areas, such as when they cross over city or county lines. In these cases the city preferred by the U.S. Postal Service is used along with the most representative county and area code.

For the convenience of users, the preferred city name and abbreviation, state name and county name are provided in both Mixed Case and UPPER CASE formats.

2000 Census demographics are provided when a U.S. Census Bureau 5-digit Zip Code Tabulation Area matches a USPS 5-digit ZIP Code. Note that while Zip Code Tabulation Areas and ZIP Codes generally follow the same lines, this is sometimes not the case, such as when a ZIP Code crosses over county lines.

Latitude and longitude coordinates are provided in three formats: four-decimal, degrees/minutes/seconds (DMS) and converted to radians (for use in trigonometry functions—15 decimal places). The decimal and radian formats are most useful when calculating distances and radiuses while the DMS format is ideal when printing out the coordinates in documents and on websites.

For those calculating distances and radiuses, formulas and instructions are contained in the included *Distance-Formulas.pdf* file.

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