Postcode to ITL Specification

Changes from NUTS to ITL

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, a new UK-managed international statistical geography - ITL (International Territorial Levels) - has been introduced from 1st January 2021, replacing the former NUTS classification. They align with international standards, enabling comparability both over time and internationally. To ensure continued alignment, the ITLs have been established to mirror the NUTS system. They will also follow a similar review timetable – every three years.

NUTS is a hierarchical classification of spatial units that provides a breakdown of the European Union's territory for producing regional statistics that are comparable across the Union.

The ITL area classification in the UK comprises current national administrative and electoral areas, except in Scotland where some ITL areas comprise whole and/or part Local Enterprise Regions.

Data Files

This product consists of 3 comma separated text files with a header record.

Files **ITL-FLL-UK-CSV-1.csv** and **ITL-FLL-UK-CSV-2.csv** together represent all current live Postcodes in the UK with their associated ITL data. Each file contains half of the national file - approximately 870,000 Postcode records – which allows each half to be opened in Excel versions 2007 and later if required.

ITL-FLL-UK-CSV-1.csv contains all records for Postcode Areas AB to LN.

ITL-FLL-UK-CSV-2.csv contains all records for Postcode Areas LS to ZE.

File **ITL-FLL-UK-CSV-Retired.csv** contains Postcodes which have now been retired from the Postal system and therefore are no longer in circulation. This file is supplied free of charge to provide a comprehensive 'history' of Postcodes and the current ITL structure. It is recommended to use this data file in conjunction with the 'live' files above to achieve the maximum match rates for accurate analysis.

For database applications, both files can be loaded into your choice of database (e.g. Microsoft Access) and appended to create a single national data table of Postcodes.

Table Structure

Field	Description
Postcode	Full UK Postcode (eg UB7 0EB)
Postcode Sector	The Postcode Sector (eg UB7 0)
Postcode District	The Postcode District (eg UB7)
Postcode Area	The Postcode Area (eg UB)
LAU1 Code	The codes for LAU1 areas across the UK
LAU1 Name	The names for LAU1 areas across the UK
ITL3 Code	The codes for ITL3 areas across the UK
ITL3 Name	The names for ITL3 areas across the UK
ITL2 Code	The codes for ITL2 areas across the UK
ITL2 Name	The names for ITL2 areas across the UK
ITL1 Code	The codes for ITL1 areas across the UK
ITL1 Name	The names for ITL1 areas across the UK