

Information on Latitude and Longitude Coordinates

The Census Bureau requires that latitude and longitude coordinates be expressed according to "GCS_NAD83 projection / decimal degrees." The coordinates should be reported to as many decimal places as are available.

Users of ArcView/ArcGIS/ArcMap can determine the format being used by creating a map on the basis of the available coordinates and right-clicking on the "Layers" icon in the Data Frame window. Then select "Properties" from the drop-down menu, and click on the "Coordinate System" tab of the resulting Properties window.

The current coordinate system will be indicated in the top half of the window. If it reads "GCS_North_American_1983 Datum: D_North_American_1983," then the coordinates are already in the required format.

If they are in a different format, copy the information about the coordinate system in use into an email and send it to DargaK@michigan.gov so that it can be determined whether the Department of Information Technology can reformat your data into the required format.

If you cannot determine the format of your latitude and longitude coordinates, send an email to OlkowskiT@michigan.gov for technical assistance.