

**NISTIR 8167-03**

# **NIST Time and Frequency Bulletin**

Kathryn Stephenson, Editor

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**NIST**  
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# **NIST Time and Frequency Bulletin**

*Kathryn Stephenson, Editor  
Time and Frequency Division  
Physical Measurement Laboratory*

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March 2017



U.S. Department of Commerce  
*Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary*

National Institute of Standards and Technology  
*Kent Rochford, Acting NIST Director and Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology*

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NIST IR 8167-03**

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## 1. GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BULLETIN

ACTS	- Automated Computer Time Service		
BIPM	- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures		
GPS	- Global Positioning System		
IERS	- International Earth Rotation Service		
MC	- Master Clock		
MJD	- Modified Julian Date		
NIST	- National Institute of Standards and Technology	ns	- nanosecond
SI	- International System of Units	μs	- microsecond
TA	- Atomic Time	ms	- millisecond
TAI	- International Atomic Time	s	- second
USNO	- United States Naval Observatory	min	- minute
UT1	- Universal Time (Astronomical)		
UTC	- Coordinated Universal Time		

## 2. TIME SCALE INFORMATION

The values listed below are based on data from the IERS, the USNO, and NIST. The UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) values are averaged measurements from all available common-view GPS satellites (see bibliography on page 5). UTC - UTC(NIST) data are on page 3.

0000 HOURS COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME			
February 2017	MJD	UT1-UTC(NIST) (±5 ms)	UTC(USNO,MC) - UTC(NIST) (±20 ns)
2	57786	552 ms	-6.6 ns
9	57793	543 ms	-6.2 ns
16	57800	532 ms	-7.3 ns
23	57807	524 ms	-8.8 ns

The master clock pulses used by the WWV, WWVH, and WWVB time-code transmissions are referenced to the UTC (NIST) time scale. Occasionally, 1 s is added to the UTC time scale. This second is called a leap second. Its purpose is to keep the UTC time scale within ±0.9 s of the UT1 astronomical time scale, which changes slightly due to variations in the Earth's period of rotation.

**NOTE:** No leap second will be added at the end of June 2017.

Positive leap seconds, beginning at 23 h 59 min 60 s UTC and ending at 0 h 0 min 0 s UTC, were inserted in the UTC time scale on 30 June 1972, 1981-1983, 1985, 1992-1994, 1997, 2012, 2015 and on 31 December 1972-1979, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1998, 2005, 2008, 2016.

The use of leap seconds ensures that UT1 - UTC will always be held within ±0.9 s. The current value of UT1 - UTC is called the DUT1 correction. DUT1 corrections are broadcast by WWV, WWVH, WWVB, and ACTS and are printed below. These corrections may be added to the received UTC time signals in order to obtain UT1.

DUT1 = UT1 - UTC =	+0.5 s beginning 0000 UTC 26 January 2017 +0.6 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 January 2017 -0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 17 November 2016 -0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 September, 2016 -0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 24 March 2016 +0.0 s beginning 0000 UTC 31 January 2016 +0.1 s beginning 0000 UTC 26 November 2015 +0.2 s beginning 0000 UTC 11 September 2015 +0.3 s beginning 0000 UTC 01 July 2015 -0.7 s beginning 0000 UTC 28 May 2015 -0.6 s beginning 0000 UTC 19 March 2015 -0.5 s beginning 0000 UTC 25 December 2014 -0.4 s beginning 0000 UTC 25 September 2014
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The difference between UTC(NIST) and UTC has been within  $\pm 100$  ns since July 6, 1994. The table below shows values of UTC - UTC(NIST) as supplied by the BIPM in their *Circular T* publication for the most recent 310-day period in which data are available. Data are given at ten-day intervals. Five-day interval data are available in *Circular T*.

0000 Hours Coordinated Universal Time		
DATE	MJD	UTC-UTC(NIST), ns
Feb. 25, 2017	57809	-5.1
Feb. 15, 2017	57799	-2.0
Feb. 5, 2017	57789	-0.6
Jan. 26, 2017	57779	-0.6
Jan. 16, 2017	57769	-1.2
Jan. 6, 2017	57759	-1.4
Dec. 27, 2016	57749	-1.2
Dec. 17, 2016	57739	-2.6
Dec. 7, 2016	57729	-1.3
Nov. 27, 2016	57719	0.9
Nov. 17, 2016	57709	1.6
Nov. 7, 2016	57699	1.2
Oct. 28, 2016	57689	1.8
Oct. 18, 2016	57679	4.5
Oct. 8, 2016	57669	5.5
Sep. 28, 2016	57659	4.1
Sep. 18, 2016	57649	1.3
Sep. 8, 2016	57639	0.4
Aug. 29, 2016	57629	-1.6
Aug. 19, 2016	57619	-4.7
Aug. 9, 2016	57609	-4.2
Jul. 30, 2016	57599	-4.1
Jul. 20, 2016	57589	-2.0
Jul. 10, 2016	57579	-0.3
Jun. 30, 2016	57569	0.7
Jun. 20, 2016	57559	1.1
Jun. 10, 2016	57549	0.9
May 31, 2016	57539	0.4
May 21, 2016	57529	-0.3
May 11, 2016	57519	-0.6
May 1, 2016	57509	-2.0
Apr. 21, 2016	57499	-1.4
Apr. 11, 2016	57489	3.4
Apr. 1, 2016	57479	4.4

### 3. BROADCAST OUTAGES OVER FIVE MINUTES AND WWVB PHASE PERTURBATIONS

OUTAGES OF 5 MINUTES OR MORE						PHASE PERTURBATIONS 2 ms			
Station	Feb 2017	MJD	Began UTC	Ended UTC	Freq.	Feb 2017	MJD	Began UTC	End UTC
WWVB	2-8-17	57792	0837	0934	60 Hz	None			
WWV	2-21-17 2-22-17 2-23-17	57805 57806 57807	1608 1936 1439	1848 2156 1626	2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 MHz	None			
WWVH	None					None			

### 4. NOTES ON NIST TIME SCALES AND PRIMARY STANDARDS

Primary frequency standards developed and operated by NIST are used to provide accuracy (rate) input to the BIPM and to provide the best possible realization of the SI second. NIST-F1 and NIST F-2, cold-atom cesium fountain frequency standards, have served as the U.S. primary standards of time and frequency since 1999. The uncertainty of NIST-F2 is currently about 1 part in  $10^{16}$ .

The AT1 scale is run in real-time by use of data from an ensemble of cesium standards and hydrogen masers. It is a free-running scale whose frequency is maintained as nearly constant as possible by choosing the optimum weight for each clock that contributes to the computation.

UTC(NIST) is generated as an offset from our real-time scale AT1. It is steered in frequency towards UTC by use of data published by the BIPM in its *Circular T*. Changes in the steering frequency will be made, if necessary, at 0000 UTC on the first day of the month, and occasionally at mid-month. A change in frequency is limited to no more than  $\pm 2$  ns/day. The frequency of UTC(NIST) is kept as stable as possible at other times.

UTC is generated at the BIPM by use of a post-processed time-scale algorithm and is not available in real-time. The parameters that we use to generate UTC(NIST) in real-time are therefore based on an extrapolation of UTC from the most recent available data.

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## 5. UTC(NIST) – AT1 PARAMETERS

The table below lists parameters that are used to define UTC(NIST) with respect to our real-time scale AT1. To find the value of UTC(NIST) - AT1 at any time  $T$  (expressed as a Modified Julian Date, including a fraction if needed), the appropriate equation to use is the one for which the desired  $T$  is greater than or equal to the entry in the  $T_0$  column and less than the entry in the last column. The values of  $x_{ls}$ ,  $x$ , and  $y$  for that month are then used in the equation below to find the desired value. The parameters  $x$  and  $y$  represent the offsets in time and frequency, respectively, between UTC(NIST) and AT1; the parameter  $x_{ls}$  is the number of leap seconds applied to both UTC(NIST) and UTC, as specified by the IERS. Leap seconds are not applied to AT1.

UTC(NIST) - AT1 = $x_{ls} + x + y(T - T_0)$					
Month	$x_{ls}$ (s)	$x$ (ns)	$y$ (ns/d)	$T_0$ (MJD)	Valid until 0000 on: (MJD)
Apr 17	-37	-443217.2	-37.25*	57844	57874
Mar 17	-37	-442099.7	-37.25	57814	57844*
Mar 17	-37	-442062.85	-36.85	57813	57814†
Feb 17	-37	-441325.85	-36.85	57793	57813
Feb 17	-37	-441029.45	-37.05	57785	57813†
Jan 17	-37	-439880.9	-37.05	57754	57785
Dec 16	-36	-439547.45	-37.05	57745	57754
Dec 16	-36	-439287.05	-37.2	57738	57745†
Dec 16	-36	-438770.45	-36.90	57724	57738†
Dec 16	-36	-438733.45	-37.00	57723	57754†
Nov 16	-36	-437694.75	-37.00	57704	57723
Nov 16	-36	-437694.75	-37.30	57695	57704†
Nov 16	-36	-437620.95	-36.90	57693	57695†
Oct 16	-36	-436956.75	-36.90	57675	57693
Oct 16	-36	-436510.35	-37.20	57663	57675†
Oct 16	-36	-436472.9	-37.50	57662	57663†
Sep 16	-36	-435910.4	-37.50	57647	57662
Sep 16	-36	-435350.9	-37.30	57632	57647†
Aug 16	-36	-434936.7	-37.65	57621	57632
Aug 16	-36	-434191.7	-37.25	57601	57621†
Jul 16	-36	-434079.95	-37.25	57598	57601
Jul 16	-36	-433041.2	-37.10	57570	57598†
Jun 16	-36	-431923.7	-37.25	57540	57570
May 16	-36	-431476.7	-37.25	57528	57540
May 16	-36	-430771.8	-37.1	57509	57528†
Apr 16	-36	-430697.6	-37.1	57507	57509
Apr 16	-36	-429931.05	-36.5	57486	57507†
Apr 16	-36	-429672.75	-36.9	57479	57486†
Mar 16	-36	-428636.75	-37.0	57451	57479
Mar 16	-36	-428521.05	-37.3	57448	57451†
Feb 16	-36	-427816.15	-37.3	57429	57448
Feb 16	-36	-427556.45	-37.1	57422	57429†
Feb 16	-36	-427446.05	-36.8	57419	57422†
Jan 16	-36	-427014.25	-36.8	57408	57419

† Rate change in mid-month

\*Provisional value