

Methodology

2019 Annual Business Survey Technology Tables

Overview

The Annual Business Survey (ABS) provides information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. The ABS is sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) and conducted jointly with the U.S. Census Bureau. The ABS is designed to incorporate new content each survey year based on topics of relevance. The 2019 ABS collected select data on technology characteristics from all sampled businesses. Results of those data are provided in the 2019 ABS Technology Tables. The 2019 ABS covers reference year 2018.

Industry and Geography Classification

The industry classifications of firms are based on the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Firms with more than one domestic establishment are assigned a single industry classification using a hierarchal system based on industry and payroll. For tabulation, industry classification was based on administrative data for 2018. Firms with establishments operating in more than one state are counted only once in state and national totals.

Tabulation

Included are all nonfarm businesses filing Internal Revenue Service tax forms as individual proprietorships, partnerships, or any type of corporation, and with receipts of \$1,000 or more. The ABS covers firms with paid employees only. Out-of-scope firms were identified by item response or administrative data. Firms were removed from tabulation based on the following:

- Firms reporting zero employment
- Firms reporting out of business prior to the reference year
- Nonprofit firms
- Firms reporting owned by another domestic parent company

For the tables by owner demographics, the detail may not add to the total or subgroup total because a Hispanic or Latino firm may be of any race, and because a firm could be tabulated in more than one racial group. For example, if a firm responded as both Asian and Black majority owned, the firm would be included once each in the Asian and Black estimates but would only be counted once toward the "Total of All Firms" estimates.

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For all firms classifiable by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status, the details are counted based on the person(s) owning 51 percent or more of the stock or equity in the business. These estimates are tabulated by single attribute (such as female-owned). Separate estimates are counted and tabulated for firms equally owned (50 percent / 50 percent). Firms not classifiable by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status are counted and tabulated separately.

Data are shown for the following Industry and Geographic Levels:

- United States
- States and the District of Columbia
- Total for all sectors (00)
- 2-digit NAICS

Technology characteristics include the following:

- Extent of technology use
- Motivation for technology use
- Impact of technology use on workforce of the firm
- Impact of technology use on the types of worker of the firm
- Factors adversely affecting technology use
- Technology production
- Motivation to produce technology
- Impact of technology production on the workforce in the firm
- Impact of technology production on the types of worker in the firm
- Factors adversely affecting technology production

Firms classifiable by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status are categorized by the following:

- Sex
 - Female
 - Male
 - Equally male/female
- Ethnicity
 - Hispanic
 - Equally Hispanic/non-Hispanic
 - Non-Hispanic
- Race
 - White

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- Black or African American
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Minority (Firms classified as any race and ethnicity combination other than non-Hispanic and White)
- Equally minority/nonminority
- Nonminority (Firms classified as non-Hispanic and White)
- Veteran Status (defined as having served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces)
 - Veteran
 - Equally veteran/nonveteran
 - Nonveteran

Data are further aggregated by employment size of firms (during the March 12 pay period) for:

- All firms
- Firms with no employees
- Firms with 1 to 9 employees
- Firms with 10 employees or more

Data include estimates on the following:

- Number of employer firms
- Percent of employer firms (%)
- Sales, values of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)
- Percent of sales, values of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (%)
- Number of employees
- Percent of employees (%)
- Annual payroll (\$1,000)
- Percent of annual payroll (%)

The following symbols are used in these data tables:

- D – Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual companies; data are included in higher level totals.
- S – Estimate does not meet publication standards because of high sampling variability, poor response quality, or other concerns about the estimate quality. Unpublished estimates derived from this table by subtraction are subject to these same limitations and should not be attributed

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to the U.S. Census Bureau. For a description of publication standards and the total quantity response rate, see link to program methodology [page](#).

- N – Not available or not comparable
- X – Not applicable
- a – 0 to 19 employees
- b – 20 to 99 employees
- c – 100 to 249 employees
- e – 250 to 499 employees
- f – 500 to 999 employees
- g – 1,000 to 2,499 employees
- h – 2,500 to 4,999 employees
- i – 5,000 to 9,999 employees
- j – 10,000 to 24,999 employees
- k – 25,000 to 49,999 employees
- l – 50,000 to 99,999 employees
- m – 100,000 employees or more

For a complete list of economic program symbols, see the [Symbols Glossary](#).

For detailed a detailed ABS Methodology report of the 2019 Annual Business Survey Program, please see [Annual Business Survey Methodology](#).

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