

Data Collection

Data items requested and reference period covered:

Example forms for the current reference period as well as prior reference periods can be found at <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aces/technical-documentation/questionnaires.html>.

Key data items:

The key data items for ACES are investment items. These include total capital expenditures under either domestic depreciable asset data question or capital expenditures question, or reporting a total for either investment in structures or equipment in the capital expenditures question.

Type of request:

This survey is mandatory. Your response is required by law. Title 13, United States Code, requires businesses and other organizations that are asked to complete this survey to answer the questions and submit their responses to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Frequency and mode of contact:

Businesses and other organizations asked to complete this survey will be notified by mail. This notification will include instructions to access a computer self-administered questionnaire online. The instructions will include a user identification number and a password.

Reporting units may be contacted at any time by telephone. Telephone contacts may be made to inquire about responses or the lack of a response in general. Eight weeks after the initial mailing of notifications there will be a second mailing, with a second follow-up eight weeks after that to reporting units that have not yet responded. A third follow-up mailing may also be conducted.

Data collection unit:

ACES is a company level survey, using the company as both the sampling and the tabulating unit. This means that companies are asked to report data for the company as a whole, and that data is used as a single component into the estimates from the company as a whole. Companies are asked to report for all domestic operations, including subsidiaries and divisions. This includes reporting for establishments of subsidiary companies where more than 50 percent ownership is held, as well as establishments of other companies where the reporting company has the power to direct or cause the direction of management and policies. Holding companies are asked to report for the entire corporation, including all subsidiaries under their ownership. Most companies report for the company as a whole. This is usually because the company is comprised only of a single establishment, but generally true of multi establishment companies as well. However, companies may elect to report as units less than the entire company which fully partition the data for the company as a whole. In 2015, ACES sampled 44,898 ACE-1 companies and 30,000 ACE-2 companies. Only 32 companies elected to report piecewise, creating 155 sub-company reporting units in place of those 32.

Special procedures

Data has to be reported for the calendar year. If calendar year book figures are not available except at considerable cost, reasonable estimates are acceptable. If reasonable estimates on a calendar basis are not available, fiscal year data is accepted. Respondents should indicate on the questionnaire the exact dates the data represent if they are not from the calendar year. If fiscal year is used and your fiscal year ends in January, February or March, report for the fiscal year ending in 2016. Otherwise, report for the fiscal year ending in 2015.

Estimates are acceptable. The data requested may not correspond to company accounting records. In that circumstance, carefully prepared estimates are acceptable. If a company did not have capital expenditures for the reporting period, enter "0" in the appropriate cells.

In the event of a merger or acquisition, special action should be taken depending on the circumstance. If your company merged with or acquired another domestic company during the period, include the domestic capital expenditures made by the merged or acquired company since the date of acquisition; The cost to your company for structures and equipment previously owned by the acquired company at the time of the merger or acquisition should be reported as expenditures, only if treated as capital expenditures by your company. Please furnish the date of the acquisition or merger and the name of the acquired company in the "Remarks" section. If your company was acquired by another company during the period covered by this report, please furnish the acquisition date and the name and address of the acquiring company in the "Ownership Information" section, and complete the form for the period of time the company was in operation prior to the acquisition. Discontinued operations should be treated in the same manner as continued operations. If during the survey year, your company had discontinued operations that were held for sale, report data for the discontinued operations for the period of time the reporting company owned them.