This guide provides steps to access County Business Patterns (CBP) data in Hypertext tables, Comma Separated files (CSV), or the American FactFinder (AFF). You may also contact the U.S. Census Bureau’s CBP staff at 301-763-2580 or ewd.county.business.patterns@census.gov for assistance.
## Data User Guide

### Index of Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequently Asked Questions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Homepage</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Data Page</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Data in Hypertext Tables Using Censtats (National and State Level)</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Data in Hypertext Tables (County Level)</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Displayed by NAICS Detail Feature</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Displayed by Compare Area Feature (County)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing Data Using American FactFinder (AFF)</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American FactFinder Features</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloading Data (AFF and CSV)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloading Data in AFF</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloading Data in CSV</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Links</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Click here to access County Business Patterns Data.*

**Last updated: 08/16/2016**

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**United States Census Bureau**

Economic Statistics
Frequently Asked Questions

• **What is the source of CBP data?**
  CBP data are extracted from the Business Register, the Census Bureau's file of all known single and multiestablishment companies. Data comes from a variety of sources, including the Economic Censuses, the Annual Survey of Manufactures, and Current Business Surveys, as well as from administrative records of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

• **Are sales and receipts data provided in CBP?**
  No. Sales and receipts data are available from other Census Bureau programs. For more information, please see the Census Bureau's economic data.

• **I need specific data for company X:**
  The U.S. Census Bureau is forbidden by Federal Law from providing data that can be linked to specific employers.

• **Time Series Data:**
  Due to changes in methodology, county definitions, and classification codes over time, there is currently no way to batch download multiple years of data. However, Census is developing a new database tool to accommodate these issues, due for release by the 2017 Economic Census.
Definitions

• **Legal Form of Organization (LFO)** – An LFO is the organizational structure a firm chooses to adopt.

• **North America Industry Classification System (NAICS)** – The standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments. For more information, visit the NAICS website: [https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics)

• **Noise Infusion** – A method of disclosure avoidance in which values for each firm are perturbed prior to the data being released. Read more on the [How the Data Are Collected](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics) page.

• **NOISE Flags** –
  - G - Low Noise Infusion
  - H - Medium Noise Infusion
  - J - High Noise Infusion
  - D - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual companies; data are included in higher level totals
  - S – Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards

• **Statewide** – Classification for employees in a state without a fixed location.
Using the Homepage

Data is available:
- in hypertext tables
- through AFF
- downloadable (in CSV)
- by Congressional District (under latest)

Last updated: 08/16/2016
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html
Using the Data Page

**Data**

County Business Patterns has been produced as a consistent, annual series since 1964 and ZIP Code Business Patterns since 1994. Printed reports were published annually through 2004 and at irregular intervals dating back to 1946. Printed volumes in major depository libraries are the only forms in which data are available prior to 1986.

Visit The National Archives to find files for years prior to 1986.

**CBP Data Tables**

CBP data tables are available in American Factfinder from 2004-present and in Censtats from 1998-present.

**CBP Datasets**

CBP data are available in downloadable CSV format, along with record layouts and reference guides, from 1986-present.

**CBP by Congressional District**

My Congressional District tool allows data users to view the most recent CBP data and American Community Survey data by congressional district.

**API**

The Census Bureau’s Application Programming Interface (API) allows users to create custom queries. Users can embed these statistics into web or mobile apps.
After Clicking on CBP Data Tables, data users can choose to access CBP hypertext tables through Censtats.
Tables are also available for
- Puerto Rico and the Island Areas
- ZIP Code Business Patterns
- Metro Business Patterns

Access data by selecting U.S. or a state and press Go

Accessing Data in Hypertext Tables using Censtats

Access data by selecting U.S. or a state and press Go
This table allows data users to:

1. Switch between national and state level data.
2. Select a **State** from the dropdown menu. The **Areaname** box allows users to select a county within the selected state.
3. Display data with or without *Legal Form of Organization (LFO)* break down.
4. Display data with or without **Noise Flag**.
5. Select data **Year**.
6. Compare data by the selected geography level.
7. View data by **NAICS** code.

### 2014 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAICS code</th>
<th>NAICS code description</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Total establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>3,160,539</td>
<td>40,136,944</td>
<td>159,145,063</td>
<td>195,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail</td>
<td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</td>
<td>3,847</td>
<td>40,755</td>
<td>186,348</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail</td>
<td>Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction</td>
<td>9,772</td>
<td>173,466</td>
<td>625,250</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>14,403</td>
<td>486,654</td>
<td>1,512,119</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated: 08/16/2016

[http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html)
The following options will allow users to view CBP in different formats:

1. **NAICS Detail** – data will display at the different NAICS levels for the selected sector. Click here to see NAICS Detail feature.

2. **Compare Areas** – this option will compare data by state, county, or metropolitan area. Click here to see Compare Areas feature.

---

### 2014 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAICS code</th>
<th>NAICS code description</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Total-establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compare...</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>3,169,599</td>
<td>40,136,944</td>
<td>159,145,063</td>
<td>195,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail...</td>
<td>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</td>
<td>3,847</td>
<td>40,735</td>
<td>156,348</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail...</td>
<td>Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction</td>
<td>9,772</td>
<td>173,466</td>
<td>625,550</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail...</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>14,405</td>
<td>486,654</td>
<td>1,512,119</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Displayed by **NAICS Detail** Feature

## 2014 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

![Image of a map with a highlighted area labeled Rockbridge County, VA.]

### Data User Notice posted on July 21, 2016
Census Bureau staff identified a processing error that affects selected data from the 2014 County Business Patterns (CBP). As a result, we suppressed 2014 employment and payroll totals in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (Sector 52) for the following geographies: U.S., Michigan, Battle Creek, MI metro area; Calhoun County, MI, and the 3rd congressional district of Michigan. This processing error did not affect other sectors. While suppressed values can be derived by subtraction, we do not recommend using the derived values in any analyses. The Census Bureau plans to release revised statistics at a later date.

### Table: 2014 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compare Areas</th>
<th>NAICS code</th>
<th>NAICS code description</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Total establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>23----</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1,726</td>
<td>8,232</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Construction of Buildings</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>2361</td>
<td>Residential Building Construction</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>23611</td>
<td>Residential Building Construction</td>
<td>b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>236115</td>
<td>New Single-Family Housing Construction (except For-Sale Builders)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>236117</td>
<td>New Housing For-Sale Builders</td>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more info on NAICS click [here](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html)
## 2014 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

### Data Displayed By **Compare Area** Feature (County)

**Industry Code Comparison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise Flag</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With noise flag</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Data User Notice posted on July 21, 2016:

Census Bureau staff identified a processing error that affects selected data from the 2014 County Business Patterns (CBP). As a result, we suppressed 2014 employment and payroll totals in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (Sector 62) for the following geographies: U.S., Michigan, Battle Creek, MI metro area, Calhoun County, MI, and the 3rd congressional district of Michigan. This processing error did not affect other sectors. While suppressed values can be derived by subtraction, we do not recommend using the derived values in any analyses. The Census Bureau plans to release revised statistics at a later date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIPS Code</th>
<th>Area Name</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>Noise range for paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Noise range for first-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Noise range for annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Total establishments</th>
<th>Number of establishments by employment-size class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>Accomack County, VA</td>
<td>8,422</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>58,012</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>249,829</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>446 145 89 42 10 7 1 0 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003</td>
<td>Albemarle County, VA</td>
<td>38,494</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>429,346</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>1,823,698</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>2,625</td>
<td>1,413 483 365 228 81 40 8 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>Alleghany County, VA</td>
<td>2,283</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>18,089</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>73,618</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>130 52 29 16 7 2 0 0 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

To access data using AFF, simply click on any of the tables on the CBP Data Tables page. You will then be prompted to select a desired geography (for example, state).
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

After selecting the appropriate geography, you will see the data on AFF. To change the data- click on Advanced Search.

Last updated: 08/16/2016
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

Customize your search in Advanced Search...

1. Under **Topics**, select **Business Patterns** as the Program.
2. Filter data by **Geographies** (U.S., state, county, ZIP, metropolitan and micropolitan areas, and congressional district).
3. Filter by **Industry Codes** (NAICS)

Datasets will be sorted by year, starting with the most recent.
AFF Features

- Open by simply clicking on table title (1)
- OR check off the boxes of multiple tables (2) and...
- ...click View (3)
### American FactFinder Features

Modify Table allows data users to Show Hidden Rows/Columns, such as noise flags.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic area name</th>
<th>2012 NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of 2012 NAICS code</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pima County, Arizona</td>
<td>31-33</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>22,642</td>
<td>453,364</td>
<td>1,701,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pima County, Arizona</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>7,442</td>
<td>69,236</td>
<td>307,479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data User Notice posted on July 21, 2016:** Census Bureau staff identified a processing error that affects selected data from the 2014 County Business Patterns (CBP). As a result, we suppressed 2014 employment and payroll data in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (Sector 62) for the following geographies: U.S., Michigan, Battle Creek, MI metro area, Calhoun County, MI, and the 3rd congressional district of Michigan. This processing error did not affect other sectors. While suppressed values can be derived by subtraction, we do not recommend using the derived values in any analysis. The Census Bureau plans to release revised statistics at a later date.

**Last updated:** 08/16/2016

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml)
Downloading Data in American FactFinder

To download the desired table, simply click on Download.
Data users can download CBP datasets in CSV format by clicking on CBP Datasets and selecting the desired year.

Data files are available from 1986 to 2014.

Last updated: 08/16/2016
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html
Once selecting a year, you will have access to all available datasets for that year. Record layouts are also available for reference.

Datasets are available as .ZIP files which may contain multiple files.
Additional Links

Further help

Help with County Business Patterns Data
• Phone: (301)763-2580
• E-mail: ewd.county.business.patterns@census.gov

Help with American FactFinder (economic data only)
• Phone: (301)763-5185
• E-mail: econ.dissemination@census.gov

Help with American FactFinder (demographic and other data)
• Phone: (301)763-INFO(4636)
• Website: https://ask.census.gov/newrequest.php

Related links:
• American FactFinder: http://factfinder.census.gov/
• County Business Patterns: http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html
• Nonemployer Statistics: http://www.census.gov/econ/nonemployer/
• 2012 Economic Census: http://www.census.gov/econ/census/
• Census Bureau Other Economic Programs: http://www.census.gov/econ/other_econ.html
• North American Industry Classification System: http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/