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

| Frequently Asked Questions | 3 |
| Definitions                | 4 |
| Using the Homepage         | 5 |
| Using the Data Page        | 6 |
| Accessing Data Using American FactFinder (AFF) | 7-9 |
| American FactFinder Features | 10-11 |
| Downloading Data (AFF and CSV) | 12 |
| Downloading Data in AFF    | 13-14 |
| Downloading Data in CSV    |   |
| Additional Links           | 15 |
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](http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/definitions.htm) 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.
Data is available:
- in hypertext tables
- through AFF
- downloadable (in CSV)
- by Congressional District (under latest)
County Business Patterns (CBP)

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 1948. 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.

Last updated: 03/23/2017
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html
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.
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

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

http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html

Last updated: 03/23/2017
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/