This guide provides steps to access County Business Patterns (CBP) data in Comma Separated files (CSV), on data.census.gov 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.
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 multi-establishment companies. Data comes from a variety of sources, including the Economic Census, 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.

• Can I find data on a specific company or get a list of companies in an area?
  The Census Bureau is forbidden by Federal Law, Title 13 of the U.S. Code, from providing data that can be linked to specific establishments, which includes any lists of companies in a designated area. Even revealing that an entity is in the data is prohibited under this law.

• Can CBP be used as a time series?
  We don’t recommend using CBP data as a time series. While CBP publishes annually, the data is meant to be more of a snapshot in time. Further, CBP does not revise data for prior years. CBP relies on administrative data that is subject to non sampling error.
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/programs-surveys/cbp/about/glossary.html).

• **Noise Infusion** – A method of disclosure avoidance in which values for each firm are perturbed prior to the data being released. Read more on our [How the Data Are Collected](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/about/glossary.html) 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
  - N – Not available or not comparable

• **Statewide** – Classification for employees in a state without a fixed location.
County Business Patterns (CBP)

CBP is an annual series that provides subnational economic data by industry. This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll.

Data is available:
- Through Data.census.gov (starting in 2012)
- Through AFF (2004-2016)
- downloadable (in CSV)
- by the Congressional District tool (under latest)
- API
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 Tables
CBP data tables are available on data.census.gov from 2012-present, in American Factfinder from 2004-2016, and in print publication from 1997-2004.

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 allows developers to create custom queries. Users can embed these statistics into web or mobile apps.
To access data using data.census.gov, simply click on the hyperlink after selecting the desired year on the CBP Data Tables Page (https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/tables.html). You will then be directed to data.census.gov. Alternatively, you can go directly to data.census.gov and search for ‘County Business Patterns’.
### Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov

**Customize your table for Geography by clicking ‘Geographies’; year by clicking ‘Years’; or NAICS by clicking ‘Code’.

**United States**

**Department of Commerce**

**Economics and Statistics Administration**

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

**Last Updated: 12/16/2019**

Select ‘Geographies’ and then select the desired geography (this example is for Alamosa County, Colorado). Your selection will appear at the bottom of the screen. Once you have selected your geography, hit the ‘Close’ button for the table to reload.

Last Updated: 12/16/2019

Select ‘Code’ and then select the desired NAICS (this example is for all available three digit NAICS). Your selection will appear at the bottom of the screen. Once you have selected your NAICS, hit the ‘Close’ button for the table to reload.
The Hide feature allows data users to hide/show columns, such as noise flags.
The Filter feature allows users to filter a column for a specific value or meaning.
To download the desired table, click ‘Download’, select your preferred options and click Download.
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

To access data using AFF, simply click on any of the tables (2004-2016) on the CBP Tables page. Starting in 2017, you will be taken to data.census.gov instead.

Last updated: 12/16/2019
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/tables.html
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.

Customize your search in Advanced Search...

1. Filter data by Geographies (U.S., state, county, ZIP, metropolitan and micropolitan areas, or congressional district).
2. Filter by Industry Codes (NAICS)
3. Once you have applied any specific, click directly on the Table, File, or Document Title you wish to view.

The default is U.S. totals at the industry (2-digit NAICS) level.

Last updated: 12/16/2019
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, or 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)
AFF Features

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

Last updated: 12/16/2019
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Searching for Statewide in AFF

1. Make sure Business Patterns is selected (under Program).
2. Select Geographies
3. Under the ‘Name’ tab and under ‘Enter a geography name or use the Geography Filter Options below:', type ‘statewide’ and hit enter
4. Be sure to select the ‘Show Geographic Components (e.g., urban, rural) box under Geography Filter Options.

http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
To download the desired table, select your preferred options, click OK, and then click 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 2015.

Download Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

CBP Datasets

This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. In addition, the record layouts and the references for industry and geographies are available within their year.

Complete downloadable data files in comma-separated values (CSV) format from 1986 to current year.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset Date</th>
<th>County Business Patterns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 21, 2019</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 19, 2018</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 20, 2017</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 24, 2016</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 23, 2015</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 29, 2014</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last updated: 12/16/2019
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html
Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

County Business Patterns: 2017

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. This data is useful for studying the economic activity of small areas; analyzing economic changes over time; and as a benchmark for other statistical series, surveys, and databases between economic censuses. Businesses use the data for analyzing market potential, measuring the effectiveness of sales and advertising programs, setting sales quotas, and developing budgets. Government agencies use the data for administration and planning.

Prior to reference year 2017, the number of establishments in a particular tabulation cell was not considered sensitive; therefore, counts of establishments were released without any disclosure avoidance methods applied. Beginning with reference year 2017, cells with fewer than 3 establishments have been omitted from the release.

The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied. (Approval ID: CBDRB-FY20-064).

Datasets

- Complete Congressional District File  [<1.0 MB]
- Complete County File     [12.5 MB]
- Complete County Equivalents for Puerto Rico & Island Areas File     [<1.0 MB]
- Complete CSA File        [2.6 MB]
- Complete Metropolitan Area File  [6.8 MB]
- Complete Puerto Rico & Island Areas File  [<1.0 MB]
- Complete State File      [11.5 MB]
- Complete U.S. File       [<1.0 MB]
- Complete ZIP Code Industry Detail File  [14.1 MB]
- Complete ZIP Code Totals File  [<1.0 MB]
- CBP and NES Combined Report [12 MB]

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

Last updated: 12/16/2019
https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/econ/cbp/2017-cbp.html
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

Feedback for Data.census.gov
• Cedsci.feedback@census.gov

Related links:
• 2017 Economic Census: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html
• American FactFinder: http://factfinder.census.gov/
• Business Dynamics Statistics: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bds.html
• Census Bureau Other Economic Programs: http://www.census.gov/econ/other_econ.html
• Nonemployer Statistics: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html
• North American Industry Classification System: http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/
• Statistics on U.S. Businesses: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html

Last updated: 12/16/2019
https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/about/related-sites.html