This guide provides steps to access County Business Patterns (CBP) data in Comma Separated files (CSV), on data.census.gov. 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 2
Definitions 3
Using the Homepage 4
Using the Data Page 5
Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov 6 - 9
Data.census.gov Features 10 - 12
Downloading Data in Data.census.gov 13
Downloading Data in CSV 14 - 15
Additional Links 16
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 snap shot 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
- 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 and in print publication from 1993-2004.

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

All Sectors: County Business Patterns by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size Class for U.S., States, and Selected Geographies: 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area Name</th>
<th>2017 NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of Legal form of organization code</th>
<th>Meaning of Employment size of establishments</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7,912,405</td>
<td>7,097,310,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Non-profit</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>592,514</td>
<td>769,464,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>S-corporations</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,455,312</td>
<td>1,544,696,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Individual proprietorship</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Other noncorporate legal for profit</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>C-corporations and other corporate</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>S-corporations</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Non-profit</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>C-corporations and other corporate</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Other noncorporate legal for profit</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Individual proprietorships</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>290,721</td>
<td>172,644,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Establishments with 5 to 9 employees</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>121,331</td>
<td>20,719,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>Establishments with 5 to 9 employees</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>601,889</td>
<td>167,353,969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Last updated: 6/25/2020

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.
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.

Last updated: 6/25/2020
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 find statewide:
1. Click on Geographies
2. Toggle the Show Summary Levels to on
3. Click on State
4. Scroll to the bottom – after states are listed, the statewide options will be listed below
5. Hit close to view
Downloading Data using Data.census.gov

To download the desired table, click ‘Download’, select your preferred options and click Download.

Last updated: 6/25/2020
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.

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.

- U.S., States, and Counties datasets start from 1986 to current year.
- Puerto Rico datasets start from 1998 to current year.
- Island Areas datasets start from 2008 to current year.
- ZIP Codes datasets start from 1994 to current year.
- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas datasets start from 1990 to current year.
- Congressional District datasets start from 2013 to current year.
- CBP and NES Combined Report datasets start from 2012 to current year.
- CSA datasets start from 2017.

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.

Last updated: 6/25/2020
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html
Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

County Business Patterns: 2018

June 25, 2020

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: CBIS-FY2020).

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]

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

Once selecting a year, you will have access to all available datasets for that year.

Record layouts are also available for reference.
Additional Links

Further help

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

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

Related links:
• 2017 Economic Census: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html
• 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