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.

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Note: Each slide has a unique link [here] that refers to the subject matter explained.
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
- 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.

CBP Tables
CBP data tables are available on data.census.gov from 2012 to the current reference year 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 to the current reference year.

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.
Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov

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

### County Business Patterns

**Survey/Program:** Annual Economic Surveys  
**Table ID:** CB1900CBP  
**Year:** 2019  
**Dataset:** CBP2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area Name</th>
<th>2017 NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of NAICS code</th>
<th>Meaning of Legal form or...</th>
<th>Meaning of Employment size...</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>7,959,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>Total for all sectors</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>Establishments with 10 to 19 employees</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4,075,307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

_last updated: 4/22/2021_

Select ‘Geographies’ and then select the desired geography (this example is for Baltimore County, Maryland). 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 3-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.

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### Data.census.gov Features

The **Filter** feature allows users to filter a column for a specific value or meaning.

#### Table: County Business Patterns

<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</th>
<th>Meaning of Employment size class</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Support activities for agriculture</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Support activities for agriculture</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>Mining (except oil and gas)</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>Establishments with 5 to 9 employees</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Construction of buildings</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>Construction of buildings</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>Establishments with less than 20 employees</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>Heavy and civil engineering services</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore County, Maryland</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>Heavy and civil engineering services</td>
<td>Establishments with 20 to 99 employees</td>
<td>Establishments with 5 to 9 employees</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Last updated: 4/22/2021**

To find statewide:
1. Click on Geographies
2. Toggle the Show Summary Levels to on
3. Click on State
4. Select the “-Statewide” option for a state
5. Hit close to view
To download the desired table, click ‘Download’, select your preferred options and 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.

CBP Datasets

This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. CBP datasets are downloadable files in comma-separated value (CSV) format and provide data from 1986 to the current reference year. In addition, record layouts and reference files are available within each year.

- U.S., States, and Counties datasets start in 1986
- ZIP Code datasets added in 1994
- MSA datasets added in 1993 and Micropolitan areas defined in 2003
- Island Areas datasets added in 2008
- CBP and NES Combined Report datasets added in 2012
- Congressional District datasets added in 2013
- CSA datasets added in 2017

Visit the National Archives for CBP data prior to 1986.
Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

County Business Patterns: 2019

This series includes the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. CBP datasets are downloadable files in comma-separated value (CSV) format. In addition, corresponding record layouts and reference files are available.

The Census Bureau did not collect district boundaries for the 117th Congress, in keeping with the practice of not collecting the session which aligns with the decennial census. As a result, County Business Patterns estimates were tabulated using 116th Congressional districts and state and local geographies.

The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied. (Approval ID: CBDB-FY21-081)

Datasets

- Complete Congressional District File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete County File [11.2 MB]
- Complete County Equivalents for Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete CSA File [2.3 MB]
- Complete MSA File [6.1 MB]
- Complete Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete State File [10.0 MB]
- Complete U.S. File [<1.0 MB]

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

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: https://www.census.gov/naics/
• Statistics on U.S. Businesses: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html