County Business Patterns

Data User Guide

This guide provides steps to access County Business Patterns (CBP) data in 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.

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.

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Last updated: 05/24/2018
http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/technical-documentation/methodology.html

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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.

- **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 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.

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Last updated: 05/24/2018
http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/definitions.htm

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County Business Patterns (CBP)

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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.

What is CBP?

Where can I find CBP data?

Visualizations

Latest

News	Updates	Data

Top 10 States in Employment Growth

2016 County Business Patterns Shows Overall Growth in
April 19, 2018
Construction led all sectors in the largest rate of employment g
increase of 5.0 percent from 2015 to 2016, according to new e

> **Data is available:**
> - through AFF
> - downloadable (in CSV)
> - by the Congressional District tool
> - API

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Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

County Business Patterns (CBP)

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CBP Tables

U.S., States, and Counties tables start from 1993 to current year.

Puerto Rico tables start from 1998 to current year.

Island Areas tables start from 2008 to current year.

ZIP Codes tables start from 2004 to current year.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas tables start from 2003 to current year.

Congressional District tables start from 2013 to current year.

Beginning February 1, 2017, the Censtats databases located on the censtats.census.gov website will no longer be available we consolidate older dissemination systems. Censtats, one of the earliest data access tools on census.gov, provides acce programs, including County Business Patterns. While the applications in Censtats will no longer be available, the data are Fact Finder.

Data User Notice posted on April 20, 2017: In July 2016, Census Bureau staff identified a processing error that affects se 2014 County Business Patterns (CBP). At that time, we suppressed the affected estimates in published tables. With the r we revised the 2014 employment and payroll totals in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (Sector 62) for the fol U.S.; Michigan; Battle Creek, MI metro area; Calhoun County, MI; the 3rd congressional district of Michigan; and ZIP code processing error did not affect other sectors

If you have comments on the retirement of this system, please send them to: cnmp.web.comments @census.gov

For more information on how to access CBP data on American FactFinder (AFF), please click **here** to reference our Data

| All | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | ▶ |

CBP Tables 2016

To access data using AFF, simply click on any of the tables on the CBP Tables page. You will then be prompted to select year, which will then take you to AFF.
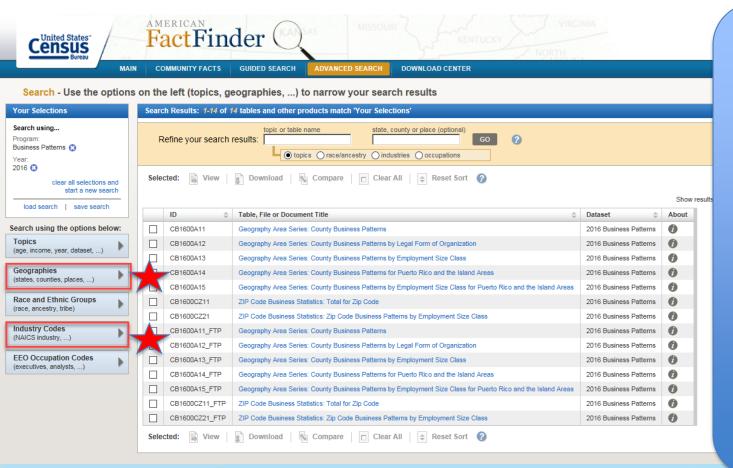
Accessing Data using American FactFinder (AFF)

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

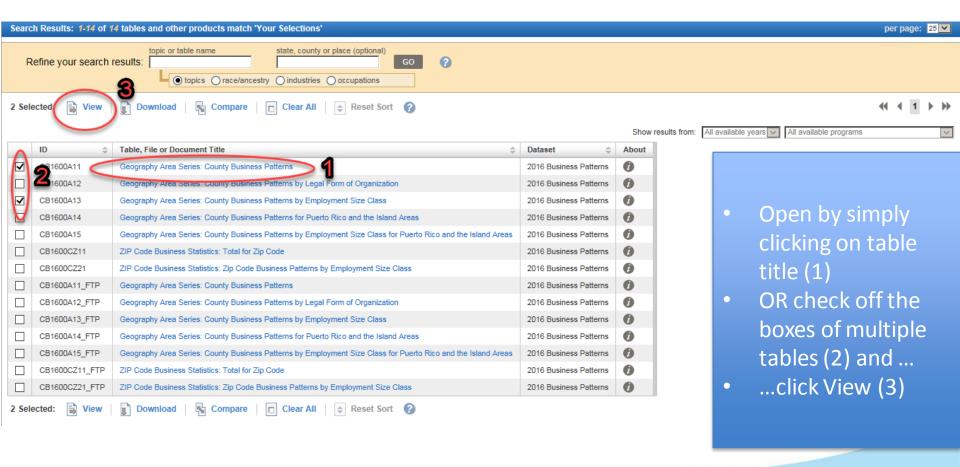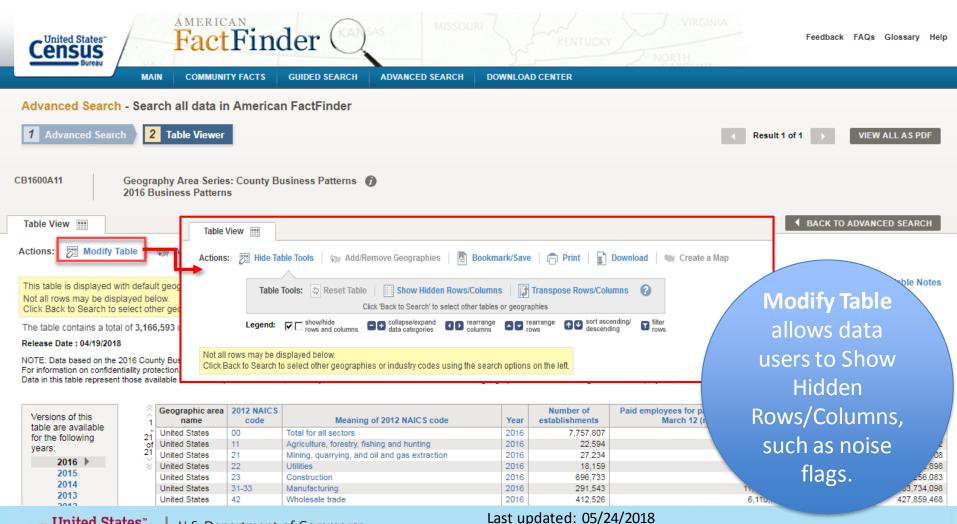The default is U.S. totals at the industry (2-digit NAICS) level
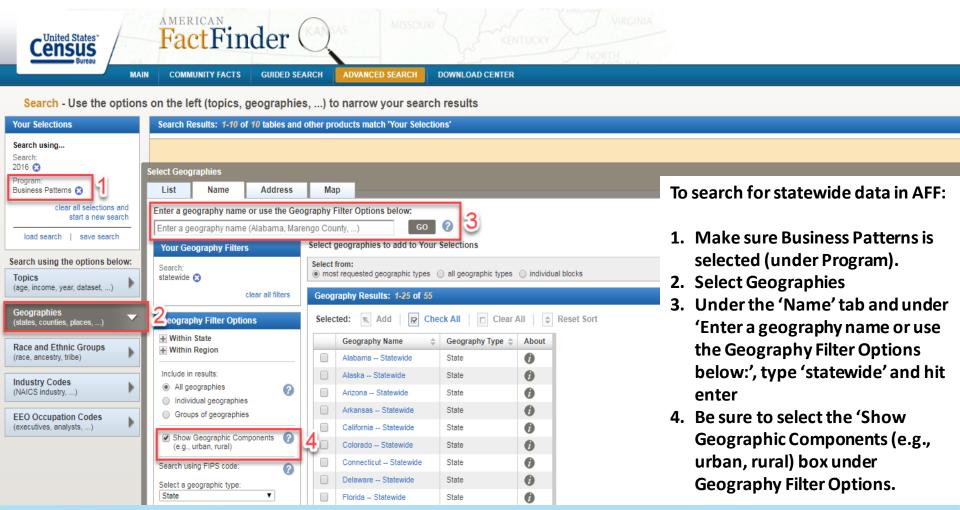
Last updated: 05/24/2018
http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

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

Searching for Statewide in AFF

To search for statewide data 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.**

Downloading Data in American FactFinder

To download the desired table, select your preferred options, click OK, and then click **Download**.

Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

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.

County Business Patterns: 2016

April 19, 2018

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.

Datasets

- Complete Congressional District File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete County File [15.6 MB]
- Complete County Equivalents for Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete Metropolitan Area File [7.5 MB]
- Complete Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete State File [10.9 MB]
- Complete U.S. File [<1.0 MB]
- Complete ZIP Code Industry Detail File [28.2 MB]
- Complete ZIP Code Totals File [<1.0 MB]

Record Layouts

2015-2016

TXT County Record Layout [<1.0 MB]

2015-2016

TXT Metro Area Record Layout [<1.0 MB]

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:
- 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/ces/dataproducts/bds/
- Census Bureau Other Economic Programs: http://www.census.gov/econ/other_econ.html
- Nonemployer Statistics: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics/data.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

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