



County Business Patterns Data User Guide

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 US Census Bureau's CBP staff at 301-763-2580 or ewd.county.business.patterns@census.gov for assistance.



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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, check out 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.



County Business Patterns Definitions

- **Legal Form of Organization (LFO)** – An LFO is the organizational structure a firm chooses to adopt. The following LFO's are incorporated under nonemployer statistics:
 - Corporations
 - Partnerships
 - Sole Proprietorships
- **North America Industry Classification System (NAICS)** – Is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. For more information, visit the NAICS website: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics>
- **NOISE** - Noise infusion is a method of disclosure avoidance in which values for each firm are perturbed prior to table creation by applying a random noise multiplier to the receipts data for each business. Disclosure protection is accomplished in a manner that results in a relatively small change in the vast majority of cell values. Read more on the [How the Data Are Collected](#) page.
- **NOISE Flags**–
 - G - Low Noise Infusion
 - H - Medium 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

County Business Patterns



Using the Homepage



U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQs

- Topics: Population, Economy
- Geography: Maps, Geographic Data
- Library: Infographics, Publications
- Data: Tools, Developers
- About the Bureau: Research, Surveys
- Newsroom: News, Events, Blogs

You are here: [Census.gov](#) | [Business & Industry](#) | [Economy-Wide](#) | County Business Patterns

County Business Patterns

- Main
- About the Data
- Historical Data
- How the Data are Collected
- Definitions
- FAQs

GET EMAIL UPDATES

Release Schedule

2014 CBP will be released May, 2016.

2014 ZBP will be released May, 2016.

News

Sacramento Tops Large Counties in Employment Growth Rate, Census Bureau Reports

More News Releases

Data Visualizations

- Census Explorer
- Total U.S. Employment: 2001-2011
- Measuring America: County Business Patterns & Demographics Interactive Map

Related Sites

- 2012 Economic Census
- Business & Industry
- Economic Indicators
- Nonemployer Statistics
- North American Industry

County Business Patterns (CBP) ZIP Code Business Patterns (ZBP)

County Business Patterns (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. 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.

ZIP Code Business Patterns data is available shortly after the release of County Business Patterns. It provides the number of establishments by employment-size classes by detailed industry in the U.S.

These two programs cover most of the country's economic activity based on establishments, with a few noted exclusions. For more information on the coverage and methodology of CBP, see [How the Data are Collected](#). For information on businesses without paid employees, see [Nonemployer Statistics](#).

Data for 2013 were released in April 2015. For help accessing the data via hypertext tables or American FactFinder, please refer to the [Data User Guide \[PDF\]](#).

For Internet Explorer 9 and 10 enable [Compatibility View](#) in the event tables do not display properly.

For frequently asked questions (FAQs), visit [Ask Census.gov](#) or click the FAQs tab at the top of the screen. Enter 'CBP' or 'County Business Patterns' into the search box to narrow the results.

View data in tables

U.S., States, and Counties ^{1,2} (1998-2013) Select Area

Puerto Rico (2003-2013) and Island Areas (2008 to 2013) Select Area

Zip Codes ³ (1998 to 2013) Enter 5-digit ZIP Code

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas ⁴ (1998-2013) Select Area

Data in other formats for manipulation and analysis

- Extract and manipulate data in the [New American FactFinder](#).
- Download the data in [Comma-Separated Value \(csv\) format](#) starting with year 1986.
- See the discussion of [Historical CBP Data](#) for earlier years, including data for selected years on CD-ROM.

The CBP Homepage offers two easy methods of accessing the data; immediately through the hypertext tables feature, and in depth through the offline formats.



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Last updated: 08/12/2015
<http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/>

County Business Patterns



Accessing CBP Data in Hypertext Tables

To access CBP data at the national or state level, select the **U.S., States, and Counties** drop down menu within the **View data in tables** box.

Select **United States** to create a table with data at the national level. Or select any of the 50 states to access state data.

County Business Patterns (CBP) ZIP Code Business Patterns (ZBP)

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ZIP Code Business Patterns data is available shortly after the release of County Business Patterns. It provides the number of establishments and annual payroll.

These two programs cover most of the country's economic activity based on establishments, with a few noted exclusions. For information on businesses without paid employees, see [Nonemployer Statistics](#).

Data for 2013 were released in April 2015. For help accessing the data via hypertext tables or American FactFinder, please see [American FactFinder](#). For Internet Explorer 9 and 10 enable [Compatibility View](#) in the event tables do not display properly.

For frequently asked questions (FAQs), visit [Ask.Census.Gov](#) or click the FAQs tab at the top of the screen. Enter 'CBP' or 'ZBP' in the search box.

View data in tables

U.S., States, and Counties ^{1,2} (1998-2013) Select Area
Puerto Rico (2003-2013) and Island Areas (2008 to 2013)
Zip Codes ³ (1998 to 2013) Enter 5-digit ZIP Code
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas ⁴ (1998 to 2013)

United States
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida

County Business Patterns



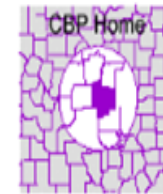
Accessing County Business Patterns Data in Hypertext Tables

This table allows data users to:

1. Switch between national and state level data.
2. Select a **State** from the dropdown menu. The **Arenaname** box will allow users to select a county within the selected state.
3. Display data with or without *Legal Form of Organization (**LFO**) break down.
4. Display data with or without **Noise Flag**.
5. Select data **Year**.
6. Choose **Counties** within selected state.
5. Choose **Metropolitan/Micropolitan** areas within a selected state.
6. View data by **NAICS** code.
7. Compare data by the selected geography level.

2013 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

[CenStat](#)



United States

1 State: Alabama 2 Arenaname: State total
3 LFO: Without LFO 4 Noise Flag: Without noise flag 5 Year: 2013

6	7	NAICS code	NAICS code description	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll (\$1,000)	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Total establishments
	Compare	-----	Total for all sectors	118,266,253	1,411,380,886	5,621,697,325	7,488,353
Detail	Compare	11----	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	154,496	1,309,440	5,826,857	22,111
Detail	Compare	21----	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	732,186	16,709,958	64,776,917	28,720

County Business Patterns



Accessing County Business Patterns Data in Hypertext Tables

The following options will allow users to view **County Business Patterns** in different formats :

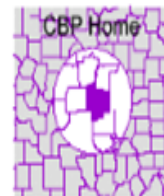
1. **NAICS Detail** – data will display at the different NAICS levels for the selected sector.

[Click here to see NAICS Detail feature](#)

2. **Compare Areas** – this option will compare data by state, county, or metropolitan area [Click here to see Compare Areas feature](#)

2013 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

[CenStats](#)



Autauga County, AL

State: Alabama | Areaname: Autauga County, AL

LFO: Without LFO | Noise Flag: Without noise flag | Year: 2013 | Go!

		NAICS code	NAICS code description	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll (\$1,000)	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Total establishments
1	2	-----	Total for all sectors	10,120	71,267	291,673	817
	Compare						
Detail	Compare	11----	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	33	277	1,480	5
Detail	Compare	21----	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	b	D	D	2
Detail	Compare	22----	Utilities	198	4,376	17,223	9



Data Displayed by **NAICS Detail** Feature

[CenStats](#)

2013 County Business Patterns (NAICS)

Autauga County, AL
Construction

State: Areaname:

Noise Flag: Year:

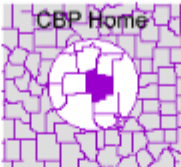
Compare Areas	NAICS code	NAICS code description	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll (\$1,000)	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Total establishments
<input type="button" value="Compare"/>	23----	Construction	391	2,984	12,776	74
<input type="button" value="Compare"/>	236	Construction of Buildings	94	623	2,775	17
<input type="button" value="Compare"/>	2361	Residential Building Construction	b	170	702	11
<input type="button" value="Compare"/>	23611	Residential Building Construction	b	170	702	11
<input type="button" value="Compare"/>	236115	New Single-Family Housing Construction (except For-Sale Builders)	15	80	392	5



Data Displayed By Compare Area Feature (county)

[CenStats](#)

2013 County Business Patterns (NAICS)


 Industry Code Comparison
 23---
 Construction

Noise Flag Year
 Without noise flag 2013 Go!

FIPS Code	Area Name	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll (\$1,000)	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Total establishments	Number of establishments by employment-size class								
						1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000 or more
001	Autauga County, AL	391	2,984	12,776	74	45	17	8	4	0	0	0	0	0
003	Baldwin County, AL	2,893	26,381	116,834	487	333	76	48	24	5	1	0	0	0
005	Barbour County, AL	130	932	3,870	32	22	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	0



Additional CBP Data Products

Additional CBP data products include:

1. Data for **Puerto Rico and Island Areas** (*American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands*)
2. Data by **Zip codes**
3. Data by **Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas**

View data in tables

U.S., States, and Counties ^{1,2} (1998-2013) Select Area

1 Puerto Rico (2003-2013) and Island Areas (2008 to 2013)
Select Area
American Samoa
Guam
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Virgin Islands of the United States

2 Zip Codes ³ (1998 to 2013) Enter 5-digit ZIP Code

3 Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas ⁴ (1998-2013) Select Area



Downloading CBP Data

CBP data can be downloaded in two different ways:

1. By using American Fact Finder (AFF) – [click here](#)
2. Through the CBP main webpage, in comma separated value (CSV) files – [click here](#)

Data in other formats for manipulation and analysis

- 1 Extract and manipulate data in the [New American FactFinder](#).
- 2 Download the data in [Comma-Separated Value \(csv\) format](#) starting with year 1988.
 - See the discussion of [Historical CBP Data](#) for earlier years, including data for selected years on CD-ROM.
 - For help accessing the data via hypertext tables or American FactFinder, please refer to the [Data User Guide \[PDF\]](#).

County Business Patterns



Downloading CBP Data in American FactFinder (AFF)

U.S. Department of Commerce
United States Census Bureau

AMERICAN FactFinder

MAIN | COMMUNITY FACTS | GUIDED SEARCH | **ADVANCED SEARCH** | DOWNLOAD CENTER

Search - Use the options on the left (topics, geographies, ...) to narrow your search results

Your Selections

Search using...
Program:
Business Patterns

clear all selections and start a new search

load search | save search

Search using the options below:

Topics
(age, income, year, dataset, ...)

Geographies
(states, counties, places, ...)

Race and Ethnic Groups
(race, ancestry, tribe)

Industry Codes
(NAICS industry, ...)

EEO Occupation Codes
(executives, analysts, ...)

Search Results: 1-25 of 124 tables and other products match 'Your Selections'

Refine your search results: topic or table name state, county or place (optional) GO

topics race/ancestry Industries occupations

Selected: View Download Compare Clear All Reset Sort ?

Show results from: All available years All available

ID	Table, File or Document Title
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A11	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A12	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Legal Form of Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A13	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A14	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A15	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class for Puerto Rico and Areas
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300CZ11	ZIP Code Business Statistics: Total for Zip Code
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300CZ21	ZIP Code Business Statistics: Zip Code Business Patterns by Employment Size Class
<input type="checkbox"/> CB1300A11_FTP	Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns

CBP Data in AFF

When accessing County Business Patterns data in AFF, users will be able to filter data by Geographies (U.S., state, county, zip code, metropolitan and micropolitan areas) as well as Industry Codes (NAICS). For help using the AFF interface, see the following links:

- [Using FactFinder](#)
- [What We Provide](#)

County Business Patterns



American FactFinder (AFF) Table

Opening Tables

To open a table, simply click on the hyperlinked table title.

Search Results: 1-5 of 5 per page: 25

Selected: View Download Compare Clear All

ID	Title	Dataset	About
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Legal Form of Organization	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas	2009 Business Patterns	?

Selected: View Download Compare Clear All

To open multiple tables:

1. Check off the checkboxes next to the tables you would like to view, then click the "View" button.

Search Results: 1-5 of 5 per page: 25

2 Selected: View Download Compare Clear All

ID	Title	Dataset	About
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Legal Form of Organization	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas	2009 Business Patterns	?
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 County Business Patterns: Geography Area Series: County Business Patterns by Employment Size Class for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas	2009 Business Patterns	?

2 Selected: View Download Compare Clear All

2. The first table opens. To view the next table, click the right-arrow on the top right corner.





Downloading CBP Data Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

CBP Data in CSV Format:

The CSV links will display data at the U.S., county, state, metropolitan, and zip code level, as well as data for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

The **Record Layout** links are available to aid in better understanding the data tables.

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website. The main heading is 'County Business Patterns'. Below it, there are navigation tabs: 'Main', 'About the Data', 'Historical Data', 'How the Data are Collected', 'Definitions', and 'FAQs'. The 'Historical Data' tab is selected, showing a list of years from 1987 to 2013. The '2013 Data' link is highlighted. To the right, the section 'Download Comma-Separated Value (csv) Files' is visible, with the sub-heading 'County Business Patterns: 2013'. Below this, there is a list of files available for download, including 'Complete County File [14.4mb zip]', 'Complete State File [9.7mb zip]', 'Complete U.S. File [6mb zip]', 'Complete Metropolitan Area File [6.8mb zip]', 'Complete ZIP Code Totals File [7mb zip] or Complete ZIP Code Industry Detail File [13.5mb zip]', and 'Complete Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [1mb zip] or Complete County Equivalents for Puerto Rico & Island Areas File [2mb]'. There is also a list of record layouts available for each CSV file, such as 'County Record Layout', 'State Record Layout', 'State Record Layout for Puerto Rico & Island Areas', 'U.S. Record Layout', 'Metro Area Record Layout', 'ZIP Code Totals Record Layout', and 'ZIP Code Industry Detail Record Layout'. References for industry and geography are also listed, including 'North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Descriptions', 'State and County Geography Reference', 'Metro Area Geography Reference', and 'Puerto Rico & Island Areas Geography Reference'.

Files available for downloading are displayed on the left

A record layout is available for each CSV file



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/econ/cbp/>
- 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