County Business Patterns
Data User Guide

This guide provides steps to access County Business Patterns (CBP) data through the CBP website or the American FactFinder (AFF) tool.

For further help or questions please contact the US Census Bureau's CBP staff at 301-763-2580 or epcd.county.business.patterns@census.gov for assistance.

CBP Data User Guide

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Access to CBP data through www.census.gov

Step 1. Go to http://www.census.gov

Step 2. Point your mouse cursor to the Business section tab in the top menu bar of the Census Bureau's home page

Step 3. Under 'Popular Resources' click on Business Patterns link

County Business Patterns

County Business Patterns (CBP) Home Page - US Census Bureau - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/

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

GET EMAIL UPDATES

Release Schedule

2011 CBP is scheduled for release April 2013.

2011 ZBP is scheduled for release May 2013.

News

- Census Bureau Reports U.S. Employer Firms Show Declines in Number of Establishments and Employees
- Census Bureau Blog
- More News Releases »

Data Visualizations

- Selected County Business Patterns and Island Areas Maps
- Guam and CNMI Local Business Snapshots
- Measuring America: County Business Patterns & Demographics Interactive Map

Related Sites

- 2007 Economic Census
- Business & Industry
- Economic Indicators

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 are 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 **2010** were released in June 2012. For help accessing the data via hypertext tables or American FactFinder, please refer to the Data User Guide [PDF].

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 Select Area — United States — Go! (1998-2010)

Puerto Rico (2003-2010) **and Island Areas** (2008 to 2010) Select Area — Puerto Rico — Go!

Zip Codes (1998 to 2010) (Enter 5-digit ZIP Code) — Go!

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas Select Area — Abbeville, LA Micro — Go! (1998-2010)

Click 'Go!' to display CBP tables

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.

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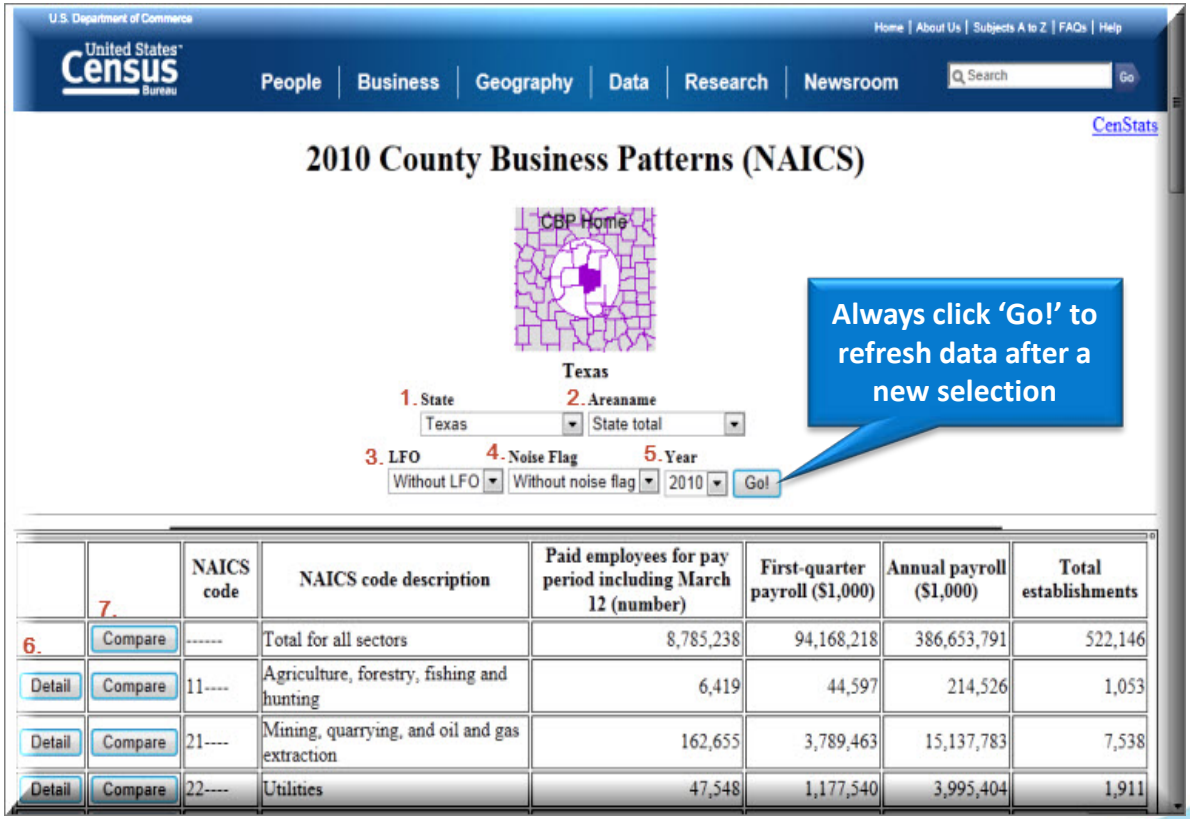
Understanding the CBP tables tool

The CBP tables tool enables you to:

1. **Select a state**
2. **Select a county (labeled 'Areaname')**
3. **Show or hide legal forms of organization for your selections**
4. **Show or hide noise flags**
5. **Select a year**
6. **See NAICS detail by industry**
7. **Compare data with other counties within the state selected**



CBP Data User Guide

Understanding the CBP tables tool

- Legal form of organization allows you to see the number of corporations, s-corporations, sole proprietorships, partnerships, non profit organizations, government and others at the U.S. and state levels.

- Noise flags are part of the system used to maintain data confidentiality and quality. You can remove or display these flags within the table.
Meaning of 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 standard

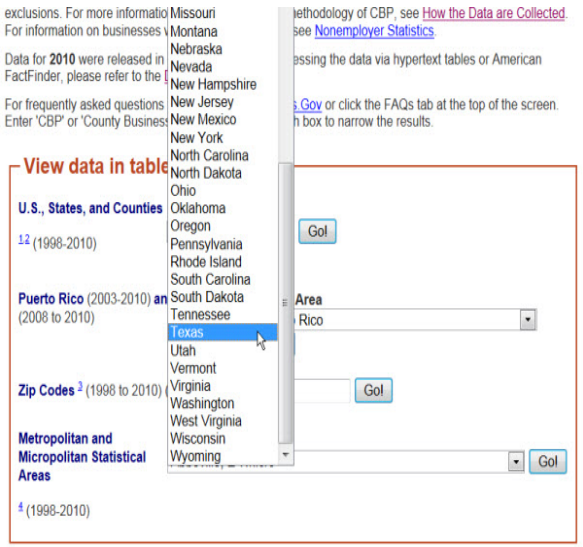
- The **Detail** button will expand the industry down to a six digit NAICS level.

- For more definitions please visit: http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/definitions.htm
- For more information on data protection and data quality please visit: http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/methodology.htm

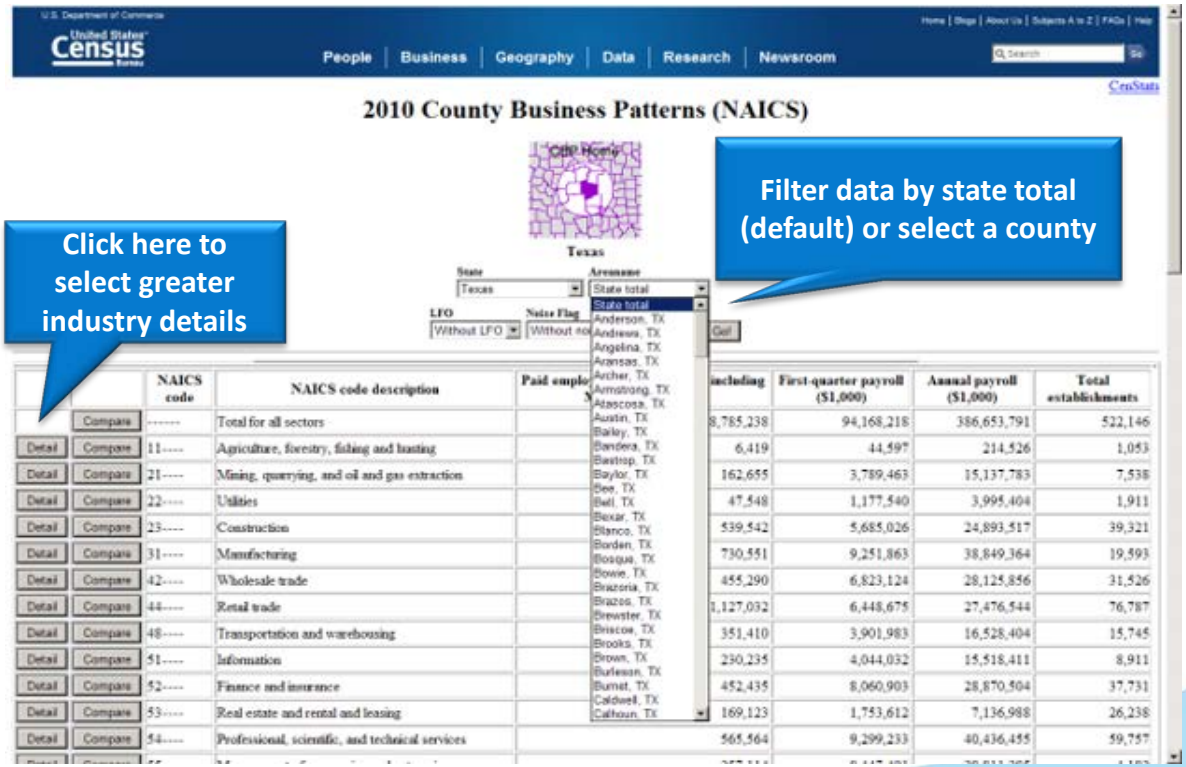
CBP Data User Guide

Example: How to retrieve county data

1. In the CBP homepage, from the "View data in tables" section select the state of Texas from the drop down box and then click "Go".



2. Results: The most recent year data, payroll, establishments and employees data by NAICS sector.



CBP Data User Guide

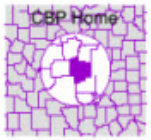
Example: How to retrieve county data

3. Select county: Austin, TX from the drop down box and then click the 'Go!' button to refresh results.

4. In the resulting table scroll down to NAICS code 44: Retail trade and click the button 'Compare' to see data from the Retail trade sector for all Texas counties.

CenStats

2010 County Business Patterns (NAICS)



Austin, TX

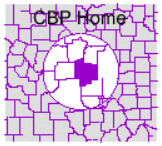
State: Texas | Areaname: Austin, TX | Noise Flag: Without noise flag | Year: 2010 | Go!

		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
	Compare	------	Total for all sectors	9,439	94,388	368,893	575
Detail	Compare	11----	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	a	D	D	2
Detail	Compare	21----	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	102	1,024	5,807	11
Detail	Compare	22----	Utilities	b	D	D	4
Detail	Compare	23----	Construction	713	5,689	26,557	85
Detail	Compare	31----	Manufacturing	3,345	44,348	163,241	37
Detail	Compare	42----	Wholesale trade	f	D	D	22
Detail	Compare	44----	Retail trade	976	5,130	21,561	89
Detail	Compare	48----	Transportation and warehousing	f	D	D	22
Detail	Compare	51----	Information	51	575	2,865	8
Detail	Compare	52----	Finance and insurance	297	3,418	14,008	34

CBP Data User Guide

Example: How to retrieve county data

2010 County Business Patterns (NAICS)



Industry Code Comparison
44----
Retail trade

Noise Flag: Without noise flag | Year: 2010 | Go!

Comparison across all Texas counties total for the selected industry

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 o more
001	Anderson, TX	1,970	10,591	46,109	169	70	66	18	11	2	1	1	0	
003	Andrews, TX	342	2,067	8,587	29	8	11	8	1	1	0	0	0	
005	Angelina, TX	4,932	25,733	108,874	327	112	90	75	31	13	5	0	1	
007	Aransas, TX	1,090	6,095	25,534	74	33	23	11	3	1	2	1	0	
009	Archer, TX	115	468	2,053	17	8	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	
011	Armstrong, TX	b	D	D	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
013	Atascosa, TX	1,498	7,930	34,461	110	48	29	23	7	0	2	1	0	
015	Austin, TX	976	5,130	21,561	89	35	29	18	5	1	0	1	0	
017	Bailey, TX	239	994	4,134	25	12	9	2	1	1	0	0	0	
019	Bandera, TX	344	1,534	6,631	59	31	19	7	1	1	0	0	0	

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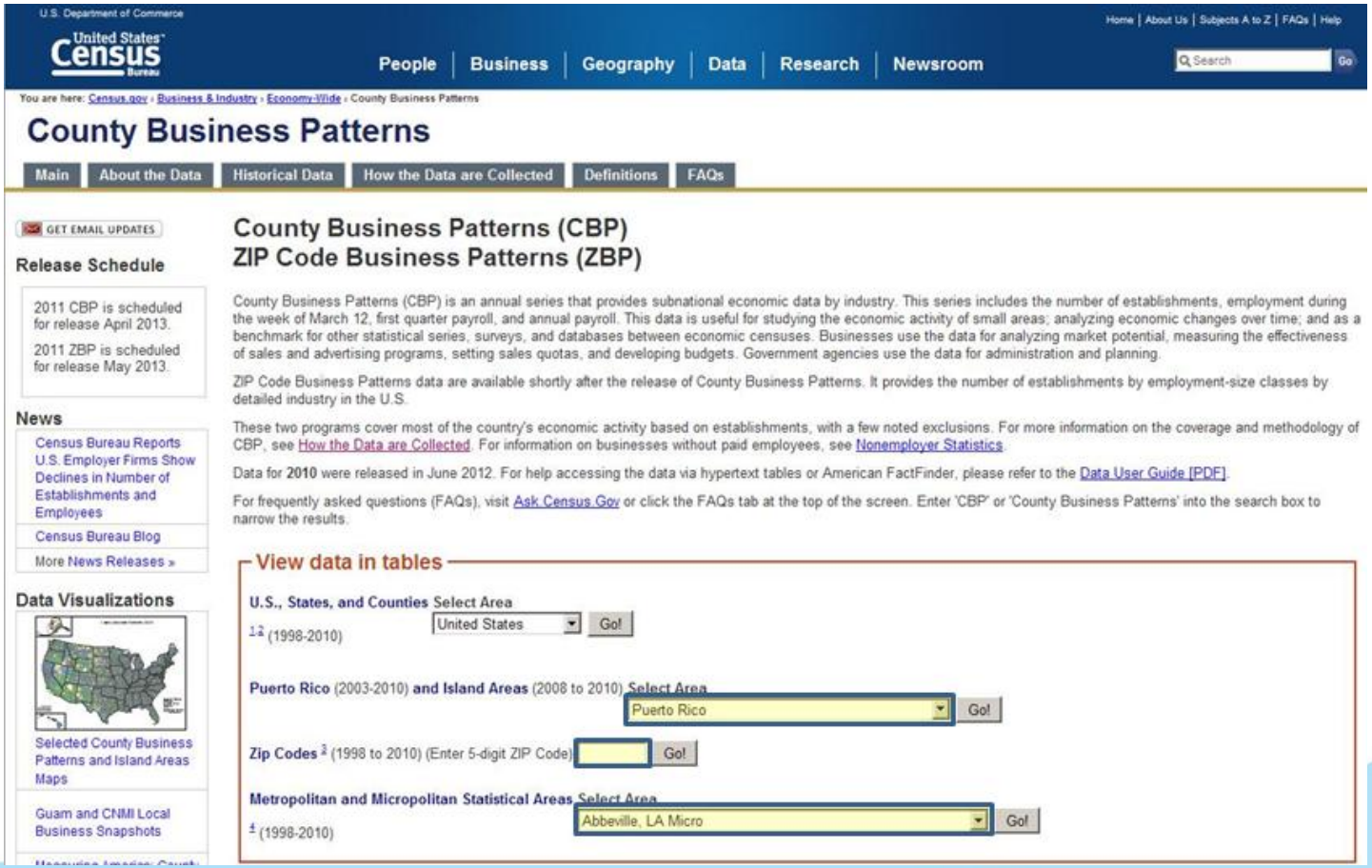
CBP additional data products

Business Patterns also publishes data for: Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Data by Zip codes, Metropolitan, and Micropolitan statistical areas are also available.

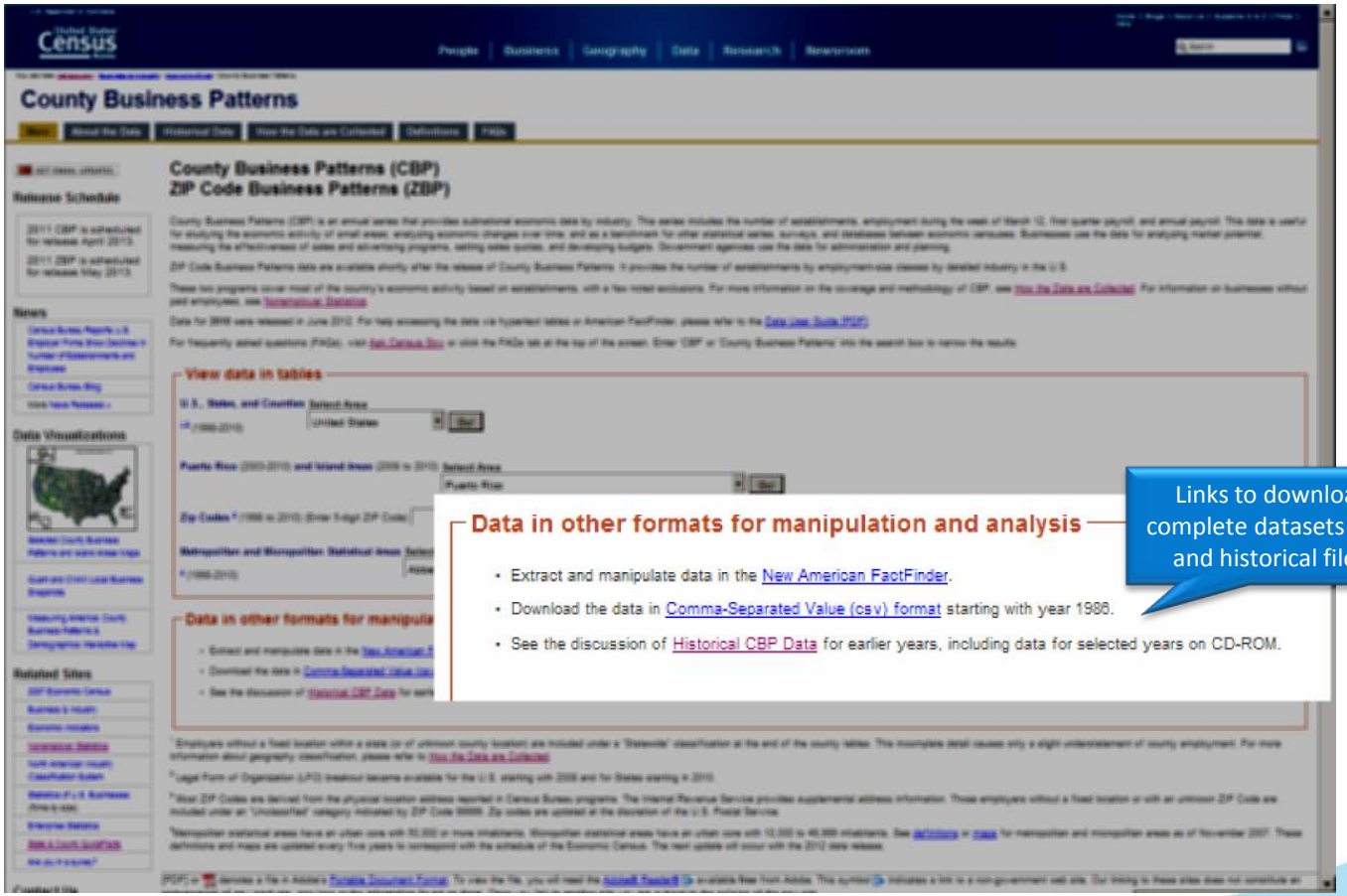


CBP Data User Guide

How to download data files

There are several options to download data.

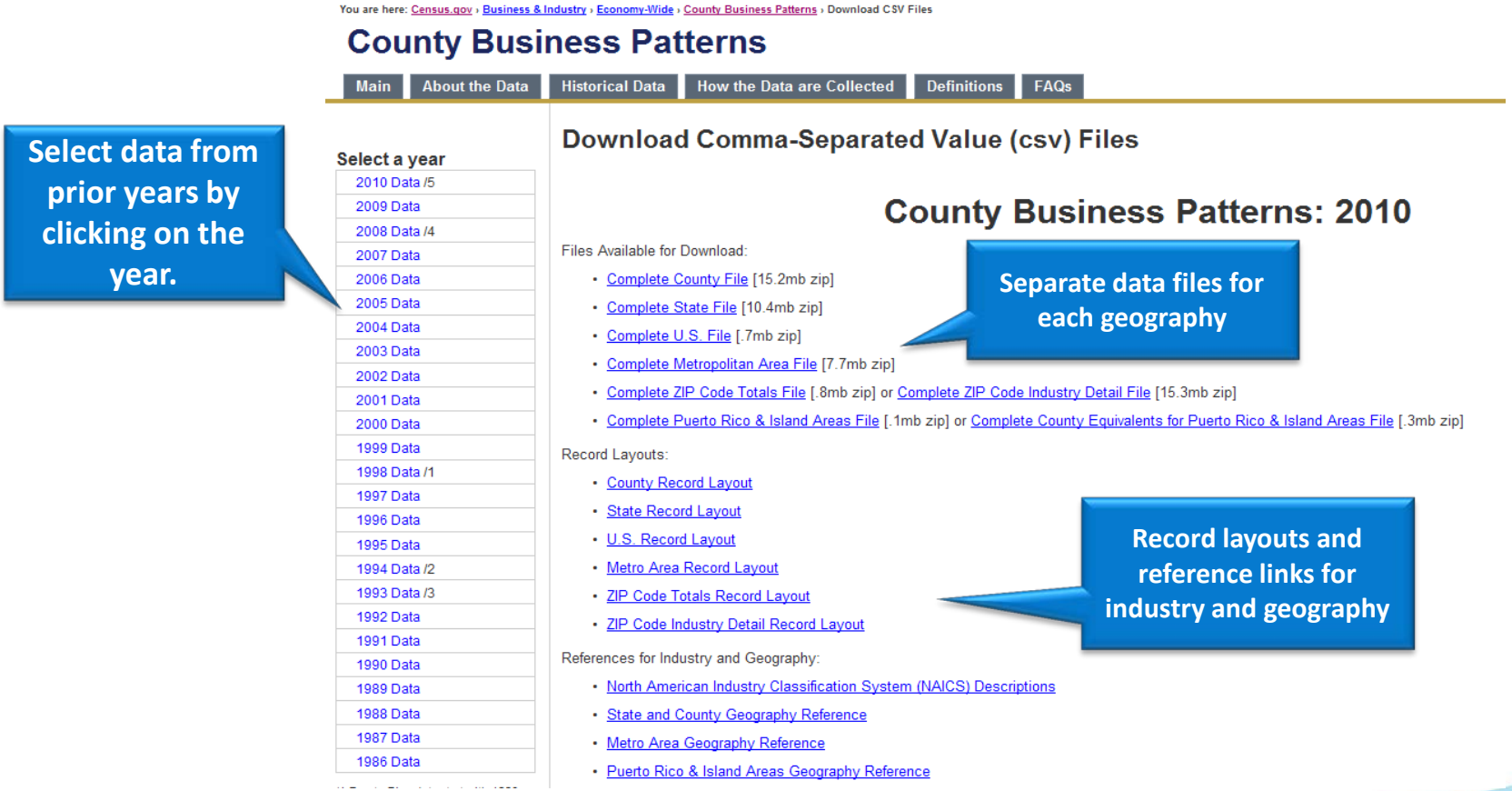
1. From the CBP main webpage scroll down to the box labeled "Data in other formats for manipulation and analysis".



CBP Data User Guide

How to download data files

In the csv page:



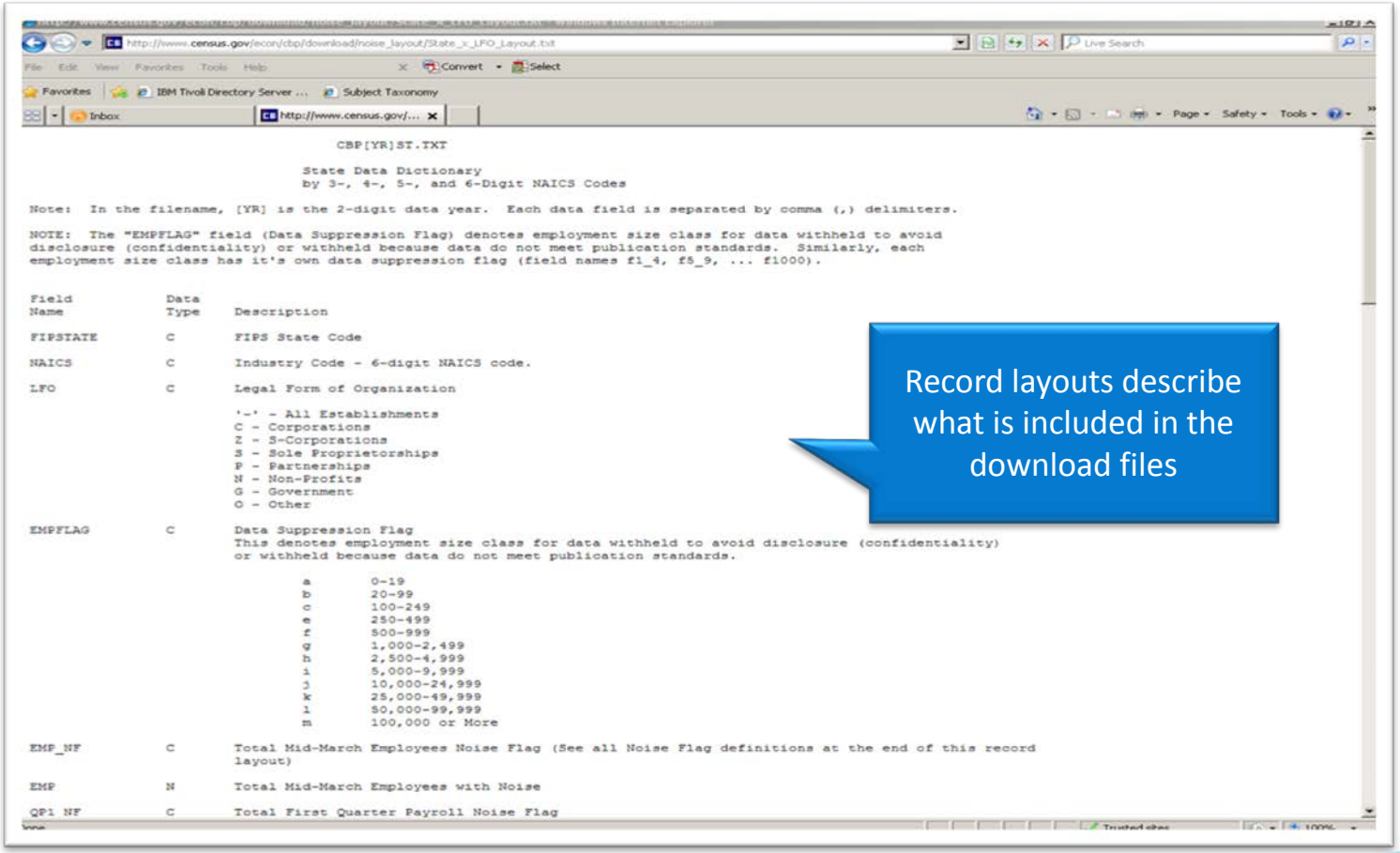
Select data from prior years by clicking on the year.

Separate data files for each geography

Record layouts and reference links for industry and geography

CBP Data User Guide

How to download data files



CBP[YR]ST.TXT

State Data Dictionary
by 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-Digit NAICS Codes

Note: In the filename, [YR] is the 2-digit data year. Each data field is separated by comma (,) delimiters.

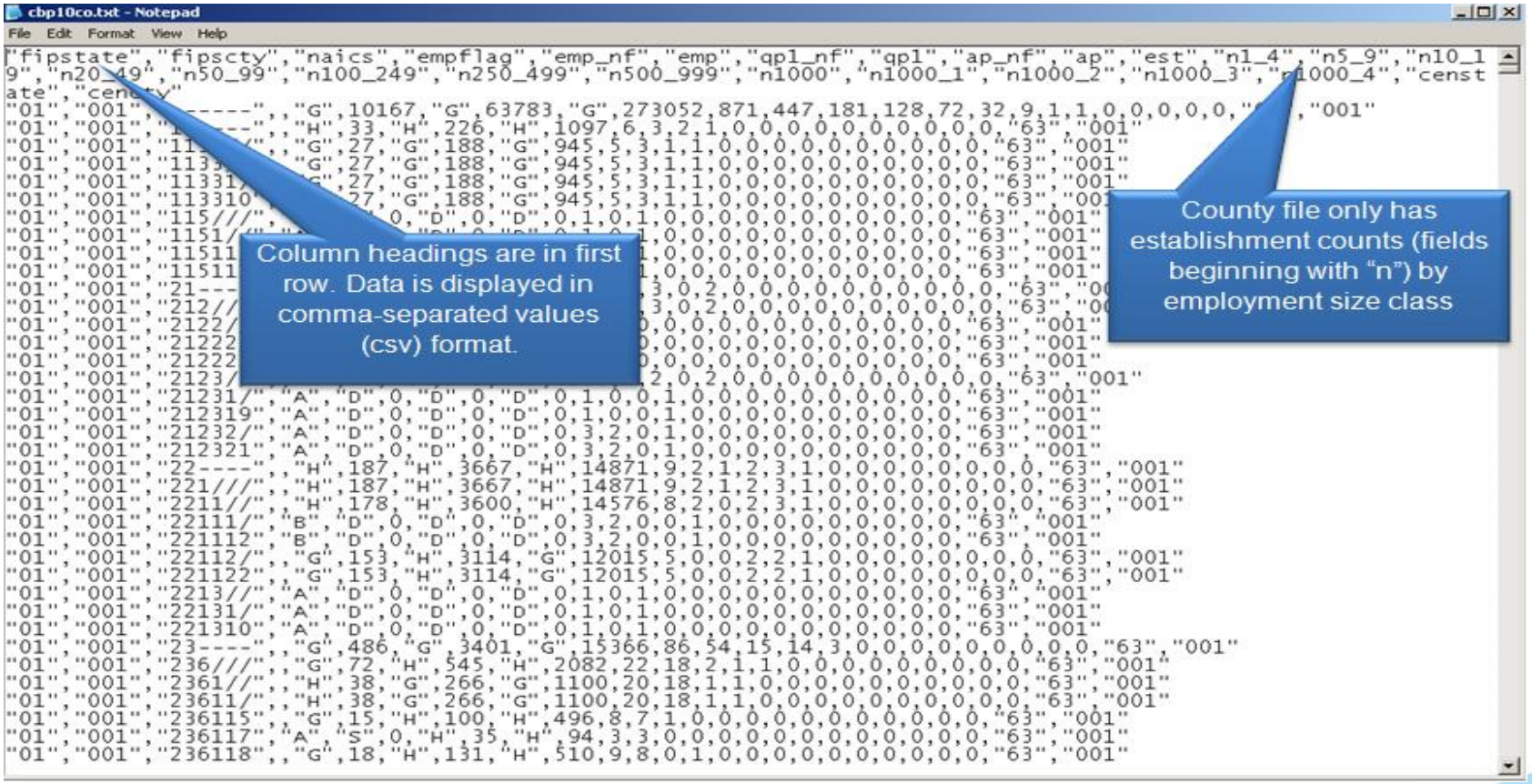
NOTE: The "EMPFLAG" field (Data Suppression Flag) denotes employment size class for data withheld to avoid disclosure (confidentiality) or withheld because data do not meet publication standards. Similarly, each employment size class has it's own data suppression flag (field names fl_4, f5_9, ... f1000).

Field Name	Data Type	Description
FIPSTATE	C	FIPS State Code
NAICS	C	Industry Code - 6-digit NAICS code.
LFO	C	Legal Form of Organization '-' - All Establishments C - Corporations Z - S-Corporations S - Sole Proprietorships P - Partnerships N - Non-Profits G - Government O - Other
EMPFLAG	C	Data Suppression Flag This denotes employment size class for data withheld to avoid disclosure (confidentiality) or withheld because data do not meet publication standards. a 0-19 b 20-99 c 100-249 e 250-499 f 500-999 g 1,000-2,499 h 2,500-4,999 i 5,000-9,999 j 10,000-24,999 k 25,000-49,999 l 50,000-99,999 m 100,000 or More
EMP_NF	C	Total Mid-March Employees Noise Flag (See all Noise Flag definitions at the end of this record layout)
EMP	N	Total Mid-March Employees with Noise
QP1_NF	C	Total First Quarter Payroll Noise Flag

Record layouts describe what is included in the download files

CBP Data User Guide

How to download data files



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How to download data files

2. Another way to download datasets is inside a selected table. Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and click on "Save as text file" or "Save as csv file".

					Number of establishments by employment-size class								
		NAICS code	NAICS code description	Total establishments	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000 or more
Detail	Compare	------	Total for all sectors	99,251	50,113	20,953	14,005	9,021	2,824	1,641	437	167	90
Detail	Compare	11----	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	829	431	231	122	34	6	5	0	0	0
Detail	Compare	21----	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	251	94	37	50	42	16	6	4	2	0
Detail	Compare	22----	Utilities	417	115	101	70	73	36	9	8	2	3
Detail	Compare	23----	Construction	8,235	4,951	1,378	1,041	608	150	86	12	7	2
Detail	Compare	31----	Manufacturing	4,402	1,475	733	654	668	368	318	106	59	21
Detail	Compare	42----	Wholesale trade	5,335	2,546	1,177	846	518	156	71	16	5	0
Detail	Compare	44----	Retail trade	18,484	8,386	5,215	2,824	1,294	448	229	87	1	0
Detail	Compare	48----	Transportation and warehousing	2,874	1,595	396	366	312	113	67	13	11	1
Detail	Compare	51----	Information	1,587	741	269	249	189	66	50	15	5	3
Detail	Compare	52----	Finance and insurance	7,170	4,280	1,624	756	362	82	38	14	6	8
Detail	Compare	53----	Real estate and rental and leasing	4,005	2,797	785	266	115	21	11	7	2	1
Detail	Compare	54----	Professional, scientific, and technical services	9,386	6,211	1,475	948	487	139	87	25	9	5
Detail	Compare	55----	Management of companies and enterprises	564	211	92	101	82	42	28	6	2	0
Detail	Compare	56----	Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	4,117	2,178	666	453	371	199	165	48	29	8
Detail	Compare	61----	Educational services	835	353	164	122	106	43	28	12	3	4
Detail	Compare	62----	Health care and social assistance	10,238	3,935	2,688	1,878	1,063	297	273	52	20	32
Detail	Compare	71----	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,105	590	177	139	118	47	26	5	2	1
Detail	Compare	72----	Accommodation and food services	8,123	2,365						4	0	0
Detail	Compare	81----	Other services (except public administration)	11,093	6,666						3	2	1
Detail	Compare	99----	Industries not classified	201	193						0	0	0

Export buttons to save data in .txt and .csv formats.

Save as text file.
Save as csv file.

For information on businesses with no paid employees, see *Nonemployer Statistics*

Change Geographic Area

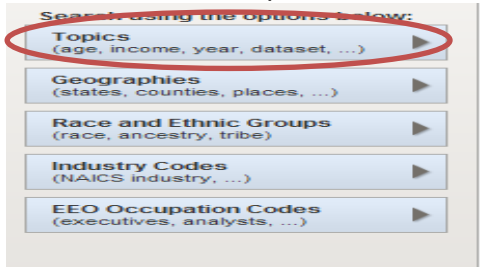
ask.census.gov

CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

Finding tables:

- County Business Patterns tables can be accessed directly at: http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/navigation/1.0/en/d_program:BP
- Alternatively tables can be accessed by following this path:
  1. Go to http://factfinder2.census.gov/
  2. In the upper menu tabs click on: Advanced search
  3. Select topics from the menu on the left.

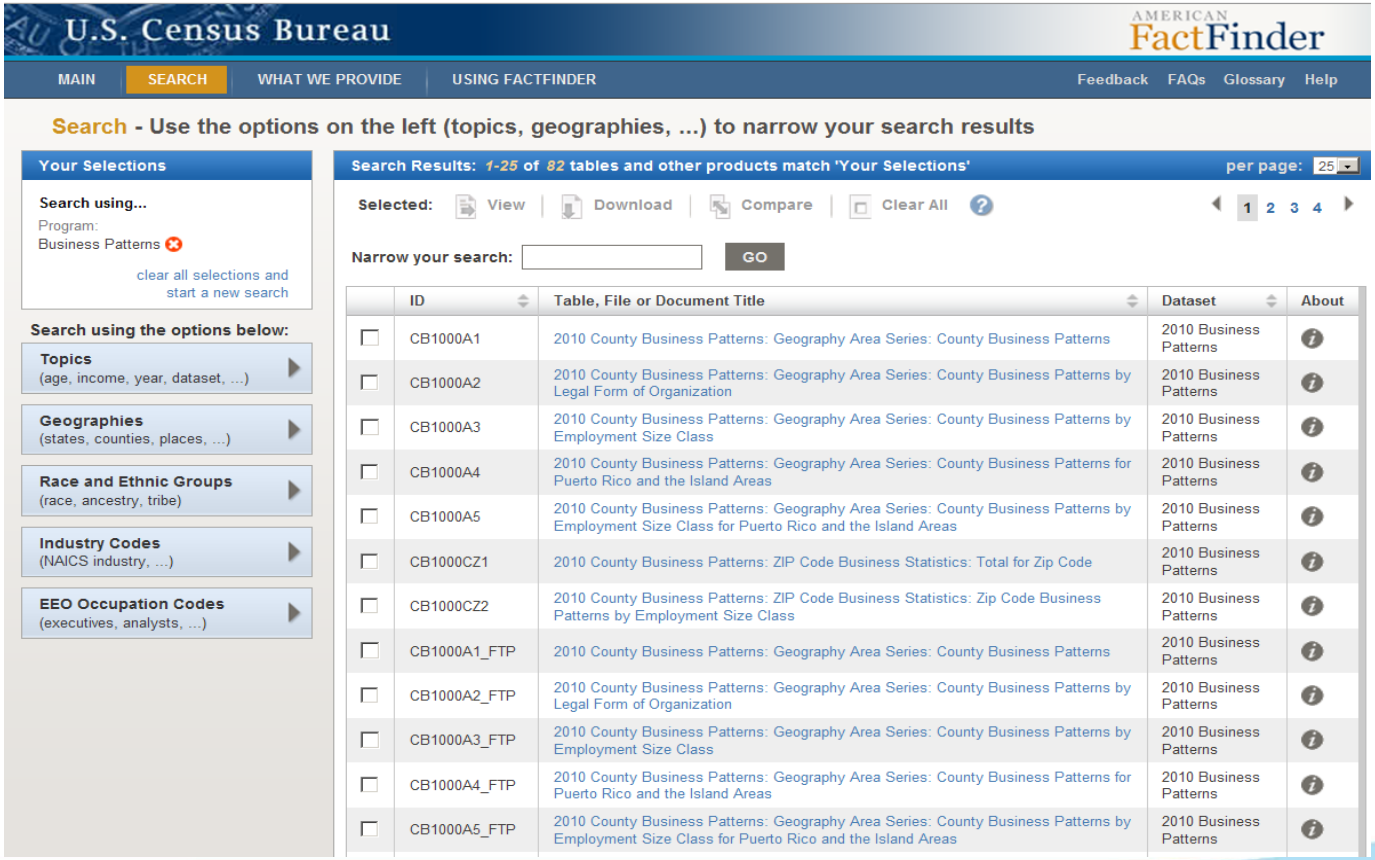


  4. Select “Program”, then “Business Patterns”

CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

5. The search results are now narrowed down to all Business Patterns tables.

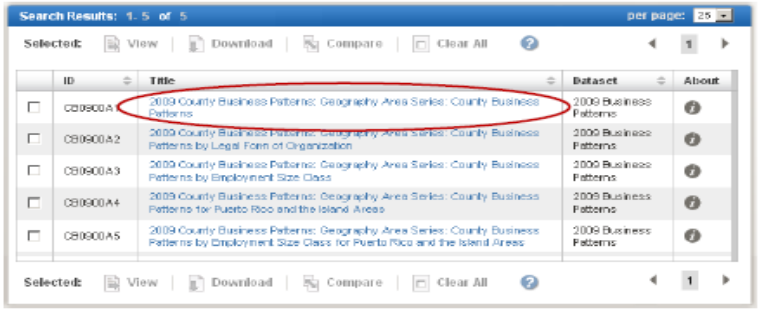


CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

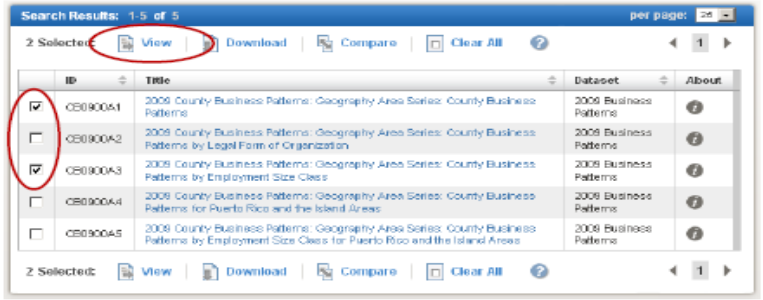
Opening Tables

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



To open multiple tables:

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



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

CBP Data User Guide

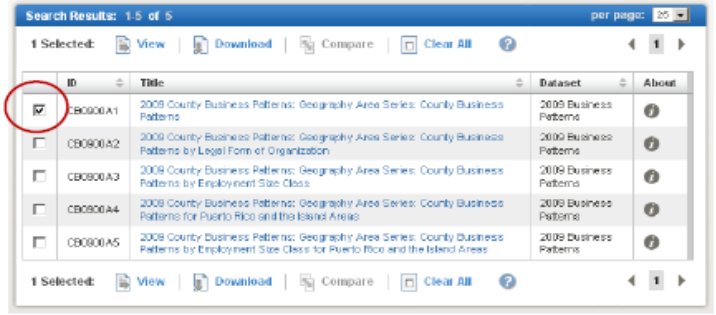
Access CBP data through American FactFinder

Adding Geographies to a Table

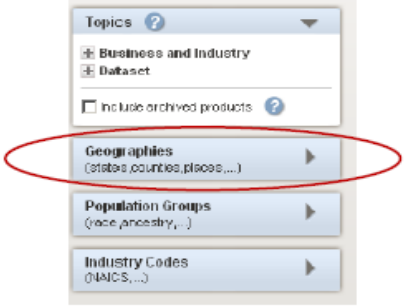
When no geographies are added to your selections, most tables open up by default with the highest level of geography in that table, typically the United States.

To add other geographies, such as states, counties, and metropolitan and micropolitan areas:

1. Check off the checkbox next to the table(s) you would like to view.



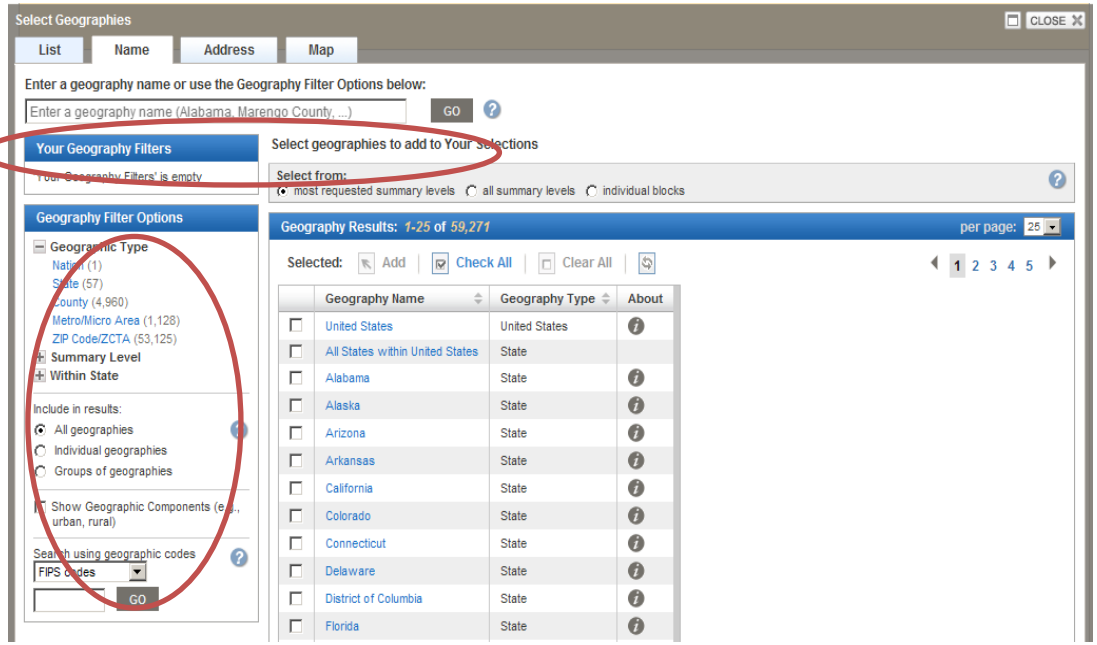
2. Select the "Geographies" button on the left-hand side.



CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

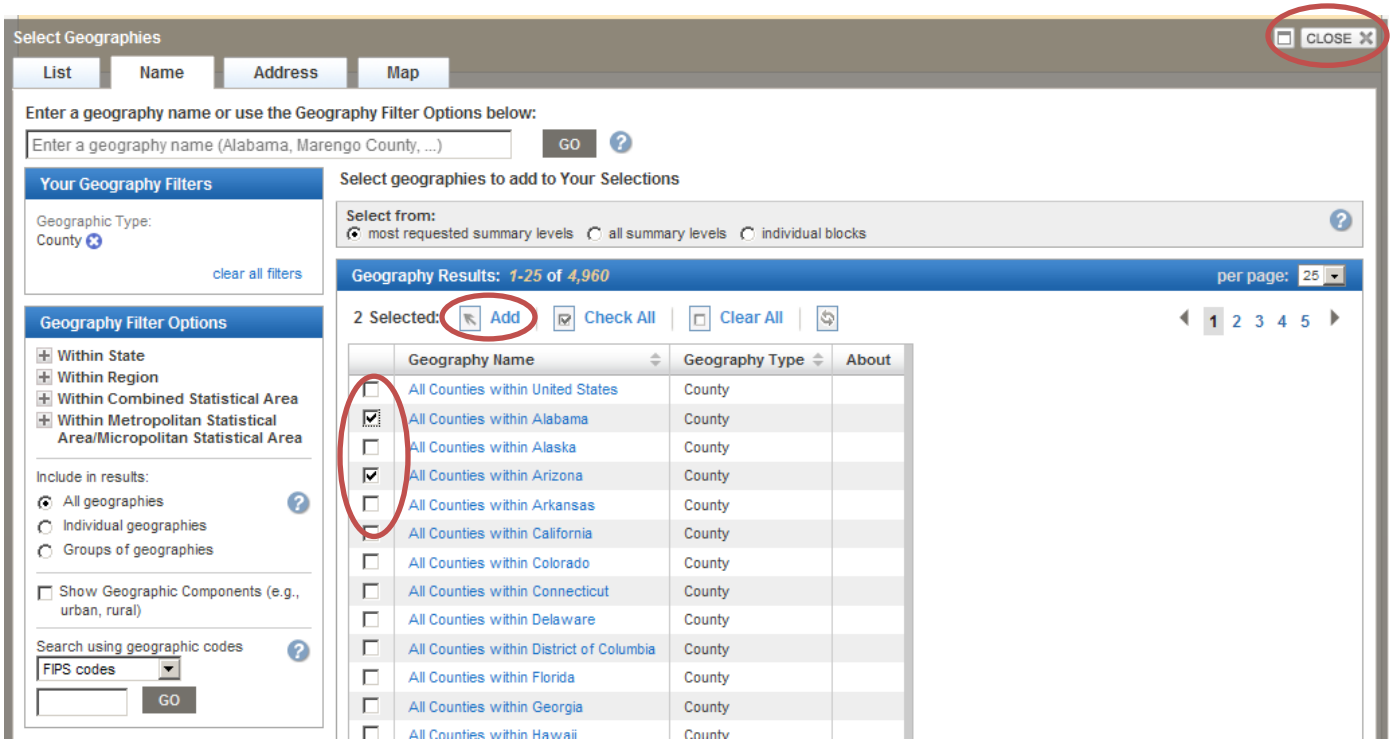
3. The "Select Geographies" menu displays. This menu contains all the geographies that are available for the table(s) you checked off. You can search for a geography by name using the search box, or use the "Geography Filter Options" to find geographies by their type or by state. The available geographies for your search or filter will show up in the "Geography Results" area.



CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

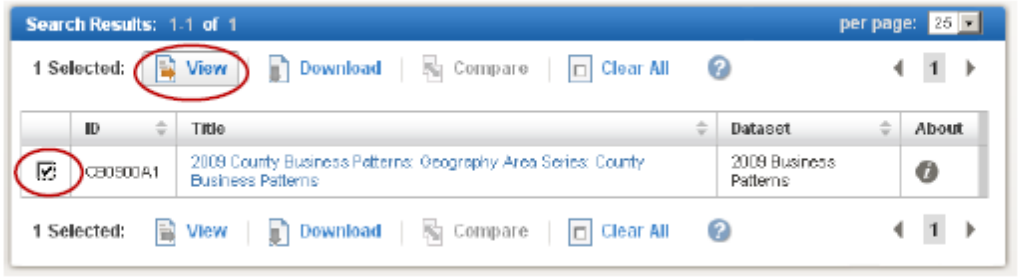
4. To add geographies to your table(s), check off the check boxes next to the geography names in the "Geography Results" area, and click the "Add" button. When you are done adding geographies, click the "X" button on the top-right corner of the overlay box.



CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

5. Check off the table(s) you want to view, and click "View".



6. The table(s) opens with your selected geographies.

Geographic area name	2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code code	Meaning of 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code code	Number of establishments	Number of paid employees for pay period including March 12	Noise range for paid employees for pay period including March 12 (%)	First-quarter payroll ($1,000)	Noise range for first-quarter payroll (%)	Annual payroll ($1,000)	Noise range for annual payroll (%)
Alabama		public administration)							
Autauga County, Alabama	00	Total for all sectors	877	10,628	G	88,731	G	270,567	G
Autauga County, Alabama	11	Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	7	31	H	193	H	980	H
Autauga County, Alabama	21	Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	5	33	G	316	G	1,357	G
Autauga County, Alabama	22	Utilities	9	190	H	3,710	H	14,518	H
Autauga County,	23	Construction	96	525	H	4,252	G	16,601	G

CBP Data User Guide

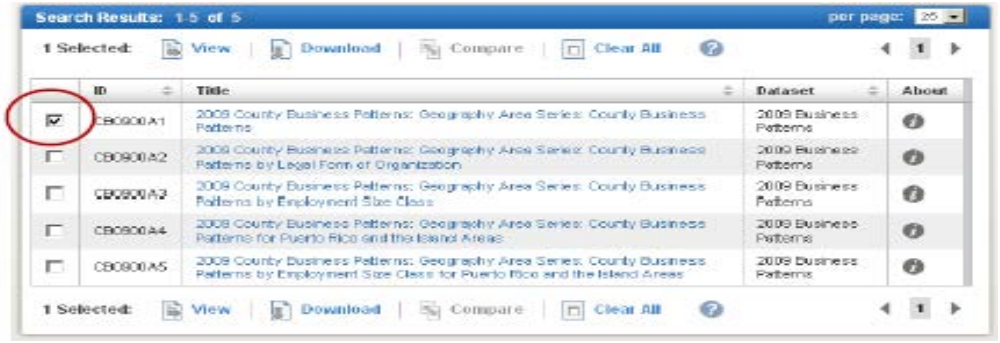
Access CBP data through American FactFinder

Adding Industries to a Table

When no industries are added to your selections, most tables open up by default with the highest level of industries in that table, typically the sector or 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code level.

To add more industry detail:

1. Check off the checkbox next to the table(s) you would like to view.

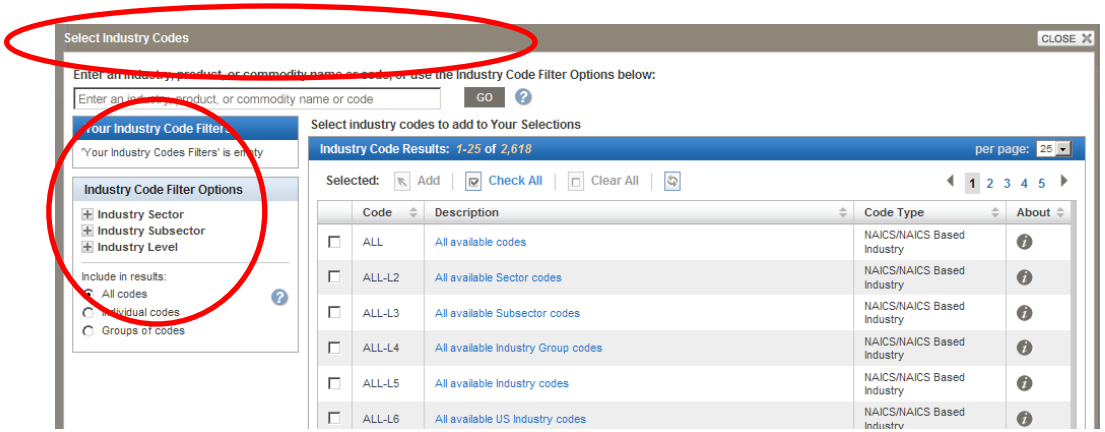


2. Select the "Industry Codes" button on the left-hand side.

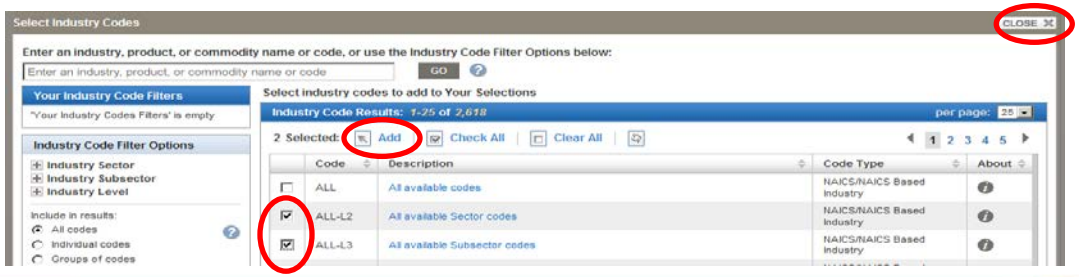
CBP Data User Guide

Access CBP data through American FactFinder

3. The "Select Industry Codes" menu displays. This menu contains all the NAICS industries that are available for the table(s) you checked off. You can search for an industry by name using the search box, or use the "Industry Code Filter Options" to find industries by their sector or by their level in the NAICS hierarchy. The available industries for your filter will show up in the "Industry Code Results" area.



4. To add industries to your table(s), check off the check boxes next to the industry names on the "Industry Code Results" area, and click the "Add" button. When you are done adding industries, click the "X" button on the top-right corner.



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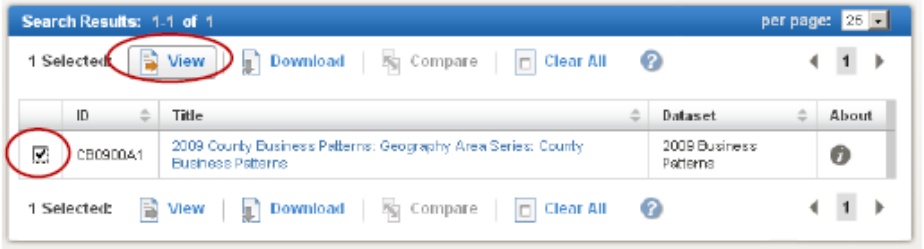
5. Check off the table(s) you want to view, and click "View".



6. The table(s) opens with your selected industries.

Geographic area name	2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code code	Meaning of 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code code	Number of establishments	Number of paid employees for pay period including March 12	Noise range for paid employees for pay period including March 12 (%)	First-quarter payroll ($1,000)	Noise range for first-quarter payroll (%)	Annual payroll ($1,000)	Noise range for annual payroll (%)
United States	42	Wholesale trade	419,758	5,827,769	G	84,810,603	G	334,158,388	G
United States	423	Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	241,347	3,334,703	G	51,172,473	G	200,576,493	G
United States	4231	Motor vehicle and parts merchant wholesalers	24,882	362,348	G	4,141,455	G	16,599,797	G
United States	42311	Automobile and other motor vehicle merchant wholesalers	6,607	118,622	G	1,540,653	G	6,196,137	G
United States	423110	Automobile and other motor vehicle merchant wholesalers	6,607	118,622	G	1,540,653	G	6,196,137	G

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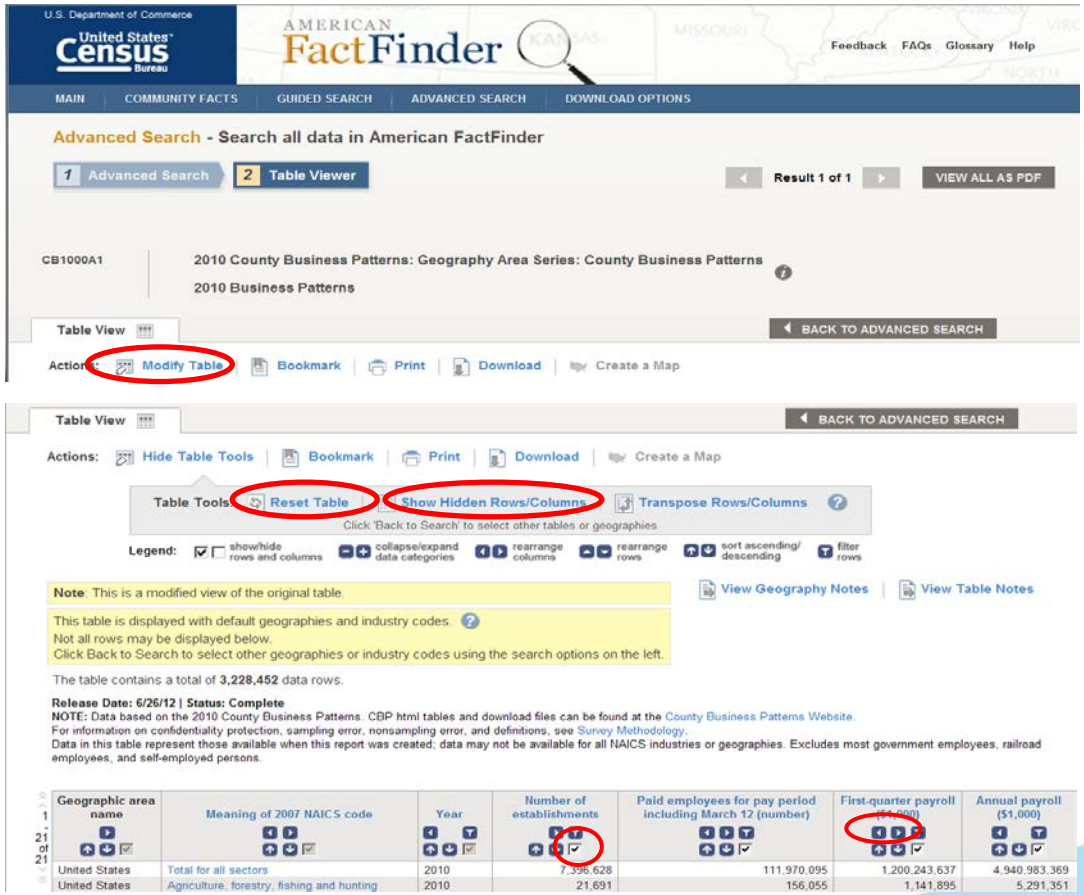
Modifying a Table

1. Once you have opened a table, you are able to modify it several different ways. To begin modifying a table, click the **"Modify Table"** button.
2. To return the table to its original state, click the **"Reset Table"** button.
3. Most tables contain columns that are hidden from the default view. These columns typically contain geography and other control fields. To view these columns, click the **"Show Hidden Rows/Columns"** button.
4. To hide a particular column, uncheck the box beneath the column's display label.
5. To move a column to the left or right, click the left arrows beneath the column's display label.



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Modifying a Table

6. Transpose rows/columns- In the New American FactFinder you have the ability to transpose or interchange the order of rows and columns. To transpose rows and columns, click the “Transpose Rows/Columns” button.

7. Sorting and filtering rows- To sort rows in ascending or descending order, click the “up” (for ascending) or”down” (for descending) arrow beneath the column’s display label.

To filter rows based on a data value, click the filter button beneath the column’s display label. The “Filter” menu displays. Select an operator (e.g., “greater than”, “less than”), enter a value, and click “OK”. The resulting table will now only have your filter’s criteria.

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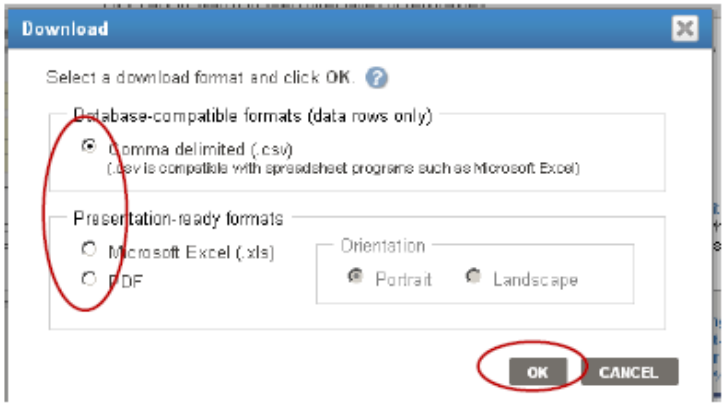
Downloading and Bookmarking Tables

Downloading

To download a table, click the "Download" button.

The "Download" menu appears. Select database-compatible (.csv) format, or presentation-ready formats (.xls or .pdf) and click "OK".



The table can now be used off-line and opened in spreadsheet, database, or PDF-viewing software.

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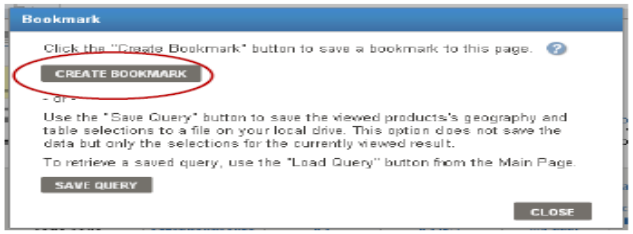
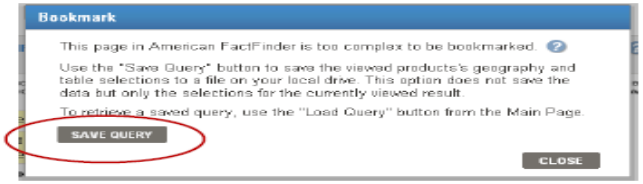
Bookmarking

To bookmark a table, click the "Bookmark" button.

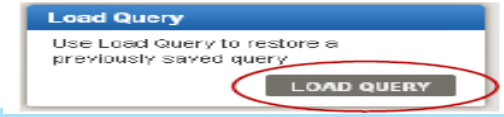
If the table has not been modified and contains a limited number of geographies and/or industries, you can create a bookmark by saving it into your browser's bookmarks.



If the table has been modified or contains too many geographies and/or industries, you will need to save a query file onto your computer.



The query file maintains all your selections and modifications for the table. To retrieve the table, you can upload the query file by clicking the "Load Query" button on the left-hand side of http://factfinder2.census.gov.



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Definitions and Related Text

Definitions: To see the definition of a column, NAICS description, or symbol, click on the hyperlinked text.

Meaning of 2007 NAICS code	Year	Number of establishments	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll ($1,000)
Total for all sectors	2010	466	6,856	25,557
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2010	2	a	D
Construction	2010	23	345	1,184
Manufacturing	2010	39	g	S

The definition appears. If there is more information about the item, a “more>>” link will also appear.

Meaning of 2007 NAICS code	Year	Number of establishments	Paid employees for pay period including March 12 (number)	First-quarter payroll ($1,000)
Total for all sectors	2010	7,396,628	111,970,095	1,200,243,637
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2010	21,691	156,055	1,141,895
Mining, quarrying, and extraction			582	11,171,126
Utilities			058	15,819,420
Construction			271	56,851,816
Manufacturing			838	130,316,115
Wholesale trade			507	81,452,874
Retail trade			625	83,601,568
Transportation and w			989	38,647,658
Information			036	57,791,134
Finance and insuranc			696	146,554,906
Real estate and rental and leasing	2010	347,326	1,946,424	19,334,861

Total for all sectors

This NAICS code reflects the sum of all the economic activity for all sectors published in Business Patterns, the Economic Census of Island Areas, the Survey of Business Owners, or the Nonemployer Statistics report. This total is not published in the Economic Census. The definitions for the ...

more »

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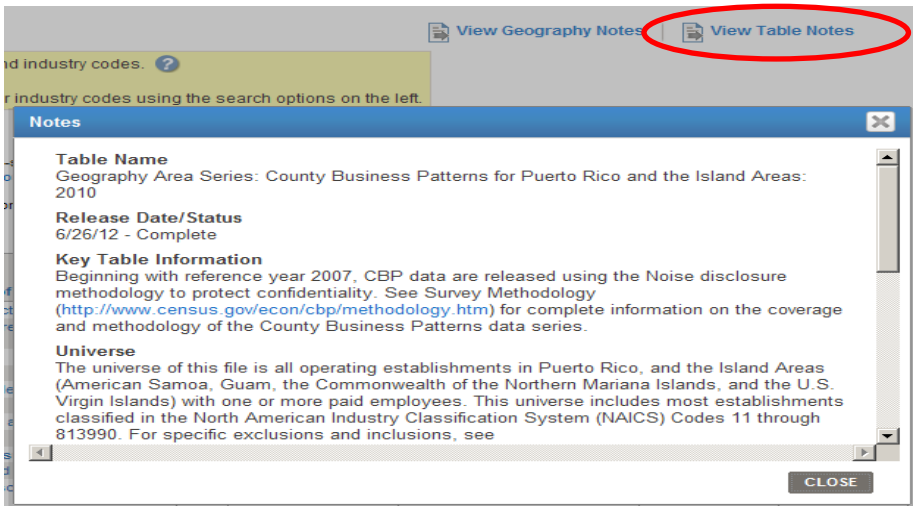
File Abstract

To find the file abstract of the table, which contains information about universe, geography/industry coverage, and other important information specific to the table, click the “View Table Notes” button.



The file abstract appears.

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Methodology and Other Program Information

For information on methodology, geography, industry classification, and the County Business Patterns program itself, click the "i" button next to the table title.

The text browser pop-up window appears. Use the links to access the other text for the program.

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Still have a question?

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

Help with American FactFinder (economic data only)
- Phone: (301)763-9560
- E-mail: epcd.dissemination@census.gov

Help with American FactFinder (demographic and other data)
- Phone: (301)763-INFO(4636)
- E-mail:factfinder@census.gov

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/
- 2007 Economic Census: http://www.census.gov/econ/census07/
- Census Bureau Economic Statistics: http://www.census.gov/econ/