Data User Guide

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 - 18
Downloading Data in Data.census.gov	19
Downloading Data in CSV	20 - 21
Loading Data in API	22 - 26
Additional Links	27

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. LFO is derived from administrative records data sources.
- **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 (used prior to reference year 2017)
  S - Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards
  N - Not available or not comparable
- **Statewide** – Classification for employers in a state without a fixed location.

Using the Homepage

// Census.gov / Our Surveys & Programs / County Business Patterns (CBP)

Within Our Surveys & Programs

- About this Program
- Data
- Guidance for Data Users
- Library
- News & Updates
- Technical Documentation

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.

Featured

About this Program

This section provides detailed information and statistics on County Business Patterns. Find the latest news, publications, and other content.

County Business Patterns Data

Sources are the Census Bureau and other federal agencies, if applicable. For additional County Business Patterns data, please visit the subtopic pages.

Data is available:

- On Data.census.gov in filterable table format
- As downloadable datasets (in CSV format)
- Via API

Using the Data Page

Within County Business Patterns (CBP)

API

CBP by Congressional District

CBP Datasets

CBP Tables

County Business Patterns 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.

Dataset

CBP Datasets

CBP data are available in downloadable CSV format, along with record layouts and reference guides, from 1986 to the current reference year.

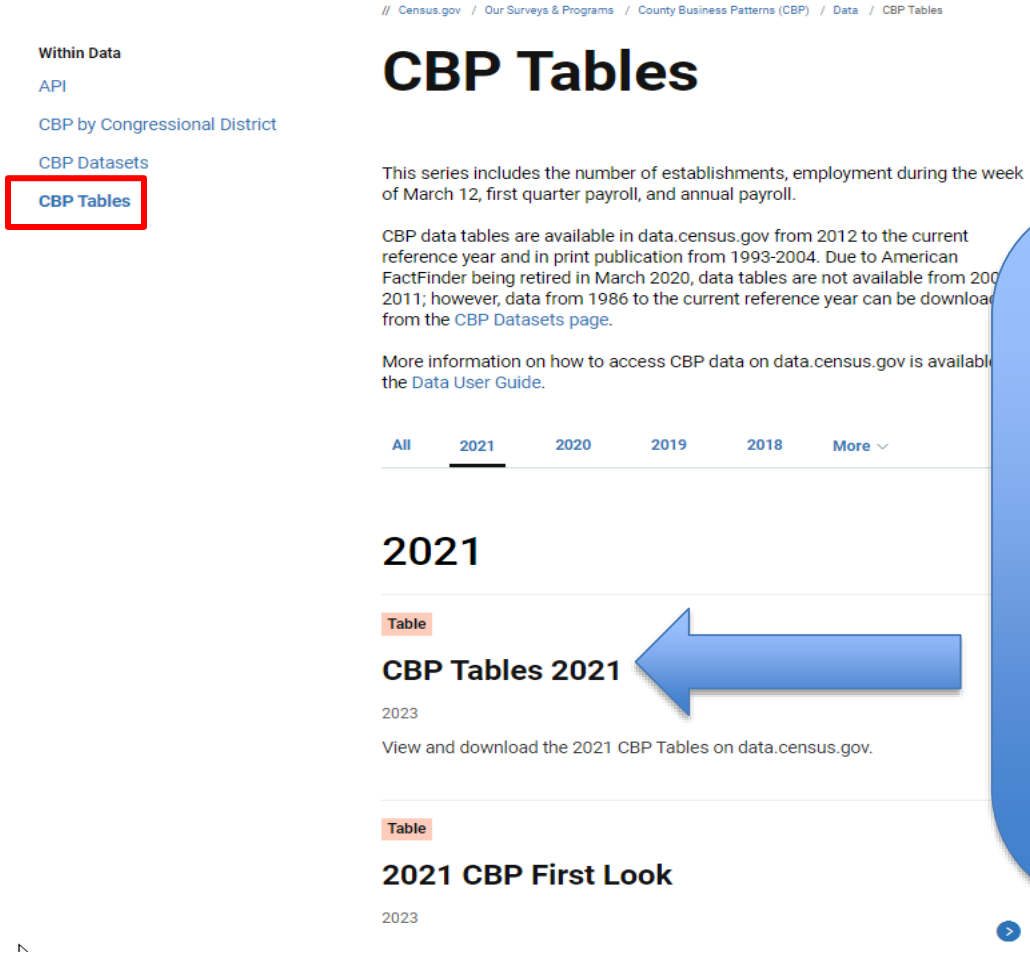
CBP by Congressional District

My Congressional District tool allows data users to view the most recent CBP data and American Community Survey data by congressional district.

API

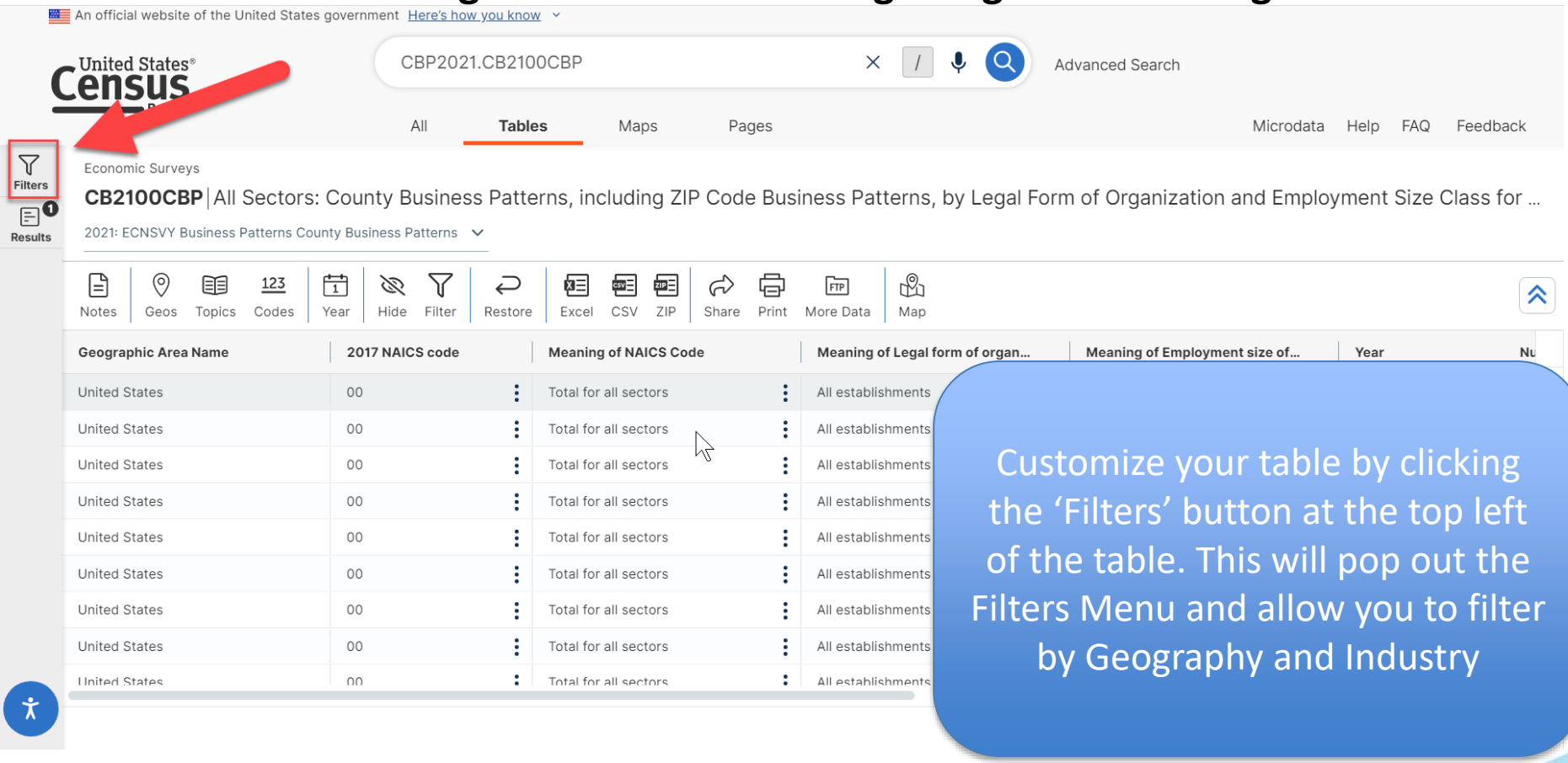
The Census Bureau's Application Programming Interface allows developers to create custom queries. Users can embed these statistics into web or mobile apps.

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov



Select the 'CBP Tables' option from the 'Data' page. Next, select your desired year, then click the 'CBP Tables Year' link for your year. You will then be directed to data.census.gov. Alternatively, you can go directly to data.census.gov and search for 'County Business Patterns'.

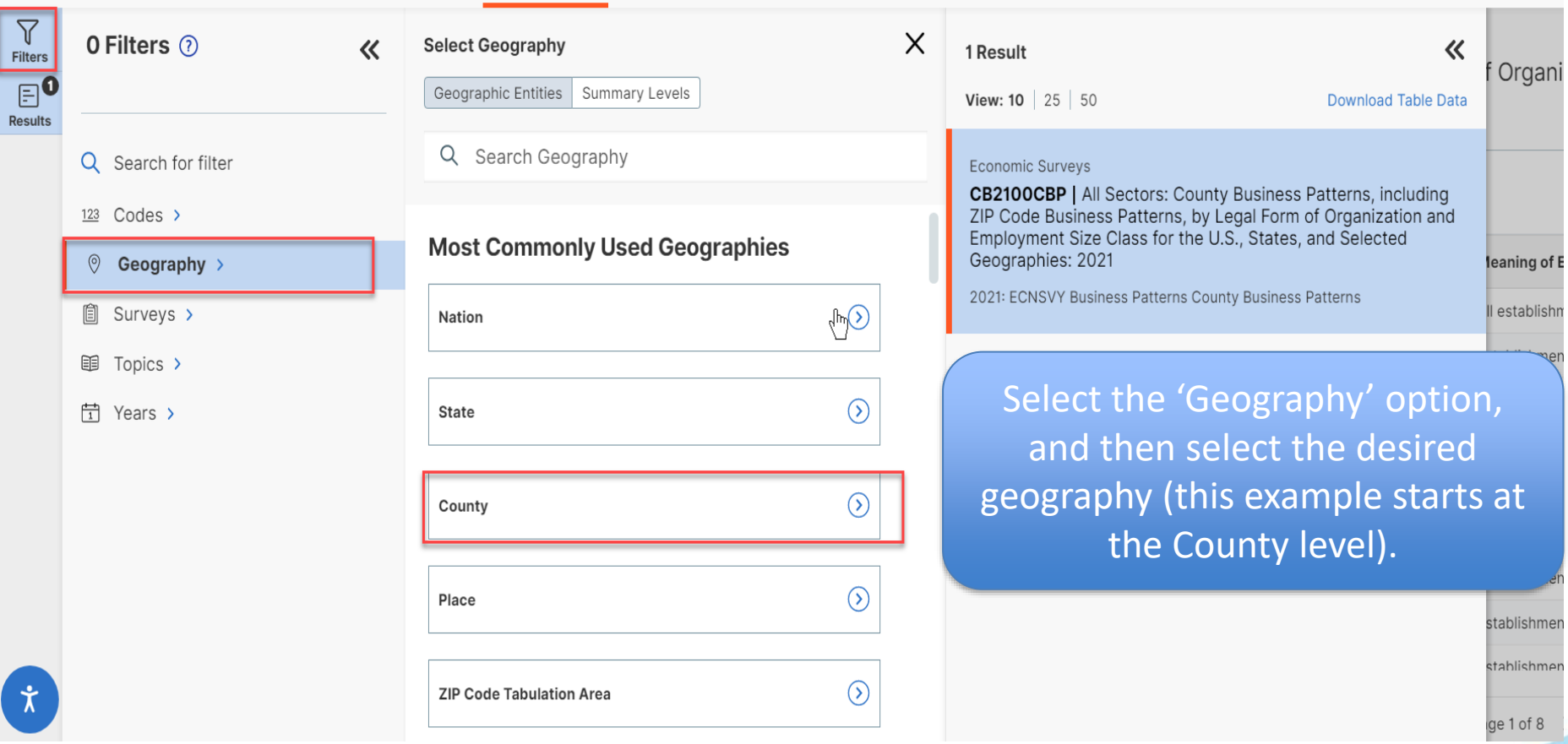
Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov



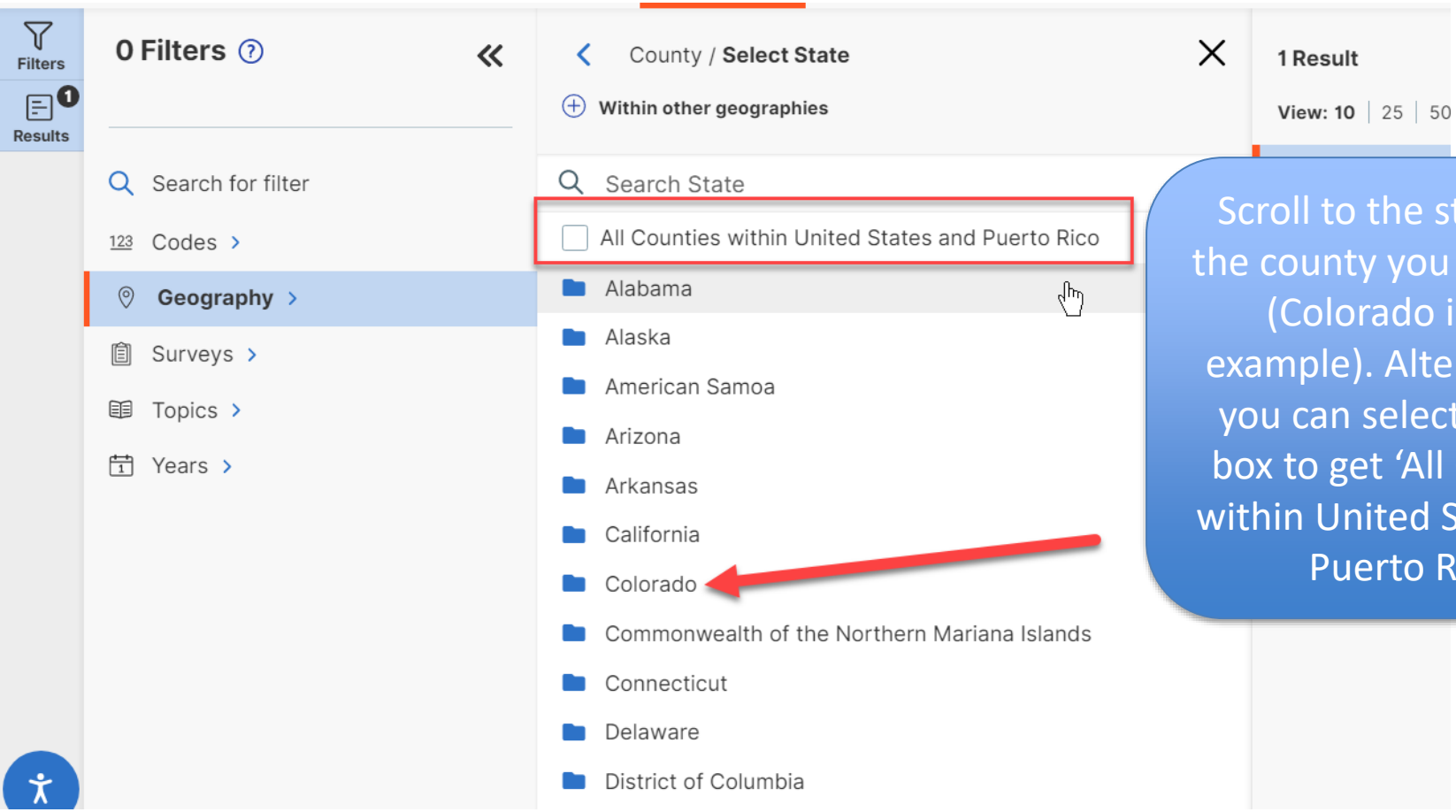
Customize your table by clicking the 'Filters' button at the top left of the table. This will pop out the Filters Menu and allow you to filter by Geography and Industry

County Business Patterns

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Geographies

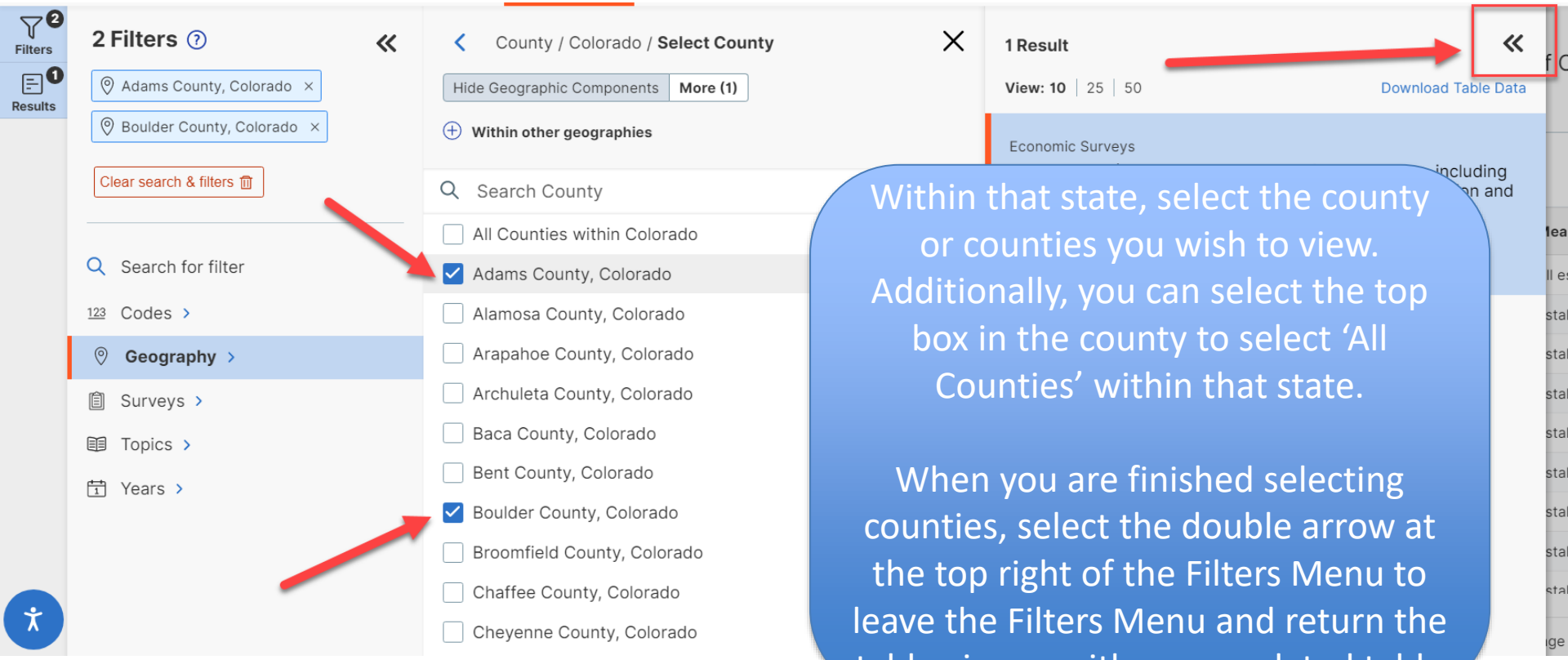


Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Geographies



Scroll to the state that the county you want is in (Colorado in this example). Alternatively, you can select the top box to get 'All Counties within United States and Puerto Rico

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Geographies



Within that state, select the county or counties you wish to view. Additionally, you can select the top box in the county to select 'All Counties' within that state.

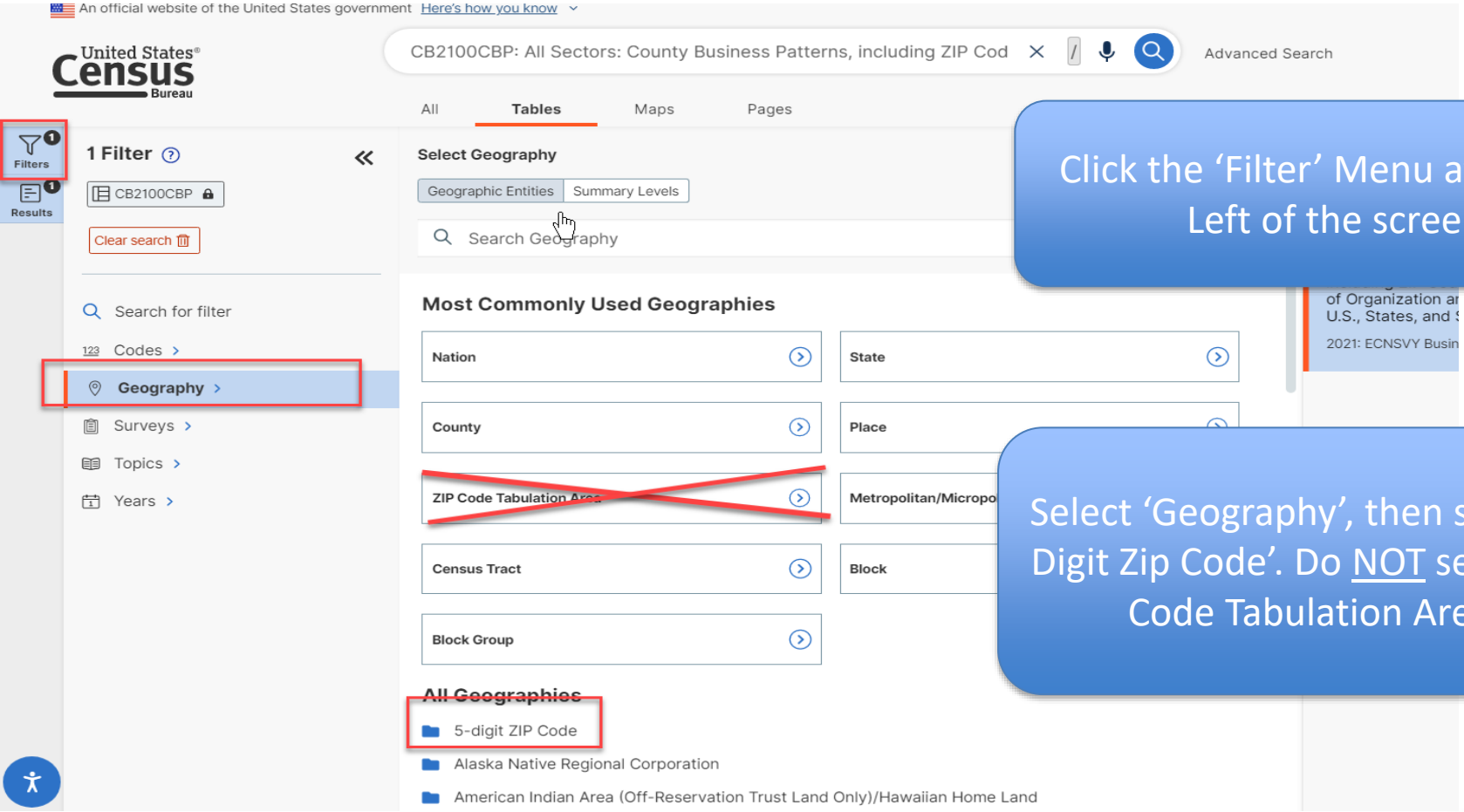
When you are finished selecting counties, select the double arrow at the top right of the Filters Menu to leave the Filters Menu and return the table viewer with your updated table

Last updated: 5/30/2023

https://data.census.gov/table?q=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&tid=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&hidePreview=true

County Business Patterns

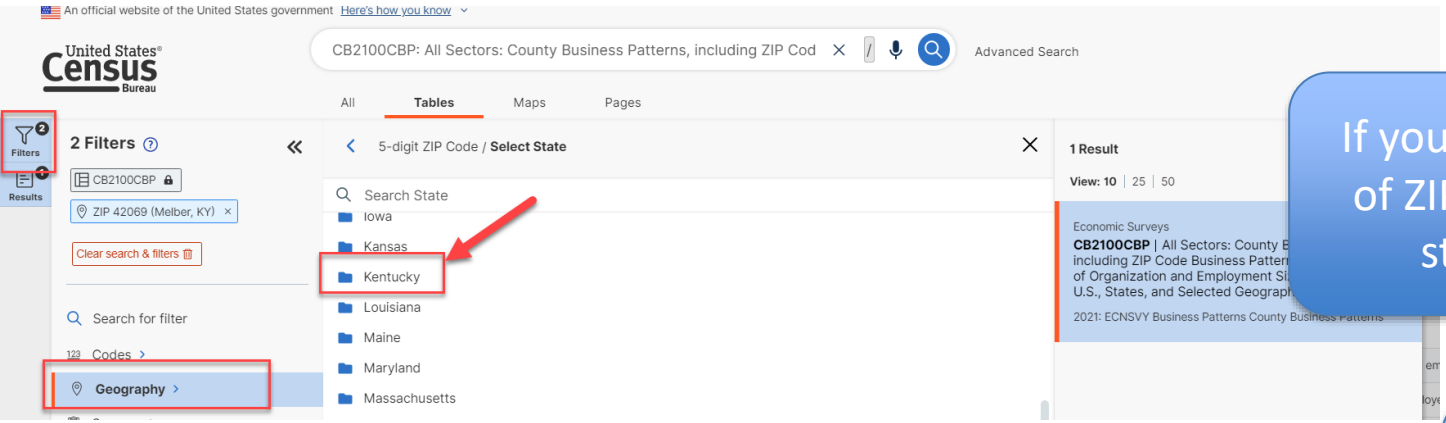
Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
ZIP Codes by State



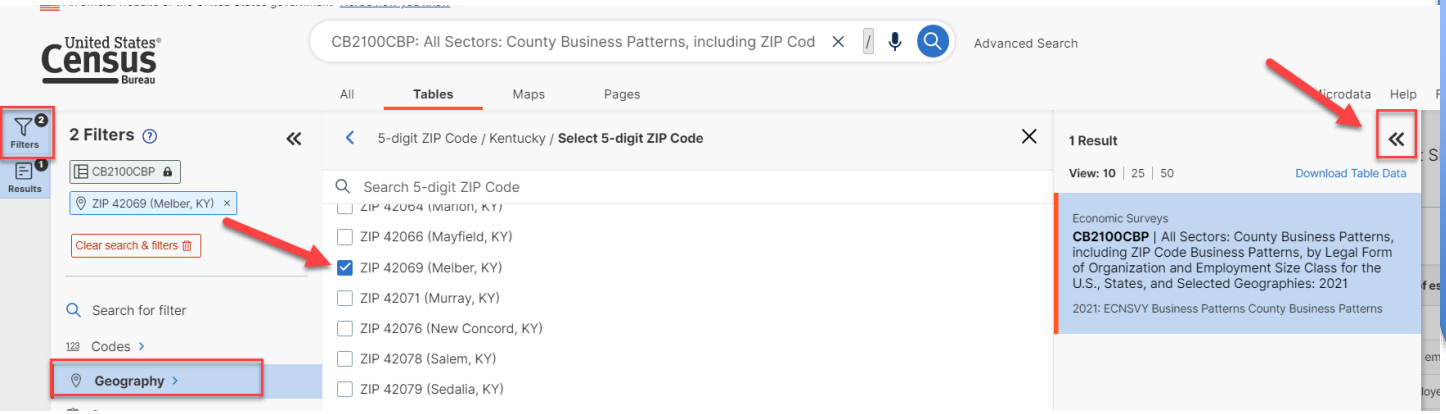
Click the 'Filter' Menu at the top Left of the screen

Select 'Geography', then select '5-Digit Zip Code'. Do NOT select 'Zip Code Tabulation Area'.

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
ZIP Codes by State

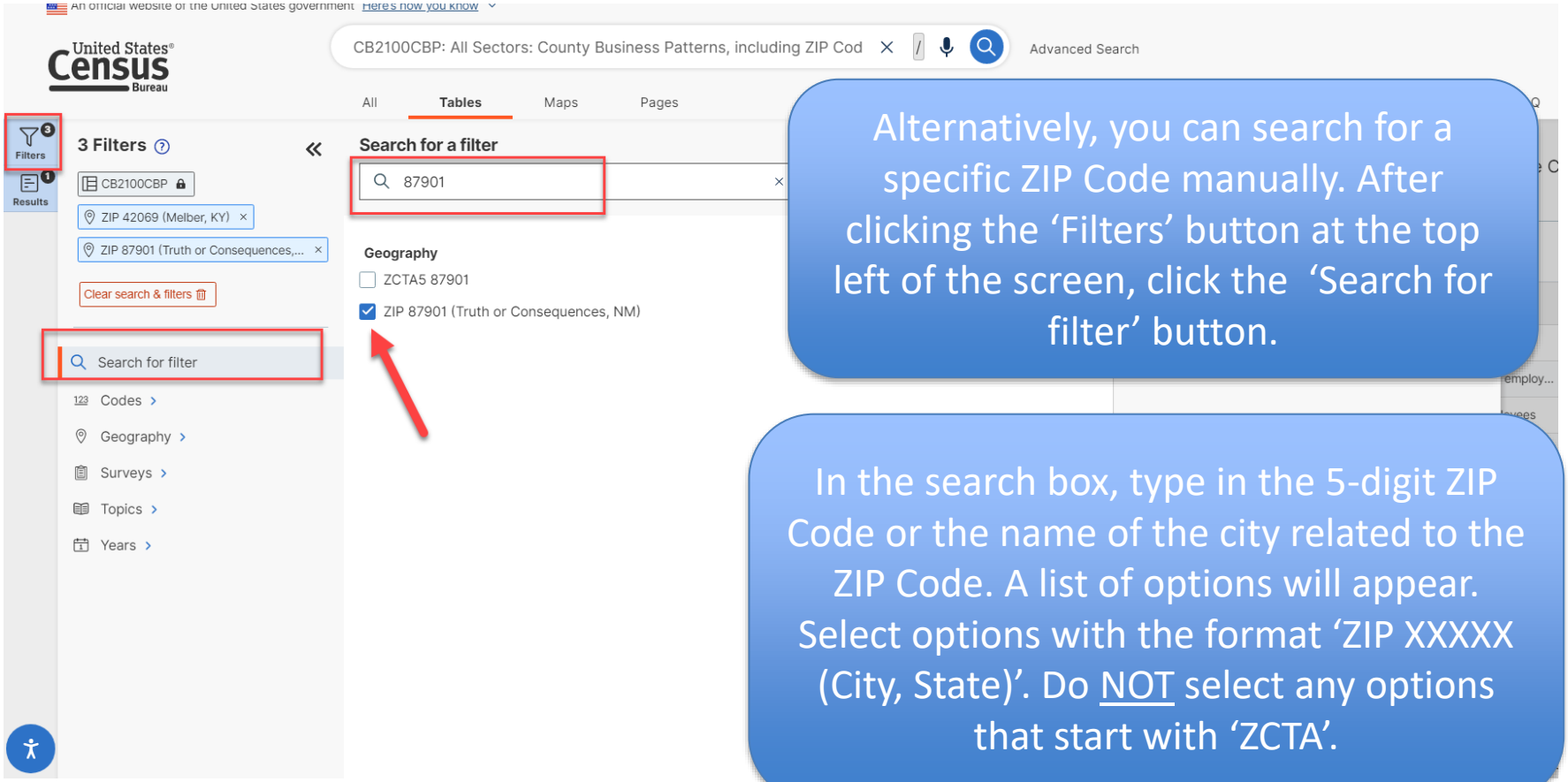


If you select a state, a list of ZIP Codes within that state will appear.



Once you select your desired ZIP Codes, click the double arrows at the top-right of the screen to return to your table.

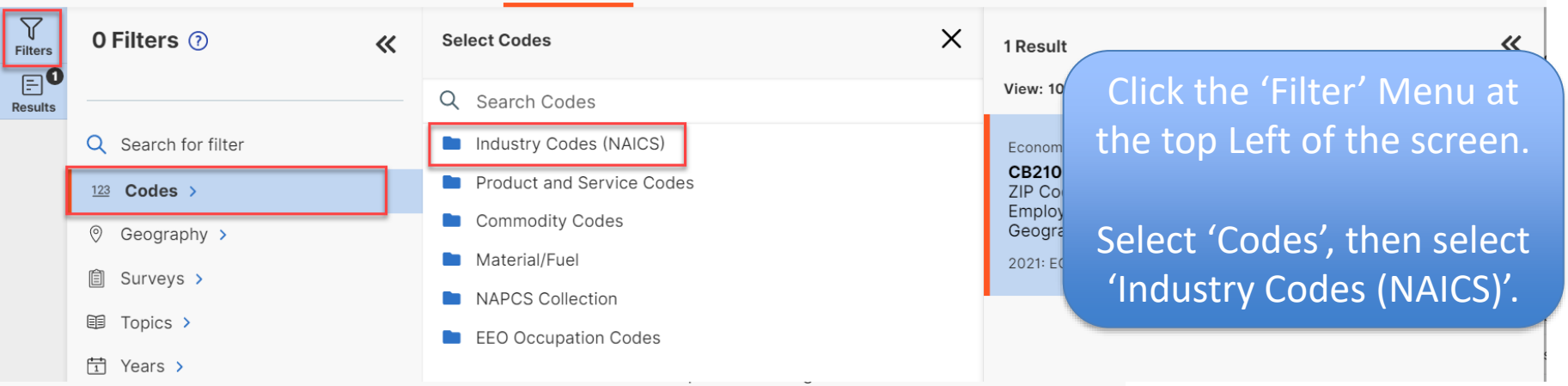
Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
ZIP Codes by Search

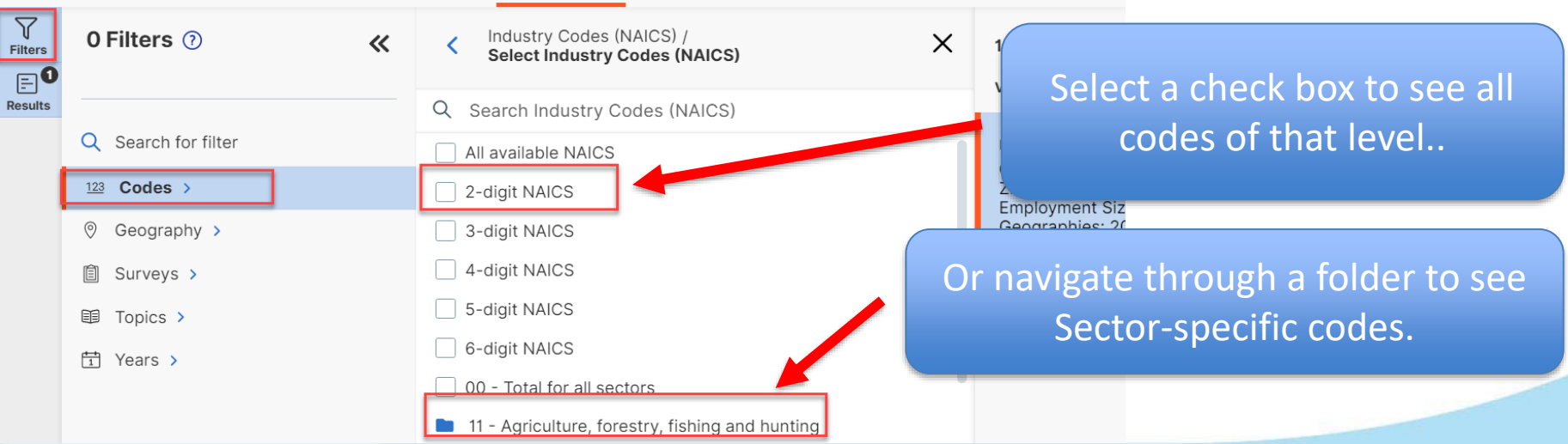


Alternatively, you can search for a specific ZIP Code manually. After clicking the 'Filters' button at the top left of the screen, click the 'Search for filter' button.

In the search box, type in the 5-digit ZIP Code or the name of the city related to the ZIP Code. A list of options will appear. Select options with the format 'ZIP XXXXX (City, State)'. Do NOT select any options that start with 'ZCTA'.

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
NAICS

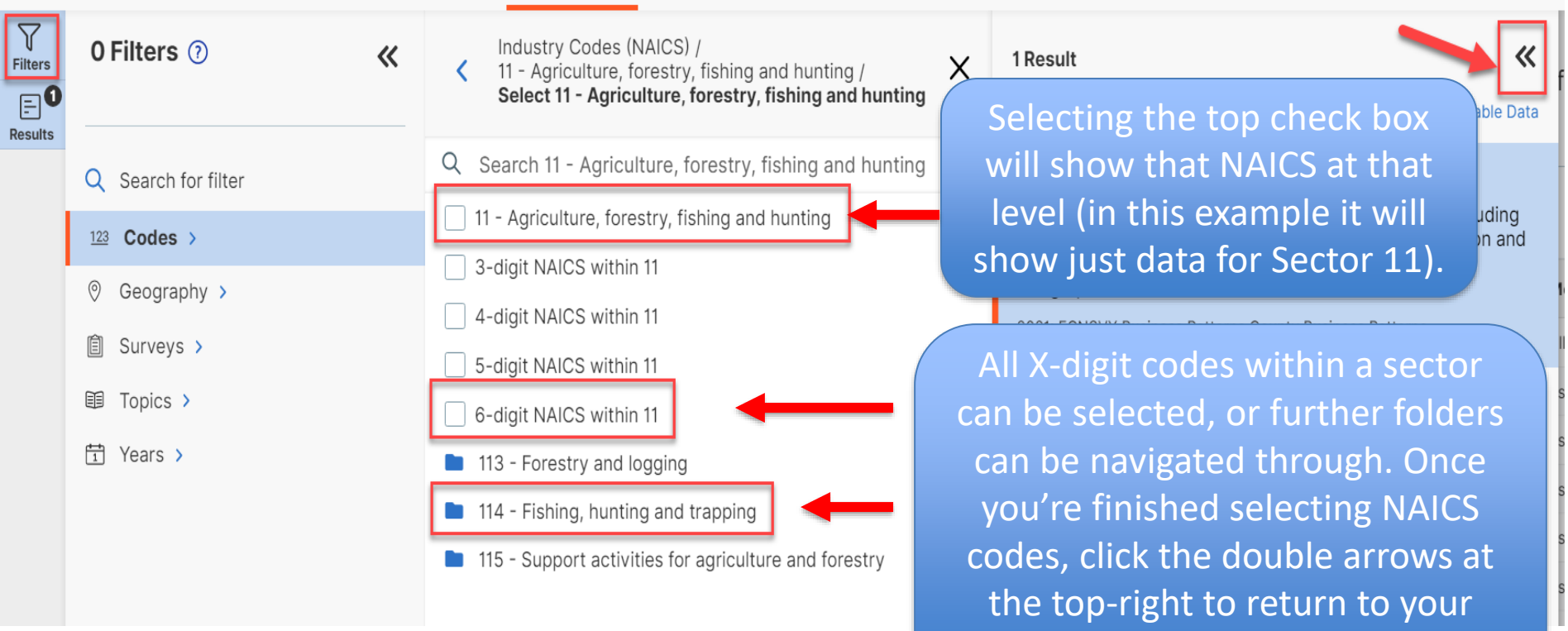




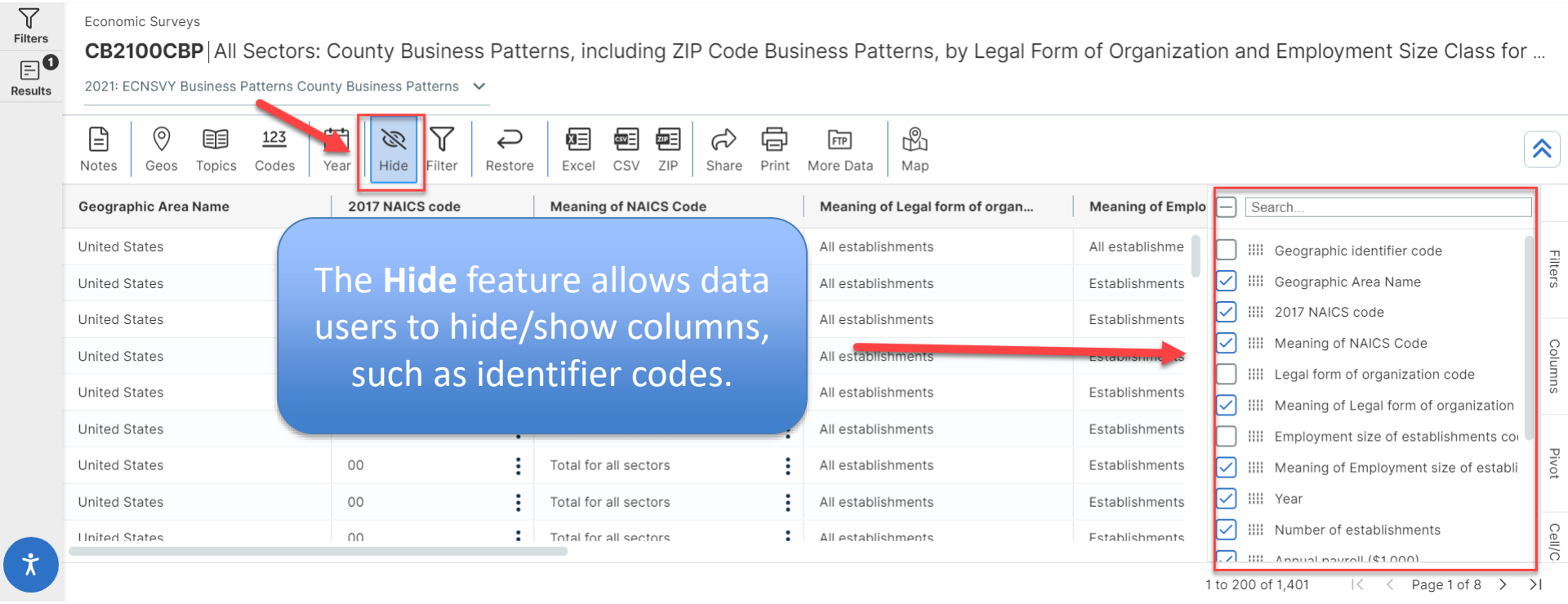
Last updated: 5/30/2023

https://data.census.gov/table?q=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&tid=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&hidePreview=true

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
NAICS



Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Hide Columns



Last updated: 5/30/2023

https://data.census.gov/table?q=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&tid=CBP2021.CB2100CBP&hidePreview=true

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Filter

Economic Surveys

CB2100CBP | All Sectors: County Business Patterns, including ZIP Code Business Patterns, by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size Class for ...

2021: ECNSVY Business Patterns County Business Patterns

Notes | Geos | Topics | Codes | Year | Hide | Filter | Restore | Excel | CSV | ZIP | Share | Print | More Data | Map

Geographic Area Name	2017 NAICS code	Meaning of NAICS Code	Meaning of Legal form of organ...	Meaning of Emplo
United States			All establishments	All establishme
United States			All establishments	Establishments
United States			All establishments	Establishments
United States			All establishments	Establishments
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments
United States	00	Total for all sect		
United States	00	Total for all sec		
United States	00	Total for all sec		

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

Meaning of Employment size of establishments code

Search...

- (Select All)
- All establishments
- Establishments with 1,000 employees or
- Establishments with 1,000 to 1,499 empl
- Establishments with 1,500 to 2,499 emp
- Establishments with 10 to 19 employees

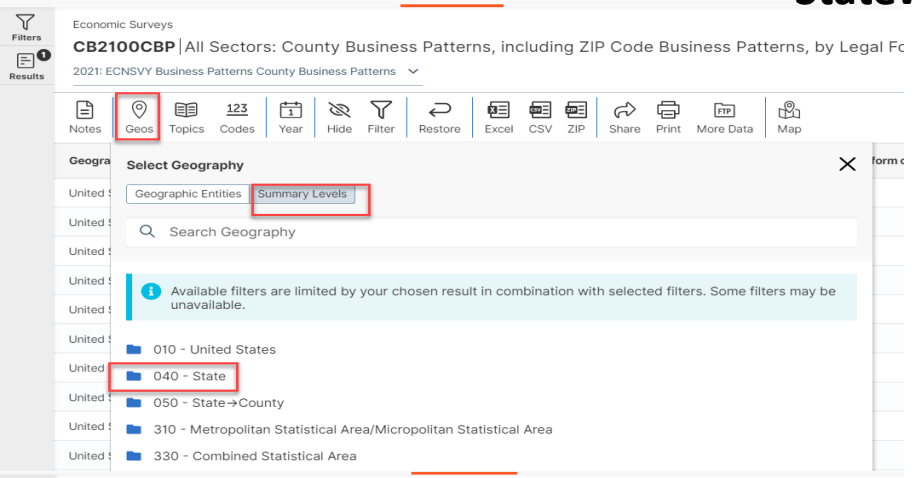
RESET | APPLY

Filters | Columns | Pivot | Cell/C

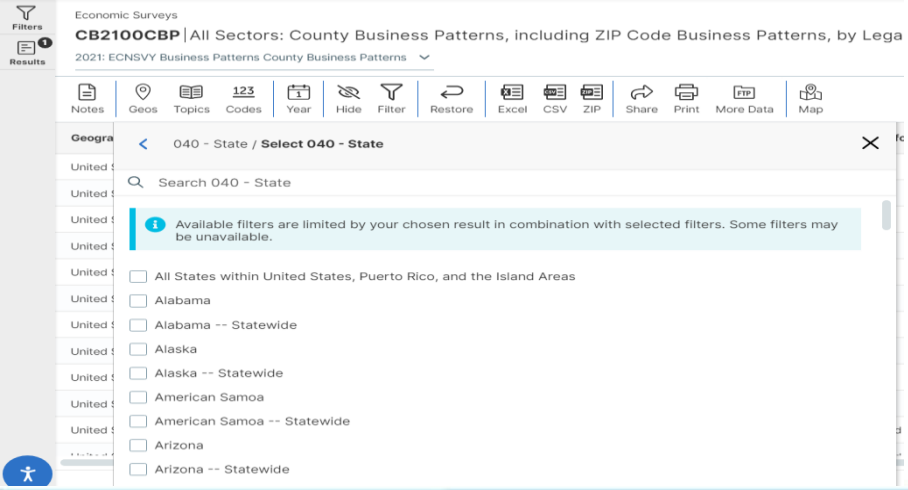
1 to 200 of 1,401 | Page 1 of 8

Users can opt to only show certain rows. In this example hitting 'APPLY' would limit the table to only rows that have 'All Establishments'

Accessing Data and Customizing using Data.census.gov
Statewide



To find Statewide, select 'Geos', and select 'Summary Levels', then '040 – State'



Select the box that has the 'State – Statewide' text for whichever state desired

Downloading Data using Data.census.gov

Filters

Results 1

Economic Surveys

CB2100CBP | All Sectors: County Business Patterns, including ZIP Code Business Patterns, by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size C

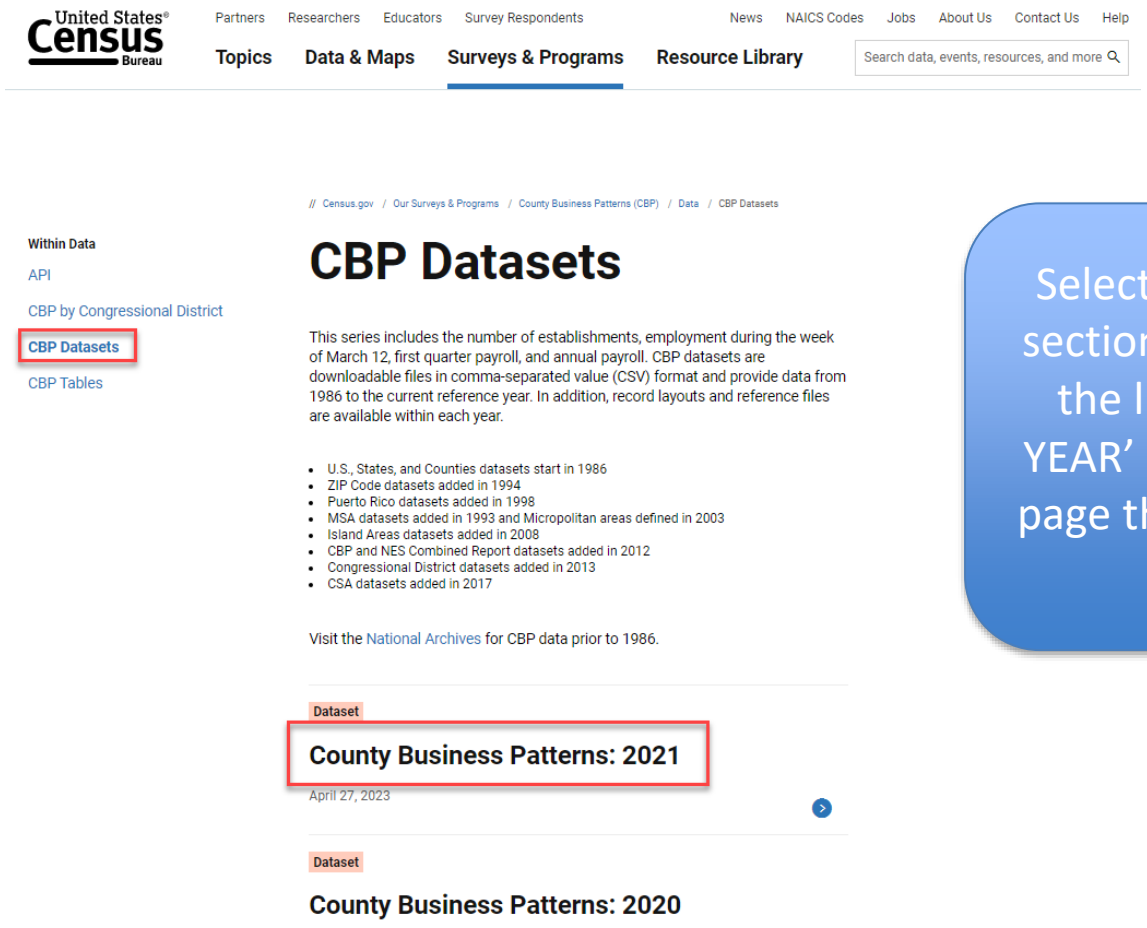
2021: ECNSVY Business Patterns County Business Patterns

Notes | Geos | Topics | Codes | Year | Hide | Filter | Restore | Excel | CSV | ZIP | Share | Print | More Data | Map

Geographic Area Name	2017 NAICS code	Meaning of NAICS Code	Meaning of Legal form of organiza...	Meaning of Employment size of es...
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	All establishments
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments with less than 5 employ...
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments with 5 to 9 employees
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments with 10 to 19 employees
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments with 20 to 49 employees
United States	00	Total for all sectors	All establishments	Establishments with 50 to 99 employees

Select the desired download format and the table will download with all applied Geographies, Codes, and Filters

Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)



Select 'CBP Datasets' from the 'Data' section of our webpage. Then, choose the link 'County Business Patterns: YEAR' in the desired year to get to the page that has all of the datasets in .csv format

Last updated: 5/30/2023

http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp/data/datasets.html

Downloading Data in Comma-Separated Value (CSV)

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

Record layouts are also available for reference.

Clicking a dataset will download a .ZIP files. This ZIP file contains the dataset in the form of a CSV text file

Loading Data in API

Within Developers

- About
- App Gallery
- Available APIs
- Developers' Forum
- Geography
- Guidance for Developers
- News
- Terms of Service
- Updates

// Census.gov / Data / Developers / Available APIs / County Business Patterns 1986-2021 & Nonemployer Statistics 1997-2019

County Business Patterns (1986-2021) and Nonemployer Statistics (1997-2019)

April 27, 2023

Share Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

County Business Patterns

County Business Patterns provides annual statistics for businesses with paid employees within the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Island Areas at a detailed geography and industry level.

Statistics are available on business establishments at the U.S. level and by State, County, Metropolitan area, ZIP code levels, and congressional districts (beginning in the 2013 reference year). Data for Puerto Rico and the Island Areas are available at the State and county equivalent levels. CBP covers most NAICS industries.

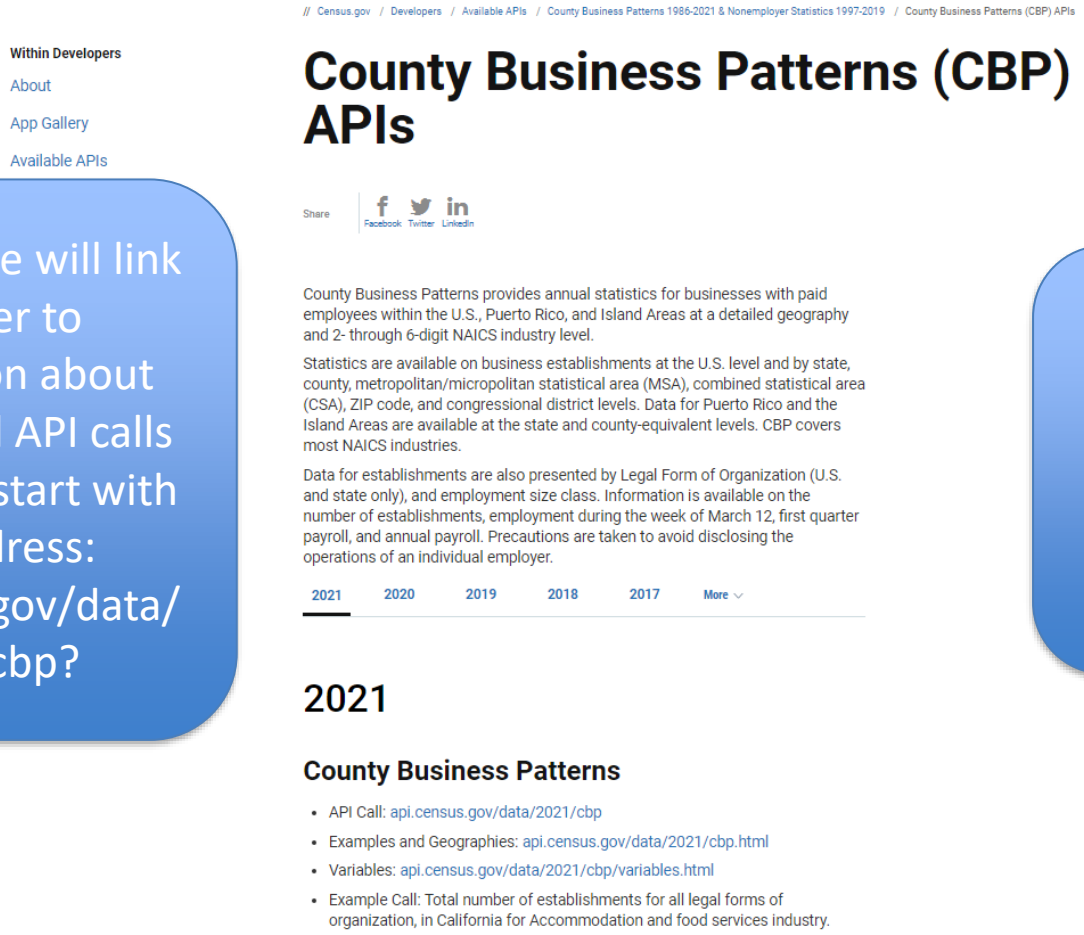
County Business Patterns (CBP) APIs

County Business Patterns datasets currently available via API.

Select 'API' from the 'Data' section of our website. Next Select 'County Business Patterns (CBP) APIs'

Loading Data in API

The API page will link the user to information about CBP API. All API calls to CBP will start with the address: api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?



Clicking on the 'Examples and Geographies' or 'Example Call' will take the user to a page with data pulled from the API.

Loading Data in API
Examples

Census API: Examples for /data/2021/cbp

Geography Hierarchy	Geography Level	Example URL
us	010	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=us:*&NAICS2017=00&LFO=001
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=us:1&NAICS2017=00&LFO=001
state	040	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=state:*&NAICS2017=00&LFO=0
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=state:01&NAICS2017=00&LFO=
state› county	050	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=county:*&NAICS2017=00&LFO=
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=county:*&in=state:*&NAICS2017
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=county:001&in=state:01&NAICS2
metropolitan statistical area/micropolitan statistical area	310	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=metropolitan%20statistical%20area/micropolitan%20statistical%20area:
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=metropolitan%20statistical%20area/micropolitan%20statistical%20area:
combined statistical area	330	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=combined%20statistical%20area:*
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=combined%20statistical%20area:1
state› congressional district	500	https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=congressional%20district:*&NAIC
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=congressional%20district:*&in=st
		https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017_LABEL,ESTAB,PAYANN,PAYQTR1,EMP&for=congressional%20district:01&in=state:01&NAICS2017=00&LFO=001

The Examples page has many useful calls that can be used as starting points for more specific API requests

Loading Data in API Variables

Census Data API: Variables in /data/2021/cbp/variables

Name	Label	Concept	Required	Attributes	Limit	Predicate Type	Group
CBSA	Geography		not required		0	*(not a predicate)*	N/A
CD	Geography		not required		0	*(not a predicate)*	N/A
COUNTY	Geography		not required		0	*(not a predicate)*	N/A
CSA	Geography		not required		0	*(not a predicate)*	N/A
EMP	Number of employees	All Sectors: County Business Patterns, including ZIP Code Business Patterns, by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size Class for the U.S., States, and Selected Geographies: 2021	not required	EMP_F	0	int	CB2100CBP
EMP_N	Noise range for number of employees	All Sectors: County Business Patterns, including ZIP Code Business Patterns, by Legal Form of Organization and Employment Size Class for the U.S., States, and Selected Geographies: 2021	not required	EMP_N_F	0	int	CB2100CBP
EMPSZES	Employment size of establishments code	All Sectors: County Business Patterns, including ZIP Code Business Patterns, h... for the U...	default	...LABEL	0	string	CB2100CBP
ESTAB	Number of establishments	All Sect... Patterns... for the U...			0	int	CB2100CBP

The Variables page will show the user what variables can be displayed in a table, and/or used as a filter

Last updated: 5/30/2023
https://api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp/variables.html

Loading Data in API
Statewide

api.census.gov/data/2021/cbp?get=NAME,NAICS2017,ESTAB,EMP,PAYQTR1,PAYANN&for=state:*&NAICS2017=00&GEOCOMP=S0


```
[["NAME","NAICS2017","ESTAB","EMP","PAYQTR1","PAYANN","NAICS2017","GEOCOMP","state"],
["Alabama -- Statewide","00","661","70623","750919","3233157","00","S0","01"],
["Alaska -- Statewide","00","163","4214","67811","269926","00","S0","02"],
["Arizona -- Statewide","00","900","138359","1915746","7210774","00","S0","04"],
["Arkansas -- Statewide","00","478","28873","384113","1465700","00","S0","05"],
["Colorado -- Statewide","00","957","149732","2905712","12360608","00","S0","08"],
["Florida -- Statewide","00","1576","1549880","23067008","97808845","00","S0","12
["Georgia -- Statewide","00","1142","217500","3081432","12
["Hawaii -- Statewide","00","296","31068","368191","1719
["Idaho -- Statewide","00","464","15538","208593","9393
["Illinois -- Statewide","00","1119","224860","2901861"
["Indiana -- Statewide","00","845","98829","1920997","6
["Iowa -- Statewide","00","536","45658","506710","21846
["Kansas -- Statewide","00","629","47494","547480","238
["Kentucky -- Statewide","00","743","38781","433832","1
["Louisiana -- Statewide","00","621","47120","718723","
["Maine -- Statewide","00","402","9160","151333","75474
["Maryland -- Statewide","00","803","84919","1244943","
```


A specific states' data can be selected by replacing the 'state:*' with 'state:FIPS_Code' where FIPS_Code is the 2 digit FIPS of the desired state. Leaving the asterisk will give you statewide for all states

To call Statewide rows for post-2017 data, the qualifier 'GEOCOMP=S0' will need to be put into a call for state-level geographies

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: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-surveys.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