

SMALL BUSINESS

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

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Statistics of U.S. Businesses – Microdata and Tables

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Purpose

Statistics of U.S. Businesses – Microdata and Tables describes the process that the U.S. Bureau of the Census uses to construct the Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) under contract with the Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration.

Scope and Methodology

The SUSB is an annual database of firms, establishments, employment, annual payroll, and estimated receipts (or sales) from which various tables are produced. Data is available for all industries (except railroads, farms, and households) at the U.S., state and metropolitan statistical area (MSA) level.

A firm is defined as an aggregation of all establishments owned by a parent company (within a geographic location and/or industry). A firm may consist of a single, independent establishment, or it can include subsidiaries or other branch establishments under the same ownership and control. The SUSB includes firms with employees; thus excluding many self-employed individuals. Employment is measured in March of each year, leading to the reporting of zero employment for some firms in that period but a record of annual payroll.

Most of the SUSB tables are by employment size of firm; however, a few tables have been produced by receipt size

of firm. Static (snapshots of the economy) and dynamic data (longitudinally tracking establishments over time) are available. Static data indicate the significance of firm-size classes and the changing importance of firm-size classes over time. Dynamic data indicate the growth of firm-size classes over time.

Yearly data are available from 1988 to present with an approximate 2-year lag in reporting.

Highlights

To produce the SUSB, the Bureau of the Census creates a business name register or Standard Statistical Establishment List (SSEL). Census constructs the SSEL from a number of sources including the Internal Revenue Service, Census' annual Company Organization Survey (COS), economic census, and other Census surveys.

The County Business Patterns (CBP) program selects establishments, imputes missing data (from prior year reported data or other sources) and edits data from the register.

The SUSB tabulation file aggregates establishment data into firm data and estimates receipts. The SSEL contains a tag (or employment identification number EIN), so establishments owned by a parent company can be aggregated to create firm-size data. Receipts are estimated from receipt-payroll ratios by firm size from Enterprise Statistics, also from the Bureau of the Census.

The SUSB composite file creates a longitudinal pointer file to link establishments across years. From the SUSB microdata, tables are created.

The SUSB data is available from the Bureau of the Census (<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/sb001.html>) and the Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration (http://www.sba.gov/ADVO/stats/int_data.html). The SUSB longitudinal file is referred to as the Longitudinal Establishment and Employment Microdata (LEEM) and is available to approved researchers at the Bureau of the Census' Center for Economic Studies.

SUSB Data, 1995

(Annual payroll and estimated receipts in thousands of dollars)

Item	Total	Employment size of firm		
		<20	<500	500+
Firms	5,369,068	4,807,533	5,353,624	15,444
Establish.	6,612,721	4,876,327	5,798,936	813,785
Employment	100,314,946	19,569,861	52,652,510	47,662,436
Annual payroll	2,665,921,824	454,009,065	1,252,135,244	1,413,786,580
Estimated receipts	15,751,365,178	2,663,857,848	7,404,385,747	8,346,979,431

Note: More detailed firm size classes are available.

Ordering Information

The complete report is available for purchase from:
 National Technical Information Service
 U.S. Department of Commerce,
 5285 Port Royal Road
 Springfield, Va. 22161
 Telephone: (703) 487-4650
 TDD: (703) 487-4639

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