

# Firm Microdata:

ACES, ARTS, AWTS, BES, QFR, SBO

Restricted-Use Firm Microdata

## Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES)

**Description:** The Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES) is a firm-level survey that collects industry-level data on capital investment in new and used structures and equipment. Every five years, additional detail on expenditure by asset type (by industry) is collected. Beginning in 2003, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) supplement to the ACES collects data on non-capitalized and capitalized expenditure on ICT equipment and computer software. All non-farm sectors of the economy are covered by these surveys.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 1993-2010

**Number of Observations:** 77,000 in most recent year

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

## Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS)

**Description:** The Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) provides national estimates of total annual sales, e-commerce sales, end-of-year inventories, inventory-to-sales ratios, purchases, total operating expenses, inventories held outside the United States, gross margins, and end-of-year accounts receivable for retail businesses and annual sales and e-commerce sales for accommodation and food service firms located in the United States.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 1999-2010

**Number of Observations:** 35,000 in 2009

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

## Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (AWTS)

**Description:** AWTS provides detailed industry measures of sales and inventories for wholesale trade activities. Merchant wholesalers and manufacturers' sales branches and offices (MSBOs) provide estimates on annual sales, end-of-year inventories, inventory valuation, purchases, operating expenses and e-commerce data. The AWTS also began collecting sales, commissions, and operating expenses data for agents, brokers, and electronic markets (AGBRs) in 2005.

**Survey Unit:** Firm  
**Frequency:** Annually  
**Time Periods:** 1995-2010  
**Number of Observations:** TBD  
**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Business Expenditures Survey (BES)**

**Description:** BES compiles statistics on business operating expenses. All sampled businesses in the BES are asked to provide data on total and detailed operating expenses for the year covered. The Business Expenses Survey covers wholesale, retail, and service sectors.

**Survey Unit:** Firm  
**Frequency:** Every 5 Years  
**Time Periods:** 1992-2007  
**Number of Observations:** 110,000 in 2002  
**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Business Research & Development and Innovation Survey (BRDIS)**

**Description:** The BRDIS collects a broad range of R&D data from both manufacturing and service companies along with select innovation data. The BRDIS replaces the SIRD. Measures include financial measures of R&D activity, measures related to R&D management and strategy, measures of company R&D activity funded by organizations not owned by the company, measures related to R&D employment, and measures related to intellectual property, technology transfer, and innovation.

**Survey Unit:** Firm  
**Frequency:** Annually  
**Time Periods:** 2008-2009  
**Number of Observations:** 40,000 in 2008  
**Sponsor:** [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF)

### **Enterprise Summary Report (ESR)**

**Description:** The Enterprise Statistics program is based on establishment data collected in the Economic Censuses. Selected data of these establishments are aggregated to the enterprise level to provide comprehensive data for entire companies and their owned establishments, including auxiliary establishments (i.e. headquarters offices, research and development facilities, and data processing centers). Consolidated company data include sales, employment, payroll, form of organization and enterprise industry classification. Supplementary data for large companies include inventories, assets, fringe benefits, capital and research and development (R&D) expenditures, and depreciation.

**Survey Unit:** Firm  
**Frequency:** Every 5 Years

**Time Periods:** 1977-1992

**Number of Observations:** 6,200-11,000 depending on year

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Exporter Database (EDB)**

**Description:** The data, provided in A Profile of U.S. Exporting Companies (Exporter Profile), are compiled by the Foreign Trade Division of the U. S. Census Bureau, using the Exporter Database. The Exporter Profiles are developed to provide both government and private sector users with information about the exporting community including employment size, type of company, and major foreign markets.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 1997, 2002, 2004-2010

**Number of Observations:** 32,000,000 in 2010

**Sponsor:** [International Trade Administration](#)

### **Kauffman Firm Survey (KFS)**

**Description:** The Kauffman Firm Survey must be used in conjunction with Census Bureau restricted-use microdata.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 2004-2010

**Number of Observations:** TBD

**Sponsor:** [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](#)

### **Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3)**

**Description:** The Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) survey provides broad-based, monthly statistical data on economic conditions in the domestic manufacturing sector. The survey measures current industrial activity and provides an indication of future business trends.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Time Periods:** 1992-2011

**Number of Observations:** TBD

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Quarterly Financial Report (QFR)**

**Description:** The QFR data provides up-to-date aggregate statistics on the financial position of U.S. corporations. Based upon a sample survey, the QFR presents estimated statements of income and

retained earnings, balance sheets, and related financial and operating ratios for manufacturing corporations with assets of \$250,000 and over; and mining, wholesale trade and retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over. The statistical data are classified by industry and by asset size.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 1977-2011

**Number of Observations:** TBD

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Service Annual Survey (SAS)**

**Description:** SAS provides estimates of revenue and other measures for most traditional service industries. Collected data include operating revenue for both taxable and tax-exempt firms and organizations; sources of revenue and expenses by type for selected industries; operating expenses for tax-exempt firms; and selected industry-specific items. In addition, starting with the 1999 survey, e-commerce data were collected for all industries, and export and inventory data were collected for selected industries.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually

**Time Periods:** 1991-1998; 2002-2010

**Number of Observations:** 100,000 in 2009

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Survey of Business Owners (SBO)**

**Description:** The Survey of Business Owners (SBO) provides the only comprehensive, regularly collected source of information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. Title 13 of the United States Code authorizes this survey and provides for mandatory responses.

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Every 5 Years

**Time Periods:** 1982-2007

**Number of Observations:** TBD

**Sponsor:** [Census Bureau](#)

### **Survey of Industrial Research and Development (SIRD)**

**Description:** The SIRD is the primary source of information on R&D performed by industry within the United States from 1953-2007. In 2008, the SIRD was replaced by the BRDIS. Key variables include expenditures on R&D, sales, employment, source of financing (company or Federal), character of R&D

work (basic research, applied research, and development), R&D scientists and engineers (full-time equivalent), and type of cost (salaries, fringe benefits, etc.).

**Survey Unit:** Firm

**Frequency:** Annually (Discontinued)

**Time Periods:** 1972-2007

**Number of Observations:** 4,000-13,000 depending on year

**Sponsor:** [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF)