**Urban Institute National Data Repository**

**County/Zip Business Patterns Data Series Documentation**

Years of data available from UI: 1998-2010

Source data release month: October

Source data release frequency: Annual

Source data URL: http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/index.html

**Overview**: Description: The U.S. Census Bureau’s Business Patterns series is produced annually and provides sub-national economic data by industry. The series is useful for studying the economic activity of small areas; analyzing economic changes over time; and benchmarking statistical series, surveys, and databases between economic censuses. The Business Patterns series provides information on number of establishments and employment.

These data files were initially designed by the Urban Institute (UI) to be displayed on the DataPlace web site. The site was first national community indicators portal with dynamic maps, charts, and profiles. After the closing of the Fannie Mae Foundation, DataPlace was spun off to an independent nonprofit, which then closed in 2009. The Urban Institute is no longer associated with the website.

**Documentation**: For a detailed list of fields and license information, see [Excel metadata file](http://www.neighborhoodindicators.orghttp:/neighborhoodindicators.org/library/catalog/ui-national-data-repository-business-pattern-metadata). [*Urban Institute Business Patterns Data Set: Technical Documentation*](http://www.urban.org/publications/412473.html)provides more information about the source data and UI’s methodology. The brief [Business Patterns and Trends: National Summary](http://www.urban.org/publications/412248.html) gives a national overview of the indicators at the zip code level.

Below we include descriptions related to data structure, geography and changes in methodology over time to help you understand and use the data.

**Licensing:** The data are licensed under the Open Database License. See [license text](http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/open-data-base-license) for the exact terms of use. You are free to share and adapt these datasets with the following conditions:

* For any public use or redistribution of the data files, or works produced from them, you must make clear to others the license (ODbL) of the data files and keep intact any notices on the original data files (see citation requirements).
* Public use of any adapted version of these data files, or works produced from an adapted database must also be offered under the ODbL.

*Required Attribution*: The [UI Business Patterns Summary data files](http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/urban-institute-data-repository) and the procedures for constructing them were initially developed by the Urban Institute to support [DataPlace](http://www.dataplace.org/) (Hyperlinks or plain text of links required).

**Notes on data structure**: The data includes records for all of the geographic summary levels (ZIP Code, place, etc.). Each level identified by the formatted field GEOSCALEID (see geography section below). The data file uses semi-colons as delimiters, which was necessary because the text fields contained commas.

**Notes on geographies:** To create the Business Patterns data for places, the ZCTA-level ZBP data were weighted using a population-based weighting file downloaded from the Mable/GeoCorr2k web site and then aggregated to the place level. Only places that are central cities or have population over 50,000 are included in the summary file. Since the crosswalk relies on data from 2000, any annexations or changes in place boundaries that have occurred since 2000 would not be accounted for here.

Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon, AK was a county in the 2000 Census with FIPS code 02232. In 2007, it split into Skagway (02230) and Hoonah-Angoon (02105). Accordingly, population estimates beginning in 2007 do not have data for 02232, and this county is dropped from the Business Patterns file.

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| **Geographic Levels** | **GEOSCALEID** |
| Zip Codes | 1 |
| Places | 2 |
| Counties | 3 |
| States | 4 |
| Country | 6 |
| ZCTAs (Zip Code Tabulation Areas)  (on 2000 Census population version only) | 7 |
| Census Divisions | 8 |
| Census Regions | 9 |
| 2008 Metros (for 2003 and later) | 11 |
| 2008 Metro Divisions (for 2003 and later) | 12 |

**Notes on changes in methodology over time:**

The file series nat\_bppopYYYY uses 2000 Census population totals as denominators for the per capita indicators from 1998 to 2009. For the 2010 processing and going forward, we switched to the Census Decennial Census 2010 population as the denominator.

Beginning in 2006, we created nat\_bppopestYYYY, which uses the population estimate for the year as published by the U.S. Census as the denominator. Because the Census Bureau does not publish estimates for Zip Code Tabulation Areas, ZCTAs are not included in the nat\_bppopestYYYY data files.

In 2007, the Census Bureau began using a noise infusion method to protect confidentiality in small area estimates. Accordingly, the 2007 and 2008 files provide noise infusion flags to indicate where noise infusion was used to mask data. These are available on the raw files, but not on the final indicator file. See the Census Bureau web site at [http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/methodology.htm](http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/methodology.htm%20) for more information on noise infusion. Also see the UI [technical documentation](http://www.urban.org/publications/412473.html) for more detail.

Documentation Date: 9-5-2013

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