

# Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS)

## Key Personnel

BDS Team  
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## Funding

U.S. Census Bureau  
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

## URLs

[www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/](http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/)

## Type of Data

Governmental

## Availability of Data Set

Public-Use

## Activity Measured

1976–2013

## Data Collected

1976–2013

## Number of Observations

Varies by dataset (38 to 8,211)

## Date of Overview Update

13 April 2016

KAUFFMAN  
Compendium on  
Entrepreneurship  
and Innovation  
Data

## OVERVIEW

The Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) provides annual measures of business dynamics (such as job creation and destruction, establishment births and deaths, and firm startups and shutdowns) for the economy and aggregated by establishment and firm characteristics. The BDS is created from the [Longitudinal Business Database](#) (LBD), a confidential database available to qualified researchers through secure [Census Bureau Research Data Centers](#). The use of the LBD as its source data permits tracking establishments and firms over time.

BDS data tables show key economic data:

- Employment – job creation and destruction
- Job expansions and contractions
- Number of establishments
- Establishment openings and closings
- Number of startups and firm shutdowns

The BDS series provides:

- Annual statistics for 1976–2013
  - Age and size of firms and establishments
  - State
  - Metro/Non-metro and MSA
  - Standard Industrial Classification sectors
- Coverage of the entire U.S. economy

More information about the BDS is available at <http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/>.

## PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSING THE DATA SET

To access the latest version of the data and codebook, visit <http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/data.html>. The BDS allows tracking of business dynamics for U.S. firms and establishments in an unprecedented manner. The a series of eight statistical briefs highlight some of the key features of these data and are available at <http://www.census.gov/ces/dataproducts/bds/publications.html>.

## METHODOLOGY

The BDS data measure the net change in employment at the establishment level. These changes come about in one of four ways. A net increase in employment can come from either *opening establishments* or *expanding establishments*. A net decrease in employment can come from either *closing establishments* or *contracting establishments*.

*Gross job gains* include the sum of all jobs added at either opening or expanding establishments. *Gross job losses* include the sum of all jobs lost in either closing or contracting establishments. The net change in employment is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

<b>BDS Industrial Scope and Coverage</b>	
<b>Sectors Covered (SIC-based)</b>	Agricultural Services, Forestry, and Fishing Mining Construction Manufacturing Transportation and Public Utilities Wholesale Trade Retail Trade Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Services
<b>Excluded Employee Types</b>	Self-employed Domestic service workers Railroad employees Agricultural production workers Most government employees Employees on ocean-borne vessels Employees in foreign countries

<b>Definitions of Key Data Items in the BDS</b>	
<b>Establishments</b>	The CBP series excludes governmental establishments except for liquor stores (SIC 592), wholesale liquor establishments (SIC 518), depository institutions (SIC 60), federal and federally sponsored credit agencies (SIC 611), and hospitals (SIC 806).
<b>Employment</b>	Full- and part-time March 12 employees. Includes employees on paid sick leave, holidays, and vacations. Does not include proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses.
<b>Payroll</b>	Total payroll includes all forms of compensation, such as salaries, wages, reported tips, commissions, bonuses, vacation allowances, sick-leave pay, employee contributions to qualified pension plans, and the value of taxable fringe benefits.

## SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

The coverage and scope of the BDS are based on the Census Bureau's [County Business Patterns \(CBP\)](#) program. The CBP program has been producing annual statistics on different measures of economic activity since 1964. The CBP serves a wide constituency of users including researchers, policy makers and the business community alike. It is used by the research community to study the economic activity of small areas and to analyze economic change over time; by program areas as a benchmark for 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.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

For select publications using the BDS, visit the [BDS publications page](#) or the [Census eJournal on SSRN](#).