The Economic Census provides a detailed portrait of the Nation's economy once every five years, from the national to the local level. In addition to service, manufacturing and retail industries, the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Governments are included in the Economic Census.

Like the Census of Population and Housing, each Economic Census is different. Each time the Census is taken, the questionnaire is different and the scope of the Census broadens. The Economic Census is broken down according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and is arranged according to that code.

General NAICS codes and their corresponding 2002 Economic Census topics are as follows –

21 Mining  
22 Utilities  
23 Construction  
31 – 33 Manufacturing  
42 Wholesale Trade  
44 – 45 Retail Trade  
48 – 49 Transportation and Warehousing  
51 Information  
52 Finance and Insurance  
53 Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing  
54 Professional, scientific, and Technical Services  
55 Management of Companies and Enterprises  
56 Administrative, Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services  
61 Education Services  
62 Health Care and Social Assistance  
71 Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation  
72 Accommodation and Food Services  
81 Other Services (except Public Administration)

2002 are not yet complete. The Census department will continue to release tables and statistics from this Census over the next two years. Tables and data are currently available on the Internet at http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/.

Also, check here for information on the 1997 Economic Census and the NAICS.
Watson Library maintains records from previous Economic Censuses in the Government Information Collection on the first floor of the library. 1997 Economic Census in Watson Library –

- Agriculture: C 3.31
- Business: C 3.202/5
- Manufacturers: C 3.24
- Mineral Industries: C 3.216/2
- Minority Owned Business: C 3.258
- Retail Trade: C 3.255/2
- Service Industries: C 3.257/3 – C 3.257/5
- Wholesale Trade: C 3.256/3

Economic Census material is distributed in multiple formats, if you can’t find what you need, ask at the Reference Desk for further assistance.


The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) replaced the U.S. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. NAICS reshaped the way we view our changing economy. NAICS was developed jointly by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity across North America.

The NAICS is also available in paper format in the Reference Room of Watson Library. HF1041.5 .N674 1997 Ref.

Census on the World Wide Web

- 2002 Economic Census - http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/

Other Sources of Economic Information


In addition to the Economic Census, the Bureau of the Census conducts the decennial Census of Population and Housing. Included in the Census of Population and Housing are population counts, socioeconomic statistics and housing statistics all broken down by age, gender, ethnic origin and geographical location to name a few. Please consult the User’s Guide for the Census of Population and Housing for more information.