

Methodology: 2026 Business Locations and U.S. Business Summary data

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Methodology: Esri 2026 Business Locations and U.S. Business Summary data

[A summary of the updates to methodology in this release](#)

The Esri Business Locations point dataset is one part of a comprehensive portfolio of ArcGIS Places data that focuses specifically on businesses. Esri creates its Business Locations product from business data licensed by Data Axle. The data features important business attributes, such as company location, industry classification, employee count, sales volume, brands, shopping center information, and more. This release includes more than 13 million U.S. and approximately 1 million Canadian business location points.

Esri also uses Data Axle's business records to create its Business Summary product for the United States. Business summaries are built from the Business Locations dataset, and they provide ready-to-use information about business sectors for geographic areas such as ZIP codes. Business summaries can also be generated for user-defined custom polygons such as drive-time areas.

For this release, the Business Locations point dataset and associated Business Summary product are built from Data Axle's December 2025 data. Consult our [Data Axle technical documentation page](#) for more information about Business Locations points and Business Summary products.

Note that Data Axle implemented recent changes to their sales volume model that shifted sales volumes away from corporate headquarters. Business Locations and Business Summary users may therefore see notable shifts in their sales volume estimates when compared to older vintages of the data.

[About Data Axle Business Data](#)

Data Axle builds its business database from many sources, such as business filings, utility connections, press releases, corporate websites, and annual reports. The data is continuously updated using an extensive phone verification process with more than 24 million verification calls made per year.

NAICS and SIC: Data Axle provides a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)-based code and a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)-based code for each record in the dataset. Data Axle uses the 2022 vintage NAICS classification system. Note that Data Axle adds granularity to the SIC and NAICS classification systems by appending two proprietary digits at the end of the standard codes, creating six-digit SIC-based codes and eight-digit NAICS-based codes that are unique to Data Axle.

Each business is assigned a primary classification code that reflects the primary line of business and may also receive secondary codes where appropriate. For example, a supermarket could have a primary NAICS-based code indicating a grocery store and a secondary NAICS-based code as a health and personal care retailer.

Employee counts: Data Axle provides actual employee counts when the information is available; when an actual count is not available, Data Axle provides an estimated count. A kiosk location, such as an ATM, does not have an employee count.

Data modeling: Data Axle sales volume attributes are modeled, as verifiable sales volume figures are extremely difficult to obtain from private businesses. The primary source of information for the model is the U.S. Department of Commerce's data for sales per employee for each NAICS code. This data is also used to estimate Canadian sales volumes, along with the exchange rate and current

inflation calculation; the final figures are expressed in Canadian dollars. Note that sales volumes are not provided for those lines of businesses unrelated to commerce, such as government offices; associations, clubs, and organizations; and educational institutions.

Esri Business Locations point data

To create the Esri Business Locations point dataset, Esri uses latitude/longitude coordinate values provided by Data Axle to place business points on the map. Most businesses can be located to rooftop- or street-level accuracy. However, some business locations can only be placed to city or ZIP/postal code centroid-level accuracy. The location type and location confidence attributes provided by Esri can help determine the spatial accuracy of a business record.

Quality filtering: Prior to release, Esri removes some business records that do not meet quality requirements. Typically, this is due to business records missing attributes—such as a business name or street address, or spatial issues—such as missing latitude/longitude values or a business location that is outside expected geographic boundaries. Esri also makes best efforts to remove duplicate records from the Business Locations dataset.

Licensing restrictions: Note that Esri Business Locations points contain the business attributes from Data Axle that Esri is permitted to provide to customers with Esri software but does not include all the attributes Data Axle offers through its own platform.

Esri U.S. Business Summaries

To create the Business Summary product, various geographic codes are first appended to each business point location. The total number of business points, total sales volumes, and total employee counts are then summarized by each geographic code. This is done for specific business categories and for overall total businesses.

The business categories are generally groupings of two- to four-digit NAICS and SIC codes focused on specialized sectors, for instance, Finance & Insurance (NAICS 52) or Health & Personal Care Retailers (NAICS 456). There are more than 80 ready-to-use business summaries available.

The Business Summary product is available for the following geographies:

- Census Block Group
- Census Tracts
- Cities and Towns
- Elementary School Districts
- Secondary School Districts
- Unified School Districts
- Tribal Census Tracts
- Tribal Block Groups
- American Indian Tribal Subdivisions
- American Indian Alaska Native Hawaiian Areas
- State Legislative Districts - Lower Chamber
- State Legislative Districts - Upper Chamber
- Congressional Districts
- Designated Market Areas (DMAs)

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- Metropolitan Areas (CBSAs)
- County Subdivisions
- Counties
- States
- ZIP codes
- USA
- Uber H3 Hexagons: Resolutions 2-7

Business Summaries can also be estimated for any user-defined polygon, such as rings and drive times using Esri software's data enrichment capabilities.

Removal of kiosks: Note that records flagged as a kiosk from Data Axle's place type attribute are not included in the Business Summary calculations. Kiosk listings typically include locations such as ATMs, electric charging stations, donation drop boxes, mailing kiosks, and video rental kiosks. While these records are omitted from Business Summary calculations, the records remain in the Business Locations dataset.

For more information about Esri Business data, call 1-800-447-9778.

About

Esri, the global market leader in geographic information system (GIS) software, location intelligence, and mapping, helps customers unlock the full potential of data to improve operational and business results. Founded in 1969 in Redlands, California, USA, Esri software is deployed in more than 350,000 organizations globally and in over 200,000 institutions in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, including Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, nonprofits, and universities. Esri has regional offices, international distributors, and partners providing local support in over 100 countries on six continents. With its pioneering commitment to geospatial information technology, Esri engineers the most innovative solutions for digital transformation, the Internet of Things (IoT), and advanced analytics. Visit us at [esri.com](https://www.esri.com).

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