

Data Downloads User Guide

February 23, 2021

Download files have been updated for all phases for the following: update XLS format to XLSX; add question and answer text; and minor revisions to the “National, State”, “National, Sector” and “Unit Response Rate” files. The updated files were released at 10:00am EST on 2/25/2021 and are currently available.

Data Products

The Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS) produces the following data files for each survey collection period (weekly).

Survey collection period ([DATE_RANGE] in the filenames) includes the beginning and end dates of the period during which responses were collected. For example,

national_sector_15Feb21_21Feb21.xlsx

The following table includes the name of the download files and their contents. Please see the disclaimer above for recent file revision. The previous revision column refers to revisions prior to the 2/25/2021 revisions.

Downloads Tab Name	Table Name	Table Contents	Previous Revision
National, Sector	national_sector_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	National estimates overall and by sector (2-digit NAICS). National overall estimates are designated by a '-' in the sector (NAICS2) column	
National, State	national_state_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	National estimates overall and by state. National overall estimates are designated by a '-' in the state (ST) column.	
National, State by Sector	national_state_sector_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	National, state, and sector estimates as well as state by sector estimates. National	

		overall estimates are designated by a '-' in the sector (NAICS2) and state (ST) columns.	
Top 50 MSA	top_50_msa_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	Estimates for the largest 50 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). The SBPS uses 2017 CBSA codes. Geographic reference files.	Revised on 1/14/2021
Sub-sector (NAICS3)	naics3_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	National estimates overall and by sub-sector (3-digit NAICS).	
National, State, Sector by Employment Size	empclass_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	National, state, and sector estimates overall and by three employment size classes: A (1-4 employees), B (5-19 employees), and C (20 or more employees).	
Index values - National, State, Sector	indexes_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	Index estimates at the national, state, and sector levels.	Revised on 1/14/2021
Unit Response Rate	response_urr_[DATE_RANGE].xlsx	Unit response rates. See " How the data are collected " for more information.	
All Files	ZIP	Includes all week files listed above	Revised on 1/14/2021

Moved to xlsx files in February 2021

Data Dictionary

The following table includes the name of data items found in the SBPS download files as well as a description for each item.

ITEM NAME	ITEM DESCRIPTION
ST	State postal code
NAICS_SECTOR	North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) 2-digit sector code
NAICS3_CODE	North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) 3-digit sector code
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) name
CBSA_CODE	Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) code
EMPCLASS	Employment size class of business (A=1-4, B=5-19, C=20 or more employees)

INSTRUMENT_ID	Question number from the SBPS instrument
ANSWER_ID	Answer number from the SBPS instrument; note that these are unique only within each question and should be used with INSTRUMENT_ID.
ESTIMATE_PERCENTAGE	The weighted percent of responses for the (INSTRUMENT_ID, ANSWER_ID)
SE	The standard error for the corresponding ESTIMATE_PERCENTAGE
URR	Unit response rate. See " How the data are collected " for more information.

Sampling Error

Differences between estimates may be attributed to sampling or non-sampling error, rather than to differences in underlying economic conditions. High levels of non-response contribute to large non-sampling error. Caution should be used when drawing conclusions from the estimates and any comparisons over time.

While standard errors for the index estimates are not provided, the standard errors for the indexes may be large and differences in the index estimates over time may not be statistically significant.

Please refer to [How the Data are Collected](#) for more information.