**North American Industry Classification System**

**(NAICS)**

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) was originally developed in the 1930’s to classify establishments by the type of activity in which they are primarily engaged and to promote the comparability of establishment data describing various facets of the U.S. economy.

The SIC covers the entire field of economic activities by defining industries in accordance with the composition and structure of the economy. Over the years, it was revised periodically to reflect the economy’s changing industry composition and organization. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) last updated the SIC in 1987.

In recent years, rapid changes in both the U.S. and world economies brought the SIC under increasing criticism. The 1991 International Conference on the Classification of Economic Activities provided a forum for exploring the issues and for considering new approaches to classifying economic activity. In July 1992, the OMB established the Economic Classification Policy Committee chaired by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, with representatives from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The OMB charged the ECPC with conducting a “fresh slate” examination of economic classifications for statistical purposes and determining the desirability of developing a new industry classification system for the United States based on a single economic concept. A March 31, 1993, Federal Register notice (pp. 16990-17004) announced OMB’s intention to revise the SIC for 1997, the establishment of the Economic Classification Policy Committee, and the process for revising the SIC.

The ECPC and Statistics Canada reviewed the existing structure of detailed “4-digit” industries in the 1987 U.S. SIC and the 1980 Canadian SIC for conformance to economic concepts.

**NAICS Structure**

NAICS industries are identified by a 6-digit code, in contrast to the 4-digit SIC code. The longer code accommodates the larger number of sectors and allows more flexibility in designating subsectors. It also provides for additional detail not necessarily appropriate for all three NAICS countries. The international NAICS agreement fixes only the first five digits of the code. The sixth digit, where used, identifies subdivisions of NAICS industries that accommodate user needs in individual countries. Thus, 6-digit U.S. codes may differ from counterparts in Canada or Mexico, but at the 5-digit level they are standardized.

**Downloadable Files**

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| **Description** | **File Format** |
| **2012 Downloadable Files** |  |
| 2012 NAICS Definitions | [[PDF](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2012NAICS/2012_Definition_File.pdf), 28KB] |
| 2012 NAICS Index File | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2012NAICS/2012_NAICS_Index_File.xls), 21KB] |
| 2012 NAICS to 2007 NAICS | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2012NAICS/2012_to_2007_NAICS.xls), 172KB] |
| 2-6 digit 2012 Code Files | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2012NAICS/2-digit_2012_Codes.xls), 219KB] |
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| 2007 NAICS to 2002 NAICS | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/concordances/2007_to_2002_NAICS.xls), 158KB] |
| 2007 NAICS to ISIC 4 | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/concordances/2007_NAICS_to_ISIC_4.xls), 353KB] |
| 2-6 digit 2007 Code Files | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2007/naics07.xls), 247KB] [[TXT](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2007/naics07.txt), 114KB] |
| 6-digit 2007 Code Files | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2007/naics07_6.xls), 128KB] [[TXT](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2007/naics07_6.txt), 54KB] |
| **2002 Downloadable Files** |  |
| 2002 NAICS Definitions | [[PDF](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2002NAICS/2002_Definition_File.pdf), 1.9MB] |
| 2002 NAICS to 2007 NAICS | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/concordances/2002_to_2007_NAICS.xls), 158KB] |
| 2002 NAICS US to ISIC Rev. 3.1 | [[XLS](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/concordances/2002_NAICS_to_ISIC_3.1.xls), 416KB] |
| 2-6 digit 2002 Code Files | [[TXT](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2002/naics_2_6_02.txt), 105KB] |
| 6-digit 2002 Code Files | [[TXT](https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/reference_files_tools/2002/naics_6_02.txt), 55KB] |

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