

2016 E-Stats Report Summary of Changes

Release of E-commerce Data

E-commerce estimates for the following surveys were released prior to the 2016 E-Stats report.

- Service Annual Survey: November 21, 2017
- Annual Wholesale Trade Survey: March 14, 2018
- Annual Retail Trade Survey: March 21, 2018

E-commerce estimates from the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) are not released prior to the E-Stats report.

2016 Service Annual Survey

- The 2016 SAS estimates reflect the introduction of a newly selected sample of businesses and are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

2016 Annual Retail Trade Survey

- The 2016 ARTS estimates reflect the introduction of a newly selected sample of businesses and are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
- This new sample will reflect 2012 NAICS and will implement updates based on classification changes. Below you will find a table of the 2012 NAICS definition changes for NAICS sectors 44-45. NAICS industries affected by the definition changes will be restated to the beginning of their time series. For NAICS 451 - Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores and 443 - Electronics and Appliance Stores, e-commerce estimates are not being restated prior to 2004.
- The publication table for ARTS U.S. Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses (NAICS 4541) - Total and E-commerce Sales by Merchandise Line now includes a Jewelry merchandise line that was previously included in "Other Merchandise". This new breakout of estimates for Jewelry and changes to the Other Merchandise line are presented back to survey year 2000. Merchandise line descriptions were changed this year to be more closely aligned with the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) descriptions that will be collected in the 2017 Economic Census. The changes were also made in an attempt to provide further clarification to respondents about where specific items should be reported. Data users are encouraged to review the [2015](#) and [2016](#) survey questionnaires to see the differences between the merchandise lines descriptions for these two years. It is important to note that U.S. Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses (NAICS 4541) - Total and E-Commerce Sales by Merchandise Line (1999-2016) lists the merchandise lines descriptions presented on the 2016 Annual Retail Trade Survey questionnaires. Data users may learn more about NAPCS here: <https://www.census.gov/eos/www/napcs/>.

2016 Annual Wholesale Trade Survey

- The 2016 AWTS estimates reflect the introduction of a newly selected sample of businesses and are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

- NAICS 4237/ 4236 series restatement, NAICS definition change:
With the change to 2012 NAICS basis for publication, the NAICS 4236 and 4237 series will reflect the definitional change that put electric water heaters in 4237 and gas appliances in 4236. Due to these corrections, the estimates for these NAICS and corresponding aggregate estimates have been corrected back to 2008. Because these corrections were made to the old sample, the 2014 AWTB benchmarking methods were used to revise these time series.
- The publication tables were expanded to include additional industry estimates for NAICS 42345 (Medical, Dental, and Hospital Equipment and Supplies). Estimates for this additional level are presented for 2015 and 2016.

Notes on Comparability

The 2016 E-Stats report is directly comparable with the 2015 E-Stats report.

All survey estimates were revised to reflect historical corrections to current sample data. Corrections are made to replace previously reported data with more accurate data received at a later date or to replace imputed data with reported data obtained from the company.