



Your-economy Time Series (YTS) 2017 Database Description 1997-2017

YTS (Your-economy Time Series) is an annual establishment-level time-series database used by academic researchers, policy makers, and economic development analysts following companies at their unique locations across the U.S. It focuses on establishments that are “in-business” meaning they are intent on conducting commercial activities, or have a DBA (doing business as) physical location. YTS tracks all establishments (and their jobs and sales), including for-profit (both privately-owned and publicly-traded), non-profits, and government establishments.

YTS data is the resource behind the popular and free website YourEconomy.org, and is available for aggregation and direct purchase from the [BDRC website - About the Data](#).

Data Assembly

YTS is assembled from 21 Infogroup Business Data historical files. Each January, Infogroup delivers to BDRC their annual historical snapshot. Each snapshot is closed at the end of the first half of the year and prepared for release by the end of the year. No more establishments will be added or changes made to any snapshot once the file has been closed.

All snapshots are assembled into one *master database* (YTS) using the Infogroup unique ID; ABI (American Business Identifier) to link all historical files together. Each year over 50 time-series variables including BDRC uniquely assembled variables (eg. congressional districts) are assembled from the original Infogroup data variables. In most cases the variables are renamed to quickly identify and use. Last year or latest year field variables indicating an establishment’s name and address and location information among other variables are also assembled and included.

After the snapshots have been assembled and added to YTS, all records with *gaps* between years of data (eg. active in 1997, missing data in 1998 and 1999, active again in 2000) are completed. A process considering all completed data in YTS is used to “roll” existing values into the next or previous year, for as many years necessary to complete the record. No averaging or estimating is used in this process unless (in rare circumstances) there is no data within YTS to compare.

InfoGroup Methodology Changes

In the Infogroup 2017 historical file, two major changes were made to its business listings:

- First, Infogroup undertook an effort to purge unverifiable business locations. If a business could not be reached via telephone verification, and no alternative phone number could be found, it is flagged as "out of business" and removed from the verified database.
- Second, their methods and inputs used to model a location's sales have been updated. This resulted in a reduction in total sales in 2017.

The combination of both changes may show a variance from the 2016 Infogroup historical data file and the 2017 YTS database.

During the period 2011-2012 Infogroup introduced a large number of establishments that had previously not been in any of their databases. This significantly effected their pre-verified or "suspect" data as the actual year start date of these establishments was coded as 2011 or 2012 when they could have started anytime from 1997.

YTS Methodology Change in 2017

Based on the 2011-2012 Infogroup methodology changes, and subsequently a [peer review](#) completed on YTS in the spring of 2018, YTS 2017 no longer used most of the pre-verified or suspect data files due to the year start date not being reliably determined. This resulted in significantly fewer establishments but with greater intent on conducting business throughout the entire database. This data is available for the first time on [YourEconomy.org](#) in fall of 2018 for the period 2003-2017.

Additional Information

[YTS Standard Variable List](#)

[Business Employment Data: YTS versus CES and CPS](#)

[BDRC website - About the Data](#)