

SIC and NAICS Codes

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

SIC codes are 4-digit numbers used to designate different industries in the United States. SIC codes have been in place since the year 1941 and are gradually being replaced by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

To find an SIC code for a specific industry, use the “Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System Search” available on the OSHA Web site:

- Visit this link: <http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html>.
- Type a keyword describing an industry into the Search box.

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS)

NAICS codes are 6-digit numbers used to designate different industries. Businesses in the United States are assigned one NAICS code based on the individual business’s “primary activity,” the activity that creates the most revenue for a business. NAICS allows federal agencies to collect and analyze data about different industries.

NAICS is gradually replacing the older SIC system. NAICS allows for more specific classification of industries, includes newer industries, and is also used to classify businesses in Canada and Mexico.

To find a NAICS code for a specific industry, use the NAICS search feature available on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site:

- Visit this link: <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.
- Type a keyword describing an industry into the 2007 NAICS Search or 2002 NAICS Search boxes.

SIC and NAICS Searching

SIC and NAICS codes can be helpful for all kinds of business research, from gathering information needed to write a business plan to compiling lists of companies for marketing or sales purposes.

Several HillSearch databases allow you to add industry codes to your search criteria:

- **Dun & Bradstreet Million Dollar Total:** Use the Advanced Search option to search for an appropriate SIC or NAICS code, then add SIC codes or NAICS codes to search criteria.
- **EBSCO** databases: Select “IC NAICS Code or Description” from the drop-down menus on the Advanced Search page to add a NAICS code to search criteria.
- **Fintel Industry Metrics:** Browse by SIC or NAICS codes to find financial ratios for different industries.
- **Gale Small Business Resource Center:** Select “SIC Code” or “NAICS Code” from the drop-down menus on the Advanced Search page to add an industry code to search criteria.
- **ProQuest** databases: Select “NAICS code” from the drop-down menus on the Advanced Search page to add a NAICS code to search criteria.