



YourEconomy.org (YE) 2017 Data Methodology Change

The data seen on YE is assembled from the YTS (Your-economy Time Series) 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. YTS tracks all establishments (and their jobs and sales), including for-profit (both privately-owned and publicly-traded), non-profits, and government establishments.

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

[Business Employment Data: YTS versus CES and CPS](#)
[BDRC website - About the Data](#)