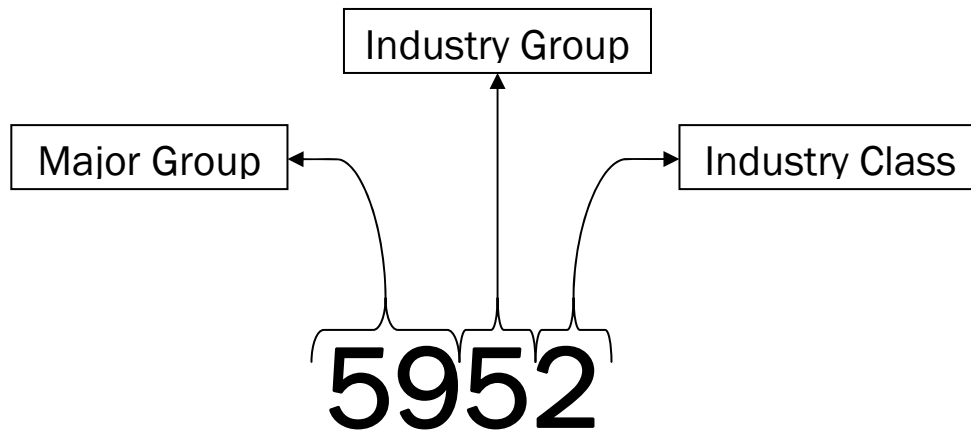


SIC codes

What are SIC codes and how do they help me?

Standard Industrial Classification codes are used to classify companies and industries and to facilitate the collection and comparison of statistical data. Companies are assigned a numerical SIC code based on the types of products or services they offer. Searching by SIC codes makes it easier to research and analyze industries and the companies that operate within them. Several of the databases Saint Mary's subscribes to allow you to search by SIC codes to find information on industries and companies.

Reading SIC codes



The first component of the SIC code does not usually appear in the number itself. The Division is denoted by a letter which you will see in an index of SIC codes (or a concordance as shown below). The first number is two digits (some begin with 0 as the first digit) and denotes the Major Group. The third digit denotes the Industry Group and the fourth digit denotes the Industry Class. While the four-digit number is the most specific, in some instances you may find it helpful to search based on a two or three digit code.

How to Find a U.S. Government SIC code

To find an SIC code assigned by the American government go to:

- US Department of Labor website (<http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html>)

You can also type the name of the company into the EDGAR Company Search (<http://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>) on the US Securities and Exchange Commission website.

Other Types of SIC codes

Several companies and databases have developed their own SIC codes, in part because the official SIC codes have not been updated since 1987 (Canadian SIC codes were last updated in 1980). While the codes may appear to correspond to the US government codes, you should verify SIC codes in each new resource you use. You can find codes by looking up a company (or a few) that you know are in the industry you're interested in studying and seeing what SIC codes are associated with the records. For example, Mergent Online lists SIC codes in parentheses in the Industry field of company profiles. Some SIC codes you encounter may be longer than four digits.

The Canadian government has almost phased out the use of SIC codes, but you may still find Canadian SIC codes useful for historical reporting. You can find Canadian SIC codes at:

- Statistics Canada website (http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/sicc-ctic/sicc-ctic80_menu-eng.htm)

A print SIC manual is kept in the library's reference section (1st floor):

- Standard Industrial Classification 1980 – FG CS 12-501 1980

NAICS and SIC Codes

North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes were introduced in 1998 to replace SIC codes. Both codes serve the same function, but NAICS codes allow for greater specificity. NAICS codes also allow for a higher degree of comparability within the North American economy because they were developed jointly between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The Statistics Canada website and the US Census Bureau website both offer concordances which will allow you to cross-reference NAICS codes with SIC codes and vice versa.

- Statistics Canada Concordances

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/concepts/concordances-classifications-eng.htm>

- US Census Bureau Concordances

<http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/concordances/concordances.html>

Example:

SIC-E 1980			NAICS 2002
A0114	Poultry and Egg Farms	112310	Chicken Egg Production
		112320	Broiler and Other Meat-Type Chicken Production
		112330	Turkey Production
		112391	Combination Poultry and Egg Production
A0115	Sheep and Goat Farms	112399	All Other Poultry Production
		112410	Sheep Farming
		112420	Goat Farming

Statistics Canada. (2006, July 3). Concordance: Standard Industrial Classification - Establishments (SIC-E) 1980 to North American Industry Classification (NAICS) 2002. Retrieved from http://www.statcan.gc.ca/subjects-sujets/standard-norme/concordances/sice-ctie80_naics-scian02-eng.htm

Key Resources That Use SIC Codes

* indicates codes having some variances from US government SIC

LexisNexis (including Hoover's, The Market Share Reporter, and other sources)	Access is only available in the library. Consult the Information & Research desk to get logged in.
Canadian Key Business Directory*	Library Reference collection. Call number: HF3223 .C24
Dun & Bradstreet Industry Norms and Key Business Ratios*	In library only. From a public access terminal click Start> All Programs> Library Resources> Business Resources> INKBR
EDGAR (SEC Filings)	Website for the US Securities and Exchange Commission: http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml
Mergent Online	Click on "Databases A-Z" on the library's home page, then click "Mergent Online".
Research Insight*	In library only. From a public access terminal click Start> All Programs> Library Resources> Business Resources> Research Insight

