Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES) Step 3: Detailed data – Online Spreadsheet Response

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Step 3: Detailed data – Online Spreadsheet Response

This section provides an overview for completing Step 3 of the Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES). This guide contains instructions for providing detailed data using the online survey spreadsheet.

Note: Instructional Video Step 3: Detailed data – Online spreadsheet response corresponds to the information covered in this section. This video can be found on our website at https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aies/technical-documentation/how-to.html

As mentioned in a previous Instructional PDF, there is a question preview tool for the AIES. Step 1: Verify locations online spreadsheet will include your NAICS code(s) under the cell for Primary Business or Activity: NAICS Code. With the NAICS code(s), you can obtain a list of your survey questions by visiting the AIES Question Preview Tool found on our website at https://www.census.gov/aies/questionspreview.

Once you have completed Step 2, you will be asked a series of questions at the establishment-level (location) or the Kind of Activity Unit (KAU)-level. First, you will need to decide to respond using a customized spreadsheet that you download to your computer, complete, and then upload back into the survey, or to use an online survey that is generated and responded to completely online.

Determining Response Method

At this point in the survey, you will be given a choice on how to provide more detailed data about your company. You can choose to download a customized response spreadsheet to your computer in which you would enter your answers into that spreadsheet and then upload the completed spreadsheet back into the survey. There is more information about this method in the Instructional PDF and video on Step 3: Detailed data – Download Spreadsheet Response.

Alternatively, you can choose to use an online survey spreadsheet to enter your response. This spreadsheet is not downloaded to your computer as it is generated online. This Instructional PDF will cover more information about the online spreadsheet.

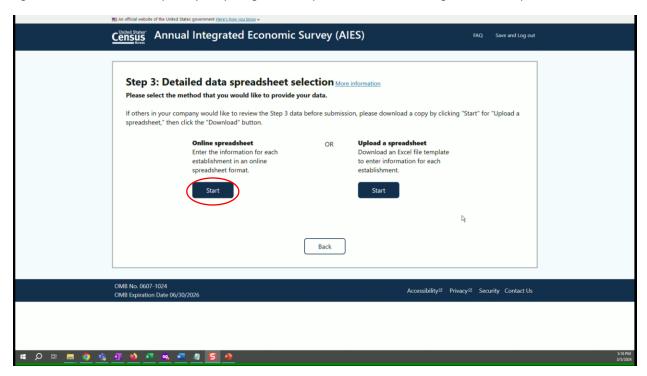
The online response method has some advantages and disadvantages to consider. On the one hand, you will not be required to download a file to your own computer if you use the online spreadsheet. This could be particularly helpful if your company has extensive firewalls or prohibitions against downloads.

On the other hand, the online spreadsheet may not perform well within your company's browser settings. This could be particularly challenging if you're using a lower speed or sporadic Internet connection.

Likewise, the download spreadsheet will include all the features of whatever software your company uses to open these types of files (spreadsheets), but please note that some of the formatting may be off due to differences in the program you use.

This could be particularly challenging if your company is using open-source software to handle Excel or .csv files. At the same time, the online spreadsheet does not have many of the same features as proprietary software, so it may be challenging to navigate, especially if you have many locations.

Figure 1: You will choose to respond by completing an online spreadsheet or downloading a customized spreadsheet

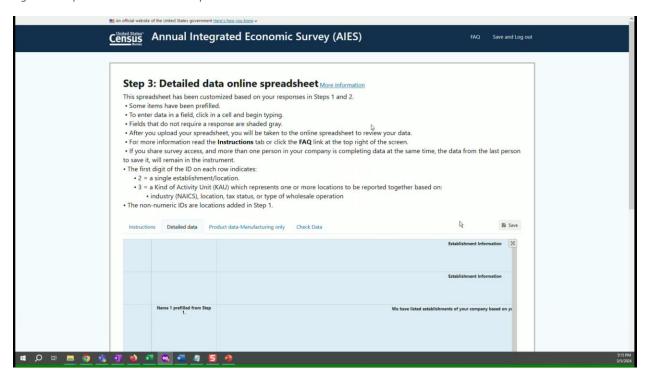


If you select to use the online response spreadsheet, click the Start button on the left of this screen under Online spreadsheet option.

Detailed data online spreadsheet

This screen is the online response spreadsheet for our fictional company. Please review the information on this screen carefully before responding.

Figure 2: Step 3: Detailed data online spreadsheet

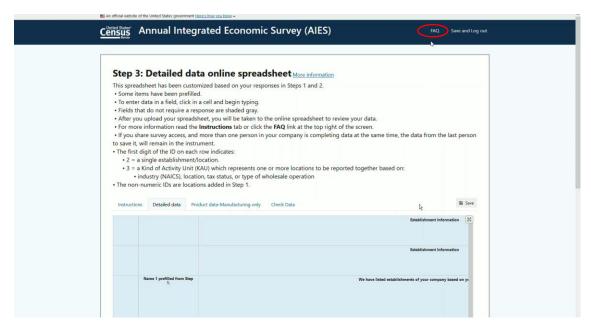


On the next few pages of this guide, we will look at FAQs, More Information, and some features of the online spreadsheet response method.

FAQs

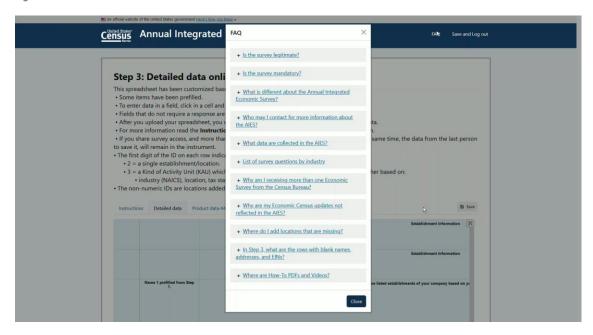
On these screens, there are Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at the top of the page. Click on the FAQ button.

Figure 3: FAQ button



To access the response to each frequently asked question, select the plus button. To hide the text, select the minus button.

Figure 4: FAQs

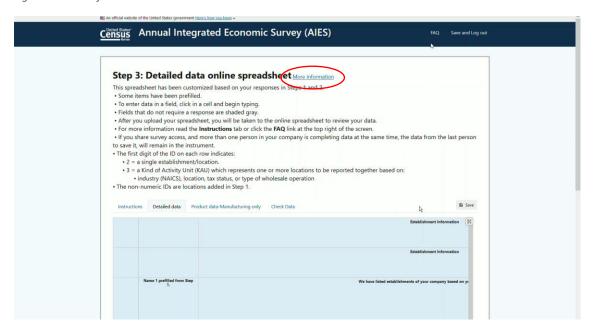


Click the Close button to close out the list of FAQs.

More Information

You can read more information about completing your survey by clicking on the "More information" link at the top of the screen.

Figure 5: More Information link

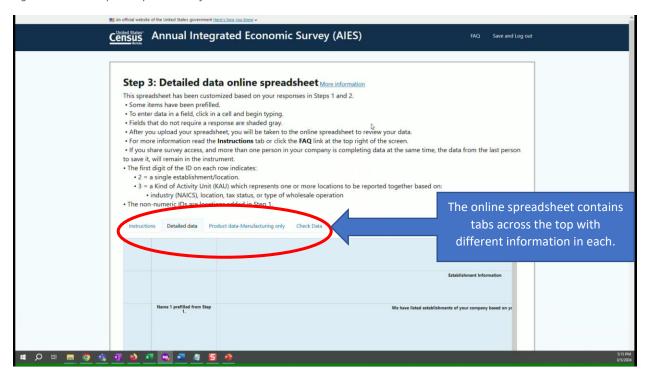


Online response spreadsheet features

There are several tabs across the top, including the following:

- Instructions tab: has additional information about providing a response
- Detailed Data tab: contains most of the questions for this survey
- Product Data tab: asks about revenues for specific products. However, please note that this is not asked of all companies so it may be blank for you
- Check Data tab: used to check for survey completeness

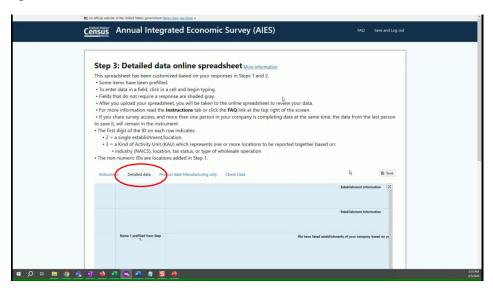
Figure 6: Online response spreadsheet features



The detailed data tab

The Content Tab contains most of the questions for the AIES. It collects information at the location and Kind of Activity (KAU) or industry levels and is it different for each company depending on what they make or do.

Figure 7: Detailed data tab

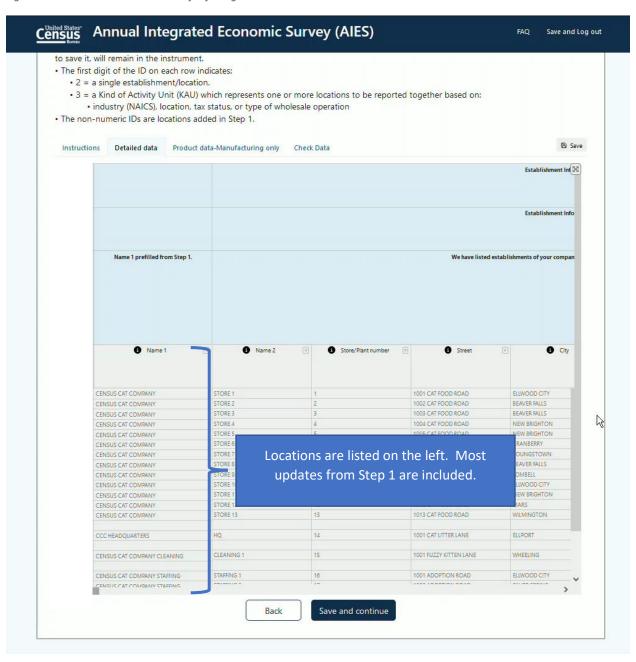


On the left side of the spreadsheet, you can see the locations that make up this company (see Figure 8 below). Please note that the updates from Step 1 are captured here, including the location that we added in Step 1.

Locations in Rows

On the left are the locations that make up this fictional company. Address updates from Step 1 are reflected here, but changes in what the location does or makes are not updated until next year's survey.

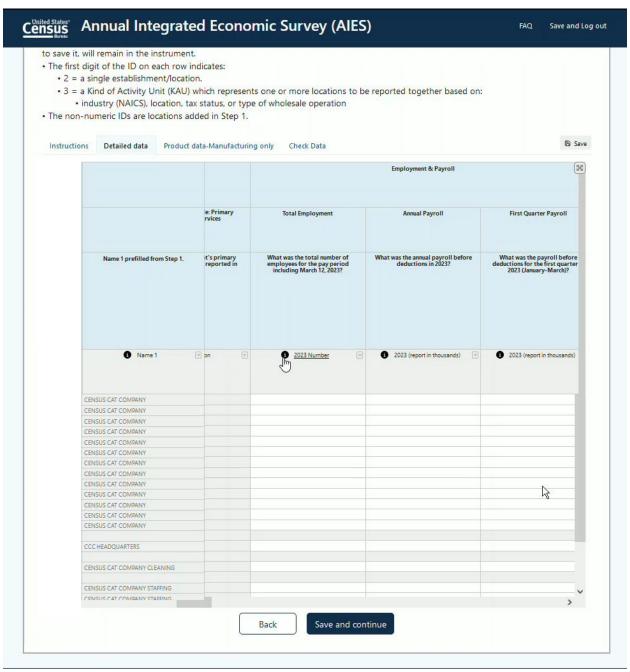
Figure 8: Locations are listed on the left of the grid



Questions in Columns

Along the top, in each of the columns are the questions. The first row contains the topic of the question. The second row has the question text. The third row includes additional information for response.

Figure 9: Questions are in each column. Click on the circled "I" for more information about each question.

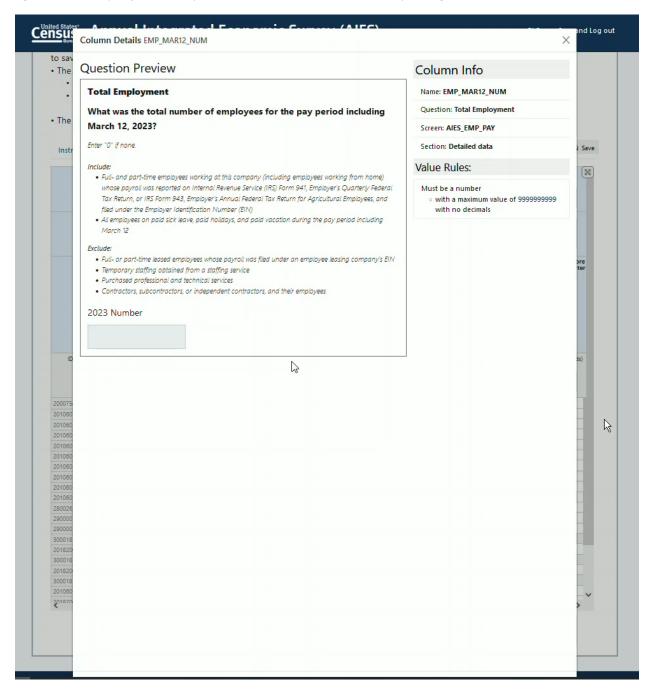


Click on the circled "i" button for more information about each question.

Additional Question Information

Click on the circled "i" button to expand out to a listing of additional information about the question, including additional instructions.

Figure 10: An example of additional question instructions. These are accessed by clicking on the circled "I" button.



Features

You can filter your list of locations by Name, Address, City, State or ZIP Code or by response to any of the questions by using the down arrow button.

Figure 11:

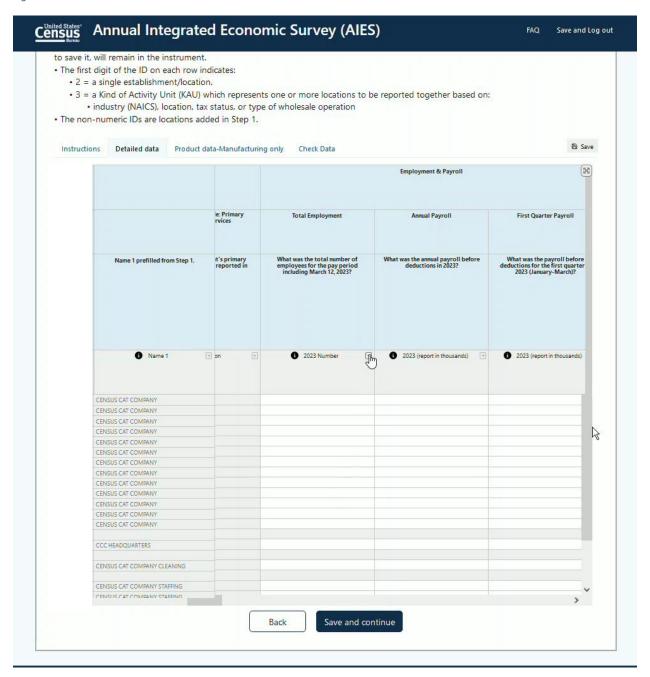
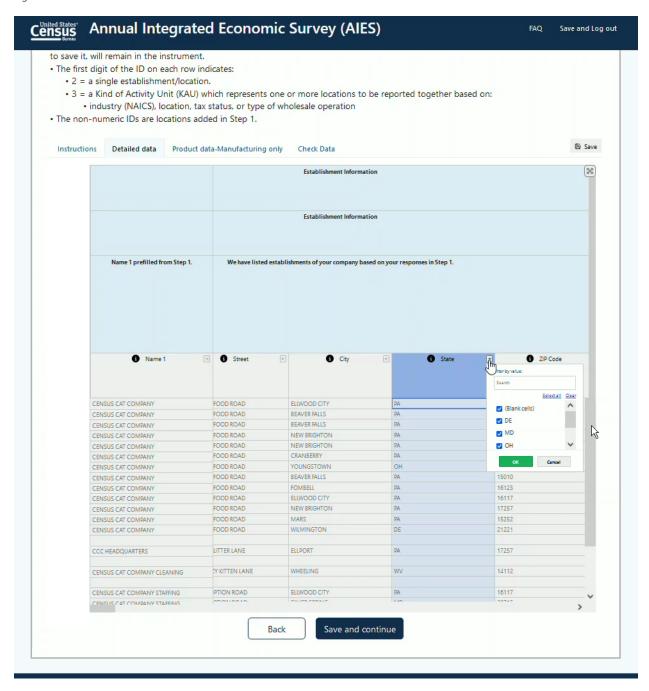


Figure 12



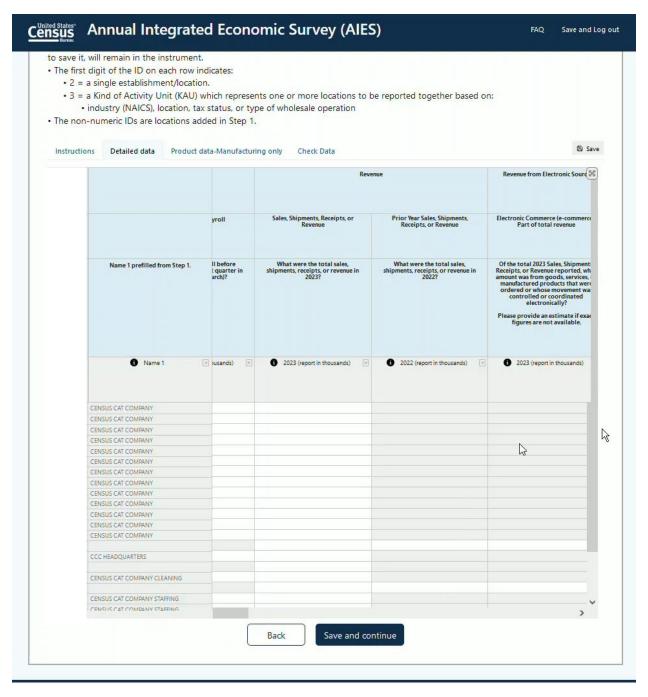
In addition, you can copy and paste data between cells by clicking in a cell, holding down the control button and the letter c button on your keyboard, then clicking on the empty cell, and holding down the control button and the v button on your keyboard.

You can also autofill information by clicking in the lower right corner and dragging the value down.

Locked Cells

Some questions should be answered for each location. Others are answered for groups of locations based on what they do or make (KAUs or industries). If we scroll to the right, we encounter questions that are grayed. These questions do not require a response for that specific location. You should not enter data into gray or dark blue cells. These cells are locked and will not accept any entered value.

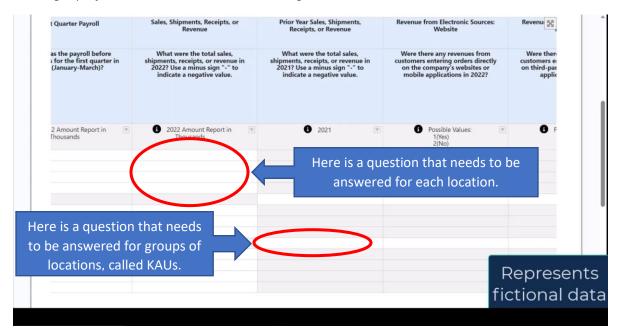
Figure 13: Questions that are grayed out are not to be answered for that location or KAU.



Responding by Kind of Activity Unit (KAU)

Some questions should be answered for each location. Others are answered for groups of locations based on what they do or make.

Figure 14: Some questions are answered by establishment (location) and some are answered by Kind of Activity Unit (KAU), which is groups of locations that make or do the same thing.



Identifying KAUs

If your company makes or does more than one type of thing, it will have more than one Kind of Activity Unit – or KAU. KAUs are groups of locations that do or make the same thing. You can easily identify a KAU in your spreadsheet because it does not have corresponding name or address information in the row.

We have listed establishments of your company based on your respon Name Store/Plant number Street 6 City CENSUS CAT COMPANY 1 CAT FOOD LANE BEAVER FALLS CENSUS CAT COMPANY CENSUS CAT COMPANY STORE 3 CENSUS CAT COMPANY DBA CCC GROOMING SALON 1 KAUs do not have name or address information. CENSUS CAT COMPANY DBA CCC GROOMING SALON 2 CENSUS CAT COMPANY DBA CCC GROOMING SALON 3 FOMBELL CENSUS CAT COMPANY STORE 4 4 CAT FOOD LANE CENSUS CAT COMPANY DBA CCC GROOMING SALON 4 4 FUZZY KITTEN ROAD BOWIE STORE 5 5 CAT FOOD LANE BEAVER FALLS CENSUS CAT COMPANY STORE 6 6 CAT FOOD LANE ELLWOOD CITY CENSUS CAT COMPANY DBA CCC GROOMING SALON 5 5 FUZZY KITTEN ROAD РОТОМ Represents fictional data

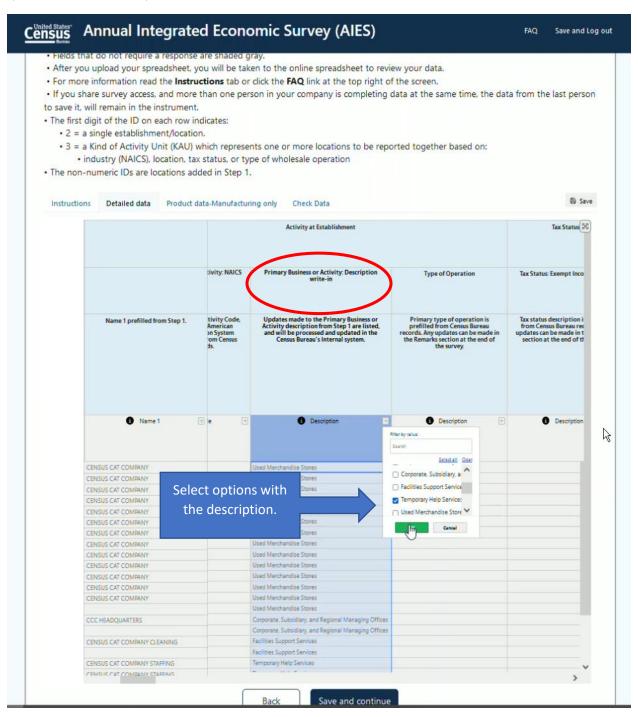
Figure 15: KAUs do not have name or address information in the grid.

Identifying locations within KAUs

To determine which locations are within which KAU, first, filter on the Primary Business or Activity Description column.

Select all locations for an industry and then click OK. In the figure below, we use "Temporary Help Services" as an example.

Figure 16: To determine which locations go with which KAU, filter on the Primary Business or Activity Description, and select options with the same description.



Then, you can see the locations for that KAU. In the example provided below, there are two locations for this one KAU, "Temporary Help Services." We can see more clearly which questions need to be answered for each location and which questions need to be answered for KAUs. In those places where we need to enter KAU data, it is the sum of these locations. For those places where we need to enter data by location, you'll see that it is grayed out at the KAU and available at the location level. In the example provided below, this question needs to be answered both for each location and for the sum of these locations.

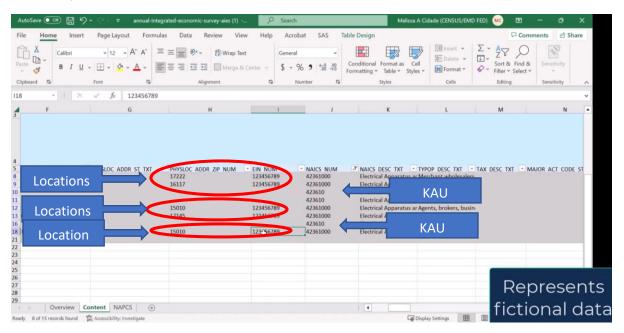
Figure 17: The locations and the KAU are showing. These locations make up this one KAU.



Identifying Complex KAUs

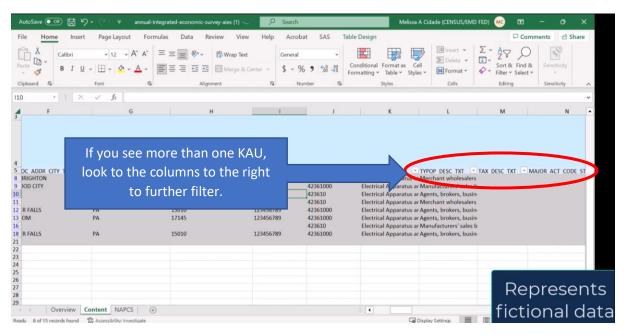
For some more complex companies, you may filter on a Primary Business or Activity Code and see more than one KAU listed. In these cases, you need to filter on additional information, including type of operation, tax status, and Regional Location.

Figure 18: This grid is filtered on NAICS, but more than one Kind of Activity Unit (KAU) is showing. We need to filter on additional information.



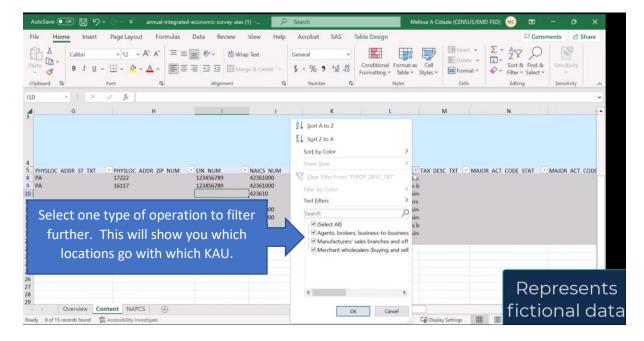
Filter on additional information to see which locations are associated with which KAU.

Figure 19: If more than one KAU is showing after filtering on NAICS, use other columns to the right to further filter.



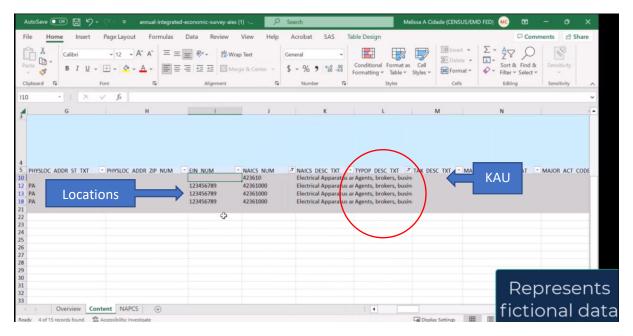
In this case, if we filter on the first industry number, 432610 and 43216000, we can see that these 5 locations are associated with these 3 KAUs. Scrolling to the right, we can see that different locations have different Types of Operations.

Figure 20: Filtering on the Type of Operation column will allow us to identify which locations go with which KAU.



Filter on the first value, and three locations are associated with one KAU.

Figure 21: Further filtering shows one KAU and three locations for this example.

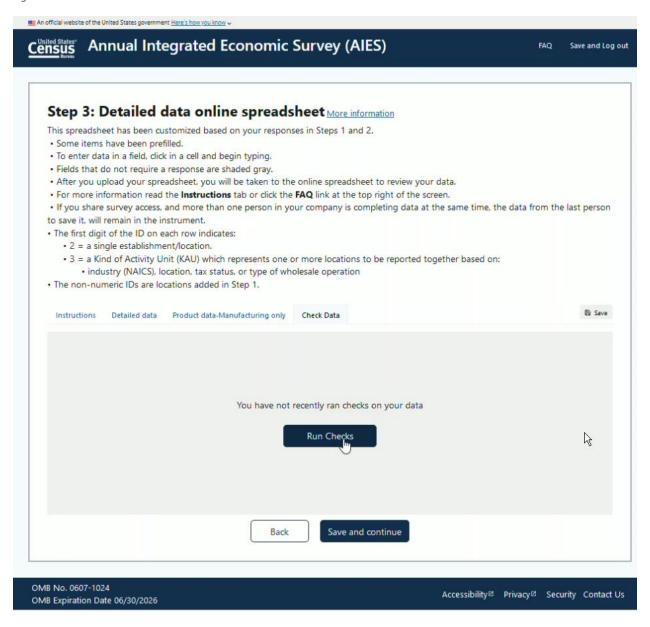


Submitting Step 3

Once the questions in the Detailed data tab and, if applicable, Product data-Manufacturing only tab are completed, you will go to the Check Data Tab at the top and click the Run Checks button. Clicking this button runs a review of your responses. If you're missing any critical items or have provided unexpected responses that may be an error, you will get a message alerting you to the issue and how to fix it.

If there are any errors, please note that you cannot submit your responses until you fix all the outstanding errors.

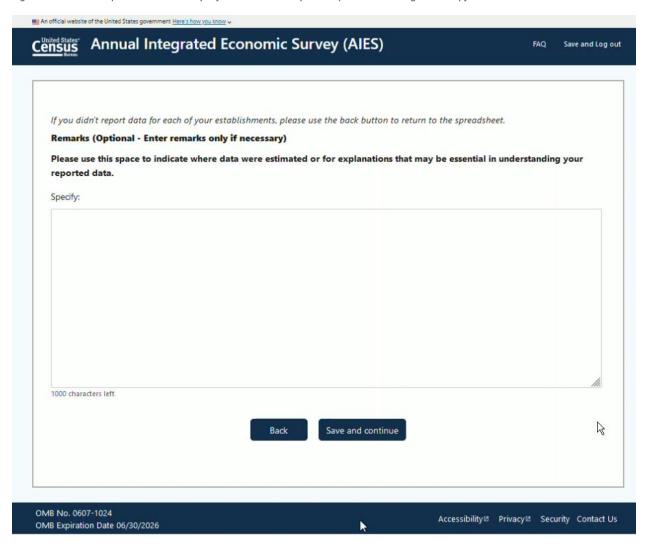
Figure 22: Click the Run Checks button under the Check Data tab



After you have Run Checks and are ready to submit your data, click the Save and continue button at the bottom of the screen.

Next you will go to a remarks screen where you can add any information you think would be helpful to the Census Bureau as we review your responses.

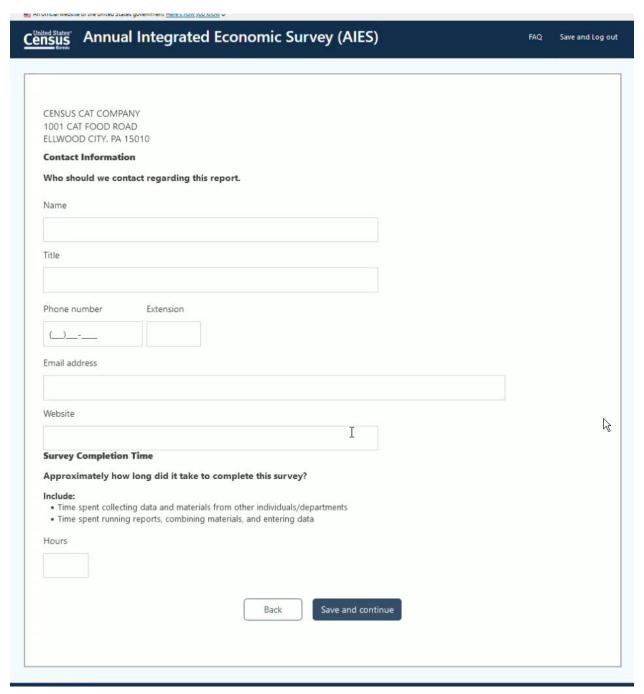
Figure 23: Use this space to include any information about your responses that might be helpful to the Census Bureau.



Click Save and continue when you have entered your remarks.

Then, you'll be taken to the last screen of the survey. Here, you will input your contact information so that if the Census Bureau has any questions, we know who to contact. On this screen, we are also asking you to estimate the amount of time it took you to complete the survey.

Figure 24: Input your contact information in case we have any questions. You're almost done!

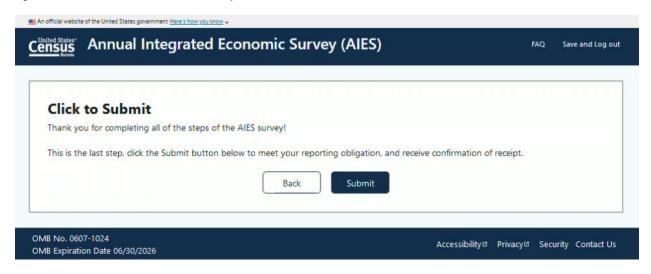


After you have filled in the information requested on this screen, please click the button for Save and continue at the bottom of the page.

Submission Screen

Click the Submit button to submit your response to the AIES.

Figure 25: Click the Submit button to submit your data



Submission Confirmation Screen

Finally, you will see a Submission Confirmation Screen. This is how you know that you submitted your data to the AIES and have met your reporting obligation.

Figure 27: The Submission Confirmation Screen lets you know that your data have been submitted.



For more information on the AIES, please visit our website at <u>census.gov/aies</u>. For additional help completing the AIES or for any questions, please call our helpdesk at 1-800-681-3012.

For more information

- For instructions on filtering locations, copying and pasting information, and other spreadsheet functionalities, please see the PDF, Overview of the Survey, available here: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aies/technical-documentation/how-to.html
- To see what questions you will be asked at which level of the company, visit the interactive content tool: https://www.census.gov/aies/questionspreview/
- For an overview of the questions by level, consult the Content Summary by visiting:
 https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/aies/information-respondents/2024/aies-content-summary.pdf
- For more information on each of the sections of the survey, consult step-by-step instructions in videos and other PDFs here: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/aies/technical-documentation/how-to.html