

## **A Note About the NAICS Classification**

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The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is routinely updated every five years, to remain relevant to an evolving economy. The most recent updates occurred in 2022 and some of the changes affected the Retail NAICS codes. As a result of the changes, data from 2021 and 2022 are no longer comparable.

To understand why, some background information on the NAICS changes follows. The overarching theme of the update was the digital economy. Changes to the classification system have modified data for the Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) to include store and non-store retailers. Online-only retailers are now classified in the same industrial groupings as their non-digital counterparts.

What this means, is that NAICS codes beginning with 454 (non-store retailers), from the 2017 NAICS classification, no longer exist. Instead, these stores are now classified in other NAICS codes.

As of Reference Year 2022, data are based on the 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Two new dissemination tables have been created for the Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) to reflect the new version of the NAICS. The tables do not include historical data (before 2022), and direct comparisons can no longer be made between 2022 and previous years. Therefore, users should exercise caution when comparing 2022 aggregate data with historical aggregate datasets.

Links to the NAICS classifications

[North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\) Canada 2022 Version 1.0](#)

[North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\) Canada 2017 Version 3.0](#)