

README for “Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) 2017” public use microdata (pum) file.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)

2021-06-04

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1522584>

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) is a joint effort by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. The survey is the primary source of national and state-level data on domestic freight shipments by establishments in mining, manufacturing, wholesale, auxiliaries, and selected retail and services trade industries located in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data are provided on the type, origin and destination, value, weight, modes of transportation, distance shipped, and ton-miles of commodities shipped. The CFS is conducted every 5 years as part of the economic census. It provides a modal picture of national freight flows and represents the only publicly available source of commodity flow data for the highway mode. The CFS was conducted in 1993, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and most recently in 2017.

The CFS assesses the demand for transportation facilities and services, energy use, and safety risk and environmental concerns. CFS data are used by policy makers and transportation planners in various federal, state, and local agencies. Additionally, business owners, private researchers, and analysts use the CFS data for analyzing trends in the movement of goods, mapping spatial patterns of commodity and vehicle flows, forecasting demands for the movement of goods, and determining needs for associated infrastructure and equipment.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

0. Title of Dataset:

Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) 2017 [public use microdata file]

1. Description of Dataset:

The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) is a joint effort by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) and the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. The survey is the primary source of national and state-level data on domestic freight shipments by establishments in mining, manufacturing, wholesale, auxiliaries, and selected retail and services trade industries located in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data are provided on the type, origin and destination, value, weight, modes of transportation, distance shipped, and ton-miles of commodities shipped. The CFS is conducted every 5 years as part of the economic census. It provides a modal picture of national freight flows and represents the only publicly available source of commodity flow data for the highway mode. The CFS was conducted in 1993, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and most recently in 2017.

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2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1522584>

3. Authorship Information:

Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

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Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590
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4. Date of data collection and update interval:
2017

5. Geographic location of data collection:
United States of America

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:
Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION

0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. (2020). Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) 2017: Public Use Microdata File [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1522584>

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:
These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:
No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

1. File List for the `bts_Commodity_Flow_Survey_2017_Public_Use_Microdata_and_Documentation.zip` collection.

A. Filename: `bts_cfs_2017_pumf.csv`

Short description:

The CSV that is the public use microdata file for the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey.

B. Filename: `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_faqs.docx`

Short description:

A DOCX file that contains some common questions and answers around the 2017 Commodity Flow Survey's public use microdata file.

C. Filename: `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_user_guide.pdf`

Short description:

A PDF file that contains technical documentation information associated with the public use microdata file.

D. Filename: `bts_cfs_2017_data_dictionary_aug2020.xlsx`

Short description:

A XLSX file that contains the data dictionary for the public use microdata file.

E. Filename:

`bts_cfs_2017_pumf_DMP.pdf`

Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

F. Filename:

`bts_cfs_2017_pumf_README.txt`

Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

G. Filename:

`bts_cfs_2017_pumf_Metadata.json`

Short description:

The machine-readable .json metadata file based on Project Open Data metadata schema v1.1.

D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

This information can be found in the file `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_user_guide.pdf`, which is included within the `bts_Commodity_Flow_Survey_2017_Public_Use_Microdata_and_Documentation.zip` collection.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with any text reader. Some versions of the documentation files may be opened with PDF reading software.

E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. `bts_cfs_2017_pumf.csv` data table

A. Number of variables (columns):

20 variables are present in the data table. The data dictionary can be found in `bts_cfs_2017_data_dictionary_aug2020.xlsx` and `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_user_guide.pdf`, which provides definitions for the variables.

B. Number of cases/rows:

5978524 total rows are present in the data table: 1 header row and 5978523 rows of data.

C. Each row represents:

Each of the 5978523 rows represents a single shipment.

D. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within `bts_cfs_2017_data_dictionary_aug2020.xlsx` and `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_user_guide.pdf` for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

F. UPDATE LOG

This `bts_cfs_2017_pumf_README.txt` file was originally created on 2021-06-04 by Jesse A. Long <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4962-1380> NTL Data Management and Data Curation Fellow, jesse.long.ctr@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-06-04: Original file created