

# SIC/NAICS Codes

## 1. What are they?

- Numerical system to identify what goods a company makes or services that they offer.
- Companies usually have more than one code assigned to them.
- **Primary codes** best describe what a company does and their main business.
- **Secondary codes** describe all the other types of goods or services a company may be involved in.

**S.I.C. –Standard Industrial Classification System** –uses **4 digit numbers**. Older system still widely used by various print and online directories. Weak in that it is not always specific enough with descriptions of the industries that they are in.

**N.A.I.C.S. –North American Industrial Classification System**- uses **6 digit numbers**. More specific in descriptions of industries especially in areas of technology, Internet, e-commerce, etc.

## 2. Finding Descriptions of the Codes Either by Keywords/Text or by Number

Go to the following sites to look up the codes assigned to the industry that you are interested in.

[S.I.C. Code site](http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html) <http://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sicsearch.html>

[N.A.I.C.S. Code site](http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html) <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/index.html>

An example follows below from the SIC code site: We are searching for “soft drinks”.



### Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System Search

[STATISTICS & DATA](#) | [SIC MANUAL](#)

This page allows the user to search the 1987 version SIC manual *by keyword*, to access descriptive information for a *specified 2,3,4-digit SIC*, and to [examine the manual structure](#).

Enter a SIC CODE:

Enter the search keyword(s):

[Search Help and Examples](#)

- [2086 Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters](#)
- [2087 Flavoring Extracts and Flavoring Syrups, Not Elsewhere Classified](#)
- [5149 Groceries and Related Products, Not Elsewhere Classified](#)
- [5812 Eating Places](#)

Thus the SIC code is **2086**

An example is as follows:

### SIC Description for 2086

## Description for 2086: Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters

[Division D: Manufacturing](#)

[Major Group 20: Food And Kindred Products](#)

Industry Group 208: Beverages

### 2086 Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters

Establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing soft drinks and carbonated waters. Establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing fruit and vegetable juices are classified in Industry Group 203; those manufacturing fruit syrups for flavoring are classified in Industry 2087; and those manufacturing nonalcoholic cider are classified in Industry 2099. Establishments primarily engaged in bottling natural spring waters are classified in Wholesale Trade, Industry 5149.

- Beer, birch and root: bottled or canned
- Carbonated beverages, nonalcoholic: bottled or canned
- Drinks, fruit: bottled, canned, or fresh
- Ginger ale, bottled or canned
- Iced tea, bottled or canned
- Lemonade: bottled, canned, or fresh
- Mineral water, carbonated: bottled or canned
- Soft drinks, bottled or canned
- Tea, iced: bottled or canned
- Water, pasteurized: bottled or canned

The same search under **NAICS** yields the following:

<a href="#">Main</a>	<a href="#">FAQs</a>	<a href="#">History</a>	<a href="#">Development Partners</a>	<a href="#">Federal Register Notices</a>	<a href="#">Product Classification</a>
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<b>NAICS SEARCH</b> Enter keyword or 2-6 digit code <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="2007 NAICS Search"/>	<b>2007 NAICS KEY WORD SEARCH</b> <hr/> <b>Search results for: soft drinks</b> Number of records found: 3  <a href="#">312111</a> Carbonated <b>soft drinks</b> manufacturing <a href="#">312111</a> <b>Soft drinks</b> manufacturing <a href="#">424490</a> <b>Soft drinks</b> merchant wholesalers
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<b>DOWNLOADS / REFERENCE FILES / TOOLS</b> <a href="#">For 2007 NAICS</a>
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Thus **312111** is the **NAICS code**

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