

National statistical business register - Bulgaria



National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata
Structure (ESMS)
Compiling agency: National Statistical Institute of
Bulgaria

Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [Eurostat user support](#)

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1.1. Contact organisation	National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Business Registers Department
1.5. Contact mail address	Bulgaria, Sofia, 1038, 2 P.Volov Str.

2. Metadata update [Top](#)

2.1. Metadata last certified	19/05/2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	19/05/2023
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3.1. Data description

National statistical business register (SBR) include information on the active population of:

- Enterprises carrying on economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP);
- Their local units;
- The legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- Enterprise groups (association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links)
- Kind of activity unit

Important mandatory variables recorded in the registers for the units are:

- Identification characteristics: ID numbers, names, addresses;
- Demographic characteristics: Date of commencement/cessation of the unit;
- Economic/stratification characteristics: Economic activity (NACE), employment, turnover, legal form;
- Information on control and ownership relations: Parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.

The main purposes of statistical business registers are:

- To provide a tool for the preparation and co-ordination of surveys;
- To be a source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography;
- To establish links with administrative sources;
- To identify and delineate statistical units.

National SBR is a live register updated regularly (some data are updated daily and monthly, other quarterly and annually). It's organised as relational database covered legal and statistical units performing economic activity on the territory of Bulgaria. SBR is maintained by NSI, and used for statistical purposes. The SBR is established in order to provide the frame population for economic surveys, to co-ordinate statistical surveys, to provide information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, to establish links with administrative sources, to identify and delineate statistical units. The SBR is updated regularly with information from administrative and statistical sources. This information is used to create and deactivate statistical units, and to update their characteristics.

3.2. Classification system

Classification systems and code lists used in the national statistical business register:

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2);
- European System of Accounts ([ESA 2010](#));
- Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics ([NUTS](#));
- Nomenclature of Statistical unit
- Nomenclature of Ownership form
- Nomenclature of Predominant form of ownership
- Nomenclature of Funding
- Nomenclature of Degree of foreign control
- Nomenclature of Department Statistical Surveys that validate the Annual enterprise reports
- Nomenclature of Type of address
- Nomenclature of Type of communication
- Nomenclature of Size of enterprises by turnover (size class), in thousand BGN
- Nomenclature of Size of enterprises by number of persons employed (size class)
- Classification of institutional sectors in the national economy
- Nomenclature of Legal form, According Bulgarian Commercial Law (<https://portal.registryagency.bg/en/>)
- Unified classification of administrative and territorial units (Unified classification of administrative and territorial units) - <https://nsi.bg/nrm/index.php?ezik=en>
- Nomenclature of Country code.

3.3. Coverage - sector

The coverage of the national statistical business registers is defined in the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics.

The national statistical business registers comprise all enterprises resident in the national territory that are carrying out activities contributing to GDP.

Households do not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

The SBR frame cover all units which, wholly or partially, exercise an **economic activity** and economically inactive legal units, which are part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. For the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers, the following economic activities are considered:

- any activity comprising the offer of goods and services on a given market;
- non-market services contributing to the GDP;
- direct and indirect holdings of active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities are also considered an economic activity.

The national statistical business register covers the following sectors:

- SBR are covered all economic sectors by NACE Rev.2.

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical concepts and definitions used for the statistical business registers are as follows:

Annual copy of statistical business register

The annual copy of the statistical business register reflects the state of the register at the end of the year including all units active within the reference year. NSIs have to make a copy annually and keep that copy for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

Active unit

A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

A legal unit can be legally or administratively active without any economic activity, when the inactive legal unit is part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. Holding assets and/or liabilities shall also be regarded as an economic activity.

Number of active enterprises

The number of active enterprises is the number of all statistical units which at any time during the reference period were 'enterprises', as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93, and also active during the same reference period. A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

Number of employees

The number of employees represents the average number of persons who were, at some time during the reference period, employees of the statistical unit.

Number of employees and self-employed persons

The number of employees and self-employed persons is the sum of the Number of employees and Number of self-employed persons. The number of self-employed persons is the average number of persons who were at some time during the reference period the sole owners or joint owners of the statistical unit in which they work. Family workers and outworkers whose income is a function of the value of the outputs of the statistical unit are also included.

Number of local units

A count of the number of local units as defined in Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 registered to the population concerned in the business register corrected for errors, in particular frame errors. Local units must be included even if they have no paid employees. This statistic should include all units active during at least a part of the reference period.

Net turnover

For all activities except for NACE 64, 65 and some activities of NACE 66 net turnover consists of all income arising during the reference period in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit, and is presented net of all price reductions, discounts and rebates granted by it.

Income is defined as increases in economic benefits during the reference period in the form of inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities that result in increases in equity, other than those relating to contributions from equity participants.

The inflows referred to are arising from contracts with customers and are realized through the satisfaction by the statistical unit of performance obligations as foreseen in said contracts. Usually, a performance obligation is represented by the sale (transfer) of goods or the rendering of services, however, the gross inflows can also contain revenues obtained as a yield on the use by others of the statistical unit's assets.

Excluded from net turnover are:

- all taxes, duties or levies linked directly to revenue;
- any amounts collected on behalf of any principal, if the statistical unit is acting as an agent in its relationship with said principal;
- all income not arising in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit. Usually, these types of income are classified as 'Other (operating) income', 'Financial income', 'Extra-ordinary income' or under a similar heading, depending on the respective set of generally accepted accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements.

Infra-annual statistics may not be able to take into account aspects such as annual price reductions, subsidies, rebates and discounts.

For the activities of NACE K6411, K6419 and K649 net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants.

For the activities of NACE K642 and K643 net turnover can be approximated by the total operating costs, if net turnover is not available in the financial statements.

For the activities of NACE K6511, K6512 and K652 net turnover is defined as Gross premiums earned.

For the activities of NACE K653 the net turnover is defined as total pension contributions

For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is not available in the financial statements, net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants. For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is available in the financial statements, the standard definition of net turnover applies.

Principal activity

The principal (or main) activity is the activity that contributes most to the total value added of a unit under consideration. Ideally, the principal activity of the unit should be determined with reference to the value added to the goods and services produced, by applying the top-down method. The top-down method follows a hierarchical principle: the classification of the unit at the lowest level of the classification must be consistent with the classification of the unit at higher levels. The principal activity so identified does not necessarily account for 50 % or more of the unit's total value added.

As value added is not maintained in the SBR, for defining the main and secondary activities, the Top-down approach is implemented on the base of turnover.

In the European Union the classification of principal activity is determined by reference to NACE Rev. 2, first at the highest level of classification and then at more detailed levels (top-down method).

Secondary activity

A secondary activity is each separate activity that produces products eventually for third parties and that is not the principal activity. The outputs of secondary activities are secondary products.

More information on statistical concepts and definitions relevant to the statistical business registers could be found in the [EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers \(2021 edition\)](#).

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical units maintained in the national statistical business register are defined in accordance with [Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93](#) on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community, as follows:

- Enterprise - the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.
- Enterprise group - an enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profits. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic entity, which is empowered to make choices, particularly concerning the units, which it comprises.
- Kind of activity unit (KAU) - the kind of activity unit groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at class level (four digits) of NACE and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise. The enterprise's information system must be capable of indicating or calculating for each KAU at least the value of production, intermediate consumption, manpower costs, the operating surplus and employment and gross fixed capital formation.
- Local unit - the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which - save for certain exceptions - one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

3.6. Statistical population

The national statistical business registers shall be the authoritative source for deriving high quality and harmonised statistical business register populations for the production of European statistics in accordance with Article 8 to the EBS Regulation 2019/2152.

The national statistical business register comprises the following units and applies the following thresholds:

- Kind of activity unit:
 - The relative share of production is more than 30% of its total production for the country at the 4-character level (s) of the valid NACE
 - And more than 20% of its total production for the country at the level of 2-digit (s) of a valid NACE classification (for production units, the activity with the highest turnover is taken, and the turnover is $\leq 20\%$.)
 - The number of employment should be >10

3.7. Reference area

The reference area for national statistical business register is the territory of the country. Concerning enterprise groups any country outside the national territory may be relevant.

3.8. Coverage - Time

The national statistical business register was established in 2006. But 1996 is the first reference year in the NSBR.

The statistical units are implemented and maintained in the national statistical business register as follows:

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2014.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 2002.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 2005.
- Kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained since 2015.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

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The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.
The net turnover is recorded in 1.000 of BGN/national currency units

5. Reference Period

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The reference period for the annual copy of the national statistical business register is a calendar year. An annual copy that reflects the state of the national statistical business registers at the end of the year is taken and kept for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

The latest available copy of the national statistical business register consists of the final annual master frame for 2021 reference year.

In this annual copy, the economic variables (number of employees, turnover and economic activity) refer to the 2021 reference year.

6. Institutional Mandate

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6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements

Legal acts and other agreements - EU level

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics;
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1197](#) of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics.

Legal acts and other agreements - national level

- Law on Statistics (Art. 30). - <http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/218/basic-page/law-statistics>

6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing

The [EBS Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) lays down provisions on the exchange of and access to confidential data for the purpose of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The [Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) 2020/1197](#) lays down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152, including technical specifications for the exchange of confidential data for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

At national level, the following agreements or procedures for data sharing and data exchange between national authorities have been established:

- Unformal Agreements

7. Confidentiality

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7.1. Confidentiality - policy

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164) on European statistics stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

The following policy rules are applied at national level:

- The Law on Statistics ensures the protection of statistical confidentiality and the use of individual data of enterprises for statistical purposes only:

Law on Statistics (Chapter Six, Art. 25).

Annexes:

[Statistics act](#)

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

The individual data of enterprises are used only for statistical purposes.

8. Release policy

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8.1. Release calendar

The preliminary frames of the national statistical business register are released according to the statistical user needs, as follows:

- T+ 12 months to STS domain;
- T+ 12 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 12 months to FATS;
- T+ 18 months to ITGS.

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 12 months.

8.2. Release calendar access

Not applicable.

8.3. Release policy - user access

The statistical users get access to the SBR frames or receive required data in the following way:

- Preliminary frame/Final frame - on request is provided by SBR team to the statistical domains in NSI.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The SBR preliminary frames are provided to statistical users with the following frequency:

- Annual

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+12 months. The annual copy is kept for 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1. Dissemination format - News release

- Press release on Business demography data - Annual
- Family bussiness - Annual
- Registrations and bankruptcies of legal units - Quarterly

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

No publications provided

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

Information System INFOSTAT of the National Statistical Institute provides statistical information on the demographic and socio-economic conditions and development of Republic of Bulgaria. The system provides to users possibility to create tables with data on various indicators, as well as for visualizing the results

graphically. The system allows the results and their metadata to be downloaded in the following formats: xlsx, csv and pdf.

Annexes:

[Infostat](#)

10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

The NSI exchange microdata with the Commission (Eurostat) for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The data and metadata are exchanged in electronic form and transmitted using the ESS data and metadata standards as specified by the Commission (Eurostat).

The SBR microdata are provided to the authorized statistical users, as follows:

- EGR production cycle

NSI exchange microdata with NCB for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers in order to ensure the quality of multinational enterprise group information in the European Union. Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers via secured environment according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes.

10.5. Dissemination format - other

The aggregated data on national statistical business register are provided annually to Eurostat in electronic form and transmitted via EDAMIS.

Tailor-made data sets available on request for external users.

National statistical business register is the main source for the Business demography statistics that provide information for active enterprises in the business economy, the births, deaths and survival rates of enterprises, as well as information on related employment data. In the business demography domain, the business economy covers sections B to N, excluding activities of holding companies – K64.2 (NACE Rev.2).

10.6. Documentation on methodology

[European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – edition 2021](#) outlines the methodology to be used for the national statistical institutes.

10.7. Quality management - documentation

ESS Data Quality Programme for statistical business registers is available on [CIRCABC](#).

11. Quality management

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11.1. Quality assurance

The quality is assured by applying the following quality management and assurance procedures:

- Law on Statistics (Art.2 and Art.30)
- Guidelines on quality criteria in the National Statistical System of Bulgaria - Part II: “Guidelines for quality assessment in the National Statistical Institute (NSI)” - https://nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/pages/Quality_e/1.4.%20GUIDELINES%20NSS_FINAL_EN.pdf

11.2. Quality management - assessment

For example, state if the statistical business register was subject to self-assessment/ peer review/ external review/ audit during the reporting period. What quality assessment methods and tool(s) were used; and in which sections of this report the results are presented.

The quality of statistical business register is monitored according the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

The overall assessment results for the reference year 2020 could be summarised as follows:

- Punctuality - full compliance;
- Completeness mandatory variables: 97%;
- Completeness conditional variables: 50%;
- Completeness optional variables: 14 %.

12. Relevance

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12.1. Relevance - User Needs

SBR are important for the compilation of consistent and comparable European business statistics, establishing efficient statistical survey frames, providing identification numbers of all the units and for linking to many different sources, increasing statistical information and reducing the reporting burden on enterprises.

SBR are referred to as the ‘backbone’ in the production of economic statistics because they provide the core infrastructure to ensure data consistency between various statistical outputs.

- NSI statistical domains: Business demography, SBS, STS, FATS, Foreign Trade, Labour market, National accounts, Financial Statistics, Energy Statistics, Environmental Statistics, Education and Culture Statistics, Health and Justice Statistics, R&D, Innovation and Information Society, etc.
- Bulgarian National Bank
- Eurostat: EGR cycle
- National Social Security Institute

12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

Since 2017, Eurostat together with the EU Member States conducts SBR user survey addressing users and potential users of the national statistical business registers (NSBR) and the EuroGroups Register (EGR). The latest SBR User Survey 2021 show that the NSBR are widely used at national level and users consider that its quality had been significantly improved in the recent years. Most of the NSBR users (97%) had either no issue or manageable issue regarding business registers coverage, units, variables, timeliness and frequency of frames.

The results of the SBR User Survey 2021 are available on [CIRCABC](#).

12.3. Completeness

The completeness of national statistical business registers is annually assessed by Eurostat. The SBR assessment results are provided to EU Member States and EFTA countries and presented at the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

Data completeness rate and missing variables or data in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- Geographical location code for local units is missing in SBR.
- Optional variables are missing for Enterprise Groups : Number of persons employed globally(MNE groups with GDC outside of the country); Consolidated global turnover(MNE groups with GDC outside of the country); Total assets (and currency) of the enterprise group;
- Flag for special purpose entities - optional variable for LU

13. Accuracy

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13.1. Accuracy - overall

The main issues regarding accuracy of the data are as follows:

- Systematic errors come from our administrative sources - incomplete data

The actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve accuracy of the data are as follows:

- Manual processing of these errors

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1. Timeliness

Final frame is available 12 months after the reference year T.

14.2. Punctuality

Aggregated data for the SBR final frame are provided annually to Eurostat according the deadline agreed by the Statistical Business Registers Working Group.

The SBR frames are provided on time to statistical users with regard to their needs and the agreed time frame, as follows:

- Final frame is available 12 months after the reference year T.

15. Coherence and comparability

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15.1. Comparability - geographical

The geographical comparability of national statistical business registers is ensured by the application of common definitions of the statistical units laid down in the Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93.

The SBR variables are harmonised and set up in accordance with the Annex VIII to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics. Further guidelines on the variables implementation in the national statistical business registers are given in the [EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers \(2021 edition\)](#).

15.2. Comparability - over time

The comparability over time of the frames results from the information provided in concept 3.8.

- NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 2015 to 2021;
- NSBR frames are not comparable for reference years 2002 to 2015

15.3. Coherence - cross domain

The NSBR frame provides information on the active population of enterprises carrying out economic activities which contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP), the legal units of which those enterprises consist of, local units, kind of activity units and enterprise groups, incl. all-resident and multinational enterprise groups.

The national statistical business register is used by statistical users as a coordinated frame population in order to derive consistent statistical output.

15.4. Coherence - internal

The SBR data included in the final frame are internally consistent.

16. Cost and Burden

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Not available.

17. Data revision

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17.1. Data revision - policy

Summarise the general procedures for treatment of planned revisions, benchmark revisions, unplanned revisions, and revisions due to conceptual and/or methodological changes.

17.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable

18. Statistical processing

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18.1. Source data

The national statistical business registers is set up in accordance with EBS Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 using any relevant data sources while avoiding excessive burden on respondents and taking due account of the cost effectiveness of the NSAs.

NSI uses the following data sources, including a combination thereof for the national statistical business register:

- Commercial register and register of nonprofit legal entities
- BULSTAT Register
- Bulgarian National Bank
- Tax authority
- National Social Security Institute
- Annual activity report (*incl. Annual Balance sheets, Profit and loss repots and Statistical inquiries*)

18.2. Frequency of data collection

The frequency of updating the units and variables in the national statistical business register is as follows:

- Legal units - Continuously
- Enterprises - Continuously
- Local units - Continuously
- Kind of activity units - Annual
- Enterprise groups - Annual

18.3. Data collection

Statistical business registers use data from administrative and statistical data sources, and from any other relevant sources that are comparable and compliant with the applicable specific quality requirements. For more details please see 18.1.

18.4. Data validation

Statistical analysis of the national statistical business register is carried out to ensure the quality of data and frame populations provided to users.

Data validation procedures include, please specify (for example):

- automatic validation procedures to check coherence between statistical units and their variables;
- data format and logical content of data;
- crosschecks with other sources and data from previous years;

18.5. Data compilation

The frame populations and annual copy of national statistical business register are produced as follows:

- SBR is annually updated with information from IS "Business Statistics"

18.6. Adjustment
Not applicable.

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No comment	

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