

National statistical business register - France



National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX
Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: Institut National de la
Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (Insee)

Eurostat metadata

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1.1. Contact organisation	Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (Insee)
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2. Metadata update

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2.1. Metadata last certified	27/05/2022
2.2. Metadata last posted	27/05/2022
2.3. Metadata last update	26/05/2023

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1. Data description

The statistical business registers (SBR) are basic infrastructure for the collection and compilation of data for European business statistics. The SBR are used as the main source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the definition of the survey population and for establishing the link to administrative data sources.

European statistical business registers should become an authoritative sources for deriving harmonised frame populations for the production of European business statistics. SBR contribute to the achievement of consistent and comparable business statistics by creating and using coordinated populations of statistical units

The national statistical business registers include information on the active population of:

- all enterprises carrying out economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) and their local units;
- the legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- the kind of activity unit for those enterprises which due to their size have a significant influence and whose kind-of-activity units (KAUs) have a significant influence on the aggregated (national) data;
- enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.

Households shall 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.

Local units of foreign enterprises not constituting separate legal entities (branches), and classified as quasi-corporations in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, shall be deemed to be enterprises for the purposes of the national statistical business registers and the EuroGroups Register.

Enterprise groups shall be identified through the links of control between their legal units in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

The main variables recorded in the statistical business registers are the following:

- Identification variables: identification number, name, address;
- Demographic events: date of commencement/cessation of the unit;
- Economic variables/stratification parameters: economic activity (NACE), employment, turnover, legal form, legal activity status;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.

In addition, the French SBR includes also:

- legal units with employees that are not market oriented (general government, public hospitals, non profit organisations...);
- and information about:
 - market or non-market activity (institutional sector (not at the most detailed level for several sectors), productive or non-productive unit);
 - enterprise category (French characteristic, from a decree, about the size of the enterprise);
 - statistical cessation;
 - response burden.

3.2. Classification system

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

- 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](#));
- Statistical classification of economic activities in France ([NAF](#), derived from NACE);
- Legal form ("[categories juridiques](#)")
- Enterprise categories (cf. [definition](#))
- Geographical codes ("[geographie administrative et d'etude](#)")

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 covers 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 includes each unit contributing to GDP (market oriented and non-market oriented units), belonging to any activity sector, even the agricultural sector.

Economically inactive legal units are part of an enterprise only in combination with economically active legal units.

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.

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 \(2021 edition\)](#).

Notes about the French SBR:

- **Principal activity:** in France, as the added value of different activity branches is often hard to determine based on statistical surveys, it is the breakdown of turnover or of the workforce according to the branches that is used as a determination criterion, see the definition of "[Principal activity](#)" on the INSEE's website.
- **Employment:** as from reference year 2021, total employment includes self-employed persons and temporary workers in the NSBR.
- **Active unit:** as from reference year 2021, the criteria to determine whether an unit is considered to have been active during the reference period have been adjusted in the NSBR according to the EBS definition.

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 (if any):

- Legal unit
- Local unit
- Enterprise
- All-resident enterprise group
- Truncated enterprise group
- Multinational enterprise groups
- Kind of activity unit, according to the second option in the EBS Regulation (NACE code of the secondary activities of the relevant units).

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. More precisely, the French SBR includes all units registered in the French territory, including the foreign legal units which have establishments, employees or trade in the national territory.

3.8. Coverage - Time

The national statistical business register was established in 2012.

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

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained from reference year 1979.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained from reference year 2013.
- Legal unit – implemented and maintained from reference year 2013.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained from reference year 1973.
- Kind of activity unit (according to option (ii) in the EBS regulation, i.e. NACE codes of secondary activities) – implemented and maintained since 2013.

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 Euro.

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 produced for long-term archive purposes consists of the final annual master frame for 2020 reference year. It was made available in July 2022.

In this annual copy, the economic variables refer to the following reference year: number of employees (2020), turnover (2020) and economic activity (2020).

The first preliminary frame for reference year 2022 was released on January 2023.

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

- Articles [R123-220 to R123-234](#) of the French Commercial Code establish a national identification system for natural and legal persons and their establishments based on the business and establishment register (Sirene: Computer system for the business and establishment register).

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:

- [Law no. 51-711 of 7 June 7 1951, as amended](#), on obligation, coordination and confidentiality of statistics.

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:

- [Law no. 51-711 of June 7, 1951, as amended](#), on obligation, coordination and confidentiality of statistics.
- [Law n° 78-17 of 6 January 6 1978](#) relating to data processing, files and freedoms

See also, for INSEE:

- Quality Management Actions and Initiatives - Principle 5: [Statistical Confidentiality](#).
- "[Guide du secret statistique](#)", updated in April 2023

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

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+ 11 months to STS domain;
- T+ 11 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 11 months to FATS;
- T+ 11 months to ITGS;
- T+ 11 months to ITSS;
- T+ 11 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T+ 11 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 11 months to R&D;

- T+ 11 months to (other domains).

Partial preliminary frames (without all economic variables for reference year T) are available at T+1, in particular for the purposes of survey frames.

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 17 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:
Frames are made available for statisticians of national authorities in the usual secure storage area monitored by Insee.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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

- Preliminary frames for reference year T are released on January T+1, July T+1, November T+1

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+17 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

Not applicable.

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Not applicable.

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

Not applicable.

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:

- intranet interface with authenticated access;
- datasets made available in a securised area.

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.

- However, the SBR microdata are never provided directly to researchers. The researchers who have been granted specific access by the [Comité du secret statistique](#) are allowed to access to some annual microdata sets made of annual structural business data, in the framework of SBS. They have to work in a secure IT environment managed by the "Centre d'accès sécurisé aux données" (Secure Data Access Center): see [CASD](#).

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:

- tailor-made frames for statistical purposes and sample frames, for statisticians belonging to the [French official statistical system](#).

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).

NSBR microdata on resident incorporated legal units are transmitted to Eurostat for the needs of the Eurogroups register (update of EGR IS).

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.

Each internal release of NSBR frames is accompanied by a registered note providing the dictionary of variables along with some methodological explanations when needed.

For a presentation of the French NSBR and its main concepts, see "[Sirus, le répertoire d'entreprises au service du statisticien](#)", *Courrier des Statistiques* n° 8, INSEE, novembre 2022.

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:

- consistency checks between the different sources used in NSBR;
- monitoring the impact of evolving sources;
- annual full consistency check with data of the administrative business register;
- identifying, tracing and managing anomalies;
- dialogue with source suppliers and NSBR users.

11.2. Quality management - assessment

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

The overall assessment results could be summarised as follows:

- good

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.

The French SBR development aims to meet arising user needs, notably in terms of data freshness (turnover on a quarterly basis for example).

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 2020 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 2020 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:

- The NSBR Quality Report 2022 pointed out minor non-compliance for the French NSBR regarding overall compliance targets, due to the lack of data on numbers of self-employed persons at that time.

13. Accuracy

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13.1. Accuracy - overall

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

- the lag to spot units that have ceased activity.

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

- limiting the number of "falsely" active units using information from business surveys.

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1. Timeliness

Preliminary frames are available 11 months after the reference year T. First partial early frame is available 1 month after reference year T.

Final frame is available 17 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:

- Preliminary frames for reference year T are released on January T+1, July T+1, November T+1
- Final frame: 17 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.

Notes:

- enterprise groups: break in series in 1999 (new data source added: Bureau van Dijk) then in 2015 (new data source added: tax data from French tax authorities);
- employment: break in series as from reference year 2020 because of the change in administrative sources on employment, now implemented in the statistical information system on employment (for [more information](#))

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.

The reasons for lack of coherence with other statistical domains are as follows:

- different time tables in the different statistical production processes for taking into account the restructuring of companies and/or the statistical cessation of units may lead to some differences;
- French national accounts mostly use the legal unit as statistical unit for businesses.

15.4. Coherence - internal

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

16. Cost and Burden

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Restricted from publication

17. Data revision

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17.1. Data revision - policy

The French SBR is updated daily for the major part of its variables, yearly and quarterly for employment and monetary variables (turnover, etc.).

An full consistency check with data of the administrative business register is carried out once a year; discrepancies are analysed and treated for the NSBR.

17.2. Data revision - practice

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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:

- administrative business register (Sirene)
- annual structural survey and information system (SBS), which include tax data
- employment information system
- national information system on groups (LIFI)
- national profiling
- custom files

18.2. Frequency of data collection

The national statistical business registers shall be updated by means of entries and removals at least annually. The frequency of updating shall depend on the kind of unit, the variable considered, the size of the unit and the source generally used for the update.

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

- Legal units - daily
- Enterprises - twice a year
- Local units - daily
- Kind of activity units - annual
- Enterprise groups - twice a year

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:

- consistency checks between the different sources used in NSBR;
- consistency checks intrasources.

18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- priority rules in order to avoid inconsistencies
- close collaboration with the SBS team who provide turnover data on a yearly basis.
- production cycle with scheduled exchanges with the processes on groups statistics, profiling and SBS.

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

- automated computer programs (batches) on schedule, in a securised IT environment.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

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No further comment.

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