

National statistical business register - Iceland



National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX

Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: Statistics Iceland

Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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

1. Contact

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1.1. Contact organisation	Statistics Iceland
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Business Register
1.5. Contact mail address	STATISTICS ICELAND Borgartún 21a 150 Reykjavík

2. Metadata update

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2.1. Metadata last certified	25/05/2022
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2.2. Metadata last posted	25/05/2022
2.3. Metadata last update	31/05/2023

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER

Basic data on all legal units registered in Iceland is transmitted to the Business Register from administrative sources. This includes also the non-active units. The maintenance is carried out purely based on automatic, administrative updates. Data is updated daily. Changes in NACE code are logged and validated by SBR.

Institutional Units are updated manually by National Accounts according to ESA2000
At Statistics Iceland, the Business Register serves as an important data source and a sampling frame to all business and economic statistics and to a variety of population and social statistics. Since 2008, Business Register is fully connected with the central Business Statistics on a common platform and a shared Data Warehouse serves as an input to e.g. National Accounts and several other statistics.

3.2. Classification system

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

- Legal form. Classification derived by and used by the tax Authorities;
- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community ([NACE Rev. 2](#)), a national version of NACE rev. 2 classification ("ISAT 2008") including a national fifth digit;
- European System of Accounts ([ESA 2010](#)). Institutional Sector, validation in process. Implementation of automatic allocation algorithm in process;
- Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics ([NUTS](#)). Classification on municipalities;
- Size Classification (EU). Size classification of an LeU/Enterprise according to the EU Regulation;
- Ownership classification refers Control > 50%.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER

The Business Register at Statistics Iceland covers all legally registered units (enterprises, corporations, self-employed persons and non-profit organisations) and updated purely from the administrative source. The activity of a unit (economically) is analysed based on having either employment, turnover, VAT turnover, assets or debt.

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 \(2021 edition\)](#).

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):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Unit | Includes all legal unit registered at the Tax Authorities, no threshold. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise | ENT:LeU = 1:1. No Threshold in SBR, otherwise activity criteria is used. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Enterprise group | Based on share capital tickets (admin data), returns vary between years. Threshold: Control > 50% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Unit | Implemented. Survey threshold: Headcount > 10. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAU | To be implemented. |

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 new national statistical business register was established in 2015.

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

- Legal Unit – implemented and maintained since 2008.
- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2008.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 2008.
- Local unit – implemented 2017.
- Kind of activity unit – not implemented.

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 national currency units in the National Business register. converted to Mio € (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tec00033/default/table?lang=en>)

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

- [Act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics](#)
- [Rules of Procedure for Treating Confidential Data](#)

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 [Act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics](#) does not allow data sharing and data exchange between national authorities.

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:

- [Rules of Procedure for Treating Confidential Data](#)

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

8. Release policy

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8.1. Release calendar

Classification data is released with no lag.

The preliminary frames of the national statistical business register are released in T+11 months.

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+16 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:

- Database access, SQL Views for the users within NSI who have the access rights according to their needs.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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

- Preliminary frame: Monthly, quarterly, on request, etc.

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+16 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

N/A

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

N/A

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

N/A

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:

- At national level the [Act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics](#) does not allow data sharing and data exchange between national authorities at microdata level.

The [Act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics](#) does not allow the NSI to 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.

Micro-data are provided to researchers 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.

No tailor-made Micro data sets are 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.

Relevant metadata is published within official statistics; e.g. referring to the data tables and their content.

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:

- The SBR is based on admin data.
- An in-house working group focusing on the quality (NACE code and Institutional Sector) issues in statistics is in place and the Business Register has a representative in the group
- Changes in NACE code from Tax Authorities is reviewed before entering the BR by Statistics Iceland for all Legal Units with Turnover above certain limit.

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:

- Strengths are the good coverage and quality of administrative data. Inhouse co-operation between business register, SBS, STS and BD is an asset as well as internal co-operation regarding the classifications (NACE, SNA). After a large revision project 2015, the Business Register is situated in an integrated system with all the relevant business statistics sharing the unit structures, classifications and relevant concepts, which has resulted in elimination of overlapping work phases and enabled more coherent statistical outputs.
- New BR in 2015

Documentation on methodology Quality policy of Statistics Iceland:

<https://www.statice.is/about-statistics-iceland/statistics-iceland-policies/quality-and-security-policy/>

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.

- For all business statistics (especially SBS, STS and BD), National Accounts and several population and social statistics and universities.
- The Business Register operates on a common platform with all the central business statistics and in so all the needs and feedback of these statistics as well as National Accounts are commonly reviewed. The processes are adapted when needed and agreed, which is done within appropriate timetable. Processes are from time to time adapted according to e.g. user needs from the micro data services as well.
- User needs are collected through feedback and co-operation groups between experts from different statistical domains as well as with representatives of users outside the NSI.

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:

- 96%

Missing/incomplete variables:

- LoU is implemented in the SBR, but not fully maintained. A new survey planned this year.
- KAU is not implemented

13. Accuracy

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13.1. Accuracy - overall

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

- Undercoverage: Local Units / Enterprise groups
- Misclassification: Possible for smaller enterprises

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.
Final frame is available T+16 months after the reference year T.

Outline the reasons for the time lag (if any).

Reasons for the time lag:

- Tax return data available with 16 month time lag.
- Annual reports (pdf) available with 9 month time lag.

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 frame T+11
- Final frame T+16

Outline the reasons for the delay (if any).

Reasons for the delay:

- Tax return data available with 11/16 month time lag.

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 \(2021 edition\)](#).

- Iceland is one region.
- There is reliance on the administrative sources, which are provided on a legal unit level. The legal unit also gives a solid approximation of the enterprise.

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 2008 to 2020;

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. There is no reasons for lack of coherence with other statistical domains.

The Business Register has **ALL** legal units (Enterprises and NP operating in own name) in Iceland. An enterprise or Natural Person cannot exist without a 10 digit ID assigned by the Tax Authorities and it is used in all communications/transactions in Iceland.

Natural Person: born 23. July 1989 ID: 230789xxx9

Enterprise established 23. July 1989 ID: **630789xxx9** 23+40=63

Coherence should therefore be 100% with BR, just matter of criteria, i.e NACE, definition of activity etc. when choosing the statistical population.

15.4. Coherence - internal

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

- Non-coherence between different data sources is checked and edited within the production processes and should not exist in the final frame

16. Cost and Burden

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Not available.

17. Data revision

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17.1. Data revision - policy

Data is revised and completed until the final frame in T+16. After that, only significant differences are revised if such occur on a later stage.

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:

Pay-as-you-earn, every month, no lag

- Number of Employees
- Number of Persons Employed

Nominal Share tickets, 10 months lag

- REL structure

Corporate tax returns, once a year, lag 11 (preliminary) - 16 months (final).

- Revenue
- Total Assets
- Total Debt
- FTE

VAT register, bimonthly, no lag.

Annual Reports

- Foreign ownership, lag 9 months

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 - daily (ENT:LeU=1:1)
- Local units - implemented
- Kind of activity units - not implemented yet
- Enterprise groups - annually

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:

- Format and file structure checks
- Intra-file checks
 - Missing information in the file e.g. "NULL". Grouping by Legal Form, NACE code or Institutional Unit to spot inconsistencies in classifications.
- Intra-domain, intra-source checks (e.g time series checks)
- Intra-domain, inter-source checks (e.g. mirror checks)
- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI
 - VAT data vs. VAT data of the revenue (SBS data ,Tax statement)
 - Persons Employed vs. HeadCount data (Pay as you earn) vs. FTE (SBS data, Tax statement)
- Manual Validation of NACE and Institutional Units

18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- SQL. All Admin data is connected by an national ID.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

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