

# National statistical business register - Albania



National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX  
Metadata Structure (ESMS)  
Compiling agency: Albanian Institute of  
Statistics, INSTAT

## Eurostat metadata

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## 1. Contact

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<b>1.1. Contact organisation</b>	Albanian Institute of Statistics, INSTAT
<b>1.2. Contact organisation unit</b>	Sector of Statistical Business Registers (SBR)
<b>1.5. Contact mail address</b>	Head of Unit

## 2. Metadata update

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<b>2.1. Metadata last certified</b>	19/05/2023
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<b>2.2. Metadata last posted</b>	19/05/2023
<b>2.3. Metadata last update</b>	19/05/2023

### 3. Statistical presentation

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#### 3.1. Data description

The statistical business registers (SBRs) are basic infrastructure for the collection and compilation of data for European business statistics. The SBRs 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. SBRs contribute to the achievement of consistent and comparable business statistics by creating and using coordinated populations of statistical units

The NSBRs include information on the population(most updated for active population):

- the legal units of which those enterprises consist( LeU registered to tax offices);
- all enterprises carrying out economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) and their local units;
- enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.

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 Rev.2), total employment, employee, 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;
- links to other units and registers.

#### 3.2. Classification system

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

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community in 4-digit level (NACE Rev. 2);
- The institutional sectors and sub-sectors ([ESA 2010](#));
- Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS II);
- Legal form (based on National law);
- Ownership code list;
- Country name and code( GEONOM 2021)
- Size of enterprises( based on number of employed).

#### 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 covers:

- all economic sectors based on NACE rev.2 (A- U)

### **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 10 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.

### **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.

**Turnover** comprises the totals amount invoiced by the enterprises during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

**Farmers** registered during last years are identified by unique code (NIPT) and enforcement the specific scheme compensation for purposes of agricultural producers of Value Added Tax. The registration process to tax offices, made enables farmers to have legal personality and to be part of legal unit register that INSTAT updates and maintains.

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.
- **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 NSBRs 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 Units, LeU
- Enterprises, Ent
- Local Units, LoU
- Enterprise Group

### 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 1998.

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

- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 1998.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 2010.
- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2017.
- Kind of activity unit – testing phase ( NSBRs 2021).

### 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 turnover is recorded in currency units (ALL).

## 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(s).

## 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 no 17/2018 date 5.4.2018 “For official statistics”;
- Albanian Law no 30/2022 date 24/03/2022 “On Official Statistics Program 2022-2026”;
- Decision of Albanian Government “On nomenclature of economic activities, NACE Rev.2”, no. 320 date 28/05/2014;
- Law no.115/2014 “On territorial Law no. 115/2014 On the Administrative-Territorial Division of the Local Government Units in the Republic of Albania;
- Law no. 9920 dated 19.5.2008 "On Tax Procedures in the Republic of Albania";
- Law no 43/2022 date 21.04.2002 “For the development of micro, small and medium enterprises”
- Decision of Albanian Government No 1037, date 15/12/2010 “ On implementation of territorial nomenclature “Albania in three regions, NUTS II” based on European Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics;
- Memorandum of Understanding between General Directory of Taxation and Institute of Statistics; date 11.03.2015;
- Memorandum of Understanding between National Business Centre and Institute of Statistics; date 13.06.2017;
- Directive of the Minister of Finance No. 19 dated 3.11.2014 "On Enforcement Regime Scheme specific compensation for purposes of agricultural producers of Value Added Tax"
- Decision of Albanian Government, No. 541, date 29.9.2021 “On implementation on Nomenclature of Countries and Territories for the European statistics on international trade in goods and on the geographical breakdown for other business statistics”, GEONOM 2021.

### 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.

## 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:

[Microdata access regulation](#)

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/documentation/access-to-micro-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

The preliminary frames of the SBRs are released according to the statistical user needs as sampling frame for methodologic purpose. The main sample and period are listed below:

- T+ 1.5 months to STS domain;
- T+ 1.5 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 1.5 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 1.5 months to R&D;
- T+ 3 months to (other domains).

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 3 months.

## 8.2. Release calendar access

Not applicable.

## 8.3. Release policy - user access

The statistical users get access to the SBRs official statistics or receive required data in the following way:

- Business registers (yearly publications) [Business Registers, 2021 | Instat](#)
- Database  
[PxWeb - Select table \(instat.gov.al\)](#)
- Requested for statistics by paper or email to [info@instat.gov.al](mailto:info@instat.gov.al)

# 9. Frequency of dissemination

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The SBRs preliminary frames ( sample frame) is provided to internal users with frequency T+1.5 months

The SBRs final frame is provided to internal users with frequency T+ 4 months.

The SBRs data do not include publication of preliminary result.

The results of the SBRs publication are published based on the publication calendar, which is published on the INSTAT website each year.

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/publications/calendar/>

## 10. Accessibility and clarity

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### 10.1. Dissemination format - News release

The press release contains information about key indicators, number of enterprises, economic activity, and size of enterprise, ownership and geographical distribution. The press release is distributed only with internal users.

### 10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

The results of the SBRs are published in some publications. Users can find the results on NSBRs in the INSTAT website:

- Business registers (yearly publications) [Business Registers, 2021 | Instat](#)
- Regional statistical yearbook: [Regional Statistical Yearbook 2022 | Instat](#)
- Women and men in Albania [Men and Women, 2022 | Instat](#)
- Foreign businesses in Albania [Foreign and Joint Enterprises 2019-2021 | Instat](#)

### 10.3. Dissemination format - online database

- Statistical business registers

<http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/en/DST/>

### 10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

[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.

INSTAT insure micro data for scientific research purposes. Access to this data is strictly controlled and according to the conditions set out in law no. 17, dated 05.04.2018 “On official statistics”.

[Microdata access regulation](#)

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/documentation/access-to-micro-data>

### 10.5. Dissemination format - other

All information is available in two languages: Albanian and English. Since 2011, Through Pc-Axis system, for external users on the website is offered time series of SBR from 2010 as reference year. Also on this website there is a simple methodological explanation Access the database at the link below: [Database](#)

Page Views (Hits) about Statistical Business Register in 2021 are around 11,662 while in 2020 were 9,519 clicks.

As a result of confidentiality preservation, SBRs data are not available at micro level. Aggregated data are the only type of data provided to external users. Although micro data are not published,



they can be accessed based on Article 31, item 5 Law No. 17/2018, dated 05.04.2018 "On Official Statistics".

#### 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.

A brief explanation of the definitions, key concepts and methodological explanations for users is published in the press release and publications. When necessary, additional information is provided to the internal users. On the INSTAT website there is a section related to the [Business Registers | Instat](#)

#### 10.7. Quality management - documentation

Statistical Business Register sector documents the entire work process and SBR procedures for internal documentation.

SBRs User group is created in 2015 and led by Economic Statistics Director. SBR User Group is composed by Head Department which use Business register. The SBRs user group main goal is to increase the quality of SBRs as the main tool for business and macro-economic statistics.

SBRs team proposes to prepare the list of big enterprises and to treat them more carefully. This came as result of different NACE from different surveys. NACE (four digit level) for each enterprise in the list was fixed and approved by SBRs User Group.

### 11. Quality management

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#### 11.1. Quality assurance

The quality is assured by applying the following quality management and assurance procedures: INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with the Statistics Law, INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up to-date. In performing its tasks it follows the general principles of quality management from the European Statistics Code of Practice. INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

#### 11.2. Quality management - assessment

The quality of SBRs is monitored according with the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

The overall assessment results could be summarised as follows:

- SBRs data is compared with SBRs data in previous years to see whether there is data coherence or major changes. In case of changes, administrative data / statistical surveys are used to confirm the situation of cases when there are significant differences of one year's behaviour with other years.

NSBRs quality and compliance is measured annually (Statistical Business Register Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS) since 2016. The quality report are published annually. Users can find the results on the INSTAT website.

[29business-registers\\_esqrs\\_final\\_en.pdf \(instat.gov.al\)](#)

## 12. Relevance

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### 12.1. Relevance - User Needs

SBRs 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.

SBRs 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.

SBRs users are classified as internal and external users. External users are:

- Governmental institutions
- Universities
- Non-profit national and international organizations
- Businesses
- Researchers, students and other similar groups.

Internal users are other sectors within INSTAT who use SBRs results as inputs to their work like as:

- National Account Directorate;
- Methodology Sector;
- Price Statistics Sector;
- Regional Statistics Directorate;
- Social Statistic Directorate;
- Regional Statistical Offices.

### 12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

INSTAT organizes every year [User Satisfaction Survey](#).

Users give the opinions on “How do you rate the overall quality of SBR?” . Due to scale from 1 to 5 (1=very poor, 2=poor, 3=adequate, 4=good, 5=very good), the quality of the data with an average of 3.72 (74.4%).

### 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).

#### The variables of SBRs:

- Identification variables ID number (NIPT), Legal form, Ownership, Name, Address, Communication (Tel, Mobile, Email, Web etc.)
- Stratification variables (Main economic activity, Secondary activity, Total turnover, Number of employed, Number of employees, Size of employed, Number of female employed, Geographical location, Institutional sector)
- Demographic variables (Date of creation, Date of cessation);
- Links to other units and registers;
- Control and ownership of units;
- Others

<b>13. Accuracy</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>13.1. Accuracy - overall</b>	
The data are checked with previous years to identify any significant changes in the data. The internal consistency of the data is checked before it is finalized. The links between variables are checked and coherence between different data series confirmed.	
<b>13.2. Sampling error</b>	
Not applicable.	
<b>13.3. Non-sampling error</b>	
Not applicable.	

<b>14. Timeliness and punctuality</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>14.1. Timeliness</b>	
Preliminary frames are available 1.5 months after the reference year T. Final frame is available 3 months after the reference year T.	
<b>14.2. Punctuality</b>	
Aggregated data for the SBRs final frame is provided annually to Eurostat according the deadline.	

<b>15. Coherence and comparability</b>	<a href="#">Top</a>
<b>15.1. Comparability - geographical</b>	
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 <a href="#">EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers (2021 edition)</a> .	
<b>15.2. Comparability - over time</b>	
The comparability over time of the frames results from the information provided in concept 3.8 NSBRs frames are comparable for reference years 2010 to 2021. The backcast of NACE Rev.2 is implemented to NSBRs since 2005 as well as administrative-Territorial Division of the Republic of Albania(61 districts).	
<b>15.3. Coherence - cross domain</b>	
The SBRs 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 , local 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 SBRs data included in the final frame are internally consistent.

### 16. Cost and Burden

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For imputation SBRs uses administrative data so there are no additional costs for treating non-response. Agreements signed between INSTAT and GDT or NCB clearly affirms that data transmission is provided for free.

Statistical data sources (STS, SBS etc) are costless too for SBRs. Internal staff of SBR unit handles the data control and data compilation for the final result.

INSTAT is developing a system to measure the response burden.

### 17. Data revision

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#### 17.1. Data revision - policy

SBRs Review Policies are made in accordance with the revision policy and the policy of settling errors set by INSTAT. For more information refer to:

- [Revision Policy](#)
- [The Errors Treatment Policy](#)

#### 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.

Sources for updating the NSBR are as follow:

- **Administrative sources**
  - Information from National Business Centre (NBC);
  - Information from General Directory of Taxation (GDT);
  - VAT file;
  - Payroll file;
  - Annual account.
- **Statistical sources**
  - Annual Structure Survey, SBS;
  - Quarterly survey, STS;
  - Accommodation Establishments Survey, AES;

- Other surveys.

### 18.2. Frequency of data collection

The SBRs 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 SBRs is as follows:

- Legal units - monthly.
- Enterprises - monthly.
- Local units - yearly.

### 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 SBRs is carried out to ensure the quality of data and frame populations provided to users.

The checks carried out are mainly based on compliance with European and national classifications:

- NACE Rev.2;
- Legal form;
- Ownership States;
- Municipality;
- County.

Manual controls are made for large enterprises and for enterprises in strategic branches such as:

- Rail transport;
- Air transport;
- Electricity;
- Postal and courier activities;
- Public administration.
- Others.

Their economic activity was approved by the SBRs user group, which reviews and decides in cases of change of economic activity for each statistical unit.

### 18.5. Data compilation

The creation of new legal entities automatically leads to the creation of a new enterprises and a new local unit with SBR variables. This information as well as the changes is derived from the administrative source and mainly the GDT.

Enterprise level information is updated by various surveys according to the list of priorities and the reference period of the administrative or statistical data source. For large companies, manual updates are also made from online searches. Only the SBR sector has the right to make changes. Other sectors of INSTAT send data at enterprise level from survey or other changes.

### 18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

## 19. Comment

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- Albania government in year 2015 decided farmers to be registered in tax offices and to profit the specific scheme compensation for purposes of agricultural producers of Value Added Tax. Consequently the registration process to tax offices, enables farmers to have legal personality and to be part of legal unit in NSBR. At the end of 2021 farmers covers 34.6 % of total active legal units Due to the increased number of the Farmers this year our NSI made a decision that farmers sub register not to be part of legal units register, but to be treat by Agriculture Department.
- Related with KAU as statistical units, some development was made. With the support of IPA 2017, SP3.2 – Short-term business statistics some steps has been achieved related to KAU. For the first time SBR unit identified KAU on NSBRs 2019. KAU as statistical unit are implementing to SBR 2020-2021, following the operational rules for KAU based on turnover.

## Related metadata

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## Annexes

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