

National statistical business register - Estonia

National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX

Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: Statistics Estonia



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 Estonia
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Data Acquisition and Processing Department
1.5. Contact mail address	Tatari 51, 10134 Tallinn, Estonia

2. Metadata update

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2.1. Metadata last certified	31/05/2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	31/05/2023
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 SBR 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;
- the local kind of activity units of enterprises, which are active on the field of accommodation or operate museums.

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 SBR 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; institutional sector according ESA;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.

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](#));
- Classification of legal forms;
- Classification of type of owner.

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 the following sectors:

- Non-financial corporations
- Financial corporations
- General government
- Non-profit institutions serving households

The national statistical business register *do not covers* the following sectors:

- Households

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.

The methods used to implement the statistical units in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- Enterprise – Intensive method for profiling (face-to-face meetings with the enterprise) is used. It was decided to analyse only an economically significant cases (if missing or inaccurate data appear in the collected data, which affects statistical output data). All another enterprises consist of one legal unit.
- Enterprise group – For the compilation of EG-s data on shareholders from Commercial Register is used. Enterprise groups are compiled automatically based on data in shareholding data table, following control chain. In addition, data from other sources (NCB, EGR, other NSIs) are in use.
- Kind-of activity unit (KAU) and Local unit – Statistics Estonia is currently redesigning the process of creating local and kind of activity units. Project on implementation new administrative data source (Employment Register) for this data is ongoing. Therefore for year 2021 the data on both type of units was estimated based on Enterprise level figures. (Please see also comments at the end of report).

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:

- Legal units
- Local units

Statistics Estonia is currently redesigning the process of creating local and kind of activity units. Project on implementation new administrative data source (Employment Register) for this data is ongoing. Therefore for year 2021 the data on both type of units was estimated based on Enterprise level figures.

- Enterprises

The final frame of active economic entities was compiled for the first time for the year 2021.

There is following threshold was decided for enterprises in final frame:

Employees > 0 or sales revenue \geq 781 euros or investments \geq 5000 euros (Please see also comments at the end of report).

- All-resident enterprise groups
- Truncated enterprise groups
- Multinational enterprise groups
- Local kind of activity units - Local kind of activity units with activity in accommodation and museums are surveyed totally

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 1994.

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

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2005.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 1994.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 1999.
- Kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained since 1999.

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 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

- Official Statistics Act
<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/506012015002/consolide/current>

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:

- Estonian Central Bank as second national authority responsible for production of national statistics uses the statistical business register data on-line through data exchanging layer X-Road.

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:

- Official Statistics Act (entry into force 01.08.2010), in particular § 34. Confidential data, § 35. Dissemination of confidential data
<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/506012015002/consolide/current>
- Data protection (Privacy policy) <https://www.stat.ee/en/statistics-estonia/data-protection-privacy-policy>

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 – 2 months to STS domain;
- T – 2 months to SBS domain;
- T – 2 months to FATS;
- T – 2 months to ITGS;
- T – 2 months to ITSS;
- T – 2 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T – 2 months to ICT survey;
- T – 2 months to R&D;
- T – 2 months to (other domains).

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+12 months. (Please see also comments at the end of report).

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:

- Inner users: Online use of the register according to access rights. This means that statisticians of different statistical domains can search and download their part of the frame (on micro-data level) for the purposes of validation and analyses.
- There is an on-line connection between the register and data processing programs. These programs are updated automatically every night using register data.
- External users: Tables with aggregated data are published on website in statistical database (free access)
- Central Bank: micro-data of the frame, live register data are available through the data exchange layer (X-Road), this means data is derived directly from the register.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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The SBR preliminary frames are provided to statistical users annually.

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

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1. Dissemination format - News release

Not applicable.

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Not applicable.

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

SBR data in fix tables <https://andmed.stat.ee/en/stat>

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:

- Inner-users who have corresponding rights use micro-data of the live register and frozen frames. Data is regularly loaded into appropriate data processing databases. Data is also available directly from interface of the register, data is not anonymized.
- Estonian Central Bank use use micro-data of the live register and frozen frames. Data available through the data exchange layer X-Road, data is not anonymized.

NSI exchange microdata with NSB 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 of yearly frames (stratification data, UCI) are provided to researchers via secured environment according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes.

Official Statistics Act (entry into force 01.08.2010), in particular § 38. Dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/506012015002/consolide/current>

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: <https://www.stat.ee/en/find-statistics/request-statistics>

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

10.6. Documentation on methodology

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

10.7. Quality management - documentation

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

11. Quality management

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11.1. Quality assurance

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

- EBS implementation monitoring
- SBR User Survey
- There are several different data validation procedures in place in the register. Some of these are applied monthly during the uploading of the data from different sources, some have specific periodical character, like logical controls conducted during active stage of the compilation of the frozen frame etc
- Monthly monitoring of the availability of the contact data of economic units in the register. The data is evaluated and submitted to management once a month as part of the Data Acquisition and Processing Department report.

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:

- Estonian SBR is in compliance with EU requirements
- Quality assessment activities conducted mostly during the production of the next frame (in last stage of the compilation process),

The quality assessment procedure includes:

- automatic validation procedures to check coherence between statistical units and their variables,
- data format and logical content of data
- crosschecks with other sources and data from previous years
- results presented on yearly meeting with inner-users of the register data.

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.

- Statistics Estonia produces preliminary frame and use this as a backbone for production of the economic statistics.
- The final frame of active economic entities was compiled for the first time for the year 2021. This frame is used to produce annual business statistics, such as business demography statistics, structural business statistics etc.
- Estonian Central Bank as second national authority responsible for production of national statistics use the statistical business register data.
- SBR processes adapt regularly arising needs. All statistical domains are treated equally.
- Information on user needs collected on annual SBR meeting with users, bilateral meetings with domains and Central Bank and during everyday contact with users.

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).

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](#).

The latest SBR User Survey was conducted at the beginning of 2023. All statistical domains of Statistics Estonia and Estonian CB, who use SBR data in their work, were involved and sent their contribution to the Eurostat. According to the preliminary results, users of the SBR are satisfied with the quality of SBR data and also with level of cooperation with register’s domain. Final results of survey will be elaborated and published by Eurostat later.

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:

- All mandatory variables for Legal unit, Enterprise, Enterprise group and Local unit are implemented in the SBR
- 4 conditional variables for Legal unit are not implemented in SBR
- 3 optional variables for Enterprise group are not implemented in SBR
- 1 optional variable for Enterprise is not implemented in SBR
- 2 optional variables for Local unit are not implemented in SBR

13. Accuracy

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13.1. Accuracy - overall

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

- Undercoverage of Enterprises in the preliminary frame: the most important identifier of the activeness of an enterprise is submission of VAT and Social tax declarations to the Tax and Customs Board. Enterprises which annual turnover is less than 40,000 euros are not obliged to declare VAT data and enterprises which have no employees are not included in the preliminary frozen frame of active enterprises. Moreover, frame compiled by November of reference year does not include data for the whole year and is therefore referred to as the preliminary frame of active economic entities.
- Undercoverage of Local units: Up to the year 2021 only the local units of commercial undertakings with 20 or more persons employed were available. Local units data was compiled using the data of local kind of activity units which were surveyed by the special module of SBS survey. Local units of accommodation and museums were surveyed totally. All other units had just one local unit.
- Undercoverage of Enterprise groups: in Estonia we don't have administrative source with sufficient coverage for information of foreign subsidiaries of Estonian MNEs
- Overcoverage of Non-profit institutions in the preliminary frame : there are no any administrative source with sufficient coverage for determining the activeness of non-profit institutions. Thus preliminary frame includes all NPIs which are not liquidated and which did not inform Statistics Estonia on cessation of their activity
- Misclassification: In Estonia NACE code is assigned initially in Commercial Register. Vast majority of enterprises register itself using electronic self-registering system in Estonia. In this case NACE code is chosen by entrepreneur itself.

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

- The final frame of active economic entities was compiled for the first time for the year 2021. The final frame of active enterprises can be compiled in official statistics by November of the year following the reference year when most of the annual data are available. This frame is used to produce annual business statistics, such as business demography statistics, structural business etc. Unlike the preliminary frame, the final frame covers entities that were active during the calendar year, including those that were only active in the final months of the year. The main source for updating the frame of active economic entities are annual reports. These can also be used to identify the 'signs of life' indicating economic activity of micro-enterprises, i.e. enterprises that are not registered for VAT (annual turnover up to 40,000 euros) and have no paid employees and for which no other sources of information are available.

- The overcoverage of NPIs was reduced using annual accounts data for production of the final frame.
- The coverage of Local units will be improved by use of the data of Employment Register. Project on implementation this register as a source of Local units of all employers is ongoing.

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 2 months before the end of reference year T. Final frame is available 12 months after the reference year T.

Reasons for the time lag:

Financial accounts are the main source for the compilation of final frame. In Estonia an official deadline for the annual accounts of year T is T+6 months.

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.

Actual release date of the preliminary frame, which is used as a sampling frame for data collection in year T+1 is 1st of November of year T. Release never delayed.

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 methodologic al manual for Statistic al 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.

- SBR frames are comparable for reference years 1994 to 2020;
- SBR frames are not comparable for reference year 2021 due to changes in methodology for compiling of the final frame (please see also comments at the end of report);
- There have been changes mainly in number of small enterprises. Unlike the preliminary frame, the final frame covers entities that were active during the calendar

year, including those that were only active in the final months of the year. The main source for updating the frame of active economic entities are annual reports. These can also be used to identify the 'signs of life' indicating economic activity of micro-enterprises, i.e. enterprises that are not registered for VAT (annual turnover up to 40,000 euros) and have no paid employees and for which no other sources of information are available. In 2021, for instance, small enterprises were added to the final frame of active economic entities mainly in service activities. The share of these enterprises in economic indicators such as turnover is not very high.

15.3. Coherence - cross domain

The SBR 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:

The data of BD and BR is incomparable because of different scope. According to the BD Manual: „At present indicators include market oriented legal forms (e.g. limited liability companies, sole proprietors, partnerships, and public corporations), but exclude units in the central and local government sectors“. BR includes units in the central and local government sectors and also Non-profit institutions, which are not market oriented units.

15.4. Coherence - internal

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

16. Cost and Burden

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Not available.

17. Data revision

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17.1. Data revision - policy

Not applicable.

17.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable.

18. Statistical processing

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18.1. Source data

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

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

- Commercial Register
- Tax and Customs Board

- Bank of Estonia
- Financial Supervision Authority (Finantsinspektsioon)
- Estonian Competition Authority (Konkurentsiamet)
- Agricultural Registers and Information Board (ARIB)
- Cultural Endowment of Estonia (Eesti Kultuurkapital)
- Estonian Film Foundation (Eesti Filmi Instituut)
- Estonian Public Broadcasting
- Estonian Education Information System
- Enterprise Estonia
- Estonian Transport Administration (Transpordiamet)
- Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority (Tarbijakaitse ja Tehnilise Järelevalve Amet)
- EGR
- EU national statistical institutes
- Statistical works

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
- Local units - yearly
- Kind of activity units - yearly
- Enterprise groups - quarterly

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: format and file structure are validated for all data received from different sources. Vast majority of those checks are performed on Data Warehouse level automatically.
- Intra-file checks: performed on Data Warehouse level automatically (elimination of duplicates, consistency with relevant classifications like NACE, unexpected dramatic change of file size etc).
- Intra-domain, intra-source checks (e.g time series checks): time series checks during the preparation of new frame (size and composition of the frame).
- Intra-domain, inter-source checks (e.g. mirror checks): data from different statistical surveys and from data collection are used to validate updates to BR (PRODCOM, SBS, STS).
- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI: NSBR is used as backbone for all economic statistics and partially for social statistics. All information changes of relevant data is available for data collection and processing experts on regular

basis. On other hand data from different statistical surveys and from data collection are used to validate register data.

- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains outside the NSI: The population of financial sector is compiled in cooperation with Estonian Bank.

18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- For compilation of the frame information is used according to the priority of data sources. According to the rules the first priority has the information received directly from the enterprises – from statistical surveys. The second priority has the information from the Tax Board. The third priority has the information from legal registers, etc.
- The integration of attributes from several sources to create one record and apply priority rules among the sources for each attribute is used. For example number of employees, which is available from several statistical surveys and from Tax Authority. Data received directly from respondents during the short term survey has first priority.

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

The preliminary frame is compiled every year by the beginning of November. It is a database of economically active units, forming a sampling frame for all economic statistics. The frame is used for providing samples for the structural statistics of the same year and for the short-term statistics of the next year. Economically active units and all units which have been active during at least a part of the reference period are included in the survey frame.

The first version of the frame is compiled in mid-September. The population of active units is determined on the basis of administrative and statistical data, most notably the existence of the turnover and the number of persons employed. This provisional survey frame is, with the co-operation of statisticians, checked and modified as necessary. By the beginning of November the final version of the preliminary survey frame is compiled, and the data on it is disseminated to statisticians for formation of samples. The samples are drawn from the frame outside of the register in co-operation between methodologists and statisticians. The samples are stored and maintained in BR.

Once the preliminary frozen frame is compiled, data in it is modified only in exceptional cases, such as if the economic unit has at least 50 employees or if the unit is significant in its field. The modifications are approved in a monthly special meeting, in which statisticians from relevant statistical fields participate.

A final frame of active economic entities was compiled for the first time for the year 2021. The final frame of active enterprises can be compiled in official statistics by November of the year following the reference year when most of the annual data are available. This frame is used to produce annual business statistics, such as business demography statistics, structural business etc. Unlike the preliminary frame, the final frame covers entities that were active during the calendar year, including those that were only active in the final months of the year. The main source for updating the frame of active economic entities are annual reports. These can also be used to identify the 'signs of life' indicating economic activity of micro-enterprises, i.e. enterprises that are not registered for VAT (annual turnover up to 40,000 euros) and have no paid employees and for which no other sources of information are available.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

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The final frame of active economic entities was compiled for the first time for the year 2021.

There is following threshold was decided for enterprises in final frame:

Employees > 0 or sales revenue \geq 781 euros or investments \geq 5000 euros.

Unlike the in preliminary itial frame, the final frame covers entities that were active during the calendar year, including those that were only active in the final months of the year. The main source for updating the frame of active economic entities are annual reports. These can also be used too identify the 'signs of life' indicating economic activity of micro-enterprises, i.e. enterprises that are not registered for VAT (annual turnover up too 40,000 euros) and have no paid employees and for which no other sources of information are available. In 2021, for instance, small enterprises were added too the final frame of active economic entities mainly in service activities. The share of these enterprises in economic indicators such as turnover is not very high.

Statistics Estonia is currently redesigning the process of creating local and kind of activity units.

Project on implementation new administrative data source (Employment Register) for this data is ongoing. Therefore for year 2021 the data on both type of units was estimated based on Enterprise level figures.

Related metadata

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Annexes

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