

# National statistical business register - Liechtenstein



National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX

Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: Office of Statistics  
Liechtenstein

## Eurostat metadata

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## 1. Contact

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<b>1.1. Contact organisation</b>	Office of Statistics Liechtenstein
<b>1.2. Contact organisation unit</b>	Office of Statistics Liechtenstein
<b>1.5. Contact mail address</b>	Aeulestrasse 51 9490 Vaduz Liechtenstein

## 2. Metadata update

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<b>2.1. Metadata last certified</b>	30/06/2023
<b>2.2. Metadata last posted</b>	12/07/2023
<b>2.3. Metadata last update</b>	30/06/2023

## 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 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 shall 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 [not yet implemented].

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, legal form, legal activity status;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre [not yet implemented].

Liechtenstein's NSBR data are currently held and maintained in an administration-wide administrative register (Zentrales Personenregister / "Central Persons Register"). Not all concepts required by the regulations governing NSBRs are implemented in this administrative register. Missing are notably enterprise groups and related control/ownership information, as well as information on turnover. Consequentially, the variable "employment" (being non-zero) is the relevant criterion for the inclusion of enterprises into the NSBR and defining units as "active", serving as a proxy for contribution to the GDP. This means that units without registered

employment are not part of the NSBR. Fixed frames (preliminary, final) are drawn from this register for statistical work. The creation of an independent NSBR for statistical purposes only, in accordance with the relevant regulations, is planned.

### 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](#));
- Legal Form: National classification of legal forms based on national legislation.
- Country Code: List of 2-digit ISO country codes

### 3.3. Coverage - sector

The coverage of the national statistical business registers for EU-countries is defined in the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) on European business statistics. Since Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 has not yet been incorporated into the EEA Agreement, [Regulation \(EC\) No 177/2008](#) still applies to Liechtenstein.

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.

*For country-specific limitations of Liechtenstein's NSBR regarding coverage, refer to item 3.1 (last paragraph).*

### 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**

Liechtenstein is exempted from reporting turnover.

#### **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 \(2021 edition\)](#).

*For country-specific differences and limitations of Liechtenstein's NSBR regarding concepts and definitions, refer to item 3.1 (last paragraph).*

### **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. *Liechtenstein has not yet implemented enterprise groups in the BR.*
- **Kind of activity unit (KAU)** - the kind of activity unit groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at class level (four digits) of NACE and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise. The enterprise's information system must be capable of indicating or calculating for each KAU at least the value of production, intermediate consumption, manpower costs, the operating surplus and employment and gross fixed capital formation.
- **Local unit** - the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which - save for certain exceptions - one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

### 3.6. Statistical population

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

The national statistical business register comprises the following units and applies the following thresholds (if any):

- Legal unit: all active and inactive units
- Local unit: all active and inactive units
- Enterprise: all active and inactive units
- Truncated enterprise groups + multinational enterprise groups: partly available, but held in a separate database. Not yet part of the NSBR.

*For country-specific limitations of the NSBR regarding the statistical population, refer to item 3.1 (last paragraph).*

### 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 the year 2000.

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

- Enterprise group – not implemented.
- Enterprise – preliminarily implemented and maintained since 2001.
- Local unit – preliminarily implemented and maintained since 2000.
- Kind of activity unit – preliminarily implemented and maintained since 2000.

### 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 not recorded, as Liechtenstein is exempted from reporting turnover.

## 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 the reference year 2021.

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

## 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;
- Since Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 has not yet been incorporated into the EEA Agreement, [Regulation \(EC\) No 177/2008](#) still applies to Liechtenstein.

Legal acts and other agreements - national level

- Statistikgesetz [[Law on Statistics](#)]
- Statistikverordnung [[Statistics Ordinance](#)]

### 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, data access to the administrative register that is used to maintain NSBR data is governed by the Law on the Central Persons Register ([Gesetz über das Zentrale Personenregister, ZPRG](#)). Access is granted to public institutions which have a legal basis for access by decision of a commission (ZPR-Kommission). Consequentially, no confidential data may be incorporated into the register.

## 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:

- Statistikgesetz [[Law on Statistics](#)]
- Statistikverordnung [[Statistics Ordinance](#)]
- National Legislation on Data

Protection: <https://www.datenschutzstelle.li/rechtsgrundlagen/nationale-gesetze>

### 7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

National legislation defines the rules for data treatment in the Central Persons Register, which is used to maintain the NSBR data:

- Gesetz über das Zentrale Personenregister [[Law on the Central Persons Register](#)]
- Verordnung über das Zentrale Personenregister [[Ordinance on the Central Persons Register](#)]
- Statistikverordnung [[Statistics Ordinance](#)]

## 8. Release policy

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### 8.1. Release calendar

Preliminary frames of the national statistical business register become available according to the statistical user needs, as follows:

- T+ 4 months to all relevant domains.

The final frame of the national statistical business register becomes available to all relevant statistical domains in T+ 7 months.

### 8.2. Release calendar access

Release calendar for publications based on the NSBR

frames: <https://www.statistikportal.li/de/anwendungen-datenbanken/erscheinungskalender>

### 8.3. Release policy - user access

NSBR frames are generally available to users within the NSI only, as it is the only producer of official statistics in the country. Requests for data from third parties are handled individually based on the provisions of the Law on Statistics. Data derived from the NSBR are accessible to users as statistical publications:

- Statistikportal (full publications): <https://www.statistikportal.li/>
- eTab-Portal (interactive tables): <https://etab.llv.li/>

## 9. Frequency of dissemination

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

- annual

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+7 months. The annual copy is kept for 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

## 10. Accessibility and clarity

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### 10.1. Dissemination format - News release

not applicable

### 10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

not applicable

### 10.3. Dissemination format - online database

not applicable

### 10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

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

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

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

- Microdata can be provided to third parties under the provisions of the Law on Statistics and under an individual contract ensuring confidentiality and data protection.

### 10.5. Dissemination format - other

Aggregated data on the national statistical business register are provided annually to Eurostat in electronic form via EDAMIS.

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.

Specific information on data collection, treatment and the production of preliminary and final frames of the NSBR is given in the document on Methodology and Quality (Methodik und Qualität) of the publication on employment (Beschäftigung):

<https://www.statistikportal.li/de/themen/arbeit-und-erwerb/beschaeftigung>

### 10.7. Quality management - documentation

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

Information on data quality in the NSBR can be found in the document on Methodology and Quality (Methodik und Qualität) of the publication on employment

(Beschäftigung): <https://www.statistikportal.li/de/themen/arbeit-und-erwerb/beschaeftigung>

## 11. Quality management

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### 11.1. Quality assurance

Data quality management in the administrative Central Persons Register is governed by the [Law on the Central Persons Register](#) and the [Ordinance on the Central Persons Register](#).

The quality of the NSBR data in the administrative register is currently assured by applying a series of quality assurance procedures in the course of the yearly production cycle of the frames.

The data of the live register are validated monthly using a set of 46 predefined validation rules and corrections to the data are subsequently applied. In the context of the production of the preliminary and final frames, an extended set of validation rules is applied, and corrections are performed repeatedly until all validation errors are corrected. This process is described in detail in a yearly internal End-Of-Process Report and documented in internal handbooks and guidelines.

### 11.2. Quality management - assessment

The quality of the NSBR is currently monitored according the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

A self-assessment of the data quality is performed yearly in the course of the preparation of the End-Of-Process Report. The overall quality of the main NSBR variables, which are regularly updated by different offices of the national administration, has been considered as good in the past years.

However, a formal quality management for the administrative register, as well as the implementation of an NSBR for statistical purposes and compliant to the legislation are missing so far, but planned.

## 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.

Currently, the following statistical domains rely fully or partly on NSBR data:

- Employment statistics (fully)
- National accounts (partly)
- other domains (partly)

A better integration of the domains of economic statistics and the introduction of new statistical outputs are planned in the course of the establishment of an independent NSBR (see item 3.1).

## 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 SBR User Survey 2020 showed 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](#).

At a national level, no formal survey among NSBR users is conducted due to the small size of the NSI (the only producer of official statistics in the country). Only a user survey among users of statistical output is conducted every 4 years (last issue 2023).

## 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).

Current limitations on data completeness and missing variables are described in item 3.1 (last paragraph). Notably, data on enterprise groups are missing from the NSBR. Data relevant for EGR are kept separately from the NSBR and are so far incomplete due to insufficient data sources. Nevertheless, data has been transmitted in the context of EGR since 2019.

# 13. Accuracy

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## 13.1. Accuracy - overall

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

- Undercoverage/Overcoverage: Both are considered as minor. Few small enterprises may be missing employment information in the register and therefore not be part of the NSBR despite providing employment because of missing notifications. Equally few smaller enterprises may still have registered employment while having ceased operations due to non-response in the full survey at the end of the year.
- Measurement errors employment: Errors in employment information are usually corrected by means of a yearly full survey (for companies which do not report consistent monthly employment data).
- The response rate in the full survey at the end of the year regarding the local units was 96.2% as of 31.12.2021.
- The response rate in the full survey at the end of the year regarding the persons employed with the local units was 99.2% as of 31.12.2021.

No actions to reduce bias (if any) and to improve accuracy of the data were taken.

### 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 4 months after the reference year T.

Final frame is available 7 months after the reference year T.

The yearly cycle for frame production includes the processing of monthly notifications after the end of the reference year (January), the yearly full survey (February - April) and a survey of unknown employment (May - June). The final frame becomes available only after the surveys.

### 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+4 Months (all domains)
- final frame T+7 Months (all domains)

Frames for the year 2021 were available on time.

## 15. Coherence and comparability

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### 15.1. Comparability - geographical

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

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

### 15.2. Comparability - over time

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

- In 2008 the national NACE classification (NOGA) was revised. This led to small shifts between categories, however without seriously hampering comparability.

- In 2009, the lower threshold for the level of employment (FTE) was changed. From 2009 on, employees with an FTE of 2% were counted as employees. Until 2008, only employees with a FTE of 15% and more were counted. This led to an increase in employees and FTE.

### 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.

As some economic statistics are only partly based on the NSBR, a lack of coherence exists between different domains (e.g. employment statistics which is fully based on the NSBR and includes only enterprises with employed persons, and national accounts, which are only partly based on the NSBR and also include enterprises without employed persons).

#### 15.4. Coherence - internal

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

## 16. Cost and Burden

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The monthly employment notifications and the yearly full survey on employment pose some burden on the enterprises. However, as the process is fully electronic and as the notifications simultaneously serve other administrative purposes as well (requirements of the Law on Foreigners, requirements related to social insurances), the burden is considered acceptable.

## 17. Data revision

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### 17.1. Data revision - policy

Preliminary data: April (annually)

Final data: July (annually)

### 17.2. Data revision - practice

Usually there is one data revision each year: preliminary data (frame) is revised with the creation of the final data. The difference of the total employment between the preliminary frame and the final frame is +/- 0.5% (target).

## 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.

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

- The NSBR is part of an administration-wide live administrative register (Central Persons Register) and updated continuously by various offices of the national administration, notably as a company register and a trade register.
- Data on employment is collected by the NSI via monthly notifications from businesses (especially larger companies), complemented by a yearly data collection from companies that do not use the monthly notifications.

### 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 regarding employment in the national statistical business register is as follows:

- Legal units - monthly notifications and yearly survey.
- Enterprises - monthly notifications and yearly survey
- Local units - monthly notifications and yearly survey
- Kind of activity units - monthly notifications and yearly survey
- Enterprise groups - yearly (commercial data provider, online information)

As the register is a live register, updates on most other variables occur continuously throughout the year.

### 18.3. Data collection

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

For an overview on the performed data validation procedures, see item 11.1 (quality assurance).

### 18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- not applicable

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

- not applicable.

### 18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

## 19. Comment

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