National statistical business register - Spain

National Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: National Statistical Institute of Spain

Eurostat metadata

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: Eurostat user support

1. Contact   Top

1.1. Contact organisation	National Statistical Institute of Spain
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2. Metadata update   Top

2.1. Metadata last certified	30/05/2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	30/05/2023
2.3. Metadata last update	30/05/2023

3. Statistical presentation   Top

3.1. Data description

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

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

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

- all enterprises carrying out economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) and their local units;
- the legal units of which those enterprises consist;

- the kind of activity unit for those enterprises which due to their size have a significant influence and whose kind-of-activity units (KAUs) have a significant influence on the aggregated (national) data;
- enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.
- Other administrative units serving as a basis to build the above mentioned statistical units.

Households shall not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

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

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

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

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

The purposes of statistical business registers are:

- To provide a tool for the preparation and co-ordination of surveys;
- To be a source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography;
- To establish links with administrative sources;
- To identify and delineate statistical units.

The Directorio Central de Empresas (DIRCE) is the National Statistical Business Register of the NSI. It contains economic information on resident enterprises, their constituent legal units, the local units where economic activities are carried out and the enterprise groups in which the enterprises operate. This infrastructural tool provides solutions for the National Statistical system under different formats:

- Outputs.- Central frames serving for the preparation and co-ordination of economic surveys; central reference for statistical analysis of the business population.
- Products.- Representative samples for the business surveys and official dissemination of aggregates.
- Services.- A big variety of tailor-made requests, formulated by internal and external users.

The DIRCE also plays a central role as a core data source in the development of strategic ESS projects (Euro Groups Register) and other international initiatives (Business Demography Statistics, Dynemp Project,..).

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);
- MUNICIP GEOGRAPHICAL CODE NUTS LEVEL 5 SEE ANNEX
- PROVINCE GEOGRAPHICAL CODE NUTS LEVEL 3 SEE ANNEX
- REGION GEOGRAPHICAL CODE NUTS LEVEL 2 SEE ANNEX
- COUNTRY LIST OF 2-DIGITS ISO COUNTRY CODE SEE ANNEX
- LEGAL FORM NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF LEGAL FORMS SEE ANNEX
- NACE NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES;
- CNAE 2009 (BASED ON NACE R.2). 4-DIGIT LEVEL SEE ANNEX
- STATUS STATUS OF ACTIVITY OF THE UNIT SEE ANNEX
- EMPLOY_STR EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASSES SEE ANNEX
- REF_ADU REFERENCE TO CUSTOM FILES SEE ANNEX
- REF_BC REFERENCE TO CENTRAL BANK FILES SEE ANNEX
- SECTOR_I INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR ACCORDING TO ESA SEE ANNEX

Annexes:
CODE LIST USED IN DIRCE

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.

The national statistical business register covers the following sectors:

- Enterprises carrying on economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP);
- Their local units;
- The Kind of Activity units of which those enterprises consist;
- The legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- Enterprise groups (association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links).

There are not restrictions regarding the geographical coverage, the size or the legal form of the units .However, some activities can be under represented, although only very small units involved (associations, foundations, other no lucrative institutions or agricultural units without employment).

Households shall not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

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

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

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

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

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.

Legal units variables:

Identification variables

- Identity number for legal units.
- Name
- Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
- Telephone number, email address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
- Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, other administrative identity number

Demographic characteristics

- Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons.

- Date on which the legal unit ceased

Stratification parameters

- Legal form
- Reference to the register of intra-EU operators and reference to customs files or to the register of extra-EU operators
- Reference to balance sheet data (for units required to publish accounts), reference to the balance of payments register or foreign direct investment register, and reference to the farm register.

Links with enterprise group

- Identity number of the enterprise group to which the unit belongs
- Date of association to the enterprise group
- Date of separation from the enterprise group

Control of units

- Identity number(s) of resident legal unit(s) which is/are controlled by the legal unit
- Identity number of the resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
- Country/ies of registration, identity number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the non-resident legal unit(s), which are controlled by the legal unit.
- country of registration, identity number, name and address of the non-resident legal unit, which controls the legal unit.

Ownership of units

- Identity number(s) and shares (%) of resident legal unit(s), which own(s) the legal unit
- Country/ies of registration and identity number(s) and name(s), address(es) and VAT number(s) and
- shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit

Local unit variables
Identification variables

- Identity number
- Name
- Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
- Identity number of the Enterprise to wich the local unit belongs

Demographic events

- Date of commencement of activities
- Date of final cessation of activities

Stratification parameters and economic variables

- Principal activity code at NACE 4-digit level
- Secondary activities, if any, at NACE 4-digit level; this point concerns only local units that are the subject of surveys
- activity carried out in the local unit constituting an ancillary activity of the enterprise to which it belongs (yes/no)
- Number of employees and self-employed persons
- Number of employees
- Geographical location code

Links to other units and registers

- Reference to register(s) in which the local unit appears and containing information that can be used for statistical purposes

Enterprise variables
Identification variables

- Identity number
- Name
- Postal, email and website addresses
- Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists

Demographic events

- Date of commencement of activities
- Date of final cessation of activities

Stratification parameters and economic variables

- Principal activity code at NACE 4-digit level
- Secondary activities, if any, at NACE 4-digit level
- Number of employees and self-employed persons
- Number of employees
- Turnover
- Turnover for agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing; public administration anddefence, compulsory social security; private households with employed persons and activities of extraterritorial organisations
- Institutional sector and subsector

Link with enterprise group

- Identity number of all the resident/truncated Enterprise group to wich the Enterprise belongs

Kind-of-activity unit variables

- Activity code at NACE 4-digit level
- Size (for example turnover, employment) of the kind-of-activity unit
- Identity number of the enterprise of which the kind-of-activity unit is part

Enterprise group variables
Identification variables

- Identity number(s). Conditional for EGR identity number if the enterprise group is multinational.
- Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise group
- Name of the enterprise group, for multinational groups the EGR name
- Identity number of the legal unit being global decision centre. If the GDC is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a.
- Country of registration of the GDC, if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
- Postal and email addresses of the GDC
- Identity number of the legal unit being the GGH. If the GGH is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a.
- Country of registration, postal and email address of the GGH; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
- Country of residence of the ultimate controlling institutional unit (UCI), if the controlling unit is a natural person who is not an economic operator
- Type of enterprise group

Demographic events

- Date of commencement of the enterprise group
- Date of cessation of the enterprise group

Stratification parameters and economic variables

- Principal activity code of the enterprise group at NACE 2-digit level; if multinational group, the EGR principal activity code
- secondary activities of the enterprise group at NACE 2-digit level; if multinational group, the EGR secondary activity code
- number of employees and self-employed persons in the enterprise group; if multinational group, the EGR number of employees and self-employed persons
- Consolidated global turnover
- countries where non-resident enterprises or local units are located

More information on statistical concepts and definitions relevant to the statistical business registers could be found in the EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers (2021 edition).

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical units maintained in the national statistical business register are defined in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community, as follows:

- **Enterprise -** the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.
- **Enterprise group -** an enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production,

sales and profits. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic entity, which is empowered to make choices, particularly concerning the units, which it comprises.

- **Kind of activity unit (KAU)** - the kind of activity unit groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at class level (four digits) of NACE and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise. The enterprise's information system must be capable of indicating or calculating for each KAU at least the value of production, intermediate consumption, manpower costs, the operating surplus and employment and gross fixed capital formation.
- **Local unit** - the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which - save for certain exceptions - one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

3.6. Statistical population

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

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

- Legal unit
- Local unit
- Kind of Activity unit
- Enterprise
- All resident enterprise group
- Truncated enterprise group
- Multinational 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 1993 (year).

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

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2008 .
- Legal unit - implemented and mainteained since 1993.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 2018 .
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 1993 .
- Kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained since 2020.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure Top

The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.

The net turnover is recorded in Euro/national currency units except for Multinational enterprise group where it's recorded in million euro.

5. Reference Period Top

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 2020 reference year.

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

6. Institutional Mandate Top

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 12/1989, of 9 May, on the National Statistics
  http://www.ine.es/ss/Satellitec=Page&p=1259935160024&pagename=INE%2FINELayout&cid=1259935160024&L=1

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:

- Collaboration agreement (confidential) with TAX Office.
- Collaboration agreement (confidential) with Social Security Office.

7. Confidentiality

7.1. Confidentiality - policy

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164) on European statistics stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

The following policy rules are applied at national level:

- Law 12/1989 on the National Statistics establishes that the NSI cannot disseminate individual data or even aggregated data which can easily lead to the identification of a person or entity.
- Access to micro data of the DIRCE is permitted for the above mentioned National Authorities under strict conditions of confidentiality and security.

7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

8. Release policy

8.1. Release calendar

The preliminary frames of the national statistical business register are released according to the statistical user needs, as follows:

- T+ 6 months to STS domain;
- T+ 10 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 10 months to FATS;
- T+ 6 months to ITGS;
- T+ 10 months to ITSS;
- T+ 13 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T+ 10 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 10 months to R&D;
- T+ 7 months to (other domains).

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 11 months for all external and internal users.

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:

- Preliminary frame: Microdata access.- On request and under format of representative samples (Sample Design Unit is in charge of this matter). Only for NAs.
- Final frame:
  - Microdata access - On request with several possibilities: Representative samples or copies of Target Populations. Only for NAs
  - Macrodata access - Disseminated according to a calendar of Publications available in the official web of the NSI. General public access.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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

- Preliminary frame: Annual. Our model is a system of frozen frames, similar to the EGR.
- Final frame: Annual. Our model is a system of frozen frames, similar to the EGR.

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+ 11 months. The annual copy is kept for 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1. Dissemination format - News release

- Basic figures on number of enterprises breakdown by activity, size, age and geographical area.

10.2. Dissemination format - Publications

Results of the DIRCE are disseminated by data tables. Figures are divided in three paragraps: Enterprise data, Local Units data and movements data.

http://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/en/operacion.htm?
c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736160707&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735576550

10.3. Dissemination format - online database

All DIRCE microdata are available through the SI_DIRCE interface. Only internal users responsible for Business Statistics and National Accounts Units. Link to online database is only available for INTRANET users.

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:

- SI_DIRCE representative samples.
- Target populations.

NSI exchange microdata with NCB for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers in order to ensure the quality of multinational enterprise group information in the European Union.

Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers via secured environment according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes.

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 and internal users.

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

10.6. Documentation on methodology

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

10.7. Quality management - documentation

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

Standardized Methodological Report and GSBPM applied to the DIRCE can be considered as Quality Reports.
http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?
oe=30203
Several indicators and analysis tables are internally produced in order to monitor the quality and consistency
of all steps of the DIRCE production cycle

11. Quality management Top

11.1. Quality assurance

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

- Legislation concerning quality assurance, Task Forces or Working Groups, etc.
    - Managers of the NBR usually participate in all fora related with the management of BRs, the promotion of proper legal basis for BRs and quality issues. The agreed initiatives are incorporated to the daily work.

- Methodological standards and guidelines assuring the quality of the production process and the output
    - Statistical standards linked to BRs are continuously monitored by the BR and Metadata Units.
    - Mannual of recommendations on BRs (Eurostat) and Guidelines on SBRs (UNECE) are core references in the definition and fine tunning of our national production cycle.

- Data validation procedures in place:

  Quality of the DIRCE is internally managed by the BR Unit during all steps of the cycle. It involves:

    -
        - Reception and tasks derived for input sources.- A personalized
        - validation and quality program is implemented, regarding their
        - specificities.
        - Integration processes.- All different levels of integration are
        - monitored by means of specific indicators, analysis tables and
        - micro-validation activities.
        - DIRCE final frame is subject to validation from static and dynamic
        - points of view. A detailed comparative analysis regarding the
        - previous versions is carried out.
- Quality assessment activities undertaken
    - In addition to the actions described in the previous paragraph, other actions like detection and elimination of duplicates are undertaken during integration processes.
    - Quality assessment is also externally undertaken, through the actions of the Subject Matter Units in the development of business surveys. Some quality indicators (related to accuracy) are derived.

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:

- Main strengths and weaknesses according to the standard quality criteria:
    - S: Stable business process. BR uses widely implemented. Clear documentation. Product/Tool well known by the ES society
    - W: Resources clearly underestimated. Possible risk of maintenance continuity. Almost null possibilities to undertake additional Q actions.
- Degree of EU harmonisation and standardisation
    - Definitions, systems of clasification (NUTS,
    - NACE,..) and management of the information (both static and
    - dynamic points of view) are adapted to the EU standards
- Important trade-off decision that had to be made
    - For units with multiple detection in the input sources, some decision rules on classification and assignation of basic variables were changed. In this decision, the opinion and agreements of the Subject Matter Units were crucial elements
- Availability of information on all aspects of data quality - in addition to the documentation mentioned in concept 11 and 12.1
    - GSBPM applied to the production of the DIRCE is available, but currently only for internal purposes
- Quality improvements undertaken in past years
    - More accessibility to BR data for qualified users
    - More data accuracy by a wider use of business surveys in updating basic variables
    - More coverage for information on enterprise groups

- Quality improvements planned
    - A better implementation of the enterprise unit in order to fulfill the SBS requirements
    - Development and implementation (first approaches) of a KAU level in the DIRCE system
    - Increase the uses of the BR as a source for data combination

12. Relevance

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.

Access to BR microdata is allowed for:

- Internal users:
    - All Units involved in the statistical business information (SBS, ST, PRODCOM, Enviromental,...National Accounts)
- External users:
    - Statistical Departments with legal power in official statistics, Central Bank.

Normally, microdata are provided to the NAs under sample format and linked to specific needs (according to the National Statistical Plan/ EC Regulation). In the past year, almost 500.000 statistical units registered in the DIRCE were provided and investigated through SBS, FATS, STS, PRODCOM, Community Innovation, ICT and Environmental surveys.

Other type of requests refer to combination of sources (for example, Customs and BR data) at microdata level. These processes are always carried out by the BR team.

Access to standard BR macrodata is free for public. Each year, the number of accesses to DIRCE information is highly relevant (Top 20 ranking of 185 operations available in the official web page).

A tailor made service is also available for no-standard macrodata requests.

All users are specially considered and the BR team always tries to give efficient answer to their needs. In case of high workload, NAs needs are considered as priority.

Nowadays, the BR production cycle is quite stable. If some improvement or new user need is identified, the way of incorporating changes depends on many critical factors:

- complexity of the IT processes
- new input sources needed, new statistical operation needed,...
- Institutional negotiation and collaboration procedure

According to this opportunity analysis, the decisions are made. The innovations are ussually incorporated and consolidated in the current or following cycle however, other more complex cases need additional periods to be implemented.

There are mainly two reasons to unmet user needs:

- Demand of BR microdata, when the user do not satisfy the proper rights access
- Demand of BR macrodata extremely detailed, for which (even technically feasible) it is not possible to guarantee both confidentiality and minimun quality standards

There are several ways to collect information about user needs:

- Directly sent to the BR Unit / General Directorate (by institutional letter, by e-mail,...)
- Channeled through the Dissemination Unit (User Support Service, INFOINE,..) and according to an agreed protocol.
- Channeled through our Provincial Offices
- Inter Departamental or internal meetings (for monitoring collaboration agreements, coordination of shared activities,...).

A prerequisite for evaluation is established by written procedure. If the user need is feasible, sometimes additional information is required by electronic way. In other cases, joint meetings are set up in order to clearly define the terms of reference.

12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

Since 2017, Eurostat together with the EU Member States conducts SBR user survey addressing users and potential users of the national statistical business registers (NSBR) and the EuroGroups Register (EGR).

The latest SBR User Survey 2022 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 had either no issue or manageable issue regarding business registers coverage, units, variables, timeliness and frequency of frames.

The results of the SBR User Surveys are available on CIRCABC.

As a general conclusion, users have a good perception of the NSI statistics regarding quality. Although the DIRCE is not explicitly included in the questionnaire, it is implicit in two of the categories covered: industrial statistics and services statistics, both rated positively by users and reported to the Quality unit, INE.

The successive cycles of production are subject to diverse quality improvements, as a result of a continuous evaluation of the user needs and their progressive implementation in the daily work.

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).

13. Accuracy Top

13.1. Accuracy - overall

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

- Undercoverage
- Overcoverage
- Misclassification
- Measurement error due to wrong identification

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

Indirect checks based on employment Sources (Social Security data, Labour Force Survey).

All sources available on EGs are used for the NBR Enterprise Groups system.

Duplicates Control is a systematic task carried out in the integration processess. Units identified as duplicates do not take part in the final frame from which samples are selected. During the data collection of ES, the rate of duplicates is not relevant (SBS information).

Similarly, control of duplicates on LEUs belonging to Groups and Enterprise Groups are systematically carried out.
Misclassification

According Economic Surveys (ES), during the data collection of ES, the number of changes of NACE represents:

- 7,1 % (DIVISION level) of the sample
- 2,9 % (GROUP level) of the sample
- 2,2 % (CLASS level) of the sample

These changes only affect small and new units because ES is the autoritative source of SBR for this variable.

For most important EGs, main NACE codes are directly gcollected from official information (Annual Reports). In a second step, this information is revised, prior to be sent to the EGR. There's a very low level of misclassification.

Control of Identification variables is a systematic task carried out both in the DQP of each source and the integration processess.

According to Economic surveys (ES), during the data collection of ES, the number of changes of ID is about 0,1% of the sample. It is not possible to know the reasons for these changes (wrong IDs, real changes happened in the period,...)

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

14. Timeliness and punctuality Top

14.1. Timeliness

Preliminary frames are available 5 months after the reference year T.

Final frame is available 11 months after the reference year T.

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

Reasons for the time lag:

- Administrative sources timetable
- Survey resultsv timetable

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 (level LEU). No uses t+5
- Second frame (level LEU/LOU). For EGR_IS, STS surveys and Official Publication t+5
- Preliminary frame (level GROUP). For EGR_IS, foreign controling LEUs t+7
- Final frame (level LEU/LOU) t+10
- Definitive frame (level GROUP/ENT/LEU/LOU). For EGR_CORE, Business Statistics and particularly, the generation of all BD indicators t+11

There's no delay in any deliver.

15. Coherence and comparability

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).

There are no geographical differences.- The sources used for the identification and geographical location of the statistical units have not changed since 1993. The integration processes have always been carried out under the same conditions. The stability of sources and procedures make possible geographical comparability according to the NUTS levels available.

15.2. Comparability - over time

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

15.3. Coherence - cross domain

The NSBR frame provides information on the active population of enterprises carrying out economic activities which contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP), the legal units of which those enterprises consist of, local units, kind of activity units and enterprise groups, incl. all-resident and multinational enterprise groups.

The national statistical business register is used by statistical users as a coordinated frame population in order to derive consistent statistical output.

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

The systematic use of the DIRCE as central frame substantially contributes to improve the coherence of STS and SBS data. For both statistical domains, samples are selected with a large degree of overlapping. Similarly for INFATS and SBS data because the first sample is a subsample of the second one.

DIRCE aggregates should be coherent with SBS aggregates. However, "Total number of enterprises" differ, although discrepancies are dismishing in succesive cycles. Apart from the different nature of these aggregates (direct data VS estimated data) the main reason for no coherence, should be identified after a serious evaluation of all steps linked to the data Production chain.

15.4. Coherence - internal

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

Coherence rules are systematically applied to the statistical units in the relational model. In addition, the main variables linked to the related statistical units are subject to consistency analysis. This allows to guarantee relevant degrees of internal coherence for the DIRCE microdata.

16. Cost and Burden

Not available.

17. Data revision

17.1. Data revision - policy

The DIRCE team is continuously open to revisions of data and/or procedures. This policy is consistent with the satisfaction of the user needs and data quality improvement.

When a frame is produced (see dates included in punctuality), a proper revision of results is carried out. Several analysis tables, indicators or micro data lists are obtained in order to detect potential problems or inconsistencies. If results are not acceptable, the procedures are revised and a new frame version is produced. For publication purposes, specific revisions are undertaken in November t+1. As a general rule, the published aggregates have final status and consequently, no subject to revision. Only in exceptional situations, it is possible the correction including an explanatory note.

Annually several data revisions are undertaken: 28 initial revisions, one for each input source 5 revisions for the different frames produced in the cycle.

The DIRCE cycle of production is completely monitored, from its starting to the publication of results or the provision of samples.

This policy is consistent with the Quality standards and favours its wide use by Producers and National Accountants.

17.2. Data revision - practice

"Not applicable"

18. Statistical processing

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:

- (1) Census of Economic Activities Tax (State and Navarra)
- (2) Pay As You Earn Deductions (State and Navarra)
- (3)Contribution Accounts of the Social Security Register
- (4) Self Employed Social Security Register
- (5) Business Register of País Vasco
- (6) Business Statistics (several databases)
- (7) VAT, Company Tax and Personal Income Tax (Estate and Navarra)
- (8) LEUs with Turnover (Central Banc)
- (9) Custom Databases (Import/Export) data on goods
- (10) Tax enterprise groups
- (11) INFORMA Global database
- (12) DUN & BRADSTREET global database

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 - Annual
- Enterprises - Annual
- Local units - Annual
- Kind of activity units - Annual
- Enterprise groups - Annual

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. Our data collection is based on the use and integration of multiple administrative and statistical sources (mainly surveys). 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

  This is the preliminary step of our specific Data Quality Programm applied to each input source. Normally, a systematic sample of predefinided size is selected for evaluation.

- Intra-file checks

Next step is the production of a stable set of analysis tables (SAT), combinning all core variables.

Internal data consistency is undertaken by means of the application of a set of deterministic rules. Erroneous elementary units are properly identified and quantified. An intermediate decision rule is made (Accept/Reject)

Qualitative /Coding variables are checked against Official Lists (NACE, NUTS,.) . Errors or missing values are properly identified and quantified. An intermediate decision rule is made (Accept/Reject)

- Intra-domain, intrasource checks (e.g time series checks)

SAT (and microdata) of the year t is compared with similar SAT (and microdata) of the t-1 according to different criteria and levels of detail. In case of anomalous indicators, a more in deep evaluation is carried out. If there is no explanation, a intermediate decision rule is made (Accept/Reject).

Record linkage rutines applied to microdata generates the assignation of the activity status to all elementary units according the referred source.

As final result of these and previous validation activities, a FINAL decision about each input source is made: Acceptance / Rejection.

In the second case, the errors are communicated to the donor Organization and a new improved source is requested. In the first case, the production chain goes on.

- Intra-domain, intersource checks (e.g.mirror checks)

This part is carried out in the diverse activities of data integration.

The main purpose is monitoring the production of the updated frames (preliminary, intermediate and final). Basically, it focuses on the detection rate of the statistical units, according to the nature of the core sources and their comparison with the previous years.

- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI

Inside the INE, the results of the updated frames are compared with the previous year. In addition, employment registered by NACE is compared with our LFS of the same reference year.

- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains outside the NSI

Same kind of activities are undertaken, regarding the employment data provided by the Social Security.

- Any other kind of validation

A wide range of validations is continuously carried out during our national cycle and the interactions with the EGR. Detailed information can be found in subprocesses 4.4, 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4 of the GSBPM applied to DIRCE.

18.5. Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- All integration processes are mainly carried out by record linkage routines, based on the universal presence of unique national IDs.
- Complex enterprises are produced in the last part of the cycle, taking as basis the definitive enterprise groups system and the application of profiling technics.
- A set of decision rules and algorithms is applied in each action. Consistency is monitored by specific analysis tables

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

As we use multiple sources, in most cases we have available decision / priority rules for the variables. There are specific rules for each variable. Not all individual units registered in each input source are incorporated to the NBR. They feed the statistical system only under predefined features (consistent with statistical concepts).

Attributes are updated according predefined rules based on empirical Q reasons. A source can be "the best" for a specific attribute and also can have low priority for other attribute/s.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

Annexes on code variables

Annexes:
CODELIST DIRCE

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Annexes	Top
[CODE LIST USED IN DIRCE](#)	