



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY**

Piraeus, 31 October 2023

BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY, 2021

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on business demography in Greece and specifically, on active enterprises, births of enterprises, deaths of enterprises, high growth enterprises, and for the first time on the young high growth enterprises (gazelles), for the year 2021.

Business demography statistics provide highly policy-relevant information on the economic activities in which newly born enterprises and high-growth enterprises are concentrated, and their resources in terms of human capital, as well as information on the impact of enterprise deaths on employment and the sections of economic activity in which enterprise deaths are classified. For each business demographic event, employment variables are available in order to quantify its importance and depict its impact in the context of the labour market.

More specifically, ELSTAT announces for the reference year 2021 data on:

- The number and total employment of active enterprises, enterprise births and enterprise deaths, by section of economic activity of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2) and by employees' size class or by category of Legal Form of enterprise.
- The number of high growth enterprises and young high growth enterprises¹ and their respective number of employees, by section of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2).

2021 was the first reference year for the implementation of the new regulation of European Business Statistics (EBS), Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Based on the new Regulation and the changes it introduces, new statistics are compiled on business demography and in particular:

- statistics for active enterprises, births and deaths of enterprises for the activities of holding companies and other personal service activities.
- statistics for high growth enterprises for the sections of Education, Health and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.
- statistics for young high growth enterprises (gazelles).

Information on methodological issues:

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¹ The definition of high growth enterprises and young high growth enterprises is available under section "[Methodological Notes](#)", page 12.

Number and total employment of Active enterprises, Births of enterprises and Deaths of enterprises, for the year 2021 (Tables 1, 2 and 3)

The number of active enterprises², in 2021, amounted to 880,349 with total employment 3,234,412 persons. Out of the 880,349 active enterprises, 673,609 were sole proprietorships, while 539,403 had no employees.

The sections with the biggest number of active enterprises were wholesale and retail trade with 223,885 enterprises, accounting for 25.4% of the total number of the above enterprises, professional, scientific and technical activities with 148,596 enterprises, accounting for 16.9%, followed by accommodation and food service activities with 106,072 enterprises corresponding to 12.0%.

The number of enterprise births², in 2021, amounted to 63,597 with total employment 98,824 persons. Out of the 63,597 born enterprises, 46,516 were sole proprietorships, while 50,465 had no employees.

The sections with the biggest number of enterprise births were professional, scientific and technical activities with 12,972 enterprises (20.4%), wholesale and retail trade with 12,438 enterprises (19.6%) followed by accommodation and food service activities with 6,768 enterprises (10.6%).

The number of enterprise deaths², in 2021, amounted to 19,694 with total employment 26,922 persons. Out of the 19,694 dead enterprises, 18,012 were sole proprietorships, while 15,945 had no employees.

The sections with the biggest number of enterprise deaths were wholesale and retail trade with 5,371 enterprises (27.3%), professional, scientific and technical activities with 3,087 enterprises (15.7%) and accommodation and food service activities with 2,941 enterprises (14.9%).

1. ACTIVE ENTERPRISES

1.1. Sections of Economic Activity by Employees' Size Class of the enterprise (Table 1)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of active enterprises by Employees' Size Class are:

- **No Employee:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 120,236 active enterprises.
- **1-4 Employees:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 83,486 active enterprises.
- **5-9 Employees:** Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 13,514 active enterprises.
- **10 Employees or more:** Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 14,282 active enterprises.

1.2. Sections of Economic Activity by category of Legal Form of the enterprise (Tables 3, 4)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of active enterprises by category of Legal Form are:

- **Sole Proprietorships:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 164,621 active enterprises and 292,943 persons employed.
- **Limited Liability Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 20,279 active enterprises and 314,804 persons employed.
- **Partnership Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 38,985 active enterprises and 193,208 persons employed.

² The economic activities covered by business demography are NACE Rev.2 sections B to N, and P to R and divisions S95 and S96.

2. BIRTHS OF ENTERPRISES

2.1. Sections of Economic Activity by Employees' Size Class of the enterprise (Table 1)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of enterprise births by Employees' Size Class are:

- **No Employees:** Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities, with 12,176 enterprise births.
- **1-4 Employees:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 3,186 enterprise births.
- **5-9 Employees:** Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 721 enterprise births.
- **10 Employees or more:** Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 524 enterprise births.

2.2. Sections of Economic Activity by category of Legal Form of the enterprise (Tables 3, 4)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of enterprise births by category of Legal Form are:

- **Sole Proprietorships:** Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities, with 10,969 enterprise births and 9,927 persons employed.
- **Limited Liability Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 1,455 enterprise births and 2,248 persons employed.
- **Partnership Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 2,356 enterprise births and 5,553 persons employed.

3. DEATHS OF ENTERPRISES

3.1. Sections of Economic Activity by Employees' Size Class of the enterprise (Table 1)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of enterprise deaths by Employees' Size Class are:

- **No Employees:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 4,170 enterprise deaths.
- **1-4 Employees:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 1,155 enterprise deaths.
- **5-9 Employees:** Education, with 44 enterprise deaths.
- **10 Employees or more:** Education, with 21 enterprise deaths.

3.2. Sections of Economic Activity by category of Legal Form of the enterprise (Tables 3, 4)

The sections of economic activity with the biggest number of enterprise deaths by category of Legal Form are:

- **Sole Proprietorships:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 4,728 enterprise deaths and 5,579 persons employed.
- **Limited Liability Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 70 enterprise deaths and 223 persons employed.
- **Partnership Enterprises:** Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 573 enterprise deaths and 1,334 persons employed.

4. NUMBER OF HIGH GROWTH ENTERPRISES AND YOUNG HIGH GROWTH ENTERPRISES (GAZELLES) **(Table 5)**

According to the applied statistical definitions:

- High growth enterprises for 2021 are those that had at least 10 employees in 2018, and an average annualised growth in the number of employees bigger than 10 % per annum, during the three-year period 2018 - 2021.
- Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) for 2021 are those that were established in the year 2016 or 2017, had at least 10 employees in 2018 and an average annualised growth in the number of employees bigger than 10% per annum, during the three-year period 2018 - 2021.

The number of high growth enterprises in 2021 amounted to 5,962 enterprises, with 355,341 employees.

The biggest number of high growth enterprises was recorded in the economic activity section Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 1,500 enterprises, accounting for the 25.2% of the total number of the above enterprises and 56,248 employees, followed by section of Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 1,245 enterprises (20.9%) and 74,362 employees and Manufacturing with 923 enterprises (15.5%) and 56,538 employees.

The number of young high growth enterprises in 2021 amounted to 787 enterprises, with 37,602 employees.

The biggest number of young high growth enterprises (gazelles) was recorded in the economic activity section Accommodation and Food Service Activities, with 322 enterprises, accounting for the 40.9% of the total number of the above enterprises and 10,521 employees, followed by section of Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, with 120 enterprises (15.2%) and 3,802 employees and Education with 61 enterprises (7.8%) and 2,258 employees.

Table 1: Number of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, by economic activity (NACE Rev.2) and employees' size class of enterprise, 2021

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	EMPLOYEES' SIZE CLASS																	
	Number of active enterprises						Number of births of enterprises						Number of deaths of enterprises					
	0	1-4	5-9	≥10	Total	%	0	1-4	5-9	≥10	Total	%	0	1-4	5-9	≥10	Total	%
B: Mining and Quarrying	280	165	43	69	557	0.1	x	x	0	0	12	0.0	0	x	0	0	x	x
C: Manufacturing	27,799	19,620	4,119	5,066	56,604	6.4	2,056	580	58	26	2,720	4.3	833	243	x	x	1,093	5.5
D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	8,968	1,676	98	73	10,815	1.2	1,292	48	x	x	1,345	2.1	53	x	x	0	59	0.3
E: Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	965	653	132	211	1,961	0.2	x	x	x	x	126	0.2	21	x	0	0	x	x
F: Construction	47,971	14,298	2,417	2,037	66,723	7.6	4,789	647	69	27	5,532	8.7	845	79	x	x	929	4.7
G: Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	120,236	83,486	11,866	8,297	223,885	25.4	9,036	3,186	170	46	12,438	19.6	4,170	1,155	34	12	5,371	27.3
H: Transportation and Storage	42,548	14,647	1,563	1,687	60,445	6.9	2,813	592	41	21	3,467	5.5	1,241	191	x	x	1,439	7.3
I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities	41,826	36,450	13,514	14,282	106,072	12.0	2,925	2,598	721	524	6,768	10.6	1,909	879	x	x	2,941	14.9
J: Information and Communication	14,116	4,544	789	1,033	20,482	2.3	3,142	327	12	26	3,507	5.5	500	35	0	0	535	2.7
K: Financial and Insurance Activities	12,033	3,000	344	311	15,688	1.8	717	63	x	x	790	1.2	265	x	0	x	289	1.5
L: Real Estate Activities	8,250	2,905	354	305	11,814	1.3	1,146	180	x	x	1,337	2.1	58	x	x	0	76	0.4
M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	118,484	25,819	2,487	1,806	148,596	16.9	12,176	749	28	19	12,972	20.4	2,898	186	x	x	3,087	15.7
N: Administrative and Support Service Activities	12,996	7,551	1,286	1,526	23,359	2.7	1,961	386	29	25	2,401	3.8	496	74	x	x	572	2.9
P: Education	11,712	5,006	2,380	2,872	21,970	2.5	1,688	217	76	59	2,040	3.2	525	108	44	21	698	3.5
Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities	41,936	14,461	2,163	1,732	60,292	6.8	3,576	302	66	35	3,979	6.3	1,139	98	11	10	1,258	6.4
R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	9,978	6,047	1,337	816	18,178	2.1	1,335	318	43	46	1,742	2.7	348	105	14	4	471	2.4
S: Other Service Activities	19,305	11,618	1,393	592	32,908	3.7	1,709	646	53	13	2,421	3.8	644	x	x	x	846	4.3
Total	539,403	251,946	46,285	42,715	880,349	100.0	50,465	10,867	1,384	881	63,597	100.0	15,945	3,395	249	105	19,694	100.0

Notes: From section "S: Other service activities", activities of membership organisations (NACE Rev. 2: 94) are excluded.

"x": The data are not disclosed for statistical confidentiality reasons regarding the protection of the identity of the reporting enterprises.

Table 2: Total employment of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, by economic activity (NACE Rev.2), 2021

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		Total persons employed in the population of		
NACE Rev.2 Code	Description	Active enterprises	Births of enterprises	Deaths of enterprises
B	Mining and Quarrying	5,387	11	x
C	Manufacturing	365,428	3,807	1,625
D	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	30,613	303	55
E	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	15,359	275	x
F	Construction	167,62	6,679	986
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	800,955	16,662	7,136
H	Transportation and Storage	166,127	4,111	1,577
I	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	633,882	26,551	5,556
J	Information and Communication	97,459	4,923	553
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	74,171	945	302
L	Real Estate Activities	24,678	1,213	93
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	264,85	13,36	3,068
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	149,079	3,326	654
P	Education	135,03	3,991	1,56
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities	168,807	5,366	1,657
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	60,794	3,757	924
S	Other Service Activities	74,173	3,544	1,143
Total		3,234,412	98,824	26,922

Notes: From section "S: Other service activities", activities of membership organisations (NACE Rev. 2: 94) are excluded.
"x": The data are not disclosed for statistical confidentiality reasons regarding the protection of the identity of the reporting enterprises.

Table 3: Number of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, by economic activity (NACE Rev.2) and category of legal form of the enterprise, 2021

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		LEGAL FORM											
		Number of active enterprises				Number of births of enterprises				Number of deaths of enterprises			
NACE Rev.2 Code	Description	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total
B	Mining and Quarrying	180	224	153	557	7	x	x	12	0	0	x	x
C	Manufacturing	36,287	8,151	12,166	56,604	1,932	376	412	2,720	968	x	x	1,093
D	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	1,767	4,544	4,504	10,815	213	876	256	1,345	29	16	14	59
E	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	945	607	409	1,961	58	x	x	126	x	x	x	x
F	Construction	49,948	6,279	10,496	66,723	3,855	638	1,039	5,532	728	8	193	929
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	164,621	20,279	38,985	223,885	8,627	1,455	2,356	12,438	4,728	70	573	5,371
H	Transportation and Storage	49,293	5,204	5,948	60,445	2,659	394	414	3,467	1,324	25	90	1,439
I	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	79,615	10,343	16,114	106,072	4,317	849	1,602	6,768	2,750	16	175	2,941
J	Information and Communication	13,189	4,306	2,987	20,482	2,531	550	426	3,507	507	9	19	535
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	12,584	1,870	1,234	15,688	558	144	88	790	279	x	x	289
L	Real Estate Activities	3,750	5,539	2,525	11,814	535	547	255	1,337	57	x	x	76
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	131,315	8,940	8,341	148,596	10,969	1,026	977	12,972	2,975	35	77	3,087
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	14,648	3,658	5,053	23,359	1,689	321	391	2,401	532	9	31	572
P	Education	17,614	1,415	2,941	21,970	1,806	84	150	2,040	642	x	x	698
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities	55,193	2,513	2,586	60,292	3,443	219	317	3,979	1,236	x	x	1,258
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	13,286	1,831	3,061	18,178	1,259	231	252	1,742	433	x	x	471
S	Other Service Activities	29,374	720	2,814	32,908	2,058	77	286	2,421	x	x	x	846
Total		673,609	86,423	120,317	880,349	46,516	7,822	9,259	63,597	18,012	236	1,446	19,694

Notes: From section "S: Other service activities", activities of membership organisations (NACE Rev. 2: 94) are excluded.

"x": The data are not disclosed for statistical confidentiality reasons regarding the protection of the identity of the reporting enterprises.

Table 4: Total employment of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, by economic activity (NACE Rev.2) and category of legal form of the enterprise, 2021

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		LEGAL FORM											
		Total persons employed in the population of											
		Active Enterprises				Births of Enterprises				Deaths of Enterprises			
NACE Rev.2 Code	Description	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total	Sole Proprietorship	Limited Liability	Partnership	Total
B	Mining and Quarrying	246	4,505	636	5,387	8	x	x	11	0	0	x	x
C	Manufacturing	73,215	216,586	75,627	365,428	2,050	664	1,093	3,807	1,246	x	x	1,625
D	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	2,282	20,755	7,576	30,613	119	99	85	303	24	20	11	55
E	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	1,634	11,547	2,178	15,359	44	x	x	275	x	x	x	x
F	Construction	76,479	49,080	42,061	167,620	3,766	855	2,058	6,679	761	4	221	986
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	292,943	314,804	193,208	800,955	8,861	2,248	5,553	16,662	5,579	223	1,334	7,136
H	Transportation and Storage	71,961	72,733	21,433	166,127	2,575	598	938	4,111	1,368	105	104	1,577
I	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	276,440	175,157	182,285	633,882	10,503	5,586	10,462	26,551	4,719	120	717	5,556
J	Information and Communication	16,233	63,947	17,279	97,459	2,385	1,653	885	4,923	506	7	40	553
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	16,348	52,287	5,536	74,171	468	270	207	945	266	x	x	302
L	Real Estate Activities	4,987	13,726	5,965	24,678	468	366	379	1,213	65	x	x	93
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	164,740	64,048	36,062	264,850	9,927	1,472	1,961	13,360	2,887	34	147	3,068
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	32,397	88,417	28,265	149,079	1,735	963	628	3,326	599	6	49	654
P	Education	58,356	30,921	45,753	135,030	2,413	256	1,322	3,991	1,183	x	x	1,560
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities	91,533	55,577	21,697	168,807	3,380	652	1,334	5,366	1,474	x	x	1,657
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	27,377	16,011	17,406	60,794	1,570	1,011	1,176	3,757	652	x	x	924
S	Other Service Activities	54,191	4,954	15,028	74,173	2,402	220	922	3,544	x	x	x	1,143
Total		1,261,362	1,255,055	717,995	3,234,412	52,674	16,964	29,186	98,824	22,394	779	3,749	26,922

Notes: From section "S: Other service activities", activities of membership organisations (NACE Rev. 2: 94) are excluded.

"x": The data are not disclosed for statistical confidentiality reasons regarding the protection of the identity of the reporting enterprises.

Table 5: Number of High Growth Enterprises and Young High Growth Enterprises (gazelles) and respective number of employees by economic activity (NACE Rev.2), 2021

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY		High Growth Enterprises ³			Young High Growth Enterprises (gazelles) ⁴		
NACE Rev.2 Code	Description	Number of enterprises	%	Number of employees	Number of enterprises	%	Number of employees
B	Mining and Quarrying	6	0.1	516	0	0.0	0
C	Manufacturing	923	15.5	56,538	50	6.4	2,591
D	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	16	0.3	1,522	x	x	x
E	Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	45	0.8	2,322	x	x	x
F	Construction	365	6.1	17,809	39	5.0	3,136
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	1,245	20.9	74,362	120	15.2	3,802
H	Transportation and Storage	311	5.2	21,841	26	3.3	904
I	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	1,500	25.2	56,248	322	40.9	10,521
J	Information and Communication	208	3.5	28,924	27	3.4	3,211
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	34	0.6	3,253	5	0.6	850
L	Real Estate Activities	53	0.9	3,933	8	1.0	306
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	320	5.4	22,358	23	2.9	1,455
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	226	3.8	31,079	38	4.8	6,019
P	Education	349	5.9	17,789	61	7.8	2,258
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities	271	4.5	14,090	37	4.7	1,465
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	60	1.0	1,735	16	2.0	436
S	Other Service Activities	30	0.5	1,023	11	1.4	282
Total		5,962	100.0	355,342	787	100.0	37,602

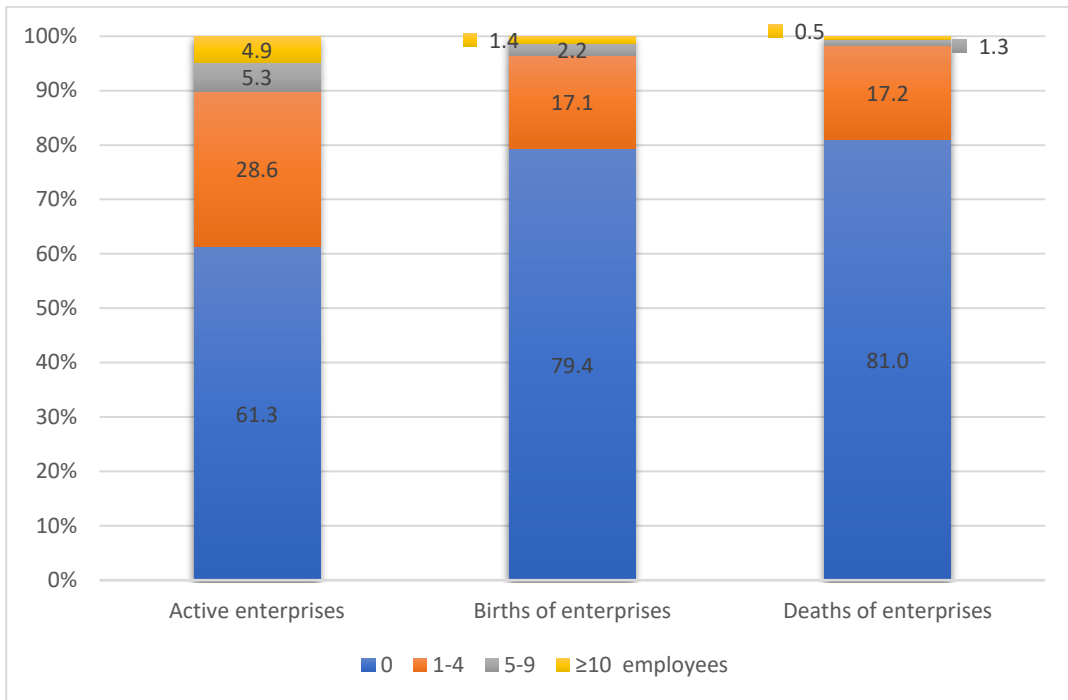
Notes: From section "S: Other service activities", activities of membership organisations (NACE Rev. 2: 94) are excluded.

"x": The data are not disclosed for statistical confidentiality reasons regarding the protection of the identity of the reporting enterprises.

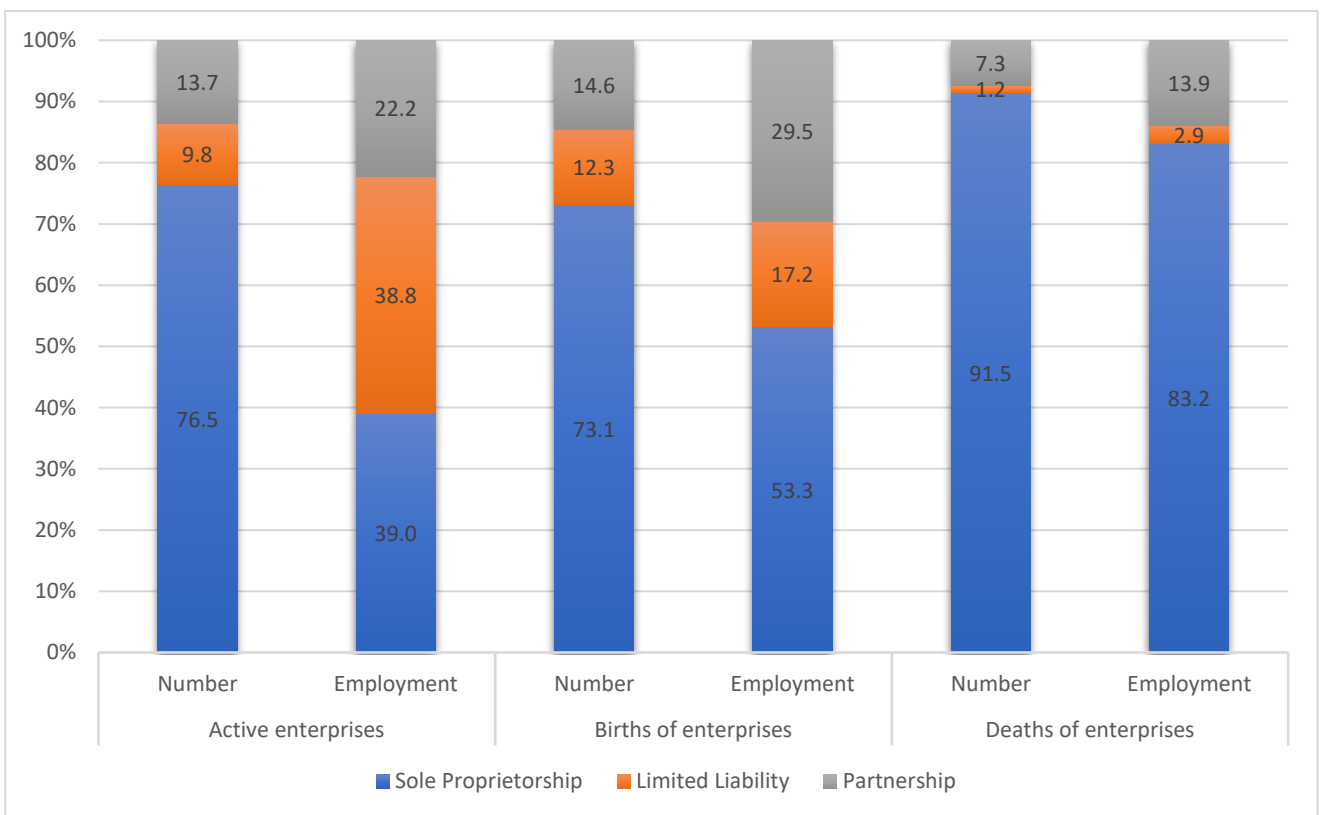
³ *High growth enterprises for 2021* are those that had at least 10 employees in 2018, and an average annualised growth in the number of employees bigger than 10% per annum, during the three-year period 2018 - 2021.

⁴ *Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) for 2021* are those that were established in the year 2016 or 2017, had at least 10 employees in 2018 and an average annualised growth in the number of employees bigger than 10% per annum, during the three-year period 2018 - 2021.

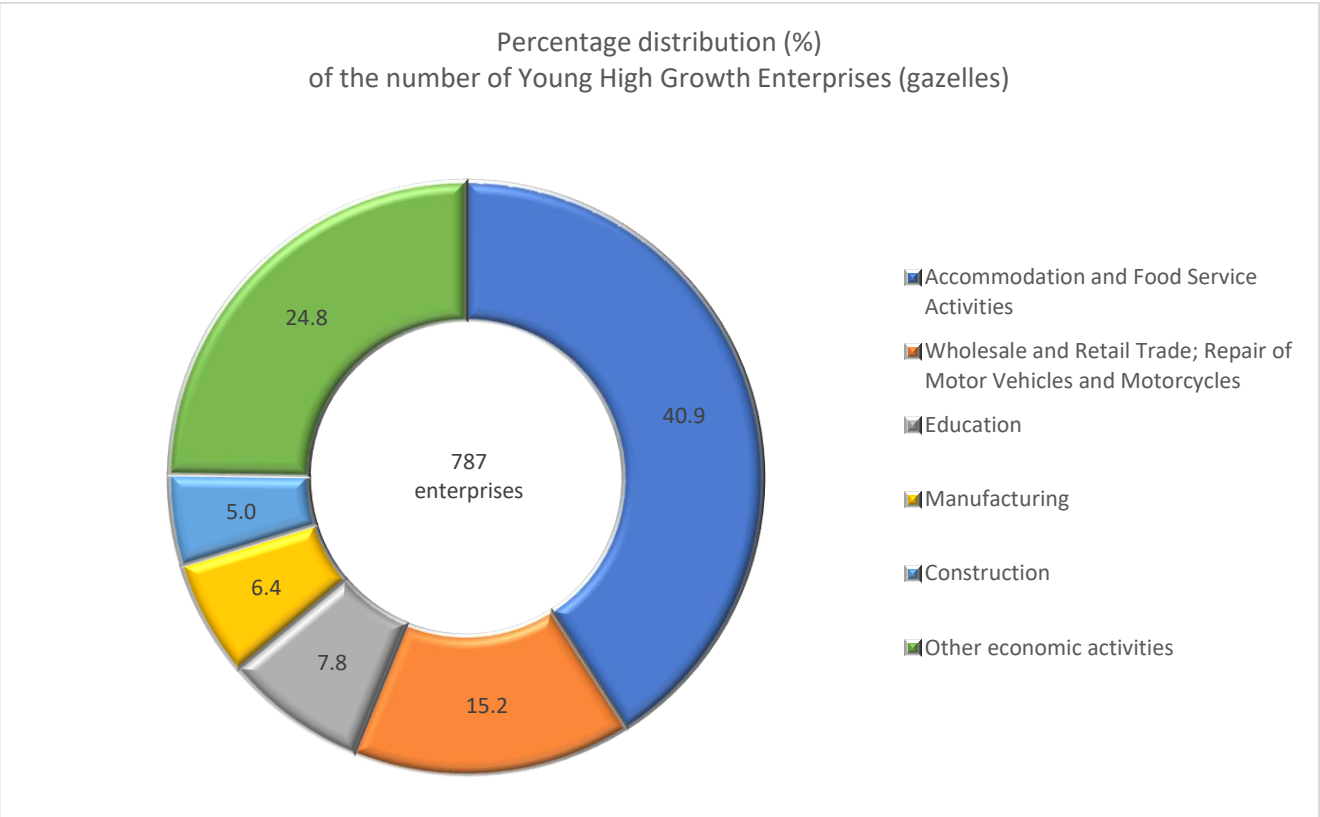
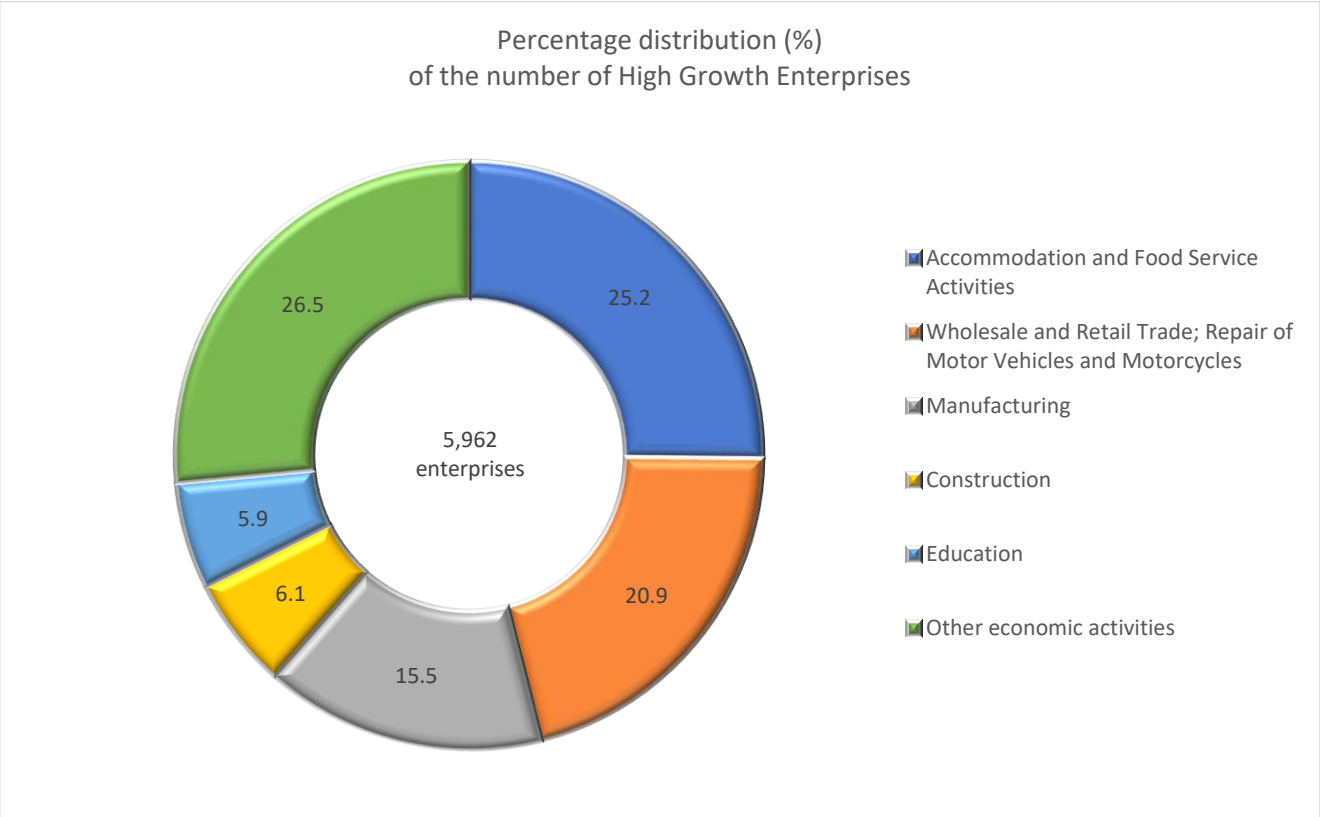
Graph 1: Percentage distribution (%) of the number of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, by employees' size class, 2021



Graph 2: Percentage distribution (%) of the number of active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises and of their total employment, by category of legal form of the enterprise, 2021



Graph 3: Percentage distribution (%) of the number of High Growth Enterprises and of Young High Growth Enterprises (gazelles), by economic activity (NACE Rev.2), 2021



METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

General Information	<p>Business demography statistics refer to active enterprises, births of enterprises and deaths of enterprises, which are defined as follows:</p> <p>Active enterprises: 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 (have turnover or employment) during the same reference period.</p> <p>Births of enterprises: An enterprise birth occurs when an enterprise starts from scratch and begins operations, amounting to the creation of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Enterprises created solely as a result of e.g. restructuring, merger or break-up are not considered as enterprise births. Entries into a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity are also excluded.</p> <p>Deaths of enterprises: An enterprise death is the termination of an enterprise, amounting to the dissolution of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Enterprises closed solely as a result of e.g. restructuring, merger, take over or break-up are not considered as enterprise death. Exits from a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity are also excluded.</p> <p>Moreover, business demography statistics include data for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) high growth enterprises, measured in employment. The enterprises having at least 10 employees in year t-3, with average annualised growth in number of employees greater than 10 % per annum, over a three-year period (t-3 to t) are characterised as high growth enterprises. Births of enterprises during “t-3” period are not included. b) young high growth enterprises, measured in employment. Gazelles, as a subset of high growth enterprises, must fulfil the additional condition that they belong to the population of enterprise births of period “t-3”. <p>The data are compiled by economic activity of the enterprise (NACE Rev.2), legal form and employees’ size class in order to highlight specific demographic patterns.</p> <p>The economic activities covered by business demography are NACE Rev.2 sections B to N, and P to R and divisions S95 and S96.</p> <p>The categories of legal form of enterprises are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sole Proprietorships: Personally owned enterprises with no limit to personal liability. • Limited Liability Enterprises: Private or publicly quoted joint stock companies with limited liability for those owning shares. • Partnership Enterprises: Personally owned limited and unlimited liability partnerships. Included are also other forms such as co-operatives, associations etc. <p>The number of persons employed and the number of employees are defined as follows:</p> <p>Number of persons employed: The total number of persons who work in the enterprise, including the working proprietors, partners and unpaid family members, as well as persons who work outside the enterprise, belong to it and are paid by it.</p> <p>Number of employees: The number of persons who work for an employer, have a contract of employment and receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.</p>
Legal framework	<p>The statistical data on business demography are compiled pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 November 2019 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, of 30 July 2020.</p>
Compilation methodology	<p>The compilation of statistical data for business demography is based on the analysis and processing of data obtained from the Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT, in combination with Structural Business Statistics.</p> <p>Differences observed in tables 1 to 4 of this Publication, between the number of enterprises and the respective number of persons employed, where the number of enterprises is bigger than the number of persons employed, are created by enterprises born within the reference year (2021) that, didn’t have, yet, during this year, started their full operation (they didn’t yet have created turnover and hired employees) and by enterprises that died within the reference year (2021) and they didn’t have, during this year, turnover and employees.</p>
Statistical classifications	<p>As regards the economic activities, the European statistical classification of economic activities NACE Rev.2 is used.</p>
Reference period	<p>Year 2021</p>

Statistical unit The statistical unit “enterprise” is used. According to [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93](#), the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational 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 can carry out one or more activities at one or more locations. An enterprise may be a sole legal unit.

Comparability Business demography statistics for reference year 2021 are compiled with an updated methodology in the framework of the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which provides for maximum consistency between Business Demography, Structural Business Statistics and Statistical Business Register and therefore are not directly comparable with the corresponding business demography results for the years 2019 - 2020.

References Analytical tables are available on ELSTAT’s website (www.statistics.gr), at the following link:
<https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SBR05/->.