

# Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)

(user oriented)

**Country:** Greece

**Compiling agency:** ELSTAT

**Domain name:** Statistical Business Register

## ELSTAT metadata

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## 1. Contact

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<b>2. Metadata update</b>		<a href="#">Top</a>
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### 3. Statistical presentation [Top](#)

#### 3.1 Data description

The statistical business register (SBR) is basic infrastructure for the collection and compilation of data for business statistics. The SBR is 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.

The **National Statistical Business Register** includes 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;
- enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.

Households shall not fall within the scope of the statistical business register 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, geographic code, institutional sector;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.

The purpose of the statistical business register is:

- 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 SBR includes all legal units that were active even for one day in the reference year.

#### 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](#))
- National classification of administrative territories (Geographical code), which is available under the following link: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SKA01/>
- National classification of economic administration

### 3.3 Sector coverage

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 Statistical Business register, the following economic activities are considered:

- any activity comprising the offer of goods and services on a given market;
- non-market services contributing to the GDP;
- direct and indirect holdings of active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities are also considered an economic activity.

The national statistical business register covers the following sections:

- A - S of the Statistical Classification of NACE Rev. 2

The national statistical business register does not cover the following sections:

- T: Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use and U of the Statistical Classification of NACE Rev. 2
- U: Activities of extra-territorial organisations and bodies

### 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, meaning that were working for an employer under an employment contract and receive wages in the form of wages, salaries, allowances, benefits, piecework or are paid in kind.

#### **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.

**Turnover:** Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. The sales of goods include the goods produced by the enterprise as well as the merchandise purchased by a retailer or land and other property held for resale (if land and other property were initially purchased for investment purposes they should not be included in turnover). The rendering of services typically involves the performance by the enterprise of a contractually agreed task over an agreed period of time. The revenue of the long-term contracts (e.g. building contracts) should be recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract and not the finished contract method. Goods produced for own consumption or investment should be excluded from turnover.

Turnover includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit with the exception of the value added type taxes (VAT). VAT are collected in stages by the enterprise and fully borne by the final purchaser.

It also includes all other charges (transport, packaging, etc.) passed on to the customer, even if these charges are listed separately in the invoice. Reduction in prices, rebates and discounts as well as the value of returned packing must be deducted.

Income classified as other operating income, financial income and extra-ordinary income in company accounts according to the 4th Accounting Directive and revenue from the use by others of enterprise assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends and other income according to IAS/IFRS is excluded from turnover. Operating subsidies received from public authorities or the institutions of the European Union are also excluded.

#### **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.

### **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. The kind of activity unit (KAU) will be available in the National Statistical Business Register of ELSTAT from the reference year 2021.
- **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 Statistical Business Register (SBR) is a fully and comprehensive, regularly updated and structured list of legal and statistical units engaged in the production of goods and services, which is aimed at assisting the compilation of business statistics and particular as a (backbone) tool for the preparation and coordination of surveys, as a source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the use of administrative data, and for the identification and construction of statistical units.

The statistical population of SBR till reference year 2020 according to regulation (EC) No 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the council includes:

- Legal units
- Local units
- Enterprises
- All-resident enterprise groups
- Truncated enterprise groups
- Multinational enterprise groups

### 3.7 Reference area

The reference area of the SBR is the national territory. For information concerning enterprise groups any country outside the national territory may be relevant.

The National classification of administrative territories is: National territory-Region-Regional unit-Municipality- Municipal unit.

### 3.8 Time coverage

The national statistical business register was established in 2000.

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

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2018.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 2018.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 2000.
- Kind of activity unit – Will be implemented from reference year 2021, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

### 3.9 Base period

Not applicable.

## 4. Unit of measure

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The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.  
The net turnover is recorded in 1.000 of Euro.

## 5. Reference period

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The reference period for the annual copy of the national statistical business register is a calendar year.

An annual copy that reflects the state of the national statistical business register at the end of the year is taken and kept for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

The characteristics in the **final frame** in sense of the annual copy - according to Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 - refer to the following reference dates.

GROUP OF CHARACTERISTICS	TYPE OF CHARACTERISTICS	REFERENCE PERIOD (Reference year T)	REFERENCE DATE (mm/dd of the year T)
Identification characteristics		Reference year T	31.12 of year T
Demographic characteristics		Reference year T	31.12 of year T
Economic characteristics	Monetary data	Reference year T	Jan to Dec of Year T
	Employment	Reference year T	Average over 12 months of year T
	Activity	Reference year T	31.12 of year T
Relationship information		Reference year T	31.12 of year T
Information on links to other registers		Reference year T	Jan to Dec of Year T

## 6. Institutional mandate

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### 6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is detailed in the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

### 6.2 Data sharing

The following agreements related to NSBR data sharing and data exchange between national authorities are in place:

CONTENT OF DATA SHARING	SENDER	RECEIVER	FREQUENCY
<b>Identification characteristics on legal units:</b> Name, address, ID, e-mail, fax phone number <b>Demographic characteristics:</b> Date of commencement/cessation of legal units <b>Stratification characteristics:</b> Legal form, Institutional Sector, Economic Activity	Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR)	ELSTAT	Annually
<b>Employment</b>	Single Social Security Entity (EFKA), former IKA	ELSTAT	Annually

## 7. Confidentiality

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### 7.1 Confidentiality - policy

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely:

ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-confidentiality?inheritRedirect=true>

### Protection of personal data

ELSTAT abides by the commitments and obligations arising from the applicable EU and national legislation on the protection of the individual from the processing of personal data and the relevant decisions, guidelines and regulatory acts of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

The personal data collected by ELSTAT are used exclusively for purposes related to the conduct of surveys and the production of relevant statistics. Only ELSTAT has access to the data. The controller is the person appointed by law pursuant to the relevant provisions concerning the Legal Entities of Public Law and the Independent Authorities. The data are stored in the databases of ELSTAT for as long as required by the relevant legislation.

Legal basis of the processing: Article 6, para 1(c) and 1(d) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) <https://www.statistics.gr/el/privacy-info>

### **7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment**

- ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:
  - a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
  - b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.
- The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:
  - a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
  - b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
  - c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.
- Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:
  - the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
  - the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
  - the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

- The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.
- Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.
- ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the administrative sanction.
- Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

## 8. Release policy

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### 8.1 Release calendar

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

- T+ 24 months to STS domain, taking into account the requirement for the base year revision.
- T+ 16 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 16 months to FATS;
- T+ 16 months to ITGS;
- T+ 36 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T+ 36 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 36 months to R&D;
- T+ 16 months to (PRODCOM).

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+ 18 months.

### 8.2 Release calendar access

Not applicable.

### 8.3 User access

The statistical users get access to the SBR frames or receive required data in the following way:

1. Aggregated data from the Statistical Business Register are available in ELSTAT's website ([www.statistics.gr](http://www.statistics.gr)), under section "Industry, Trade, Services, Transport", subsection "Statistical Business Register (link:<https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SBR01/->)
2. Upon user's request, which can be submitted through a special web form in the following link: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request>

The data from the Statistical Business Register are disseminated in accordance with ELSTAT's Dissemination Policy, which is available at the following link:

[http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/Dissemination\\_Policy\\_of\\_ELSTAT\\_en.pdf/8c399d64-9611-4d55-b514-56ea51ac1ecf](http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/Dissemination_Policy_of_ELSTAT_en.pdf/8c399d64-9611-4d55-b514-56ea51ac1ecf)



ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate the data it has obtained, or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means which might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- these data have been treated, as specifically set out in the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice the statistical confidentiality
- the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:

- an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
- the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the legitimate purpose of the research, the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, the persons who will have access to the data and the time needed for the research;
- a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his / her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.

Information on the access to confidential data for scientific purposes is available at the following link: [http://www.statistics.gr/en/scientific\\_provision\\_data](http://www.statistics.gr/en/scientific_provision_data).

## 9. Frequency of dissemination

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Preliminary SBR frames are not disseminated.

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+18 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

ELSTAT informs users on the dissemination of the tables containing data from the Statistical Business Register, with a relevant announcement.

### 10.2 Dissemination format - Publications

The Tables of the Statistical Business Register are available at the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SBR01/>

### 10.3 Dissemination format - online database

There is no online database.

### 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, via secured environment.

Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes. Analytical information are presented under point 8.3.

### 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 are available upon users' request which can be submitted through a special web form in the following link: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request>

### 10.6 Documentation on methodology

The Statistical Business Register, up to reference year 2020, is established in accordance with [Regulation \(EC\) No 177/2008](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes.

The methodology followed takes into account international practices and, in particular, Eurostat's guidelines and standards, mainly the [Business Register Recommendations Manual, 2010 edition](#).

### 10.7 Quality documentation

A quality report is sent to Eurostat on an annual basis when the compilation of the Statistical Business Register is completed.

## 11. Quality management

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### 11.1 Quality assurance

The methodology followed is in line with the relevant decisions taken in the meetings of the Business Registers Working Group (BRWG), as well as with the recommendations of the Task Forces set up by Eurostat for the examination of particular topics concerning the statistical business registers.

Quality controls are carried out at all stages of the compilation of the SBR. The data used are mainly derived from administrative sources and as a result audits include, in principle, completeness checks and identification of incorrect data transmitted from administrative sources. Then logical checks for data consistency over time and comparability with other sources take place. At a later stage, statistical checks are carried out to identify the extreme values and the time-domain comparability of the basic variables.

More specifically, for the identification of Enterprises with outlier values in turnover and employment the Interquartile Range method, the Assymetric Fence Method and the Median Absolute Deviation method is used.

For the identification of the enterprises affected by influential errors the method of Selective Editing with the use of SeleMix package is applied.

### 11.2 Quality assessment

The quality of statistical business register is monitored according the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

## 12. Relevance

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### 12.1 User needs

The Statistical Business Register is mainly used as a sampling frame for the conduct of ELSTAT's statistical surveys in enterprises. Data of the SBR are also provided to users for the satisfaction of their requests, in accordance with the Statistical Confidentiality Policy and the Dissemination Policy of ELSTAT. The main national users of SBR data are Public Bodies and Local Authorities, Banks, Businesses, Researchers and Economic Analysts, Doctoral Candidates and Students.

At international level, the SBR data are used by Eurostat, the United Nations, the World Bank, etc.

## 12.2 User satisfaction

The degree of satisfaction of users is assessed by their comments and remarks expressed:

- in the framework of the annual Users' Conferences organized by ELSTAT,
- through the Advisory Committee of the Hellenic Statistical System (SYEPELSIS), in which representatives of various bodies using statistics participate and
- through the User Satisfaction Survey conducted by the competent Statistical Data Dissemination Section of ELSTAT: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey>

## 12.3 Data completeness

The completeness of national statistical business registers is annually assessed by Eurostat. The SBR assessment results are provided to EU Member States and EFTA countries and presented at the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

The SBR covers most of the variables defined by European Regulation 177/2008 at the level of legal and local unit.

Moreover, after the completion of the profiling process of enterprise groups, information have also been included at the level of the statistical units "enterprise" and "enterprise group".

## 13. Accuracy and reliability

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### 13.1 Overall accuracy

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

- Misclassification of economic activity
- Overestimation of employment, from specific administrative sources

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

- Changes in the economic activity of statistically significant enterprises are checked on the basis of published financial statements and survey data.
- The sources used for updating the SBR, are assessed at the level of variable in terms of their completeness and accuracy. Administrative sources presenting overestimation on employment are placed near the bottom of the specific priority list, reducing this way their impact on the SBR.

### 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 16 months after the reference year T.

Final frame is available 18 months after the reference year T.

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

Reasons for the time lag:

The data of statistical surveys that are incorporated in the SBR are available 16 months after the reference year T.

### 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:

- T+ 24 months to STS domain, taking into account the requirement for the base year revision.
- T+ 16 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 16 months to FATS;
- T+ 16 months to ITGS;
- T+ 36 months to CIS (Community Innovation Survey);
- T+ 36 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 36 months to R&D;
- T+ 16 months to (PRODCOM).

## 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 Statistical Business Register is established in accordance with the European Regulation No 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes and in accordance with the Manual Recommendations on Business Registers for Statistics. This ensures the comparability of the SBR data with the data of the statistical registers of the other EU Member States.

The common methodology applied at national level also ensures the comparability of data at regional level.

### 15.2 Comparability over time

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

The time series of the statistics in the Statistical Business Register starts from the reference year 2000.

#### a. Discontinuity of comparability over time due to revision of classifications

For specific tables, which provide information per economic activity, the time series is interrupted. In particular, in the series of tables from the reference year 2000 to 2007, the statistical classification STAKOD 03 is used for the classification of SBR units by economic activity. The classification STAKOD 03, which is based on the corresponding European classification NACE Rev. 1.1, was repealed by the adoption of Regulation No. No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Rev.2, which imposed the use of the revised classification from the reference year 2008 onwards.

In order to address the discontinuity between the time series due to the use of the different statistical classifications STAKOD (NACE), the tables of the SBR were also compiled with the classification STAKOD 08 (identical to NACE Rev. 2) from the reference year 2004 onwards.

Also, according to Law 3852/2010, on the "New Architecture of the Local Government and of the Decentralized Administration-Kallikratis Program", the new classification for the administrative division of the Country is applied from the reference year 2010. The tables of the Statistical Business Register for the reference years 2008-2010 were drawn up on the basis of both the Kallikratis project and the Kapodistrias project, which was in force until year 2010.

#### b. Discontinuity of comparability over time due to the use of new sources

New sources (tax forms and records) of administrative data have been used since reference year 2011, which makes variations in the comparability over time of SBR data. Also, from the reference year 2014, a new source for employment, the Electronic Earnings Attestations (EEA) provided by the IAPR was used. The use of new sources for the SBR results in a break in data comparability between 2010 and 2011 and between 2013 and 2014.

### 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 Statistical Business Register is the basis for the estimates of National Accounts data and the sampling frame for statistical business surveys. The cross-checking of the data of administrative sources with data of statistical surveys conducted and satellite statistical registers data, to update the SBR, ensures the cross-domain coherence.

Moreover, the results of the profiling process were integrated in the SBR and in the EuroGroups Register, thus ensuring consistency between the two of them.

### 15.4 Coherence - internal

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

Since reference year 2015, when the SBR updating system was fully adopted by the use of administrative data in conjunction with small-scale statistical surveys, the impact on internal coherence was evident. Using more than one administrative source makes more data available. The data available from different sources for the same variables provides the possibility of checking and crossing SBR data, resulting in improved internal coherence. The selection of the most reliable sources for each variable and the comparison between the sources contributes significantly to the above purpose.

## 16. Cost and burden

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Not available.

## 17. Data revision

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### 17.1 Revision policy

The Revision Policy of ELSTAT is available at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/a49dca9a-dacf-4b52-b5df-b156216cb354>

### 17.2 Revision practice

Not applicable.

## 18. Statistical processing

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### 18.1 Source data

The national statistical business registers is set up in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes 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:

- Administrative data from the Independent Authority for Public Revenue - IAPR (Identification characteristics, demographic characteristics, economic characteristics)
- Employment data from the Single Social Security Entity (EFKA)
- Employment data from the Public Sector Human Resources Register

- Bank of Greece (Relationship information)
- Commercial database (Relationship information)
- Structural Business Survey (SBS) and other surveys conducted by ELSTAT
- Intraflows survey, conducted by ELSTAT
- EuroGroups Register

### 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 - Annually
- Enterprises - Annually
- Local units - Annually
- Enterprise groups - Annually

### 18.3 Data collection

Statistical business registers use data from administrative and statistical data sources, and from any other relevant sources that are comparable and compliant with the applicable specific quality requirements. For more details please see 18.1.

### 18.4 Data validation

Statistical analysis of the national statistical business register is carried out to ensure the quality of data and frame populations provided to users.

Data validation procedures include:

- Format and file structure checks: Initially is checked that the files received from the administrative sources are in accordance with the specifications set by the elstat. Moreover, these data are subject to a series of preliminary checks on completeness, accuracy and relevance to similar data from previous years.
- Intra-file checks: Consistency checks, at aggregated level, are conducted between the basic variables of the NSBR (turnover, employees and employment). Moreover, a specific process is run for the detection of outliers and influential errors (the attached file contains analytical description of both processes). The most important cases that occur are examined at micro level and are corrected where is needed.
- Intra-domain, intra-source checks (e.g time series checks): Number of legal units, turnover, employees and total employment at 4dgt level of NACE Rev. 2 of the current year is compared to the respective numbers of the previous years.
- Intra-domain, inter-source checks (e.g. mirror checks): The data for the basic variables of the NSBR that occur from the different administrative sources are checked for consistency at aggregated level (2dgt and 4dgt of NACE Rev.2).
- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI: The data of the NSBR are compared with the results of the Statistical Business Survey, the Annual Business Demography and IFATS.
- Plausibility/consistency checks between domains outside the NSI: The data on enterprise groups are compared with data received from a private company and the disseminated financial statements.

### 18.5 Data compilation

The sources used for updating the Statistical Business Register, are assessed at the level of variable (economic activity, turnover and employment) in terms of their completeness and reliability.

Based on the above mentioned assessment, a priority list of sources is compiled for each variable. If the first source in that list does not provide the requested information, the next source is used, etc.

After the preliminary checks are carried out, the primary data are entered into the Statistical Business Register and a preliminary draft of the SBR is compiled in accordance with the priority of the sources and the rules set.

Statistical checks are then carried out to identify the outliers and any erroneous data.

The basic procedures applied for the examination of the turnover and the employment are summarized below.

### **1. Identification of Enterprises with legal form “natural persons”**

An initial examination of the SBR, regarding the identification of possible erroneous data, involves the identification of enterprises with legal form “natural persons”, and with number of employees greater than 50 persons. Enterprises with such combination of characteristics should be further examined.

### **2. Identification of Enterprises with outlier values in Turnover and Employment**

With regard to the identification of outlier values (and therefore possible erroneous administrative data) of Turnover and Total Employment, we apply **3 different methodological approaches**, in each stratum (combination of 3-digit- NACE code and employment class). In the present study, five employment classes are used (1: 0-4 employees, 2: 5-9 employees, 3: 10-19 employees, 4: 20-99 employees, 5: 100 plus employees).

All methods applied here examine the (logarithmic transformation of the) ratio:

$$R_2 = \frac{\textit{Turnover}}{\textit{Employment}}$$

calculated as such to correspond to one calendar year.

The methods used are based on:

1. Interquartile Range
2. Asymmetric Fence Method (for stratum with more than 100 records)
3. Median Absolute Deviation (MAD)

It should be noted that the methods used for the identification of the outliers in the present investigation gives reliable results if the following conditions are satisfied:

- To have enough enterprises in every stratum, where stratum is defined by the combination of NACE (3-digit code) and employment class (5 levels), i.e., at least 3.
- The enterprises that are identified as having outlier values, should be active during the two consecutive years of examination

The above mentioned methods result in a large number of enterprises with outliers in turnover or employment. In order to restrict the number of enterprises that should be further examined we continue to narrow down the resulted cases by examining only the enterprises where:

- The absolute percentage difference of the Ratio between two consecutive years is greater than 50%, and
- The absolute difference in turnover and employment between the two years is considered significant.

### 3. Identification of Enterprises affected by influential errors

Additionally, the method of Selective Editing has also been performed (M. Di Zio, U. Guarnera, 2013<sup>[1]</sup>), with the use the package **SeleMix**, in the programming language **R** (U. Guarnera & M. T. Buglielli, 2013<sup>[2]</sup>). This method allows us to identify enterprises affected by influential errors. In this analysis the variable of Turnover was used as the variable subject to measurement error, and the variable of total Employment as covariate. The examination is performed for each 2-digit NACE code, provided that there is sufficient number of enterprises.

The results of the Selective Editing procedure were compared with the results of the above mentioned methods in order to identify additional enterprises affected by influential errors.

In addition to the above-mentioned methods, control over the evolution of the key variables over time at 2-digit and 4-digit NACE is performed in order to identify the big changes.

The list of enterprises derived by the previously applied methods were transmitted to the competent ELSTAT's Sections for further examination of the accuracy of turnover and employment values.

Where prices are not available for some variables, these are estimated from the corresponding previous years' variables, with the help of the short-term indicators for the particular economic sector.

After completion of the checks and the necessary corrections, the final SBR and the data tables for the reference year are drawn up.

[1] M. Di Zio, U. Guarnera (2013). A contamination model for selective editing, *Journal of Official Statistics*, Vol.29(4), 539-555.

[2] U. Guarnera, M.T. Buglielli (2013). SeleMix: an R package for Selective editing, <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/SeleMix/vignettes/SeleMix-vignette.pdf>

#### 18.6 Adjustment

Not applicable.

### 19. Comment

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No comments.