

Metadata in Euro-SDMX format (ESMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS IN WHOLESALE
AND RETAIL TRADE

ELSTAT metadata

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1. Contact Top	
1.1 Contact organisation	Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)
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2. Metadata update Top	
2.1 Metadata last certified	November 2014
2.2 Metadata last posted	November 2014
2.3 Metadata last update	November 2014

3. Statistical presentation Top	
3.1 Data description	
Data are collected through an annual sample survey (Structural Business Statistics Survey in Wholesale and Retail Trade) with sampling unit the active enterprises in economic activities of Nace rev.2 that are included in the sections: G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycle). The results of the survey include mostly financial data (turnover, production value, value added at factor cost, investment in tangible goods etc.) and employment data (number of employees, salaries and personnel costs, etc.).	
3.2 Classification system	
The results of the survey are broken down according to the following classifications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4-digit level of economic activity of Nace rev.2 (lower level of analysis). 2. 2-digit level of regional breakdown (NUTS 2, NUTS1, NUTS0) at 3-digit level of Nace rev.2. 3. Level of size class (0-1, 2-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50-249, 250+ persons) at 3-digit level of Nace rev.2. 4. Level of turnover size class in million euros ([0-1), [1-2), [2-5), [5-10), [10-20), [20-50), [50-200), [200- and more), total) at 3-digit level of Nace rev.2. 5. Level of turnover by product type (according to the Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:145:0065:0226:En:PDF of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing a new statistical classification of products by activity (CPA-2008) and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93) at 4-digit level of Nace rev.2. 	
3.3 Sector coverage	
The SBS survey covers the economic activities listed in sector G of Nace rev. 2.	
3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions	
The definitions of the characteristics and the technical format for the transmission of SBS data are laid down in the Implementing Regulation (EC) 250/2009 of 11 March 2009 and the produced data series are laid down in the Implementing Regulation (EC) 251/2009 of 11 March 2009, implementing and amending Regulation (EC) No. 295/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council (in 4-digit, 3-digit and 2-digit level of analysis). These regulations are available at the following links respectively: <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:086:0001:0169:EN:PDF and</p> <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:086:0170:0228:EN:PDF and</p> <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:097:0013:0059:EN:PDF</p>	
3.5 Statistical unit	
The statistical units of the SBS survey in Trade are the enterprises that are located in Greece and they are active in sector G of Nace Rev 2.	
3.6 Statistical population	
All the enterprises that are located in Greece and are active in the sections of economic activity listed in the field 3.1	
3.7 Reference area	
Country: Greece, total. Regional breakdown of the country at NUTS 2 level (NUTS2, NUTS1 and NUTS 0)	
3.8 Time coverage	
2000-2011	

3.9 Base period

Not available

4. Unit of measure

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Variables corresponding to numbers or amount (e.g. number of enterprises, number of employees, etc.) are measured in UNITS. Values are expressed in thousand Euros.

5. Reference period

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Calendar Year

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 as follows:

- **Law 3832/2010** (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "*Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority*", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "*Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions*", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "*Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy*", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "*Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance*", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "*Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions*", by article first of the Law 4047/2012 (Government Gazette No 31, Issue A): "*Ratification of the Act of Legislative Content "Very urgent measures for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy 2012-2015 and of the State Budget for 2011" and of the Act of Legislative Content "Regulation of very urgent issues for the implementation of law 4024/2011 "Pension provisions, uniform pay scale - grading system, labour reserve and other provisions for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015" and of issues falling within the competence of the Ministries of Administrative Reform and E-Governance, Interior, Finance, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and related to the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015" and other provisions*", by article 323 of the Law 4072/2012 (Government Gazette No 86, Issue A): "*Improvement of the business environment New corporate form - Trade Marks - Realtors - Regulating maritime, port and fishing matters and other provisions*" and by article 7 paragraph 1 of the Act of Legislative Content dated 18/11/2012 (Government Gazette No 228, Issue A): "*Financial rules and other provisions*", by Article 93 of the Law 4182/2013 (Government Gazette No 185, Issue A): "*Code of charitable estate, inheritances in abeyance and other provisions*", by Article 6 paragraph 8 of the Law 4244/2014 (Government Gazette 60, Issue A): "*Integration in Greek law of the Council Directive 2013/1/EU of 20 December 2012 amending Directive 93/109/EC as regards certain detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals and amendment of law 2196/1994 (A' 41) and other provisions*", by Article first subparagraph C.3 of the Law 4254/2014 (Government Gazette No 85, Issue A): "*Measures for the support and development of the Greek economy, in the context of the implementation of Law 4046/2012, and other provisions of law*" and by Article 33, paragraphs 5a and 5b of the Law 4258/2014 (Government Gazette No 94, Issue A): "*Demarcation process and arrangements of matters for streams - arrangements of Urban Planning legislation and other provisions*".
- **Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)**, 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)
- **Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council**, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).

- **Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006** (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): *“National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions”*.
- **Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006** (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): *“For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization”*.
- **European Statistics Code of Practice**, adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.
- **Presidential Decree 226/2000** (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): *“Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece”*.
- **Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996** (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): *“Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece”*.

Additionally, for the SBS surveys:

Ministerial Decisions for the approval and award of the survey, according to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 250/2009, of 11 March 2009 regarding structural business statistics.

6.2 Data sharing

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.

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:
- a) 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;
 - b) the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
 - c) 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.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

None of the publications that are related to the results of SBS survey are included in the release calendar.

8.2 Release calendar access

The release calendar is available on the website of Hellenic Statistical Authority:

www.statistics.gr

8.3 User access

The results of the survey are also included in tables that are published on the website of Hellenic Statistical Authority at:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0901

9. Frequency of dissemination

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Normally, 18 months after the end of the reference year the results of the survey are transmitted to EUROSTAT. After the finalization of the data both by Eurostat and ELSTAT the results of the survey are also published on the website of ELSTAT. The survey is annual.

10. Dissemination format Top
<p>Apart from the website of ELSTAT stipulated in the field 9, there are also other electronic means of dissemination for making the data available to users such as, the data base of ELSTAT, emails, fax etc.</p>
10.1 News release
There are no press releases for SBS trade survey
10.2 Publications
<p>Only electronic publications with the results of the survey are available which are presented in tables that are published on the website of Hellenic Statistical Authority at:</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0901</p>
10.3 On-line database
http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-database
10.4 Micro-data access
<p>Microdata are available to users only after the approval of the Statistical Confidentiality Committee. Also, microdata are available upon request to:</p> <p>Hellenic Statistical Authority Statistical Information and Publication Division, Peireos 46 & Eponiton, 18510, Piraeus P.O. 80847, Zip Code. 18510, Piraeus (tel:+30 213 135173, fax :+30 213 135022, e-mail : data.dissem@statistics.gr)</p>
10.5 Other
http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/

11. Accessibility of documentation Top
11.1 Documentation on methodology
<p>A methodological note on the Structural Business Statistics in Wholesale and Retail Trade is available on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority:</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0901&r_param=SDE12&y_param=MT&mytabs=0</p>
11.2 Quality documentation
<p>A Quality Report is sent to Eurostat 24 months after the end of the reference year for all the Structural Business Statistics Surveys (including trade), which includes distinct sections where differences exist.</p>

12. Quality management Top
12.1 Quality assurance
<p>ELSTAT's policy for quality assurance is described in the following link:</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Quality_Policy_GR.pdf</p> <p>Additionally, the Quality Report for reference year 2011 is available at:</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0901&r_param=SDE03&y_param=MT&mytabs=0</p>
12.2 Quality assessment
<p>Quality assurance is governed by Commission Regulation 1618/1999 of 23 July 1999, concerning the criteria for the evaluation of quality of Structural Business Statistics:</p> <p>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1999:192:0011:0013:en:PDF.</p>

13. Relevance	Top
13.1 User needs	
Other Divisions of ELSTAT (such as National Accounts), Eurostat, Enterprises and Trade Unions of the Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycle, academic researchers, universities, students, public authorities, and others. ELSTAT in cooperation with these users is examining whether the available SBS data meet their needs.	
13.2 User satisfaction	
The Division of Statistical Information and Publications Data Dissemination Unit of ELSTAT, conducts a general user's satisfaction survey concerning the overall statistical production and not one that is focused on SBS survey. http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-conferences	
13.3 Completeness	
For reference year 2011, the completeness of data required pursuant to Regulation 295/2008 is 100%.	

14. Accuracy and reliability	Top
14.1 Overall accuracy	
The main sources of errors are: 1) Non Sampling errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Unit non response (the non-response rate is considered to be high) b. Bias (Small bias with a limited impact on the overall accuracy of the estimates) c. Imputation (the impact of imputation on CVs is considered to be important) d. Coverage errors (erroneous classification of survey units, erroneous design and processing errors).. 	
14.2 Sampling error	
The sampling errors of the basic characteristics of the survey (in the form of CVs) are shown in the table of paragraph 21.	
14.3 Non-sampling error	
Non-sampling errors and specifically non-response rate and weighted non-response rate by sector of economic activity are included in separate files that are sent to Eurostat along with the Quality Report for SBS. More specifically, the response rate of the enterprises is up to 55,6%. The unit non-response has an impact on the accuracy of the results (e.g. bias, increase in sampling error). Bias cannot be estimated from sample data. However, while computing the extrapolating factors calibration is used, which reduces bias due to non-response.	

15. Timeliness and punctuality	Top
15.1 Timeliness	
Provisional data are transmitted to Eurostat 10 months after the end of the reference year. Final data are transmitted to Eurostat 18 months after the end of the reference year. Data are published after having been finalized both by ELSTAT and Eurostat.	
15.2 Punctuality	
For reference year 2011, Annex I and Annex III were transmitted 9 months after the target date due to revisions that took place in the data of the previous years.	

16. Comparability	Top
16.1 Comparability - geographical	
The produced SBS data are comparable with the corresponding data of other EU Member States, since the SBS surveys are conducted in full conformity with SBS Regulation. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:097:0013:0059:EN:PDF	
16.2 Comparability over time	

Produced statistics are checked for comparability over time, both by ELSTAT and Eurostat. However, from reference year 2008 onwards, NACE Rev. 2 was introduced instead of NACE Rev. 1.1 which was used in the past for the breakdown of economic activities. For that reason, data on many economic activities are not comparable.

17. Coherence

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17.1 Coherence cross-domain

Data of the Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycle survey can be found in Labour Cost and Labour Force Statistics, National Accounts and other surveys of ELSTAT. Due to methodological differences, some discrepancies may be found among the statistics of these surveys that are examined and confirmed.

17.2 Coherence – internal

Internal consistency of the data (between Annexes and Variables) is validated by ELSTAT at the final stage of data processing. Usually there are no inconsistencies that lie outside the accepted interval.

18. Cost and burden

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The survey is conducted by private collaborators. The total cost of the survey for the private collaborators for reference year 2011 was 65,100€ approximately.

19. Data revision

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19.1 Revision policy

Ten (10) months after the end of the reference year, provisional data are transmitted to Eurostat. These data are not published by ELSTAT. Eighteen months after the end of the reference year final data are transmitted to Eurostat, which are published. Both ELSTAT and Eurostat make comparisons between the provisional and the final data of the previous year and if deviations outside the accepted limits are detected, then the data are examined and the appropriate adjustments are made, if necessary.

Data revision, if needed, is based on the Circular Revision Policy of ELSTAT that is available at the link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-codepractice>

19.2 Revision practice

For reference year 2011, one revision took place (not scheduled) regarding only the format. For 2010, also one revision (not scheduled) took place, due to an error in the calculation of the investments by the enterprises.

20. Statistical processing

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20.1 Source data

The data set is based on a stratified sample survey. The sampling units are the enterprises listed in the field 3,1.

The stratification criteria are:

- a) Branch of economic Activity,
- c) Region,
- d) Turnover

The sample size for reference year 2011 was 8,557 enterprises and to response rate was 55,6%

20.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a yearly basis.

20.3 Data collection

The survey is conducted through personal interviews for the completion of the questionnaires. The interviews were conducted by private collaborators who are duly trained through a special seminar that is oriented and focused on the characteristics of the survey, on how to complete the questionnaire, how to approach the enterprises and finally how to increase response rate.

20.4 Data validation

The filled in questionnaires are collected, codified and validated by ELSTAT. Afterwards, the data are imported in the database, where they are subject to computational checks, logical and completeness checks.

20.5 Data compilation

After the completion of the appropriate checks (completeness, validity, and plausibility checks) in order to identify the non-sampling errors, the "imputation" method is used to replace the missing values in the sample strata with little or no representation in the survey according to the following methodology:

The missing values are replaced by:

- i. Historical Data
- ii. Hot-deck imputation: An enterprise of the same size class and of the same economic activity is used in another Region.

After this stage, the tables are produced at sample level, so as to investigate the accuracy of the data through the correlation of the various variables. After the completion of this phase, extrapolation factors are used for the reduction of the sample results to the reference population. The final results for the total population of the enterprises are compared with the corresponding data of previous years so as to identify any unjustified changes or discontinuities.

20.6 Adjustment

Not applicable

21. Comment

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Sampling Errors (in the form of CVs) of the basic characteristics of the survey		
Economic Activity (NACE Rev. 2) (En-GR)	Variable	Coefficient of Variation (%)
G	Number of enterprises	0,1%
	Turnover	0,5%
	Value added at factor cost	1,1%
	Personnel costs	1,7%
	Gross investment in tangible goods	4,6%
	Number of persons employed	1,2%