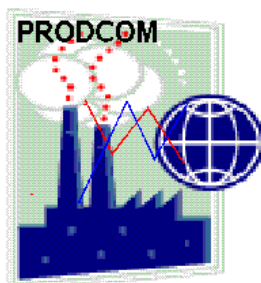




HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS  
SECONDARY SECTOR STATISTICS DIVISION  
PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION

# ***QUALITY REPORT***

***ANNUAL SURVEY OF PRODUCTION AND SALES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS***



## ***YEAR 2012***

Piraeus, 2014

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

*The present report describes the methodology applied for the Annual Survey of Production and Sales of Manufactured Goods (PRODCOM) for 2012. This document is written in line with the recommendations in Eurostat's Standard for Quality Report<sup>1</sup>.*

### 1.1. Legal Framework

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)

<sup>1</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-RA-08-015/EN/KS-RA-08-015-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-08-015/EN/KS-RA-08-015-EN.PDF)

- **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”*.

### Legal framework of PRODCOM statistics

The title of PRODCOM comes from the French “PRODUCTION COMMUNAUTAIRE” which translates to Community Production. PRODCOM statistics is a system for the collection and dissemination of statistics on production of manufactured goods, which takes place in Greece, as well as on the sold production that may take place out of Greece. The classification of manufactured goods is based on each year’s PRODCOM list.

The legal framework of PRODCOM statistics consists of the following Regulations:

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 of 19 December 1991 on the establishment of a Community survey of industrial production (PRODCOM)
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 912/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 on the establishment of a Community survey of industrial production.
- Amendments to Regulation (EEC) No 3924/91 resulting from the introduction of NACE Rev. 2 (Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains)
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 907/2012 of 20 August 2012 establishing for 2012 the “PRODCOM list” of industrial products.

### 1.2. Coverage

For the 2012 PRODCOM statistics, the surveyed population were all the active, local units in sections B (mining) and C (manufacturing) of NACE Rev.2 (Table 1), with an average annual employment of 10 people and more. In some cases, depending on the representativeness of the product and of the turnover, enterprises that employ less than 10 people were surveyed as well. The frame used for determining the surveyed units was based on ELSTAT’s Business Register. All local units manufacturing products classified under the 2012 PRODCOM list were surveyed for each surveyed unit (enterprise).

The statistical outputs for each manufactured product are:

- The physical volume of total production manufactured (in units of measurement as defined in the PRODCOM list) for the reference year
- The physical volume of production sold (in units of measurement as defined in the PRODCOM list) for the reference year, regardless the time of production.
- The value of production sold (in euros) for the reference year.

In accordance with the PRODCOM Council Regulation, 90% of the total production of each manufactured product has to be covered, on the basis of the total number of enterprises that produce the specific product. However, since the used Business Register of ELSTAT is not updated and does not support data on each manufactured product, the percentage of coverage is difficult to be calculated.

The turnover of the enterprises is used as an indication of the percentage of coverage of the survey, calculated at 4-digit level of NACE. The coverage of each 4-digit NACE code is estimated to be over 90%.

### 1.3. The PRODCOM list

The PRODCOM list provides a standardized list of products, on which the PRODCOM statistics for 2012 were based.

As PRODCOM statistics have to be comparable with External Trade Statistics, which are based on the Combined Nomenclature (CN), a close relationship between the two nomenclatures must be ensured. The PRODCOM list's basic building blocks are the European Classification of Economic Activities (NACE), as well as the European Classification of Products by Activity (CPA). Therefore, the PRODCOM list is developed in close association with these three nomenclatures.

More specifically, the 8-digit PRODCOM headings correspond with NACE Rev.2 at the 4-digit level and with CPA 2009 at the 6-digit level. In other words, each heading takes its first 4 digits from NACE Rev.2 and digits 5 and 6 from CPA 2008. The NACE class indicated by the first 4 digits of the PRODCOM heading of the dominant product manufactured by the enterprise defines the section of the economic activity in which the enterprise is classified in the Business Register.

The PRODCOM statistics collect data for the following sections of economic activity:

*Table 1: 2-digit sections of economic activity covered by the PRODCOM survey*

<b>Classification of Economic activity NACE Rev.2 (*)</b>	<b><i>Economic Activity</i></b>
07	<i>Mining of metal ores</i>
08	<i>Other mining and quarrying</i>
10	<i>Manufacture of food products</i>
11	<i>Manufacture of beverages</i>
12	<i>Manufacture of tobacco products</i>
13	<i>Manufacture of textiles</i>
14	<i>Manufacture of wearing apparel</i>
15	<i>Manufacture of leather and related products</i>
16	<i>Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials</i>
17	<i>Manufacture of paper and paper products</i>
18	<i>Printing and reproduction of recorded media</i>
19	<i>Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products</i>
20	<i>Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products</i>
21	<i>Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations</i>

Table 1 (continued)

<b>Classification of Economic activity</b> NACE Rev.2 (*)	<b>Economic Activity</b>
22	Manufacture of rubber and plastic products
23	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products
24	Manufacture of basic metals
25	Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
26	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products
27	Manufacture of electrical equipment
28	Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.
29	Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers
30	Manufacture of other transport equipment
31	Manufacture of furniture
32	Other manufacturing
33	Repair and installation of machinery and equipment

(\*) Data for divisions 07 and 08 are derived from the Annual Structural Survey on Mines, Pit-Quarries and Salterns

#### 1.4. Principles applicable to PRODCOM statistics

##### 1.4.1. Codification

As a general principle, when a production process takes as input a material that does not match the description of the product and produces as output something that does, then the production of product should be recorded.

On the other hand, if the processing merely works on a product without changing the heading under which it is classified, it should not be recorded, since this would result in double counting.

Industrial services including treatment, maintenance and repairs and assembly work are included in the PRODCOM list, although they do not have a corresponding CN code.

##### 1.4.2. Valuation principle

The value of production sold has to be calculated on the basis of the ex-works selling price obtained during the reference year. Packaging costs are included even if they are charged separately. Turnover components that are not included are: V.A.T. and separately charged freight costs, any consumer tax charged, discounts granted to the customer and refunds.

The value of service (i.e. the fee paid) rather than the value of any associated physical goods is recorded for industrial services.

##### 1.4.3. Contract processing (Sub-contracting)

Contract processing takes place when an enterprise (the principal) outsources the production of products to another enterprise (the subcontractor), and supplies the subcontractor with the raw material needed for the production. The finished goods are received and sold by the principal, who pays a fee to the subcontractor for the processing of the products.

The survey reports the subcontracting operations that take place within the Greek territory.

## 1.5. Data revision policy

The deadline for transmitting data to Eurostat is the 30<sup>th</sup> of June of the year following the reference year (T+6). Eurostat allows the transmission of revised data at any time and republishes data in the middle of any month when new data have been received since the last publication.

For the reference year 2012, Greece transmitted data for 1.426 headings out of 3.843 headings included in the 2012 PRODCOM list. The statistical data were transmitted to Eurostat on 30 June 2013, and were revised and transmitted again in their final form on 27 March 2014.

## 2. RELEVANCE

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*Relevance is the degree to which statistics meet current and potential users' needs. It refers to whether all statistics that are needed are produced and the extent to which concepts used reflect user needs.*

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### 2.1. Uses of PRODCOM statistics

PRODCOM statistics are necessary in order to monitor industry and markets and develop a corresponding policy both at national and European level. To meet these requirements, a common methodology on PRODCOM statistics has been developed which allows international comparisons at European level.

The main users of PRODCOM statistics are:

1. EUROSTAT
2. Central Government and Local Government
3. ELSTAT
4. enterprises and chambers
5. the academic community
6. individual users

The degree of users' satisfaction is not 100%, due to confidentiality issues of certain headings.

### 2.2. Confidentiality

#### 2.2.1. 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.

#### 2.2.2. 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.

### 2.2.3. Confidentiality rules for PRODCOM statistics.

Before publishing or transmitting the PRODCOM statistics to Eurostat, data of a heading that derive either from one to two local units or from a unit that produces over 90% of a heading's turnover, are flagged as confidential. Eurostat is legally bound to suppress such data from publication.

In accordance with the above mentioned rules, 790 out of a total of 1.426 headings (55%) were flagged as confidential for the reference year 2012.

The rules on data confidentiality of ELSTAT are also applied before providing statistical data to users.



### 3. **ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY**

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*Accuracy denotes the closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values. Reliability denotes the closeness of the initial estimated value to the final estimated value.*

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#### 3.1. *Sampling errors*

Sampling errors arise from the fact that not all the units of the population are enumerated, but only a sample of them. As the PRODCOM survey is conducted at a census basis, the sampling errors are equal to zero.

#### 3.2. *Non sampling errors*

##### 3.3.1. *Coverage errors.*

Frame population (population register) is the set of population units, which can be accessed through the frame. Coverage errors occur due to divergences existing between the target population and the frame population and are grouped to:

1. Over coverage errors. These errors mainly have to do with enterprises that are included in the business register, are selected to participate in the survey, but do not actually belong to the target population (e.g. closed enterprises during the reference period). As the PRODCOM survey is conducted on a census basis, over coverage errors do not lead to overestimation of the produced statistics.

2. Under coverage errors. These errors refer to units missing from the frame population. Under coverage errors can lead to underestimations of the produced statistics. Correction and weighting is difficult because under coverage rates cannot be obtained from the Business register but only from external sources.

3. Classification errors. These errors refer to miss-classification problems in the frame. Some surveyed and reporting units are classified under a different economic activity than the one reported in the business register. During data collection, these units are correctly classified under the new economic activity. As the survey is conducted on a census basis, miss-classification problems do not create errors on the produced statistics.

##### 3.3.2. *Measurement errors by the surveyed units*

The main reason of these errors is the erroneous completion of the questionnaire by the surveyed units and may concern reporting of:

1. wrong industrial product codes
2. wrong volume unit of measure
3. wrong quantities produced or sold.

In order to minimize the measurement errors by the surveyed units, guidelines are included in the questionnaire and, where possible, pre-filled questionnaires that include the products known to be produced by the surveyed unit are used.

##### 3.3.3. *Measurement errors by interviewers*

The main reason of these errors is the lack of experience of statistical interviewers (inability of tracking down the surveyed units, omitting to fill in certain fields etc) or the non understanding of questions and answers that lead to erroneous data entries.

In order to minimize the measurement errors by interviewers a seminar takes place in order to enable the interviewers to

1. fully understand the definitions of the survey characteristics
2. correctly fill in the questionnaire
3. efficiently check for errors by applying logical and completion checks

### 3.3.4. Processing errors

Processing errors refer to errors that may arise once the data are collected until they are available for further processing. Processing errors include errors during data codification or during data entry.

Aiming at minimizing such errors, the collected data undergo three sets of checks:

During the first stage, every collected questionnaire is checked in terms of every product that is manufactured by the enterprise and in terms of the changes in production in comparison with the previous year. If the changes either in volume or in value are bigger than the expected average changes, the enterprise is contacted in order to confirm the data before approving the questionnaire.

During the second stage, once imported, the data undergo aggregated checks at the level of the product, in order to avoid any errors in the values or codes during data entry.

During the third stage, the data are checked at 2-digit level as regards the value of production and they are compared with the data deriving from the survey on the Industrial Production Index.

After the completion of all the aforementioned checks, any processing errors are minimized and in many cases are reduced even to 0.

### 3.3.5. Non response errors

Non response is the failure of a survey to collect data either for all survey variables or from all population units.

There are two kinds of non-response errors:

- i. errors on account of the refusal of the enterprise to fill in the questionnaire
- ii. errors on account of incomplete filling in of questionnaire

The difference between the statistics computed from the collected data and those that would be computed if there were no missing values is the non response error.

The non response rate for the 2012 PRODCOM survey amounts to 12,79% as depicted in Table 2.

In order to minimize non response rate, a reminding letter was sent to all surveyed units, in which the scope and legal basis of the survey as well as the obligation of the units to respond were mentioned.

Table 2: Non response rates for 2012 PRODCOM survey

SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY NACE Rev.2	TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL UNITS PER SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (CLOSED REPORTING UNITS NOT INCLUDED)	NUMBER OF NON RESPONDED UNITS	NON RESPONSE RATE
10	684	79	11,55%
11	111	12	10,81%
12	5	0	0,00%
13	135	16	11,85%
14	294	36	12,24%
15	83	6	7,23%
16	108	16	14,81%
17	106	13	12,26%
18	143	21	14,69%
19	10	1	10,00%
20	158	6	3,80%
21	49	4	8,16%
22	230	33	14,35%
23	416	39	9,38%

Table 2: (continued)

SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY NACE Rev.2	TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCAL UNITS PER SECTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (CLOSED REPORTING UNITS NOT INCLUDED)	NUMBER OF NON RESPONDED UNITS	NON RESPONSE RATE
24	85	13	15,29%
25	322	57	17,70%
26	19	3	15,79%
27	115	14	12,17%
28	175	32	18,29%
29	30	6	20,00%
30	11	1	9,09%
31	235	51	21,70%
32	77	10	12,99%
33	90	3	3,33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.691</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>12,79%</b>

In the cases where a statistical unit refused to respond, the missing data were estimated on the basis of the trend of production of other enterprises manufacturing this product in the previous year, data of the previous years on the specific enterprise, data from its balance sheet, the results of the survey on the Industrial Production Index for this specific branch.

Similar practices were implemented in the cases of incomplete filling in of questionnaires as regards one product or one variable. In these cases, efforts were made to calculate and estimate data from the turnover of the unit, the average prices in comparison with the monthly data of the Industrial Production Index for the specific section of activity.

It is clear that these practices can not be implemented for enterprises which are included in the survey for the first time.

#### 4. TIMELINESS

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*Timeliness of information reflects the length of time between its availability and the event or phenomenon it describes.*

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Data are transmitted to Eurostat after t+6 from the end of the reference period, t (Council Regulation for PRODCOM, article 7). For the reference year 2012, the provisional data were transmitted on 30 June 2013 and according to Eurostat, the transmission was scored “very well”<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/e26c261c-10a2-49ee-8062-52a5730910ac/Doc%2013%202%20Quality%20Report%202013%20\\_%20Version%202.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/e26c261c-10a2-49ee-8062-52a5730910ac/Doc%2013%202%20Quality%20Report%202013%20_%20Version%202.pdf)

## 5. **ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY**

*Accessibility refers to the physical conditions in which users can obtain data: where to go, how to order, delivery time, clear pricing policy, convenient marketing conditions (copyright, etc.), availability of micro or macro data, various formats (paper, files, CD-ROM, Internet...), etc.*

*Clarity refers to the data's information environment whether data are accompanied with appropriate metadata, illustrations such as graphs and maps, whether information on their quality also available (including limitation in use...) and the extent to which additional assistance is provided by the NSI.*

PRODCOM statistics are provided both in electronic and printed forms.

### 5.1. *Electronic form*

PRODCOM statistics are transmitted to Eurostat electronically, in order to compile and publish the total Production of the European Community (EUROPROMS data base). Moreover, tabulated data (.xls) by product at the level of Greece total are available on ELSTAT's website ([www.statistics.gr](http://www.statistics.gr)). All methodological notes and metadata of the survey are also posted on the same website.

For the reference year 2012, all statistical data have been posted on the website of ELSTAT, at: [http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p\\_param=A0302](http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0302), as well as on Eurostat's database located to

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/prodcom/data/tables\\_excel](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/prodcom/data/tables_excel)

### 5.2. *Printed form*

PRODCOM statistics are used (in their initial form or grouped) in the following printed forms:

1. Annual publication on the production and sales of manufactured goods
2. Statistical Yearbook of Greece

## 6. **COMPARABILITY**

### 6.1. *Geographical comparability*

The data are comparable at the level of the Region (NUTS 2), since a common methodology is implemented throughout Greece. Moreover, data are comparable among EU Member States.

### 6.2. *Comparability over time*

Data are comparable over time. From 1993, which is the launching year of the survey, until 2007 the data were comparable since they were classified in compliance with the hitherto version of NACE. From 2008 onwards, the data are compared on the basis of the new version of NACE which is currently implemented.

Data are fully comparable between two consecutive years. However, business statistics are under a lot of changes due to changes of the surveyed population (new or closed enterprises, enterprises currently not active etc). In medium term, changes in product classification tend to lower comparability of products to a certain degree, depending on the scale of changes.

### 6.3. *Comparability with the Turnover Index in Industry*

The growth rates (%) of the value of production sold of the PRODCOM survey, as well as the growth rates (%) of the average annual Turnover Index in Industry between 2011 and 2012, are presented in the following table:

Table 3: Comparison of the PRODCOM statistical output with the output of Turnover Index in Industry

<b>NACE Rev.2</b>	<b>PRODCOM</b>	<b>TURNOVER INDEX IN INDUSTRY</b>
	<i>2012/2011</i>	<i>2012/2011</i>
10	-3,2%	-2,6%
11	-8,3%	-10,3%
12	-10,8%	-8,6%
13	-12,9%	-21,7%
14	-8,8%	-17,6%
15	-33,2%	-47,4%
16	-18,0%	-22,1%
17	-10,6%	-8,2%
18	-27,9%	-18,5%
19	31,3%	19,7%
20	-7,1%	-7,2%
21	-6,5%	-1,3%
22	-8,8%	-4,0%
23	-16,6%	-20,5%
24	-14,0%	-13,2%
25	-13,0%	-10,2%
26	0,5%	-5,0%
27	0,7%	10,4%
28	-9,0%	-8,4%
29	-30,2%	-13,5%
30	-13,0%	-42,5%
31	-39,0%	-31,5%
32	-17,5%	-10,8%
33	-18,5%	-13,2%

The differences in both surveys in some divisions are due to the following:

- The PRODCOM survey is conducted on a census basis, whereas the Turnover Index in Industry is compiled on a sample basis.
- The different timelines of the two surveys: PRODCOM collects data after the end of the reference year, whereas the Turnover Index in Industry collects data during the reference year.
- The total value of sold products per NACE division as derived from PRODCOM is not always equal to the turnover per division, as the units may be active in several economic sectors that are also included in the turnover. Moreover, enterprises that are not classified as manufacturing units may be producing goods that are included in PRODCOM headings, a fact that makes the comparison difficult.

Hence, comparisons between PRODCOM and Turnover Index in Industry are just an indication for the trend of the production sold over time.

## 7. ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

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*Administrative burden refers to the burden in terms of cost for respondents in accordance with the European Code of Practice (art. 9 and 10).*

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Business statistics are compiled through the filling in of questionnaires, as there are no administrative sources that can supply these data. Since the conduct of surveys imposes an administrative burden on the respondents, Eurostat has already made efforts to narrow down the level of detail recorded for the manufactured products. More specifically, out of a list of 5.619 heading in 2004, the PRODCOM list has been limited to 3.842 in 2012.

The administrative burden was estimated by Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT to 9,23€ per working hour for 2012. The time needed to fill in the questionnaire by the respondents is unknown, but it was estimated that the average time needed to fill in each PRODCOM heading is approximately 40,8 minutes. The PRODCOM headings that were processed in 2004 were 12.333, whereas in 2011 they were 7.922 (a reduction of 4.411), which led to a reduction of the administrative burden by 27.685.20€.

It should also be noted that for national needs, in 2012, 721 additional headings were surveyed without being requested by Eurostat (additional burden for the respondents 4.525,28€).

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

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*In this section, basic problems and suggestion for improvement are noted.*

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### 8.1. *Basic problems of the survey*

- Relevantly high percentage of non response rate
- Inability of filing in the questionnaire on-line

### 8.2. *Suggestions for improvement*

- An on-line application for filling in the questionnaire

### 8.3. *Next steps*

- In the 2013 PRODCOM survey, an additional question regarding the time needed to fill in the questionnaire was included, in order to better estimate the administrative burden imposed by the survey on respondents.