Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: SURVEY ON CIVIL JUSTICE

ELSTAT metadata

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1. Contact

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2. Introduction

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Civil Justic Statistics aim at depicting, on a yearly basis, the works and proceedings of the Courts of Law in Greece (Civil District Courts, Courts of First Instance) concerning the management of cases of Civil Justice by these Courts. Civil Justice also includes notarial acts and proceedings of Mortgage Registries.

3. Metadata update

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3.1 Metadata last certified	October 2014
3.2 Metadata last posted	October 2014
3.3 Metadata last update	October 2014

4. Statistical presentation

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4.1 Data description

As regards the judicial decrees issued by the Civil District Courts, the Courts of First Instance and the Courts of Appeal, the corresponding statistical questionnaires or tables are forwarded to the Justice and Public Order Statistics Section of ELSTAT, duly completed by the Magistrate in charge of the case or the secretary of the Court.

As regard the notarial acts, number of protests and deeds registered in the Mortgage Registry, the corresponding data are collected through statistical tables which are submitted annually by the Notaries and the Registrars of Mortgages in Greece.

4.2 Classification system

The **judicial district** is classified in compliance with a specific classification used for Civil Justice.

Economic activity (for bankruptcies) is classified in compliance with STAKOD 03 (utill 2007), which is the Greek version of NACE Rev1.1. From 2008 onwards, STAKOD 08 is used, which is identical (at 3 digits level) to NACE Rev2.

The **geographical areas** (for Bankruptcies) are classified according to NUTS classification.

4.3 Sector coverage

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4.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Political Courts are the courts, which are responsible for the resolution of private disputes.

Civil District Courts have jurisdiction over :

a) all disputes whose value, in terms of money, does not exceed €20,000,
b) all disputes, whether main or supplemental, arising from rental agreements if the agreed rental fee for each month does not exceed € 600.

Irrespective of the value of the case disputed at law, minor disputes and other special procedures are under the competency of the Civil District Courts, such as damages to trees, vines, fruit trees and restrictions on ownership, etc.

Single – Member Courts of First Instance have jurisdiction over :

a) disputes whose value, in terms of money, amounts to over € 20,000, but does not exceed €250,000.

b) all disputes, whether main or supplemental, arising from rental agreements if the agreed rental fee for each month is above € 600.
c) appeals against the decisions of Civil District Courts within their judicial district.

According to the articles 16 & 17 of the Code of Civil Justice, irrespective of the value of the case disputed at law, the Single-Member Court of First Instance has exclusive jurisdiction over: cases such as disputes between professionals or small industries either between themselves or with their customers; disputes arising from a collective work agreement; disputes with social security funds; disputes relating to pay, remuneration and expenses of lawyers; disputes concerning the level or repayment of insurance premiums; disputes from challenges to ownership or possession of movable or immovable property; disputes relating to the maintenance and guardianship of children, as well as those relating to deciding on the location of the family home and the allocation of movable property between spouses in the case where they cease to live in the same house; disputes between owners of floors or apartments resulting from horizontal property relationships; disputes relating to the annulment of decisions adopted by the general assembly of unions or cooperatives and other disputes.

Multi-member Courts of First Instance have jurisdiction over all the other cases which do not fall within the competency of the Civil District Courts and the Single – Member Court of First Instance.

Court of Appeals: Under the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals fall all the appeals against the decisions issued by the Single-Member and Multi-Member Court of First Instance within their district.

Notaries: Notaries are unsalaried public officials. They are appointed to existing places following a public competition; their main duty is to draft contracts, wills, memoranda of agreement, etc. Their conditions of service are governed by the Notaries Code and they are organised in professional associations of notaries.

Mortgage registrars are generally unsalaried public officials. Their main responsibility is to keep registers for: a) real estate mortgages and confiscations, b) registrations and c) proceedings and other judicial actions and other steps taken in connection with real estate.

4.5 Statistical unit

- Decisions issued by Civil District Courts, Courts of First Instance and Courts of Appeal
- Notarial acts
- Deeds registered in the Mortgage Registry

4.6 Statistical population

- The total of the decisions issued by Civil District Courts, Courts of First Instance and Courts of Appeal all over Greece
- The total of notarial acts issued by notaries all over Greece
- The total of deeds registered in all the Mortgage Registries of Greece.

4.7 Reference area

All the judicial districts of Greece are covered.

4.8 Time coverage

The surveys on Civil District Courts, Courts of First Instance and Courts of Appeal, as well as the surveyon notaries have been producing results since 1958, on a yearly basis.

The survey on Mortgage Registries has been producing results since 1969, on a yearly basis.

4.9 Base period

Not applicable.

5. Unit of measure

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1. Number of decisions issued by Civil District Courts, Courts of First Instance, Courts of Appeal
2. Number of declared bankruptcies and value of liabilities (in euro)
3. Number of notarial acts and value of stamp (in euro)
4. Number of deeds of Mortgage Registries and duties (in euro)

6. Reference period

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One calendar year.

7. Institutional mandate

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7.1 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 2012-1015" 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".*

Moreover, the Survey on Civil Justice is governed by the Joint Ministerial Decision No 10498/B115/63 and by Law No 3493/56.

7.2 Data sharing

None

8. Confidentiality

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8.1 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.

8.2 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.

9. Release policy

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9.1 Release calendar

There is no predefined release date for the survey results. The final results of the survey are published one year after the end of the reference year.

9.2 Release calendar access

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9.3 User access

The data are released simultaneously to all users when the tables are posted on the webpage of ELSTAT, http://www.statistics.gr, and at the link "Statistical Themes > Justice >Civil Justice".

The European Statistics Code of Practice governs equal access of all users to data by respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

10. Frequency of dissemination

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The final results of the survey are published one year after the end of the reference year.

11. Dissemination format

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11.1 News release

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11.2 Publications

1) The "***Statistical Yearbook of Greece***" is available for a fee to subscribers and upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority.
Final annual results are published pertaining to the following:

- ✓ Proceedings of courts
- ✓ Private law cases presented at the Civil District Courts and issued decisions
- ✓ Private law decisions issued by the Court of First Instance, by districts of Courts of Appeal
- ✓ Divorces by grounds for divorce, by party against whom it was issued and duration of dissolved marriage
- ✓ Bankruptcies, by category of bankrupts
- ✓ Bankruptcies reported, by category of bankrupts and branch of economic activity
- ✓ Executed notarial acts, by subject and value of stamp
- ✓ Proceedings of Mortgage Registries

2) The ***«Concise Yearbook of Greece»*** is available for a fee to subscribers and upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority.
Final annual results are published pertaining to the following:

- ✓ Proceedings of courts
- ✓ Divorces by grounds for divorce, by duration of dissolved marriage
- ✓ Bankruptcies, by category of bankrupts

- ✓ Bankruptcies reported, by economic activity branches
- ✓ Executed notarial acts, by object

All the above publications are available at:
Statistical Information and Publications Division
46, Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. BOX 80847, Postal Code 18510 Piraeus
Tel. (+30) 213-1352173, FAX: (+30) 213-1352022
e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr

11.3 On-line database

The on-line database is available on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority:
http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-database

11.3.1 Data tables - consultations

Total access to the website as regards the above survey for the year 2013 amounts to 4.439 hits.

11.4 Micro-data access

Microdata are made available to users after their submitting a request to the:
Division of Statistical Information and Publications
46, Peireos and Eponiton Str.,
18510 Piraeus
Tel: +30 213 135 2023/ 2022/ 2346/ 2308
Fax: +30 213 135 2819/2312
e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr
Confidentiality of data is always ensured (see chapter 8).

11.5 Other

A number of tabulated data are available to all users on the portal of ELSTAT at the following link:
http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/

Furthermore, more tabulated data are made to users after their submitting a request to the:
Division of Statistical Information and Publications
46, Peireos and Eponiton Str.,
18510 Piraeus
Tel: +30 213 135 2023/ 2022/ 2346/ 2308
Fax: +30 213 135 2819/2312
e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr
Confidentiality of data is always ensured (see chapter 8).

11.5.1 Metadata – consultations

Data on metadata consulatations are included in paragpraph 11.3.1.

12. Accessibility of documentation

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12.1 Documentation on methodology

Not compiled.

12.1.1 Metadata completeness - rate

Metadata completeness rate is 100% (number of metadata elements provided/total number of metadata elements applicable).

12.2 Quality documentation

Not compiled.

13. Quality management

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13.1 Quality assurance

Quality controls and validation of data are carried out during the whole process of the compilation of statistics: from the data collection stage to the final compilation of the tables.

First of all, well-trained and experienced staff is utilized for all the stages of the compilation of statistic that is, for data collection (including communication with administrative data sources), initial checks, data entry and final checks, which are conducted after the tabulation of data. This way, the personnel have a comprehensive and longitudinal image of the administrative data sources under their responsibilities.

Data are validated either before or after data entry by means of logical checks. During data processing the data are checked in order to identify and correct any errors. When big differences are identified in the number of judicial decisions in comparison with the previous year, data are further investigated, in cooperation with the administrative data sources in order to confirm that it is an error or it is about a real deviation.

At the same time, a check is carried out in order to verify whether all the questionnaires have been collected from all the administrative sources of Greece and whether all the variables of the questionnaires have been filled in correctly. In case such kind of problems arises, the involved administrative sources are contacted (by letter of by phone).

13.2 Quality assessment

After all the above checks, cross-checks and comparisons taking place in every stage, the correction of any errors and the necessary adjustments, the produced results are considered high quality results.

14. Relevance

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14.1 User needs

The more important users and their main needs are as follows:

- ✓ Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights: proceedings of courts, divorces, private law cases presented at the Civil District Courts, bankruptcies, notarial acts, proceedings of Mortgage Registries.
- ✓ Universities:proceedings of courts, divorces, notarial acts, proceedings of Mortgage Registries.
- ✓ Bank of Greece : notarial acts, proceedings of Mortgage Registries.

14.2 User satisfaction

A Users Satisfaction Survey is conducted by the Section of Statistical Dissemination. The survey results are available at : http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-conferences

14.3 Completeness

On the basis of users' needs, completeness is considered satisfactory.

15. Accuracy and reliability

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15.1 Overall accuracy

Since the survey is a census survey, any non-sampling errors (non-response or processing errors) are identified by means of appropriate checking and are duly corrected, in cooperation with the administrative data sources, thus producing high accuracy results.

15.2 Sampling error

No sampling errors, because the survey is a census survey and data are collected from administrative data sources.

15.3 Non-sampling error

Non-response errors are due to the fact the some of the administrative sources do not return the questionnaires and in these cases there is a contact with the data sources either by phone or by a reminder letter. Non-response errors may also be due to the fact that some of the variables of the questionnaire are not filled in or are incorrectly filled in; in these cases, after the checks carried out by the competent employees of ELSTAT the errors are duly corrected in cooperation with the involved administrative data sources.

15.3.1 Coverage error

The collected questionnaires are checked for completeness during the data collection phase through the updated Registers of the administrative source that supervise the surveyd units. These Registers are updated on a yearly basis, after direct contact with the responsible Agencies.

It is estimated that the coverage of surveyed units amounts approximately to 90%. In order to eliminate coverage error, reminders (by post or by telephone) are used on a regular basis.

15.3.1.1 Over-coverage – rate

No coverage is observed for units that do not belong to the population of the survey.

15.3.1.2 Common units – proportion

No common statistical processes are implemented.

15.3.2 Measurement error

During data collection, no measurement errors are observed.

15.3.3 Non response error

During the phase of codification, the collected questionnaires are cheched in order to confirm that they are correctly filled in. Cases of non-response are addressed directly by the staff of the competent Sections of ELSTAT, after having contacted with the administrative sources involved and moreover reminders are sent by post.

15.3.4 Processing error

No errors are observed in the final results of the data collection-data processing phases.

Quality checks are conducted throughout the production process of the statistical output, from data collection until the compilation of tables. More specifically, during the data processing phase, in cooperation with the Division of Informatics, all the necessary logical-electronical checks are carried out in order to eliminate any errors during the processing of microdata.

15.3.5 Model assumption error

No model is required to be implemented for this survey.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

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16.1 Timeliness

The time lag between the completion of data collection and the release of the results is 365 days.

16.2 Punctuality

Any delays are due to the fact that some administrative data sources delay response to questionnaires.

17. Comparability

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17.1 Comparability - geographical

The definitions and units of measure that are used do not rely on agreements between EU Member States and Eurostat, yet they are common with the definitions and units of measure used by the administrative sources of Greece.

17.1.1 Assymetry for mirror flows statistics – coefficient

Not applicable.

17.2 Comparability over time

Major changes in the surveys questionnaires during the last years:

- ✓ Economic activity (for Bankruptcies) was classified according to STAKOD 03 (utill 2007), which is the Greek version of NACE Rev1.1. From 2008 onwards, STAKOD 08 is used, which is identical (at 3 digits level) to NACE Rev2.
- ✓ In 2005 (for notarial acts) the stamp for copies and certificates was abolished.
- ✓ In 2007 (for divorces) there was a change in the grouping as regards the duration of marriage.

18. Coherence

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18.1 Coherence cross-domain

The statistical surveys on Civil Justice are not always compliant (as regards the number of decisions) with those conducted by the Courts because not all of the statistical bulletins are filled in by the Magistrate in charge or by the secretary of the court.

18.1.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

There is no problem of coherence among the monthly, quarterly and annual data because the survey is conducted on a yearly basis.

18.1.2 Coherence – National Accounts

Not applicable.

18.2 Coherence - internal

There are not significant differences between the common variables of the survey and the variables of other surveys.

19. Cost and burden

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Not estimated.

20. Data revision

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20.1 Revision policy

When amendements are made in the governing Legislation, the data are revised in compliance with the Revision Policy of ELSTAT (May 2013).

20.2 Revision practice

After having identified users' need, the questionnaire is re-designed, when appropriate, fully ensuring comparability of data longitudinally.

21. Statistical processing

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21.1 Source data

Primary data derive from administrative data sources.

21.2 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a quarterly basis.

21.3 Data collection

As regards decrees issued by District Civil Courts, Courts of First Instance and the Courts of Appeal, relative returns or tables, duly completed by the Magistrate in charge of the case or the secretary of the court, are transmitted to the Section of Justice and Public Order Statistics of ELSTAT.

Data on notarial acts, on the number of protests and the deeds registered in the Mortgage Registry are collected through statistical tables submitted annually by the Notaries and the Registrars of Mortgages.

21.4 Data validation

The data are validated by means of a series of quality and quantitative checks which are mainly based on:

1. Cross-checking of primary data with corresponding data of the previous year.
2. Comparisons between the main aggregates of the survey with corresponding aggregates of other statistical surveys.

21.5 Data compilation

The data after having been collected undergo logical checks, they are codified, imported in the electronic database, tabulated and finally they are published.

21.5.1 Imputation – rate

Not applicable.

21.6 Adjustment

No.

21.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

No seasonal adjustment.

22. Comment

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