

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0) (user oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: Annual Business Demography

ELSTAT metadata

Reference metadata

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1. Contact Top	
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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	29/03/2023
2.2 Metadata last posted	29/03/2023
2.3 Metadata last update	29/03/2023

3. Statistical presentation

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3.1 Data description

The annual Business Demography (BD) statistics present the main characteristics and demography of the business population. The compilation of these statistics is made according to the methodology laid down in the [Eurostat-OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics](#) using as main source the National Statistical Business Register (NSBR).

The main statistics produced are the following:

- Population of active enterprises
- Number of enterprise births
- Number of enterprise survivals up to five years
- Number of enterprise deaths
- Number of high-growth enterprises
- Related variables on employment

3.2 Classification system

Economic activities

The classification used for the economic activities is the [Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community - NACE Rev. 2](#).

Legal form

The BD statistics are produced in the following main legal form categories:

- Sole Proprietor (SP): Personally owned and no limit to personal liability
- Limited liability company (LL): Private or publicly quoted joint stock companies with limited liability for those owning shares
- Partnership and other legal forms (PA): Personally owned limited and unlimited liability partnerships. Included are also other level forms such as cooperatives, associations etc.
- Total (TT): All of the above legal forms

Employee size class

The employee size categories are as follows:

- 01: 0 employees
- 02: 1 to 4 employees
- 03: 5 to 9 employees
- 04: 10 and more employees

3.3 Sector coverage

BD statistics cover sections B to S of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2), excluding Activities of holding companies (K 64.2) and Public administration and defense; Compulsory social security (Section O).

High-growth enterprises cover NACE Sections B to N and division S95.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

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. (No L 76 / 6 Official Journal of the European Communities 30. 3 .93 Explanatory note). The enterprise thus defined is an economic entity which can therefore, under certain circumstances, correspond to a grouping of several legal units. Some legal units, in fact, perform activities exclusively for other legal units and their existence can only be explained by administrative factors (e.g. tax reasons), without them being of any economic significance. A large proportion of the legal units with no persons employed also belongs to this category. In many cases, the activities of these legal units should be seen as ancillary activities of the parent legal unit, they serve, to which they belong and to which they must be attached to form an enterprise used for economic analysis.

Births of enterprises

A count of the number of births of market enterprises registered to the population concerned in the business register corrected for errors. A birth amounts to the creation of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Births do not include entries into the population due to mergers, break-ups, split off or restructuring of a set of enterprises. It does not include entries into a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity.

Deaths of enterprises

A count of the number of deaths of market enterprises registered to the population concerned in the business register corrected for errors. A death amounts to the dissolution of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Deaths do not include exits from the population due to mergers, take-overs, break-ups or restructuring of a set of enterprises. It does not include exits from a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity.

Survival

Enterprise survival as referred to in these characteristics occurs if an enterprise is active in terms of employment and/or turnover in the year of birth and the following year(s). Two types of survival can be distinguished:

- An enterprise born in year $t-1$ is considered to have survived in year t if it is active in terms of turnover and/or employment in any part of year t (= survival without changes).
- An enterprise is also considered to have survived if the linked legal unit(s) have ceased to be active, but their activity has been taken over by a new legal unit set up specifically to take over the factors of production of that enterprise (= survival by take-over).

High-Growth Enterprises

A count of market enterprises, having at least 10 employees in $t - 3$, with average annualised growth in number of employees greater than 10% per annum, over a three year period ($t - 3$ to t). It does not include enterprises born in $t-3$ ([Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) No 439/2014](#)).

3.5 Statistical unit

BD statistics are produced for the statistical unit enterprise which is considered equal to legal unit. This equality is valid for the vast majority of enterprises in Greece. Profiling process is in progress in order to better implement the definition of the statistical unit enterprise in all relevant statistical domains. The results of this process will be incorporated in the BD statistics of the subsequent reference years.

3.6 Statistical population

BD statistics cover all enterprises located in the national territory having turnover or employment for some time within the reference year and with economic activity under sectoral coverage.

3.7 Reference area

The whole country is covered.

3.8 Time coverage

Data for enterprise stocks, births, deaths and survivals are available from 2004.

Data on high-growth enterprises are available from 2011 onwards.

3.9 Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

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Active, birth, death and survival enterprises and their employment are measured in absolute figures.

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 latest available copy of the national statistical business register consists of the final annual master frame for 2021 reference year.

In this annual copy, the economic variables (number of employees, turnover and economic activity) refer to the 2021 reference year.

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

Legal acts and other agreements - EU level

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) of 11 March 2008 concerning structural business statistics (recast), Annex IX, provides a legal basis for the data collection.
- [Commission regulation \(EC\) No 250/2009](#) of 11 March 2009 implementing regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the definitions of characteristics, the technical format for the transmission of data, the double reporting requirements for NACE Rev.1.1 and NACE Rev.2 and derogations to be granted for structural business statistics
- [Commission regulation \(EC\) No 251/2009](#) of 11 March 2009 implementing and amending Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the series of data to be produced for structural business statistics and the adaptations necessary after the revision of the statistical classification of products by activity (CPA)
- [Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) No 439/2014](#) of 29 April 2014 ensures data collection on employer enterprises (with at least one employee), high-growth enterprises (more than 10% annual growth over three years) and their employment.
- [Commission regulation \(EC\) No 446/2014](#) of 2 May 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning structural business statistics, and Commission Regulations (EC) No 251/2009 and (EU) No 275/2010, as regards the series of data to be produced and the criteria for evaluation of the quality of structural business statistics.

Legal acts and other agreements - national level

- **Greek Statistical 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 and in force
- **Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority** (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)
- **Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System**, (Government Gazette No 4083, Issue B, 20-12-2016)
- **Greek Commitment on Confidence in Statistics** (Government Gazette 40 A, 29.02.2012)
- **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), as amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/759.
- **European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP)** - revised edition 2017
- **Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council** of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)
- **Presidential Decree 73/2019** (Government Gazette No 114, Issue A, 04.07.2019): "Organization of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)" (Available only in Greek)
- **Law 4624/2019** (Government Gazette A'137 / 29.08.2019) "Hellenic Data Protection Authority, measures implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 for the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and transposition (into national law) Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 and other provisions " (Available only in Greek)

The Legal Framework is detailed in the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

6.2 Data sharing

None

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

GENERALLY

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:

- 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
- 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:

- 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 set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, 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.

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.

BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY DATA

1. Identifying primary confidential cells by applying the following rules:
 - a. Number of units below a minimum threshold – too few enterprises
 - b. One enterprise dominates the data
 - c. Two enterprises dominate the data
2. Implementation of secondary confidentiality treatment
3. Implementation of the same confidentiality pattern between related series at the national level (linked tables) in order to ensure consistency
4. Treatment of special aggregates
5. In order to achieve the correct implementation of all the above rules a special software has been developed.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

Each year ELSTAT publishes a release calendar with the exact release dates of statistics for the following year.

8.2 Release calendar access

The calendar is distributed to the press and is available to all interested parties free of charge. This calendar is also posted on ELSTAT's website (www.statistics.gr) under item "[Press Releases Calendar](#)".

8.3 User access

Business Demography statistics are available via Eurostat's website in the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/structural-business-statistics/data/main-tables>.

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.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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Annually.

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1 News release

ELSTAT publishes a press release on an annual basis for Business Demography, under section "Industry, Trade, Services, Transport", subsection "Statistical Business Register, Business Demography", in the following link: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SBR05/->.

10.2 Publications

Not available.

10.3 On-line database

BD statistics can be found in the [online database](#) of Eurostat in the folder "Business demography".

10.4 Micro-data access

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 Other

Not applicable.

10.6 Documentation on methodology

The BD Statistics are produced in accordance with regulations presented under section 6.1. The methodology followed takes into account international practices and, in particular, [Eurostat – OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics](#).

Analytical information on the compilation of the BD statistics, is available on the relevant metadata file, available in ELSTAT's website, under section [Business Demography](#).

10.7 Quality documentation

BD statistics are checked via specialized software, which incorporates quality checks.

A quality report is sent to Eurostat on an annual basis and is disseminated on ELSTAT's website (www.statistics.gr).

11. Quality management

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11.1 Quality assurance

As already mentioned under section 3.1 the compilation of Business Demography Statistics (BD) is based on data from the National Statistical Business Register (NSBR). Moreover, the methodology followed takes into account international practices and, in particular, [Eurostat – OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics](#).

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.

Logical checks for data consistency over time are also carried out at the level of the aggregated business demography data.

11.2 Quality assessment

Business Demography (BD) statistics are of high quality as:

- Quality checks and validation of data are carried out during the compilation of the National Statistical Business Register (NSBR), which is the data source of BD. Analytical information on the checks applied for NSBR is available in the relevant metadata report, which is available on ELSTAT's website (www.statistics.gr), under section [Statistical Business Register](#).
- Quality checks and validation of data are carried out at the level of the aggregated BD statistics
- The BD concepts and the definitions of variables, as well as the methodology applied follow European Standards as described under section 10.6.

12. Relevance

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12.1 User needs

The main national users of Business Demography statistics are:

- Central Government and public entities
- Enterprises and chambers
- Scientific community
- Press and other Media
- Hellenic Statistical Authority
- Individual users

At international level, the main user is EUROSTAT and other international organizations.

Business demography statistics provide policy relevant information of the economic contribution in terms of employment of newly born enterprises, enterprises surviving their first years of activity as well as high growth enterprises. For each business demographic event, employment variables are available to quantify their importance. The data are also used to reveal specific demographic patterns by economic activity of enterprises, legal form and employment size class.

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 (SYPELSIS), 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 level of completeness is of 100%, as all mandatory statistics, according to Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No 439/2014, are compiled.	
13. Accuracy and reliability	Top
13.1 Overall accuracy	
The overall accuracy of BD statistics is high, as they are compiled according to the methodology and definitions of the Eurostat - OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics .	
13.2 Sampling error	
Not applicable.	
13.3 Non-sampling error	
<p>The compilation of Business Demography statistics is based on data from the Statistical Business Register.</p> <p>The main issues regarding accuracy of the data are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misclassification of economic activity • Overestimation of employment, from specific administrative sources <p>The actions taken to improve accuracy of the data are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in the economic activity of statistically significant enterprises are checked on the basis of published financial statements and survey data. • Information on employment from administrative sources is cross-checked in case of statistically significant enterprises presenting high rate of change in the relevant variable. 	
14. Timeliness and punctuality	
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14.1 Timeliness	
<p>According to Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 and its implementing regulation (EU) No 439/2014 BD statistics are transmitted to EUROSTAT as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 12 months after the end of the reference year (t+12) for preliminary high-growth enterprises, • within 18 months after the end of the reference year (t+18) for active, birth and survival enterprises; preliminary death enterprises; final high-growth enterprises and • within 20 months after the end of the reference year (t+20) for active, birth and survival employer enterprises; preliminary death employer enterprises. <p>In the case of enterprise deaths, a two year lag is foreseen in the methodology in order to confirm whether a presumed death is in fact reactivated. For this reason information on final deaths is generally available later than the stock of enterprises and enterprise births.</p>	
14.2 Punctuality	
The transmission of data to EUROSTAT is in accordance with the transmission program laid down in article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council.	
15. Coherence and comparability	
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15.1 Comparability - geographical	
<p>BD statistics are compiled in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 and its implementing regulation (EU) No 439/2014 and in accordance with the Eurostat-OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics. This ensures the comparability of the BD statistics compiled by the EU Member States.</p>	

15.2 Comparability over time	
The use of the same classifications for economic activities, legal forms and employees size class ensures the comparability from reference year 2008 onwards.	
15.3 Coherence cross-domain	
Data on the number of active enterprises from BD statistics and SBS are not completely aligned due to the different methodologies used. More specifically, foreign branches are excluded from SBS. Moreover, enterprises whose main part of turnover occurs from non SBS activity are also excluded from SBS statistics.	
15.4 Coherence - internal	
There is internal coherence, regarding the aggregates of economic activities, legal forms and size classes according to the level of employment. Coherence also exists between related series at national level (linked tables).	
16. Cost and burden Top	
In general, BD data collection does not impose additional burden and cost, as the basic information is available in the NSBR.	
17. Data revision Top	
17.1 Revision policy	
The Revision Policy of ELSTAT lays down standard rules and principles for data revisions, in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice and the principles for a common revision policy for European Statistics contained in the Annex of the European Statistical System (ESS) guidelines on revision policy.	
17.2 Revision practice	
Not applicable.	
18. Statistical processing Top	
18.1 Source data	
The data source for BD statistics is the National Statistical Business Register, of the respective reference year.	
18.2 Frequency of data collection	
Not applicable.	
18.3 Data collection	
There is no data collection included for the compilation of BD statistics, as it is based on the NSBR.	
18.4 Data validation	
Data are pre-validated before transmitted to Eurostat via a specialized tool (edit tool), incorporating all checks regarding the internal coherence of BD statistics, such as the correct calculation of the aggregates or coherence between different variables. Finally, coherence between related series is also examined.	
18.5 Data compilation	
For the compilation of the BD series transmitted to Eurostat a program developed specifically for the needs of BD statistics is used, which incorporates all relevant methodology. The specific program allows for the automatic calculation of the data and respective aggregates.	
18.6 Adjustment	
Not applicable.	
19. Comment Top	
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