



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

DATA COLLECTION FOR CITY AND SUBNATIONAL STATISTICS

Metadata report, 2021-2022 Annex 1

Sofia, 2024

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Overview

The main goal of the Data collection for City and Subnational Statistics (Urban Audit project) is to provide comparable information at the European level. This is achieved by applying recommended definitions for each indicator and domain, and ensuring that the provided data meets the required standards.

The following report presents the level of data harmonisation with the City statistics manual¹ definitions and specifies areas where harmonisation is not feasible. It is important to note that any existing discrepancies do not affect the quality or comparability of the data.

Spatial units

Bulgarian cities and Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) included in the data collection are defined based on the 2011 Population and Housing Census results and by applying the European methodological requirements for these territorial typologies.

Presently, data is collected and provided for **18 cities and 17 FUAs**.

Deviations from the requirements by domains and indicators

Population and nationality (DE1, DE2)

The data on the usually resident population is provided following the definitions set in Regulation No 1260/2013 on European demographic statistics². The data covers Bulgarian citizens and foreigners (EU citizens and third-country nationals), as well as native and foreign-born individuals.

The population and nationality data refer to the 31st of December of the previous year, which is considered the reference year minus one.

Household structure (DE3)

In Bulgaria, the definition of a private household used in statistical surveys is based on the concept of a "housekeeping unit". All statistical surveys follow this concept. As sample surveys are the only source for some of the statistical data required for the Urban Audit data collection, household data provided is based on Small Area Estimates (SAE), using EU-LFS data. The approach used clusters settlements in Bulgaria into four main thematic groups: demography, economic activity, education, and economy. This creates the possibility to produce estimates at municipal and settlement levels. We are aware of the fact that City statistics require the application of "household-dwelling" concept, but the deviation pointed out is not considered crucial for data quality and comparability.

The national SAE methodology is validated by Eurostat and described in Annex II of the national metadata³.

Until the reference year 2019, the definition used for the compilation of Lone pensioner household data (DE3008V) is according to the Methodological Manual on City Statistics, 2017 edition.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=City_statistics_manual

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1260>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/Annexes/urb_esms_bg_an3.pdf

Housing (SA1)

Number of conventional dwellings (SA1001V)

Data on conventional dwellings are coming from two different sources of information: 'Population and Housing Census' survey and the regular survey known as 'Short-term statistics on residential buildings'. Both surveys are carried out by NSI. The balance of the housing fund is calculated by adding the number of newly constructed dwellings to the Census Housing Fund data and subtracting the number of destroyed dwellings during the reference year.

The Census Housing Fund data in addition to all conventional dwellings includes an insignificant number (less than 0.7% of the total for 2011 and 2021) of unconventional ones. Thus, there has been a deviation from the City statistics manual methodology since 2011.

2021 Census data includes dwellings in houses, blocks of flats, buildings of mixed type, campuses, country houses and dwellings of institutional households.

You can find more information regarding the Housing Fund statistics by visiting the following website: <https://www.nsi.bg/en/content/3143/housing-fund>.

Average price for buying an apartment (SA1051V)

The data in question pertains to both new and old apartments, country-wide. The average price of purchasing an apartment is calculated using a weighted average of both new and existing apartments, as well as regional cities. Since 2015, a harmonized approach according to Commission Regulation No 93/2013 has been used to collect data on house prices for both new and existing dwellings. This data is used to calculate quarterly indices for both national and regional house price trends. It should be noted that data before 2014 only referred to flats in district centres, with newly built flats being excluded.

Average annual rent for housing per m² – EUR (SA1049V)

Data refers to social and market rents for housing observed in group 04.1 'Actual rentals for housing' of the COICOP⁴ and is derived from the NSI Consumer Price Indices survey. The average price for social and market rentals is weighted by using EU-SILC⁵ and Census 2011 data.

Number of people in accommodation for the homeless (SA1029V)

The data on the number of people in homeless accommodation is only collected during population census years. The Census reference date for 2011 was 01 February 2011. It's worth noting that people with no usual place of residence were not included in the count, as they were enumerated at the location where they were found, usually streets.

Health (SA2)

The data related to infant mortality, live births, and deaths is in complete accordance with the definitions in the City statistics manual.

Labour Market (EC1)

⁴ Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)

⁵ The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

Labour market variables are defined following the requirements of Urban Audit data collection. Data is collected and calculated by the NSI and is based on LFS data estimations.

Number of children 0-4 in daycare or school (TE1001V)

Data on the number of children aged 0-4 in daycare or school are coming from two different surveys. Data sources are Crèches and Kindergartens.

Crèches are separate structures in which medical and other specialists are teaching and bringing up children aged 3 months to 3 years. Detached crèches, as well as groups in kindergartens in the cities, their Functional Urban Areas and the country as a whole, are covered. The number of children in crèches is collected **as of 31 December**.

Kindergartens (equivalent to ISCED level 0) are creating conditions for the normal physical and mental health of the children up to their entering first class. All state, municipal and private kindergartens in the Urban Audit units are covered. The number of children in kindergartens is collected for a school year with a **reference date of observation 01 December**.

Example

For the reference year 2022, the number of children in crèches was collected as of 31 December 2022 and the number of children in kindergartens was collected for the school year 2022/2023 with reference date of observation 01 December 2022.

Differences between the City statistics manual's definitions and the national definition:

- 1) Childminders, babysitters and au-pairs are not included.
- 2) The number of children 0-4 in daycare or school is available at the end of the year and is not given as a monthly average.

Students in higher education (TE1026V, TE1027V, TE1028V)

The definition used is according to the UOE⁶ methodology (distance learning is included). According to the City statistics manual data, the reference year refers to the academic year. Following the UOE methodology, the number of students enrolled is observed at the beginning of the reference academic year.

Example

The reference year 2022 refers to the academic year 2021/2022. Following the OUE methodology, the students enrolled are observed at the beginning of the reference academic year 2021/2022 with the reference observation date of 15 November 2021.

Municipal waste generated (EN4008V)

Data are available on municipality level only. Data provided at the city level is estimated by disaggregation of the data from municipality level using the population on 31 December of the reference year as a regionalizing factor.

Length of bicycle network (dedicated cycle paths and lanes) (TT1079V)

⁶ Joint UNESCO-UIS/OECD/EUROSTAT (UOE) data collection on formal education.

The definition of bicycle network follows the requirements of the City statistics manual. In cases where a cycle path or lane is built from both sides of the roadway to follow the travelling directions, it is considered as one.

Cost of a combined monthly tickets (TT1080V)

Every city in the country has its own policy for public transport payment. Usually, cities provide monthly travel passes at varying prices for different categories of passengers, such as students, pensioners or people with disabilities. The cost of the travel passes may vary based on whether they are personal or non-personal. The data provided for Bulgarian cities are for non-personal travel passes for regular passengers. Data source for this indicator are the municipal administrations.

Burgas (BG004C) and Stara Zagora (BG008C) are the only cities that offer seasonal tickets with a specific number of trips per month. These seasonal tickets come with options for 30, 50, or 80 trips. The data provided is only for seasonal tickets with 50 trips for these two cities. In 2022, the city of Stara Zagora changed its payment policy from seasonal tickets to combined monthly tickets (travel passes).

The cities of Pernik (BG012C) and Shumen (BG011C) provide only one mode of public transport.

For city Vidin (BG007C) for the period 2010-2017, the zero values indicate that public transport is available, but the service provider does not offer a combined monthly ticket.

Cost of a taxi ride of 5 km to the centre at day time (TT1081V)

The data for this indicator is calculated by observing the top three taxi service providers in each city. The figures are estimated by computing the mean for all three companies during daytime rates. The cost is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Cost of a taxi ride of 5 km} = (\text{transportation fee per km} \times 5) + \text{initial charge} + \text{wait rate for 1 min.}$$

Due to the lack of information on average waiting time for different time intervals in city centres, the calculations are based on one-minute waiting time.

Number of deaths in road accidents (TT1060V)

Data at the city level cannot be provided and refers to the LAU level (municipalities). FUA's data is according to the definitions.

Number of public libraries (CR1010V)

The NSI annual data collection for libraries covers only libraries with library collections above 200,000 documents. However, in the years 2005, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022, NSI conducted exhaustive surveys and collected data for all libraries, regardless of the size of their collections. Respectively data is fully consistent with the definition only for the above-mentioned reference years.

Number of public swimming pools (indoor and outdoor, excluding beaches) (CR1015V)

Data for public swimming pools follow the definitions in the City statistics manual.

Data for Sofia City and FUA are not available. For the Cities/FUAs of Vidin and Haskovo data is shown with zero value. Vidin has three outdoor swimming pools that operate for five months per year, while Haskovo has none.