



Consistency of core economic and employment variables - a user perspective -

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Overview

Who are we?

Policy context

***Needs for statistics in monitoring
policy implementation***

Key challenges

DG Enterprise and Industry

Mission: to promote a growth friendly framework for European enterprises.

Key role in the **Europe 2020 Agenda**

Objectives: (1) ensure an open internal market for goods; (2) strengthen Europe's industrial base; (3) support SMEs and encourage an entrepreneurial culture; (4) industrial innovation; (5) support internationalization of businesses;

The policy context

- ***Europe 2020 – growth and jobs***
- ***The industrial policy communication***
“An industrial policy for the globalization era”;
- ***Small business act for Europe;***
- ***“Small business big world”***
communication;

Monitoring policy implementation





Enterprise and Industry
SBA Fact Sheet 2012
SPAIN

In a nutshell

- Spanish SMEs are still struggling with the impact of the deep recession and persistent unemployment.
- Spain scores better than the EU in only one SBA area. Think small first. On the other aspects, it scores either on par with the average (Second chance, Responsive administration, Environment) or below average.
- In 2011, Spain achieved a more balanced development across the SBA aspects, taking policy action in most areas. Due to the current economic crisis, the government passed new measures to help credit flow into the real economy, remove administrative charges and boost the competitiveness of Spanish firms by investing in R&D.

About the SBA Fact Sheets¹

The *Small Business Act for Europe* (SBA) is the EU's flagship policy initiative to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The aim of the annually updated Fact Sheets is to improve understanding of recent trends and national policies affecting SMEs. Since 2011, each EU Member State has appointed a high-ranking government official as national SME envoy. SME envoys spearhead the implementation of the SBA agenda in their countries.

1. SMEs in Spain — basic figures

	Number of Enterprises		Employment			Value added	
	Spain	EU27	Spain	EU27	Spain	EU27	
	Number	Share	Number	Share	Share	Share	
Micro	2 323 110	93.9%	4 845 960	40.7%	29.6%	139	28.1%
Small	131 038	5.3%	2 494 318	20.5%	20.6%	104	21.0%
Medium-sized	16 830	0.7%	1 661 054	13.9%	17.2%	82	16.5%
SMEs	2 470 978	99.9%	9 061 332	75.6%	67.4%	325	65.7%
Large	2 325	0.1%	2 911 529	24.4%	32.6%	170	34.3%
Total	2 473 306	100.0%	11 972 861	100.0%	100.0%	495	100.0%

Estimates for 2011, based on 2005-2009 figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database (Eurostat). The estimates have been produced by Cambridge Econometrics. The data cover the business economy which includes industry, construction, trade, and services (NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to J, L, M and N). The data does not cover the enterprises in agriculture, forestry, fishing or the largely non-market services such as education and health. The advantage of using Eurostat data is that the statistics from different countries have been harmonised and are comparable across countries. The disadvantage is that for some countries these data may be different from data published by national authorities.

Spain's SME sector emulates the European average in terms of distribution among size groups. SMEs represent 99.9% of the Spanish population of enterprises, and micro firms account for 94%. What sets the group of micro enterprises apart is the fact that in Spain, they employ a much higher share of workers in the business economy (40.7% vs 29.7%), and produce more value added (28.1% compared to 21.5% in the EU).

This may be due to the sectoral distribution of SMEs in Spain. There is a higher concentration of SMEs in the sectors that tend to have smaller average enterprise size, such as services (47% and trade (32%).

Estimates for 2011 still reveal a net fall in the number of companies, particularly for enterprises in construction, trade and services. Nevertheless, SMEs in services remain the main drivers of employment and value added in the SME sector, accounting for 40% and 43%.

Spain is still struggling with the impact of the deep recession and persistent unemployment.

When looking at trends over time, the figures show that the numbers of companies and employment, although they are still on a slightly downward path, started to stabilise in 2010-2011, but at a level well below the peak registered in 2007.

On the contrary, the value added produced by SMEs has increased constantly but at a modest rate, after

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SBA Fact Sheet 2012 – Spain

Assessing the effects of regulations on the competitiveness of Europe's industry and SME sector

- *Regulatory impact assessments and Fitness checks;*
- *Competitiveness proofing;*
- *SME tests;*

Enterprise and trade statistics are increasingly important for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies.

Future Challenges

- ✓ *Requirements for statistics will continue to increase, both in terms of quantity and quality (timeliness, consistency, etc.);*
- ✓ *New themes emerge, and they are more complex and interrelated;*
- ✓ *Change of vision/approach necessary;*

Number of enterprises

- ✓ *Consistency issues regarding the treatment of sole traders / self-employed (thresholds);*
- ✓ *Horizontal consistency SBS/BD/Comext;*
- ✓ *More precise implementation of the SME definition for size-class data (independence criterion);*

Thank you for your attention!

