

Eurostat metadata
Reference metadata
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For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT](#)

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1. Contact Top	
1.1. Contact organisation	European Commission - Eurostat
1.2. Contact organisation unit	F4: Income and living conditions; Quality of life
1.5. Contact mail address	European Commission - Eurostat Unit ESTAT.F.4: Income and living conditions; Quality of life L-2920 Luxembourg

2. Metadata update Top	
2.1. Metadata last certified	09/07/2018
2.2. Metadata last posted	09/07/2018
2.3. Metadata last update	09/07/2018

3. Statistical presentation Top	
3.1. Data description	
<p>The figures from 2008 onwards on court processes are based on the joint Eurostat-UNODC data collection. It is available at country level for European Union Member States, EFTA countries, EU Candidate countries, and EU Potential Candidates.</p> <p>The statistics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal cases (criminal, civil and/or commercial, administrative, others) processed by legal status of the court process (brought to court/resolved/pending), • Persons brought before criminal courts by legal status (convicted persons / acquitted). 	
3.2. Classification system	
<p>Crimes are classified by the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS).</p> <p>Regions are classified by Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS).</p> <p>Legal status is classified according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime definitions.</p>	
3.3. Coverage - sector	
Not applicable.	
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	

CASES PROCESSED BY THE COURTS			
Civil/Commercial Cases			
<i>Definition:</i> Any cases processed under national civil/commercial law.			
First instance courts			
<i>Definition:</i> Refers to the initial trial courts where legal proceedings are first heard			
The tables below shows if the data comply with the definition : First instance courts and Civil/Commercial Cases			
ISO	Country	First instance courts	Civil/Commercial cases
BE	Belgium	:	:
BG	Bulgaria	YES	YES
CZ	Czech Republic	YES	YES
DK	Denmark	YES	YES
DE	Germany	YES	YES
EE	Estonia	YES	YES
IE	Ireland	:	:
EL	Greece	YES	YES
ES	Spain	YES	YES
FR	France	:	:
HR	Croatia	YES	YES
IT	Italy	YES	YES
CY	Cyprus	:	:

LV	Latvia	YES	YES
LT	Lithuania	YES	YES
LU	Luxembourg	:	:
HU	Hungary	YES	YES
MT	Malta	YES	YES
NL	Netherlands	YES	YES
AT	Austria	YES	YES
PL	Poland	YES	YES
PT	Portugal	YES	YES
RO	Romania	:	:
SI	Slovenia	YES	YES
SK	Slovakia	YES	YES
FI	Finland	YES	YES
SE	Sweden	YES	YES
UKC-L	United Kingdom - England and Wales	:	YES
UKM	United Kingdom - Scotland	YES	YES
UKN	United Kingdom - Northern Ireland	YES	YES
IS	Iceland	:	:
LI	Liechtenstein	:	:
NO	Norway	YES	:
CH	Switzerland	YES	YES
ME	Montenegro	YES	YES
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	:
AL	Albania	YES	YES
RS	Serbia	YES	YES
TR	Turkey	YES	YES
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	YES	YES
XK	Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	YES	YES

: not applicable/not provided

Litigious Civil/Commercial Cases

Definition: "Litigious Civil/Commercial Cases" are for instance litigious divorce cases or disputes regarding contracts. In some countries commercial cases are addressed by special commercial courts, whilst in other countries these cases are handled by ordinary (civil) courts. Bankruptcy proceedings must be understood as litigious proceedings. Despite the organisational differences between countries in this respect, all the information concerning civil and commercial cases should be included in the same figures.

Non-litigious Civil/Commercial Cases

Definition: "Non-litigious Civil/Commercial Cases" includes uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, divorce cases with mutual consent (for some legal systems), etc. Enforcement litigious cases (for example judicial appeal against deeds processed by a bailiff) are included in this category. If courts deal with such cases, please indicate the different case categories included.

The tables below shows if the data comply with the definition :Litigious Civil/Commercial Cases and Non-litigious Civil/Commercial Cases

ISO	Country	Letigius civil/commercial cases	Not comply with definition Letigius civil/commercial cases	Non-Letigius civil/commercial cases	Not comply with definition Non-Letigius civil/commercial cases
BE	Belgium	:		:	
BG	Bulgaria	YES		YES	
CZ	Czech Republic	NO	All divorce cases are included in "Non-litigious" category	NO	All divorce cases are included in this category
DK	Denmark	YES		NO	In general Yes. But we consider all divorce cases litigious as we can't differentiate statistically between cases without conflict and cases with conflict
DE	Germany	:		:	
EE	Estonia	DONT KNOW		DONT KNOW	
IE	Ireland	:		:	
EL	Greece	YES		YES	
ES	Spain	YES		:	
FR	France	:		:	
HR	Croatia	YES		YES	
IT	Italy	YES		YES	
CY	Cyprus	:		:	
LV	Latvia	NO	It is impossible to divide all Civil/Commercial Cases into Litigious and Non-litigious according to the description of definitions given. For example Bankruptcy proceedings are not understood as litigious proceedings. Insolvency - Bankruptcy cases are recorded in the Court Information System as Non-litigious cases in the same figures	NO	According to the Civil Law as well as data registration in the Court Information System are not relevant to the given definition: "Non-litigious Civil/Commercial cases" . The requests for a change of name or divorce cases with mutual consent. The categories of cases that are tried in a special legal order are: about adoption, on the limitation or cancellation of a person's legal capacity, on temporary guardianship of a person, declaring a deceased person dead, finding facts of legal significance, cases arising from inheritance rights, cases concerning the activities of a bailiff or notary,

					<i>insolvency cases, other Civil/ Commercial cases to be considered in particular in legal proceedings, for deprivation of citizenship, approval of the Orphan's court decision, recognition and enforcement of a foreign court decision, complaints about creditors' meeting decisions in insolvency cases, applications for claims security before lawsuit and provision of evidence, applications for arbitration's decisions forced execution, applications for property protection if not inheritance cases, applications related to execution of court decisions</i>
LT	Lithuania	NO	<i>Data are not classified by this category</i>	NO	<i>Data are not classified by this category</i>
LU	Luxembourg	:		:	
HU	Hungary	YES		YES	
MT	Malta	YES		YES	
NL	Netherlands	YES		YES	
AT	Austria	YES		YES	
PL	Poland	NO	<i>Any kind of dispute processed under a civil or commercial law</i>	NO	<i>Any kind of court case not included in "litigious civil/commercial cases"</i>
PT	Portugal	NO	<i>Includes the case flow of civil justice, labour justice and juvenile justice. It does not include civil and labour enforcement cases</i>	:	
RO	Romania	:		:	
SI	Slovenia	YES		YES	
SK	Slovakia	DON'T KNOW		DON'T KNOW	
FI	Finland	DON'T KNOW		DON'T KNOW	
SE	Sweden	YES		YES	
UKC-L	United Kingdom - England and Wales	YES		YES	
UKM	United Kingdom - Scotland	:		:	
UKN	United Kingdom - Northern Ireland	YES		YES	
IS	Iceland	:		:	
LI	Liechtenstein	:		:	
NO	Norway	:		:	
CH	Switzerland	YES		YES	
ME	Montenegro	YES		YES	
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:		:	
AL	Albania	YES		YES	
RS	Serbia	NO	<i>Bankruptcy proceedings are conducted separately by commercial courts, and they do not belong to litigation matter, but are added to this column. According to the Court Rules, the litigation of commercial courts consists of objects of privatization, status, banking, construction, authorial disputes, then disputes of industrial property, etc.</i>	NO	<i>Enforcement cases of basic and commercial courts are recorded separately from non-litigious cases, but they are added to this column. Legacy cases of basic courts are included to this column</i>
TR	Turkey	DON'T KNOW		DON'T KNOW	
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	YES		YES	
XK	Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	:		:	

: not applicable/not provided

Criminal Cases

Definition: Any cases processed under national criminal law

Administrative Cases

Definition: Any cases processed under national administrative law.

Other Cases

Definition: Any other cases processed under national law.

The tables below shows if the data comply with the definition : **Criminal Cases, Administrative Cases and Other Cases**

ISO	Country	Criminal cases	<i>Not comply with definition Criminal cases</i>	Administrative cases	<i>Not comply with definition Administrative cases</i>	Other cases	<i>Not comply with definition Other cases</i>
BE	Belgium	:		:		:	
BG	Bulgaria	YES		YES		YES	
CZ	Czech Republic	NO	<i>Only criminal offences (cases) are included</i>	YES		NO	<i>No cases on which data are provided fall into this category</i>
DK	Denmark	YES		YES		YES	
DE	Germany	YES		NO	<i>The statistics on administrative courts contain general administrative areas. In addition in Germany there are two specialized administrative courts, a social court and a financial</i>	NO	<i>In Germany there are two specialized administrative courts, a social court and a financial court. Both are reported as "other cases". In addition the category "other cases" contains data on labour courts. The</i>

					court. Both are reported as "other cases"		category "other cases" do not cover military courts or supreme courts as there is no regular statistics available
EE	Estonia	YES		YES		YES	
IE	Ireland	:		:		:	
EL	Greece	YES		YES		DONT KNOW	
ES	Spain	YES		YES		NO	Labour cases had been included in this category
FR	France	:		:		:	
HR	Croatia	YES		YES		YES	
IT	Italy	YES		YES		YES	
CY	Cyprus	:		:		:	
LV	Latvia	YES		YES		YES	
LT	Lithuania	YES		YES		YES	
LU	Luxembourg	:		:		:	
HU	Hungary	YES		YES		YES	
MT	Malta	YES		:		:	
NL	Netherlands	YES		YES		NO	n/a
AT	Austria	YES		YES		DONT KNOW	
PL	Poland	YES		YES		YES	
PT	Portugal	YES		YES		YES	
RO	Romania	:		:		:	
SI	Slovenia	YES		YES		YES	
SK	Slovakia	YES		YES		YES	
FI	Finland	YES		YES		YES	
SE	Sweden	YES		YES		YES	
UKCL	United Kingdom England and Wales	YES		YES		YES	
UKM	United Kingdom Scotland	YES		:		:	
UKN	United Kingdom Northern Ireland	YES		YES		YES	
IS	Iceland	:		:		:	
LI	Liechtenstein	:		:		:	
NO	Norway	YES		:		:	
CH	Switzerland	YES		YES		DONT KNOW	
ME	Montenegro	YES		YES		YES	
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:		:		:	
AL	Albania	YES		YES		YES	
RS	Serbia	YES		YES		YES	
TR	Turkey	YES		YES		DONT KNOW	
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	YES		YES		:	
XK	Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	YES		YES		YES	

: not applicable/not provided

New cases initiated/submitted

Definition: "New cases initiated/submitted" refers to the number of proceedings initiated in court during the reporting period that were not already under consideration by the court in the previous reporting period.

Adjudicated cases

Definition: "Adjudicated cases" refers to the total number of proceedings finalised/disposed of by a court decision during the reporting period, whether through a decision on the merit, a withdrawal of the claim, a settlement or a rejection on formal grounds, and whether this decision is later upheld or not.

Pending cases

Definition: "Pending cases" refers to the total number of proceedings that are not finalised/disposed of as of 31 December.

The tables below shows if the data comply with the definition : **New cases initiated/submitted, Adjudicated cases and Pending cases**

ISO	Country	New cases initiated/submitted	Adjudicated cases	Pending cases
BE	Belgium	:	:	:
BG	Bulgaria	YES	YES	YES
CZ	Czech Republic	YES	YES	YES
DK	Denmark	YES	YES	YES
DE	Germany	YES	YES	YES
EE	Estonia	YES	YES	YES
IE	Ireland	:	:	:
EL	Greece	YES	YES	YES
ES	Spain	YES	YES	YES
FR	France	:	:	:

HR	Croatia	NO (If one case is in consideration in one reporting period and is upon appeal considered on higher instance court, and higher court abolishes that verdict, case gets new number when is back on first instance and it is considered as new case.)	YES	YES
IT	Italy	YES	YES	YES
CY	Cyprus	:	:	:
LV	Latvia	YES	NO ("Adjudicated cases" means not only the number of cases finalised/disposed by a court, whether through a decision on the merit, a withdrawal of a claim, a settlement or rejection on formal grounds but impossible results of finalisation/disposition of cases according to national law including separation of court proceedings, merging of court proceedings and referral of the case to the pre-trial institutions for remedying deficiencies.)	YES
LT	Lithuania	YES	YES	YES
LU	Luxembourg	:	:	:
HU	Hungary	YES	YES	YES
MT	Malta	YES	YES	YES
NL	Netherlands	YES	YES	:
AT	Austria	YES	YES	YES
PL	Poland	YES	YES	YES
PT	Portugal	YES	YES	YES
RO	Romania	:	:	:
SI	Slovenia	YES	YES	YES(i)
SK	Slovakia	YES	YES	YES
FI	Finland	YES	YES	YES
SE	Sweden	YES	YES	YES
UKCL	United Kingdom England and Wales	:	:	:
UKM	United Kingdom Scotland	YES	YES	:
UKN	United Kingdom Northern Ireland	YES	YES	YES
IS	Iceland	:	:	:
LI	Liechtenstein	:	:	:
NO	Norway	:	:	:
CH	Switzerland	YES	YES	YES
ME	Montenegro	YES	YES	:
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	:	:
AL	Albania	YES	YES	YES
RS	Serbia	YES	YES	YES
TR	Turkey	YES	YES	YES
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	YES	YES	YES
XK	Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	YES	YES	YES

: not applicable/not provided

(i) SI: The reference date used for cases pending is 1st of September

Cases Brought to Court

Definition: Number of proceedings initiated in court during the reporting period that were not already under consideration by the court in the previous reporting period.

Cases Resolved

Definition: Number of proceedings finalised/disposed of by a court decision during the reporting period, whether through a decision on the merit, a withdrawal of the claim, a settlement or a rejection on formal grounds, and whether this decision is later upheld or not.

Cases Pending

Definition: Number of proceedings that are not finalized/disposed of as of 31 December.

Comments by countries -Persons acquitted

DK: Data for 2013-2015 are now inclusive convictions for violation of the road traffic act

DE: Source: Federal Statistical Office; Criminal Court Prosecution Statistics (Strafverfolgungsstatistik; Fachserie 10, Reihe 3; table 2.2; Rechtskräftig Abgeurteilte)

NL: Data exclude legal entities

PL: Persons acquitted in the first instance

Comments by countries -Persons convicted

DK: Data for 2013-2015 are now inclusive convictions for violation of the road traffic act

DE: Source: Federal Statistical Office; Criminal Court Prosecution Statistics (Strafverfolgungsstatistik; Fachserie 10, Reihe 3; table 1.1; Rechtskräftig Verurteilte)

NL: Data exclude legal entities. Total includes persons with an unknown age. The figures on persons convicted proved to be incomplete. The figures on 2013-2015 are improved

RO: Source: Superior Council of Magistracy

SE: Only Court convictions, including attempts etc.

UKC-L: includes not known

UKN: Data from 2014 onwards are from different source and are not directly comparable with that provided for earlier years

- More details in methodological rules are available in metadata attached to [Crime and Criminal Justice \(crim\)](#) database section 10.6

3.5. Statistical unit

There are three different statistical units:

- Offence: reported criminal act
- Case: criminal trial, and other types of court hearings
- People, depending on the stype of statistics: employees, victims, offenders, suspects, prosecuted, convicted, prisoners

The following list shows the statistical unit for court processes database table:

Label	Code	Unit
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3.6. Statistical population	
For administrative data, the statistical population for each statistic is the complete register (all the relevant records). The group of individuals depends on the type of unit (see 3.5). For people, all relevant ages and nationalities are usually counted.	
3.7. Reference area	
European Union Member States, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, EU Candidate countries Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Turkey, Serbia, and the EU Potential Candidate countries Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Certain territories are excluded and more details are provided in metadata attached to Crime and Criminal Justice (crim) database section 10.6.	
3.8. Coverage - Time	
The current tables are available from 2008 onwards.	
3.9. Base period	
Publications 2008 – 2015 used 2008 as base year.	
4. Unit of measure	Top
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute number. • Rate by 100.000 population size. <p>Population size defined as resident population January 1st according to Eurostat database population figures.</p>	
5. Reference Period	Top
Crime offences - the standard reference period is the calendar year.	
6. Institutional Mandate	Top
6.1. Institutional Mandate - legal acts and other agreements	
The 2004 Hague Programme November: Strengthening freedom, justice and security in the European Union. The Hague Programme, OJ C 53 of 3.3.2005, p.11 at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52005XG0303(01)	
The 2009 Stockholm Programme: An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens. http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:115:SOM:EN:HTML	
6.2. Institutional Mandate - data sharing	
Not applicable.	
7. Confidentiality	Top
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	
Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.	
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	
Not applicable.	
8. Release policy	Top
8.1. Release calendar	
In general, data are released approximately 18 months after the reference year.	
8.2. Release calendar access	
Not applicable.	
8.3. Release policy - user access	
In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice Eurostat disseminates European statistics on Eurostat's website (see item 10 - 'Accessibility and clarity') respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The detailed arrangements are governed by the Eurostat protocol on impartial access to Eurostat data for users .	
9. Frequency of dissemination	Top
Annual.	
10. Accessibility and clarity	Top
10.1. Dissemination format - News release	
Ad hoc news releases 2-3 times per year.	
10.2. Dissemination format - Publications	
"Crime and Criminal Justice" - Statistics Explained , published May 2017 Publication Crime section - http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/crime/publications	
10.3. Dissemination format - online database	
Tables are available on-line in Eurostat webpage Crime Database , and are updated annually.	
10.4. Dissemination format - microdata access	
Not applicable.	
10.5. Dissemination format - other	
Statistics Explained articles.	
10.6. Documentation on methodology	
Each country determines the methodology and is responsible for its documentation and which authority or statistical office that should collect, check, and send data and documentation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More details (as listed below) in methodological rules are available in metadata attached to Crime and Criminal Justice (crim) database section 10.6 <p>Geographical coverage Methodological rules – Stage of data collection Methodological rules – Counting unit Methodological rules – Use of Principal Offence Rule Methodological rules – Counting of persons for multiple (serial) offences of the same type Methodological rules – Counting the same person multiple times in the same year Methodological rules – Adult and juvenile age thresholds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU guidelines for the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes – 2017 edition This booklet presents the structure of the ICCS, its classification principles and its relations to existing classifications, to facilitate the implementation of the ICCS. It provides a brief overview of concrete organizational and technical tasks for a 	

successful implementation of the ICCS at the national level, which should engage all crime data users and data providers. In addition, an implementation strategy through the creation of a correspondence table, a tabulation of all offence categories in the ICCS linked to all offences on the national level, is briefly *described*.

- [Monitoring EU crime policies using the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes \(ICCS\)](#) This publication is the second in a series of Eurostat booklets to support the implementation of the ICCS, with the first booklet providing general remarks, a roadmap for the implementation as well as translations of ICCS category titles in all official EU languages. The overall purpose of this second booklet is to describe how the specific criminal offences defined in the legislation passed at EU level should be mapped to the ICCS. For these offences, a common approach towards the alignment with the ICCS needs to be developed, where possible, to ensure that all EU Member States treat these offences consistently when applying the ICCS at national level.

10.7. Quality management - documentation

Not applicable.

11. Quality management [Top](#)

11.1. Quality assurance

Data are provided to Eurostat by a contact designated by each country. Notably, this contact can be another authority than the national statistical office. Each country determine its own procedures for gathering data from several different authorities (see metadata attached to [Crime and Criminal Justice \(crim\)](#) database point 10.6).

11.2. Quality management - assessment

No assessment has been made.

12. Relevance [Top](#)

12.1. Relevance - User Needs

The need to provide information on the development of crime in the European Union was recognised in the Hague Programme adopted by the European Council in 2004. Some EU institutional users communicate statistical needs to Eurostat on a regular basis.

12.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

No user satisfaction survey has been done .

12.3. Completeness

Data is missing for some countries, for some or all years, in nearly all tables, for all types of statistics.

13. Accuracy [Top](#)

13.1. Accuracy - overall

Principally, courts statistics indicates the registration and handling of cases by courts.

Relative to the administrative data used, the accuracy is largely unknown.

Relative to total crime occurrence, it is generally considered that administrative crime statistics is less accurate.

13.2. Sampling error

Not applicable - data are from administrative records.

13.3. Non-sampling error

Data from administrative records are likely to contain some random errors (mistakes) as well as systematic errors (bias).

14. Timeliness and punctuality [Top](#)

14.1. Timeliness

Data for the reference year 2016 was published in July 2018.

14.2. Punctuality

No delay in 2018.

15. Coherence and comparability [Top](#)

15.1. Comparability - geographical

Comparability is affected by many factors, such as differences in:

- Legal system and criminal justice system
- Legislation, criminal law and legal definitions
- Organisation and efficiency of police, prosecution, courts and prisons
- Recording stage, input-, process- or output data
- Recording system, reporting system, and production system
- Relation between national crime definition and international statistical definition
- Statistical unit and statistical population
- Statistical definition, reference time, counting methods and calculation methods
- Reporting rate for the crime

15.2. Comparability - over time

See the list of factors in 15.1. Changes in any of the factors can affect the comparability over time.

15.3. Coherence - cross domain

Not examined.

15.4. Coherence - internal

The internal coherence of the data is checked with basic validation rules (see section 18.4. Data validation). Figures for categories may not add up to the total, because information for some categories is missing.

16. Cost and Burden [Top](#)

Not estimated.

17. Data revision [Top](#)

17.1. Data revision - policy

Revisions to the data are possible at any time, but only based on new data received from national contact.

17.2. Data revision - practice

Revisions are incorporated into the database after being confirmed by national contact.

18. Statistical processing [Top](#)

18.1. Source data

Data source: courts

The source data type is records in administrative registers.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

18.3. Data collection

Since their data requests largely overlap, Eurostat cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Eurostat forward the United Nations request (Survey on Crime Trends), with the addition of the European Union request, to EU Member States, EFTA Countries, EU Candidate Countries, and EU Potential Candidates. In each country, figures from different authorities are collected into one file. The files are sent to Eurostat by a common procedure, the electronic Data file Administration and Management Information System.

18.4. Data validation

The data are checked for completeness, internal consistency, and consistency over time and coherence with other relevant data sources. For internal consistency the following are checked:

- The sum of the subtotals (e.g. men and women) to the total.
- Large revisions (new figures for earlier years)
- Large variation between years
- Large change from previous to current reference year- Inconsistencies between data and metadata

Any issue revealed by the checking is pointed out to the national contact, by email. The national contact may either confirm the validity of data or send new data. No editing, estimation, imputation, weighting, seasonal adjustment, or other statistical modifications are carried out by Eurostat.

18.5. Data compilation

EU totals are not published in the database.

18.6. Adjustment

No adjustments are made.

19. Comment

[Top](#)

None.

Related metadata

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Annexes

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