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Quality report on European statistical business registers

2024 edition

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Foreword

Statistical business registers are at the centre of statistical production in business and macroeconomic statistics. The European business statistics (EBS) regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/2152) strengthens the role of the European framework for statistical business registers, covering national statistical business registers and the EuroGroups register, as an authoritative source for deriving high quality and harmonised statistical business register populations for statistics related to businesses and multinational enterprise groups.

This first edition of the *Quality report on European statistical business registers* provides users with relevant information on the quality of European statistical business registers. The indicators included in the report are developed within the EBS quality framework. They relate to the 2021 reference year, which was the first reference year of implementation of the EBS Regulation for European statistical business registers. The indicators were calculated by Eurostat based on the data reported by European Union (EU) Member States, EFTA countries and EU enlargement countries during the course of 2022 and 2023.

The *Quality report* was prepared by Unit G.1 in close collaboration with national experts in business registers. Eurostat would like to take the opportunity to thank the numerous contributors involved at various times and in various roles. Their work and efforts ensured the successful preparation of this report. The project was carried out under the management of Unit G.1. Eurostat appreciates the contributions of all participants.

Enrica Morganti

Head of Unit G.1 – Coordination and infrastructure development

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Abstract

The European framework for statistical business registers was established by Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (henceforth, the EBS Regulation) that entered into force on 1 January 2021.

This is the first edition of the *Quality report on European statistical business registers*. It aims to provide users with relevant information on the quality of European statistical business registers (SBRs). The indicators included in the report are developed within the European business statistics (EBS) quality framework. They relate to the 2021 reference year, which was the first reference year of implementation of the EBS Regulation for European SBRs. The indicators were calculated by Eurostat based on the data reported by European Union (EU) Member States, EFTA countries and EU enlargement countries during the course of 2022 and 2023.

Keywords: European framework for statistical business registers, national statistical business registers, EuroGroups register, EBS quality framework, quality assessment, quality components

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1. Introduction

The European framework for statistical business registers (SBRs) covers national statistical business registers (NSBRs) and the EuroGroups register (EGR), as well as data exchanges between them. NSBRs are the authoritative source for statistics on business register populations, as a basis for the preparation and coordination of surveys, as a source of information for the statistical analysis of the business population and its demographic events, for the use of administrative data, and for the identification and construction of statistical units.

The European framework for SBRs was established by Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (henceforth, the EBS Regulation) that entered into force on 1 January 2021.

This is the first edition of the *Quality report on European statistical business registers* (henceforth, the *Quality report*). It aims to provide users with relevant information on the quality of European SBRs. The indicators included in the report are developed within the European business statistics (EBS) quality framework. They relate to the 2021 reference year, which was the first reference year of implementation of the EBS Regulation for European SBRs. The indicators were calculated by Eurostat based on the data reported by European Union (EU) Member States during the course of 2022 and 2023.

Eurostat plans to release a *Quality report* each year, providing an annual assessment of European SBRs within the EBS quality framework. The next edition of the *Quality report* should be released at the end of 2024; it will include quality assessment results for data that relate to the 2022 reference year.

1.1 Purpose of this report

This *Quality report* aims to provide users with an assessment of the quality of European statistical business registers, including NSBRs and the EGR.

The quality of European SBRs can be evaluated against a list of criteria, including the following components.

- **Relevance** – the degree to which statistical outputs meet current and potential user needs. This depends upon whether all of the statistics that are needed are actually produced and the extent to which concepts used (definitions, classifications, and so on) reflect user needs.
- **Accuracy and reliability** – accuracy of data indicates how close statistical computations or estimates are to the

exact or true values of the phenomena they are designed to measure. The reliability of data is defined as the closeness of the initial estimated value to the subsequent estimated value.

- **Timeliness and punctuality** – timeliness is a measure concerning the length of time between an event or phenomenon taking place and the availability of data to measure it. Punctuality is measured as the time lag between the release date of data and the target date on which the data were scheduled for release (for example, as announced in an official release calendar, laid down by a Regulation, or previously agreed among partners) and the actual release date.
- **Coherence and comparability** – the coherence of two or more statistical outputs refers to the degree to which the statistical processes by which they were generated use the same concepts (classifications, definitions and target populations) and harmonised methods. Comparability is a special case of coherence, where statistical outputs refer to the same data items with the aim of combining them to make comparisons over time, across regions or between domains.
- **Accessibility and clarity** – the accessibility of statistical outputs is a measure of the ease with which users can obtain data. It is determined by the physical conditions by means of which users obtain data: where to go, how to order information, the delivery time, pricing policy, and so on. The clarity of statistical outputs is a measure that concerns the ease with which users can understand the data. It is determined by the information environment within which the data are presented.

Note that these components are not mutually exclusive in the sense that there may be relationships between the various factors that contribute to them. However, there are also cases where factors leading to improvements for one component result in the deterioration of another. In such cases, **trade-offs between output quality components** should be sought.

This *Quality report* also provides information on user needs, the burden on respondents and confidentiality measures.

The purpose of this report is not to rank countries from best to worst for each quality indicator, but rather to provide users with information on the overall quality of SBRs, so that they can appraise the quality of SBRs for their own use.

1.2 Scope of this report

1.2.1 Country coverage

This *Quality report* provides qualitative information for the **2021 reference year** on SBRs maintained by EU Member States, the four members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA countries) and the EU enlargement countries (at the time of writing).

- **EU Member States** in protocol order: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.
- **EFTA countries** in protocol order: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- **Enlargement countries** in protocol order:
 - candidate countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine;
 - potential candidates – Georgia and Kosovo*.

Note: not all of the quality indicators are relevant when assessing SBRs for enlargement countries. This is, in particular, the case for indicators that relate to EGR data exchanges within the European framework for SBRs.

1.2.2 Data coverage

This *Quality report* covers NSBRs and the EGR, in particular data collected and exchanged within the European framework for SBRs. More details may be found on Eurostat’s website, at: [statistical business registers – information on data](#).

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

NSBR variables are specified in Annex VIII of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (henceforth, the general implementing act); they are listed in Table 1.

Table 1

NSBR variables concerning the European framework for SBRs

1. LEGAL UNIT			
Detailed topic	Variables		
IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
	1.11	Optional	Flag for special purpose entities within the meaning of points 2.17 to 2.20 of Chapter 2 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013

LINKS WITH ENTERPRISE	1.12	Conditional	Identity number(s) of the enterprise(s) (3.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.13	Conditional	Date of association to the enterprise(s)
	1.14	Conditional	Date of separation from the enterprise(s)
LINKS WITH OTHER REGISTERS	Reference to associated registers in which the legal unit is recorded and which contain information that can be useful for statistical purposes		
	1.15	Conditional	Reference to the register of intra-EU operators and reference to customs files or to the register of extra-EU operators
	1.16	Conditional	Reference to administrative global identifiers, reference to balance sheet data (for units required to publish accounts), reference to the balance of payments register or foreign direct investment register, and reference to the farm register
LINK WITH ENTERPRISE GROUP	1.17		Identity number of the enterprise group (2.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.18		Date of association to the enterprise group
	1.19		Date of separation from the enterprise group
CONTROL OF UNITS	Control links can be recorded either top-down (1.20a, 1.21a, 1.22a) or bottom-up (1.20b, 1.21b, 1.22b); only the first level of control, direct or indirect, is recorded for each unit (the whole chain of control can be obtained by combining these)		
	1.20a		Identity number(s) of resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.20b		Identity number of the resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
	1.21a	Partially conditional	Country(ies) of registration, identity number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number(s)
	1.21b	Partially conditional	Country of registration, identity number, name and address of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number
	1.22a	Conditional	VAT number(s) of non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.22b	Conditional	VAT number of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit

OWNERSHIP OF UNITS	Ownership can be recorded either top-down (1.23a, 1.24a) or bottom-up (1.23b, 1.24b); the threshold is 10 % or more of direct ownership.		
1.23a	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit	
1.23b	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit	
1.24a	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number(s), and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares	
1.24b	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares	

2. ENTERPRISE GROUP

Detailed topic	Variables		
IDENTIFICATION	2.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number if the enterprise group is multinational
	2.2	Optional	Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise group
	2.3		Name of the enterprise group; for MNE groups, the EGR name
	2.4	Optional	Short text description of the enterprise group
	2.5	Optional	Website address of the enterprise group
	2.6		Identity number of the legal unit being global decision centre. If the global decision centre is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.7		Country of registration of the global decision centre; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.8	Optional	Postal and e-mail addresses of the global decision centre
	2.9		Identity number of the legal unit being the global group head. If the global group head is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.10	Optional	Country of registration, postal and e-mail addresses of the global group head; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.10a	Conditional	Country of residence of the Ultimate Controlling Institutional unit (UCI) if the controlling unit is a natural person who is not an economic operator
2.11		Type of enterprise group: 1. all-resident group; 2. multinational group domestically controlled; 3. multinational group foreign controlled	

DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	2.12		Date of commencement of the enterprise group
	2.13		Date of cessation of the enterprise group
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	2.14		Principal activity code of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level, if MNE group, the EGR principal activity code
	2.15	Optional	Secondary activities of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level, if MNE group the EGR secondary activity code
	2.16	Conditional	Number of employees and self-employed persons in the enterprise group, if MNE group, the EGR number of employees and self-employed persons
	2.17	Conditional	Net turnover (and currency) of the enterprise group, if MNE group, the EGR net turnover (and currency)
	2.18	Conditional	Total assets (and currency) of the enterprise group, if MNE group, the EGR total assets (and currency)
	2.19	Optional	Countries where non-resident enterprises or local units are located, for MNE group the EGR countries of registration

3. ENTERPRISE

Detailed topic	Variables		
IDENTIFICATION	3.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number when recorded in the EGR
	3.2	Optional	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise
	3.3		Name
	3.4	Optional	Postal, e-mail and website address
LINK TO OTHER UNITS	3.5		Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists
	3.6		Identity number of the enterprise group, to which the enterprise belongs
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	3.7		Date of commencement of activities
	3.8		Date of final cessation of activities

STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	3.9		Principal activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.10	Conditional	Secondary activities, if any, at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.11		Number of employees and self-employed persons
	3.12		Number of employees
	3.13	Optional	Number of employees in full-time equivalents
	3.14		Net turnover, except that provided in 3.15
	3.15	Optional	Net turnover for agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, and public administration and defence, compulsory social security, private households with employed persons and extra-territorial organisations
	3.16		Institutional sector and subsector within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 549/2013
	3.17	Optional if 5.1–5.9 are used	Size (for example, turnover, employment) of the principal activity and of each of the secondary activities of the enterprise, which due to their size have a significant influence and whose Kind-of-activity-units (KAU) have a significant influence on the aggregated national data

4. LOCAL UNIT			
Detailed topic	Variables		
IDENTIFICATION	4.1		Identity number
	4.2		Name
	4.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	4.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address and information to permit electronic collection of data
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	4.5		Date of commencement of activities
	4.6		Date of final cessation of activities
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	4.7		Principal activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	4.8	Conditional	Secondary activities, if any, at NACE class (4-digit) level; this point concerns only local units which are the subject of surveys
	4.9	Optional	Activity carried out in the local unit constituting an ancillary activity of the enterprise to which it belongs (Yes/No)
	4.10		Number of employees and self-employed persons
	4.11		Number of employees
	4.12	Optional	Number of employees in full-time equivalents
	4.13		Geographical location code
LINKS TO OTHER UNITS AND REGISTERS	4.14		Identity number(s) of the enterprise(s) (3.1) to which the local unit belongs
	4.15	Conditional	Reference to registers, in which the local unit appears, and which contain information which can be used for statistical purposes

5. KIND-OF-ACTIVITY UNIT (KAU)

KAU information is requested for those enterprises which, due to their size (for example, turnover or employment), have a significant influence and whose KAUs have a significant influence on the aggregated (national) data at NACE activity level.

Detailed topic	Variables		
IDENTIFICATION	5.1	Optional if 3.17 is used	Identity number
	5.2	Optional if 3.17 is used	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the KAU
	5.3	Optional if 3.17 is used	Name
	5.4	Optional if 3.17 is used	Address to permit data collection
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	5.5	Optional if 3.17 is used	Date of commencement of activities
	5.6	Optional if 3.17 is used	Date of final cessation of activities
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	5.7	Optional if 3.17 is used	Activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	5.8	Optional if 3.17 is used	Size (for example, turnover or employment) of the KAU
LINKS TO OTHER UNITS AND REGISTERS	5.9	Optional if 3.17 is used	Identity number of the enterprise of which the KAU is a part

EuroGroups register (EGR)

EGR variables are specified in Annex IX of the general implementing act; they are listed in Table 2.

Table 2

EuroGroups register variables concerning the European framework for statistical business registers

Part A: Data sets of variables to be transmitted by national statistical authorities to the European Commission (Eurostat)			
Dataset with information on resident legal units for the EGR Identification Service			
IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
Dataset with information on foreign legal units for the EGR Identification Service			
IDENTIFICATION	1.1	Optional	Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5	Optional	Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6	Optional	Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7	Optional	Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8	Optional	Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013

Dataset with information on legal units

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
	1.11	Optional	Flag for special purpose entities within the meaning of points 2.17 to 2.20 of Chapter 2 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013

Dataset with information on relationships of ownership and control

CONTROL OF UNITS	Control links can be recorded either top-down (1.20a, 1.21a, 1.22a) or bottom-up (1.20b, 1.21b, 1.22b); only the first level of control, direct or indirect, is recorded for each unit (the whole chain of control can be obtained by combining these)		
	1.20a		Identity number(s) of resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.20b		Identity number of the resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
	1.21a	Partially conditional	Country(ies) of registration, identity number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit; conditional for EGR identity number(s)
	1.21b	Partially conditional	Country of registration, identity number, name and address of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit. Conditional for the EGR identity number
	1.22a	Conditional	VAT number(s) of non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.22b	Conditional	VAT number of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit

OWNERSHIP OF UNITS	Ownership can be recorded either top-down (1.23a, 1.24a) or bottom-up (1.23b, 1.24b). The threshold is 10 % or more of direct ownership.		
1.23a	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit	
1.23b	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit	
1.24a	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number(s), and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares	
1.24b	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares	

Dataset with information on enterprises

IDENTIFICATION	3.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number when recorded in the EGR
	3.2	Optional	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise
	3.3		Name
	3.4	Optional	Postal, e-mail and website address
LINK TO OTHER UNITS	3.5		Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists
	3.6		Identity number of the enterprise group to which the enterprise belongs
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	3.7		Date of commencement of activities
	3.8		Date of final cessation of activities
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	3.9		Principal activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.11		Number of employees and self-employed persons
	3.12		Number of employees
	3.14		Net turnover, except that provided in 3.15
	3.15	Optional	Net turnover for agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, and public administration and defence, compulsory social security, private households with employed persons and extra-territorial organisations
	3.16		Institutional sector and subsector within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013

Datasets with information on links between enterprises and legal units

LINKS WITH ENTERPRISE	1.12	Conditional	Identity number(s) of the enterprise(s) (3.1) to which the unit belongs
	3.5		Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists

Dataset with information on enterprise groups for the EuroGroups register

IDENTIFICATION	2.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number if the enterprise group is multinational
	2.3		Name of the enterprise group; for MNE groups, the EGR name
	2.4	Optional	Short text description of the enterprise group
	2.5	Optional	Website address of the enterprise group
	2.6		Identity number of the legal unit being global decision centre. If the global decision centre is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.7		Country of registration of the global decision centre; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.9		Identity number of the legal unit being the global group head. If the global group head is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.10	Optional	Country of registration, postal and e-mail addresses of the global group head, if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.10a	Conditional	Country of residence of the Ultimate Controlling Institutional unit (UCI) if the controlling unit is a natural person who is not an economic operator
	STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	2.14	
2.15		Optional	Secondary activities of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level; if an MNE group, the EGR secondary activity code
2.16		Conditional	Number of employees and self-employed persons in the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR number of employees and self-employed persons
2.17		Conditional	Net turnover (and currency) of the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR net turnover (and currency)
2.18		Conditional	Total assets (and currency) of the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR total assets (and currency)
2.19		Optional	Countries where non-resident enterprises or local units are located; if an MNE group, the EGR countries of registration

Dataset with information on invalid legal units for the EuroGroups register

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
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Dataset with information on out-of-scope legal units for the EuroGroups register

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
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Part B: Data sets of variables to be transmitted by the European Commission (Eurostat) to the national statistical authorities for the purpose of identification of legal units

Dataset with information on legal units from the EGR Identification Service to NSAs

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form

Part C: Data sets of variables to be transmitted by the European Commission (Eurostat) to the national statistical authorities and to central banks, exclusively for statistical purposes

1. LEGAL UNITS

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including the EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
	1.11	Optional	Flag for special purpose entities within the meaning of points 2.17 to 2.20 of Chapter 2 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013

LINKS WITH ENTERPRISE	1.12	Conditional	Identity number(s) of the enterprise(s) (3.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.13	Conditional	Date of association to the enterprise(s)
	1.14	Conditional	Date of separation from the enterprise(s)
LINKS WITH OTHER REGISTERS	Reference to associated registers in which the legal unit is recorded and which contain information that can be useful for statistical purposes		
	1.15	Conditional	Reference to the register of intra-EU operators and reference to customs files or to the register of extra-EU operators
	1.16	Conditional	Reference to administrative global identifiers, reference to balance sheet data (for units required to publish accounts), reference to the balance of payments register or foreign direct investment register, and reference to the farm register
LINK WITH ENTERPRISE GROUP	1.17		Identity number of the enterprise group (2.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.18		Date of association to the enterprise group
	1.19		Date of separation from the enterprise group
CONTROL OF UNITS	Control links can be recorded either top-down (1.20a, 1.21a, 1.22a) or bottom-up (1.20b, 1.21b, 1.22b). Only the first level of control, direct or indirect, is recorded for each unit (the whole chain of control can be obtained by combining these)		
	1.20a		Identity number(s) of resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.20b		Identity number of the resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
	1.21a	Partially conditional	Country(ies) of registration, identity number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number(s).
	1.21b	Partially conditional	Country of registration, identity number, name and address of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number
	1.22a	Conditional	VAT number(s) of non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.22b	Conditional	VAT number of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit

OWNERSHIP OF UNITS	Ownership can be recorded either top-down (1.23a, 1.24a) or bottom-up (1.23b, 1.24b). The threshold is 10 % or more of direct ownership		
	1.23a	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit
	1.23b	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit
	1.24a	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number(s), and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares
	1.24b	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares

2. ENTERPRISE GROUP

IDENTIFICATION	2.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number if the enterprise group is multinational
	2.2	Optional	Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise group
	2.3		Name of the enterprise group; for MNE groups, the EGR name
	2.4	Optional	Short text description of the enterprise group
	2.5	Optional	Website address of the enterprise group
	2.6		Identity number of the legal unit being global decision centre. If the global decision centre is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.7		Country of registration of the global decision centre, if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.8	Optional	Postal and e-mail addresses of the global decision centre
	2.9		Identity number of the legal unit being the global group head. If the global group head is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.10	Optional	Country of registration, postal and e-mail addresses of the global group head if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.10a	Conditional	Country of residence of the Ultimate Controlling Institutional unit (UCI) if the controlling unit is a natural person who is not an economic operator
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	2.12		Date of commencement of the enterprise group
	2.13		Date of cessation of the enterprise group

STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	2.14		Principal activity code of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level, if a MNE group, the EGR principal activity code
	2.15	Optional	Secondary activities of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level; if a MNE group, the EGR secondary activity code
	2.16	Conditional	Number of employees and self-employed persons in the enterprise group; if a MNE group, the EGR number of employees and self-employed persons
	2.17	Conditional	Net turnover (and currency) of the enterprise group; if a MNE group, the EGR net turnover (and currency)
	2.18	Conditional	Total assets (and currency) of the enterprise group; if a MNE group, the EGR total assets (and currency)
	2.19	Optional	Countries where non-resident enterprises or local units are located; if a MNE group, the EGR countries of registration

3. ENTERPRISE

IDENTIFICATION	3.1	Partially conditional	Identity number Conditional for the EGR identity number when recorded in the EGR
	3.2	Optional	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise
	3.3		Name
	3.4	Optional	Postal, e-mail and website address
LINK TO OTHER UNITS	3.5		Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists
	3.6		Identity number of the enterprise group to which the enterprise belongs
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	3.7		Date of commencement of activities
	3.8		Date of final cessation of activities
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	3.9		Principal activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.10	Conditional	Secondary activities, if any, at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.11		Number of employees and self-employed persons
	3.12		Number of employees
	3.13	Optional	Number of employees in full-time equivalents
	3.14		Net turnover, except that provided in 3.15
	3.15	Optional	Net turnover for agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, and public administration and defence, compulsory social security, private households with employed persons and extra-territorial organisations
	3.16		Institutional sector and subsector within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 549/2013

Part D: Data sets of variables to be transmitted by the European Commission (Eurostat) to the national statistical authorities for the purpose of the production of the EuroGroups register

1. LEGAL UNITS

IDENTIFICATION	1.1		Identity number(s) (including an EGR identity number, when relevant for the EGR)
	1.2		Name
	1.3		Address (at the most detailed level, including postcode)
	1.4	Optional	Telephone number, e-mail address, website and information to permit electronic collection of data
	1.5		Value added tax (VAT) registration number or, failing that, another administrative identity number
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	1.6		Date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
	1.7		Date on which the legal unit ceased
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS	1.8		Legal form
	1.9		Legal activity status
	1.10	Conditional	Flag for branches within the meaning of point 18.12 of Chapter 18 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
	1.11	Optional	Flag for special purpose entities within the meaning of points 2.17 to 2.20 of Chapter 2 of Annex A to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013
LINKS WITH ENTERPRISE	1.12	Conditional	Identity number(s) of the enterprise(s) (3.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.13	Conditional	Date of association to the enterprise(s)
	1.14	Conditional	Date of separation from the enterprise(s)
LINKS WITH OTHER REGISTERS			Reference to associated registers in which the legal unit is recorded and which contain information that can be useful for statistical purposes
	1.15	Conditional	Reference to the register of intra-EU operators and reference to customs files or to the register of extra-EU operators
	1.16	Conditional	Reference to administrative global identifiers, reference to balance sheet data (for units required to publish accounts), reference to the balance of payments register or foreign direct investment register, and reference to the farm register
LINK WITH ENTERPRISE GROUP	1.17		Identity number of the enterprise group (2.1) to which the unit belongs
	1.18		Date of association to the enterprise group
	1.19		Date of separation from the enterprise group

CONTROL OF UNITS			Control links can be recorded either top-down (1.20a, 1.21a, 1.22a) or bottom-up (1.20b, 1.21b, 1.22b); only the first level of control, direct or indirect, is recorded for each unit (the whole chain of control can be obtained by combining these)
	1.20a		Identity number(s) of resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.20b		Identity number of the resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
	1.21a	Partially conditional	Country(ies) of registration, identity number(s), name(s) and address(es) of the non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number(s)
	1.21b	Partially conditional	Country of registration, identity number, name and address of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit. Conditional for EGR identity number
	1.22a	Conditional	VAT number(s) of non-resident legal unit(s) which are controlled by the legal unit
	1.22b	Conditional	VAT number of the non-resident legal unit which controls the legal unit
OWNERSHIP OF UNITS	Ownership can be recorded either top-down (1.23a, 1.24a) or bottom-up (1.23b, 1.24b). The threshold is 10 % or more of direct ownership		
	1.23a	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit
	1.23b	Conditional	(a) Identity number(s), and (b) shares (%) of resident legal unit(s), which own(s) the legal unit
	1.24a	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number(s), and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) owned by the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares
	1.24b	Conditional	(a) Country(ies) of registration, and (b) EGR identity number and (c) name(s), address(es), and VAT number(s), and (d) shares (%) of non-resident legal unit(s) which own(s) the legal unit, and (e) date of start – end of the shares

2. ENTERPRISE GROUP

IDENTIFICATION	2.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s)
	2.2	Optional	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise group
	2.3		Name of the enterprise group; for MNE groups, the EGR name
	2.4	Optional	Short text description of the enterprise group
	2.5	Optional	Website address of the enterprise group
	2.6		Identity number of the legal unit being global decision centre. If the global decision centre is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.7		Country of registration of the global decision centre; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.8	Optional	Postal, e-mail and website addresses of the global decision centre
	2.9		Identity number of the legal unit being the global group head. If the global group head is non-resident, the EGR identity number. For natural persons that are not economic operators, the country of residence has to be recorded under 2.10a
	2.10	Optional	Country of registration, postal and e-mail addresses of the global group head; if non-resident, the EGR country of registration
	2.10a	Conditional	Country of residence of the Ultimate Controlling Institutional unit (UCI) if the controlling unit is a natural person who is not an economic operator
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	2.12		Date of commencement of the enterprise group
	2.13		Date of cessation of the enterprise group
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	2.14		Principal activity code of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level; if a MNE group, the EGR principal activity code
	2.15	Optional	Secondary activities of the enterprise group at NACE division (2-digit) level; if a MNE group, the EGR secondary activity code
	2.16	Conditional	Number of employees and self-employed persons in the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR number of employees and self-employed persons
	2.17	Conditional	Net turnover (and currency) of the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR net turnover (and currency)
	2.18	Conditional	Total assets (and currency) of the enterprise group; if an MNE group, the EGR total assets (and currency)
	2.19	Optional	Countries where non-resident enterprises or local units are located; if an MNE group, the EGR countries of registration

3. ENTERPRISE			
IDENTIFICATION	3.1	Partially conditional	Identity number(s) Conditional for the EGR identity number when recorded in the EGR
	3.2	Optional	Identity number of the legal unit(s) able to report data on the enterprise
	3.3		Name
	3.4	Optional	Postal, e-mail and website address
LINK TO OTHER UNITS	3.5		Identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) of which the enterprise consists
	3.6		Identity number of the enterprise group to which the enterprise belongs
DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS	3.7		Date of commencement of activities
	3.8		Date of final cessation of activities
STRATIFICATION PARAMETERS AND ECONOMIC VARIABLES	3.9		Principal activity code at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.10	Conditional	Secondary activities, if any, at NACE class (4-digit) level
	3.11		Number of employees and self-employed persons
	3.12		Number of employees
	3.13	Optional	Number of employees in full-time equivalents
	3.14		Net turnover, except that provided in 3.15
	3.15	Optional	Net turnover for agriculture, hunting and forestry, fishing, and public administration and defence, compulsory social security, private households with employed persons and extra-territorial organisations
	3.16		Institutional sector and subsector within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 549/2013

1.2.3 Time coverage

This *Quality report* focuses on data for the 2021 reference year, which was the first implementation year of the EBS Regulation for European statistical business registers. These data refer to both NSBR and EGR frames and are considered as final.

Frame	Reference year
National statistical business registers (NSBRs)	2021
EuroGroups register (EGR)	2021

For the 2021 reference year, NSBR data reporting under the EBS Regulation started in April 2023. The national statistical authorities (NSAs) provided national reports for SBRs by the end of May 2023. For the 2021 reference year, the EGR data reporting under the EBS Regulation started within the EGR 2021 cycle in April 2022. The 2021 EGR final frame was released in March 2023.

Note: EU Member States make a copy of their NSBRs at the end of each year. The European Commission (Eurostat) makes a copy of the EGR at the end of each production cycle. These annual archives should be kept for at least 30 years; they may be used for the purpose of analysis.

1.3 Sources of information

According to EBS Regulation, art. 17 (4), annual quality and metadata reporting is mandatory for the European framework of SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR.

Each year, the NSAs of EU Member States and EFTA countries transmit to Eurostat quality and metadata reports relating to their NSBRs, and metadata reports for the data delivered for the purposes of the EGR. In practice, this reporting process has been harmonised and the NSAs fulfil their reporting obligation by completing a quality report according to a predefined structure and by providing a metadata report according to international standards, namely, the statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX).

The calendar for transmitting annual quality and metadata reports is agreed by the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

The quality of NSBRs and the quality of data delivered by NSAs for the purposes of the EGR are assessed annually by Eurostat.

Each year, Eurostat provides quality and metadata reports related to the EGR to EU Member States. The EGR metadata report is released on Eurostat’s website.

Eurostat compiles the results of the quality assessment for European SBRs within the EBS quality framework; they are presented in this *Quality report*.

The transmission of quality and metadata reports for the NSBRs of enlargement countries is done on a voluntary basis.

2. Background information

2.1 Key terms and definitions for statistical business registers

Active unit: a statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realised positive net turnover, or produced outputs, or had employees, or performed investments.

Enterprise: the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational 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.

Enterprise group: an enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profits. It may centralise certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic entity which is empowered to make choices, particularly concerning the units which it comprises.

Kind-of-activity unit (KAU): the KAU groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at the class (4-digit) level of NACE and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise. The enterprise's information system must be capable of indicating or calculating for each KAU at least the value of production, intermediate consumption, manpower costs, the operating surplus, employment and gross fixed capital formation.

Legal unit: legal units include:

- legal persons whose existence is recognised by law independently of the individuals or institutions that may own them or are members of them;
- natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right.

The legal unit always forms, either by itself or sometimes in combination with other legal units, the legal basis for the statistical unit known as the enterprise.

Local unit: the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (for example, a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or

from this place, economic activity is carried out for which – save for certain exceptions – one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

Master frame: master frames comprise populations of statistical units, their interrelationships with each other and their relationships with administrative units; they are shared and used by statistical domains to coordinate their survey frames. Master frames are created by reference periods (month, quarter, or year) and can have different versions: preliminary, intermediate or final.

Multinational enterprise (MNE) group: an MNE group is an enterprise group that has at least two enterprises or legal units located in different countries.

Population: SBRs contain information on the following types of statistical units:

- enterprises performing economic activities that contribute to gross domestic product (GDP);
- their local units;
- the legal units that make up such enterprises;
- their KAUs – only for those enterprises which due to their size have a significant influence and whose KAUs have a significant influence on aggregated, national data (either the KAU or the secondary activities of the enterprise);
- enterprise groups.

Sample frame: a sample frame is a list of units that define a population to be completely enumerated or sampled.

Statistical unit: the statistical unit is the entity for which the required statistics are compiled. It is an analytical unit for which statistics are compiled. Statisticians create it by splitting or combining observation units with the help of estimations or imputations in order to supply more detailed and/or homogeneous data than would otherwise be possible.

Variables: the variables that are recorded for legal and statistical units in statistical business registers.

The variables of the units include identification variables, demographic variables, economic/stratification variables, information on control and ownership relations, links to other registers.

Note: concepts and definitions are thoroughly described and explained in the [European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – 2021 edition](#).

2.2 Stakeholders

The NSA responsible for setting up the NSBR, of which a common core is harmonised pursuant to the EBS Regulation, is the national statistical institute (NSI).

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the EU, monitors the application of European legislation on business registers and also provides methodological and technical assistance. This work is carried out in close cooperation with EU Member States and EFTA countries in working groups and task forces.

Under the European framework for SBRs, Eurostat set up the EuroGroups register (EGR) of MNE groups for statistical purposes. The EGR is a unique register for the European statistical system (ESS), with a register population for business statistics requiring the coordination of cross-border information related to MNE groups.

The users of European SBRs are statistical users and producers of European statistics.

2.3 Legal background

EU legislation aims to ensure that all EU Member States follow a harmonised approach in relation to how their NSBRs are set up. It provides the scope, definitions, data sources and methods to be applied and the obligations of every stakeholder in the European framework of SBRs.

The provisions on European framework of SBRs are determined in the following European regulations:

[Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business

statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (Text with EEA relevance) – the EBS Regulation;

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1197](#) of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (Text with EEA relevance) – the general implementing act.

Besides the EBS Regulation, there is a range of other European legislation which has relevance for statistical business registers. These include [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93](#) of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community. All relevant legislation for the European framework of statistical business registers can be consulted on Eurostat's website, at: [statistical business registers – legislation](#).

Note: EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) are not legally bound by the EBS Regulation, as it is not yet (as of November 2023) included in the agreements between the EU and the EFTA countries. However, they voluntarily adhere to the established EU rules and participate in the NSBR and EGR data and metadata transmissions.

Enlargement countries are in the process of incorporating the 'acquis' – in other words, the body of common legislation that is binding on all EU Member States – before they can join the EU. In that sense, some EU legislation may be also applicable to some of them.

3. Global quality assessment

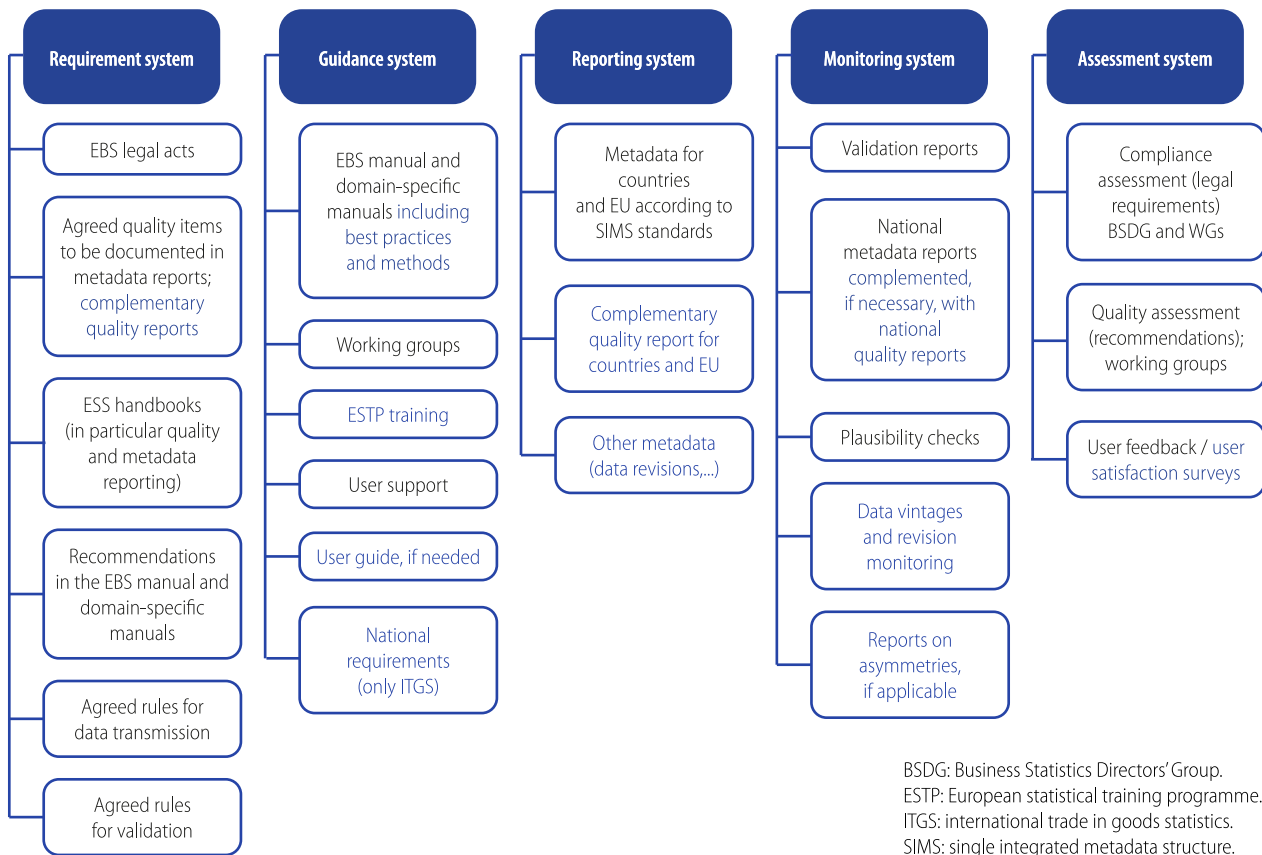
European SBRs have to ensure high-quality frames according to principles derived from the [European statistics code of practice](#) and the [quality assurance framework of the European statistical system](#).

Together with general quality management principles, the European statistics code of practice and the quality assurance framework of the European statistical system constitute the common quality framework of the ESS, upon which high quality European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated.

3.1 European business statistics quality framework

The EBS Regulation provides a common framework regarding data requirements and quality, as well as data and metadata transmission.

Under the EBS Regulation, work is foreseen to harmonise the quality framework for business and trade statistics. The core EBS quality framework encompasses a complete package of instruments that aim to ensure high-quality business and trade statistics and allow users to understand quality issues for the statistics concerned.



The instruments in a black font are core instruments for ensuring the quality of business and trade statistics; they should eventually be in place for all business and trade statistics. The instruments in a blue font are deemed optional according to the needs of individual domains.

Within the core EBS quality framework, each year Eurostat – in collaboration with the SBR WG – prepares and implements a data quality programme for European SBRs.

The data quality programme includes an annual work plan and activities related to compliance and quality reporting, monitoring and assessment of the NSBRs and the EGR.

3.2 European business statistics quality instruments for statistical business registers

The instruments for ensuring the quality of SBRs within the EBS quality framework are shown below.

Requirement system	
EBS legal acts	See Section 2.3 – Legal background. EBS general implementing act, Annex VIII and Annex IX.
Agreed quality items to be documented in metadata reports; complementary quality reports	Quality items to be documented in SBR metadata reports are agreed and the single integrated metadata structure (SIMS) is used for the underlying reporting structures. EU Member States provide NSBR metadata and quality reports to Eurostat. Eurostat provides annual metadata and quality reports for the EGR final frame to EU Member States.
ESS handbooks (in particular quality and metadata reporting)	The European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports provides guidelines for the preparation of producer and user reports for the full range of statistical processes and their outputs for EU Member States, EFTA countries and Eurostat. It is recognised as an ESS standard and is included in the catalogue of ESS standards, a collection of non-legislative, normative documents underpinning the ESS. The handbook can be viewed as guidelines accompanying SIMS v2.0 and its constituent structures – the European statistical system standard for quality report’s structure (ESQRS v2.0) and the Euro-SDMX metadata structure (ESMS v2.0). SIMS v2.0 concepts, sub-concepts and their descriptions, exactly as in the SIMS structure, are its starting point. The handbook includes revised guidelines and adds examples of reports; for selected concepts and sub-concepts, it provides additional background information and/or further guidelines.
Recommendations in the EBS manual and domain-specific manuals	See the EBS manual and domain-specific manuals under the heading Guidance system.
Agreed rules for data transmission	The data validation rules for data exchanges in the European framework of SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR, are agreed by the SBR WG. Validation rules for NSBRs are available on CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration). Detailed information the data validation rules for EGR datasets is available on the EGR wiki (requires an EU login and registration).

Agreed rules for validation

The data validation rules for data exchanges in the European framework of SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR, are agreed by the SBR WG.

Validation rules for NSBRs are available on CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration).

Detailed information the data validation rules for EGR datasets is available on the EGR wiki (requires an EU login and registration).

Guidance system**The EBS manual and domain-specific manuals including best practices and methods**

The [European Business Statistics Manual – 2021 edition](#) provides an overview of business statistics while highlighting the features introduced by the new regulatory framework. Furthermore, the manual describes various statistical tools and activities supporting EBS production, such as statistical units and profiling, classifications, data processing or statistical disclosure control.

The [European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – 2021 edition](#) provides guidance for statistical producers and users. The manual explains the reasoning behind the provisions of the EBS Regulation and provides recommendations on the implementation and maintenance of NSBRs that are part of the European framework for SBRs.

The [European business statistics compilers' manual for EuroGroups register \(EGR\) – 2024 edition](#) provides guidance to EGR producers in the NSAs of EU Member States and EFTA countries that contribute to the EGR production process and the exchange of confidential data for the purposes of the European framework for SBRs.

The [European business profiling – Recommendations manual – 2020 edition](#) provides recommendations on profiling MNE groups within the scope of European business profiling, and more generally guidance for business profiling.

The [EuroGroups register \(EGR\) wiki](#) (requires an EU login and registration) provides detailed EGR documentation, a calendar of EGR activities, and a forum for members to discuss and share experiences.

The [European business profiling wiki space](#) (requires an EU login and registration) provides information on European profiling. It offers methodological documentation, a link to the EU profiling manual, a calendar of activities, and a forum for members to discuss and share experiences.

Best practices and methods are an important instrument for providing guidance on SBRs. National practices are presented and discussed at the NSBR Task Force / EGR producers Task Force and may form the basis for proposals for future recommendations to EU Member States. Those recommendations approved by the SBR WG should be integrated into existing methodological manuals.

<p>Expert groups</p>	<p>The Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG): Eurostat established an expert group, the Business Registers and Statistical Units Working Group (BRSU WG) in 1993. The group provided Eurostat with advice and expertise in relation to various tasks, as well as ensuring appropriate statistical coordination with EU Member States and other bodies active in the field of business registers and statistical units. In June 2021, the expert group was renamed as the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG). SBR WG documents are available on the BRnet interest group of CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration).</p> <p>The Task Force on National Statistical Business Registers (NSBR TF) is a subgroup of the SBR WG, established to discuss technical and methodological details and to ensure a coordinated implementation of the European framework for SBRs. NSBR TF documents are available on the BRnet interest group of CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration).</p> <p>The Task Force on EGR Producers (EGR Producers TF) is a subgroup of the SBR WG, established to discuss technical EGR production issues. EGR Producers TF documents are available on the BRnet interest group of CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration).</p>
<p>European statistical training programme (ESTP) training</p>	<p>Eurostat organises training for the European framework of SBRs – including NSBRs, the EGR and profiling – as part of the European statistical training programme (ESTP). The ESTP training catalogue is available on CROS.</p>
<p>User support</p>	<p>User support for SBRs is provided by the business registers, the EGR and the profiling teams in Eurostat, the EU Member States and EFTA countries. The following functional mailboxes are available within Eurostat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESTAT-BUSINESS-REGISTERS@ec.europa.eu • ESTAT-EGR@ec.europa.eu • ESTAT-IPT@ec.europa.eu
<p>User guide</p>	<p>Users may consult the SBR dedicated section on Eurostat’s website, at: statistical business registers – overview</p>

Reporting system

<p>Metadata according to single integrated metadata structure (SIMS) standards</p>	<p>European reference metadata for SBRs gathers references and summary information regarding data quality and the production process in general. It is produced using a standard metadata structure – SIMS.</p> <p>The NSAs involved in the set up and maintenance of SBRs document their national practices using the same standard metadata structure, with the goal of making SBR processes transparent and clear.</p> <p>Each year, EU Member States provide Eurostat with two metadata reports: a report for their NSBR and a report for the data transmitted to the EGR.</p> <p>European and national metadata reports are available on Eurostat's website, at: statistical business registers – methodology.</p> <p>Eurostat produces an annual metadata report related to the EGR final frame. The report is available on Eurostat's website.</p>
<p>Complementary quality reports</p>	<p>Each year, EU Member States provide Eurostat with a quality report for their NSBR.</p> <p>Eurostat provides an annual quality report related to the EGR final frame to the EU Member States.</p> <p>EGR quality reports are available on CIRCABC (requires an EU login and registration) and the EGR wiki (requires an EU login and registration).</p>
<p>Other metadata (data revisions, and so on)</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<h2>Monitoring system</h2>	
<p>Validation reports</p>	<p>Validation reports for the datasets transmitted by EU Member States to Eurostat for the purpose of the European framework for SBRs are produced automatically by the data validation system (via an electronic data files administration and management information system – EDAMIS), according to validation rules agreed by EU Member States and Eurostat.</p>
<p>National metadata and quality reports</p>	<p>Each year, EU Member States provide Eurostat with quality and metadata reports related to their NSBRs.</p> <p>Each year, EU Member States provide Eurostat with metadata reports related to the data transmitted to the EGR.</p> <p>Eurostat uses the national quality and metadata reports to monitor compliance and the quality of national registers and the data transmitted to the EGR.</p>
<p>Plausibility checks</p>	<p>The SBR monitoring process includes plausibility checks that are performed for the NSBR data and for the EGR data exchanges, for example, checking consistency of data provided over time and comparing the data for the latest reference year with the data provided for previous reference years. For any outliers that are identified, EU Member States are contacted to verify the data.</p>
<p>Data vintages and revision monitoring</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Reports on asymmetries, if applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Assessment system

<p>Compliance assessment (legal requirements) – Business Statistics Directors’ Group (BSDG) and Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG)</p>	<p>The compliance assessment of NSBRs is designed to measure the state of implementation of the legal requirements laid down in the EBS Regulation. This assessment is based on the quantitative and qualitative indicators covered by national metadata and quality reports.</p> <p>Each year, the compliance status of NSBRs and the EGR is assessed on the basis of a set of compliance criteria that are monitored by Eurostat.</p> <p>The compliance of NSBRs with the legal requirements is discussed annually at the SBR WG and reported to the BSDG.</p>
<p>Quality assessment (recommendations) – Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG)</p>	<p>A quality assessment of SBRs is carried out each year on the basis of the quantitative and qualitative indicators covered by national quality reports and presented to the SBR WG. The BSDG is informed of the main quality issues.</p>
<p>User feedback / user satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>Since 2017, Eurostat has conducted an SBR user satisfaction survey for the European framework of SBRs each 3-year period. The latest SBR user satisfaction survey had been conducted in 2023. The survey results are used to define quality targets for NSBRs and the EGR. The SBR WG decides upon the frequency of user satisfaction surveys.</p>

4. Quality and metadata reporting

Quality and metadata reporting are mandatory within the EBS Regulation for European SBRs; this reporting is carried out on an annual basis by the EU Member States and Eurostat.

The EU Member States provide national quality and metadata reports for SBRs. Eurostat provides quality and metadata reports for the EGR final frame.

The quality and metadata reports are based on SIMS, which provides a standard structure for ESS metadata and quality reporting.

4.1 Quality reports

The quality reports for the European SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR, are provided in accordance with Article 17 (4) and Article 17 (5) of the EBS Regulation.

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

Quality reports for NSBRs are provided by EU Member States to Eurostat in accordance with Article 17 (4b) of the EBS Regulation. NSBR quality reports are transmitted via EDAMIS.

Quality reporting requirements for NSBRs. Dataset filename: BUSREG_QR_A – NSBR quality report. Timeliness: $t+17$ months. Periodicity: annual.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The EGR quality report for the final frame is prepared by Eurostat. Dataset filename: EGROUT_ESQRS_A – EGR quality report. Timeliness: $t+17$ months. Periodicity: annual.

4.2 Metadata reports

Metadata reports for European SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR, are provided in accordance with Article 17 (4) and Article 17 (5) of the EBS Regulation.

Quality items to be documented in SBR metadata reports are agreed by the SBR WG, with reports structured according to SIMS.

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

NSBR metadata reports are transmitted by EU Member States via the [ESS Metadata Handler \(ESS-MH\)](#).

EU Member States provide national metadata reports to Eurostat for NSBRs and for the data sent from NSBRs to the EGR.

Metadata reporting requirements for NSBRs. Dataset filename: BUSREG_METAES_A – metadata related to NSBRs. Timeliness: $t+17$ months. Periodicity: annual.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

Metadata reporting requirements for data sent by EU Member States and EFTA countries to the EGR. Dataset filename: EGR_NES_A – metadata for datasets transmitted by EU Member States and EFTA countries to the EGR. Timeliness: $t+17$ months. Periodicity: annual.

Eurostat provides a metadata report for the EGR final frame to EU Member States. Dataset filename: EGROUT_ESMS_A – EGR metadata report. Timeliness: $t+17$ months. Periodicity: annual.

Metadata reports are released on Eurostat's website, at: [statistical business registers – methodology](#).

5. Quality assessment process

Eurostat implements a harmonised assessment of all statistics produced under the EBS Regulation using four quality dimensions: punctuality; completeness; accuracy and reliability; and coherence and comparability. For each dimension, Eurostat evaluates the compliance of SBRs with respect to the EBS Regulation.

The quality assessment of SBRs is carried out each year within the core EBS quality framework based on quantitative and qualitative indicators agreed by the SBR WG. The detailed assessment reports are provided to national SBR coordinators, and the results are reported to the SBR WG and to the BSDG.

5.1 Rules for the assessment of national statistical business registers

Punctuality

Punctuality is measured based on the gap between the transmission deadline and the date upon which the NSBR quality report (BUSREG_QR_A) is received. Only reports that successfully pass both structural validation (STRUVAL) and content validation (CONVAL) services are considered as received.

Completeness

Completeness is based on two components:

- the availability of mandatory variables in the NSBR quality report, as listed in Annex VIII of the general implementing act;
- the successful implementation of mandatory statistical units – enterprise groups, enterprises, local units and KAUs.

The completeness of mandatory variables is measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

The successful implementation of mandatory statistical units is evaluated by using a binary variable (Yes/No).

The **overall completeness for both components** concerns the completeness of mandatory variables and the successful implementation of mandatory statistical units.

Accuracy and reliability

The accuracy and reliability of NSBRs is based on the information provided by NSIs in their NSBR metadata reports under **concept 13.1**. This specifies the overall accuracy of the NSBR, the main issues regarding accuracy, and the actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve the accuracy of the NSBR. The indicator for accuracy and reliability is a binary variable (Yes/No).

Coherence and comparability

The assessment of coherence and comparability for NSBRs is under development. The indicators used for this purpose are based on comparisons between aggregates reported in NSBR quality reports and information provided to Eurostat for other domains of business statistics, for example, the EGR, structural business statistics and business demography.

The indicator for coherence and comparability is the average of the gaps between NSBR aggregates and other domains of business statistics; it is measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

5.2 Rules for the assessment of datasets provided by EU Member States to the EuroGroups register

These rules and criteria are defined for the assessment of data sent by the NSIs to Eurostat during an EGR cycle.

This assessment is based on the following files sent by NSIs.

File	Description/content
ISRLE	Full population of resident incorporated legal units sent to the EGR IS for identification
ISNORLE	Population of foreign legal units sent to the EGR for identification purposes
LEU	Resident legal units belonging to MNE groups sent to the EGR for processing
REL	Relationships between legal units sent to the EGR for processing
ENT	Enterprises composed of legal units sent to the EGR for processing
LEL	Links between enterprises and legal units sent to the EGR for processing
GEG	Data for MNE groups sent to the EGR for processing (NSIs should transmit such data if the global decision centre of the MNE group is located on their national territory)

Punctuality

Punctuality is measured based on the gap between the transmission deadline and the date upon which the files are received. Only transmitted data that successfully pass both structural validation (STRUVAL) and content validation (CONVAL) services are considered as received.

Completeness

Completeness is assessed in relation to the availability of mandatory variables in the files transmitted to the EGR, as listed in Annex IX of the general implementing act.

The completeness of mandatory variables is measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

Accuracy and reliability

The accuracy and reliability of files transmitted to the EGR is based on the information provided by NSIs in metadata reports under **concept 13.1**. This specifies the overall accuracy of the files transmitted to the EGR, the main issues regarding accuracy, and the actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve the accuracy of the EGR. The indicator for accuracy and reliability is a binary variable (Yes/No).

Coherence and comparability

The assessment of coherence and comparability of the files transmitted to the EGR is based on comparisons between aggregates in the files transmitted to the EGR and other aggregates provided to Eurostat by the NSBRs and the delivery of data for previous EGR cycles.

The indicator for coherence and comparability is the average of the gaps between data for EGR aggregates and data from other domains of business statistics; it is measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

6. Relevance

ESS definition

Relevance is the degree to which statistical outputs meet current and potential user needs. It depends on whether all the statistics that are needed are produced and the extent to which concepts used (definitions, classifications, and so on) reflect user needs.

The main role of SBRs is to provide a basic infrastructure for the preparation and coordination of surveys as well as for the production of consistent and high-quality European statistics.

NSBRs and the EGR are the **authoritative source** for deriving high-quality and harmonised SBR populations to produce European statistics. This means that NSBRs and the EGR are the sole providers of data records in accordance with quality standards referred to in the EBS Regulation.

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

NSBRs are the authoritative source for national statistical business register populations.

An NSBR contains information on the active population of:

- all enterprises (and their local units) carrying out economic activities contributing to GDP;
- the legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- KAUs for those enterprises which due to their size have a significant influence and whose KAUs have a significant influence on the aggregated (national) data;
- enterprise groups, including all-resident and MNE groups, to which those enterprises belong.

SBRs are referred to as the 'backbone' in the production of economic statistics because they provide the core infrastructure to ensure data consistency between various statistical outputs.

SBRs are important for:

- the compilation of consistent and comparable European business statistics;
- establishing efficient statistical survey frames;
- providing identification numbers to all units, allowing many different sources to be linked;
- increasing statistical information and reducing the reporting burden on enterprises.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The EGR is the authoritative source for the population of MNE groups.

The EGR is a central statistical business register held by Eurostat, the EU Member States and EFTA countries. The EGR contains information on the following units:

- all enterprises – which form part of a MNE group – carrying out economic activities contributing to GDP;
- the legal units of which those enterprises consist;
- MNE groups to which those enterprises belong.

The EGR provides harmonised information on MNE groups and their enterprises in the EU Member States and EFTA countries. Statistical users can use the coordinated frame population of the EGR to derive consistent statistical output, with improved quality for measuring the global activities of European enterprises that form part of MNE groups. Information on MNE groups is used for globalisation statistics, such as statistics on foreign affiliates (FATS), foreign direct investment, gross national income, and so on.

EGR country-specific frames are used as the basis for profiling the largest and most complex MNE groups in the EU. EGR information may also be used for quality checks, as a secondary source, or for deriving statistics on MNE groups.

6.1 User needs

To meet user needs, Eurostat runs a regular user survey for European SBRs, including NSBRs and the EGR. The survey aims to collect information on the current use made of SBRs and the needs of statistical users making use of SBRs to produce European statistics. The latest SBR user survey was conducted in 2023.

6.2 User satisfaction

The SBR user satisfaction survey forms part of the improvement module for the SBR data quality programme; it is conducted by Eurostat on a regular basis since 2017. The latest user satisfaction survey was conducted in March 2023. Eurostat received a total of 415 responses from 33 countries: all 27 EU Member States, two EFTA countries and four candidate countries.

Most respondents (87 %) were from NSIs, while 9 % of the replies were provided by respondents in national central banks (NCBs) and 4 % came from respondents in other national statistical authorities. The respondents worked in a

wide range of statistical domains, the most frequent being: industry, trade and services (31 %), economy and finance (19 %); and population and social conditions (13 %).

Most of the respondents (80 %) reported that they exclusively used information from NSBRs, compared with less than 1 % of respondents that exclusively used information from the EGR, and 11 % used both registers. Neither register was used by 8 % of the respondents.

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

In the 2023 user satisfaction survey, a large majority of respondents (82 %) stated they used NSBRs as an authoritative source for register populations. There were three statistical domains – industry, trade and services, science, technology and digital society, and general and regional statistics – where the share of respondents making use of NSBRs was between 89 % and 100 %.

Respondents to the survey confirmed that they were most likely to use information from NSBRs on legal units (81 %), followed by enterprises (60 %), local units (31 %), enterprise groups (22 %) and KAUs (17 %). The most frequently used information concerned identification variables, stratification parameters and demographic events.

Based on replies to the 2023 user satisfaction survey, NSBR information was mostly used for preparing and coordinating surveys, for identifying legal and statistical units, and for statistical analysis of the business population and its demographic events.

Respondents to the survey ranked the quality of NSBRs as follows (from highest to lowest): coverage; completeness; coherence and comparability; accuracy and reliability; timeliness and punctuality.

Several respondents stated that NACE misclassification posed some challenges.

The top three statistical user needs related to the NSBRs seem to be: timeliness, coverage and the implementation of the new classification NACE Rev. 2.1.

The principal reasons why respondents did not make use of NSBRs were because they use other sources inherited from the past or the data they required were not available in NSBRs.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

Within the 2023 user satisfaction survey, most respondents (66 %) claimed that they used the EGR as an authoritative source for the EBS.

Respondents to the survey confirmed that they were most likely to use information from the EGR on legal units (86 %), followed by MNE groups (66 %) and enterprises (62 %).

The most frequently used information on legal units concerned identification variables, control or ownership of units. The most frequently used information on MNE groups concerned identification variables, stratification parameters and economic variables. Finally, the most frequently used information on enterprises concerned identification variables, links to other units, stratification parameters and economic variables.

Based on replies to the 2023 user satisfaction survey, EGR information was mostly used to identify the structure of global groups, to identify foreign-controlled MNE groups, and as an additional source of information for data validation.

Respondents to the survey ranked the quality of the EGR as follows (from highest to lowest): coverage; coherence and comparability; completeness; accuracy and reliability; timeliness and punctuality.

The top two areas for improvement concerning the EGR, as requested by respondents to the survey, concerned timeliness and coverage.

The most frequently reported issue for EGR users was in relation to the identification of the correct ultimate controlling institutional unit.

The principal reason why respondents did not make use of the EGR was because they used other sources inherited from the past.

Eurostat will continue to monitor, on a regular basis, the use of SBRs according to the EBS Regulation. Furthermore, it will promote actions in EU Member States and EFTA countries to increase the use that is made of SBRs as an authoritative source for all statistical domains under the EBS Regulation.

Eurostat plans to undertake another round of the SBR user satisfaction surveys in 2026, unless an extraordinary event means that earlier action is required.

7. Completeness

7.1 Completeness of national statistical business registers

Aggregated data for NSBRs are transmitted to Eurostat by EU Member States, EFTA and enlargement countries.

The completeness of NSBRs has been assessed according to the availability of the mandatory variables that NSIs provide to their users according to Annex VIII of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197.

The number of mandatory variables to be considered in the NSBRs varies according to the way KAUs are implemented in each country. There are 52 mandatory variables to be

transmitted to Eurostat if a country implemented the KAU as a separate statistical unit, while there are 44 mandatory variables requested if a country considered a KAU as an enterprise's variable.

The completeness rate is defined as the number of mandatory variables implemented in the NSBRs relative to the number of all mandatory variables required by the EBS Regulation. It is an average completeness rate measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

Table 3 shows the data completeness of mandatory variables for legal and statistical units recorded in NSBRs.

Table 3

Completeness rate for mandatory variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year
(%)

	Completeness rate for mandatory variables, by type of unit					Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local unit	Kind-of-activity unit	
Belgium	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bulgaria	100	97	100	90	100	98
Czechia	100	97	100	100	100	99
Denmark	100	82	100	100	100	97
Germany	100	100	100	100	100	100
Estonia	100	97	100	100	100	99
Ireland	100	100	94	85	100	96
Greece	100	100	99	100	100	100
Spain	100	100	100	100	100	100
France	100	100	100	100	100	100
Croatia	100	98	100	97	100	99
Italy	100	98	100	100	100	100
Cyprus	100	100	100	100	100	100
Latvia	100	100	99	99	100	100
Lithuania	100	98	89	97	:	96
Luxembourg	100	100	100	100	100	100
Hungary	100	100	100	100	100	100

	Completeness rate for mandatory variables, by type of unit					Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local unit	Kind-of-activity unit	
Malta	100	100	100	100	100	100
Netherlands	100	100	100	100	100	100
Austria	100	100	100	100	100	100
Poland	100	100	99	98	100	99
Portugal	100	95	99	89	100	96
Romania	100	100	100	100	100	100
Slovenia	100	100	100	100	100	100
Slovakia	100	100	100	100	100	100
Finland	100	99	100	99	100	100
Sweden	100	100	100	99	100	100
Iceland	100	100	92	99	:	97
Liechtenstein	62	:	91	100	100	73
Norway	100	100	100	96	100	99
Switzerland	100	100	88	96	100	96
Bosnia and Herzegovina	47	:	74	68	:	51
Montenegro	92	96	91	96	:	95
Moldova	:	:	:	:	:	:
North Macedonia	84	78	99	67	100	83
Albania	54	11	73	50	:	58
Serbia	77	41	71	74	:	67
Türkiye	81	71	92	98	:	86
Ukraine	:	:	:	:	:	:
Kosovo*	:	:	:	:	:	:
Georgia	:	:	:	:	:	:

: = not available

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Note: the kind-of-activity unit is implemented as a separate unit by Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

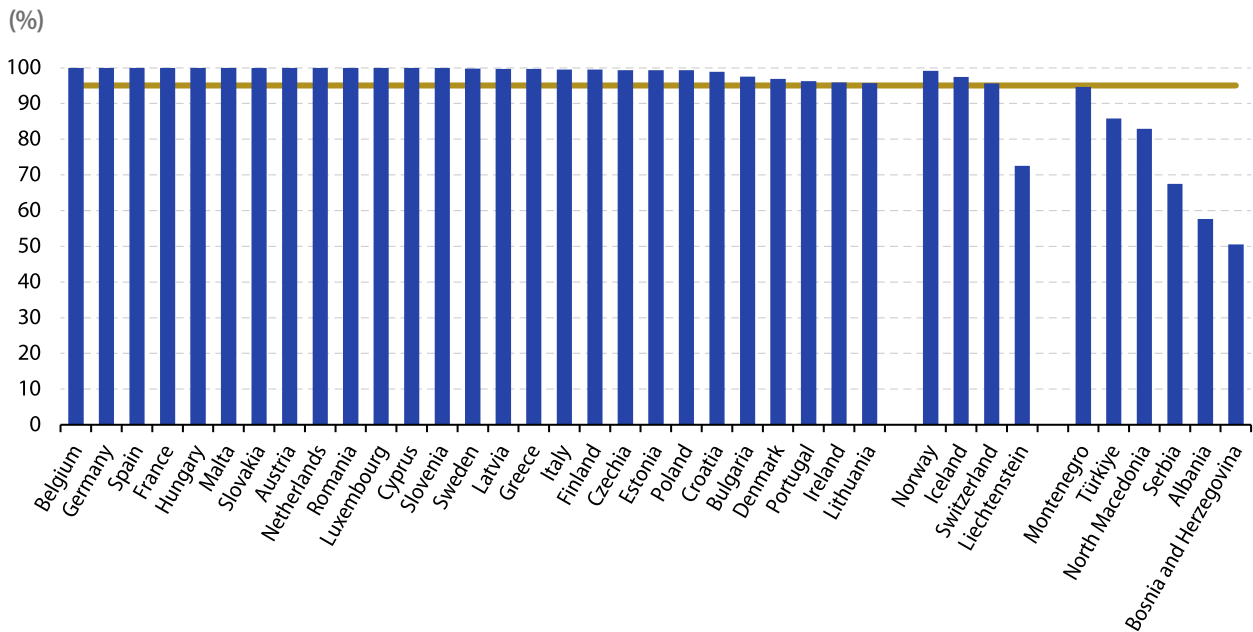
Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

For the **2021 reference year**, most of the EU Member States and EFTA countries scored above 95 % in terms of the completeness of mandatory variables in the NSBRs.

A total of **22 Member States had implemented all mandatory variables** and therefore reached a 100 % data completeness rate (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

Completeness rate for mandatory variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year



Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

Table 4

Completeness rate for conditional variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year

(%)

	Completeness rate for conditional variables by units, by type of unit				Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local units	
Belgium	100	100	100	100	100
Bulgaria	67	75	100	50	69
Czechia	89	100	100	0	81
Denmark	89	50	100	100	81
Germany	100	100	100	50	94
Estonia	100	100	100	100	100
Ireland	100	100	100	100	100
Greece	44	0	0	0	25
Spain	78	100	100	100	88

	Completeness rate for conditional variables by units, by type of unit				Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local units	
France	67	25	100	0	50
Croatia	89	75	100	100	88
Italy	100	100	100	0	88
Cyprus	78	100	100	0	75
Latvia	100	100	100	100	100
Lithuania	100	100	100	100	100
Luxembourg	100	100	100	100	100
Hungary	33	50	0	0	31
Malta	56	50	100	50	56
Netherlands	100	100	100	100	100
Austria	100	75	100	100	94
Poland	100	100	100	100	100
Portugal	67	100	100	100	81
Romania	78	50	100	100	75
Slovenia	100	100	100	100	100
Slovakia	100	100	100	100	100
Finland	100	100	100	100	100
Sweden	78	25	100	50	63
Iceland	100	50	100	0	75
Liechtenstein	0	:	0	0	0
Norway	56	25	0	50	44
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	100	50	13
Montenegro	56	100	100	100	75
Moldova	:	:	:	:	:
North Macedonia	0	25	100	100	25
Albania	11	0	100	0	13
Serbia	22	0	100	50	25
Türkiye	33	50	100	100	50
Ukraine	:	:	:	:	:
Kosovo*	:	:	:	:	:
Georgia	:	:	:	:	:

: = not available

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

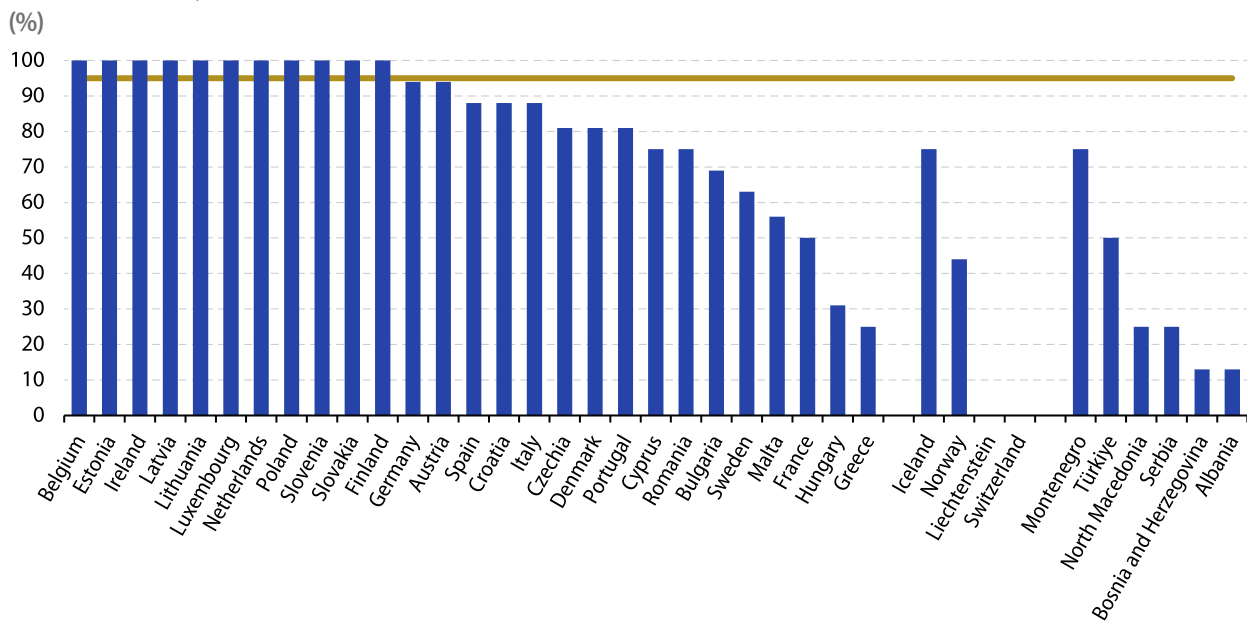
Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

The implementation of conditional variables depends on the availability of administrative and statistical data sources at the national level. The conditional variables are mandatory if relevant sources are available in the individual EU Member State.

For the 2021 reference year, 11 EU Member States had implemented all conditional variables and therefore reached a 100 % data completeness rate (see Figure 2).

Figure 2

Completeness rate for conditional variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year



Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

Table 5

Completeness rate for optional variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year (%)

	Completeness rate for conditional variables by units, by type of unit				Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local units	
Belgium	50	14	100	33	44
Bulgaria	50	86	80	67	76
Czechia	50	100	60	0	65
Denmark	100	29	100	100	71
Germany	50	0	25	0	12
Estonia	100	86	100	67	88
Ireland	100	57	60	67	65
Greece	50	14	75	0	31
Spain	100	100	75	33	81

	Completeness rate for conditional variables by units, by type of unit				Average completeness rate for all types of unit
	Legal unit	Enterprise group	Enterprise	Local units	
France	0	57	50	33	44
Croatia	100	43	75	67	63
Italy	100	0	75	0	31
Cyprus	100	100	80	67	88
Latvia	100	86	100	100	94
Lithuania	100	100	100	100	100
Luxembourg	50	86	75	33	69
Hungary	50	0	0	0	6
Malta	100	57	100	67	75
Netherlands	100	100	100	100	100
Austria	100	71	60	33	65
Poland	50	100	80	100	88
Portugal	100	71	75	33	69
Romania	50	57	80	33	59
Slovenia	100	86	60	67	76
Slovakia	100	100	100	67	94
Finland	100	100	80	100	94
Sweden	100	14	20	67	35
Iceland	100	43	100	0	56
Liechtenstein	0	:	40	33	18
Norway	0	14	60	0	24
Switzerland	50	0	50	33	25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50	0	75	33	31
Montenegro	50	71	80	100	76
Moldova	:	:	:	:	:
North Macedonia	50	14	100	100	56
Albania	50	0	20	0	12
Serbia	50	14	100	67	25
Türkiye	50	43	75	33	50
Ukraine	:	:	:	:	:
Kosovo*	:	:	:	:	:
Georgia	:	:	:	:	:

: = not available

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

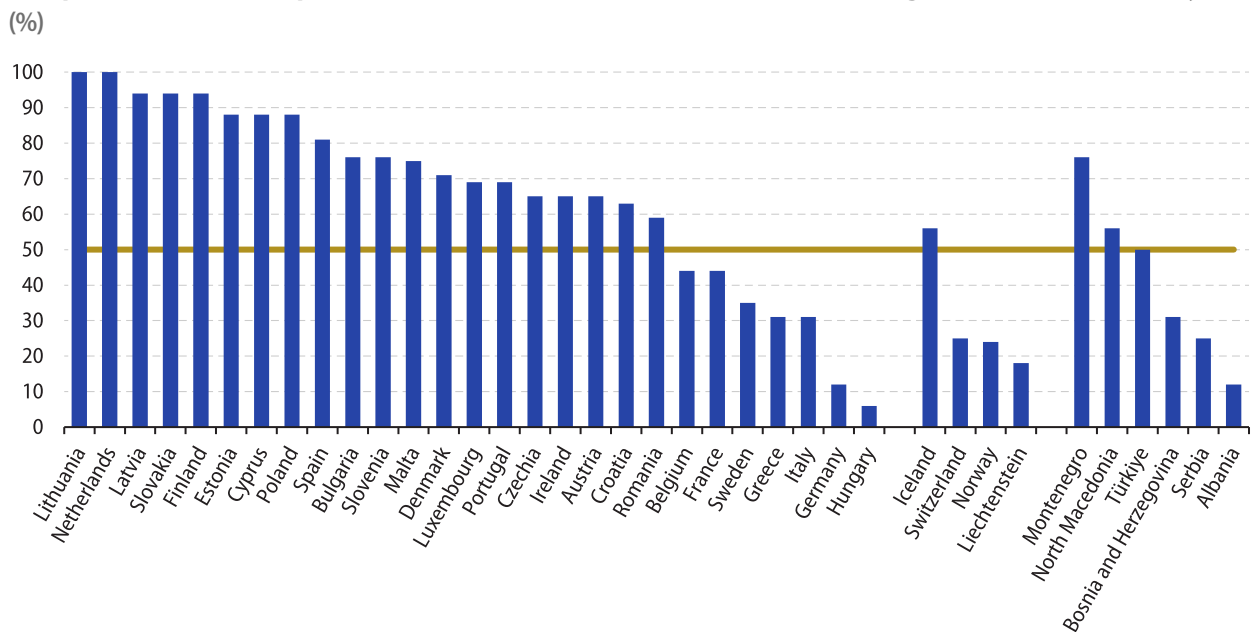
Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

For the 2021 reference year, two EU Member States had implemented all optional variables. A total of 18 Member States had implemented more than half of the optional

variables and therefore reached a data completeness rate of more than 50 % (see Figure 3).

Figure 3

Completeness rate for optional variables in national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year



Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

7.2 Completeness of datasets transmitted by national statistical institutes to the EuroGroups register

EGR data are provided by EU Member States and EFTA countries for the purposes of the European framework for SBRs.

Data processing for the EGR is a cyclical process, which the European Commission (Eurostat) starts centrally. At the end of each cycle, a population frame is made available for compilers of statistics in EU Member States and EFTA countries.

The data transmitted to the European Commission (Eurostat) by NSAs according to the EBS Regulation are as follows.

- Data exchange for resident legal units for identification purposes.
- Data exchange for foreign legal units for identification purposes.

- Data exchange for legal units and relationships belonging to MNE groups.
- Data exchange for resident enterprises belonging to MNE groups.
- Data exchange for the correction of group structures and variables relating to MNE groups.
- Data exchange for invalid and out-of-scope resident legal units.

Eurostat assesses the completeness of datasets provided by the EU Member States and EFTA countries according to the availability of the mandatory variables that NSAs provide in their files to the EGR (Eurostat) during an EGR cycle. The mandatory variables of the seven files are included in Annex IX of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, Part A.

In total, there are 38 mandatory variables according to Annex IX. However, only 29 of them have been considered for the completeness assessment. The six mandatory variables of the MNE group (GEG) file and variables 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of the enterprise (ENT) file have been withdrawn from the assessment, as further clarifications are needed before they can be taken into account.

The completeness rate is defined as the number of mandatory variables provided in the EGR datasets relative to the number of all mandatory variables required by the EBS Regulation. The completeness rate is computed as

an average for all mandatory variables. It is measured in percentage terms on a scale from 0 % to 100 %.

Table 6 shows the completeness of mandatory variables for the 2021 EGR cycle.

Table 6

Completeness rate for mandatory variables provided by national statistical authorities, EuroGroups register 2021 cycle
(%)

	Completeness of mandatory variables						Average completeness rate
	Resident incorporated legal units (ISRLE)	Non-resident incorporated legal units (ISNORLE)	Legal unit (LEU)	Relationships between legal units (REL)	Enterprise (ENT)	Links between enterprises and legal units (LEL)	
Belgium	100	100	87	100	87	100	94
Bulgaria	87	100	87	100	92	100	91
Czechia	98	100	99	100	91	100	97
Denmark	100	100	87	100	88	100	94
Germany	100	100	100	100	87	100	97
Estonia	100	100	87	100	99	100	97
Ireland	100	100	100	100	99	100	100
Greece	100	100	100	100	70	100	92
Spain	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
France	100	100	100	100	96	100	100
Croatia	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Italy	99	100	99	100	100	100	100
Cyprus	98	100	98	100	98	100	100
Latvia	100	100	88	100	98	100	96
Lithuania	100	100	100	100	96	100	100
Luxembourg	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Hungary	87	100	100	100	97	100	96
Malta	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Netherlands	100	100	99	100	97	100	100
Austria	87	100	100	100	97	100	96
Poland	100	100	100	100	97	100	100
Portugal	100	100	100	100	99	100	100
Romania	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Slovenia	100	100	100	100	98	100	100
Slovakia	100	100	100	100	99	100	100
Finland	84	100	84	100	100	100	92
Sweden	100	100	99	100	84	100	96

	Completeness of mandatory variables						Average completeness rate
	Resident incorporated legal units (ISRLE)	Non-resident incorporated legal units (ISNORLE)	Legal unit (LEU)	Relationships between legal units (REL)	Enterprise (ENT)	Links between enterprises and legal units (LEL)	
Iceland	86	100	87	100	100	100	92
Liechtenstein	85	100	87	100	38	100	76
Norway	100	100	100	100	99	100	100
Switzerland	88	100	88	100	84	100	89

Source: Eurostat, 2021 EuroGroups register cycle

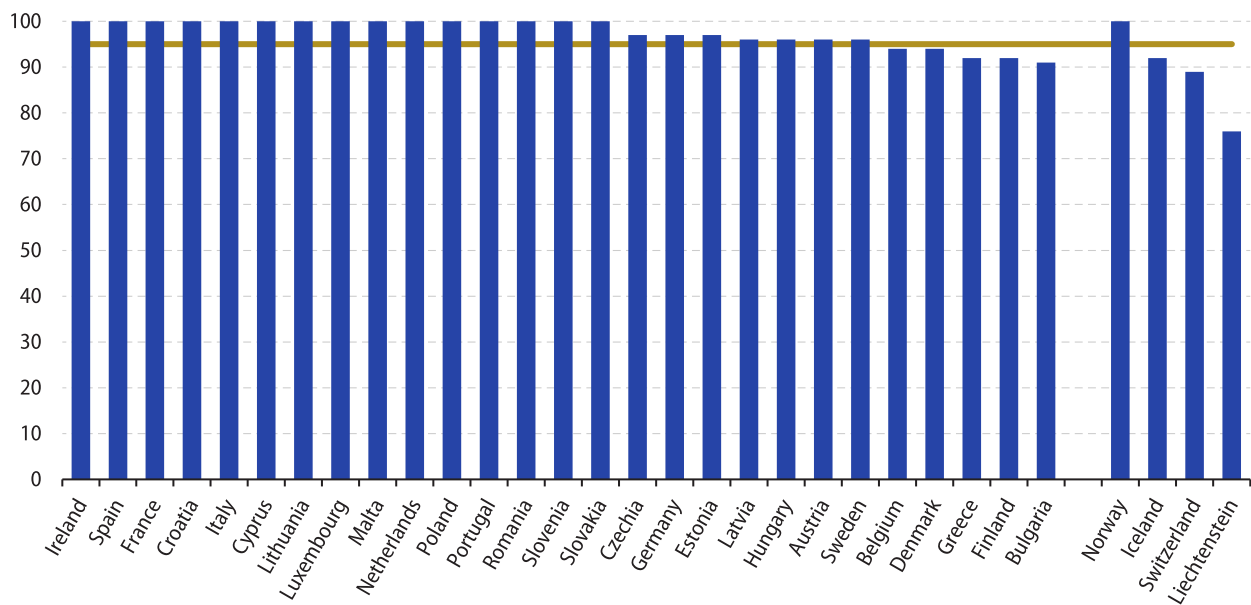
In the **2021 EGR cycle**, most of the EU Member States and EFTA countries provided more than 95 % of

mandatory variables and **16 countries reached a 100 % completeness rate** (see Figure 4).

Figure 4

Completeness rate for mandatory variables provided by national statistical authorities, EuroGroups register 2021 cycle

(%)



Source: Eurostat, 2021 EuroGroups register cycle

8. Accuracy and reliability

ESS definition

The accuracy of data is the closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.

The reliability of the data, defined as the closeness of the initial estimated value to the subsequent estimated value.

The accuracy of **SBRs** reflects the extent to which master frame populations reflect target populations. Maximum accuracy is achieved by assessing and validating: microdata received from administrative and statistical data sources; the outcome of data integration processes; the master frame populations; and other outputs.

8.1 Overall accuracy

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The overall accuracy of **NSBR data** is measured by NSIs based on the impact of frame errors and how these affect the overall survey error. Frame errors may concern under-coverage, over-coverage or errors in variables. More details on procedures used by EU Member States and EFTA countries to ensure the accuracy of their NSBR data are provided in national metadata reports, published on the Eurostat website, at: [statistical business registers – methodology](#).

The accuracy and reliability of NSBR data is also monitored by Eurostat within the EBS compliance and quality monitoring framework. This assessment is based on information provided by NSIs in their NSBR metadata report *BUSREG_METAES_A_CC_2021* under **concept 13.1**. This specifies the overall accuracy of the NSBR, the main issues regarding accuracy, and the actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve the accuracy of data.

Table 7 presents information concerning the accuracy and reliability of the data in the NSBRs for the 2021 reference year.

Table 7

Accuracy and reliability of national statistical business registers data, 2021 reference year

	Metadata report BUSREG_METAES_A_CC_2021	Accuracy and reliability
Belgium	Validated	Full compliance
Bulgaria	Validated	Full compliance
Czechia	Validated	Full compliance
Denmark	Validated	Full compliance
Germany	Validated	Full compliance
Estonia	Validated	Full compliance
Ireland	Validated	Full compliance
Greece	Validated	Full compliance
Spain	Validated	Full compliance
France	Validated	Full compliance
Croatia	Validated	Full compliance
Italy	Validated	Full compliance
Cyprus	Validated	Full compliance

	Metadata report BUSREG_METAES_A_CC_2021	Accuracy and reliability
Latvia	Validated	Full compliance
Lithuania	Validated	Full compliance
Luxembourg	Validated	Full compliance
Hungary	Validated	Full compliance
Malta	Validated	Full compliance
Netherlands	Validated	Full compliance
Austria	Validated	Full compliance
Poland	Validated	Full compliance
Portugal	Validated	Full compliance
Romania	Validated	Full compliance
Slovenia	Validated	Full compliance
Slovakia	Validated	Full compliance
Finland	Validated	Full compliance
Sweden	Validated	Full compliance
Iceland	Validated	Full compliance
Liechtenstein	Validated	Full compliance
Norway	Validated	Full compliance
Switzerland	Validated	Full compliance

Source: Eurostat, ESS Metadata Handler

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The accuracy and reliability of **data transmitted by NSIs to the EGR** is also measured by Eurostat within the EBS compliance and quality monitoring framework. This assessment is based on information provided by NSIs in their EGR metadata report *EGR_NES_A_CC_2021* under **concept 13.1**. This specifies the overall accuracy of data

transmitted to the EGR, the main issues regarding accuracy, and the actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve the accuracy of data.

Table 8 presents information on the accuracy and reliability of the EGR data transmitted by NSIs for the 2021 reference year.

Table 8**Accuracy and reliability of data transmitted by national statistical authorities, 2021 EuroGroups register cycle**

	Metadata report EGR_NES_A_CC_2021	Accuracy and reliability
Belgium	Validated	Full compliance
Bulgaria	Validated	Full compliance
Czechia	Validated	Full compliance
Denmark	Validated	Full compliance
Germany	Validated	Full compliance
Estonia	Validated	Full compliance
Ireland	Validated	Full compliance
Greece	Validated	Full compliance
Spain	Validated	Full compliance
France	Validated	Full compliance
Croatia	Validated	Full compliance
Italy	Validated	Full compliance
Cyprus	Validated	Full compliance
Latvia	Validated	Full compliance
Lithuania	Validated	Full compliance
Luxembourg	Validated	Full compliance
Hungary	Validated	Full compliance
Malta	Validated	Full compliance
Netherlands	Validated	Full compliance
Austria	Validated	Full compliance
Poland	Validated	Full compliance
Portugal	Validated	Full compliance
Romania	Validated	Full compliance
Slovenia	Validated	Full compliance
Slovakia	Validated	Full compliance
Finland	Validated	Full compliance
Sweden	Validated	Full compliance
Iceland	Validated	Full compliance
Liechtenstein	Validated	Full compliance
Norway	Validated	Full compliance
Switzerland	Validated	Full compliance

Source: Eurostat, ESS Metadata Handler

All NSIs reached full compliance and had set up actions to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data provided for the 2021 EGR cycle.

The accuracy and reliability of **EGR frames** are evaluated in collaboration between NSIs and Eurostat. Eurostat performs cross-cutting checks on the preliminary frame. For example, if some potential misclassifications or duplicates are identified, then Eurostat contacts the relevant NSI(s) to check and potentially correct for errors during the repair phase to ensure the accuracy of the EGR final frame.

The EGR data validation process takes place during the EGR production process between $t+5$ and $t+15$ months. The NSIs contribute to the validation process for group structures by delivering information on relationships and data for enterprise groups to the EGR; they also pre-validate EGR input files. Within Eurostat, data quality checks and validation actions are performed at all relevant stages of the EGR production cycle.

8.2 Control procedures

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The primary responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the NSBR data rests with the EU Member States, as they are responsible for setting-up and maintaining national registers. Member States should take all necessary measures to ensure the quality of their NSBR and the data provided to Eurostat for the purposes of EGR production. The control procedures can be classified as follows.

- **Input control procedures** – the input data coming from several administrative or statistical sources, or from commercial data providers are systematically checked, for example, format and file structure, intra-file checks, intra-source checks, and so on. The cross-checking of input data is carried out automatically based on predefined rules. In addition, other validation processes may be carried out, for instance manual checks, micro and macro validation, plausibility/consistency checks, dedicated SBR survey checks, and so on.
- **Throughput control procedures** – the integration of administrative and statistical data sources and the identification of statistical units is carried out on the basis of predefined rules. Records coming from different sources that pertain to the same legal unit (in other words, identified by a common taxation identification number) are integrated in order to build-up a cluster of records for the same enterprise. SBR control procedures are carried out automatically, while the quality of

data records and the delineation of statistical units is monitored continuously.

- **Output control procedures** – the quality of output data and final frames in terms of accuracy, coverage, completeness, coherence and comparability is cross-checked and validated by applying automatic control procedures. Consistency checks are carried out to ensure the quality of data and delineated statistical units.

In addition, aggregated data provided by EU Member States for their NSBR annual quality reports are cross-checked and validated by Eurostat. The transmission and validation of data files is managed by EDAMIS. The reports are accepted if they successfully comply with automatic validation rules implemented in EDAMIS, in other words, structural validation (STRUVAL) and content validation (CONVAL).

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The EGR control procedures are based on a set of coordinated procedures between teams working on business registers in the NSIs and Eurostat.

- **Input control procedures** – Eurostat automatically validates data files sent by NSIs. First, the national register teams validate their data files – according to a set of pre-defined validation rules – before transmitting them to Eurostat. Secondly, automatic validation rules implemented in EDAMIS are used to check the structure and content of the files transmitted by the NSIs to the EGR.
- **Throughput control procedures** – quality management during the EGR production process. The quality of the EGR data is checked during the production process by Eurostat and validated by NSIs on request. When errors are identified, Eurostat corrects them or, if necessary, notifies the respective business registers team in the relevant NSI.
- **Output control procedures** – quality management of EGR outputs, in other words, the EGR final frame. The final EGR frame is validated by Eurostat before dissemination. EGR quality checks form part of the data quality programme for European SBRs. The top-tier population consists of a set of the largest and most complex MNE groups with a significant impact on economic and business statistics, which need to be regularly monitored and frequently updated to provide users with high accuracy and an up-to-date statistical register infrastructure. As of reference year 2021, profiling data for top-tier MNE groups have been integrated into the EGR final frame.

The assessment of the quality of the files transmitted to the EGR by NSIs is performed using a set of four quality indicators to monitor punctuality, completeness, accuracy and reliability, and coherence and comparability. Starting from the 2021 EGR cycle, NSIs transmit metadata about their inputs to Eurostat.

The throughput indicators (or key process indicators (KPIs)) monitor data on legal units, relationships, enterprises and enterprise groups, and measure changes to the source data during EGR production process. These indicators are checked and Eurostat reacts to any eventual problems, taking appropriate measures (if needed, relevant NSIs are contacted during the EGR production cycle).

Before release, Eurostat assesses the quality of the final frame, especially the completeness of mandatory variables. The coverage of EGR data is also assessed through a cross-domain comparisons, such as the comparison with EGR FATS. Data are validated by Eurostat before any dissemination to users. This mainly involves controls of data validity. Data uploaded to Eurostat's database undergo further credibility and completeness checks based on the automatic detection of outliers, internal studies or user feedback.

8.3 Data revisions

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

NSBR data may be updated continuously. This means there is always a possibility that data produced by the SBR – stratified by activity status, or other key variables such as the economic activity code or the number of employees – are revised. Data revisions may be due to two different types of change: actual changes and the correction of errors. Distinguishing real economic changes from the correction of errors/updates is a fundamental task in assessing and improving the quality of SBRs.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The NSIs contribute to the production of the EGR frame by exchanging data on legal units, enterprises and enterprise groups during the annual EGR cycle. In addition, the EGR uses data from commercial data providers for covering units outside the EU Member States and EFTA countries and data on the largest MNE groups.

For the 2021 reference year, the EGR initial frame was made available to users at $t+11$ months. A preliminary frame was produced at $t+14$ months. The NSIs repaired group structures and modified data in the EGR after the initial and preliminary frames were produced. The final (?) EGR frame was made available by Eurostat to users at $t+15$ months.

The EGR final frame for a specific reference year is not revised. The final frame reflects the picture as of 31 December of the given reference year.

(?) There is no revision policy for the EGR.

9. Timeliness and punctuality

ESS definition

Timeliness is the length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon the data describe.

Punctuality is the time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered.

9.1 Timeliness

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

According to the EBS Regulation and deadlines agreed by the SBR WG in relation to the SBR data quality programme, the EU Member States should provide to Eurostat the following data.

- NSBR aggregated data – timeliness: $t+17$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Metadata related to NSBRs – timeliness: $t+17$ months; periodicity: annual.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

According to the EBS Regulation and provisions for the exchange of confidential data for the purposes of the European framework for SBRs, the EU Member States should provide to Eurostat the following.

- Data for the identification of resident legal units (LEUs) – timeliness: $t+5$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for the identification of non-resident LEUs – periodicity: non-periodic.
- Data for the re-identification of LEID numbers – periodicity: non-periodic.

- Data for legal units – timeliness: $t+11$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for relationships – timeliness: $t+11$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for enterprises – timeliness: $t+11$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for enterprise–legal unit links – timeliness: $t+11$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for enterprise groups – timeliness: $t+15$ months; periodicity: annual.
- Data for out-of-scope legal units – periodicity: non-periodic.
- Data for invalid legal units – periodicity: non-periodic.
- Metadata for datasets transmitted by EU Member States and EFTA countries to the EGR – timeliness: $t+17$ months; periodicity: annual.

The EGR final frame is produced and released to users at $t+15$ months.

9.2 Punctuality

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The punctuality of NSBR data is evaluated by the time lag between the deadline and the actual date that NSIs transmit their NSBR quality reports to Eurostat, as foreseen in the data quality programme work plan. Punctuality is assessed in calendar days: if NSBR reports are delivered before or on the deadline, then punctuality is equal to 0; if they are delivered after then deadline then punctuality is equal to the number of calendar days after the deadline. This indicator is based on the date when the first version of the NSBR report is sent to Eurostat.

The punctuality status for NSBR aggregated data transmitted by NSIs in NSBR quality reports via EDAMIS is shown in Table 9.

Table 9

Punctuality status of data delivery for national statistical business registers, 2021 reference year

	Number of days after the deadline	Punctuality status
Belgium	0	Full compliance
Bulgaria	0	Full compliance
Czechia	0	Full compliance
Denmark	0	Full compliance

	Number of days after the deadline	Punctuality status
Germany	0	Full compliance
Estonia	0	Full compliance
Ireland	0	Full compliance
Greece	0	Full compliance
Spain	0	Full compliance
France	0	Full compliance
Croatia	0	Full compliance
Italy	0	Full compliance
Cyprus	0	Full compliance
Latvia	0	Full compliance
Lithuania	0	Full compliance
Luxembourg	27	Minor non-compliance
Hungary	0	Full compliance
Malta	0	Full compliance
Netherlands	0	Full compliance
Austria	0	Full compliance
Poland	0	Full compliance
Portugal	0	Full compliance
Romania	0	Full compliance
Slovenia	0	Full compliance
Slovakia	0	Full compliance
Finland	0	Full compliance
Sweden	0	Full compliance
Iceland	0	Full compliance
Liechtenstein	42	Serious non-compliance
Norway	0	Full compliance
Switzerland	0	Full compliance
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	Full compliance
Montenegro	0	Full compliance
North Macedonia	0	Full compliance
Albania	0	Full compliance
Serbia	7	Full compliance or almost full compliance
Türkiye	0	Full compliance
Kosovo*	:	Serious non-compliance

: = not available

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat EDAMIS; national statistical business registers' quality reports

NSBR data were generally delivered on time by EU Member States and EFTA countries. A few countries delivered the aggregated data after the deadline.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The punctuality of the data transmitted to the EGR during the 2021 EGR cycle was assessed according to the delivery dates for the following seven files.

File	Description/content
ISRLE	Full population of resident incorporated legal units sent to the EGR IS for identification
ISNORLE	Population of foreign legal units sent to the EGR for identification purpose
LEU	Resident legal units belonging to MNE groups sent to the EGR for processing
REL	Relationships between legal units sent to the EGR for processing
ENT	Enterprises composed of legal units sent in LEU files to the EGR for processing
LEL	Links between enterprises (ENT) and legal units (LEU) sent to the EGR for processing
GEG	Data on MNE groups (when the global decision centre of the group is on the territory of the NSI) sent to the EGR for processing

Punctuality compliance is measured based on the potential gaps between the transmission deadlines – provided at the beginning of the cycle – and transmission dates. Files are considered to be successfully transmitted if they comply with the automatic validation rules implemented in EDAMIS for structural validation (STRUVAL) and content validation (CONVAL). For each type of file, the assessment considers the date when the first successful delivery of data was made.

The punctuality status of data transmitted to the EGR by EU Member States and EFTA countries during the 2021 EGR cycle is shown in Table 10.

Table 10

Punctuality status of data transmitted by national statistical authorities, 2021 EuroGroups register frame
(average number of days after the deadline)

	Resident incorporated legal units (ISREL)	Non-resident incorporated legal units (ISNORLE)	Legal unit (LEU)	Relationships between legal units (REL)	Enterprise (ENT)	Links between enterprises and legal units (LEL)	Multinational enterprise groups (GEG)
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czechia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	2	2	2	2	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Resident incorporated legal units (ISREL)	Non-resident incorporated legal units (ISNORLE)	Legal unit (LEU)	Relationships between legal units (REL)	Enterprise (ENT)	Links between enterprises and legal units (LEL)	Multinational enterprise groups (GEG)
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	8	7	8	6	1
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	:
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	0	:
Norway	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Switzerland	0	6	12	13	13	13	:

: = not available

Source: Eurostat, 2021 EuroGroups register cycle

EGR data were generally delivered on time by EU Member States and EFTA countries. Six of the EU Member States and two EFTA countries transmitted data after the deadlines.

Punctuality of the 2021 EGR frames

The punctuality status of the EGR frames for the 2021 reference year is shown in Table 11.

Table 11

Punctuality status of the EuroGroups register frames, 2021 reference year

EGR frames	Timetable	Delivery date	Punctuality status
Initial frame	$t+11$	1 December 2022	Without any delay
Preliminary frame	$t+13$	3 February 2023	Without any delay
Final frame	$t+15$	31 March 2023	Without any delay

Source: Eurostat

The 2021 EGR final frame was produced and released by Eurostat on 31 March 2023 at $t+15$ months; this was without any delay.

10. Coherence and comparability

ESS definition

Coherence and comparability concern the adequacy of statistics to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses and the extent to which differences between statistics can be attributed to differences between the true values of the statistical characteristics.

European statistical outputs should be coherent in the sense of being consistent internally, over time and comparable between regions and countries; it should be possible to combine and make joint use of related data from different sources.

In terms of the comparability of European SBRs, there are two aspects considered: spatial comparisons (for example, between countries or regions) and time. Comparability requires that the concepts and methods underlying the statistical units and their characteristics do not change across space or over time.

10.1 Coherence – cross domain

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The NSBR frames provide information on the active population of enterprises carrying out economic activities which contribute to GDP, the legal units of which those enterprises consist, local units, KAUs and enterprise groups

(including those composed of resident units and MNE groups).

NSBRs are a key tool for statistical users as they provide a coordinated frame population to derive consistent statistical output.

All statistical users use frames extracted from NSBRs which are tailored according to their needs. There may be differences between NSBR data and that presented in other statistical domains as a result of the timing of other statistical production processes when considering the restructuring of companies and/or the statistical cessation of units. Outputs (results) of other statistical domains may sometimes appear to lack coherency when compared with SBR aggregated data if they are based on a subset of the SBR frame – for example, a NACE activity code or institutional sector (market/non-market), or engaging/not engaging in foreign trade.

The coherence and comparability of NSBR data is measured by Eurostat based on comparisons of data for selected aggregates and variables reported by NSIs in NSBR quality reports and data collected by Eurostat in other business and trade statistics domains (the EGR, structural business statistics, business demography and so on).

The coherence and comparability indicator is based on the following comparisons:

- NSBR quality report data vs EGR data,
- NSBR quality report data vs SBS data,
- NSBR quality report data vs BD data.

National statistical business register quality report vs EuroGroups register

Number of incorporated legal units legally active at least a part of the reference year	As reported in NSBR quality report compared with EGR IS
Number of MNE groups operating on the national territory (with legal units located in the country)	As reported in NSBR quality report compared with the 2021 EGR final frame
Number of domestically-controlled MNE groups	As reported in NSBR quality report compared with the 2021 EGR final frame

National statistical business register quality report vs structural business statistics

Total employment of enterprises belonging to NACE Sections B to N, excluding Section K	As calculated using NSBR quality report compared with structural business statistics
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National statistical business register quality report vs business demography

Number of enterprises belonging to NACE Sections B to N, excluding Section K	As calculated using NSBR quality report compared with business demography
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The 2021 reference year was considered as a transition period for this indicator, as the only comparison possible was that between NSBR aggregates and the EGR. The comparisons between NSBR aggregates and structural business statistics and business demography statistics could not be carried out due the late release of those datasets.

National statistical business register – matching with the trade register for the compilation of trade by enterprise characteristics data

Data on trade by enterprise characteristics (TEC) provide information on the number of enterprises per size class and their global trade value.

A link between business registers and registers of intra- and extra-EU trade operators may be established through a common unit of reference, namely the legal unit.

The enterprise is the statistical unit used for data on trade by enterprise characteristics. This means that trade data have to be linked to enterprise variables available in the NSBRs through the legal unit (NSBRs define a link between legal units and the enterprise). In this way, trade data may be matched with the characteristics of an enterprise reported in terms of economic activity and the number of employees.

The accuracy of data for trade in goods by enterprise characteristic can be measured based on the matches between the trade register and the NSBR.

Tables 12 to 14 show the proportions of traders which have been successfully matched with enterprises in the SBR, distinguishing between intra-EU, extra-EU and world trade.

Table 12

Matching rate between trade and business registers in intra-EU trade, 2021

(%)

	Intra-EU imports		Intra-EU exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
Belgium	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:
Czechia	85.4	91.9	98.7	91.2
Denmark	98.5	93.8	98.9	94.5
Germany	92.9	99.3	96.1	98.9
Estonia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ireland	100.0	99.3	100.0	99.6
Greece	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spain	99.7	100.0	99.8	100.0
France	93.8	99.5	94.7	99.6
Croatia	99.7	99.9	99.4	99.9
Italy	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0
Cyprus	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Latvia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lithuania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Luxembourg	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hungary	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	Intra-EU imports		Intra-EU exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
Malta	99.9	100.0	99.6	100.0
Netherlands	96.9	97.7	98.0	95.6
Austria	96.1	99.8	97.3	99.9
Poland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Portugal	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Romania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovenia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovakia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finland	99.8	99.9	99.5	99.9
Sweden	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Iceland	–	–	–	–
Liechtenstein	–	–	–	–
Norway	–	–	–	–
Switzerland	–	–	–	–
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	98.1	97.4	99.3	96.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	–	–
Montenegro	–	–	–	–
North Macedonia	–	–	–	–
Albania	–	–	–	–
Serbia	–	–	–	–
Türkiye	–	–	–	–
Kosovo*	–	–	–	–

: = not available

– = not applicable

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat calculations based on trade by enterprise characteristics data transmitted by EU Member States

Table 13

Matching rate between trade and business registers in extra-EU trade, 2021
(%)

	Extra-EU imports		Extra-EU exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
Belgium	99.5	100.0	99.4	99.8
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:
Czechia	23.1	87.8	86.8	93.1
Denmark	99.5	92.0	99.5	97.1
Germany	86.7	99.6	94.2	99.7
Estonia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ireland	100.0	95.8	100.0	99.7
Greece	93.9	100.0	98.5	99.9
Spain	99.5	99.8	99.7	99.9
France	92.8	99.5	95.9	99.6
Croatia	99.5	99.9	99.3	100.0
Italy	99.5	99.1	95.9	99.2
Cyprus	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.0
Latvia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lithuania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Luxembourg	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hungary	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Malta	99.6	100.0	99.6	100.0
Netherlands	94.7	95.7	94.5	98.6
Austria	98.9	99.8	99.1	100.0
Poland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Portugal	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Romania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovenia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovakia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finland	99.3	99.9	96.1	99.8
Sweden	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Iceland	–	–	–	–
Liechtenstein	–	–	–	–
Norway	–	–	–	–
Switzerland	–	–	–	–

	Extra-EU imports		Extra-EU exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	88.7	92.9	81.0	94.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	–	–
Montenegro	–	–	–	–
North Macedonia	–	–	–	–
Albania	–	–	–	–
Serbia	–	–	–	–
Türkiye	–	–	–	–
Kosovo*	–	–	–	–

: = not available

– = not applicable

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat calculations based on trade by enterprise characteristics data transmitted by EU Member States

Table 14

Matching rate between trade and business registers in world trade, 2021

(%)

	World imports		World exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
Belgium	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:
Czechia	25.7	91.0	89.4	91.5
Denmark	98.7	93.2	99.1	95.7
Germany	90.6	99.4	94.3	99.3
Estonia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ireland	100.0	97.2	100.0	99.7
Greece	95.3	100.0	98.9	99.9
Spain	99.6	99.9	99.7	100.0
France	92.9	99.5	94.3	99.6
Croatia	99.5	99.9	99.2	99.9
Italy	99.9	99.6	97.3	99.6
Cyprus	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0
Latvia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Lithuania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	World imports		World exports	
	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched	Number of enterprises successfully matched	Trade value successfully matched
Luxembourg	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hungary	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Malta	99.7	100.0	99.7	100.0
Netherlands	96.0	96.7	96.7	96.6
Austria	96.2	99.8	97.5	99.9
Poland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Portugal	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Romania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovenia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovakia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Finland	99.6	99.9	97.8	99.9
Sweden	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Iceland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Liechtenstein ⁽¹⁾	–	–	–	–
Norway	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.7
Switzerland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	96.0	96.0	97.5	96.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
North Macedonia	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Albania	:	:	:	:
Serbia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Türkiye	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Kosovo*	:	:	:	:

: = not available

– = not applicable

(¹) Exempt from providing trade by enterprise characteristics data.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat calculations based on trade by enterprise characteristics data transmitted by EU Member States

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The EGR provides information on MNE groups that may be used for the production of globalisation statistics for EU Member States and EFTA countries. These include statistics on FATS, foreign direct investment, small and medium-sized enterprises, macroeconomic statistics, and so on.

Data producers and statistical users can use the EGR as a coordinated frame population to derive consistent statistical output with improved quality for measuring the global activities of European enterprises that form part of MNE groups.

The EGR frame provides harmonised information on MNE groups active in the EU Member States and EFTA countries.

NSIs can conduct comparisons at micro-level. For instance, for an EGR FATS comparison, NSIs compare the ultimate controlling institutional unit of the MNE groups from the EGR final frame with data from FATS surveys.

The following indicators are calculated by NSIs for record-level data comparing the EGR final frame and IFATS/OFATS populations. NSIs calculate these indicators without further grants and the work is carried out as soon as the EGR final frame and national FATS data are available for the same reference year.

Code	Description
OUTPUT.IFATS.1	Completeness of EGR = $(B+C)/(B+C+D)$
OUTPUT.IFATS.2	Accuracy of UCI in EGR = $(B)/(B+C)$
OUTPUT.IFATS.3	Completeness of EGR for employment = comparison of employment of units in OUTPUT.IFATS.1
OUTPUT.IFATS.4	Completeness of IFATS from EGR perspective = $(B+C)/(A+B+C)$
OUTPUT.OFATS.1	Completeness of EGR UCIs = $(B)/(B+C)$

Description of the subsets:

- A – units in the EGR and not in IFATS (the country of the UCI in EGR is correct) / units in the EGR and not in OFATS (the UCIs in the EGR are correct, but OFATS is missing these UCIs).
- B – units in the EGR and in IFATS with the same correct country of the UCI / units in the EGR and in OFATS (exactly the same UCIs).

- C – units in the EGR and in IFATS, but with different country of the UCI / units in OFATS and not in the EGR (the UCIs in OFATS are correct).
- D – units in IFATS, but not in the EGR (units in IFATS with the correct UCI) / units in the EGR and not in OFATS (but the UCIs in the EGR are wrong).

The **EGR-FATS micro level indicators** for the 2021 EGR final frame were compiled by NSIs in the second half of 2023. The accuracy of the UCIs in the 2021 EGR final frame referring to FATS microdata averaged 87 %, while the completeness of employment averaged 89 %.

10.2 Coherence – internal

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

NSBR data included in the final frame are internally consistent. The internal coherence is monitored by the NSBR database system via a range of different checks and analyses. Coherence rules are systematically applied to the statistical units in the relational model. In addition, the main variables linked to the related statistical units are subject to consistency analysis. This allows producers to guarantee the internal coherence of NSBR data.

EuroGroups register (EGR)

Internal coherence within the EGR frame is largely dependent upon the quality of NSBRs. Potential shortcomings are addressed by a data quality program for European SBRs that aims to:

- harmonise methodologies, statistical units, concepts and processes in the production and dissemination of NSBRs and the EGR as far as necessary and possible;
- promote the use of common tools and best practices;
- ensure quality by setting and monitoring a set of quality indicators.

10.3 Comparability – geographical

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The geographical comparability of NSBRs is ensured through the application of common definitions for statistical units, as laid down in [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93 of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community](#).

SBR variables are harmonised in accordance with Annex VIII of the general implementing act. Further guidelines on the implementation of variables within NSBRs are given in

the [European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – 2021 edition](#).

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The EGR frame allows geographical comparability for information on MNE groups. The statistical units provided by EU Member States and EFTA countries are based on harmonised definitions as laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93.

10.4 Comparability – over time

National statistical business registers (NSBRs)

The availability of data in NSBRs that are comparable over time is essential for statistical users. NSBR frames are

comparable over time by applying a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes.

With the entry into force of the EBS Regulation, the common core of national registers is harmonised, as a basis for the preparation and coordination of surveys and as a source of information for the statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the use of administrative data, and for the identification and construction of statistical units.

EU Member States make a copy of their NSBRs at the end of each year, reflecting the situation on 31 December of the reference year. These annual archives of NSBRs should be kept for at least 30 years; they may be used for the purpose of analysis.

Table 15 provides an overview of comparable reference years for the NSBR frames.

Table 15

Comparability over time for national statistical business registers frames

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Belgium	1994–2017 2018 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1994. Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2004 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2007 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 KAUs (as characteristics of enterprises) implemented and maintained since reference year 2021. NSBR frames are not comparable for reference years 2017 and 2018; there was a major change in the methodology. Prior to 2018, enterprises mainly consisted of one legal unit; in 2018, the concept of complex enterprises (multiple legal units) was introduced in the register.
Bulgaria	1996–2014 2015 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2006, but the first reference year is 1996. Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2002 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2014 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2015
Czechia	1990–2012 2013 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1990 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2001 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2009 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2020 Data for 1990–2012 are not comparable with subsequent years because of a change in administrative sources

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Denmark	1993–2014 2014 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1993 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1999 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1999 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2012 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2014
Germany	1998–2016 2017 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1998; the start-up phase was completed in 2002/2003 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2003 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2003 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2003 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2017 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2017 (via NACE code and secondary activities of the enterprise)
Estonia	1994–2004 2005 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1994. Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1994 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1999 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 1999 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005
Ireland	2008–2018 2019 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2008 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2019
Greece	2000–2007 2008–2010 2011–2013 2014– onwards	The NSBR was established in 2000. Local units – implemented and maintained since 2000 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since 2018 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since 2018 KAUs – will be implemented from reference year 2021, in accordance with the EBS Regulation Note: discontinuity in the comparability over time due to revisions of classifications; 2000–2007 (STAKOD 03); 2008 onwards (STAKOD 08, identical to NACE Rev. 2) Note: discontinuity in the comparability over time due to the use of new sources; there are breaks in data comparability between 2010 and 2011 and between 2013 and 2014
Spain	1993–2008 2008–2018 2018– onwards	The NSBR was established in 1993 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2018 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2020

	Comparable reference years	Comment
France	1973–1999 1999–2015 2015–2019 2020 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2012 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained from reference year 1979 Enterprises – implemented and maintained from reference year 2013 Legal units – implemented and maintained from reference year 2013 Local units – implemented and maintained from reference year 1973 KAUs (according to option (ii) in the EBS Regulation, in other words NACE codes of secondary activities) – implemented and maintained since reference year 2013 Note: enterprise groups – break in series in 1999 (new data source added: Bureau van Dijk) and in 2015 (new data source added: tax data from the tax authorities) Note: break in series for employment data from reference year 2020 because of a change in administrative sources on employment, now implemented in the statistical information system on employment
Croatia	2008–2018 2019 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2004 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2010 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2004 as equal to legal unit; since reference year 2019, enterprises are created as combination of more than one legal unit Local units – implemented and maintained since 2004 KAUs – not implemented Note: NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 2008 to 2018; in 2019, complex enterprises were introduced in the NSBR on a wider scale resulting in a break in series
Italy	1998–2004 2005 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1998 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1998 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2004 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005 KAUs – implemented starting from reference year 2021
Cyprus	1985–2008 2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1985 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1985 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1985 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2022 (as an enterprise variable) Note: NSBR frames are comparable for reference years from 2008 onwards There have been substantial changes in the methodology, methods, procedures and data sources (use of administrative sources)
Latvia	1998–2004 2005 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1992 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2018 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2013 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2018 Note: NSBR frames are not comparable for reference years 1998 to 2004; NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 2005 to 2020; there have been substantial changes in the methodology, classifications and data sources

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Lithuania	1989–2001 2002 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1989 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2020 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2002 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2005 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2012 Note: NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 2002 to 2020; in 2020, they were supplemented with data on enterprises and enterprise groups
Luxembourg	1995–2007 2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1995 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2011 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2003 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2003 KAUs – not implemented Note: the coverage of legal units is comparable since reference year 1995 as no additional sources have been added since; the quality of legal unit characteristics data has been improved over time Note: the quality of enterprise data has been improved over time Note: data for local units for reference years 2002 and 2005 were established by collecting data through a specific survey; thereafter, data for local units have been available from information collected through the structural business statistics survey Note: data for enterprise groups have been implemented in 2011 and are available since reference year 2008; the quality and coverage of data has changed over time as new sources were added, sources were no longer available or coverage of sources increased
Hungary	1949–1998 2000–2010 2011 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1949 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2011 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1949 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2020 (pilot exercise) Note: there were changes in processes in 1998, when electronic data exchanges were introduced between the Tax Office, the NSI, the Court of Registration, local state offices and the treasury
Malta	1997–2010 2011–2015 2016–2019 2019 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1997 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2011 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2016 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2019 Note: no breaks in series of note have occurred
Netherlands	1974–1993 1993–1995 1995 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1974 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 1995 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 KAUs – not implemented Note: the NSBR is event-driven; this means that all changes in the characteristics and the composition of each statistical unit are traceable

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Austria	1995–2013 2013–2019 2020–2021 2021 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1995 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2013 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2013 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1995 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2019 Note: data prior to 2013 are not comparable with the current state of the register Note: NSBR frames are not comparable between reference years 2020 and 2021; there have been some changes in the methodology/methods
Poland	2001–2004 2005–2014 2015 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2001 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2018 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2001 KAUs – implemented and maintained (partially) since reference year 2020 Note: NACE Rev. 1 applied until 31 December 2010, NACE Rev. 2 applied since 1 January 2008; between 2005 and 2010, NACE Rev. 1 and NACE Rev. 2 were both stored in the NSBR Note: a new legal form has been applied since January 2015
Portugal	2008–2014 2014–2019 2019–2020 2021 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2008. Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2014 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2019 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2021 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1980
Romania	1993–2007 2007 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1993 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2007 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1993 KAUs – not implemented
Slovenia	1998–2007 2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1998 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2006 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1998 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1998 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1998 KAUs – implemented and maintained reference year 2014 Local kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained reference year 2014 Note: NSBR frames are comparable between reference years 1998 and 2007 (NACE Rev. 1.1); NSBR frames are comparable from reference year 2008 (NACE Rev. 2)

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Slovakia	1996–2007 2008–2013 2014 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1996 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1996 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2004 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2019 Note: data prior to reference year 2008 are not comparable with later reference years (change of NACE classification); data prior to reference year 2014 are not comparable with later reference years (enterprise profiling; change of European system of accounts classifications)
Finland	1968–2012 2013 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1968 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 1995 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2017 (introduced in reference year 2013 but between 2013 and 2016 the enterprise was equal to the legal unit) Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2006 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2021 Note: NSBR frames prior to reference year 2013 are not comparable with later reference years due to a large revision project within business statistics
Sweden	1972–1984 1985 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1972 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1972 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2009 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1972 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 Local activity units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 Note: frames for 1972 to 1984 are not comparable to any frame from 1985 onward for legal units and local units as a new regulation came into force requiring more variables and more frequent updates
Iceland	2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2008 Legal units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2008 Local units – implemented since reference year 2017 KAUs – not implemented Note: NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 2008 to 2020
Liechtenstein	2000–2007 2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 2000 Enterprise groups – not implemented Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2001 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 2000 Note: in 2008, the national activity classification (NOGA) was revised and this led to some small shifts between activities; the data remain broadly comparable over time Note: from 2009 onwards, employees with an FTE of at least 2 % have been counted; prior to 2009, only employees with an FTE of at least 15 % were counted; as such, there was an increase in the count of employees and FTEs

	Comparable reference years	Comment
Norway	1965–2002 2002–2014 2014 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1965, full coverage came with the creation of the Central Coordinating Register of Legal Entities in 1995 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2002 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 2014 KAUs – not implemented Local KAUs – implemented and maintained since reference year 1965 (full coverage since the creation of the Central Coordinating Register of Legal Entities in 1995)
Switzerland	1991–2008 2008 onwards	The NSBR was established in 1991 Enterprise groups – implemented and maintained since reference year 2004 Enterprises – implemented and maintained since reference year 1991 Local units – implemented and maintained since reference year 1991 KAUs – not implemented Note: the Methodology Division ensures that each frame is comparable back to 1991, even though there have been changes; for example, there were changes in classifications in 2008 and the enterprise census was replaced by administrative data in 2011

Source: national statistical business registers' metadata reports, 2021 reference year

EuroGroups register (EGR)

The European Commission (Eurostat) makes a copy of the EGR at the end of each year. These annual archives should be kept for at least 30 years; they may be used for the purpose of analysis.

Considering EGR system versions, changes in data sources and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU, there are four distinct periods for which comparable EGR data are presented in Table 16.

Table 16

Comparability over time for the EuroGroups register

Comparable reference years	EuroGroups register system version	Data sources
2008–2011	EGR 1.0	Mainly commercial data providers
2012–2013	EGR 1.0 and EGR 2.0	Mainly data from NSIs, complemented by commercial data providers
2014–2019	EGR 2.0	Mainly data from NSIs, complemented by commercial data providers
2019 onwards	EGR 2.0	Mainly data from NSIs, complemented by commercial data providers (the latter especially for data for the United Kingdom)

Source: Eurostat

11. Accessibility and clarity

ESS definition

Accessibility and clarity refer to the conditions and modalities by which users can access, use and interpret data.

Accessibility is an attribute of statistical output describing the set of conditions and modalities by which users can obtain data and accompanying metadata.

Clarity is sometimes referred to as interpretability. It is an attribute of statistical output describing the extent to which data are accompanied by readily comprehensible metadata, including information on data quality, and the extent to which additional assistance is made available to users to help them understand the data.

11.1 Data dissemination mechanisms

Eurostat does not publish data from the NSBRs of EU Member States or EFTA countries.

Eurostat releases aggregated data on MNE groups from [the EGR dataset](#) as experimental statistics. See [statistical business registers – database](#).

Eurostat publishes a Statistics Explained article on [multinational enterprise groups and their structure](#). This article presents aggregated statistics that are based on the EGR dataset.

The EGR database contains microdata that are confidential and used for statistical purposes only. Access to the EGR database is restricted exclusively to users from NSAs of EU Member States and EFTA countries, the European Central Bank and central banks of EU Member States.

The EGR FATS and EGR IM applications allow statistical producers and statistical users to consult and download EGR **microdata** through a user interface. These applications are accessible to NSAs in the EU Member States and EFTA countries, as well as the European Central Bank and central banks of EU Member States.

11.2 Metadata and other supportive material

The dissemination of aggregated statistics based on EGR data is supported by a detailed set of metadata that makes it possible to identify, retrieve and browse data easily.

Eurostat produces an annual metadata report related to the EGR final frame. The report is available on [Eurostat's website](#).

The NSAs involved in the set up and maintenance of SBRs document their national practices using the same standard metadata structure as Eurostat, with the goal of making SBR processes transparent.

Each year, the NSAs provide Eurostat with two metadata reports: a report for their NSBR and a report for the data transmitted to the EGR.

EU and national metadata reports are available on Eurostat's website, at: [statistical business registers – methodology](#).

11.3 User support

On a day-to-day basis, statistical producers and users can use a variety of tools when seeking information or help. With the other members of the ESS, Eurostat has established a network of user support centres in nearly all of the EU Member States and enlargement countries, as well as some of the EFTA countries. Their mission is to provide help and guidance to users of European statistical data. Details of this user support network can be found in the [Contact us](#) section of Eurostat's website. In addition, Eurostat provides specific support to journalists via its [Press services](#).

11.4 Dedicated section for European statistical business registers

The Eurostat website also provides access to a dedicated section for SBRs. It provides a central repository that may be used to access aggregated data on MNEs, as well as information on NSBRs, the EGR and European profiling, as well as metadata, manuals, publications and legal acts.

Dedicated section for statistical business registers on Eurostat's website

[Statistical business registers – overview](#)

Overview

Database

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Information on data

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Methodology

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Quality

Legislation

12. Trade-offs between output quality components

Trade-offs between output quality components

Output quality components are not mutually exclusive in the sense that there are relationships between the factors that contributes to them. There are cases where the factors leading to improvements with respect to one component may result in deterioration with respect to another.

As there are a number of quality components, including some with sub-components, the number of possible trade-offs is considerable. However, not all of them are relevant for SBRs. Some of the most significant trade-offs are considered below.

Trade-offs between relevance and timeliness

Timeliness can be improved by reducing the number of variables collected and processed and/or by replacing with alternative variables. This will have a negative effect on relevance, as the relevant variables will be not available anymore. Conversely, improvements in relevance, for example collecting more data, may well introduce more, and/or more complex, data elements and hence reduce timeliness.

Trade-offs between accuracy and timeliness

This is probably the most frequently occurring and important of the trade-offs. Improvements in timeliness can be obtained by reducing collection and processing time, in particular by terminating collection earlier, compiling outputs based on a smaller number of responses or on a limited number of data sources, and/or by reducing the amount of editing, validation or consistency checks. However, this can be expected to reduce accuracy. A compromise situation may be attained for important statistics by publishing an early set of estimates and then one, two or more subsequent revisions. As previously noted, it is relatively standard to have three different

releases – preliminary, revised and final. Although the final figures are not completely accurate, they are normally more accurate than figures in earlier outputs. Thus, the size of these revisions is an indicator of the degree of accuracy that is being sacrificed in order to provide more timely outputs.

Trade-offs between relevance and comparability over time

Improvements in relevance in response to user requirements, for example by redefining the variables for which data are collected, or moving to a later version of a classification, may well reduce comparability over time, perhaps resulting in a break in series. Conversely, the desire to retain comparability may inhibit changes in content that would otherwise improve relevance.

Trade-offs between relevance and coherence

Improvements to the relevance of a particular statistical process in response to user requirements, for example by fine-tuning the definitions of some variables or classifications, may reduce the coherence of outputs with respect to other processes. Conversely, the desire to retain coherence between the outputs of different statistical processes may inhibit the changes that are required to improve the relevance of either process to its users.

Two-tier approach on multinational enterprise groups for high-quality data in the EuroGroups register

In the last couple of years, the EGR production system (processing and output) has been transformed to respond to the new requirements indicated in the Bratislava conclusions of the 2019 conference of the Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistiques (DGINS) ^(?), with a view to bring various activities, instruments, and capacities together in a systematic, coordinated, cost-effective joint approach.

^(?) DGINS conference (2019); Bratislava conclusions, The statistical implications of economic globalisation.

- Ensuring *high quality and up-to-date statistical business registers (national and European) as a necessary infrastructure for the coordination of statistical activities and exchange of data on MNE groups.*
- Frequently updating a set of *prioritised lot of MNE groups, having a significant impact on business and economic statistics at national and European level, that are subject to profiling in order to achieve the quality necessary to support the statistical production of economic globalisation statistics.*
- Monitoring consistently the *fast-changing patterns of activities of large, complex and dynamic multinational enterprise groups.*
- Becoming an *appropriate tool for high quality measurement of the impact of globalisation on statistical indicators.*
- Providing information on MNE groups for addressing the *asymmetries and microdata sharing necessary to improve data consistency at national and European level.*

To ensure high-quality data in the EGR, in 2021 Eurostat launched the European profiling programme. Its purpose is to analyse the legal, economic and operational structure of an enterprise group to obtain the most appropriate delineation of the 'enterprise' as a statistical unit.

European profiling is a collaborative activity where the NSIs which have an interest to profile a particular MNE group define and agree, together, its legal, financial, and economic structure and delineate its enterprise(s). This common understanding of the structure of MNE groups and their activities can ultimately support a consistent data collection and promote the compilation of globalisation statistics.

To implement the DGINS Bratislava conclusions, the BSDG supported the implementation of a two-tier approach for the EGR which envisages.

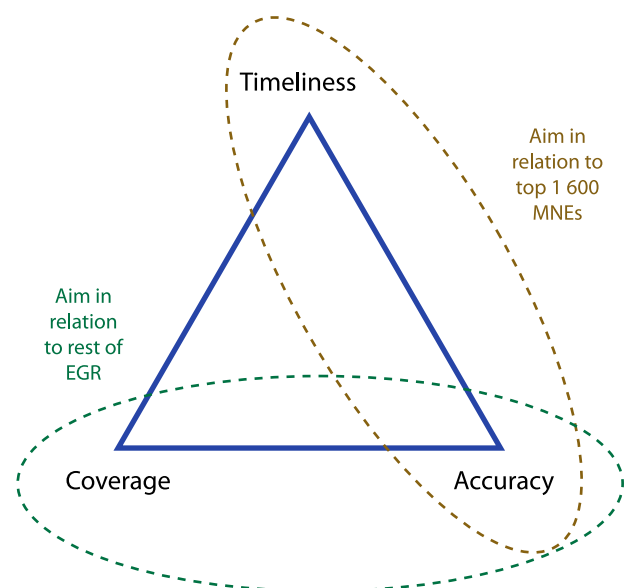
- The first tier (the top-tier) consists of a coordinated, cross-country thorough treatment of the largest and most complex MNE groups, in other words, those with a significant impact on macroeconomic and business statistics. This tier needs to be updated in a timely manner based on profiling work, and the results should be integrated in the EGR. The top-tier groups should be regularly checked and followed-up, leading to higher and assured quality, and the creation of timelier frames for the largest MNE groups. This should provide the opportunity for macroeconomic and business statistics to capture changes linked to the effects of globalisation better and more quickly.
- The second tier consists of a coordinated, cross-country treatment of information for the bulk of the population of MNE groups operating in the EU Member States and

EFTA countries. This tier is based on automated processes to produce annual frames that are timely enough to allow the EGR to serve as a supplementary frame for national surveys. The automated processes should benefit from – and be improved by – the experience and knowledge gained during the treatment of data for the first tier.

This two-tier approach, which is presented in Figure 5, does not necessarily imply two different information technology systems, but a distinction between the two ways of maintaining information on MNE groups in the EGR and NBSRs. This is based on the impact of the two tiers on the statistics.

Figure 5

Two-tier approach for multinational enterprise groups in the EuroGroups register



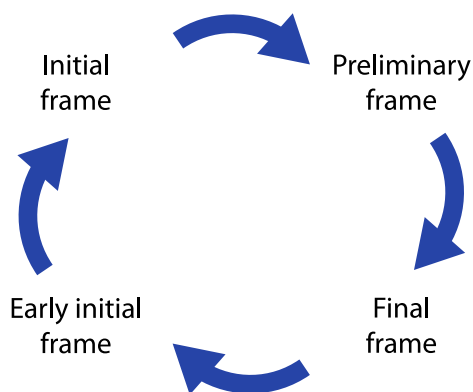
To focus the NSIs efforts and resources for European profiling on the most important (top-tier) groups, it was necessary to agree within the ESS on a structured and acceptable method to identify these groups. The result was the creation of the complexity and statistical impact index, which is applied to the population of EGR MNE groups.

The implementation of the two-tier process is already well advanced and the necessary transformation of the EGR system is ongoing. The EGR data for reference year 2021 integrated for the first time the results of the European profiling exercise. The EGR data for reference year 2022 will already contain high-quality information coming from profiling of the top-tier MNE groups as of $t+12$. At the time

of writing, almost double the number of MNE groups (compared with previous years) are being profiled by NSIs (including the delineation of enterprises or focusing on the structure of top-tier MNE groups). The goal in the short run is to increase the accuracy of all top-tier MNE groups further.

In the light of the experience gained, the top-tier profiling process will be further improved. Additional methodology is being developed with the goal of ensuring an annual event-driven approach for updating information on the largest MNE groups, with an eventual move towards continuous updating of the EGR data. As a first step, the goal is to increase the timeliness and frequency of the EGR further by delivering an additional frame: from 2024 onwards, EGR data will be released at $t+4$ (an early initial frame) for testing by NSIs (see Figure 6).

Figure 6
Continuous EuroGroups register cycle from 2024



This new process will make it possible to increase the exchange of (updated) information between NBSRs and the EGR significantly, thereby increasing accuracy and timeliness.

In this way, data on MNE groups can be made available to the different statistical domains in a consistent way which is also as up-to-date as possible. At the same time, the European system of business registers can be refined in a way that adequately reflects and makes available the effects of globalisation and fast-changing structures of MNE groups.

13. Cost and burden

Cost and burden refer to the costs associated with the collection and production of a statistical product and the burden on respondents.

Even though cost is not a quality criterion, cost is a quality constraint and must be considered when allocating resources to improve any quality dimension of SBRs.

Cost includes a burden on enterprises as well as costs to NSIs. It is important to ensure that enterprises are not

routinely obliged to provide the same data to the SBR as they have already given to administrative sources. This does not preclude the possibility of conducting an SBR quality improvement survey to check or improve the variables for SBR units.

EGR data are provided by NSBRs; there is no additional burden on enterprises.

14. Confidentiality

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164) on European statistics 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.

According to the EBS Regulation, EU Member States shall exchange confidential data on MNE groups and on the units belonging to those groups, exclusively for statistical purposes, where the exchange is to ensure the quality of the MNE groups' information. Such exchanges may also take place with the purpose of reducing response burden.

Where such an exchange of confidential data is carried out to ensure the quality of the MNE groups information and the exchange is explicitly authorised by the competent NSA which provides the data, national central banks may be party to the exchange of confidential data, exclusively for statistical purposes.

To ensure a consistent record of data and to use them exclusively for statistical purposes, the European Commission (Eurostat) shall transmit to the competent NSAs of each EU Member State data on MNE groups, including the units belonging to those groups, where at least one legal unit of the group is located in the territory of that Member State.

To ensure efficiency and high quality in the production of the EGR, exclusively for statistical purposes, the European Commission (Eurostat) shall transmit to the NSAs data on all MNE groups recorded in the EGR, including the units belonging to those groups.

The exchange of confidential data between the European Commission (Eurostat) and central banks may take place, exclusively for statistical purposes, between the European Commission (Eurostat) and national central banks, and

between the European Commission (Eurostat) and the European Central Bank, where the exchange is to ensure the quality of MNE groups information, and the exchange is explicitly authorised by the competent NSAs.

EU Member States and the European Commission shall take appropriate measures to prevent and penalise any violations of statistical confidentiality of the data exchanged. The penalties provided for shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive.

The confidential data transmitted to the European Commission (Eurostat) by the appropriate national authorities shall be flagged as confidential in accordance with national legislation.

To ensure a consistent record of data, the European Commission (Eurostat) shall, exclusively for statistical purpose(s), transmit to the appropriate national authorities of Member States other than the reporting country, data concerning MNE groups and their constituent units, including confidentiality flags, when at least one legal unit of the group is located in the territory of that Member State.

The same policy refers to the data exchange between the European Commission (Eurostat) and EFTA countries.

EGR data are stored by the European Commission (Eurostat) and by the national statistical authorities (NSAs) in the EU Member States and EFTA countries in a secure area with restricted and controlled access.

The transmission of EGR data is done in an encrypted form and by electronic means via the European Commission (Eurostat) single entry point for the exchange of confidential data, EDAMIS.

EGR data and metadata are exchanged in electronic form between the appropriate national authorities and the European Commission (Eurostat). The transmission format conforms to international SDMX data and metadata exchange standards specified by the European Commission (Eurostat).

Annex 1
EBS compliance and quality evaluation for national statistical business registers (NSBR), 2021 reference year

	Punctuality [Respect of transmission deadlines]				Completeness				Accuracy and Reliability				Up-to-date metadata available (!)
	Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		
			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent	
Belgium	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Bulgaria	100	0	0	0	98	2	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Czechia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Denmark	100	0	0	0	97	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Germany	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Estonia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Ireland	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Greece	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Spain	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
France	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Croatia	100	0	0	0	99	1	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Italy	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Cyprus	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Latvia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Lithuania	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Luxembourg	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Hungary	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Malta	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Netherlands	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Austria	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Poland	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y

	Punctuality [Respect of transmission deadlines]				Completeness				Accuracy and Reliability				Up-to-date metadata available (¹)
	Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		
			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent	
Portugal	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Romania	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Slovenia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Slovakia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Finland	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Sweden	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Iceland	100	0	0	0	97	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Liechtenstein	0	0	100	0	73	0	27	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Norway	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Switzerland	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Bosnia and Herzegovina	100	0	0	0	51	0	49	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Montenegro	100	0	0	0	95	0	5	0	100	0	0	0	Y
North Macedonia	100	0	0	0	83	0	17	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Albania	100	0	0	0	58	0	42	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Serbia	100	0	0	0	67	0	33	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Türkiye	100	0	0	0	86	0	14	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Kosovo* (²)	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	N

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Note: based on EBS Regulation requirements. The EBS Regulation is not yet incorporated into the EEA Agreement and is not in force for the EFTA countries. NSBR data were transmitted by Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. EU candidate countries and potential candidates are not concerned by the EBS Regulation. Coherence and comparability will be reported in the next reporting cycle.

(¹) Metadata reports are released on Eurostat's website under the heading statistical business registers – methodology (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/statistical-business-registers/methodology>).

(²) No transmission of aggregated data and metadata for the NSBR.

Source: Eurostat

Annex 2

EBS compliance and quality evaluation for data transmissions to EuroGroups Register (EGR), 2021 reference year

	Punctuality [Respect of transmission deadlines]				Completeness				Accuracy and Reliability				Up-to-date metadata available (¹)
	Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		
			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent	
Belgium	100	0	0	0	94	0	6	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Bulgaria	100	0	0	0	91	0	9	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Czechia	100	0	0	0	97	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Denmark	100	0	0	0	94	0	6	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Germany	100	0	0	0	97	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Estonia	100	0	0	0	97	3	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Ireland	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Greece	100	0	0	0	92	0	8	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Spain	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
France	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Croatia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Italy	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Cyprus	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Latvia	35	0	65	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Lithuania	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Luxembourg	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Hungary	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Malta	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y

	Punctuality [Respect of transmission deadlines]				Completeness				Accuracy and Reliability				Up-to-date metadata available (¹)
	Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		Full compliance	Minor non-compliance	Serious non-compliance		
			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent			not yet persistent	persistent	
Netherlands	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Austria	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Poland	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Portugal	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Romania	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Slovenia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Slovakia	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Finland	100	0	0	0	92	0	8	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Sweden	100	0	0	0	96	4	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Iceland	80	0	20	0	92	0	8	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Liechtenstein	80	0	20	0	76	0	24	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Norway	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	Y
Switzerland	10	5	85	0	89	0	11	0	100	0	0	0	Y

Note: based on EBS Regulation requirements. The EBS Regulation is not yet incorporated into the EEA Agreement and is not in force for the EFTA countries. NSBR data were transmitted by Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. EU candidate countries and potential candidates are not involved in the EGR data production. Coherence and comparability will be reported in the next reporting cycle.

(¹) Metadata reports are released on Eurostat's website under the heading statistical business registers – methodology (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/statistical-business-registers/methodology>).

Source: Eurostat

Glossary

Active statistical unit: a statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realised positive net turnover, or produced outputs, or had employees, or performed investments.

Authoritative source: an authoritative source is the sole provider of data records, in accordance with quality standards, that are contained within national statistical business registers (NSBRs) and the EuroGroups register (EGR).

Enterprise: the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational 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.

EuroGroups register (EGR): the EuroGroups register (EGR) is the European statistical register on multinational enterprise (MNE) groups operating within the EU Member States and EFTA countries; it is managed and compiled by Eurostat.

The EGR is an authoritative source for the ESS as a register population for business statistics requiring the coordination of cross-border information related to MNE groups.

European framework of statistical business registers: the European framework for statistical business registers covers the national statistical business registers (NSBRs) and the EuroGroups register (EGR), as well as data exchanges between them.

European profiling: European profiling is a profiling method to delineate the global enterprise (GEN) of a multinational enterprise (MNE) group.

European Statistics Code of Practice: the European statistics code of practice is the cornerstone of the quality framework and sets the standards for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics.

Kind-of activity unit: the kind-of-activity unit (KAU) groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at the NACE class (4-digit) level and corresponds to one or more operational subdivisions of the enterprise.

Legal unit: legal units include:

- legal persons whose existence is recognised by law independently of the individuals or institutions that may own them or are members of them;
- natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right.

The legal unit always forms, either by itself or sometimes in combination with other legal units, the legal basis for the statistical unit known as the enterprise.

Local unit: the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (for example, a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place, economic activity is carried out for which – save for certain exceptions – one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

Master frame: master frames comprise populations of statistical units, their interrelationships with each other and their relationships with administrative units; they are shared and used by statistical domains to coordinate their survey frames. Master frames are created by reference periods (month, quarter or year) and can have different versions: preliminary, intermediate or final.

Microdata: microdata means individual observations or measurements of characteristics of identifiable reporting units or statistical units.

Multinational enterprise group: a multinational enterprise (MNE) group is an enterprise group that has at least two enterprises or legal units located in different countries.

NACE: [NACE](#) is the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Union. The abbreviation is derived from the French: nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne. Various NACE versions have been developed since 1970. NACE consists of a hierarchical structure of four levels: sections, divisions, groups and classes. The latest version is NACE Rev. 2.1, adopted in 2022.

National statistical authorities (NSAs): national statistical authorities (NSAs) are the national statistical institutes and other national authorities responsible for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics designated by each EU Member State in accordance with Article 5(1) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics](#).

National statistical business register (NSBR): a national statistical business register (NSBR) is a business register for statistical purposes set up at national level. It is an authoritative source for deriving high quality and harmonised statistical business register populations for the production of (European) statistics.

Quality assurance framework: the quality assurance framework of the European statistical system (ESS QAF) serves as complementary guidance for how to implement the European statistics code of practice. It applies to the statistical authorities of the ESS, which comprises Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the EU), the national statistical institutes (NSIs), and other national authorities that are responsible for the development, production, and dissemination of European statistics.

Statistical unit: a statistical unit is defined in [Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93 of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community](#).

Use for statistical purposes: use for statistical purposes is defined in point (8) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics](#).

Variable: a variable is a characteristic of a statistical unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values.

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Quality report on European statistical business registers

2024 edition

The European framework for statistical business registers was established by Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (henceforth, the EBS Regulation) that entered into force on 1 January 2021.

This is the first edition of the *Quality report on European statistical business registers*. It aims to provide users with relevant information on the quality of European statistical business registers (SBRs). The indicators included in the report are developed within the European business statistics (EBS) quality framework. They relate to the 2021 reference year, which was the first reference year of implementation of the EBS Regulation for European SBRs. The indicators were calculated by Eurostat based on the data reported by European Union (EU) Member States, EFTA countries and EU enlargement countries during the course of 2022 and 2023.

For more information

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