

Businesses in the manufacturing sector

Statistics Explained

Data extracted in January 2025
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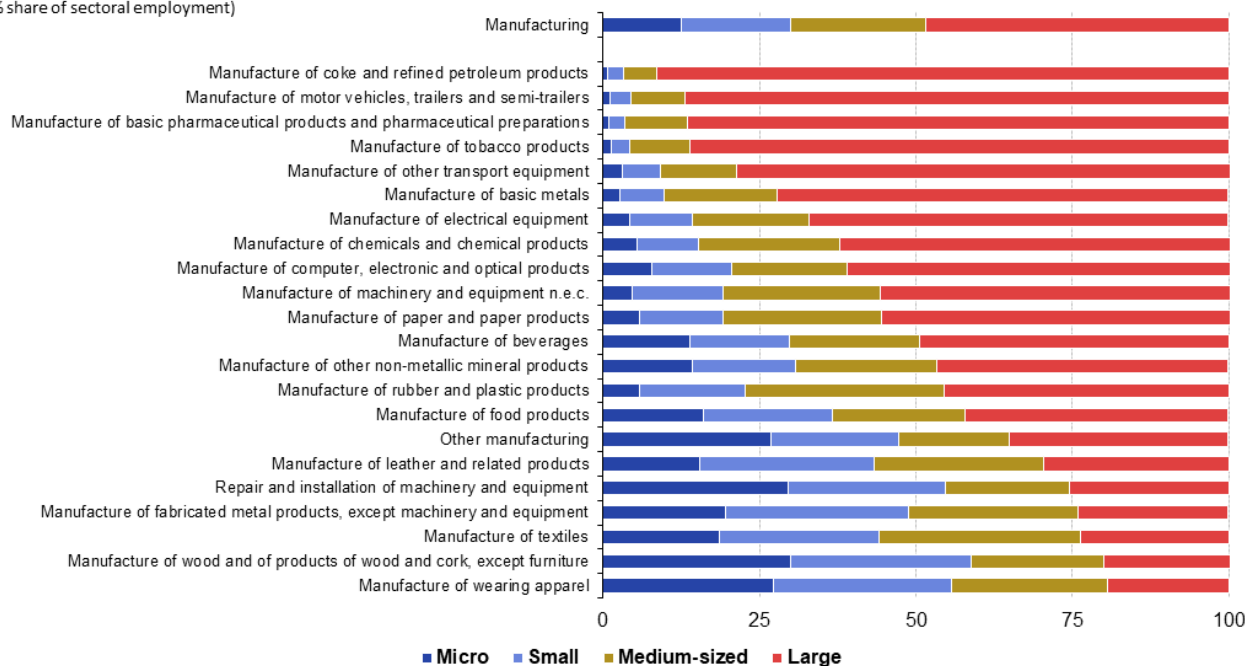
Highlights

" 2.2 million enterprises employed 30 million persons in the EU's manufacturing sector in 2022. "

" The manufacturing sector contributed to one-quarter of the EU's business economy net turnover, with € 9.8 trillion in 2022, an increase of 18% compared with 2021. "

Sectoral analysis of employment by enterprise size class, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

(% share of sectoral employment)



Note: Activities which are not shown are incomplete. For the purpose of the article some percentages have been calculated for confidential data, which causes a lower reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)

eurostat

Sectoral analysis of employment by enterprise size class, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (% share of sectoral employment) Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

This article presents an overview of statistics for the [European Union's \(EU\)](#) manufacturing sector, as covered by [NACE Rev. 2 Section C](#). It belongs to a [set of statistical articles](#) on 'Business economy by sector'.

The manufacturing sector includes a vast range of activities and production techniques, from small-scale enterprises using traditional production techniques, such as the manufacture of musical instruments, to very large enterprises at the top of a high and broad pyramid of parts and components suppliers collectively manufacturing complex products, such as aircraft. An analysis of the manufacturing sector as a whole gives an idea of the scale of this sector. It should be noted, however, that indicators of its inputs (for example, labour or capital goods), its performance, or its size structure are effectively an average across very different activities. While this can also be said of other large and diverse sectors, such as [distributive trades](#) and [transport services](#), the manufacturing sector is 1 of the most varied activity within the business economy at the NACE section level of detail.

Structural profile

6.7% of all [enterprises](#) in the EU's [business economy](#) (Sections B to N and P to R, as well as Divisions S95 and S96) were classified as 'Manufacturing' (Section C) in 2022, a total of more than 2.1 million enterprises.

The manufacturing sector [employed](#) around 30.0 million persons in 2022 and generated € 2.4 trillion of [value added](#). By these 2 measures, manufacturing was the largest of the NACE sections within the EU's business economy in terms of its contribution to employment (18.7%), as well as the largest contributor to the business economy value added with share of (24.1%). In terms of turnover, the manufacturing sector had the 2nd highest net turnover within the EU's business economy after distributive trades, recording € 9.8 [billion](#), an increase of 18.3% compared with the previous year.

Key indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Value
Main indicators	
Number of enterprises (number)	2 152 042
Number of persons employed (number)	30 026 436
Net turnover (€ million)	9 785 619
Purchases of goods and services (€ million)	7 721 675
Employee benefits expense (€ million)	1 361 790
Value added (€ million)	2 419 775
Gross operating surplus (€ million)	1 058 027
Share in business economy total (%)	
Number of enterprises	6.7
Number of persons employed	18.7
Value added	24.1
Derived indicators	
Apparent labour productivity (thousand € per head)	80.6
Employee benefits expense (thousand € per head)	48.1
Wage-adjusted labour productivity (%)	167.6
Gross operative rate (%)	10.8

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww)



Table 1: Key indicator, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

In 2022, the EU's manufacturing sector recorded [apparent labour productivity](#) and [average personnel costs](#) (average employee benefits expense) above business economy averages: the apparent labour productivity of the

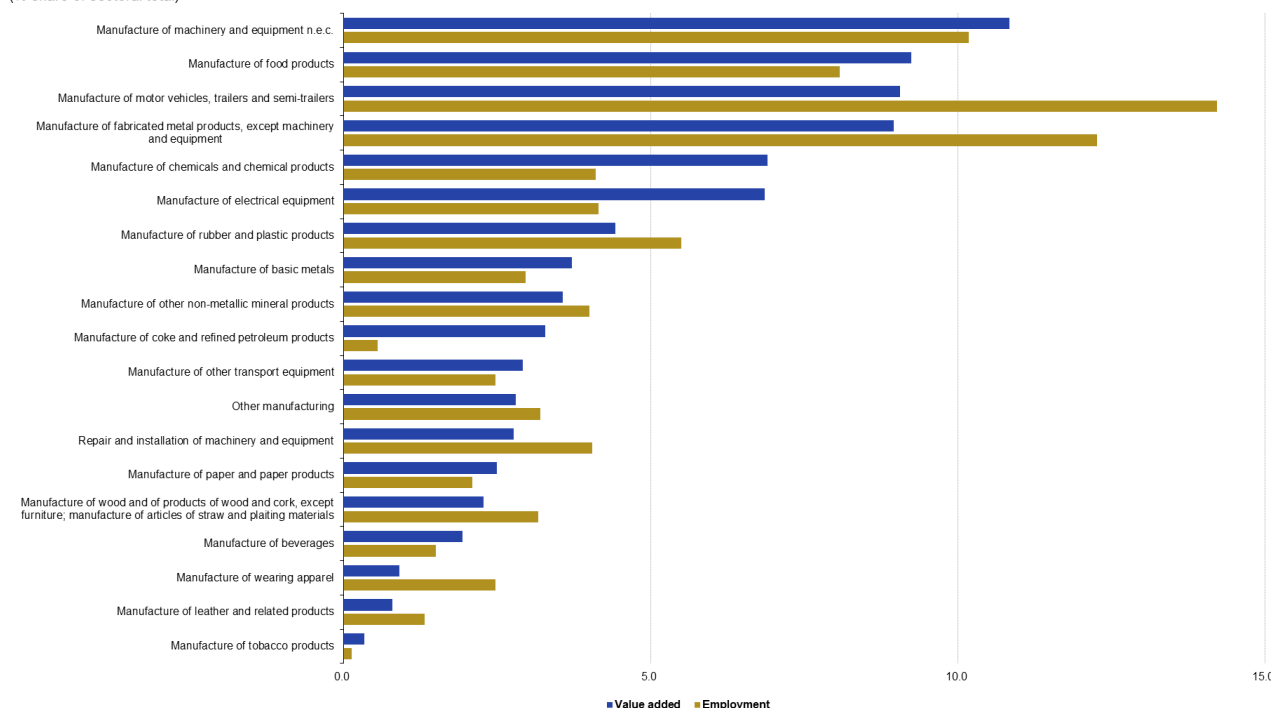
manufacturing sector was € 80 600 per person employed, some € 17 900 more than the business economy average (€ 62 700 per person employed), while average personnel costs in the manufacturing sector were € 48 100 per employee, some € 7 000 above the business economy average (€ 41 100 per employee). Combining these 2 ratios into the [wage-adjusted labour productivity ratio](#) shows that value added per person employed in the EU's manufacturing sector was equivalent to 167.6% of average personnel costs per employee, which was slightly above the average for the business economy (152.6%).

The [gross operating rate](#) (the relation between the [gross operating surplus](#) and [turnover](#)) was 10.8% for the EU's manufacturing sector in 2022, slightly below the 11.8% average for the business economy. This sector had the 3rd lowest gross operative rate among any of the NACE sections within the business economy (10.8%), only distributive trades and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply sector had a lower gross operative rate (6.4% and 6.1%, respectively).

Sectoral analysis

At the NACE division level the manufacturing sector is composed of 24 different subsectors. The largest EU subsector in 2022 (for which there is available data) in terms of value added was the manufacture of machinery and equipment (Division 28), followed by manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (Division 29) and manufacture of food products (Division 10). In terms of employment, the largest EU subsectors were manufacture of food products, manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (Division 25) and manufacture of machinery and equipment— see Figure 1.

Sectoral analysis of Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022
(% share of sectoral total)



Note: Some activities are missing.
Ranked on value added.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww_act)

eurostat

Figure 1: Sectoral analysis of manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (% share of sectoral total) Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Manufacturing subsectors are very diverse, combining activities with very high turnover (over 1.2 trillion), such as the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers and the manufacture of food products, with other activities that have lower net turnover, such as manufacture of tobacco products (Division 12) and manufacture of leather and related products (Division 15)— see Table 2a.

Sectoral analysis of key indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Number of enterprises (thousands)	Number of persons employed (€ million)	Net turnover (€ million)	Value added (€ million)	Employee benefits expense (€ million)
Manufacturing	2 152.0	30 026.4	9 785 619.5	2 419 774.9	1 361 789.9
Manufacture of food products	273.8	4 270.6	1 257 923.6	219 176.0	136 928.1
Manufacture of beverages	35.2	450.0	182 910.9	46 674.9	20 898.8
Manufacture of tobacco products	.	38.4	25 596.7	8 182.2	2 431.1
Manufacture of textiles	65.5	540.0	.	.	16 000.0
Manufacture of wearing apparel	134.4	741.0	76 000.0	22 000.0	14 100.0
Manufacture of leather and related products	.	395.6	63 158.2	19 250.0	10 836.3
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	161.6	950.0	200 000.0	55 000.0	26 000.0
Manufacture of paper and paper products	18.5	630.0	256 000.0	60 200.0	30 000.0
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	100.0	.	70 000.0	.	16 000.0
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	0.8	164.0	717 891.7	79 273.2	13 425.2
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	31.1	1 245.9	779 115.5	165 879.7	87 130.6
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	4.0	649.8	.	.	51 806.6
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	55.7	1 650.0	400 000.0	107 000.0	70 000.0
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	92.1	1 199.5	283 232.6	86 399.2	49 034.6
Manufacture of basic metals	14.6	890.0	540 000.0	90 000.0	49 000.0
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	408.6	3 684.0	653 637.7	216 840.2	137 600.3
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	.	1 100.0	.	.	65 896.6
Manufacture of electrical equipment	42.0	1 540.0	.	.	80 000.0
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	79.1	3 055.0	845 810.0	262 356.6	179 936.6
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	18.8	2 426.9	1 225 908.5	223 635.7	147 698.0
Manufacture of other transport equipment	15.0	740.0	260 857.1	70 574.7	48 475.2
Manufacture of furniture	130.0	.	120 000.0	.	25 000.0
Other manufacturing	172.4	961.2	181 536.3	68 243.7	37 113.7
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	222.4	1 215.1	189 657.9	67 062.0	48 000.0

(.) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww_act)

eurostat 

Table 2a: Sectoral analysis of key indicators, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Sectoral analysis of key indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Apparent labour productivity (thousand € per head)	Average employee benefits expense	Wage-adjusted labour productivity	Gross operative rate (%)
Manufacturing	80.6	48.1	167.6	10.8
Manufacture of food products	51.3	34.0	151.0	6.5
Manufacture of beverages	103.7	49.8	208.5	14.1
Manufacture of tobacco products	212.9	63.4	335.6	22.5
Manufacture of textiles	.	32.7	.	.
Manufacture of wearing apparel	29.7	22.1	134.3	10.4
Manufacture of leather and related products	48.7	29.5	164.8	13.3
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	57.9	31.8	182.2	14.0
Manufacture of paper and paper products	95.6	48.6	196.5	11.8
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	.	.	.	11.4
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	483.5	82.3	587.5	9.2
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	133.1	71.0	187.5	10.1
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	.	80.0	.	.
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	64.9	43.5	149.2	10.0
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	72.0	43.5	165.4	13.2
Manufacture of basic metals	101.1	55.8	181.2	8.2
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	58.9	41.1	143.2	12.1
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	.	59.9	.	.
Manufacture of electrical equipment	.	53.0	.	.
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	85.9	60.0	143.2	9.7
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	92.2	61.2	150.5	6.2
Manufacture of other transport equipment	95.4	69.3	137.7	8.5
Manufacture of furniture	.	.	.	10.0
Other manufacturing	71.0	45.1	157.3	17.2
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	55.2	46.2	119.5	9.9

(.) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww_act)

eurostat 

Table 2b: Sectoral analysis of key indicators, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

In 2022, among the available data, apparent labour productivity within the EU's manufacturing subsectors ranged from € 29 700 per person employed or more for the manufacture of wearing apparel (Division 14) to € 483 500 per person employed for the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (Division 19), see Table 2b. Based on the available data, the manufacture of wearing apparel and manufacture of leather and related products recorded the lowest average employee benefits expense in the EU's manufacturing sector, at € 22 100 per employee and € 29 500 per employee respectively. The highest average employee benefits expense among the manufacturing sector was € 82 300 per employee, registered by the subsector manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, followed by manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (€ 80 000 per employee).

Country overview

Because of the tradable (export and import) nature of manufactured goods, the relative importance of manufacturing within the business economy varies greatly between EU countries. Specialisations at the subsector level are also sometimes very pronounced. Figure 2 shows that the share of manufacturing within the business economy's value added varied in 2022 from 6.6% in Luxembourg and 8.1% in Malta to more than 32.9% of the total in Slovenia and 33.5% of the total in Czechia and 41.5%, the highest share, in Ireland.

The range in employment terms ranged from 8.7% in Luxembourg and 8.8% in the Netherlands to 30.4% in Czechia.

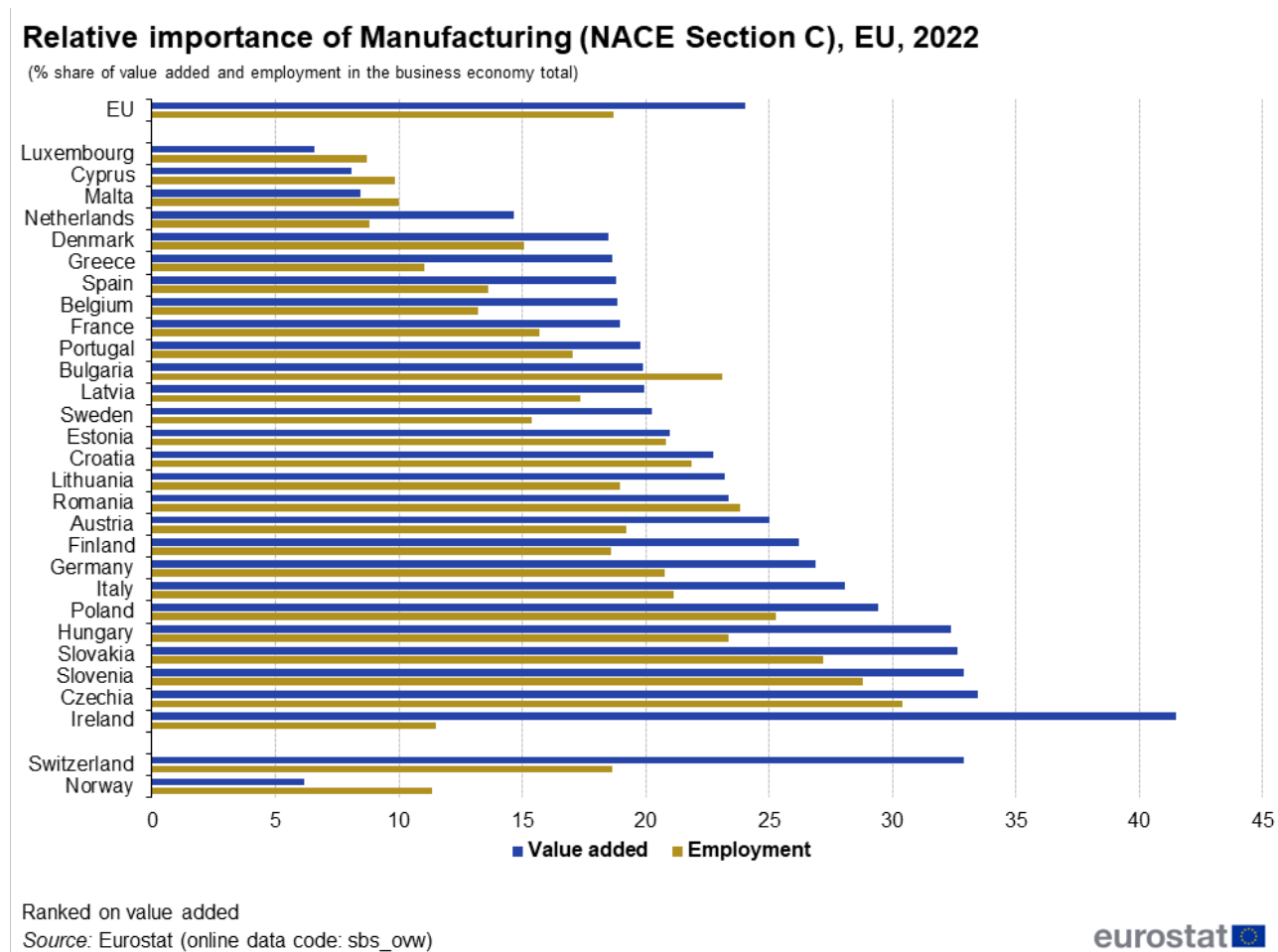


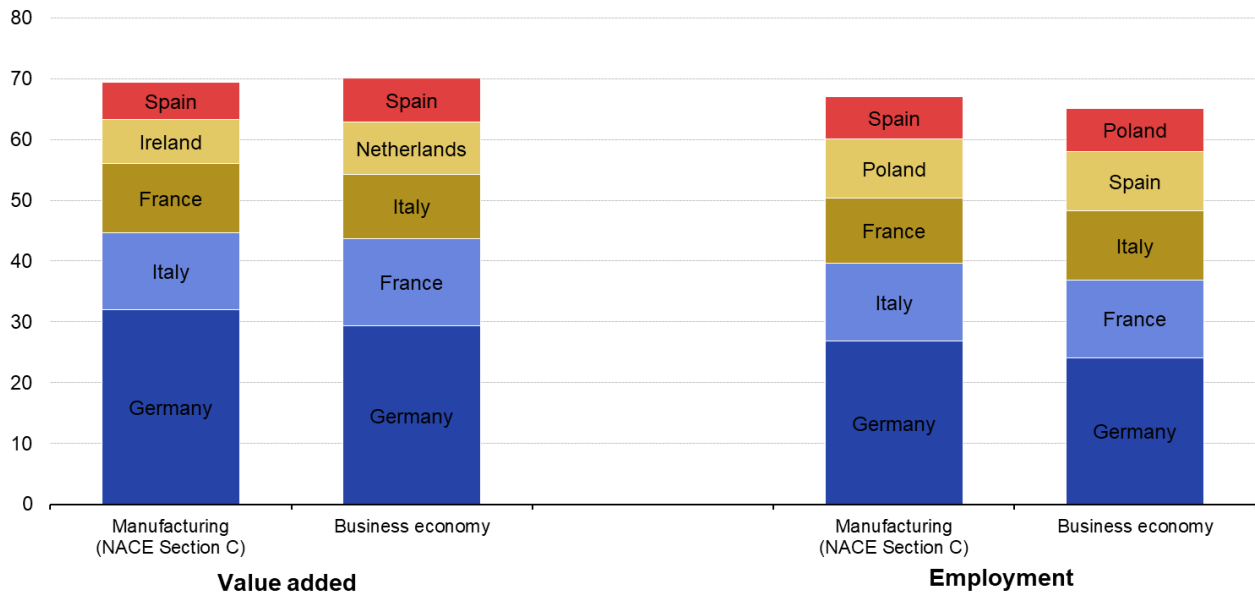
Figure 2: Relative importance of manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (% share of value added and employment in the business economy total) Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Among the 5 largest EU countries, Germany stood out as its manufacturing sector contributed to almost one-third (32.0%) of the EU's value added in 2022, above its 29.3% share of value added in the EU's business economy as a whole. Italy recorded the 2nd share (12.7%) of the value added generated in the EU's manufacturing sector and 3rd

share in the business economy as a whole (10.5%), while France recorded the 3rd share (11.4%) of the value added generated in the EU's manufacturing sector and 2nd share in the business economy as a whole (14.5%).

Concentration of value added and employment, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

(cumulative share of the five principal Member States as a % of the EU total)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww)



Figure 3: Concentration of value added and employment, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (cumulative share of the 5 principal Member States as a % of the EU total) Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Largest and most specialised Member States in Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Highest value added	(% share of EU value added)	Most specialised	(% share of the business economy value added)
Manufacturing	Germany	32.0	Ireland	93.9
Manufacture of food products	Germany	2.0	Greece	7.4
Manufacture of beverages	France	0.4	Austria	1.7
Manufacture of tobacco products	Germany	0.1	Greece	0.9
Manufacture of textiles	Italy	0.3	Portugal	1.6
Manufacture of wearing apparel	Italy	0.4	Bulgaria	2.1
Manufacture of leather and related products	Italy	0.4	Italy	1.4
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	Germany	0.5	Latvia	11.1
Manufacture of paper and paper products	Germany	0.6	Sweden	3.1
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	Germany	0.3	Malta	2.2
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	Germany	0.7	Hungary	3.8
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	Germany	2.3	Lithuania	6.5
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations	Germany	1.1	Denmark	7.6
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	Germany	1.5	Poland	4.6
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	Germany	0.9	Czechia	3.2
Manufacture of basic metals	Germany	1.2	Slovakia	5.5
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	Germany	2.9	Slovenia	8.5
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	Germany	1.9	Hungary	4.4
Manufacture of electrical equipment	Germany	2.2	Slovenia	5.5
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	Germany	5.1	Germany	7.4
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	Germany	5.1	Slovakia	12.1
Manufacture of other transport equipment	France	1.0	France	2.5
Manufacture of furniture	Germany	0.4	Lithuania	5.4
Other manufacturing	Germany	1.0	Ireland	5.5
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	Germany	0.7	Czechia	2.2

Note: The data set is incomplete with some missing combinations of Member State, activity and indicator; the information presented is drawn from the available data; for more details refer to the database online.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_owv_act)



Table 3: Largest and most specialised EU Member States in manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022
Source: Eurostat (sbs_owv_act)

In value added terms, Germany was the largest EU country in 20 of the 24 manufacturing subsectors (see Table 3) in 2022; Italy was largest in 3 (the textiles, wearing apparel, and leather and related products manufacturing subsectors); France was the largest for the manufacture of other transport equipment. In Slovakia, the specialisation rate for the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers was very high and amounted to 12.1% of business economy value added. Equally remarkable was the Latvian specialisation rate (11.1% of business economy value added) for manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials (Division 16). Among the EU countries, the highest turnover in manufacturing was recorded in Germany (€ 2.8 trillion). The 2nd and 3rd highest values in net turnover for the manufacturing sector were recorded in Italy (€ 1.3 trillion) and France (€ 1.2 trillion). The same order was kept for employment, value added and gross investment in tangible non-current assets.

Denmark recorded the highest level of average employee benefits expense within the manufacturing sector in 2022, € 75 100 per employee, above the EU average of € 48 100 per employee. Average employee benefits expense were also greater than or equal to € 50 000 per employee in Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Luxembourg, France, Finland and Ireland. On the other hand, average personnel costs were below € 15 000 per employee in Romania and Bulgaria where the lowest levels were recorded. Combining these 2 indicators gives the wage-adjusted labour productivity ratio, which is a measure of labour productivity that takes into account the very different levels of pay and social charges between EU countries and activities. The highest such ratios were recorded in Ireland (1 171.2%), Hungary (206.5%), Poland (203.2%), Belgium (193.7%) and the Netherlands (192.9%). The lowest wage-adjusted labour productivity ratios in manufacturing were registered in France (137.5%), Sweden (143.0%), Austria (147.3%), and Germany (145.8%).

Key indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Number of enterprises	Number of persons employed (thousands)	Turnover	Value added	Employee benefits expense (€ million)	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
EU	2 152.0	30 026.4	9 785 619.5	2 419 774.9	1 361 789.9	330 235.7
Belgium	41.5	513.9	370 264.7	73 184.3	35 395.2	13 948.5
Bulgaria	29.6	500.0	49 819.0	9 897.6	5 428.3	2 272.5
Czechia	184.6	1 286.8	241 307.8	51 049.8	29 284.3	9 344.3
Denmark	15.7	334.7	158 764.3	41 950.7	24 754.2	6 074.2
Germany	204.6	8 041.6	2 842 708.0	773 337.3	518 848.2	82 355.6
Estonia	9.4	113.2	19 016.5	4 407.9	2 805.9	797.1
Ireland	19.0	264.2	405 157.1	175 916.6	14 519.2	4 060.3
Greece	57.4	376.1	93 673.6	16 955.7	7 645.1	2 375.0
Spain	171.1	2 120.3	707 728.7	145 574.6	83 208.9	22 142.5
France	250.8	3 218.7	1 199 239.3	276 188.3	191 452.5	43 998.8
Croatia	24.0	274.6	30 543.1	8 181.3	4 588.4	1 521.5
Italy	358.5	3 850.9	1 253 780.2	306 775.3	162 993.9	41 641.0
Cyprus	5.0	37.3	4 934.1	1 445.2	832.5	202.4
Latvia	11.0	118.9	14 197.0	3 978.4	2 035.4	825.0
Lithuania	24.5	236.2	37 965.0	9 031.9	4 397.6	1 855.6
Luxembourg	0.8	34.2	17 482.2	3 467.5	2 141.2	463.6
Hungary	59.6	785.7	155 794.5	31 247.9	14 285.9	11 534.1
Malta	2.8	23.7	5 243.8	1 086.2	567.9	171.4
Netherlands	83.5	752.2	502 217.7	100 877.2	48 932.2	11 053.3
Austria	31.4	720.6	279 645.4	71 755.4	46 469.4	11 634.3
Poland	241.0	2 909.4	516 002.4	112 302.6	51 323.7	22 622.2
Portugal	68.5	742.8	127 376.5	28 110.7	15 781.6	6 061.5
Romania	76.1	1 119.7	140 752.6	31 147.7	16 127.7	10 016.7
Slovenia	20.9	224.8	41 799.1	12 021.9	6 963.3	2 155.7
Slovakia	87.5	494.7	103 052.1	18 962.5	10 208.3	3 583.6
Finland	28.4	328.5	176 687.2	35 113.9	19 565.7	5 912.2
Sweden	44.8	602.7	290 467.6	75 806.5	41 233.8	11 613.3
Norway	18.1	221.6	101 941.1	26 386.8	16 130.9	3 764.9
Switzerland	19.3	665.1	449 660.8	150 085.9	:	14 080.3

(:) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww_act)

eurostat 

Table 4a: Key indicators, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Key indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Apparent labour productivity (thousand € per head)	Average employee benefits expense	Wage-adjusted labour productivity (%)	Gross operative rate
EU	80.6	48.1	167.6	10.8
Belgium	142.4	73.5	193.7	10.2
Bulgaria	19.8	11.4	173.9	9.0
Czechia	39.7	26.4	150.5	9.0
Denmark	125.3	75.1	166.8	10.8
Germany	96.2	65.9	145.8	9.0
Estonia	39.0	25.5	152.7	8.4
Ireland	665.8	56.9	1 171.2	39.8
Greece	45.1	23.8	189.4	9.9
Spain	68.7	41.3	166.2	8.8
France	85.8	62.4	137.5	7.1
Croatia	29.8	17.5	170.2	11.8
Italy	79.7	47.5	167.7	11.5
Cyprus	38.7	23.3	166.5	12.4
Latvia	33.5	17.7	189.1	13.7
Lithuania	38.2	19.8	192.8	12.2
Luxembourg	101.4	62.9	161.2	7.6
Hungary	39.8	19.3	206.5	10.9
Malta	45.7	26.3	174.2	9.9
Netherlands	134.1	69.5	192.9	10.3
Austria	99.6	67.6	147.3	9.0
Poland	38.6	19.0	203.2	11.8
Portugal	37.8	22.3	170.0	9.7
Romania	27.8	14.8	188.0	10.7
Slovenia	53.5	32.9	162.7	12.1
Slovakia	38.3	24.2	158.7	8.5
Finland	106.9	62.1	172.2	8.8
Sweden	91.3	63.9	143.0	10.1
Norway	119.1	74.2	160.4	10.1
Switzerland	225.7	:	:	17.7

(:) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_oww_act)



Table 4b: Key indicators, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_oww_act)

Size class analysis

Large enterprises (employing 250 or more persons) contributed more to the EU's manufacturing sector than is typical for the business economy as a whole. In 2022, some 66.0% of the manufacturing sector's value added was generated by large enterprises and these employed 48.3% of the manufacturing employment. For comparison, the business economy average for SMEs was 33.9% share of value added and a 51.7% share of the employment.

Key size class indicators, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Number of enterprises (thousands)	Number of persons employed	Value added (€ million)	Apparent labour productivity (thousand € per head)
All enterprises	2 152.0	30 026.4	2 419 774.9	80.6
All SMEs	2 136.1	15 509.3	821 479.9	53.0
Micro	1 816.7	3 740.0	122 000.0	32.6
Small	257.0	5 268.1	274 159.4	52.0
Medium-sized	62.4	6 501.2	425 320.5	65.4
Large	15.9	14 514.2	1 598 207.7	110.1

Note: For confidentiality issues rounded or calculated figures have been used. The sum of all categories does not equal the total of all enterprises due to estimated values with lower reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)

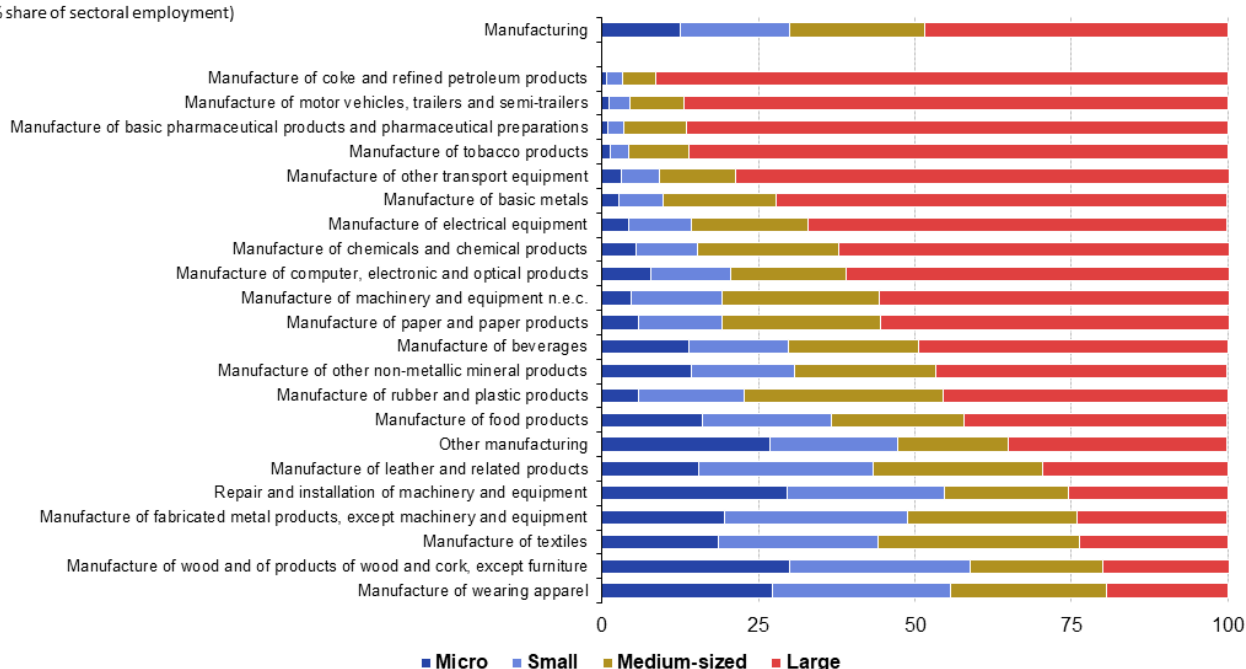
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Table 5: Key size class indicators, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

Among the 4 size classes, large enterprises (employing 250 or more persons) dominate in terms of employment in the majority of the subsectors in 2022. The highest shares were concentrated in the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (91.4%), of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (86.8%), basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (86.5%) and tobacco products (86.2%). Micro enterprises (employing less than 10 persons) contributed to the largest share of employment among the 4 size classes for which data is available in manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture (27.9%), manufacture of wearing apparel (27.1%), and other manufacturing (26.9%), see Figure 4.

Sectoral analysis of employment by enterprise size class, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

(% share of sectoral employment)



Note: Activities which are not shown are incomplete. For the purpose of the article some percentages have been calculated for confidential data, which causes a lower reliability.

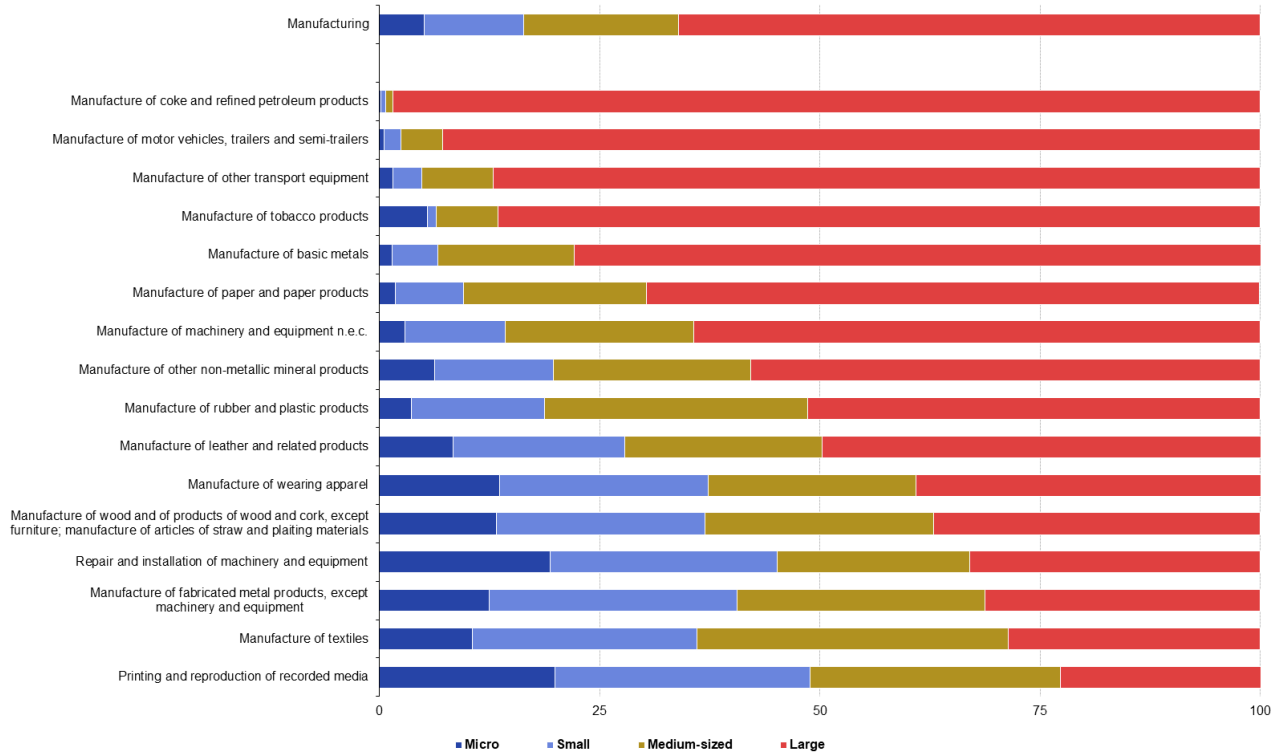
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)

eurostat

Figure 4: Sectoral analysis of employment by enterprise size class, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (% share of sectoral employment) Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

Large enterprises (employing 250 or more persons) contributed to the largest share of value added among the 4 size classes in most of the manufacturing subsectors for which data is available, the highest shares being recorded in the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (91.4%) and of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (86.8%). In terms of absolute values, the subsector of manufacture of machinery and equipment recorded the highest value added among all the manufacturing subsectors, followed by the manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers.

Sectoral analysis of value added by enterprise size class, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022
 (% share of sectoral value added)



Note: Activities which are not shown are incomplete. For the purpose of the article some percentages have been calculated for confidential data, which causes a lower reliability.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)



Figure 5: Sectoral analysis of value added by enterprise size class, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 (% share of sectoral value added) Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

Among the EU countries, the relative significance of large enterprises was at its greatest in Ireland in 2022, as these enterprises contributed to 84.5% of the large enterprises total value added generated in the manufacturing sector. Value added for large enterprises recorded on EU level (66.0%) indicates high significance of large enterprises in the sector.

Medium-sized enterprises made a considerable contribution to manufacturing value added in Estonia with 41.7% of the total value added for this size-class; while this contribution was only around 7.6% in Ireland and 12.7% in France.

Number of persons employed by enterprise size class, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Total (thousands)	SMEs	Micro	Small (% of total)	Medium-sized	Large
EU	30 026.4	51.7	12.5	17.5	21.7	48.3
Belgium	513.9	51.4	12.3	15.1	24.1	48.6
Bulgaria	500.0	64.1	11.6	21.9	30.5	35.9
Czechia	1 286.8	53.9	15.6	14.0	24.3	46.1
Denmark	334.7	50.6	7.3	16.9	26.3	49.4
Germany	8 041.6	38.3	6.1	13.4	18.9	61.7
Estonia	113.2	77.1	14.8	24.9	37.4	22.9
Ireland	264.2	49.3	11.6	13.3	24.4	50.7
Greece	376.1	76.0	28.7	25.2	22.0	24.0
Spain	2 120.3	62.1	15.1	23.5	23.4	37.9
France	3 218.7	40.0	11.7	13.4	14.8	60.0
Croatia	274.6	61.2	16.6	21.1	23.5	38.8
Italy	3 850.9	71.7	20.0	28.3	23.4	28.3
Cyprus	37.3	80.4	27.7	27.5	25.2	19.6
Latvia	118.9	74.3	14.6	25.6	34.1	25.7
Lithuania	236.2	63.3	13.7	18.8	30.8	36.7
Luxembourg	34.2	26.6	:	:	26.6	56.4
Hungary	785.7	48.7	12.3	14.7	21.7	51.3
Malta	23.7	66.2	19.7	20.9	25.6	33.8
Netherlands	752.2	65.3	14.4	19.9	31.0	34.7
Austria	720.6	43.9	8.2	14.1	21.6	56.1
Poland	2 909.4	51.8	14.5	15.6	21.7	48.2
Portugal	742.8	76.1	16.4	27.5	32.2	23.9
Romania	1 119.7	50.2	11.6	16.0	22.6	49.8
Slovenia	224.8	57.5	15.1	17.3	25.1	42.5
Slovakia	494.7	56.0	21.7	11.9	22.4	44.0
Finland	328.5	51.7	9.5	18.0	24.2	48.3
Sweden	602.7	40.7	9.8	12.6	18.3	59.3
Iceland	22.7	68.7	12.2	25.2	31.2	31.3
Norway	221.6	62.2	10.0	21.9	30.4	37.8

(:) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)



Table 6a: Number of persons employed by enterprise size class, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

Value added by enterprise size class, Manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022

	Total (€ million)	SMEs	Micro	Small (% of total)	Medium-sized	Large
EU	2 419 774.9	33.9	5.0	11.3	17.6	66.0
Belgium	73 184.3	31.8	5.0	9.2	17.6	68.2
Bulgaria	9 897.6	49.9	5.3	15.7	28.9	50.1
Czechia	51 049.8	40.6	6.9	10.8	22.9	59.4
Denmark	41 950.7	33.4	3.2	10.2	19.9	66.6
Germany	773 337.3	25.5	2.9	8.3	14.3	74.5
Estonia	4 407.9	72.6	8.5	22.4	41.7	27.4
Ireland	175 916.6	15.5	2.9	5.0	7.6	84.5
Greece	16 955.7	45.7	8.1	16.4	21.3	54.3
Spain	145 574.6	45.7	7.3	16.7	21.7	54.3
France	276 188.3	27.1	5.2	9.2	12.7	72.9
Croatia	8 181.3	49.2	9.0	17.0	23.2	50.8
Italy	306 775.3	57.8	9.1	22.3	26.3	42.2
Cyprus	1 445.2	78.0	20.3	27.3	30.4	22.0
Latvia	3 978.4	58.3	5.3	17.7	35.3	41.7
Lithuania	9 031.9	46.1	4.2	13.0	28.9	53.9
Luxembourg	3 467.5	21.5	:	:	21.5	65.5
Hungary	31 247.9	31.0	4.3	8.9	17.8	69.0
Malta	1 086.2	52.5	11.7	19.3	21.4	47.5
Netherlands	100 877.2	46.8	7.7	12.2	26.9	53.2
Austria	71 755.4	32.2	3.2	9.4	19.6	67.8
Poland	112 302.6	35.2	5.5	10.9	18.9	64.8
Portugal	28 110.7	62.7	9.3	21.7	31.8	37.3
Romania	31 147.7	32.3	5.4	10.3	16.6	67.7
Slovenia	12 021.9	49.9	9.2	15.8	24.9	50.1
Slovakia	18 962.5	37.0	7.3	9.1	20.5	63.0
Finland	35 113.9	34.9	4.8	11.8	18.3	65.1
Sweden	75 806.5	24.8	3.7	7.4	13.7	75.2
Iceland	3 046.7	50.6	5.5	15.7	29.3	49.4
Norway	5 641.5	48.3	5.3	15.4	27.5	51.7

(:) not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_oww)



Table 6b: Value added by enterprise size class, manufacturing (NACE Section C), EU, 2022 Source: Eurostat (sbs_sc_oww)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Businesses in the manufacturing sector - 2022 data](#)

Data sources

Eurostat's structural business statistics describe the structure, conduct and performance of economic activities, down to the most detailed activity level (several hundred sectors). Without this structural information, short-term data on the economic cycle would lack context and would be more difficult to interpret. **Coverage**

Structural business statistics cover the 'business economy', which includes industry, construction and many services (NACE Rev. 2 sections B to N, P to R as well as division S95 and S96). Structural business statistics do not cover agriculture, forestry and fishing, nor public administration. Structural business statistics describe the business economy through the observation of units engaged in an economic activity; the unit in structural business statistics is generally the enterprise. An enterprise carries out 1 or more activities, at 1 or more locations, and it may comprise 1 or more legal units. Enterprises that are active in more than 1 economic activity (plus the value added and turnover they generate, the people they employ, and so on) are classified under the NACE heading corresponding to their principal activity; this is normally the 1 which generates the largest amount of value added.

Manufacturing includes the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. The raw materials are products of agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining or quarrying as well as products of

other manufacturing activities. Substantial alteration, renovation or reconstruction of goods is generally considered to be manufacturing. Selling to the general public products that have been made on the same premises from which they are sold, such as bakeries and custom tailors, is also included in manufacturing rather than retailing.

Manufacturing units may process their own materials, subcontract a part of the processing of their own materials, own legal rights and concepts of the product but subcontract the whole processing, or carry out the aforementioned subcontracted processes. Assembly of the component parts (whether self-produced or purchased) of manufactured products is also considered manufacturing. The output of a manufacturing process may be finished in the sense that it is ready for use or consumption, or it may be semi-finished in the sense that it is to become an input for further manufacturing.

Specialised installation, maintenance and repair of industrial, commercial and similar machinery and equipment is considered as part of manufacturing, however the [repair of computers and personal and household goods](#) is classified as a service (Division 95), while the repair of motor vehicles is classified as part of distributive trades (Section G).

Some transformation processes are not classified as manufacturing: logging is classified in forestry (Section A); materials recovery is considered as primarily [waste processing](#) (Section E); on-site construction of structures which is classified as part of construction (Section F); activities of breaking bulk and redistribution (including, for example, packaging, bottling or sorting) are classified to distributive trades.

Data sources

The analysis presented in this article is based on the main dataset for [structural business statistics \(SBS\)](#), size class data and regional data, all of which are published annually.

The main series provides information for each EU Member State as well as a number of non-EU member countries at a detailed level according to the activity classification NACE. Data are available for a wide range of variables.

In structural business statistics, size classes are generally defined by the number of persons employed. A limited set of the standard structural business statistics variables (for example, the number of enterprises, turnover, persons employed and value added) are analysed by size class, mostly down to the 3-digit (group) level of NACE. The main size classes used in this article for presenting the results are:

- small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): with 1 to 249 persons employed, further divided into;
 - micro enterprises: with less than 10 persons employed;
 - small enterprises: with 10 to 49 persons employed;
 - medium-sized enterprises: with 50 to 249 persons employed;
- large enterprises: with 250 or more persons employed.

Structural business statistics also include regional data. Regional SBS data are available at NUTS levels 1 and 2 for most of the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, mostly down to the 2-digit (division) level of NACE. The main variable analysed in this article is the number of persons employed. The type of statistical unit used for regional SBS data is normally the local unit, which is an enterprise or part of an enterprise situated in a geographically identified place. Local units are classified into sectors (by NACE) normally according to their own main activity, but in some EU Member States the activity code is assigned on the basis of the principal activity of the enterprise to which the local unit belongs. The main SBS data series are presented at national level only, and for this national data the statistical unit is the enterprise. It is possible for the principal activity of a local unit to differ from that of the enterprise to which it belongs. Hence, national SBS data from the main series are not necessarily directly comparable with national aggregates compiled from regional SBS.

Context

European enterprise policy is conducted by the [Directorate-General \(DG\) for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs \(GROW\)](#). The [European Commission](#)'s enterprise policies aim to create a favourable environment for business to thrive within the EU, creating higher productivity, economic growth, jobs and wealth. Policies are aimed at reducing administrative burden, stimulating innovation, encouraging sustainable production,

and ensuring the smooth functioning of the EU's internal market.

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- [Structural business statistics – overview article](#)
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Thematic section

- [Structural business statistics webpage](#)

Publications

- [Recent Eurostat publications on SBS](#)
- [Key figures on Europe – 2023 edition](#) – see subchapter on Business
- [Eurostat's Regional Yearbook](#) – see chapter 8. Business
- [News Article](#) – 2022 final data

Selected datasets

- [Structural business statistics \(sbs\)](#)

Methodology

Glossary:

- [SBS glossary](#)

ESMS metadata files:

- [Structural business statistics](#) – SBS metadata file

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- [European Commission – Competition](#) , see:
- [Agriculture and food](#)
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Legislation

- [Details on SBS Legislation](#)
- [European Business Statistics Regulation](#)