

The **statistical unit** is the entity for which the required statistics are compiled. It may be an [observation unit](#) in which information is received and statistics are compiled or an analytical unit, which statisticians create 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.

European business statistics uses four statistical units:

- [Enterprise](#)
- [Kind-of-activity Unit](#)
- [Local-kind-of-activity Unit](#)
- [Local unit](#)

[Enterprise group](#) links are stored in the business registers and thus the [enterprise groups](#) can be recovered as fifth statistical unit. However, the enterprise group is not used as statistical unit in any statistics, but for the purpose of enterprise delineation and for [profiling](#). Moreover, the enterprise group links are needed for [FATS](#) and [FDI](#) statistics.

An enterprise may consist of one or more kind of activity units or one or more local units. A kind of activity unit may consist of one or more local kind of activity units. An enterprise may be part of an enterprise group.

## Related concepts

- [Reporting unit](#)

## Source

- [Regulation 696/1993](#) of 15 March 1993 on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community
- [Notice of intention](#) of the Business Statistics Directors Groups and the Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics on the consistent implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 696/93 on statistical units
- [OECD - Frascati Manual 2002](#)