



FSO Quality Report

00 Statistical basis and overviews

Neuchâtel, October 2023

Statistical Business Registers Quality Report 2021

The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) publishes on its website quality reports providing information about the methodology and the definitions used as well as on the quality of the statistical results, thus facilitating interpretation and understanding. The reports are produced first and foremost in order to meet the requirements of Eurostat. For this reason they are only compiled for a limited number of statistics.

The concept of the quality reports is based on the European Statistics System's (ESS) concept of quality contained in the [European Statistics Code of Practice](#).

Statistical presentation

Data description

The statistical business registers (SBR) are basic infrastructure for the collection and compilation of data for European business statistics. The SBR are used as the main source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the definition of the survey population and for establishing the link to administrative data sources.

European statistical business registers should become an authoritative sources for deriving harmonised frame populations for the production of European business statistics. SBR contribute to the achievement of consistent and comparable business statistics by creating and using coordinated populations of statistical units

The national statistical business registers include information on the active population of:

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

Households shall not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

Local units of foreign enterprises not constituting separate legal entities (branches), and classified as quasi- corporations in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, shall be deemed to be enterprises for the purposes of the national statistical business registers and the EuroGroups Register.

Enterprise groups shall be identified through the links of control between their legal units in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

The main variables recorded in the statistical business registers are the following:

- Identification variables: identification number, name, address;
- Demographic events: date of commencement/cessation of the unit;
- Economic variables/stratification parameters: economic activity (NACE), employment, turnover, legal form, legal activity status;
- Information on control and ownership of units: parent/subsidiary legal unit, minority shareholder information, country of global decision centre.
- In Switzerland, the SBR contains also variables which shows if an enterprise is having: export / import activity, apprenticeship, is under public authority control

Classification system

Classification systems and code lists used in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev2, see URL below);
- European System of Accounts ([ESA 2010](#));
- Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics ([NUTS](#));
- National NACE. National classification of activity codes based on NAC REV 2. see URL NOGA below;
- Geographical Code. EGID Code based on the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings. see URL Map Geo Portal below;
- Legal Form. National classification of legal form based on national legislation. see URL National standard for legal forms below;
- Country Code, List of 2-digit ISO country codes

Sector coverage

The coverage of the national statistical business registers is defined in the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) on European business statistics.

The national statistical business registers comprise all enterprises resident in the national territory that are carrying out activities contributing to GDP.

Households do not fall within the scope of the European framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are destined to their own consumption, or involve letting out of own property.

The SBR frame covers all units which, wholly or partially, exercise an economic activity and economically inactive legal units, which are part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. For the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers, the following economic activities are considered:

- any activity comprising the offer of goods and services on a given market;
- non-market services contributing to the GDP;
- direct and indirect holdings of active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities are also considered an economic activity.

The national statistical business register covers the following sectors:

National statistical business register includes all units which are registered in the Commercial Register, as well as all units which are identified by another official administration (as VAT, Social Security, Customs authorities). It also includes units which are economically inactive but useful for administrative purposes.

The national statistical business register *do not covers* the following sectors:

- Households
- Natural persons who are controlling enterprises groups

Statistical concepts and definitions

The main statistical concepts and definitions used for the statistical business registers are as follows:

Annual copy of statistical business register

The annual copy of the statistical business register reflects the state of the register at the end of the year including all units active within the reference year. NSIs have to make a copy annually and keep that copy for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

Active unit

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

A legal unit can be legally or administratively active without any economic activity, when the inactive legal unit is part of an enterprise in combination with economically active legal units. Holding assets and/or liabilities shall also be regarded as an economic activity.

Number of active enterprises

The number of active enterprises is the number of all statistical units which at any time during the reference period were 'enterprises', as defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93, and also active during the same reference period. A statistical unit is considered to have been active during the reference period, if in said period it either realized positive net turnover or produced outputs or had employees or performed investments.

Number of employees

The number of employees represents the average number of persons who were, at some time during the reference period, employees of the statistical unit.

Number of employees and self-employed persons

The number of employees and self-employed persons is the sum of the Number of employees and Number of self-employed persons. The number of self-employed persons is the average number of persons who were at some time during the reference period the sole owners or joint owners of the statistical unit in which they work. Family workers and outworkers whose income is a function of the value of the outputs of the statistical unit are also included.

Number of local units

A count of the number of local units as defined in Regulation (EEC) No 696/93 registered to the population concerned in the business register corrected for errors, in particular frame errors. Local units must be included even if they have no paid employees. This statistic should include all units active during at least a part of the reference period.

Net turnover

For all activities except for NACE 64, 65 and some activities of NACE 66 net turnover consists of all income arising during the reference period in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit, and is presented net of all price reductions, discounts and rebates granted by it.

Income is defined as increases in economic benefits during the reference period in the form of inflows or enhancements of assets or decreases of liabilities that result in increases in equity, other than those relating to contributions from equity participants.

The inflows referred to are arising from contracts with customers and are realized through the satisfaction by the statistical unit of performance obligations as foreseen in said contracts. Usually, a performance obligation is represented by the sale (transfer) of goods or the rendering of services, however, the gross inflows can also contain revenues obtained as a yield on the use by others of the statistical unit's assets.

Excluded from net turnover are:

- all taxes, duties or levies linked directly to revenue;
- any amounts collected on behalf of any principal, if the statistical unit is acting as an agent in its relationship with said principal;
- all income not arising in the course of ordinary activities of the statistical unit. Usually, these types of income are classified as 'Other (operating) income', 'Financial income', 'Extra-ordinary income' or under a similar heading, depending on the respective set of generally accepted accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements.

Infra-annual statistics may not be able to take into account aspects such as annual price reductions, subsidies, rebates and discounts.

For the activities of NACE K6411, K6419 and K649 net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants.

For the activities of NACE K642 and K643 net turnover can be approximated by the total operating costs, if net turnover is not available in the financial statements.

For the activities of NACE K6511, K6512 and K652 net turnover is defined as Gross premiums earned.

For the activities of NACE K653 the net turnover is defined as total pension contributions

For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is not available in the financial statements, net turnover is defined as the value of output minus subsidies or government grants. For activities of NACE K66 for which net turnover is available in the financial statements, the standard definition of net turnover applies.

Principal activity

The principal (or main) activity is the activity that contributes most to the total value added of a unit under consideration. Ideally, the principal activity of the unit should be determined with reference to the value added to the goods and services produced, by applying the top-down method. The top-down method follows a hierarchical principle: the classification of the unit at the lowest level of the classification must be consistent with the classification of the unit at higher levels. The principal activity so identified does not necessarily account for 50 % or more of the unit's total value added.

In the European Union the classification of principal activity is determined by reference to NACE Rev. 2, first at the highest level of classification and then at more detailed levels (top-down method).

Secondary activity

A secondary activity is each separate activity that produces products eventually for third parties and that is not the principal activity. The outputs of secondary activities are secondary products.

More information on statistical concepts and definitions relevant to the statistical business registers could be found in the [EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers \(2021 edition\)](#).

Statistical unit

The statistical units maintained in the national statistical business register are defined in accordance with [Regulation \(EEC\) No 696/93](#) on the statistical units for the observation and analysis of the production system in the Community, as follows:

- **Enterprise** - the enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational 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 centralize 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 kind of activity unit groups all the parts of an enterprise contributing to the performance of an activity at class level (four digits) 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 and employment and gross fixed capital formation.
- **Local unit** - the local unit is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. 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.

In swiss SBR, Enterprise unit is finally implemented. A task force was working on the conception and implementation of the Enterprise as 1 Enterprise Unit = n Legal units. A first algorithm is yet created and used for the first time in the Quality report. Obviously, ongoing work is also needed and the quality of our data will improve over the years. The task force continues its analyses and work.

Thanks to this new implementation, we are also able to calculate for the first time a Kind of activity unit (KAU) as a variable of the Enterprise Unit.

Statistical population

The national statistical business registers shall be the authoritative source for deriving high quality and harmonised statistical business register populations for the production of European statistics in accordance with Article 8 to the EBS Regulation 2019/2152.

The national statistical business register comprises the following units and applies the following thresholds (if any):

- Legal unit: SBR comprises all units that are registered in an official administrative register.
- Local unit: SBR comprises all units that have an economic activity or that are identified for administrative purposes. Threshold: Very small companies employing people with income under social security limit may be underestimated.
- Enterprise unit: Enterprise unit is yet implemented as n Legal Unit = 1 Enterprise.
- Enterprise Group: All enterprise groups which are identified by Dun&Bradstreet, as well as an increasing number of enterprise groups identified with other sources: VAT administrative data, Profiling survey, Web research, Corpwatch, ADIMA, EGR, Swiss National Bank and others. Among the enterprise groups, all swiss legal units are registered, as well as the foreign legal units which are either direct parents of swiss legal units, direct subsidiaries of swiss legal unit, Global Group Heads or Global Decision Centers. Threshold: foreign legal unit which do have another role than the four cases mentioned before.
- Kind of activity unit (KAU): implemented as a variable of the Enterprise Unit.

Reference area

The reference area for national statistical business register is the territory of the country. Concerning enterprise groups any country outside the national territory may be relevant.

The swiss SBR also contains a number of foreign units for administrative use (they get the Swiss unique identifier UID), especially units from Liechtenstein which have an economic activity in Switzerland. It is planned to register more foreign units for administrative reasons (i.e. to manage authorisations for different administrative instances). Those units are not always linked to enterprise groups.

Time coverage

The national statistical business register was established in 1991.

The statistical units are implemented and maintained in the national statistical business register as follows:

- Enterprise group – implemented and maintained since 2004.
- Enterprise – implemented and maintained since 2023.
- Local unit – implemented and maintained since 1991.
- Kind of activity unit – implemented and maintained since 2023.

Unit of measure

Definition

The unit in which the data values are measured.

The economic variables on employment are recorded in absolute figures.

The net turnover is recorded in absolute figures, in national currency CHF.

The total amount of imports is recorded in absolute figures, in national currency CHF.

The total amount of exports is recorded in absolute figures, in national currency CHF.

Reference period

Definition

The period of time or point in time to which the measured observation is intended to refer.

The reference period for the annual copy of the national statistical business register is a calendar year.

An annual copy that reflects the state of the national statistical business registers at the end of the year is taken and kept for at least 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

The latest available copy of the national statistical business register consists of the final annual master frame for reference year 2021. The Swiss SBR is a live register which is continuously updated. In this point of view, the units of the register are always up to date (If a legal unit is deleted in Commercial Register, it is deleted within 24 hours in SBR as well). However, variables as turnover and employment are updated later, see below.

In this annual copy, the economic variable number of employees refers mostly to reference year 2019 (administrative data which is provided from Social security agency) and partially to reference year 2021 (data which is provided via surveys like Profiling).

In this annual copy, the economic variables turnover, import and export refer to reference year 2020 (administrative data which is provided either from TVA (turnover) or customs authorities).

Institutional mandate

Definition

Set of rules or other formal set of instructions assigning responsibility as well as the authority to an organisation for the collection, processing, and dissemination of statistics.

Legal acts and other agreements

Legal acts and other agreements - EU level

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

Legal acts and other agreements - national level

- Federal Statistics Act: Art. 10 al 3. The Federal Office cooperates closely with the cantons in the maintenance of a Business and Enterprise Register (SBR) used as an aid in conducting surveys on businesses and enterprises. see link below "Federal Statistics Act"
- Federal Act on Data Protection, see link below.
- Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, see link below.
- Ordonnance sur les émoluments et indemnités perçus pour les prestations de services statistiques des unités administratives de la Confédération, see link below.
- Ordonnance sur le Registre des entreprises et des établissements

Data sharing

The [EBS Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2152](#) lays down provisions on the exchange of and access to confidential data for the purpose of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The [Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) 2020/1197](#) lays down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152, including technical specifications for the exchange of confidential data for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

At national level, the following agreements or procedures for data sharing and data exchange between national authorities have been established:

SBR shares data with Social Security Agency, VAT Administration, Customs Authorities, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, Cantons, Registries of Commerce of Switzerland, Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG. The legal basis is "Ordonnance sur le Registre des entreprises et des établissements", see link below.

Confidentiality

Definition

A property of data indicating the extent to which their unauthorised disclosure could be prejudicial or harmful to the interest of the source or other relevant parties.

Confidentiality - policy

[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.

The following policy rules are applied at national level:

- Federal Statistics Act: Data Protection and Data Security Art. 14 Data protection and official secrecy, see link below
- Ordonnance sur le Registre des entreprises et des établissements, see link below
- Federal Act on Data Protection, see link below

Confidentiality - data treatment

According to policy rules (see section 7.1).

- All national statistical business register data are available for NSI users, on request via a secured access.
- Some national statistical business register data are available for public administration users, on request via a secured access.
- Some anonymized national statistical business register data are available according to national legislation for external users, on request after signing a data confidentiality agreement.

Release policy

Definition

Rules for disseminating statistical data to interested parties.

Release calendar

The preliminary frames of the national statistical business register are released according to the statistical user needs, as follows:

- T+ 0 months to STS domain;
- T+ 0 months to SBS domain;
- T+ 12 months to FATS;
- T+ 0 months to ITGS;
- T+ 0 months to ITSS;
- T+ 0 months to ICT survey;
- T+ 0 months to R&D;

The final frame of the national statistical business register is released in T+0 months. The swiss SBR is a live register which is continuously updated. In this point of view, the units of the register are always up to date.

User access

The statistical users get access to the SBR frames or receive required data in the following way:

- Weekly copy of the full Business Register for internal NSI-Users. Way of access: on request, different way of access (SAS etc.)
- Final Frame for Enterprise Groups: FATS Statistics of NSI: automated extraction - all Economic Statistics in NSI: on request

Frequency of dissemination

Definition

The time interval at which the statistics are disseminated over a given time period.

The SBR preliminary frames are provided to statistical users with the following frequency:

- On request at any date (see live register, under 5. Reference Period)

The final frame for a reference year T is available on annual bases in T+0 months. The annual copy is kept for 30 years for the purpose of analysis.

Accessibility and clarity

Definition

The conditions and modalities by which users can obtain, use and interpret data.

News release

- Swiss Earnings Structure Survey : all two years
- Structural Business Information (STATENT) : annually
- Cyclical Business Information, Job Statistics (BESTA) : quarterly
- FATS : annually

Publications

- Structural Business Information (STATENT) : annually
- Cyclical Business Information, Job Statistics (BESTA) : quarterly
- Enterprise groups statistics (STAGRE) FATS : annually

On-line database

- Statistical and administrative data based on SBR Ordinance (only for a list of user based on annex A of SBR Ordinance)
- LEI ID Data (for businesses demanding their LEI ID)
- UID Register (open source)
- KUBB - NACE Codes (open source)

Micro-data access

The NSI exchange microdata with the Commission (Eurostat) for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers.

The data and metadata are exchanged in electronic form and transmitted using the ESS data and metadata standards as specified by the Commission (Eurostat).

The SBR microdata are provided to the authorized statistical users, as follows:

- Some variables (according to SBR Ordinance) are available online for administrative users (based on SBER Ordinance)
- Lists of variables are provided on request, according to SBER Ordinance

NSI exchange microdata with NCB for the purposes of the European framework for statistical business registers in order to ensure the quality of multinational enterprise group information in the European Union.

Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers via secured environment according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes.

- Some anonymized national statistical business register data are available according to national legislation for external users, on request after signing a data confidentiality agreement.

Other

The aggregated data on national statistical business register are provided annually to Eurostat in electronic form and transmitted via EDAMIS.

Tailor-made data sets available on request for external users:

- Lists of variables are provided on request, according to national legislation for external users, on request after signing a data confidentiality agreement

National statistical business register is the main source for the Business demography statistics that provide information for active enterprises in the business economy, the births, deaths and survival rates of enterprises, as well as information on related employment data. In the business demography domain, the business economy covers sections B to N, excluding activities of holding companies – K64.2 (NACE Rev.2).

Documentation on methodology

- [European business statistics methodological manual for statistical business registers – edition 2021](#) outlines the methodology to be used for the national statistical institutes.
- Metadata information are available on request via email (see Annex)
- Manuals and methodological data are available for NSI users on the NSI intranet and on request for external users

Quality documentation

- ESS Data Quality Programme for statistical business registers is available on [CIRCABC](#).
- A part of the quality report (metadata report) is published on the NSI website (see Annex)

Quality management

Definition

Systems and frameworks in place within an organisation to manage the quality of statistical products and processes.

Quality assurance

The quality is assured by applying the following quality management and assurance procedures:

- **Legislation concerning quality assurance, Task Forces or Working Groups, etc.:**
The Federal Council shall issue regulations on the recognition of certification procedures and the introduction of a data protection quality label. In doing so, it shall take account of international law and the internationally recognised technical standards (see Annex)
- **Methodological standards and guidelines assuring the quality of the production process and the output:**
The different Business Register-teams have methodological standards and guidelines in order to guarantee data quality of the Register. There are monthly quality control meetings. There are also several weekly reports that identify data inconsistencies in

the SBR. These reports are automatically sent to the data quality team.

- **Data validation procedures in place**

For every partner who sends us data, we have formalised expectations. Our system then checks automatically the input data (format, consistency). If there is a problem, feedback is sent to the partner. The "Update and Quality" group is made up of experts who update the numerous information received via different channels on a daily basis. They ensure that the updates are integrated in a uniform and structured manner and in accordance with predefined standards. This provides a clear and comprehensible picture of the situation of every Swiss company.

- **Quality assessment activities undertaken**

The "Quality Assurance" department determines the points to be checked and the errors in the Business Register. In addition, the IT scripts responsible for the automatic update of the Business Register applications are checked. Automatic reports on data quality have been implemented.

- **Data quality monitoring**

In May 2022, SBR team has implemented a first version of quality indicators and dimensions in order to evaluate some aspects of SBR data (see Annex). The work is still in progress in order to improve those indicators.

Quality assessment

The quality of statistical business register is monitored according the quality assurance procedure described in concept 11.1.

The overall assessment results could be summarised as follows:

- Main strengths and weaknesses according to the standard quality criteria
 - Strengths:
 - constant update of data thanks to multiple sources
 - Use of the unique ID number
 - Good coverage and quality of the administrative sources
 - Even if Switzerland is not part of EU, the SBR has high level of EU harmonisation and standardisation.
 - In addition to the documentation mentioned in concept 11 and 12.1, an internal program of quality checks is available to the internal users. The program is published internally.
 - Weakness:
 - lack of human and financial resources

Relevance

Definition

The degree to which statistical information meet current and potential needs of the users.

User needs

SBR are important for the compilation of consistent and comparable European business statistics, establishing efficient statistical survey frames, providing identification numbers of all the units and for linking to many different sources, increasing statistical information and reducing the reporting burden on enterprises.

SBR 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.

Main users, their needs and their importance:

- Economic statistical users (internal NSI users & external users) & cantonal statistical offices : They are the main users of the SBR. They regularly need a full and complete extract of the SBR.
- Administrative units/offices : They are the second type of users of the SBR. They need to update their information about the Swiss companies they follow. The administrative users are specially considered because they are also sources of updates for the SBR.

User satisfaction

Since 2017, Eurostat together with the EU Member States conducts SBR user survey addressing users and potential users of the national statistical business registers (NSBR) and the EuroGroups Register (EGR).

The latest SBR User Survey 2020 show that the NSBR are widely used at national level and users consider that its quality had been significantly improved in the recent years. Most of the NSBR users (97%) had either no issue or manageable issue regarding business registers coverage, units, variables, timeliness and frequency of frames.

The results of the SBR User Survey 2020 are available on [CIRCABC](#).

NSI has 3 ways of collecting User satisfaction:

- Ticketing system, available for all NSI users
- Monthly bilateral meetings with SBR workers
- Regular Bilateral meetings for other users (NSI or external)

Completeness

The completeness of national statistical business registers is annually assessed by Eurostat. The SBR assessment results are provided to EU Member States and EFTA countries and presented at the Statistical Business Registers Working Group (SBR WG).

Data completeness rate and missing variables or data in the national statistical business register are as follows:

- A first implementation of statistical enterprise unit is done but still need some improvement.
- The Kind of Activity (KAU) is yet implemented but can be improved as well.

Accuracy and reliability

Definition

Closeness of computations or estimates to the unknown exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.
Reliability of the data, defined as the closeness of the initial estimated value to the subsequent estimated value.

Overall accuracy

Currently, we have no overall measure of the accuracy of the SBR. Our register covers two aspects: administrative and statistical.

The administrative side has almost 100% coverage thanks to the systematic daily exchange of data with our administrative partners (Commercial Register, VAT, etc.). We have developed a monitoring for this aspect to assess the percentage of legal units linked to at least one of our administrative partners. This percentage currently stands at [99.51%](#) (reference month: March 2023).

In terms of statistics, there is a regular exchange with the various surveys carried out by the Federal Statistical Office, but unfortunately we only cover the local units required by these partners. For the time being, we cannot assess the accuracy at this level.

The main issues regarding accuracy of the data are as follows:

- Undercoverage : We are still improving the process of group structure controls. We control and improve them but due to lack of human resources, we cannot do it completely.
- Measurement error due to wrong identification : Some enterprise groups are splitted due to commercial data error. Group Head information is not allways correct. Error concerns several units

The actions taken to reduce bias (if any) and to improve accuracy of the data are as follows:

- No action are taken, due to lack of human resources

Timeliness and punctuality

Timeliness

Preliminary frames are available 0 months after the reference year T.

Final frame is available 0 months after the reference year T.

Punctuality

Aggregated data for the SBR final frame are provided annually to Eurostat according the deadline agreed by the Statistical Business Registers Working Group.

The SBR frames are provided on time to statistical users with regard to their needs and the agreed time frame, as follows:

- Weekly snapshots
- 2 frozen frames per year
- On request, possibility to have a snapshot at the desired date.

Coherence and comparability

Definition

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.

Comparability - geographical

The geographical comparability of national statistical business registers is ensured by the application of common definitions of the statistical units laid down in the Council Regulation (EEC) No 696/93.

The SBR variables are harmonised and set up in accordance with the Annex VIII to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics. Further guidelines on the variables implementation in the national statistical business registers are given in the [EBS methodological manual for Statistical Business Registers \(2021 edition\)](#).

Comparability - over time

The comparability over time of the frames results from the information provided in concept 3.8.

- NSBR frames are comparable for reference years 1991 to 2021;
- NSBR frames are not comparable for reference years to
- There have been changes :
 - in classification (in 2008)
 - enterprise census have been replaced by administrative data (in 2011)

The Methodology Division ensures that each frame is comparable since 1991, even though there have been changes.

Coherence - cross domain

The NSBR frame provides information on the active population of enterprises carrying out economic activities which contribute to the gross domestic product (GDP), the legal units of which those enterprises consist of, local units, kind of activity units and enterprise groups, incl. all-resident and multinational enterprise groups.

The national statistical business register is used by statistical users as a coordinated frame population in order to derive consistent statistical output.

Coherence - internal

The SBR data included in the final frame are internally consistent.

Cost and burden

Definition

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

- Annual operational costs of the process :
 - Human resources : 41,65 FTE
 - Costs of data acquisition from commercial sources : ~ 37'000 (~ 40'000 CHF)
 - IT costs : ~ 1,6 Mio (~ 1,8 Mio CHF)
- Estimate of the respondent burden imposed by the process :
 - There is an official report of burden in which all the administrative burden is measured. The statistics is calculated at 7%. The burden caused by the statistical business register is also very hard to estimate.

Data revision

Definition

Any change in a value of a statistic released to the public.

Data revision - policy

The Business Register ordinance RS 431.903 came into effect in 1993 and is regularly revised (last revision in April 2022 (see Annex).

The BR register does not have its own revision policy, but it takes into account to a certain degree the revisions of the NSI-internal economy statistics such as the national accounts (see Annex).

Statistical processing

Source data

The national statistical business registers is set up in accordance with EBS Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 using any relevant data sources while avoiding excessive burden on respondents and taking due account of the cost effectiveness of the NSAs.

NSI uses the following data sources, including a combination thereof for the national statistical business register:

- UID system for identification, economic and demographic data (Commercial Register, VAT, Compensation, Offices Register, cantonal registers, customs)
- Profiling and Profiling Light Surveys
- VAT and Custom administration for monetary variables
- Compensation Offices Register, Profiling, Profiling Light Survey, other surveys (STRU, ERST) for Employment data
- Commercial Data (Dun & Bradstreet) and EGR data for enterprise groups

Frequency of data collection

The national statistical business registers shall be updated by means of entries and removals at least annually. The frequency of updating shall depend on the kind of unit, the variable considered, the size of the unit and the source generally used for the update.

The frequency of updating the units and variables in the national statistical business register is as follows:

- Legal units - *continuously*
- Enterprises - *continuously*
- Local units - *continuously*
- Kind of activity units - *continuously*
- Enterprise groups - *annually*

Data collection

Statistical business registers use data from administrative and statistical data sources, and from any other relevant sources that are comparable and compliant with the applicable specific quality requirements. For more details please see 18.1.

Data validation

Statistical analysis of the national statistical business register is carried out to ensure the quality of data and frame populations provided to users.

Data validation procedures include:

- **Format and file structure checks**
For Profiling activities, format and file structure checks are manually made by Profilers.
For other sources as import/export data, employment data or turnover data, automatic checks are developed internally.
- **Intra-file checks**
Automatic checks (SQL oracle, SAS checks) in order to control format, existence of all variables, double entries, FTE vs. number of employees, taxes vs. turnover, etc.
- **Intra-domain, intrasource checks (e.g time series checks)**
Time series checks are done, for e.g. employment and turnover data
- **Plausibility/consistency checks between domains inside the NSI**
Plausibility checks for e.g. employment data (Profiling data (Business Register) vs. social security agency data (Structural Business Information Statistics)
- **Plausibility/consistency checks between domains outside the NSI**
Plausibility checks for e.g. import / export data (between NSI's Business Register and Federal Customs Administration) and enterprise group data (between NSI's Business Register and Swiss National Bank)
- **Any other kind of validation**
Manual checks with "Mutabox-System": Staff of Business Register validates BR-data due to requests made by businesses, cantons, State Secretariat of Economies and many other swiss institutions.

Data compilation

The procedures used to combine data from different sources:

- Integration of employment data: The annual employment data from the Social Security agencies have a priority compared to other sources (Profiling or other surveys).
- Implementation of turnover: data The integration is based on VAT data, and missing data are calculated based on an algorithm

The frame populations and annual copy of national statistical business register are produced as follows:

- Weekly Snapshot of SBR

Metadata update

Definition

The date on which the metadata element was inserted or modified in the database.

Metadata last certified

2021-01-07

Metadata last posted

2021-05-25

Metadata last update

2023-05-31

Contact organisation: Federal Statistical Office

Contact organisation unit: Business and Enterprise Register (BER)

Contact name: Mrs. Virginie DEBONS

Contact person function: Quality Assurance Management

Contact mail address: Espace de l'Europe 10, CH-2010 Neuchâtel

Contact email address: virginie.debons@bfs.admin.ch

Contact phone number: 0041 58 466 18 95