



# FSO Quality Report

06 Industry and services

Neuchâtel, May 2018

## Business demography quality report 2015

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 annual Business demography data collection covers variables which explain the characteristics and demography of the business population. The methodology allows for the production of data on enterprise births (and deaths), that is, enterprise creations (cessations) that amount to the creation (dissolution) of a combination of production factors and where no other enterprises are involved (enterprises created or closed solely as a result of e.g. restructuring, merger or break-up are not considered).

In summary, the available indicators are as follows:

- Population of active enterprises/employer enterprises (with at least one employee)
- Number of enterprise/employer enterprise births
- Number of enterprise/employer enterprise survivals up to five years (not available yet)
- Number of enterprise/employer enterprise deaths (not available yet)
- Related variables on employment
- Number of high-growth enterprises (growth by 10/20% or more)
- Number of gazelles' (up to five years old high-growth enterprises) and medium growth enterprises (growth between 10 and 20%) (not available yet)
- Derived indicators such as birth rates, death rates, survival rates and employment shares

#### Classification system

[NACE Rev. 1.1](#) was used up to reference year 2007. From 2008 onwards [NACE Rev.2](#) classification (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community) is used for all indicators.

The Regional breakdown of national business demography data at NUTS2 and NUTS3 level is based on the [Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics \(NUTS\)](#).

#### Sector coverage

Starting with the reference year 2008, data cover [NACE Rev. 2](#) (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community) sections B to N (excluding activities of holding companies - K64.2). Data for sections P, Q, R and S are provided on a

voluntary basis. Number of newly born enterprises and related employment figures are available also for reference years 2004-2007.

[NACE Rev. 1.1](#) was used up to reference year 2007 covering the data for sections C to K (excluding activities of holding companies - K74.15). Sections M, N and O were transmitted on a voluntary basis.

### Statistical concepts and definitions

Which method was used to decide if a unit was active in a given period? Were the criteria recommended in the manual (employment and/or turnover) used?
An enterprise is active if it has employment in the administrative register of the old age and survivors' insurance (OASI)

Were there any specific inclusions into, and exclusions from the population of active units, e.g. in terms of activity, legal form, location, quality etc.?
No

Have you used the birth or death dates from the business register to decide if units are active? If so, how?
No

Please indicate where the methodology applied differs from the common methodology as laid down in the "Eurostat-OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics".
For employer businesses it is not possible to capture entries by growth and exits by decline

### Statistical unit

Which units are used from the data sources (as reported under 18.1)? (e.g. enterprise, legal unit)?
Enterprises, local units

### Statistical population

The target population is the private sector economy, including all active (having either turnover or employment at any time during the reference year) enterprises. In the additional datasets on employer business demography, the threshold is set to one employee at any time of the reference period. The following thresholds are used:

- 1 employee - population of employer enterprises,
- 10 employees in the beginning of the growth - population of high-growth enterprises (10%),
- 5 or 10 employees in the beginning of the growth - population of high-growth enterprises (20%), 'gazelles' (20%) and medium-growth enterprises (10 to 20%).

### Time coverage

Length of time series
Births: 2013-2015 (not comparable with old series because of different sources and coverage)
Population of active enterprises: 2013-2015 (not comparable with old series because of different sources and coverage)
High-Growth: 2014
Deaths: 2013

## Unit of measure

### Definition

The unit in which the data values are measured.

Basic variables (active, birth, death and survival enterprises and their employment) are in absolute figures. Derived indicators are expressed in percentages.

## Reference period

### Definition

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

2015

## 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

Up to reference year 2006 data have been collected under gentlemen's agreement within the context of the development of Structural Business Statistics.

[Regulation \(EC\) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) of 11 March 2008 concerning structural business statistics (recast), Annex IX, provides a legal basis for the data collection.

[Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) No 439/2014](#) of 29 April 2014 ensures data collection on employer enterprises (with at least one employee), high-growth enterprises (more than 10% annual growth over three years) and their employment.

## 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

Datenschutzgesetz vom 19. Juni 1992

Verordnung zum Datenschutzgesetz vom 14. Juni 1993

Bundesstatistikgesetz vom 9. Oktober 1992

Verordnung über die Durchführung von statistischen Erhebungen des Bundes vom 19. Juni 1993

## Confidentiality - data treatment

<b>Confidentiality rules (primary and secondary)</b>
Please describe your confidentiality rules (primary and secondary).
What is the threshold for the number of enterprises below which the related employment variables are confidential (e.g. fewer than 3 enterprises)?
Fewer than 4 enterprises

## Release policy

### Definition

Rules for disseminating statistical data to interested parties.

### Release calendar

Births 2015 in October 2017

Population of active enterprises 2015 in October 2017

Deaths 2013 in April 2018

### Release calendar access

On our website

### User access

Do you or the dissemination/publishing unit in your NSI provide any information which is not available in the published publications and/or in the published on-line databases? [ <i>Yes, to public authorities / Yes, to some of the public authorities and to some of our main users / Yes, to everyone with a specific request / No</i> ]
<i>Yes, to everyone with a specific request</i>

## Frequency of dissemination

### Definition

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

Data publication: once a year

Data dissemination on request: all the year

## Accessibility and clarity

### Definition

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

## News release

How do you disseminate Business demography data?	
	Paper/pdf Publications
For the <b>reference</b> year, please indicate with <i>YES</i> or <i>NO</i> .	Yes
For the <b>next</b> reference year, please report any scheduled action plan specifying the implementation date.	The dissemination of Business demography data is scheduled for November-December 2018. We also plan to produce data on survival rates.

## Publications

How do you disseminate Business demography data?			
	Paper/pdf Publications		Electronic Publications
	Statistical yearbook	Thematic publications	CD/DVD-Rom
For the <b>reference</b> year, please indicate with <i>YES</i> or <i>NO</i> .	Yes	Yes	No
For the <b>next</b> reference year, please report any scheduled action plan specifying the implementation date.	Data 2016 scheduled for November 2018	To be determined	Not applicable

Availability of paper publications in any foreign languages, other than the official language(s) of your country [ <i>in English / in the following other language(s): please specify</i> ].
English (short version of press releases)
Please indicate links to your electronic publications on Business demography.
<a href="https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/industrie-dienstleistungen/unternehmen-beschaeftigte/unternehmensdemografie.html">https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/industrie-dienstleistungen/unternehmen-beschaeftigte/unternehmensdemografie.html</a>

## On-line database

How do you disseminate Business demography data?	
	Electronic Publications (database)
For the <b>reference</b> year, please indicate with <i>YES</i> or <i>NO</i> .	Yes
For the <b>next</b> reference year, please report any scheduled action plan specifying the implementation date.	Data online after the publication of press releases and publications

## Micro-data access

Access granted on request, data protection contract needed.

## Other

How do you disseminate Business demography data?	
	Electronic Publications (fax, e-mail, etc.)
For the <b>reference</b> year, please indicate with <i>YES</i> or <i>NO</i> .	Yes
For the <b>next</b> reference year, please report any scheduled action plan specifying the implementation date.	e-mail sent to registered users after the publication of press releases and publications

## Documentation on methodology

Are statistical metadata available? <i>[Available for paper publications / Available on the Website (electronic version) / No methodological explanations on data are disseminated]</i>
Available on the Website (electronic version)
Please indicate links to your electronic publications of metadata.
<a href="https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/grundlagen/nomenklaturen.html">https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/grundlagen/nomenklaturen.html</a>

## Relevance

### Definition

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

### User needs

<b>Consultation with your main users (target group: narrow scope, for example National Accounts, Central Banks, Economy department etc)</b>
Has the unit regular consultations with some of your main users? <i>[Yes / No]</i>
Yes
If yes, could you please give a brief description of your main users (by main groups of users- Internal or external users) and their needs?
Internal users are National Accounts (needs: population of active enterprises and new enterprises broken down by domains of economic activities) and Employment Statistics (needs: employment broken down by economic activities). External users: Statistical Offices of cantons are consulted regularly. A number of Parliamentary interventions can now be covered with the information provided. Parliament as such is therefore also an important user (needs: dynamics of enterprises, entrepreneurship, etc.)

<b>Other characteristics disseminated</b>
Is Business demography data published at national level different from the data sent to Eurostat? <i>[YES/NO]</i>
No

### User satisfaction

<b>Data dissemination report</b>
Does the dissemination/publishing unit in your NSI keep track of the number of hard-copies of publications on business demography data sent or sold? <i>[Yes / No / No (hardcopies are not printed)]</i>
No

Does the dissemination/publishing unit in your NSI keep track of the number of downloaded on-line publications on business demography data? <i>[Yes / No / No (publications are not available on-line)]</i>
Yes
If yes, how many were sent/sold, for the most recent publications (or in the last 12 months...):
over 300

Does the dissemination/publishing unit in your NSI keep track of the number of downloaded on-line databases? <i>[Yes / No / No (data are not available on-line)]</i>
Yes
If yes, how many downloads of on-line business demography data were made last year:
7300 downloads

<b>User satisfaction</b>
Have you organised a punctual or a regular survey related to the users' satisfaction regarding the availability of your data for Annex IX of the SBS Regulation? <i>[Yes / No]</i>
No

## Completeness

<b>Availability of characteristics and/or breakdowns required by the SBS Regulation</b>
Please comment on the rates of available statistics calculated by Eurostat and explain the reasons why any characteristics or breakdowns required by the SBS Regulation are not available (e.g. derogations) and describe your plans for improvement in the future.
For reference year 2015 we sent data on enterprise births and population of active enterprises. Data on enterprise deaths are ready for publication. They will be released on April 3 and then sent to Eurostat.
Business demography data are compiled from the administrative register of the old age and survivors' insurance (OASI) and the Business Register as main sources. However, additional information from the survey on newly born enterprises and from other firm level surveys (profiling, profiling light, job statistics) are used as well. The OASI administrative source has replaced for the reference year 2011 the former business census for all business statistics. In the Business demography this significant methodological change took place in 2016 for the reference year 2014. From this reference year 2014 thanks to the new available source (OASI), it is possible to include all units which must contribute to the OASI (mandatory if annual salary paid to employees is higher than 2300 CHF). The statistics covers now almost all actives enterprises (before only those working at least 20 hours per week). So data calculation method was improved and also some data for 2013 recalculated.
The implementation of the new source OASI into Business demography statistics takes time and we are doing it gradually. Data on survival rates (enterprises and employment) will probably be available from the data collection 2018 onwards.

<b>Derogations from the provisions of the SBS regulation</b>
Please indicate whether you intend to provide data for which you have granted derogation earlier than the timing foreseen in the Commission Regulation.
No

## 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.

### Non-sampling error

Please estimate the proportion of enterprises wrongly designated active and non-active.
<5%

It is important to have a guaranteed level of quality regarding the matching carried out in each country. Please estimate the proportion of false matches and false non-matches and comment on the overall quality of your matching procedures.

<1%

## Timeliness and punctuality

### Timeliness

Please describe the freshness of the data sent to the business register by the "source administration". Is the source of data subject to any time lags which might affect the data?

Data 2016 received. Data on self-employed will be fully received only in 2019. That's the main reason because we publish provisional data 20 months after the reference year and definitive data 32 months after the reference year.

### Punctuality

The Number of calendar days behind (positive value) or ahead of (negative value) of the legal deadlines (please check the prefilled by Eurostat table in [CIRCABC](#): folder **Quality reports XXXX**, where XXXX is the reporting reference year)

Please comment on the punctuality of transmission to Eurostat if you sent the data after the deadlines, e.g., the reasons for the late delivery and the action taken or planned to improve punctuality.

Population of active enterprise is not available before August. We will probably not be able to produce BD data earlier in the short term.

## 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 - over time

Length of comparable time series

Births: 2013-2015

Population of active enterprises: 2013-2015

High-Growth: 2014

Deaths: 2013

### Coherence - cross domain

For the degree of coherence, please check the prefilled by Eurostat table in [CIRCABC](#): folder **Quality reports XXXX**, where XXXX is the reporting reference year)

Please describe the degree of coherence between the characteristics 11910 and 16910 of Annex IX and the characteristics 11110 and 16110 of Annex I. Please describe the factors affecting this coherence and their respective magnitude.

For BD, there are no data in the table for Switzerland. Anyway, there are methodological deviation between Annex IX and Annex I. The most important is that Annex I consider only enterprises with at least 3 persons occupied. If we consider in BD only enterprises with at least 3 persons occupied, data are not similar but differences are not very important.

Please describe the degree of coherence between the characteristics T1910 and T6910 of Annex IX and data on number of enterprises and employment from the annual inquiry on business registers. Please describe the factors affecting this coherence and their respective magnitude.

For BD, there are no data in the table for Switzerland. Anyway, data are quite similar. BD consider only market units and BR all units.

## Data revision

### Definition

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

### Data revision - policy

Please describe your revision policy including some information related to the average number of revisions (planned or not), the main reasons for revisions and the impact of the revisions.

We produce provisional data at t+20 and consolidated data at t+32. A large revision of the entire series will probably occur in 2020. The main reasons for revisions are wrong activity codifications, errors in the firm total employment or structure (local units). The impact is not very important at macroeconomic level if we consider a high level of aggregation (for example cantons or NOGA2-digit), but more important differences in the data are possible for example at NACE6-digit or municipalities.

## Statistical processing

### Source data

#### Concepts and sources

What is the name of source(s) for updating the Statistical Business Register (SBR)?

The main sources are: Register of the old age and survivors' insurance (OASI), Heading Commercial Register, Tax on value added Register, Swiss Post, different survey in our Office

What is the coverage of SBR in terms of NACE classification and legal form? Are all the required activities and legal forms covered?

The Business register covers all activities and legal forms

What are the criteria for inclusion in SBR (including turnover, employment or any other thresholds)? Which is the VAT threshold in your country and its impact on SBR coverage?

Inclusion criteria is the annual revenue: contribution to social insurance is obligatory from an annual salary of 2300 Swiss Francs onwards

Is any form of matching or profiling or imputation carried out within the source that has an impact on the matching or imputation specified in the methodological guidelines?

No

Does this source include birth and death dates for enterprises? If so, please comment on the quality of these dates.

Dates for births and deaths are taken from the commercial register, but they do not always correspond to birth and death dates in the OASI, which are relevant for us. We don't use the dates contained in the SBR.

Please give details of any significant changes to this source over the period covered by this data collection.
In 2013 (reference year 2011) switch from survey data to register data with change of thresholds for taking into account enterprises and employment

<b>Data matching</b>
Please describe the data matching tools and the techniques used.
Matching done on economic activity, location and name.

Please describe the data matching process (i.e. have you followed the recommended pair-wise matching, the fields used for matching, the order in which the matching was carried out, and the amount of clerical checking).
Case by case

Which matching was carried out in addition to that specified in the methodological guidelines? Please describe any additional matching criteria used.
Matching on employees moving into the Register of the old age and survivors' insurance (OASI),

When matching on location, how were the multi-site units treated?
Profiling (permanent follow-up of multi-side units with employment >250) and Profiling-Light (yearly survey of multi-side units with employment <250) use identifiers of the business register and allow for matching on location.

Please describe how units moving in or out of scope (e.g. to or from NACE Rev. 2 sections A, O or K642 ) were treated, and indicate how many such cases were detected.
Included or excluded in the population of active enterprise.

How many reactivations were discovered when matching the different birth and death populations?
Not available

Have you encountered any problems when carrying out the matching procedure?
No

<b>Manual checks</b>
Following the matching already described, how many large births and deaths were manually investigated?
About 50 real births

Has this approach covered all the births and deaths with 20 or more employees?
Yes

Has this approached covered the enterprises with large turnover, but no employees?
No

What proportion of those was confirmed as real births and deaths?
About 60-65%

What method was used to verify the results for surviving enterprises?
No data on survival rates

### Frequency of data collection

Annual.

### Data collection

Business demography data are compiled from the administrative register of the old age and survivors' insurance (OASI) and the Business Register as main sources. However, additional information from the survey on newly born enterprises and from other firm level surveys (profiling, profiling light, job statistics) are used as well.

### Data validation

Before sending to Eurostat, the following checks are performed: hierarchical, inter-variable plausibility, confidential and completeness.

## Metadata update

### Definition

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

### Metadata last certified

22/03/2017

### Metadata last posted

22/03/2017

### Metadata last update

22/03/2017

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