

## Limits to comparability over time and across countries

Country	Factors hampering comparability over time and across countries
BE	<p><b>Availability</b> Apart from some preliminary data, no structural statistics are available for 2002</p> <p><b>Survey methodology</b> From reference year 1995 to 1998, local units in the <b>regional series</b> (characteristics 11 21 0) refer to enterprises with 20 or more employees, surveyed exhaustively. Small enterprises sampled are not regionally stratified. From reference year 1999 onwards, an estimation procedure for the regional breakdown of SME data was put in place.</p> <p><b>Breakdowns</b> The 2003 multi-yearly breakdown of <b>gross trade by product</b> could not differentiate between a few CPA categories (5119, 5139 and 5190). Due to the omission of those categories the breakdown doesn't add up to the total.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> From reference year 1995 to 1998, the <b>purchase of goods and services for resale</b> (13 12 0) are not subtracted from production value (12 12 0), so that the figure is overestimated, especially in Trade (NACE Rev.1 section G).</p>
CZ	<p><b>Accuracy</b> of the data Until 2001, sampling errors at NACE 3-digit level are significant. Three-digit level is an estimation based on the sample, which differs between years. Data quality is much better at NACE Rev.1 2-digit level. From 2002 onwards, a revised methodology was put in place with an improved stratification and better use of administrative sources.</p> <p><b>Breakdowns</b> The NACE code 514 contains the aggregate 514 + 510. The NACE code 521 contains the aggregate 500 + 520 + 521. For the following NACE codes, some enterprises have been allocated to the related activities whereas it is not completely sure that the principal activity is correct. 101, 111, 132, 142, 158, 172, 182, 193, 201, 211, 222, 232, 246, 252, 266, 274, 286, 291, 316, 321, 332, 341, 352, 366, 371, 401.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> Due to different administrative sources, the sum of wages and salaries (13 32 0) and social security contributions (13 33 0) does not always add up to personnel costs (13 31 0). Until 2001 data, the number of persons employed (16 11 0) does not include part time and temporary staff. In industry and construction, some tangible investments (15 11 0) are not allocated to one of the categories (15 12 0 till 15 15 0) In the environmental data series 2B and 2O, the characteristics 21 11 0 on end-of-pipe investments for protection against pollution and also includes 21 12 0 on investments for pollution prevention using clean technologies.</p>
DK	<p><b>Economic activities</b> From reference year 1995 to 1998, NACE rev.1 4521 contains 4521+4523+4524 and NACE rev.1 4531 contains 4531+4534.</p>
DE	<p><b>Survey methodology</b> <i>NACE rev.1 D, E and F:</i> The population covered is enterprises with more than 20 persons employed from reference year 1995 to 1998. The population covered is enterprises with more than 1 person employed starting from reference year 1999. Data for reference years 1999 and 2000 on small businesses (less than 20 persons employed) were estimated using several auxiliary sources. Data from reference year 2001 onwards are based on a survey. In <i>regional statistics on industry</i> (NACE C-E), number of persons employed (16 11 0), wages and salaries (13 32 0) and number of local units (11 21 0) refer only to local units with at least 20 persons employed. There is no size class limit for investments, since those data are collected at enterprise level.</p> <p><i>NACE rev.1.1 Section G:</i> The 2003 data for the trade sector is not comparable to the 2002 data series, since the NACE attribution changed from Nace Rev 1 (1993) to Nace Rev 1.1 (2003), new enterprises were added and a new sampling scheme was therefore adopted. The number of enterprises (11 11 0) is significantly higher for Motor vehicle trade (Nace division 50) and</p>

	<p>the value added is higher for gross trade (division 51).  <i>NACE rev.1 sections I and K:</i>  Administrative sources (value added tax) and estimates of National Accounts are used up to reference year 1999. More precisely: number of enterprises (11 11 0) and turnover (12 11 0) originate from statistics on VAT whereas other data originate from the National Accounts System. 2000 data and onwards are based on a specific survey on services.</p>
<b>EE</b>	<p><b>Accuracy of the data</b>  Up to reference year 1999 included, national and size class data are available down to NACE Rev.1 2-digit level. Starting from reference year 2000, national data are available down to NACE Rev.1 4-digit level and size class data down to NACE Rev.1 3-digit level.</p> <p><b>Breakdowns</b>  From reference year 1996 to reference year 1998 included:  Employment size classes are defined in terms of employees instead of number of persons employed (as required by the SBS regulation). In addition, size class 500+ is provided instead of size classes 500-999 and 1000+ employees. By convention, data for size class 500+ are published under the size class 500-999.  Size classes 0 and 1-9 employees are provided instead of size classes 1, 2-4 and 5-9 employees. Thus, data for size class 0 are published under the size class 1 and data for size class 1-9 are published under the size class 5-9.  Data for reference year 1995 are available only for enterprises with more than 20 employees, with the exception of investment variables for which the population covered is enterprises with more than 50 persons employed.</p>
<b>EL</b>	<p><b>Availability</b>  Only a limited subset of Greek data is available, mostly lacking full coverage across economic activities and/or of all characteristics defined.  Prior to 1999, no data for the services sector (NACE rev.1 G, H, I and K) were provided. Data covering 1999 till 2001 only cover NACE sections H (Hotels and restaurants and bars) and I (Transportation, Post and Telecom). From 2002 onwards all sections are covered.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b>  In trade, the characteristics on tangible investments (15110) covers total investment value, the breakdown is however restricted: 15120 covers investment value on land, grounds and buildings, variable 15150 the value of other investments on transportation means, machinery and equipment, while variable 15310 counts the value of any tangible goods acquired by leasing. There is no information on sales of investment goods (15210).</p> <p><b>Size class threshold</b>  For Industry data until 2001 refer to enterprises with average annual employment of 10 persons and over. The coverage is extended from 2002 onwards to all enterprises. Until 2001 and for the construction sector, the sampling frame was restricted to enterprises with a turnover above 15 million drachmae (€ 44 020).</p>
<b>ES</b>	<p><b>Economic activities</b>  Spain reports no activity in NACE 12: uranium mining. Activities in NACE 41: water distribution can be difficultly separated from NACE 90: wastewater treatment and purification, since many enterprises are active in both fields. This applies specifically to environmental data series 2B and 2O.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b>  From reference year 1995 to 1998, variable 15 11 0 (Gross investment in tangible goods) equals 15 12 0 (Gross investment in land) + 15 15 0 (Gross investment in machinery and equipment).</p>
<b>FR</b>	<p><b>Economic activities</b>  In 1999 the car industry (NACE Rev.1 34) was reshaped so that 1999 onwards data relating to the car industry are somehow not comparable with previous years.  Enterprises in extractive industries may realise part of their turnover off shore. In some cases it is hard to separate residual activities in France from main exploration or mining abroad.  Data of some industries in decline (textile, metallurgy, naval construction) tend to fluctuate heavily.  For production of computer equipment (NACE 30.02) the more important companies were reclassified, reflecting the evolution of their economic activity.</p>

	<p><b>Characteristics</b></p> <p>Tangible investments (15 11 0) are obtained yearly from administrative sources, whereas the breakdown is observed less frequently through a survey, which may result in some incoherence.</p> <p>The definition of characteristics 'payments for agency workers' (13 13 1) is revised for the 2004 survey and accordingly, future data are expected to be higher.</p>
IE	<p><b>2015 data for Industry</b></p> <p>The increase in Irish industrial data for turnover was driven by relocations of entire balance sheets to Ireland, with the activity related to these relocations having significant consequential impacts on the results. The relocated balance sheets were dominated by intellectual property categorised as intangible assets. Associated with the relocations were significant increases in contract manufacturing activity attributable to Ireland. There was also a corresponding increase in both monthly and annual turnover, production and for the annual value added as recorded in the SBS Industry data for these relocated entities.</p> <p><b>Size class threshold</b></p> <p>NACE Rev.1 D: The population covered is enterprises with 3 persons employed or more.  NACE Rev.1 F: The population covered is enterprises with 20 persons employed or more.  Irish productivity (value added per head) is particularly high, compared to the European average. This is particularly so in the following activities of Manufacturing:  NACE Rev.1 22.3 Reproduction of recorded media  NACE Rev.1 24.1 Manufacture of basic chemicals  NACE Rev.1 24.4 Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products  NACE Rev.1 30 Manufacture of office machinery and computers  This is mainly due to the presence of foreign owned enterprises with high value added in these sectors.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b></p> <p>Number of enterprises 11110 decrease significantly from reference year 1998 to reference year 1999. This is mainly due to an improved estimation process, where sample data is grossed to an "estimated" population, where non-active units have been removed. This technique was first applied to reference year 1999.</p> <p>From reference year 1998 to reference year 2000 included and as far as sections H, I and K are concerned, the variable code 13 310 (Personnel costs) contains 13 320 (Wages and Salaries). Starting from reference year 2001, 13 31 0 is available for service data.</p> <p><b>Survey methodology</b></p> <p>In a few cases, the inference to population totals uses different factors for some sets of characteristics, especially because of their dependence on the non-response rate. This applies specifically to the number of enterprises (11110).</p>
IT	<p><b>Survey methodology</b></p> <p>Administrative data on balance sheets and number of employees were used for the first time for reference year 1999.</p>
CY	<p><b>Economic activities</b></p> <p>CY does not cover all NACE Rev.1 activities. Instead, some NACE Rev.1 codes are grouped with other NACE Rev.1 codes. Here is the list of groupings:</p> <p>1411 = 1411+1412  1422 = 1422+1430  1513 = 1513+1520  1571 = 1571+1572  1591 = 1591+1593+1596  1721 = 1721+1754+1760  1771 = 1771+1772  1910 = 1910+1920  2051 = 2051+2052  2222 = 2222+2211+2215  2411 = 2411+2413+2420  2441 = 2441+2442  2462 = 2462+2466  2611 = 2611+2613+2615  2722 = 2722+2742+2744  2821 = 2821+2830</p>

	<p>2861 = 2861+2862  2874 = 2874+2875  2953 = 2953+2954  3140 = 3140+3162  3220 = 3220+3230  3310 = 3310+3320+3330  3621 = 3621+3622  3630 = 3630+3650+3661  5521 = 5521+5522.</p> <p><b>Breakdowns</b>  In addition, Size class 500+ is provided instead of 500-999 and 1000+ employed persons. Data for size class 500+ are published under the size class 500-999.  Size class 100-499 is provided instead of 100-249 and 250-499. Data for size class 100-499 are published under 100-249.”  The breakdown in the size class series is based on the number of full time equivalents employed by the enterprises and not on the number of persons employed.</p>
<b>LV</b>	<p><b>Accuracy of the data</b>  A combined random sampling scheme is used with stratification at NACE Rev.1 3-digit level. Detailed data at NACE rev.1 4-digit level need to be used cautiously.</p>
<b>LT</b>	<p><b>Accuracy of the data</b>  Up to reference year 1999 included, national and size class data are available down to NACE Rev.1 2-digit level. Starting from reference year 2000, national data are available down to NACE Rev.1 4-digit level and size class data down to NACE Rev.1 3-digit level. The population covered for all reference years is all enterprises.  <b>Breakdowns</b>  Yet no detailed breakdown is available in the population of small businesses with less than 10 persons employed up to reference year 1999. By convention, size class 5 to 9 (in NewCronos) cover in reality size class 1 to 9 in services and trade.</p>
<b>LU</b>	<p><b>Survey methodology</b>  Data hardly compared between 2002 and 2003 because of several reasons:  - 2003 are collected by enterprise whereas until 2002 they were collected by kind of activity unit (typically an entity of an enterprise)  - Revisions in the business register may have induced further economic activity changes (NACE).  - Data referring to 1996 -2003 may be revised due to a change in grossing up method and improvements in the data control and editing procedures.  <b>Remark:</b> Backcasted data for series 1B/2B/3B/4B in NACE Rev. 2 for the reference years 2005-2007 were estimated by Eurostat and can lead to deviations with series 1A/2A/3A/4A.</p>
<b>HU</b>	<p><b>Size class threshold</b>  Up to reference year 2001, the population covered is enterprises with 5 persons employed or more included and data for size class “total” refer to enterprises with 5 or more persons employed.  Starting from reference year 2002, the population covered is all enterprises without any size threshold.  <b>Characteristics</b>  16110 and 16130 (employment variables) stem from annual labour survey. At detailed level, they may not be very comparable with other SBS data.  Inconsistencies between 15110 (total investment) and 15120+15130+15140+15150 (all types of investment) are caused by the fact that agricultural estate investments are included in the total (15110) but not in the detailed investment variables.  <b>Survey methodology</b>  Due to different survey strategy for national and regional data, substantial differences are being observed.</p>
<b>MT</b>	<p><b>Breakdowns</b>  National series cover enterprises with zero persons employed, whereas those are not included in the size class breakdowns.  <b>Characteristics</b></p>

	<p>Until 2002, in the data on industry (series 2A) purchases of goods and services (characteristics 13 11 0) does not include payments to subcontractors (23 11 0). Until 2002, the data on trade (Series 3B) purchases of goods and services (13 11 0) don't include rents of buildings and equipment as defined in characteristics 13 41 0</p>
<b>NL</b>	<p><b>Survey methodology</b> Fundamental changes took place in the processing system for reference year 2000, including new stratification methods. Dutch data for reference year 2000 are therefore hardly comparable with those of previous years. 11 11 0 (number of enterprises): data for this variable are rounded to multiples of 5. A "0" therefore means two enterprises or less. The 2003 statistics in the business services section (NACE K), wages and salaries do not include NACE 74.15 (holding companies).</p> <p><b>Breakdowns</b> While sampling, size class is derived from a business register. This information is also used for the deliverables broken down by size class. Therefore the ratio between the number of persons employed and the number of enterprises, may not fit with the corresponding employment size class. No data for the extraterritorial activity is included in data series broken down by region. This leads to some inconsistencies with national totals in other tables. The 2001-2002 environmental series use a non-standard employment breakdown: 1-49, 50-199, 200+ instead of 1-49, 50-249, 250+.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> The number of employees is determined by the number of jobs provided. Corrections, both for the number of secondary jobs and the number of non-remunerated persons employed (proprietors, family members) may result in a number of employees actually exceeding the number of persons employed.</p>
<b>AT</b>	No observations recorded
<b>PL</b>	<p><b>Survey methodology</b> No correction for non response for enterprises with more than 10 persons employed.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> The number of persons employed is not calculated as an annual average but as the number of persons employed on the last day of the reference year. This may yield non-coherent results with the number of employees.</p>
<b>PT</b>	No observations recorded
<b>SI</b>	<p><b>Breakdowns</b> From reference year 1995 to reference year 2001, employment size classes are defined in terms of employees. In addition, data for size class "total" are not always equal to data in national series. This is due to the fact that in national series enterprises without employee are taken into account whereas they are not considered in the size class series. Thus, with the exception (by definition) of number of employees, number of enterprises, turnover, etc..., show a higher value for the national series than for the size class series.</p> <p><b>Economic activities</b> In extractive industries (NACE 11 and 13) data collection on environmental statistics covers expenditure for rehabilitation of abandoned mining and quarrying sites, which are not included in material investments (15 110).</p> <p><b>Size class threshold</b> In the main series broken down by economic activity and the size class series, data on investments include only enterprises with 20 or more employees.</p>
<b>SK</b>	<p><b>Size class threshold</b> From reference year 1995 to 1999, the population covered is enterprises with 20 persons or more employed and enterprises with less than 20 persons employed which are considered statistically important, based on expert judgement (1995 and 1996) or with a turnover larger than € 2.3 million (from 1997 onwards). In addition, data for size class "total" refer to enterprises with more than 20 persons employed. Starting from reference year 2000, the population covered is all enterprises without any size class threshold and the size class criteria is number of persons employed. Data from 2010 and onwards refers to the entire population of enterprises including the sole proprietors.</p>

	<p><b>Breakdowns</b> Employment size classes are defined in terms of employees whereas the SBS regulation required to use number of persons employed. Moreover, for the breakdown by size class, enterprises are classified according to the sampling stratification, determined by the number of employees stated in business register. The number of employees filled in the survey can be different due to the time lag in register updating.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> Some characteristics 16140, 20110, 21110, 21120, 21140, 22110, 22120 are compiled only for enterprises with 20 and more employees.</p>
<b>FI</b>	No observations recorded
<b>SE</b>	NACE Rev2. code I 5630 are not allowed in Sweden due to the law. Since the activity code follows the industry that it serves there are no enterprises with code M7010.
<b>UK</b>	<p><b>Survey methodology</b> A new Special Analysis system was used to produce data broken down by size class and region starting from reference year 1998.</p>
<b>BG</b>	<p><b>Accuracy of the data</b> National data are available down to NACE Rev.1 3-digit level only for industry and construction up to reference year 2001. First size class data are available for reference year 2002.</p> <p><b>Economic activities</b> Definition: From 2002 onwards, reporting units that outsource the production on a fee or on a contract basis are treated as production units and classified on the basis of the turnover of the thus produced products.</p> <p><b>Characteristics</b> Real estate investment characteristics 15 14 0 contains 15130+15140.</p>
<b>RO</b>	<p><b>Breakdowns</b> Up to reference year 1999 included, national and size class data are available down to NACE Rev.1 2-digit level. Starting from reference year 2000, national data are available down to NACE Rev.1 4-digit level and size class data down to NACE Rev.1 3-digit level.</p> <p><b>Economic activities</b> 2002 preliminary data: NACE Rev. 1 group 27.1 includes 27.35 (and this class is not included in 27.3) Activity grouping: NACE division 12.00 (Uranium mining) is included in NACE 13.20 (Nonferrous ore mining). This grouping persists to subsection level: Nace CB includes division 12.</p>
<b>NO</b>	No observations recorded
<b>CH</b>	<p><b>Breakdowns</b> Enterprises with 0-1 persons employed are not covered at all.</p>

Last update: 20 March 2017