

EUROSTAT GUIDE TO EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS

Data are available free of charge on the Eurostat website: ec.europa.eu/eurostat

The website is organised into nine themes: this guide presents [structural business statistics](#), which are available from the [industry, trade and services](#) domain.

European industrial policy is conducted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry; further information may be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm

Structural business statistics (SBS)

Structural business statistics (SBS) describe the structure, conduct and performance of economic activities, down to the most detailed activity level (several hundred sectors). SBS with a breakdown by size class is the main source of data for an analysis of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

For each activity, a comprehensive set of basic variables are available, describing business demographic, employment and monetary characteristics, as well as a set of derived indicators based on these, for example on productivity and profitability.

SBS may be used to answer such questions as: how much wealth and how many jobs are created in an activity?; is there a shift from the industrial sector to the services sector and in which specific activities is this trend most notable?; which countries are relatively specialised in the manufacture of aerospace equipment?; what is the average wage of an employee within the hotels and restaurants sector?; how productive is the chemicals industry and how does it fare in terms of profitability?

SBS comprises annual enterprise statistics, enterprise statistics broken down by size class, regional enterprise statistics, and statistics on financial services such as credit institutions, insurance services and pension funds, as well as a variety of special topics including:

- Business demography
- Factors of business success
- Foreign control of enterprises
- Business services
- Demand for services
- Statistics on environment protection
- Intangible investment and subcontracting
- Purchases of energy products
- Distributive trades: breakdown of turnover by product

SBS describe the economy through the observation of units engaged in an economic activity, which in SBS is generally the enterprise. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at

one or more locations and may comprise one or more legal units. Note that enterprises that are active in more than one economic activity (and the value added and turnover they generate and the persons they employ, etc.) will be classified under the NACE (statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community) heading which is their principal activity, normally the one that generates the largest amount of value added.

SBS data are collected within the framework of a Regulation on structural business statistics according to the definitions and breakdowns specified in the Commission Regulations implementing it.

SBS covers the business economy, which includes industry, construction and market services. Note that financial services are usually kept separate because of their specific nature and the limited availability of most types of standard business statistics in this area. SBS does not cover agriculture, forestry and fishing, nor public administration and (largely) non-market services such as education and health.

WEBSITE – EUROPEAN BUSINESS PORTAL

Eurostat provides users with free access to all of its databases, as well as PDF versions of its publications. To discover more, open a web browser and go to the Eurostat homepage at: ec.europa.eu/eurostat

From the Eurostat homepage, statistical [Themes](#) may be accessed from the left-hand menu. Click on the link to [Industry, trade and services](#) in order to access industry, trade and services information.

A link at the top of this theme page goes straight to a Dedicated Section which contains a comprehensive presentation of European structural business statistics with links to publications, data and background information – click on the link to [European business](#). Alternatively, follow this link: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/europeanbusiness>.

The Dedicated Section is divided into five main parts, covering:

1. Annual statistics:

Presentation of the main SBS, which can be used to analyse the structure, conduct and performance of European business, with data covering topics such as: the size and structure of the business economy; specialisation ratios; gross operating and tangible investment expenditure; and productivity and profitability.

2. Special topics:

Presentation of a number of special topics (SMEs, regional business statistics, business demography, foreign controlled enterprises, factors of business success, business services, globalisation, entrepreneurship indicators, etc.) with latest results, links to publications, data, methodology and policy documents for each topic.

Included are a wide range of activities relating to the development of SBS. Development projects are usually run on a voluntary basis, with a limited set of countries participating, with the results of pilot surveys being used as the basis for deciding whether or not to pursue the data collection effort and to formalise it within statistical law.

3. Publications:

Access to all publications recently released in relation to structural business statistics.

4. Data:

Live access and tools to download the freshest data from Eurostat's database.

5. Background:

Access to supporting information (links) presenting:

- Policy context: with links to Commission Directorate-Generals;
- Statistical legislation that underlies the data presented;
- Statistical classifications that are used to classify the data;
- Methodology and terminology (for example, information on surveys or indicator definitions).

Data access

There are two ways of accessing data, through pre-defined but automatically updated tables and through detailed open tables which allow users to make their own selection among the full range of statistics available.

1. Predefined tables

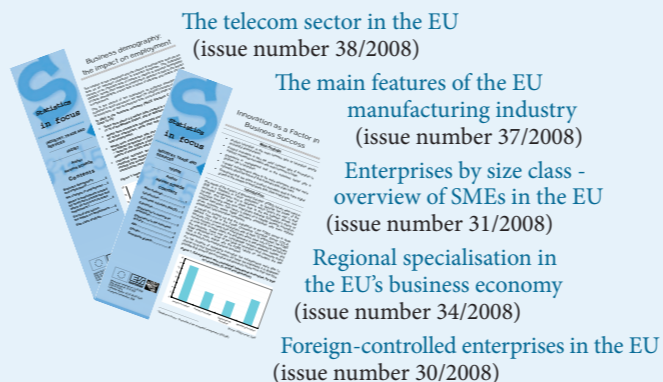
There are a set of SBS pre-defined tables which provide an overview of business structures in the countries and/or for the EU as a whole, as well as tables which provide selected data for specific sectors: sorted under the headings industry and construction, distributive trade, services and financial services. Most tables contain data by country and years; these are only available with a limited activity breakdown. They are complemented by some tables which show a more detailed activity breakdown only for the EU-27 aggregate.

To access the SBS pre-defined tables, select the link on the data part of the dedicated section that provides access to pre-defined tables. Expand/collapse the data tree by using the +/- icons. Select the information required by clicking on the table, graph, map icon .

2. Complete database

More detailed statistics can be downloaded through open tables, with the help of Eurostat's data extraction utility. Advanced query functions are available to those who register on the website – allowing downloads in a variety of file formats (text, HTML, Excel, etc.). Data are presented in multidimensional tables, with total flexibility to preselect and extract data. Tables containing all the detailed SBS data can be accessed by following the link to Access to all detailed SBS data on the data part of the dedicated section and then browsing through the data tree by using the +/- icons to choose a particular table.

STATISTICS IN FOCUS



The telecom sector in the EU
(issue number 38/2008)

The main features of the EU manufacturing industry
(issue number 37/2008)

Enterprises by size class - overview of SMEs in the EU
(issue number 31/2008)

Regional specialisation in the EU's business economy
(issue number 34/2008)

Foreign-controlled enterprises in the EU
(issue number 30/2008)

Shipbuilding and repair: from tankers to pleasure boats
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(issue number 15/2008)

EU-27 business services: thriving in the wake of outsourcing and liberalisation (issue number 76/2007)

Exports of business services
(issue number 74/2007)

The impact of foreign-controlled enterprises in the EU
(issue number 67/2007)

Inter-enterprise relations in selected economic activities
(issue number 57/2007)

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Business demography: the impact on employment
(issue number 49/2007)

Business demography: growth in the population of enterprises (issue number 48/2007)

Innovation and globalisation effects in European banks
(issue number 47/2007)

KEY PUBLICATIONS

[European business: facts and figures, 2007 edition](#)

Format: paper, PDF
Language versions: EN only
Catalogue number: KS-BW-07-001-EN-C
ISBN: 978-92-79-07024-2
ISSN: 1830-8147

This publication gives a comprehensive picture of the structure, development and characteristics of European business and its different activities: from energy and the extractive industries to communications, information services and media. It presents the latest available statistics from a wide selection of statistical sources describing for each activity: production and employment; country specialisation and regional distribution; productivity and profitability; the importance of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs); workforce characteristics; external trade, etc.

[Key figures on European business, 2008 edition](#)

Format: paper, PDF
Language versions: EN only
Catalogue number: KS-ET-08-001-EN-C
ISBN: 978-92-79-05122-7
ISSN: 1830-9720

This publication summarises the main features of European business and its different activities in a concise and simple manner. This edition includes a special feature section on the factors of business success, which presents an analysis of the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs. The publication is also intended to function as a showcase for and introduction to the data available in this field. The focus is on structural business statistics: both traditional business statistics which are disseminated regularly, as well as specific information compiled on a multi-yearly basis and the latest results from development projects on topics of key political interest.

Structural business statistics may also be found in a range of horizontal publications produced by Eurostat, such as:

[Europe in figures – Eurostat yearbook](#)

[Regions: statistical yearbook](#)

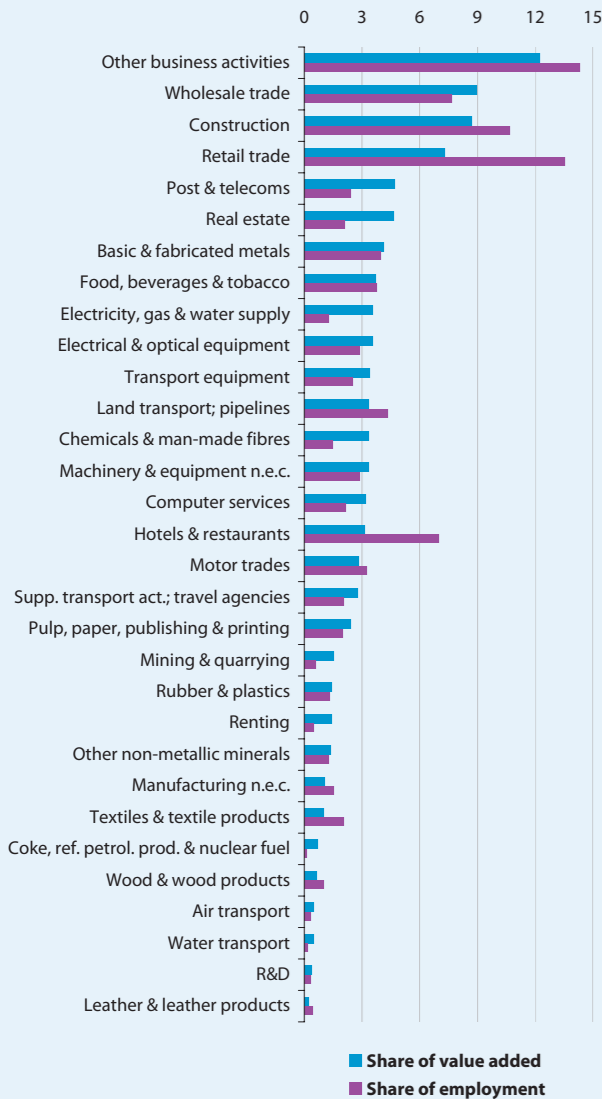
[Key figures on Europe – statistical pocketbook](#)

METHODOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

[Eurostat-OECD manual on business demography statistics, 2007](#)

Format: PDF only
Language versions: EN only
Catalogue number: KS-RA -07-010-EN-N
ISBN: 978-92-79-04726-8
ISSN: 1977-0375

Share of value added and employment in the non-financial business economy, EU-27, 2005 (%)



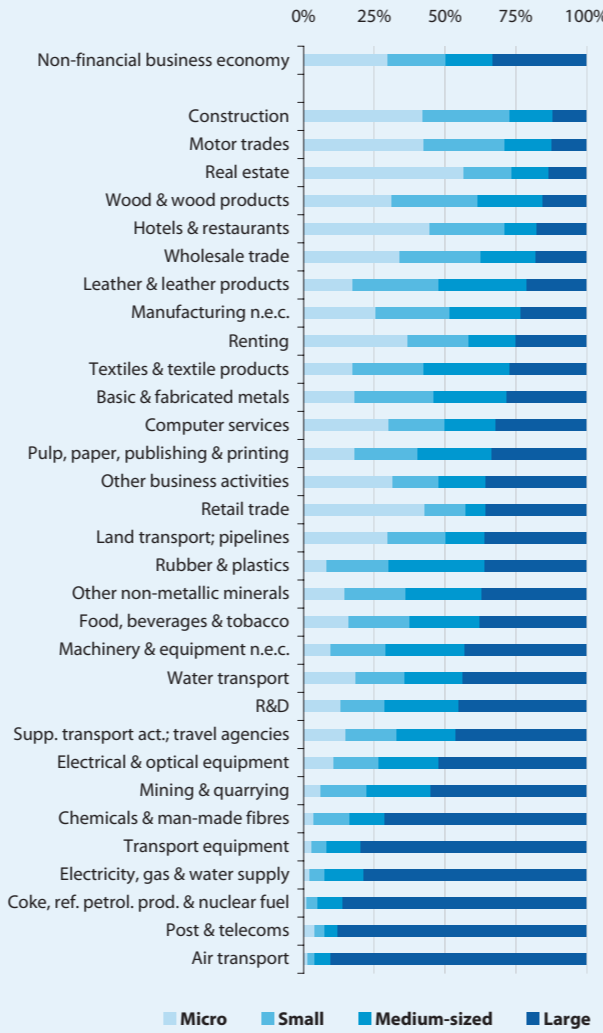
Source: Eurostat (SBS)
 Value added: the gross income from operating activities after adjusting for operating subsidies and indirect taxes.
 Number of persons employed: total number of persons who work in the observation unit, as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it.

Selected indicators, non-financial business economy, 2005

	Apparent labour productivity (EUR 1000 per person employed)	Average personnel costs (EUR 1000 per employee)	Gross operating rate (%)	Investment (% of value added)
EU-27	42.0	28.9	10.6	17.8
BE	59.6	42.8	11.4	20.9
BG	5.4	2.3	9.2	56.7
CZ (1)	14.7	9.1	14.3	23.4
DK	64.3	37.9	18.8	20.6
DE	52.3	39.2	9.4	13.1
EE	14.8	8.1	12.7	21.9
IE (2)	94.0	33.6	25.7	21.8
EL	25.9	22.5	17.7	19.5
ES	36.9	25.1	14.4	19.2
FR	52.8	39.6	9.4	20.2
IT	39.5	30.4	13.4	17.3
CY (3)	35.3	21.2	22.1	13.3
LV	10.9	4.3	19.6	44.8
LT	9.5	5.2	14.9	39.1
LU	63.6	40.5	11.2	12.5
HU	16.0	9.6	12.1	33.7
MT	:	:	:	:
NL	51.7	33.5	9.8	14.2
AT	54.3	36.5	15.0	23.9
PL	16.1	7.6	20.2	19.5
PT	21.0	13.1	12.3	32.6
RO	7.0	3.6	13.2	71.2
SI	25.0	18.2	9.6	34.1
SK	16.3	7.9	13.3	41.6
FI	61.3	38.6	12.6	16.8
SE	56.8	43.0	12.2	23.6
UK	56.4	31.5	20.4	14.8
NO	115.3	48.4	20.8	26.7

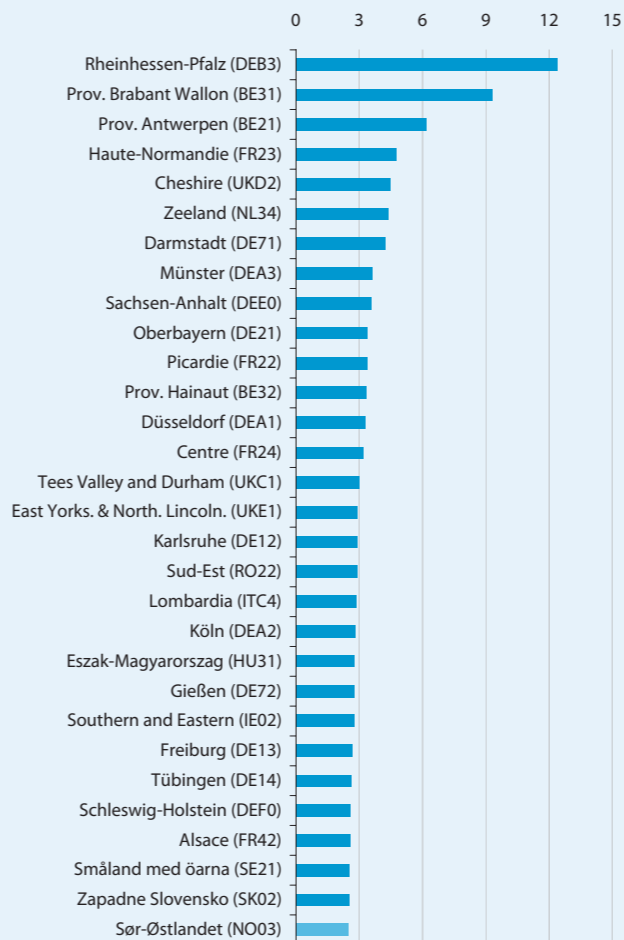
(1) 2004.
 (2) Excluding electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply (Division 40).
 (3) Excluding research and development (Division 73).
 Source: Eurostat (SBS)
 Apparent labour productivity: value added divided by the number of persons employed.
 Average personnel costs: personnel costs divided by the number of employees.
 Gross operating rate: gross operating surplus divided by turnover.
 Investment: includes all new and existing tangible capital goods having a useful life of more than one year including non-produced tangible goods such as land.

Share of employment by size class, EU-27, 2005



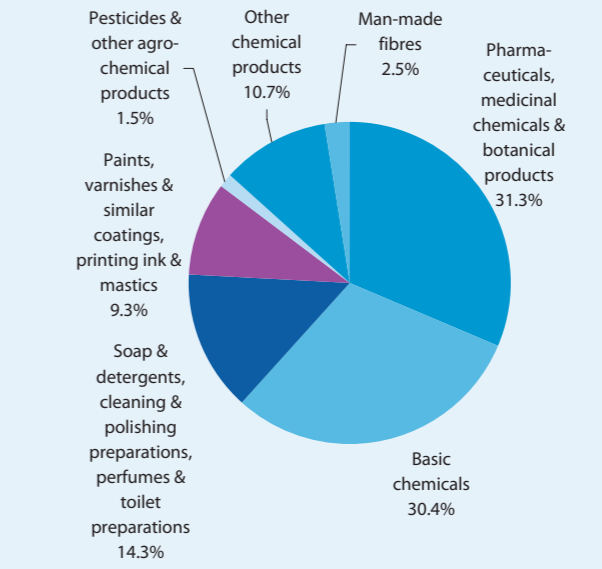
Source: Eurostat (SBS)
 SMEs are defined as having 1-249 persons employed; micro enterprises are defined as having 1-9 persons employed; small enterprises are defined as having 10-49 persons employed; medium-sized enterprises are defined as having 50-249 persons employed; large enterprises are defined as having 250 or more persons employed.

Most specialised regions in chemicals and man-made fibres, EU-27 Member States and Norway, 2005 (% share of non-financial business economy employment) (1)



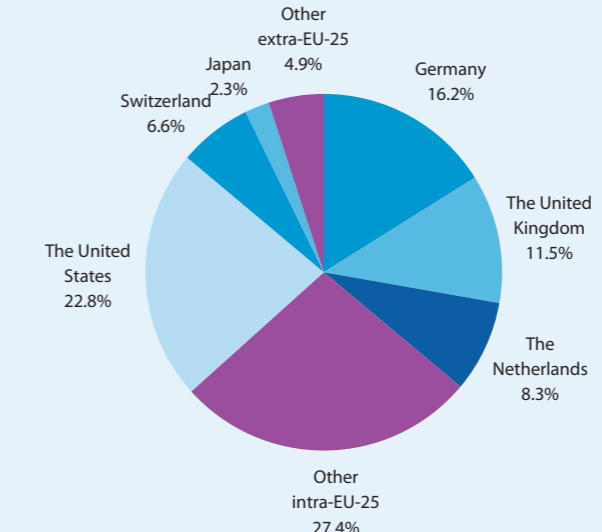
(1) The Czech Republic, 2004; Malta, not available.
 Source: Eurostat (SBS)

Breakdown of employment in chemicals and man-made fibres, EU-27, 2005



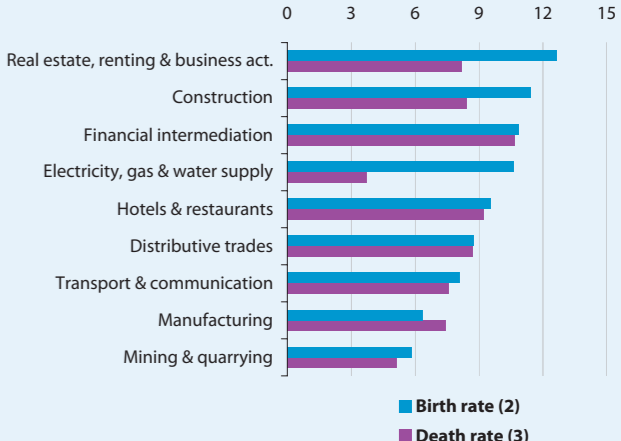
Source: Eurostat (SBS)

Value added generated by foreign-controlled enterprises, breakdown by country of origin, non-financial business economy, average of available countries (%) (1)



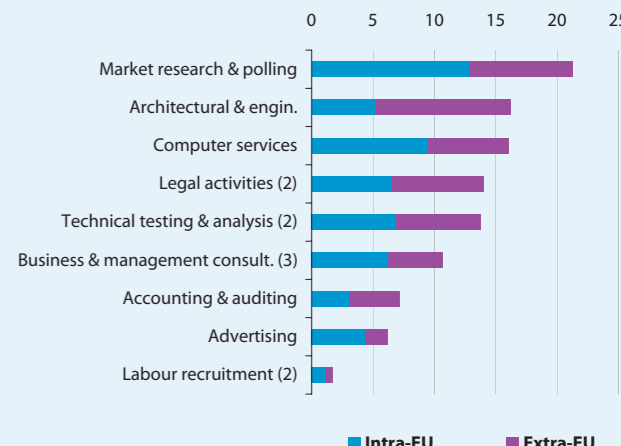
(1) Averages based on information for: Spain, France, Cyprus, Lithuania, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden (all 2005), Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands and Slovenia (all 2004), and Austria (2003).
 Source: Eurostat (SBS)

Enterprise birth and death rates, average of available countries, 2005 (%) (1)



Source: Eurostat (SBS)
 Enterprise birth and death rates: a birth amounts to the creation of a combination of production factors and a death amounts to the dissolution of a combination of production factors, with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event; the rates are calculated by taking these values and dividing by the whole population of enterprises for a given reference year.

Exports of business services (NACE 72 and 74.1-74.5) by location of client, average of available countries (% share of total turnover) (1)



(1) Average based on information for: Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Sweden (all 2005), Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia, Finland and the United Kingdom (all 2004), Estonia, Latvia and Poland (all 2003); Denmark, provisional; Poland and Sweden, including estimates.
 (2) Excluding Portugal.
 (3) Excluding Estonia.
 Source: Eurostat (SBS)
 Information on enterprise turnover by client enables analyses of the location of clients; turnover is broken down by residence of client.