

Reference Metadata in ESMS 2.0 structure

Statistical survey on births

PM_VIT.1_A_EN_2025_1

Reference Metadata in ESMS 2.0 structure

1	Contact
1.1	Contact organisation
State Statistical Office	
1.2	Contact organisation unit
Department for population statistics	
1.3	Contact name
Dijana Krstevska	
1.4	Contact person function
Head of departement	
1.5	Contact mail address
Dame Gruev 4, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia	
1.6	Contact email address
dijana.krstevska@stat.gov.mk	
1.7	Contact phone number
00389 2 3249 417	
1.8	Contact fax number
00389 2 3111 336	
2	Metadata update
2.1	Metadata last certified
01/06/2025	
2.2	Metadata last posted
01/06/2025	

2.3	Metadata last update
01/06/2025	
3	Statistical presentation
3.1	Data description
Data on demographic characteristics for each birth, i.e. live births and stillbirths, as well as on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of parents. Data allow monitoring of the time period and territorial distribution of births to determine the natality of a country, which represents a positive component of natural population growth.	
3.2	Classification system
Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics - NTES, 2019 National Classification of Occupations, 2015; System of education in the country in terms of ISCED2011 - International Standard Classification of Education MSKOB (2013);	
3.3	Sector coverage
Not applicable.	
3.4	Statistical concepts and definitions
Live born child is a child that after having been born, even for a short time, shows vital signs (breathing, i.e. heartbeats), irrespective of the gestation age of the mother. If a child dies soon after having been born, primarily it is registered as a live birth, and then as a death case. Stillbirth (late foetal death) - If a child has been born or taken out of its mother's body without any signs of life (such as heartbeats or muscle movements), but only if the gestation period was 28 and more weeks (one lunar month has 28 days). Birth rate - the ratio between the number of live births in the calendar year and the same mid-year population, multiplied by 1000. Total fertility rate (TFR) - the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman, assuming no female mortality at child bearing ages (15-49) and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified reference year.	
3.5	Statistical unit
Each live birth or stillbirth that has been registered in the register of births.	
3.6	Statistical population
Total number of live births in the current (calendar) year occurred in the Republic of North Macedonia. According to the international recommendations for publishing vital statistics and with the aim of presenting the situation more objectively, starting from 2004, the State Statistical Office	

has changed the methodology of presenting data on vital events, where the total number of cases includes vital events occurring only in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The current disaggregation of data in the field of vital statistics is based on the data available from the administrative data sources, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Consequently, a break in the time series occurs for certain variables.

3.7	Reference area
NTES 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Republic of North Macedonia)	
3.8	Time coverage
Since 1947. Since 1994 at the regional level according to the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics - NTES.	
3.9	Base period
Not applicable.	
4	Unit of measure
Number of births.	
5	Reference period
Current (calendar) year from 01.01 to 31.12	
6	Institutional mandate
6.1	Legal acts and other agreements
National: Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/1997, 21/2007, 51/2011, 104/2013, 42/2014, 192/2015, 27/16, 83/18, 220/18 and "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 31/20) (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx) Programme of Statistical Surveys 2023-2027 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 29/23) (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZaNas_en.aspx?id=8) EU and UN Regulations: Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 of the European Parliament on European demographic statistics, Regulation (EU) No 205/2014, UN Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3.	
6.2	Data sharing
Data are shared with joint annual questionnaires and transmitted to Eurostat via EDAMIS: DEMOBAL (DEMOgraphic BALance data collection); NOWCAST (NOWCAST demographic data collection); POPSTAT; and annual questionnaires to: UN Statistics Division - Demographic Statistics Section - Questionnaire on Vital Statistics, and WHO.	
7	Confidentiality
7.1	Confidentiality - policy

1. The protection of individual data is regulated by the Law on State Statistics (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx).
2. The basic principles and activities undertaken to ensure data confidentiality are described in the Policy on Statistical Confidentiality (<https://www.stat.gov.mk/pdf/PolicyOnStatisticalConfidentiality.pdf>).

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

Pursuant to Article 38 of the Law on State Statistics (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx) and the Policy on Statistical Confidentiality (<https://www.stat.gov.mk/pdf/PolicyOnStatisticalConfidentiality.pdf>), individual data are not published.

8 Release policy

8.1 Release calendar

The date of data publication is determined in the Advance Release Calendar, which is updated quarterly.

8.2 Release calendar access

<https://www.stat.gov.mk/Kalendar.aspx>

8.3 User access

All users have equal access to statistics at the same time: this means that the publication dates are announced in advance and no user has access to official statistics before they are published. Statistical data are first published in the "News Releases" edition on the website of the State Statistical Office at 12:00.

9 Frequency of dissemination

Monthly. The data are published monthly and quarterly as preliminary data, and as final on annual basis.

10 Accessibility and clarity

10.1 News release

News Releases are published and they are available on the website of the SSO in the section: "News Releases" - <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-new-releases>

Natural change in population, quarterly - <https://www.stat.mk/en/stat/population-and-living-conditions/population/natural-movement-of-the-population/>

Natality, annually: <https://www.stat.mk/en/stat/population-and-living-conditions/population/natality/natality-2024-final-data/>

Demographic data by urban and rural area, annually : <https://www.stat.mk/en/stat/population-and-living-conditions/population/live-births-deaths-and-migration-by-urban-and-rural-areas-and-by-regions/>

10.2 Publications

Statistical Yearbook: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/statistical-yearbook-2024/statistical-yearbook-2024/>

North Macedonia in figures: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/north-macedonia-in-figures-2024/north-macedonia-in-figures-2024/>

Regions in the North Macedonia: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/regions-of-north-macedonia-2024/regions-of-north-macedonia-2024/>

Women and men in North Macedonia: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/women-and-men-in-north-macedonia-2023/women-and-men-in-north-macedonia-2025/>

MakStat selection: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/makstat-selection-2024/makstat-selection-2024/>

Monthly Statistical Bulletin: <https://www.stat.mk/en/all-publications/monthly-statistical-bulletin/monthly-statistical-bulletin-05-2025/>

10.3 On-line database

MAKstat database available on the web site of the State Statistical Office:
http://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/MakStat_Naselenie_Vitalna

10.4 Micro-data access

The use of microdata by external users is possible only for research purposes and is done in accordance with the Law on State Statistics (Article 41, Article 42 and Article 43). Access to anonymised microdata is defined by an internal procedure of the State Statistical Office "Access to

anonymised microdata for scientific research purposes" (<https://www.stat.mk/en/about-us/procedures/rules-for-access-to-anonymised-microdata-for-research-purposes/>).

10.5 Other

At the request of users, data are also prepared in a form according to their needs.

10.6 Documentation on methodology

The methodological notes are published on the web site of the State Statistical Office. <https://www.stat.gov.mk/MetodoloskiObjasSooop.aspx?id=8&rbrObl=2>

10.7 Quality documentation

A Quality Report is prepared after the final processing and dissemination of the data. The report is prepared in accordance with the internal manuals and is only for internal usage.

11 Quality management

11.1 Quality assurance

The quality of the processes and products in the State Statistical Office is ensured by adhering to the European Statistics Code of Practice (<https://www.stat.mk/en/about-us/quality/code-of-practice/>) and the Quality Assurance Framework within the European Statistical System (ESS Quality Assurance Framework – <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V2.0-final.pdf>). The quality criteria are also determined in the Law on State Statistics in Article 4b and Article 4c (<https://www.stat.mk/en/about-us/legal-acts/law-on-state-statistics/>).

11.2 Quality assessment

The State Statistical Office carries out statistical activities in accordance with the Statistical Business Process Model, which is based on the international model - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The application of this model and international standards in statistical production ensures a high level of accuracy and comparability of data.

12 Relevance

12.1 User needs

Demographic data and indicators calculated on the basis of data obtained from the statistical survey on births are of particular interest both for the domestic and the international public (e.g. institutions, universities, media and individuals) for the creation and implementation of scientific and development policies in the society. The data are used directly, but also for calculation of statistical indicators from other sectors.

12.2 User satisfaction

Starting from 2009, the State Statistical Office conducts a User Satisfaction Survey every three years.

12.3 Completeness

In terms of the indicators required by EU Regulation 1260/2013 of the European Commission, the SSO provides about 95% of them.

13 Accuracy and reliability

13.1 Overall accuracy

The survey methodology and the data collection method ensure good coverage and accuracy of the data.

13.2 Sampling error

Not applicable.

13.3 Non-sampling error

Coverage error: Full (100%) coverage is ensured. Processing errors: Rules for control and calculations for output data are implemented in the processing. Non-response errors: As full coverage is ensured, there are no non-response errors.

14 Timeliness and punctuality

14.1 Timeliness

T+180

14.2 Punctuality

Data are disseminated within the established deadlines in accordance with the Release Calendar.

15 Coherence and comparability

15.1 Comparability - geographical

There is geographical comparability of the released data at national and regional level from 2005. With other EU countries, geographical comparability it is also ensured in line with EU regulations.

15.2 Comparability - over time

At the national level, without break in the time series, data are comparable from 1994. At the regional level, without break in the time series, data are comparable from 2005.

15.3 Coherence - cross domain

Cross-domain coherence of data is ensured comparison with data from administrative register of population.

15.4 Coherence - internal

Cross-domain coherence of data is ensured (comparison with data from administrative register of population).

16 Cost and burden

Not applicable.

17 Data revision

17.1 Data revision - policy

Data revision is made in accordance with the Statistical Data Revision Policy of the SSO:
(<https://www.stat.mk/en/about-us/policies-and-strategies/data-revision/>)

17.2 Data revision - practice

not applicable

18 Statistical processing

18.1 Source data

The source of data for this statistical survey is administrative, i.e. the data are obtained on the basis of records / registration of births in the register of births by the Register Offices responsible for the Register of Births, Department for Civil Registration. According to the legal provisions on keeping the register of births, every birth is entered in the register of births maintained for the area of its occurrence, regardless whether the mother usually resides in this area. During processing, the data are grouped by permanent place of residence of the mother.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Monthly.

18.3 Data collection

Data collection is made by self-enumeration method using paper statistical form (VIT.1) form reporting units, i.e. register offices. Self-enumeration (about 95%) is done electronically, while offices without the possibility of electronic data entry complete the paper statistical form (VIT.1) manually. Printed copy of the electronic data entry and completed questionnaires by register offices are delivered (by mail or personally) to the regional departments of statistics, no later than the 10th of the month for the previous month.

18.4 Data validation

Control of data is carried out in accordance with the established methodological rules and guidelines for control. First control of the data is performed by the regional offices of the SSO. For monitoring the coverage they complete the statistical form Monthly report on vital statistics (DEM 4), which is submitted electronically to the State Statistical Office, no later than the 10th of the

month for the previous month. For any deviations, the reporting units are contacted. The next stage is data coding and data entry according to established rules and methodological instructions for control.

18.5	Data compilation
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After verification and possible corrections in consultation with the reporting units, i.e. register offices, completed questionnaires are entered in the regional offices in an application with on-line controls. Missing data are provided by imputation of data, according to the established methodological rules and guidelines for control. Data entered in regional departments are then taken by the subject-matter department in the Central Office, where additional control, processing and tabulation of data is done by using established methodological rules and defined control criteria.

18.6	Adjustment
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Data adjustment is not performed.

19	Comment
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A.1	Annexes
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