



Statistical survey on trade

BS_TRG.1_M_EN_2024_12

Reference Metadata in ESMS 2.0 structure

1	Contact
1.1	Contact organisation
State Statistical Office	
1.2	Contact organisation unit
Department for internal trade, tourism and services.	
1.3	Contact name
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1.4	Contact person function
Associate	
1.5	Contact mail address
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1.6	Contact email address
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1.7	Contact phone number
++389 2 3295661	
1.8	Contact fax number
++389 2 3111336	
2	Metadata update
2.1	Metadata last certified
27.05.2025	
2.2	Metadata last posted
27.05.2025	
2.3	Metadata last update
27.05.2025	
3	Statistical presentation
3.1	Data description
<p>- Turnover in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, NKD Rev.2</p> <p>- Number of persons employed in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, NKD Rev.2</p> <p>- Hours worked in wholesale and retail trade and sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, NKD Rev.2</p>	
3.2	Classification system
National Classification of Activities, NKD Rev.2.	
3.3	Sector coverage
Sector G - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Divisions 45, 46 and 47 (47.3).	

3.4	Statistical concepts and definitions
<p>Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. Turnover also includes all other charges (transport, packaging, etc.) passed on to the customer, even if these charges are listed separately in the invoice. Turnover excludes VAT and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover as well as all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit. Reduction in prices, rebates and discounts as well as the value of returned packing must be deducted. Price reductions, rebates and bonuses conceded later to clients, for example at the end of the year, are not taken into account. Income classified as other operating income, financial income, extraordinary income in company accounts, as well as subsidies received from public authorities or the institutions of the European Union, is excluded from turnover.</p> <p>The term "number of persons employed" has a broader sense, comprising all persons engaged in the work of the business entity, no matter whether they are paid for their work or not. The number of persons employed is defined as the total number of persons who work in the observation unit (inclusive of working proprietors, partners working regularly in the unit and unpaid family workers), as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it (e.g. sales representatives, delivery personnel, repair and maintenance teams). It includes persons absent for a short period (e.g. sick leave, paid leave or special leave), and those on strike, but not those absent for an indefinite period. It also includes part-time workers who are regarded as such under the laws of the country concerned and who are on the payroll, as well as seasonal workers, apprentices and home workers on the payroll. The number of persons employed excludes manpower supplied to the unit by other enterprises, persons carrying out repair and maintenance work in the observation unit on behalf of other enterprises.</p> <p>The total number of hours worked represents the aggregate number of hours actually worked for the output of the observation unit during the reference period. This variable excludes hours paid but not actually worked such as for annual leave, holidays and sickness leave. It also excludes meal breaks and commuting between home and work. Included are hours actually worked during normal working hours; hours worked in addition to those; time which is spent at the place of work on tasks such as preparing the site and time corresponding to short periods of rest at the work place.</p>	
3.5	Statistical unit
The basic units of statistical observation are the active enterprises, whose main activity in the Statistical Business Register is Sector G (Trade), NKD Rev.2	
3.6	Statistical population
The statistical population are business entities from the Statistical Business Register whose main activity is trade. (Sector G - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, NKD Rev.2).	
3.7	Reference area
NUTS 1 and 2 (Republic of North Macedonia)	
3.8	Time coverage
From January 2011.	
3.9	Base period
2021=100	
4	Unit of measure
Mil. denars; indices (value and volume indices) and change rates (in nominal and real terms).	
5	Reference period
Month.	
6	Institutional mandate
6.1	Legal acts and other agreements
<p>National: Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/97, 21/07, 51/11, 104/13, 42/14, 192/15, 27/16, 83/18 and 220/18 and "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 31/20) and Programme of Statistical Surveys 2023-2027 ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 29/23 and 57/25).</p> <p>International (Regulations, Standards):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Regulation (EC) No. 1165/98 • Commission Regulation 1503/2006 • Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics • Methodology on Short-term statistics, Eurostat, 2006 • International Recommendation on Distributive Trade Statistics, UNESA, 2008 	
6.2	Data sharing
Indices are transmitted to Eurostat via EDAMIS.	
7	Confidentiality

7.1	Confidentiality - policy
<p>Individual data are protected by the Law on State Statistics.</p> <p>Data collected with statistical surveys from the reporting units or indirectly from administrative or other sources are confidential data and are used only for statistical purposes. Results from the statistical processing may also generate information considered as confidential, for example: anonymised individual data, tables with low level of aggregation, as well as unreleased data.</p> <p>The Policy on Statistical Confidentiality contains the basic principles used in the SSO.</p>	
7.2	Confidentiality - data treatment
<p>In accordance with Article 38 of Law on State Statistics and The Policy on Statistical Confidentiality, individual data are not published.</p>	
8	Release policy
8.1	Release calendar
<p>Data are released in accordance with the Release Calendar, which is published on the web site of the State Statistical Office. The Release Calendar is prepared annually before the beginning of each year.</p>	
8.2	Release calendar access
<p>Release calendar</p> <p>https://www.stat.mk/mk/%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%80-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B0/#</p>	
8.3	User access
<p>In accordance with the Dissemination Policy, all users have equal access to statistical data at the same time. Data are released on the web site at the same time for all users, which are informed with the Release Calendar, and no user has privileged access.</p>	
9	Frequency of dissemination
<p>Monthly.</p>	
10	Accessibility and clarity
10.1	News release
<p>Monthly news release: Trade turnover indices.</p> <p>All New Releases</p>	
10.2	Publications
<p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical Yearbook, 2024 • North Macedonia in figures, 2024 • Monthly Statistical Bulletin, 2024 	
10.3	On-line database
<p>MakStat database-internal trade.</p> <p>PxWeb - Select table</p>	
10.4	Micro-data access
<p>According to the Law on State Statistics (Article 41, Article 42 and Article 43) and the Policy on access to anonymised microdata for scientific purposes, data collected for the purpose of official statistics may be used for scientific purposes if there is no risk of direct or indirect identification, i.e. disclosure of data individuality. Access to microdata is possible only in the safe room at the SSO, based on a submitted and approved request and a signed agreement.</p>	
10.5	Other
<p>The data are sent to Eurostat and published on the website of SSO.</p>	
10.6	Documentation on methodology

The methodological notes are available on the web site of the State Statistical Office.

http://www.stat.gov.mk/MetodoloskiObjasSoop_en.aspx?id=104&rbrObl=26

Methodology for STS, Eurostat, <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/fd45995c-7bfd-4db0-986e-14ac23072343/Methodological%20manual%202006%20KS-BG-06-001-EN.pdf>

10.7 Quality documentation

- Quality report 2024 SSO, on Eurostat

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](#) and the Quality Assurance Framework within the European Statistical System ([ESS Quality Assurance Framework](#)). The quality criteria are also determined in the Law on State Statistics in Article 4b and Article 4c ([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

There are various users such as government agencies and bodies, banks, private business entities, universities, Eurostat. The data are used for analysing economic trends, market analysis, calculation of GDP and for decision-making processes.

12.2 User satisfaction

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

12.3 Completeness

According to STS regulation, all levels of aggregation are calculated and published at national level, and transmitted to Eurostat.

Data completeness rate at national level = 100%.

Data completeness rate for Eurostat = 100%.

13 Accuracy and reliability

13.1 Overall accuracy

Data accuracy is ensured by working on decreasing sampling and non-sampling errors, as well as with additional data comparisons and analysis before dissemination.

13.2 Sampling error

Coefficient of variation for:

Total turnover	3.4
Number of employees	3.1
Hours worked	3.1

Coefficient of variation for total turnover by months:

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
14.4	10.7	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.6	11.4	11.4	10.6	10.3	10.2	10.4

The calculation of the coefficient of variation is made with the SAS software, PROC SURVEYMEANS procedure.

13.3 Non-sampling error

Coverage errors (overcoverage): In this survey, the overcoverage is calculated related to the whole sample.

Measurement errors: The statistical survey on distributive trade turnover is a monthly survey based on a sample. The survey questionnaire is designed in the subject-matter department, based on regulations and methodologies for short-term business statistics. Reporting units are provided with information about

the new survey through a letter, which is distributed once per year, together with the questionnaires. The regional departments for statistics are responsible for data gathering within specified deadlines, while control is made in the Central Office. If some of the reporting units do not respond on time, repeat contact is made by letter or by phone.

Processing errors are minimal and the correction of all errors is done while controlling the responses. There are controls with on-line data editing rules as well as control after data entry.

Non-response errors: item non-response does not exist, while in the case of unit non-response, a specific mathematical procedure for estimation of missing data is used (adjustment unit non-response). No automated imputation is used. The unit response rate (% of received responses from the eligible units) is 71,6%.

14 Timeliness and punctuality

14.1 Timeliness

Retail trade turnover indices are published 30 days after the reference period, as preliminary data (T+30). The final data are published 75 days after the reference year.

14.2 Punctuality

Data are disseminated within the deadlines in accordance with the Release Calendar and timely transmitted to Eurostat.

Length of time for publishing of data, for 2024

Reference month	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Release Calendar date of publishing	29.02	29.03	30.04	31.05	28.06	31.07	31.08	30.09	31.10	29.11	30.12	31.01
Date of publishing of newsrelease	29.02	29.03	30.04	31.05	28.06	31.07	31.08	30.09	31.10	29.11	30.12	31.01
Difference (in days)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

15 Coherence and comparability

15.1 Comparability - geographical

Retail trade turnover indices produced at national level are harmonised with STS regulations. This provides comparability of the national with european data. The data are comparable at level NUTS 1 and 2 (national level).

15.2 Comparability - over time

Since January 2011 there is no gap in the time series. The number of reference periods in the time series is 156.

15.3 Coherence - cross domain

Cross domain coherence is not investigated.

15.4 Coherence - internal

Comparison is made of preliminary and final data. Internal coherence of data is ensured.

16 Cost and burden

The average time for completing the questionnaire is between 13 and 20 minutes.

17 Data revision

17.1 Data revision - policy

In accordance with the [Statistical Data Revision Policy](#).

17.2 Data revision - practice

Survey data are published as preliminary and as final (revised) data. The final (revised) data are published once per year. The Revision was also made in 2017, while changing the base year.

18 Statistical processing

18.1 Source data

Source data: enterprises

Sample frame: The sample frame is taken from the Statistical Business Register and includes enterprises engaged in trade activity (NKD Rev.2, Section G - Trade, Divisions 45, 46, 47).

Stratification criteria: The sample is stratified, and stratification is made on the basis of activity and turnover size. All large and medium-sized enterprises are included in the sample, while the rest are determined randomly.

Sample size: For 2024, the sample size was 1211 enterprises.

Frequency of updating the sample: the sample is updated annually. Large and medium-sized enterprises are kept while those which have closed or changed their activity has been replaced.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Monthly.

18.3 Data collection

Data collection is through E-stat. The questionnaires have to be completed by responsible persons in enterprises or by accounting offices. Also, the questionnaires are collected via e-mail.

18.4 Data validation

Data validation is made in accordance with defined control criteria. Data control is carried out before and after data entry. For any inconsistencies in data, contact is made with the reporting unit. Final results are also under control before publishing.

18.5 Data compilation

After data gathering within specified deadlines, control is made in the Central Office. Data control is made from several aspects such as: timeliness, coverage (whether all reporting units respond), completeness (whether all items have a response) and accuracy. During the data control, which is done manually, all necessary corrections are made. A programme for data editing has been created by the subject-matter department, with on-line data editing rules, so if during data entry some errors occur, the computer will inform about the type of error made and will ask for data correction. After data entry, another control is made in order to check/compare the values with the previous months and accuracy of hours worked for the exact month. For calculation of weights (for grossing up), data on the number of employees are used. In grossing-up procedures, each reporting unit has its own weight, which depends on enterprise activity and turnover size. The deflator is calculated from the Consumer Price Index, which is produced in the Prices Department.

18.6 Adjustment

Seasonal data adjustment is implemented.

19 Comment

A.1 Annexes