Chapter 18: Statistics

The country is **between a moderate and a good level of preparation** in the area of statistics. **Some progress** was made, mainly on labour market and social statistics, national accounts, the update of business classification standards and the provision of additional human and financial resources.

The Commission's recommendations from last year were partially implemented and remain largely valid. In the coming year, North Macedonia should in particular:

→ adopt the law for the agricultural census and conduct the agricultural census, drawing on the dedicated budget allocation and the work undertaken to date;

→ continue ensuring adequate staffing and sufficient financial resources for the State Statistical Office;

→ improve compliance with the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010), remove the flags preventing the publication of government finance statistics (GFS), resolve open issues related to the sectorisation of units, close data gaps in the excessive deficit procedures and government finance statistics, and continue improving the depth of alignment of financial accounts and quarterly national accounts with ESA 2010.

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European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated by EU Member States, guided by the principles and quality criteria elaborated in the Regulation on European statistics, such as professional independence, impartiality, reliability, accessibility and statistical confidentiality. Common rules are provided for the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information, which are further specified in sectoral legislation that constitute the EU acquis on statistics.

The **statistical infrastructure** remains largely aligned with the EU *acquis,* and the statistical law is aligned with the principles of the European statistics Code of Practice. Despite some progress in addressing the long-standing challenging human resources situation at the State Statistical Office (SSO), the SSO continues to suffer from insufficient human and financial resources. Data transmission to Eurostat has continued to improve, notably in national accounts and social statistics.

On **classifications and registers**, the national classification standard is aligned with NACE Rev. 2.1.

As regards **macroeconomic statistics**, annual and quarterly national accounts series have been updated. Gross national income (GNI) is compiled based on ESA 2010 standards, with regular transmission of GNI and GDP data to Eurostat under the ESA 2010 transmission programme. Some progress has been achieved in compiling tax and social contribution data on an accrual basis, and in the experimental development and transmission of table 11 on government expenditure by function (COFOG). However, further improvements are required, particularly regarding the updating of the GNI inventory. The SSO should also resolve the sectorisation of units for the government sector, transmit quarterly GFS data for 2025, as well as data for the ESA tables 27, 28 and 28A, and remove flags that prevent the publication of GFS data, posing broader fiscal transparency challenges. Since December 2025, the National Bank transmits financial accounts data on transactions and balance sheets to Eurostat, but improvements are needed on the completeness of sector accounts and the reconciliation of financial flows with non-financial accounts.

Business and trade statistics continue to be collected regularly, and further work is required to improve data collection and direct reporting on international trade in services and foreign direct investments.

As regards **social statistics**, accuracy increased following a revision of intercensal population estimates based on the 2021 census results, and important improvements were made in labour market, European

Union statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) and European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPRO) data transmission.

Regarding **agricultural statistics**, preparatory work for the agricultural census is advancing but a slow legislative process risks leading to a postponement of the census from 2026 to 2027. The 2026 state budget includes a dedicated allocation for the census, providing a sound financial basis for its execution.

North Macedonia's **energy statistics** are highly compliant. Regarding **environmental statistics**, data are being transmitted to Eurostat for forestry and monetary and physical environmental accounts. **Transport statistics** are highly compliant, but North Macedonia has not yet transmitted passenger mobility data to Eurostat.