



Relevance of European business and trade statistics

Commission "Entreprises et stratégies de marché" du CNIS

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Relevant business and trade statistics for EU policies

- Relevance of statistics = degree to which statistical information meets current and potential needs of the users

⇒ at EU level, users need data on **digital, global, green, inclusive and resilient businesses**

What can still be improved?

- Fill the remaining data gaps
- Make the production of existing business statistics more efficient (better quality, lower costs and burden)
- Make better use of the already existing business and trade statistics

How?

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- New data sources
 - Microdata linking

Possible new data sources

Revision of Reg. 223/2009:

- key elements of the [proposal](#), a.o.:
 - Access for NSIs to privately-held data;
 - ESS statistical response in times of crisis (e.g. European statistics on new data collections);
 - Enhanced sharing of data among NSIs (and with EC);
- Commission proposal was adopted on 10 July 2023; discussions ongoing in Council Working Party Statistics and to be started with European Parliament
- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**
 - Use of bank card data for measuring e-commerce and retail trade: dedicated Task Force
 - Investigate alternative sources for other ICT indicators
 - Reproduce the approach for short-term stay accommodation for other sectors of the

ESAP - European Single Access Point

- Nov 2021, EC proposed a [draft Regulation](#) setting up ESAP for public information on financial services/capital markets/sustainable finance.
- the proposal foresees that ESMA will allow EU institutions and ESS members (as defined in Art 4 of Reg 223/2009) to have direct and free access to ESAP.
- Co-legislators reached a provisional agreement; adoption by EP and Council is still pending, but an entry into force is expected by the end of 2023;
- ESAP portal expected to be launched in 2027.
- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**
 - Easier access to public information
 - Use of legal entity identifier, where available
 - Data extractable format

CSRD - Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

- Dir. 2022/2464 - adopted Dec 2022 and into force since Jan 2023;
- CSRD requires large companies and listed SMEs, as well as parent companies of large groups (ca. 50 000 in total), to include in their management report company's sustainability information (environmental & social impact; business conduct), and how sustainability matters affect performance and development.
- companies to apply the new rules for financial year 2024, for reports published in 2025
- content & structure of sustainability-related information to be specified in DA - European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS);
- [ESRS DA](#) has been adopted on 31 July 2023.

- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**

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- New source of data on green and inclusive European businesses will become available

Country by Country Reports in the frame of the Business Erosion – Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative

- [Council Directive 2016/ 881](#) obliges multinational enterprise groups (MNE) with consolidated revenues above EUR 750 million to follow the OECD BEPS guidance
- Annual Country-by-Country Reports by Ultimate parent entities:
 - with aggregate data on the global allocation of revenue, profit before income tax, income tax paid, number of employees, stated capital, accumulated earning and tangible assets among tax jurisdictions in which they do business, and,
 - identifying each entity within the group doing business in a particular tax jurisdiction and their activities
- Report is shared with national tax authorities in which MNE is active
- Currently, access to these data by NSIs is still limited, but many NSIs are negotiating with national tax authority
- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**

- Improving quality of business and other statistics on MNEs; new statistics on financial indicators

Short-term rentals

- Nov 2022 European Commission tabled a (non-statistical) proposal on data collection/sharing linked to short-term accommodation rental services;
- Trilogues between European Parliament, Council and European Commission to start
- The proposal includes a.o. the following relevant provisions:
 - 📄 Obligation on online short-term rental platforms to collect monthly and transmit activity data (per unit) and the corresponding hosts registration numbers;
 - 📄 Obligation of MS to transmit monthly aggregated data sets, based on the available activity data together with information on the total number of units and on the maximum number of guests that the unit can accommodate in each geographical subdivision, to NSIs & Eurostat.
- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**

Net Zero industry act

- March 2023, EC proposed a [draft Regulation NZIA](#) to strengthen the manufacturing of net-zero technology products (e.g. solar panels; batteries; wind turbines; photovoltaic cells) and components;
- Draft NZIA foresees that MS will need to collect/report annual data a.o. on:
 - 📁 net-zero technology developments and market trends, including average manufacturing investment costs and production costs, and market prices for the respective net-zero technologies;
 - 📁 net-zero technology manufacturing capacity and related activities, including data on employment and skills;
 - 📁 value and volume of imports into the Union and exports outside of the Union of net-zero technologies;
 - 📁 Number of permits to build, expand and operate net-zero technology manufacturing projects.
- Currently NZIA discussed in Council and European Parliament

Critical Raw Materials act

- March 2023, EC proposed a [draft Regulation CRMA](#) to set up a framework for ensuring secure and sustainable supply of CRM (incl. list of CRM);
 - 📁 strengthen European CRM value chains;
 - 📁 diversify the EU's imports of CRM to reduce strategic dependencies;
 - 📁 Monitor/identify future risks of disruptions to the supply of CRM.
- CRMA foresees that the information gathered in MS for implementing the Reg. can be used for compiling statistics (Art.20(3))
- Council adopted its negotiation position which includes extending the list of strategic and critical raw materials; European Parliament still needs to adopt its report

- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**

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- Additional data for assessing resilience of EU economy and strategic dependencies could

BRIS/Upgrading Digital Company Law

➤ March 2023, EC proposed a [draft EP/Council Directive on upgrading digital company law](#):

📄 foresees that, key company information (partnerships, groups of companies, single shareholders of single-member companies, the place of central administration and the principal place of business of companies, EU branches of non-EU companies) will be publicly available at EU level through BRIS (Business Registers Interconnection System);

📄 aims to ensure more reliable and updated information is in business registers through administrative or judicial control, uniform check of company information before it is entered in business registers;

📄 reduce the administrative burden on companies (e.g. companies will not need to re-submit the information already available in their business register, which will be exchanged through BRIS);

📄 Eurostat is discussing with DG JUST possibility to get access to the BRIS database.

- **Opportunities for business and trade statistics:**

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- More reliable and up-to-date information in national statistical business registers and

Microdata linking

Microdata linking (MDL) (1/2)

- EBS are confronted with:
 - new (ad-hoc) user needs for data to support policies which need to be answered swiftly, and at the same time,
 - a continuing call to limit/reduce the administrative burden on businesses

⇒MDL:

- ⇒is a powerful method of combining already available micro-data on given entities such as enterprises, individuals or a combination of both from surveys, administrative and other sources
- ⇒provides huge potential for keeping the respondents' burden at bay
- ⇒addresses in a timely and flexible manner new user demands for more data
- ⇒provides opportunities for creating new insights and to develop new statistics and indicators with already existing data sets
- ⇒has been used successfully in the past (e.g. TEC and STEC statistics)

Microdata linking (MDL) (2/2)

- Feasibility of MDL proven by successful national projects and cooperation projects between countries
- Almost all MS (except two) participated in Eurostat MDL projects:
 - 16 Eurostat MDL projects are either completed, ongoing or planned for the near future
 - They use(d) NSBRs, SBS, BD, FATS, GVC, ITGS, ITSS
 - Results were presented in Statistics Explained articles, accompanied by news items
 - Coverage of MS in individual projects is relatively small

=>However, situation and know-how in the ESS is very diverse regarding the active use of MDL techniques with some having more practical experience and well-established infrastructure than others

14 =>Discussions with Member States to agree on a sustainable ESS MDL approach and work programme for concrete statistical outputs

Conclusion

European business statistics

- continue its work on investigating new sources to produce new business and trade statistics, improve the quality of existing statistics and limit administrative burden on respondents
 - Early estimates for some short-term business statistics (ESS Innovation Agenda lighthouse project)
 - Task Force to examine possible use of bank card data
- Fully reap benefits of microdata linking approach to provide policy makers with new insights on European businesses
 - MDL linking EuroGroups Register and Structural Business Statistics (ESS Innovation Agenda cross-cutting project)
 - Discussion with Business Statistics Directors of Member States to establish a sustainable MDL approach and work programme