



**An  
Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

# **Standard SIMS Report: Business Demography**



# **Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report**

**For**

## **Business Demography**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:  
**2023**

Last edited: 11/12/2025



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## 2. Introduction

The primary purpose of Business Demography is to provide estimates of numbers of enterprises and numbers of persons engaged in the private Business economy. The series provides valuable information on enterprise life cycles and enterprise mortality.

## 3. Contact

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## 4. Metadata Update

### 4.1. Metadata last certified

12/12/2025

### 4.2. Metadata last posted

15/12/2025

### 4.3. Metadata last update

12/12/2025



## 5. Statistical Presentation

### 5.1. Data Description

Business Demography produces information on numbers of enterprises, enterprise births and deaths and survival rates and related employment figures.

### 5.2. Classification System

The release includes the private business economy which covers NACE Rev.2 sectors B - S (excluding O and S94).

The full list of NACE Rev.2 sectors covered is:

B – Mining and Quarrying, NACE Rev.2 codes 05-09

C – Manufacturing, NACE Rev.2 codes 10-33

D – Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply, NACE Rev.2 code 35

E – Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste management and Remediation Activities, NACE Rev.2 codes 36-39

F – Construction, NACE Rev.2 codes 41-43 G – Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, NACE Rev.2 codes 45-47

H – Transportation and Storage, NACE Rev.2 codes 49-53

I – Accommodation and Food Service Activities, NACE Rev.2 codes 55 and 56

J – Information and Communication, NACE Rev.2 codes 58-63

K – Financial and Insurance Activities, NACE Rev.2 codes 64-66

L – Real Estate Activities, NACE Rev.2 code 68

M – Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities, NACE Rev.2 codes 69-75

N – Administrative and Support Service Activities, NACE Rev.2 codes 77-82

P – Education, NACE Rev. 2 code 85

Q – Human Health and Social Work Activities, NACE Rev. 2 codes 86-88

R – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation, NACE Rev. 2 codes 90-93

S – Other Service Activities (excludes NACE code 94 Activities of Membership Organisations), NACE Rev. 2 codes 95-96

**The composition of sectors** used in the graphs illustrated in the release is as follows:

- Services: Sectors H, I, J, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, NACE Rev. 2 codes 49-53, 55-56, 58-63, 68, 69-75, 77-82, 85, 86-88, 90-93, 95-96

- Distribution: Sector G, NACE Rev. 2 codes 45-47

- Industry: Sectors B, C, D, E, NACE Rev. 2 codes 05-09, 10-33, 35, 36-39

- Construction: Sector F - NACE Rev. 2 codes 41-43

- Financial Service Activities: Sector K, NACE Rev. 2 codes 64-66

### Tourism Enterprises/Industries

For this release, Tourism Industries is derived from a list of NACE Rev. 2 activities developed by Eurostat.

This list comprises of:

H4910 Passenger rail transport, interurban

H4932 Taxi operation

H4939 Other passenger land transport n.e.c.

H5010 Sea and coastal passenger water transport

H5030 Inland passenger water transport

H5110 Passenger air transport

I5510 Hotels and similar accommodation

I5520 Holiday and other short-stay accommodation

I5530 Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks



I5610	Restaurants and mobile food service activities
I5630	Beverage serving activities
N7710	Renting and leasing of cars and trucks
N7721	Renting and leasing of recreational and sports goods
N7910	Travel agency and tour operator activities
N7990	Other reservation service and related activities

### 5.3. Sector Coverage

All enterprises in NACE Rev 2 sectors B - S (excluding O and S94).

### 5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

**Enterprises:** An enterprise is considered to be active in a certain period if it generates turnover, employs staff or makes investments in that period.

**Enterprise Deaths:** An enterprise death amounts to the dissolution of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Deaths do not include exits from the population due to mergers, takeovers, break-ups or restructuring of a set of enterprises. It does not include exits from a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity.

An enterprise is included in the count of deaths only if it is not reactivated within two years.

**Enterprise Births:** An enterprise birth amounts to the creation of a combination of production factors with the restriction that no other enterprises are involved in the event. Births do not include entries into the population due to mergers, break-ups, split-off or restructuring of a set of enterprises. It does not include entries into a sub-population resulting only from a change of activity.

A birth occurs when an enterprise starts from scratch and actually starts activity. An enterprise creation can be considered an enterprise birth if new production factors, in particular new jobs, are created. If a dormant unit is reactivated within two years, this event is not considered a birth.

**Persons employed:** include employees, proprietors and family members. Persons engaged are the sum of Employees plus Working Proprietors.

- **Employees** are persons who are paid a fixed wage or salary.
- **Working Proprietors (Proprietors and family members);** included here are those proprietors, partners, etc and members of their families who work regularly in the firm and are not paid a definite wage or salary. Working Proprietors is not a full count of self-employed individuals as some self-employed receive a wage and are returned via annual employment returns and are included in the Employees calculation.

**Small and Medium Enterprises** are defined as enterprises with less than 250 persons engaged. The persons employed breakdown provided in the figures are;

Less than 10: Micro Enterprises

10 – 49: Small Enterprises

50 – 249: Medium Enterprises

250+: Large Enterprises.

**Geographical Breakdown** the geographical breakdown for enterprises is an approximation. The county breakdown is based on the address at which an enterprise is registered for Revenue purposes, rather than where the business actually operates from, because no comprehensive administrative data source is currently available for business locations. In particular, where an enterprise has local units in several counties, but one head office where all employment is registered, all its employees will be counted against the county where the head office is located. Enterprises where the county location is categorised as



Unknown generally have Revenue registered addresses outside of the Republic of Ireland. However, the employees registered with these addresses are working in Ireland.

## 5.5. Statistical Unit

The population of active enterprises are counted as statistical units along with persons employed.

## 5.6. Statistical Population

Active enterprises for the reference year.

## 5.7. Reference Area

Ireland

## 5.8. Time Coverage

2008 - 2023

## 5.9. Base period

Not applicable

## 6. Unit of Measure

Persons employed expressed as integer numbers  
Enterprises expressed as integer numbers

## 7. Reference Period

2023

## 8. Institutional Mandate

### 8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Business demography is a national requirement. Findings are shared with Eurostat under Regulation (EU) No 295/2008.

Council Regulation (EC) Number 295/2008 concerning Structural Business Statistics

### 8.2. Data Sharing

*Not on CSO Standard Quality Report*

## 9. Confidentiality

### 9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.



These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lqdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

## 9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All demography data has to pass Eurostat confidentiality checks before it is released. No data is released where an individual or an individual enterprise can actually or potentially be identified.

# 10. Release Policy

## 10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

## 10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie), or directly from this link:  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

## 10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests.

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website ([www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

# 11. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual.

# 12. Accessibility and clarity

## 12.1. News release

There is no news release associated with this release

## 12.2. Publications

The business demography is published annually as an electronic release by CSO. The release can be accessed directly from this link;  
<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/businessdemography/>



### 12.3. On-line database

<https://data.cso.ie/product/BD>

### 12.4. Micro-data Access

Microdata are not publicly available.

### 12.5. Other

Business Demography also provides a basis for the Business in Ireland annual report. The latest release of this report can be found in: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/businessinireland/>

Business Demography figures at an EU level for 2023 (the latest year for which figures are available) can be accessed as follows:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/explore/all/icts?lang=en&subtheme=bsd.bd&display=list&sort=category>

#### 12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

### 12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Background Notes and Quality Reports are available on the CSO website at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/enterprisestatistics/businessdemography/>

#### 12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

### 12.7. Quality Documentation

Background Notes and Quality Reports are available on the CSO website at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/enterprisestatistics/businessdemography/>

## 13. Quality Management

### 13.1. Quality Assurance

#### Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

## 14. Relevance

### 14.1. User Needs

Business Demography compiled to meet national and EU requirements. This data supplements the Structural Business Statistics series and also forms the basis for weighting and deriving other business statistics.



#### **14.1.1. Main National Users**

- Structural Business Statistics Division – CSO
- Research centres and universities/students
- The general public
- The media
- Other public bodies

#### **14.1.2. Principal External Users**

Eurostat

### **14.2. User Satisfaction**

No user satisfaction survey was conducted.

### **14.3. Data Completeness**

Business Demography figures are produced by the CSO to satisfy EU requirements

#### **14.3.1. Data Completeness rate**

100%

## **15. Accuracy and reliability**

### **15.1. Overall accuracy**

Relevant data is based on Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Employment returns. The quality of Business Demography data is heavily reliant on the quality of administrative data received. In particular, use of such data allows for a more comprehensive analysis of small enterprises. Furthermore, administrative data counts active revenue registrations as active legal units. In the majority of cases these legal units equate to individual enterprises, but in some instances multiple legal units can equal a single enterprise.

It should also be noted that the geographical breakdown given is an approximation. The county breakdown is based on the address at which an enterprise is registered for Revenue purposes, rather than where the business actually operates from, because no comprehensive administrative source is currently available for business locations. In particular, where an enterprise has local units in several counties, but one head office where all employment is registered, all its employees will be counted against the county where the head office is located. Enterprises with unknown supplied generally have Revenue registered addresses outside of the Republic of Ireland. However, the employees registered with these addresses are working in the Republic of Ireland.

Currently, Business Demography data does not completely cover all business sectors. NACE Rev.2 sectors B – S (excluding O and S94) are published. This is primarily because difficulties arise from the absence of a unique business identifier across all public administration systems.

### **15.2. Sampling Error**

Not applicable.

#### **15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator**

Not applicable.



### **15.3. Non-sampling Error**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.1. Coverage error**

Not applicable.

##### **15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate**

Not applicable.

##### **15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.2. Measurement error**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.3. Non-Response Error**

Not applicable.

##### **15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate**

Not applicable.

##### **15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate**

Not applicable.

#### **15.3.4. Processing error**

Not applicable

#### **15.3.5. Model assumption error**

Not applicable.

## **16. Timeliness and punctuality**

### **16.1. Timeliness**

Business Demography is published approximately 18 months after the end of the reference year.

#### **16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results**

Not applicable.

#### **16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results**

18 Months.



## 16.2. Punctuality

The publication dates of all CSO releases are specified in the public release calendar available from CSO.ie. The 'Business Demography' release was disseminated in accordance with the date determined in the calendar.

### 16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days, the release was delivered within the time frame specified in the release calendar.

## 17. Comparability

### 17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable.

#### 17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

### 17.2. Comparability over time

This Business Demography series was started in 2021 following an EBS regulation update.

#### 17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

3 years.

### 17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Business Demography examines annual changes in terms of employment and activity. These figures are coherent with other Structural Business Statistics.

#### **Comparison of Business Demography and Labour Force Survey employment levels:**

The primary classification used for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) results is the International Labour Office (ILO) labour force classification. Labour Force Survey data on this basis have been published since 1988. The ILO classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 or over  
*In Employment:* Persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.

*Unemployed:* Persons who, in the week before the survey, were without work and available for work within the next two weeks, and had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work. It should be noted that as per Eurostat's operational implementation, the upper age limit for classifying a person as unemployed is 74 years.

*Inactive Population (not in labour force):* All other persons.

The labour force comprises persons employed plus unemployed. Persons in employment classify their employment status as being self-employed, employee, assisting relative/family worker or on a state sponsored employment scheme. Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind. Self-employed persons who pay themselves a working wage are classified as self-employed in the LFS.

*Key Differences between LFS and Business Demography figures include:*

- Business Demography is based purely on administrative data received from Revenue on a monthly basis.
- LFS is based on survey data which is collected every quarter from the household.
- Business Demography does not cap employment at 1 or at any value for an individual. Business Demography employment is a count of persons engaged at an enterprise and sector level. All work conducted by an individual over an annual period is included in the relevant enterprise (and therefore sector) in which they worked, on the basis of weeks (not hours) worked.



- LFS caps employment at 2 for an individual in relation to full time equivalence only, therefore it takes into consideration a person's first and second job. Otherwise employment is capped at one for an individual.

- Timing issues. As stated, LFS is conducted on a quarterly basis while Business Demography is conducted over a yearly basis. LFS also takes into account the hours worked by an individual and uses these values in full time equivalent employment calculations. Business Demography operates on a weeks worked basis from files received from Revenue. If an individual is classed as working 52 weeks in a reference period for an enterprise, they are classed as 1 employee (no hours worked is taken into consideration), irrespective of how many hours they have actually worked in those weeks.

#### **17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics**

Not applicable

#### **17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts**

Not applicable

### **17.4. Coherence – internal**

Not noted on CSO Standard

## **18. Cost and Burden**

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer

<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat.

<https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

## **19. Data Revision**

### **19.1. Data Revision Policy**

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>



## 19.2. Data Revision Practice

The enterprise population figures for reference years 2008 – 2012 were revised in 2016 and published along with the figures for reference years 2013 and 2014 in July 2016. Further details regarding this revision are available at:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/businessdemography/Businessdemoginformatinnotice.pdf>

### 19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

## 20. Statistical processing

### 20.1. Source Data

Business Register and certain associated administrative data supplied by the Revenue Commissioners.

#### 20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

Active enterprises for the reference year.

#### 20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

#### 20.1.3. Survey size

Administrative data, census of all active enterprises in the reference year.

#### 20.1.4. Survey technique

Not applicable.

### 20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

### 20.3. Data Collection

The data for Business Demography are based on data derived from the CSO Central Business Register, a register of all active enterprises in the State.

#### 20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

No survey is involved as the production of Business Demography data depends on the receipt and loading of certain administrative data to the Central Business Register (CBR).

#### 20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

#### 20.3.3. Survey Participation

Not applicable.



#### 20.3.4. Data Capture

Administrative data are processed by the Business Register section and a yearly frame of active enterprises created. This frame is then used as a basis for Business Demography

### 20.4. Data Validation

Internal checks are in place for all data added to the register. These include CRO, Revenue and various survey update checks. Business Demography figures are passed through Eurostat's confidentiality tools to make sure all confidentiality requirements are respected.

### 20.5. Data Compilation

**The number of active enterprises** in year t (reference year) cannot be calculated from previous active enterprise figures and births and deaths figures. e.g. the number of active enterprises in year t does not equal the number of active enterprises in year t-1, minus deaths in t-1 plus births in year t. Birth calculations involve profiling work where real births are checked and weights applied based on checks conducted (a similar process is conducted for death calculations). In addition, final enterprise deaths take two years to be finalised, therefore enterprises may not be in enterprise totals in one year but could be in the next year and may still not be considered an enterprise birth or death.

**Employees** are calculated using a monthly employment return received from Revenue, the PAYE Modernisation (PMOD) dataset. PMOD has been operational in the State since 1 January 2019. The monthly returns contain all registered employers and the number of employees they have paid a wage or salary during each month of the year. The employee count for Business Demography from 2019 onwards is the average employment figure over the period, based on the monthly PMOD returns for each individual enterprise.

The file can contain individuals paid a wage by an employer as well as self-employed individuals who pay themselves a working wage. An individual may be counted more than once for a reference year if they work multiple jobs in that reference year. The monthly employment returns from Revenue contains persons at work or temporarily absent because of illness, holidays, strike etc. If an individual is paid a wage for any segment of a reference year they can be included in the overall figures.

Results are aggregated and published by activity, county, employment size and legal form.

#### 20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

##### 20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

#### 20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

### 20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

#### 20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.



## 21. Comment