

Glossary

Administrative data

Administrative data are data originally collected for non-statistical purpose. Control of the methods by which the administrative data are collected and processed rests with the administrative agency. In most cases the administrative authority will be a government unit.

Business

Business describes a type of enterprise, namely a commercial enterprise or legal unit with commercial economic activity.

Enterprise

An enterprise is an institutional unit in its capacity as a producer of goods and services. It is an economic transactor with autonomy in respect of financial and investment decision-making, as well as authority and responsibility for allocating resources for the production of goods and services. It may be engaged in one or more productive activities. An enterprise may be a corporation (or quasi-corporation), an NPI or an unincorporated enterprise. The enterprise is the level of statistical unit at which information relating to its transactions, including financial and balance-sheet accounts, are maintained, and from which international transactions, an international investment position (when applicable), consolidated financial position and net worth can be derived.

Enterprise group

An enterprise group is an association of enterprises bound together by legal and/ or financial links. A group of enterprises can have more than one decision-making centre, especially for policy on production, sales and profit. It may centralize certain aspects of financial management and taxation. It constitutes an economic unit which is empowered to make choices, in particular concerning the units which it comprises. An enterprise group is a set of enterprises controlled by the group head.

Establishment

An establishment is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that is situated in a single location and in which only a single (non-ancillary) productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added.

EuroGroups Register (EGR)

The EGR builds a framework of registers, consisting of a central register kept at Eurostat and registers in each European Union member state and in EFTA countries. The central register contains information about multinational enterprise groups, which have statistically relevant financial and non-financial transnational operations in at least one of the European countries. Registers in the European Union member States and in EFTA countries contain information regarding multinational enterprise groups active in the respective countries and are fully consistent with the central register.

The aim of the EGR network is to hold a complete, accurate, consistent and up-to-date set of linked and coordinated statistical registers, which offer compilers a common frame of multinational enterprise groups, global as well as truncated national groups, operating in the economy of the European Union and EFTA countries, together with their constituent legal units and enterprises and the ownership and control relationships between legal units.

Head office

Historical data come into existence when a unit has ceased and is not dormant (temporary inactive). For the purpose of reconstructing demographic events the record needs to be marked historical and not to be deleted physically.

Identifier

An identifier has the purpose of identifying a unit and linking it with other units in the register and with administrative and statistical sources. The identity number of a legal unit can be either specific to the SBR or an external one, common or shared with other institutions in the Member State, a so-called unique identifier.

Kind-of-activity unit (KAU)

A KAU is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that engages in only one kind of productive activity or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added. Compared with the establishment, in the case of such a unit, there is no restriction on the geographical area in which the activity is carried out but it is characterized by homogeneity of activity. Compared with the establishment, on the geographic area in which the activity is carried out but it is characterized by homogeneity of activity.

Legal unit

Legal units include:

- Legal persons whose existence is recognized by law independently of the individuals or institutions which may own them or are members of them.
- Natural persons who are engaged in an economic activity in their own right.

The legal unit is usually recorded in one or more administrative sources. The sources used for SBRs do not necessarily provide identical views of legal units. These units may vary both between different sources within a country and between countries. Thus, the legal unit is not suitable as a statistical unit, particularly for international comparisons. The characteristics of a legal unit are: it owns goods or assets, it incurs liabilities and it enters into contracts. The legal unit always forms, either by itself or sometimes in combination with other legal units, the basis for the statistical unit known as the “enterprise”

LEI

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions and other official interactions.

Local unit

A local unit is an enterprise or part of an enterprise (e.g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) that is engaged in productive activity at or from one location. The definition has only one dimension in that it does not refer to the kind of activity that is carried out.

Statistical Business Register (SBR)

The SBR is a comprehensive, regularly updated and structured list of business units engaged in the production of goods and services, which is maintained by national statistical authorities for statistical purposes to assist in the compilation of statistical data and particularly as a (backbone) tool for the preparation and coordination of surveys, as a source of information for statistical analysis of the business population and its demography, for the use of administrative data, and for the identification and construction of statistical units.

Unincorporated enterprise

An unincorporated enterprise represents the production activity of a government unit, NPISH or household that cannot be treated as the production activity of a quasi-corporation. An unincorporated enterprise is a producer unit which is not incorporated as a legal unit separate from the owner (household, government or foreign resident); the fixed and other assets used in unincorporated enterprises do not belong to the enterprises but to their owners, the enterprises as such cannot engage in transactions with other economic units nor can they enter into contractual relationships with

other units nor incur liabilities on their own behalf; in addition, their owners are personally liable, without limit, for any debts or obligations incurred in the course of production.