

National Accounts

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure

(ESMS)

INSTAT

Reference Metadata

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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	26/11/2018
2.2. Metadata last posted	26/11/2018
2.3. Metadata last update	16/04/2019
3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	<p>National accounts data concern all data produced and disseminated for an economy according to the definitions and guidelines of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). National accounts provide data for the total economy, but may also include breakdowns of the total economy (into sectors, industries, products, regions, etc.). National accounts provide data for several domains: annual and quarterly national accounts (main aggregates), sector accounts, financial accounts, supply and use and input-output tables, regional accounts and government finance statistics. One of the main aggregates of national accounts is the change rate of the price-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP), which indicates the economic development of a country of region and is also referred to as economic growth rate. INSTAT publishes data in its online webpage. National accounts data are presented in the section "Economy and finance" and organised into the following collections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Accounts GDP • Supply,Use and Input-Output tables

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Accounts in Albania • Fiscal Statistics • Banking Statistics • Annual Accounts by Institutional Sector <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
3.2. Classification system	<p>The ESA 2010 provides a methodology on common standards, definitions, internationally harmonised classifications and accounting rules that are used for compiling national accounts on comparable bases.</p> <p>The ESA 2010 defines classifications to be used for: institutional sectors, transactions in products, transactions in non-financial non-produced assets, distributive transactions, transactions in financial assets and liabilities, other changes in assets, balancing and net worth items, balance sheet entries, non-financial assets, financial assets and liabilities.</p> <p>In addition, for several breakdowns ESA 2010 makes use of other classifications: NACE Rev. 2 for economic activities, CPA 2008 for products by economic activities, COFOG for the functions of government, COICOP for individual consumption by purpose, COPNI for classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households, NUTS 2013 for regional breakdowns.</p>
3.3. Sector coverage	<p>National accounts describe the total economy of a country. All units that have their centre of predominant economic interest in the economic territory of that country are covered. In addition, several breakdowns of the total are described. Two of the most important breakdowns are the breakdown by institutional sector and the breakdown by NACE Rev. 2 activity. Exhaustiveness is required for each of the breakdown items.</p> <p>Concerning the institutional sector breakdown, ESA 2010 distinguishes five mutually exclusive domestic institutional sectors: (a) non-financial corporations; (b) financial corporations; (c) general government; (d) households; (e) non-profit institutions serving households. The five sectors together make up the total domestic economy. Each sector is also divided into subsectors.</p> <p>Regarding the activity breakdown, ESA 2010 applies NACE Rev.2. Activities can be broken down into several levels of detail, for example into 3, 10, 21, 38, 64 or 88 activities. At the 'highest' level a breakdown into 3 categories is defined: (a) agriculture, forestry and fishing; (b) mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity gas steam and air conditioning supply, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities, construction; (c) services.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	<p>All statistical concepts and definitions to be used in national accounts are described in Annex A of the ESA 2010 Regulation (link to blue book on</p>

[ESA2010 methodology](#)). The two main sets of tables concern: (a) the institutional sector accounts; (b) the input-output framework, and the accounts by industry.

The sector accounts provide, by institutional sector, a systematic description of the different stages of the economic process: production, generation of income, distribution of income, redistribution of income, use of income and financial and nonfinancial accumulation. The sector accounts also include balance sheets to describe the stocks of assets, liabilities and net worth at the beginning and the end of the accounting period. The variables/concepts described in the sector accounts include transactions in products, transactions in non-produced non-financial assets, distributive transactions, transactions in financial assets and liabilities, other changes in assets, non-financial and financial assets and liabilities.

The input-output framework, through the supply and use tables, sets out in more detail the production process (cost structure, income generated and employment) and the flows of goods and services (output, imports, exports, final consumption, intermediate consumption and capital formation by product group). These variables are broken down by industry (NACE Rev. 2) and product ([CPA 2008](#)).

ESA 2010 also encompasses concepts of population and employment. Such concepts are relevant for the sector accounts, the accounts by industry and the supply and use framework. Regional accounts provide regional breakdowns for major aggregates such as gross value added by industry, gross fixed capital formation and household income.

Regional breakdowns are based on the NUTS classification. National accounts concepts are also used for regional accounts.

In addition Annex A of the ESA 2010 Regulation addresses and defines numerous other concepts and definitions, such as the definition of: statistical units and their groupings, flows and stocks, accounting rules (valuation, time of recording, consolidation and netting). The main features and principles for the compilation of national accounts can be found in Chapter 1.

Albania as a candidate country for EU accession has begun the implementation of ESA 2010 during year 2014. The National Accounts have implemented some of the new methodological changes as:

- Extension of the estimates for the financial sector, including all financial institutions for which data are available based on the new classification of the ESA 2010 and SNA 2008.
- Application of a new method for calculating financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM).
- Evaluation of the production of the Bank of Albania score based on the distinction to be made between the production of market and non-market according to SNA 2008 / ESA 2010.
- Review of the definition for the production of insurance companies that offer non-life insurance.
- Methodological applications under the ESA in 2010 for the evaluation of expenditure indicators (treatment of final consumption of households according to COICOP 2 digit, treatment Gross fixed capital formation

	<p>by type of assets, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation and dissemination of Supply and Use Tables (SUTs), for the reference year 2014, in line with transmission programme of data (ESA 2010) requirements, which offer detailed portrait of an economy and are an important instrument in analyzing and creating statistical models. These tables describe sources and uses of products and inter-industry relations in economy. Compilation and dissemination of tables is done 3 years after the reference years (t+3) in line with transmission programme of data (ESA 2010) requirements. Supply and use tables at current are published annually, while SUT in constant prices (PYP) are compiled experimentally for year 2013 -2015. The input-output tables are compiled on a five-year basis (for reference years ending 0 and 5). <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
3.5. Statistical unit	<p>Following the ESA 2010 guidelines, in national accounts two types of units and two corresponding ways of subdividing the economy are used: (a) institutional unit; (b) local kind-of-activity unit (local KAU). The first type is used for describing income, expenditure and financial flows as well as balance sheets. The second type of units is used for the description of production processes, for input-output analysis and for regional analysis. An institutional unit is an economic entity characterized by decision-making autonomy in the exercise of its principal function. A resident unit is regarded as constituting an institutional unit in the economic territory where it has its center of predominant economic interest if it has decision-making autonomy and either keeps a complete set of accounts, or is able to compile a complete set of accounts.</p> <p>In the Albanian national accounts, the production account is based on enterprise unit; the regional accounts on LKAU. In the sector accounts, the institutional unit is the enterprise unit.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
3.6. Statistical population	<p>The national accounts population of a country consists of all resident statistical units (enterprise unit, LKAU, see section 3.5). A unit is a resident unit of a country when it has a center of predominant economic interest on the economic territory of that country, that is, when it engages for an extended period (one year or more) in economic activities on this territory.</p> <p>National accounts are exhaustive. This means that all resident statistical units are covered.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
3.7. Reference area	<p>The reference area for national accounts is the total economy of a country. The total economy of a country can be broken down into regions. The NUTS classification provides a single, uniform breakdown of the economic territory of the Member States of the EU. The regional accounts are compiled by NUTS</p>

	<p>2/3 level.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
<p>3.8. Time coverage</p>	<p>National accounts data are usually compiled for years and quarters.</p> <p>In general, the ESA 2010 transmission programme requires data starting in 1995 (years) and 1995Q1 (quarters) but some series start later. If backwards data exist, they may have been compiled according to earlier versions of ESA and can present conceptual breaks with those compiled under ESA2010.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19</p>
<p>3.9. Base period</p>	<p>The concept of 'base period' is not applied in national accounts. Instead, for some national accounts variables the concepts of previous year prices and chain-linked volumes are applied, as stipulated in Commission Decision 98/715/EC. Expressing variables at the prices of the previous year allows the calculation of volume indices between the current time period and the previous year. After a reference period is chosen as a benchmark, volume indices can be chain-linked and then applied to variables at current prices of the benchmark year. This generates volume estimates for any period of observation.</p> <p>Currently Albania uses chain-linking of quarterly GDP data with fixed reference period (2010=100) allowing different periods to be compared in a consistent manner and provide measures of long-run changes. Chain-linking of quarterly figures is performed using the Annual Overlap technique, i.e. figures at previous year's prices are scaled down to the average price level of the chosen reference year using annual deflators.</p>
<p>4. Unit of measure</p>	<p>With the exception of some variables concerning population and labour that are usually expressed in number of persons, hours or jobs, the ESA 2010 system shows all flows and stocks in monetary terms: in euros or other national currency. Flows and stocks shall be measured according to their exchange value, i.e. the value at which flows and stocks are in fact, or could be, exchanged for cash. Market prices are, thus, the ESA's reference for valuation.</p> <p>In addition to measurement in current (market) prices, some national accounts variables are also expressed in previous year's prices and chain-linked volumes, see section 3.9. Furthermore, it is possible to derive growth rates and indices, and various other measures '(e.g. percentages, per capita data, data expressed in purchasing power standards)' can be applied as well.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
<p>5. Reference period</p>	<p>The usual reference period to be used for presenting national accounts data is the calendar year for annual data and the quarter for quarterly data.</p> <p>Two basic kinds of information are recorded: flows and stocks. Flows refer to</p>

actions and effects of events that take place within a given period of time (year or quarter), while stocks refer to positions at a point of time (usually the beginning or end of a year or quarter).

The Albanian data includes the following: 2010 as reference year for yearly accounts and T-1 as reference year for quarterly accounts.

6. Institutional mandate

National accounts are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts ([ESA 2010](#)) which was published in the Official Journal as Annex A of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

The ESA 2010 transmission programme is covered in Annex B. The ESA 2010 has the form of a [Regulation](#) and it provides for:

- methodology (Annex A) on common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules that shall be used for compiling accounts and tables on comparable bases ([link to blue book on ESA 2010 methodology](#));
- programme of data transmission (Annex B) setting out the time limits by which Member States shall transmit to Eurostat the accounts and tables ([link to ESA 2010 transmission programme](#)).

Temporary derogations to the data transmission requirements have been granted to Member States, up to 2020, by the [Commission Implementing Decision 2014/403/EU of 26 June 2014](#) thus allowing national data to deviate temporarily from the ESA 2010 transmission requirements.

Some other legal acts with relevance for national accounts concern:

- Commission Decision 98/715 of 30 November 1998 and Commission Decision 2002/990 of 17 December 2002 on measurement of price and volumes in national accounts.
- Legal act on the excessive deficit procedure

Several separate acts, often regarding classifications such as: NACE Rev.2, CPA 2008, COFOG, COICOP, NUTS 2013.

On the Eurostat website, sections 'National accounts' and 'Government finance and EDP', more legal acts relevant for national accounts can be found.

In Albania, INSTAT is the most important agency for the collection of Albanian macro-economic statistics. INSTAT undertakes most of data collection and compilation, with the main exception being that Balance of Payments (BoP), banking sector data is responsibility of the Bank of Albania (BoA), and government statistics is collected by the Ministry of Finances (MoF). The institution has at its disposal the following instruments to plan, direct and monitor statistical activities in the country:

- Law on Official Statistics
- Five-year Official Programme of Statistics
- Five-year Strategic Plan of INSTAT

6.1. Legal acts and other agreements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year operational Plan of INSTAT • Quarterly progress reports on implementation of the Programme of Statistics • Memorandums of Understanding between INSTAT and main counterpart <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
6.2. Data sharing	<p>National accounts data are key datasets used and published by many international organisations to improve data consistency and exploit synergies for data collection and validation. An initiative to improve data sharing for National Accounts was launched in 2016 by the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (comprising representatives of the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the IMF, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, and the World Bank) under the G20 Data Gap Initiative.</p> <p>Albanian National accounts datasets are used both nationally and internationally by different organisations, policy makers and analysts. The national accounts are reported to Eurostat within ESA 2010 Transmission Programme, IMF, OECD, ECB and other organisations.</p>
7. Confidentiality	
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	<p>Data are considered strictly confidential and are used only for statistical and research purposes based on national Statistical Law No.17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, date 10.03.2018 and on Law No.9887, date 10.03.2008 “Personal Data Protection”. Article 31 on Statistics Law reads as follows: Data collected for the production of official statistics shall be treated by INSTAT as confidential and shall be used only in aggregated tables that will not identify the source information unit. Direct identification means when a statistical unit is directly identified from its name or address or any officially allocated and commonly known identification number. When data processing is made in a manner that allows the identification of the data subject, the data should immediately be encrypted in order for the subjects to be no longer identifiable.</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4)) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society. The European Statistics Code of Practice provides further conditions that have to be respected by statistical offices in regard to statistical confidentiality (Principle 5).</p>
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	<p>Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albania Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a</p>

	<p>third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albania Institute of Statistics if and only if:</p> <p>a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or</p> <p>b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.</p> <p>The confidential data that are transmitted to Albania Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albania Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend on: which detailed level the statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible; the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users; the access granting to researchers on confidential data for scientific purposes.</p> <p>Although national accounts data are usually highly aggregated, there may be possible cases for detailed breakdowns of aggregates and/or small economies. In these cases measures should be taken in order not to disclose data of a separate statistical unit. Guidance on how to prevent disclosure can be found in the Handbook on Statistical Disclosure Control.</p>
<p>8. Release policy</p>	
<p>8.1. Release calendar</p>	<p>Notifications about the dissemination of statistics are published in the release calendar, which is available on the website. The announcements and delays are per-announced in this calendar. In the case of delays, the date of the next publication and the explanation of the reasons for the delays are specified.</p> <p>The release calendar covers a full calendar year and includes all scheduled national accounts news releases.</p>
<p>8.2. Release calendar access</p>	<p>The calendar of publications is available on INSTAT website.</p>
<p>8.3. User access</p>	<p>In line with the Community legal framework and the European Statistics Code of Practice (Principle 6 on impartiality and objectivity, Principle 13 on timeliness and punctuality and Principle 15 on accessibility and clarity), national accounts data that meet the quality standards, including relevant metadata, should be made available to users.</p> <p>In line with the article 34 of Law No.17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, dated in 17.04.2018, disseminates statistics on INSTSAT website and other media for simultaneous access, respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The following dissemination channels are used to release the results of GDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website – online release • Written requests • Special publications (General printed publications, Statistical yearbook)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data request, section available for external users
9. Frequency of dissemination	<p>New quarterly national accounts data are published each quarter: 4 times per year. However, depending on circumstances and national practices, initially released quarterly national accounts data may be revised and disseminated again.</p> <p>Annual national accounts data are published at least once a year: when data for a new year are added. But, depending on country practices and revision policy, annual data can also be published more often, e.g. publication of a provisional estimate early in the calendar year and a revised one later in the calendar year.</p> <p>For frequency of dissemination please see the Albanian revision policy available on the website of INSTAT.</p>
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1. News release	The most important results of national accounts are issued in news releases. New key national accounts data may also be presented in press conferences or press briefings. The exact dates are pre-announced in release calendars (see section 8.1 above).
10.2. Publications	In addition to news releases, national accounts data may be disseminated in other publications, such as statistical papers, yearbooks, internal and external articles. Usually this concerns publications in which more in-depth analysis is carried out.
10.3. On-line database	In order to enable easy access to national accounts data, all validated national accounts data should be made available to users by publishing them in an online database. All data in the statistical database are in both Albanian and English. Use the navigation tree and select table, variable and show table. You can access the database on the link: Albanian statistical database
10.4. Micro – data access	Not applicable.
10.5. Other	In addition to news releases and other publications (see sections 10.1 and 10.2), information on national accounts may be posted using social media.
10.6. Documentation on methodology	<p>The general methodological framework for the compilation of national accounts in the EU is ESA 2010.</p> <p>In addition, several handbooks have been developed to help compilers to produce national accounts data. Some of the most important methodological manuals are the Handbook on quarterly national accounts, Manual on regional accounts methods, Eurostat Manual of Supply, Use and Input-Output Tables, Manual on Government Deficit and Debt. Also, guidance manuals on specific topics are available, e.g. compilation guide on land estimation, compilation</p>

	<p>guide on inventories, Manual on measuring Research and Development in ESA 2010.</p> <p>The manuals above specifically apply to EU national accounts statistics. However, world-wide equivalents are often also available: SNA 2008, Quarterly National Accounts Manual, Handbook on Input-Output Table Compilation and Analysis, Government Finance Statistics Manual.</p> <p>Documentation on sources and methods is available from INSTAT website.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
10.7. Quality documentation	<p>The importance of national accounts requires that documentation should be available on the procedures applied for quality management and quality assessment. Examples of such documentation are national accounts quality reports, quality studies and reports on revision analysis.</p>
11. Quality management	
11.1. Quality assurance	<p>INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality with respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with the Statistics Law, INSTAT use statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards conduct ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to quality improvements and ensure that statistics are as up to-date. In performing its tasks it follows the general principles of quality management from the European Statistics Code of Practice. INSTAT declares that it takes into account the following principles: impartiality, quality of processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.</p> <p>Quality of national accounts data is assured by strict application of ESA 2010 concepts and by applying the guidelines of the ESS handbook for quality reports.</p> <p>During the overall compilation process, national and regional accounts data undergo several kinds of quality checks, e.g. ex-ante (source statistics), ongoing (results), ex-post (methods used) and external checks (Eurostat, European or national Court of Auditors, IMF).</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
11.2. Quality assessments	<p>The national practice could be reported, for example by providing a link to the national quality report delivered by Eurostat or other nationally released quality reports (or providing a summary description of its content).</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>

12. Relevance	
12.1. User needs	<p>National accounts data provide key information for economic policy monitoring and decision making, for forecasting, for administrative purposes, for informing the general public about economic developments (directly or indirectly via news agencies), and as input for economic research.</p> <p>At national level, ministries of finance and regional development, scientific and academic communities and economic researchers are usually the entities who most use national and regional accounts data. International institutions are also users of national accounts data.</p> <p>International institutions should be added here also as users of national accounts data. International institutions can be considered as “clients” of NSI.</p>
12.2. User satisfaction	<p>Views and opinions of users of national accounts statistics can be collected and analysed as one of the tools to 'measure' the relevance of national accounts data. INSTAT conducted "The user satisfaction survey" for the first time in 2017. It is an important tool to detect user needs, and potentially user feedback could be integrated into the planning process of official statistics. For more detailed descriptions of the please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
12.3. Completeness	<p>In most countries national accounts cover the domains national accounts main aggregates, government accounts, sector accounts regional accounts and supply and use tables. However, the content of the data on these domains as well as the (details of the) various breakdowns (by region, sector, industry, product, etc.) may deviate per country, depending on national needs and available sources. The ESA 2010 transmission programme, consisting of 22 tables across all national accounts domains (see section 10.3) defines the minimum national accounts data set that must be available in all Member States of the EU.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1. Overall accuracy	<p>The national practice could be filled in: you can refer to your national quality report and more specifically to the revision analysis in your quality report. For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
13.2. Sampling error	Not applicable.
13.3. Non - sampling error	Not applicable.
14. Timeliness and punctuality	
14.1. Timeliness	National accounts data should become available to users as timely as possible,

	<p>taking into account the frequency of the data (annual or quarterly), the character of the data (info on the structure of an economy or on conjuncture developments) and an adequate balance between accuracy and timeliness.</p> <p>The ESA 2010 transmission programme defines the required timeliness for all national accounts tables. Quarterly tables become available 3 months after the quarter-end. The annual tables have to be transmitted between 2 months (main aggregates) and 36 months (supply and use tables) after the end of the reference year.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2014:195:FULL&from=EN</p>
14.2. Punctuality	<p>Good practice requires that the dates on which national accounts data become available are pre-announced and that the pre-announced publication dates are met.</p> <p>National accounts data transmissions in the framework of the ESA 2010 transmission programme should be punctually delivered to Eurostat at the timeliness defined in the transmission programme (or before).</p>
15. Coherence and comparability	
15.1. Comparability - geographical	<p>The geographical comparability of national accounts in Member States of the EU is ensured by the application of common definitions of the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). Worldwide geographical comparison is also possible as most non-European countries apply the SNA 2008 guidelines, and SNA 2008 is consistent with ESA 2010.</p>
15.2. Comparability - over time	<p>As the data for all reference periods are compiled according to the requirements of the ESA 2010, national accounts data are fully comparable over time. Also, in the case of fundamental changes to methods or classifications, revisions of long time series are performed, usually going far back into the past.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	<p>Within the system of national accounts there is full consistency between the domains: annual and quarterly national accounts, government accounts, sector accounts, financial accounts, regional accounts, supply and use tables. However, in practice full consistency may not always be possible and temporary discrepancies might occur. They are usually the result of vintage differences. Primary statistics like structural business statistics (SBS), short term statistics (STS) and labour force statistics (LFS) are widely used as input for national accounts. However, there is no full consistency between these statistical domains and national accounts. Main reasons are differences in concepts/definitions and in coverage. Balance of payments is also used as an important source for national accounts. The definitions and coverage of balance of payments, as defined in the BPM6 manual, are fully harmonised with those in ESA 2010. Therefore, balance of payments variables are in principle fully</p>

	<p>coherent with the corresponding national accounts variables.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
15.4. Coherence - internal	See section 15.3 (Coherence - cross domain).
16. Cost and burden	Not available.
17. Data revision	
17.1. Data revision - policy	<p>National accounts data are subject to continuous revisions as new input data become available. They are called routine revisions and entail regular revisions of country data and of the European aggregates, which are derived from the former. More rarely, exceptional revisions (called benchmark revisions) will result from major changes in data sources, classifications or methodology. For example, when changing from ESA95 to ESA 2010, a benchmark revision occurred at country level and at euro area/EU data level. Two Task Forces developed proposals for a more harmonised approach for benchmark and routine revisions. The one under the auspices of the Directors of Macroeconomic Statistics (DMES) dealt with benchmark revision policy, the other under the auspices of the Committee on Monetary, Financial, and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB) on the European Harmonised Revision Policy dealing with routine revisions.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
17.2. Data revision - practise	<p>While revisions should be seen as a process to progressively improve the quality of national accounts as e.g. better sources and/or methods become available, the availability of metadata on revisions is a key element for understanding national accounts data and revisions between subsequent releases.</p> <p>Therefore, information on the main reasons for revisions and their nature (new source data available, new methods, etc.) as well as possibly quantitative and qualitative assessment on the average size of revisions and their direction based on historical data is required.</p> <p>Quarterly revisions, relates with quarterly routine revisions after additional data become available for the last quarter, they have their impact on the previous quarters because: data reported for the last quarters are supported by additional source data or improvements/corrections to data for previous nearest quarters were performed. It is necessary to mention that most of the data used for quarterly estimations are administrative data. Including the last quarter data in the series and subsequent application of the seasonal adjustment will result in some changes to the previous quarters.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>

18. Statistical processing

18.1. Source data

National and regional accounts compilation builds up on statistics that are primarily collected for other purposes (primary statistics).

It relies on a variety of data sources, including administrative data: car and business registers, accounting statements, tax data, budgetary reports, population censuses, statistical surveys of businesses and households, statements of supervising institutions and branch organisations, annual and quarterly reports, trade statistics on goods and services, balance of payments information.

There is no single survey source for national accounts. Sources vary from country to country and provide statistical information on a large set of economic, social, financial and environmental phenomena, which may not be strictly related to national accounts.

Sources and collection methods used in each country vary depending on the specific dataset. Overall, it is difficult to be exhaustive in the listing of data sources. Inventories provided to Eurostat usually include information on main sources (see section 10.6).

Further information on data sources can be found on the national websites. Please see the link to [GNI inventory](#) for more informatio.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

National accounts are usually compiled on an annual or quarterly basis from other primary statistics.

The frequency of data collection of primary statistics varies according to the nature of the data source. For example, business statistics are typically available on a monthly (and quarterly) basis. Some households' surveys are available on quarterly or annual frequency (sometimes even less frequent). Availability of administrative data varies from country to country. Population censuses are mostly collected every decade. The frequency and timing of the compilation of national accounts are not necessary aligned with the frequency and timing of (all) primary statistics data collections.

National accounts departments typically receive/collect information in relation to their compilation schedule, i.e. for their annual or quarterly estimates. Countries can provide a description of the time of receiving external data.

For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.

18.3. Data collection

The data collection is very country specific and also varies according to the nature of the data source, e.g. administrative data, tax and car registers, surveys, accounting statements. Guidance can be found in the [Handbook of Recommended Practices for Questionnaire Development and Testing Methods](#) in the ESS.

National accounts departments typically do not collect data themselves but receive them from other departments or institutions. Countries can provide a

	<p>more detailed description of the channels by which external data are collected.</p> <p>The ESS guidelines suggest that the methods used for data collection should be described. It can also be appropriate to complete the section with the following issues: (i) an NSI usually signs an agreement and technical protocol for cooperation with other institutions on what, when, how, etc. the data would be delivered; (ii) national accounts department also participates in the development of the questionnaires of statistical surveys of other departments.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
18.4. Data validation	<p>Data validation refers to any activity aimed at verifying that the value of a data item comes from a given set of acceptable values. It is a key task performed in all statistical domains and particularly important for national accounts, which is a key dataset for economic analysis and policy decisions.</p> <p>In order to increase overall data quality and workflow efficiency, the European Statistical System (ESS) is moving towards more harmonisation of validation activities including the definition of common standards, tools and support for implementation (see ESS validation website). National accounts are a pilot in this area. An ESA 2010 Task Force on validation was established in 2015 to agree and document validation rules in an ESA 2010 validation handbook and progressively implement them in a pre-validation service for national accounts data.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
18.5. Data compilation	<p>Data sources, methods and compilation techniques are country specific, but should be employed in such a way that the definitions and concepts in ESA 2010 are met. Many guidance documents on general and specific national accounts compilation issues are available.</p> <p>The leading approaches to compile GDP in the framework of annual national accounts in Albania are the production and expenditure approach. Consistency is obtained via reconciliation process. Notably, changes in inventories are derived as residuals. The same/another approach is used for the compilation of quarterly national accounts. Sector accounts are compiled after/together with main aggregates.</p> <p>National accounts datasets are generally consistent. For related information see also sections 10.6. and 17.1.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albanian National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
18.6. Adjustment	<p>The objectives of seasonal adjustment are to identify and remove seasonal fluctuations and calendar effects which can mask short and long-term movements in a time series and impede a clear understanding of underlying phenomena. Seasonal adjustment is therefore a fundamental process in the interpretation of time series to inform policy making (ESS guidelines on</p>

	<p>seasonal adjustment, 2015 Edition, Annex, point 1).</p> <p>For selected sub-annual national accounts data, such as notably the quarterly main aggregates, time series are usually not only published in their unadjusted form, but also with various types of adjustment (e.g. seasonal, calendar, trend-cycle).</p> <p>According to the ESA transmission programme, quarterly data are to be provided in non-seasonally adjusted form, as well as in seasonally adjusted form (including calendar adjustments, where relevant) except for previous year's prices.</p> <p>The provision of quarterly data that only include calendar adjustments is voluntary. For sector accounts, seasonal adjustment (including calendar adjustments, where relevant) is compulsory for a limited set of series.</p> <p>For more detailed descriptions of the Albania National Accounts please refer to the links below in section 19.</p>
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19. Comment	No comments
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Annex

<p>GNI Compilation Albania</p> <p>Price and volume measures - Albania</p> <p>Implementation of ESA 2010 and NACE Rev.2 Albania</p> <p>QNA Copilation Albania</p> <p>Regional Accounts Albania</p> <p>Annual Accounts by Institutional Sector Albania</p> <p>User Satisfaction Survey Albania</p> <p>Fiscal Statistics</p> <p>Banking Statistics</p> <p>Release calendar</p> <p>Revision Policy</p> <p>Error treatment policy</p> <p>SUT and IO compilation Albania</p> <p>Official Statistical Program 2017 - 2021</p>
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[Statistical Law](#)

[Development Strategy of INSTAT 2017-2030](#)

[Annual Operational Plan](#)