

STATISTICS ON SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES

2024

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) continue to play a key role in the Albanian economy. In 2024, these enterprises account for the largest share of economic activity in the country and contribute to the majority of employment.

- 99.9% of active enterprises in the economy are small and medium enterprises.
- 82.0% of employees in the economy work in these enterprises.
- 81.4% of net sales in the economy are generated by SMEs.
- 75.0% of investments in the economy are carried out by these enterprises.
- 78.1% of the value added in the economy is generated by Small and Medium Enterprises.

Compared to 2023, the share of SMEs in the economy remains almost unchanged.

Comparison with the European Union

The main indicators that characterize small and medium enterprises in Albania, compared with the European Union, show that these enterprises have a larger share in the Albanian economy.

- 82.0% of employment in Albania is generated by SMEs.
- 65.1% of employment in the European Union is generated by SMEs.

In addition, SMEs in Albania generate 78.1% of the value added in the economy, while in the EU this share is 53.6%.

Exporting and importing enterprises

In 2024:

- 3.1% of SMEs are exporting enterprises.
- 11.9% are importing enterprises.

This shows that the majority of small and medium enterprises mainly operate in the domestic market.

Structure by Sectors

Micro-enterprises have the highest percentage of employment rate in the Accommodation and food services sector.

Small enterprises have the highest percentage of employment rate in the Construction sector.

Medium-sized enterprises have the highest employment rate in the Manufacturing industry sector.

Micro-enterprises have the highest percentage of turnover in the Accommodation and food services sector by 47.3 %.

Small enterprises have the highest percentage of turnover in the Trade sector by 31.9 %.

Medium-sized enterprises have the highest percentage of turnover in the Manufacturing sector by 35.8 %.

Tab.1 Basic indicators and their structure by size class of enterprises, 2024

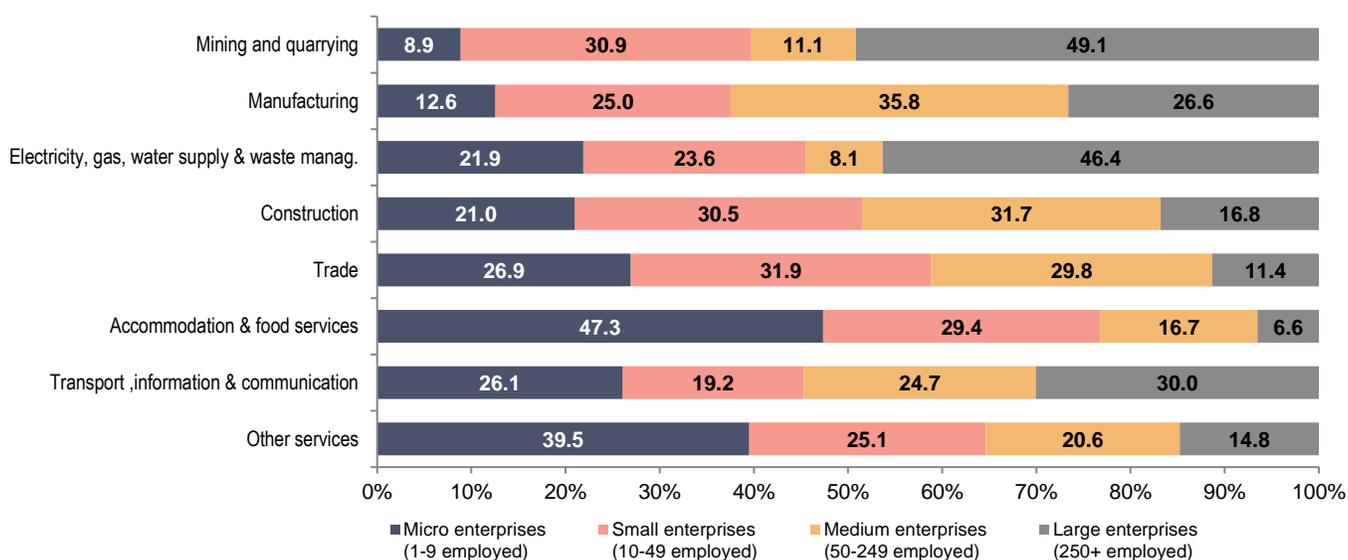
Enterprises size class	Enterprises		Employed		Turnover		Investments		Value Added	
	no.	%	no.	%	ALL million	%	ALL million	%	ALL million	%
Total	119,870	100.0	551,189	100.0	3,532,889	100.0	200,820	100.0	1,008,026	100.0
SME (1-249 employed)	119,697	99.9	451,981	82.0	2,876,914	81.4	150,684	75.0	787,261	78.1
Micro enterprises (1-9 employed)	112,411	93.8	208,422	37.8	919,721	26.0	43,181	21.5	286,210	28.4
Small enterprises (10-49 employed)	6,018	5.0	118,818	21.6	1,010,236	28.6	63,615	31.7	258,925	25.7
Medium enterprises (50-249 employed)	1,267	1.1	124,741	22.6	946,957	26.8	43,888	21.8	242,126	24.0
Large enterprises (250+ employed)	174	0.1	99,208	18.0	655,975	18.6	50,136	25.0	220,765	21.9

Tab.2 Structure of main indicators by size class of enterprises in Albania and EU, 2024

Enterprises size class	Enterprises (%)		Employed (%)		Value Added (%)	
	Albania	EU*	Albania	EU*	Albania	EU*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SME (1-249 employed)	99.9	99.8	82	65.1	78.1	53.6
Micro enterprises (1-9 employed)	93.8	93.6	37.8	30.1	28.4	20.1
Small enterprises (10-49 employed)	5.0	5.4	21.6	19.5	25.7	16.6
Medium enterprises (50-249 employed)	1.1	0.8	22.6	15.5	24.0	16.9
Large enterprises (250+ employed)	0.1	0.2	18.0	34.9	21.9	46.4

* Source for EU data: Annual Report European SMEs 2024/2025 <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC142263>

Fig.1 Structure of turnover by economic activity and size class of enterprises, 2024



Note to users: Detailed annual data by economic activity are available in the INSTAT statistical database: [Enterprises Economic Indicators](#) as well as in the tables section of the website on the topic: [Structural Business Statistics](#)

Methodology

This publication presents statistics on small and medium enterprises situation (SMEs) based on the results of Structural Survey of Enterprises and Foreign Trade in Goods data. Structural Business Survey (SBS) aims to provide information on the structure of the economic, financial and main characteristics of active enterprises in the country, according to the economic activity and size class of enterprises.

The main aim of structural business statistics is to show the structure of the business sector by economic activity through main indicators. Data are presented for the total business sector by economic activities and by size class of enterprises. Statistics comprise all enterprises that produce goods or services for the market in Albania, for all legal forms (there are not included financial, agricultural and fishing activities). Population consists of all enterprises that according to statistical register were active in December of the reference year. Classification of enterprises is done according to Classification of Economic Activities, NACE Rev.2. Data are collected for calendar year. The fiscal year always corresponds to the calendar year. Enterprises are classified on size classes by number of employed (measured as employed on a full-time basis).

Based on Law No. 43/2022 "For development of small and medium enterprises" the enterprises are classified as: micro, small and medium enterprises.

1. MSMEs employ fewer than 250 people and have a turnover or a total annual balance sheet not exceeding ALL 250 million.
2. Micro-enterprise – comprising of less than 10 employees and a turnover or a total annual balance not exceeding ALL 10 million.
3. Small enterprise – comprising of less than 50 employees and a turnover or a total annual balance not exceeding ALL 50 million.
4. Medium enterprise – comprising of 50 – 249 employees and a turnover or a total annual balance from ALL 50 million – 250 million.

For statistical purposes, in this publication, the classification of enterprises by size is done according to the number of employed, as follows:

- micro enterprises: enterprises with 1 to 9 employed.

- small enterprises: enterprises with 10 to 49 employed.
- medium enterprises: enterprises with 50 to 249 employed.

For more information related to the methodology used in structural business survey on enterprises, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/industry-trade-and-services/structural-business-statistics/#tab4>

For more information related to the methodology used in external trade in goods statistics, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.instat.gov.al/en/themes/international-trade/international-trade-in-goods/#tab4>

Definition of indicators

Enterprise

An enterprise is: "the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources. An enterprise carries out one or more activities at one or more locations (local unit)".

Turnover (Net sales)

Turnover comprises the totals amount invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period. and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

Employed

Employed is defined as the total number of persons who work in the observation unit including proprietors. employees and unpaid family workers.

Investments

Investments during the reference period includes the goods, whether bought from third parties or produced for own use, having a useful life of more than one year including non-produced tangible goods such as land.

Value added

Value added is calculated as difference between production value and intermediate consumption.

Exports

Goods in general are goods destined to be sent to a third country subject to customs regime or outside processing arrangements, or re-exported following inside processing.

Imports

Goods in general are goods coming from a third country and are directly unloaded or placed to a warehouse according to the customs procedures to accomplish free zones processing, active or customs processing.