



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
INSTITUTI I STATISTIKAVE

No. **1499** Prot.

Tirana, on **02.07.2026**

INSTRUCTION¹

No. **2**, dated **02.07.2026**

ON

**THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF BUSINESS
STATISTICS BASED ON REGULATION (EU) 2019/2152 OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

Pursuant to Articles 17/4 and 20/b of Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, Law No. 30/2022 “On the Approval of the Official Statistics Programme 2022–2026”, the National Plan for European Integration 2024–2026, approved by Decision No. 16, dated 11.01.2024, and Decision No. 16, dated 30.06.2026 of the Governing Board of the Institute of Statistics,

I HEREBY INSTRUCT:

1. Business statistics shall be developed, produced and disseminated on the basis of this Instruction, which approximates Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
2. This Instruction on Business Statistics establishes a unified framework for these statistics, integrating and harmonising the production of statistics on enterprises, economic activities, trade, innovation, research and development, and the use of information and communication technology. For its adaptation to Albania’s official statistics, the focus is on strengthening the system of statistical business registers as a primary source, using administrative data to reduce the reporting burden on enterprises, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), standardising methodologies and classifications according to European Union (EU) practices, and increasing the integration of statistical processes through the use of linked data and the exchange of microdata where necessary and permissible. This Instruction also aims to improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of the production of business statistics, ensuring alignment with international standards and public policy needs for economic development, digitalisation and innovation.
3. The Instruction introduces substantial improvements in the production of business statistics, aiming to reduce the burden on data providers, increase flexibility and improve the ability to respond to new demands from users and policymakers. This Instruction represents an important step towards a more integrated, coherent and efficient system of business statistics in the EU.
4. The Instruction on Business Statistics ensures:

¹ This Instruction partially approximates Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics (EBS), CELEX 32019R2152

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- a. Increased consistency and integration, through:
 - ensuring methodological consistency between the domains of business statistics (e.g. statistical variables, registers and confidentiality rules);
 - integrating different business surveys at national level, reducing the overall reporting burden.
- b. The use of common definitions and improved comparability of statistics;
- c. Harmonisation of the classification of businesses by employment size.

5. This Instruction supports the use of innovative methods and new data sources, including data linking between statistical domains and the exchange of microdata. Data linking improves statistical quality at low cost.

6. Reducing the burden on data providers through legal and methodological harmonisation reduces overlaps and duplication in data collection. Surveys may be used for several statistical domains simultaneously, reducing costs for INSTAT and the reporting burden on businesses.

7. Subject matter

This Instruction establishes:

- a) the development, production and dissemination of business statistics, as provided for in point 8/1;
- b) the framework for statistical business registers.

8. Purpose

1. Business statistics shall cover:
 - a) the structure, economic activities and performance of statistical units, their research and development and innovation activities, the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and e-commerce. For the purposes of this Instruction, business statistics shall also cover research and development statistics in the higher education sector, government institutions and the private non-profit sector;
 - b) the production of goods and international trade in goods.
2. The national framework shall cover national statistical business registers.
3. The national statistical business registers referred to in point 2 shall include:
 - a) all enterprises carrying out economic activities contributing to gross domestic product (GDP), and their local units;
 - b) the legal units of which those enterprises consist;
 - c) for those enterprises which have a significant impact due to their size and whose kind-of-activity units (KAUs) also have a significant impact on aggregated (national) data,

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either:

- the KAUs and the size of each KAU of which those enterprises consist; or
- the code of the secondary activities of those enterprises according to the Nomenclature of Economic Activities (NVE) and the size of each of those secondary activities;

d) the enterprise groups to which those enterprises belong.

4. Households shall not be included in the national framework for statistical business registers insofar as the goods and services they produce are intended for their own consumption, or involve the letting of their own property.

5. When referring to national statistical business registers, this Instruction shall apply only to units which wholly or partially exercise an economic activity and to inactive legal units which are part of an enterprise in combination with active legal units.

6. For the purposes of the national framework for statistical business registers, the following shall be considered an economic activity:

- a) any activity comprising the offering of goods and services on a given market;
- b) non-market services contributing to GDP;
- c) the direct and indirect holding of active legal units.

Holding assets and/or liabilities may also be considered an economic activity.

7. Statistical units within the framework for statistical business registers shall be defined in accordance with Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, subject to the limitations specified in this point.

9. Definitions

For the purposes of this Instruction, the following definitions apply:

- a) “statistical unit” means statistical units within the meaning of Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”;
- b) “reporting unit” means the unit that supplies the data;
- c) “domain” means one or several data sets covering particular topics;
- d) “topic” means the content of the information to be compiled, each topic covering one or more detailed topics;
- e) “detailed topic” means the detailed content of the information to be compiled in relation to a topic, each detailed topic covering one or more variables;
- f) “variable” means a characteristic of a unit that may assume one or more values from a set of values;
- g) “market activity” means a commercial activity where the relevant goods and services are traded under the following conditions:

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- i. sellers act to maximise their profits in the long term, and do so by selling goods and services freely on the market to anyone prepared to pay the asking price;
 - ii. buyers act to maximise their utility given their limited resources, purchasing the products that best meet their needs at the offered price;
 - iii. effective markets exist where sellers and buyers have access to and information on the market. An effective market may operate even if these conditions are not met perfectly.
- h) “non-market activity” means an activity in which goods and services are not traded under market conditions, that is, where sellers do not act with the aim of maximising profit in the long term through free sales on the market, where prices are not determined by market mechanisms and where the conditions of an effective market with full access and information for buyers and sellers do not exist. Consequently, a government-controlled entity carrying out a non-market activity is classified in the government sector and its deficit or debt is included in the government deficit and debt;
- i) “market producer” means local kind-of-activity units (KAUs) or institutional units whose output is mostly market output, that is, goods and services traded under market conditions, where sellers act with the aim of maximising profit in the long term and buyers purchase them according to their needs and the prices offered on an effective market;
- j) “non-market producer” means local kind-of-activity units (KAUs) or institutional units whose output is mostly provided free of charge or at prices that are not economically significant;
- k) “INSTAT” is the institution responsible for the development, production and dissemination of national business statistics.
- l) “INSTAT” is the sole provider of the data comprising the national statistical business register in accordance with the quality standards referred to in Article 17;
- m) “microdata” means individual observations or measurements of the characteristics of identifiable reporting units or statistical units;
- n) “use for statistical purposes” means use for the purposes of producing official statistics as defined in Article 14 of Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”;
- o) “confidential data” means confidential data as defined in Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, and Law No. 124/2024 “On Personal Data Protection”;
- p) “tax administration” means the national authorities in Albania responsible for implementing Law No. 9920, dated 19.05.2008 “On Tax Procedures in the Republic of Albania”, as amended;
- q) “customs administration” means the customs authorities in Albania as defined in Law No. 102/2014 “Customs Code of the Republic of Albania”, as amended.
- r) “exports” means goods destined for a third country, placed under the customs procedure of outward processing, re-exported to undergo inward processing.
- s) “imports” means goods coming from a third country and placed directly in storage warehouses, under customs procedures for release for free circulation, inward

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processing or processing under customs control.

- t) “goods” means movable property, including electricity and natural gas.

10. Data sources and methods

INSTAT shall produce the statistics referred to in points 12 and 13 and establish its national statistical business registers, using any relevant data source while avoiding excessive burdens on respondents and taking into account the institution’s cost-effectiveness.

For the production of the statistics and national statistical business registers required under this Instruction, and provided that the results comply with the quality criteria referred to in point 14, INSTAT may use the following data sources, including a combination of them:

- a) surveys;
- b) administrative data, including information from the tax and customs administrations;
- c) any other relevant source, innovative method or approach insofar as it enables the production of data that are comparable and comply with the specific quality requirements.

For surveys, as referred to in point (a), the statistical units queried by INSTAT shall provide the accurate, complete and timely information necessary for the production of the statistics and national statistical business registers required under this Instruction.

The methods and approaches referred to in point (c) shall be research-based and documented.

11. Access to administrative data and provision of information

1. In accordance with Article 33 of Law No. 17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, INSTAT has the right to access and use, promptly and free of charge, all administrative records and to integrate those records with other data sources to meet the statistical requirements under this Instruction and to update national statistical business registers. Access to those records by INSTAT shall be limited to administrative records within their respective public administrative systems.

2. The customs administration, the General Directorate of Customs, shall provide INSTAT with information for statistical purposes relating to exports and imports of goods as specified in Annex IV.

12. Statistical activities

1. Business statistics shall cover the following domains:
 - a. short-term business statistics;
 - b. country-level business statistics;

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- c. regional business statistics;
 - d. statistics on international activities.
2. The domains shall include one or more of the following topics, as further detailed in Annex I:
- a. number of businesses;
 - b. ICT usage and e-commerce;
 - c. innovation;
 - d. international trade in goods;
 - e. investment;
 - f. labour costs;
 - g. outputs and performance
 - h. prices;
 - i. purchases;
 - j. real estate;
 - k. research and development data.
3. The periodicity, reference period and statistical unit of each topic shall be as specified in Annex II.

13. Technical specifications for data requirements

1. For the detailed topics listed in Annex I, INSTAT shall compile relevant data for each detailed topic according to their technical definitions.
- a. the variables;
 - b. the measurement unit;
 - c. the statistical population (including requirements in terms of market/non-market activities or producers);
 - d. the classifications (including product, countries and territories, and the nature of transaction lists) and breakdowns;
 - e. the transmission of individual data on a voluntary basis;
 - f. the use of approximations and quality requirements;
 - g. the data transmission deadline;
 - h. the first reference period;
 - i. weighting and the change of base year for the domain of short-term business statistics;
 - j. further specifications, including the reference period, relating to the topic of international trade in goods.

14. Quality

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1. INSTAT shall take all necessary measures to ensure the quality of the business statistics produced and transmitted and of the national statistical business registers, which shall be assessed by Eurostat.

INSTAT shall transmit annually to the Commission (Eurostat):

- a. quality reports and metadata for the data transmitted under this Instruction;
- b. quality reports and metadata relating to national statistical business registers.

In the case of multiannual statistics (conducted once every several years), the periodicity of the quality reports and metadata referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph shall be the same as that of the statistics produced.

2. INSTAT shall inform the Commission (Eurostat) as soon as possible of any relevant information or change concerning the implementation of this Instruction that would influence the quality of the data transmitted. INSTAT shall inform the Commission (Eurostat) of major methodological or other changes influencing the quality of national statistical business registers. The information shall be provided as soon as possible and no later than six months after any such change takes effect.

3. Upon a reasoned request from the Commission (Eurostat), INSTAT shall provide the additional information necessary to assess the quality of the statistical information, which shall not create a significant additional cost or burden for INSTAT or for respondents.

15. Transmission of data and metadata

INSTAT shall provide the Commission (Eurostat) with the data and metadata required by this Instruction in accordance with data and metadata exchange standards. Where the data transmitted are confidential, they shall be sent with a flag indicating that they are subject to confidentiality and may not be disseminated.

Upon a reasoned request from the Commission (Eurostat), INSTAT shall carry out statistical analyses of the national statistical business registers and transmit the results to the Commission (Eurostat).

This Instruction enters into force immediately.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Lantona Sado

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Annex I: Topics

Domain 1. Short-term Statistics

Topic	Detailed topics
Number of enterprises	Enterprise demographic events
Labour input indicators	Employment
	Hours worked
	Labour costs
Prices	Import prices
	Producer prices
Outputs and performance	Production
	Volume of net turnover
	Net turnover
Real estate activities	Real estate activities

Domain 2. Country-level enterprise statistics

Topic	Detailed topics
Number of enterprises	Number of active enterprises
	Enterprise demographic events (births, deaths, survivals)
	Foreign and joint enterprises
	Foreign and joint enterprises and domestic affiliates

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	Number of enterprises involved in foreign trade
Labour input indicators	Employment
	Employment related to enterprise demographic events (births, deaths, survivals)
	Employment in foreign and joint enterprises
	Employment in foreign and joint enterprises and domestic affiliates
	Hours worked
	Labour costs
	Labour costs in foreign and joint enterprises
Research and development indicators	Research and development expenditure
	Research and development employment
	Research and development expenditure in foreign and joint enterprises
	Research and development employment in foreign and joint enterprises
	Publicly funded research and development
Expenditure	Expenditure on goods and services
	Changes in stocks of goods
	Expenditure on goods and services in foreign and joint enterprises

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	Enterprise imports
Outputs and performance	Net turnover
	Trade margin
	Production
	Value added
	Gross operating surplus
	Net turnover in foreign and joint enterprises
	Production value in foreign and joint enterprises
	Value added in foreign and joint enterprises
	Net turnover in foreign and joint enterprises and domestic affiliates
	Industrial production
	Enterprise exports
Investment	Total investment
	Total investment by foreign and joint enterprises
Innovation	Innovation
IT usage and online trade	IT usage and online trade

Domain 3. Regional enterprise statistics, (NUTS II)

Topic	Detailed topics
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises by region

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	Enterprise demographic events by region (births, deaths, survivals)
Labour input indicators	Employment by region
	Employment related to enterprise demographic events by region (births, deaths, survivals)
	Labour costs by region
Research and development indicators	Research and development expenditure by region
	Research and development employment by region

Domain 4. Foreign trade statistics

Topic	Detailed topics
Foreign trade in goods	Foreign trade in goods

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Annex II: Frequency, Reference period, Statistical unit

Domain 1. Short-term Statistics

Topic	Frequency	Reference period	Statistical unit
Number of enterprises	quarterly	quarter	legal unit
Labour input indicators	quarterly(monthly optional)	quarter (month optional)	KAU
Prices	quarterly	month with the following exceptions -- producer prices for buildings	Enterprise
Outputs and performance	monthly with the following exceptions – small countries for NVE Section F: quarterly (monthly optional)	month with the following exceptions – small countries for NVE Section F: quarterly (monthly optional)	KAU
	monthly;quarterly for small countries for NVE Section F.		
Real estate activities	quarterly (monthly optional)	quarter (month optional)	not applicable

Domain 2.Country-level enterprise statistics

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Topic	Frequency	Reference period	Statistical unit
Number of enterprises	annual	calendar year	enterprise
Labour costs	annual	calendar year	enterprise
Research & development indicators	every two years with the following exceptions – Breakdown by sectors of performance of intramural R&D expenditure, R&D personnel and number of researchers, as well as government budget allocations for R&D (GBARD) and internationally oriented public funding: annual	calendar year	Enterprise; Higher education institutions; Government institutions and non-profit organisations.
Expenditure	annual with the following exception – payments to subcontractors: every three years	calendar year	enterprise

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Outputs performance and	annual with the following exceptions – Net turnover broken down by product and residence of the client for NVE 69.1, 69.2, 70.2, 71.1, 71.2 and 73.2: every two years – Net turnover from agriculture, forestry, fishing and industrial activities, net turnover from industrial activities, net turnover from industrial activities excluding construction, net turnover from construction, net turnover from service activities, net turnover from trading activities of purchase and resale and from intermediary activities, net turnover from construction and net turnover from civil engineering: every five years – income from subcontracting agreements: every three years	calendar year	enterprise with the following exceptions –sold production, production under subcontracting agreements and total production: KAU
Investment	annual with the following exception – intangible investment: every three years	calendar year	enterprise

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Innovation	every two years	The reference period is the three-year period before the end of each even calendar year	enterprise
IT usage and online trade	annual	The calendar year of adoption of the implementing regulation defining the variables; the calendar year following the year of adoption of the implementing regulation defining the variables for the other variables. (net turnover)	enterprise

Domain 3. Regional enterprise statistics

Topic	Frequency	Reference period	Statistical unit
Number of enterprises	annual	calendar year	enterprise with the following exception – number of local units (optional for NVE Section K): local unit

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Labour input indicators	annual	calendar year	enterprise with the following exceptions– number of employees and self-employed persons in local units, wages in local units: local unit
Research and development indicators	every two years	calendar year	Enterprise; Higher education institutions; Government institutions and non-profit organisations.

Domain 4. Foreign trade statistics

Topic	Frequency	Reference period	Statistical unit
Foreign trade in goods	monthly with the following exception – every two years, breakdown by the combined nomenclature of goods and invoicing currency of foreign trade in goods for imports and exports	month	not applicable

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Annex III: Elements of the national framework for statistical business registers

Part A: Register detailed topics

1. The units listed in national statistical business registers, as referred to in Article 2 of this Regulation, shall be characterised by an identification number and by the register detailed topics specified in Part C.
2. The units listed in national statistical business registers shall be uniquely identified by an identification number to facilitate the infrastructure role of the national framework for statistical business registers.

Part B: Reference period and frequency

3. National statistical business registers shall be updated at least once a year through the addition and removal of units.
4. The frequency of updating shall depend on the type of unit, the variable under consideration, the size of the unit and the source generally used for the update.
5. INSTAT shall make a copy annually reflecting the state of the national statistical business registers at the end of the year and retain that copy for at least 30 years for analytical purposes.

National statistical business registers shall contain detailed topics by unit for the units defined in Article 2 of this Regulation.

Part C: Detailed topics for business registers

Units	Detailed topic
1. Legal units	Identification (NIPT)
	Demographic events
	Stratification parameters
	Link with the enterprise
	Link with other registers

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	Link with enterprise groups
	Control of units
	Ownership of legal units
2.Enterprise groups	Identification
	Demographic events
	Stratification parameters and economic variables
3.Enterprise	Identification (NIPT)
	Link with other registers
	Demographic events
	Stratification parameters and economic variables
4.Local units	Identification
	Demographic events
	Stratification parameters and economic variables
	Link with other registers
5.KAU if covered as a statistical unit	Identification
	Demographic events
	Stratification parameters and economic variables
	Link with other units and registers

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Annex IV:

Information provided by the General Directorate of Customs, in accordance with Article 5(3):

- (a) Identification data on statistical units (legal and natural persons) carrying out goods import and export activities in the Republic of Albania, under the customs procedures in force;
- (b) Statistical data on foreign trade in goods (imports and exports), based on customs declarations lodged with the customs administration, accepted or processed by administrative decision of the relevant authorities.

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