



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics

Metadata Report of |Structural Business Statistics|

V-2.2

Quality Management



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1. Contact

1.1. Contact organization	General Authority of Statistics
1.2. Contact organization unit	Business, investment, and international trade
1.3. Contact person function	Director of Business, investment, and international trade Department
1.4. Contact mail address	P.O. Box: 3735 Riyadh, 11481 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1.5. Contact email address	info@stats.gov.sa
1.6. Contact phone number	199009

2. Metadata Update

2.1. Metadata last update	27/03/2024
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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. Data description
<p>The importance of structural business statistics lies in providing data about the business sector. The structural business statistics publication presents statistical indicators on the economic activities of establishments, employees, their compensation, expenses, and operational revenues. It also includes the formation of fixed capital to highlight the economic growth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by providing accurate and comprehensive statistical indicators that meet the demands of international and local organizations.</p>



Structural business survey is a survey conducted to collect data on the basic characteristics as follows:

- Measuring the structure of the business sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Providing data on economic activities to prepare indicators that help determine growth rates for each economic activity.
- Identifying the contribution of each economic activity to the economic development process.
- Determining the relative importance of each economic activity and sector.

Key Targeted Indicators

- Employed Individuals by Economic Activity.
- Workers' compensations.
- Operational expenses.
- Operating revenues.
- Operating benefit.
- Formation of fixed capital.

3.2. Classification system

The following classifications are applied in the structural business survey:

The National Classification for Economic Activities (ISIC4)

The statistical classification based on the International Standard of Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC4) is used to describe productive activities of an establishment.

The classifications are available on the GASTAT's website: www.stats.gov.sa

Saudi Classification for Products and Services - Based on the Central Product Classification

The Saudi Classification for Products and Services, based on the Central Product Classification issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2018, constitutes a comprehensive classification for products encompassing goods. The purpose of this classification is to serve as an international standard for collecting and categorizing all types of data that require product details. This includes industrial production, national accounts, service industries, domestic and international trade in goods, international trade in services, balance of payments, consumption, and price statistics. Other primary purposes include providing a framework for international comparison and promoting coordination among various types of statistics related to goods and services.



3.3. Sector coverage

The survey covers all economic activities (ISIC4):

The size classification is divided into two categories in terms of size of the enterprise as follows:

- Micro, Small, and Medium-sized:

It includes all establishments in which the number of workers less than (250) workers.

- Large-sized:

It includes all establishments in which the number of workers (more than 250).

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terms and concepts for structural business statistics survey:

- Establishment:

An economic business unit with a legal character, and with (a business registry), where it practices a particular economic activity. It is owned by an individual, a group of individuals, a company, a semi-government sector or an institution.

- Economic Activity:

It refers to all the activities or services practiced or provided by the establishment. It might be profitable, or non-profitable (as is the case with charities which depend upon donations.). In the case of multiple economic activities for a single establishment, the economic activity with the highest revenue is selected. Classification of the economic activity of the establishments relies on International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC REV.4). The structural classification of business activities is based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC).

- Operation Revenues:

They are the cash revenues achieved due to the establishment engagement in its main activity or other secondary activities, such as the sale and marketing of its products, the provision of services to consumers or the trade in goods generally. They include also other operation revenues not related to the main economic activity of the establishment, but related to the secondary activities of the establishment, including the industrial services revenues, the secondary activities revenues and the proceedings generated from the sale



of production waste as well as the lease of buildings, non-agricultural lands, machinery, and equipment. And any other operating revenues, specifying the types of those revenues.

- A-Commodity requirements:

The values of all local and imported goods supplies used by the establishment either in productive goods installation (such as raw materials), or the goods required for their production. They also include the values of stationery, spare parts, fuel, oils, electricity, and water consumption costs ... etc., or any other goods supplies with mentioning the types of such goods for necessity.

- Service requirements:

The values of all service requirements that the establishment uses including post office and telephone costs, training and secondment costs, travel costs, machines and equipment rent costs, premises, and non-agricultural lands rent costs, and what the establishment pays for legal consultations or for services provided by others ... etc., or any other service requirements with mentioning the types of such services for necessity.

- Workers' remunerations:

They are the due regular amounts paid by the establishment to its workers throughout the year, such as wages and salaries payable in consideration of the normal working hours, fixed bonuses together with all benefits and allowances, e.g., accommodation and social insurance, insurance, transportation allowances, etc.)

- Formation of Fixed Capital:

It is the flows in fixed assets that indicate the movement of assets within and outside the organization. It includes the fixed assets owned by the organization for use in achieving its objectives, not to sell them or use them as raw materials in its production operations (such as residential and non-residential buildings, transportation equipment, furniture, machinery, and equipment).

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical unit in the structural business survey is the establishment.

3.6. Statistical population

The targeted statistical community in the structural business statistics publication consists of all economic establishments that have business records with government authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



3.7. Reference area

The survey of structural business statistics covers all (13) administrative regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Makkah, Al-Madinah, Qassim, Eastern, Asir, Tabuk, Hail, Northern Borders, Jazan, Najran, Al-Baha, and Al-Jouf).

3.8. Time coverage

Data is available from the year 2005 to 2022.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

Most of the results are numerical values and the input category is in thousands of riyals (e.g., operating revenues in thousands).

5. Reference period

The data for the Structural Business Survey is collected during the specified period by reaching out to establishments through the targeted survey sample and completing the survey form. Survey data is usually assigned to the previous fiscal year of its implementation.



6. Confidentiality

6.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to the Royal Decree No. 23 dated 07-12-1397, data must always be kept confidential, and must be used by GASTAT only for statistical purposes.

Therefore, the data are protected in the data servers of the Authority.

6.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Data were displayed in appropriate tables to facilitate its summarization, comprehension, and results extraction. Also, to compare data with other data and extract statistical meanings for the study community. It is also easier to check tables without the need to see the original questionnaire, which usually include data like names and addresses of individuals, names of data providers, which violates data confidentiality of statistical data.

“Anonymity of data” is one of the most important procedures. To keep data confidential, GASTAT removed information on individual persons, households, or business entities such a way that the respondent cannot be identified either directly (by name, address, contact number, identity number etc.) or indirectly (by combining different - especially rare - characteristics of respondents: age, occupation, education etc.).

7. Release policy

7.1. Release calendar

The structural business survey has been included in the statistical calendar.

7.2. Release calendar access

The statistical calendar is available at: <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/future-releases>



7.3. User access

One of GASTAT's objectives is to better meet its clients' needs, so it immediately provides them with the publication's results once the structural business survey statistics publication is published.

It also receives questions and inquiries of the clients about the Publication and its results through various communication channels, such as:

- GASTAT's official website: www.stats.gov.sa
- GASTAT's official e-mail address: info@stats.gov.sa
- Client Support's e-mail address: cs@stats.gov.sa
- Official visits to GASTAT's official head office in Riyadh or one of its branches in Saudi Arabia.
- Official letters.
- Statistical telephone (199009).

8. Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

9. Accessibility and clarity

9.1. News release

The announcements for each publication are available on the statistical calendar as mentioned in 7.2. Access to the statistical calendar and the press releases can be viewed on the website of GASTAT on the link:

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news>



9.2. Publications

GASTAT issues the structural business survey publications and reports regularly within a pre-prepared dissemination plan and is published on GASTAT's website. GASTAT is keen to publish its publications in a way that serves all users of different types, including publications in different formats that contain (publication tables, data graphs, indicators, metadata, methodology, and questionnaires) in both English and Arabic.

The results of the structural business survey are available at:

<https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/64>

9.3. On-line database

The data is published on the statistical database:

[GASTAT \(stats.gov.sa\)](https://www.stats.gov.sa)

9.4. Micro-data access

Microdata are unit-level data obtained from sample surveys, censuses, and administrative systems. They provide information about characteristics of individual people or entities such as households, business enterprises, facilities, farms, or even geographical areas such as villages or towns.

The different types of microdata files to meet different information needs:

- Public use:

It consists sets of records containing information on individual persons, households, or business entities anonymized in such a way that the respondent cannot be identified either directly (by name, address, contact number, identity number etc.) or indirectly (by combining different - especially rare - characteristics of respondents: age, occupation, education etc.).

- Scientific use:

These files established based on specific methodology asked by data requester to extract the datasets with specific characteristics used for strategic studies and decision making as well scientific research purposes on individuals, households and enterprises with no direct identifiers, which have been subject to control methods to protect confidentiality.



Eligible users can access microdata sets through secure interface built-in by GASTAT called "Etaha" with specific documentary requirements.

9.5. Other

Not available.

9.6. Documentation on methodology

The Structural Business Survey Statistics relies on the following international standards for concepts, definitions, issues, and classifications:

- European Statistical System Quality and Metadata Handbook, European Union Statistical Office:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-statistical-system/news>

- System of National Accounts 2008:

[National Accounts System 2008 | General Authority for Statistics \(stats.gov.sa\)](#)

- United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD):

<https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite>

9.7. Quality documentation

Quality documentation covers documentation on methods and standards for assessing, measuring, and monitoring the quality of statistical process and output. It is based on standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence.



10. Quality management

10.1. Quality assurance

GASTAT declares that it considers the following principles: impartiality, user orientated, quality of processes and output, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process in different stages such as the data input and data collection and other final controls.

10.2. Quality assessment

GASTAT performs all statistical activities according to a national model (Generic Statistical Business Process Model - GSBPM). According to the GSBPM, the final phase of statistical activities is overall evaluation using information gathered in each phase or sub-process. This information is used to prepare the evaluation report which outlines all the quality issues related to the specific statistical activity and serves as input for improvement actions.

11. Relevance

11.1. User needs

Internal users in the GASTAT for structural business survey data:

National accounts.

External users and major beneficiaries for structural business statistics data, include:

- Government entities
- Regional and international organizations
- Research institutions.
- private sector

The disseminated key variables that mostly used by key users:



Government entities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating revenues:• Operational expenses.• Workers' compensations.• Operating benefit.• Formation of Fixed Capital.
Regional and international organizations.	
Research institutions.	
private sector.	

11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

11.3. Completeness

Structural Business Survey data is based on two main sources: the first is administrative record data from government entities. The second source is data collected through the field survey of establishments to provide comprehensive information on indicators of structural business statistics, and the data is in a complete state.

12. Accuracy and reliability

12.1. Overall accuracy

- The data collected is improved through the researchers, who have been selected according to a set of practical and objective criteria and training program related to the field of work.
- Alert and validation rules are applied during the data collection process on the electronic questionnaire for the Structural Business Survey to enhance data quality.
- Data is checked with previous years to identify any significant changes in the data.
- The internal consistency of the data is checked before it is finalized.
- The links between variables are checked and coherence between different data series is confirmed.



13. Timeliness and punctuality

13.1. Timeliness

GASTAT uses the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) issued by the International Monetary Fund. According to this Standard, all statistics agencies are required to publish data on an annual basis, and with a delay of not more than mid of year (180 days) after the end of the reference period. If the data are from different source, they may be published in a different frequency.

13.2. Punctuality

The publication is done according to the publication dates in the statistical calendar published for the Structural Business Survey on the website page of the General Authority for Statistics.

The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled in the statistical release calendar, If the publication is delayed, reasons shall be provided.

14. Coherence and comparability

14.1. Comparability - geographical

Data are fully comparable.

14.2. Comparability - over time

The survey started in 2005 as an annual survey. The major changes that have occurred in recent years:

In 2019, the General Authority for Statistics transitioned to administrative records to build and update the statistical business register according to global practices, ensuring the periodic update of statistical frameworks on an annual basis.

14.3. Coherence- cross domain

Not applicable.



14.3.1.	Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics
Not applicable.	
14.3.2.	Coherence- National Accounts
Not applicable.	
14.4.	Coherence - internal
The statistics of the Structural Business Survey for the reference period exhibit complete internal consistency, as they are all based on the same accurate dataset and calculated using statistical methods.	

15. Resources used

Description	Total
Total staff (GASTAT's staff, researchers).	455
Number of unites surveyed.	59,284
Total days of data collection period (end date - start date).	49
Average conducted interviewer per day (during data collection).	8

16. Data revision

16.1. Data revision - policy
Not applicable, only final results will be published.
16.2. Data revision - practice
Not applicable, only final results will be published.



17. Statistical processing

17.1. Source data

The Structural Business Survey Statistics Publication relies on two main sources for its data.

The first source: Collecting data through the Structural Business Survey conducted annually by the General Authority for Statistics.

The key variables published for the Structural Business Survey Statistics Publication include:

- Operating revenues.
- Operational expenses.
- Operating benefit.
- Formation of Fixed Capital.

The second source: Administrative records:

- General Organization of Social Insurance GOSI.
- Ministry of Commerce.
- Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development.

The framework for the year 2022 was used It is a basic framework for this survey and other economic research to be conducted by GASTAT in the future, through which all establishments are classified by economic activity and by the size of the establishment at the level of the Kingdom and administrative regions. The activities of these establishments are classified according to the National Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC- 4).

The main published variables from the administrative data source are:

The number of employees (The General Organization for Social Insurance).

17.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

17.3. Data collection

Collecting data for the Structural Business Survey



Data for the Structural Business Survey is collected through Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI), Computer-Assisted Web Interviews (CAWI), and Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI).

Form of data collection from administrative records:

In coordination with the relevant departments responsible for survey implementation and data collection, record data for the Structural Business Survey is obtained from the General Organization for Social Insurance, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, including data on the number of employees, commercial records, and economic activities.

The data is stored in the authority's databases after undergoing auditing and review processes following approved statistical methods and recognized quality standards. If errors or discrepancies are discovered, the data is cross-referenced with the data source for correction or clarification.

17.4. Data validation

Data are reviewed and matched to ensure their accuracy and precision in a way that suits their nature with the aim of giving the presented statistics quality and accuracy.

The data of the current year publication are compared with the data of the previous year to ensure their integrity and consistency in preparation for processing data and extracting and reviewing results.

In addition to the data processing and tabulation to check their accuracy, all the outputs are stored and uploaded to the database after being calculated by GASTAT to be reviewed and processed by specialists in the business, investment, and international trade statistics department through modern technologies and software designed for this purpose.

17.5. Data compilation

Data Coding:

In the structural business survey, researchers collect data from respondents and take a detailed description of the fields. This information is then coded in-house by an automated process, which is review by a dedicated technical team of coding experts using a series of consistency checks.

Data Editing:



Specialists of (Statistical dept. name) Department have processed and analyzed data in this stage, and this step was based on the following measures:

- Sort and arrange data in groups or different categories in a serial order.
- Summarize detailed data into main points or main data.
- Linking between many parts of data and make them connected.
- Process incomplete or missing data.
- Process illogical data.
- Converting data into statistically significant data.
- Organize, display and interpret data.

Compensation (for non-response or incomplete datasets):

The approach used for compensation in the Structural Business Survey Statistics, whether for establishments with incomplete response or missing data for specific variables. Reinterviews are allowed to obtain missing data from non-respondents. Subsequently, dealing with missing or non-response data involves assessing it by following a scientific approach to estimate the results based on considerations such as historical data series and an acceptable range of missing data, along with estimates built on class-level data.

Extrapolation and weighting:

After processing the data collected from respondents, survey weights were generated to produce indicator tables by following two main steps in creating survey weights:

- Processing non-response.
- Calculating the weighted average.

Methods for calculating the applied statistical indicators:

GASTAT has relied on the formulas approved by the international standards in calculating structural business statistics key indicators, as follows:

- Operating surplus = Operating revenue - Operating expenses - Compensation of employees.
- Net Fixed Capital Formation = Purchases during the year - Sales during the year.

17.6. Adjustment

Not applicable, only final results will be published.



18. Comment