Business and Consumer Survey (Quarterly Survey)

Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

1. Contact Information

1.1. Responsible subdivision within NBS

Structural Statistics Division

1.2. Contact person

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

28.02.2025

2.2. Last update of metadata

28.02.2025

3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

The Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS) are qualitative surveys, whose purpose is to analyze the evolution of short- and medium- term indicators. These surveys are complementary to quantitative statistical surveys and they differ by method and use. Frequency, speed and degree of consistency are the main qualities of opinion surveys. The utility of BCS is guaranteed by the constant request for data from internal and external users. The BCS are important tool for research activities.

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

The specificity of the BCS is that, instead of exact figures, the usual response is an assessment of the respond against the 'normal' level, for example:

- "increased/remained unchanged/decreased;

- "increase/ remain unchanged/decrease".

These questions show the evolution of the phenomenon over time.

The answers received (managers of units in the sample of the BCS choose only one alternative answer for this type of question) are later processed and the final result as a **percentage business tendency balance,** is obtained as the difference between the percentage of those who chose the positive (increasing) option of the phenomenon and the percentage of those who indicated the negative (decreasing) option.

A **positive business tendency balance** shows that there are more positive answers than negative ones and therefore a favorable development (trend) of the phenomenon.
A **negative business tendency balance** shows that negative responses exceed positive answers and therefore an unfavorable development (trend) of the phenomenon.

3.2.2. Unit of measurement

Data expressed are presented in %.

3.2.3. Formula of calculation

There are three options to completing the BCS: positive (increase (+)), neutral (unchanged, same (=)) and negative (decrease (-)). Example of converting the number of responses to each of the three options into

percentages: for example, if there are 200 respondents, of which 40 answered (+), 60 (=) and 100 (-), in percentage terms these become 20%, 30% and 50% respectively. The **tendency balance** (S) is calculated by subtracting the percentage (+) from the percentage (-), i.e. S= (20% - 50%) = -30%.

3.3. Classification system

Classification of Activities in the Moldovan Economy (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE Rev.2, approved by NBS Order no.28 of 07 May 2019 - https://statistica.gov.md/en/classifications-and-nomenclatures-9881.html

3.4. Scope

3.4.1. Sector coverage

The BCS covers the economic sectors according to the Classification of Activities in the Moldovan Economy (CAEM rev. 2), which are manufacturing (C), construction (section F), retail trade (divisions 45 and 47) and services (sections H-N, R and divisions 95 and 96).

3.4.2. Statistical population

The statistical population includes all active units in the previous year (which have generated turnover or employed staff), whatever their organizational and legal form, with the main type of activity in industry, construction, trade and services.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage

BCS is carried out in the whole country, except for the localities situated on the left side of the river Nistru and in Bender municipality.

3.4.4. Temporal coverage

The BCS is elaborated from the first quarter of 2023, i.e. the time series will be available from 2023.

3.5. Level of disaggregation

The data resulting from BCS are disaggregated by:

- types of activities;
- enterprise size class: small, medium, and big (by average number of employees);

3.6. Periodicity of dissemination

Quarterly

3.7. Timeliness

On the 25th of the month following the reporting quarter.

3.8. Revision

Data are final at first dissemination.

The data revision policy is in accordance with the Statistical Data Revision Policy, approved by NBS Order No 35 of 30.08.2022:

https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/despre/planuri/Politici/Politica_revizuire_2022_ro.pdf

3.9. Period of reference

The reference period is the quarter.

4. Data Collection and Processing

4.1. Data source

4.1.1. Statistical survey

The Business and Consumer Survey

4.1.2. Administrative sources

Not applicable.

4.1.3. Estimations

Not applicable.

4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey/administrative sources
4.2.1. Objective and background
The request for data from users, in particular from central government authorities regarding: (i) the evolution of short and medium-term economic indicators of business activity; (ii) own opinions and forecasting of units about their economic activity in the near future periods increased considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic.   Until 2022 regular qualitative surveys in business statistics have not been implemented.   The implementation of the BCS was carried out by request of central government authorities.   The testing of the statistical tools and the implementation of the pilot survey on the BCS was carried out in 2021. The pilot BCS was done in 2022 (reference period - quarter II – IV).   The implementation of the BCS on a quarterly basis is included in the Statistical Work Programme for the year 2024.
4.2.2. Statistical unit
The enterprise is <u>the observation unit</u> of the BCS survey.   **The enterprise** is defined as the smallest legally established unit which has decisional autonomy and is organized to carry out in one or more places, one or more activities for production of goods and services. The surveys also collect some information regarding the local units that pertain to enterprises.
4.2.3. The circle of units covered in the survey
The survey sample is derived from a frame of 2164 units. The sample design is stratified and the sampling method is systematic selection. In order to make a well sampling, enterprises with an average number of employees of 3 or less were excluded from the sample frame.   The stratification variables are: - type of economic activity, according to CAEM-2 (section level, except manufacturing - division level);   - size of the entity according to the average number of employees (size classes 4-9, 10-49, 50-249 and 250+ corresponding to micro, small, medium and large enterprises).   The strata are obtained by crossing the stratification variables (121 strata). The volume of the sample was done by equal distribution between the strata.   The sample is representative at national level (except UATSN and Bender municipality), CAEM sections and size classes.
4.2.4. Survey periodicity
Quarterly
4.2.5. Data collection
The collection of the questionnaire is carried out by phone-interview method (by NBS staff from the Territorial Offices for Statistics (TOS)), self-registration method (managers of the units fill in the questionnaire online (reporting.gov.md), by e-mail (PDF version of the questionnaire) or on paper and send it to the TOS.
4.3. Data processing and compilation
4.3.1. Data validation
During of data validation by NBS staff, are used automatic and manual verification methods. High variations in the reporting period are compared to the previous period, to understand if there is or not an error or to find out the cause of the fluctuation. The unit concerned is compared with similar units and, if necessary, the unit is contacted to find out additional information on the causes of the discrepancy.
4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data
The data are extrapolated to the national level and are representative at national level (except UATSN and Bender municipality), CAEM sections and size classes.
4.3.3. Adjustments
No adjustments are made.

4.3.4. Quality assurance

The quality of statistical data is assured by observing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN General Assembly on 29 January 2014, as well as those set forth in the national Law on Official Statistics no. 93 of 26 May 2017.

In its activity of producing statistical information, NBS pays huge importance to ensuring the high quality of data.

To this end, a series of quality assurance measures are implemented at each stage of the statistical approach: in the process of organizing statistical survey, collection, processing and elaboration of statistical information.

Important efforts are undertaken to ensure the completeness and quality of data presentation by respondents included in statistical surveys.

Errors, inconsistencies and suspicious data are revealed in order to verify and specify them.

Primary data are verified and analyzed for internal coherence (according to the Questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data for previous periods), with data from other similar units, as well as data available from other statistical surveys and administrative sources.

To ensure the quality of primary data, consultations are provided to interviewers and respondents so as to explain definitions and the correct way of filling in the questionnaires.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The average non-response rate for 2023 is 2%.

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Sampling errors are calculated taking into account the complexity of the sampling plan with a significance level of 95%.

The confidence interval is calculated based on the sampling error, in the limits of which the real value of the indicator is located with a probability of 95%.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

The BCS is developed in accordance with the User's Guide "European Union Programme for the Harmonization of Business and Consumer Surveys" approved by the European Commission on 29 November 2000,
https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/methodological_guidelines/bcs_user_guide.pdf

5.2. Comparability over the time

Relative indicators (%) that characterize the structure of economic phenomena are comparable over time.

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

It is not analyzed.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The activity of the NBS is based on the observance of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Law on official statistics no. 93 of 26.05.2017, other legislative and normative acts, orders and dispositions of the NBS management.

The law on official statistics stipulates the organization and functioning of the unique system of official statistics, with the establishment of general principles for the collection, processing, centralization, dissemination, storage of statistical information (art. 1).

Art. 5 of the Law stipulates that the production of statistical information is based on the observance of the

principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost / efficiency, etc.

In accordance with art.13, par. (1), the NBS has the right to obtain and collect the data necessary for the production of statistical information from all persons covered by this law.

The National Bureau of Statistics, in its capacity as a central statistical body, is an administrative authority created under the Government to lead and coordinate the activity in the field of statistics.

In accordance with Government Decision 935 of 24.09.2018 on the organization and operation of the NBS, the Bureau exercises the following tasks:
1) Coordinates the national statistical system on the development and production of official statistics;
2) Elaborates and implements strategies for the development of the national statistical system, annual and multiannual statistical programs;
3) Elaborates the normative and institutional framework necessary for the achievement of the strategic objectives in its field of activity, as well as the mechanisms for their implementation in practice;
4) Performs the management and control of the achievement in quality conditions of the programs and statistical plans adopted at central and regional level;
5) Harmonizes and aligns national statistical indicators, methodologies, methods and techniques with international regulations and standards;
6) Promotes the statistical culture in the society.

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS https://statistica.gov.md/en/acte-normative-56.html

7. Confidentiality

7.1. Principles

According to art. 19 of the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, producers of official statistics shall take all regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to protect confidential data and prevent their disclosure.

Chapter VII of the above-mentioned law stipulates that the data collected, processed and stored for the production of statistical information are confidential if they allow the direct or indirect identification of the respondents.) The following shall not be considered confidential:
a) data that can be obtained from publicly accessible sources according to the legislation;
b) individual data on address, telephone, name, type of activity, number of employees of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs;
c) data referring to public enterprises, institutions and organizations funded from the budget, submitted at the request of the public administration authorities.

According to the Law on Official Statistics, art. 20, access to confidential information is granted to the persons who, according to their official functions, participate in the production of statistical information shall have access to individual data in so far as individual data are necessary for producing this information.

The same article stipulates that the access to individual data, which do not allow the direct identification of respondents, may be given for scientific survey projects, whose expected results do not refer to identifiable individual units, under the regulation approved by the central statistical authority.

Art. 23 (5) of the Law stipulates that "Statistical information may not be disseminated to users if it refers to 1–3 statistical units".

7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

In order to ensure the protection of confidential statistical data, in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics No.93 dated 26.05.2017, the National Bureau of Statistics undertakes all the regulatory, administrative, technical, and organizational measures to protect the confidential statistical information and prevent its disclosure.

According to the Law, the staff of producers of official statistics, including temporary employees, who, according to their duties, have direct access to individual data, are obliged to respect the confidentiality of these data during and after the cessation of activity in that position.

Until the dissemination, the statistical data are checked for compliance with the requirements for the protection of confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p.7.1), their dissemination is not carried out and the data is aggregated to the minimum available level which ensures the protection of the confidentiality of it.

8. Access to information and dissemination format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Annually the Advance release calendar is developed by NBS.

8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications

The press release calendar is posted on the NBS official page
https://statistica.gov.md/en/dissemination_calendar

8.1.3. Access to statistical data

According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, art. 23:
    a) Producers of official statistics are obliged to disseminate the statistical information within the deadlines specified in the Programme of Statistical Works (PSW) and in the press-release calendar.
    b) The dissemination of the statistical information provided in the PSW to all categories of users is carried out free of charge and under equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and terms of dissemination.

The PSW may be accessed on the web page www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS / legislative and normative acts http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&

The NBS web page www.statistica.gov.md represents the most important information source for ensuring users' access to different statistical information and transparency about the NBS activity.

All the operative information, informative notes, time series, as well as the statistical publications developed by NBS are placed on its official web page.

8.2. Dissemination format

8.2.1. Operative information / Analytical notes

The analytical reports are published on the official website of the NBS:
https://statistica.gov.md/en/news_release

8.2.2. Publications

Not applicable.

8.2.3. Databases/time series

Not applicable.

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request of international organizations

Not applicable.

8.2.5. Requests for additional data

The NBS provides users with additional statistical information to those available in statistical publications, information notes, operational information, those placed on the official website within the available information, in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics. The request can be sent personally at the NBS headquarters, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or online – www.statistica.gov.md section *Products and services / Statistical data request* https://statistica.gov.md/en/information_request

9. Useful References (links)

9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The methodology is available on the official page www.statistica.gov.md , under *Metadata and*

classifications / Reference metadata / Entrepreneurship (https://statistica.gov.md/en/metadata).

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports
No evaluations of the Business and Consumer Survey.

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys
User surveys are available on the official page www.statistica.gov.md , under About NBS / Assessments and opinions on NBS / User surveys https://statistica.gov.md/en/user-surveys-9933_3817.html

9.4. Other useful references	
EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ei_bcs _esms.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ei_bcs_esms.htm)
UN data database	http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx
European Commission for Europe guidelines	https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-forecast-and-surveys/business-and-consumer-surveys/methodology-business-and-consumer-surveys/methodological-guidelines-and-other-documents_en