

Metadata: Number of employers and employees

0. Registration entry for subjects

0.1 Name

Number of employers and employees

0.2 Subject area

Enterprises

0.3 Responsible authority; office, division etc.

Statistics Iceland

Business trends and structure

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0.4 Purpose and history

According to the act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics, Statistics Iceland shall generate and disseminate statistics on the Icelandic economy and society.

Furthermore, Statistics Iceland shall decide on statistical projects and prioritise its tasks taking account of the needs of the government for statistical information for policy-formation and decisions on public issues, international obligations of the state on statistical production and the needs and demands of the public, businesses, labour market organisations, and research and educational institutions for statistical information. For this purpose, the institution shall carry out active consultation with these parties.

<http://www.statice.is/about-statistics-iceland/laws-and-regulations/>

Recent consultations with users have indicated a need for timely economic indicators on current trends by economic activity.

0.5 Users and application

Number of employers and employees, by economic activity, are short term indicators of current trends and seasonality.

All data are preliminary. When new data are released, previously published data may be revised if new information is available. For more information, please refer to sections 3.1 Accuracy and reliability and 3.2 Sources of errors.

0.6 Sources

Data on employers and employees come from the pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) register kept by the Directorate of Internal Revenue (RSK). Employers must report all wages and salaries monthly through this register.

Employers are classified by economic activity using the statistical business register kept by Statistics Iceland.

0.7 Legal basis for official statistics

The act on Statistics Iceland and official statistics, approved by the Althingi on 10 December, 2007.
<http://www.statice.is/about-statistics-iceland/laws-and-regulations/>

0.8 Response burden

None.

0.9 EEA and EU obligations

Not applicable.

1. Contents

1.1 Description of content

Monthly estimates of the number of employers and employees.

1.2 Statistical concepts

Employer: A company or an individual who pays salaries or wages to at least one person during the reference month.

Employee: An individual who receives salary or wage during the reference month, irrespective of age, residence or nationality.

Employees who have more than one employer: If the employers are in the same economic activity, the employee is only counted once in that activity. If the employers are in different economic activities, the employee is counted in both activities but only once in the total for all activities.

ÍSAT2008: A five-digit classification of economic activities. The first four digits correspond to NACE Rev. 2 (2008). For a detailed description of NACE, please refer to:

- http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_PUB_WELC
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5902521/KS-RA-07-015-EN.PDF>

Economic activities: Employers are classified by economic activities using ÍSAT2008. Employers who are active in more than one area are classified according to their main activity. Employees are classified in the same economic activity as their employer.

Special aggregates of economic activities: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, publishes economic data and has defined many special aggregates of economic activities. Data for some of these aggregates are presented in our web-tables.

Economic activities in the main statistical web-table:

<http://www.statice.is/statistics/business-sectors/enterprises/enterprises/>

- All activities
- Business economy
 - All activities, except farming and forestry (NACE no.01-02); public services (NACE no. 84); education (NACE no. 85); human health and social work activities (NACE no. 86); arts entertainment and recreation (NACE no. 90-91); other service activities (NACE no. 96-99)
- Production, except fish processing (NACE no. 03-33, except 102)
- Agriculture and forestry (NACE no. 01-02)
- Manufacture of basic metals (NACE no. 24)
- Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment (NACE no. 25)
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (NACE no. 35)
- Construction (NACE no. 41-43)
- Construction of buildings (NACE no. 41)
- Civil engineering (NACE no. 42)
- Specialised construction activities (NACE no. 43)
- Wholesale, retail and repair of vehicles (NACE no. 45-47)
- Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (NACE no. 45)
- Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (NACE no. 46)
- Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (NACE no. 47)
- Passenger air transport (NACE no. 511)
- Service activities incidental to air transportation (NACE no. 5223)
- Accommodation (NACE no. 55)
- Food and beverage service activities (NACE no. 56)
- Finance (NACE no. 64-66)
- Real estate activities (NACE no. 68)
- Professional, scientific and technical activities (NACE no. 69-75)
- Administrative and support service activities (NACE no. 77-82)
- Temporary employment agency activities (NACE no. 782)
- Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities (NACE no. 79)
- Public administration, compulsory social security and education (NACE no. 84-85)
- Human health and social work activities (NACE no. 86-88)
- Arts, entertainment and recreation (NACE no. 90-93)
- Other service activities
 - Activities of membership organisations, excluding activities of trade unions (NACE no. 94, excluding 942)
 - Repair of computers and personal and household goods (NACE no. 95)
 - Other personal service activities (NACE no. 96)
- Activities related to tourism [as defined by Eurostat]
 - Passenger land transport (NACE no. 491, 4932, 4939)
 - Sea and coastal passenger water transport (NACE no. 501, 503, 511)
 - Passenger air transport (NACE no. 511)

- Hotels and similar accommodation; Holiday and other short-stay accommodation; Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks; (NACE no. 551-553)
- Restaurants and mobile food service activities; Beverage serving activities (NACE no. 561, 563)
- Renting and leasing of motor vehicles and of recreational and sports goods(NACE no. 771, 7721,)
- Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities (NACE no. 79)
- High and Medium-high technology manufacturing [as defined by Eurostat]
 - Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (NACE no. 20)
 - Manufacture of weapons and ammunition (NACE no. 254)
 - Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products; Manufacture of electrical equipment; Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.; Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers; Manufacture of other transport equipment (NACE no. 26-30)
 - Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies (NACE no. 325)
- ICT total [as defined by Eurostat]
 - Manufacture of electronic components and boards; Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment; Manufacture of communication equipment; Manufacture of consumer electronics; Manufacture of magnetic and optical media (NACE no. 261-264, 268)
 - Wholesale of information and communication equipment (NACE no. 465)
 - Software publishing (NACE no. 582)
 - Telecommunications; Computer programming, consultancy and related activities; Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals (NACE no. 61-62, 631)
 - Repair of computers and communication equipment (NACE no. 951)
- Information sector [as defined by Eurostat]
 - Publishing of books, periodicals and other publishing activities (NACE no. 581)
 - Motion picture, video and television programme production, sound recording and music publishing activities; Programming and broadcasting activities (NACE no. 59-60)
 - Other information service activities (NACE no. 639)
- High technology manufacturing and services [as defined by Eurostat]
 - Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (NACE no. 20)
 - Manufacture of weapons and ammunition (NACE no. 254)
 - Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products; Manufacture of electrical equipment; Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.; Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers; Manufacture of other transport equipment (NACE no. 26-30)
 - Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies (NACE no. 325)
 - Postal and courier activities (NACE no. 53)
 - Publishing activities (NACE no. 58)
 - Programming and broadcasting activities; Telecommunications; Computer programming, consultancy and related activities; Information service activities (NACE no. 60-63)
 - Scientific research and development (NACE no. 72)
- Creative industries
 - Publishing activities (NACE no. 58)
 - Motion picture projection activities (NACE no. 5914)
 - Sound recording and music publishing activities (NACE no. 592)
 - Programming and broadcasting activities (NACE no. 60)
 - Computer programming and consultancy activities (NACE no. 6201-6202)
 - Photographic activities; Translation and interpretation activities (NACE no. 742-743)

- Cultural education (NACE no. 8552)
- Creative, arts and entertainment activities (NACE no. 90)
- Library and archives activities; Museums activities (NACE no. 9101-9102)

Economic activities in a web-table on number of employees in activities related to tourism:

<http://statice.is/statistics/business-sectors/tourism/short-term-indicators-in-tourism/>

- Activities related to tourism (NACE no. 491, 4932, 4939, 501, 503, 511, 551-553, 561, 563, 771, 7721, 79) [as defined by Eurostat]
- Passenger air transport (NACE no. 511)
- Accommodation (NACE no. 55)
- Food and beverage service activities (NACE no. 56)
- Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities (NACE no. 79)
- Other activities linked to tourism (NACE no. 4932, 4939, 771, 7721)

2. Time

2.1 Reference periods

Calendar month.

2.2 Process time

The first estimates of the number of employers and employees are published about a month and a half after the end of the reference month. These figures are revised when the first estimate of the next month are published.

2.3 Punctuality

The statistics are published in accordance to Statistics Iceland's advance release calendar

2.4 Frequency of releases

Monthly.

3. Reliability and Accuracy

3.1 Accuracy and reliability

The number of employees is estimated from PAYE data. If employers send incorrect data to the Directorate of internal revenue, this will affect the quality of these estimates. Own-account workers are not included, neither as employers nor employees.

Attempts are made to exclude payments of "summer bonus" (in May) and Christmas bonus (November-December) to former employees. However, many such payments will still be included in the data, thus leading to an overestimate in the number of employees in these months. Similarly, it is not possible to correct for retroactive payments to former employees, e.g. in connection with new collective agreements on the labour market.

Employers are classified according to ÍSAT2008 which is an Icelandic classification system for economic activities and the first four digit of this system correspond to NACE rev. 2. Employers who are active in more than one economic activity are classified according to their main activity based on their turnover. In Iceland, many companies are active both in "031 Fishing" and in "102 Fish production". Therefore, the data for these categories are combined.

3.2 Sources of errors

Employers do not always report wages on time. Erroneously classified employers may cause errors.

3.3 Measures on confidence limits/accuracy

Confidence intervals will not be computed. However, data on the size of revisions are published. Please refer to section "4.3 Coherence between preliminary and final statistics".

4. Comparison

4.1 Comparison between periods

Estimates are comparable between reference periods. There might be a slight discrepancy between calendar years if many employers, or large employers, move from one economic activity to another. In the statistical business register kept by Statistics Iceland, all changes of economic activities are assumed to occur at the beginning of the calendar year.

The number of employers and employees is often slightly underestimated in the most recent months. (See section 4.3.) This should be taken into consideration when comparing the most recent period(s) with previous periods.

4.2 Comparison with other statistics

In these statistics, all employees are counted, irrespective of age, residence or nationality. Thus, children doing temporary work during summer are included, as well as people who have never had permanent residency in Iceland. This should be borne in mind when comparing with others statistics.

Indices of short term statistics (STS) published by the statistical office of European Union (EU), Eurostat:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/short-term-business-statistics/overview/sts-in-brief>
- STS-indices do not cover all economic activities.
- Those who are on maternity or paternity leave are included in STS.

Income and balance statements by activity (R&E), published annually by Statistics Iceland:

- R&E only includes employers who return an income statement, which excludes most public companies and many non-profit organisations. => This may lead to lower figures in R&E.
- R&E shows annual data.
- In R&E, the average annual number of employees in each company is computed as an average over the months when the company paid wages or salaries, not as an average over the calendar year. => In companies where who only pay salaries or wages during part of the year this leads to a higher annual average in R&E.

Labour force survey (LFS), Statistics Iceland:

- The LFS is a survey, not census.
- The LFS-sample is taken from the population of persons aged 16-74 with permanent (more than 6 months) residence in Iceland. Those who are younger, older or who have not been registered as living in Iceland for at least 6 months are not included in the population.
- LFS includes everyone who has worked at least one hour during the reference week, including own-account workers and those who work without getting paid.
- In LFS, classification into economic activity is based on the individual, i.e. employees are not always classified according to their employer's main economic activity.

4.3 Coherence between preliminary and final statistics

All figures are estimates. Numbers can change because of late reporting of salaries and wages. Such changes usually lead to higher estimates. Numbers can also change retrospectively if an employer changes from one economic activity to another. In the statistical business register of Statistics Iceland, changes between economic activities are assumed to have occurred in the beginning of the year. Thus, if during the middle of the year, a company reports a change of activity or if Statistics Iceland decides to reclassify the company, this change is assumed to have happened in the beginning of that year or, sometimes, from the beginning of an earlier year.

Usually, revised figures are higher than first estimates. In smaller economic activities, the estimates tend to fluctuate more.

Those who report wages and salaries late tend to be employers with few employees. Hence, estimates of numbers of employers are more volatile than the estimates of numbers of employees.

Numeric data on the size of data revisions in recent releases can be found in the document "**Number of employers and employees, revision of statistics**" at

<http://www.statice.is/statistics/business-sectors/enterprises/>

5. Access to information

5.1 Forms of dissemination

News releases on Statistics Iceland's website and categorised statistical web-tables.

5.2 Basic data; storage and usability

Source data are stored at Statistics Iceland and are not available to anyone not directly working with them.

5.3 Reports

See previous.

5.4 Other information

For further information, please contact Statistics Iceland.