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**Analysis of the 2002 Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaires on Business Registers
from UNECE Countries that are not EU Member or Candidate Countries**

Note by the UNECE Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. This report aims to assess the status and improvements made by UNECE countries that are not EU member or candidate countries in the development of their business registers. At the Joint UNECE/Eurostat Meeting on Business Registers (Luxembourg, 1996), participants requested that UNECE initiate a collection and analysis of data and basic information on business registers in non-EU member states. Eurostat had already initiated such a process for its members through an Annual Questionnaire on Business Registers introduced in 1995 to track countries' progress in complying with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2186/93 on the Implementation of Business Registers for Statistical Purposes.
2. Using the Eurostat model of the questionnaire, the UNECE collected the data and information from UNECE non-EU member countries for 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2002. The form of the questionnaire has been slightly modified since 1995, resulting in incomparability of some data. However, since 1999, little changes have been done. The results of the UNECE's rounds of collection were presented at the Joint UNECE/Eurostat meeting on business registers in 1996, 1999 and 2001 respectively.
3. While the initial UNECE 1995 data collection encompassed 29 non-EU countries, the most current collection encompasses 21 UNECE non-EU member countries due to the candidate countries' impending membership to the EU and coverage by the Eurostat collection.
4. This report contains the results of the UNECE's collection of 2002 business register data and information from UNECE countries that are not EU member or candidate countries. It covers the replies from the following 17 countries which reported data and/or information on the status of their business registers as of 31 December 2002: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia-Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (summary), Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and the United States. The latter country provided information on both of its two business registers.

Background on areas covered in questionnaire responses

5. Although the questionnaire has been slightly modified since 1995, its body of main areas covered remains essentially the same. These areas are designed to provide a synthesized picture of the state of the art of the business register in a member country. At the same time, such information should be able to provide comparable information on state of the art in development of business registers in other countries.

6. Key areas covered in questionnaire: (1) use of different sources: by country and by unit typology (3) number of units by NACE Rev.1 (3) variables (4) quality of the register.

7. The section of the questionnaire on “use of sources by country” was introduced in order to collect information on sources used for detecting the existence of a unit or (changes in) any relevant variable attached to it. Since countries may often have different names for what are essentially the same source e.g. same type of administrative register, the questionnaire provides a listing of various types of administrative registers and asks that a country identify those within the list which it used and to specify the equivalent name in the country. A section “other sources” is provided so that a country can specify sources which are not in the prepared list. This section also provides detail on “use of sources” by specific type of units, primarily the following: legal unit, enterprise, local unit, and enterprise group. The units referred to throughout the questionnaire are those referred to in EU Council Regulation No. 696/93 on Statistical Units for the Observation and Analysis of the Production System in the EC.

8. The area “number of units by NACE Rev.1” shows the coverage for each unit type according to specific NACE activity classification. This area also makes possible overall analysis and determination of most active and populated NACE activity classifications. From the data in this area, it also becomes possible to analyze the nature of relationship between enterprises and legal units in a country.

9. The area “variables” provides an account on the availability or non-availability of each of the twelve (12) officially mandated EU business register variables, including the number of units for which the variable is available and future plans regarding the variable. As variable availability is broken down by unit type, main variable characteristics by unit type can also be determined.

10. The area “quality” seeks to examine the quality of the data and information reported in the Questionnaire. In all areas, while strong coverage in terms of the number of units reported, the completeness of variables reported, etc. are important, another key consideration is the quality of the values and information reported.

Characteristics of UNECE Countries that are not EU Member or Candidate Countries Affecting Responses on Questionnaire

11. While the Eurostat model of the business register questionnaire was designed primarily for a set of countries sharing common regional goals and geared toward the implementation of a standardized business register as set forth in the provisions of EU Council Regulation No. 2186/93, UNECE’s member states and the business registers they have adopted are far more diverse. This diversity is due to a number of factors. Among them are regional and geographical distribution, the countries’ differing stages of economic development, the existence of legislation conducive to business register development, to name a few.

12. UNECE member states that were requested to respond to the questionnaire span four regions: CIS and Russia (10 countries), the Western Balkans (2 countries), North America (2 countries) and the Middle East (1 country). They also comprise countries in very differing stages of economic

development. As a result, their business registers inevitably vary a great deal, both in structure and in stage of development.

13. Before highlighting the results of the 2002 round of data collection, a word of caution should be mentioned on interpreting and comparing the information. The business register provisions as set forth in the questionnaire serve as a guideline. Some countries have made considerable effort to align the framework of their business registers with those existing in EU member and candidate countries both with regard to the definition of units and their variables.

14. It should be noted that as the Eurostat model of the questionnaire was designed primarily for countries at a more advanced state of business register development, it may conform more closely to conditions and provisions for business registers as they currently exist in Europe and North America. Some of the countries in the UNECE/Eurostat survey are still in relatively early stages of developing a business register. Subsequently, data remains unavailable for a number of sections in the questionnaire, and certain areas which may be of concern for more developed registers remain somewhat irrelevant relative to more pressing needs such as the basic setting up of business register foundations.

15. As a result of the before mentioned differences and of differing statistical and national legislation among countries, full comparability of information is not always possible. Nonetheless, analysis of the questionnaire responses offer an excellent opportunity to obtain an effective overview of the level of development of business registers among UNECE non-EU member states.

RESULTS

Use of Sources

16. A great variety of sources are used for detecting the existence of units or changes in their variables. Countries where the legislation requires central registration of units and where the administrative sources can be used in order to fill in the missing information on births, deaths and change of activity, make an extensive use of tax, social security, commercial and other registers. Other countries, however, tend to use more often exclusive register surveys or other surveys with their own objectives but which provide feedback on business register units.

17. Three principal sources are distinguished as being most used by the UNECE countries that are not EU member or candidate countries: (1) feedback from surveys (2) other sources (3) single business register (Refer to Tables 1-4).

18. Twelve of the 17 responding countries use feedback from surveys as a key source for at least one of their units. While earlier versions of the questionnaires only indicated that feedback from surveys was a key source among countries, the most current questionnaire has been modified so that countries can indicate specifically what type of surveys are being used. This has provided a much larger picture of the ways in which survey feedback is used. Here countries specified mainly structural business surveys (e.g. manufacturing and retail trade surveys, surveys of large, medium-sized and small enterprises, etc.).

19. There is a large use of other sources by member countries (nine of the seventeen countries use this as a key source). These are supplementary sources to those listed in the questionnaire. As with the section on survey feedback, countries here can specify the particular supplementary sources used in its business register. Here entries reflect systems or surveys unique to the particular country reporting. It should be noted that a number of CIS countries do not appear to distinguish between the different types of taxes specified in the Questionnaire and instead incorporate mention of their tax

register under other sources. While this report will report information as is conveyed to the UNECE by its member countries, certain considerations - such as the embedding in some cases of tax registers as a source under other sources - should be borne in mind.

20. Eight countries used the single business register as a key source. Particularly among CIS countries, this register has consistently shown to be a central part of the means by which a unit is detected. For a number of CIS countries, this register constitutes, along with feedback from surveys and other sources, the main component of the business registry system.

21. Regarding use of sources by unit typology, the most frequently used sources broken down by unit appear to be approximately the same as above. For all units (legal unit, enterprise, local), the most commonly used source is feedback from surveys. For both enterprise units and local units, other sources and single business register are the next most commonly used sources.

Analysis by Section of NACE Rev. 1

22. With the exception of a few of the more developed countries, full coverage of the number of units recorded in the business register is still an objective in a great number of reporting UNECE countries that are not EU member or candidate countries are aspiring to (refer to Tables 5-10). It should be noted that several countries are in the process of implementing NACE/ISIC. They have applied conversion keys between NACE/ISIC and national classifications in order to establish the correlation between the two. As some countries are for the most part primarily still in the process of building their business registers, obstacles such as financial constraints impose limits on their capacity for full coverage of enterprises. Nonetheless, many countries, particularly within the CIS, have made great strides in improving their coverage. Still others have stagnated or even declined.

23. For the majority of countries, coverage of enterprise units has the focus of most effort. Among CIS countries, there has been increasingly stronger coverage of legal units and to a much lesser extent local units. For both the United States and Canada, there is strong coverage of units although their results correspond to the NAICS system of reporting and are therefore difficult to compare with the Eurostat NACE system. Canada, however, correlated its information using a concordance file used to classify the Canadian 2-digit NAICS to the description of the NACE given in the document guidelines. Some countries, the Russian Federation primarily, report enterprise unit totals, however, with no NACE classification breakdown.

24. For many countries there are differences between the total number legal units, local units and enterprises recorded in tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 respectively and the total number of units shown in table 3 of the questionnaire. In most cases this difference could be explained with the number of dormant units or units who have seized their activity but are still appearing in the register. Further investigation on the data sources and procedures applied for detecting dormant units and for updating the register with regard to deleting non-existing units needs to be done in the future.

25. For all countries, there is relatively good coverage of NACE for all sections except for sections P and Q. The definition of public enterprises also seems to be problematic for some countries. The most populated NACE sections for enterprise units appears to be: G (Wholesale and retail trade), followed by A (Agriculture and forestry) and D (Manufacturing) although there is variation among countries and within regions.

Time Series Analysis

26. The development of the number of registered units (legal units, enterprise units, local units) for the years 1997/2000/2002 for a number of UNECE non-EU member states is shown in tables 6, 8 and 10. Overall, a good number of the countries for which data was available for the three years

showed a decrease in the number of registered legal units and enterprise units over the period of 1997/2000. However, this was accompanied for most of the countries by an increase in the number of registered local units for these years. The information on local units though still does not seem of sufficient quality and the increase in their number might be related to the improved methodology and coverage in the business register rather than real growth in economic activity. Inconsistencies of the data for some countries (total number of local units significantly less than total number of enterprises) implies further investigation of the way local units are identified and treated in the business registers

Analysis by Variables

27. Almost all countries include a number of variables that correspond to the Regulation in their business registers. For legal units, nine of the countries reporting have integrated into their business registers the following variables: A,B,C,D,E,F. To a lesser extent, there is coverage of the following variables: G(opt), H(opt), I, J. The variable K is almost never reported (see tables 11-13).

28. For the reporting of enterprise units, variables A to G are for the most part well covered by most countries (10 countries). Variables H and I (opt) are reported much more rarely.

29. Variables for local units are covered to a much lesser extent in business registers of CIS countries. Only two CIS countries reported strongly on units covered by variable in this section and one CIS country covering only two of the variables. Developed countries such as Canada and the US had a very strong coverage of variables in this area.

Enterprise Groups

30. While enterprise groups are not very prevalent among UNECE countries, some countries in the CIS stood out in particular for their reporting of this unit, in particular, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan (see table 14).

Quality

31. With the exception of the more developed countries, the quality section of the questionnaire was more or less left empty by many of the responding countries (see table 15). Some CIS countries indicate in their questionnaire responses that they have implemented a number of measures to maintain quality control, in particular, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Turkmenistan. Many countries conduct register update surveys. While progress has been made in coverage of units, the quality of this coverage is as yet still to a great extent not examined. Less emphasis for the moment has been placed on quality improvement. Subsequently, while coverage of NACE sections is being achieved by many countries, an important factor to consider in future efforts is improving the overall quality of data reported.

Annex 1

Table 1. Sources used for detecting the existence of a unit – Legal Unit

Country	VAT	Personal income tax	Corporate tax	Other business taxation	Social security data	Published business accounts	Central bank data	Records of Chamber Commerce or professional association	Records by Customs and Excise authorities	Central Population Register	Single Business Register	Feedback from surveys	Other sources
Albania	x										x	x	x
Armenia													
Azerbaijan											x	x	
Belarus											x	x	x
Canada	x		x	x							x	x	x
Croatia											x		
Georgia											x		x
Israel	x	x	x										
Kazakhstan												x	x
Kyrgyzstan		x			x		x	x			x	x	x
Republic of Moldova		x				x					x	x	x
Russian Federation						x	x		x			x	x
Serbia and Montenegro													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													
Turkmenistan	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	
Ukraine	x	x	x	x								x	x
United States - BLS													
United States - Census													

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Table 2. Sources used for detecting the existence of a unit – Enterprise Unit

Country	VAT	Personal income tax	Corporate tax	Other business taxation	Social security data	Published business accounts	Central bank data	Records of Chamber Commerce or professional association	Records by Customs and Excise authorities	Central Population Register	Single Business Register	Feedback from surveys	Other sources
Albania	x										x	x	x
Armenia													
Azerbaijan											x	x	
Belarus											x	x	x
Canada												x	x
Croatia	x	x	x		x								x
Georgia												x	
Israel		x			x							x	
Kazakhstan												x	
Kyrgyzstan		x			x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Republic of Moldova		x				x					x	x	x
Russian Federation													
Serbia and Montenegro													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													
Turkmenistan	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	
Ukraine	x	x	x	x								x	x
United States - BLS													
United States - Census		x	x	x								x	

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

¹⁾ According to the legislation and the method for updating the BR the enterprise = legal unit

Table 3. Sources used for detecting the existence of a unit – Local Unit

Country	VAT	Personal income tax	Corporate tax	Other business taxation	Social security data	Published business accounts	Central bank data	Records of Chamber Commerce or professional association	Records by Customs and Excise authorities	Central Population Register	Single Business Register	Feedback from surveys	Other sources
Albania													
Armenia													
Azerbaijan											x	x	
Belarus											x	x	x
Canada												x	x
Croatia													
Georgia												x	
Israel												x	
Kazakhstan												x	
Kyrgyzstan		x			x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Republic of Moldova		x										x	x
Russian Federation						x	x		x			x	
Serbia and Montenegro													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													
Turkmenistan	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	
Ukraine	x	x	x	x								x	x
United States - BLS				x							x	x	x
United States - Census		x	x	x								x	x

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Table 4. Sources used for detecting the existence of a unit – Enterprise group

Country	VAT	Personal income tax	Corporate tax	Other business taxation	Social security data	Published business accounts	Central bank data	Records of Chamber Commerce or professional association	Records by Customs and Excise authorities	Central Population Register	Single Business Register	Feedback from surveys	Other sources
Albania													
Armenia													
Azerbaijan													
Belarus											x	x	x
Canada												x	x
Croatia													
Georgia													
Israel													
Kazakhstan													
Kyrgyzstan													
Republic of Moldova													
Russian Federation													x
Serbia and Montenegro													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													
Turkmenistan	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	
Ukraine													
United States - BLS													
United States - Census												x	

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers

Table 5. Legal Units - Coverage by section of NACE Rev.1

	Albania ¹	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus ²	Canada ³	Croatia ⁴	Georgia ⁵	Israel ⁶	Kazakhstan ⁷	Kyrgyzstan ⁸	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation ⁹	Serbia and Montenegro	The FYROM ¹⁰	Turkmenistan ¹⁰	Ukraine ¹⁰	United States (BLS) ¹¹	United States (Census) ¹²
NACE Rev.1																		
A (optional)	735	2,427	8,390	8,763	223,000	3,378	3,246	14,074	10,378	3,020	1,691	326,332	na	na	4,113	72,805	na	na
B (optional)	201	167	71	67	13,000	535	122	na	348	22	44	2,677	na	na	13	1,001	na	na
C	171	134	281	68	18,000	271	327	29,558	1,012	113	54	10,071	na	na	49	1,790	na	na
D	5,574	8,834	4,457	9,308	127,000	19,537	10,592	na	14,615	2,397	3,442	420,528	na	na	1,969	87,020	na	na
E	127	249	334	241	2,000	203	498	274	1,591	149	111	9,663	na	na	109	2,564	na	na
F	2,011	2,608	4,305	5,150	311,000	12,146	2,761	39,491	14,031	1,115	1,398	257,538	na	na	1,992	51,156	na	na
G	31,947	23,360	18,913	23,843	456,000	83,320	54,973	83,580	58,935	4,177	14,837	1,431,050	na	na	5,885	217,497	na	na
H	6,032	1,538	882	743	152,000	6,541	2,654	15,384	2,248	367	922	70,815	na	na	317	15,857	na	na
I	9,494	1,680	1,467	3,573	167,000	9,092	5,648	37,065	7,404	1,166	1,780	111,585	na	na	452	21,010	na	na
J	73	202	667	502	121,000	1,556	1,333	9,442	2,967	736	412	83,165	na	na	172	7,647	na	na
K	2,382	2,770	5,076	5,455	743,000	20,803	4,076	83,542	21,779	1,912	2,495	466,389	na	na	722	74,639	na	na
L (optional)	24	81	5,336	4,466	6,000	2,646	1,635	na	7,200	1,844	na	76,237	na	na	889	31,184	na	na
M	255	574	538	1,160	24,000	2,930	1,174	8,977	11,746	742	259	159,454	na	na	303	27,593	na	na
N	852	887	1,093	1,445	118,000	2,635	2,447	25,156	5,855	907	394	61,579	na	na	400	17,756	na	na
O	1,961	1,989	4,974	15,865	191,000	34,691	5,726	21,540	13,575	3,737	765	307,735	na	na	1,063	96,242	na	na
P	6	na	na	na	89,000	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na	23	na	na
Q	14	na	43	3	140	57	na	na	2	14	na	78	na	na	na	na	na	na
Without NACE	na	na	na	11	144,000	na	na	na	na	na	na	209	na	na	na	112,631	na	na
Reported Total of NACE Sections	61,859	47,501	56,827	80,563	2,905,140	200,341	97,209	368,084	173,686	22,418	28,605	3,795,107	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	na
Reference Period	2001	01.12.02	01.01.03		June 2002		31.12.02	2001		31.12.01	01.01.02					01.01.02		

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Notes:

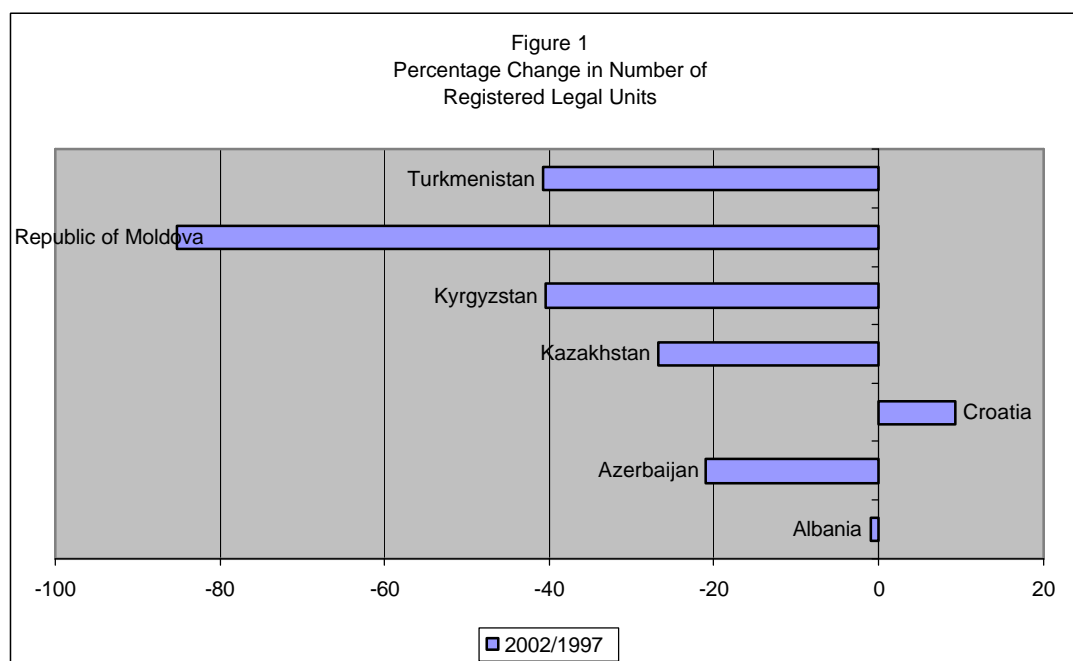
- Albania: legal unit = enterprise
- Belarus: Does not contain information on physical persons.
- Canada: Canadian data reported in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Canadian 2-digit NAICS were classified to NACE through the use of an attached concordance file. Counts were rounded up to the nearest thousandth or in certain circumstances to the nearest tenth.
- Croatia: In the Croatian Business Register, they have legal units only as legal persons obtained from the Administrative Register. But when creating enterprises they include data from the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute and Tax Administration on natural persons engaged in economic activity. For each legal and natural person they create one enterprise. That is why in some sections of NACE the number of enterprises is bigger than the number of legal persons.
- Georgia: Georgia reports that a lot of economic entities are dormant. Other problems are non-responding and high scales of non-observed economy.
- Israel: Israel uses a national classification based on ISIC Rev.3 for which a conversion table to NACE is available. NACE section A (optional) includes fishing. NACE Section C includes mining and quarrying. Total excludes diamonds, banks and insurance companies, community institutions, community centres and religious services.
- Kazakhstan: This includes units that have been created but which have not started activity.
- Russian Federation: This data does not include physical persons. Enterprises refer to legal units.
- TFYR Macedonia: Macedonia is in the final stages of establishing its Statistical Register of Business Subjects. It anticipates being able to deliver regular data from its statistical register next year.
- Ukraine: Ukraine is in the process of developing first version of statistical register on the basis of business register. They developed a second version of a NACE compatible classification. The recoding of units in their BR is being carried out in 2003.
- USA (BLS): USA data classified in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Data for legal units are not available as BLS does not record such units. Main unit used in USA business registers are business establishments defined as a unique physical location that performs and produces economic output. Business establishments correspond to local units. Reported data on business establishments can be found in Table 9.
- USA (Census Bureau): See note 10 on USA (BLS). Reported data on business establishments can be found in Table 9 and total number of enterprises only in Table 7.

Table 6. Number and Percentage Change of Registered Legal Units

Country	1997	2000	2002*	2002/1997 (% change)
Albania	62,471	62,649	61,859	-0.98
Armenia	na	na	47,501	na
Azerbaijan	71,937	na	56,827	-21.00
Belarus	na	na	80,563	na
Canada	na	na	2,905,140	na
Croatia	183,307	192,034	200,341	9.29
Georgia	na	na	97,209	na
Israel	na	na	368,084	na
Kazakhstan	236,913	na	173,686	-26.69
Kyrgyzstan	37,600	34,632	22,418	-40.38
Republic of Moldova	193,076	41,160	28,605	-85.18
Russian Federation ⁹	na	3,404,004	3,795,107	na
Serbia and Montenegro	260,099	na	na	na
The fYROM	na	na	na	na
Turkmenistan	31,100	24,999	18,448	-40.68
Ukraine	na	na	838,415	na
United States-BLS	na	na	na	na
United States-Census	na	na	na	na

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers

* See Table 5 for notes on 2002 data



Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers

Table 7. Enterprise Units - Coverage by Section of NACE Rev.1

NACE rev.1	Albania ¹	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus ²	Canada ³	Croatia ⁴	Georgia ⁵	Israel	Kazakhstan ⁶	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation ⁷	Serbia-Monte negro	The FYROM ⁸	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS) ⁹	United States (Census) ¹⁰
A	735	na	6,055	5,292	187,000	2,716	240	na	8,319	3,020	1,691	na	3,357	na	2,603	21,434	na	na
B (opt)	201	na	44	66	9,000	1,871	16	na	300	22	44	na	70	na	10	452	na	na
C	171	na	206	67	14,000	243	78	na	758	113	54	na	186	na	28	1,057	na	na
D	5,574	na	2,438	8,780	98,000	22,832	2,654	na	11,150	2,397	3,442	na	15,203	na	1,303	44,583	na	na
E	127	na	282	213	2,000	173	165	na	1,323	145	111	na	258	na	91	1,708	na	na
F	2,011	na	2,045	4,822	239,000	16,712	496	na	11,286	1,115	1,398	na	3,719	na	1,096	23,124	na	na
G	31,947	na	9,256	22,761	353,000	55,543	14,894	na	43,582	4,177	14,837	na	34,984	na	3,005	114,967	na	na
H	6,032	na	559	687	105,000	15,918	1,356	na	1,540	367	922	na	1,180	na	218	8,389	na	na
I	9,494	na	995	2,687	128,000	13,836	828	na	5,673	1,166	1,780	na	4,204	na	356	11,778	na	na
J	73	na	428	382	97,000	1,442	39	na	2	736	412	na	105	na	141	2,836	na	na
K	2,382	na	2,600	1,260	599,000	21,432	1,041	na	15,920	1,912	2,495	na	6,633	na	522	34,757	na	na
L (opt)	24	na	na	69	6,000	1,042	na	na	39	1,844	0	na	944	na	798	229	na	na
M	255	na	460	248	18,000	2,379	371	na	3,267	742	259	na	3,151	na	262	2,107	na	na
N	852	na	833	323	88,000	7,182	670	na	3,784	907	394	na	1,126	na	358	2,647	na	na
O	1,961	na	1,447	943	148,000	15,575	443	na	3,614	3,737	765	na	1,398	na	761	9,192	na	na
P	6	na	na	na	10	666	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Q	14	na	na	na	70	1	na	na	na	14	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Without NACE	na	na	na	9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Reported Total	61,859	na	27,652	48,609	2,091,080	180,365	23,291	na	110,567	22,418	28,605	2,283,747	76,516	na	11,552	279,275	na	5,652,544
Reference Period	2001		01.01.03		Jun-02		31.12.02			2001	01.01.02				01.01.03	01.01.02		2000

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Notes

1. Albania: legal unit = enterprise
2. Belarus: Does not contain information on physical persons.
3. Canada: Canadian data reported in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Canadian 2-digit NAICS were classified to NACE through the use of an attached concordance file. Counts were rounded up to the nearest thousandth or in certain circumstances to the nearest tenth.
4. Croatia: In the Croatian Business Register, they have legal units only as legal persons obtained from the Administrative Register. But when creating enterprises they include data from the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute and Tax Administration on natural persons engaged in economic activity. For each legal and natural person they create one enterprise. That is why in some sections of NACE the number of enterprises is bigger than the number of legal persons.
5. Georgia: Georgia reports that a lot of economic entities are dormant. Other problems are non-responding and high scales of non-observed economy.
6. Kazakhstan: This includes units that have been created but which have not started activity.
7. Russian Federation: This data does not include physical persons. Enterprises refer to legal units. Data here refers to number of units covered and actually carrying out economic activity.
8. TFYR Macedonia: Macedonia is in the final stages of establishing its Statistical Register of Business Subjects. It anticipates being able to deliver regular data from its statistical register next year.
9. USA (BLS): USA data classified in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Data for legal units are not available as BLS does not record such units. Main unit used in USA business registers are business establishments defined as a unique physical location that performs and produces economic output. Business establishments correspond to local units. Reported data on business establishments can be found in Table 9.
10. USA (Census Bureau): See note 9 on USA (BLS). Reported data on business establishments can be found in Table 9.

Table 8. Number and Percentage Change of Registered Enterprises

Country	1997	2000	2002*	2002/1997 (% change)
Albania	62,471	62,649	61,859	-0.98
Armenia	na	na	na	na
Azerbaijan	66,401	na	27,652	-58.36
Belarus	71,846	na	48,609	-32.34
Canada	na	na	2,091,080	na
Croatia	183,307	173,840	180,365	-1.60
Georgia	54,988	na	23,291	-57.64
Israel	na	na	na	na
Kazakhstan	na	na	110,567	na
Kyrgyzstan	37,600	15,251	22,418	-40.38
Republic of Moldova	183,000	19,426	28,605	-84.37
Russian Federation	na	1,987,404	2,283,747	na
Serbia and Montenegro	214,302	na	76,518	-64.29
The fYROM	108,738	49,366	na	na
Turkmenistan	31,100	15,522	11,552	-62.86
Ukraine	690,868	na	279,275	-59.58
United States-BLS	na	na	na	na
United States-Census	5,683,829	na	5,652,544	-0.55

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers

*See Table 7 for notes on 2002 data

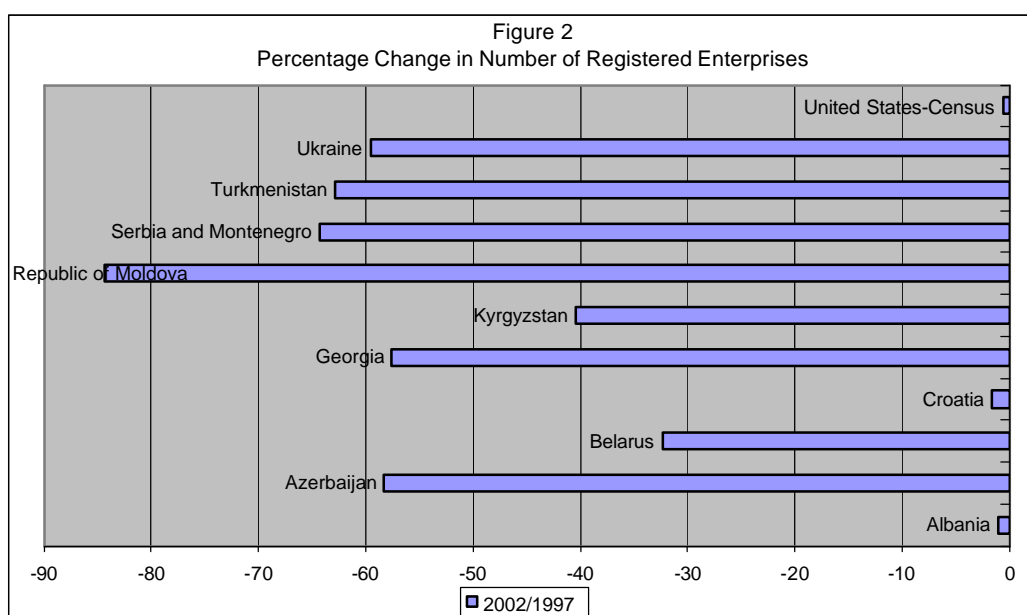


Table 9. Local Units - Coverage by Section of NACE Rev.1

NACE Rev. 1	Albania	Armenia	Azer bajjan	Belarus	Canada ¹	Croatia ²	Georgia ³	Israel	Kazakh stan	Kyrgyz stan	Republic of Moldova ⁴	Russian Federation ⁵	Serbia- Monte negro	The FYROM ⁶	Turkmeni stan	Ukraine	United States (BLS) ⁷	United States (Census) ⁸
A (opt)	na	na	6,088	855	188,000	na	252	na	9,095	16	1,193	3,742	3,743	na	15	21,779	na	na
B (opt)	na	na	44	29	9,000	na	18	na	305	4	35	95	87	na	4	465	na	na
C	na	na	229	25	15,000	na	84	na	923	7	56	672	254	na	42	1,139	na	23,738
D	na	na	2,475	800	104,000	na	2,702	na	11,849	129	1,856	10,511	16,174	na	101	46,129	na	354,498
E	na	na	313	233	2,000	na	205	na	1,580	16	141	1,915	478	na	39	2,519	na	17,301
F	na	na	2,150	731	240,000	na	527	na	12,083	58	720	7,530	4,070	na	165	24,379	na	709,590
G	na	na	9,337	3,857	389,000	na	15,724	na	46,161	446	3,438	27,210	39,991	na	1,800	119,886	na	1,559,810
H	na	na	565	812	110,000	na	1,381	na	1,593	31	379	2,352	1,624	na	317	9,032	na	542,411
I	na	na	1,071	706	134,000	na	884	na	7,102	81	740	10,095	5,305	na	153	13,215	na	190,044
J	na	na	536	754	105,000	na	61	na	na	272	144	16,946	105	na	169	3,517	na	423,727
K	na	na	2,899	1,443	609,000	na	1,104	na	18,610	321	868	25,584	6,807	na	359	35,844	na	300,177
L (opt)	na	na	5,258	1,289	8,000	na	na	na	7,433	17	12	5,440	944	na	483	234	na	na
M	na	na	502	317	19,000	na	406	na	13,378	2,335	223	4,734	3,151	na	1,860	2,309	na	68,014
N	na	na	972	987	92,000	na	681	na	5,369	684	161	2,586	1,163	na	344	2,856	na	658,559
O	na	na	3,819	811	151,000	na	459	na	15,933	800	411	6,401	1,531	na	147	9,455	na	na
P	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Q	na	na	43	1	70	na	na	na	na	na	na	34	na	na	18	na	na	na
Without NACE	na	na	na	32	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	98,968
Reported Total	na	na	36,301	13,682	2,175,070	na	24,488	na	151,414	5,217	10,378	125,847	85,427	na	6,016	292,773	8,123,690	7,070,048
Reference Period			01.01.03		Jun-02		31.12.02			2001	2002				01.01.03	01.01.02		2000

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Notes

- Canada: Canadian data reported in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Canadian 2-digit NAICS were classified to NACE through the use of an attached concordance file. Counts were rounded up to the nearest thousandth or in certain circumstances to the nearest tenth.
- Croatia: While Croatia does not currently have data on local units, this data will become partly available later this year.
- Georgia: This data is preliminary and can be changed after revision.
- Moldova: System for recording local units still under construction and data is incomplete. It is based on the structural survey.
- Russian Federation: Separate subunits of legal units registered as of 01.12.2002.
- TFYR Macedonia: TFYR Macedonia is in the final stages of establishing its Statistical Register of Business Subjects. It anticipates being able to deliver regular data from its statistical register next year.
- USA (BLS): USA data classified in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NACE. Main unit used in USA business registers are business establishments defined as a unique physical location that performs and produces economic output. Business establishments correspond to local units. As data are reported in NAICS sectors and are not correlated to NACE, the data on business establishments from the BLS can be found in a separate table - Table 9 bis.
- USA (Census Bureau): See note 7 on USA (BLS). US Census Bureau's Business Register classifies local units (establishments) according to NAICS. Data shown are rough approximations and are available only where there is reasonable similarity between a NAICS sector and a NACE Rev.1 section. Industry detail does not sum to the total because of the sectors/sections that are omitted due to the differences in NAICS versus NACE Rev.1.

Table 9 bis. Number of Registered Units (Local Units)*
USA - Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS)

NAICS Sectors	No. of Establishments
11 Agriculture	101,389
21 Mining	25,708
22 Utilities	16,285
23 Construction	792,030
31-33 Manufacturing	392,724
42 Wholesale Trade	588,508
44-45 Retail Trade	1,048,180
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	210,812
51 Information	154,501
52 Finance and Insurance	421,874
53 Real estate and rental and leasing	315,437
54 Professional and technical services	854,961
55 Management of companies	38,105
56 Administrative and waste services	403,385
61 Educational services	68,828
62 Health care and social assistance	632,988
71 Arts, entertainment, and recreation	108,412
72 Accommodation and food services	538,203
81 Other services	1,011,133
92 Publication Administration	na
Federal Government	41,308
State Government	64,612
Local Government	146,454
Total number of units reported	8,123,690
Sum of all NAICS sectors	7,975,837
Reference Period	Mar-02

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

* See note 7 of Table 9 preceding this page

Table 10. Number and Percentage Change of Registered Local Units

Country	1997	2000	2002*	2002/1997 (% change)
Albania	na	na	na	na
Armenia	na	na	na	na
Azerbaijan	3,392	na	36,301	970.19
Belarus	na	na	13,682	na
Canada	na	na	na	na
Croatia	41,459	na	na	na
Georgia	1,512	na	24,488	1,519.58
Kazakhstan	na	na	151,414	na
Kyrgyzstan	3,020	3,822	5,217	72.75
Republic of Moldova	na	na	10,378	na
Russian Federation	na	110,373	125,847	na
Serbia and Montenegro	81,615	na	85,427	4.67
The fYROM	na	135,767	na	na
Turkmenistan	4,100	5,947	6,016	46.73
Ukraine	723,740	na	292,773	-59.55
United States-BLS	na	na	8,123,690	na
United States-Census	7,138,834	na	7,070,048	-0.96

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers

* See Table 9 for notes on 2002 data

Table 11. Legal Units - Reported Coverage by Variable 2002*

Variable	Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Canada	Croatia	Georgia	Israel**	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation	Serbia-Monte negro	The FYROM	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS)	United States (Census)
a	110,850	na	56,827	na	2,905,140	200,341	na	na	173,686	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	na
b	110,850	na	56,827	na	2,905,140	200,341	na	na	173,686	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	na
b (opt)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	131,622	14,097	na	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	na
c	8,063	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	6,326	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
d	110,850	na	56,827	na	1,804,000	200,341	na	na	173,686	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	na
e	48,991	na	2,000	na	14,700	na	na	na	na	411	1,798	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
f	110,850	na	56,827	80,563	2,905,140	200,341	na	na	173,686	22,418	104,606	3,669,260	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	na
g (opt)	na	na	na	na	15,000	na	na	na	8,467	2,716	na	51,392	na	na	396	na	na	na
h (opt)	na	na	na	32,955	na	na	na	na	na	274	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
i	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	7,217	957	1,747	156,486	na	na	3,708	6,100	na	na
j	19,000	na	36,530	80,653	2,905,140	na	na	na	na	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
k	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Reported Total	110,850	na	56,827	80,563	2,905,140	200,341	97,209	400,000	173,686	22,418	104,606	3,669,260	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	na
Reference Period	2001		01.01.03 ***	2002	Jun-02	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002		2002			01.01.03	01.01.02		

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

* Data in Table 11 refers to the number of units reported by the country in their questionnaire, not to the availability or non-availability of the variable in the BR

** Total for this country is an approximation

*** 2002 for e.

See Annex 2 for description of variables

Table 12. Enterprise Units - Reported Coverage by Variable 2002*

Variable	Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Canada	Croatia	Georgia	Israel**	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation	Serbia-Monte negro	The FYROM	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS)	United States (Census)
a)	110,850	na	47,987	na	2,091,080	180,365	na	na	110,567	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	5,652,544
b)	110,850	na	na	1,554	2,000	180,365	na	na	110,567	7,431	na	na	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	5,652,544
c)	110,850	na	47,987	na	na	180,365	na	na	110,567	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	na
d)	na	na	23,410	1,875	na	na	na	na	69,454	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	na
e)	110,850	na	47,987	na	2,091,080	na	na	na	110,567	693,252	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,652,544
f)	110,850	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	110,567	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	na	838,415	na	5,652,544
g)	48,991	na	1,807	na	na	na	na	na	8,933	411	1,963	na	na	na	943	838,415	na	na
h)	na	na	47,987	na	2,091,080	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	279,275	na	na
i) optional	na	na	na	na	122,000	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	18,448	na	na
Reported Total	110,850	na	47,987	48,609	2,091,080	na	23,291	400,000	110,567	22,418	104,606	na	na	na	18,448	838,415	na	5,652,544
Reference Period	2001		01.01.03 **	2002	2002		2002	2002	2002	2002					01.01.03	01.01.02		2000

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

* Data in Table 12 refers to the number of units reported by the country in their questionnaire, not to the availability or non-availability of the variable in the BR

** 2002 for g.

See Annex 2 for description of variables

Table 13. Local Units - Reported Coverage by Variable 2002*

Variable	Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Canada	Croatia	Georgia	Israel**	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation	Serbia-Monte negro	The FYROM	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS)	United States (Census)	
a	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	8,123,690	7,040,048	
b	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	6,038,148	7,040,048
b (opt)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	na	7,040,048
c	na	na	59,129	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	7,973,376	6,941,080
d (opt)	na	na	59,129	3,725	na	na	na	na	na	8	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	na	na
e	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	125,512	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	6,696,642	7,040,048
f	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	8,123,690	7,040,048
g	na	na	2,105	na	na	na	na	na	na	26	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	8,123,690	na
h	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	7,738,495	7,040,048
i	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	7,040,048
j	na	na	59,129	na	2,175,070	na	na	na	na	5,217	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	8,190,718	7,040,048
k	na	na	na	2,504	4,000	na	na	na	na	182	na	na	na	na	na	na	889,330	60,000	7,040,048
Reported Total	na	na	59,129	13,682	2,175,070	na	24,488	400,000	na	5,217	na	125,647	na	na	6,016	889,330	8,123,690	7,040,048	
Reference Year			01.01.03 **	2002	2002			2002	2002		2002		2002		2002	01.01.02	2002	2000	

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

* Data in Table 13 refers to the number of units reported by the country in their questionnaire, not to the availability or non-availability of the variable in the BR

** 2002 for g.

See Annex 2 for description of variables

Table 14. Enterprise Groups - Reported Number of Units

Category	Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Canada	Croatia	Georgia	Israel	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation	Serbia-Montenegro	The FYROM	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS)	United States (Census)
Transnational Enterprise Group	na	na	na		na	na	na	na	na		na	17	na	na	2	na	na	3620
All-Resident Enterprise Group	na	na	na	94	na	na	na	na	na	101	na	999	na	na	72	na	na	
Public Sector	na	na	na		na	na	na	na	na	171	na	na	na	na	96	na	na	
Reported Total										272		1016			170			3620
Sum of Above				94						272		1016			170			3620

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

* Enterprise Group project under development.

Table 15. Quality measures undertaken as reported by countries

Quality control measures conducted regularly	Albania	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Canada	Croatia	Georgia	Israel	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Republic of Moldova	Russian Federation	Serbia-Montenegro	The FYROM	Turkmenistan	Ukraine	United States (BLS)	United States (Census)
Percentage of activity inconsistencies check			x		x										x		x	
Percentage of employment inconsistencies check			x												x			
Percentage of erroneous names or addresses check			x		x							x			x		x	
Register update survey	x		x	x	x					x	x	x			x		x	x

Source: Joint UNECE/Eurostat Questionnaire on Business Registers

Annex Variables of the Regulation No. 2186/93

1. LEGAL UNIT

- a) - identity number
- b) - name, address including postcode
- b) optional - telephone, electronic mail, fax numbers and telex address
- c) - requirement for the legal unit to publish its annual accounts (Yes/No)
- d) - date of incorporation for legal persons or date of official recognition as an economic operator for natural persons
- e) - date on which the LEGAL UNIT ceases to be legally responsible for an enterprise
- f) - legal form of the unit
- g) optional - name and address of any non-resident legal unit, other than a natural person, which controls the legal unit
- h) optional - identity number of the legal unit in the register which controls the legal unit
- i) - character of "public undertaking" of the legal unit within the meaning of Commission Directive 80/723/EEC (Yes/No) - (for legal persons only)
- j) - reference to other associated files, including customs files, in which the legal unit is recorded and which contain information which can be used for statistical purposes
- k) - reference to the register of intra-Community operators drawn up in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) N° 3330/91 of 7 November on the statistical relating to the trading of goods between Member States

2. LOCAL UNIT

- a) - identity number
- b) - name, address including postcode
- b) optional - telephone, electronic mail, fax numbers and telex address
- c) - activity code at the four-digit (class) level of NACE Rev1
- d) optional - secondary activities, if any, at the four-digit level
- e) - size of labour force
- f) - date of commencement of the activities
- g) - date of final cessation of activities
- h) - geographical location code (territorial units)
- i) - reference to associated registers in which the local unit appears and which contain information which can be used for statistical purposes
- j) - identity number in the register of the enterprise on which the local unit is dependent
- k) - activity carried out in the local unit constituting an ancillary activity of the enterprise on which it depends (Yes/No)

3. ENTERPRISE

- a) - identity number
- b) - identity number(s) of the legal unit(s) legally responsible for the enterprise
- c) - activity code of the enterprise at four-digit (class) level of NACE Rev1 in which the principal activity or all the activities of the enterprise is or are included
- d) - secondary activities, if any, at NACE Rev1 four-digit level, if they amount to 10% of the total of all activities
- e) - size: measured by the number of persons occupied or, failing that, by allocation to one of the following classes according to the number of persons occupied
- f) - date of commencement of activities of the enterprise
- g) - date of final cessation of activities of the enterprise
- h) - net turnover from sale of goods and services (except for financial intermediaries); failing that, allocation to a size class defined
- i) optional - net assets (assets after allowing for depreciation less liabilities - financial intermediaries only)