



Statistical Confidentiality in European Business Statistics

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European Statistics and European Statistical System

European Statistical System:

- *statistical offices in the EU countries*
- *Eurostat (in Luxembourg)*

European Statistics:

- *Statistics necessary for the EU policies*

Transmission of data (incl. confidential data based on subject-matter regulations)



Problem statement

- *In business statistics many figures are suppressed due to confidentiality*
- *In some cases on average 50% of data are confidential*

Total production by PRODCOM list (NACE Rev. 2) - annual data
 Last update: 07-03-2017
 Table Customization [show](#)

INDICATORS +
 + PERIOD - Period
 Jan.-Dec. 2009 +

DECL	PQNTBASE	PQNTFLAG	PRODQNT	QNTUNIT
France	0	:C	:	kg
Netherlands	0	:	0	kg
Germany	0	:C	:	kg
Italy	0	:	5,241,986,000	kg
United Kingdom	0	:	0	kg
Ireland	0	:C	:	kg
Denmark	0	:	0	kg
Greece	0	:	920,183,899	kg
Portugal	0	:	161,797,238	kg
Spain	0	:	2,430,560,000	kg
Belgium	0	:	0	kg
Luxemburg	0	:	0	kg
Iceland	0	:	0	kg
Norway	0	:C	:	kg
Sweden	0	:C	:	kg
Finland	0	:	0	kg
Austria	0	:C	:	kg
Malta	0	:	0	kg
Estonia	0	:	0	kg
Latvia	0	:	0	kg
Lithuania	0	:	0	kg
Poland	0	:C	:	kg
Czech Republic	0	:C	:	kg
Slovakia	0	:	0	kg
Hungary	0	:	25,717,000	kg
Romania	0	:C	:	kg
Bulgaria	0	:C	:	kg
Slovenia	0	:C	:	kg
Croatia	0	:	172,595,000	kg
EU25TOTALS	40,000,000	EU27-EU02(R)	9,220,891,058	kg
EU27TOTALS	:	:	9,260,891,058	kg
Cyprus	0	:	0	kg

Recommendations for confidentiality treatment in business statistics

- *Issued by SDC experts and validated by various stakeholders in the ESS:*
 - **Optimal table design**
 - **Use of waivers (disclosure permission given by responding business entities) and**
 - **Reviewing too strict confidentiality parameters**

Results so far in PRODCOM (EU grant)

- *Introduction of waivers:*
 - HU: Increase of published cells from 45% to 74%*
 - NL: Increase of published cells from 35% to 40%*
 - PL: Increase of published cells from 57% to 69%*
- *Relaxing too strict confidentiality parameters:*
 - NL: Increase of published cells from 15% to 35%*

Other ideas

- *Enforcing the use of confidentiality flags to statistical confidentiality only*
- *Expiry date for confidentiality*
- *Replacing suppressed figures by less accurate figures (e.g. rounding, noise addition)*



Thank you for your attention!

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