



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: High Growth Enterprises



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

High Growth Enterprises

This documentation applies to the reporting period:

2017

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2. Introduction

The primary purpose of the release is to detail the number of high-growth enterprises in the Irish business economy and their characteristics. The release provides information on the total number of persons engaged, turnover and gross value added in high-growth enterprises. It also provides information on young high-growth enterprises, known in the release as “gazelles”.

The release is the product of further analysis of the Structural Business Statistics series.

3. Contact

Contact Organisation:	Central Statistics Office
Contact Organisation Unit:	Business Statistics
Contact Name:	Colin Hanley & Deirdre O'Connor
Contact person function:	Statistician
Contact Mail address:	Central Statistics Office, Skehard Road, Mahon, Cork T12 X00E
Contact email address:	Business_Stats@cso.ie
Contact Phone Number:	353 21 4535559
Contact Fax Number:	

4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

26 February 2020

4.2. Metadata last posted

26 February 2020

4.3. Metadata last update

26 February 2020



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

The Structural Business Statistics series combines three surveys, the Census of Industrial Production, Building and Construction Inquiry and the Annual Services Inquiry to provide structural data about the Irish business economy. Data are collected on variables such as turnover, purchases, stocks, capital assets, labour costs and nationality of ownership. This release links the enterprises longitudinally through previous Structural Business Statistics series to identify enterprises that have experience high levels of growth in turnover and/or employment in a three-year period.

5.2. Classification System

The Sector classification used was based on the NACE Rev. 2 categories and was determined as follows:

Sector	NACE Rev. 2 Codes
Industry	05-33, 35-39
Construction	41-43
Distribution	45-47
Services	45-53, 55-56, 58-63, 68, 69-75, 77-82,- 92-93, 95-96

Similarly, the Modern and Traditional Sectors were defined in accordance with NACE Rev. 2 as follows:

Sector	NACE Rev. 2 Codes
Modern	18, 20-21, 26-27, 3250, 28-59, 61 -63
Traditional	All other NACE Rev. 2 categories

Enterprise size class is determined by the number of persons engaged as follows:

Size Class	Number of Persons Engaged
Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250+

The 'Small and Medium Enterprise' classification refers to any enterprise in the Micro, Small or Medium category.



All regional breakdowns described in this release in line with Eurostat's Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS). The categorisation used is at NUTS 3 level, and can be described as follows:

NUTS 3 Region	County
Border	Donegal
	Sligo
	Leitrim
	Cavan
	Monaghan
West	Galway
	Mayo
	Roscommon
Mid-West	Clare
	Tipperary
	Limerick
South-East	Waterford
	Kilkenny
	Carlow
	Wexford
South-West	Cork
	Kerry
Dublin	Dublin
Mid-East	Wicklow
	Kildare
	Meath
	Louth
Midlands	Longford
	Westmeath
	Offaly
	Laois

Note: The geographical breakdown for enterprises is an approximation. The county breakdown is based on the address at which an enterprise is registered for Revenue purposes, rather than where the business operates from, because no comprehensive administrative data source is currently available for business locations.

The type of ownership of an enterprise identifies whether an enterprise is domestic or foreign controlled. A domestic enterprise is defined as either domestic indigenous or domestic multinational (with foreign control of less than 50%). A foreign controlled enterprise is defined as having foreign control of more than 50%.

Type of Ownership	Control (%)
Domestic	Enterprises with foreign control <50%
Foreign	Enterprises with foreign control >50%



5.3. Sector Coverage

The release covers enterprises in the Industry, Construction, Distribution and Services sectors in Ireland for those NACE 2 digit categories listed under 'Classification System'.

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

A **high-growth enterprise** is any enterprise with an annualised growth rate greater than 10% over a three-year period. This in practice means a growth rate of 33.1% from the beginning of the three-year period to the reference year. For this release growth has been measured in turnover and/or employment. A threshold of 10 employees at the beginning of the three-year period is set to avoid micro enterprises distorting the results.

In this release, enterprises need to have been active for at least three years before the reference year and have 10 or more employees at the beginning of the three-year period. This ensures that non-high-growth enterprise figures are not distorted by enterprises that could never meet the definition of a high-growth enterprise.

A **Gazelle** is a high-growth enterprise that is less than five years old. Considering that an enterprise needs three full years of annualised growth this in effect means that Gazelles are either four or five years old during the reference year.

In this release, young enterprises are all four and five-year-old enterprises during the reference year that had 10 or more employees at the beginning of the three-year period. This ensures that non-Gazelle figures are not distorted by young enterprises that could never meet the definition of a Gazelle.

A **very high-growth enterprise** is any enterprise with an annualised growth rate greater than 20% over a three-year period. This in practice means a growth rate of 72.8% from the beginning of the three-year period to the reference year. For this release growth has been measured in turnover and/or employment. A threshold of 10 employees at the beginning of the three-year period is set to avoid micro enterprises distorting the results.

Persons engaged is the sum of employees and working proprietors. Employees are persons who are paid a fixed wage or salary, this would include self-employed individuals who pay themselves a working wage. Working proprietors include proprietors, partners and family members who work in the firm but are not paid a definite wage or salary.

Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the enterprise during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

Gross value added (GVA) provides a monetary value for goods and services that have been produced by the enterprise minus the cost of raw materials and other inputs used in production.

Labour productivity in this release measures output relative to the number of persons engaged in the enterprise. It is calculated as Gross Value Added divided by persons engaged. This measure of labour productivity does not consider the differences in hours worked. For more information on the different measures of labour productivity see the appendix in Productivity in Ireland 2017.

5.5. Statistical Unit

The reporting statistical unit for this publication is the enterprise.

5.6. Statistical Population



Enterprises in the Structural Business Statistics series that are active for at least three years from the reference year and with 10 or more employees in the base year.

5.7. Reference Area

State

5.8. Time Coverage

2014 - 2017

5.9. Base period

Not applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

Number of Enterprises and Number of Persons Engaged are expressed in natural number units
Turnover and Gross Value Added are expressed in €bn

7. Reference Period

2017

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not applicable.

8.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body. These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>

9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards. Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details



that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

11. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

Not applicable.

12.2. Publications

The most current publication can be found in the CSO website or directly from this link. <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/highgrowthenterprises/>

12.3. On-line database

The data tables published in this release can be accessed directly from the CSO's dissemination database PxStat, or directly through this link: <https://data.cso.ie/product/he>

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

Not calculated.



12.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

12.5. Other

Not applicable.

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Eurostat has published guidelines (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-15-005-en-n>) to assist countries and to ensure that there is a consistent methodology followed in all member states. Documentation on methodology can be found on the methods page of the latest Gender Balance in Business Survey documentation on methodology can be found on the methods page of the latest <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/genderbalanceinbusinesssurvey/>

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

12.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the documentation associated with this output can be found in the Methods page in cso.ie <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/genderbalanceinbusinesssurvey/>. The applied methodology follows the principles of the [OECD – Eurostat manual on Business Demography statistics](#), in particular the relevant parts dealing with High Growth Enterprises.

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO conducts self-assessment reviews on all their published processes on an annual basis. The last iteration of this review carried didn't identify need for changes in processing or methodology however it was decided that future releases of the High Growth Enterprises data will focus on SMEs.



14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

Policy makers, international organisations and researchers have been focused on jobs and growth for many years. High-growth enterprises (HGEs) – help:

- create jobs
- boost economic growth

This publication gives users information on the enterprises characteristics of HGEs.

14.1.1. Main National Users

Economists, Statisticians, State Departments, Media, General Public

14.1.2. Principal External Users

No other users requested this.

14.2. User Satisfaction

Not calculated.

14.3. Data Completeness

Not calculated.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

The Structural Business Statistics series is a census that combines three annual structural surveys with administrative data. Therefore, the quality of the data used in this release is heavily reliant on the quality of the administrative data.

It should also be noted that the geographical breakdown given is an approximation. The county breakdown is based on the address at which an enterprise is registered for Revenue purposes, rather than where the business operates from, because no comprehensive administrative source is currently available for business locations. Where an enterprise has local units in several counties, but one head office where all employment is registered, all its employees will be counted against the county where the head office is located. Enterprises with unknown supplied generally have Revenue registered addresses outside of the Republic of Ireland. However, the employees registered with these addresses are working in the Republic of Ireland

15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.



15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.3.1. Coverage error

Not applicable.

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not applicable.

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not applicable.

15.3.2. Measurement error

Not applicable.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Not applicable.

15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not applicable.

15.3.4. Processing error

Not applicable.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

The statistics on high growth enterprises are an ad-hoc publication and the last dissemination took place three years after the end of the reference period.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

3 years



16.2. Punctuality

The publication dates of all CSO releases are specified in the public release calendar available from CSO.ie. The 'High Growth Enterprises' release was disseminated in accordance with the date determined in the calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days, the release was delivered within the time frame specified in the release calendar.

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

The figures in this release on High-Growth Enterprises are not directly comparable to the high-growth enterprise statistics produced by Eurostat. This is because the high-growth enterprise figures in Eurostat are from the Business Demography population which covers NACE sectors B - N (excluding K64.20 Activities of holding companies) while this release looks at high-growth enterprises in the Business Operations population which covers NACE sectors B – J and L – N as well as the productive sectors of NACE Sectors R and S (R92, R93, S95 and S96).

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

This is the only publication of this statistic available to date therefore no time series has been constructed and there is no data over time that can be compared.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

First Release - not applicable.

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

Not applicable.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

17.4. Coherence – internal

The figures are checked to ensure that total figures correspond to the figures from the Structural Business Statistics series before the definitions used in this release are applied.

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>



Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat.
<https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

19. Data Revision

19.1. Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods. The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

19.2. Data Revision Practice

No revision of data has taken place since this is the first iteration of the output.

19.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

20. Statistical processing

20.1. Source Data

The NACE sectors covered by the various Business Statistics datasets are described in Table 1.

Table 1: The data sources used for Business Statistics with NACE coverage.

NACE	Business Register	Business Demography	Census of Industrial Production	Annual Services Inquiry	Building and Construction Inquiry
B	x	x	x		
C	x	x	x		
D	x	x	x		
E	x	x	x		
F	x	x			x
G	x	x		x	
H	x	x		x	
I	x	x		x	
J	x	x		x	
L	x	x		x	
M	x	x		x	
N	x			x	
R	x			X	

Business Register

The Central Business Register (CBR) is an important component in the production of Business Statistics. The CBR is essential for establishing efficient statistical survey frames. They contain information on the enterprise unit, including their local units and enterprise group as well as the characteristics of the enterprise. Business Demography provides a breakdown of the number of active enterprises, newly



birthed and ceased enterprises. An enterprise is considered active in a certain period if it generates turnover, employs staff or makes investments in that period. In microdata linking, the BD data is used as a source of employment data and for defining the enterprise age. For more information on Business Demography, see the CSO website.

<http://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/businessdemography/>.

Structural Business Statistics (SBS) covers business economy including industry, construction, distributive trades and services. The main indicators that are collected within the SBS are presented in monetary values such as turnover or counts, for example persons employed. The SBS surveys used for this release are the Census of Industrial Production (CIP), Annual Services Inquiry (ASI) and the Building and Construction Inquiry (BCI). For more information on these surveys and Business Demography, see the CSO website.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/industry/censusofindustrialproduction/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/services/annualservicesinquiry/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/construction/buildingandconstructioninquiry/>

20.1.1. Population and sampling frame

The Population and frame for this output is taken from the CSO's Central Business Register. High growth enterprises in the NACE categories specified under 'Statistical Classifications' are analysed.

20.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

20.1.3. Survey size

Not applicable.

20.1.4. Survey technique

Not applicable.

20.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual

20.3. Data Collection

The data was collected using a combination of survey and administrative data sources. Survey data collected for the purpose of Structural Business Statistics was primarily used. Administrative data was used for enterprises who were not survey and for non respondents.

20.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

Data for the Structural Business Statistics series is collected by a combination of a postal survey, electronic survey forms and limited use of administrative data. The data is then linked longitudinally across the previous iterations of the survey in order to identify high-growth enterprises.

20.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not Applicable.



20.3.3. Survey Participation

Survey participation for the Structural Business Statistics series is mandatory under Statistics (Structural Business Inquiries) Order 2017 SI No. 572 of 2017.

20.3.4. Data Capture

Survey forms for the three Structural Business Statistics surveys are issued by post and electronically and returned forms are then scrutinised for any discrepancies prior to scanning. Returned survey forms are scanned and verified. The scanned data and the data from electronic returns are transferred to the CSO's Data Management System (DMS), where it can be viewed and amended as required. SAS programs are used for the transfers and management of the survey. Postal reminders, emails, telephone calls are used to seek the return of forms from non-respondents. Edits are run on the scanned data and any required changes are made to the data.

20.4. Data Validation

The data is validated by the Structural Business Statistics team and methodology. Further information can be found in:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/industry/censusofindustrialproduction/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/services/annualservicesinquiry/>

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/construction/buildingandconstructioninquiry/>

20.5. Data Compilation

Data from Business Demography and Structural Business Statistics is linked by the enterprise's unique identifier. A growth rate for enterprises active over the three-year period and who had 10 or more employees at the beginning of the period was calculated. Both turnover and employment are the criteria used to determine if firms were high-growth enterprises. This release gives a more detailed insight into the contribution of higher performing enterprises to the Irish economy.

A high-growth enterprise is any enterprise with an annualised growth rate of greater than 10% in turnover and/or employment over the three-year period. A very high-growth enterprise had growth greater than 20% per annum. This release also details the contribution of young high-growth enterprises, known as "gazelles", to the Irish business economy. A young enterprise is defined as an enterprise which is less than five years old.

20.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Not applicable.

20.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not applicable.

20.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Due to the use of administrative data no grossing or weighting is carried out.

20.6. Adjustment

Not applicable

20.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.



21. Comment