Population incomes and expenditures
(Household Budget Survey)

Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS)

1. Contact Information

1.1. Responsible subdivision within NBS

Living Conditions Statistics Division

1.2. Contact person

Ina Emelianova
tel. +373 22 24 15 01
e-mail: ina.emelianova@statistica.gov.md

2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

26.02.2024

2.2. Last update of metadata

26.02.2024

3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

The statistics on population incomes and expenditure are obtained from the statistical research in households called the Household Budget Survey (HBS).

The main objective of the HBS is to determine people's level of life through incomes, expenditures, consumption, living conditions and other indicators from a multi-aspect perspective. The information collected within this research allows identifying the categories of disadvantaged households/individuals and analyzing the impact of various programs and policies on the social-economic situation of the population. In addition, the HBS provides the necessary information to determine the shares used in the calculation of the CPI, evaluate the final consumption of households and measure poverty and social exclusion.

The HBS is conducted on a sample of dwellings and, respectively, households from urban and rural areas that are randomly selected on the whole territory of the country, except for areas on the left bank of Nistru river and the Bender municipality.

The survey covers all persons within the selected households, including persons temporarily absent or absent for long periods, but having household ties and participate integrally or partially in the budget of the household to which they belong.

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

The disposable incomes of the population are the sum of cash and in kind resources obtained from a paid activity and self-employment, from the sale of agricultural products produced on the auxiliary land plot, income from assets, pensions and other social benefits, as well as other current transfers (including goods and money received from outside the household).

The disposable incomes by type may be in cash or in kind:

- *Cash incomes* are amounts of cash received by people from different sources that are not reimbursable;

- *In kind incomes (assessed in MDL)* are both the counter value of consumption from the household's own resources (auxiliary land plot, stocks, etc.) and the counter value of in kind incomes received at the workplace, education, individuals, cash benefits, etc. The assessment in MDL is carried out at the average acquisition prices in the period of reference.

The disposable incomes by their source are divided in:

- **Incomes from wages and salaries** are considered incomes received as wages, salary increases, bonuses, other salary entitlements provided for in the legislation or collective labor agreements for the time worked in the usual work schedule and in the additional one, as well as other salary entitlements. These incomes also include the counter value of products and services delivered as salary entitlements.

- **Incomes from self-employment in agriculture** are the net income from the sale of own agricultural products, as well as the counter value of consumption received from the own unsold agricultural resources.

- **Incomes from self-employment in non-agricultural sector** are the net incomes received from various types of self-employment in non-agriculture. These incomes also include the amounts received from the sale of end products of individual work activities and from the profit obtained by individuals as a result of trade-mediation activities.

- **Incomes from property** – funds received by the population as interest for bank deposits and loans provided to individuals; dividends and sales of shares; rent payments for assets that are not related to the production activity (real estate, means of transport, long-term use assets, etc.).

- **Incomes from social payments** cover old-age pensions, disability pensions and survivor's pensions; social allowances; benefits for incapacity to work; one-off benefits (childbirth allowance, death benefits); child care allowance until the child reaches the age of 2,0/3,0 years; social aid; monthly state allowances; scholarships, etc.

- **Other incomes** – alimonies; cash and products received for free, remittances, etc.

Population consumption expenditures correspond to the expenditures in cash and in kind for the household's current consumption needs: foodstuffs, nonfood products and utility bills.

Population consumption expenditures by their destination are divided in:

- **Expenditures for food and non-alcoholic beverages** – overall expenditure for the procurement of consumed food products, as well as the counter value of human food consumption from the household's own resources.

- **Expenditures for alcoholic beverages and tobacco** – overall expenditure for the procurement of alcoholic drinks, tobacco and smoking accessories, as well as the counter value of the consumption of these products from the household's own resources.

- **Expenditures for clothing and footwear** – overall expenditure for the procurement of clothes and shoes, as well as expenditures incurred for the payment of services related to the production and fixing of these.

- **Expenditures for housing, water, electricity and gas** – overall expenditure for rent, energy, water and utility bills, as well as the expenditures for maintenance and repair of the dwelling.

- **Expenditures for furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance** – overall expenditure for the procurement of long-term use goods, home appliances, as well as the payment of services related to the maintenance of these.

- **Expenditures for health** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of medicines, medical equipment, sanitary and hygiene objects, payment of healthcare services and of hospitalized treatment.

- **Expenditures for transport** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of vehicles, spare parts, services related to their maintenance and fixing, as well as the payment of various services

of transportation.

- **Expenditures for communication** – overall expenditure incurred for the payment of post and telecommunication services, as well as expenditures related to the maintenance of telecommunication equipment.

- **Expenditures for recreation and culture** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of social-cultural, leisure and sports objects; printed production (manuals, teaching materials, newspapers, office supplies, etc.); including the payment of different cultural activities and tourism services, etc.

- **Expenditures for education** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of manuals, school supplies, etc., as well as payments for education services, including extracurricular activities and private lessons.

- **Expenditures for restaurants and hotels** – overall expenditure incurred for accommodation and nutrition outside the household in various specialized places.

- **Expenditures for miscellaneous goods and services** – overall expenditure incurred for the personal care services, procurement of hygiene and cosmetic products, travel goods; payment for the insurance of life, real estate, means of transport, etc.; administrative fees; legal services and accountancy etc.

Household – a group of two or more individuals living together who are, generally, relatives and share a common budget, participate integrally or partially in the formation of incomes and their spending or the individual living and maintaining a separate household that does not belong to another household.

Household with children is considered the household that includes children under 18 years.

Family couples – are the households consisting of couples with or without children under 18 years.

Single people – households consisting of a single person who does not have relatives, or who has relatives but lives separately from them and does not share a common budget or financial relationships with them.

Households consisting of several family nuclei – are households made of several couples with or without children under 18 years or a parent with children under 18 years.

The social-economic status of the household is determined subject to the main source of income of the household head. According to this classification, there are the following possible categories:

- **Employees** – households for which the main source of income of the household head is remunerated activity;

- **Self-employers in agriculture** – households for which the main source of income of the household head is the individual agricultural activity;

- **Self-employers in non-agricultural activities** – households for which the main source of income of the household head are incomes from self-employment in non-agriculture (trade, business, handicraft, etc.);

- **Pensioners** – households for which the main source of income of the household head is the pension;

- **Others** – households for which the main source of income of the household head are various cash benefits, incomes from assets, remittances and other incomes.

Status in employment: People are classified by the professional status in compliance with the international classification ICSE-93. Status in employment represents the situation of a person, depending on the way he/she obtains incomes from the carried out activity, and namely: employees; non-employees; employers; own account workers; contributing family workers; member of a cooperative.

- **Employee** – is the person carrying out an activity under a working contract within an economic or social unit – irrespective of its ownership type – or for private persons, receiving remuneration in

form of salary, in cash or in kind, commission, etc.

- **Employer** – is the person carrying out the activity (craft) within his/her own unit (individual enterprise, shop, office, farm, etc.) having one or several permanent employees.

- **Own account worker** – is the person carrying out an activity within his/her own enterprise or business, without hiring any permanent employee, being helped or not by unpaid family workers. This status covers as well the independent entrepreneurs (private tutors, private taxi drivers, etc.), freelance professionals (strolling players, artists, lawyers), occasional workers, and individual farmers. Own account worker can have temporary employees.

- **Contributing family worker** – is the person carrying out the activity within a family economic unit, headed by a family member or by a relative, for which he/she does not receive remuneration in form of salary or payment in kind. The agricultural farm is considered as such unit. If several persons from a household are working within their farm, one of them – generally the household head – is considered as own account worker and the others are considered as contributing family workers.

- **Member of a co-operative** – is the person who worked as member of a co-operative, where every member has equal rights in decision-making process, solution of problems on production/sale, etc.

Gini coefficient – sets the degree of deviation of the effective distribution of incomes/expenditures by equal groups of population from the line of uniform distribution of incomes/expenditures. The statistical value of the coefficient varies from 0 to 1; when it is 0 – there is overall equality of incomes/expenditures among all groups of population; when it is 1 – there is total inequality, all incomes/expenditures belong to one individual.

Quintile – one of the four values dividing the series of frequencies in five equal parts, so that the first 20% (1st quintile) represents the population with the lowest incomes/expenditures, while the last 20% (5th quintile) represents the population with the highest incomes/expenditures.

Decile – is one of the nine values that divide the series of frequencies in ten equal parts so that the first 10% (1st decile) represent the population with the lowest incomes/expenditures, while the last 10% (10th decile) represent the population with the highest incomes/expenditures.

Growth rhythm of disposable incomes/consumption expenditures – is the evolution in time of incomes/consumption expenditures and two values of the same indicator recorded in different time units are used to calculate it.

3.2.2. Unit of measure

Absolute values in MDL – overall incomes/expenditures by source of formation and type.

Relative values in % – structure of incomes/expenditures, rhythm of growth/decrease of incomes/expenditures.

3.2.3. Computation formula

The absolute values of incomes/expenditures are monthly average values per member of the household being calculated by dividing overall incomes/expenditures of the household by the number of units (household members) in the household.

$$V = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i}{\sum N} * 100$$

where:

V_i – overall incomes/expenditures of the household i,

N – number of people in the household.

Rhythm of growth of disposable incomes/consumption expenditure

$$V_{1/0} = \frac{V_1}{V_0} * 100$$

where:

V_1 – average disposable incomes/consumption expenditures per person in period 1,

V_0 – average disposable incomes/consumption expenditures per person in period 0.

GINI coefficient (G)

$$G = 1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2 \times (y_1 + 2y_2 + 3y_3 + ny_n)}{n^2 \times \bar{y}}$$

where:

n – number of people in the analyzed period,

$y_1, y_2, y_3, \ldots\ldots y_n$, – average income/expenditure per person in this period,

$\bar{y}$ – average income/expenditure of the whole household.

3.3. Used classifications

Consumption expenditure is classified according to the Household Expenditure Classification developed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, based on the European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP 2013 5-Digit), which in turn was developed based on the Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP) adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 30th session in March 1999 and intended for use in various statistical fields.

The Household Expenditure Classification (hereinafter CC-GC) is harmonized with COICOP 1999 at the class level (4 digits) in section A "Individual consumption expenditure by purpose" (divisions 1-12). At the same time, CC-GC is harmonized with ECOICOP 5-Digit 2013 at the category level (5 digits) in section A "Individual consumption expenditure by purpose" (divisions 1-12).

According to this classification we distinguish the following 12 major groups of goods and services:
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco
- Clothing and footwear
- Housing, water, electricity and gas
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance
- Health
- Transport
- Communication
- Recreation and culture
- Education
- Restaurants and hotels
- Miscellaneous goods and services

Disposable income is classified according to the Household Income Classification developed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, based on the Canberra Group Handbook on Household Income Statistics recommendations.

According to this classification we distinguish the following 6 major income groups:
- Wages and salaries
- Self-employment in agriculture
- Self-employment in non-agricultural sector
- Property income
- Social payments
- Other incomes

Economic activity: the results of the survey are classified in line with the Classification of Economic Activities in Moldova (CAEM - Clasificarea Activităţilor Economiei Moldovei in Romanian), harmonized with NACE rev.2 (NBS Decision No 20, dated December 29, 2009).

Occupations: Data on occupations are classified in line with the Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021), approved by the Order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection no. 11 of 12 December 2021, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 (ILO) and with the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO).

Education: The level of education/training complies with the Classification of educational programs of the Republic of Moldova, aligned to the corresponding international standard ISCED-2011.

3.4. Scope

3.4.1. Sector coverage

Households

3.4.2. Statistical population

The scope of the HBS covers all households/individuals – citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have their permanent residence in the selected survey centers.

Registration applies to all members of the selected households, including people who are absent for a long period (over 1 year), if they maintain family relationships with the household, they are part of.

The survey does not cover people who live permanently in the following facilities/common living units:
- Jails
- Institutions for older people
- Institutions for people with disabilities
- Orphan homes
- Students' dormitories.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage

The HBS is conducted on the whole territory of the country, except for areas on the left bank of Nistru river and the Bender municipality.

3.4.4. Time coverage

The time series are available starting with 1997.

3.5. Disaggregation level

Data resulting from the HBS are <u>disaggregated</u> by:

- Areas of residence (urban, rural);
- Statistical regions (North, Center, South, mun.Chisinau);
- Type of household subject to the number of children in the household;
- Type of household subject to the size of the household;
- Type of household subject to the composition of the household (family couples, single persons, households consisting of several family nuclei);
- Age group of household head;
- Education level of the household head;
- Sex of the household head;
- Social-economic status of the household;
- Quintiles, deciles.

<u>Restrictions:</u> If data at disaggregated level contains confidential information (see item 7.1.), its dissemination is not performed and data is aggregated at the minimum available level that ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

3.6. Dissemination frequency
Annually

3.7. Timeliness
Annually – March after the reporting year.

3.8. Revision
Data is final at the first dissemination. The data revision policy is in accordance with the **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_en.pdf.

3.9. Period of reference
The period of reference for most information collected in the HBS is the month of reference. The reference period for the information regarding the occupation of family members is the last 7 days, for questions regarding health issues – is 4 weeks. In the case of incomes from remittances and incomes from self-employment in agriculture, the reference period is the current month and also the last 12 months. The collection of data regarding expenditures of households also uses different reference periods: 2 weeks – foodstuff products expenditures, the last 6 months – purchase of some goods, last 12 months – purchase of some goods and payment of utilities and expenditures for self-employment in agriculture.

4. Data Collection and Processing

4.1. Data source

4.1.1. Statistical surveys
The statistical household-based survey – Household Budget Survey (HBS)

4.1.2. Administrative sources
Not used

4.1.3. Estimations
Not applied

4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey/administrative sources
4.2.1. Objective and background

The HBS has a history of over 60 years. The first research in the Republic of Moldova dates back to 1954. As changes occurred in the social-economic situation of the country, the way of conducting this research was also adjusted. The first major changes took place in 1996 in relation to the reform of the country's economy and the implementation of international standards in the statistical system of data collection. A probabilistic sample was projected with the technical assistance provided by the World Bank and the research tool was aligned to the main international recommendations. In particular, the collection of data on people's consumption expenditure under the international classification COICOP was introduced. *In the years 2006-2018*, the HBS is carried out in compliance with a new survey plan and improved questionnaires. A) The introduction of the new survey plan involved: a) development of the common sampling framework for HBS and Labour Force Survey (LFS) (creation of the unique network of interviewers and supervisors, 150 and 51 respectively) and b) introduction of a new rotation scheme. B) Changes made in the research questionnaires can be classified as follows: a) modification of the statistical tools, including the household Questionnaire and Register; b) change of the period of reference for incomes from the agricultural individual activity, remittances, expenditures for food products and certain types of expenditures for utility bills.

For details on the methodological changes see:
https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota_informativa_CBGC_en.pdf

The practical organization and delivery of the survey in the field is carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics via its territorial statistics departments/directorates. Teams that usually consist of 2-4 interviewing operators and one supervisor are organized to conduct the collection, checking, input and transmission of data within the territorial statistics bodies. There are 17 regional statistical centres equipped with computers which input and transmit data to the NBS headquarter. The task of each interviewing operator is to visit 4 households monthly in rural area, 6 households in towns and 10 households in big cities (mun. Chisinau and Balti).

Starting with 2019:

- HBS is carried out according to the new sample plan (new sample of households and new rotation scheme), built on the information of the 2014 Population and Housing Census;

- a number of changes in the HBS questionnaires were made (Main questionnaire and Household registers), such as changing the period for recording food procurement expenditure, the use of durable goods procurement expenditure and education expenditure in the last 12 months;

- HBS results are extended to the number of the population with usual residence, with the application of the international definition, recalculated based on the results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census and NOT the number of stable population, as used until 2018 inclusive.

Usual residence is defined as the place at which the person has lived continuously for more of the last 12 months regardless of temporary absences (for the purpose of recreation, holidays, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages, etc.).

For details on methodological changes see:
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/ComPresa/nivel%20de%20trai/2020/1_NBS_Moldova_2019_HBS_key_indicators_eng.pdf .

The task of each interviewer is to visit 6 households monthly in rural area and in towns, and 12 households in big cities (mun. Chisinau and Balti).

4.2.2. Statistical unit

The observation unit is the household.

The registration unit is the household head or another adult in the household who knows the situation of the household.

4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey

The survey plan used for the HBS is a survey plan conducted in two stages.

In the years 2006-2018:

At the first stage, based on the 2004 census, a stratified sample was developed of 129 areas distributed in 150 research centers, assimilated to the Primary Sampling Units (PSU). This represents the Multifunctional Sample for researches in the Social Field, the so-called master sample EMDOS. The following criteria were used for stratification: geography, place of residence and size of the areas. EMDOS covers 53 PSU selected in urban areas and 97 PSU selected in rural areas.

Starting with January 1, 2008, the rotation of PSU was introduced. Thus, about 20% of the PSU are replaced with new ones once in 2 years in order to achieve better territorial coverage in time and better comparability in time of the chronologic series by avoiding sharp breaks.

At the second stage, 9768 dwellings are extracted using the random simple extraction method from EMDOS every year. The size of the monthly sample is 814 dwellings.

Half of the households are included in the panel sample, which implies the observation of these

households in the same month of the initial selection during 4 consecutive years.

Starting with 2019:

At the first level, based on the population census from 2014, a stratified sample was designed of 150 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). It represents the Multifunctional Sample for the surveys in social area no.2, the so-called master sample EMDOS 2. The geographic criteria, the area of residence and the size of localities were used for stratification. EMDOS covers 52 PSU selected from urban area and 98 PSU selected from rural area.

During the second stage, 12612 dwellings are extracted annually (secondary sampling units), using the procedure of simple random extraction from EMDOS 2. The sample size for a monthly survey represents 1051 dwellings.

Does not exist the panel sample, which implies the observation of these households in the same month of the initial selection during 4 consecutive years.

4.2.4. Survey frequency

Data collection – on a monthly basis.

Data development – on an annual basis.

4.2.5. Data collection

The *Main household questionnaire* and the *Household register* are used to collect information within the HBS. In addition, the instructions on filling in, participation form, the list of selected households and the letter to the household are used.

Two methods of data recording are used: the *interview* and the *self-recording*. The data recording in the Main household questionnaire is carried out on the basis of an interview, while the Household register is filled in directly by the household.

Filling in the main questionnaire implies discussions with every member of the household and, in case this is not possible, the information is obtained from the household head, spouse or another adult who can provide complete information on the other people in the household and on the whole household.

The household register is filled in by an adult member of the household who is available to make accurate records every day or as frequently as possible. If the household members are not able to make self-recordings partially or integrally for objective reasons (older people, ill people, etc.), data recording shall be made on the basis of interviews by the interviewing operator.

4.3. Processing and compilation of data

4.3.1. Data validation

The internal validation of information received in the HBS implies two stages:

A) The first stage of data validation is performed in the territorial data collection centers by the supervisors in charge for survey and includes the logical control of the questionnaires, namely: tracking and checking logical paths/flows from the questionnaires; observing the correlations between the answers to various questions from the main household questionnaire and the household register, the accurate codification of the variables, the elimination of aberrant or illogic answers, checking the accuracy and integrity of records made by the household, etc.

B) The second stage of data validation is performed by the team responsible for HBS in the NBS central office. This stage implies a more complex addressing of data already stored on the computer, with an analysis of the main indicators, such as incomes, expenditures and consumption of the household, the demographic-social-economic characteristics of the household members.

At both stages of data validation, in case of detection of errors or inconsistencies, the interview operator is contacted to check and specify the information in the questionnaires and, if necessary, the household is contacted.

The *external validation* of the HBS results is carried out with the following sources of information:

- Statistics of national accounts – final consumption of the household;

- Statistics of the population – structure of population by age groups and sex;

- Statistics of labour force – structure of population by their occupational status and level of education;

- Administrative data on the beneficiaries of social benefits (National Social Insurance Company) – average amount of the social benefits, overall number of beneficiaries;

- Administrative data on the volume of remittances (NBM) – the volume of money from abroad.

4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data

The annual data is calculated as weighted average values of data on the household.

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 producing statistical information, the NBS places the main importance on ensuring high quality of data.

For this purpose, a series of quality ensuring measures are taken at every stage of the statistical activity: in the organization of statistical surveys, collection, processing and development of statistical information.

Significant efforts are made to ensure the fullness and quality of data submission by the respondents included in statistical researches.

Erroneous data, inconsistencies and suspicious data is identified with a view to be checked and rectified.

Primary data is checked and analyzed in terms of internal coherence (in the questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data for the preceding periods), with data of other similar units, as well as data available from other statistical researches and administrative data sources. In order to ensure the quality of primary data, meetings (seminars) with the interview operators are held to explain the definitions, the right method of filling in questionnaires, especially, in case of changes or implementation of these.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The rate of non-response (R) is determined on the basis of overall non-response and is calculated using the relation

$R = nrref / (n – nrsf)$

where:

$nrref$ – number of refusals,

n – number of households selected according to the survey plan,

$nrsf$ – number of errors of the survey base.

In 2022 non-response rate in HBS constitutes 53,9%. The causes of non-response are diverse, but more frequently the survey was not conducted because households do not have time to fill in the questionnaire (23,2% out of total non-responses), because their do not consider necessary the participation in the survey (17,3%), and because nobody was found home after three mandatory visits (9,8%).

4.4.2. Sampling errors

The sampling errors are expressed through estimates of limit sampling errors, taking into account the complexity of the sampling plan, the results being guaranteed with a probability of 95%. The limit sampling errors can also be expressed as a confidence interval, which represents the limits that will cover the real value of the indicator in 95% of cases.

Sampling errors are determined for overall incomes and overall expenditure, as well as on their types.

At national level, the confidence intervals for the level of 95% for 2022 are estimated at **4252,6±179,2** lei for the disposable income per person and **3711,9±146,6** lei for consumption expenditure per person.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

The HBS methodology with some exceptions corresponds to the recommendations stipulated in the EUROSTAT manual *"Family budget questionnaire in the EU: methodology and recommendations for harmonization"*. Existing differences in certain methodological approaches related to the national needs and specificity.

5.2. Comparability over the time

The 2006-2018 data series are not comparable to the data series from previous years due to:

- implementation of the new sample,
- giving up the method of household replacement,
- changing the design of questionnaires,
- building a new data collection network.

For more details see *Note on the HBS in 2006*
https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota_informativa_CBGC_en.pdf

The data series from 2019 are not comparable to the data series from previous years due to:

- implementation of the new sample of households,
- changes in the questionnaires,
- use of the number of the population with usual residence to extend the results.

For more details see *Note on the HBS in 2019*
https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/ComPresa/nivel%20de%20trai/2020/1_NBS_Moldova_2019_HBS_key_indicators_eng.pdf

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

The consistence of HBS data with the NSIC data on social benefits:

Period of reference: HBS – calendar month, NSIC – calendar year.

Consistence of HBS data with the NBM data on remittances:

Definitions: HBS – amounts intended to current consumption, excluding deposits, NBM – all bank transfers.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The NBS activity is based on respecting the Republic of Moldova Constitution, the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, other legislative and normative acts, NBS management decisions and orders.

The Law on Official Statistics regulates the organization and operation of the unique system of official statistics, establishing the general principles for collecting, processing, centralizing, dissemination, and

stocking statistical information (art.1).

Art. 5 of the Law provides that the production of statistical information is based on respecting the following principles: impartiality, objectiveness, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency etc.

Being the central statistical body, the National Bureau of Statistics is an administrative authority created under the Government for leading and coordinating the activity in the statistics area.

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 https://statistica.gov.md/en, under *About NBS* (https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-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 the statistical information cannot be disseminated to users if it refers to 1-3 statistical units.

7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

To ensure the protection of confidential statistical data in compliance 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.

In compliance with the above-mentioned law, the employees of producers of official statistics, including temporary employees who, according to their official functions, have direct access to individual data shall be obliged to observe the confidentiality of these data during and after termination of employment.

Before being disseminated, the statistical data are verified if they meet the protection requirements set for confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p. 7.1), they are not disseminated, but aggregated at the minimum available level which ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Annually the **data dissemination calendar** is developed by NBS.

8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications

The **data dissemination calendar** is posted on the NBS official page https://statistica.gov.md/en.

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 shall be obliged to disseminate the statistical information within the deadlines specified in the programme of statistical works and in the data dissemination calendar.
  b) The dissemination of statistical information laid down in the programme of statistical works to all categories of users shall be made free of charge and under equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and time of dissemination.

The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under About NBS / legislative and normative acts (https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html)

The NBS web page https://statistica.gov.md/en 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 operative information and analytical notes are published on the official page of NBS:
https://statistica.gov.md/en under *Media* / *News releases*, according to the *Release calendar*.

8.2.2. Publications

The publications developed by the NBS containing statistical data on population incomes and expenditures:

- Collection *"Aspects of the standard of living of the population"* – detailed annual publication with information on the methodology and organization of the research and tables with absolute and relative annual average data, as well as information on the evolution in time of the main indicators of population level of living;
- Other statistical publications: *Statistical Yearbook; Territorial Statistics; Statistical pocket-book "Moldova in figures"; Women and Men in the Republic of Moldova*; briefing notes, etc.

Access to publications in electronic format, on the official page of the NBS https://statistica.gov.md/en, heading *Products and services* / *Publications* https://statistica.gov.md/en/publications.

8.2.3. Databases/time series

- **Statistical databank** http://statbank.statistica.md under *Social statistics / Living standard of the*

population
- NBS **official page**: https://statistica.gov.md/en under:
  - *Media / Press Releases*
  - *Statistics by themes / Society and social conditions/ Living standard of the population*
  - *Products and services / Publications.*

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations

International questionnaires UN, ILO, Eurostat, CIS, etc.

8.2.5. Requests for additional data

NBS makes available for the users additional statistical information beyond the data presented in the statistical publications, informative notes, operative information, as well as the data placed on the official web page in the limits of available information, in line with the Law on Official Statistics. Request can be sent personally, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or via online web form – https://statistica.gov.md/en heading *Products and services / Statistical data request* https://statistica.gov.md/en/statistical-data-request-9998.html.

Also, the NBS can grant access to individual data for scientific research projects in accordance with the Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes, approved by NBS Order no. 51 of 31.12.2021. The Regulation and the annexes to the Regulation can be accessed online - https://statistica.gov.md/en, heading *Products and services / Request for access to microdata* https://statistica.gov.md/en/solicitare-de-acces-la-microdate-205.html.

9. Useful References (links)

9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The methodology is available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, section *Media / Public events / Seminars and Conferences / Round table "Household Budget Survey: Results" (26.10.2007)* https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota_informativa_CBGC_en.pdf

https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/ComPresa/nivel%20de%20trai/2020/1_NBS_Moldova_2019_HBS_key_indicators_eng.pdf

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

The NBS Evaluation Reports are available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, section *About the NBS / External assessments and user surveys / Assessment reports* (https://statistica.gov.md/en/assessment-reports-9930.html).

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

Users' opinion polls are available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, section *About the NBS / External assessments and user surveys / User surveys* (https://statistica.gov.md/en/user-surveys-9933.html).

9.4. Other useful references	
The EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
The UN Data database	http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx
The statistical database of the UN Economic Commission for Europe	http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/
The database of the Statistics Department of the International Labor Office	https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/