Population and Demography

Metadata

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

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

The system of statistical indicators of population and demography consists of population number and growth indicators, such as, natural movement (vital statistics) and migration.

The source of data on the number and demographic processes are exhaustive statistical research (population census) and administrative sources.

The natural movement of population is characterized by demographic events, such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, based on data obtained from the management of integrated information flow (IIF), administered jointly and in collaboration by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the Public Services Agency (former Ministry of Information Technology and Communications) and National Bureau of Statistics, institutions responsible for carrying out certain stages of the AIF, whose duties are strictly stipulated in the **Common Order nr. 44/347/100 of 11.10.2005**.

The elaboration of the information on mortality by causes of death is carried out by the National Agency for Public Health in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), 10th Revision.

The date and the place of registration present monthly, operative data on the number of registered births, deaths, marriages and divorces. These quarterly and annual data are presented by the permanent residence place of the person (for births, by the permanent residence place of the mother). Starting with 2014, the data referring to deaths and births are elaborated and published after the date of the event. The number of live births also includes births registered based on birth certificates transcribed and registered in the civil status registers of the Republic of Moldova, which meet the following conditions: births were on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, were registered for one year from the birth of the child and the mother has the residence visa on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Transcription of civil status documents – recognition in the Republic of Moldova of the validity of civil status documents issued by the competent authorities of foreign countries.

The migratory movement is characterized by the processes of emigration and immigration of the population, based on administrative data owned and provided by the Public Services Agency and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, according to bilateral agreements on exchange of information between these institutions and the National Bureau of Statistics. Starting with 2014, the international migratory movement is calculated based on the data of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police regarding the crossing of the state border by individuals.

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

Usually resident population – the number of people who have lived mainly on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for the last 12 months, regardless of temporary absences (with the purpose of recreation, holiday, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages, etc.).

The estimation of the number of the usually resident population is based on the population of usual residence corrected from the Population and Housing Census (PHC) of 2014, to this was added the number of live births and decreased the number of deaths (natural increase), as well as the migratory increase (net migration).

Stable population - number of people residing permanently on the concerned territory, including people temporarily absent.

Number of present population is determined on the basis of the results of the 2004 census and data on the official natural and migratory movement recorded in the reference year. Therewith, is taken into consideration the change in population number due to the administrative territorial reorganization.

Average annual number of population – the arithmetic average of population at the beginning of the reference year and of the following year.

Population density – expresses the average number of inhabitants per unit area (usually km²).

The average age of the population - is determined as the arithmetic mean of the middle of the intervals, weighted by the number of people of that age.

Population ageing ratio - the number of people aged 60 years and above per 100 inhabitants, expresses in percent (%).

Demographic burden index - number of elderly unable to work per 100 people of working age.

The total rate of demographic dependence is the number of children under the age of 15 and the elderly (aged 60 and over) per 100 people aged 15-59 at the beginning of the reference year.

Young people dependency ratio – the ratio between young people (0-14 years) and people aged 15-59 at the beginning of the reference year.

Elderly dependency ratio – the ratio between the elderly (people aged 60 and over) and people aged 15-59 at the beginning of the reference year.

Born-alive is the product of conception, expelled or removed completely from the mother's body, independent of pregnancy duration, which, after such separation, shows a sign of life (breathing, heart activity, pulsation of the umbilical cord or muscle contractions dependent on the will).

Born-alive rank refers to the numerical order of a born-alive in the total number of live births of the mother.

Deceased is the person whose vital functions have ceased completely after a certain time after birth.

Infant mortality rate – indicates the number of children who died under one year old per 1000 live births in a reference year.

Age specific mortality rate – frequency of deaths by ages per 1000 people of a certain age.

Standardized mortality rates – adjusted rates remove the effect of different structure of population, which allows valid comparisons between two or more populations.

Marriage is the union between a man and a woman, completed according to the law of the country based on a civil status act.

Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage concluded by a final decision of the judiciary.

Migration - territorial movement of persons, accompanied by change of residence.

Immigrant - is considered the person who **entered** the Republic of Moldova and lived in the country for at least 9 months cumulatively in the next 12 months after living abroad for at least 9 months in the previous 12 months.

Emigrant - is the person who left the country, lived abroad for at least 9 months cumulatively in the next 12 months, living in the Republic of Moldova for at least 9 months in the previous 12 months.

Repatriate - the person who was born in the Republic of Moldova and its descendants, as well as the person who previously lived on the territory of the country and has the right to settle permanently under the law.

The demographic rates / indicators listed below are calculated since 2014 based on the usually resident population.

Total fertility rate – the average number of children born to a woman during her fertile life, given the fertility conditions of that year.

Gross reproduction rate – average number of girls given birth by a woman who would not be subjected to mortality risk, during her fertile life, under conditions of fertility during that year.

Net reproduction rate – the average number of girls born alive by a woman and who survive until the end of the reproduction period at the given level of fertility and mortality in the reference year.

Life expectancy – is an estimate of the average number of years a person would live if age specific mortality rates in a reference year remained unchanged throughout his/her life.

Life expectancy at birth – number of years which shall be lived in average by those born in this period, if during their life the death rate for every age will be the same as in year of birth.

Natural increase – the difference between the number of live births and number of deaths during the year.

Positive natural increase (growth) – number of live births exceeds the number of deaths.

Negative natural increase (decrease) – number of deaths exceeds the number of live births.

Migration increase – the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants in a region.

3.2.2. Unit of measure

The following demographic indicators are expressed in absolute values: population number, number of births, number of deaths, life expectancy at birth, duration of marriage, number of marriages, number of divorces. The unit of measurement being persons or thousands of persons, years, number of marriages and number of divorces.

In relative values are expressed: total fertility rate, net reproduction rate, gross reproduction rate, population aging coefficient, demographic burden, natural movement rates in the form of coefficients are measured in percent (%) and promilles (‰).

Some variables (age, life expectancy at birth, duration of marriage) are expressed in years.

3.2.3. Calculation formula

Number of population is calculated by the next equation:

$P_1+(N-D)+(I-E)=P_2$

Birth rate

$$n = \frac{N}{\bar{P}} \text{x} 1000,$$

Mortality Rate

$$d = \frac{D}{\bar{P}} \text{x} 1000,$$

Marriage Rate

$c = \frac{C}{\bar{P}} \text{x} 1000,$

Divorce Rate

$div = \frac{Div}{\bar{P}} \text{x} 1000,$

Average population number

$$\bar{P} = \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2}$$

where:

P_1 – *population number at the beginning of the year;*

P_2 – *population number at the end of the year;*

$\bar{P}$ – *average population number;*

N – *number of live births;*

D – *number of deaths;*

C – *number of marriages;*

Div – *number of divorces;*

I – *number of immigrants;*

E – *number of emigrants;*

n – *birth rate;*

d – *mortality rate;*

c – *marriage rate;*

$div.$ – *divorce rate.*

Infant Mortality Rate

$$IMR = \frac{D_0}{N} \times 1000$$

where:

D_0 – *deaths under 1 year of age in the reference year;*

N – *live births in the reference year.*

Total fertility rate - the sum of specific fertility rates (by age and age groups)

$TFR = n \sum_{x} {}_N F_X$

where:

TFR - *total fertility rate*

x - *mother's age at birth;*

n - *length of the age interval;*

${}_N F_X$ - *specific fertility rates by age group in the age range (x, x + n);*

Population Ageing

$\hat{\text{I}}\text{m} = \frac{P_{60+}}{P} \text{x } 100$

where:

$\hat{I}m$ - *population ageing coefficient*

P_{60+} - *population aged 60 years and over*

P - population number in the reference year

Demographic burden or demographic dependency ratio

$$R_{dep.} = \frac{P_{sub\ vam} + P_{peste\ vam}}{P_{în\ vam}} \text{ x } 100,$$

where:

$R_{dep.}$ - demographic dependency ratio

$P_{sub\ vam}$ - under working age population in the reference year

$P_{peste\ vam}$ - above working age population in the reference year

$P_{in\ vam}$ - working age population in the reference year

Since 2019 VAM is 16-62 years for men and 16-57 for women. By 2019 VAM was 16-61 years for men and 16-56 for women.

Total demographic dependency ratio

$$DR(t) = \frac{P_{0-14}(t)+P_{65+}(t)}{P_{15-64}(t)}.100,$$

where:

t - year;

DR (t) - total demographic dependency ratio at the beginning of t year;

$P_{0-14}(t)$ - number of population aged 0-14 years at the beginning of t year;

$P_{15-64}(t)$ - number of population aged 15-64 years at the beginning of t year;

$P_{65+}(t)$ - number of population aged 65 and over at the beginning of t year.

Youth dependency ratio

$$DR_{0-14}(t) = \frac{P_{0-14}(t)}{P_{15-64}(t)}.100,$$

where:

t - year;

$DR_{0-14}(t)$ - youth dependency ratio of at the beginning of year t;

$P_{0-14}(t)$ - number of population aged 0-14 years at the beginning of year t;

$P_{15-64}(t)$ - number of population aged 15-64 years at the beginning of year t;

Elderly people dependency ratio

$$DR_{60+}(t) = \frac{P_{65+}(t)}{P_{15-64}(t)}.100$$

where:

t - year;

$DR_{65+}(t)$ - elderly people dependency ratio of at the beginning of year t;

$P_{15-64}(t)$ - number of population aged 15-64 years at the beginning of year t;

$P_{65+}(t)$ - number of population aged 65 and over at the beginning of year t.

Average age of the population - is established as the arithmetic average of the middle of the intervals, weighted by the number of people of that age, according to the formula:

$$V = \frac{\sum (x+0{,}5)\ Px}{\sum Px}$$

where:

x = *age in full years;*

P_x = *population aged x years in the reference year;*

0.5 = *constant (half-year, considered the average equivalent of deviations from the exact date of reaching a certain age)*

Age specific mortality rate - the ratio between the number of deaths in a certain age group in the reference year and the average number of people of the same age.

3.3. Used classifications

Residence area and territorial profile (territorial-administrative units): Data are grouped according to the List of administrative units of the Republic of Moldova (CUATM), approved by Moldova-Standard Department Decision no. 1398-ST of September 03, 2003. Implemented since 03.09.2003.

Causes of death: International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th revision of the WHO.

3.4. Scope

3.4.1. Sector coverage

Not applicable.

3.4.2. Statistical population

Total population.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage

The information is compiled and disseminated without the data from the left side of Dniester river and the Bender municipality.

3.4.4. Time coverage

Population number

- National: urban, rural areas 1950-2024,
  by sex and areas 1970-2024,
  by sex and age 1980-2017.
- National: by sex and areas after usual residence – 2014-2023.
- Development regions: 2006-2024
- Districts: 1980-1999, 2002- 2024
- Municipalities, cities: 1980-2024
- Villages: 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989, 2014 (the date of population census)

Natural movement

- National (urban, rural areas): 1940, 1946, 1950-2024.
- National (by sex and areas after usual residence – 2014-2024.
- Districts: beginning with year 1989-2024 (within the boundaries in the corresponding years), except 1999-2002 - counties
- Municipalities, cities: 1989-2024
- Development regions: 2006-2024

Migratory movement

- The number of emigrants by age, sex and country of destination: 2000-2024
- Number of immigrants by age, emigration country and purpose of arrival: 1992-2024
- Number of repatriates: 1992-2024
- Number of emigrants and immigrants based on state border crossings, by sex, age group and citizenship, 2014-2023.

3.5. Disaggregation level

***Population Number for Inter-Census Years*:**

- Number of usually resident population at the beginning of the year (by sex, by age group, by urban/rural area)
- Number of stable population at the beginning of year (by districts, urban/rural area and by communes)
- Number of present population at the beginning of year (by districts, areas and localities)
- The average annual number of stable populations (by districts, areas and urban localities)
- Number of stable population by sex and age at the beginning of year (by districts, areas and urban localities)
- The average annual number of stable population by sex and age (by districts, areas and urban localities)

Vital statistics

Birth tables:

- Live births by legal status, sexes, areas and districts
- Live births by legal status, sexes and mother's age by area and districts
- Live births by sex and father's age by area and districts
- Live births by newborn's rank and mother's age by area and districts
- Live births by marriage duration (for mothers giving birth to babies for the first time) by area and districts
- Live births by sex, weight at birth and duration of pregnancy disaggregated by areas and districts
- Live births by parent's age group, disaggregated by areas and districts
- Live births by localities
- Birth rate by areas and districts

Life tables:

- Distribution of deaths by sex and year of birth, areas and districts
- Distribution of deaths by sex and age by areas and districts
- Distribution of deaths by civil status and age groups by areas
- Infant mortality by sex and age (days and months) by areas
- Under five deaths by age and year of birth, by areas
- General mortality rate by sexes and areas
- Infant mortality rate by sexes disaggregated by areas
- Infant mortality rate by areas and districts
- Under-five mortality rate by sexes and areas
- Maternal mortality rate by areas
- Mortality rate by age groups, sexes and areas
- Deaths by the main cause of death, sexes and areas
- Deaths by the main cause of death, sexes and districts
- Mortality rate by the main cause of death, by age and sex
- Number of deaths by localities

Marriage tables:

- Marriages by the marital status of spouses before marriage by areas
- Marriages by the marital status of spouses before marriage and the age group by areas and districts
- Marriages by the age group of spouses (first marriage) by areas
- Marriages by the nationality of spouses by areas
- Number of marriage and spouses' age by areas and districts
- Marriage rate by areas and districts;

Divorce tables:

- Divorces by spouses' age group, by areas and districts
- Divorces by duration of marriage, by areas
- Divorces by the number of children, by areas and districts
- Divorces by the nationality of spouses by areas
- Number of the divorce and duration of marriage by areas

Generalized tables on population's natural movement:

- Data on the natural movement of population by months and areas
- Distribution of births and deaths by nationalities and areas
- Distribution of births, deaths, marriages and divorces by sex and citizenship, and areas

Migration Statistics

- Distribution of immigrants by citizenship, nationality and purpose of arrival
- Repatriates by country
- Emigrants by destination, by gender, age group, marital status and education level
- Migration of population abroad for contract-based employment, by sex, in territorial profile
- Distribution of refugees, beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and asylum seekers by country of origin, by sex and age groups
- Distribution of emigrants and immigrants based on state border crossings, by sex and age groups

Demographic calculations:

- Population ageing coefficient (by districts and areas)
- The average age of the population by sexes (by districts and areas)
- Demographic burden per country
- Demographic dependency ratio (by districts)
- Total fertility rate (by districts and areas)
- Gross reproduction rate of population by areas
- Net reproduction rate of the population by areas
- Female fertility by age groups (by districts and areas)
- The average age of the mother at all births (by districts and areas)
- The average age of the mother at first birth (by districts and areas)
- The average age at first marriage (by districts and areas)
- The average age at divorce (by districts and areas)
- Life expectancy by sexes (districts and areas)
- Life expectancy at birth and certain ages, sexes and areas
- Standardized mortality rates by causes of death, sexes and age groups.

Monthly data on the number of registered births, deaths, marriages and divorces are available in profile by districts, municipalities and development regions but without distribution by environment (urban, rural).

Quarterly and annual data are presented by districts, municipalities and development regions with distribution by areas (urban, rural).

3.6. Dissemination frequency

Monthly, quarterly, annual.

Monthly data on the number of registered births, deaths, marriages and divorces are presented by place and date of registration.

Quarterly data are presented after the date of registration of the event and the place of permanent residence of the person (for births, by the permanent residence place of the mother) and published in the Statistical Bulletin.

Since 2014, the final annual data are presented after the event date and the place of permanent residence of the person (for babies born after the place of permanent residence of the mother).

3.7. Timeliness (dissemination)

Quarterly – 60th day after the reporting quarter

Annually:

April – provisional data on vital statistics of the T-2 year;

May – final data for the T-1 year;

July – provisional data on the number of usually resident population on 1 January this year;

– final data on January 1 for the previous year;

– demographic calculations: natality and mortality tables, population aging coefficient, demographic pregnancy index; demographic calculations;

– life expectancy at birth; the average age of the population;

– standardized mortality rates.

For more details see p.3.5

3.8. Revision

Quarterly - one month after the reporting quarter

Annual - data disseminated in July are final (see p.3.7)

3.9. Period of reference

Population: beginning / end of the year, annual average

The natural movement: monthly, quarterly, annually

The migratory movement: internal migration – quarterly, yearly; international movement – half-year, yearly

Demographic calculations: yearly

4. Data Collection and Processing

4.1. Data source

4.1.1. Statistical surveys

Population Census

4.1.2. Administrative sources

Data on the natural and migration movement of the population are compiled based on administrative data sources held by the following state institutions:

For compilation of data on vital statistics:

- Public Services Agency (PSA)
- National Public Health Agency

For compilation of data about migratory movement:

- Public Services Agency (PSA)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)
  - General Inspectorate of Border Police
  - General Inspectorate for Migration

4.1.3. Estimations

Estimates are made by the NBS in calculation of international migration and population number:

- *calculation of international migration* based on data on the crossing of the state border of individuals;
- *usually resident population for inter-census years*, based on latest census results and data on natural and migration movement between census date and reference year;
- by territorial-administrative units in total and breakdown by age groups, because of lack of relevant data about internal and external migratory movements of population.

4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey

4.2.1. Objective and historical background

1. Population Census

Population Census is the major statistical work of forming the information resources that concern the country's population, territorial distribution in conformity with demographic characteristics, socio-economic, national, linguistic, level of education, as well as the housing fund and living conditions of the population.

The Census is one of the most laborious and scale statistical work. This involves mapping the entire country, staff recruitment and training, carrying out a public campaign of information, collecting of individual data, complex processing of data from questionnaires, as well as analysing and disseminating the obtained results.

Population Censuses were conducted in the 1959, 1970, 1979, 1989, 2004 and 2014 years.

The results of the population census from 2014 are posted on the NBS official page http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=263&id=2208, http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=295&.

During 12 to 25 May 2014, was carried out the second census from the independence of the Republic of Moldova. The innovation of this census was that in addition to population census, all dwellings were registered, regardless of their occupancy status. PHC 2014 was carried out based on the law No. 90 from April 26, 2012 regarding PHC in 2014, in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for RPL, the 2010 round. The organizing and performing the Census was coordinated and monitored by National Commission for Population and Housing Census established by Government Decision no. 967 from December 21, 2012 and headed by Prime Minister of Moldova. On 31st of March 2017 were disseminated the final results of PHC, which can be found on the official page of NBS http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=479.

2. Vital statistics

The existing infrastructure of the registration system for civil status documents and the statistics of the natural movement of the population ensures the management of the integrated information flow (IIF). Thus, the responsibility for issuing medical certificates confirming the birth / death is the responsibility of the National Public Health Agency (NPHA), the registration of the civil status documents belongs to the Public Services Agency (PSA), and the system of the statistics of the natural movement of the population – by the NBS.

Beginning with 1997 till the end of 2014, collection of legal information and statistics on demographic data is based on the following sources: registration documents and statistical bulletins filled in concerning birth, death, marriage, and divorce. New forms for primary statistical record of demographic processes have been developed based on the needs of national statistical data on the natural movement of population.

The introduction of these forms was preceded by a huge organization work, conducted in close collaboration with the National Centre for Health Management of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, and the Civil Status Service of the Ministry of Justice. Particular attention was paid to individual data confidentiality, the statistical authorities ensuring use of data for statistical purposes only.

Beginning with January 1, 2015, the NBS gave up the statistical bulletins on paper and produces statistics on natural movement using only electronic data received from SE "CRIS" Registru " under the Contract and conditions of performance information nr. 159-I of 24 November 2008 between MITC and NBS.

3. Migration Statistics

Under the contract on the mutual exchange of information the National Bureau of Statistics receives from Public Services Agency in the form of tables the information stipulated in the bilateral agreement on population movements both within the country and abroad, with some characteristics of migrants: sex, age, marital status, level of education.

The General Inspectorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs took over the functions related to issue of invitations, management of the flow of foreigners' entry into the Republic of Moldova, issue and renewal of visas, granting the status of repatriate and immigrant status, as well as functions related to asylum and refugees. The NBS receives this information quarterly in the form of tables.

The General Inspectorate for the Border Police provides annually to the NBS the data on the state border crossings of individuals.

4.2.2. Statistical unit

The unit of registration is the person - all people, residents of the country, people born, died and those who changed residence permanent or temporary residence - are registered.

4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey

The population census and demographic records are made on exhaustive basis.

4.2.4. Survey frequency

Population Census - as a rule, every 10 years

Current statistics - monthly.

For more details see p.3.5

4.2.5. Data collection

1. Population census

The method for recording at censuses is collecting the information in the census questionnaires by interviewers based on the statements of the respondents (of head of household or of other adult) without requiring confirmation documents. Staff census is prohibited to request other information, than those covered by Census. The census of population is made at the usual residence of persons. The usual residence is the place in which a person normally spends the daily rest period regardless of temporary absences (for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to relatives and friends, the businesses, the medical treatment, religious pilgrimages etc.). The usual residence, usually, is considered in that locality in which the person spends the most of time, regardless if it coincides or not with the address indicated in the State Register of Population or in other identity document.

In case if one or more household members were missing, information was provided by an adult member of the household. Information about minor children was provided by parents or another adult member of the household. For persons unable to respond / participate in interview, information was provided by the legal representative (tutor, curator).

In order to ensure coverage for all persons at census, stationary sections were organized in municipalities and cities, where every adult who did not want to accept the interview in his household or he was not at home during the day, etc., could provide information about himself, about household members and his home to complete the Census questionnaires.

Buildings with collective living spaces in which it is established restricted access, and of the usually resident population in them were interviewed by specially interviewers selected by administration of those institutions.

The review of the military in time, of the persons in the penitentiary institutions and in the sorting centres and of another special contingent placed on territories with restricted access of civilians, was carried out by reviewers selected by the administration of public authorities, which manage those institutions.

2. Vital and migration statistics

The management of the system of registration of the civil status documents and the statistics of the natural movement of the population is performed by PSA, NPHA and NBS – institutions responsible for carrying out certain stages, whose attributions are strictly determined.

Responsibility for issuing civil status documents (medical certificates certifying the birth / death) lies with the NPHA.

Responsibility for registration of civil status documents lies with the PSA (CSS), while the natural movement of population statistics system - with the NBS.

NBS is responsible for receiving and verifying compliance of information in the statistical report no. 97 and electronic forms, as well as assess the quality of data received.

The responsibility for the record of the international and the internal migration is the responsibility of the Public Services Agency, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum and the General Inspectorate of Border Police.

4.3. Processing and compilation of data

4.3.1. Data validation

The data are verified and analysed for their quality, in particular internal coherence, temporal and other data.

In order to control the accuracy of compilation of received information, the NBS verifies the accuracy of the received statistics, such as for example: child's birth date and parents' age correspondence, parents' age correspondence and date of marriage, age of the person and training level or occupational status, pregnancy duration and child weight at birth, marital status of mother and legal status of the newborn, spouses' age and number of marriages or divorces, etc.

If the NBS finds differences in civil status data presented according to statistical forms (no. 97), they will be reported to the Civil Status Service (CSS) in order to receive explanations and correct the identified inaccuracies.

4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data

Compiling of data on the number and natural and migratory movements of population is carried out by the NBS, after processing, analysis and validation of data received from administrative data sources.

4.3.3. Adjustments

No adjustments are made.

4.3.4. Quality assurance

Quality assurance of statistical data is based on respect of fundamental principles of official statistics approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 1992 (and the Statistical Commission / United Nations in 1994) and stipulated in the Law of Moldova on official statistics.

The activity of statistical information production gives paramount importance to high quality data assurance.

To this end, a series of quality assurance measures are carried out at each stage of the realization of the integrated information flow - managed jointly and jointly by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, the Public Services Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Office of Statistics, institutions responsible for data quality.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

Not applicable.

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Not applicable.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

Statistical data obtained by exhaustive statistical research based on administrative data and in accordance with existing international recommendations, in particular "Principles and Recommendations for civil status statistics - UN" (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/19/Rev.3 New York, 2014).

Information on mortality by causes of death is compiled in accordance with International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10th revision.

Since 2014, all UN recommendations in the field of international migration statistics (New York, 1998, Revision 1) regarding the registration methodology of migrants after the absence / presence and the country of usual residence have been fulfilled.

5.2. Comparability over the time

Territorial indicators (particularly by districts) are not fully comparable over time due to administrative - territorial changes. In 1999-2002 statistics by districts are not available, being presented only by county - administrative-territorial units of level 2 existing in this period.

Methodological changes were related to *infant mortality* indicator. Since January 1, 2008, as a result of alignment with European standards on statistics of newborns, children weighing 500 grams and from 22 weeks of gestation have been registered (until 01.01.2008 children weighing 1000 grams and above and after the 30th week of gestation were registered). Beginning with January 1, 2015, infant mortality intensity is established based on the number of deaths registered in the analysed period and number of live-births in the same period of time.

Starting with 2014, all the demographic indicators are reviewed according to the number of the usually resident population and from this context, the dynamic evenings of all the demographic indicators take place.

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

Coherence of current statistics with population census data.

As of 2014, the current statistics go to the usually resident population, with the data of the last population census (2014).

Differences in concepts: the population census includes all usually resident population (de facto), which may not coincide with the address indicated in the identity card, but the current statistics are based on the registered residency mentioned in the identity card.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The NBS activity is based on respecting the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, 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, diminishing, 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 www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS (http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=323&)

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 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.

According to the Law, the staff of producers of official statistics, including temporary staff, who, according to their duties, have direct access to individual data are obliged to respect the confidentiality of such data during and after the cessation of activity in that position.

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.

According to Article 12 from the Law no.90 on 2014 Population and Housing Census from April 26, 2012, data from questionnaires are confidential information, which cannot be disclosed and that will be used exclusively for statistical purposes. Data obtained from the census cannot be used for purposes that could bring moral or material prejudice to person or it may prevent the realization of his rights and freedoms. Data processing from census questionnaires is made with the condition that data is mandatory anonymized, ensuring protection against unauthorized access and prevents the theft, loss, distortion or falsification.

Functionaries of central and local public authorities, temporary census staff and other persons which due to their job duties, have access to data from census questionnaires and who admitted loss, disclosure, falsification or contributed to their falsification bear responsibility in accordance with the law (Article 13 of Law 90/2012).

According to the Law, the staff of official statistics bodies, reviewers, interviewers and other persons who, according to their duties, have direct access to individual data are obliged to maintain their confidentiality, not to disclose it in any form, even after leaving the respective function, a fact recorded in the commitment signed by each collaborator of the NBS.

8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Annually the Advance release calendar is developed by NBS.

8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications

The press release calendar is posted on the NBS official page www.statistica.gov.md .

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 are obliged to disseminate statistical information within the time limits provided for in the statistical work program and in the timetable for dissemination of official statistical information.

b) The dissemination of the statistical information provided in the statistical work program to all categories of users shall be carried out free of charge and under equal conditions of access in terms of volume, quality and terms of dissemination.

The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS / legislative and normative acts (http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&)

The NBS web page www.statistica.gov.md 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:

http://www.statistica.gov.md under Press Releases, according to the Press Release Calendar.

8.2.2. Publications

Publications:

- Natural movement of population (last edition 2016)
- Population and Demographic Processes in the Republic of Moldova (last edition 2009)
- Population of the Republic of Moldova by age and sex in territorial aspect as of January 1 (last edition 2012)
- Women and men (last edition 2012)
- Children of Moldova (last edition 2016)
- other statistical publications: Statistical Yearbook, Territorial Statistics, Statistical pocket-book, Women and Men in Moldova, etc.

Access to publications:

- electronically, on the official website of the NBS www.statistica.gov.md , under the heading Products and services / Publications http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=350&nod=1&)
- or can be purchased at the NBS office (see details on www.statistica.gov.md, Publications heading http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=350&id=2219)

8.2.3. Databases/time series

- **Statistical databank** http://statbank.statistica.gov.md, under Population and demographic processes.
- **Official page** of NBS: www.statistica.gov.md under:
  - *Press releases*
  - *Statistics by themes / Population and demographic processes*
  - *Products and services/ Publications / Population;*
- **Special Dissemination Data Standard** (SDDS): http://www.statistica.gov.md/SDDS/NSDP/.

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations

Questionnaires are sent to UN, UNECE, EUROSTAT, CIS.

8.2.5. Requests for additional data

NBS makes available for 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 at the NBS headquarters, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or via online web form – www.statistica.gov.md heading Products and services / Statistical data request http://www.statistica.gov.md/solicitare_informatii_statistice.php?l=en.

9. Useful References (links)

9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The methodology is available on the official webpage www.statistica.gov.md, Metadata heading (http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=351&nod=1&).

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

Evaluation reports are available on the official webpage of NBS www.statistica.gov.md, heading About NBS / Evaluations and opinion polls on NBS / Evaluation reports (http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739).

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User's opinion polls are available on the official webpage of NBS www.statistica.gov.md, heading About NBS / Evaluations and opinions on NBS / Opinion Polls (http://www.statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2740).

9.4. Other useful references

Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of IMF	http://www.statistica.gov.md/SDDS/?lang=en
EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
The statistical database of the UN Economic Commission for Europe	http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/