Innovation in industry and services
Metadata
National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS)

1. Contact Information

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

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2.2. Last update of metadata

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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

The Statistical Survey on Innovation is a survey designed to collect data on innovative enterprises, the type of innovations and innovators, the turnover of new or improved products, the costs of innovation activities.

The methodological basis for innovation statistics serves:

- Oslo Manual (2018 edition), which determines the structure, content and methodology of statistical survey. This handbook was developed jointly by EUROSTAT (European Commission Bureau of Statistics) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) based on the experience of advanced countries in the field of innovation;

- European business statistics methodological manual for statistics on business innovation (2024 edition), which complements the legislative framework for European Business Statistics with guidance on how to interpret it in a practical and ever-changing setting. While the essential concepts and definitions are laid down in law, the manual provides further guidance on how to turn theory into practice. The integration into the framework of European Business Statistics ensures that Community Innovation Survey (CIS) data are compatible with the output of other European data collections on businesses, such as Structural Business Statistics (SBS).

According to Eurostat's recommendations, the Statistical Survey on Innovation is carried out every two years and is based on the Community Innovation Survey (CIS). For the survey regarding the innovation activity of the enterprises from the Republic of Moldova, only the indicators that are mandatory according to the EC Regulation no. 2022/1092 laying down technical specifications of data requirements for the topic 'Innovation' pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council were included, excluding the optional indicators.

The scope of Statistical Survey on Innovation refers to enterprises active in industry and services sector. The units were selected according to their size and number of employees.

Statistical survey excludes enterprises with economic activities as: agriculture, construction, retail, public administration, education, health and social assistance, recreational and leisure activities, other service activities.

The enterprises on the left bank of the river Nistru and the municipality of Bender were not included in

the survey.

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

Innovation activities include all developmental, financial and commercial activities undertaken by a firm that are intended to result in an innovation for the firm.

Innovation activities can result in an innovation: ongoing, postponed or abandoned.

A ***business innovation*** is a new or improved product or business process (or combination thereof) that differs significantly from the firm's previous products or business processes and that has been introduced on the market or brought into use by the firm

Innovation is the introduction of a new or improved product or process (or a combination thereof) which differs significantly from the enterprise's previous products or processes and which has been made available to potential users in the form of a product, or used by the enterprise in the form of a process.

An innovation must have features or intended uses that are new or provide a significant improvement over what was previously used or sold by the enterprise. However, an innovation may fail or take time to be successful.

An innovation only needs to be new or significantly improved for your business. It could have been originally developed or used by other businesses or organizations.

An ***innovative firm*** reports one or more innovations within the observation period. This applies equally to a firm that is individually or jointly responsible for an innovation.

A ***non-innovative firm*** reports no innovations within the observation period.

An ***innovation-active firm*** is engaged at some time during the observation period in one or more activities to develop or implement new or improved products or business processes for an intended use.

A ***product innovation*** is a new or improved good or service that differs significantly from the firm's previous goods or services and that has been introduced on the market.

Product innovations can involve two generic types of products: goods and services.

- *Goods* include tangible objects and some knowledge-capturing products (see below) over which ownership rights can be established and whose ownership can be transferred through market transactions.

- *Services* are intangible activities that are produced and consumed simultaneously and that change the conditions (e.g. physical, psychological, etc.) of users.

Knowledge-capturing products can have the characteristics of either a good or service and concern the provision, storage, safekeeping, communication and dissemination of digital information that users can access repeatedly. These products can be stored on physical objects and infrastructure, such as electronic media or the Cloud.

A business process innovation is a new or improved business process for one or more business functions that differs significantly from the firm's previous business processes and that has been brought into use in the firm.

Both new and improved business processes can be motivated by goals to implement business strategies, reduce costs, improve product quality or working conditions, or to meet regulatory requirements. A business process innovation can involve improvements to one or more aspects of a single business function or to combinations of different business functions. They can involve the adoption by the firm of new or improved business services that are delivered by external contractors, for instance accounting or human resources systems.

An innovation with environmental benefits is a new or improved product or process of an enterprise that generates lower environmental impacts, compared to the enterprise's previous products or processes, and that has been made available to potential users or brought into use. The environmental benefit can be the primary objective of the innovation or a by-product of other objectives.

Innovation activities include the purchase of machinery, equipment, buildings, software and licenses; engineering and work development activities, feasibility studies, design, training and marketing, when specifically undertaken for the development and/or implementation of a product or process innovation. They also include ***all types of Research and development (R&D)*** activities to create new knowledge or solve scientific or technical problems.

Research and development cover creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge - including knowledge about mankind, culture and society - and to devise new applications of available knowledge.

Internal R&D**:** research and development undertaken by your enterprise to create new knowledge or to solve scientific or technical problems. Include current expenditure, including labor costs and capital expenditure on buildings and special equipment for research and development.

External research and development**:** your enterprise has contracted out research and development to other enterprises (include enterprises in your own group) or to public or private research organizations.

Other innovation expenditure**:** all other activities related to the development of new or significantly improved products and processes (*excluding R&D expenditure*).

3.2.2. Unit of measurement

Data expressed in absolute values are presented (value indicators) - in lei.

Data expressed in relative values are presented in percentage (%).

3.3. Used classifications

Classifications and nomenclatures used:

Classification of Economic Activities of Moldova (CAEM-2), harmonized with NACE Rev.2, approved by NBS Order no. 28 of May 7, 2019;

Classification of Forms of Ownership (CFO), approved by Decision No. 276-st of 4 February 1997 of the Department for Standards, Metrology and Technical Supervision;

Classification of Legal Forms (COLF) of Economic Entities in the Republic of Moldova, approved by Decision No. 1607-ST of 9 November 2004 of Moldova-Standard;

Classification of administrative-territorial units of the Republic of Moldova (CUATM), approved by the Decision of the Department of Moldova-Standard no. 1398-ST of 03.09.2003.

3.4. Coverage

3.4.1. Sector coverage

Statistical survey on innovation in enterprises covers the economic sectors according to CAEM-2:

- extractive industry (divisions 05 - 09);

- manufacturing industry (divisions 10 - 33);

- production and supply of electricity and heat, gas, hot water and air conditioning (division 35);

- water distribution, sanitation, waste management, decontamination activities (divisions 36 - 39);

- wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles (division 46);

- transport and storage (divisions 49 - 53);

- information and communications (divisions 58 - 63);

- financial intermediation and insurance (divisions 64 - 66);

- professional, scientific and technical activities (divisions 71 - 73);

The economic activities that are the subject of the survey were established in accordance with Annex no. 1 of European Commission Regulation (EC) No 2022/1092.

3.4.2. Statistical population

The population that is the subject of this survey is considered the community of active units and includes

exhaustively all enterprises with 10 or more employees, which have economic activities according to CAEM-2, see p.3.4.1.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage

The information is developed and disseminated without the data of the localities from the left bank of the river Nistru and of the Bender municipality.

3.4.4. Time coverage

Time series are available starting with 2015.

3.5. Disaggregation level

The result data are disaggregated by the following major groups:

- types of activities;
- types of innovations;
- by size classes of enterprises: small, medium and large, (by average number of employees)
- territorial profile (regions; North, Center, South, Chișinau municipality, ATU Găgăuzia);

3.6. Dissemination periodicity

Once in two years

3.7. Timeliness

December month after the reference period.

3.8. Revision

Data are final at first dissemination.

The data revision policy is in accordance with the Statistical 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_ro.pdf

3.9. Period of reference

The reference period of the questionnaire is 2 calendar years. The last reference period for which statistics are available is 2021-2022.

4. Data Collection and Processing

4.1. Data source

4.1.1. Statistical surveys

Statistical survey on Innovation in industry and services (1-INOV).

4.1.2. Administrative sources

Database on financial reports

4.1.3. Estimations

Not applicable.

4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey/administrative sources

4.2.1. Objective and background

Statistical survey on business innovation is carried out to collect data on innovative enterprises, type of innovation and innovators, turnover of new or improved products, expenditure on innovation activities.

For the first time the survey was realized in 2017 and data were collected for the reference period 2015-2016.

4.2.2. Statistical unit

The observed unit is the enterprise, which is defined as the smallest legally constituted unit, which has decision-making autonomy and is organized to carry out, in one or more places, one or more activities for the production of goods and services.

4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey

The circle of units included in the survey is determined by the size of the enterprise and its main activity. All enterprises with 10 or more employees in any of the sectors specified in p. 3.4.1 are included in the survey.

4.2.4. Survey periodicity

Once in two years

4.2.5. Data collection

Data collection is carried out by the territorial statistics offices on paper or through the e-reporting portal. The filled-in questionnaires are submitted by enterprises to the territorial statistics offices according to the location of enterprises' registration, where checking and input of the data and afterwards the processing and generalization of the data by the National Bureau of Statistics are carried out.

4.3. Data processing and compilation

4.3.1. Data validation

Several rules apply to data analysis and quality assurance:

• Mathematical control of data;

• Logical data control;

• Comparing data with similar data in financial statements;

• Setting maximum limits for certain indicators (for example: turnover, amount of expenditure, etc.).

4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data

Not applicable.

4.3.3. Adjustments

Not applicable.

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 its activity of producing statistical information, NBS pays huge importance to ensuring the high quality of data.

To this end, a series of quality assurance measures are implemented at each stage of the statistical approach: in the process of organizing statistical survey, collection, processing and elaboration of statistical information.

Important efforts are undertaken to ensure the completeness and quality of data presentation by respondents included in statistical surveys.

Errors, inconsistencies and suspicious data are revealed in order to verify and specify them.

Primary data are verified and analyzed for internal coherence (according to the Questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data for previous periods), with data from other similar units, as well as data available from other statistical surveys and administrative sources.

To ensure the quality of primary data, consultations are provided to interviewers and respondents so as to explain definitions and the correct way of filling in the questionnaires.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The non - response rate for the reference period 2021-2022 was about 2%.

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Not applicable

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

The innovation survey is conducted in accordance with European standards in the field of business statistics, namely Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1092 laying down technical specifications of data requirements for the topic "Innovation" pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152.
The methodological basis for innovation statistics is provided by: the Oslo Manual (2018 edition), jointly developed by EUROSTAT (the Statistical Office of the European Commission) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the Methodological Manual for Business Innovation Statistics (2024 edition).

5.2. Comparability over the time

The relative indicators (%) that characterize the structure of economic phenomena and innovative processes in industry and services are comparable over time.

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

Consistency with the respective sector statistics data is ensured.

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 of 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 general principles for the collection, processing, centralization, dissemination, storage of statistical information (art. 1).

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

The National Bureau of Statistics, in its capacity as a central statistical body, is an administrative authority created under the Government to lead and coordinate the activity in the field of statistics.

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) Develop and implements strategies for the development of the national statistical system, annual and multiannual statistical programs;
3) Develop 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 the heading About NBS https://statistica.gov.md/en/acte-normative-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. Are not considered confidential:

a) data that can be obtained from public access sources, according to the legislation;

b) individual data regarding the address, phone number, name, type of activity, number of employees of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs;

c) data concerning the 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, have access to the individual data the persons who, according to the service attributions, participate in the production of the statistical information, insofar as the individual data are necessary for the production of this information.

The same article stipulates that access to individual data that do not allow direct identification of respondents may be granted for scientific research projects whose expected results do not refer to identifiable individual units, in accordance with the regulation approved by the central statistical authority.

Art. 23 (5) of the Law stipulates that "Statistical information may not be disseminated to users if it refers to 1–3 statistical units".

7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

In order 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.

Until the dissemination, the statistical data are checked for compliance with the requirements for the protection of confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p.7.1), their dissemination is not carried out and the data is aggregated to the minimum available level which ensures the protection of the confidentiality of it.

8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Annually, the Press release calendar of statistical information produced by the NBS is developed.

8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications

The press release calendar is posted on the NBS official page
https://statistica.gov.md/en/dissemination_calendar

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 the statistical information within the deadlines set out in the Program of Statistical Works and in the press-release calendar.

b) The dissemination of the statistical information provided in the Program of Statistical Works to all categories of users is carried out free of charge and in equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and terms of dissemination.

The Program of Statistical Works may be accessed on the web page www.statistica.gov.md, under the heading About NBS / legislative and normative acts https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html

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 posted 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/statistic_indicator_details/44#about under News Releases, according to the Press Release Calendar.

Press releases on innovation activity:

https://statistica.gov.md/en/innovation-activity-of-enterprises-in-the-republic-of-moldova-in-the-years-2015--9794_2959.html (for the reference period 2015-2016)

https://statistica.gov.md/en/innovation-activity-of-enterprises-in-the-republic-of-moldova-in-the-years-2017--9794_3241.html (for the reference period 2017-2018)

https://statistica.gov.md/en/innovation-activity-of-enterprises-in-the-republic-of-moldova-in-the-years-2019--9794_3517.html (for the reference period 2019-2020)

https://statistica.gov.md/en/innovation-activity-of-enterprises-in-the-republic-of-moldova-in-9794_60858.html (for the reference period 2021-2022)

https://statistica.gov.md/ro/rezultatele-activitatii-de-inovare-a-intreprinderilor-din-republica-moldova-in-a-9794_62183.html (for the reference period 2022-2024)

8.2.2. Publications

Not applicable

8.2.3. Databases/time series

Not applicable

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations

Not applicable

8.2.5. Requests for additional data

The NBS provides users with additional statistical information to those available in statistical publications, information notes, operational information, those placed on the official website within the available information, in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics. The request can be sent personally at the NBS headquarters, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or online - www.statistica.gov.md section *Products and services / Request for statistical information* https://statistica.gov.md/en/information_request

9. Useful References (links)

9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The methodology is available on the official page www.statistica.gov.md, under *Metadata and classification / Reference metadata* (https://statistica.gov.md/en/metadata).

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

The NBS assessment reports are available on the official page www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS / Assessments and Opinions on NBS / Assessment Reports https://statistica.gov.md/en/assessment-reports-9930_3816.html

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User surveys are available on the official page www.statistica.gov.md, under About NBS / External assessments and user surveys / User Surveys https://statistica.gov.md/en/user-surveys-9933_3817.html

9.4. Other useful references

EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
European innovation scoreboard	https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en?utm
OECD - Science, technology and innovation	https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/science-technology-and-innovation.html

European Union – european data	https://data.europa.eu/en/news-events/news/measuring-europes-innovation-performance-insights-european-innovation-scoreboard?utm