



Comparison of European news releases on businesses

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European Statistical System: harmonised statistics, harmonised presentation?

- Comparability
- Timing
- Metadata
- Story
- European comparison
- Relevance for businesses

Selection of news releases

- Different domains of business statistics: industrial production, international trade in goods, innovation
- Problems: change of base year; incomplete provisional year
- Country selection limited by our language competence: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, the UK
- Bias towards western Europe and larger countries

National releases on industrial production

Country	Type	Organisation	Delay	Comparability
Austria	News release	NSI	after	na
Belgium	News release	NSI	after	na
France	Not found	na	na	na
Germany	News release	NSI	before	No
Ireland	News release	NSI	before	Yes
Netherlands	Web message	NSI	before	No
Romania	News release	NSI	before	Yes
Spain	News release	NSI	before	Yes
UK	Electronic	NSI	before	No

Comparability

- Metadata insufficient to understand
- Different scope of industrial
- Different concept: DE turnover
- Different options for seasonal adjustment/working day correction
- Different base year

Aspects of the releases on industrial production

Country	Metadata available?	Interpretation?	European comparison?	Relevant for businesses?
Eurostat	Yes	No	Yes	No
Austria	Yes	No	No	No
Belgium	In link	No	No	In link
France	na	na	na	na
Germany	In link	No	No	No
Ireland	Yes	No	No	Yes
Netherlands	No	No	No	No
Romania	Yes	No	In link	Yes
Spain	No	No	No	Yes
UK	Yes	No	No	Yes

National releases on international trade in goods

Country	Type	Organisation	Delay	Comparability
Austria	News release	NSI	before	No
Belgium	News release	National Bank	same	No
France	News release	Ministry	before	No
Germany	News release	NSI	before	No
Ireland	Article	NSI	after	No
Netherlands	Web message	NSI	before	No
Romania	News release	NSI	before	No
Spain	Not found	na	na	na
UK	Electronic	NSI	before	No

Comparability

- Metadata insufficient to understand
- Different concept: change of ownership/passing the border
- Different options for seasonal adjustment/working day correction
- Different currency
- Different grouping of periods

Aspects of the releases on international trade in goods

Country	Metadata available?	Interpretation?	European comparison?	Relevant for businesses?
Eurostat	Yes	No	Yes	No
Austria	Yes	No	No	In link
Belgium	Yes	No	No	No
France	No	No	No	Yes
Germany	In link	No	No	No
Ireland	Yes	No	No	Yes
Netherlands	No	No	No	No
Romania	Yes	No	In link	No
Spain	na	na	na	na
UK	Yes	No	No	No

National releases on innovation

Country	Type	Organisation	Delay	Comparability
Austria	News release	NSI	before	Yes
Belgium	Article	Research Institute	before	No
France	Article	NSI	before	No
Germany	Article	Research Institute	before	No
Ireland	Article	NSI	before	Yes
Netherlands	Book	NSI	before	No
Romania	News release	NSI	before	Partly
Spain	News release	NSI	before	No
UK	Article	Ministry	before	No

Comparability

- Metadata insufficient to understand
- Different concept: Eurostat all innovation activities; Belgium separately for (overlapping) technological and non-technological innovation
- Scope of included industries (agriculture, construction, government)
- Different size class threshold DE and different size class definition NL (employees, persons employed)

Aspects of the releases on innovation

Country	Metadata available?	Interpretation?	European comparison?	Relevant for businesses?
Eurostat	Yes	No	Yes	No
Austria	Yes	No	No	No
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
France	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Germany	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Ireland	Yes	No	Yes (previous)	Yes
Netherlands	Yes	No	No	No
Romania	Yes	No	No	Yes
Spain	Yes	No	No	Yes
UK	Yes	No	No	Yes

Conclusions

- The news releases tell not story (offer no interpretation), they just repeat a table in text format
- Exception: NL, DE press release on the state of the economy combining several sources
- Data are often incomparable due to different definitions, concepts, scope or ways of presenting
- The available metadata are insufficient to understand the differences

Conclusions continued

- National release usually before the Eurostat release (BE, AT few days later for industrial production)
- Usually no reference to European data
- No hint to the potential usefulness of the data to businesses (some countries present or link to more detailed data)

Big conclusions

(Careful, for oral presentation only)

- The European Statistical System does not behave as a system in the domain of dissemination
- It is good to have Eurostat, it is impossible to produce European statistics on the basis of national publications

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