

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

**(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)**

on

## **Short-term statistics in trade and services**

This documentation is valid from the reference period:

**2018 (base year 2015)**

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## Executive Summary

Short term statistics for trade and services are used to provide information about the cyclical development in trade and important services sections.

The breakdown of enterprises and results into economic activities is based on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE: Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne or ÖNACE in Austria). The last major revision was in 2008.

The coverage of short-term business statistics for distributive trades covers enterprises with an economic focus on "Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles" (Section G of ÖNACE 2008); services comprise enterprises with an economic focus on 'transport and storage' (Section H), 'accommodation and food service activities' (Section I), 'information and communication activities' (Section J), 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (Section M) and 'other business activities' (Section N).

Statistical information about short term development is an important source for market investigation. It is provided to meet data requirements demanded by the European Union (EU) regarding the creation of community statistics for short-term development and for observing the economic development of the member states. The short-term statistics are based on register, statistical and administrative data, with a small primary survey for collecting trade data. The periodically calculated indices are based on a harmonised concept prescribed by the EU authority.

The specification for European short-term statistics in the current version has been legally effective by the Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 since 1998. The legal base in Austria is the National Regulation concerning short-term statistics in trade and services (BGBl. II Nr. 233/2003 in the current version). In Austria short-term statistics for trade has been provided since 1973. The European system has been implemented in 1999. After a derogation of five years, short-term statistics for services have been implemented in 2003, based on administrative data. Since 2013, indicators for wages and salaries and hours worked have been added too.

Turnover indices for trade (in nominal and real terms) are provided on a monthly basis, approximately 60 days after the end of the reference month. These indices are also seasonal and working day adjusted. Preliminary turnover indicators for main aggregates in retail trade are provided approximately 30 days after the end of the reference month. Quarterly turnover indicators for services are available after approximately 2 months (nominal and working day adjusted). Unadjusted employment indices are available at the same date (after approx. 2 months) as turnover indices. Indices of wages and salaries and hours worked are published after 3 months. Hours worked are available in the form of nominal and working day adjusted indices.

Since the first reference period in 2018, the short-term statistics have been published with the reference year 2015. The short-term indicators are rebased every five years with the base year ending with 0 or 5. All indices have to be rebased after the end of the base year within the period of 3 years, according to the existing legal requirements. All indices were backcasted till 2010, the old base year.

For the calculation of the **turnover** indices for most enterprises, data coming from the VAT advance return is exploited. The **employment** indices are derived from the number of employees from administrative sources (Main Association of Austrian Social Security) and the numbers of self-employed persons from the Business Register (BR) of Statistics Austria. Indices of **hours worked** are based on statistical data from the Micro Census Labour Force Survey and data of the employees. Wages and salaries indices are based on data resulting from the contributions to the Family Burden Equalisation Fund (FLAF) and data on employees.

**Employment** and **wages and salaries** indicators are based on a census. The calculation is based on all active enterprises in the reference period with the corresponding activity. Turnover indices result from a stratified random sample (approximately 2 800 enterprises in retail trade)

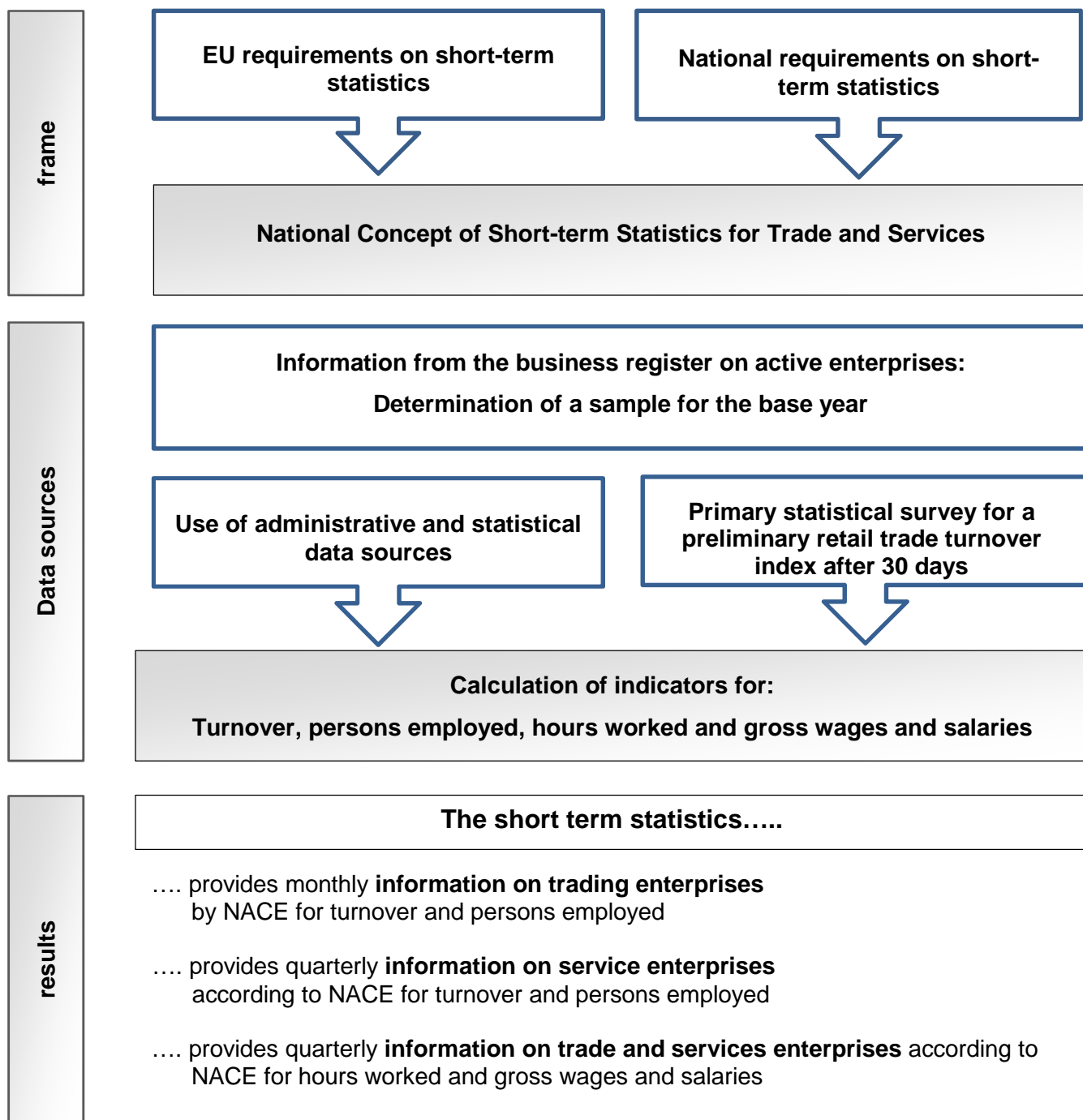
and a cut-off census for the NACE Divisions G45 and G46 and the NACE Sections H, I, J, M and N. Approx. 6 000 persons in the Micro Census Labour Force Survey can be linked to enterprises in the population of the short-term statistics via BR and are used for the calculation of the hours worked. Data is checked for plausibility and corrected if necessary. Missing values and not available components are imputed or estimated. Take note that the employment indices are based on the number of employees and self-employed persons and not on full time equivalents. The indices for wages and salaries and hours worked are calculated as volume indices.

The population of the short-term statistics which is representing the trade sector consists of the NACE Rev. 2 section G. The short term statistics for services is based on NACE Rev. 2 sections H, I, J, M (without 70.1, 72 and 75) and N (without 77, 81.1 and 81.3). In comparison to other statistics, it should be taken into account that sections M and N are only partly included. The presentation of the results is depending on the indices and the NACE activity.

This standard-documentation refers to the short-term statistics trade and services since 2018. Older versions are available on our homepage [STATISTIK AUSTRIA – Trade, Services \(in German\)](#).

Future development includes a new European Basic Act for business statistics (FRIBS – Framework Regulation Integrating Business Statistics).

Graph 1: concept of short term business statistics in trade and services



<b>Short-term statistics in trade and services – Main Features</b>	
<b>Subject matter</b>	Purpose of the short term statistics for trade and services is to reflect the monthly economic development of turnover, employment, hours worked and of wages & salaries. All surveyed variables are provided as indices for the relevant categories of NACE for trade and services.
<b>Population</b>	All active enterprises (legal units) of the BR whose main activity is assigned to the NACE Rev. 2 sections G, H, I, J, M (without 70.1, 72 and 75) and N (without 77, 81.1 and 81.3). Trade: approximately 81 000 enterprises Services: approximately 158 000 enterprises
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Utilisation of register, statistical and administrative data and a sample coming from a primary survey for trade data as main data sources. The sample for turnover is represented by the extent of approx. 2 800 enterprises for retail trade. Turnover for the other NACE Divisions G45 and G46 and the NACE Sections H, I, J, M, and N are based on a cut-off census. A full census is used for persons employed and wages and salaries. About 6 000 persons in the Micro Census Labour Force Survey are linked to the enterprises via BR for hours worked.
<b>Data sources/ Survey techniques</b>	Primary data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary survey of selected enterprises – especially to calculate the preliminary results for retail trade</li> </ul> Secondary data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business register (BR) as reference for population and for self-employed persons</li> <li>• VAT advance return for turnover-indices</li> <li>• Main Association of Austrian Social Security for employees; also used for wages and salaries and hours worked</li> <li>• Micro Census Labour Force Survey for hours worked</li> <li>• Contributions to the Family Burden Equalisation Fund (FLAF) for wages and salaries</li> </ul> The data sources are linked via BR with the enterprises in the relevant NACE activities and are therefore used for the evaluation of short term statistics.
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	The reference period for turnover and wages and salaries is the respective month; for employees it is the end of the month; quarterly data is the mean of monthly data; hours worked are available in the respective week of report of the reference quarter
<b>Periodicity</b>	Turnover and employment statistics for Trade are in a monthly periodicity, for Services quarterly. Wages and salaries and hours worked for trade and services are processed by quarter.
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Voluntary, as long as the quality is adequate
<b>Main legal acts</b>	<b>EU:</b> Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics in the current version <b>National:</b> national regulation concerning short term statistics in trade and services (BGBl. II Nr. 233/2003 in the current version)
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Austria
<b>Availability of results</b>	Preliminary results: approx. d+30 (retail trade- only turnover indices for main aggregates) Final results: approx. d+2 months (turnover and employment), approx. d+3 months (wages and salaries, hours worked)
<b>Other</b>	All indices are nominal and unadjusted, turnover indices for trade are also available in real terms and seasonal and working day adjusted, turnover for services is available working day adjusted; hours worked are also working day adjusted