

INLAND TRANSPORT STATISTICS (2020)

NATIONAL REFERENCE METADATA IN SINGLE INTEGRATED METADATA STRUCTURE (SIMS)

CONCEPT 1 - CONTACT

Sub-Concept 1.1: Contact organisation

National Statistics Office (NSO)

Sub-Concept 1.2: Contact organisation unit

Regional, Geospatial, Energy and Transport

Sub-Concept 1.3: Contact name

Ms. Marice Grech

Sub-Concept 1.4: Contact person function

Head of Unit

Sub-Concept 1.5: Contact mail address

National Statistics Office (NSO),
Lascaris, Valletta,
VLT 2000, Malta.

Sub-Concept 1.6: Contact e-mail address

marice.c.grech@gov.mt

Sub-Concept 1.7: Contact phone number

+356 2599 7703

CONCEPT 2 – METADATA UPDATE

Sub-Concept 2.1: Metadata last certified

1st March 2021.

Sub-Concept 2.2: Metadata last posted

11th March 2021.

Sub-Concept 2.3: Metadata last update

11th March 2021.

CONCEPT 3 – STATISTICAL PRESENTATION

Sub-Concept 3.1: Data description

Land Transport Statistics are compiled under requirements of the standard data collection cycles as directed by Eurostat apart from the fulfilment of national needs. Data are disseminated through quarterly News Releases; an annual comprehensive publication; and through the EU's and Eurostat's CARE and Common Inland Transport Questionnaire. Other questionnaires by other international institutions such as ITF are duly filled in.

Sub-Concept 3.2: Classification system

Coding is mainly done on vehicle classifications as per the [Glossary of Transport Statistics](#). These include:

- Vehicle classification – this classification takes into account the body of the vehicle, the GVW and/or cc, seating, and the national vehicle category code (agricultural, passenger car, motorcycle, route bus, coach and private bus, minibus, goods carrying vehicle, special purpose vehicle, and road tractor.
- Fuel code.
- Localities are coded as per the [LAU2](#) classification.

Sub-Concept 3.3: Sector coverage

Land Transport Statistics cover:

- Road Traffic Accidents;
- Registered and Licensed Vehicles;
- Driving Licenses;
- Public Transport;
- VRT;
- Driving Tests;
- Vehicle Thefts;
- Road Traffic Contraventions;
- Emissions from Road Transport;
- Vehicle km;
- Fuel Consumption from Land Transport.

Sub-Concept 3.4: Statistical concepts and definitions

- The definitions used in the Common Questionnaire for Inland Transport Statistics are specified in the [Glossary for transport statistics](#).
- Data in the CARE database are collected according to the principles of a Common Accident Data Set (CADaS). Information on variables can be obtained through the [CADaS reference guide](#).

Sub-Concept 3.5: Statistical unit

Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Accidents.

Sub-Concept 3.6: Statistical population

Refer to sub-concept 3.3.

Sub-Concept 3.7: Reference area

Malta and Gozo.

Sub-Concept 3.8: Time Coverage

- Road Traffic Accidents: Every quarter since 2005.
- Motor Vehicles: Every quarter since 2005.
- CARE: Annual since 2015 onwards.
- Webcoq (common questionnaire for inland transport statistics): Annual from 2005 onwards.

Sub-Concept 3.9: Base period

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 4 – UNIT OF MEASURE

Main units of measure include:

- Vehicles;
- Persons;
- Quantities;
- Percentages;
- Distances;
- Weights.

CONCEPT 5 – REFERENCE PERIOD

The reference period is every quarter of a given calendar year.

CONCEPT 6 – INSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

Sub-Concept 6.1: Legal acts and other agreements

[The Malta Statistics Authority \(MSA\) Act](#) empowers the NSO to collect, compile, extract and release official statistics related to demographic, social, environment, economic and general activities and conditions of Malta.

The Common Questionnaire is not supported by any legal acts; it is a voluntary data collection, based on a gentlemen's agreement with the participating countries.

Data for these tables have been taken directly from the CARE (Community Road Accident) database, which management and maintenance are in the hands of DG MOVE (Director-General for Mobility and Transport). Eurostat and DG MOVE have an agreement enabling Eurostat to disseminate CARE data.

At the basis, the CARE data collection is based on the Council decision of 30 November 1993 on the creation of a Community database on road accidents (Council Decision 93/704/EC, OJ No L329 of 30.12.1993, pp. 63-65).

Sub-Concept 6.2: Data sharing

- WEBCOQ (Web Common Questionnaire) - Data are shared with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) , International Transport Forum (ITF), Eurostat and other stakeholders.
- CARE – Data are shared with Eurostat, DG MOVE, ITF and other stakeholders.

CONCEPT - CONFIDENTIALITY

Sub-Concept 7.1: Confidentiality – Policy

At National level:

The NSO requests information for the compilation of official statistics according to the articles of the MSA Act – Cap. 422 and the Data Protection Act – Cap. 586 of the Laws of Malta implementing the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Article 40 of the MSA Act stipulates the restrictions on the use of information while Article 41 stipulates the prohibition of disclosure of information. Furthermore, Section IX of the Act (Offences and Penalties) lays down the measures to be taken in case of unlawful exercise of any officer of statistics regarding confidentiality of data.

Since its inception, the NSO has always assured that all data collected remains confidential and that it is used for statistical purposes only according to the articles and derogations stipulated in the laws quoted above. The Office is obliged to protect the identify of data providers and refrain from divulging any data to third parties that might lead to the identification of persons or entities.

During 2009, the NSO has set up a Statistical Disclosure Committee to ensure that statistical confidentiality is observed, especially when requests for microdata are received.

Upon employment, all NSO employees are informed of the rules and duties pertaining to confidential information and its treatment. In line with stipulations of the MSA Act, before commencing work, every employee is required to take an oath of secrecy whose text is included in the same Act.

An internal policy on anonymisation and pseudo-anonymisation is in place to ascertain that adequate methods are used for the protection of data which the office collects and shares with the public in its capacity as the National Statistics Office. The policy is meant to safeguard confidentiality of both personal and business data entrusted to the NSO. The document provides guidance for all NSO employees who process data on a daily basis as to how anonymisation and pseudo-anonymisation methods should be applied. The policy applies to all confidential, restricted and internal information, regardless of form (paper or electronic documents, applications and databases) that is received, processed, stored and disseminated by the NSO.

At European level:

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) on European statistics (recital 24 and Article 20(4) of 11 March 2009 (OJ L 87, p. 164), stipulates the need to establish common principles and guidelines ensuring the confidentiality of data used for the production of European statistics and the access to those confidential data with due account for technical developments and the requirements of users in a democratic society.

CARE: Council Regulation (CE) N° 322/97 of 17 February 1997 (OJ No L 52/1) and Council Regulation (EURATOM, EEC) N° 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of the data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151/ 1) stipulates the detailed rules used for receiving, processing and disseminating of confidential data.

These rules apply as data are initially submitted to Eurostat. Datasets are forwarded to DG MOVE which is responsible for further treatment.

WEBCOQ: The Common Questionnaire is a voluntary data collection of aggregated national data. No confidential data should be or are reported by the participating countries.

Generally, [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics](#) stipulates the rules for receiving, processing and disseminating the confidential data.

Sub-Concept 7.2: Confidentiality – Data Treatment

CARE: [Council Regulation \(CE\) N° 322/97](#) of 17 February 1997 (OJ No L 52/1) and Council Regulation (EURATOM, EEC) N° 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of the data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151/ 1) stipulates the detailed rules used for receiving, processing and disseminating of confidential data.

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CONCEPT 8 – RELEASE POLICY

Sub-Concept 8.1: Release Calendar

An advance release calendar is maintained by the NSO and published on the NSO website. The calendar projects three months of news releases (including the current and two subsequent months).

Sub-Concept 8.2: Release Calendar access

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

Sub-Concept 8.3: User access

An internal policy on dissemination is in place to govern the dissemination of official statistics in an impartial, independent and timely manner, making them available simultaneously to all users.

The NSO's primary channel for the dissemination of official statistics is the NSO website. Tailored requests for statistical information may also be submitted through the NSO website.

Moreover, dedicated news releases are available in electronic format on the NSO website.

CONCEPT 9 – FREQUENCY OF DISSEMINATION

- CARE: Data are disseminated on an annual basis.
- WEBCOQ: Data are disseminated on an annual basis.
- News Releases: Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Accidents are released on a quarterly basis.
- Publication: Annually

CONCEPT 10 – ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

Sub-Concept 10.1: News release

Motor Vehicles:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_02/Regional_and_Geospatial_Statistics/Pages/Motor-Vehicles.aspx

Road Traffic Accidents:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_02/Regional_and_Geospatial_Statistics/Pages/Road-Traffic-Accidents.aspx

Sub-Concept 10.2: Publications

Annual Transport Publications are published on the NSO website and can be found at:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/publicatons/Publications_by_Unit/Pages/B3-Environment-Energy-Transport-and-Agriculture-Statistics.aspx

Sub-Concept 10.3: Online Database

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 10.4: Micro-data access

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 10.5: Other

The data are sought after by the media, researchers, students and policy makers. Such users can request information through the NSO website (<http://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Pages/Request-for-Information.aspx>) and data are provided at aggregated level.

Sub-Concept 10.6: Documentation on methodology

Work processes and procedures for the compilation of Transport statistics are documented in a standardised reporting template and aligned to the GSBPM model. The model covers all phases of the statistical production process, from the initial stages of identifying what statistics are needed and the scope of the particular survey, to the final stages of dissemination and evaluation. The GSBPM report is only available internally and may be accessed by all NSO employees.

Sub-Concept 10.6.1: Metadata completeness rate

Information about all required metadata concepts (and sub-concepts thereof) are provided.

Sub-Concept 10.7: Quality Documentation

Dedicated SIMS reports are available to the public on the [NSO's metadata website including concepts related to metadata and quality](#).

The NSO has developed an internal Quality Management Framework (QMF) which is built on common requirements of the ESS Code of Practice (ESS CoP). A document was prepared to include a set of general quality guidelines spanning over all statistical domains. Assuring methodological soundness is an integral part of the QMF, nonetheless, the document spans also on other areas related to institutional aspects.

CONCEPT 11 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Sub-Concept 11.1: Quality Assurance

The NSO ensures the accuracy of data released to the public and prepares clear methodological notes which explain the processes involved in the collection and production of official statistics.

Quality assurance is safeguarded through regular checks which are done with our data collecting counterparts. Checks would include the consistency of values when there are large discrepancies from values of previous period(s).

CARE: Data for the CARE database are increasingly sent according to recommendations for a Common Accident Data Set (CADaS). This consists of a minimum set of standardised data elements, which will allow for comparable road accident data to be available in Europe. The CADaS can be implemented on a voluntary basis at the national accident collection systems and be gradually adopted by the EU countries. Thus, progressively, more and more common road accident data from the various countries will be available in a uniform format. In this way CARE, the European data base with disaggregate data on road accidents, will gradually contain more and more compatible and comparable data, allowing for more reliable analyses and comparisons across the EU countries. The recommendation for a Common Accident Data Set (CADaS) refers to the set of data to be voluntarily transmitted by each country to the EU, which should be derived from the national road accident data collection system. This means, that the EU countries will not be legally obliged to adopt the CADaS and can continue using their national systems, however, if they wish they can enhance them in order to be able to provide the CADaS data to the EU. In case the countries do not wish to adopt the CADaS they should continue transmitting national road accident data to the EU in the current format.

WEBCOQ: The Common Questionnaire is a voluntary data collection, not supported by legal acts. It is completed by the competent national authorities, who are responsible for the main quality assurance. National data are reported through the WEBCOQ online application, which contains a number of logical checks and controls. Further plausibility checks, growth rate checks and logical checks are carried out by Eurostat.

The NSO has developed an internal Quality Management Framework (QMF) which is built on common requirements of the ESS Code of Practice (ESS CoP). A document was prepared to include a set of general quality guidelines spanning over all statistical domains. Assuring methodological soundness is an integral part of the QMF, nonetheless, the document spans also on other areas related to institutional aspects.

Every five to seven years, the NSO participates in a Peer Review exercise through which the compliance of its operations with principles of the ESS CoP is assessed by an expert team. Peer Reviews are indeed part of the European Statistical System (ESS) strategy to implement the ESS CoP. Each NSI is expected to provide information as requested by a standard self-assessment questionnaire. Following this an expert team visits the office to meet NSI representatives and main stakeholders. Peer Reviews result in a compliance report and the listing of a set of Improvement Actions which need to be followed up by the NSI. The next round of Peer Reviews is planned to be carried out in 2022.

Sub-Concept 11.2: Quality Assessment

Eurostat routinely assesses timeliness, completeness and accuracy and follow this up with the participating countries. The Common Questionnaire is modular: quality may vary from module to module, from sub-module to sub-module, from variable to variable and from country to country.

The monthly data received from Police and Wardens and the quarterly data from TM are treated as final. However, checks on the data are done and if any discrepancies are noted, the respective data provider is contacted for confirmation of the data quality.

CONCEPT 12 - RELEVANCE

Sub-Concept 12.1: User needs

The main users of the data include the Ministry of Transport, academics, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Sub-Concept 12.2: User satisfaction

The last User Satisfaction Survey was held in 2014 with the aim to collect information about key users' satisfaction with statistical output.

The NSO keeps record of the number of News Releases and publications disseminated on its website; the users to whom statistical products are provided; as well as the number of requests that are processed every year.

News Releases and tailor-made statistical outputs were assessed on account of their quality, timeliness, and on their ability to meet users' needs.

Sub-Concept 12.3: Data Completeness

All the data required by all respective agencies and authorities are compiled and sent within the respective deadlines.

CONCEPT 13 – ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY

Sub-Concept 13.1: Overall accuracy

Since all data are administrative, the amount of errors found are minimal. However, all data received are always checked and if some anomaly is found, it is reported to the data provider for checking and correction wherever necessary.

Sub-Concept 13.2: Sampling errors

Not applicable. Only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3: Non-sampling error

Errors in the final result may result due to erroneous reporting in the administrative sources themselves.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1: Coverage error

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1.1: Over Coverage

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 13.3.1.2: Common Units Proportion

Not applicable. Only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3.2: Measurement error

Errors in the final result may result due to erroneous reporting in the administrative sources themselves.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3: Non-response error

Not applicable. Only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3.1: Unit non-response

Not applicable. Only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3.3.2: Item non-response

Not applicable. Only administrative data are used.

Sub-Concept 13.3.4: Processing error

Errors in the final result may result due to erroneous reporting in the administrative sources themselves.

Sub-Concept 13.3.5: Model assumption error

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 14 – TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

Sub-Concept 14.1: Timeliness

T+15 days.

Sub-Concept 14.2: Punctuality

All News Releases are published on time, i.e. every quarter at 11:00am

CONCEPT 15 – COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY

Sub-Concept 15.1: Comparability – Geographical

Data are presented (in a comparable manner) at national, regional and locality level.

Sub-Concept 15.2: Comparability – Over Time

Data are comparable since 2005.

Sub-Concept 15.3: Coherence – Cross Domain

Full coherence.

Sub-Concept 15.3.1: Coherence – Sub-Annual and Annual statistics

Full coherence.

Sub-Concept 15.3.2: Coherence – National Accounts

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 15.4: Coherence – Internal

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 16 – COST AND BURDEN

Not available.

CONCEPT 17 – DATA REVISION

Sub-Concept 17.1: Data revision – Policy

At the NSO, there is currently no internal policy governing revisions that occur for all statistics produced. Nonetheless, a revisions policy is being drafted to safeguard a coordinated revisions system across statistical domains.

This policy will take account of the need and causes for revisions; time and frequency of revisions; data and other statistical products affected by such revisions; and length of periods revised.

Sub-Concept 17.2: Data revision – Practice and Data Revision

Data are subject to revision.

CONCEPT 18 – STATISTICAL PROCESSING

Sub-Concept 18.1: Source data

All data are compiled from administrative sources: Transport Malta, Malta Police Force, Guards & Wardens Services.

Sub-Concept 18.2: Frequency of data collection

Monthly and Quarterly.

Sub-Concept 18.3: Data Collection

Data source owners share administrative data through email.

Sub-Concept 18.4: Data Validation

Data are normally compared with past data for consistency checks. Data are validated through regular checks and automated checks in databases.

Sub-Concept 18.5: Data Compilation

The data compilation process is done through administrative databases which are maintained by TM, Police, Wardens and LOQUS.

The Common Questionnaire is a voluntary data collection based on a gentleman's agreement; data collection and compilation methodology are determined by the competent national authorities and varies from country to country.

Data compilations are performed by DG MOVE.

In addition, Eurostat may compile some EU totals that are not directly available through the various reports that can be downloaded from DG MOVE's website.

Sub-Concept 18.5.1: Imputation

Data are not normally imputed. Any anomalies detected at source are discussed with the source providers.

Sub-Concept 18.6: Adjustment

Not applicable.

Sub-Concept 18.6.1: Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

CONCEPT 19 - COMMENT

No further comments.