

Labor Force Survey

Main Indicators

Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

1. Contact Information

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata

15.01.2017

2.2. Last update of metadata

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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

“The main indicators of the Labor Force Survey” are obtained based on the results of the household sample survey – Labor Force Survey (LFS) – the main sources of information on labor market trends and situation.

The area of “The main indicators of the Labor Force Survey” covers the main characteristics of the labor market, such as: employment, unemployment, inactivity, status in employment, economic activities, occupation, work program, and other variables referring to the labor market; as well as important social-demographic characteristics, such as: age, sex, education, area of residence, and marital status.

The LFS target population includes all the persons from selected households; the variables referring to the labor market are collected only for the persons who turned 15 years old and over.

The survey is carried out in line with the international recommendations in force in the labor force statistics, adopted by the International Labor Organization (ILO). The LFS methodology, with some exceptions, corresponds to the EU Frame Regulation on Labor Force Survey in EU countries.

Starting with the fourth quarter of 1998, the Labor Force Survey is carried out on quarterly basis, as a continuous survey, allowing thus obtaining conjuncture data on size and structure of labor force offer and pointing out seasonal phenomena manifested on the labor force market.

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

Active population from the economic point of view (or **labor force**) covers all the persons aged 15 years and over, who provide the labor force available for production of goods and services during the period of

reference, including **employed and unemployed population**.

Population breakdown in categories by participation in economic activity is done according to the principle of employment priority against unemployment and of unemployment against inactivity.

Activity rate of the population aged 15 years and over represents the share of active population aged 15 years and over in total population aged 15 years and over (%).

Employed population covers all the persons aged 15 years and over who have carried out an economic or social activity to provide goods or services **for at least one hour** during the period of reference (one week), in order to obtain incomes in forms of salary, payment in kind, and other benefits.

Remark: For the persons employed in the auxiliary household producing agricultural products exclusively for own consumption (of the household), the minimal duration is 20 hours per week.

Employment rate: the share of employed population aged 15 years and over in the total population of the same age group, expressed in percentage.

Time-related underemployment: employed persons who meet the following criteria:

- willing to work additional hours;
- are available to work additional hours;
- worked less than a threshold relating to working time in all jobs during the reference period; the threshold set according to the labor legislation in force accounts for 40 hours per week;

Underemployment rate represents the share of underemployed population in the total employed population.

Working programme of employed persons is defined as being **full-time** or **part-time**, according to the respondents' statements. Generally, a full-time programme for employees is considered to be the programme related to a full-time schedule, as provided in the collective employment contract (normal duration); and a part-time programme is the programme the duration of which is significantly shorter than the normal duration, as provided in the individual employment contract.

Status in employment: persons are classified by their professional status in line with the international classification ICSE-93. Status in employment represents the situation of a person, depending on the way he/she obtains incomes from the carried out activity, and namely: employees; non-employees; employers; own account workers; contributing family workers; member of a cooperative.

- **Employee** – is the person carrying out an activity under a working contract within an economic or social unit – irrespective of its ownership type – or for private persons, receiving remuneration in form of salary, in cash or in kind, commission, etc. People under military service were also registered with the same status.
- **Employer** – is the person carrying out the activity (craft) within his/her own unit (enterprise, agency, workshop, shop, office, farm, etc.) having one or several permanent employees.
- **Own account worker** – is the person carrying out an activity within his/her own enterprise or business, without hiring any permanent employee, being helped or not by unpaid family workers. This status covers as well the individual entrepreneurs (haberdashers, private tutors, private taxi drivers, etc.), professional men (strolling players, artists, lawyers), occasional daily workers, and individual farmers. Own account worker can have temporary employees.
- **Contributing family worker** – is the person carrying out the activity within a family economic unit, headed by a family member or by a relative, for which he/she does not receive remuneration in form of salary or payment in kind. The agricultural household is considered as such unit. If several persons from a household are working within their own agricultural household, one of them – generally the household head – is considered as self-employed and the others are considered as unpaid family workers.
- **Member of a co-operative** – is the person who worked as member of a co-operative, where every member has equal rights in decision-making process, solution of problems on production/sale, etc.

Employees may be employed based on:

- individual employment contract (written);
- agreement (verbal)

Type of production units is defined in line with the National Accounts System:

- *Formal sector* enterprises;
- *Informal sector* enterprises;
- *Households*.

Employment in formal sector is defined as employment in:

- incorporated enterprises, organization, and institutions (economic units with status of legal entities) or
- unincorporated enterprises (with status of natural person), which are registered in the way established by the legislation in force.

Employment in informal sector includes all persons that, irrespectively of their status in employment, were employed during the reference period in *informal sector* enterprises, either in their main activity or in a secondary activity. Informal sector enterprises are defined as non-registered unincorporated enterprises (without legal person status).

Employment in households includes the persons engaged in production of agricultural goods exclusively for their households' own consumption, if they worked for 20 hours and more in this activity during the reference week, as well as paid domestic workers employed by the household.

Type (nature) of the job may be *formal* or *informal*.

Formal employment includes:

- own account workers working in formal sector enterprises;
- employers working in formal sector enterprises;
- employees for whom the employer pays social contributions, who benefit from annual paid leave and paid sick leave;
- members of formal production cooperatives (who are not employees in these cooperatives).

Informal employment includes:

- 1) own account workers working in informal sector enterprises;
- 2) employers who work in informal sector enterprises;
- 3) members of informal production cooperatives;
- 4) contributing family workers, employed in formal or informal sector enterprises;
- 5) employees in formal or informal sector enterprises, or in households, and meet at least one of the below criteria:
 - the employer does not pay social contributions for them;
 - do not benefit from paid annual leave;
 - in case of illness, do not benefit from paid sick leave;
- 6) persons dealing with production of agricultural products in households, exclusively for their household's own consumption, with a duration of the working week of 20 hours and more;

ILO Unemployed are persons aged 15 years and over, who during the reference period meet simultaneously the following conditions:

- do not have a job and do not perform any activity to obtain some income;
- are looking for a job over the last 4 weeks and use different methods: get registered at the employment services or at private employment agencies, take measures to start up an activity on their own, publish and answer to job announcements, call for help from friends, relatives, colleagues, trade-unions, etc.;
- are available to start working in the following 15 days, if they could find immediately a job;

This category of population also includes:

- persons without job, available to work, waiting to be called back to work or those who found a job

and will start working at a date following the reference period;

- persons who are usually included in inactive population (pupils, students, pensioners), but who stated that they are looking for a job and are available to start working.

Unemployment rate: represents the share of ILO unemployed in total active population, expressed in percentage.

Long-term unemployment: the situation when the unemployed person has no work and is looking for a job for one year and longer.

Inactive population from the economic point of view covers all persons, irrespectively of age, who did not work for at least an hour and were not unemployed during the period of reference.

Economically inactive population includes the following categories of population:

- pupils or students;
- pensioners (of all kinds);
- housewives (carrying out only domestic work within the household);
- persons supported by other persons or by the state, or from other incomes (rents, interests, etc.);
- persons declared gone abroad to work or to look for a job (this category of population conventionally is attributed to economically inactive population).

Inactivity rate among population aged 15 years represents the share of inactive population aged 15 and over in the total population aged 15 years and over (%).

Discouraged persons are inactive persons, available to work in the next 15 days, who do not have a job and who stated that they are looking for a job, but did not take any step over the last 4 weeks for this purpose, or they do not look for a job due to the following reasons:

- thought there are no vacancies or did not know where else to look for;
- do not feel themselves skilled;
- think will not find a job because of the age;
- previously looked for a job and did not find any.

3.2.2. Unit of measurement

Data expressed in absolute values: number of persons (population: total, active, inactive, employed, unemployed (number of unemployed people), discouraged persons, etc.) are presented in thousand of persons.

Indicators on rate of: activity, employment, underemployment, unemployment, inactivity, as well as the growth rate are expressed in percentage (%).

The economic dependency ratio is expressed in promille (‰).

Some variables are expressed in other units of measurement (age – in years, worked time – in hours, etc.).

3.2.3. Formula of calculation

The annual extended data are calculated as arithmetical means of the extended quarterly data.

Active population (AP) = Employed population (EP) + ILO Unemployed (Un)

Activity rate (AR) = Active population (AP) / Total population aged 15 years and over (TP) * 100

Employed population (EP) = Active population (AP) – ILO Unemployed (Un)

Employment rate (ER) = Employed population (EP) / Total population aged 15 years and over (TP) * 100

Unemployment rate (UnR) = ILO Unemployed (Un) / Active population (AP) * 100

Inactive population (IP) = Total population aged 15 years and over (TP) – Active population (AP)

Inactivity rate = Inactive population aged 15 years and over (IP) / Total population aged 15 years and over (TP) * 100

3.3. Used classifications

Economic activity: the results of the survey are classified in line with the Classifier of Activities in Moldova Economy (*CAEM - Clasificarea Activităților Economiei Moldovei in Romanian*), harmonized with NACE rev.2 (NBS Decision No 20, dated December 29, 2009).

Occupations: Data on occupations are classified in line with the Classifier of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova, approved via Ministry of Labor's Decision no. 22 dated March 3, 2014, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 .

Education: the level of education/training is in line with the Classification of educational programs in the Republic of Moldova, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCED-97.

Level of the highest graduated school level (meaning the type of educational institution):

- Higher education (including postgraduate);
- Secondary professional education (college);
- Secondary vocational education;
- Secondary general education, lyceum;
- Gymnasium;
- Primary education;
- Preschool education or with nor primary school.

Another grouping of education levels is the following:

- low: gymnasium, primary, with no primary school;
- secondary: lyceum, secondary general, secondary vocational, secondary professional;
- higher: university, post-graduate.

Forms of ownership: Data are grouped according to the Classifier of Ownership Forms in the Republic of Moldova (*CFP - Clasificatorul formelor de proprietate din Republica Moldova in Romanian*), approved via the decision of the Standards, Metrology, and Technical Supervision Department No. 276-st dated 04.02.1997: public, private, and other.

3.4. Scope

3.4.1. Sector coverage

The Labor Force Survey covers all economic activities.

3.4.2. Statistical population

The LFS covers all the persons – citizens of the Republic of Moldova or foreigners with permanent residence within the selected survey centers.

All the members of the selected households are subject to registration, including the persons who are absent for a long period of time (over 1 year), if they keep family links with the households they are part of, such as:

- military in service;
- pupils and students left for studies;
- workers left for work;
- detainees and arrested people;
- hospitalized persons or those who are temporarily in treatment or recovery resorts;
- persons on duty trips to another locality of the country,

the data for the above persons are collected by interviewing their relatives or the other members of the households of which they are a part.

The survey does not cover:

The persons who live permanently in common dwelling units (hostels for elderly people, asylums disabled people, students' hostels, resorts, etc.) or in seasonal dwelling units are not covered by the survey.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage
The statistical data do not cover the territory on the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality.
3.4.4. Time coverage
Time series are available starting with 2000.
3.5. Level of disaggregation
The data resulting from the LFS are <u>disaggregated</u> by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ age groups; ▪ sex; ▪ areas; ▪ education levels; ▪ marital status; ▪ statistical regions (North, Center, South, Chisinau municipality); ▪ economic activities; ▪ occupations; ▪ ownership forms. <p>More details see in p.3.3</p> <p><u>Restrictions:</u> if disaggregated data cover confidential information (see p.7.1), they are not disseminated; they are aggregated at the minimum available level to ensure data confidentiality.</p>
3.6. Periodicity of dissemination
Quarterly Annual
3.7. Submission (dissemination) deadlines
Quarterly – during the quarter following the reported quarter. Annually – April.
3.8. Revision
Data are final when being disseminated for the first time.
3.9. Period of reference
The period of reference (for the majority of questions under the LFS) is the <i>week</i> from Monday till Sunday, including from before the interview. Other periods of references exist for certain questions: the last 4 weeks, the following 15 days, the last year.

4. Data Collection and Processing
4.1. Data source
4.1.1. Statistical surveys
The statistical household survey on labor force – Labor Force Survey (LFS) http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Metadate/alte/Metodology_AFM.pdf
4.1.2. Administrative sources
Not used.
4.1.3. Estimations
Not applicable.
4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey/administrative sources
4.2.1. Objective and background
LFS is a modern method for labor force market statistical survey aiming to measure the active population – employed and unemployed – and inactive population, to determine the structure of these categories and trends in evolution, to supply essential data about labor force.

The methodological and organizational concept of the survey was developed with the technical assistance provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies from France (INSSE) and the National Statistical Institute from Romania (INS) within the framework of the European Union TACIS Program, as well as with the help of the International Labor Organization experts.

The practical organization and implementation of the survey in the field is performed by the National Bureau of Statistics through its territorial statistical divisions/sections.

There are two stages in LFS implementation:

I stage. 1998 – 2005 – organization in compliance with the International Labor Organization standards, launch and implementation of LFS in households as a continuous survey with quarterly/annual dissemination.

In May 1998, the pilot survey was carried out on a sample of 4104 addresses, 36 per each interviewer. The aim of the pilot survey was to verify and assess the survey toolkit and organization in the field, as well as to see the congruence between the distribution of the sample population by age groups and total population of the country according to the statistical data on current population.

Starting in October 1998, the survey, itself, was launched. The sample volume for the survey accounted for 8208 dwellings, distributed into 114 PSU. A number of 114 interviewers and 44 controllers were employed to carry out the field work. Every interviewer had 24 addresses on monthly basis and respectively 6 addresses on weekly basis.

A probabilistic sample in two stages was used: during the first stage – the survey centers were selected based on the electoral lists, and during the second stage – the dwellings were selected. The 2-2-2 rotation scheme is used at the second stage. According to this rotation scheme, the household is surveyed during 2 consecutive quarters, during the next 2 quarters it is taken temporarily out of the survey, and in the next 2 quarters it comes back, after which it is excluded from the survey for good.

II stage. Starting in 2006 – LFS is carried out according to a new sampling frame, a new rotation scheme, and improved questionnaires. The changes performed in 2006 refer to the following:

- Development of a joint sampling frame for the Labor Force Survey and Households Budgets Survey (HBS) – creation of the single network of interviewers and controllers, respectively 150 and 51;
- Introduction of a new rotation scheme of type 2-(1)-1-(8)-2;
- Methodological changes including the treatment for certain employment and unemployment situations;
- New topics tackled by LFS.

The redesign of the quarterly survey was performed in line with the international definition and concepts and the national legislation in force, so as to further on improve the level of harmonization with the international and European standards.

III stage. Beginning with 2015 - introduction of a new rotation scheme of type 2-(1)-1-(8)-2;

For details see LFS Methodology, p. 11 Methodological Changes:

http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Metadate/alte/Metodology_AFM.pdf

4.2.2. Statistical unit

The household is the observation unit: the group of two or more persons who usually live together, having, in general, kinship relations and who keep the house together, participating in totality or partially to income formation and its spending. The person who does not belong to the household and who declares that he/she lives alone and keeps the house alone is considered to be a single-person household.

The person is the registration unit: all persons aged 15 years and older are interviewed, but also some summary data are registered regarding the under 15 years old persons, so as to characterize the size and the structure of the households, as well as the inactive population.

4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey

The sampling plan used for the LFS survey is a sampling plan in two levels.

At the first level, based on the population census from 2004, a stratified sample was designed of 219 localities grouped into 150 survey centers, assimilated to Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). It represents the Multifunctional Sample for the surveys in social area, the so-called master sample EMDOS. The geographic criteria, the area of residence and the size of localities were used for stratification. EMDOS covers 53 PSU selected from urban area and 97 PSU selected from rural area.

The rotation of PSUs was introduced starting with January 1, 2008. Hence, bi-annually, about 20% of PSUs are replaced with new one, to obtain better territorial coverage over the time, as well as comparability over the time of chronologic series, by avoiding sharp breaks.

During the second stage, 19200 dwellings are extracted annually, using the procedure of simple random extraction from EMDOS. All the households from a dwelling are included.

The sample volume for a quarterly survey represents 7200 dwellings.

Every dwelling is observed during one period of 13 months, according to the rotation scheme of the following type 1-(2)-1-(8)-1.

4.2.4. Survey periodicity

Quarterly.

4.2.5. Data collection

Data are collected through face to face interview method. The registration of information in the survey questionnaires is performed by interviewing the persons aged 15 years old and over, at the households' residence from the dwellings under the survey.

The interviews are distributed uniformly along the quarter, and the survey is a continuous one.

Data registration is performed by the interviewer at the household's place of residence, based on the questions covered in the two types of forms:

- Dwelling Questionnaire - DQ
- Individual Questionnaires – IQ.

4.3. Data processing and compilation

4.3.1. Data validation

Data are verified and analyzed from quality point of view, especially the internal coherence and coherence with other data.

Information application is used to ensure the verification of data regarding the observance of the entire set of control conditions (logical conditions):

- logical ways in the questionnaires;
- data from the questionnaires;
- integrity between identification data of the households when these are selected with those that are filled in during the interview

The logical control conditions at the questionnaire level aim to: follow and verify the logical ways/flows in the questionnaires; observance of the correlations between the answers to different questions, correct codification of variables, eliminations of some illogical and aberrant answers.

The integrity verification conditions aim to follow the correlation and verification of households' identification data when households are selected as compared to those data which are filled in during the interview, and the identification data afferent to members of selected household among the types of used questionnaires.

4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data

Annual data are calculated as simple arithmetic means of quarterly data.

4.3.3. Adjustments

No adjustments are made.

4.3.4. Quality assurance

The quality of statistical data is assured by observing the fundamental principles of official statistics approved by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in 1992 (and Statistical Commission/UN in 1994), as well as those set forth in the Republic of Moldova Law on Official Statistics.

In its activity of producing statistical information, NBS pays huge importance to ensuring high quality of data. In this respect, a number of measures for quality assurance are carried out at every stage of the statistical process: organization of statistical surveys, collection, processing, and development of statistical information.

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

Errors, inconsistencies, and suspicious data are brought to light so as to be verified and corrected.

The primary data are verified and analyzed from internal coherence point of view (within the questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data from previous periods), with data of other similar units, as well as with data available from other statistical surveys and administrative data sources. The missing or inconsistent data are imputed, if needed.

To ensure the quality of the primary data, meetings (seminars) are organized with interviewers – respondents for explaining the definitions, the correct way to fill in the questionnaires, especially when they are modified or implemented.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The non-response rate is determined based on the total number of non-responses and is calculated according to the following formula $(nrnsf)/(n-nrsf)$ where: n – number of households selected according to the sample plan, nrsf – number of errors of the sampling base and nrnsf – number of refusals.

Non-response rate for 2013 was 10.1%.

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Sampling errors are expressed by estimations of the limit sampling errors, taking into account the complexity of the sampling plan, the results being guaranteed with a probability of 95%. The limit sampling errors may be also expressed as a confidence interval, which represents the limits which will cover in 95% of cases the real value of the indicator.

Sampling errors are determined for five basic characteristics: number of employed persons, number of unemployed, activity rate, employment rate, and unemployment rate.

At the national level, the confidence intervals for the significance level of 95% for 2013, account for $1172,8 \pm 76,7$ (x 1000) for the number of employed persons, $63,1 \pm 11,7$ (x 1000) for the number of unemployed persons, $39,3 \pm 1,4$ (%) for activity rate, $39,4 \pm 1,5$ (%) for employment rate, and $5,1 \pm 0,9$ (%) for unemployment rate.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

LFS is in compliance with international standards and European norms:

- a. LFS information is complete in relation to the international recommendations in force in the area of labor force statistics, adopted by the International Labor Organizations:

The Resolutions of the International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) regarding:

- *Statistics of economically active population, employment, unemployment, and underemployment (the 13 ICLS, 1982);*
- *International classification of the professional status (the 15 ICLS, 1993);*
- *Statistics of employment in informal sector (the 15 ICLS, 1993);*
- *Measurement of employment-generated incomes (the 16 ICLS, 1998);*
- *Measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations (the 16 ICLS, 1998).*

Recommendations of the International Conference of Labor Statisticians regarding:

- *Treatment of long-term absences in employment and unemployment statistics (the 16 ICLS, 1998);*
- *Definition of informal employment statistics (the 17 ICLS, 2003).*

- b. The LFS methodology with some exception complies with the EU Frame Regulation on Labor Force Surveys in EU countries. The adjustment of non-conformities and introduction of missing variables is performed in line with the national needs.

The Regulation of the European Parliament and Council No. 577/1998 on organizing labor force sample surveys in European Community, published in the EU Official Journal, L77 dated 14.03.1998.

Conceptual difference as compared to what is used at the EU level:

- according to the national methodology, the employed population includes the militaries in services and the persons employed in the auxiliary household which produces agricultural products exclusively for the household's consumption;
- some variables are missing in LFS as compared to the provisions of the European Commission Regulation No. 430/2005 on implementing the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council No. 577/1998 (receiving continuously the salary during the absence period, number of usually worked hours, atypical work, the block of questions related to education and training partially covered in LFS, etc.)

5.2. Comparability over the time

Starting in 2006, due to the establishment of a new sample of households and due to the revision of definitions, the indicators regarding the main categories of population (employed, unemployed, and inactive) are not comparable fully with the data series from the previous years.

The methodological changes referred to treatment of *employment* of the long term absences, such as: child care leaves, seasonal work, unpaid leaves, technical unemployment.

For details see LFS Methodology, p. 11 Methodological Changes:

http://www.statistica.md/public/files/Metadate/alte/Metodology_AFM.pdf

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

Coherence of the Labor Force Survey with the data from the statistical surveys in enterprises/social and economic units (based on statistical questionnaires M-1 “Earnings” - monthly, and M-3 “Earnings and labour cost” – annually.

Total employed population

Differences in concepts: the statistical reports in enterprises focus only on employed persons from enterprises.

Differences in measurement: statistical reports in enterprises are surveys which are carried out in enterprises/social and economic units. The collected information refers (as period of reference) to the calendar year (M-3, annually), or the calendar month (M1, monthly, until 2016 inclusively), or the calendar quarter (M1, quarterly, beginning with 2017).

Number of worked hours

Differences in concepts: the statistical questionnaires in enterprises (M-1, monthly and M-1 monthly/quarterly) follows the data only regarding the number of hours worked by employees.

Differences in measurement: information collected in enterprises refers to the calendar month.

Coherence of the Labor Force Survey with the data on registered unemployment

Differences in concepts: unemployment registered by the National Employment Agency is followed according to the national legislation and its level differs considerably from the unemployment estimated according to the ILO methodology.

Differences in measurement: part of registered unemployed are qualified as employed persons by LFS.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The NBS activity is based on respecting the Republic of Moldova Constitution, the Law on Official Statistics No. 412 dated 09.12.2004, 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, statistical deontology, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency, coordination at the national level, and collaboration at the international level.

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 line with the Government Decision No. 1034 dated 29.12.11 on approval of the NBS Regulation and the Nominal Composition of the NBS Collegium, the National Bureau of Statistics:

- develops alone or jointly with other central administrative authorities and approves the methodologies for statistical surveys, as well as the methodologies for calculating statistical indicators, in line with the international standards, especially the EU standards, and with the advanced practice of other countries, and taking into account the peculiarities of the social-economic conditions of the Republic of Moldova;
- organizes, in line with the Program of Statistical Work, approved annually by the Government, statistics surveys regarding the economic, social, and demographic situation and development of the country, carrying out collection, processing, centralization, stocking, and dissemination of statistical data;

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page www.statistica.md , under About NBS (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&>)

7. Confidentiality

7.1. Principles

According to art. 9(2) of the Law on Official Statistics No. 412 dated 09.12.2004, the official statistical bodies shall protect the obtained individual data.

Chapter V of the above-mentioned law stipulates that the information collected, processed, and stored for the production of statistical information is confidential if it allows direct or indirect identification of either physical or legal persons and reveals individual data. The following information is not confidential:

- a) information that may be obtained from sources accessible to the public, according to the legislation;
- b) individual information about the address, telephone, name, type of activity, staff number of the legal and physical persons that carry out entrepreneurial activities;
- c) information about state owned enterprises, submitted at the request of the relevant central and local public authorities;
- d) information about the central and local public authorities, public health facilities, other public institutions, generalized at the unit level.

According to the Law on Official Statistics, art. 24, access to confidential information is granted to people who, according to their job duties, participate in the production of statistical information, to the extent to which the confidential information is needed for the production of the aforementioned information.

The same article stipulates that the access to confidential information that does not lead to direct identification may be granted through the decision of the general director of the central statistical body for research projects, strategies, and programs of national importance, provided that there is not any obvious risk of breaking the individual data protection regime and interfering in people's private life.

Art. 25 of the Law stipulates that the statistical information shall not be spread to users if it contains confidential information. In this case, the generalized information shall contain data about at least 3 units,

and the share of one unit shall be at most 85% of the generalized information.

7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

To ensure the protection of confidential statistical data in compliance with the Law on Official Statistics No. 412 dated 09.12.2004, 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 staff of official statistical bodies, reviewers, interviewers, and other people that, according to their job duties, have direct access to individual data, must keep the data confidentiality, not to reveal it in any form, including after leaving their positions – a fact that is provided in the agreement signed by every employee of the NBS.

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.

8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Quarterly 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.md.

The Statbank calendar is available in the compartment Statistical databank.

8.1.3. Access to statistical data

According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 412 dated 09.12.2004, art. 9: the official statistical bodies must:

- a) spread the statistical information to users according to the volume, mode and deadlines established in the program of statistical works;
- b) provide all users with access to non-confidential statistical information on equal terms regarding the spreading volumes and deadlines;

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

The NBS web page www.statistica.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.md> under Press Releases, according to the Calendar for Press Releases' issuance.

8.2.2. Publications

Publications developed by NBS containing statistical data on labor force:

- Compilation "*Labor Force in the Republic of Moldova, Employment and Unemployment*" – annual detailed publication containing information regarding the methodology and organization of the survey, with tables with annual mean data, as well as information regarding the evolution over the time of the main labor force indicators;
- Other statistical publications: *Statistical Yearbook; Territorial Statistics; Statistical pocket-book Moldova in figures; Women and Men in the Republic of Moldova; Social-economic Situation in the Republic of Moldova* etc.

Access to publications:

- in electronic format, on NBS official page www.statistica.md, under Products and services / Publications <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=350&nod=1&>)
- in hardcopy format – in NBS library (more details at the address <http://www.statistica.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=340&id=2400>)
- or may be procured at the NBS office (more details at the address www.statistica.md, under Publications <http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=350&id=2219>)

8.2.3. Databases/time series

- NBS official page: <http://www.statistica.md> under: Press Release, Statistics by themes / Labour force, Publications;
- Statistical databank <http://statbank.statistica.md> , under Social statistics / Labour force and earnings / Employment and unemployment
- Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS): <http://www.statistica.md/SDDS/NSDP/>

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations

International questionnaires UN, ILO, EEC, Eurostat, CIS, etc.

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, by post, by e-mail or via online web form – www.statistica.md heading Products and services / Statistical data request http://www.statistica.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 page www.statistica.md , under Metadata (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=351&nod=1&>).

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

The NBS assessment reports are available on the official page www.statistica.md , under About NBS / Assessments and opinions on NBS / Assessment reports (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739>).

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User surveys are available on the official page www.statistica.md , under About NBS / Assessments and opinions on NBS / User surveys (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2740>).

9.4. Other useful references

IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)	http://www.statistica.md/SDDS/?lang=en
EUROSTAT database	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database
UNData database	http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx
UN Economic Commission for Europe database	http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/
ILO Statistical Department database	http://laborsta.ilo.org/