

175/2013 - 25 November 2013

European SME Week 2013

Nearly 40% of persons employed by non-financial enterprises in the EU28 worked for SMEs in 2011

Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), with between 10 to 249 persons employed, are a driver of the European economy, creating jobs and contributing to economic growth. In 2011, of the 22 million enterprises in the EU28's non-financial business economy¹ 7% were SMEs², accounting for 38% of persons employed and creating 38% of total turnover. The majority of EU28 enterprises were micro enterprises² (93%), accounting for 30% of persons employed and 17% of turnover, while 0.2% were large enterprises² with 33% of persons employed and 44% of turnover.

On the occasion of the European SME week³, which takes place from 25 to 30 November 2013, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, publishes data on enterprises broken down by size classes, which provide information on the situation of SMEs within the EU's non-financial business economy.

Highest shares of SMEs in Germany, Romania, Luxembourg and Austria

In all Member States in 2011, the vast majority of enterprises in the non-financial business economy were micro enterprises. The share of SMEs was highest in **Germany** (18% of enterprises), **Romania** and **Luxembourg** (both 13%) and **Austria** (12%), and lowest in the **Czech Republic** and **Slovakia** (both 4%). In all Member States, the share of large enterprises was 0.5% or lower.

Highest shares of persons employed by SMEs in the Baltic Member States and Luxembourg

Regarding employment in enterprises in the non-financial business economy, Member States can be grouped depending on which of the three enterprise size classes accounted for the highest share of persons employed in 2011.

In the majority of Member States, SMEs accounted for the highest shares of persons employed with proportions around 50% in **Latvia** and **Lithuania** (both 51% of persons employed), **Estonia** and **Luxembourg** (both 49%). In six Member States, the highest shares were recorded for micro enterprises, with the highest proportions found in **Italy** (46%) and **Portugal** (42%). In two Member States, the **United Kingdom** (46%) and **France** (37%), large enterprises recorded the highest share of persons employed.

Highest shares of turnover generated by SMEs in Luxembourg, Latvia and Austria

With regards to turnover, the largest shares generated by SMEs in 2011 were recorded in **Luxembourg** (60% of total turnover), **Latvia** (52%) and **Austria** (49%), while in the **United Kingdom** (56%), **Germany** (52%) and **Finland** (50%) half or more of turnover was generated by large enterprises. For micro enterprises, the share of turnover generated was highest in **Estonia** (31%), **Cyprus** (27%) and **Italy** (25%).

Enterprises in the non-financial business economy by size class, 2011

	Number of enterprises				Number of persons employed				Turnover			
	Total, 1 000s	Of which (%)			Total, 1 000s	Of which (%)			Total, bn euro	Of which (%)		
		Micro	SME	Large		Micro	SME	Large		Micro	SME	Large
EU28	22 098	92.5	7.3	0.2	134 533	29.5	37.6	32.8	25 453	16.7	38.3	43.5
Belgium	551	94.0	5.8	0.2	2 714	33.3	35.8	30.9	980	24.0	39.2	36.8
Bulgaria	310	90.9	8.9	0.2	1 903	29.9	45.5	24.6	103	20.2	47.3	32.5
Czech Republic	1 005	95.9	3.9	0.1	3 512	31.8	37.6	30.6	446	19.2	38.6	42.2
Denmark	213	89.4	10.3	0.3	1 599	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
Germany*	2 158	81.8	17.7	0.5	25 817	18.8	44.0	37.2	5 569	11.1	37.0	51.9
Estonia	55	89.3	10.4	0.3	379	29.1	49.0	22.0	44	30.7	46.1	23.1
Ireland	147	88.6	c	c	1 095	25.8	c	c	323	10.9	c	c
Greece	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain	2 087	94.1	5.8	0.1	10 103	38.5	33.8	27.7	1 634	22.7	38.8	38.5
France	2 567	94.2	5.7	0.2	15 313	29.7	33.7	36.6	3 621	22.5	35.3	42.1
Croatia	154	91.7	8.0	0.3	1 033	30.1	38.2	31.7	77	18.2	41.2	40.5
Italy	3 843	94.8	5.2	0.1	14 913	46.0	33.8	20.2	2 932	25.2	42.5	32.2
Cyprus	46	92.0	:c	:c	240	37.1	c	c	27	26.7	c	c
Latvia	79	88.8	10.9	0.2	535	26.3	50.5	23.2	44	24.4	52.2	23.4
Lithuania	128	90.0	9.8	0.2	804	25.0	50.8	24.2	63	16.2	47.9	35.8
Luxembourg	29	87.0	12.5	0.5	243	18.0	48.9	33.1	135	15.4	59.6	25.0
Hungary	550	94.8	5.1	0.1	2 436	36.1	35.2	28.7	262	20.7	36.3	43.0
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands**	811	93.6	6.2	0.2	5 337	28.4	38.8	32.8	1 326	15.4	47.5	37.2
Austria	304	87.3	12.4	0.3	2 615	25.1	42.9	32.0	631	17.2	48.6	34.2
Poland	1 523	95.3	4.5	0.2	8 384	36.8	32.2	31.0	836	20.6	35.6	43.8
Portugal	832	95.0	4.9	0.1	3 149	41.8	37.4	20.8	326	23.7	47.2	29.1
Romania	409	87.1	12.6	0.4	3 821	22.4	44.0	33.5	234	17.2	40.8	42.0
Slovenia	117	93.9	5.9	0.2	585	32.8	39.5	27.7	80	20.5	47.1	32.4
Slovakia	415	96.0	3.9	0.1	1 490	38.0	33.2	28.8	158	17.0	38.3	44.7
Finland	226	91.8	7.9	0.3	1 450	24.7	38.2	37.1	379	16.0	34.1	49.9
Sweden	651	94.6	5.3	0.2	3 032	25.7	39.8	34.6	746	19.1	39.9	41.0
United Kingdom	1 697	89.5	10.2	0.3	17 734	18.0	35.6	46.4	3 519	12.9	31.4	55.7
Norway	272	91.7	8.1	0.2	1 480	25.0	43.2	31.8	629	26.6	35.7	37.8

: Data not available

c confidential

* Number of persons employed for all size classes: excludes sector¹ D and E

** Number of persons employed for all size classes: excludes sector¹ B and D, turnover: excludes sector¹ B, E, I, S95

- Non-financial business economy** refers to the following NACE Rev. 2 sectors: B Mining and quarrying; C Manufacturing; D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; F Construction; G Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H Transportation and storage; I Accommodation and food service activities; J Information and communication; L Real estate activities; M Professional, scientific and technical activities; N Administrative and support service activities and S95 Repair of computers and personal and household goods.
- Enterprise size classes:** micro enterprises = less than 10 persons employed; small and medium enterprises = 10-249 persons employed; large enterprises = 250 or more persons employed.
- Further information on the European SME week can be found on the website of the General Directorate Enterprise of the European Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/initiatives/sme-week/>

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