



BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY FOR 2020

Introduction

Similar to statistics of human population, business demography describes the life cycle of the enterprises - their birth, survival and development until death. More specifically business demography supplies data on active enterprises, newborn enterprises, proportion of survived enterprises, dead enterprises and data on changes in employment figures.

National Statistical Institute has taken part in the harmonized statistical research of European Commission on business demography for 15 years. All indicators are calculated according to the classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 2 since 2010.

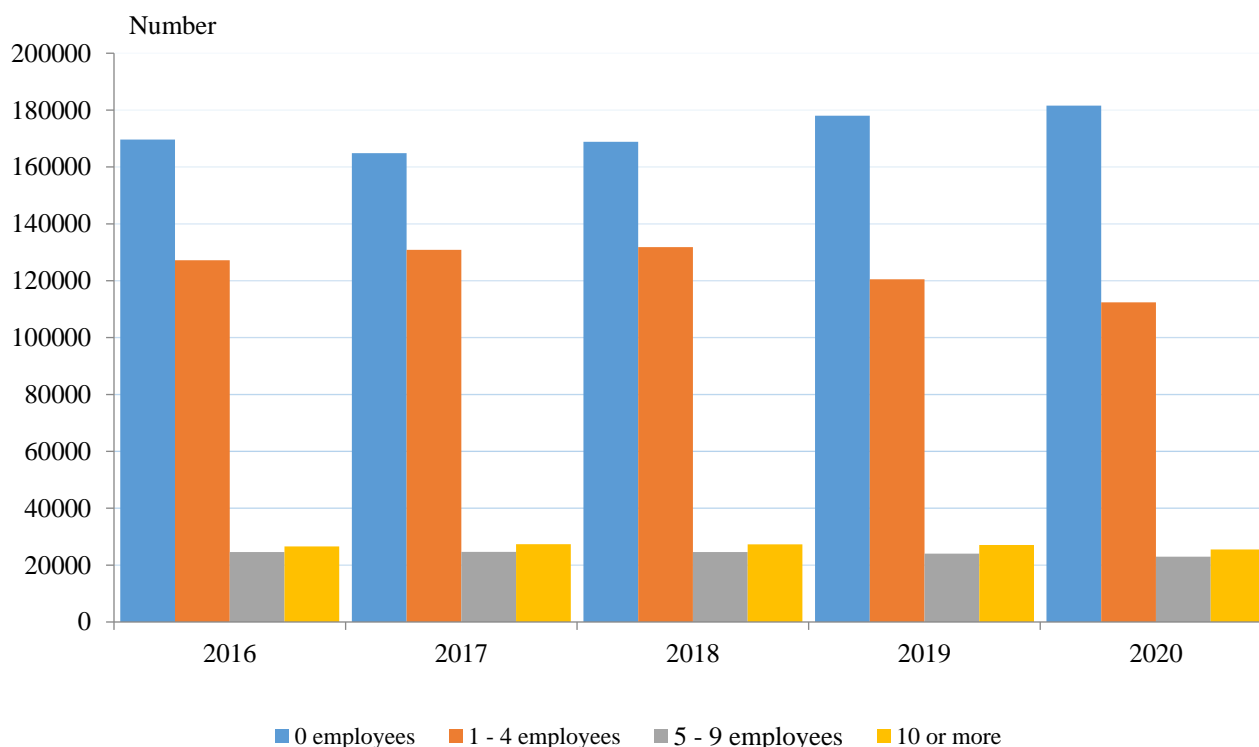
The EP and Council Regulation (No. 295/2008 of 11 of March 2008) concerning the structural business statistics developed the general framework for collecting, preparation, presentation and evaluation of harmonized statistical data for business demography in EU.

This press release presents information gathered by the study of business demographic events among the enterprises in Bulgaria for 2020 and follows their dynamics for a period of 5 years (2016 - 2020). Bulgaria is fully compliant with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 in the field of business statistics.

General Review of the Active Enterprises and Employment

A research object are enterprises classified in sections B to N of NACE Rev. 2 excluding group 64.2 (activity of holding companies) as they are defined in EU Regulation 295/2008 for Structural Business Statistics. In 2020 there were 342 376 active¹ enterprises which is 2.1% less compared to 2019.

Figure 1. Active Enterprises by Size class

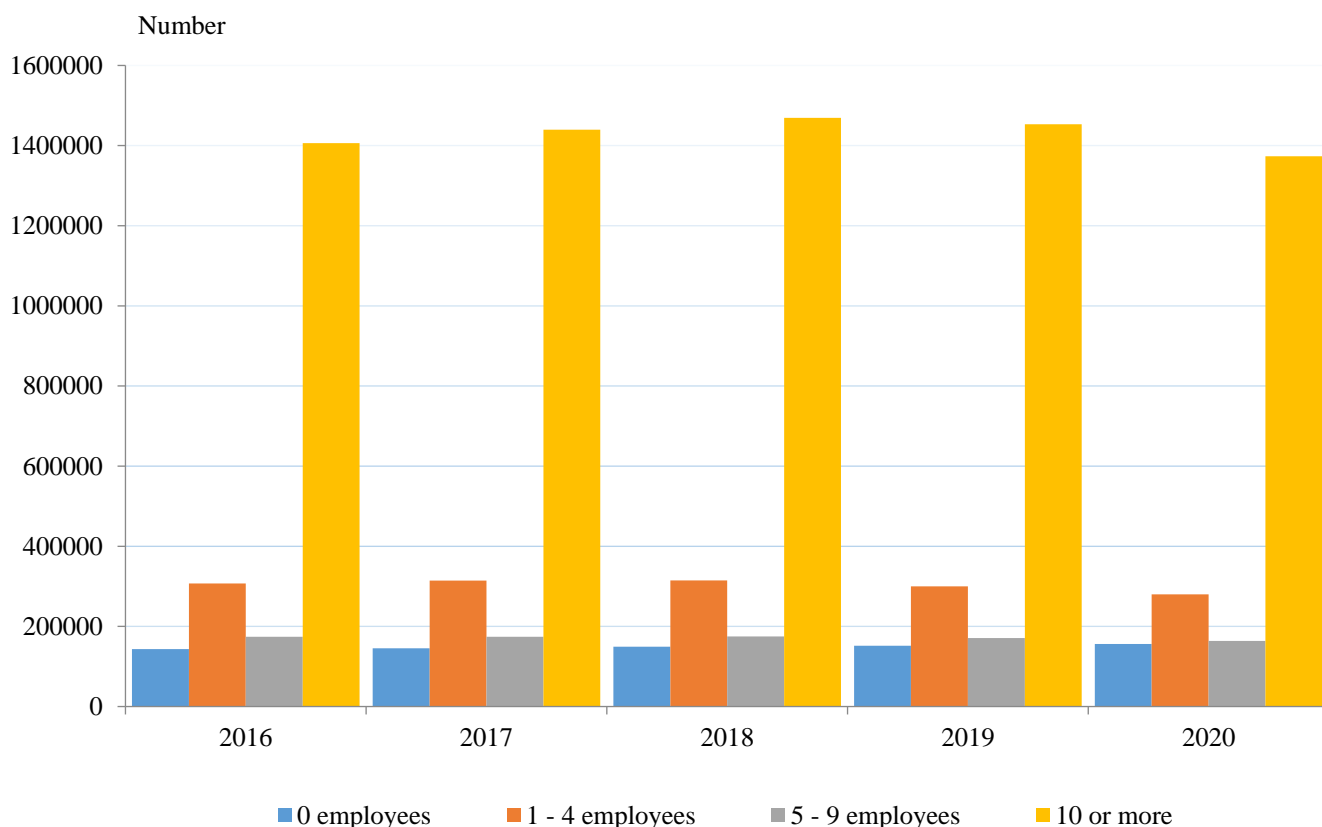


The active enterprises with zero employees (Figure 1) represent the largest proportion of the population of all active enterprises during the whole (2016 - 2020) period. In 2020 their number is 181 571 which is 53.0% of all active enterprises. There are 112 382 enterprises in the next ‘1 - 4 employees’ group which is 32.8% of the total number of active enterprises for 2020. The enterprises in the ‘5 - 9 employees’ group represent the smallest proportion of all - 6.7%.

The number of persons employed in ‘10 or more employees’ group represents 69.6% of all employees for the 2016 - 2020 period while the proportion of the enterprises in this group is 7.4% of all active enterprises. In addition, 7.9% of the total number of employees in the country corresponds to the large number of active enterprises in the zero employees group (Figure 2).

¹ Active enterprises are those with or without employees, which had: income from goods or services, or manufactured products, or employees, or have made investments in the country during the reference period.

Figure 2. Employed Persons in Active Enterprises by Size class

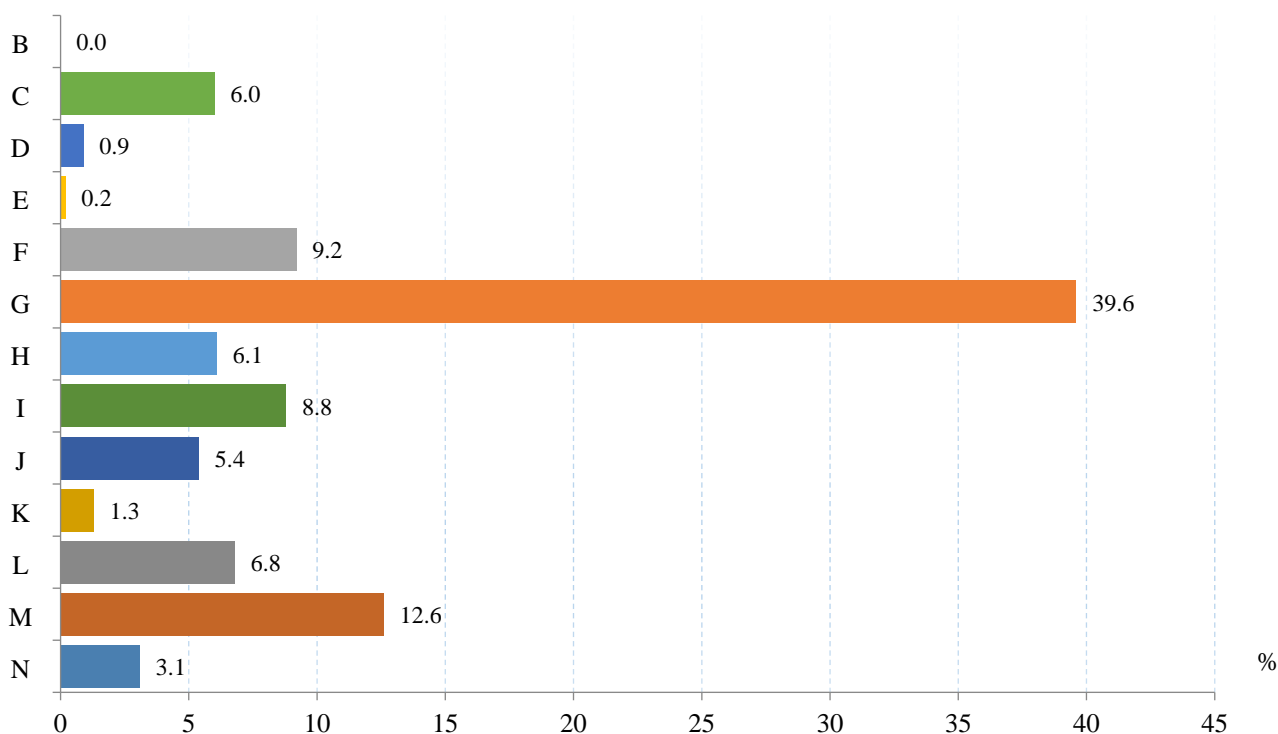


Newborn Enterprises

Almost 9.1% of the total numbers of enterprises in the selected economic sectors are newborn in 2020. For the last five years, the annual average percent for newborn enterprises was 11.2% of the number of active enterprises during this period.

The structure of the newborn enterprises by economic sectors remains stable for the five-year period. For the 2016 - 2020 period the highest share of newborn enterprises is in sector G - 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' - 40.8%. At the same time the smallest share of newborn enterprises is in sector B - 'Mining and quarrying' with less than 0.1% on average for the whole period. This tendency remains intact in 2020 as well (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Structure of Enterprises Born in 2020 by Economic Sectors²

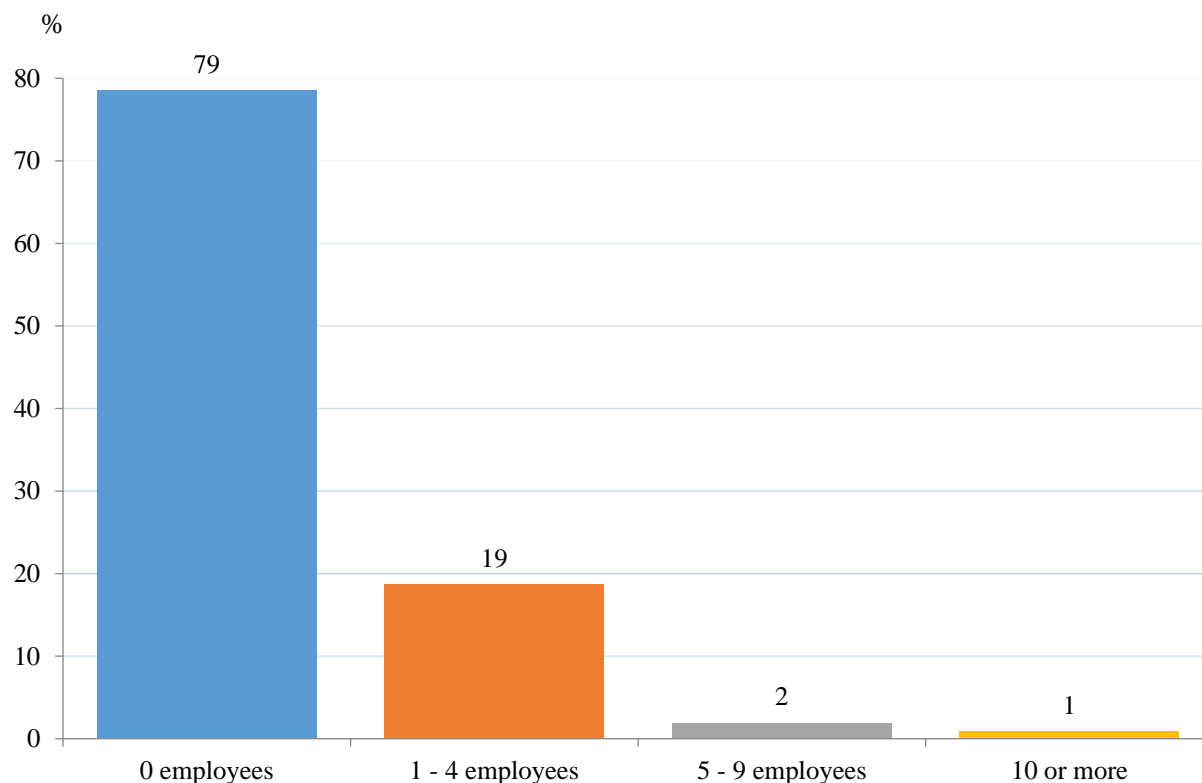


For the period, the number of newborn enterprises that did not hire employees is the highest (Figure 4). In the zero employees group in 2020 there are 24 327 newborn enterprises followed by the ‘1 - 4 employees’ group with 5 791 enterprises. The newborn enterprises with 10 or more employees are only 287.

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- 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
- K Financial and insurance activities
- L Real estate activities
- M Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N Administrative and support service activities

Figure 4. Structure of Enterprises Born in 2020 by Number of Employees

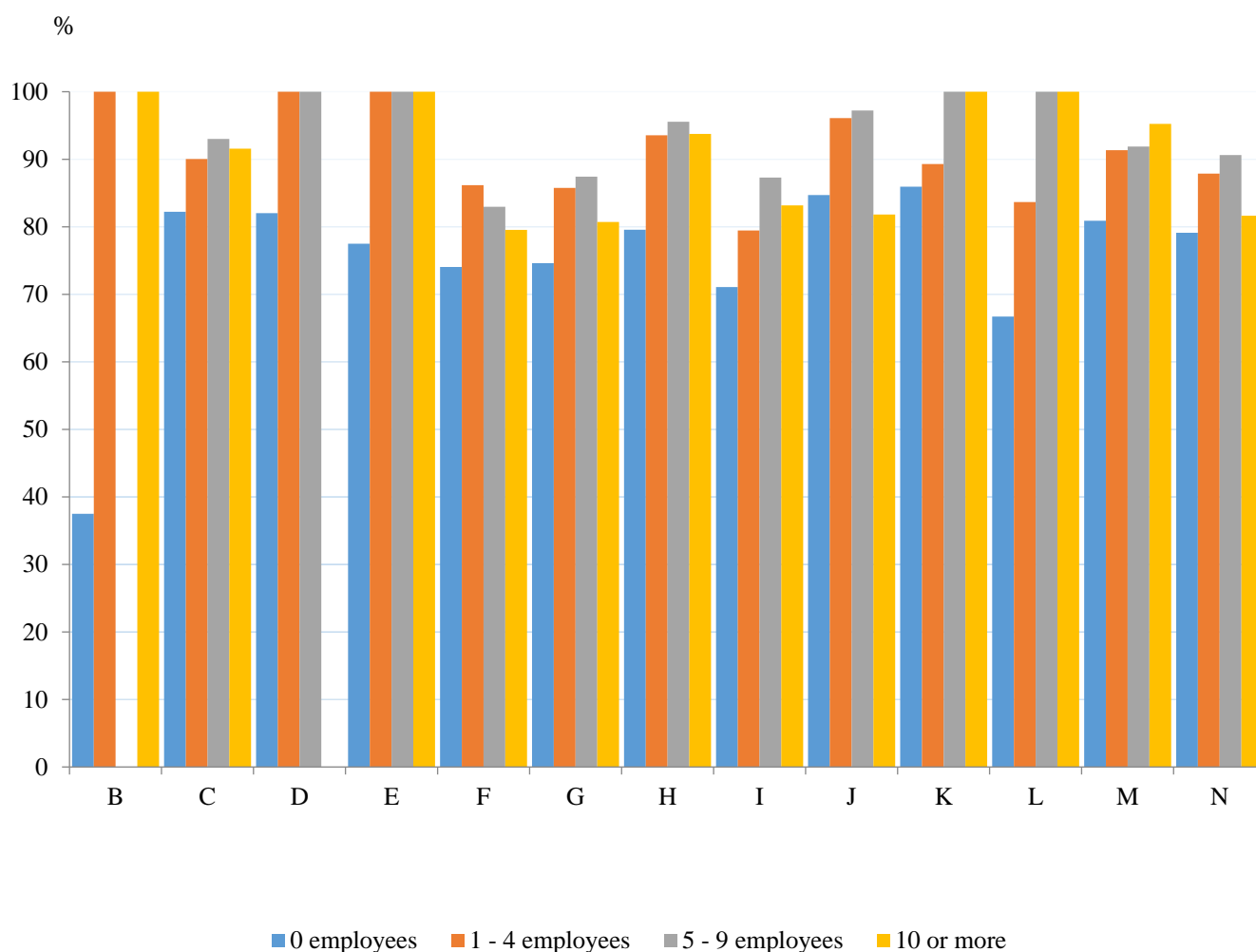


Survived Enterprises

Almost 78.7% of the enterprises born in 2019 survive one year later, as in the group of ‘5 - 9 employees’ this share is highest - 88.8%.

In 2019 the newborn enterprises are 39 763 and 31 306 of them successfully survived in 2020. The highest share of survived enterprises is in sector J - ‘Information and communication’ - 86.8%. The lowest share is in sector B - ‘Mining and quarrying’ - 66.7% (Figure 5).

**Figure 5. Share of Enterprises Born in 2019 and Survived in 2020
by Number of Employees and Economic Sectors³**

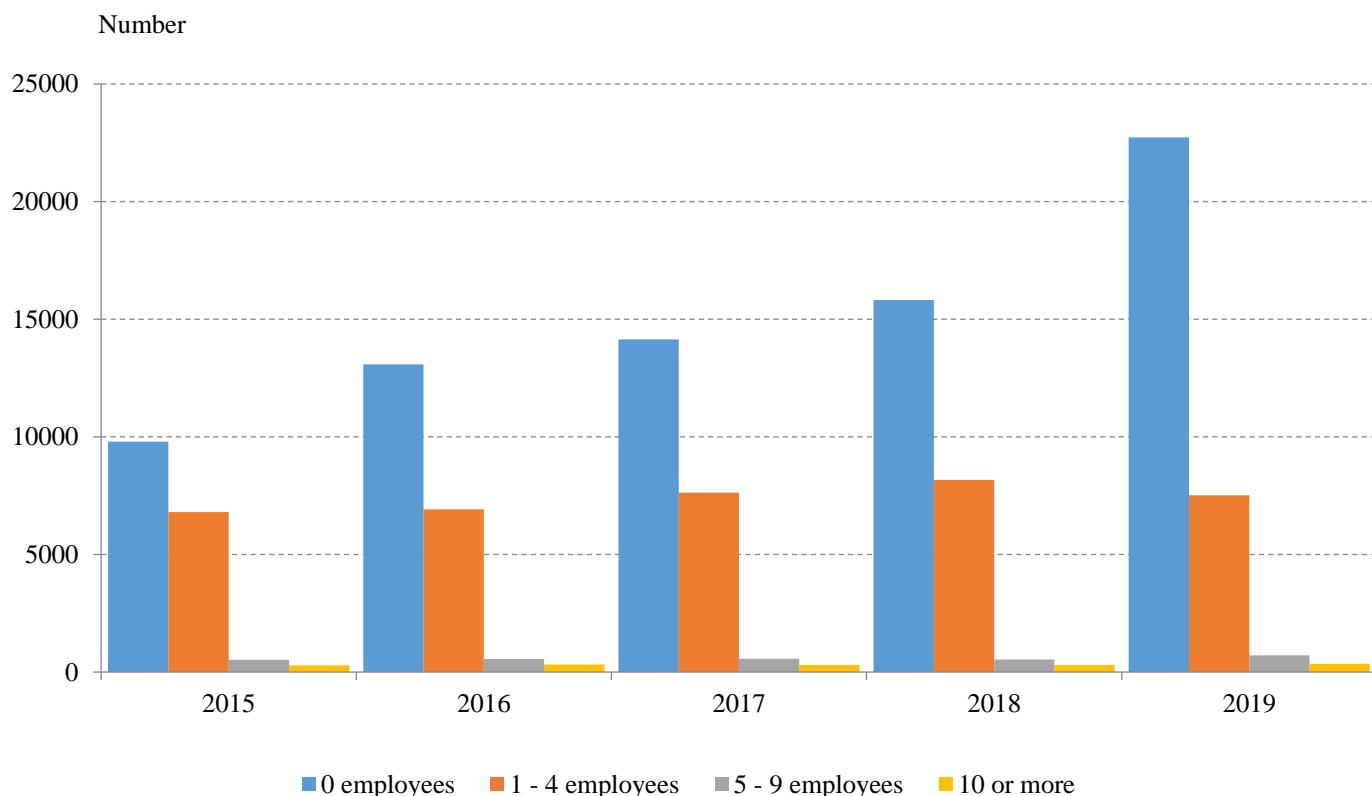


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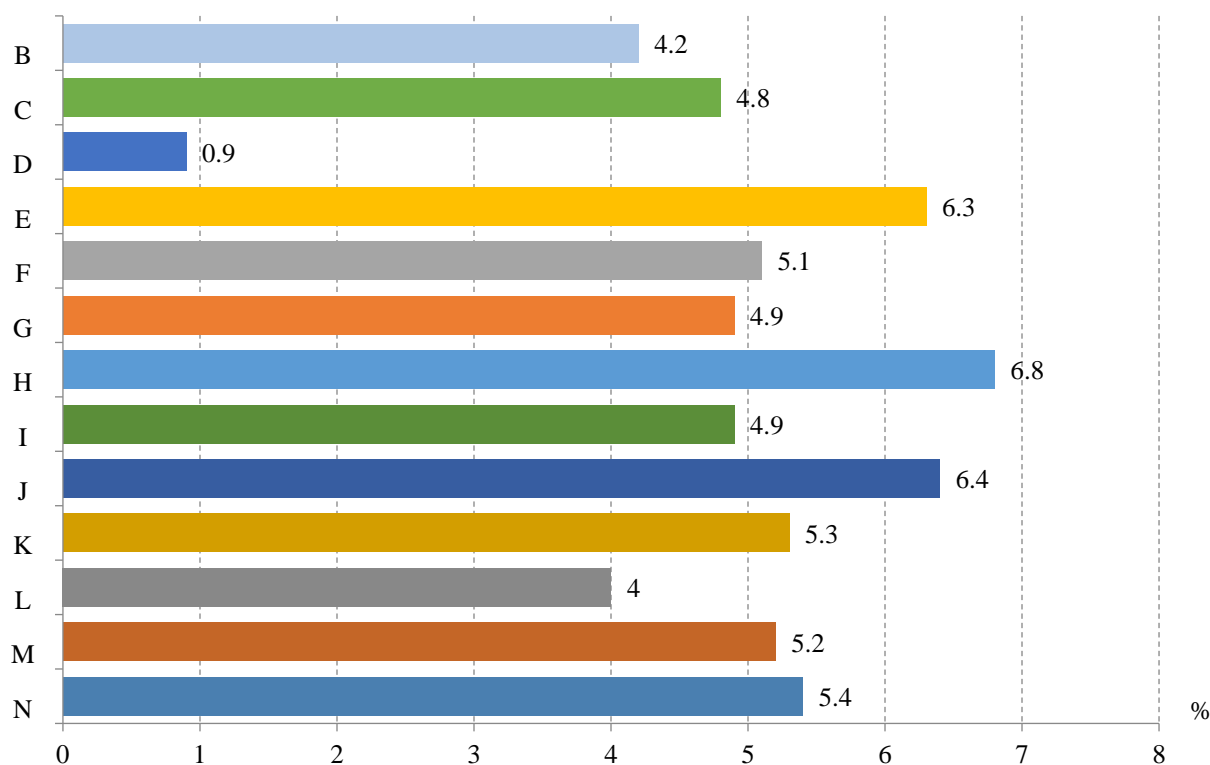
Since 2015, when moving away from the year of birth, there is a trend of decrease in the number of survived enterprises for the four employee’s size classes. The share of enterprises born in 2015 and still active five years later is 5.1%, while the share of the newborn enterprises in 2019 and still active in 2020 is 9.1% from the total number of the active enterprises in 2020 (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Enterprises Born during period 2015 - 2019 and Survived in 2020



The most viable are enterprises in sector H - ‘Transport, warehousing and post office’, where the share of enterprises successfully survived the five-year period is 6.8%. On the opposite side are enterprises in sector D - ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’, where the value of this indicator is 0.9% (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Share of Enterprises Born in 2015 and survived in 2020 in the Active Enterprises for 2020 by Economic Sectors⁴

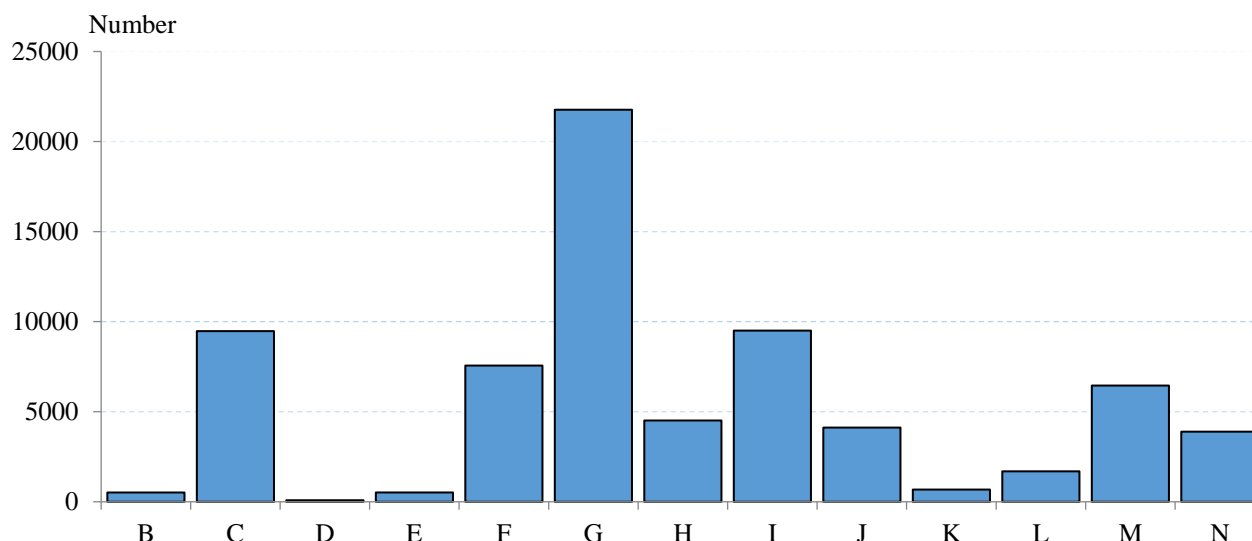


The total number of persons employed in enterprises born in 2019 and survived in 2020 is 70 774. Almost 57.6% of the employed persons are concentrated in the following three sectors: G - ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ - 30.8%; I - ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 13.4% and C - ‘Manufacturing’ - 13.4% (Figure 8).

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Figure 8. Employed Persons in Enterprises born in 2019 and survived in 2020 by Economic Sectors⁵



In 2020, the distribution of employees in enterprises born in 2019 and survived in 2020 is as followed:

- 0 employees - 40.4%
- 1 - 4 employees - 33.1%
- 5 - 9 employees - 9.6%
- 10 and more employees - 16.8%.

Dead Enterprises

Data on dead enterprises in 2019 are preliminary due to the specific⁶ methodology. In 2019 the number of dead enterprises is 44 221 or 12.6% of the total number of active enterprises during the year. As a result of their death, 2.9% of the employees lost their jobs during the year.

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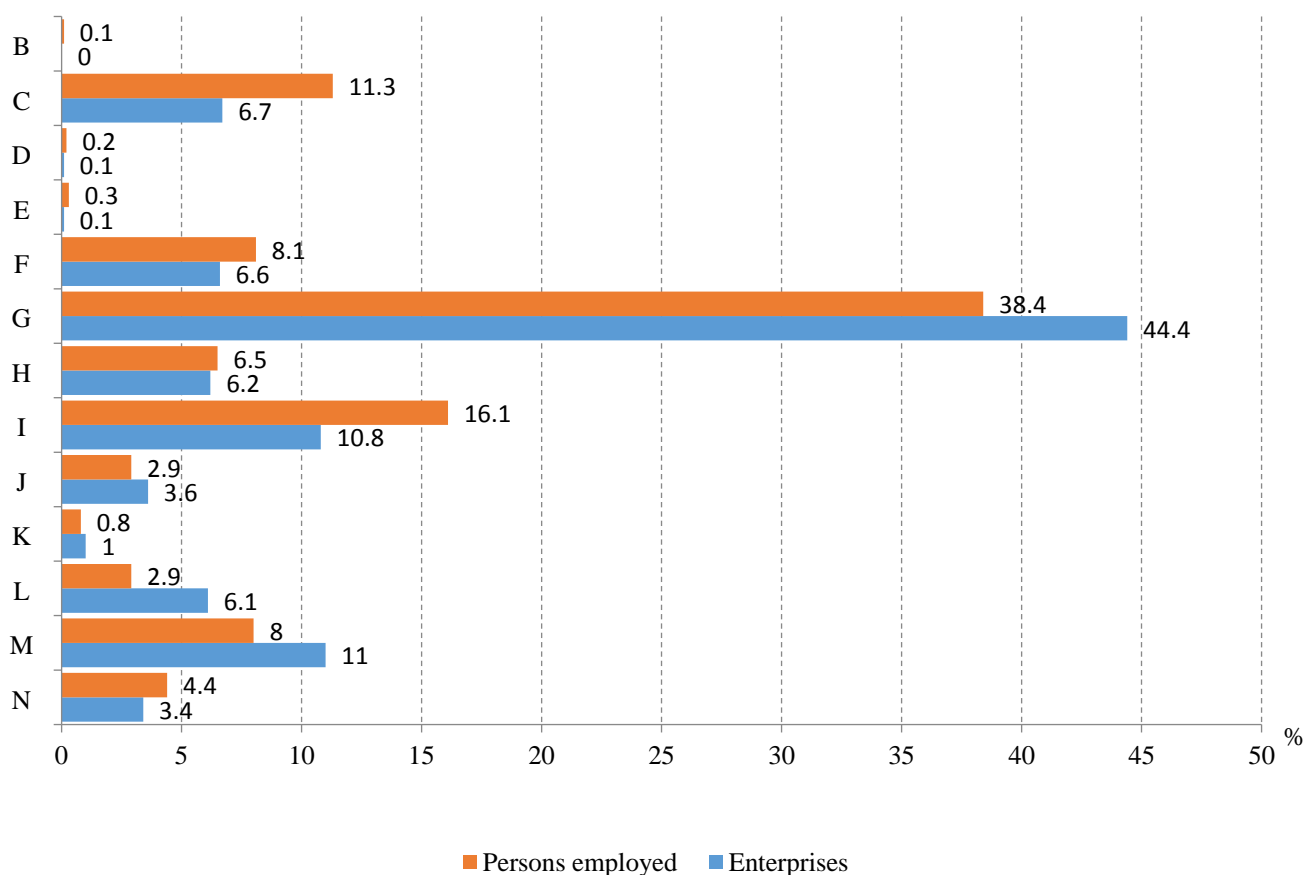
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⁶ An enterprise can be considered as dead when two consequent years it is inactive.

In 2019, 44.4% of dead enterprises, were classified in sector G - ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’.

The most viable were the enterprises in the following sectors: B - ‘Mining and quarrying’, E - ‘Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities’, where dead enterprises are less than 0.5% (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Structure of the Dead Enterprises in 2019 and of Employed Persons by Economic Sectors⁷



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Methodological notes

Study Objective

The study targets statistical units of the type ‘enterprise’ defined by Council Regulation No. 696/93 of March 15, 1993. The enterprise is described as ‘... *an enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the allocation of its current resources...*’.

Study Goal

The main goal of the study is focused on business demography and the evaluation of the number of active enterprises and the number of employees. This study provides very important information on the enterprises’ length of life by type and size, number and type of dead enterprises, rate of growth of the enterprises, and annual survival coefficients. These data complement the structural business statistics and form the foundation for weighting and computing other statistics for the enterprises.

Criteria for Inclusion in the Study

Business demography data are based on data from the Business register maintained by the Bulgarian NSI. The Register includes all active enterprises on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. There were no limitations for inclusion in the study, including no limitations for the number of employees or turnover. The demographic data in the study are based solely on enterprises, which were registered and active at least in one year of the study period.

Classifications Used in the Study

Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2)

- 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
- K Financial and insurance activities, excluding activities of holding companies (NACE Rev. 2 - 64.2)
- L Real estate activities
- M Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N Administrative and support service activities

Employee size class

- 1 - 0
- 2 - 1 to 4
- 3 - 5 to 9
- 4 - 10 or more

Terms used



Employees - in the context of SBS employees are those who work for an employer on the basis of a contract of employment and receive compensation in the form of salary, fee or remuneration in kind.

Persons employed - in the context of SBS persons employed in an enterprise covers all employees and self-employed.

Enterprise births - the population of enterprise births covering all newly active economic entities during the reference period, regardless of whether they are employer or not.

Employer enterprise births - the population of employer enterprise births consist of enterprises with at least one employee. This population consists of newly created enterprises that have at least one employee in the year of birth of the enterprise, or that existed last year, but was below the threshold of one employee.

Surviving enterprises - survivors are those enterprises that are active both before and after a specific demographic event. The enterprise can be changed in some way, for example in terms of economic activity, size class, ownership or place in which operates, but it continues to be active.

Enterprise dead - the population of the dead enterprises cover all economic operators during the study period, regardless of whether they are employer or not.

Employer enterprise dead - the population of ceased employer enterprises consist of enterprises with at least one employee. This population consists of ceased enterprises that have at least one employee in the year of closure and those which run below the threshold of one employee for at least two consecutive years.