

**Documentation of statistics for
International organisation and outsourcing 2023**

1 Introduction

The purpose of the statistics International organisation and outsourcing is to shed light on significant globalization trends concerning the enterprises' global organization and the extent of international sourcing of business functions for the period 2021-2023. The statistics has been collected also for the periods 2001-2006, 2009-2011, 2014-2016, and 2018-2020.

2 Statistical presentation

The survey has been carried out intermittently a number of times since 2007. The purpose of the survey is to establish data on the engagement of enterprises in global value chains and international outsourcing, motives and barriers related to international sourcing and the types of functions and number of jobs being moved out of Denmark as a consequence of enterprises' international sourcing.

2.1 Data description

The statistics measures the number and share of enterprises outsourcing activities to other countries. International sourcing in this context refers to the movement out of Denmark of activities currently performed in-house by the enterprise itself in Denmark. International sourcing may be to other enterprises within the enterprise group or to other (external) enterprises abroad. International sourcing does not include the expansion of activities where no existing activities are moved. In addition to breakdowns by industry, the survey provides data on the types of business functions being sourced. This may be the enterprises' core business function (typically corresponding to the industry of the enterprise) or a support function.

Furthermore, the survey provides results on the geographical destinations of international sourcing, as well as the number of jobs being moved. These are broken down by high-skilled and other jobs, in addition to industry. Finally, the motives for international sourcing are covered, e.g. reduction of labour costs or reduced delivery times. Lastly, the survey also includes questions concerning enterprises' international purchasing and selling of goods and services directly from/to enterprises abroad, and the importance of recent events on the (re)organisation of global value chains.

2.2 Classification system

Industry (NACE rev.2).

2.3 Sector coverage

The statistics covers non-agricultural, market-based activities, the economic activities of [DB07](#): 05-09, 10-33, 35, 36-39, 41-43, 45-47, 49-53, 55-56, 58-63, 64-66, 68, 69-75 and 77-82.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

International sourcing: Covers the total or partial movement of activity (core or support functions) carried out in Denmark.

Core function: The core business function of your enterprise is the production of goods or services intended for the market, and which constitutes the enterprise's primary function. The core function in most cases corresponds to the enterprise's industry or main activity

Support functions: Support functions (ancillary activities) are carried out in support of your enterprise's core activity. The output of the support functions are not intended for the market/for third parties.

High-skill jobs: High-skill jobs are jobs requiring staff performing specialist functions. These are e.g. jobs requiring an academic background, management jobs or technical jobs. These jobs typically require a higher education.

2.5 Statistical unit

Legal units

2.6 Statistical population

The population is enterprises with 50 or more employees, in market-based activities outside the primary sector. The survey also covers enterprises within manufacturing and knowledge services with 20-49 employees.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

2021-2023

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

Number of jobs, number of enterprises, share of enterprises

2.11 Reference period

The survey covers the period 2021-2023 concerning international sourcing. In relation to the number of employees by business functions within the Danish enterprise, the information relates to end of 2023. Questions related to international direct trade with enterprises abroad refer to the calendar year 2023.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The survey has so far been carried out for the periods 2001-2006, 2009-2011, 2014-2016, 2018-2020, and 2021-2023. In the future, the survey will be carried out every three years.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The survey will be carried out every three years under the EU regulation (2019/2152) on European business statistics.

2.14 Cost and burden

No measure of response burden is available.

2.15 Comment

More information can be obtained from Statistics Denmark.

3 Statistical processing

Data for these statistics are collected via questionnaires from a population of app. 4.000 respondents with 50 or more employees, calculated as full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. The responses are checked electronically as well as manually.

3.1 Source data

Data has been collected via a digital survey, and has been supplied with background information from the Business Statistical Register.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

The survey has so far been carried out for the periods 2001-2006, 2009-2011, 2014-2016, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023. In the future, the survey will be carried out every three years under the EU regulation on European business statistics.

3.3 Data collection

Data has been collected via a digital survey, and has been supplied with background information from the Business Statistical Register.

3.4 Data validation

Via checking of the data app. 1.200 enterprises have been contacted in order to obtain consistent and correct data. Data validation of the collected material has been carried out, with the focus particularly on the consistency between the answers to the various questions in the survey, as well as on the probability of reported values - e.g. the number of outsourced jobs. Based on the data validation process, contact has been made with a number of companies with a view to obtaining a consistent and fair report.

3.5 Data compilation

Data collected via a digital survey has been supplied with background information from the Business Statistical Register and information on employment from Labour statistics. Since most of the questions in the survey are qualitative questions, no imputation methods are employed for the current period.

3.6 Adjustment

Not relevant for this statistics

4 Relevance

The purpose of the statistics is to shed light on enterprises' international outsourcing and engagement in global value chains. The primary users of the statistics are ministries, researchers and business organizations, who need information on the influence and importance of globalization on the Danish business sector. The statistics is used for research project and analyses where globalization and outsourcing are topics.

4.1 User Needs

The primary target groups of the statistics are ministries, researchers and business organizations, who need information on the influence and importance of globalization on the Danish business sector, including the focus on whether highly qualified jobs are maintained in Denmark.

4.2 User Satisfaction

Users have expressed their satisfaction with the focus on aspects of globalization not previously addressed, namely the outsourcing of jobs. The statistics have been used for a number of research projects as well as for analyses from ministries and business organizations.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Not relevant for these statistics.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The statistics is estimated to have a high degree of precision for the main variables.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The statistics is estimated to have a high degree of precision for the main variables.

5.2 Sampling error

As the survey is a census-survey among the enterprises in the activities and size classes specified, no sampling errors occur.

5.3 Non-sampling error

Coverage errors are believed to be minimal. Measurement errors may occur, but guidelines for respondents as well as the checking and re-contact, is believed to have minimized these errors. There is no knowledge on other measurement errors in the statistics.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The statistics is considered relevant, as it describes a phenomenon of interest to the Danish economy and business sector, and it is expected that the statistic - like is the case for the previous survey - will be foundation for research projects as well as analyses. The quality and reliability is believed to be high, especially concerning central variables as share of enterprises with international outsourcing and number of jobs having been outsourced. due to the guidance of respondents and a comprehensive quality checking and re-contacting of the respondents in order to obtain correct responses.

For a range of the variables collected, these can be compared to corresponding variables in the previous survey, and the statistics may be compared internationally when results from the survey in which several other European countries participate, are published. Furthermore the statistics may be compared to statistics on Accounts for non-agricultural industries and General enterprise statistics, for the activities and size-classes of enterprises included in the survey.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

No revisions of the statistics has been carried out.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

Results are published within 18 months after the end of the reference period. Publications are released on time, as stated in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Results are published within 18 months after the end of the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

Data from the survey may be compared to the data collected in the surveys from 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2021. Furthermore it will be possible to compare the results of the Danish survey to those from a range of other EU-countries. Data may also be compared to data from statistics on Accounts for non-agricultural industries and General enterprise statistics, for the activities and size-classes which are covered.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

A comparable survey is being carried out in a number of EU countries, and comparable results will be published by Eurostat in 2025.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics has previously been collected for the periods 2001-2006, 2009-2011, 2014-2016 and 2021-2023. As a range of data has been collected in all three surveys, these data may be compared.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The statistics is based on same population within the non-agricultural private sector as the statistics of Accounts for non-agricultural industries and General enterprise statistics, except for the cut-off of 50 or more employees. Data from the statistics for enterprises with 50 or more FTE employees may therefore be compared to the statistics on international outsourcing.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The final statistical dataset has a high degree of internal consistency. Internal consistency has been a focal point throughout the work of data validation.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release (Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik - in Danish only), at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under [Outsourcing](#). Furthermore data can be made available to researchers.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.4 News release

These statistics are published in a Danish press release (Nyt fra Danmarks Statistik - in Danish only).

8.5 Publications

No publication currently planned.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under [Outsourcing](#) in the following tables:

- [ORGOUT11](#): International sourcing by enterprise, industry (DB07 10-grouping) and functions
- [ORGOUT21](#): Jobs sourced internationally by population, industry and type of job
- [ORGOUT36](#): International sourcing by functions and destination
- [ORGOUT41](#): Enterprise motivation factors for international sourcing by industry (DB07 10-grouping), motives and importance
- [ORGOUT60](#): Importance of recent events on the organization of global value chains by industry (DB07 10-grouping), type of case and importance.

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions, can be granted access to the underlying micro-data by contacting [Research Services](#).

8.8 Other

The survey is part of a European project, and data will be delivered to Eurostat in 2025.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

There has been no need to leave out table cells due to confidentiality. The normal practice concerning confidentiality will be followed if the need arises.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Business Dynamics. The contact person is Alina Greco, tel.: + 45 3055 1824, and e-mail: AGC@dst.dk.