

Start-up compendium

(Version 2022)

1 Aims and scope

The availability of data on business start-ups has long been a central bottleneck for start-up research in Germany. In order to eliminate this bottleneck, we provide here indicators on start-up activity and self-employment in the regions of the Federal Republic of Germany. The data are based on the establishment history panel of the German employment statistics) and further employment statistics from the German Federal Statistical Office.

The data sets contain information on the number of start-ups (including branches) in manufacturing, private services and construction. The start-up data are available for West Germany from 1976 and for East Germany from 1993 until today. Start-ups are identified according to the procedure developed by Hethy and Schmieder (2010).¹ The self-employment rates are provided for the period 1996 to 2019. The information is structured according to districts as of 2020.

2. Data description employment statistics

2.1. General

The data on start-ups are drawn from the Establishment History Panel (BHP). The BHP is composed of cross sectional datasets since 1975 for West Germany and 1992 for East Germany. Every cross section contains all the establishments in Germany which are covered by the IAB Employment History (BeH) on June 30th. These are all establishments with at least one employee liable to social security on the reference date. Establishments with no employee liable to social security but with at least one marginal part-time employee are included since 1999. The data on self-employment are data on self-employment is obtained from the Federal German Statistical Office (*Arbeitskreis Erwerbstaetigenrechnung*).²

¹ Hethy, Tanja und Johannes F. Schmieder (2010): Using Worker Flows in the Analysis of Establishment Turnover – Evidence from German Administrative Data. FDZ-Methodenreport 06-2010 EN, Research Data Centre of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB): Nuremberg.

² For further details, on the start-up data, see: https://fdz.iab.de/en/FDZ_Establishment_Data/Establishment_History_Panel.aspx). For further details on the self-employment data, see <https://www.statistikportal.de/de/etr>

The data on start-up and self-employment rates are available for sectors (manufacturing, construction, services) and counties (Kreise und kreisfreie Staedte) as of 2020. The sectoral classification is based on the NACE 93 classification (for a more detailed explanation of the definition, see "Notes" below).

2.2. Files "sur1976_2020" and "ser1996_2019"

The file comprises the annual start-up rates in West Germany for the period 1976 to 2020. For East Germany the period is 1993 to 2020. The self-employment rates are provided for the period 1996 to 2019. The files on start-ups and self-employed are both available in STATA and Excel-format.

Meaning of the abbreviations

- sur_m_1: Start-ups in manufacturing/ Employees in the private sector (manufacturing, services, construction) * 10000
- sur_m_2: Start-ups in manufacturing/ All employees * 10000
- sur_c_1: Start-ups in construction/ Employees in the private sector (manufacturing, services, construction) * 10000
- sur_c_2: Start-ups in construction/ All employees * 10000
- sur_s_1: Start-ups in services/ Employees in the private sector (manufacturing, services, construction) * 10000
- sur_s_2: Start-ups in services/ All employees * 10000
- ser_m_2: Number of self-employed in manufacturing/ All Employees * 100
- ser_c_2: Number of self-employed in construction/ All Employees * 100
- ser_s_2: Number of self-employed in service/ All Employees * 100

Notes:

- The breakdown of manufacturing, construction, services, and the rest of the private sector and government is based on the classification of economic activities by NACE 93 (3-digit level) as follows:

Manufacturing:

wz93_3>=151 & wz93_3<=400

Construction:

wz93_3>=451 & wz93_3<=500

Services:

wz93_3>=500

without

wz93_3==751;

wz93_3==802;

wz93_3==852;

wz93_3==912;

wz93_3==923;

wz93_3==927;

wz93_3==990

wz93_3==752;

wz93_3==803;

wz93_3==853;

wz93_3==913;

wz93_3==924;

wz93_3==930;

wz93_3==753;

wz93_3==804;

wz93_3==900;

wz93_3==921;

wz93_3==925;

wz93_3==953;

wz93_3==801;

wz93_3==851;

wz93_3==911;

wz93_3==922;

wz93_3==926;

wz93_3==954;