European Commission

Annual Activity Report 2025

EUROSTAT

Contents

EUROSTAT IN BRIEF

Eurostat is the statistical authority of the European Union (EU). Its mission is to provide high-quality statistics and data on Europe and to deliver reliable and comparable statistical information to support evidence-based EU policymaking and the implementation of the Commission's political priorities. Eurostat develops and promotes standards, methods, procedures, practices and tools that enable the cost-effective development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

Eurostat is a Directorate-General of the Commission, headed by a Director-General reporting to the Commissioner for Economy and Productivity; Implementation and Simplification.

European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in accordance with the principles enshrined in Article 338 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and further developed in Regulation (EC) 223/2009 ([1]) and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Eurostat's activities are governed by professional independence, impartial treatment of all users, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost-effectiveness. Commission Decision 2012/504/EU ([2]) defines the role and responsibilities of Eurostat within the internal organisation of the Commission.

Eurostat carries out its mission in partnership with the EU Member States based on harmonised statistical standards, methods, procedures, practices and tools. The Member States' national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities designated to produce European statistics make up the European Statistical System (ESS). European Economic Area countries and Switzerland participate in the ESS under specific agreements.

Eurostat is assisted by two advisory bodies: the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) and the European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC). They provide advice on the European statistical programmes, focusing on the European Statistics Code of Practice, user relevance and adequacy of resources.

The EU's statistical priorities are defined in the European statistical programme (ESP) proposed by the Commission and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The ESP determines the main fields and objectives for the period corresponding to the multiannual financial framework, under direct management. Eurostat implements the programme's budget through grants and public procurement contracts.

Eurostat works closely with the European Central Bank (ECB) and other international organisations to develop international standards and ensure the comparability of statistics globally. It also verifies public finance statistics and is involved in the verification of EU own resources. Eurostat also helps the Directorate-General for Budget verify the EU Member States' annual VAT statements.

(1) EUR-Lex - 02009R0223-20241226 - EN - EUR-Lex.
(2) Decision - 2012/504 - EN - EUR-Lex.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Key results and progress towards achieving the Commission’s general objectives and department's specific objectives

In 2025, Eurostat pursued its mission and commitment to provide high-quality statistics and data on Europe. Eurostat’s work, which spans all policy domains, continued to underpin public debate, and the design, monitoring and evaluation of Union policies. Eurostat made progress on achieving the three specific objectives, defined in its Strategic Outlook 2025-2029 within the Management Plan 2025, that contributed to all eight general objectives of the Commission.

To achieve its specific objective 1, ‘to provide enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission’s priorities and effective policy implementation’, Eurostat published new and enhanced statistical outputs and methodologies across a wide range of policy areas.

In support of the Commission’s ‘A new plan for Europe’s sustainable prosperity and competitiveness’ priority, Eurostat published the **first multi-country national accounting matrix,** combining production, consumption and income data to support the analysis of the EU economy and policy impacts. It also published its first official statistics on global value chains and worked to improve the quality of international trade in goods statistics and to produce early estimates of short-term business indicators using alternative data sources and models. To support policies for competitive, innovative, sustainable, and resilient enterprises, Eurostat continued collecting data on the digitalisation of EU companies, the structure, demography, and innovation of EU business. In parallel, Eurostat advanced preparatory work on the revision of the **European System of Accounts** and amendments to the framework for **balance of payments**, while continuing to deliver high-quality **government finance and excessive deficit procedure statistics** in support of **EU fiscal monitoring**. It also implemented key methodological updates of the **Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices** with the flash release for the first quarter of 2025.

In 2025, in response to the European Commission Communication encouraging Member States to activate the **national escape clause** in their efforts to increase **defence investment**, Eurostat, together with the national statistical authorities, has concluded intensive preparatory work to advance the transmission of defence data from 11 to 3 months after the end of the reference year, in line with the Excessive Deficit Procedure on an enriched methodological guidance covering both investment and expenditure.

For the Commission’s headline ambition ‘Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model’, Eurostat improved EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, alongside continued work on population and housing data, including the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2025/2458 on **European statistics on population and housing**. It also strengthened evidence relating to **health, education and skills**, expanded **labour market** statistics (including young people), and supported priorities relating to **housing, digitalisation and sustainable tourism.**

In support of the Commission's 'Sustaining our quality of life: Food security, water and nature' priority, Eurostat prepared the Commission proposal for a new European **fisheries and aquaculture statistics** regulation. It launched monthly statistics on **agricultural input and output** from the first reference year 2025, published core results from **integrated farm statistics** 2023, and released key figures on the European **food chain**. Member States also reported European forest accounts for the first time, strengthening evidence that is relevant for the achievement of **forestry and climate** objectives.

In support of the Commission's headline ambition 'Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future', Eurostat strengthened evidence for long-term planning and policy delivery through **updated population projections** and a new edition of the **Sustainable Development Goals** monitoring report.

In support of the achievement of its specific objective 2 'to support national statistical systems in enlargement countries and strengthen international partnerships', Eurostat contributed to the Commission's 'A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships' ambition. It did so by contributing to the development of **international statistical standards and methodologies**. Eurostat supported **enlargement countries to align their own legislation** with EU legislation on statistics and **neighbourhood countries** to increase their capacity to produce high-quality statistics. It also finalised its **support programme for Africa**, with tangible improvements in areas such as national accounts and trade, business and social statistics.

In support of the achievement of specific objective 3, 'to strengthen Eurostat role as trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe using digital technologies, new data sources, revamped legal frameworks and improved communication', Eurostat contributed to the achievement of general objective 'Protecting our democracy, upholding our values'. Eurostat improved its **communication and dissemination** activities to make European statistics clearer and more accessible. Eurostat also promoted statistical literacy.

Eurostat contributed to the achievement of the general objective 'A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission' through the implementation of the **updated Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics**. Progress continued under the European Statistical System **Innovation Agenda**. Eurostat also strengthened its protocol on impartial access to Eurostat data for all users, expanded **user support,** modernised the European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS), and broadened **access to microdata for research**.

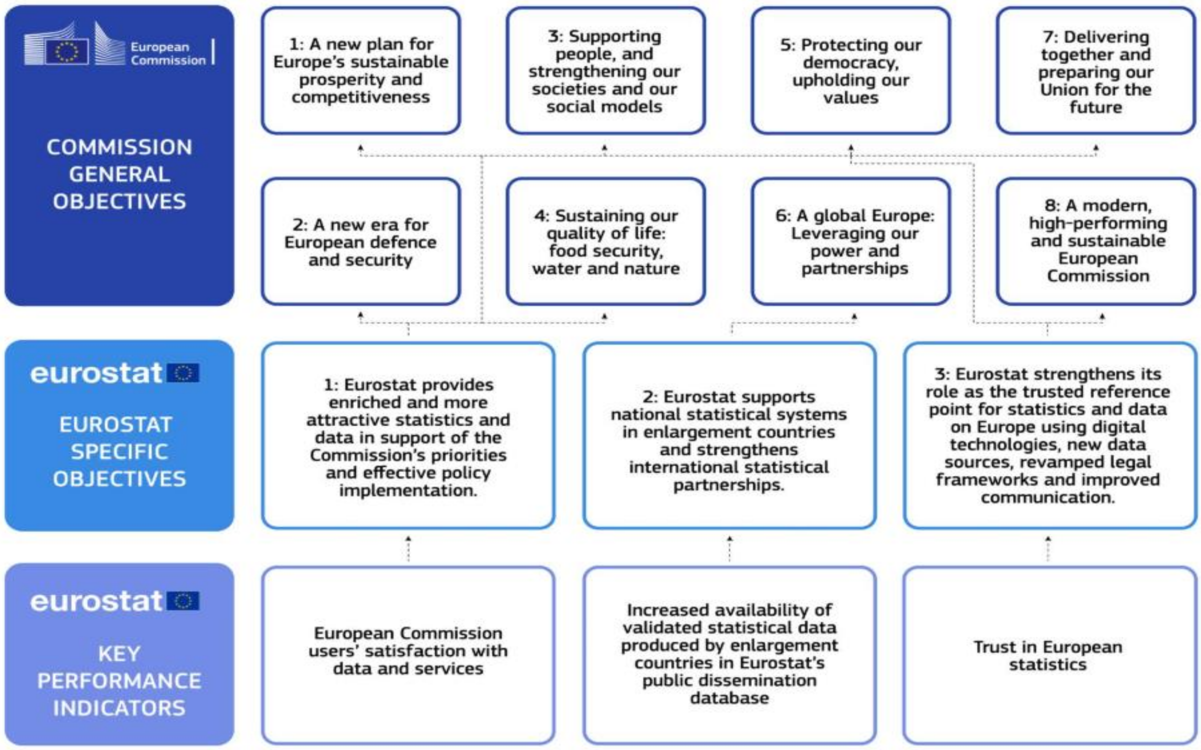
In 2025, Eurostat made progress on the EU **simplification agenda** by organising **Commissioner Dombrovskis' implementation dialogue on European statistics** and contributing to his **Annual progress report on simplification, implementation and enforcement progress report** to the European Parliament and Council. Eurostat began **stress testing EU statistical legislation,** organised **reality checks** in several statistical domains and began evaluating the European Business Statistics Regulation.

In **response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**, Eurostat provided evidence on the **effects of sanctions** and shifting economic links, continued **monthly reporting on temporary protection for people fleeing Ukraine**, and monitored trade and investment developments. Work continued to improve insights into **EU dependencies on strategically important imports**.

B. Key performance indicators

In its Strategic Outlook for 2025-2029 as set out in its 2025 Management Plan, Eurostat defined **three key performance indicators (KPIs)** to monitor and measure the achievement of Eurostat's three specific objectives, feeding into the Commission's general objectives.

Figure 1: KPIs links to Eurostat specific objectives and Commission general objectives



The first KPI, 'European Commission users' satisfaction with data and services', shows that Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation (Specific objectives 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 7.1). It is calculated, using Eurostat's general **user satisfaction survey**, as the percentage of Commission users rating the overall quality of Eurostat's data and services as 'very good' or 'good'. It excludes users who do not express an opinion. The baseline for this indicator (measured in 2024) is 74%.

The second KPI, 'Increased availability of validated statistical data produced by enlargement countries in Eurostat's dissemination database', shows that Eurostat supports national statistical systems in enlargement countries by measuring the increase in the data points in **Eurobase** for the 10 enlargement countries (Specific objective 6.1). An increase in available data points means that enlargement countries can produce and disseminate more statistics. The baseline for this indicator (measured in 2024) is 110 million data points for the 10 enlargement countries. In 2025, there were 129 million data points, indicating significant progress is being made towards reaching the interim target of 132 million set for 2027.

The third KPI, 'Trust in European statistics', shows that Eurostat continues to be a trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe (Specific objectives 5.2 and 8.1). It is calculated, using a **Eurobarometer survey**, as the percentage of respondents who trust statistics and data provided by Eurostat. The baseline for this indicator (measured in 2024) is 67%. The next survey is planned for 2027.

Figure 2: KPIs with baselines, milestones and targets

KPI #	KPI Title	Baseline	2025		Interim milestone	Target
Specific objectives 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation.						
1.1.1, 2.1.1, 3.1.1, 4.1.1, 5.1.1, 7.1.1	European Commission users' satisfaction with data and services	74%	**74%**		**>=74%**	>=74%
Specific objective 6.1: Eurostat supports national statistical systems in enlargement countries and strengthens international statistical partnerships.						
6.1.1	Increased availability of validated statistical data produced by enlargement countries in Eurostat's dissemination database	110 million	**129 million**		**132 million**	154 million
Specific objectives 5.2, 8.1: Eurostat strengthens its role as the trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe using digital technologies, new data sources, revamped legal frameworks and improved communication.						
5.2.1, 8.1.1	Trust in European statistics	67%	**67%**		**69%**	71%

Specific objective 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1 value for the year 2005 is from User Satisfaction Survey (2024). The next survey is planned for 2027.
Specific objective 6.1 is measured in million data points for the 10 enlargement countries.
Specific objective 5.2, 8.1 value for the year 2025 is from the Eurobarometer survey (2024). The next survey is planned for 2027.

Risk at payment/closure

The estimated risk at closure slightly decreased from 0.44% in 2024 to 0.39% in 2025, in relation to the relevant expenditure as the error rate decreased in the reporting year. Over a five-year period, the results are well below the maximum value allowed (2%).

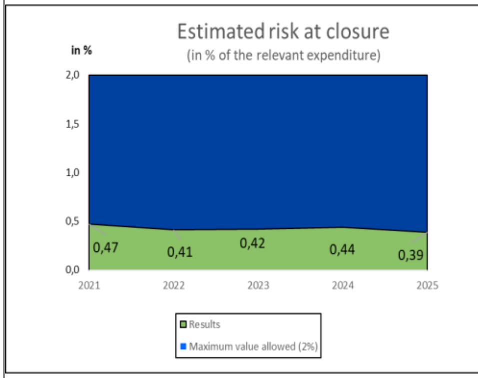
Figure 3: Estimated risk at closure through the years

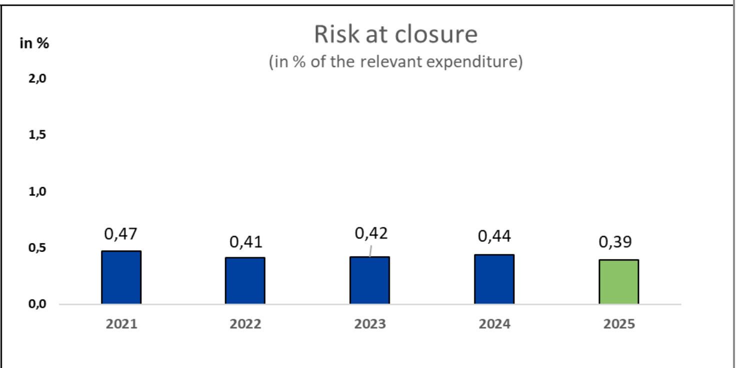
Risk at payment/closure

Target: Risk at closure should be lower than 2%

INIDICATOR 4: ROBUST INTERNAL CONTROL
Source of data: Eurostat (Unit A.2)

TARGET	RESULT (2025)		
Overall risk at closure < 2% of relevant expenditure	Overall risk at closure	0,39% ✓	< 2%





C. Key conclusions on internal control and financial management

Eurostat has systematically examined the available control results and indicators, as well as the observations and recommendations issued by the internal auditor and the European Court of Auditors (ECA).

The transition in 2025 to the Commission's new accounting system, SUMMA, has required the adjustment to a new system and has impacted budget implementation tasks, processes and financial management activities, particularly during the first part of the year. This has required careful management to ensure the same data quality as in previous years. In some cases, this has resulted in lower performance for some standard financial indicators such as the timely payments.

All the aspects mentioned above have been assessed to determine their impact on management's assurance about the achievement of the control objectives. There is more about this in Section 2 on Internal Control and Financial Management.

Eurostat assessed its internal control system during the reporting year and has concluded that it is effective and the internal control components and principles are present and functioning as intended. In conclusion, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, suitable controls are in place and working as intended and that risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated. The Director-General, in her capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation, has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

D. Provision of information to the Commissioner

In the context of the regular meetings during the year between Eurostat and Commissioner **Dombrovskis responsible for Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification** on management matters, the main parts of this report and the assurance declaration have been brought to the attention of the Commissioner.

1. KEY RESULTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE COMMISSION'S GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT

In 2025, Eurostat continued to provide high-quality statistics and data on Europe. Its work, covering all policy areas, has continued to underpin public debate, and the design, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies in support of the political priorities set out in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen and determined according to the general objectives in the Commission's strategic plan for 2025-2029.

In this context, Eurostat has set out, in its **Strategic Outlook for 2025-2029** in the Management Plan 2025, three specific objectives the achievement of which will contribute to the achievement of all eight general objectives set by the Commission.

- Specific objective 1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation (linked to general objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7).

- Specific objective 2: Eurostat supports national statistical systems in enlargement countries and strengthens international statistical partnerships (linked to general objective 6).

- Specific objective 3: Eurostat strengthens its role as the trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe using digital technologies, new data sources, revamped legal frameworks and improved communication (linked to general objectives 5 and 8).

This section describes Eurostat's key achievements and the progress made in the implementation of the initiatives and delivery of outputs set out in the Management Plan 2025, grouped according to eight general objectives of the Commission and the corresponding specific objectives of Eurostat.

General objective 1: a new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

Specific objective 1.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation

In 2025, Eurostat published the first multi-country national accounting matrix, combining production, consumption and income data to support analysis of the EU economy and policy impacts. Eurostat expanded its **productivity indicators** by adding experimental data on capital stock, capital productivity and multifactor productivity for the EU and the euro area.

Regular production of high-quality Excessive Deficit Procedure and government finance statistics continued to provide an essential basis for **fiscal monitoring in the EU**. Eurostat also increased the availability of information on **national co-financing and defence expenditure**, to support the implementation of the Economic Governance Framework. The Commission report on public accounting in the EU was published in December.

Eurostat disseminated international trade in services statistics by mode of supply and services trade by enterprise characteristics, providing useful information for **trade** negotiations. Eurostat also published its **first official statistics on global value chains**, highlighting the impact of global events on European enterprises' sourcing activities and their global value chains.

Work continued on developing **microdata linking techniques to generate new business and trade insights** without adding to the survey burden for respondents. In 2025, this work focused on globalisation and on identifying businesses with high dependencies on **imports of critical raw materials and net-zero industry technologies** from specific non-EU countries.

Eurostat continued working together with the Member States to decrease bilateral asymmetries between countries in **international trade in services statistics**, **foreign direct investment** and **foreign affiliates** statistics between EU countries and enhance the quality of international trade and investment flows in the EU. The microdata exchanged on intra-EU trade in goods is increasingly being used to improve the quality of, and reduce asymmetries in, **international trade in goods** statistics, and to **reduce the statistical survey burden for companies**.

To monitor developments in terms of digital technologies, Eurostat continued collecting data on the **digitalisation of EU companies**, including uptake of cloud technology and artificial intelligence. Its **statistics on the structure, demography and innovation of business** in the EU supported policies for **competitive, innovative, sustainable, and resilient enterprises**. The **community innovation survey** (CIS) provided information about the risks faced by enterprises and mitigating actions, including the **risks related to a high dependency on a limited number of suppliers outside the EU**. To support the monitoring of the **green transition**, the CIS provided information about businesses' innovations with environmental benefits.

In 2025, the Member States reported for the first time statistics on **climate change mitigation investment** under Regulation (EU) 691/2011 on European environmental accounts. Member States also reported **new data on environmental subsidies** and similar transfers.

To support **transport decarbonisation,** Eurostat developed and published indicators for the share of goods and passengers transported by each transport mode, including the contribution of oil pipelines to the total transport of goods. Indicators for the **efficiency of public transport and recharging stations infrastructure** were also developed.

Eurostat continued releasing data on electricity and gas prices paid by households and industrial consumers to help monitor **energy affordability and the competitiveness of EU industry**. It continued to support the Energy Union, the REPowerEU plan and the Governance Regulation by launching a **hydrogen data** collection.

Together with the Member States, Eurostat updated the **Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) methodology** to introduce the new European Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose, include games of chance under recreation services, and re-reference the index to 2025. Work also continued on the research agenda to include owner-occupied housing in the HICP. Eurostat concluded a study assessing whether asking prices from real estate websites could be used for **more timely monthly house price indices**.

Eurostat continued producing statistics on **research and development investments** by EU companies and the public sector.

Eurostat published key guidance to support the implementation of updated statistical classifications. The manual for the updated statistical classification of economic activities (NACE) was published in June and the explanatory notes of the updated statistical classification of products (CPA) [3] were released in September 2025. A backcasting manual (on adjusting historical time series so that they take classification updates into account) was also published.

Preparatory work continued on the revision of the **European System of Accounts** and the amendment of the Regulation on the balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment.

General objective 2: a new era for European defence and security

Specific objective 2.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation

Eurostat's work in support of the achievement of this objective responds to the policy needs as expressed in the White Paper on future of European defence and the Commission communication on 'Accommodating increased defence expenditure within the Stability and Growth Pact [4].

Eurostat provided timely clarifications of the definition of defence expenditure, aligning it with the classification of the functions of government (COFOG [5]). Eurostat also drew up draft guidance which supports a more harmonised approach across Member States by clarifying the rules for recording **defence investment and other defence spending**, including **joint purchases of military equipment and military aid**.

In 2025, Eurostat also began developing **business and trade statistics for enterprises active in the defence and space sectors** under the microdata linking work programme. Clearer identification of **defence and space activities for statistical purposes** is being facilitated by implementation of the NACE Rev. 2.1 and the CPA 2.2 changes in business statistics.

Eurostat continued to produce high-quality **statistics on asylum and managed migration**. In line with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum adopted in May 2024, Eurostat worked to improve

(3) The statistical classification of products by activity, abbreviated as CPA, is the classification of products (goods and services) at EU level.

(4) C(2025) 2000 of 19 March 2025.

(5) Classification of the functions of government, the international standard for classifying government spending by purpose.

the timeliness and relevance of **international protection statistics** while reducing the administrative burden for countries.

General objective 3: supporting people and strengthening our societies and our social models

Specific objective 3.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation

In support of the implementation of the European Affordable Housing Plan, work progressed on housing rent price statistics covering data availability, user needs, indicator quality characteristics, compilation guidance and the feasibility of voluntary data collections. Eurostat set up an **internal task force on housing statistics** to coordinate contributions to Commission initiatives in the housing sector, including improved access to housing-related statistics and publications on a single website. Eurostat continued to provide *ex ante* and *ex post* bilateral advice to Member States on the application of the existing statistical rules and the correct statistical recording of the **social housing** in government finance statistics.

As part of **information and communication technologies** (ICT) statistics, Eurostat produced high-quality data on the **digitalisation of European society**. This data was instrumental for monitoring progress towards reaching the targets established by the **Digital Decade policy programme**. In 2025, particular attention was paid to the **digital skills of EU citizens** and their use of **artificial intelligence**.

Eurostat improved **EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions**. Annual indicators for 2024, including three-yearly indicators for children, were published in April 2025. Eurostat expanded the data available on its website to include indicators for **access to services**. It also produced **early estimates of income distribution**.

To expand the evidence base for **economic wellbeing**, in early 2025, Eurostat released the results from the latest **household budget survey** and experimental statistics on the **joint distribution of income, consumption and wealth**. The annual update of experimental data on **household distributional accounts** was published in July 2025.

Eurostat continued producing high-quality **statistics on population and housing**, supporting the Commission's policy agenda in the context of an ageing society, a shrinking working-age population and skills availability. A new framework **Regulation (EU) 2025/2458 on European statistics on population and housing**, which entered into force on 1 January 2026, will deliver more timely and comprehensive data.

For the first time, Eurostat disseminated data on **hospital discharges** by patients' region of residence at the NUTS2 level ([6]), supporting healthcare capacity assessment and epidemiological

(6) The nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) is a geographical nomenclature subdividing the economic territory of the EU into regions at three different levels: NUTS 1, 2 and 3 moving, respectively, from larger to smaller territorial units.

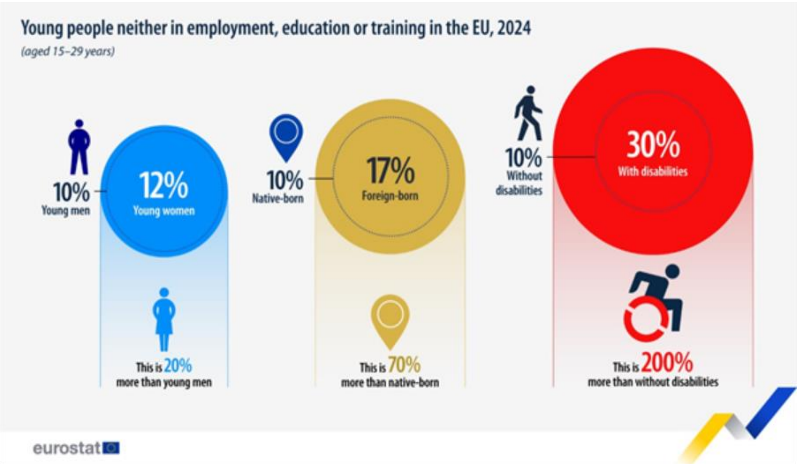
monitoring. It also produced **healthcare expenditure** statistics and continued developing **long-term care** statistics in support of the European care strategy. A long-term care statistics task force released methodological guidance in 2025.

Eurostat maintained the production of high-quality **education statistics** in support of the European Education Area and the Union of Skills.

Eurostat produced high-quality **statistics on social protection**, including more timely indicators and early estimates. It also began work on a European system of integrated social protection statistics by groups of schemes, and on developing a collection of data on **recipients of social benefits** such as unemployment benefits and minimum income support.

It continued developing **transversal indicators and datasets** such as the Social Scoreboard of the European Pillar of Social Rights, quality-of-life indicators, statistics on young people and children, equality and non-discrimination, sport and culture.

Figure 4: Young people out of employment, education and training



Eurostat continued to improve **labour market** statistics by including results from the 2024 Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) module on young people, alongside regular releases of **monthly unemployment data** and quarterly data on **job vacancies, labour costs and labour force**. Eurostat published comprehensive annual data from the EU-LFS for 2024, including insights into **young people's participation in the labour market**.

A new framework regulation on EU **labour market statistics on businesses** and related implementing acts were adopted (7) expanding the coverage of the economy and ensuring annual data collection on the unadjusted gender pay gap.

General objective 4: sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

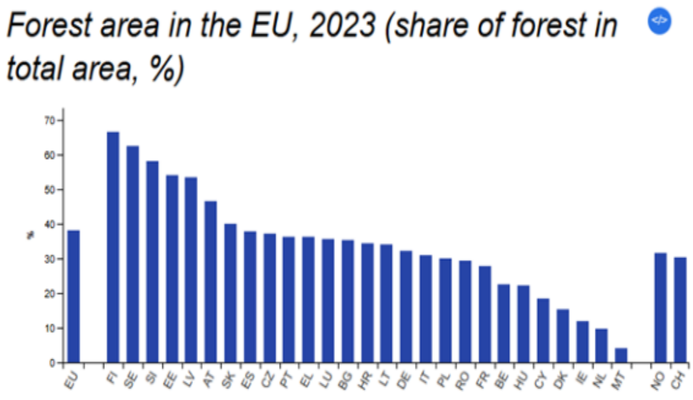
Specific objective 4.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission’s priorities and effective policy implementation

The Commission adopted its proposal for a regulation on European **fisheries and aquaculture** statistics in July 2025. The regulation expands statistical coverage to include organic aquaculture and aquaculture establishments while modernising and streamlining the legal framework and reducing the administrative burden and cost.

(7) Regulation - EU - 2025/941 - EN - EUR-Lex

Eurostat began publishing monthly **statistics on agricultural input and output**. It also released the 2023 core results of **integrated farm statistics**, covering farms, labour, other gainful activities, management practices, machinery and equipment, and rural development. For the first time, Eurostat published regional **agricultural labour input data** and regional **economic accounts for agriculture**, improving the usability and time consistency of regional accounts.

Figure 5: Share of forest area in the EU



In December 2025, Eurostat published *[Key figures on the European food chain](#)*, supporting Commission policies and strategies aimed at making the food chain environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. In 2025, Member States reported **European forest accounts** for the first time under Regulation (EU) 691/2011. These accounts provide information on forest land and wood production, output, investment, jobs, inputs and other key economic variables of the forestry sector, supporting both forestry-related policies and the achievement of broader **climate mitigation and adaptation** objectives.

General objective 5: protecting our democracy, upholding our values

Specific objective 5.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation

Specific objective 5.2: Eurostat strengthens its role as the trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe using digital technologies, new data sources, revamped legal frameworks and improved communication

Figure 6: Cover page of publication: Key figures on the EU in the world, 2025 edition

Throughout 2025, Eurostat focused on **supporting democratic debate** by ensuring the availability of reliable, high-quality European statistics and improving the accessibility and clarity of information for users. Eurostat's statistical literacy newsletter reached around 2 500 subscribers by the end of 2025. The education corner on Eurostat's website was further expanded and promoted. Around 27 000 students participated in the 2025 edition of the European Statistics Competition. Students and trainees remained the key audience for on-site and online outreach activities, including organised group visits and presentations on Eurostat's work, services and products.

During its meeting in May 2025, the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC) supported the proposal to do the **EU gender-based violence survey** again in 2027, for which Eurostat finalised methodological guidelines.

General objective 6: a global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific objective 6.1: Eurostat supports national statistical systems in enlargement countries and strengthens international statistical partnerships

Eurostat contributed to the development of international statistical standards and **methodologies**. It ensured the preparation of **EU common positions for the United Nations Statistical Commission**, enabling the EU to speak with one voice at a global level. These positions covered key areas such as the revision of the system of national accounts and the fundamental principles of official statistics, helping to promote standards aligned with EU values.

In 2025, Eurostat renewed its service level agreement with the European Central Bank (ECB) and signed an administrative arrangement on statistical cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. Cooperation with partner organisations was further strengthened by the renewal of the administrative arrangement with the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistical Institute for five years and the signature of a new administrative arrangement with the National Bureau of Statistics of China in September 2025.

In collaboration with the Member States and partner countries, Eurostat collected and validated price data to support **purchasing power parities** (PPPs) for the 2024 round of the International Comparison Programme, managed by the World Bank. The first PPP results for 2024 were published in March 2025 and updated in June and December 2025.

Eurostat significantly contributed to the pre-enlargement policy review of the Commission and continued supporting the **enlargement countries** to produce a greater number of high-quality statistics disseminated through Eurostat's database, and to modernise their statistical systems. Eurostat participated in the design of the EU Pact for the Mediterranean, incorporating statistical actions into the Pact. It also contracted a new regional cooperation programme for the Eastern Partnership countries. All neighbourhood countries were supported through projects, training and peer reviews resulting in an increasing number of good quality data's being available and published. The **support programme for Africa** was successfully concluded, with achievements including better quarterly national accounts, updated and rebased national accounts, better trade, business and social statistics and better dissemination and communication practices.

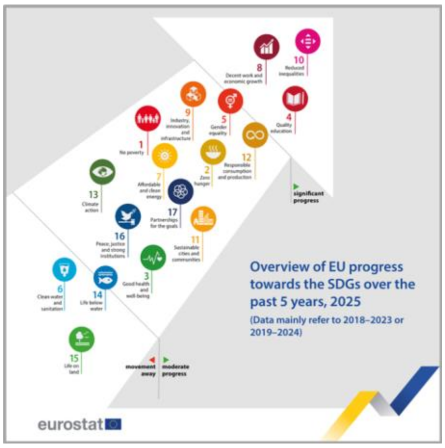
Finally, Eurostat conducted the first monitoring of the implementation of improvement actions from the **third round of peer reviews in the European Statistical System**.

General objective 7: delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

Specific objective 7.1: Eurostat provides enriched and more attractive statistics and data in support of the Commission's priorities and effective policy implementation

In June 2025, Eurostat published a new edition of its report on EU progress towards reaching the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Figure 7: EU progress towards SDGs



Eurostat released updated **population projections** in May 2025, covering expected changes in population size and age structure based on assumptions about fertility, mortality and migration. These projections support key policy needs, including EU cohesion strategies, assessments of long-term public finance sustainability, and analysis of **ageing-related impacts on the labour market and economic development**.

Eurostat completed its review of all legal acts relevant for gross national income (GNI)-based own-resource purposes, thereby supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/516 ([8]).

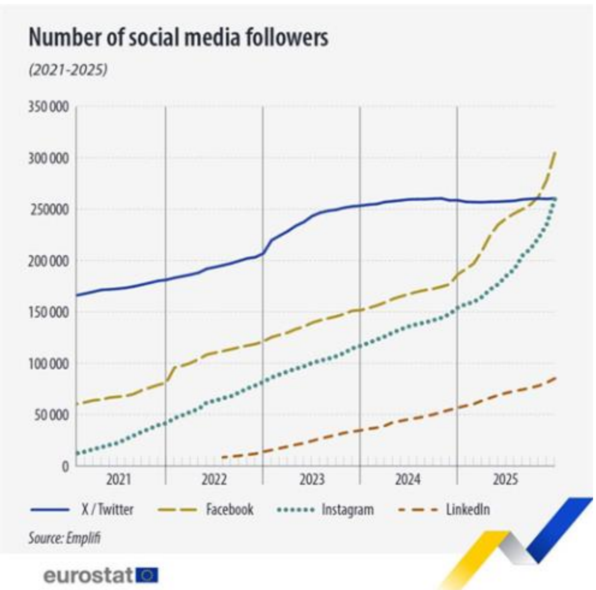
Finally, Eurostat successfully rolled out the **family budget survey for EU staff** outside Brussels and Luxembourg to support the calculation of EU and international staff remuneration and correction coefficients.

General objective 8: a modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission

Specific objective 8.1: Eurostat strengthens its role as the trusted reference point for statistics and data on Europe using digital technologies, new data sources, revamped legal frameworks and improved communication

2025 was the first year of the implementation of the **updated Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics.** Progress continued under the European Statistical System **Innovation Agenda**.

Figure 8: Number of Eurostat's social media followers



Eurostat continued to expand its user reach across key **dissemination channels**, including social media platforms, conferences, webinars and podcasts, to ensure the effective and inclusive communication of European statistics to different user groups. All Eurostat social media channels continued to grow, reaching over 200 million impressions and more than 900 thousand followers across all social media platforms in 2025, significantly exceeding their targets.

Eurostat strengthened its protocol on **impartial access to Eurostat data** for all users, including by discontinuing pre-release

(8) [Regulation - 2019/516 - EN - EUR-Lex]

access to news agencies from September 2025 onwards. **Publications** supporting the Commission's headline priorities were promoted throughout the year, including 'Key Figures on Europe', 'Key figures on the EU in the World', 'Housing in Europe' and 'Migration and asylum in Europe'.

Figure 9: Online publication page: Climate change mitigation

Eurostat's **interactive publications, data visualisations and dashboards** continued to cover key policy areas, including housing, the macroeconomic imbalance procedure, environmental accounts, and euro indicators. This was complemented with new and revamped products presenting statistics in an accessible and user-friendly way.

Eurostat's **user support** services handled over 3 800 requests and enquiries from a wide range of stakeholders in 2025. Targeted support continued to be provided to media and professional users, including fact-checkers and journalists.

Finally, the list of **microdata available for research purposes** has been expanded by adding the online job advertisements dataset. Discussions on adding other datasets, such as purchasing power parities data, are ongoing.

Cross-cutting efforts – implementation and simplification agenda

In May 2025, Eurostat launched its **stress testing of EU statistical legislation**, with the objective of identifying opportunities for **burden reduction and simplification**. A key component of this exercise is the evaluation of Regulation (EC) 2019/2152 on European business statistics, which covers **most statistical reporting obligations for European businesses**. Similarly, in the area of agricultural statistics, Eurostat is preparing the review of the Integrated Farm Statistics Regulation for the period 2030–2039.

In July 2025, the Commission adopted the Proposal for a Regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics. Among other objectives, this proposal aims to **simplify the collection** and compilation of fisheries and aquaculture statistics, thereby **reducing the reporting burden on Member States by enabling the reuse of administrative data** already collected by the Commission. Eurostat also carried out reality checks in several statistical domains.

Commissioner Dombrovskis' first implementation dialogue on European statistics, *'Towards relevant, simplified and cost-efficient European official statistics'* was held in June and focused on simplification. It aimed to gather feedback from EU businesses and representatives of national statistical authorities on challenges related to statistical reporting, the identification of potential **simplification and burden-reduction measures**, particularly in the fields of business and trade statistics, and the re-use of data, among other topics.

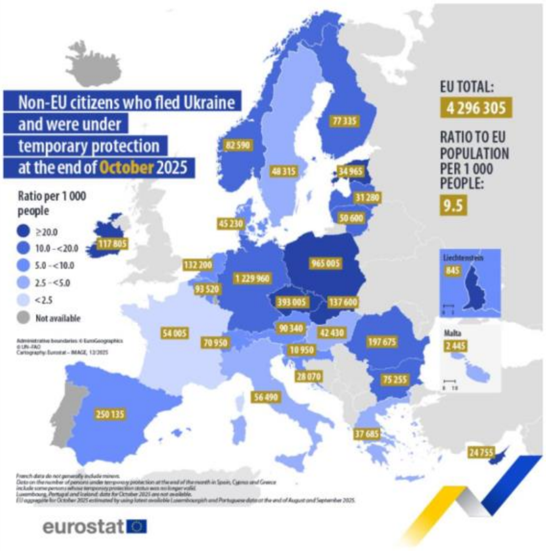
Eurostat co-drafted, with the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), Commissioner Dombrovskis' 2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement presented to the European Parliament and the Council on the enforcement and implementation of statistical EU legislation and on ongoing **simplification and burden reduction** efforts.

The implementation of the amendments to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 seeks to **reduce the reporting burden on citizens and businesses** while continuing to ensure the delivery of high-quality European statistics. Work on innovative approaches, such as **microdata linking and microdata exchange**, continued in 2025. Several Member States increased their use of microdata, thereby **reducing the burden on respondents**.

Eurostat also provides a range of statistics related to the **Competitiveness Compass**. This work is described at the beginning of section 1, as part of the description of Eurostat's contribution to the Commission's general objective 1 'A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness'.

Response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the energy crisis and the supply chain crisis

Figure 10: Map: number of non-EU citizens who fled Ukraine



Source datasets: migr_asytpsm and migr_asytpspop

Eurostat continued publishing **statistics on temporary protection for people fleeing Ukraine,** in keeping with an ESS agreement to transmit voluntary monthly data, in addition to the legally required quarterly reporting.

Data on international trade in goods and services and on foreign direct investments continued to support the **monitoring of the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine** on EU businesses' economic links with specific partner countries. Since the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression, **EU-Russia trade in goods** has been the subject of numerous news items, as well as a quarterly Statistics Explained article, often focusing on imports of energy products. As part of the first publication of global value chains statistics, the impact of **sanctions on Russia** on European enterprises' global value chain arrangements was analysed. Eurostat also published data on coal statistics, illustrating the impact of the fifth package of sanctions against Russia adopted in April 2022, which banned all imports of hard coal from Russia. Between 2021 and 2023, net imports of hard coal from Russia fell by 98%, and Russia lost its position as the EU's main hard coal supplier.

2. INTERNAL CONTROL AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Management monitors the functioning of the internal control systems on a continuous basis and carries out an objective assessment of their efficiency and effectiveness. In annex 7, there is a list and details of the reports that have been considered. The results of the above assessment are explicitly documented and reported to the Director-General.

2.1. Control results

Management uses control results to support its assurance and reach a conclusion about the cost-effectiveness of those controls, meaning whether the right balance between the following elements is achieved:

- Effectiveness The level of error found, based on the controls carried out.
- Efficiency The average time taken to inform or pay.
- Economy The proportionality between the costs of controls and the funds managed.

2.1.1. Overview of the budget and relevant control systems (RCS)

In 2025, Eurostat implemented its budget under direct management, in accordance with the Financial Regulation ([9]) and the Commission's internal control framework. Budget implementation followed established principles, procedures and organisational arrangements, reflecting a stable and mature budgetary and control environment.

Eurostat's budget covered both administrative and operational expenditure, supporting the implementation of the Single Market Programme and the functioning of the ESS, thereby contributing to the objectives of the EU. Budget execution relied on a clear separation of roles between operational services, financial verification functions and expenditure validation, ensuring compliance with the principles of legality, regularity, sound financial management and transparency.

Budget overview

In 2025, Eurostat was entrusted with commitment appropriations amounting to EUR 114,74 million and payment appropriations amounting to EUR 130,78 million.

(9) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)

Operational expenditure represented the largest share of the budget and was mainly implemented through procurement and grant award procedures, while administrative expenditure covered staff-related costs and other supporting activities.

Commitment and payment execution rates reflected a timely and orderly implementation of the budget, supported by early planning of procedures and continuous monitoring of budget consumption throughout the year.

Figure 11: Expenditure on grants and procurements (amounts in million EUR)

Risk type / Activities	Grants (e.g. actual costs based, or lump sums, or entitlements)	Procurement (e.g. minor or major values)	Administrative appropriation (support activities *)	Total Expenditure
Payments made	43.72	58.32	4.49	106.53
Total (In %)	43.72 (41,04%)	58.32 (54,75%)	4.49 (4,21%)	106.53 (100.00%)
See Annex 3				

Budget implementation and control framework

Eurostat implements its budget based on a multi-annual control strategy for budget implementation that is valid until 2027. The strategy aims at adequately managing the risk relating to the legality and regularity of Eurostat's financial transactions. For that purpose, Eurostat has in place a cost-efficient set of controls. The key element of the controls is to ensure that the value of detected errors in transactions does not exceed the materiality criteria described in Annex 5. Annex 6 presents the main risks together with the control processes to mitigate them and the indicators used to measure the performance of the relevant control system.

Budget implementation was supported by a robust internal control system, designed in line with the Commission's internal control framework. Controls were performed throughout the entire budget lifecycle, from planning and commitment to validation and payment.

Key elements of the control framework included:

- *Ex-ante* controls on commitments and payments to ensure compliance with legal and financial rules;
- segregation of duties between operational initiators, financial verifiers and authorising officers;
- systematic application of standard procedures and checklists for procurement, grants and payments;
- *ex-post* controls and audits, including the follow-up of audit findings and recommendations.

Financial transactions were processed through the Commission's corporate financial systems, ensuring traceability, consistency and transparency of budgetary operations. The financial tools and systems in place supported effective budget execution without requiring changes to the existing control architecture.

Risk management and monitoring

Risks related to budget implementation were identified and monitored as part of Eurostat's regular risk management processes. The risk environment remained stable. Risks at Eurostat primarily concerned operational complexity, workload peaks linked to budgetary cycles, and dependencies on corporate systems.

These risks were mitigated by close coordination between operational units and financial services, early planning and scheduling of procurement and grant procedures, continuous monitoring of budget execution and workload distribution, guidance and support provided by the central financial function.

Overall, the control environment in 2025 provided reasonable assurance that budgetary resources were used for their intended purpose and in compliance with applicable rules.

2.1.2. Effectiveness of controls

a) Assessment of control results per segment of expenditure

***Ex-ante* controls** formed an integral part of Eurostat's internal control framework and were applied systematically to budgetary and legal commitments as well as to payments. These controls aimed at ensuring the legality and regularity of financial transactions and compliance with the Financial Regulation and applicable implementing rules before commitments were entered into and payments executed.

Ex-ante controls were embedded in the budget implementation process and relied on a clear segregation of duties between operational services and financial verification functions. Operational initiators were responsible for the definition and justification of transactions, while independent financial verifiers carried out ex-ante checks prior to authorisation by the authorising officer by sub-delegation.

For operational expenditure implemented through procurement and grants, ex-ante controls covered the choice of procedure, the availability of budgetary appropriations, compliance with legal and contractual requirements, and the completeness and consistency of supporting documentation. Administrative expenditure was subject to corresponding ex-ante checks, proportionate to its nature and risk profile.

In the area of procurement, governance and consistency were further supported by the Market Committee, which provided guidance and oversight for selected procedures in line with its mandate. The Market Committee contributed to ensuring coherence in the application of procurement rules and to mitigating risks at an early stage of the procurement process.

Overall, ex-ante controls were designed and applied as preventive controls, proportionate to the risks involved, and integrated into Eurostat's standard budgetary and financial workflows. In the reporting year, ex-ante controls resulted in corrections of EUR 1.54 million that did not qualify as irregularities.

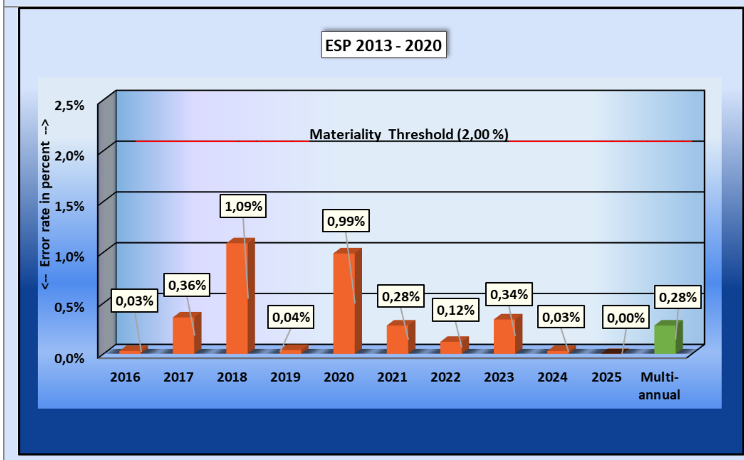
In order to verify transactions that were already approved by *ex-ante* controls and authorising officers, financial ***ex-post* controls** on grant agreements are implemented based on the Eurostat Control Strategy. Three ex-post controls were launched and finalised in 2025. Ony minor errors were detected by the controls, resulting in low error rates for the spending programmes (see charts below). In addition, one assessment of the correct application of the unit cost methodology for direct personnel costs was launched and finalised in the reporting year. The assessment identified minor errors in the unit rate calculation that have already been corrected by the corresponding beneficiary.

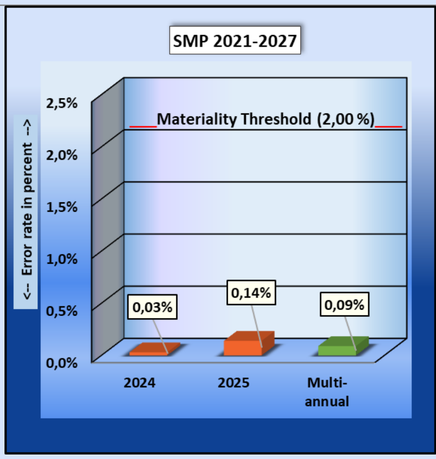
As the volume of grants audited that were funded under the Single Market Programme is not large enough to give significant results, it has been decided that for the determination of the control results and the amount at risk, the cumulative value of two multi-annual detected error rates (i.e. the European Statistical Program (ESP) 2013-2020 and the SMP 2021-2027) is applied. This provides a conservative and prudent benchmark for the controls performed on the Statistics Pillar of SMP 2021-2027. This cumulative error rate is calculated at 0.26%.

The chart below illustrates that all error rates are well below the materiality threshold of 2%. Therefore, it can be concluded that the controls in place are effective.

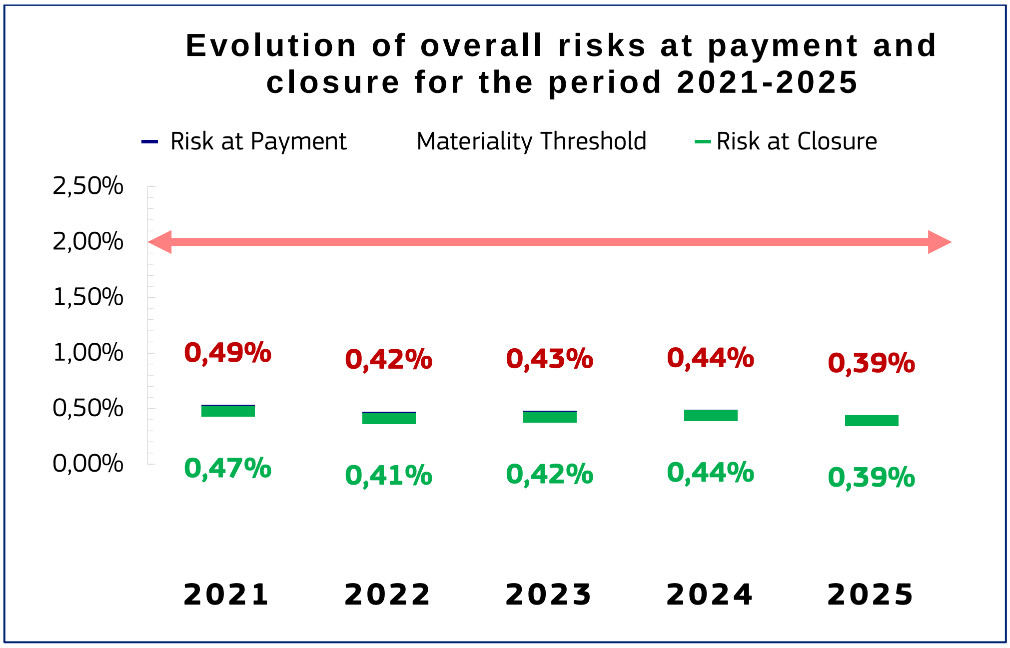
Figure 12: Error rates for grants under ESP and SMP

The detected error rate for grants concluded under the **ESP 2013-2020** for the reporting year 2025 is 0.0%. The multi-annual detected error rate decreased from 0.29% in 2024 to 0.28% in 2025.	The detected error rate for grants funded under the **SMP** is 0.14% for the reporting year. It is 0.09% multiannually.





b) Estimation of the overall risk at payment and risk at closure



The estimated overall risk at payment for 2025 expenditure is the AOD's best conservative estimate of the amount of relevant expenditure during the year that is not in conformity with the contractual and regulatory provisions applicable at the time the payment was made. A proportion of the underlying errors will be corrected in subsequent years and until the end of the programming cycle, corresponding to the conservatively estimated future corrections for 2025 expenditure. The difference between the risk at payment and the estimated future corrections results in the estimated overall risk at closure ([10]).

There is a decreasing trend since 2021 mainly due to decreasing error rates for grant transactions.

For an overview at Commission level, the departments' estimated overall risk at payment, estimated future corrections and risk at closure are consolidated in the AMPR.

c) Quantitative benefits of controls: Preventive and corrective measures

Eurostat continued to perform ex-ante controls and ex-post controls as an effective mechanism for detecting and correcting errors. In 2025, due to the transition to SUMMA, only preventive measures exceeding EUR 500,000 are reported. All corrections made by Eurostat fall below this threshold and therefore are outside the reporting scope. Ex-post controls resulted in corrective measures of EUR 2700.

(10) This is the AOD's best, conservative estimation of the expenditure authorised during the year that would remain not in conformity of applicable regulatory and contractual provisions by the end of implementation of the programme.

d) Assessment of control results for non-expenditure items

Eurostat's information systems and data are highly important assets supporting Eurostat's mission to provide high-quality statistics and data on Europe. Eurostat regards it as crucial to safeguard, monitor and secure its information systems and applications as well as its collection, handling and hosting of sensitive information, including the dissemination chain and the website used for publishing statistics and press releases.

In the context of IT security and data integrity, there are three main objectives: awareness, implementation and monitoring, in line with the main action lines included in the EC IT Security Strategy 2025-2026. The control objectives in place focus on:

iii) raising the necessary staff awareness on the EC Security Policies, standards and best practices, including Eurostat's information security policy;

iii) the implementation of the controls defined in the EC policies with the support of EC central services; and

iii) the monitoring and access controls applied to the IT infrastructure, the information systems and information, implementing the continuous improvement in the operational procedures based on the lessons learnt as a result of the monitoring, report and review processes.

The benefits of the controls focus on the alignment with the EC policies and their standards, ensuring an adequate level of protection while limiting the burden associated with their implementation.

In 2025, there were no relevant incidents recorded regarding data reception, processing and dissemination, including through Eurostat's website.

Regarding the safeguarding of sensitive information, the control objectives are defined in the following areas: the identification, classification and revision of inventory of sensitive information process in Eurostat to align with the updates in the applicable EC policies; effective protection, use and access to sensitive information; and the access controls applicable to sensitive information. In 2025, no relevant incidents leading to breach of confidentiality were reported.

Within the ESS, the ESS IT security framework defines the controls to be put in place in order to safeguard the sensitive statistical information within the scope of exchange of data related to intra-EU trade statistics. Eurostat, as part of the ESS, already completed the re-certification process by an external company, demonstrating the adequate design and implementation of these controls, and it successfully coordinated the re-certification process among all the ESS members participating in the exchange. In 2025, planning for the 3rd re-certification cycle started to align with the up-to-date security framework and the updated versions of their controls.

e) Fraud: prevention, detection, and correction

Eurostat has developed and implemented its own Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS) since 2013, based on the methodology provided by OLAF. It is updated every 3 years and was last updated in early 2025 following a fraud risk assessment in 2024. In 2025, Eurostat also adopted its new Anti-Fraud Action Plan. All actions planned for 2025 included in Eurostat's AFS 2025-2027 and the Action Plan were implemented or on target.

In particular, the new AFS was published on Eurostat's intranet with accompanying information articles and the intranet pages were updated to include direct link for reporting suspected fraud to OLAF. Eurostat gave presentations on anti-fraud during all the newcomers' induction programmes organised in 2025 and participated in all the Commission Fraud Prevention and Detection Network (FPDNet) meetings that took place during the year.

The AFS implementation is monitored and reported to senior management twice a year. Regular reporting is ensured as part of the Annual Activity Report and through internal control reports, which are issued twice a year and addressed to the Commissioner.

Eurostat does not have any recommendations from OLAF to follow up on. Eurostat did not register any frauds nor reported to OLAF any potential fraud-related cases during 2025.

On the basis of the available information, Eurostat has reasonable assurance that the anti-fraud measures in place are effective.

2.1.3. Efficiency of controls

To assess the best possible relationship between resources devoted to controls and outputs achieved, Eurostat defined a set of efficiency indicators which are regularly monitored and analysed. The tables below provide an overview of the timely payment indicators related to grants and procurements.

Figure 13: Grants and procurements indicators per reference year

Indicators	Reference year				
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Grants					
• *Average time-to-inform applicants [Art 197 (2a) FR sets a time limit of six months] (180 days)*	98 days	79 days	96 days	107 days	118 days
• *Average time-to-sign grant agreements or notify grant decisions [Art 197 (2b) FR sets a time limit of three months] (90 days)*	53 days	67 days	52 days	41 days	54 days
• *Payment accepted amount in time (in percentage)*	99.15%	100%	99.78%	100%	94%
• *Average time-to-pay [Art 116 FR]*	32 days	24 days	23 days	18.9 days	30,4 days
Procurements					
• *Payment accepted amount in time (in %)*	99.54%	100%	99.94%	100%	89%
• *Average time-to-pay [Art 116 FR]*	19.6 days	18 days	18.2 days	16.4 days	21,7 days

On average, in 2025, Eurostat informed applicants of grant decisions in 118 days and signed grant agreements in 54 days. As compared to the previous year, both the time-to-inform indicator and the time-to-sign indicator show an increase. In the reporting year, Eurostat's average time-to-grant indicator (i.e. the sum of average time-to-inform and time-to-sign days) stood at 172 days and remained well within the nine months limit set in the Financial Regulation.

In 2025, the average payment times increased for both grants and procurement (30.4 days and 21.7 days respectively, compared to 18.9 days and 16.4 days in 2024). Eurostat has a payment monitoring system in place complemented with the active follow-up of payments, in addition to the use of electronic tools and workflows.

The transition in 2025 to the Commission's new accounting system, SUMMA, has required the adjustment to a new system and has impacted budget implementation tasks, processes and financial management activities, particularly during the first part of the year. This has required careful management to ensure the same data quality as in previous years. In some cases, this may have resulted in lower performance for some standard financial indicators such as the timely payments (see Annex 4).

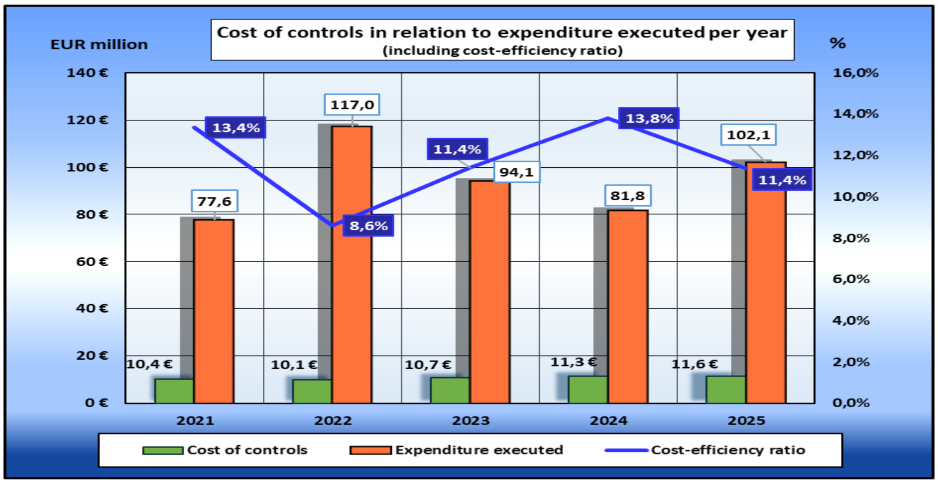
In the reporting year, timely payments covered 91% of the total value of payments. After several years with almost no late payments, the percentage increased in 2025 mainly due to the onboarding of the new SUMMA system. Initial delays were linked to system start-up issues, missing or inaccurate encoding instructions, inconsistencies in migrated commitments, and the inclusion of payments executed by other entities on Eurostat budget lines. The rate peaked mid-year and then steadily decreased, reaching 8.9% overall (7.1% for Eurostat-only payments), indicating that late payments were largely resolved in the second semester.

2.1.4. Economy of controls

The calculation of the cost of controls is based on a best and most reasonable estimate. Staff costs were measured by multiplying the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) attributable to control-related activities with an annual average cost rate depending on the staff category. External costs were included in the calculation using the individual contracted amount. As in preceding years, the estimation of FTEs for staff is based on data supplied by the ATLAS-Tool [11].

(11) ATLAS (Activity and Task Logging for Allocated Staff) is a workforce reporting and planning tool that helps to allocate resources to priorities and provides up-to-date information on the allocation of resources to political priorities, and activities.

Figure 14: Cost of controls in relation to expenditure



The data is regularly revised and updated. Eurostat believes that the calculation of cost gives a true and fair view of Eurostat's control costs for the reporting year.

The cost-efficiency ratio has improved from 13.8% in 2024 to 11.4% in 2025. This effect was primarily caused by a significant increase of payments executed in the reporting year 2025 (increasing from EUR 81.81 million in 2024 to EUR 102.09 million in 2025), even though the cost of controls in absolute value slightly increased as a result of updated annual average FTE costs.

2.1.5. Conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of controls

Based on the most relevant key indicators and control results reported above, Eurostat has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the controls of its financial management and reached a positive conclusion on the cost-effectiveness of the controls for which it is responsible.

Eurostat faces relatively high costs for the implementation of its control activities, but these costs are proportionate and necessary. Eurostat implements a rather small volume of budgetary appropriations per financial year and the average size of grant transactions is relatively small. Nonetheless, a full set of controls must be in place. Controls are implemented to manage revenue and expenditure in line with the Eurostat Control Strategy on budget implementation and in accordance with the underlying budgetary rules and regulations, ensuring compliance with the requirements regarding the legality and regularity of transactions. This results in diseconomies of scale and the margin for reducing controls is limited. In conclusion, Eurostat considers that the current control system and strategy represent a reasonable balance between the invested efforts (cost of controls), the obtained error rates (effectiveness of controls), and the delivery of objectives (efficiency).

2.2. Audit observations and recommendations

This section sets out briefly the state of play for all audit observations and recommendations reported by auditors related either to performance aspects or to internal control and financial management. Further details for IAS and ECA audits can be found in Annex 8.

Where an audit has detected weaknesses affecting an internal control principle or the department's assurance, a detailed analysis is provided further below in section 2.3 and, where applicable, the incidence on the AOD's assurance is presented in section 2.4, accordingly.

Fig 15: ECA audits state of play

Reported	Audit Title	Accepted Recommendation	State of play in 2025	Impact on the assurance for 2025
2022	SR 25/2022 "Verification of Gross National Income for financing the EU budget: Risks in data compilation well covered overall, but scope for increased prioritisation of actions"	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 3c	☑	☑
2024	SR 16/2024 "EU revenue based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste: A challenging start hindered by data that is not sufficiently comparable or reliable"	2a, 2b	⏳	☑
2025	Review SR 26/2022 "European statistics: Potential to further improve quality"	1 (not implemented)	⏳	☑
		3b (implemented in most respects)	☑	☑
		2a, 2b, 3a, 4b (fully implemented)	☑	☑

State of play		Assurance	
☑	Action plan implemented	☑	No impact on the assurance
⏳	Action plan implementation is ongoing	🚩	Impact on the assurance
📝	Preparation of the action plan		

In 2025, Eurostat continued implementing action plans addressing audit recommendations issued by the ECA. Eurostat concluded that audit observations and recommendations do not reveal significant weaknesses in the effectiveness of the internal control system that would require the declaration of assurance to be qualified with a reservation.

2.3. Assessment of the effectiveness of internal control systems

The Commission has adopted an Internal Control Framework based on the highest international standards ([12]). Eurostat has adapted the Internal Control Framework to its specific characteristics and organisational structure. Eurostat's internal control system is suited to achieving its policy and internal control objectives in accordance with the internal control principles, having due regard to the risks associated with the environment in which it operates.

The functioning of the internal control system was monitored closely throughout the year. Twice a year, Eurostat's management monitors the implementation of the mitigating actions referring to audit recommendations, discharge recommendations, risks at DG-level, and the implementation of the anti-fraud strategy.

Additionally, twice a year, Eurostat's management assesses if new mitigating actions need to be implemented to further mitigate identified risks, the level for the risks included in Eurostat's risk register has changed and new risks have been identified.

The results of the monitoring of the internal control indicators in 2025 did not show any significant deficiencies.

There are no 'critical' or 'very important' audit recommendations issued by the IAS. Eurostat has assessed the open recommendations issued by the ECA and considers the underlying risks as already mitigated by the ongoing implementation of action plans to address these audit recommendations. The 'Exceptions and Non-compliance Register' did not reveal significant weaknesses. The 'Register of Internal Control Strengths and Weaknesses' did not reveal any significant deficiencies. No significant issues have been disclosed in the AOSD declarations for the year 2025.

The results of the assessment were analysed and discussed by the Director-General and the Director in charge of Risk Management and Internal Control (DRMIC) at a dedicated meeting held on 4/2/2026. Eurostat assessed its internal control system during the reporting year and has concluded that it is effective and the internal control components and principles are present and functioning as intended.

2.4. Conclusions on the assurance

In conclusion, based on the elements reported above, management has reasonable assurance that, overall, effective controls are in place and working as intended; risks are being appropriately monitored and mitigated; and necessary improvements and reinforcements are being implemented. The Director-General, in her capacity as Authorising Officer by Delegation has signed the Declaration of Assurance.

(12) The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission Internal Control Integrated Framework, the golden standard for internal control systems.

Declaration of Assurance

I, the undersigned, Director-General of Eurostat

In my capacity as authorising officer by delegation

Declare that the information contained in this report gives a true and fair view [(13)].

State that I have reasonable assurance that the resources assigned to the activities described in this report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, and that the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

This reasonable assurance is based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, such as the results of the self-assessment, ex-post controls, the work of the Internal Audit Service and the lessons learnt from the reports of the Court of Auditors for years prior to the year of this declaration.

Confirm that I am not aware of anything not reported here which could harm the interests of the institution

Luxembourg, date 31/03/2026

Mariana Kotzeva

(signature)

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(13) True and fair in this context means a reliable, complete and correct view on the state of affairs in the DG/Executive Agency.

3. A MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

3.1. Human resource management

To prepare for the challenges of technological advancements and increasing needs for statistical data, in 2025, Eurostat placed a particular focus on **staff training, learning and development**. In November 2025, Eurostat carried out a **reorganisation** aimed at **creating synergies and improving efficiency**. This involved merging units to better pool resources to respond more quickly to evolving EU statistical priorities. The changes were also intended to strengthen innovation capacity and reduce costs through more streamlined processes. To reinforce innovation and coordination across the organisation, the unit responsible for innovation was moved to report directly to the Deputy Director-General.

Eurostat successfully implemented the Commission's **new recruitment model** following the open EPSO AD competitions in statistics, covering two fields: "data and statistics" and "macroeconomic statistics" and recruited 22 newcomers. The resulting reserve lists will support Eurostat in addressing the **high number of anticipated retirements** in the coming years, with nearly 20% of statutory staff expected to retire over 2025-2029. New recruits benefited from Eurostat's enhanced onboarding scheme to support workplace integration. Eurostat contributed to broader initiatives aimed at increasing the attractiveness of Luxembourg as a workplace.

Eurostat continued to maintain the **gender balance** among middle managers (56,7% female representation at the end of 2025). Eurostat fully used its allocated quota for the first round of the corporate management development programme in 2025 in a gender-balanced way. The Commission's policy on **geographical balance** was supported by broadening the group of potential candidates, with all vacancies for temporary and contract agents published externally. This helped Eurostat to identify more candidates, including those from under-represented nationalities.

Eurostat implemented follow-up activities stemming from the 2023 Commission staff survey aimed at maintaining **high staff engagement** (79% in the last survey). Meetings between staff and senior management about HR and work-related matters took place regularly. In addition, the Director-General met all newcomers during their induction sessions. Internal communication continued to **keep staff informed,** engaged and motivated, promoting exchanges between senior management and staff members, and boosting collaboration between teams, units and directorates. Staff were regularly provided with information on professional and HR-related developments, with a special focus on Luxembourg. Staff members were kept informed of Eurostat's work across Europe and in the international context, and of the Commission's activities.

Staff engagement and visits to the Eurostat intranet 'Cybernews' remained high during 2025. The in-house magazine 'Eurostat-infos' was successfully transitioned into a fully electronic **newsletter.** Eurostat continued to update the structure of the Eurostat intranet pages, based on feedback from directorates and in line with Commission-wide best practices from DG HR and DIGIT.

3.2. Digital transformation and data management

Digital transformation and digital culture

Eurostat is an active member of the Commission's digital transformation community and participates in several initiatives aimed at advancing the digital transformation in the Commission, such as the Cloud Council and the Digital Stakeholders Forum. In 2025, Eurostat adopted its **digital strategy for 2025-2029** and contributed to the implementation of the Commission's digital strategy. Eurostat continued to promote the digital culture and the adoption of modern digital collaboration working methods, and recorded a high rate of participation in IT trainings. Eurostat also continued to rationalise its IT portfolio, to maximise the reuse of shared components and building blocks and to optimise the consumption of corporate IT services. Eurostat established a regular process to monitor the consumption of the ICT services provided by DIGIT under the so-called chargeback procedure.

Cybersecurity and business continuity

Eurostat continued to enhance IT security and resilience in line with the Commission's digital strategy and security strategy. The IT security plans for all information systems were updated, and by year-end, no plans were older than two years. Eurostat's report on the cybersecurity and cyber-awareness posture of Eurostat highlighted a strong performance in 2025, with all the main indicators above or equal to EC average.

Throughout the year, Eurostat promoted cyber-awareness, in cooperation with DG DIGIT and DG HR's security directorate, with a mix of targeted training courses, information sessions for newcomers, and events. Eurostat also strengthened its business continuity and disaster recovery posture, by performing several exercises to test the relevant procedures for some priority functions. For cloud workloads, Eurostat promoted secure deployments using the EC cloud security controls baseline, the principles and rules on outsourcing of communication and information systems, the EC managed landing zone and the Cloud Council recommendations and continued to improve the security of existing cloud deployments.

Data management

Data management is part of Eurostat's core business with an already well-developed data management framework. Eurostat participates actively in the central data acquisition policy and the relevant annual review of the EC Library. Eurostat has established comprehensive quality frameworks for the development, production and dissemination of statistics, also involving the Member States (for European statistics) and other Commission departments (for 'other' statistics). Eurostat has well established practices for data owners and data stewards for all data collections for statistical purposes. By the end of 2025, Eurostat linked the responsibilities of data owners and stewards with their job descriptions for at least 80% of key data assets.

As a permanent member of the Information Management Steering Board, Eurostat contributes to the development and monitoring of corporate actions in line with the rolling action plan 2025–2029 Eurostat's overall data maturity level is assessed as 'established':

- Data management, Eurostat continued to declare and update its key data assets on data.europa.eu (for public assets) and in the EC Data Catalogue (for corporate assets) and to participate in the annual acquisitions review, coordinated by the EC Library;
- Data quality, Eurostat's quality policy provides a comprehensive overview of the quality frameworks in force and is in line with the corporate policy;
- Ownership and responsibilities, Eurostat published on its intranet an overview of the local data governance roles and their responsibilities;
- Data skills, Eurostat continued to develop the data-related skills of its staff through its well-attended statistics- and data-related training in 2025.

Data protection

By the end of 2025, all records of Eurostat's data processing operations were updated in the Data Protection Management System within two years and 100% of new staff members attended in-person awareness raising activities. All staff members are aware of data protection rules.

3.3. Sound environmental management

In line with the Commission's communication and action plan on greening the Commission to reach climate neutrality by 2030, Eurostat continued to work towards greening its own activities and raising environmental awareness. As the first Commission department to establish a carbon accounting system for its own activities (updated annually), Eurostat continued monitoring its own carbon emissions, which have decreased by 44% compared to the 2019 baseline, and presented updated actions under the 'greening Eurostat' initiative. These actions focus on areas such as:

- promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of our buildings and working space,
- reducing emissions from staff business travel (baseline: 574 tonnes CO_2 equivalent in 2019),
- promoting green behaviour in IT and by IT,
- supporting a green and circular economy i.e. less waste and a more efficient use of resources, such as energy, water and paper,
- advertising green public procurement,
- preserving and restoring nature and biodiversity,
- promoting a fair, healthy and sustainable food system, and
- increasing environmental awareness.