

### Contents

Size class profile.....	2
Labour productivity .....	4
Employment change.....	5
Gender analysis of self-employment .....	6
The motivation behind being self-employed .....	6

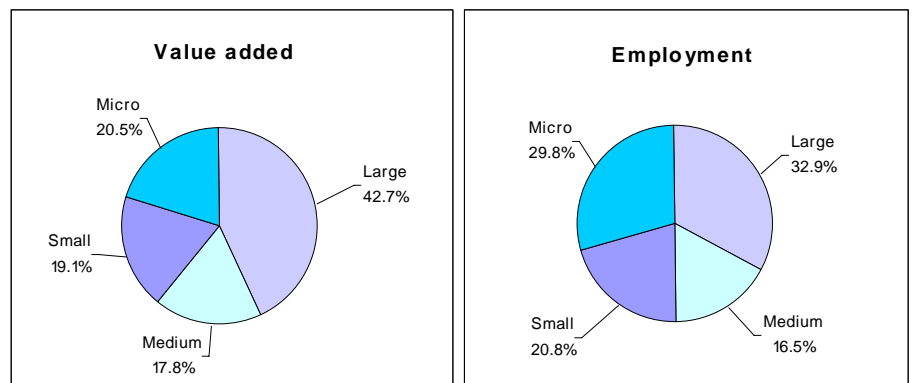
# SMEs and entrepreneurship in the EU

On the 6 May 2003, the European Commission adopted a new Recommendation 2003/361/EC<sup>1</sup> regarding its definition of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The revision took account of economic developments since 1996 and was aimed at reducing the possibility of circumventing the definitions, particularly with regard to state aid, Structural Funds and the Research and Development Framework Programme. As a result of the changes, financial ceilings were increased in an attempt to avoid penalising enterprises that invested.

SMEs are defined by the European Commission as having less than 250 persons employed. They should also have an annual turnover of up to EUR 50 million, or a balance sheet total of no more than EUR 43 million. These definitions are important when assessing which enterprises may benefit from EU funding programmes aimed at promoting SMEs, as well as in relation to certain policies such as SME-specific competition rules. European Commission policy in relation to SMEs is mainly concentrated in five priority areas, covering the promotion of entrepreneurship and skills, the improvement of SMEs' access to markets, cutting red tape, the improvement of SMEs' growth potential and strengthening dialogue and consultation with SME stakeholders<sup>2</sup>. Eurostat's structural business statistics (SBS) are the main source of data for this publication. The SBS size class data presented in this Statistics in Focus are based solely on a definition relating to the number of persons employed.

Entrepreneurs tend to start new enterprises as relatively small businesses. Within the EU-25, enterprises that employ less than two hundred and fifty people (so-called SMEs) have been the main driver of net employment growth within the non-financial business economy. Indeed, SMEs are the backbone of the EU's non-financial business economy (as defined by NACE Sections C to I and K), as they represented 99.8 % of all EU-25 enterprises in 2003, employing about two thirds of the workforce and generating more than half (57.3 %) of its value added (as shown in Figure 1).

Figure 1: Breakdown of value added and number of persons employed by enterprise size-class, non-financial business economy (NACE Sections C to I and K), EU-25, 2003 (% share of total)



Source: Eurostat SBS size class



<sup>1</sup> Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003, OJ L 124 of 20.5.2003, p. 36.

<sup>2</sup> More details can be found in the SME Envoy Report 'activities of the European Union for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)', Commission staff working paper, SEC(2005)170.

## Size class profile

Nine out of ten enterprises in the EU's non-financial business economy employed less than ten people in 2003 (see Table 1 below). These micro-enterprises accounted for about 30 % of all jobs and one fifth of the value added created.

Small enterprises and medium-sized enterprises (defined as having 10-49 persons employed and 50-249 persons employed respectively) together employed a little over a third (37.3 %) of the non-financial business economy workforce. They also generated broadly similar amounts of value added in 2003 (with 19.1 % and 17.8 % shares respectively of total EU-25 value added).

Nevertheless, large enterprises (employing 250 or more people) generated the highest amount of value added (42.7 % of the total) of the four size classes, despite representing only 0.2 % of the total number of enterprises in 2003. The relatively few large enterprises employed about one third of the workforce within the EU's non-financial business economy (32.9 %).

The share of value added within the non-financial business economy coming from SMEs varied between 41.7 % in Slovakia and 70.4 % in Italy in 2003 (see Table 1). In terms of employment, the relative importance of SMEs varied even more widely, from 49.3 % of total employment in Slovakia to 81.5 % in Italy. It is interesting to note the relative importance of micro enterprises in Italy and Spain in terms of both employment (47.1 % and 38.6 % of their respective non-financial business economy) and value added (31.7 % and 26.8 % respectively) when

compared with the EU-25 averages (29.8 % of employment and 20.5 % of value added). In contrast, large enterprises in Italy and Spain accounted for a relatively low share of employment and value-added, while the opposite was true in Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Finland, where large enterprises had a relatively big presence within the non-financial business economy.

Four of the eight main sectors (NACE sections) provided more than four fifths (83.6 % in 2003) of the EU-25's value added within the non-financial business economy; manufacturing provided 31.8 %, real estate, renting and business activities 20.6 %, distributive trades 19.4 % and transport and communications 11.8 %. However, the size-class profiles of these four activities were quite different from the non-financial business economy average (see Figures 2 and 3). This is reflected by the fact that a relatively high proportion of wealth in 2003 was created by large enterprises within transport and communications (66.7 %) and manufacturing (54.9 %), whereas a relatively low proportion of sectoral wealth was created by large enterprises in distributive trades (29.6 %) and real estate, renting, and business activities – hereafter referred to in the figures and tables as business activities (28.9 %). This distinction was even more marked in four of the smaller sectors of the non-financial business economy; as large enterprises accounted for 77.8 % of value added in electricity, gas and water supply (hereafter referred to as energy) and 65.8 % for mining and quarrying, compared with 23.3 % for hotels and restaurants and 17.4 % in construction.

Table 1: Breakdown of main indicators by enterprise size class, non-financial business economy (NACE Sections C- I and K), 2003 (% share of total) (1,2,3)

	EU-25	BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	IT (4)	LV	LT (5)
<b>Number of enterprises</b>											
Micro (1-9)	91.5	92.1	95.2	86.8	83.0	80.1	92.2	92.2	94.5	82.5	77.4
Small (10-49)	7.3	6.7	3.9	10.9	14.2	16.4	6.9	6.5	4.9	14.5	18.2
Medium (50-249)	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.9	2.3	3.1	0.8	1.1	0.5	2.7	3.8
Large (250+)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5
<b>Number of persons employed</b>											
Micro (1-9)	29.8	29.0	32.6	19.6	19.6	:	38.6	23.3	47.1	20.6	17.7
Small (10-49)	20.8	:	18.6	24.9	21.9	:	25.8	20.7	22.0	27.1	26.1
Medium (50-249)	16.5	15.9	17.8	:	18.7	:	14.7	16.9	12.4	26.2	27.1
Large (250+)	32.9	:	31.0	:	39.8	:	20.9	39.2	18.5	26.1	29.1
<b>Turnover</b>											
Micro (1-9)	19.4	22.8	19.4	21.4	12.3	:	25.3	20.0	29.0	17.6	11.9
Small (10-49)	19.3	21.4	19.9	22.9	16.0	:	24.2	19.4	22.4	30.5	25.7
Medium (50-249)	19.2	20.6	21.6	21.6	19.1	:	19.2	17.2	18.6	29.6	25.0
Large (250+)	41.9	35.3	39.1	34.1	52.6	:	31.3	43.4	30.0	22.4	37.4
<b>Value added</b>											
Micro (1-9)	20.5	19.3	20.4	23.4	15.6	:	26.8	19.6	31.7	:	9.2
Small (10-49)	19.1	:	17.1	21.2	18.3	:	24.5	18.2	22.4	25.6	21.8
Medium (50-249)	17.8	19.0	19.3	:	18.6	:	17.1	16.0	16.3	27.6	25.3
Large (250+)	42.7	:	43.2	:	47.6	:	31.6	46.2	29.6	:	43.6

(1) Greece, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta, not available.

(2) The symbol ":" is used when data is either not available or confidential.

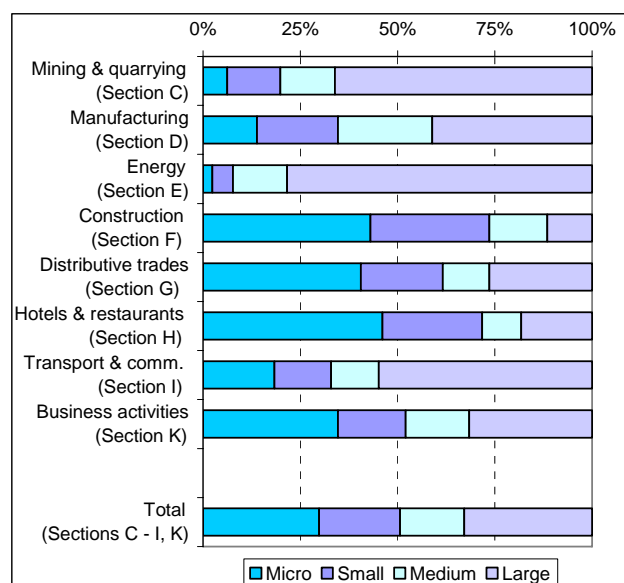
(3) For Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands and Portugal, a very limited number of estimates were made.

(4) Persons employed, turnover and value added data for NACE Section C, 2002.

(5) All NACE Section I data, 2002.

## Size class profile (continued)

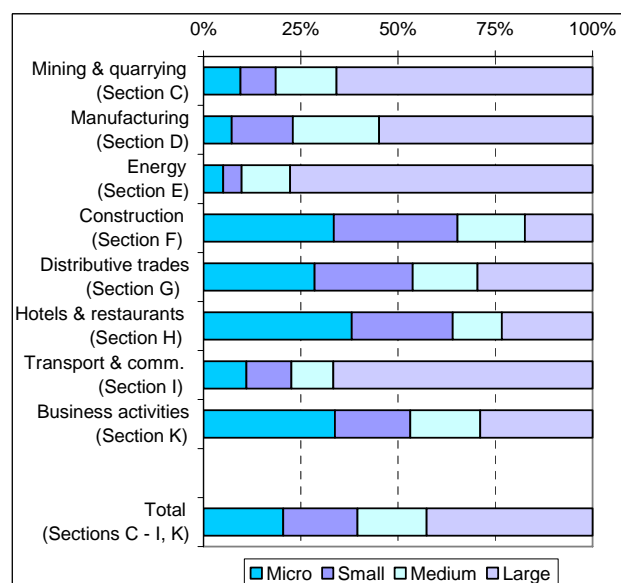
Figure 2: Persons employed, EU-25, 2003  
(% share of total)



Source: SBS size class

Within a Member State, the relative importance of a particular size class within a particular sector varied widely. It is interesting to highlight the role of micro enterprises in distributive trades, real estate, renting and business activities (Section K), construction and hotels and restaurants in Italy. In all four of these activities, micro enterprises in Italy provided an absolute majority of sectoral value added and up to two thirds of the workforce (with their share of total employment ranging between 58 % and 67 %).

Figure 3: Value added, EU-25, 2003  
(% share of total)



Source: SBS size class

Some sectors of the non-financial business economy are more labour-intensive than others. The differentials in the relative shares of the total number of persons employed and total value added for the size-class of a sector indicate differences in apparent labour productivity between the size classes of that sector.

	HU	NL	AT	PL	PT (6)	SI (7)	SK	FI	SE (8)	UK	BG	RO
<b>Number of enterprises</b>												
Micro (1-9)	94.7	88.1	86.7	96.3	92.4	92.8	73.3	92.1	90.8	86.4	90.8	87.1
Small (10-49)	4.4	9.8	11.3	2.6	6.6	5.6	20.0	6.3	7.6	11.4	7.4	9.8
Medium (50-249)	0.7	1.8	1.7	0.9	1.0	1.3	5.2	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.5
Large (250+)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6
<b>Number of persons employed</b>												
Micro (1-9)	35.9	28.9	25.1	40.5	39.7	27.3	12.5	21.5	24.3	21.1	:	:
Small (10-49)	18.6	:	:	11.5	23.6	17.3	14.6	19.2	:	17.9	:	:
Medium (50-249)	16.3	18.6	:	18.3	17.6	:	22.2	18.5	17.0	14.8	:	:
Large (250+)	29.2	:	:	29.6	19.1	:	50.7	40.9	:	46.2	:	:
<b>Turnover</b>												
Micro (1-9)	21.1	16.4	:	25.3	:	:	12.7	15.6	:	15.4	25.2	15.0
Small (10-49)	19.0	22.2	:	14.5	:	:	15.9	15.6	:	16.3	21.9	22.1
Medium (50-249)	18.6	24.5	:	22.1	:	:	19.8	19.8	:	18.0	19.9	20.2
Large (250+)	41.2	36.9	:	38.1	:	:	51.5	48.9	:	50.3	32.9	42.7
<b>Value added</b>												
Micro (1-9)	17.2	:	18.9	16.0	22.5	19.2	11.7	18.1	17.6	17.9	:	:
Small (10-49)	16.2	:	:	11.0	21.0	17.6	12.3	16.0	:	16.1	:	:
Medium (50-249)	18.4	:	:	21.4	21.9	:	17.6	19.0	19.1	16.5	:	:
Large (250+)	48.2	:	:	51.7	34.6	:	58.3	46.8	:	49.4	:	:

(6) Persons employed and value added data for NACE Section C, 2002.

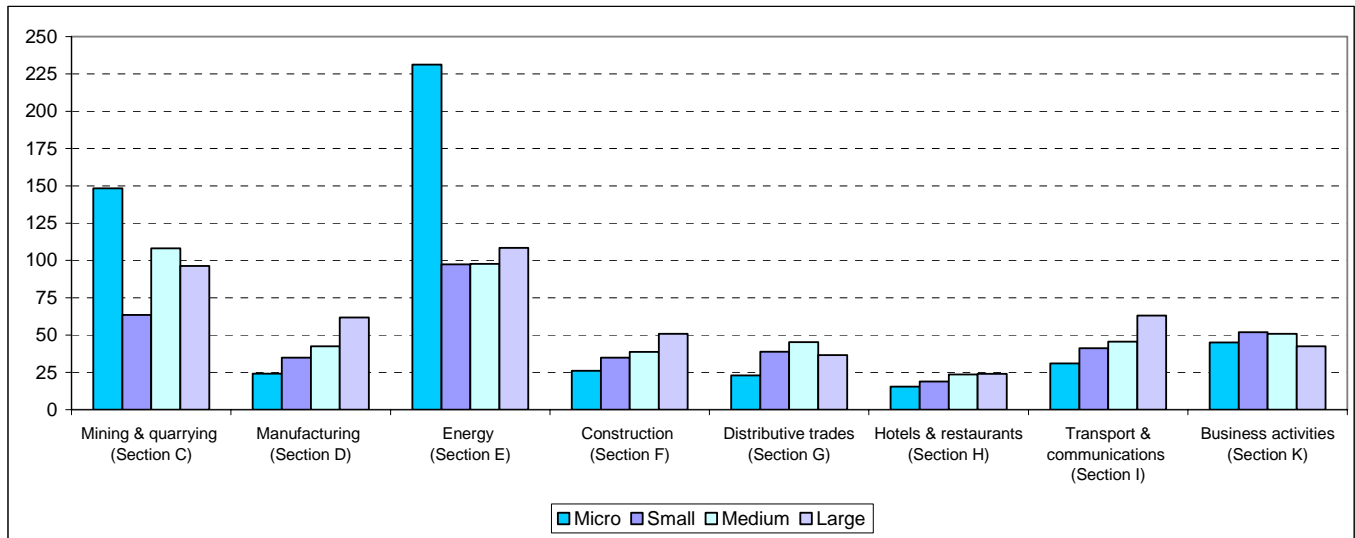
(7) Persons employed data for NACE Sections E, H and K, 2002; value added data for NACE Section E, 2002.

(8) All NACE Sections C to G data, 2002.

Source: Eurostat SBS size class

## Labour productivity

Figure 4: Apparent labour productivity, EU-25, 2003 (EUR 1 000 per person employed)



Source: Eurostat, SBS size class

Apparent labour productivity is a measure of the average value added, or wealth created, by each member of the workforce within an enterprise. For many activities, economic theory would suggest that economies of scale may lead to medium-sized and large enterprises generating more value added per person employed than micro or small enterprises. However, this is not necessarily the case within many parts of the service sector of the economy, where economies of scale are not so obvious, barriers to entry are sometimes low, and where proximity to market is often of considerable importance.

In 2003, apparent labour productivity in the EU-25 was on average highest for energy (an average of EUR 109 000 per person employed), and for mining and quarrying enterprises (EUR 97 000 per person employed), and lowest for hotels and restaurants (EUR 19 000 per person employed). None of these three activities accounted for more than a 3.5 % share of total value added within the EU-25's non-financial business economy in 2003. Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that large enterprises dominated energy and mining and quarrying activities (accounting for 78 % and 66 % of sectoral value added respectively), while the corresponding share for hotels and restaurants (at 23 %) was well below that accounted for by micro enterprises (38 %). Note that enterprises with a high proportion of part-time employment (whether from working reduced hours or a reduced number of days), will tend to report relatively low apparent labour productivity ratios because the calculation of this indicator relies solely on head-counts of employment (and not full-time equivalents). As such, this explains to some degree the relatively low apparent labour productivity recorded for hotels and restaurants and for distributive trades.

In manufacturing, construction, hotels and restaurants, and transport and communications, there was a pattern of increasing levels of apparent labour productivity with each larger size class across the EU-25 as a whole. In mining and quarrying as well as energy activities, micro-sized enterprises in the EU-25 recorded the highest apparent labour productivity across the respective size classes. In distributive trades and real estate, renting and other business activities (Section K), small and medium-sized enterprises had higher apparent labour productivity levels than large enterprises. Note that there are very few micro units operating within energy and water supply sectors and that their economic weight is limited (accounting for 2.9 % of employment within Section E). Those micro enterprises include power plants that may generate electricity with very few persons employed, thus resulting in relatively high apparent labour productivity figures.

Apparent labour productivity was much lower in the ten Member States that joined the EU in 2004 than it was for all of the EU-15 Member States except Portugal. However, the differences in the levels of apparent productivity that were observed between the eight non-financial business economy NACE sections at the EU-25 level were generally reflected among the Member States. Furthermore, the differences observed between the size classes of enterprises within a single activity were also largely repeated, particularly for the largest activities. Interestingly, large enterprises in real estate, renting and other business activities (Section K) had the lowest apparent labour productivity among the respective size classes in 17 of the 22 Member States for which information was available. Indeed, in Germany and France the general pattern was that the larger the size of an enterprise in this activity, the lower its apparent labour productivity.

## Employment change

Data on the changes in the numbers of persons employed can only be analysed over a relatively short period of time due to the availability of EU-25 totals. As such, the following analysis is based on a comparison of the number of persons employed between reference years 2001 and 2003. The changes in employment (as shown in Table 2) are detailed by size class and by sector (NACE section) within the non-financial business economy, and are represented in terms of overall percentage changes in employment levels between these two years. It should be noted that the percentage gains/losses are the net result of gains/losses through movements between activities (enterprises changing activity), between size classes (as enterprises grow or shrink), and births and deaths of enterprises.

The notion that SMEs are often a driver of employment growth is supported by data shown in Table 2 (at least for the period studied). Note that where there have been net employment gains, the growth in employment has been higher among SMEs than among large enterprises. For hotels and restaurants, transport and communications, distributive trades, and business services, the pace of employment growth in the SME size classes consistently outstripped that of large enterprises. In the case of construction activities, net increases among the SME size classes offset the net job losses observed among the large enterprise size class.

Table 2: Gains/losses in the number of persons employed, EU-25, 2001-2003 (overall % change) (1)

	Overall change	Micro (1-9)	Small (10-49)	Medium (50-249)	SMEs (1-249)	Large (250+)
<b>Mining and quarrying</b> (Section C)	-5.7	-1.0	-7.0	1.5	-2.6	-7.2
<b>Manufacturing</b> (Section D)	-3.2	-0.4	-1.3	-2.5	-1.6	-5.6
<b>Energy</b> (Section E)	-3.2	1.8	0.8	-0.1	0.3	-4.2
<b>Construction</b> (Section F)	3.0	7.8	0.7	1.1	4.0	-4.4
<b>Distributive trades</b> (Section G)	4.8	5.5	5.6	2.7	5.1	4.1
<b>Hotels and restaurants</b> (Section H)	8.3	9.6	12.5	4.8	9.8	1.9
<b>Transport and communications</b> (Section I)	2.8	9.0	3.8	5.0	6.2	0.2
<b>Business activities</b> (Section K)	3.6	5.4	1.8	3.8	4.0	2.8

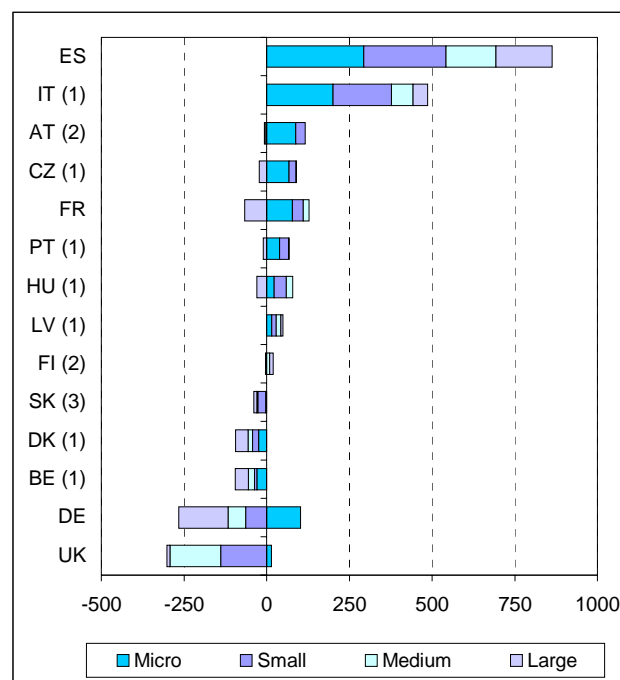
(1) Sections F & K are based on partial EU averages.

Source: Eurostat SBS size class

Even in those sectors where there were significant overall job losses between 2001 and 2003, SMEs as a whole experienced either a slower rate of decline than large enterprises or saw little change in their employment level.

These results for the EU-25 were widely reflected across most of the Member States (see Figure 5), with particularly high net increases in employment in Spain and Italy over the period considered. In Spain, employment growth was largely concentrated within real estate, renting and other business activities (Section K), distributive trades and construction. In all three of these activities, SMEs were largely responsible for the net job creation.

Figure 5: Gains/losses in the number of persons employed, non-financial business economy (NACE Sections C-I and K), 2001-2003 (thousands of persons)



(1) Excluding mining and quarrying (Section C).

(2) Excluding mining and quarrying and energy (Sections C & E).

(3) Excluding hotels and restaurants (Section H).

Source: Eurostat SBS size class

Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Portugal and Hungary also recorded overall growth in their respective employment levels within their non-financial business economies between 2001 and 2003. In each case, this was driven by growth among the SME size classes, as net job reductions were recorded for the large enterprise size class.

In Germany, the majority of net job losses also came from the large enterprise size class, while there was a net increase in persons employed by the micro enterprise size class. On the other hand, in the remaining Member States that recorded net job reductions for their respective non-financial business economies, and most particularly in the United Kingdom, the SME size classes recorded a higher proportion of job losses.



## Gender analysis of self-employment

Within the EU-25, self-employment accounted for about 16.0 % of total employment across the non-financial business economy in 2005, with over three times as many male self-employed workers as women.

Among the eight NACE sections that make-up the non-financial business economy (subject to data availability), the highest rates of self-employment in 2005 were recorded for construction (24.5 %), real estate, renting and other business activities (Section K, 22.6 %), distributive trades (19.8 %) and hotels and restaurants (19.4 %). These were, perhaps unsurprisingly, the same four activities that recorded the highest proportion of their total employment among SMEs and also showed the highest rates of net job gains during the period 2001 to 2003.

Among the Member States, the highest rates of self-employment were registered in Greece (31.9 %), Italy (28.7 %), Cyprus (24.0 %) and Portugal (20.9 %). It is interesting to note, however, that within each of these Member States the enthusiasm to be self-employed was among the lowest in the EU-25 (see next section). This may suggest that labour markets do not provide

sufficient opportunities to be paid employees, forcing some people into self-employment when they would prefer to work for an employer. The lowest rates of self-employment were recorded in the Baltic Member States (7 % to 9 %).

Figure 6: Proportion of self-employment in total employment, EU-25, 2005 (%) (1)



(1) Data for Sections C and E, not available.

Source: Eurostat LFS

## The motivation behind being self-employed

According to a Eurobarometer survey held within the European Economic Area and the United States in April 2004, a relatively high proportion of EU-25 citizens declared a preference for being an employee; with 50 % aspiring to be employees compared with 45 % who would prefer to be self-employed (5 % 'do not know'). This contrasted with the United States, where Americans were much more inclined to have a preference for being self-employed (61 %).

There were fairly strong differences among the Member States concerning self-employment preferences. The highest preference for self-employment was declared in Finland (68 %), followed by the Netherlands (66 %) and Sweden (61 %), with the lowest shares in Spain (34 %), Portugal and Cyprus (each 32 %).

Over half of all men in the EU-25 preferred the idea of self-employment (51 %), a much higher proportion than that recorded for women (39 %), an indication of why there might be such a disparity in the gender breakdown of those actually in self-employment.

Among those EU-25 citizens that declared a preference for ideally being self-employed, the main reason given was that self-employment was perceived as providing independence and self-fulfilment. Other overlapping reasons were an interest in the tasks accomplished (77 % of respondents), as well as the possibility of creating their own working environment (16 %). These three answers are presented together in point 1 of Table 3 and were by far the most popular reasons given

for wanting to be self-employed (93 % of respondents). The second most often given reason was the prospect of a better income (23 %).

Please note that multiple answers were allowed for EU-25 respondents to this question, while this was not the case for the United States data set, where those interviewed were only asked for their primary reason for wanting to be self-employed.

Table 3: Reasons for being self-employed, April 2004

	EU-25	US
1 Personal independence, self-fulfilment, interesting tasks, no need to adapt to an environment & possibility to create own environment	93	82
2 Better income prospects	23	9
3 A business opportunity	8	2
4 To avoid uncertainty related to employment	4	2
5 Members of family, friends are self-employed	3	0
6 Lack of attractive employment opportunities generally	2	0
7 Favourable economic climate	2	1
8 Lack of attractive employment opportunities in my region specifically	1	0

Source: European Commission Flash Eurobarometer 160, 'Entrepreneurship' Directorate General Enterprise and Directorate General Press & Communication

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

### Data sources:

The source of all figures presented in this publication is Eurostat (except Flash Eurobarometer figures presented in Table 3) and reflects the state of data availability in Eurostat's on-line database as of June 2006.

**Structural business statistics (SBS)** is the main data source for this publication. **SBS data** are collected within the framework of Council Regulation on Structural Business Statistics (EC, EURATOM) No. 58/97 of December 1996. The SBS Regulation governs the transmission of data to Eurostat from the reference year 1995 onwards and covers Sections C to K of NACE Rev. 1.1. For further information on the NACE classification, visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP\\_PUB\\_WELC](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?TargetUrl=DSP_PUB_WELC).

The main SBS data set used in this publication is **annual enterprise statistics broken down by size class**. This and other SBS data sets are available under theme 4: 'Industry, trade and services' on the Eurostat website (see back page for more information). Selected publications, data and background information are available in the section dedicated to European Business, located directly under the theme 'Industry, trade and services' on the Eurostat website.

**Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is a household sample survey providing annual and quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. The reference year is the calendar year except in Germany (March 2004), Ireland and the United Kingdom (December 2003 to November 2004) and Cyprus (April 2004 to March 2005). For further information, visit:

[http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu\\_lfs/f\\_lfs\\_concepts.htm](http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/f_lfs_concepts.htm)

**Flash Eurobarometers** are ad hoc thematic telephone interviews conducted at the request of any service of the European Commission or other EU institution. Flash Eurobarometer surveys enable the Commission to obtain results relatively quickly and to focus on specific target groups, as and when required. The methodology used for the 'entrepreneurship' survey was that of the Flash Eurobarometer of the Directorate-General Press and Communication (Opinion Polls, Press Reviews, Europe Direct Unit). For further information, visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/flash\\_arch\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_en.htm)

### Definition of the activities used in this publication:

In this publication, statistics are presented by economic activity according to NACE Rev. 1.1. The whole non-financial business economy is defined as NACE Sections C to I and K, the sections being mining and quarrying (Section C), manufacturing (Section D), electricity, gas and water supply (referred to in this publication as energy) (Section E), construction (Section F), distributive trades (Section G), hotels and restaurants (Section H), transport and communications (Section I) and real estate, renting and business services (referred to in this publication as business activities) (Section K).

### Definition of variables used in the publication:

Variables are defined according to Commission Regulation No 2700/98 and include:

**Number of enterprises:** the number of enterprises active during at least part of the reference period.

**Number of persons employed:** the total number of persons who work in the observation unit, as well as persons who work outside the unit who belong to it and are paid by it. It includes working proprietors, unpaid family workers, part-time workers, seasonal workers etc.

**Value added at factor cost:** production value minus purchases of goods and services, adjusted for change in stocks, subsidies and taxes.

**Turnover:** the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period; this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties.

**Apparent labour productivity:** this is a simple ratio calculated as value added divided by persons employed.




### **EU-25**

EU-25 aggregates from the SBS size class data-set were supplemented, where necessary and appropriate, by rounded EU estimates based on non-confidential data. Some differences between aggregates and sub-components may exist due to rounding. In a few cases, these were complemented by partial EU averages created using a coherent set of data across selected Member States. Note that no data were available for Greece.

## ***Further information:***

**Data:** [Website EUROSTAT/Home page/Industry, trade and services/Data](http://www.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/home/industry_trade_services/data)

### **Industry, trade and services**

-  **Industry, trade and services - horizontal view**
-  **Structural Business Statistics (Industry, Construction, Trade and Services)**
-  **Annual enterprise statistics broken down by size classes**

---

### **Journalists can contact the media support service:**

Bech Building Office A4/125  
L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408  
Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)

### **European Statistical Data Support:**

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

---

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

### **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.**

2, rue Mercier  
L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>  
E-mail: [info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-info-opoce@ec.europa.eu)

---