

# Population incomes and expenditures (Household Budget Survey)

Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova (NBS)

## 1. Contact Information

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## 2. Metadata Update

### 2.1. Last certification of metadata

07.02.2019

### 2.2. Last update of metadata

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## 3. Statistical Presentation

### 3.1. General description

The statistics on population incomes and expenditure are obtained from the statistical research in households called the Household Budget Survey (HBS).

The main objective of the HBS is to determine people's level of life through incomes, expenses, consumption, living conditions and other indicators from a multi-aspect perspective. The information collected within this research allows identifying the categories of disadvantaged households/individuals and analyzing the impact of various programs and policies on the social-economic situation of the population. In addition, the HBS provides the necessary information to determine the shares used in the calculation of the CPI, evaluate the final consumption of households and measure poverty and social exclusion.

The HBS is conducted on a sample of dwellings and, respectively, households from urban and rural areas that are randomly selected on the whole territory of the country, except for areas on the left bank of Nistru river and the Bender municipality.

### 3.2. Concepts and definitions

#### 3.2.1. Definitions

***The available incomes of the population*** are the sum of cash and in kind resources obtained from a paid activity and self-employment, from the sale of agricultural products produced on the auxiliary land plot, income from assets, pensions and other social benefits, as well as other current transfers (including goods and money received from outside the household).

***The incomes available by type*** may be in cash or in kind:

- *Cash incomes* are amounts of cash received by people from different sources that are not reimbursable;
- *In kind incomes (assessed in MDL)* are both the counter value of consumption from the household's own resources (auxiliary land plot, stocks, etc.) and the counter value of in kind incomes received at the workplace, education, individuals, cash benefits, etc. The assessment in MDL is carried out at the average acquisition prices in the period of reference;

*The incomes available by their source* are divided in:

- **Incomes from paid activity** are considered incomes received as wages, salary increases, bonuses, other salary entitlements provided for in the legislation or collective labor agreements for the time worked in the usual work schedule and in the additional one, as well as other salary entitlements. These incomes also include the counter value of products and services delivered as salary entitlements.
- **Incomes from the individual agricultural activity** are the net income from the sale of own agricultural products, as well as the counter value of consumption received from the own unsold agricultural resources.
- **Incomes from individual non-agricultural activity** are the net incomes received from various types of self-employment in non-agriculture. These incomes also include the amounts received from the sale of end products of individual work activities and from the profit obtained by individuals as a result of trade-mediation activities.
- **Incomes from assets** – funds received by the population as interest for bank deposits and loans provided to individuals; dividends and sales of shares; rent payments for assets that are not related to the production activity (real estate, means of transport, long-term use assets, etc.).
- **Incomes from social welfare benefits** cover old-age pensions, disability pensions and survivor's pensions; social allowances; benefits for incapacity to work; one-off benefits (for child birth, death benefits, for the care of ill people); care of children under 1,5/3,0; social allowances; benefits for veterans and war widows; scholarships, etc.
- **Other incomes** – alimonies; cash and goods received for free, cash received from life insurance, personal property, remittances, etc.

*Population consumption expenditures* correspond to the expenses in cash and in kind for the household's current consumption needs: foodstuffs, nonfood products and utility bills.

*Population consumption expenditures* by their destination are divided in:

- **Expenses for food products** – overall expenditure for the procurement of consumed food products, as well as the counter value of human food consumption from the household's own resources.
- **Expenses for alcoholic drinks and tobacco products** – overall expenditure for the procurement of alcoholic drinks, tobacco and smoking accessories, as well as the counter value of the consumption of these products from the household's own resources.
- **Expenses for clothes and shoes** – overall expenditure for the procurement of clothes and shoes, as well as expenses incurred for the payment of services related to the production and fixing of these.
- **Expenses for dwelling maintenance** – overall expenditure for rent, energy, water and utility bills, as well as the expenses for refurbishing and repairing the dwelling.
- **Expenses for dwelling refurbishment** – overall expenditure for the procurement of long-term use goods, home appliances, as well as the payment of services related to the maintenance of these.
- **Expenses for healthcare and health** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of medicines, medical equipment, sanitary and hygiene objects, payment of healthcare services and of hospitalized treatment.
- **Expenses for transport** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of vehicles, spare parts, services related to their maintenance and fixing, as well as the payment of various services of transportation.
- **Expenses for communications** – overall expenditure incurred for the payment of post and telecommunication services, as well as expenses related to the maintenance of telecommunication equipment.

- **Expenses for entertainment** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of social-cultural, leisure and sports objects; printed production (manuals, teaching materials, newspapers, office supplies, etc.); including the payment of different cultural activities and tourism services, etc.
- **Expenses for education** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of manuals, school supplies, etc., as well as payments for education services, including extracurricular activities and private lessons.
- **Expenses for hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc.** – overall expenditure incurred for accommodation and nutrition outside the household in various specialized places.
- **Other expenses** – overall expenditure incurred for the procurement of hygiene and cosmetics products, haberdashery; payment for the insurance of life, real estate, means of transport, etc.; pocket money; money provided as a gift to individuals, etc.

**Household** – a group of two or more individuals living together who are, generally, relatives and share a common budget, participate integrally or partially in the formation of incomes and their spending or the individual living and maintaining a separate household that does not belong to another household.

**Household with children** is considered the household that includes children under 18.

**Family couples** – are the households consisting of couples with or without unmarried children.

**Single people** – households consisting of a single person who does not have relatives, or who has relatives but lives separately from them and does not share a common budget or financial relationships with them.

**Households consisting of several family nuclei** – are households made of several couples with or without unmarried children or a parent with unmarried children.

**Gini coefficient** – sets the degree of deviation of the effective distribution of incomes/expenses by equal groups of population from the line of uniform distribution of incomes/expenses. The statistical value of the coefficient varies from 0 to 1; when it is 0 – there is overall equality of incomes/expenses among all groups of population; when it is 1 – there is total inequality, all incomes/expenses belong to one individual.

**Quintile** – one of the four values dividing the series of frequencies in five equal parts, so that the first 20% (1<sup>st</sup> quintile) represents the population with the lowest incomes/expenses, while the last 20% (5<sup>th</sup> quintile) represents the population with the highest incomes/expenses.

**Decile** – is one of the nine values that divide the series of frequencies in ten equal parts so that the first 10% (1<sup>st</sup> decile) represent the population with the lowest incomes/expenses, while the last 10% (10<sup>th</sup> decile) represent the population with the highest incomes/expenses.

**Growth rhythm of incomes/consumption expenses** – is the evolution in time of incomes/consumption expenses and two values of the same indicator recorded in different time units are used to calculate it.

### 3.2.2. Unit of measure

*Absolute values in MDL* – overall incomes/expenses by source of formation and type

*Relative values in %* – rhythm of growth/decrease of incomes/expenses, structure of incomes/expenses.

### 3.2.3. Computation formula

The absolute values of incomes/expenses are monthly average values per member of the household being calculated by dividing overall incomes/expenses of the household by the number of units (household members) in the household.

$$V = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n V_i}{\sum N} * 100$$

where:

$V_i$  – overall incomes/expenses of the household  $i$ ,

$N$  – number of people in the household

### **Rhythm of growth of incomes/ consumption expenses**

$$V_{1/0} = \frac{V_1}{V_0} * 100$$

where:

$V_1$  – average incomes/consumption expenses per person in period 1,

$V_0$  – average incomes/consumption expenses per person in period 0

### **Gini coefficient (G)**

$$G = 1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2 \times (y_1 + 2y_2 + 3y_3 + \dots + ny_n)}{n^2 \times \bar{y}}$$

where:

$n$  – number of people in the analyzed period;

$y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_n$  – average income per person in this period;

$\bar{y}$  – average income of the whole household

## **3.3. Used classifications**

**Consumption expenses** are classified in line with the Classification of Expenses for Individual Consumption, which is aligned to the international classification COICOP. The national classification that is used ensures the comparability of data at the level of 12 major groups. According to this classification there are the following groups of goods and services:

- Food products
- Alcoholic drinks, tobacco products
- Clothes and shoes
- Dwelling maintenance
- Dwelling refurbishment
- Healthcare and health
- Transport
- Communication
- Entertainment
- Education
- Hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc.
- Miscellaneous

**The social-economic status** of the household is determined subject to the main source of income of the household head. There are several categories of households by their social-economic status:

- *Employees in agricultural sector* – households for which the main source of income of the household head is paid work in agriculture;
- *Employees in non-agricultural sector* – households for which the main source of income of the household head is paid work in non-agriculture;
- *Farmers* – households for which the main source of income of the household head is the individual agricultural activity;
- *Self-employers* – households for which the main source of income of the household head are incomes from self-employment in non-agriculture (trade, business, handicraft, etc.);

- *Pensioners* – households for which the main source of income of the household head is the pension;
- *Others* – households for which the main source of income of the household head are various cash benefits, incomes from assets, remittances and other incomes.

**Professional status:** People are classified by the professional status in compliance with the international classification ICSE-93. The professional status is the situation of an individual depending on how he/she obtains incomes: salaried, owners, self-employed, unpaid family assistants, cooperative members.

- *Salaried* is the person who works under a labor agreement in an economic or social unit – regardless of its form of property – or for individuals (on the basis of a contract or agreement), in exchange for remuneration in the form of a salary, in cash or in kind, in the form of a commission, etc. The servicemen have also been included in this status through convention.
- *Owner* is the person who carries out his/her occupation (profession) in his/her own unit (enterprise, agency, workshop, shop, office, farm, etc.) for the activity of which he/she employs one or several permanent workers.
- *Self-employed* is the person who carries out his/her occupation (profession) in his/her own unit or in an individual business without employing any permanent workers, being or not helped by unpaid family members. Independent entrepreneurs (street vendors, mediators, private taxi drivers, etc.), free-lancers (street musicians, plastic artists, lawyers), occasional day workers, individual agricultural workers are included in this status. The self-employed person may employ temporary workers.
- *Unpaid family worker* is the person who works in a family economic unit led by one of the family members or a relative and is not paid in the form of salary or in kind payments. The farmer's household is considered such a unit. If several people in a household work in their own farm, one of them – usually the household head – is considered self-employed, while the others are considered unpaid family workers.
- *Member of a cooperative* is the person who worked as a cooperative member, where each member has equal rights in making decisions, solving issues of production/sale, etc.

**Education:** The level of education/training complies with the Classification of educational programs of the Republic of Moldova, aligned to the corresponding international standard ISCED-97.

### 3.4. Scope

#### 3.4.1. Sector coverage

Households

#### 3.4.2. Statistical population

The scope of the HBS covers all households/individuals – citizens of the Republic of Moldova who have their permanent residence in the selected survey centers.

Registration applies to all members of the selected households, including people who are absent for a long period (over 1 year), if they maintain family relationships with the household they are part of.

**The survey does not cover** people who live permanently in the following facilities/common living units:

- Jails
- Institutions for older people
- Institutions for people with disabilities
- Orphan homes
- Students' dormitories

#### 3.4.3. Geographical coverage

The HBS is conducted on the whole territory of the country, except for areas on the left bank of Nistru river and the Bender municipality.

<b>3.4.4. Time coverage</b>
The time series are available starting with 1997.
<b>3.5. Disaggregation level</b>
Data resulting from the HBS are <u>disaggregated</u> by: areas of residence (urban, rural); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistical regions (North, Center, South, Chisinau);</li> <li>• Type of household subject to the number of children in the household;</li> <li>• Type of household subject to the size of the household;</li> <li>• Type of household subject to the composition of the household (family couples, single persons, households consisting of several family nuclei);</li> <li>• Training level of the household head;</li> <li>• Sex of the household head;</li> <li>• Social-economic status of the household;</li> <li>• Quintiles, deciles.</li> </ul> <u>Restrictions:</u> If data at disaggregated level contains confidential information (see item 7.1.), its dissemination is not performed and data is aggregated at the minimum available level that ensures the protection of data confidentiality.
<b>3.6. Dissemination frequency</b>
Quarterly and annually
<b>3.7. Timeliness</b>
Quarterly – within one quarter after the reporting quarter. Annually – April after the reporting year.
<b>3.8. Revision</b>
Annual data is final at the first dissemination, while quarterly data can be adjusted at the stage of annual data finalization.
<b>3.9. Period of reference</b>
The period of reference for most information collected in the HBS is the month of reference. The reference period for the information regarding the occupation of family members is the last 7 days, for questions regarding health issues – is 4 weeks. In the case of incomes from remittances and incomes from self-employment in agriculture, the reference period is the month and also the last 12 months. The collection of data regarding expenditures of households also uses different reference periods: 2 weeks – foodstuff products expenditures, the last 6 months – purchase of some goods, last 12 months – payment of utilities and expenditures for self-employment in agriculture.

<b>4. Data Collection and Processing</b>
<b>4.1. Data source</b>
<b>4.1.1. Statistical surveys</b>
Household Budget Survey (HBS)
<b>4.1.2. Administrative sources</b>
Not used
<b>4.1.3. Estimations</b>
Not applied
<b>4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey/administrative sources</b>
<b>4.2.1. Objective and background</b>
The HBS has a history of over 60 years. The first research in the Republic of Moldova dates back to 1954. As changes occurred in the social-economic situation of the country, the way of conducting this research was also adjusted.  The first major changes took place in 1996 in relation to the reform of the country's economy and the

implementation of international standards in the statistical system of data collection. A probabilistic sample was projected with the technical assistance provided by the World Bank and the research tool was aligned to the main international recommendations. In particular, the collection of data on people's consumption expenses under the international classification COICOP was introduced.

Starting with 2006, the HBS is carried out in compliance with a new survey plan and improved questionnaires.

- A) The introduction of the new survey plan involved: a) development of the common sampling framework for LFQ and HBS (creation of the unique network of researchers and controllers, 150 and 51 respectively) and b) introduction of a new rotation scheme.
- B) Changes made in the research questionnaires can be classified as follows: a) adjustment of definitions and methodological principles of the employment indicators in line with the Labor Force Questionnaire (LFQ); b) modification of the statistical tools, including the household questionnaire and register; c) change of the period of reference for incomes from the agricultural individual activity, remittances, expenses for food products and certain types of expenses for utility bills.

For details on the methodological changes see

[http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa\\_CBGC\\_ro.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa_CBGC_ro.pdf)

The practical organization and delivery of the research in the field is carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics via its territorial statistics departments/directorates. Teams that usually consist of 2-4 interviewing operators and one controller/operator are organized to conduct the collection, checking, input and transmission of data within the territorial statistics bodies. The research includes 150 interviewing operators who collect data in the 28 urban areas and in the 97 rural areas that were randomly selected for this purpose. There are 17 regional statistical centres equipped with computers which input and transmit data to the NBS headquarter. The task of each interviewing operator is to visit 4 households monthly in rural area, 6 households in towns and 10 households in big cities (mun. Chisinau and Balti).

#### **4.2.2. Statistical unit**

The observation unit is the household.

The registration unit is the household head or another adult in the household who knows the situation of the household.

#### **4.2.3. Circle of units covered in the survey**

The survey plan used for the HBS is a survey plan conducted in two stages.

At the first stage, based on the 2004 census, a stratified sample was developed of 129 areas distributed in 150 research centers, assimilated to the Primary Sampling Units (PSU). This represents the Multifunctional Sample for researches in the Social Field, the so-called master sample EMDOS. The following criteria were used for stratification: geography, place of residence and size of the areas. EMDOS covers 53 PSU selected in urban areas and 97 PSU selected in rural areas.

Starting with January 1, 2008, the rotation of PSU was introduced. Thus, about 20% of the PSU are replaced with new ones once in 2 years in order to achieve better territorial coverage in time and better comparability in time of the chronologic series by avoiding sharp breaks.

At the second stage, 9768 dwellings are extracted using the random simple extraction method from EMDOS every year. The size of the monthly sample is 814 dwellings.

Half of the households are included in the panel sample, which implies the observation of these households in the same month of the initial selection during 4 consecutive years.

#### **4.2.4. Survey frequency**

Data collection – on a monthly basis.

Data development – on a quarterly and annual basis.



#### 4.2.5. Data collection

The *Main household questionnaire* and the *Household register* are used to collect information within the HBS. In addition, the instructions on filling in, the non-answer form, the list of selected households and the letter to the household are used.

Two methods of data recording are used: the *interview* and the *self-recording*. The data recording in the Main household questionnaire is carried out on the basis of an interview, while the Household register is filled in directly by the household.

Filling in the main questionnaire implies discussions with every member of the household and, in case this is not possible, the information is obtained from the household head, spouse or another adult who can provide complete information on the other people in the household and on the whole household.

The household register is filled in by an adult member of the household who is available to make accurate records every day or as frequently as possible. If the household members are not able to make self-recordings partially or integrally for objective reasons (older people, ill people, etc.), data recording shall be made on the basis of interviews by the interviewing operator.

For more details on data collection see *Note on the HBS in 2006*.

[http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa\\_CBG\\_C\\_ro.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa_CBG_C_ro.pdf)

### 4.3. Processing and compilation of data

#### 4.3.1. Data validation

The *internal validation* of information received in the HBS implies two stages:

- A) The first stage of data validation is performed in the territorial data collection centers by the controllers in charge for research and includes the logical control of the questionnaires, namely: tracking and checking logical paths/flows from the questionnaires; observing the correlations between the answers to various questions from the main household questionnaire and the household register, the accurate codification of the variables, the elimination of aberrant or illogic answers, checking the accuracy and integrity of records made by the household, etc.
- B) The second stage of data validation is performed by the team responsible for HBS in the NBS central office. This stage implies a more complex addressing of data already stored on the computer, with an analysis of the main indicators, such as incomes, expenses and consumption of the household, the demographic-social-economic characteristics of the household members.

At both stages of data validation, in case of detection of errors or inconsistencies, the interview operator is contacted to check and specify the information in the questionnaires and, if necessary, the household is contacted.

The *external validation* of the HBS results is carried out with the following sources of information:

- Statistics of national accounts – final consumption of the household
- Statistics of the population – structure of population by age groups and sex
- Statistics of labor force – structure of population by their occupational status and level of education
- Statistics of prices – average prices for the main goods and services
- Administrative data on the beneficiaries of social benefits (National Social Insurance Company) – average amount of the social benefits, overall number of beneficiaries.

#### 4.3.2. Compilation/extrapolation of data

The annual data is calculated as weighted average values of data on the household.

#### 4.3.3. Adjustments

No adjustments are made.



#### 4.3.4. Quality assurance

The quality of statistics is ensured based on the observance of the fundamental principles of official statistics approved by the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations in 1992 (and by the Statistics Commission/UN in 1994) that are also provided for in the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the Official Statistics.

In producing statistical information, the NBS places the main importance on ensuring high quality of data.

For this purpose, a series of quality ensuring measures are taken at every stage of the statistical activity: in the organization of statistical studies, collection, processing and development of statistical information.

Significant efforts are made to ensure the fullness and quality of data submission by the respondents included in statistical researches.

Erroneous data, inconsistencies and suspicious data is identified with a view to be checked and rectified.

Primary data is checked and analyzed in terms of internal coherence (in the questionnaire), temporal coherence (with data for the preceding periods), with data of other similar units, as well as data available from other statistical researches and administrative data sources. When necessary, the missing or inconsistent data is imputed.

In order to ensure the quality of primary data, meetings (seminars) with the interview operators are held to explain the definitions, the right method of filling in questionnaires, especially, in case of changes or implementation of these.

#### 4.4. Data accuracy

##### 4.4.1. Non-response rate

The rate of non-answers (R) is determined on the basis of overall answers and is calculated using the relation

$$R = (nr_{sf} + nr_{ref}) / n$$

where:

n – number of households selected according to the study plan,

nr<sub>sf</sub> – number of errors of the survey base,

nr<sub>ref</sub> – number of refusals.

In 2017 non-response rate in HBS constitutes 36,3%. The causes of non-response are diverse, but more frequently the survey was not conducted because people do not consider necessary the participation in the survey (25,5% out of total non-responses), because their lack of time to fill in the questionnaire (24,1%), and because nobody was found home after three mandatory visits (17,0%).

##### 4.4.2. Sampling errors

The sampling errors are expressed through estimates of limit sampling errors, taking account of the complexity of the survey plan, the results being guaranteed with a probability of 95%. The limit sampling errors may be expressed in the form of confidence interval, which represents the limits that will cover the real value of the indicator in 95% of cases.

Sampling errors are determined for overall incomes and overall expenses, as well as on their types.

At national level, the confidence intervals for the level of 95% for 2016 are estimated at **2244,9±22,4 lei** for the available income per person and **2250,3±18,0 lei** for consumption expenses per person.

## 5. Comparability and Coherence

### 5.1. International comparability

The HBS methodology with some exceptions corresponds to the recommendations stipulated in the EUROSTAT manual “*Family budget questionnaire in the EU: methodology and recommendations for harmonization*”. Existing differences in certain methodological approaches related to the national needs

and specificity.

## 5.2. Comparability over the time

Establishing a new sample, giving up the method of household replacement, changing the design of questionnaires, building a new data collection network – all these factors contributed to the improvement in the quality of the obtained data, but these changes also show that the indicators achieved in the 2006 research are not fully comparable with the ones from the previous years.

For more details see *Note on the HBS in 2006*

[http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa\\_CBGC\\_ro.pdf](http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa_CBGC_ro.pdf)

## 5.3. Coherence with other statistics

*The consistence of HBS data with the NSIC data on social benefits:*

Period of reference: HBS – calendar month, NSIC – calendar year

*Consistence of HBS data with the NBM data on remittances:*

Definitions: HBS – amounts intended to current consumption, excluding deposits, NBM – all bank transfers.

# 6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The NBS activity is based on respecting the Republic of Moldova Constitution, the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, other legislative and normative acts, NBS management decisions and orders.

The Law on Official Statistics regulates the organization and operation of the unique system of official statistics, establishing the general principles for collecting, processing, centralizing, diminishing, and stocking statistical information (art.1).

Art. 5 of the Law provides that the production of statistical information is based on respecting the following principles: impartiality, objectiveness, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency etc.

Being the central statistical body, the National Bureau of Statistics is an administrative authority created under the Government for leading and coordinating the activity in the statistics area.

In accordance with Government Decision 935 of 24.09.2018 on the organization and operation of the NBS, the Bureau exercises the following tasks:

- 1) Coordinates the national statistical system on the development and production of official statistics;
- 2) Elaborates and implements strategies for the development of the national statistical system, annual and multiannual statistical programs;
- 3) Elaborates the normative and institutional framework necessary for the achievement of the strategic objectives in its field of activity, as well as the mechanisms for their implementation in practice;
- 4) Performs the management and control of the achievement in quality conditions of the programs and statistical plans adopted at central and regional level;
- 5) Harmonizes and aligns national statistical indicators, methodologies, methods and techniques with international regulations and standards;
- 6) Promotes the statistical culture in the society.

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under About NBS (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&>)

# 7. Confidentiality

## 7.1. Principles

According to art. 19 of the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, producers of official statistics shall take all regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to protect

confidential data and prevent their disclosure.

Chapter VII of the above-mentioned law stipulates that the data collected, processed and stored for the production of statistical information are confidential if they allow the direct or indirect identification of the respondents. ) The following shall not be considered confidential:

- a) data that can be obtained from publicly accessible sources according to the legislation;
- b) individual data on address, telephone, name, type of activity, number of employees of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs;
- c) data referring to public enterprises, institutions and organizations funded from the budget, submitted at the request of the public administration authorities.

According to the Law on Official Statistics, art. 20, access to confidential information is granted to the persons who, according to their official functions, participate in the production of statistical information shall have access to individual data in so far as individual data are necessary for producing this information.

The same article stipulates that the access to individual data, which do not allow the direct identification of respondents, may be given for scientific survey projects, whose expected results do not refer to identifiable individual units, under the regulation approved by the central statistical authority.

Art. 23 (5) of the Law stipulates that the the statistical information cannot be disseminated to users if it refers to 1-3 statistical units.

## **7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules**

To ensure the protection of confidential statistical data in compliance with the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, the National Bureau of Statistics undertakes all the regulatory, administrative, technical, and organizational measures to protect the confidential statistical information and prevent its disclosure.

In compliance with the above-mentioned law, the employees of producers of official statistics, including temporary employees who, according to their official functions, have direct access to individual data shall be obliged to observe the confidentiality of these data during and after termination of employment.

Before being disseminated, the statistical data are verified if they meet the protection requirements set for confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p. 7.1), they are not disseminated, but aggregated at the minimum available level which ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

## **8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format**

### **8.1. Access to information**

#### **8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications**

Annually the Advance release calendar is developed by NBS.

#### **8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications**

The press release calendar is posted on the NBS official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md).

#### **8.1.3. Access to statistical data**

According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, art. 23:

- a) Producers of official statistics shall be obliged to disseminate the statistical information within the deadlines specified in the programme of statistical works and in the press-release calendar.
- b) The dissemination of statistical information laid down in the programme of statistical works to all categories of users shall be made free of charge and under equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and time of dissemination

The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), under About NBS / legislative and normative acts (<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=323&> )

The NBS web page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md) represents the most important information source for ensuring users' access to different statistical information and transparency about the NBS activity.

All the operative information, informative notes, time series, as well as the statistical publications

developed by NBS are placed on its official web page.
<b>8.2. Dissemination format</b>
<b>8.2.1. Operative information / Analytical notes</b>
The operative information and analytical notes are published on the official page of NBS: <a href="http://www.statistica.md">http://www.statistica.md</a> under Press Releases, according to the Press Release Calendar.
<b>8.2.2. Publications</b>
<p>The publications developed by the NBS containing statistical data on population incomes and expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection “<i>Aspects of the standard of living of the population</i>” – detailed annual publication with information on the methodology and organization of the research and tables with absolute and relative annual average data, as well as information on the evolution in time of the main indicators of population level of living;</li> <li>- Other statistical publications: <i>Statistical Yearbook</i>; <i>Territorial Statistics</i>; <i>Statistical pocket-book "Moldova in figures"</i>; <i>Women and Men in the Republic of Moldova</i>; quarterly and annual briefing notes, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Access to publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in electronic format, on the official webpage of the NBS <a href="http://www.statistica.md">www.statistica.md</a>, heading Products and services / Publications <a href="http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&amp;idc=350&amp;nod=1">http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&amp;idc=350&amp;nod=1</a></li> <li>- on paper – in the NBS library (more details at <a href="http://www.statistica.md/libview.php?l=en&amp;idc=340&amp;id=2400">http://www.statistica.md/libview.php?l=en&amp;idc=340&amp;id=2400</a>)</li> <li>- or may be procured at the NBS office (more details at <a href="http://www.statistica.md">www.statistica.md</a>, heading Publications <a href="http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&amp;idc=350&amp;id=2219">http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&amp;idc=350&amp;id=2219</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>8.2.3. Databases/time series</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Statistical databank</b> <a href="http://statbank.statistica.md">http://statbank.statistica.md</a> under <i>Social statistics / Living standard of the population</i></li> <li>- NBS <b>official page</b>: <a href="http://www.statistica.md">http://www.statistica.md</a> under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Press Releases</i></li> <li>• <i>Statistics by themes / Social statistics / Living standard of the population</i></li> <li>• <i>Products and services / Publications / Social statistics.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations</b>
<p>The ILO Questionnaire “On the statistics of incomes and households” – upon request</p> <p>The CIS Questionnaire “On the statistics of incomes, expenses and consumption of households” – quarterly, annually.</p> <p>The UN EEC Questionnaire “Study on measuring household’s incomes” – upon request.</p>
<b>8.2.5. Requests for additional data</b>
NBS makes available for users additional statistical information beyond the data presented in the statistical publications, informative notes, operative information, as well as the data placed on the official web page in the limits of available information, in line with the Law on Official Statistics. Request can be sent personally, by post, by e-mail <a href="mailto:moldstat@statistica.gov.md">moldstat@statistica.gov.md</a> or via online web form – <a href="http://www.statistica.md">www.statistica.md</a> heading Products and services / Statistical data request <a href="http://www.statistica.md/solicitare_informatii_statistice.php?l=en">http://www.statistica.md/solicitare_informatii_statistice.php?l=en</a>

<b>9. Useful References (links)</b>
<b>9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology</b>
<p>The methodology is available on the official webpage <a href="http://www.statistica.md">www.statistica.md</a>, section News and Events / Seminars and Conferences / Roundtable Household Budget Survey (26.10.2007) <a href="http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa_CBG_C_ro.pdf">http://www.statistica.md/public/files/SeminareConferinte/Seminar26oct2007/Nota%20informativa_CBG_C_ro.pdf</a></p>
<b>9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports</b>
The NBS Evaluation Reports are available on the official webpage <a href="http://www.statistica.md">www.statistica.md</a> , section About the NBS /Evaluations and Opinions about the NBS / Evaluation Reports

(<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2739>)

### 9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

Users' opinion polls are available on the official page [www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md), section About the NBS / Evaluations and Opinions about the NBS / Opinion Polls

(<http://www.statistica.md/pageview.php?l=en&idc=399&id=2740>)

### 9.4. Other useful references

The EUROSTAT database	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database</a>
The UNData database	<a href="http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx">http://data.un.org/Browse.aspx</a>
The statistical database of the UN Economic Commission for Europe	<a href="http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/">http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/</a>
The database of the Statistics Department of the International Labor Office	<a href="http://laborsta.ilo.org/">http://laborsta.ilo.org/</a>