

**ТЕМАТИЧНИЙ НАПРЯМОК 3**  
**ВИКОРИСТАННЯ НОВИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ ДАНИХ**  
**У СУЧАСНИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯХ**

**IMPROVEMENT OF PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION**  
**OF RAIL TRANSPORT STATISTICS**

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Eurostat and the European Statistical System are nowadays the main data sources on which European Union policies are based and which are necessary for the implementation of EU activities. Eurostat's mission is to provide high-quality statistics for Europe by disseminating official, harmonised statistics on the EU and the euro area that offer an impartial and objective description of social and economic trends. Eurostat collects data from the national statistical institutes and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. The statistics collected by Eurostat from the members of the ESS are harmonised according to European-wide methods and standards. The data are therefore comparable across the EU.

In the context of Europe's intricate transportation systems, rail networks have emerged as critical components for sustainable mobility and economic progress. With increasing reliance on rail transport, it becomes evident that the quality and accessibility of rail transport statistics are vital for informed decision-making, policy development, and public awareness. The European Statistical Office recognises its central role in ensuring the reliability and effectiveness of these statistics.

The legal base of rail transport statistics is the Regulation (EU) 2018/643. Rail freight statistics (freight and accident statistics only) were collected under Council Directive 80/1177/EC until the end of the year 2002. The Council and the European Parliament adopted a more complete legal instrument in 2002 and, from 2003 onwards, Regulation (EC) 91/2003 covers statistics on passenger transport and rail safety, in addition to rail freight. This regulation was amended several times, last time in 2016, and now the legal base of rail transport statistics is the Regulation (EU) 2018/643.

Each Member State is required to report comprehensive statistics on rail transport within their territory. Currently, the EU Member States and EFTA countries (except Iceland which does not have railways) provide Eurostat regularly with rail transport data. The Candidate Countries as Türkiye, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina provide rail data on a regular basis; Albania, Moldova and Ukraine are in the process of designing their rail transport data.

Rail transport data are collected and submitted by the corresponding reporting countries through EDAMIS (European Data Dissemination and Information System). The existing regulatory collection of Rail Transport Statistics is aimed to compile and disseminate data on the carriage of passengers (in number and passenger-km) and freight (in tonnes and tonne-km) by rail. There are two detailed annual data collections, on freight and passengers, and one optional (less detailed) annual data collection on the level of transport activity in goods and passenger transport. Then there is a quarterly (less detailed) rail data collection, on goods and passenger transport.

Every five years, there is also a regional rail data collection (on NUTS2 level) for goods and passenger transport as well as another one on traffic of trains on the rail network. The NUTS version to be used by reporting countries and Eurostat for each reference year is defined by the NUTS regulation.

Rail reporting covers:

- Rail freight, detailed annual data reporting;
- Rail passengers, detailed annual data reporting;
- Rail freight and passenger quarterly data reporting for the railway undertakings included in detailed annual reporting;
- Annual (less-detailed) data reporting on transport of goods and passengers;
- Every five year data reporting on freight and passengers transport at regional NUTS2 level and traffic flows at railway network segments.

Methodological information on the rail transport data collection is contained in the 'Reference manual on rail transport statistics - version 2023. This manual is addressed to reporting countries and provides detailed information on the definitions of the variables to be collected, the rules and standards for transmitting data to Eurostat and the validation and processing procedure of Eurostat.

Despite the established system of collection, processing and disseminating data on rail transport statistics, there is the necessity to meticulously assess the various components of the Information Technology system for Rail (TRA-IS RAIL), with the goal of proposing comprehensive enhancements to the entire system. A critical aspect involves conducting rigorous quality checks and validation of data. This process is essential to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the information collected by the TRA-IS RAIL system as well as data dissemination in Eurostat's online database. This step ensures the accessibility and availability of the data to a wide range of users, fostering transparency and promoting data-driven decision-making.

Another key aspect of improving is updating the existing manuals. The aim is to reflect the latest changes and improvements in the system, ensuring users have the most accurate and up-to-date guidance when utilizing the TRA-IS RAIL system.

By improving IT system for rail statistics, Eurostat aims to create an environment in which users can effectively access, understand and use statistical information, contributing to informed decision-making, research and understanding in the European Union.