

NOTICE TO USERS

on changes to the administrative system for the registration of business entities and other entities and their impact on the interpretation of statistical data

Statistical Office of Montenegro informs users that during 2025 and 2026 a new legislative framework governing the registration of business entities and other entities and the maintenance of the Central Register of Business Entities and Other Entities (CRPS) was adopted, namely:

- Law on the Registration of Business Entities and Other Entities (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 92/25 of 7 August 2025);
- Law on Amendments to the Law on the Registration of Business Entities and Other Entities (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 121/25 of 21 October 2025);
- Law on Amendments to the Law on the Registration of Business Entities and Other Entities (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 44/26 of 27 March 2026).

The new legislative framework has introduced significant changes to the maintenance of administrative register. One of key changes is the introduction of legally defined statuses of registered business entities and other entities (registered – active, registered – inactive, registered – temporarily suspended, in bankruptcy, in liquidation and deleted), representing a new legal solution compared with the previous legislative framework under which the registration of business entities and other entities was regulated by the Law on Business Organisations (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 65/20, 146/21, and 4/24).

Statistical Business Register, which is used exclusively for statistical purposes and serves as the basis for the production of business demography statistics by Statistical Office of Montenegro, is updated using multiple data sources, including administrative sources and data collected through statistical surveys. Among the administrative sources, the Central Register of Business Entities (CRPS) represents one of the most important data sources.

Statistical releases relating to number and structure of business entities for the reference year 2025 were prepared on the basis of data contained in the Statistical Business Register, updated in accordance with the previously applicable administrative framework. During the implementation period of the new legislative framework, the procedures for registration, amendments and harmonisation of administrative records had not yet been completed.

With the implementation of the new legislative framework governing the registration of business entities and other entities, the recording of legally defined statuses of registered business entities and other entities in the CRPS has been introduced through the new Information System for Registration (IRMS). Consequently, the data contained in the administrative source (CRPS), established in accordance with the new legislative framework, differ from the data used in the preparation of statistical releases for the reference year 2025. These differences result from changes to the administrative framework and the introduction of a new method of recording the statuses of registered business entities and other entities. Therefore, the published data should be interpreted in the context of these legislative changes.

In accordance with the principles of official statistics laid down in the Law on Official Statistics and the Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12 of 30 March 2012, 47/19 of 12 August 2019 and 23/25 of 11 March 2025), as well as the quality principles established by the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Statistical Office of Montenegro hereby informs users of these changes to ensure the proper interpretation and use of statistical data.

Starting with the reference year 2026, statistical releases, i.e. the data published by Statistical Office of Montenegro, will be based on the Statistical Business Register updated in accordance with the new legislative framework and data from relevant sources. This will establish a new statistical data series that will serve as the basis for future annual comparisons.

Statistical Office of Montenegro will continue to regularly publish statistical data in accordance with the Programme and the Plan of Official Statistics, while consistently applying national legislation, European statistical standards and the principles of transparency towards all users of official statistics.

RELEASE

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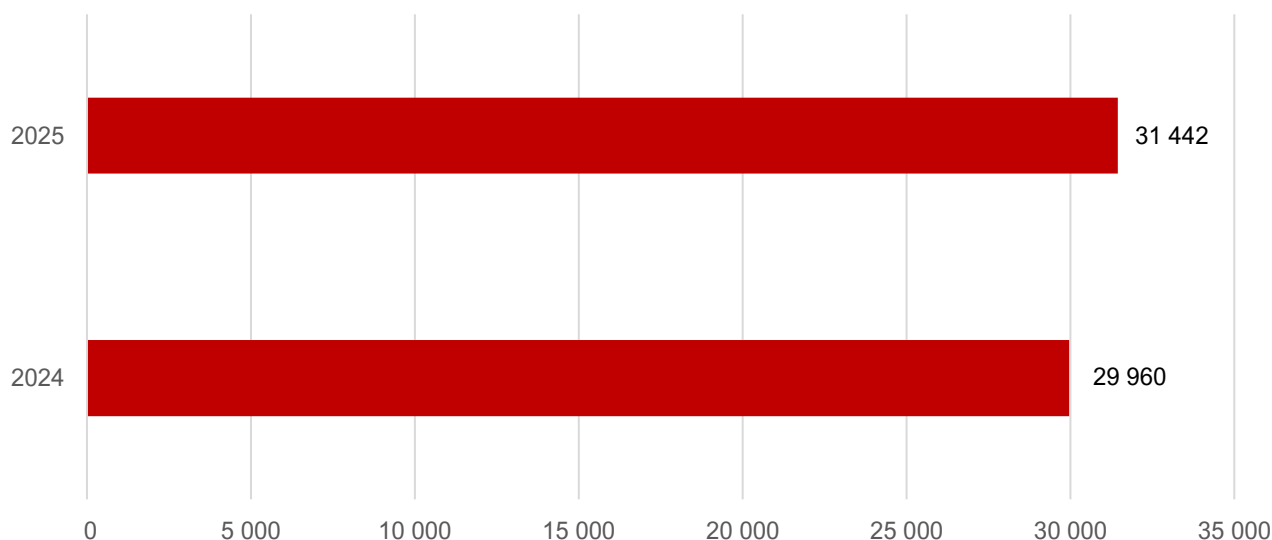
Number and structure of foreign owned business entities in Montenegro

2025

The number of active foreign owned business entities in Montenegro in 2025 was 31 442. while in 2024 there were 29 960.

The largest number of active foreign-owned business entities in 2025 is 11 067 in Podgorica, representing 35.2% of the total. It is followed by the municipalities Budva and Bar.

Graph 1. Number of foreign-owned business entities



**Table 1.** Foreign owned business entities by municipalities

Municipality	2024		2025	
	Total	In %	Total	In %
Andrijevica	13	0.0	14	0.0
Bar	3 582	12.0	3 511	11.2
Berane	68	0.2	60	0.2
Bijelo Polje	188	0.6	188	0.6
Budva	9 114	30.4	9 696	30.8
Cetinje	239	0.8	242	0.8
Danilovgrad	153	0.5	132	0.4
Gusinja	7	0.0	7	0.0
Herceg Novi	2 448	8.2	2 403	7.6
Kolašin	56	0.2	52	0.2
Kotor	884	3.0	885	2.8
Mojkovac	25	0.1	26	0.1
Nikšić	244	0.8	220	0.7
Petnjica	z	z	z	z
Plav	10	0.0	8	0.0
Pljevlja	56	0.2	51	0.2
Plužine	z	z	z	z
Podgorica	9 952	33.2	11 067	35.2
Rožaje	156	0.5	182	0.6
Šavnik	11	0.0	10	0.0
Tivat	1 955	6.5	1 880	6.0
Tuzi	76	0.3	88	0.3
Ulcinj	655	2.2	651	2.1
Žabljak	24	0.1	27	0.1
Zeta	38	0.1	32	0.1
Ukupno	29 960	100.0	31 442	100.0

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Table 2. Distribution of foreign-owned business entities according to the country of origin of the owner

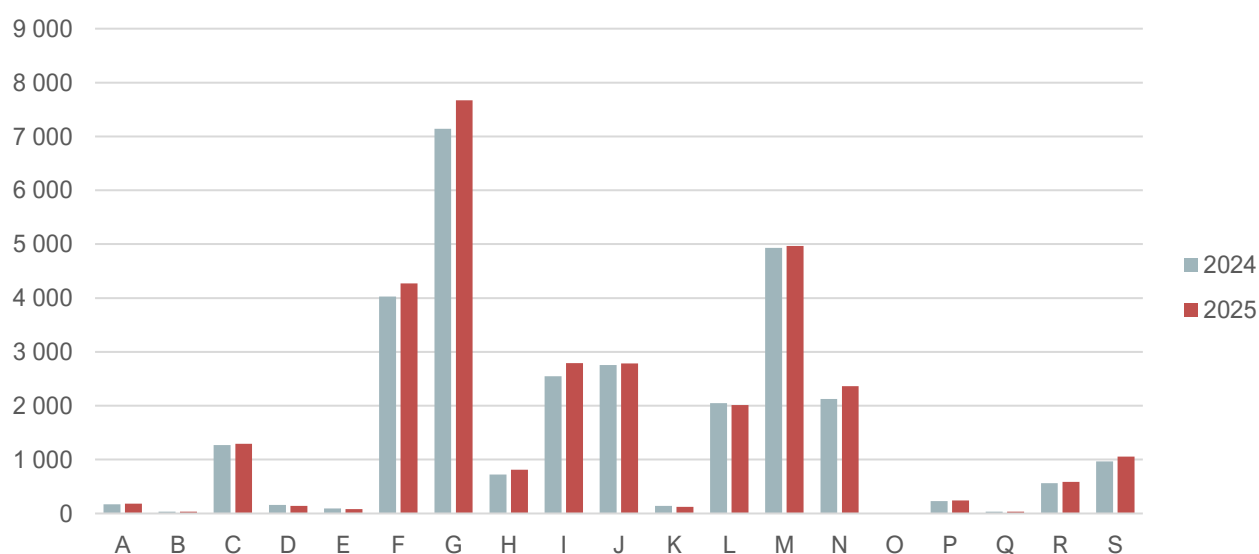
Owner's country of origin	2025	
	Total	in %
Cyprus	121	0.4
Netherlands	135	0.4
Switzerland	136	0.4
Austria	155	0.5
China	193	0.6
Slovenia	170	0.5
Israel	187	0.6
France	204	0.7
SAD	273	0.9
Albania	265	0.8
Northern Macedonia	240	0.8
Croatia	294	0.9
Belarus	289	0.9
Republic of Kosovo	491	1.6
United Kingdom	353	1.1
Italia	629	2.0
Bosnia and Hercegovina	637	2.0
Germany	811	2.6
Ukraine	1 024	3.3
Serbia	3 125	9.9
Russian Federation	6 745	21.5
Turkey	12 163	38.7
Other countries	2 802	8.9
Total	31 442	100.0

By country of owner origin, the largest number of foreign-owned business entities come from Turkey (12 163 entities or 38.7%), followed by the Russian Federation (6 745 entities or 21.5%), Serbia (3 125 or 9.9%), and Ukraine (1 024 entities or 3.3%).

Categorized by KD 2010 activity sectors, the highest number of foreign-owned business entities operate in Sector G – Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (7 672), followed by Sector M – Professional, scientific and technical activities (4 933) and Sector F – Construction (4 028).

Table 3. Distribution of foreign owned business entities by sectors of activity in Montenegro

Code	Sector name	2024		2025	
		Total	In %	Total	In %
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	170	0.6	181	0.6
B	Mining and quarrying	33	0.1	31	0.1
C	Manufacturing	1 267	4.2	1 293	4.1
D	Electricity supply	156	0.5	141	0.4
E	Water supply	93	0.3	80	0.2
F	Construction	4 028	13.4	4 273	13.6
G	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7 143	23.8	7 672	24.4
H	Transportation and storage	725	2.4	812	2.6
I	Accommodation and food service activities	2 549	8.5	2 792	8.9
J	Information and communication	2 758	9.2	2 783	8.8
K	Financial and insurance activities	141	0.5	120	0.4
L	Real estate activities	2 048	6.8	2 013	6.4
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	4 933	16.5	4 966	15.8
N	Administrative and support service activities	2 124	7.1	2 366	7.5
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0	0.0	0	0.0
P	Education	230	0.8	244	0.8
Q	Human health and social work activities	33	0.1	32	0.1
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	562	1.9	586	1.9
S	Other service activities	967	3.2	1 057	3.4
Total		29 960	100.0	31 442	100.0

Graph 2. Foreign owned business entities by sectors of activity in Montenegro

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Foreign owned business entity is defined as an entity whose owners (natural and/or legal persons) originates from a foreign country. These entities are recognised by type of origin of capital and they account for a significant share of the total number of business entities in Montenegro in the reference year.

The subject of this release is active business entities. Active business entities are those performing an economic activity, possessing employed workers and achieved a turnover in the observed year.

This release is based on data from the Statistical Business Register. The Statistical Business Register in Montenegro is maintained in accordance with the legal framework of the European Union in the field of business statistics, primarily Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics and its accompanying implementing acts. This framework ensures the harmonization of registers, comparability of data, and exchange of information between the national statistical system and Eurostat. Statistical units are defined in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 696/93.

The main objectives of the SBR are to cover as much of the national economic activity as possible, to support the improvement of the efficiency of the national statistical system, and to serve as a primary data source for a large number of statistical surveys within the national statistical system.

Data sources for updating the SBR are divided into external and internal sources. External sources are administrative sources (Tax Administration, Central Register of Business Entities, Central Bank, and business and sectoral associations), while internal sources are statistical surveys used to update this register, as well as for comparative analyses with data from administrative sources.

Statistical Business Register is a reliable data source on business population and demography. It serves as a sample frame for all business statistics surveys within the national statistical system; it ensures a database from which addresses are taken for sending statistical survey questionnaires, etc.

Such a register is considered to be a system for converting the administrative data in data of suitable form for the statistical use. The importance of statistical business register is also that it represents an updated documented dossier containing all statistical units active at the territory of Montenegro, which achieve income, and which possess relevant statistical and administrative attributes.

Pursuant to the Law on Official Statistics and the Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 18/12 of 30 March 2012, No. 47/19 of 12 August 2019 and No. 23/25 of 11 March 2025), Articles 54–61 define the confidentiality and protection of data collected for the purposes of official statistics. Data collected, processed and stored are considered confidential if the reporting units can be directly or indirectly identified on the basis of those data.

In this release, data with a frequency of fewer than four occurrences are protected (primary confidentiality protection) and are denoted by the symbol "z". In addition, other data are also marked with the same symbol in order to prevent the indirect identification of protected data (secondary confidentiality protection).

Symbols:

"z" – protected data

When using the data, state:

"Data source: Statistical Office - MONSTAT"

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More data, as well as detailed methodological notes can be found in the section: [Business register](#)