

The protection of individual statistical data collected by the MNB

The MNB collects, processes and publishes the statistical information required for the performance of its activities on the basis of its authorisation granted by Act LVIII of 2001 on the National Bank of Hungary (MNB Act)¹.

The organisations and natural persons specified by the law, in particular the MNB regulation issued by the Governor of the MNB in the subject referred to in Article 60 (1)i) of the MNB Act, shall submit the information specified by the MNB for the central bank information system operated by the MNB.

The MNB shall ensure the protection of data collected by it pursuant to the applicable provisions of Act XLVI of 1993 on statistics (Statistic Act) and the MNB Act, as described below.

Act XLVI of 1993 on statistics lays down the provisions required for the protection of data for statistical purposes, related to natural person, legal entity and organization with no legal entity, i.e. of individual data².

Protection means that any individual data shall only be used for statistic purposes and that individual data shall not be disclosed to third parties or published unless with the prior written consent of the data supplier.

As an exception from the general rule, the Statistic Act specifies the situations where individual data may be disclosed to third parties or published without the prior written consent of the data supplier. These situations include the following:

- the communication of data among persons performing statistic activities within the same organisation³;
- the publication of individual data concerning the activities of administrative bodies or social organisations performing duties of public interest or the activities of public interest carried out by publicly financed organisations⁴.
- disclosure of data for statistic purposes, to an international organisation engaging in statistic activities, in order to comply with a statutory international obligation⁵;
- disclosure of data to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office⁶

With regard to the application of other rules of law, the individual data shall be treated as private secrets or, depending on their specific content, bank, securities or business secrets; the persons engaging in statistic activities or participating in such activities shall be responsible for enforcing the rules on their protection⁷.

¹ Article 4 (6) of the MNB Act

² Article 17 (2) of the Statistic Act

³ Article 18 (1) of the Statistic Act

⁴ Article 18 (2) of the Statistic Act

⁵ Article 18 (3) of the Statistic Act

⁶ Article 21(4) of the Statistic Act

⁷ Article 20 of the Statistic Act

The same rule is confirmed by the MNB Act⁸, which provides that **the employees and the members of the Supervisory Board of the MNB shall be required not to disclose any state secrets, bank secrets, securities secrets and business secrets of which they gain knowledge in the course of discharging their duties at the MNB.** This obligation to maintain secrecy shall remain even after their duties have ceased.

In other respects, the results of data collections by the MNB shall be public⁹, similarly to the results of the data collections of other bodies forming part of the official statistical service¹⁰.

⁸ Article 54 of the MNB Act

⁹ Article 17 (1) of the Statistic Act

¹⁰ The bodies forming part of the official statistical service are as follows: Hungarian Central Statistical Office; the ministries and the Prime Minister's Office; the Office of the National Council of Justice; the Prosecutor General's Service; the Magyar Nemzeti Bank; the Hungarian Competition Authority; the Council for Research and Technological Innovation and the Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority