

Subsistence Minimum

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| 2. Metadata update | |
| 2.1. Metadata last certified | March 18, 2025 |
| 2.2. Metadata last posted | March 18, 2025 |
| 2.3. Metadata last update | March 18, 2025 |

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| 3. Statistical presentation | |
| 3.1. Data description | |
| <p>Subsistence minimum is defined on the basis of a food basket, which is defined and established in accordance with the decree of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia. Based on actual nutritional data and principles of healthy eating, the recommended minimum food basket for working age male consists of an optimal list of food products and includes the recommendations of the United Nations (FAO/WHO) on the normalization of the body's need for protein and energy.</p> <p>The subsistence minimum is the basis for the implementation of the target social policy by the State. The subsistence minimum shall be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reflection of changes in the living standard of the population; • The determination of the low-income section of the population and the implementation of the target social policy; • The determination of the minimum amount of salaries, pensions, stipends, hardship allowances and other social benefits; • The elaboration of social programmes and national economy development models, which shall ensure the gradual approximation of the consumption rates of citizens with those provided for by international standards. | |
| 3.2. Classification system | |
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| 3.3. Sector coverage | |
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| 3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions | |
| <p>The Subsistence Minimum reflects consumer goods per capita in value terms, which ensures the meeting of minimum physiological and social needs according to the level of the socio-economic development of the country.</p> <p>The Minimum Food Basket represents a basket of defined quantities of food products and contains the amount of food that is physiologically required (proteins, fats and carbohydrates) for a working age male to lead a normal life and have the ability to work. The minimum food basket is defined and established in accordance with the decree No 111/N, dated 2003 May 8, of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia „On Approving Norms for Physiological Requirements of Food Substance and Energy and Determining Composition of Minimum Food Basket for Calculation of Subsistence Minimum“.</p> | |
| 3.5. Statistical unit | |
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| 3.6. Statistical population | |

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| 3.7. Reference area |
| Data on the prices of products in the minimum food basket are collected in five cities: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Gori and Telavi. |
| 3.8. Time coverage |
| Data on subsistence minimum is available from 2004 onwards. |
| 3.9. Base period |
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| 4. Unit of measure |
| GEL. |

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| 5. Reference period |
| Month. |

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| 6. Institutional mandate |
| 6.1. Legal acts and other agreements |
| The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics; https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf Statistical Work Programme (annual); https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/media/67749/New-Chapter-eng-upd.pdf Law of Georgia on the calculation of the subsistence minimum; https://www.matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/29824?publication=6 The decree No 111/N of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia „On Approving Norms for Physiological Requirements of Food Substance and Energy and Determining Composition of Minimum Food Basket for Calculation of Subsistence Minimum“ (in Georgian). https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/55534?publication=0 |
| 6.2. Data sharing |
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| 7. Confidentiality |
| 7.1. Confidentiality – policy |
| <p>1. The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the article 5 of the law Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes – individual data collected or received by the producer of official statistics, relating to natural or legal persons, must be strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes. • According to the article 34 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. Data collected, processed, and stored to produce official statistics are confidential if they enable the direct or indirect identification of a statistical unit. In addition, aggregated data are subject to statistical confidentiality: a) Aggregates composed of 1 to 3 units, when the unit is a natural or legal person if one of these units could be identified indirectly, thereby disclosing individual data about this unit. Aggregates composed of more than 3 units may be declared confidential by the Executive Director if required to ensure statistical confidentiality; b) Information declares as a state secret on the basis of the „Law of Georgia on State Secrets“. 2. Confidential data shall be used exclusively for the purposes of producing statistics in accordance with this law. 3. Statistical data about the administrative body cannot be considered confidential information, except for the information determined by the Law of Georgia „On State Secrets“. 4. Individual data obtained from publicly available sources, which are defined as public information in accordance with the legislation of Georgia, shall not be considered confidential information. 5. Confidential (individual) data may be published if there is written consent from the statistical unit regarding the publication of such data. 6. It is not allowed to disseminate and distribute confidential data or use it for non-statistical purposes. • According to the article 38 (Confidentiality commitments) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for statistical purposes shall not be used or disseminated either for personal, academic, research |

or any other activities, by the employees of the producers of Official Statistics.

<https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf>

2. Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat

https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf

3. Procedure for providing access to confidential data for research purposes

<https://www.geostat.ge/media/61533/Rule-on-Access-to-Confidential-Data-for-Scientific-and-Research-Purposes....pdf>

4. The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection

<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9>

7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

- Confidentiality guidelines.

- Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.

8. Release policy

8.1. Release calendar

Data dissemination dates are defined by the calendar developed on the basis of the Statistical Work Programme, which is published on the website of Geostat and is publicly available.

8.2. Release calendar access

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar>

8.3. User access

All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.

9. Frequency of dissemination

Twice a year (January, December).

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1. News release

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10.2. Publications

Statistical Yearbook of Georgia:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/95/statistical-yearbook>

10.3. On-line database

On-line database is available on website of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, in data dissemination software program PC-Axis format:

<https://pc-axis.geostat.ge/PXweb/pxweb/en/Database>

10.4. Microdata access

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10.5. Other

According to the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, statistical data is public and available on the website of Geostat and through a special application for Android and iOS mobile phones.

Geostat ensures delivery of the statistical data for all users upon an electronic form or written request.

10.6. Documentation on methodology

Documentation on the calculation methodology of subsistence minimum for working age male is available on the website of Geostat:

<https://www.geostat.ge/media/28956/mamakacis-saarsebo-minimumi-%28eng%29.pdf>

10.7. Quality documentation

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11. Quality management

11.1. Quality assurance

To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Chapter 10 – Quality of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental

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| Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF). |
| 11.2. Quality assessment |
| Methodology and Quality Management Division of Geostat, along with the sectoral departments, is responsible for the quality of the produced statistical products and processes. The Division carries out quality audit, self-assessment of statistical processes and assesses the risks for the quality of statistical processes and products. Geostat has developed policy documents, guidelines and standard routine descriptions. These documents ensure the standardization of statistical processes and products and the establishment of a unified quality assurance system. Quality policy is available on the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/media/44380/QP_Geostat_EN.pdf |

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| 12. Relevance |
| 12.1. User needs |
| Users of the statistical information are state authorities, business, media, researchers, students and private persons. |
| 12.2. User satisfaction |
| In 2023 user satisfaction survey was conducted, the target of the survey was to analyze the assessment of quality of statistical data by users and explore ways to improve user services. The survey report is available on the website of Geostat (in Georgian): https://www.geostat.ge/en/page/customer-service |
| 12.3. Completeness |
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| 13. Accuracy and reliability |
| 13.1. Overall accuracy |
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| 13.2. Sampling error |
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| 13.3. Non-sampling error |
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| 14. Timeliness and punctuality |
| 14.1. Timeliness |
| Data is published twice a year. In January, the indicators for December of the previous year are published, while in December, the data for the current year (January–November) is published. |
| 14.2. Punctuality |
| The data is published according to the date indicated in the Statistical Work Programme. A violation of publication dates never occurred. |

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| 15. Coherence and comparability |
| 15.1. Comparability – geographical |
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| 15.2. Comparability – over time |
| Data is comparable over time. |
| 15.3. Coherence – cross domain |
| Data is coherent. |
| 15.4. Coherence – internal |
| Data is coherent. |

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| 16. Cost and burden |
| Receiving and processing data is done only by the basic staff within the Geostat budget and does not require additional costs. |

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| 17. Data revision |
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| 17.1. Data revision – policy |
| Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat: https://www.geostat.ge/media/59824/Data-Revision-Policy-and-Error-Correction-at-Geostat_Eng.pdf |
| 17.2. Data revision – practice |
| Planned revision of data is not carried out. An Unplanned revision (to clarify data) was not carried out in 2024. |
| 18. Statistical processing |
| 18.1. Source data |
| The primary data on the prices of the food basket are the prices of the products included in the consumer basket, which are obtained from the monthly Survey on Consumer Prices and Tariffs. Based on the prices, the intermediate cost of the minimum food basket is calculated, which is multiplied by the price bargaining coefficient. |
| 18.2. Frequency of data collection |
| The primary data is collected monthly. |
| 18.3. Data collection |
| In order to calculate subsistence minimum data on prices are collected in retail outlets in five cities: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Gori and Telavi. Cities are selected based on the share of region’s population expenditure in total monetary expenditure and the size of the city. |
| 18.4. Data validation |
| The validation of the primary data on consumer prices is carried out in several stages by the responsible person based on the appropriate methodology (for details, see Consumer Price Index Metadata, Section 18.4). |
| 18.5. Data compilation |
| Initially, the cost of each component of the minimum food basket is calculated using food prices obtained from the Survey on Consumer Prices and Tariffs in above mentioned five cities. The average price of each product in the food basket is calculated for each city. At the next stage, an average price for the country is calculated. The average intermediate monthly cost of the food basket for a working age male represents the total monthly cost of the products contained in the food basket. The monthly cost of a food basket product is obtained by multiplying the product’s monthly norm by its average price. Monthly intermediate cost of the food basket is multiplied by the price bargaining coefficient, calculated by comparing the prices of the products included in the food basket, obtained from the Survey on Consumer Prices and Tariffs and from the Households Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The coefficient currently stands at 0.865. After these adjustments, the final cost of the minimum food basket for a working age male is obtained in a given month. The cost of the minimum food basket is divided by 0.7 to calculate the subsistence minimum (the share of food products in the subsistence minimum cost equals 70%, thus, the cost of non-food products equals 30% of the subsistence minimum cost). The obtained amount represents the final value of the subsistence minimum for a working age male in a given month. |
| 18.6. Adjustment |
| Not applicable. |
| 19. Comment |
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