



Your research

Our data

Introduction

The mission of Statistics Netherlands (CBS) is to publish reliable and coherent statistical information that responds to the needs of society. The information published by CBS encompasses many aspects of Dutch society, from macroeconomic indicators such as economic growth and consumer prices to the income situation of individuals and households. CBS makes this information available to the general public through its website (www.cbs.nl). It does so objectively and independently.

In addition, CBS offers possibilities to work with the datasets which are used in its statistical production. This brochure explains the various ways in which research can be performed based on the anonymised data that are available at CBS about individual persons, households, businesses and institutions; these are the so-called microdata sets.

Access and use

You are contemplating a research project, perhaps you have already written a proposal, and you wish to explore the possibilities of answering your research questions using microdata analysis. At CBS, we can grant access to our datasets and let you work independently with the microdata.

A full overview of all available datasets can be found here: www.cbs.nl/microdata-eng. If there is no suitable dataset for your particular research, CBS will in many cases be able to compile a specific dataset for you. It is also possible to upload your own dataset for linking to the CBS datasets, so you can use the enriched dataset for your research project.

The conditions under which you can use CBS microdata can be found here: www.cbs.nl/microdata-eng.

As soon as your organisation has received permission to conduct research on the CBS microdata, you can conduct your own research by using the CBS microdata environment. This means that you will be able to gain access to the data through a secured internet connection on any safe workstation¹⁾ by using a personalised token.

Help and support

If you wish to explore the possibilities of using CBS microdata facilities for your research, CBS can offer you support. CBS has a team of advisors who can assist you. Charges apply to the facilitating of access by CBS and the use of CBS microdata. If you wish to know more about the possibilities of doing your own research using CBS microdata, please contact CBS at <https://microdata.cbs.nl/en> or via telephone: +31 70 337 4200.

¹⁾ Please consult 'Rules for using the CBS microdata environment' on www.cbs.nl/microdata-eng.

Overview of services

Once you start working on CBS microdata, CBS continues to offer help and support. A number of services listed here are compulsory; other services are optional. Below you will find an overview of our services.

Requesting and starting a research project

Service	Type	Description
Assistance with request for institutional authorisation	Optional	To be able to work with CBS microdata your organisation must request permission. You need to apply for this permission yourself, but CBS can assist you and help you on your way.
Information on available datasets	Optional	Provision of information about available datasets. If, after consulting the available information, you have additional questions that will take an extensive amount of time to answer, we will send you an offer for a separate feasibility study (see Feasibility study of available data).
Feasibility study of available data	Optional	A study of the availability of datasets within CBS which are not included in our standard catalogue of datasets and which is estimated to take up more than 5 working hours.

Services during the project start-up

Service	Type	Description
Starting up a new research project	Compulsory	<p>This service covers all activities necessary for starting up a new research project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– an expert meeting– drafting a contract– creating a project environment on the CBS microdata environment (creating accounts, providing access rights to the correct datasets, installing necessary software). <p>If the project requires datasets from CBS which are not included in our catalogue of datasets, the preparation of these datasets is not included in this basic service. This will be offered as a custom-made service.</p>

Authorisation new researcher	Compulsory	Drawing up a confidentiality statement and providing an introduction to the CBS microdata environment. The researcher will receive a personal token.
Authorisation onlooker	Optional	Drawing up a confidentiality statement and adding an onlooker to the administration of a specific project. An onlooker can only watch if a fully authorised microdata researcher is present. Furthermore we provide the possibility to get an onlooker account with read-only rights to the CBS microdata environment. The onlooker will then receive a personal token.
Access OSSC	Optional	If your project requires very much processing capacity, there's -under certain conditions- the option to use the ODISSEI Secure Super Computer (OSSC). If you have permission from CBS and SURF to use OSSC as a microdata researcher, then CBS will arrange for you to be able to use OSSC within your CBS microdata project.
Importing your own microdata	Optional	In consultation with us, you can bring your own set of data on individual persons/businesses/institutions to be used in your research project. The data must be obtained legally and the provision to CBS should also be legal. The data can only be imported via our secured upload facility. The data must not be sent by e-mail. The dataset will be adjusted to prevent disclosure. Direct identifiers will be deleted and replaced by a meaningless linkage key of CBS.
Compiling research dataset	Optional	If the datasets available in our catalogue are insufficient for your research project, we can prepare a dataset tailored to your specific demands.
Use of available supplementary software	Optional	Apart from the basic software packages a number of additional software packages are available on the CBS microdata environment. These packages are made available by CBS to researchers at a charge proportional to the licence fee.
Use of supplementary software not available	Optional	If you need a specific software package for your project that has not yet been installed on the CBS microdata environment, we offer a feasibility study regarding the implementation of this software on the CBS microdata environment. On the basis of this feasibility study, we will give you an estimate of the costs of the actual purchase and installation of the software. After installation, CBS can provide no further support for these software packages.

Services during an ongoing research project

Service	Type	Description
Support during an ongoing research project	Compulsory	Monthly service subscription for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Availability of CBS microdata environment– Use of basic software– Use of hardware and disk space; for each project the maximum disk space is 100 Gb– Exports (not output, e.g. syntax files, documentation)– Small import requests– Help desk– Administration
Output checking	Compulsory	Checking output for the risk of disclosure of individual data. A separate document describes the guidelines output should comply with.
Replicating research output	Optional	Independent replication of your research results by a CBS employee when required for publication in a scientific journal.
Adding or withdrawing researchers from a project	Optional	Adding new researchers to an ongoing research project or withdrawing researchers from an ongoing project.
Adding datasets to a research project	Optional	Adding one or more datasets to an ongoing project (in the case of research datasets, the preparation of these datasets is not included in this service, but will be charged separately as a special service).
Answering extensive questions	Optional	Answering extensive, complex questions or queries.
Extra storage capacity	Optional	If the maximum amount of available storage capacity on the CBS microdata environment is not sufficient for your research project, you can expand the storage capacity.
Use of powerful desktop	Optional	Providing a powerful desktop when significant computing power is required.
Transferring datasets from another research project	Optional	Transferring files (syntax files and datasets) from another project to an ongoing project.
Transferring converted catalogue datasets	Optional	Users of STATA and SAS can save converted catalogue datasets in another directory than the shared workspace on the CBS microdata environment. In this way these datasets do not count for the storage capacity of your project.

Moving a research project	Optional	Moving of a research project to another institution, for example because the researcher starts working at another institution.
Extension of a research project	Optional	If the project is not completed as planned, the researcher(s) can apply for an extension.
Temporarily freezing a research project	Optional	If nobody is working on a project for a longer period, the project can be temporarily frozen to reduce operating costs. Access to the project environment will be blocked, but the project accounts will remain intact on the CBS microdata environment.
Closing a research project	Compulsory	All activities necessary to terminate a project. Saving the project archive for 5 years after project closure. If the size of the project archive exceeds 1 Gb additional costs will be charged (see below)

Services after project completion

Service	Type	Description
Saving a large project archive	Optional	If the zipped version of the project archive exceeds 1 Gb, extra costs will be charged once for each extra Gb for an archiving period of five years.
Extension of project archive period	Optional	If the default archiving period of 5 years is not enough, it can be extended to 10 years.
Re-opening a closed research project	Optional	You will be able to re-open a CBS microdata project that has been closed and archived within the agreed archiving period (default 5 years). The project environment will be recreated on the CBS microdata environment and the project archive file will be made available.

Tariff structure 2026

Below you will find the tariffs in euro for 2026. These tariffs are net amounts (CBS is exempt from VAT). Changes in these tariffs may be introduced as of January 1st of next year.

Services prior to the project start-up	Tariff 2026
Assistance with request for institutional authorisation	free of charge
Provision of information on available datasets	free of charge
Feasibility study of available data	On request

Services during the project start-up	Tariff 2026
Starting up a new research project	
– Basic start-up costs	€ 1,955
– Costs per dataset topic*	€ 196
Autorisation/adding researcher or onlooker	
– Autorisation new researcher (no token in possession)	€ 407
– Adding researcher (already in possession of token)	free of charge
– Authorisation new onlooker with read-only rights (no token in possession)	€ 407
– Adding new onlooker with read-only rights (already in possession of token)	€ 217
– Authorisation/adding new onlooker without read-only rights	free of charge
– New personalised token in case of loss	€ 28
– Drawing up a confidentiality statement	free of charge
Access OSSC (per researcher)	€ 271
Importing your own microdata	
– Simple encryption (eg. Chamber of Commerce, social security nr.)	€ 271
– Normal encryption	€ 733
– Complex encryption	€ 1,413
Compiling research dataset	On request
Use of available supplementary software (per month)	
– Use of supplementary software MPLUS (use for a minimum of 3 months)	€ 102
– Use of supplementary software SAS	€ 571
– Use of supplementary software MLWin	€ 41
Use of supplementary software not available	On request

Services during an ongoing research project	Tariff 2026
Support during an ongoing research project (per month)	
– Support costs per dataset topic*	€ 19
– Support costs per researcher	€ 147
– Support costs per onlooker	free of charge
Output checking (per output)	
– Regular output not conforming to format	€ 380
– Regular output conforming to format	€ 280
– Small output (output light)	€ 140
– Scripts	€ 50
– Decrypting encrypted output (per 5 csv-tabs)	€ 271
Replicating research output	€ 544
Adding or withdrawing researcher(s) from a research project	free of charge
Adding datasets to a research project	
– Addition of a new dataset topic (per topic)	€ 196
– Other addition	free of charge
Answering extensive questions	On request
Extra storage capacity (per 50 Gb per month)	€ 26
Use of powerful desktop	free of charge
Transferring datasets from a closed research project	free of charge
Transferring converted catalogue datasets	free of charge
Moving a research project	€ 663
Extension of a research project	free of charge
Temporarily freezing a research project (per month)	€ 82
Closing a research project	free of charge

Services after closing the project	Tariff 2026
Saving a large project archive (per extra Gb)	€ 51
Extension of project archive period (maximum of 1 Gb)	free of charge
Re-opening a closed research project	€ 663

* A dataset topic in principle corresponds to an existing dataset name, regardless of the number of volumes used. Occasionally some dataset names are merged into one dataset topic. A list of datasets and associated topics is available on our website www.cbs.nl/microdata-eng.

Costs examples of microdata research

Below you will find a few examples of research projects, to give you an impression of the costs involved.

Project A

2 dataset topics, 1 researcher, 1 output check, duration 3 months:

Service	Tariff	Total costs
Project start-up		
Basic costs	€ 1,955	€ 1,955
Costs per dataset topic	€ 196	€ 392
Autorisation new researcher	€ 407	€ 407*
Monthly support costs		
Costs per dataset topic	€ 19	€ 114**
Costs per researcher	€ 147	€ 441***
Output checking	€ 280	€ 280
Total project costs		€ 3,589

* For researchers who have worked on the CBS microdata environment before, these costs will not be charged.

** (€ 19 x 2 x 3)

*** (€ 147 x 3)

Project B

10 dataset topics, 3 researchers, 5 output checks, duration 24 months:

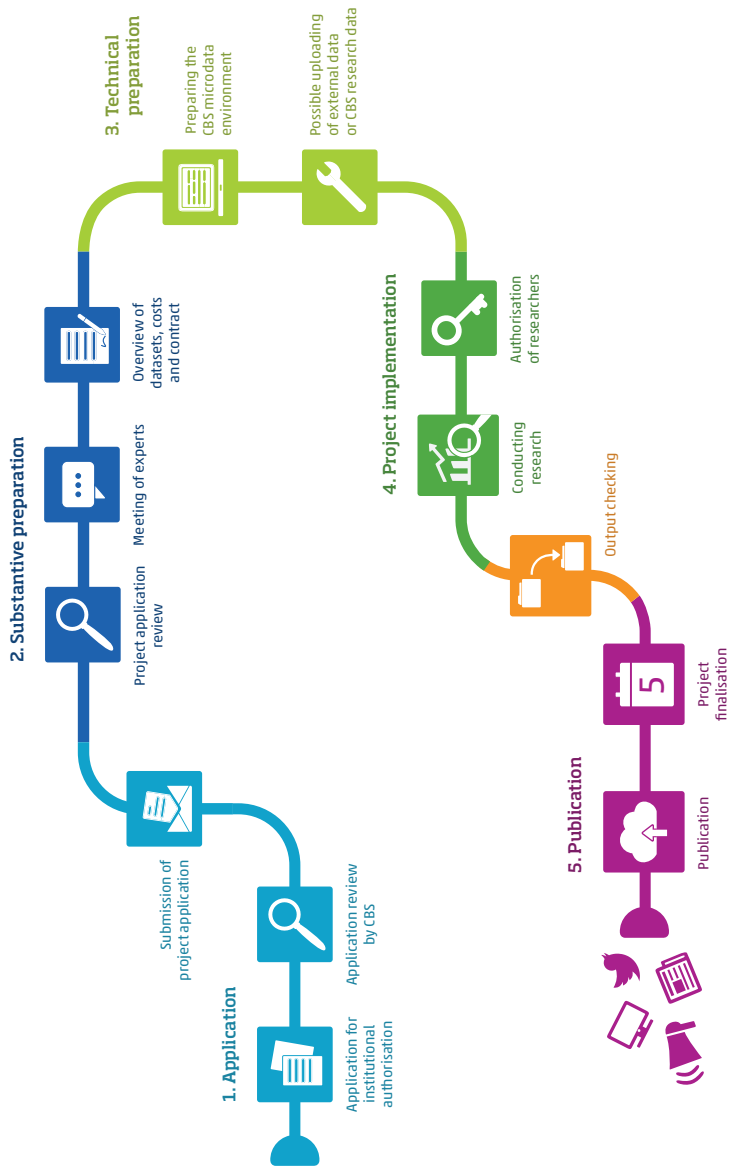
Service	Tariff	Total costs
Project start-up		
Basic costs	€ 1,955	€ 1,955
Costs per dataset topic	€ 196	€ 1 960
Autorisation new researcher	€ 407	€ 1,221*
Monthly support costs		
Costs per dataset topic	€ 19	€ 4,560**
Costs per researcher	€ 147	€ 10,584***
Output checking	€ 280	€ 1,400
Total project costs		€ 21,680

* For researchers who have worked on the CBS microdata environment before, these costs will not be charged.

** (€ 19 x 10 x 24)

*** (€ 147 x 3 x 24)

Flow chart working with CBS microdata



Interested?

<https://microdata.cbs.nl/en>

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www.cbs.nl/microdata-eng

Facts that matter

