

## Subsistence Minimum

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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	March 29, 2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	March 29, 2023
2.3. Metadata last update	March 29, 2023

3. Statistical presentation	
<b>3.1. Data description</b>	
<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"> <li>• The reflection of changes in the living standard of the population;</li> <li>• The determination of the low-income section of the population and the implementation of the target social policy;</li> <li>• The determination of the minimum amount of salaries, pensions, stipends, hardship allowances and other social benefits;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2. Classification system</b>	
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<b>3.3. Sector coverage</b>	
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<b>3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions</b>	
<p><b>The Subsistence Minimum</b> 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><b>The Minimum Food Basket</b> 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>	
<b>3.5. Statistical unit</b>	
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<b>3.6. Statistical population</b>	

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<b>3.7. Reference area</b>
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<b>3.8. Time coverage</b>
Data on subsistence minimum is available from 2004 onwards.
<b>3.9. Base period</b>
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<b>4. Unit of measure</b>
GEL.

<b>5. Reference period</b>
Month.

<b>6. Institutional mandate</b>
<b>6.1. Legal acts and other agreements</b>
<p>The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics;  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf</a>  Statistical Work Programme (annual);  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme">https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme</a>  Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia;  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/20845/10%2Csaqstatis-konsolidirebuli-debuleba.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/20845/10%2Csaqstatis-konsolidirebuli-debuleba.pdf</a>  Law of Georgia on the calculation of the subsistence minimum;  <a href="https://www.matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/29824?publication=6">https://www.matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/29824?publication=6</a>  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).  <a href="https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/55534?publication=0">https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/55534?publication=0</a></p>
<b>6.2. Data sharing</b>
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<b>7. Confidentiality</b>
<b>7.1. Confidentiality – policy</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the article 4 of the law individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.</li> <li>According to the article 28 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. The data collected for the purpose of producing official statistics shall be confidential if it allows for identification of observation unit or it is possible to identify such data through it. 2. The confidential statistical data shall not be issued or disseminated or used for a non-statistical purpose but for the exceptions envisaged by the Georgian legislation. 3. When producing the official statistics, it is obligatory to destroy or store separately the identity data including the questionnaires containing such data and used for statistical surveys according to the rules defined in the Georgian legislation.</li> <li>According to the article 29 (The Obligations and Responsibilities of the Employees of Geostat) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for the purpose of statistical survey shall not be used or disseminated by the employees of the units of Geostat.  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf</a></li> <li>Public Use Microdata Dissemination Policy at Geostat  <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/20862/Microdata-Dissemination-Policy_Eng.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/20862/Microdata-Dissemination-Policy_Eng.pdf</a></li> <li>The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection  <a href="https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9">https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9</a></li> </ol>

<b>7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidentiality guidelines.</li> <li>• Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Release policy</b>
<b>8.1. Release calendar</b>
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.
<b>8.2. Release calendar access</b>
<a href="https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar">https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar</a>
<b>8.3. User access</b>
All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.
<b>9. Frequency of dissemination</b>
Monthly.
<b>10. Accessibility and clarity</b>
<b>10.1. News release</b>
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<b>10.2. Publications</b>
Quarterly bulletin: <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/98/quarterly-bulletin">https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/98/quarterly-bulletin</a> Statistical Yearbook of Georgia: <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/95/statistical-yearbook">https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/95/statistical-yearbook</a>
<b>10.3. On-line database</b>
On-line database is available on website of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, in data dissemination software program PC-Axis format: <a href="http://pc-axis.geostat.ge/PXWeb/pxweb/en/Database/">http://pc-axis.geostat.ge/PXWeb/pxweb/en/Database/</a>
<b>10.4. Microdata access</b>
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<b>10.5. Other</b>
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.
<b>10.6. Documentation on methodology</b>
Documentation on the calculation methodology of subsistence minimum for working age male is available on the website of Geostat: <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/28956/mamakacis-saarsebo-minimumi-%28eng%29.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/28956/mamakacis-saarsebo-minimumi-%28eng%29.pdf</a>
<b>10.7. Quality documentation</b>
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<b>11. Quality management</b>
<b>11.1. Quality assurance</b>
To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Article 4 – Basic principles of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF).
<b>11.2. Quality assessment</b>
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 of statistical processes and assesses the risks for the quality statistical processes and data. 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.

<b>12. Relevance</b>
<b>12.1. User needs</b>
Users of the statistical information are state authorities, business, media, researchers, students and private persons.
<b>12.2. User satisfaction</b>
In 2021 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): <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/ka/page/customer-service">https://www.geostat.ge/ka/page/customer-service</a>
<b>12.3. Completeness</b>
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<b>13. Accuracy and reliability</b>
<b>13.1. Overall accuracy</b>
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<b>13.2. Sampling error</b>
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<b>13.3. Non-sampling error</b>
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<b>14. Timeliness and punctuality</b>
<b>14.1. Timeliness</b>
Monthly data are published on the 15 <sup>th</sup> day after the completion of the reference period.
<b>14.2. Punctuality</b>
The data is published according to the date indicated in the Statistical Work Programme. A violation of publication dates never occurred.

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

<b>16. Cost and burden</b>
Does not require additional costs.

<b>17. Data revision</b>
<b>17.1. Data revision – policy</b>
Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat (in Georgian): <a href="https://www.geostat.ge/media/44385/Revision-policy-and-error-correction_Geo.pdf">https://www.geostat.ge/media/44385/Revision-policy-and-error-correction_Geo.pdf</a>
<b>17.2. Data revision – practice</b>
Planned revision of data is not carried out. An Unplanned revision (to clarify data) was not carried out in 2022.

<b>18. Statistical processing</b>
<b>18.1. Source data</b>
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.
<b>18.2. Frequency of data collection</b>
The primary data is collected monthly.
<b>18.3. Data collection</b>
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.
<b>18.4. Data validation</b>
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).
<b>18.5. Data compilation</b>
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.
<b>18.6. Adjustment</b>
Not applicable.
<b>19. Comment</b>
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