

PL015: Person has ever worked

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current and past activity status)

Cross-sectional

Reference period: current

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1	yes
2	no

Vacation jobs taken by students, from which they return to studies or to other non-work situations are disregarded, as well as any other casual job undertaken from time to time. Part-time jobs the person may have engaged in while still in school or university are not included. But if the person works or worked in a formal regular work, during his/her studies, this work should be considered.

Normally, having ever worked refers to persons who worked on full or partial time basis for at least 6 months.

PL020: Actively looking for a job**[Actively looking for a job in previous 4 weeks]***LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status)**Cross-sectional and longitudinal**Reference period: previous 4 weeks**Unit: all current household members aged between 16 and the standard retirement age**Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers***Values**

1	yes
2	no

This variable only applies to persons not currently working, where "working" refers to the self-defined status as recorded in PL031.

However, people aged more than the standard retirement age are not concerned by this variable. In this case, the variable is coded as -2.

The period of reference for this variable is the last four weeks ending with the reference week.

The answer will be 'yes' if the person is actively looking for a job in previous four weeks.

The answer 'yes' should be recorded only if the person has used an active method for looking for a job. Passive methods should be coded 'no'.

Education and training are considered as ways of improving employability but not as methods of seeking work.

Persons who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at least 3 months should be coded 'yes'.

Active methods for looking for a job:

- having been in contact with a public employment office to find work, whoever took the initiative (renewing registration for administrative reasons only is not an active step),
- having been in contact with a private agency (temporary work agency, firm specialising in recruitment, etc.) to find work,
- applying to employers directly,
- asking among friends, relatives, unions, etc., to find work,
- placing or answering job advertisements,
- studying job advertisements,
- taking a recruitment test or examination or being interviewed,
- looking for land, premises or equipment,
- applying for permits, licences or financial resources.

PL025: Available for work**[Are you available for work in the next 2 weeks]***LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status)**Cross-sectional and longitudinal**Reference period: current**Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers***Values**

1	yes
2	no

If the person is currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week.

'Currently available' means that if a job were found at the time of the interview, the person would be able to start working within two weeks. Testing for availability in the two weeks after the interview is considered more appropriate than testing during the reference week, because some persons may be unavailable for work during the reference week due to obstacles that might have been overcome had they known that a job was available to them.

Persons who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at least 3 months should be coded 'yes'.

PL031: Self-defined current economic status

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status and on current job)

Cross-sectional and longitudinal

Reference period: current

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1	Employee working full-time
2	Employee working part-time
3	Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
4	Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
5	Unemployed
6	Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience
7	In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business
8	Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work
9	In compulsory military community or service
10	Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities
11	Other inactive person

This variable replaces, from the 2009 operation onwards, the variable PL030 defined in the EU-SILC Regulation¹

The self-declared current 'main activity status'

The concept of 'current' implies that any definitive changes in the activity situation are taken into account. For instance, if a person has lost a job or has retired recently, or the activity status has changed otherwise in a definitive manner, then the situation as of the time of the interview should be reported. In this sense, 'current' overrides any concept of averaging over any specific reference period.

The target variable captures **the person's own perception** of their main activity at present. It differs from the ILO concept to the extent that people's own perception of their main status differs from the strict definitions used in the ILO definitions. For instance, many people who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified as ILO-employed if they have a part-time job. Similarly, some people who consider themselves 'unemployed' may not meet the strict ILO criteria of taking active steps to find work and being immediately available.

The self-declared main activity status is, in principle, determined on the basis of the most time spent, but no criteria have been specified explicitly.

If the person combines different part-time jobs as employee leading to an equivalent full-time work, the person should consider his/herself as employee working full time (modality 1).

Work

"Work" means any work for pay or profit. Pay includes cash payments or "payment in kind" (payment in goods or services rather than money).

¹ Agreement during the Living Conditions Working Group meeting in June 2008 that the variable PL030 will be replaced by the variable PL031 with slightly different answering categories in order to harmonise labour variables. In 2010, the LC WG agreed from the 2011 operation onwards to suppress PL030 and to keep only PL031.

Self-employed persons with a business, farm or professional practice are also considered to be working if one of the following applies :

- A person works in his own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, even if the enterprise is failing to make a profit.
- A person spends time on the operation of a business, professional practice or farm even if no sales were made, no professional services were rendered, or nothing was actually produced (for example, a farmer who engages in farm maintenance activities; an architect who spends time waiting for clients in his/her office; a fisherman who repairs his boat or nets for future operations; a person who attends a convention or seminar).
- A person is in the process of setting up a business, farm or professional practice; this includes the buying or installing of equipment, and ordering of supplies in preparation for opening a new business.
- An unpaid family worker is said to be working if the work contributes directly to a business, farm or professional practice owned or operated by a related member of the same household.

Seasonal workers

During the off-season, seasonal workers cannot be considered as having a formal attachment to their high-season job— because they do not continue to receive a wage or salary from their employer although they may have an assurance of return to work.

Maternity and paternity leave

Maternity leave is first given to the mother (but may include the leave of the father in the case of a transfer of the entitlements) and corresponds to the compulsory period of the leave stipulated by national legislation to ensure that mothers before and after childbirth have sufficient rest, or for a period to be specified according to national circumstances.

People in maternity leave should always be considered as working.

The idea of having an additional category in the national questionnaire is seen as a good practice.

Parental leave

Parental leave can be taken either by the mother or the father and is the interruption of work in case of childbirth or to bring up a child of young age. It corresponds to the period when parents receive “parental leave benefit”. People in full-time parental leave should be treated as not working.

Layoffs

A person on lay-off is one whose written or unwritten contract of employment, or activity, has been suspended by the employer for a specified or unspecified period at the end of which the person concerned has a recognised right or recognised expectation to recover employment with that employer.

Lay-offs are classified as working if they receive $\geq 50\%$ of their wage or salary from their employer or have an assurance of return to work within a period of 3 months.

Employee

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind; non-conscripted members of the armed forces are also included.

An employee is usually working for an outside employer, but a son or daughter, for example, who is working in a parent’s firm and receives a regular monetary wage is classified here as an employee.

- A woman looking after children in her own home is classified as an employee if she is paid to do this by the local authority (or any other public administration) and if she

doesn't take any decision affecting the enterprise (e.g. schedules or number of children) but as an self employed if she does it privately.

- Apprentices, or trainees receiving remuneration should be considered as employees.
- Priests (of any kind of religion) are considered employees
- Persons who are simultaneously working in their own professional practice and for a public or private employer (e.g. doctors with their own cabinet and working in an hospital) should be classified according to the status where they work a more important number of hours.

Self-employed

Self-employed persons are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit.

Members of producers' co-operatives should be considered as self-employed if in the co-operative, each member takes part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organisation of production, sales and /or other work of the establishment, the investments and the distribution of the proceeds of the establishment amongst their members.

Family worker

Family workers are persons who help another member of the family to run an agricultural holding or other business, provided they are not considered as employees.

Persons working in a family business or on a family farm without pay should be living in the same household as the owner of the business or farm, or in a slightly broader interpretation, in a house located on the same plot of land and with common household interests. Such people frequently receive remuneration in the form of fringe benefits and payments in kind. However, this applies only when the business is owned or operated by the individual themselves or by a relative. Thus, unpaid voluntary work done for charity should not be included.

This category includes:

- A son or daughter working in the parents' business or on the parents' farm without pay.
- A wife who assists her husband in his business, e.g. a haulage contractor, without receiving any formal pay.

Full-time/part-time

The distinction between full-time and part-time work should be made on the basis of a spontaneous answer given by the respondent. It is impossible to establish a more exact distinction between part-time and full-time work, due to variations in working hours between Member States and also between branches of industry. By checking the answer with the number of hours usually worked, it should be possible to detect and even to correct implausible answers, since part-time work will hardly ever exceed 35 hours, while full-time work will usually start at about 30 hours.

As mentioned here above, if the person combines different part-time jobs as employee leading to an equivalent full-time work, the person should consider his/herself as employee working full-time.

Retirement, early retirement

See RB170

PL035: Worked at least 1 hour during the previous week

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status and on current job)

Cross-sectional

Reference period: previous week

Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1	Yes
2	No

A person is considered as **working** if he/she did any work for pay or profit during the reference week or if he/she was not working but had a job or business from which he/she was absent during the reference week.

Did any work for pay or profit during the reference week(LFS definition)

"Work" means any work for pay or profit during the reference week, even for as little as one hour. Pay includes cash payments or "payment in kind" (payment in goods or services rather than money), whether payment was received in the week the work was done or not. Also counted as working is anyone who receives wages for on-the-job training which involves the production of goods or services. Self-employed persons with a business, farm or professional practice are also considered to be working if one of the following applies :

- A person works in his own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, even if the enterprise is failing to make a profit.
- A person spends time on the operation of a business, professional practice or farm even if no sales were made, no professional services were rendered, or nothing was actually produced (for example, a farmer who engages in farm maintenance activities; an architect who spends time waiting for clients in his/her office; a fisherman who repairs his boat or nets for future operations; a person who attends a convention or seminar).
- A person is in the process of setting up a business, farm or professional practice; this includes the buying or installing of equipment, and ordering of supplies in preparation for opening a new business. An unpaid family worker is said to be working if the work contributes directly to a business, farm or professional practice owned or operated by a related member of the same household. Unpaid family work is any task directly contributing to the operation of the family farm or business.

Conscripts performing some work for pay or profit during the reference week or not should always be coded 2.

Persons who works on their own small agriculture farm, who do not sell their products, but produce only for their own consumption

The classification as employment, and then code 1 should be ticked, depends on whether it falls within the production boundaries. When this production is included in national accounts, underlying employment must be identified. This depends on the relative quantitative importance of the production of agricultural products for own consumption in relation to the total supply of these products in a country (ESA 3.08)

Was not working but had a job or business from which he/she was absent during the reference week (LFS definition)

(all the cases below are considered as "working")

Employees

A job exists if there is a definite and pre-scheduled arrangement between an employer and employee for regular work (that is, every week or every month), whether the work is full-time or part-time. The number of hours of work done each week or each month may vary considerably, but as long as some work is done on a regular and scheduled basis, a job is considered to exist.

Long-term absence from work.

If the total absence from work (measured from the last day of work to the day on which the paid worker will return) has exceeded three months then a person is considered to have a job only if he/she continues to receive (50% of the wage or salary from their employer. If this is not the case, they should be coded 2 in PL035.

Seasonal workers

During the off-season, seasonal workers cannot be considered as having a formal attachment to their high-season job— because they do not continue to receive a wage or salary from their employer although they may have an assurance of return to work. If they are not at work during the off-season, they should be coded 2 in PL035.

Maternity and paternity leave

Maternity leave is first given to the mother (but may include the leave of the father in the case of a transfer of the entitlements) and corresponds to the compulsory period of the leave stipulated by national legislation to ensure that mothers before and after childbirth have sufficient rest, or for a period to be specified according to national circumstances.

Parental leave can be taken either by the mother or the father and is the interruption of work in case of childbirth or to bring up a child of young age. It should correspond to the period when parents receive “parental leave benefit”.

People in maternity leave should always be coded 1 in PL035.

People in full-time parental leave should be treated as a case of long term absence from work.

For unpaid family workers

The unpaid family worker can be said to have a job (code 1 in PL035) but not be at work if there is a definite commitment by the employer (a related household member) to accept his/her return to work and the total absence do not exceed a period of 3 months. In this point Eurostat diverges from the ILO recommendation. If the period of absence exceeds 3 months they should be coded 2 in PL035.

For self-employed persons

If self-employed persons are classified as being absent from work, then they are regarded as in employment (code 1 in PL035) only if they can be said to have a business, farm or professional practice. This is the case if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Machinery or equipment of significant value, in which the person has invested money, is used by him or his employees in conducting his business.
- An office, store, farm or other place of business is maintained.
- There has been some advertisement of the business or profession by listing the business in the telephone book, displaying a sign, distributing cards or leaflets, etc.

If none of these conditions is met, then the person is regarded as not being in employment and therefore should be coded 2 in PL035.

Was not working because on lay-off

A person on lay-off is one whose written or unwritten contract of employment, or activity, has been suspended by the employer for a specified or unspecified period at the end of which the person concerned has a recognised right or recognised expectation to recover employment with that employer.

Lay-offs are classified as employed (code 1 in PL035) if they receive (50% of their wage or salary from their employer or have an assurance of return to work within a period of 3 months.

Lay-offs are classified as unemployed (code 2 in PL035) if they receive less than 50% of their wage or salary from their employer, don't have assurance of return to work or have an agreed date but this date falls after a period of 3 months and if they are "available to start work in 2 weeks" and have "search for a job in the last 4 weeks".

Persons who find a job to start in the future should always be coded 2 in PL035.

Slack work for technical or economic reasons

A person in slack work for technical or economic reasons should have a formal attachment to his/her job and should be coded 1 in PL035 .

PL040: Status in employment

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status and on current main job, including information on last main job for previously active people)

Cross-sectional and longitudinal

Reference period: current/last situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1	self-employed with employees
2	self-employed without employees
3	employee
4	family worker

This variable refers to the main job, namely the current main job for people at work (PL031 = 1, 2, 3 or 4) or the last main job for people who do not have a job (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4 and PL015 = 1).

If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Self-employed with employees

Self-employed persons with employees are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who employ at least one other person.

If people working in the business, professional practice or farm, are not paid then he/she should be considered as self employed without staff.

Self-employed without employees

Self-employed persons without employees are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who do not employ any other person.

Nevertheless he may engage members of his/her own family or apprenticed without payment. In this category one can find farmers working alone or using the assistance of members of family.

In particular:

- A woman who looks after one or more children that are not her own on a private basis and receiving a payment for this service is a self-employed.
- A freelancer should be classified as self-employed, although a person who has been regularly retained by a single employer for some time may also be regarded as an employee.

Employee

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind; non-conscripted members of the armed forces are also included.

An employee is usually working for an outside employer, but a son or daughter, for example, who is working in a parent's firm and receives a regular monetary wage is classified here as an employee.

- A woman looking after children in her own home is classified as an employee if she is paid to do this by the local authority (or any other public administration) and if she doesn't take any decision affecting the enterprise (e.g. schedules or number of children) but as a self-employed if she does it privately.
- Apprentices, or trainees receiving remuneration should be considered as employees.
- Priests (of any kind of religion) are considered employees
- Persons who are simultaneously working in their own professional practice and for a public or private employer (e.g. doctors with their own cabinet and working in a hospital) should be classified according to the status where they work a more important number of hours.

Family worker

Family workers are persons who help another member of the family to run an agricultural holding or other business, provided they are not considered as employees.

Persons working in a family business or on a family farm without pay should be living in the same household as the owner of the business or farm, or in a slightly broader interpretation, in a house located on the same plot of land and with common household interests. Such people frequently receive remuneration in the form of fringe benefits and payments in kind. However, this applies only when the business is owned or operated by the individual themselves or by a relative. Thus, unpaid voluntary work done for charity should not be included.

This category includes:

- A son or daughter working in the parents' business or on the parents' farm without pay.
- A wife who assists her husband in his business, e.g. a haulage contractor, without receiving any formal pay.

Members of producers' co-operatives

Members of producers' co-operatives should be considered as self-employed if in the co-operative, each member takes part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organisation of production, sales and /or other work of the establishment, the investments and the distribution of the proceeds of the establishment amongst their members.

In the case a co-operative hired workers and these workers have an employment contract that gives them a basic remuneration (which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the co-operative), these workers are identified as employees of the co-operative.

Even if the co-operative has employees (e.g. an accountant) the members of the co-operative should be considered as "self-employed without employees" because the co-operative as an institution (and not any of its members) is the employer.

PL050: Occupation (ISCO-88 (COM))

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status and on current main job, including information on last main job for previously active people)

Cross-sectional and longitudinal

Reference period: current/last situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

ISCO Code 88 (2 digits / see annex)

Flags

1	filled
-1	missing
-2	not applicable (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4 and PL015 not = 1)
-5	missing value of PL050 because PL051 is used

The EU-SILC Regulation refers to the classification ISCO-88. However, from the 2011 operation onwards the classification ISCO-08 should be used². For the 2011 operation, coding according to both classifications ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 should be done but no back-casting is required. The double reporting should only be performed for 2011. From the 2012 operation onwards only the new classification ISCO-08 should be used.

This variable refers to the main job, namely the current main job for people at work (PL031 = 1, 2, 3 or 4) or the last main job for people who do not have a job (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4 and PL015 = 1).

If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Interviewers, when asking the ISCO code, should refer, if applicable, to the code given the preceding year(s) in order to avoid too many (and unjustified) changes in the value of this variable from one year to the other.

The basis for the classification in the ISCO-88 scheme is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties to be performed. Skills are the abilities to carry out the tasks and duties of a job. Skills consist of two dimensions: skill level and domain specialisation. The skill level is related to the level of educational attainment.

The questions needed for the classification by occupation are the job title associated with the main job and a further description of the tasks and duties.

For a few occupations, information on size group of workplace (the local unit of activity) is needed to code ISCO 88(COM).

This should be coded according to the ISCO-88 (COM) classification provided in annex, which is based upon ISCO-88, International Standard Classification of Occupations, published by the International Labour Office (Geneva, 1990).

² The Living Conditions Working Group agreed in December 2009 by written consultation to use the double coding according to ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 in the 2011 operation, and to use only ISCO-08 from the 2012 operation onwards. This is in line with the Commission recommendation on the ISCO classification.

PL051: Occupation (ISCO-08 (COM))

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic labour information on current activity status and on current main job, including information on last main job for previously active people)

Cross-sectional and longitudinal

Reference period: current/last situation

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

ISCO Code 08 (2 digits / see annex)

The EU-SILC Regulation refers to the classification ISCO-88. However, from the 2011 operation onwards the classification ISCO-08 should be used³. For the 2011 operation, coding according to both classifications ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 should be done but no back-casting is required. The double reporting should only be performed for 2011. From the 2012 operation onwards only the new classification ISCO-08 should be used.

This variable refers to the main job, namely the current main job for people at work (PL031 = 1, 2, 3 or 4) or the last main job for people who do not have a job (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4 and PL015 = 1).

If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Interviewers, when asking the ISCO code, should refer, if applicable, to the code given the preceding year(s) in order to avoid too many (and unjustified) changes in the value of this variable from one year to the other.

The basis for the classification is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties to be performed. Skills are the abilities to carry out the tasks and duties of a job. Skills consist of two dimensions: skill level and domain specialisation. The skill level is related to the level of educational attainment. The questions needed for the classification by occupation are the job title associated with the main job and a further description of the tasks and duties.

For a few occupations, information on size group of workplace (the local unit of activity) is needed).

This should be coded according to the ISCO-08 (COM) classification provided in annex.

³ The Living Conditions Working Group agreed in December 2009 by written consultation to use the double coding according to ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 in the 2011 operation, and to use only ISCO-08 from the 2012 operation onwards. This is in line with the Commission recommendation on the ISCO classification.

PL060: Number of hours usually worked per week in main job

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic information on current activity status and on current main job)

Cross-sectional and longitudinal

Reference period: current

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1 - 99 number of hours

If multiple jobs are held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked. Persons having changed job during the reference week should regard the job at the end of the reference week as their main job.

The number of hours corresponds to the number of hours the person normally works in his/her main job. This covers all hours including extra hours, either paid or unpaid, which the person normally works, but excludes the travel time between the home and the place of work as well as the main meal breaks (normally taken at midday).

Persons who usually also work at home (within the definitions given below) are asked to include the number of hours they usually work at home. Apprentices, trainees and other persons in vocational training are asked to exclude the time spent in school or other special training centres.

Some persons, particularly the self-employed and family workers, may not have usual hours, in the sense that their hours vary considerably from week to week or month to month. When the respondent is unable to provide a figure for usual hours for this reason, the average of the hours actually worked per week over the past four weeks is used as a measure of usual hours. Code '-6' is applied to those cases where neither the number of usual hours nor an average number of hours worked over the past four weeks can be established.

For self-employed people, in particular, normal hours may also include work done at home, such as planning, record-keeping and so on.

Apprentices, trainees and other persons in vocational training should exclude the time spent in school or other special training centres.

Persons who usually also work at home

This concept applies to many self-employed people, for example in artistic or professional activities, who work wholly or partly at home, often in a part of their living accommodation set aside for the purpose. However, if the place of work comprises a separate unit (for example, a doctor's surgery or tax consultant's practice) which is adjacent to the person's home but contains a separate entrance, then work performed there should not be considered to be done "at home". Similarly, a farmer is not to be regarded as working "at home" when he is occupied in fields or buildings adjacent to his house. In the case of employees, "working at home" should be interpreted strictly in terms of formal working arrangements, where it is mutually understood by the employee and the employer that a certain part of the work is to be done at home. Such an arrangement may be explicitly included in the terms of employment, or may be recognised in other ways (for example, if the employee explicitly notifies the employer of this work by completing a timesheet, or by requesting additional payment or other form of compensation). This arrangement is also recognised if an employee is equipped

with a computer in his home in order to perform his work. Other typical examples of "working at home" include travelling salesmen who prepare at home for appointments with clients which are then held at the clients' offices or homes, or persons who do typing or knitting work which on completion is sent to a central location.

"Working at home" does not cover cases where employees carry out tasks at home (because of personal interest or pressure of time), which under their working arrangements might equally have been performed at their place of work.

- PL073: Number of months spent at full-time work as employee**
- PL074: Number of months spent at part-time work as employee**
- PL075: Number of months spent at full-time work as self-employed (including family worker)**
- PL076: Number of months spent at part-time work as self-employed (including family worker)**
- PL080: Number of months spent in unemployment**
- PL085: Number of months spent in retirement or early retirement**
- PL086: Number of months spent as disabled or/and unfit to work**
- PL087: Number of months spent studying**
- PL088: Number of months spent in compulsory military service**
- PL089: Number of months spent fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities**
- PL090: Number of months spent in other inactivity**

LABOUR INFORMATION (Basic information on activity status during income reference period)

Cross-sectional

Reference period: income reference period

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers or deducted from PL211 variables

Values

0 - 12 number of months

The status is self-defined and the same definitions as for variable PL031 apply (see PL031 for definitions and explanations). In particular, if the person combines different part-time jobs as employee leading to an equivalent full-time work, the person should consider his/herself as employee working full-time.

If more than one type of activities occur in the same month, priority should be given to economic activity (“main activity: work”) over non-economic activity and over inactivity. On the basis of this principle, the following rules may be used:

- If the respondent worked, at least during 2 weeks of the month, then variables PL073 to PL076 should be filled in.
- If more than one of the other situations apply in the same month, the respondent will select one on the basis of self-assessment. The criterion of most time spent may be useful where applicable.

About variable PL087, the concept of "month spend studying" should be understood in a broad sense. It should include the time spend as "Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience" in order to correspond to the answering category "6" of PL031.

Retirement, early retirement

See RB170

Values

In principle, according to the regulation, these variables take values between 1 and 12. But, that cause problems if the number of months spent at full-time work are f.e.12. In this case, variables PL074, PL076,...PL090 should take value 0.

PL100: Total number of hours usually worked in second, third... jobs

LABOUR INFORMATION (Total number of hours worked on current second/third ... jobs)

Cross-sectional

Reference period: current

Unit: all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview, proxy or registers

Values

1 - 99 number of hours

The number of hours usually worked in second, third...jobs should be recorded.

See PL060

PL111: NACE Rev.2*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Cross-sectional**Reference period: current**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers*

Values

NACE Rev.2 Code (2 digits / See annex 3)

The EU-SILC Regulation refers to the classification NACE Rev1.1. However, from the 2008 operation onwards the classification NACE Rev.2 should be used⁴. A double-coding referring to NACE Rev.1.1 and NACE Rev.2 occurred for the 2008 operation.

The economic activity of the local unit of the main job for respondents who are currently at work.

This variable refers to the main job. If multiple jobs are held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

This should be coded according to the NACE classification provided in annex, which is based upon the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities. The NACE, is the standard classification used at national and EU level for both economic and social statistics. Economic activities are characterised by the input of goods or services, a production process and the output of products.

Two types of questions can be used to obtain the data on the economic activity. The first type of question consists of the name and the address of the firm where a person is working. The second type of question asks the respondent to describe the economic activity and the kind of products or services supplied by the firm where (s)he works.

The first type of question, the name and address of the firm allows the linking of the survey responses with a database of all firms in a country, the statistical Business Register.

Local Unit

The "local unit" to be considered is the geographical location where the job is mainly carried out or, in the case of itinerant occupations, can be said to be based; normally it consists of a single building, part of a building, or, at the largest, a self-contained group of buildings. The "local unit" is therefore the group of employees of the enterprise who are geographically located at the same site.

See annex for more information of "local unit".

⁴ Agreement during the Living Conditions Working Group meeting in June 2008 and Commission Regulation (EC) N° 973/2007 of 20 August 2007 amending certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains implementing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2

PL120: Reason for working less than 30 hours**[Reason for working less than 30 hours (in main and other jobs)]***LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Cross-sectional**Reference period: current**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	Undergoing education or training
2	Personal illness or disability
3	Want to work more hours but cannot find a job(s) or work(s) of more hours
4	Do not want to work more hours
5	Number of hours in all job(s) are considered as a full-time job
6	Housework, looking after children or other persons
7	Other reasons

This variable is intended to capture the concept of underemployment (working fewer hours than the person would prefer because they cannot find a job working more hours; see for example Working Group on Employment Statistics, 2001b). The target variable in EU-SILC will not capture a fully-harmonised definition of underemployment, however: to do so would require a larger number of items than the space constraints would permit. The cut-off filter for the EU-SILC item is set relatively high (at 30 hours for all of the jobs) so as to capture as many as possible of those who would wish to work a greater number of hours.

Note. In the case of teachers should be considered as worked the hours of teaching, those dedicated to preparation of classes, study, research as well as the ones of compulsory permanence in the centre of studies.

Variable PL120 refers to the main reason for working less than 30 hours. In this way, only one response must be ticked. In cases where more than one reasons apply and it is not clear which is the main reason, the list should be treated in order of priority, with code 1 having the highest priority and code 7 as the last priority.

PL130: Number of persons working at the local unit

LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)

Cross-sectional

Reference period: current

Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers

Values

1 - 10	exact number (if between 1 and 10)
11	between 11 and 19 persons
12	between 20 and 49 persons
13	50 persons and more
14	do not know but less than 11 persons
15	do not know but more than 10 persons

This variable refers to the main job. If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Person himself should be included in number, as the employer

For definition of local unit see PL110

PL140: Type of contract*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Cross-sectional and longitudinal**Reference period: current/last situation**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	permanent job/work contract of unlimited duration
2	temporary job/work contract of limited duration

This variable refers to the main job (current if PL031=1, 2, 3 or 4 and last otherwise). If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

This question is addressed only to employees. In the majority of Member States most jobs are based on written work contracts. However in some countries such contracts exist only for specific cases (for example in the public sector, for apprentices, or for other persons undergoing some formal training within an enterprise). Taking into account these different institutional arrangements the notions of "temporary job" and "work contract of limited duration" (likewise "permanent job" and "work contract of unlimited duration") describe situations which under different institutional frameworks can be regarded as similar. A job may be regarded as temporary if it is understood by both employer and the employee that the termination of the job is determined by objective conditions such as reaching a certain date, completion of an assignment or return of another employee who has been temporarily replaced. In the case of a work contract of limited duration the condition for its termination is generally mentioned in the contract.

To be included in these groups are:

- persons with a seasonal job
- persons engaged by an employment agency or business and hired out to a third party for the carrying out of a "work mission" (unless there is a work contract of unlimited duration with the employment agency or business)
- persons with specific training contracts. If there exists no objective criterion for the termination of a job or work contract these should be regarded as permanent or of unlimited duration.

What is involved is the actual employment being time-limited under an agreement - not that he/she has, for example, considered stopping work in order to travel or attend college. Students with jobs which they only reckon to have for as long as they are studying are thus not in a time-limited job.

Respondents who have a contract to do their job, which may be renewed, for example, once a year, should be coded according to whether or not the respondents themselves consider their job to be of an unlimited duration.

Contract for a probationary period when the contract finishes automatically at the end of the probationary period, necessitating a new contract if the person continues to be employed by the same employer, is considered as 'temporary job'.

PL150: Managerial position*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Cross-sectional**Reference period: current/last situation**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	supervisory
2	non-supervisory

This variable refers to the current job if PL031=1, 2, 3 or 4 and to the last main job otherwise.

Supervisory

Supervisory responsibility includes formal responsibility for supervising a group of other employees (other than apprentices), whom they supervise directly, some times doing some of the work they supervise. It implies that the supervisor or foreman takes charge of the work, directs the work and sees that it is properly done.

PL160: Change of job since last year*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Longitudinal (see note below)**Reference period: since last year (since last interview, if applicable)**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	yes
2	no

Flags

1	filled
-1	missing
-2	not applicable (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4)
-3	not selected respondent

Whether the individual left a job or changed from one job to another since the last interview (or last 12 months for the first year of data collection)

For employees, a change of job means a change of employer, not moving from one set of duties to another with the same employer. Nevertheless, a change of contract with the same employer is considered as a change of job.

For the self-employed, a change of job means a change in the nature of the activity performed (or moving between employee and self-employed status). Completing one contract and beginning another does not constitute a change of job for the self-employed.

Note

For those MS using a 'rotational panel' as well as those MS using a 'pure panel' the variable PL160 will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component..

PL170: Reason for change*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Longitudinal(see note below)**Reference period: since last year (since last interview, if applicable)**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	To take up or seek better job
2	End of temporary contract
3	Obliged to stop by employer (business closure, redundancy, early retirement, dismissal etc.)
4	Sale or closure of own/family business
5	Child care and care for other dependent
6	Partner's job required us to move to another area or marriage
7	Other reasons

The main reason the person left a job since last year.

To take up or seek better job

Better job should be understood in a broad sense; it covers better wage, better work conditions, less commuting, etc.

End of temporary contract

This code is used for employees who declare that their last job was temporary and came to an end, or that they had a formal work contract which was completed. This also applies to seasonal and casual jobs.

Obliged to stop by employer

It covers a number of situations, such as dismissed or made redundant, closures of the employer's business, or early retirement due to economic factors (labour market problems, difficulties in specific sectors of the economy, etc.). Termination for other reasons - such as due to end of contract (and refusal by employer to renew it), retirement at normal age, or retirement 'by own choice' i.e. not as a result of economic factors such as market problems, or due to closure of own business in the case of the self-employed - are included in other response categories.

Other reasons

This code is used where none of the codes 1-6 applies, including cases where the person has resigned from his job for reasons (such as personal dissatisfaction, retired from his/her job at the normal retirement age, respondent left his/her job because of personal health) not covered by any of the other codes.

Note

For those MS using a 'rotational panel' as well as those MS using a 'pure panel' the variable PL170 will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component.

PL180: Most recent change in the individual's activity status*LABOUR INFORMATION (Detailed labour information)**Longitudinal(see note below)**Reference period: since last year (since last interview, if applicable)**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

1	employed - unemployed
2	employed - retired
3	employed - other inactive
4	unemployed - employed
5	unemployed - retired
6	unemployed - other inactive
7	retired - employed
8	retired - unemployed
9	retired - other inactive
10	other inactive - employed
11	other inactive - unemployed
12	other inactive - retired

This variable collects whether there is a change in the individual activity status since the last interview (or last 12 months for the first year of data collection).

If more than one change in the individual activity status the most recent change should be recorded.

The status is self-defined and the same definitions as for variable PL031 apply (see PL031 for definitions and explanations).

Note

For those MS using a 'rotational panel' as well as those MS using a 'pure panel' the variable PL180 will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component.

PL190: When began first regular job*LABOUR INFORMATION (Activity history)**Longitudinal(see note below)**Reference period: working life**Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over**Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers***Values**

8 - 65 age

Overview

Dynamic analysis of the employment situation requires measures extending over time. This requires measures that are more stable and more directly enumerated than the conventional labour force survey measures defined with reference to a short reference period, such as one week (Verma, 1999 and 1999a). EU-SILC follows the concept of self-declared or main activity status.

A selected subset of items is to be included in EU-SILC which would allow to obtain an overview of the person's total (lifetime) work experience and of their recent unemployment experience.

The activity history items are confined to the longitudinal component of EU-SILC. Some of the items of information will need to be collected only once of each person in the longitudinal component: such as the item on when the person started their first regular job, and the number of years since that time spent at work.

Age Started First Regular Job

It is designed to permit the calculation of the total potential time the person could have spent in the labour force. It is the age at which the person began their first regular job.

Vacation jobs taken by students, from which they return to studies or to other non-work situations are disregarded, as well as any other casual job undertaken from time to time. Part-time jobs the person may have engaged in while still in school or university are not included. But if the person works or worked in a formal regular work, during his/her studies, this work should be considered.

Normally, the job considered should be the first one which lasted for at least 6 months, unless it was terminated by a period of unemployment or by another job.

Note

For those MS using a 'rotational panel' as well as those MS using a 'pure panel' the variable PL190 will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component.

PL200: Number of years spent in paid work

[Number of years spent in paid work (as employee or self-employee)]

LABOUR INFORMATION (Activity history)

Longitudinal(see note below)

Reference period: working life

Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers

Values

0 - 65 number of years

This indicator provides a summary measure of the labour force experience of the individual. The number of years, since starting the first regular job, that the person has spent at work, whether as an employee or self-employed.

When a person had a job, but was temporarily absent because of maternity leave, injury or temporary disability, slack work for technical or economical reasons, ... the related period is to be taken into account in the computation of the number of years spent in paid work.

‘At work’ is self-defined. In cases where there is doubt, such as when the person spent a number of years working on a part-time basis, the person’s own perception of whether their main activity was ‘at work’ or something else should be taken. If a person retires and continues to have a paid work at the same time, this time period should only be taken into account if the person declares him/herself as working. If this person considers him/herself as retired, then the computed number of years spent in paid work stops with the retirement of the person.

See PL190

Note

For those MS using a ‘rotational panel’ as well as those MS using a ‘pure panel’ the variable PL200 will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component.

PL211A: Main activity on January
PL211B: Main activity on February
PL211C: Main activity on March
PL211D: Main activity on April
PL211E: Main activity on May
PL211F: Main activity on June
PL211G: Main activity on July
PL211H: Main activity on August
PL211I: Main activity on September
PL211J: Main activity on October
PL211K: Main activity on November
PL211L: Main activity on December

LABOUR INFORMATION (Calendar of activities)

Longitudinal (see note below)

Reference period: income reference period

Unit: selected respondent (where applies) or all current household members aged 16 and over

Mode of collection: personal interview (proxy as an exception) or registers

Values

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Employee working full-time |
| 2 | Employee working part-time |
| 3 | Self-employed working full-time (including family worker) |
| 4 | Self-employed working part-time (including family worker) |
| 5 | Unemployed |
| 6 | Pupil, student, further training, unpaid work experience |
| 7 | In retirement or in early retirement or has given up business |
| 8 | Permanently disabled or/and unfit to work |
| 9 | In compulsory military community or service |
| 10 | Fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities |
| 11 | Other inactive person |

This variable replaces, from the 2009 operation onwards, the variables PL210 defined in the EU-SILC Regulation⁵

The status is self-defined and the same definitions as for variable PL031 apply (see PL031 for definitions and explanations). In particular, if the person combines different part-time jobs as employee leading to an equivalent full-time work, the person should consider his/herself as employee working full-time (code 1 should be ticked for the month).

⁵ Agreement during the Living Conditions Working Group meeting in June 2008 that the variables PL210 will be replaced by the variable PL211 with slightly different labelling in order to harmonise labour variables. In 2010, the LC WG agreed from the 2011 operation onwards to suppress PL210 and to keep only PL211.

If more than one type of activities occur in the same month, priority should be given to economic activity (“main activity: work”) over non-economic activity and over inactivity. On the basis of this principle, the following rules may be used:

- If the respondent worked, at least during 2 weeks of the month, then code 1, 2, 3 or 4 should be ticked for the month.
- If more than one of the other codes apply in the same month, the respondent will select one on the basis of self-assessment. The criterion of most time spent may be useful where applicable.

See also PL040

Note

For those MS using a ‘rotational panel’ as well as those MS using a ‘pure panel’ the variables PL211A-PL211L will also be provided for EU-SILC cross-sectional component.