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Methodological summary on the break corrections for the FI-LFS

The calibration approach for back-calculate the time series of quarterly estimates

The back-calculated time series of quarterly estimates can be produced with a new quarterly estimation weight. The new quarterly weighting factor of every respondent is recomputed to adjust quarterly data from 2009 to 2020. The work with microdata enable so that new linked (i.e. backward forecasted) estimates can be produced with these new estimation weights. By calibrating on the individual level, all time series produced using new estimation weights will be consistent. The calibration conditions were established by using the register-based auxiliary information (e.g. sex, age group, region, main type of economic activity, job-seeker status, level of education and native language), the results of the pilot study and comparative data from previous and current EU-LFS, where applicable. The calibration process also includes a new scaling method that ensures that all survey weeks in the quarter are equally represented. The calibration conditions have thus taken into account the effects of the IESS FR and the new estimation method from 2021 onwards. The revision of estimation procedure was carried out in order to reduce the bias due to non-response and to obtain better efficiency.

Input for break correction

The option to provide of complete break-corrected series will be applied to the series from 2009 to 2020. The new estimates are calculated by new quarterly estimation weights. The quarterly correction input consist of 14 main indicators and 48 optional indicators (See Table 1 for an example of the old and new estimates in the main indicators for males in 2009Q1).

Table 1. The old and new estimates in the main indicators for males in 2009Q1

Main indicator	Old estimate, 1000s	New estimate, 1000s
M_EMP_Y15-24	110.2	110.0
M_EMP_Y20-64	1,202.9	1,185.5
M_EMP_Y25-64	1,114.8	1,098.3
M_EMP_Y65-74	21.8	21.4
M_UNE_Y15-24	34.2	34.4
M_UNE_Y25-64	79.3	80.9
M_UNE_Y65-74	21.8	21.4

Evaluation of the old and new estimates

The gap between old and new estimates is greatest for those optional indicators that include the educational attainment level, in particular at ISCED level 0-2 and ISCED level 5+. The phenomenon is, as far as possible, the result of a much wider use of the register-based auxiliary information and thus a more efficient adjustment of non-response in the revised estimation procedure. It is also easy to see that the gap between old and new estimates has gradually widened over the period 2009-2020 due to increased and skewed non-response for a number of indicators.