

Publication note on German EU-LFS in 2020

From 2020 on, the EU-Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been integrated into the newly designed German microcensus¹ as subsample. For the LFS, a new rotation scheme, a fixed reference week, and a full multi-mode-design were implemented along with completely new and complex IT tools for survey management and data collection. These changes have led to a break in the time series. In addition, technical issues during the system changeover have restricted the data collection since the beginning of 2020. Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis has had a large impact on data collection processes. These were the two main factors resulting in low response rates and a biased sample for the data collected in 2020. Overall, this limits the use of the data collected in the LFS subsample to such a degree that alternatives had to be considered. The full sample of the whole microcensus contains information on a number of LFS variables; by using this data in addition to the LFS subsample, a restricted set of indicators has been estimated and used for the production of the [LFS Main Indicators](#). These estimates have also been used in the calculation of EU and EA aggregates, and are published for some selected indicators² on a quarterly basis. A publication of results for the complete indicator set is at the moment only feasible for annual data. DESTATIS is further analysing the situation and working on retrospective improvement actions.

Available data of the LFS subsample only has been used to estimate EU and EA aggregates published in the detailed LFS results, which show more and different breakdowns than the LFS Main Indicators. As a consequence, small differences in the EU and EA aggregates in tables from both collections may be observed. Estimates for Germany for all quarters of 2020 are not published in the [detailed quarterly results](#). Detailed annual results 2020 for Germany are available in the [detailed annual results](#) section of the Eurostat database.

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¹ https://www.destatis.de/EN/Press/2020/01/PE20_027_122.html

² Estimates are flagged as p – provisional, and u – unreliable.