

Resource Type: Dataset

Resource Identifier: EU - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions microdata 2004-2018, release 2020, version 1

Name of Dataset: European Union - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

Creator: Eurostat

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2907/EUSILC2004-2018V.1>

URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/203647/203704/EU+SILC+DOI+2020v1.pdf>

Language of Resource: English

Publication Date: 30 March 2020

Short description: The 2020 version 1 release of EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions covers reference years 2004 – 2018 for cross-sectional data and 2005 – 2018 for longitudinal data. It contains microdata on income and living conditions for all age groups. The dataset is available for eligible researchers. Access conditions: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/overview>.

Changes since last release: Inclusion of 2018 longitudinal data. Country level revisions of previous data are listed in the documentation provided with the scientific use files.

Data revisions: See “EUSILC_Data_Revisions.htm” in the documentation provided with the scientific use files

Dataset file types: four data files per year: household register, household data, personal register, personal data

Geographical Coverage: The 2020 release version 1 contains the following countries:

AT- all sets: C: 2004-2018, L: 2005-2018	ES-all sets	LV- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018
BE - all sets	FI-all sets	MT- C: 2007-2018, L 2009-2018
BG – C 2007-2018, L 2007-2018	FR-all sets	NL- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018
CY- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018	HR- C 2010-2018, L 2011-2018	PL – C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018
CZ- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018	HU- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018	PT- C: 2004-2018, L: 2005-2017
DE- C 2005-2018, L 2018 only	IE- C: 2004-2018, L: 2005-2018 (excl 2010 and 2011)	RO- C: 2007-2018, L 2006-2018
DK- all sets (excl L 2005)	IT-all sets	SE-all sets
EE – all sets	LT- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018	SI- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2018
EL – all sets	LU-all sets	SK- C 2005-2018, L 2006-2016
CH - C 2007-2018, L 2014-2017	IS - C 2004-2016, L 2005-2016	NO – all sets
RS - C 2013-2018 – L 2012-2018	UK - C 2005-2017, L 2006-2017	

Keywords: living conditions, Income, poverty, social exclusion, housing, labour, education, health

Description of the dataset: The European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is an instrument aiming at collecting timely and comparable cross-sectional and longitudinal multidimensional microdata on income, poverty, social exclusion and other living conditions.

It provides longitudinal and cross-sectional data files of household/personal registers, and of household/personal data. Further details are provided at the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-statistics-on-income-and-living-conditions>

Methodology: The methodology of the EU-SILC is summarised here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_\(EU-SILC\)_methodology_%E2%80%93_concepts_and_contents](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_(EU-SILC)_methodology_%E2%80%93_concepts_and_contents)

A separate methodological document describes the availability and computation of EU Aggregates and it specifies the precision requirements for data publication:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1012329/1012398/COMPUTATION+AND+FLAGGING/9c70ff73-2709-4764-96f7-2371f035bd74>

Statistical unit: households; persons.

Identifiers in the datasets: The data sets contain variables at the level of individual persons and at the level of households. The anonymised identifiers allow linking the persons within the household, but avoid link the cross-sectional data to longitudinal data of the same person or household.

Variables description:

Variables' descriptions in the scientific use files (partially anonymised data) by GESIS:

<http://www.gesis.org/en/missy/metadata/EU-SILC/>

Variables in the data transmitted by national statistical offices to Eurostat:

https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/ESTAT/eusilc/Library/guidelines_questionnaire

(select: 2018 OPERATION GUIDELINES)

TO ACCESS EU-SILC DOCUMENTS ON CIRCABC JOIN THE EU-SILC GROUP HERE:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/853b48e6-a00f-4d22-87db-c40bafd0161d>

How to access the data: Eurostat grants access to microdata for scientific purposes in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 557/2013 on access to confidential data for scientific purposes. To apply for access consult:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/203647/771732/How_to_apply_for_microdata_access.pdf

Statistical disclosure control (SDC) and anonymisation: The EU-SILC scientific use files (SUFs) contain partially anonymised microdata for scientific purposes. Along with the removal of the original identifiers in the cross-sectional datasets in accordance with the requests of Member States, methods of SDC have been applied to reduce (in keeping with current best practice) the risk of identification of a statistical unit to an appropriate level.

The SDC methods (anonymisation rules) applied to produce EU-SILC SUFs are detailed in the documents describing the differences between collected microdata and the microdata disseminated

for research purpose. These documents are different by type (cross-sectional, longitudinal) and survey year. They are accessible in CIRCABC, grouped by survey years:
https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/ESTAT/eusilc/Library/data_dissemination/udb_user_database

[\(Select 2018 for this release\)](#)

Data checks for validating data received by Member States are explained here:
<https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/ESTAT/eusilc/Library/tools>

Any statistics based on this confidential microdata must be subject to stringent disclosure control practices prior to publishing. This is to ensure that information concerning specific individuals is not inadvertently released, and cannot be deduced by comparing with other published statistics. The guidelines for publication, which accompany the SUFs, lay down rules for published statistics based on EU-SILC SUFs; specific rules concerning EU-SILC are as follows:

In any reports, including all publications and unpublished papers, two cell size thresholds will be distinguished for EU-SILC results:

- below 20 observations (unweighted sample) or if non response for the item concerned exceeds 50%, results may not be published;
- from 20 to 49 observations (unweighted sample) or if non-response for the item exceeds 20% and is lower than and equal to 50%, results may be published but are to be individually flagged (e.g. shown in brackets).

For confidentiality reasons, those reports that include sample sizes will only mention 'less than 20 observations' and '20-49 observations' (i.e. not the actual number) for these 2 thresholds respectively.

For unweighted sample sizes below 20 observations, the actual number of observations may not be derived from (combination of) other information available in the reports, e.g. column or row totals.

Sampled Universe: All private households, and all persons aged 16 and over within the household, are eligible for the operation. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population. For the 2013 EU-SILC operation, the vast majority of countries used population registers, their national census, or a master sample derived from this census.

Sampling: One of the major strength of EU-SILC is the usage of the best sampling frames available in each National Statistical Institute. According to the EU-SILC Framework Regulation, data are to be based on a nationally representative probability sample of the population residing in private households within the country, irrespective of language, nationality or legal residence status.

The sample design describes all the steps to be carried out when selecting a sample of households or persons. It aims to improve the quality of the estimates produced and to control costs. Various strategies are in place in each country to achieve this objective. More information can be found in each participating countries' quality report, which can be accessed here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/quality/eu-and-national-quality-reports>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/quality/eu-and-national-quality-reports>

Eurostat recommends a rotational design with four sub-samples or replications. In 2013, all countries adopted the four-year rotational design recommended by Eurostat, with the exception of France and Norway where a longer panel duration (eight and nine years, respectively) was used.

Collection Mode: EU-SILC does not rely on a common questionnaire or a survey but on the idea of a "framework". The framework defines the harmonised list of primary (annual) and secondary (every four years or less frequently) variables to be transmitted to Eurostat, common guidelines, procedures, concepts (household and income) and classifications, with the aim of maximising comparability of the information produced.

Questionnaires: The national questionnaires used by the countries to collect the EU-SILC data as well as specific instruction and other documents for the data collection are available here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/quality/questionnaires>

Relations with other datasets: The EU-SILC instrument is the main source for the compilation of statistics on income, social inclusion and living conditions. Additional data on living conditions can be found in other statistical domains, notably on population, training and labour market, health and education.

Linking: Persons belonging to same household may be linked in EU-SILC SUFs via their current household identifier variable. The link cannot be based on the household part of the personal identifier, as that was created in (and only valid) the year when the person was selected (entered the sample). In the longitudinal datasets it is possible to trace households and persons over time.

Since SUF cross-sectional files contain no original identifiers, it is not possible to link records in different datasets (e.g. EU-SILC with EU-LFS) or between different types of EU-SILC data (longitudinal and cross-sectional files). In exceptional cases, mapping the identifiers to the original identifiers may be used to match datasets, but such an exercise must be explicitly authorised by the data owners and the mapping files have to be asked from them before it is pursued.

Publications:

- Eurostat publications based on EU SILC: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/publications>
- Scientific publications written using EU-SILC microdata: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/content/publications-basis-eurostat-microdata_en