

Resource Type: Dataset

Resource Identifier: EU - Labour Force Survey microdata 1983-2023, release 2024

Temporal Coverage: Yearly data: 1983 – 2023, quarterly data: 1995-2023 (modules included in yearly data)

Name of Dataset: EU - Labour Force Survey

Creator: Eurostat

DOI: 10.2907/LFS1983-2023

URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/203647/20621087/EU+LFS+DOI+2024.pdf>

Language of Resource: English

Publication Date: 11 December 2024

Short description: The EU – Labour Force Survey 2024 release covers reference years 1983 – 2023 and contains microdata on the employment status of the population aged 15 years and over. The dataset is available for eligible researchers. Access conditions: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/overview>.

Changes since last release: Inclusion of 2023 data. Income deciles for employees, starting with reference year 2021, are included for the first time

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

Dataset file types: Annual (1983 – 2023), quarterly (1995 – 2023), depending on the country (see below)

Geographical Coverage:

AT Core (Y/Q): 1995-2023 Module: 2005-2023	FR Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	PT Core (Y/Q): 1986-2023 Module: 2005-2023
BE Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	HR* Core (Y/Q): 2002-2023 Module: 2005-2023	RO Core (Y/Q): 1997-2023 Module: 2005-2023
BG Core (Y/Q): 2000-2023 Module: 2005-2023	HU Core (Y/Q): 1996-2023 Module: 2005-2023	SE Core (Y/Q): 1995-2023 Module: 2005-2023
CY Core (Y/Q): 1999-2023 Module: 2005-2023	IE* Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	SI Core (Y/Q): 1996-2023 Module: 2005-2023
CZ Core (Y/Q): 1997-2023 Module: 2005-2023	IT Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	SK Core (Y/Q): 1998-2023 Module: 2005-2023
DE* Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	LT Core (Y/Q): 1998-2023 Module: 2005-2023	
DK* Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023	LU Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023	CH* Core (Y/Q): 1996-2023

Module: 2005-2023	Module: 2005-2023	Module: 2005-2023
EE Core (Y/Q): 1997-2023 Module: 2005-2023	LV Core (Y/Q): 1998-2023 Module: 2005-2023	IS* Core (Y/Q): 1995-2023 Module: 2005-2023
EL Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	MT Core (Y/Q): 2009-2023 Module: 2009-2023	NO Core (Y/Q): 1995-2023 Module: 2005-2023
ES Core (Y/Q): 1986-2023 Module: 2005-2023	NL* Core (Y/Q): 1983-2023 Module: 2005-2023	
FI* Core (Y/Q): 1995-2023 Module: 2005-2023	PL Core (Y/Q): 1997-2023 Module: 2005-2023	UK* Core (Y/Q): 1983-2020 Module: 2005-2019

Comments:

No module data in 2015 in all countries

DE - no quarterly data 2020, no module data 2013-2014

DK - no module data 2014

FI - no module data 2008

HR - no module data 2005-2006 and 2008-2009

IE - no module data 2014

NL - no core data 1984 and 1986, no module data 2013-2014

CH - no module data 2006-2007 and 2010

IS - no module data 2008, 2013-2014, 2021-2022, core 2021: quarterly only

UK - 2020 quarterly data only (up to Q3)

Keywords: Labour force, employment, unemployment, hours worked, education, training, atypical work

Description of the dataset: The main statistical objective of EU-LFS is to classify the population of working age (15 years and over) into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups: **employed persons, unemployed persons** (both together make up the so-called 'labour force') and **persons outside the labour force**. The EU-LFS is the largest European household sample survey.

Alongside a set of core variables which are collected every year, the Member States also collect data on specific topics concerning the labour market in changing modules. Modules are designed to supplement the core dataset to provide additional information on particular aspects of the labour market.

The programme of historic and future modules is published at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_modules

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

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey

Statistical unit: Persons

Identifiers in the datasets: The data sets contain variables at the level of individual persons and at the level of households (starting in 2006 for most countries). The anonymised identifiers allow linking the persons within the household.

Variables description:

Variables in the scientific use files (partially anonymised data): see [EU LFS User Guide](#).

See also [variables' descriptions by GESIS](#).

Variables in the [data transmitted by national statistical offices to Eurostat](#) (under the heading “LFS explanatory notes”).

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

Statistical disclosure control (SDC) and anonymisation: The EU-LFS scientific use files (SUFs) contain partially anonymised microdata for scientific purposes to which, along with the removal of direct identifiers, methods of SDC have been applied to reduce to an appropriate level (and in accordance with current best practice) the risk of identification of a statistical unit. Further details concerning statistical disclosure control methodology can be found in the Eurostat document: [How to use microdata properly - Self-study material for the users of European microdata released by Eurostat](#).

The SDC methods used to produce EU-LFS SUFs are described in chapter 7 of the [EU-LFS User Guide](#).

Publication thresholds for LFS microdata

In any reports, including all publications and unpublished papers, three cell size thresholds will be distinguished for LFS results:

- Confidentiality threshold: up to 3 observations (unweighted sample), results must not be published;
- Reliability thresholds: regarding reliability restrictions, Eurostat defines two limits, called 'a' and 'b'. Those reliability limits depend on the sample size and design in the individual countries. Estimates corresponding to a (weighted) population below limit 'a' should not be published; estimates corresponding to a (weighted) population between limit 'a' and limit 'b' may be published with a warning concerning their limited reliability. This applies to quarterly data, annual averages of quarterly data, yearly data and module results. The limits vary across countries, years, and type of dataset. The thresholds “a” and “b” are provided in the CSV files in the “datafileinfo” folders in the anonymised microdata releases. More information can be found also at the LFS Statistics Explained pages, section [“Publication guidelines and thresholds”](#).
- In addition, data on age in single years must not be disclosed in tables published. It may be published in broader age groups, such as the 5-year age bands provided in the derived variable AGE_GRP (LFS weighting factors are generally calibrated to 5-year age groups. This ensures reliability of results at this level).

Any statistics based on EU-LFS scientific use files 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 will accompany the SUFs, lay down rules for published statistics based on SUF microdata; specific rules concerning EU-LFS are as follows:

Sampled Universe: The EU-LFS is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over, as well as on persons outside the labour force. All definitions apply to persons aged 15 years and over living in private households. Persons carrying out obligatory military or community service are not included in the target group of the survey, as are persons in institutions/collective households.

Sampling: The national statistical institutes are responsible for selecting the sample, preparing the questionnaires, conducting the direct interviews among households, and forwarding the results to Eurostat in accordance with the requirements of Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1700. The national authorities decide on the sampling design. More information can be found in the quality reports, which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/quality>

Collection Mode: Data are collected by means of sample surveys. Details on the survey modes are available in the quality reports referenced above.

Questionnaires: The national questionnaires used by the countries to collect the EU-LFS data as well as specific instructions and other documents for the data collection are available from 2005 onwards here: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_documentation#Core_questionnaires

Relations with other datasets: Other data related to the labour market are available in the domains of job vacancies; labour costs such as the quarterly labour cost index, labour cost levels, Labour Cost Survey; earnings such as gross and net earnings, gender pay gap, minimum wages; Quality of employment. EU-SILC is a related household level survey covering income, social inclusion and living conditions. More statistics on lifelong learning are collected in the Adult Education Survey (AES) and Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS).

Linking: Persons belonging to the same household may be linked in LFS SUFs via the household identifier. It is not possible to trace persons over time (over quarters, or over years).

Since SUFs do not contain direct identifiers, it is not possible to link records in different datasets (e.g. LFS with SILC). Indirect identifiers may be used to match datasets, but such an exercise must be explicitly authorised by the data owners before it is pursued.

Publications:

- Eurostat publications based on LFS data:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/publications>
- Researchers' publications based on EU-LFS microdata:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/publications>
(Choose LFS as dataset)