



Introduction

The Eurostat yearbook

Europe in figures – Eurostat yearbook 2010 provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat’s website and within its online databases. It belongs to a set of general compendium publications and, of these, it provides the most extensive set of analyses and detailed data. Europe in figures has been conceived as a publication that provides a balanced set of indicators, with a broad cross-section of information.

Structure of the publication

Europe in figures is divided into an introduction, a spotlight chapter, 13 main chapters and a set of annexes. The main chapters contain data and/or background information relating to the full range of Eurostat data, while the spotlight chapter in this edition focuses on national accounts statistics. Each subchapter starts with an introduction containing background information and policy relevance, followed by some details regarding definitions and data availability and then a commentary on the main findings. The core of each subchapter is a set of tables and graphs that have been selected to show the wide variety of data available for that particular topic; often these include information on how important benchmark indicators have developed during recent years within the European Union (EU), the euro area and the Member States. Users will find a great deal more information when consulting the Eurostat website, which contains subject-specific publications and online databases. The

publication closes with a set of annexes that contain details of classifications, a list of statistical symbols, abbreviations and acronyms, and a subject index.

Files on the Eurostat website

The Eurostat website has a dedicated section for the yearbook, which contains the PDF version of the publication as well as all tables and graphs in MS Excel format. The PDF version of the publication allows direct access through a set of hyper-links to all of the data tables and databases that were used in the production of this publication, see: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/publications/eurostat_yearbook.

Data extraction, coverage and presentation

The statistical data presented in the yearbook were extracted at the start of September 2009 and represent data availability at that time. There are a few specific tables/graphs where the data had to be extracted at a later date – where this was the case, the extraction date is mentioned under the table or graph in question. The accompanying text was drafted during October and November 2009.

Due to its complex nature, data collection, data processing and the subsequent release of information either online or in publications often means that a significant amount of time may elapse between the collection of data and its publication/release; this can vary from a few weeks



in the case of short-term monthly indicators to several years for complex, ad-hoc surveys. There is a release calendar, which provides details of the schedule for releasing euro-indicators (a collection of the most important monthly and quarterly indicators), available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/release_calendars/news_releases. For other data sets, the meta-data provided on the Eurostat website gives information relating to the frequency of surveys and the time that may elapse before data is published/released.

The Eurostat website is constantly being updated, therefore it is likely that fresher data will have become available since the data was extracted for the production of this publication. It is possible to access the latest version of each data set through hyper-links that are provided as part of the source under each table and graph.

This publication usually presents information for the EU-27 (the 27 Member States of the EU), the euro area (based on 16 members), as well as the individual Member States. The order of the Member States used in the yearbook generally follows their order of protocol; in other words, the alphabetical order of the countries' names in their respective original languages; in some graphs the data are ranked according to the values of a particular indicator.

The EU-27 and euro area aggregates are only provided when information for all of the countries is available, or if an estimate has been made for missing information. Any partial totals that are created are systematically footnoted. Time-series for these geographical aggregates are based

on a consistent set of countries for the whole of the time period (unless otherwise indicated). In other words, although the EU only had 25 Member States since early 2004 and has only had 27 Member States since the start of 2007, the time-series for EU-27 refer to a sum or an average for all 27 countries for the whole of the period presented, as if all 27 Member States had been part of the EU in earlier periods. In a similar vein, the data for the euro area are consistently presented for all 16 members, despite the later accessions of Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta, and Slovakia to the euro area. As such, unless otherwise stated, the data for the euro area covers the 16 Member States that share the euro as a common currency as of November 2009 (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland).

When available, information is also presented for the candidate countries of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, as well as for EFTA countries, Japan and the United States. In the event that data for these non-member countries does not exist, then these have been excluded from tables and graphs in order to save space; however, the full set of 27 Member States is maintained in tables, with footnotes being added in graphs for those Member States for which information is missing.

In the event that a reference year is not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to fill tables and graphs with previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted); generally, an



effort has been made to go back two reference periods.

Eurostat online databases contain a large amount of meta-data that provides information on the status of particular values or data series. In order to improve readability, the majority of this has been omitted when constructing the tables and graphs.

The following symbols are used, where necessary:

<i>Italic</i>	value is a forecast, provisional or an estimate and is therefore likely to change
:	not available, confidential or unreliable value
–	not applicable or zero by default
0	less than half the final digit shown and greater than real zero

Breaks in series are indicated in the footnotes provided under each table and graph.

Eurostat – the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union, situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the EU with statistics at a European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions. Eurostat's mission is *'to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service'*.

As one of the Directorates-General of the European Commission, Eurostat is headed by a Director-General. Under him are seven Directors responsible for different areas of activity (Directorates as of November 2009):

- Cooperation in the European Statistical System; resources;
- Quality, methodology and information systems;
- National and European accounts;
- External cooperation, communication and key indicators;
- Sectoral and regional statistics;

- Social and information society statistics;
- Business statistics.

In 2009, Eurostat had around 900 posts; of these some 73 % were civil servants, 8 % were seconded national experts, and 19 % had other types of contracts. Eurostat's executed budget was around EUR 66 million in 2008 (excluding costs of statutory staff and administrative expenses) of which EUR 48 million was used for the implementation of the statistical programme, while EUR 18.5 million was sub-delegated to Eurostat by other Directorates-General.

Since the creation of a European statistical body in 1952, there has always been a realisation that the planning and implementation of European policies must be based on reliable and comparable statistics. As a result, the European Statistical System (ESS) was built-up gradually to provide comparable statistics at EU level. For this



purpose, Eurostat does not work alone, as the ESS comprises Eurostat and the national statistical institutes (NSIs) and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for European statistics.

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 ⁽¹⁾ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics establishes a new legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. The Regulation states that European statistics shall be developed in conformity with the statistical principles set out in Article 285(2) of the Treaty and further elaborated in the European statistics Code of Practice, namely, that: *'the production of Community statistics shall conform to impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality; it shall not entail excessive burdens on economic operators'*.

Article 7 of the same Regulation establishes the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), which is at the heart of the ESS, stating the Committee *'shall provide professional guidance to the ESS for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics'*. The ESSC is chaired by the European Commission (Eurostat) and composed of representatives from the national statistical institutes of the Member States. The national statistical institutes of EEA-EFTA countries participate as observers, as may representatives of other European/international bodies, for example the ECB or the OECD.

To meet the challenges associated with the adoption of the Regulation, Eurostat aims:

- to provide other European institutions and the governments of the Member States with the information needed

to implement, monitor and evaluate Community policies;

- to disseminate statistics to the European public and enterprises and to all economic and social agents involved in decision-making;
- to implement a set of standards, methods and organisational structures which allow comparable, reliable and relevant statistics to be produced throughout the Community, in line with the principles of the European statistics Code of Practice;
- to improve the functioning of the European Statistical System, to support the Member States, and to assist in the development of statistical systems on international level.

Eurostat and its partners in the ESS aim to provide high-quality, impartial, reliable and comparable statistical data. Indeed, access to reliable and high-quality statistics and Eurostat's obligation for trustworthiness is enshrined in law. European statistics should be provided to all types of users on the basis of equal opportunities, such that public administrations, researchers, trade unions, students, businesses and political parties, among others, can access data freely and easily. Access to the most recent statistics, as well as an expanding archive of information, is guaranteed through free access to Eurostat databases on its website.

The data collected, harmonised and reported upon by Eurostat have been agreed through a well-defined political process at European level, in which the Member States are deeply involved. Most surveys and data collection exercises are based on European regulations or directives that are legally binding. In order to do this, comparisons of data between

⁽¹⁾ For more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ.L:2009:087:0164:0173:en:PDF>.



countries require comparable statistics that, in turn, demand the use of a common ‘*statistical language*’. This language has to embrace concepts, methods and definitions, as well as technical standards and infrastructure, in order to achieve harmonisation. This is Eurostat’s *raison d’être* – and sums up what the ESS is all about.

In order to provide an independent overview of the European Statistical System as regards the implementation of the European statistics Code of Practice, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board (ESGAB) was set up; it is composed of seven independent members and started its work in March 2009. Its main task is to prepare an annual

report for the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Code of Practice by Eurostat and by the European Statistical System as a whole.

The European Statistical Advisory Committee (ESAC) is composed of 24 members representing users, respondents and other stakeholders of European statistics (including the scientific community, social partners and civil society), as well as institutional users (like, for example, the European Parliament and the Council). This committee is entrusted with ensuring that user requirements as well as the response burden on information providers and producers are taken into account when developing Community statistical programmes.

A practical guide to accessing European statistics

The simplest way of accessing Eurostat’s broad range of statistical information is through the Eurostat website (<http://ec.europa.eu>). Eurostat provides users with free access to its databases and all of its publications in PDF format via the Internet. The website is updated twice per day and gives access to the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU, its Member States, its candidate countries and EFTA countries.

For full access to all of the services available through Eurostat’s website, it is recommended that users should take a few minutes to register from the homepage. Registration is free of charge and allows access to:

- tailor-made e-mail alerts providing information on new publications or statistics as soon as they are online;

- enhanced functionalities of the databases (save queries and make bulk downloads).

The information on Eurostat’s website under the heading of ‘Statistics’ is structured according to a set of ‘themes’, which may be accessed from the ‘Statistics’ tab that is consistently present near the top of each webpage; it provides links to:


- EU policy indicators (see the end of this introduction for more details);
- general and regional statistics;
- economy and finance;
- population and social conditions;
- industry, trade and services;
- agriculture and fisheries;
- external trade;
- transport;
- environment and energy;
- science and technology.




For each of these themes, the user is presented with a range of different sub-topics (for example, within the population and social conditions theme there are sub-topics for population, health, education and training, the labour market, living conditions and social protection, crime and criminal justice, and culture). These sub-topics are presented as hyper-links that take the user to a dedicated section on the subject, with information generally presented for data (main tables, and databases), publications, legislation, methodology and other background information.


Access to data



Data navigation tree

The majority of Eurostat's statistics may be accessed from the data navigation tree, at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database; alternatively, there is an icon at the right-hand end of the top menu bar  on each webpage that can be used to switch to the data navigation tree.

The data navigation tree is based on the statistical themes presented above and is collapsible. It has two main branches:

- **Tables** offers a selection of the most important Eurostat data in a user-friendly way. All data are presented in simple two- or three-dimensional tables, generally with European aggregates and data for the Member States on the y-axis and time on the x-axis. Tables can be viewed using an interface called TGM – tables, graphs and maps (icon ) – where data can be visualised as graphs or maps in

addition to a standard, tabular presentation. Data can be downloaded (icon ) from TGM in various formats (XLS, HTML, XML and TSV).

- **Database** contains the full range of public data available on the Eurostat website. These data are presented in multi-dimensional tables with selection features that allow tailor-made presentations and extractions. The interface for databases is called the Data Explorer (icon ) and this provides an intuitive way to select and organise information. Data can be downloaded (icon ) from the Data Explorer in various formats (XLS, TXT, HTML, PC AXIS, SPSS and TSV).

In addition, the data navigation tree has three special branches, where specific items from the two main branches – Tables and Database – have been collected: Tables on EU policy, New Items and Recently Updated Items.

Eurostat data codes – easy online access to the freshest data

Eurostat data codes, such as [tps00001](#) and [nama_gdp_c](#) ⁽²⁾, allow the reader to easily access the most recent data on the Eurostat website. In this yearbook these codes are given as part of the source below tables and figures.

In the PDF version of this yearbook the reader is led directly to the freshest data when clicking on the hyper-links that form the data code(s). Readers of the paper version can access the freshest data directly by using typing a standardised hyper-link into a web browser, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=<data_code>&mode=view, where <data_code> is to be replaced by the

⁽²⁾ There are two types of data codes:

- Tables (accessed using the TGM interface) have 8-character codes, which consist of 3 or 5 letters – the first of which is 't' – followed by 5 or 3 digits, e.g. [tps00001](#) and [tsdph220](#).
- Databases (accessed using the Data Explorer interface) have codes that use an underscore '_' within the syntax of the code, e.g. [nama_gdp_c](#) and [proj_08c2150p](#).



data code in question. The data is presented either in the TGM or the Data Explorer interface.

The data codes can also be fed into the 'Search' function of Eurostat's website, which is found in the upper right corner of the Eurostat homepage, at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.



The results from such a search present related dataset(s) and possibly publication(s) and metadata. By clicking on these hyperlinks users are taken to product page(s) ⁽²⁾, which provide some background information about each dataset/publication or set of metadata. For example, it is possible to move directly to the data from the data product page by clicking the TGM or Data Explorer icons presented under the 'View table' sub-heading.

Note that the data on the Eurostat's website is frequently updated.

Note also that the description above presents the situation as of April 2010.

Policy indicators

Aside from the main tables and databases, there exists a group of policy indicators that may be accessed from the 'Statistics' tab, covering:

- euro-indicators/principal European economic indicators (PEEIs);
- structural indicators;

- sustainable development indicators;
- employment and social policy indicators.

More details on each of these are provided at the end of this introduction.

Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained is part of the Eurostat website. It is a wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way. Together, the articles make up an encyclopaedia of European statistics, which is completed by a statistical glossary that clarifies the terms used. In addition, there are numerous links provided to the latest data, further information, and metadata, making Statistics Explained a portal for regular and occasional users alike.

Statistics Explained can be accessed via a link on the right-hand side of Eurostat's homepage, or directly at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained.

In April 2010, Statistics Explained contained around 200 different articles and over 800 glossary items; its content and user-friendliness will be expanded regularly. Users may find articles using a set of navigational features in the left-hand menu; on the top-right menu bar of Statistics Explained it is possible to find options that make it possible, among others, to print, forward, cite, blog or share content easily.

⁽²⁾ The product page can also be accessed by using a hyper-link, for example, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=<data_code>, where <data_code> is to be replaced by the data code in question.



Other utilities

Finally, users may access two additional utilities for viewing data from the Eurostat homepage. The **business cycle clock (BCC)** is an interactive tool that shows how economic indicators evolve in close proximity to one another. Moving as a ‘cloud’ of indicators, some have a clear lead in development – for example, economic sentiment – whereas others lag behind – for example, unemployment. These and other dynamic patterns can be visually observed, and can help the user to understand today’s and yesterday’s economics. The BCC tool can be consulted via the following link: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/BCC2>.

The **country profiles interface** offers the possibility to visualise major statistical indicators, of different countries and/or EU aggregates, in a user-friendly map-based presentation. The interface can be accessed via the following link: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/BCC2>.

Publications

Eurostat produces a variety of publications, all of which are available on the Eurostat website in PDF format, free of charge. As with the ‘Statistics’ tab that is available at all times for accessing data, there is a ‘Publications’ tab that is always accessible near the top of each webpage for accessing material in PDF format; the publications are organised under Eurostat’s nine statistical themes.

There are a variety of different types of publication, ranging from news and data releases to more in-depth analyses in the form of statistical books. Among the most interesting collections are:

News releases – rapid updates providing information about the release of key data;

Statistics in focus and Data in focus – relatively short publications which present up-to-date summaries of the main results of statistical surveys, studies and analyses;

Pocketbooks – handy, pocket-sized publications presenting main indicators for a particular theme;

Statistical books – a collection of comprehensive studies; usually quite lengthy, providing analyses, tables and graphs for one or more statistical themes;

Methodologies and working papers – for specialists who want to consult methodologies, nomenclatures, or specific studies relating to a particular data set.


Alternatively, some Eurostat publications are also printed or made available on CD-ROM or DVD; these can be ordered from the website of the EU bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>) or through sales agents in the Member States. The bookshop is managed by the Publications Office (<http://publications.europa.eu>).

Reference metadata

The ESMS (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure) is a format based on the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) Content Oriented Guidelines, which were adopted in January 2009 by seven international organisations at a worldwide level. The ESMS uses a subset of 21 cross domain concepts (plus sub-concepts) and is the new standard for reference metadata in the ESS. It puts emphasis on quality-related information (containing



concepts such as accuracy, comparability, coherence and timeliness).

Reference metadata may be accessed either from the heading 'Metadata' which appears in the left-hand menu after selecting the 'Statistics' tab, or directly from the data navigation tree, where the following icon  is used to signify its availability.

User support

Eurostat and the other members of the ESS have set up a system of user support centres – European Statistical Data Support (ESDS). These exist in 22 of the Member States, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. In order to offer the best possible and personalised support, requests should, whenever possible, be addressed to the relevant national support centre. The mission of each centre is to provide free of charge additional help and guidance to users who are having difficulty in finding the statistical data they require. The list and addresses of all support centres can be reached via the Help-TAB on Eurostat's homepage.

Specific requests can be addressed to this network, via the Eurostat website at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/xtnetassist/login.htm> (requires a user log-in).

Eurostat's service for journalists

Statistics make news and they are essential to many stories, features and in-depth analyses. Printed media, as well as radio and TV, use Eurostat data intensively. Eurostat's press office puts out user-friendly news releases on a key selection of data covering the EU, the euro area, the Member States and their partners. All Eurostat news releases are available free of charge on the Eurostat website at 11 a.m. (C.E.T.) on the day they are released. Just under 200 press releases were published in 2009, of which approximately three quarters were based on monthly or quarterly euro-indicators; other releases covered major international events and important Eurostat publications.

Eurostat's media support centre helps professional journalists find data on all kinds of topics. Journalists can contact media support for further information on news releases and other data (tel. (352) 4301-33408; e-mail: Eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu).

Linking statistics to European policies

Effective economic and political decision-making depends on the regular supply of reliable information. Statistics are one of the principle sources of such information, providing quantitative support to the elaboration and implementation of policies. Statistics are also a powerful tool for communicating with the general public.

The information needs of politicians require constant interaction between policymakers and statisticians: the former formulate their needs for data, and the latter attempt to adapt the statistical production system so as to fulfil those needs. In this fashion, new policies lead to improvements in statistical production, both in terms of enhancing the



quality of existing indicators and of creating new ones.

Whereas politicians require aggregated indicators which provide a synthetic and clear picture of the different phenomena they are interested in, statisticians tend to deal with less aggregated basic data. Statisticians therefore have to transform, synthesise and model basic data in order to increase data readability and extract signals (i.e. indicators).

Over recent years, a number of policies have substantially influenced Eurostat's priorities and activities:

- economic and monetary union (EMU) and the creation of the euro area (1999);
- the Lisbon Strategy (2000, revised in 2005), including the open method of coordination on social inclusion and social protection;
- the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, EU SDS (2001, renewed in 2006);

Economic and monetary union and the setting-up of the European Central Bank (ECB) required a broad range of infra-annual short-term statistics to measure economic and monetary developments within the euro area and to assist in the implementation of a common monetary policy. Effective monetary policy depends on timely, reliable and comprehensive economic statistics giving an overview of the economic situation. Such data are also needed for the assessment of the business cycle.

Europeans place a high value on their quality of life, including aspects such as a clean environment, social protection, prosperity and equity. In recent years the European Council has focused on a

number of key areas intended to shape the future development of the EU. While the goal of the Lisbon Strategy is for the EU to '*become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion*', the Sustainable Development Strategy is concerned with the continuous improvement of quality of life, both for current and future generations, through seeking a balance between economic development, social cohesion and protection of the environment.

Eurostat has responded to politicians needs in these areas by developing four sets of 'EU policy indicators' that may be accessed from the 'Statistics' tab that appears near the top of every webpage on the Eurostat website. There are a set of dedicated sections on Eurostat's website that are devoted to these indicators and they are accessible from Eurostat homepage, by selecting 'Statistics' on the top menu bar. These four sets of data may be summarised as:

- **euro-indicators**, of which the principal European economic indicators (PEEIs) are the core, for monetary policy purposes; this is a collection of monthly and quarterly data, useful to evaluate the economic situation within the euro area and the EU. Euro-indicators are available on the Eurostat website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>.
- **structural indicators**, for the (revised) Lisbon Strategy are used to underpin the European Commission's analyses in an annual progress report to the European Council; these assess



the longer-term progress being made within the EU in the domains of employment, innovation and research, economic reform, social cohesion, and the environment, as well as the general economic background. The Lisbon Strategy is being revised and transformed into the EU 2020 Strategy for the period after 2010 which entails a substantial revision of the structural indicators. Structural indicators are available on the Eurostat website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/structuralindicators>.

- **sustainable development indicators**, for the EU Sustainable Development Strategy extend across a wide range of issues affecting the quality of life, in particular looking at ways to reconcile economic development, social cohesion and the protection of the environment. Sustainable development indicators are available on the Eurostat website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/sustainabledevelopment>.
- **employment and social policy indicators**, for monitoring and reporting in relation to employment and social policy. These indicators are designed to address a range of different issues, such as employment guidelines, the open method of coordination on social inclusion and policy protection, the education and training programme, and i2010 (the European information society for growth and employment). Employment and social policy indicators are available on the Eurostat website at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_and_social_policy_indicators/introduction.

Euro-indicators/PEEIs

Since October 2001 the euro-indicators/PEEIs web pages have been a reference point for all users of official statistics dealing with short-term data. They were initially conceived as an independent website, available in parallel to the Eurostat website; however, since October 2004, they have been integrated with the remaining content on Eurostat's website. It is possible to access euro-indicators/PEEIs data from the 'Statistics' tab visible in the menu near the top of the screen on each webpage, or directly via the euro-indicators/PEEIs dedicated section pages at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>. It is also possible to e-mail the euro-indicators/PEEIs team at: ESTAT-EUROINDICATORS@ec.europa.eu.

Euro-indicators/PEEIs aim to supply business-cycle analysts, policymakers, media, researchers, students, and other interested users with a comprehensive, well structured and high quality set of information which is useful for their daily activities. The core of euro-indicators/PEEIs comprises a set of statistical indicators giving an accurate and as timely as possible overview of the economic evolution of the euro area, the EU, and the individual Member States. The euro-indicators/PEEIs dedicated section contains the following additional products and services intended to assist in the understanding and analysis of data:

- selected principal European economic indicators (PEEIs);
- background;
- news releases;
- data;
- publications;
- information relating to seminars/conferences.



Data

The data presented in euro-indicators/PEEIs are built around a set of the most relevant statistics, called principal European economic indicators (PEEIs), a complete list of which can be found in the European Commission’s Communication (2002) 661 (*). They are structured in three main parts:

- selected principal European economic indicators (containing a set of 22 most relevant and timely short-term

economic indicators for the euro area and the EU) directly accessible on the euro-indicators/PEEIs homepage;

- short-term indicators (included as the first branch of the ‘Main tables’ on the data navigation tree);
- European and national short-term statistics database (included as the first branch of the ‘Database’ section on the data navigation tree – under the heading of ‘General and regional statistics’ – as European and national short term indicators (euroind).

		Release date		Unit	Reference period						
		latest	next		2007q01	2007q01	2008q01	2008q2	2008q03	2008q04	
GDP in volume	05/04/2009	15/05/2009	% QO-T1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.5	49.0	
			% QO-Q4	2.8	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.1	1.6	49.0	
Private final consumption in volume	07/04/2009	01/06/2009	% QO-T1	0.7	0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	49.0	
			% QO-Q4	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.4	0.8	-0.5	49.0	
Investment in volume	07/04/2009	01/06/2009	% QO-T1	1.2	1.3	0.3	-1.0	-1.1	-3.3	49.0	
			% QO-Q4	4.4	4.1	2.8	2.7	-0.1	-3.1	49.0	
					2008m10 2008m11 2008m12 2009m01 2009m02 2009m03						
External trade balance	17/04/2009	18/05/2009	microm	-18221.0	-19761.0	-13865.9	-21763.5	-13053.9	0	49.0	
					2007q03 2007q04 2008q01 2008q02 2008q03 2008q04						
Current account - Total	22/04/2009		microm	-31361	-21508	-46360	-73196	-47414	-57268	49.0	
					2008m10 2008m11 2008m12 2009m01 2009m02 2009m03						
inflation HICP all items	16/04/2009		% (M/M-T)	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	-0.8	0.5	0.1	49.0	
			% (M/M-T2)	3.7	2.8	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.1	49.0	

Both the main tables for short-term indicators and the Euroind database are divided into the following eight domains:

- balance of payments;
- business and consumer surveys;
- consumer prices;

- external trade;
- industry, commerce and services;
- labour market;
- monetary and financial indicators;
- national accounts.

(*). For more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2002:0661:FIN:EN:PDF>.



Publications and working papers

The main publication in this domain is called 'Eurostatistics'. It is a monthly release that presents a synthetic picture of the economic situation together with detailed statistical analysis of the latest economic events for the euro area, the EU, and the Member States. The latest issue of 'Eurostatistics' is accessible from the homepage of the euro-indicators/PEEIs dedicated section. Previous issues are also accessible – click on the 'publications' link in the left-hand menu from within the euro-indicators/PEEIs dedicated section. Under the same heading of 'publications', users may also access a collection of 'selected readings' and 'working papers', containing both methodological and empirical studies on statistical improvements and analyses of European data.

Quality reports

Since 2001, the Euroind database has been subject to monthly quality monitoring. The results of this assessment are presented in a detailed online publication called 'State of affairs', also accessible from the 'publications' link in the left-hand menu of the euro-indicators/PEEIs dedicated section. A synthesis of this monthly assessment is presented in another publication, entitled the 'Monitoring report', accessible from the same location.

Structural indicators

At the Lisbon European Council in the spring of 2000, the EU set itself the following strategic goal for the next decade: *'to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic*

growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion'.

The European Council recognised the need to regularly discuss and assess progress made in achieving this goal on the basis of a commonly agreed set of structural indicators and to this end, invited the European Commission to draw up an annual spring report on progress being made. This report was based on the evolution of structural indicators in the following areas:

- general economic background;
- innovation and research;
- economic reform;
- employment;
- social cohesion;
- environment (since 2002).

For the first time, in 2004, the European Commission presented a shortlist of 14 structural indicators which were included in the statistical annex to its spring report to the European Council. This shortlist was agreed with the European Council; its concise layout makes it easier to present policy messages and the Member States' positions with regard to the key Lisbon targets. The same shortlist indicators were presented in the annexes of subsequent annual progress reports to the European Council.

The Lisbon Strategy entered a new phase as of the spring of 2005, with the spotlight on delivering results, focusing on growth and jobs. By submitting national reform programmes, Member States have accepted a new responsibility, setting out detailed commitments for action. At the same time, Community programmes specify what has to be done at an EU level. National reform programmes provide



the basis for the reform agenda, prioritising growth and employment.

The EU is revising the Lisbon Strategy for the period after 2010: The new 'EU 2020 Strategy' will focus on overcoming the recession and moving towards a low-carbon, knowledge-based society. This transformation involves a substantial revision of the set of structural indicators including the short list.

Shortlist of structural indicators

General economic background

- GDP per capita in PPS
- Labour productivity per person employed

Innovation and research

- Youth educational attainment level by gender
- Gross domestic expenditure on R & D (GERD)

Economic reform

- Comparative price levels
- Business investment

Employment

- Employment rate by gender
- Employment rate of older workers by gender

Social cohesion

- At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers by gender
- Long-term unemployment rate by gender

- Dispersion of regional employment rates by gender

Environment

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy intensity of the economy
- Volume of freight transport relative to GDP

More information regarding structural indicators may be found on Eurostat's website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/structuralindicators>. Alternatively, for further information, contact Eurostat's structural indicators coordination team, at: estat-structuralindicators@ec.europa.eu.

Sustainable development indicators

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS), adopted by the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001, and renewed in June 2006, aims to continuously improve quality of life, both for current and for future generations, through reconciling economic development, social cohesion and protection of the environment. A set of sustainable development indicators (SDI) has been developed to monitor progress in the implementation of the strategy. The indicators are organised under ten themes (and sub-themes) that reflect different political priorities (cf. first column of Table 2).

In order to facilitate communication, the set of indicators has been built as a three-level pyramid.

**Table 1:** Framework for sustainable development indicators

Indicator level	Hierarchical framework	Indicator types
Level 1	Lead objectives	11 headline indicators are at the top of the pyramid. They are intended to monitor the 'overall objectives' of the strategy. They are well-known indicators with a high communication value. They are robust and available for most EU Member States for a period of at least five years.
Level 2	SDS priority objectives	The second level of the pyramid consists of ca. 30 indicators related to the operational objectives of the strategy. They are the lead indicators in their respective subthemes. They are robust and available for most EU Member States for a period of at least three years.
Level 3	Actions/explanatory variables	The third level consists of ca. 80 indicators related to actions outlined in the strategy or to other issues which are useful to analyse progress towards the SDS objectives. Breakdowns of level-1 or -2 indicators are usually also found at level 3.
Contextual indicators	Background	Contextual indicators are part of the SDI set, but they either do not monitor directly any of the strategy's objectives or they are not policy responsive. Generally they are difficult to interpret in a normative way. However, they provide valuable background information on issues having direct relevance for sustainable development policies and are useful for the analysis.

This distinction between the three levels of indicators reflects the structure of the renewed strategy (overall lead objectives, operational priority objectives, and actions/explanatory variables) and also responds to different kinds of user needs. The three levels of the pyramid are complemented with contextual indicators, which do not monitor directly the strategy's objectives, but provide valuable back-

ground information for analysis. The SDI data set also describes indicators which are not yet fully developed but which will, in the future, be necessary to get a more complete picture of progress, differentiating between indicators that are expected to become available within some years, with sufficient quality ('indicators under development'), and those to be developed in the longer term ('indicators to be developed').



The table below presents the current situation of progress being made for the headline indicators.

Table 2: Headline sustainable development indicators and progress being made within the EU

SDI theme	Headline indicator	EU-27 evaluation of change (since 2000)
Socioeconomic development	Growth of GDP per capita	
Climate change and energy	Greenhouse gas emissions ⁽¹⁾	
	Consumption of renewables	
Sustainable transport	Energy consumption of transport relative to GDP	
Sustainable consumption and production	Resource productivity	
Natural resources	Abundance of common birds ⁽²⁾	
	Conservation of fish stocks ⁽³⁾	
Public health	Healthy life years ⁽⁴⁾	
Social inclusion	Risk of poverty ⁽⁴⁾	
Demographic changes	Employment rate of older workers	
Global partnership	Official development assistance ⁽⁵⁾	
Good governance	[No headline indicator]	:



Clearly favourable change/on target path



No or moderately favourable change/ close to target path



No or moderately favourable change/close to target path



No or moderately favourable change/ close to target path

⁽¹⁾ EU-15.

⁽²⁾ Based on 19 Member States.

⁽³⁾ In north east Atlantic.

⁽⁴⁾ EU-25, from 2005.

⁽⁵⁾ From 2005.

Source: Eurostat



More information regarding sustainable development indicators may be found on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/sustainabledevelopment>, or by contacting: estat-sdi@ec.europa.eu. There is also a comprehensive publication on the subject, 'Sustainable development in the European Union: 2009 monitoring report of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy', available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=KS-78-09-865&mode=view>.

Employment and social policy indicators

This section presents various indicators covering different areas of employment and social policy. The indicators are used to monitor and report upon progress being made in relation to several EU policies, relating to:

- employment;
- social inclusion and social protection;
- education and training;
- information society.

European Employment Strategy

The European Employment Strategy (EES) is the employment section of the Lisbon Strategy. Since its launch in 1997 indicators have been used for the assessment of Member States' progress on implementing the employment guidelines that have been developed under the EES, and that are proposed by the European Commission and approved by the European Council.

Most of the indicators for monitoring and analysis of the employment guidelines are provided by Eurostat. However, for the time-being the coherent presentation of these indicators is under development. For more information on

the list of indicators as well as the EES, please refer to the website of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=101&langId=en>.

Open method of coordination on social inclusion and social protection

The Lisbon Strategy also gave rise to the open method of coordination (OMC) that provides a framework for political coordination (without legal constraints) in relation to social inclusion and social protection issues. This is a flexible and decentralised method, which involves:

- agreeing on common objectives which set out high-level, shared goals to underpin the entire process;
- agreeing to a set of common indicators which show how progress towards these goals can be measured;
- preparing national strategic reports, in which Member States set out how they will plan policies over an agreed period to meet the common objectives;
- evaluating these strategies jointly through the European Commission and the Member States.

The indicators can be accessed directly from the Eurostat website, through the left-hand menu of the dedicated section covering employment and social policy indicators, that may be found by clicking on the 'Statistics' tab near the top of the screen on each webpage. The indicators are currently divided into four strands, covering:

- overarching indicators;
- indicators of the social inclusion strand;



- indicators of the pension strand;
- indicators of the health and long term care strand.

Common indicators allow a comparison of best practices to be made and also measure progress being made towards the common objectives. For more information about the open method of coordination on social inclusion and social protection, please refer to the website of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, at: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=en>.

Education and training

To ensure their contribution to the Lisbon Strategy, the ministers of education from the various Member States adopted in 2001 a report on the future objectives of education and training systems agreeing for the first time on shared objectives to be achieved by 2010. A year later, a ten-year work programme was endorsed (Education and training 2010). As with the indicators above relating to social inclusion and social protection, these indicators are also implemented through the open method of coordination, using similar procedures to set objectives, exchange good practices, and finally to measure progress that is being made. On 25 May 2007 the Council adopted conclusions on a coherent framework of 16 core indicators for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training.

This programme has three overall objectives:

- improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems;
 - facilitating access to education and training systems;
 - opening up EU education and training systems to the wider world.
- Indicators and methodology are available on the Eurostat website as part of the dedicated section covering employment and social policy indicators. For the period up to 2010, the education and training programme covers the following core indicators:
- four-year-olds in education;
 - early school-leavers by gender;
 - literacy in reading, mathematics and science;
 - upper-secondary completion rate of young people;
 - numbers of higher education graduates;
 - life-long learning by gender – percentage of the adult population aged 25 to 64 participating in education and training;
 - ICT skills:
 - Individuals' level of computer skills;
 - Individuals' level of Internet skills;
 - public expenditure in education as a percentage of GDP.
- It is likely that the programme will be extended to cover the period through to 2020, following the conclusions of a Council meeting on 12 May 2009⁽⁹⁾. Indeed, five new benchmark goals have already been defined for 2020, by which time:
- an average of at least 15 % of adults should participate in lifelong learning;
 - the share of low-achieving 15-years olds in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15 %;
 - the share of 30-34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40 %;

⁽⁹⁾ For more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:119:0002:0010:EN:PDF>.



- the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10 %;
- at least 95 % of children between four years of age and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education.

For more information on the programme through to 2010, please refer to the website of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc28_en.htm.

European Information Society for growth and employment

The final heading within this section covers the information society. The eEurope action plan was launched under the Lisbon Strategy and included a set of benchmarking indicators on Internet and broadband take-up, as well as the use of online services. Within the context of the renewed Lisbon agenda, a strategic framework for a European information society for growth and employment (i2010) was launched. The benchmarking framework for measuring progress in relation to the programme was set up and approved in April 2006; it contains a set of core indicators and provides for

flexible modules on specific issues to be defined each year.

Annual Community surveys on ICT usage in households and by individuals are a major source of information for monitoring many of the aims of the i2010 Strategy. The data presented on Eurostat's website as part of the dedicated section covering i2010 indicators is divided into four main themes:

- developments of broadband;
- advanced services;
- inclusion;
- public services.

For more information on the i2010 programme in general and more specifically upon the benchmarking exercise, please refer to the website of the Directorate-General for Information Society, at: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm.

On 9 November 2009 a new benchmarking initiative was endorsed, providing the conceptual framework for the collection of statistics on the information society as well as a list of core indicators. For more information, please refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/docs/benchmarking/benchmarking_digital_europe_2011-2015.pdf.