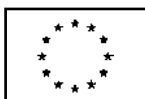


# Comparable time use statistics

National tables from  
10 European countries

February 2005



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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005

ISSN 1725-065X  
ISBN 92-894-8553-1

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## Acknowledgements

*Eurostat thanks Ilze LACE from the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia for the elaboration of this working paper and the 10 participating countries for the production of the time use statistics.*

## Preface

In July 2004 *Pocketbook on How Europeans spend their time*<sup>1</sup> was published. This pocketbook is the first compendium of the Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS). It aims to shed light on how women and men organise their everyday life in ten European countries. The Pocketbook was designed and produced by Statistics Finland. It has been funded by the fifth Community Action Programme to promote Gender Equality 2001-2005.

The statistical source for the pocketbook is national Time Use Surveys that have been conducted in several European countries. Time Use Surveys fill a number of gaps in the statistical information available in the social domain. For instance, they unveil gaps between women and men correlated to existing differences in their position on the labour market and their participation in education, cultural activities and other spheres of life. In particular, Time Use Surveys provide knowledge about the possibilities of reconciling professional and family life – statistics about the division of gainful and domestic work between women and men. Data on voluntary work, care, mobility and leisure time can also be produced from Time Use Surveys.

Ten European countries, Belgium, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway have been included in this presentation because the survey methods that have been used in these countries follow closely the *Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys* published in September 2000<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, the results are considered to be comparable. There are certain exceptions to this, and they are pointed out in the texts and notes.

Time Use Survey results are also available for Denmark, Romania, the Netherlands and Portugal but they have not been included in the pocketbook since the survey methods used in these countries deviated from the European guidelines and comparable results could not be produced. However, it would be possible to include them for other purposes and other comparisons. Results from Spain, Lithuania and Bulgaria also became available soon after the Pocketbook was published, and those for Italy, Latvia and Poland will be available in the coming months.

The aim of the *Working paper* is to make available the national TUS data and additional methodological information of the 10 countries mentioned above for further analysis. The Working paper can also be used as a source of information on how to prepare comparable tables in compliance with HETUS guidelines. The working paper includes the working tables produced by each of the 10 participating countries. These tables cover information on the time use for a broad range of activities of social life for several demographic and socioeconomic groups as well as information on methodological aspects of TUS. The time use data sources are included as well.

We have a great pleasure to present this work, and we hope this paper will contribute to the comparability of time use statistics and compliance with the HETUS guidelines as well as promote the use of time use data to describe different spheres of social life.



Antonio Baigorri  
Head of Unit, Eurostat  
Labour Market

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<sup>1</sup>[http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?\\_pageid=1073,1135281,1073\\_1135295&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&p\\_product\\_code=KS-58-04-998](http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1073,1135281,1073_1135295&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-58-04-998)

<sup>2</sup>[http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?\\_pageid=1073,1135281,1073\\_1135295&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&p\\_product\\_code=KS-CC-04-007](http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1073,1135281,1073_1135295&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-04-007)

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<sup>1</sup> National tables by country are available at the following address:  
[http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library?l=/comparable\\_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library?l=/comparable_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

## I National time use data for international comparisons

The data used in the Pocketbook originate from national time use surveys conducted between 1998 and 2002 in Europe.

A representative sample of individuals completed a diary during one weekday and one weekend day distributed over the whole year in national time use surveys in Europe<sup>2</sup>. The sampled persons answered questions related to the individual and to the household. The answers have been used to classify the persons according to employment status, level of education, age, life cycle and sex and these variables have been presented as background information in the descriptions.

National statistical agencies and research institutes produced time use data tables that have been used in the Pocketbook.

### *Tables provided by national statistical agencies and research institutes:*

1. Main structure of time use of population aged 20 to 74 by sex
2. Main structure of time use of the employed by level of education, age and sex
3. Time use of population by age and sex
4. Time use of population by life cycle and sex
5. Time use of the employed by life cycle and sex
6. Time use of students by level of education and sex
7. Participation in activities of population by age and sex
8. Participation in activities of population by life cycle and sex
9. Participation in activities of the employed by life cycle and sex
10. Time spent on main and second job of the employed by day of the week and month by sex
11. Location and mode of transport of population by age and sex
12. Time spent with children of parents by employment and sex<sup>3</sup>
13. Daily rhythm of population aged 20 to 74 on Monday to Friday, both sexes
14. Daily rhythm of women aged 20 to 74 on Monday to Friday
15. Daily rhythm of men aged 20 to 74 on Monday to Friday

National tables by country are available at the following address:

[http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library?l=/comparable\\_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library?l=/comparable_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

Most of the national time use tables show **average time spent on an activity** in minutes per day (in Pocketbook the data are given in hours and minutes per day). The average time is an average for the whole group of persons that is investigated and an average across the whole year. This means that all persons are included, whether they have performed this activity or not, and that all days of the week, as well as working and holiday periods are included. Although the average time is an abstract measure and does not describe concrete everyday life at the individual level, it is a proper indicator of time use at the aggregate level and allows comparisons between countries and population groups. (In some tables in the Pocketbook **average time by those who spent any time on the activity** is also calculated.)

Some tables also show the **proportion of people who spent any time on the activity**. This measures the proportion of persons who perform the activity on an average day. It does not give information about how many persons perform the activity in general, or how many persons perform

<sup>2</sup> For exceptions, see *Data sources, reference years and sample sizes* below.

<sup>3</sup> Table 12 is not published in this working paper because differences in the measurement of time spent with children occurred for some data. The main data on time spent with children are published in the *Pocketbook* (pp.70-71.)

the activity every day. The proportion of persons who were performing the different activities at different hours of the day shows the **daily rhythm** of people (See HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex IX on Estimates).

One has to bear in mind that the results are estimates and that sampling errors affect them. For small groups of individuals the errors may be large. The response rates vary between the countries, and this has been taken into account in the estimation procedures for the tables published in the Pocketbook. The TUS results are considered to be representative for the population indicated in the tables and figures.

The harmonised European time use activity coding list was based on international practices and previous classifications used in Europe. The coding system and index were tested and revised on the basis of time use pilot surveys in 18 countries. The final system was completed in 2000. There have been some deviations from the guidelines in some of the participating countries having launched the survey before 2000. Some other countries with long national traditions did not follow the harmonised guidelines completely either, since they wanted to maintain comparability with previous surveys. Deviations are mentioned in the related national tables.

The European activity coding list allows several groupings of activities depending on the purpose of the analysis. This follows theories and traditions based on the extent of time commitment and not, for example, subjective needs fulfilled by the activity. Domestic work implies that there is a task that must be carried out. This is why, for example, gardening is domestic work and not a free time. This is also why, for example, walking the dog is primarily grouped in domestic work even if it is also analysed in the context of exercise.

The main activity categories used in the Pocketbook tables include the following activities:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Includes</b>
<i>Gainful work, study</i>	Main and second jobs and related activities, breaks and travel during working hours, and job seeking. Study at school and during free time is combined with gainful work.
<i>Domestic work</i>	Housework, child and adult care, gardening and pet care, construction and repairs, shopping and services, and household management.
<i>Travel</i>	Commuting and trips connected with all kinds of activities, except travel during working hours.
<i>Sleep</i>	Sleep during night or daytime, waiting for sleep, naps, as well as passive lying in bed because of sickness.
<i>Meals and personal care</i>	Meals, snacks and drinks, dressing, personal hygiene, making up, shaving, sexual activities and personal healthcare.
<i>Free time</i>	All other kinds of activities are included here, e.g. volunteer work and meetings, helping other households, socialising and entertainment, sports and outdoor activities, hobbies and games, reading, watching television, resting or doing nothing, as well as unspecified time use.

In European time use surveys main and simultaneous activities, social context (other persons present) and location were reported in the diary in temporal order at ten-minute intervals. In the national tables prepared for the Pocketbook no simultaneous activities were analysed. This means that activities frequently done simultaneously with other activities are under-reported. These are, for example, childcare, watching television, reading, socialising and doing handicrafts.

### Time use structure of women and men aged 20 to 74

Hours and minutes per day										
Women										
	BE	DE	EE	FR	HU	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
Free time	4:50	5:24	4:36	4:08	4:38	4:29	5:29	5:03	5:05	5:52
Meals, personal care	2:43	2:43	2:08	3:02	2:19	2:08	2:06	2:28	2:16	1:58
Sleep	8:29	8:19	8:35	8:55	8:42	8:24	8:32	8:11	8:27	8:10
Travel	1:19	1:18	1:06	0:54	0:51	1:02	1:07	1:23	1:25	1:11
Domestic work	4:32	4:11	5:02	4:30	4:57	4:57	3:56	3:42	4:15	3:47
Gainful work, study	2:07	2:05	2:33	2:31	2:32	2:59	2:49	3:12	2:33	3:03
<b>Total</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>
Men										
Free time	5:22	5:53	5:28	4:46	5:29	5:34	6:08	5:24	5:30	6:03
Meals, personal care	2:40	2:33	2:15	3:01	2:31	2:13	2:01	2:11	2:04	1:47
Sleep	8:15	8:12	8:32	8:45	8:31	8:17	8:22	8:01	8:18	7:57
Travel	1:35	1:27	1:17	1:03	1:03	1:09	1:12	1:30	1:30	1:20
Domestic work	2:38	2:21	2:48	2:22	2:39	2:39	2:16	2:29	2:18	2:22
Gainful work, study	3:30	3:35	3:40	4:03	3:46	4:07	4:01	4:25	4:18	4:31
<b>Total</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>	<b>24:00</b>

(See Pocketbook, Tables 1.1 and 1.2, pp. 6-9)

#### Participating countries

BE Belgium  
 DE Germany  
 EE Estonia  
 FR France  
 HU Hungary  
 SI Slovenia  
 FI Finland  
 SE Sweden  
 UK United Kingdom  
 NO Norway



*Data sources, reference years and sample sizes*

Country	Fieldwork period	Age of population covered	Sample size (Number of respondents)	Size of population, 1 000 <sup>4</sup>	Comments
<b>Belgium (BE) – Statistics Belgium and Vrije Universiteit Brussel</b>	December 1998 – February 2000	12 – 95	8 382	8 755	
<b>Germany (DE) – Federal Statistical Office Germany</b>	April 2001 – April 2002	10 –	12 655	73 641	Two weekdays, one weekend day was surveyed.
<b>Estonia (EE) – Statistical Office of Estonia</b>	April 1999 – March 2000	10 –	5 728	1 290	
<b>France (FR) – INSEE</b>	February 1998 – February 1999, except 4-18 August and 21 December – 4 January	15 –	15 441	47 231	One diary day
<b>Hungary (HU) – Hungarian Central Statistical Office</b>	September 1999 – September 2000	15 – 84	10 792	8 206	
<b>Slovenia (SI) – Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia</b>	April 2000 – March 2001	10 –	6 190	1 990	
<b>Finland (FI) – Statistics Finland</b>	March 1999 – March 2000	10 –	5 332	4 451	
<b>Sweden (SE) – Statistics Sweden</b>	October 2000 – September 2001	20 – 84	3 998	6 538	
<b>United Kingdom (UK) – Office for National Statistics</b>	June 2000 – September 2001	8 –	10 366	53 016	
<b>Norway (NO) – Statistics Norway</b>	February 2000 – February 2001	9 – 79	3 211	3 674	Two consecutive days

<sup>4</sup> Source: Population statistics

## II Methodology for Comparable Time Use Tables

The methodology for producing comparable time use data tables slightly differs from the instructions proposed in the Guidelines 2000. Along with the instructions used for preparing comparative Pocketbook tables the respective chapters in the HETUS Guidelines 2000 are referred to.

### Activity Classifications

The reduced activity classification is based on the Primary activities.

#### *Main structure of time use activities (Tables 1, 2, 13-15)*

Main activity groups	HETUS codes
1 Sleep	01
2 Other personal care	000, 02, 03
3 Employment	1 and 911, 912
4 Study	2
5 Domestic work	3
6 Free time and unspecified	4-8, 995, 998, 999
7 Travel	9 (except 911-912 and 995, 998, 999)

(See HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex VIII for activity classification to be used for Basic tables)

#### *Detailed activity classification (Tables 3-9)*

ACTIVITIES	CODES
<b>PERSONAL CARE TOTAL</b>	<b>000 -- 039</b>
SLEEP	01
EATING	02
OTHER PERSONAL	000, 03
<b>EMPLOYMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>100 – 139, 911, 912</b>
MAIN AND SECOND JOB	11, 12, 911, 912
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT	100, 13
<b>STUDY TOTAL</b>	<b>200 – 221</b>
<i>SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY TOTAL</i>	<i>21</i>
CLASSES AND LECTURES	211
HOMEWORK	212
OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	210, 219
FREE TIME STUDY	22
<b>DOMESTIC TOTAL</b>	<b>300 – 391</b>
FOOD PREPARATION	310, 311, 312, 314, 319
DISH WASHING	313
CLEANING DWELLING	321
OTHER HOUSEHOLD UPKEEP	320, 322-329
LAUNDRY	331
IRONING	332
HANDICRAFT AND PRODUCING TEXTILES	333
OTHER CARE FOR TEXTILES	330, 339
GARDENING	341
TENDING DOMESTIC ANIMALS	342

CARING FOR PETS	343
WALKING THE DOG	344
OTHER GARDENING AND PET CARE	340, 349
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS	35
SHOPPING AND SERVICES	36
<i>CHILDCARE TOTAL</i>	<i>380-389</i>
PHYSICAL CARE AND SUPERVISION OF CHILD	381
TEACHING, READING AND TALKING WITH CHILD	382, 383
OTHER CHILDCARE	380, 384, 389
OTHER DOMESTIC WORK	300, 37, 39
<b>VOLUNTEER WORK AND HELP TOTAL</b>	<b>41, 42</b>
ORGANISATIONAL WORK	41
INFORMAL HELP TO OTHER HOUSEHOLDS	42
<b>LEISURE TOTAL</b>	<b>400, 430 – 832, 998</b>
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES	432
OTHER PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES	400, 430-431, 439
<i>SOCIAL LIFE TOTAL</i>	<i>510-519</i>
SOCIALISING WITH FAMILY	511
VISITS AND FEASTS	512, 513
TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS	514
OTHER SOCIAL LIFE	510, 519
ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE	52
RESTING	53
<i>SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TOTAL</i>	<i>600-631</i>
WALKING AND HIKING	611
SPORTS	610, 612—619
PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE	62
SPORTS RELATED AND UNSPECIFIED	600, 63
ARTS	71
COMPUTER AND VIDEO GAMES	733
OTHER COMPUTING	722 - 725
OTHER HOBBIES AND GAMES	720, 721, 726, 729, 730-732, 734, 739
READING BOOKS	812
OTHER READING	810, 811, 819
TV AND VIDEO	82
RADIO AND MUSIC	83
UNSPECIFIED LEISURE	500, 700, 800, 998
<b>TRAVEL TOTAL</b>	<b>900, 901, 913—982</b>
TRAVEL TO/FROM WORK	913
TRAVEL RELATED TO STUDY	921, 922
<i>DOMESTIC TRAVEL TOTAL</i>	<i>931—939</i>
TRAVEL RELATED TO SHOPPING	936
TRANSPORTING A CHILD	938
TRAVEL RELATED TO VOLUNTEERING AND HELP	941-942
TRAVEL RELATED TO LEISURE	943, 951, 952, 961, 971, 981, 982
<b>UNSPECIFIED TIME USE</b>	<b>995, 999</b>

### **Background variables**

#### ***Employment status***

Employed are defined by ILO definition.

(HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex III, Individual Questionnaire I 2=1 or I 3=1)

**Level of education**

<b>For students</b>		
		HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex III, Individual Questionnaire I 30=1-7
Primary or lower secondary	ISCED 1-2	I 30 = 1, 3
Upper secondary or post-secondary	ISCED 3-4	I 30 = 2, 4
Tertiary	ISCED 5	I 30 = 5-7

Note: Free time study, other training HETUS Guidelines Individual Questionnaire I 30=8 not included

<b>For employed</b>		
		HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex III, Individual Questionnaire I 32
Primary or lower secondary	ISCED 1-2	I 32 = 1-2
Upper secondary or post-secondary	ISCED 3-4	I 32 = 3-7
Tertiary	ISCED 5	I 32 = 8-9

**Life cycle categories**

1. Single person with no children aged 0-17 years
2. Person in a couple with no children aged 0-17 years
3. Person in a couple with youngest child aged 0-6 years
4. Person in a couple with youngest child aged 7-17 years
5. Single parent with youngest child aged 0-17 years

(See HETUS Guidelines 2000, Annex VIII for life cycle categories used for Basic tables)

**With Whom**

Coding of records of presence of other persons during the activity.

**Location classification (Table 11)**

<b>LOCATIONS</b>	<b>CODES</b>
HOME	11
WEEKEND HOUSE	12
WORKING PLACE OR SCHOOL	13
OTHER PEOPLE'S HOME	14
RESTAURANT, CAFE OR PUB	15
<i>TRAVEL TOTAL</i>	<i>20–40</i>
ON FOOT	21
BICYCLE	22
PRIVATE CAR, MOTORCYCLE, VAN	23-25
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	30-39
OTHER OR UNSPECIFIED TRAVELLING MODE	20, 29, 40
OTHER OR UNSPECIFIED LOCATION	00, 10, 19

### *Temporal units*

The estimates refer to the whole year. In addition, days of the week and months have been used as the temporal units in Table 10.

### *Daily rhythm*

30 minutes intervals for the whole day are used.

### *Comments on national time use data tables*

In some of the countries, TUS was carried out before the final version of Guidelines (September 2000) was adopted, that is why some of the activity categories were not used in coding and the respective activities were distributed along other categories. In some countries activity coding has been performed using a national coding list so that the data are comparable with the previous TUS, but data have been recoded using HETUS activity coding list. For these reasons data in some activity categories are not available for Belgium, France, Hungary, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Additional information is provided in notes below the respective tables.

Information on some of the background variables might be missing (for example, on the respondent's level of education or life cycle), so that totals might not always equal the sum of the subcategories, and the totals for some background variables differ in some tables.

Most of the tables presented in the Working paper are comparable. However, the reference groups for some tables are not always the same for all the countries, in particular for the tables presenting data on the reference population of the surveys (different age limits for the reference population from a country to another, see *Data sources, reference years and sample sizes*). Therefore, when analyzing the data, attention should be paid to the age limits presented in the tables and sometimes to the definitions of the background variables (e.g. employment status, student status) when indicated in the footnotes below the tables.

Data in the tables are presented in whole numbers. Some imprecision might arise from rounding the data both in calculating the participation rate and the average time spent on activities.

Aggregates of the activities and activity groups are also shown in the tables and are emphasized by bolded style text and text in italic style.

### **Symbols and abbreviations**

.. data not available

0 less than half of the unit used

## **III European Time Use Surveys by December 2004**

This working paper is based on the time use data from HETUS 1998-2002 published in July 2004 in the *Pocketbook on How Europeans spend their time*. Having in mind that besides the 10 countries covered in the Pocketbook, there are HETUS activities in progress in other European countries, the working paper gives a comprehensive overview on the development of HETUS/TUS in the European countries by December 2004.

### European Time Use Surveys by December 2004

Country and institution	Fieldwork period	Age of population covered	Sample size (Number of respondents)	Size of population, 1 000 <sup>5</sup>	Comments
<b>Countries having carried out TUS not included in the Pocketbook due to methodological differences</b>					
<b>Denmark (DK) – Danish National Institute of Social Research</b>	March, April, September and October 2001	16 - 74	2 739	4 298	Two consecutive days surveyed
<b>Netherlands (NL)- Central Bureau of Statistics</b>	January 2001 – December 2001	12 -	5 717	13 380	One diary day, self-coded activities
<b>Portugal (PT) – Instituto Nacional de Estatística</b>	October, November 1999	15 -	8 133	9 323	Simplified survey
<b>Romania (RO) – National Institute of Statistics</b>	August, September 2000	10 -	17 751	20 072	
<b>Countries not included in the Pocketbook and having carried out TUS or having a TUS in progress</b>					
<b>Spain (ES) – Instituto Nacional de Estadística</b>	October 2002 – September 2003	10 -	46 774	37 636	One day was surveyed. Results available since July 2004
<b>Italy (IT) – Istituto Nazionale di Statistica</b>	April 2002 - March 2003	3 -	55 760	56 805	One day was surveyed. Results expected September 2005
<b>Latvia (LV) – Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia</b>	February - August 2003, October – November 2003	10 -	3 804	2 115	Results expected February 2005
<b>Lithuania (LT) – Statistics Lithuania</b>	January-December 2003	10 -	4 768	3 454	Results available since September 2004
<b>Poland (PL) – Central Statistical Office</b>	1.06.2003-31.05.2004	15 -	20 264	30 904	Results expected April 2005
<b>Bulgaria (BG) – National Statistical Institute</b>	15.10.2001-15.10.2002	7 -	7 622	7 891	Results available since June 2003
<b>Macedonia (FYROM)</b>	20.09. - 26.09. 2004	10 -	6024 respondents filled in the Individual Questionnaire of the survey.	2 030	Fieldwork period was one week. Results expected in the second half of 2005

<sup>5</sup> Source: Population statistics