Comparable time use statistics

Main results for Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
February 2006
Acknowledgements: Eurostat thanks the participating countries for the production of the time use statistics. Eurostat also thanks all the countries who were involved in the Pocketbook *How Europeans spend their time - Everyday life of women and men* and in the working paper *Comparable time use statistics - National tables from 10 European countries*, as well as Statistics Finland and the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, since the present working paper is based on these publications.
Preface

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.

This working paper presents comparable time use statistics collected for Spain (ES), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT) and Poland (PL). This document completes the previous working paper on time use presenting comparable statistics for 10 European countries (Belgium, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway) which was published in March 2005¹.

The aim of this working paper is to make available for further analysis some comparable data produced by these five countries who conducted a Time Use survey more recently (2002-2004). The survey methods that have been used follow closely the Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys published in September 2000². Therefore, the results are considered to be comparable. Information on how to prepare comparable tables in compliance with Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS) guidelines is also included.

The working paper includes the tables produced by national statistical agencies in Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These tables cover information on the time use for a broad range of activities of social life for several demographic and socio-economic 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 Statistics

¹Eurostat Working paper Comparable time use statistics - National tables from 10 European countries is available at the following address: http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1073.46587759&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-05-001
²http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1073.1135281,1073.1135295&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-M-007
## CONTENTS

Preface ........................................................................................................................................... 3

Contents .......................................................................................................................................... 4

I National time use data for international comparisons ............................................................... 5
  Data sources, reference years and sample sizes ....................................................................... 5

II Comparable Time Use Tables available in the working paper .............................................. 5
  Tables provided by national statistical agencies\(^3\) ................................................................. 5
  Description of the indicators .................................................................................................... 6
  Activity classification ............................................................................................................... 6

III Methodology for Comparable Time Use Tables – Instructions ............................................ 7
  Main structure of time use activities .................................................................................... 7
  Detailed activity classification ............................................................................................... 7
  Location classification .......................................................................................................... 9
  Background variables .......................................................................................................... 9
  Comments on national time use data tables ......................................................................... 9

For further information............................................................................................................. 10

---

\(^3\) National tables by country for ES, IT, LV, LT and PL are available at the following address:
http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library/=/comparable_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title9999999999
I National time use data for international comparisons

The data originate from national time use surveys conducted in Spain (ES), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT) and Poland (PL) between 2002 and 2004. In March 2005 was published the working paper presenting comparable time use data for 10 European countries (Belgium, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway –data from 1998-2002)\(^4\). The aim of this working paper is to make available for further analysis some comparable data produced by these five countries who conducted a Time Use survey more recently. Note that the time use survey methods follow closely the *Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys* published in September 2000\(^5\) and therefore, the results are considered to be comparable.

Time Use Surveys provide statistics on the division of gainful and domestic work between women and men, and on their participation in education, cultural activities and other spheres of life (voluntary work, care, mobility, leisure time …). A representative sample of individuals completes a diary during one weekday and one weekend day distributed over the whole year.

**Data sources, reference years and sample sizes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldwork period</th>
<th>Age of population covered</th>
<th>Sample size (Number of respondents)</th>
<th>Size of population, 1,000(^6)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain (ES) – Instituto Nacional de Estadística</td>
<td>October 2002 –September 2003</td>
<td>10 -</td>
<td>46 774</td>
<td>37 636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy (IT) – Instituto Nazionale di Statistica</td>
<td>April 2002 - March 2003</td>
<td>3 -</td>
<td>55 760</td>
<td>56 805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia (LV) – Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia</td>
<td>February - August 2003, October –November 2003</td>
<td>10 -</td>
<td>3 804</td>
<td>2 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania (LT) – Statistics Lithuania</td>
<td>January-December 2003</td>
<td>10 -</td>
<td>4 768</td>
<td>3 454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland (PL) – Central Statistical Office</td>
<td>1.06.2003-31.05.2004</td>
<td>15 -</td>
<td>20 264</td>
<td>30 904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II Comparable Time Use Tables available in the working paper

*Tables provided by national statistical agencies*

The following tables, provided by national statistical agencies from ES, IT, LV, LT and PL, are available:

A. Main structure of time use of the employed by sex

B. Time use of population by age and sex

C. Participation in activities of population by age and sex

D. Location and mode of transport of population by age and sex

National tables by country for ES, IT, LV, LT and PL are available at the following address:


\(^4\) Working paper *Comparable time use statistics - National tables from 10 European countries* is available at the following address: http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/portal/page\?_pageid=1073,4687259&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL\&p_product_code=KS-CC-05-001

\(^5\) http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/portal/page\?_pageid=1073,1135281,1073,1135295&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL\&p_product_code=KS-CC-04-007

\(^6\) Source: Population statistics
**Description of the indicators**

Most of the national time use tables show **average time spent on an activity** in minutes per day (or 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.

Table C shows 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 the activity every day.

The indicator **Average time by those who spent any time on the activity** is not included but it can be calculated as follows: Average time by those who spent any time on the activity = (average time per day / proportion of people who spent any time on the activity) * 100.

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. Therefore, the comparisons should be cautious since differences observed are not always significant. Moreover, only main activities are analysed and some activities might sometimes not be exactly coded the same way from one country to another. Finally, some national data were rounded, which might explain small discrepancies.

**Activity classification**

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.

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.

Time use activities are categorised into six basic groups for the simplified classification:

- **Gainful work, study** includes time spent on main and second jobs and related activities, breaks and travel during working hours, and on job seeking. The time spent on study at school and during free time is combined with gainful work.
- **Domestic work** includes housework, child and adult care, gardening and pet care, construction and repairs, shopping and services, and household management.
- **Travel** includes commuting and trips connected with all kinds of activities, except travel during working hours.
• *Sleep* includes sleep during night or daytime, waiting for sleep, naps, as well as passive lying in bed because of sickness.

• *Meals, personal care* includes meals, snacks and drinks, dressing, personal hygiene, making up, shaving, sexual activities and personal healthcare.

• *Free time, unspecified time use* includes all other kinds of activities, e.g. volunteer work and meetings, helping other households, socialising and entertainment, sports and outdoor activities, hobbies and games, reading, watching TV, resting or doing nothing.

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 tables provided, only main activities are considered; simultaneous activities are not 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.

### III Methodology for Comparable Time Use Tables -Instructions

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 tables, the respective chapters in the HETUS Guidelines 2000 are referred to.

**Main structure of time use activities (Table A)**

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

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

**Detailed activity classification (Tables B, C)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>CODES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CARE TOTAL</td>
<td>000 -- 039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEEP</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EATING</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PERSONAL CARE</td>
<td>000, 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPLOYMENT TOTAL</td>
<td>100 -- 139, 911, 912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN AND SECOND JOB</td>
<td>11, 12, 911, 912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>100, 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDY TOTAL

SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY TOTAL
  CLASSES AND LECTURES 21
  HOMEWORK 211
  OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 210, 219
FREE TIME STUDY 22

DOMESTIC TOTAL

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
CHILD CARE TOTAL 380-389
  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

VOLUNTEER WORK AND HELP TOTAL 41, 42
ORGANISATIONAL WORK 41
INFORMAL HELP TO OTHER HOUSEHOLDS 42

LEISURE TOTAL

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES 432
OTHER PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES 400, 430-431, 439
SOCIAL LIFE TOTAL 510-519
  SOCIALISING WITH FAMILY 511
  VISITS AND FEASTS 512, 513
  TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS 514
  OTHER SOCIAL LIFE 510, 519
ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE 52
RESTING 53
SPORTS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TOTAL 600-631
  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
TRAVEL TOTAL 900, 901, 913—982
TRAVEL TO/FROM WORK 913
TRAVEL RELATED TO STUDY 921, 922
Location classification (Table D)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKEND HOUSE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKING PLACE OR SCHOOL</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PEOPLE’S HOME</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTAURANT, CAFE OR PUB</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVEL TOTAL</td>
<td>20—40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON FOOT</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BICYCLE</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE CAR, MOTORCYCLE, VAN</td>
<td>23-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</td>
<td>30-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER OR UNSPECIFIED TRAVELLING MODE</td>
<td>20, 29, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER OR UNSPECIFIED LOCATION</td>
<td>00, 10, 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background variables

Age (Tables B, C, D)

10 years old and older.

The following age groups are used: 10-14 (years old), 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, 65 and over, 20-74.

Employment status (Table A)

Employed are defined by ILO definition.

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

The estimates should refer to the whole year.

Comments on national time use data tables

Some imprecision might arise from rounding the data both in calculating the participation rate and the average time spent on activities. Totals might not always equal exactly the sum of the subcategories, mainly because of rounding.

When analyzing the data, attention should be paid to the age limits presented in the tables. The age of the population covered is 10 years or more, except for Poland (15 years or more).

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.

Abbreviations:

0 should be considered as negligible : means not available or not reliable
For further information

Eurostat Working paper *Comparable time use statistics - National tables from 10 European countries*, March 2005

Eurostat Pocketbook *How Europeans spend their time - Everyday life of women and men*, July 2004