

Comparable time use statistics

Main results for Spain, Italy,
Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
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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.

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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=1073,46587259&_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-04-007

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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?l=/comparable_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title999999999

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 2000⁵ 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

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

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:

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/tus/library?l=/comparable_statistics&vm=detailed&sb=Title99

⁴ 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=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-05-001

⁵ http://epp.eurostat.cec.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)

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 B, C)

ACTIVITIES	CODES
PERSONAL CARE TOTAL	000 -- 039
SLEEP	01
EATING	02
OTHER PERSONAL CARE	000, 03
EMPLOYMENT TOTAL	100 – 139, 911, 912
MAIN AND SECOND JOB	11, 12, 911, 912
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT	100, 13

STUDY TOTAL	200 – 221
<i>SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY TOTAL</i>	21
CLASSES AND LECTURES	211
HOMEWORK	212
OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	210, 219
FREE TIME STUDY	22
DOMESTIC TOTAL	300 – 391
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
VOLUNTEER WORK AND HELP TOTAL	41, 42
ORGANISATIONAL WORK	41
INFORMAL HELP TO OTHER HOUSEHOLDS	42
LEISURE TOTAL	400, 430 – 832, 998
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
TRAVEL TOTAL	900, 901, 913—982
TRAVEL TO/FROM WORK	913
TRAVEL RELATED TO STUDY	921, 922

<i>DOMESTIC TRAVEL TOTAL</i>	931—939
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
UNSPECIFIED TIME USE	995, 999

Location classification (Table D)

LOCATIONS	CODES
HOME	11
WEEKEND HOUSE	12
WORKING PLACE OR SCHOOL	13
OTHER PEOPLE'S HOME	14
RESTAURANT, CAFE OR PUB	15
<i>TRAVEL TOTAL</i>	20—40
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

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

Eurostat Working paper *Guidelines on harmonised European time use survey*, October 2004