

# Quality Report on the European Union Labour Force Survey 2006

2008 edition

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## 1 Introduction

The present report is the Quality Report on the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) for the year 2006.

The quality concept applied in this report is in conformity with the definition developed by Eurostat. In this definition quality consists of six components: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability and coherence. Each quality component consists also of several sub-components. Each of the quality components is explained shortly at the start of each section in the following report.<sup>1</sup>

The individual country quality reports that were delivered to Eurostat during spring and summer 2007 constitute the main source for the present report. Other sources that have been used or consulted are meta-data information collected by Eurostat, national quality reports from previous years, websites of the individual countries, the LFS datasets for 2006 and the documentation of the public free data set maintained by Eurostat.

The present quality report follows closely the standard Quality Report form that has been developed within Eurostat and was adapted to the Labour Force Survey by a special Task Force in 2000. In many instances, however, it is impossible to present the data exactly as prescribed by the form as it is often geared to homogeneous production processes within each country, rather than the special operation of Eurostat, obtaining national data sets from NSIs. In some cases the information from the individual countries was too scant to provide an exact summary.

The quality reports provide also information on the regional aspects of the labour force statistics, as the reporting of quality has become the joint effort of the units within Eurostat dealing with labour force surveys and with regional employment and unemployment. The last section of the present report covers the regional aspects.

This quality report complements the methodological working paper describing the characteristics of the national surveys in 2006 in the Member States, Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries, also available on the Eurostat website. Also complementing this report is the paper “Transition from work into retirement. Final report to the 2006 LFS ad hoc module”.

Eurostat wishes to thank the many experts in the Participating Countries providing the data and descriptions necessary for this report.

## 2 Review of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2006

### 2.1 Coverage

The EU-LFS in 2006 covers the then 25 Member States of the European Union. In addition the survey covers the countries of the EEA, Iceland and Norway, Switzerland by bilateral agreement, as well as Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey. Except when indicated otherwise, the discussion below refers

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<sup>1</sup> Most of the introductory texts shortly explaining each quality component are taken from the “Standard Quality Report” ([Doc. Eurostat/A4/Quality/03/General/Standard\\_Report](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_DS_QUALITY/TAB47143233/STANDARD_QUALITY_REPORT_0.PDF));  
url: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP\\_DS\\_QUALITY/TAB47143233/STANDARD\\_QUALITY\\_REPORT\\_0.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PGP_DS_QUALITY/TAB47143233/STANDARD_QUALITY_REPORT_0.PDF)).

to these 32 countries, which have to provide Eurostat with micro-data from their labour force surveys.<sup>2</sup>

All the territories of Participating Countries are covered, except for Cyprus which only covers the areas under the control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The EU-LFS covers persons in private households, but in several countries members of collective households are either sampled directly (register based sampling frames) or indirectly through their relationship with the sampled household.

Regardless of the sampling method or which age groups are interviewed, the data records at Eurostat represent all age groups, with the exception of the EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), which only provide data for the interviewed age groups.

## 2.2 Legal basis

The EU-LFS is regulated by several regulations of the Council, European Parliament and the Commission. The most important regulations are listed in table 2.1. In addition, several Participating Countries have their own national legislation for the conducting of a labour force survey. Information on the national laws or regulations is not available.

**Table 2.1 Major regulations of the EU- LFS relating to 2006 data collection**

<b>General regulations</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<a href="#">Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98</a> of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 77/3).	This is the main regulation with provisions on design, survey characteristics and decision making processes.
<a href="#">Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002</a> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 October 2002 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 308/1).	This regulation puts a time limit on the adoption of the continuous LFS.
<a href="#">Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003</a> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2003 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (OJ No L 336/6).	This regulation introduces 6 new variables and allows the wave approach for structural variables. It also introduces the module on "atypical working times", until then regulated by a gentlemen agreement.
<b>Implementation regulations</b>	
<a href="#">Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000</a> of 7 September 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the operational definition of unemployment (OJ No L 228/18).	Also contains the 12 principles for constructing the questionnaire
<a href="#">Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005</a> of 15 March 2005 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2006 onwards and the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables (OJ No L 71/36)	Codification 2006-2008

## 2.3 Compulsory participation

The participation in the EU-LFS is compulsory in thirteen Participating Countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia, Turkey and Norway), and voluntary in the other 19 countries.

<sup>2</sup> Due to national legislative reasons Turkey has been unable to comply with this requirement before 2006.

## 2.4 Reference week

The EU-LFS is designed as a continuous survey with interviews spread uniformly over all the weeks of the quarter. The reference week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. The first week of the year or quarter is the week that includes the first Thursday of the year or the quarter. Among those Countries conducting a continuous survey, the first week in 2006 started on Monday 2 January 2006 in all but three countries. In Ireland the year 2006 started in the 49<sup>th</sup> week of the year 2005, in the United Kingdom in the 52<sup>nd</sup> week of 2005. Iceland started in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of 2006. .

The actual sample is spread over the 13 weeks of the quarter in all countries but Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey, where the sample covers respectively the first 12 weeks of each quarter, the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month. The sample is uniformly spread over the weeks except in Hungary, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

## 2.5 Periodicity of the results

With the exception of Luxembourg, Croatia and Switzerland, the EU-LFS in 2006 produces quarterly estimates. Luxembourg, even if implementing a survey covering all weeks of the year in 2006, is only able to provide annual estimates. Croatia provides estimates referring to each half-year. Switzerland only provides estimates relating to the second quarter of the year.

## 2.6 Sampling designs

The sampling designs in the EU-LFS are very varied. Most NSIs use some kind of multi-staged stratified random sample design, especially those that do not have central population registers available.

### ***Base used for the sample***

Population registers and the latest Population Census or list of address used in that Census are the two main sources for the sampling frame. Other sources include lists of addresses from, e.g., the Postal Authorities or Utility databases. The Nordic countries as well as Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovenia use the Population Registers as the sole basis while the Netherlands complete this information with postal data. Germany base the sample frame on the 1987 Census in the western part and the Central Population Register in the east, both updated by the Register of new dwellings.

### ***Sampling stages and primary sampling units (PSU)***

Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Iceland and Norway use a single stage sampling design. In Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia all members of the household of the selected individual are selected into the final sample.<sup>3</sup> All other countries use a two or three stage sampling design, usually selecting administrative districts or census enumeration areas in the first stage<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The sampling design in Lithuania and Slovenia is equivalent to a single stage cluster sampling with selection probabilities proportional to size with replacement. As the clusters cannot be identified in the sampling frame, the design can also be described as a “particular case of ‘network sampling’” (Särndal, Swensson and Wretman (1992) *Model Assisted Survey Sampling*. New York. Springer-Verlag, p. 13).

<sup>4</sup> Ireland is a special case, using a two-stage cluster design. However, theirs is a Master Sample design: the second stage is the allocation of the dwelling units within each PSU over time, so that eventually all of the sub-units within each selected PSU are covered (or would be if the sample was not revised every five years based on the five-year Census of Population) – each PSU divided randomly into 5 clusters of 15 dwelling units, each cluster participating

## **Ultimate sampling units**

Three types of ultimate sampling units are employed: 1) households, 2) dwellings/addresses and 3) persons. In addition, Norway selects family units<sup>5</sup> in order to achieve a sample of persons. Germany, Ireland, Portugal and Romania sample clusters of dwelling units. In samples of dwellings or addresses, usually all the persons and thus all the household units residing within the dwelling/address are interviewed (Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Cyprus, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Romania, United Kingdom and Turkey). The exception is the Netherlands, where a final sampling stage is implemented, i.e. sub-sampling households from multi-household mailing addresses. When persons constitute the primary sampling units, the selected persons constitute either the final sample (the Nordic countries and Switzerland) or the sampled persons lead to a final sample comprised of the sampling units and their household members (Estonia, Lithuania and Slovenia).

## **Overall sampling rate**

The overall sampling rate per quarter (ultimate sampling units) of the EU-LFS is 0.43% (EU-25: 0.40%). Ireland has by far the highest sampling rate per quarter (3.3%), followed by Luxembourg (2.6%), Malta (2%) and Iceland (1.9%), while other Participating Countries have sampling rates of 1.5% or less. The achieved sample in the second quarter of 2006 was 1.809 million individuals (EU-25: 1.496 million), of which 1.403 million were in the age group 15-74 years (EU-25: 1.157 million). The achieved sample in the EU-LFS is thus approximately 0.33% of the total population

## **Stratification**

All the countries, except Lithuania, Malta and Iceland, stratify the sample frame prior to the sampling. Region, either NUTS II, NUTS III, NUTS IV regions, or nationally defined areas, is the most common stratification variable (all but Denmark). Urbanisation is also a popular stratification variable (Greece, France, Spain, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania). Other stratification variables include register status of individuals in employment/unemployment registers (Denmark, Sweden) and auxiliary information about the characteristics (size, type) of the primary sampling units (Spain, France, Italy, Hungary).

## **2.7 Rotation schemes**

All the Participating Countries but Belgium and Croatia use a rotating panel design for the samples. The number of panels (/waves) ranges from two to eight. Panel designs with four and five panels are the most common. Each panel is either interviewed once in each quarter successively without interruption, or the panel may skip over one or more quarters before being interviewed again. Depending on the national priorities with regard to desired precision of change estimates, levels or annual averages, the number of waves and skip patterns lead to different outcomes of overlaps between two successive quarters or between the same quarters in two successive years.

Of the 29 countries producing quarterly results, all but four design the panel rotation so that 50% or more<sup>6</sup> of the samples overlap between two successive quarters (Denmark 33% and Belgium, Germany and Latvia 0%). There is less emphasis on overlap between quarters in two successive years. Three

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5 times before being replaced by the next cluster. The third stage in the Portuguese sampling design is similar except that the secondary sampling units (secções) are divided into 6 clusters of 50 dwelling units, each participating 6 times before being replaced by the next cluster.

<sup>5</sup> Person + spouse or registered partner + dependent children.

<sup>6</sup> These percentages are only theoretical; the actual overlaps are lower due to non-response and panel attrition.



countries out of 32 have no overlap (BE, MT, HR); seven countries have an overlap of 20% or 25% while 19 countries have an overlap ranging from 33% to 50%. Germany has 75% overlap with the previous year and Switzerland 80%. Luxembourg retained 6.400 households from the 2005 sample for interviewing in 2006.

## 2.8 Calculation of the weighting factors

The Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the EU-LFS stipulates that weighting factors should take into account “in particular the probability of selection and external data relating to the distribution of the population being surveyed, by sex, age (five-year age groups) and region (NUTS II level), where such external data are held to be sufficiently reliable by the Member States concerned” (Article 3(5)).

The methods of calculating the weights differ considerably between countries. Two main methods are used, depending on the detail of the external information and whether or not this external information can be cross-tabulated: 1) inverse of the selection probabilities adjusted *a posteriori* to the population’s distribution by sex, age groups and other external (administrative) sources, and 2) different variations of adjusting to marginal totals, including generalised calibration and generalised regression. Most of the countries adjust for non-response either directly in the weighting process or in a preliminary step before adjusting the weights to external sources.

Due to the complexity and number of factors taken into account in some of the weighting calculations, the stipulation of the Regulation to use five-year age groups are not implemented in all of the countries. Almost all countries adjust the weighting factors to regional levels. These regions may, however, not necessarily correspond to the NUTS II regional classification.

All the countries with the exception of Croatia use data on sex in the weighting process. Croatia does not use age in calculating the weighting factors while eight countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia) use broader age groups than five-year. All the countries that have NUTS II regions defined, except France, use at least NUTS II regions for calculating the weights, but eighteen countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and Norway) have a more detailed regional classification (NUTS III or NUTS IV; groups of NUTS III for Portugal).

Denmark, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden and Norway use register statistics on employment/unemployment directly for weighting. In other countries, different external distributions or sources are frequently used both for weighting and stratification, such as urban/rural distinction, nationality, ethnicity, and size classes of regions or local areas.

Most of the countries, who only sample non-institutional households, gross the sample to the non-institutional population with the exception of Belgium, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland who gross to the total population.

## 2.9 Data collection methods

Three modes of data collection exist for the EU-LFS, personal visits, telephone interviews and self-administered questionnaires. Half of the Participating Countries mix the two first so that the first wave is always or mainly via personal visit while subsequent waves are interviewed with telephone if available. Germany collects data mainly with face-to-face interviews; persons not available for the interviewer or refusing oral interviews fill in written questionnaires. Denmark collects data with telephone interviews, but persons who could not be reached by telephone receive a mailed

questionnaire for completing. Belgium conducts the interviews by means of face-to-face; in households of retired persons, interviews can be conducted by telephone. Five countries (Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Switzerland) rely solely on telephone interviews. Eight countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Croatia and Turkey) collect data using only face-to-face interviews.

Twenty-one of the countries conduct the interview only with computerised questionnaires. Other two use both computerised and paper questionnaires. The rest rely solely on paper questionnaires.

## **2.10 The cost and burden of the EU-LFS**

Of the 32 countries submitting a quality report only 17 reported the total cost of the survey. Weighting by the number of interviews over the year by country and extrapolating from the reported cost, the 32 countries can be expected to have spent 20.81 Euros per interview in the year 2006 or 113.5 million Euros in total<sup>7</sup>.

Twenty-six countries gave some information on how long the interview lasted per person or household. For these countries the interview in the first wave lasted on average 14:43 minutes. Subsequent waves, on the other hand, took on average 10:11 minutes to complete.

## **3 Relevance**

Relevance is the degree to which statistics meet current and potential user needs. It refers to whether all statistics that are needed are produced and the extent to which concepts used (definitions, classifications etc.) reflect user needs. It can be assessed by analysing the different users, who they are, what needs they have, are they satisfied etc.

Given that most EU statistics are compiled according to regulations containing a defined list of variables the relevance can also be assessed by examining the completeness of the statistics measured against the relevant regulation.

### **3.1 The users**

Eurostat does not carry out any satisfaction survey targeted at users of labour markets statistics. The relevance of the LFS statistics for the users can thus only be assessed by indirect means. These requests are subject to scrutiny by the national experts and representatives of the NSIs. For major topics of interest, the instrument of ad hoc modules has proven to be useful and flexible. For users other than the Commission, anecdotal evidence for relevance can be found in positive feedbacks from individual users, or even in the absence of complaint.

The main institutional users, however, are known to the unit F2 Labour Market Statistics. Many of them are frequently consulted on various aspects of development and dissemination of labour force statistics.

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<sup>7</sup> In 2005 the cost per interview was 20.06 Euros. In the estimation method since 2005, account is taken of interview mode, household visitations and whether or not a country is a New Member State or Candidate Country.

**Table 3.1 Classification and description of users**

<i>Users</i>	<i>Description of user</i>	<i>Needs In term of concepts/statistics</i>
DG Employment	The policy arm of the Commission regarding the labour market	Measurement and monitoring of policy agenda, especially the Lisbon and Stockholm targets
Other Directorates of the Commission	Policy setting	Various, especially in the domains of economic, education and social policy
ECB	The European Central Bank	Short term statistics relating to Euro area
ESTAT - Unit D2	Regional indicators and geographical information	Detailed regional statistics, structural funds
ESTAT - Unit C2	National accounts - production	Accurate estimates of labour input, using both the national and domestic concept
ESTAT - Unit F4	Education, science and culture statistics	Estimates on current education and education levels, higher education and research
Other registered users of the web-data	Including NSIs, international organisations	International comparison of main indicators
The public	Researchers, news agencies and other	Varied, mainly intra EU comparisons

### 3.2 Completeness

When the Council Regulation on the continuous EU-LFS<sup>8</sup> was launched in 1998 it was anticipated that the transition to the new structure of a continuous survey providing quarterly results would be uneven for the different Participating Countries. In 2002, however, the Council and Parliament put an end to the transitional period, not allowing it to extend beyond 2002, or by way of derogation beyond 2003 for Italy and 2004 for Germany. Consequently, 2005 was the first year with all Member States of the EU conducting a continuous survey and providing quarterly results. In 2006 Turkey started delivering quarterly labour force survey micro data to Eurostat. In 2006 only two countries outside the EU-25 did not supply quarterly data. Switzerland conducted a labour force survey only in the spring, and Croatia carried out a semi-annual survey..

Even if otherwise adhering to the EU-regulations on the EU-LFS, countries do not always provide data for all the variables. This can be for various reasons, such as assessment that the variable in question is irrelevant to the labour market situation in the country or (temporary) inability to implement the variable in the national questionnaire. Some NSIs implement the full set of questions only in the spring or in a certain survey wave.

Country by country and variable by variable analysis of the (in)completeness is provided in the Annex. Tables 3.2 and 3.3 summarise the completeness data.

**Table 3.2 Completeness of the EU-LFS variables, 2006**

<i>Number of compulsory variables with 100% item non-response<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Number of countries</i>	<i>EU-25</i>
0	14	14
1-4	9	6
5-9	4	3
10+	5	2
Total	32	25

<sup>1</sup> Not including variables that are empty because the filtering variable excluded any response.

<sup>8</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98.

**Table 3.3 Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value<sup>1</sup>, 2006**

Column number <sup>2</sup>	Brief description	Number of countries	EU-25
1/2	Sequence number in the household	3	2
3	Relationship to reference person in the household	7	4
4/5	Sequence number of spouse or cohabiting partner	6	3
6/7	Sequence number of father	6	3
8/9	Sequence number of mother	6	3
15	Date of birth in relation to the end of reference period	1	1
16	Marital status	1	1
17/18	Nationality	2	1
19/20	Years of residence in this Member State	2	1
27	Professional status	1	1
28	Continuing receipt of the wage or salary	4	4
29/31	Economic activity of the local unit	1	1
32/35	Occupation	1	1
36	Supervisory responsibilities	3	2
39/40	Country of place of work	6	3
41/42	Region of place of work	10	6
43/46	Year in which person started working for this employer or as self-employed	1	1
49	Involvement of the public employment office at any moment in finding the present job	3	2
50	Full-time/part-time distinction	2	2
54	Total duration of temporary job or work contract of limited duration	2	2
55	Contract with a temporary employment agency	6	4
57	Evening work	2	2
58	Night work	1	1
59	Saturday work	1	1
60	Sunday work	1	1
61/62	Number of hours per week usually worked in the main job	1	1
65/66	Paid overtime in the reference week in the main job	5	2
67/68	Unpaid overtime in the reference week in the main job	6	3
71	Wish to work usually more than the current number of hours	1	1
73/74	Number of hours that the person would like to work in total	1	1
75	Working at home	1	1
76	Looking for another job	1	1
78	Existence of more than one job or business	1	1
82/83	Number of hours actually worked during the reference week in the second job	1	1
89/90	Month in which person last worked	1	.
93	Professional status in last job	1	1
96/98	Occupation of last job	1	1
100	Reasons for not searching an employment	1	1
101	Type of employment sought (non-employed)	2	2
102	Duration of search for employment (non-employed)	2	2
109	Took a test, interview or examination (non-employed)	2	1
110	Looked for land, premises or equipment (non-employed)	5	4
111	Looked for permits, licences, financial resources (non-employed)	6	4
112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job (non-employed)	4	4
113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office (non-employed)	7	5
114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector (non-employed)	14	11
115	Other method used (non-employed)	5	4
117	Availability to start working within two weeks (employed)	2	2

Job search activities of the non-employed

**Table 3.3 Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value<sup>1</sup>, 2006**

Column number <sup>2</sup>	Brief description	Number of countries	EU-25	
Job search activities of the employed	101	Type of employment sought (employed)	2	1
	102	Duration of search for employment (employed)	2	1
	103	Contacted public employment to find work (employed)	4	2
	104	Contacted private employment agency to find work (employed)	3	2
	105	Applied to employers directly (employed)	1	1
	106	Asked friends, relatives, trade unions etc. (employed)	1	1
	107	Inserted or answered advertisements in newspapers or journals (employed)	1	1
	108	Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals (employed)	2	1
	109	Took a test, interview or examination (employed)	4	3
	110	Looked for land, premises or equipment (employed)	11	9
	111	Looked for permits, licences, financial resources (employed)	12	9
	112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job (employed)	7	7
	113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office (employed)	10	7
	114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector (employed)	17	12
	115	Other method used (employed)	5	4
	117	Availability to start working within two weeks (employed)	2	2
	118	Reasons for not being available to start working within 2 weeks	3	2
	119	Situation immediately before person started to seek employment (or was waiting for new job to start)	1	1
	120	Need for care facilities	2	2
	121	Registration at a public employment office	2	1
124	Level of this education or training	1	.	
129/131	Number of hours spent on all taught learning activities within the last four weeks	1	.	
137/138	Highest level of education or training successfully completed	1	.	
139/141	Field of highest level of education or training successfully completed	1	1	
142/145	Year when highest level of education or training was successfully completed	1	.	
146	Situation with regard to activity one year before survey	4	2	
150/151	Country of residence one year before survey	4	.	
152/153	Region of residence (within Member State) one year before survey	6	2	
168/169	Interview week	1	1	
172/173	Region of household	2	.	
174	Degree of urbanisation	8	2	
201	Sequence number of the survey wave	6	5	

<sup>1</sup> Excluding variables which are constant by default such as country, reference year, region (if NUTS2 is the whole country)

<sup>2</sup> According to the Commission Regulation No. 430/2005.

## 4 Accuracy

Accuracy in the general statistical sense denotes the closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values. Statistics can be different from the true values because of random variability (the statistics change from implementation to implementation of the survey due to random effects) and/or bias (the average of the possible values of the statistics from implementation to implementation is not equal to the true value due to systematic effects).

Several types of error, stemming from all survey processes, comprise the error of the statistics (their bias and variability). A certain typology of errors has nowadays been adopted in statistics. **Sampling errors** affect only sample surveys; they are simply due to the fact that only a subset of the population, usually randomly selected, is enumerated. **Non-sampling** errors affect sample surveys and complete enumerations alike and comprise:

1. Coverage errors;
2. Measurement errors;
3. Processing errors;
4. Non response errors; and
5. Model assumption errors.

### 4.1 Sampling errors

**Sampling errors** affect only sample surveys and arise from the fact that not all units of the frame population are enumerated. The statistics produced from a sample survey will differ from the values which would be computed if exactly the same survey operations were applied to the whole frame population.

The Participating Countries provide Eurostat with an estimate of the relative standard error of five main characteristics. These relative standard errors can also be expressed as confidence limits, i.e. the range of values that in 19 out of 20 times would capture the true value in the population. It is also relatively straightforward to provide similar statistics on the aggregate level.

Table 4.1 provides the estimates and confidence limits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006, while table 4.2 provides estimates and confidence limits for the annual averages for 2006.

**Table 4.1 Confidence limits<sup>1</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006**

Country	Number of employed	Number of part-time employed	Number of unemployed	Rate of unemployment	Average number of hours actually worked
	x1000	x1000	x1000	%	hrs
<b>EU-25</b>	<b>201,257 ±436</b>	<b>37,586 ±270</b>	<b>17,912 ±219</b>	<b>8.2 ±0.1</b>	<b>37.2 ±0.1</b>
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>213,845 ±476</b>	<b>38,566 ±288</b>	<b>18,935 ±226</b>	<b>8.1 ±0.1</b>	<b>37.4 ±0.1</b>
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>171,041 ±399</b>	<b>35,280 ±256</b>	<b>14,212 ±190</b>	<b>7.7 ±0.1</b>	<b>36.5 ±0.1</b>
<b>EA-12</b>	<b>135,570 ±375</b>	<b>26,342 ±230</b>	<b>12,133 ±180</b>	<b>8.2 ±0.1</b>	<b>36.9 ±0.1</b>
<b>EA-13</b>	<b>136,540 ±375</b>	<b>26,435 ±230</b>	<b>12,193 ±180</b>	<b>8.2 ±0.1</b>	<b>36.9 ±0.1</b>
<b>EEA</b>	<b>203,774 ±436</b>	<b>38,300 ±271</b>	<b>18,015 ±219</b>	<b>8.1 ±0.1</b>	<b>37.1 ±0.1</b>
BE	4,216 ±57	978 ±41	382 ±32	8.3 ±0.7	36.6 ±0.4
BG	3,139 ±76	64 ±9	309 ±24	9.0 ±0.6	40.7 ±0.2
CZ	4,826 ±41	245 ±13	367 ±17	7.1 ±0.3	41.4 ±0.1
DK	2,792 ±27	657 ±28	114 ±13	3.9 ±0.4	34.6 ±0.3
DE	37,267 ±244	9,672 ±146	4,208 ±119	10.2 ±0.3	35.8 ±0.2
EE	650 ±22	53 ±9	43 ±8	6.2 ±1.1	40.2 ±0.4
IE	2,017 ±16	-	91 ±6	4.3 ±0.2	37.0 ±0.2
EL	4,453 ±79	261 ±16	427 ±22	8.8 ±0.4	41.6 ±0.3
ES	19,693 ±108	2,404 ±58	1,837 ±55	8.5 ±0.3	38.7 ±0.2
FR	24,743 ±183	4,291 ±121	2,382 ±95	8.8 ±0.3	36.2 ±0.2
IT	23,187 ±118	3,102 ±74	1,621 ±59	6.5 ±0.2	38.1 ±0.1
CY	356 ±10	28 ±3	15 ±2	4.1 ±0.6	38.8 ±0.4
LV	1,072 ±31	71 ±24	83 ±17	7.2 ±1.4	41.2 ±0.8
LT	1,502 ±51	137 ±16	89 ±12	5.6 ±0.8	39.2 ±0.3
LU	195 ±4	33 ±2	10 ±1	4.7 ±0.6	37.8 ±0.4
HU	3,934 ±64	162 ±11	306 ±17	7.2 ±0.4	40.0 ±0.1
MT	152 ±5	15 ±2	13 ±2	7.7 ±1.2	39.6 ±0.5
NL	8,241 ±84	3,704 ±65	332 ±18	3.9 ±0.3	31.7 ±0.2
AT	3,917 ±46	860 ±24	194 ±14	4.7 ±0.3	38.4 ±0.3
PL	14,459 ±142	1,437 ±79	2,365 ±102	14.1 ±0.6	40.8 ±0.3
PT	5,181 ±54	589 ±32	406 ±26	7.3 ±0.5	38.8 ±0.3
RO	9,449 ±174	916 ±100	714 ±51	7.0 ±0.5	40.8 ±0.3
SI	969 ±19	94 ±7	60 ±6	5.9 ±0.6	39.1 ±0.3
SK	2,295 ±22	64 ±7	359 ±15	13.5 ±0.8	39.9 ±0.2
FI	2,461 ±17	334 ±12	241 ±10	8.9 ±0.3	36.4 ±0.2
SE	4,426 ±19	1,080 ±22	387 ±14	8.0 ±0.3	34.5 ±0.1
UK	28,253 ±133	7,201 ±106	1,578 ±57	5.3 ±0.2	35.6 ±0.2
HR	1,548 ±53	141 ±18	206 ±18	11.8 ±0.9	40.1 ±0.4
TR	22,860 ±179	1,753 ±48	1,824 ±29	7.4 ±0.3	52.3 ±0.3
IS	170 ±2	35 ±2	7 ±1	4.0 ±0.9	42.1 ±0.6
NO	2,348 ±14	679 ±18	96 ±7	3.9 ±0.3	33.4 ±0.3
CH	4,051 ±48	1,344 ±32	170 ±11	4.0 ±0.3	37.8 ±0.2

<sup>1</sup> The confidence limits at 95% level of significance.

Note: Estimates in italics are Eurostat's own approximation of the confidence limits.

**Table 4.2 Confidence limits<sup>1</sup>, Annual average 2006**

Country	<i>Number of employed</i>	<i>Number of part-time employed</i>	<i>Number of unemployed</i>	<i>Rate of unemployment</i>	<i>Average number of hours actually worked</i>
	× 1000	× 1000	× 1000	%	hrs
EU-25	201,556 ±304	37,425 ±185	18,053 ±145	8.2 ±0.07	37.6 ±0.04
EU-27	213,957 ±333	38,380 ±197	19,087 ±151	8.2 ±0.07	37.7 ±0.04
EU-15	171,199 ±276	35,138 ±176	14,365 ±127	7.7 ±0.07	37.0 ±0.04
EA-12	135,627 ±253	26,175 ±151	12,319 ±120	8.3 ±0.08	37.3 ±0.05
EA-13	136,588 ±253	26,264 ±151	12,380 ±120	8.3 ±0.08	37.3 ±0.05
EEA	204,078 ±305	38,098 ±186	18,140 ±145	8.2 ±0.07	37.6 ±0.04
BE	4,264 ±29	945 ±19	383 ±15	8.3 ±0.3	37.1 ±0.3
BG	3,110 ±60	58 ±5	306 ±18	9.0 ±0.5	41.1 ±0.1
CZ	4,828 ±32	242 ±10	372 ±14	7.2 ±0.3	41.7 ±0.1
DK	2,805 ±16	660 ±14	114 ±6	3.9 ±0.2	35.5 ±0.2
DE	37,379 ±108	9,662 ±66	4,248 ±54	10.2 ±0.1	36.3 ±0.1
EE	646 ±13	50 ±5	41 ±4	5.9 ±0.6	40.3 ±0.2
IE	2,039 ±17	-	93 ±5	4.4 ±0.2	37.4 ±0.2
EL	4,452 ±74	255 ±14	434 ±19	8.9 ±0.4	41.9 ±0.3
ES	19,748 ±70	2,361 ±42	1,837 ±35	8.5 ±0.2	38.9 ±0.1
FR	24,770 ±167	4,268 ±105	2,477 ±88	9.1 ±0.3	37.0 ±0.1
IT	22,988 ±81	3,054 ±51	1,673 ±35	6.8 ±0.1	38.2 ±0.1
CY	357 ±8	27 ±3	17 ±2	4.5 ±0.6	39.7 ±0.3
LV	1,087 ±16	70 ±8	80 ±8	6.8 ±0.7	41.4 ±0.4
LT	1,499 ±35	149 ±11	89 ±9	5.6 ±0.5	38.9 ±0.2
LU	195 ±2	33 ±1	10 ±1	4.7 ±0.3	37.8 ±0.2
HU	3,930 ±60	157 ±9	317 ±15	7.5 ±0.3	40.4 ±0.1
MT	152 ±3	15 ±1	12 ±1	7.3 ±0.6	39.1 ±0.2
NL	8,261 ±42	3,705 ±32	336 ±9	3.9 ±0.1	32.3 ±0.2
AT	3,928 ±38	855 ±18	196 ±10	4.7 ±0.2	39.0 ±0.2
PL	14,594 ±98	1,424 ±54	2,344 ±65	13.8 ±0.4	41.2 ±0.2
PT	5,159 ±54	582 ±33	428 ±21	7.7 ±0.4	38.9 ±0.3
RO	9,291 ±120	897 ±69	728 ±38	7.3 ±0.4	40.2 ±0.2
SI	961 ±15	89 ±5	61 ±4	6.0 ±0.4	40.0 ±0.2
SK	2,302 ±17	64 ±5	355 ±12	13.4 ±0.6	40.3 ±0.2
FI	2,443 ±16	343 ±9	204 ±7	7.7 ±0.2	37.3 ±0.1
SE	4,429 ±16	1,080 ±21	337 ±8	7.1 ±0.2	36.0 ±0.1
UK	28,337 ±108	7,222 ±85	1,596 ±40	5.3 ±0.1	36.0 ±0.1
HR	1,586 ±45	150 ±15	199 ±14	11.1 ±0.7	40.1 ±0.3
TR	22,346 ±219	1,768 ±42	2,041 ±28	8.4 ±0.2	51.7 ±0.2
IS	168 ±1	-	5 ±1	2.8 ±0.6	42.5 ±0.3
NO	2,354 ±13	674 ±16	83 ±6	3.4 ±0.2	34.9 ±0.3
CH	4,051 ±48	1,344 ±32	170 ±11	4.0 ±0.3	37.8 ±0.2

<sup>1</sup> The confidence limits at 95% level of significance.

Note: Estimates in italics are Eurostat's own approximation of the confidence limits.



## 4.2 Non-sampling errors

### Coverage errors

The *frame* is a device that permits access to population units, such as a list of households with addresses. *Frame population* is the set of population units which can be accessed through the frame and the survey's conclusions really apply to this population. **Coverage errors** (or frame errors) are due to divergences between the target population and the frame population.

**Table 4.3 Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes**

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
BE	< 0,5%	→ 0	→ 0	Households, all members of which are 76 years or older, and collective households (about 0.15% of all households) are excluded before draw. Delay between draw of household (from NPR, kept up to date "permanently") and fieldwork: between 3 and 7 months
BG	-	7.38%	-	Non-occupied dwellings
CZ	-	-	-	The nonexistent or uninhabited flats/estates remain in the Register of Census Areas and cause over-coverage. On the other hand foreigners live predominantly in collective households and therefore data for this population based on the LFS are not representative.
DK	→ 0	→ 0	→ 0	Statistics Denmark applies registers that are expected to have full coverage. In the Danish LFS the main sampling frame is the Population Register supplemented with the Unemployment Register for stratification purposes. The Population Register covers all registered residents in Denmark, and the register is currently updated on a quarterly basis. In terms of both coverage and updating, as such, this is a high quality sampling frame. However, after selection the monthly LFS sub-samples are transmitted to the Central Office of Civil Registration (CPR) in order to both verify active status (alive and resident) and to add updated information on dwelling address. Recently the Law of CPR was revised giving everybody the potential right to refuse participation in statistical and scientific surveys. Residents who have used this right (mainly people who have recently changed their dwelling place) are guaranteed that they will not be contacted in relation to surveys, thus CPR is not allowed to transmit any information concerning their potential active status or dwelling address. Unfortunately, this results in problems of increasing refusal which is a disturbing trend.
DE	→ 0	→ 0	-	Homeless people and other people without registered residence (e.g. people living in huts, caravans) are out of the frame.
EE	-	-	-	In 2006 7 146 households of 10 211 households sampled for the survey, were interviewed. Among the households not interviewed, in 161 cases (1.6% of total number of sampled households) the reason was an error or inaccuracy of the frame (person emigrated or left the county, person deceased, wrong address, etc).
IE				
EL	About 1%	-	-	Population living in collective households, or in dwellings outside the borders of built areas is not covered. Frames are compiled at census, and sampling rates are based at census population. Frames are updated at the first time when the primary sampling units are selected but not at subsequent waves. The under-coverage estimate is based at the percentage of population that was living in collective households at 2001 census
ES	-	16.83%	-	Over-coverage data refers to first interview
FR	-	-	-	-there is a risk of bias for the persons living in collective dwellings: they are not surveyed but their answers are estimated through those of the persons living in private households and the persons living in collective dwellings and attached to private households (controlled by the age and gender) - there is a risk of double counting for students who live in independent housing. They can be counted once in the housing of their parents and once in their own housing. The risk of double counting could lead to an over-coverage of student.
IT	-	1.31%	1.26%	Households are drawn once a year from the municipalities' general registry offices. The data might contain errors as for information such as addresses, wrong inclusions and missing inclusions. Substitution with households having similar characteristics is allowed (up to 3 replacements). No further replacing criteria are adopted at the surveying stage in order to minimise the impact of unit non-response on the variability and the bias of the estimates.
CY	2.00%	-	-	In the first stage of the sample design a number of primary sampling units (PSUs) were drawn in 2005 from the Census of Population frame of 2001. In a post

**Table 4.3 Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes**

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
				enumeration survey conducted after the census an under-coverage of 2,0% was estimated. The selected PSUs were again enumerated completely in 2005. In the 2nd stage of the sample design a number of households were selected from the updated PSUs. Updating to include newly constructed dwellings is carried out on an annual basis. Although the selected PSUs are completely updated annually, the original selection of PSUs was based on the distribution of households as enumerated in the 2001 Census. This assumes that the development of the selected PSUs was the same as in the rest of the areas which were not selected and this might not be completely true.
LV	-	3.22%	-	The shortcoming is that the number of households in counting areas has not been updated from year 2000. In general the list of counting areas covers all territory of Latvia, but there could be some territories not covered by the list. It is due to active building of new dwellings in previously unoccupied areas during the last years. Main reason for overcoverage are, rarely updated register were can be old information. Over-coverage contain list of different non-response. 1) Address contain social institution 2) Flat or house are uninhabited 3) Flat or house are not possible find 4) House is abandoned or burning.
LT	→ 0	1.3%	→ 0	The main problem is that some persons don't live in Lithuania for a long time and still are in the Population register.
LU	→ 0	→ 0	→ 0	Some households of the sampling frame RGPP were out of scope. They were deleted both from the sample and the sampling frame.
HU	-	-	-	Hard-to-access groups are characterised either by extremely bad traffic conditions to get to their place or by collective reluctance -- usually within a small community -- towards being interviewed. Though the effect of these factors cannot be estimated, it is supposed to be not significant.
MT	-	-	-	The sampling frame being used covers private households. Hence persons living in institutional households are not being covered.
NL	-	-	-	
AT	< 1.00%	-	-	From 2004 onwards the sample for the Austrian LFS is drawn from the Austrian population register. This register was set up in 2002, still the composition of the households is not always recorded correctly. However as we are sampling households not persons this does not cause serious problems for the results of the survey. Addresses known as institutional households are excluded. The sample is drawn three months before the start of the quarter. This results in a time lag of three to six months. Therefore dwellings where persons moved in after the due date for the survey are not covered.
PL				
PT	-	13.91%	-	The sampling frame doesn't cover the individuals living in collective dwellings. This population represents less than approximately 1%.
RO	1.46	Q1: 1.21% Q2: 1.38% Q3: 1.38% Q4: 1.61%	-	Due to the lack of appropriate information, the new dwellings, built after 2002 Census of the Population and Dwellings, that could possibly constitute a sampling frame of the new dwellings, have not been taken into account. Nevertheless, some periodic updates have to be done for the PSU included in EMZOT, on the basis of the household surveys conducted, as well as micro-census type surveys. The micro-census has aimed in particular the updating of the addresses of the dwellings. Under-coverage rate was estimated as the ratio between number of new dwellings, built in the period end of 2002 year (the year of the census)- end of 2005 year (Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2006), and number of dwellings at the end of 2005 year (Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2006). Thus, it was assumed that the proportion of the new dwellings in total dwellings should be the same in the master sample. Over-coverage rates were estimated on the basis of the survey samples, as ratio between number of not-eligible dwellings and number of sampled dwellings. Possible misclassification errors could occur only if a certain locality comprising PSU included into master sample would change its area. Changes in the area of the localities (usually from rural to urban) are rare cases. Even if it that would happen, the misclassification errors could be corrected by calibration.
SI	→ 0	→ 0	-	
SK	→ 0	→ 0	→ 0	The LFS sample is based on a Population Census conducted once a ten years (last time in 2001). There is the lack of information on new statistical units during a rather long period. Errors as for information on addresses of dwellings; missing coverage of collective households, persons living in convents, partially student halls of residence (although they are surveyed via other members of the households), members of the Slovak embassies and institutions abroad Under-coverage comprises people born abroad and living in collective houses Over-coverage: Mainly young residents working temporarily abroad can stay to live

**Table 4.3 Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes**

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
				there
FI	→ 0	1.5%	→ 0	The sampling frame used is the total population database maintained by Statistics Finland. It is based on the Population Information System of The Population Register Centre and updated regularly. Under-coverage fairly small (no large-scale immigration) Over-coverage: mostly emigration in wave 1, deaths and emigration for later waves.
SE	1%	0.2%	-	The LFS sample is drawn once a year and the sampled persons are interviewed eight times during a two year period. No additional sample selection is made in order to update the sample with immigrants during this two-year period. The average time span between sample selection and the reference week is about 19 months, which means an under-coverage of about 50,000 persons or 1 % of the population. This under-coverage is judged to have marginal effects on the LFS-estimates. There is a certain over coverage in RTB and consequently in the sampling frame. The over coverage consists of people born abroad who left Sweden without reporting this to the Swedish authorities. When these persons are included in the sample there are no information that they have moved out from Sweden. They can not be reached for interview and will be classified as non-response. According to evaluation-studies made this over-coverage is mainly concentrated to non-Nordic immigrants and is of a magnitude of 25,000-50,000 persons in the total population (0.2 %)
UK	~ 1%	~ 1%	-	Just over 1% of the total GB population
HR	-	-	-	
TR	-	-	-	For 2006 LFS Survey, 2000 Dwelling Enumeration Study is used as the sampling frame. Therefore newly established settlements do not take part in the frame. In the survey, another problem occurs when the frame contains some non-eligible units such as establishments, warehouses, etc. and when these units are selected as if they were households. In order to minimize these frame problems, before selecting households at the second stage, all selected PSU's are listed in the area so that an updated list of households with newly added addresses is achieved for the second stage. Additionally, the estimates of the survey are adjusted by the use of projected population values on regional basis and age-sex groups.
IS	-	-	-	No significant problems
NO	-	-	-	No significant problems
CH	-	-	-	Standard-sample: The base used for the standard sample is the registered phone numbers. The coverage rate is not exactly known. We estimate that the coverage rate has achieved less than 90% which will be a big problem next 2-3 years. But with a change in the law the coverage factor will be improved in 2-3 years. The reasons are there are households that do not register their (fix-) phone number and households that can only be contacted by a mobile phone number. But with a change in the law, the coverage factor will be improved in 2-3 years. Extra-sample of foreign persons: As the extra sample is based on the register of foreign persons, the quality (including recent immigration) is almost "perfect". The register has a monthly update.

### Measurement errors

**Measurement errors** are errors that occur during data collection and cause the recorded values of variables to be different than the true ones. Their causes are commonly categorized as:

- survey instrument: the form, questionnaire or measuring device used for data collection may lead to the recording of wrong values.
- Respondent: respondents may, consciously or unconsciously, give erroneous information.
- Interviewer: interviewers may influence the answers given by respondents.

No estimates of these errors are available. However, the number of proxy interviews, the average number of interviews per interviewer and statistics on the last updates of the questionnaire, are all related to the error sources listed above.

**Table 4.4 Share of proxy interviews, number of interviews per interviewer and last update of the questionnaire**

Country	% of proxy interviews <sup>1</sup>	Number of interviews <sup>1</sup> per interviewer (per quarter)	Date of the last update of the questionnaire	Date of the last pilot survey in order to test the questionnaire	Number of respondents to the pilot survey
EU-25	34.9	145	-	-	-
BE	22.1	84	2005	Q3 2006 a CAPI questionnaire was tested	About 1000
BG	42.6	59	Q1 2006	2005	approx. 900
CZ	47.6	442	31 December 2005	2001	891
DK	2.1	259	September 2006	Pilots are conducted from time to time to test new questions or other adjustments of the questionnaire	NA
DE	26.7	90	yearly	2000	11 000 households
EE	17.5	76	January 2006	Oct-Nov 2005	124
IE	47.5	-	-	-	-
EL	42.5	-	January 2006	-	-
ES <sup>2</sup>	53.5	354	2005	2004	3 500 households
FR	31.5	94	1st quarter of 2006	2005	around 250
IT	15.7	375	January 2006 for Q1, Q3 e Q4 - April 2006 for AHM	December 2004	900 households
CY	30.6	705	January 2005	February 2005	30
LV	38.7	84	October 2005	May 2005 testing of CAP	NA
LT	45.2	68	August 2005	October 2005	40
LU	52.1	995	yearly	NA	NA
HU	42.6	116	October 2005	August 2005	About 100
MT	50.2	61	2006	-	-
NL	47.2	-	-	-	-
AT	25.4	-	-	-	-
PL	41.4	59	Q1 2006	-	-
PT	45.8	186	2006	No pilot test	NA
RO	28.7	66	for the 2006 LFS	May 2005	1000 households
SI	58.1	358	January 2006	November 2005	30
SK	61.2	421	2006	1992	NA
FI	4.3	192	-	-	-
SE	2.6	345	January 2006	Pilot studies in March and June 2004.	1400
UK <sup>2</sup>	34.5	107	January 2006	August 2005	452 households, 857 individuals
HR	40.2	-	2006	-	-
TR	58.8	478	2006	Before 2004	Around 100 households
IS <sup>2</sup>	1.1	313	-	November and December 2002	-
NO <sup>2</sup>	14.9	-	-	-	-
CH	0.5	99	April 2006	February 2006	142

<sup>1</sup> 15-74 years respondents. <sup>2</sup> 16-74 years respondents

### Processing errors

Between data collection and the beginning of statistical analysis for the production of statistics, data must undergo a certain processing: coding, data entry, data editing, imputation, etc. Errors introduced at these stages are called **processing errors**.

No estimates can be produced indicating the rate of processing errors in the EU-LFS.

### Non-response errors

Non response is the failure of a survey to collect data on all survey variables, from all the population units designated for data collection in a sample or complete enumeration. The difference between the statistics computed from the collected data and those that would be computed if there were no missing values is the **non response error**.

Tables 4.5 and 4.6 do not show fully comparable non-response rates. All of the countries, except Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland calculate non-response on the basis of the household unit. The enumerated countries calculate non-response on person basis. The treatment of non-response in the follow-up waves is also different between countries. Some Participating Countries do not take previous non-response into account when calculating the non-response in later waves, whereas others do. Thus the former countries may show lower non-response rates on the average than the latter.

**Table 4.5 Rates of non response by wave. Annual average 2006**

Country	Waves							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BE	21.8	-						
BG	22.6	15.2	18.2	15.3				
CZ	21.4	19.2	18.8	19.0	19.5			
DK	38.4	37.5	38.0					
DE <sup>1</sup>		4.4						
EE	31.9	27.3	18.1	17.9				
IE	-	-	-	-	-			
EL	12.3	11.3	10.5	9.9	9.4	9.6		
ES	19.7			17.0				
FR	20.2	20.3	19.4	18.7	19.5	17.2		
IT	19.4	7.5	6.0	4.8				
CY	1.8	2.3	3.0	3.9	3.6	3.3		
LV	37.1	30.0	26.0					
LT	11.3	13.7	13.0	14.1				
LU	68.0	-						
HU	25.0	18.1	10.0	7.9	6.8	6.5		
MT	17.2	22.7						
NL	32.5	16.6	5.0	4.1	3.7			
AT	11.8	11.6	10.5	9.1	9.7			
PL	17.5	16.5	15.3	15.3				
PT	-	-	-	-	-	-		
RO	6.7	4.9	3.8	3.2				
SI <sup>2</sup>	24.6	17.3	11.2	10.9	7.5			
SK	12.6	-	-	-	-			
FI	21.3	19.4	19.3	18.9	19.0			
SE	21.5	18.3	17.7	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.5	17.5
UK	29.0	31.4	35.2	38.6	42.2			
HR								
TR	15.0	14.0	14.8	14.4				
IS	17.0	17.7	17.6	17.6	17.0			
NO	16.2	14.0	12.7	12.8	11.7	11.6	10.9	11.5
CH	30.5	17.4	15.5	11.8	10.0			

<sup>1</sup> Survey waves are on annual, but not quarterly basis.

<sup>2</sup> Conditional non-response in waves 2-5. The non-respondents from previous waves are excluded from the sample in subsequent waves (waves 2-5)

**Table 4.6 Non-response by type of non-response. Annual average 2006**

Country	Non-response (%)			
	Total	Refusals	Non-contacts	Other reasons
BE	21.8	1.9	9.8	10.0
BG	18.4	4.3	13.3	0.8
CZ	19.6	14.0	5.4	0.2
DK	38.0	-	-	-
DE <sup>1</sup>	4.8	-	-	-
EE	28.9	8.7	18.9	1.2
IE	8.6	4.0	4.6	-
EL	10.5	3.6	-	6.9
ES	19.7	8.0	11.7	-
FR	19.3	4.3	10.5	4.5
IT	9.8	2.9	5.4	1.5
CY	3.0	2.6	0.2	0.1
LV	28.7	10.6	13.1	5.0
LT	13.0	5.5	6.8	0.7
LU	34.7	4.2	3.6	14.3
HU	12.5	3.9	7.0	1.5
MT	19.9	2.4	17.6	-
NL	15.4	7.4	4.5	3.4
AT	10.5	0.1	10.4	-
PL	22.8	13.6	7.6	1.5
PT	15.0	2.4	9.9	2.7
RO	4.6	1.2	2.1	1.4
SI	16.0	9.5	1.3	5.3
SK	6.7	4.8	0.4	1.5
FI	19.6	12.4	7.0	0.2
SE	18.5	8.9	8.9	0.5
UK <sup>2</sup>	29.0	20.6	8.4	-
HR	18.1	7.6	5.4	5.2
TR	14.5	0.6	10.1	3.9
IS	17.5	9.9	5.5	2.1
NO <sup>2</sup>	12.6	-	-	-
CH	22.6	7.6	10.8	4.2

<sup>1</sup> Yearly average, most non-response appears to arise due to non-contact. <sup>2</sup> 1st wave only.

## 5 Timeliness and punctuality

**Timeliness** of statistics reflects the length of time between their availability and the event or phenomenon they describe.

**Punctuality** refers to the time lag between the release date of data and the target date on which they should have been delivered, with reference to dates announced in some official release calendar, for instance, laid down by Regulations or previously agreed among partners.

According to Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 data shall be delivered to Eurostat within twelve weeks from the end of a reference quarter. Table 5.1 shows that data are transmitted to Eurostat for most countries in the third month after the end of the quarter. First releases of data in the majority of the Participating Countries is in the first two months after the end of the quarter.

**Table 5.1 First release nationally, transmission to Eurostat and Eurostat's dissemination of LFS data by number of calendar days from the end of the reference period 2006 – quarterly LFS only<sup>1</sup>**

	Number of countries			
	2005	2006		
	All	All	EU-25	Euro area
<i>Number of calendar days from end of reference period</i>				
<b>First release nationally</b>				
<31	5	3	2	2
31-60	8	7	5	1
61-90	6	8	8	3
91+	5	7	5	2
Annual only or no publication <sup>2</sup>	4	3	3	3
Not known	1	2	2	1
Total	29	30	25	12
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	70	72	74	72
<b>Transmission to Eurostat</b>				
<31	0	0	0	0
31-60	3	2	1	0
61-90	20	19	17	7
91+	6	7	6	4
Total	29	28	24	11
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	85	85	85	90
<b>Eurostat's dissemination of national data (web site)</b>				
<31	0	0	0	0
31-60	0	0	0	0
61-90	0	0	0	0
91+	29	28	24	11
Total	29	28	24	11
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	111	106	107	110

<sup>1</sup> I.e. not incl. Croatia and Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> Belgium, France, Luxembourg. Also Germany, as no data is published nationally from the quarterly German LFS.

The release of EU-LFS data is not bound by an advance release calendar. The Eurostat website is updated continually with new data as they arrive within two or three weeks from final data processing in Eurostat.

## 6 Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility and clarity refer to the simplicity and ease for users to access statistics using simple and user-friendly procedures, obtaining them in an expected form and within an acceptable time period, with the appropriate user information and assistance: a global context which finally enables them to make optimum use of the statistics.

In 2006 Eurostat published the quarterly and annual results in the series *Data in Focus*.

Eurostat publishes annually a compendium describing the main characteristics of the national surveys.

The Eurostat public website is free of charge and includes main indicators, derived from the Labour Force Survey, as well as a special sub-domain providing detailed, constantly updated main results from the EU-LFS.

All data on the website are attached to meta-data in SDDS format, giving basic information on the background and a summary of the methodology.

Through direct queries, customised EU-LFS results are available to users in electronic format. These data are also produced free of charge.

Researchers may purchase anonymised datasets containing microdata, if certain conditions are fulfilled. Data from all Member States except Malta and the United Kingdom are available in this format.

## 7 Comparability

Comparability aims at measuring the impact of differences in applied statistical concepts and definitions on the comparison of statistics between geographical areas, non-geographical domains, or over time. We can say that it is the extent to which differences between statistics are attributed to differences between the true values of the statistical characteristics.

### 7.1 Comparability over time

From 2006 onwards, Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 of 15 March 2005 regulates the codification to be used for data transmission and the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables (OJ No L 71/36). As for the Participating Countries, main changes referred either to the mode of data collection or to adaptations of the questionnaire. Belgium and Latvia changed to computer assisted questionnaires thus speeding up the data production. Poland and Norway adapted their questions on employment and unemployment according to EU-requirements.

**Table 7.1 Availability of micro-data from the EU-LFS<sup>1</sup>**

Country	Spring quarter micro-data available from	Quarterly micro-data available from	Reference week evenly spread over the quarter from	Remarks
BE	1983	1999	1999	1983-1998: One week in the second quarter
CZ	1998	1998	1997	1997: Seasonal quarters 2 and 4
DK	1983	1999	1994	1992-1993: More than one week spread unevenly over 1st and 2nd quarter
DE	1983	2005	2005	1983-2004: One week in the 2nd quarter



**Table 7.1 Availability of micro-data from the EU-LFS<sup>1</sup>**

Country	Spring quarter micro-data available from	Quarterly micro-data available from	Reference week evenly spread over the quarter from	Remarks
EE	1997	2000	2000	1997-1999: All weeks in 2nd quarter not uniformly spread
EL	1983	1998	1996	1992-1995: All weeks in 2nd quarter not uniformly spread
ES	1986	1996	1999	1996-1998: Evenly spread with the exception of 4 weeks in August (not surveyed due to interviewers' holidays)
FR	1983	2003	2003	1983-2002: Survey conducted in the first quarter of the year. 1992-2002: More than one week, but not uniformly spread in one quarter
IE	1983	1999q2	1998	1992-1997: More than one week, but not uniformly spread in one quarter 1998+: Seasonal quarters
IT	1983	1992q4	2004	1983-2003: One week per quarter
CY	1999	2004q2	1999	
LV	1998	2002	2002	1998-2001: All weeks in 2nd and 4th quarter not uniformly spread (semi-annual results)
LT	1998	2002	2002q3	1998-2001: One week in 2nd and 4th quarter each (semi-annual results) 2002q1-q2: One week per quarter
LU	1983	-	-	1983-2002: One week per quarter 2003+: All weeks of the year, but not uniformly spread, quarterly breakdowns not available.
HU	1996	1999	2003	1999-2002: One week per month 2003-2005: 3 weeks per month not uniformly spread 2006+: All weeks surveyed, nearly uniformly spread
MT	2000	2002	2004	2000-2003: One week per quarter
NL	1987	2000	2000	1987-1999: 1st to 22nd/23rd week surveyed, not uniformly spread
AT	1995	1999	2004	1995-2003: More than one week at the end of the quarter, not uniformly spread
PL	1997	2000	2000	
PT	1986	1996q2	1998	1986-1991: One week in 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter. 1992-1997: More than one week per quarter, not uniformly spread
SI	1996	1999	2002	1996-2001: One week per quarter 2002-2005: All or most weeks surveyed, not uniformly spread 2006+: All weeks surveyed, nearly uniformly spread
SK	1998	1998	1998	1998-1999: Seasonal quarters
FI	1995	1999	2000	1995-1998: "Spring data"=March, April, and May. One reference week per month. 1999: Quarterly data from 2nd q. onwards. One reference week per month. 2000+: Quarterly data. Continuous survey. Uniformly spread over the weeks of the month, months of each quarter have 4-4-5 weeks
SE	1995	2001	1999	1995-1998: Uniformly spread over 4 weeks of one month
UK	1983	1999q2	1992	1992-2006: Seasonal quarters
BG	2000	2000	-2003	2000-2002: One week per quarter 2003+: Uniformly spread over the first 12 weeks of each quarter
HR	2002	-	-	2002+: Half-year results, one reference week per month
RO	1997	1999	1998-	1998-2004: Most or all weeks of the quarter, not uniformly spread 2005: Uniformly spread over any 12 weeks of each quarter 2006+: Uniformly spread over all weeks of each quarter
TR	-	2006	-	Only one week per month covered
IS	1995	2003	2003	1995-2002: One week per quarter
NO	1995	2000	1996	1995: One week per month
CH	1996	-	-	1995+: All or most weeks surveyed, not uniformly spread. 2009?: Quarterly, continuous planned

<sup>1</sup> The table reflects the actual data availability in the databases of Eurostat in June 2007. National surveys may, e.g., have started producing quarterly results while only spring results were delivered to Eurostat.

**Table 7.2 Improvements or changes compared to previous year**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Impact of the changes on the statistics.</i>
BE	Change in coverage	A higher coverage of the German speaking community
	Change in data collection in the second half of 2006	Part of the survey was done by CAPI
BG	16 new variables added in 2006: YEARSID, COUNTRYB, SIGNISAL, WAYJFOUN; SHIFTWK, EVENWK, NIGHTWK, SATWK, SUNWK, HWOVERP, HWOVERU, HOMEWK, METHODL, NEEDCARE, REGISTER, DEGURBA.	
FR	Household weights	Weights are adjusted to the five-year age groups from the 2006 census. Weights for LFS 2004 and 2005 are adjusted.
IT	Reference period for availability to work within 2 weeks.	Negligible. The change did not affect the distribution between available and not available among those seeking a job
LV	Changed method of data collection from PAPI to CAPI	Quarterly data are available earlier.
MT	Weighting scheme	Weighting were adjusted to make up for non response in the second wave. Revision as from 2005
AT	3c short not longer be counted under ISCED- 3, but under ISCED-2	Absolute number of ISCED 0-2 about 8 Percent higher than before
PL	Definition of employed	Criteria for determining population of the employed have been slightly changed. Since the first quarter of 2006 among the population of the employed have also been included persons who had a job but were not performing it due to the reasons other than sickness, maternal leave or vacation, the break in work was longer than 3 months, providing that these persons were paid employees and during the break received no less than 50% of the hitherto wages and salaries.
	Variable MAINSTAT	The variable has been hitherto coded according to the status in employment and since I quarter of 2006 it is included in the questionnaire as self- perception by respondent.
	Weights for children	There have been prepared weights needed for the structural indicator "Population aged 0 - 17 in jobless households"(part of the indicator "Population in jobless households").
NO	Employment, Unemployment	As from 1st quarter 2006 the LFS was revised, mainly to be in accordance with the EU-requirements based on new ILO recommendations. Some definitions and parts of the questionnaire were changed. As from 2006 age is defined as completed years at the time of the reference week, instead of completed years at the end of the year, as earlier. Moreover the lower age limit to be covered by the survey was lowered from 16 to 15. The revised survey gives some higher estimates for employment (8 000 in 2006). The revised survey gives some lower estimates for unemployment (1 000 persons as an annual average for 2006)

## 7.2 Comparability over space

A common Council regulation<sup>9</sup>, common variable definition<sup>10</sup>, common explanatory notes<sup>11</sup> and common regulation<sup>12</sup> regarding the definition of unemployment and the twelve principles of questionnaire construction go a long way to ensure comparability of the statistics between the Participating Countries. This is, however, mainly true for the main characteristics, employment and unemployment where particular definitions and sequence of questions are part of the EU legislation. For other variables, each country has the responsibility to ensure that the national survey provides data that are compatible with the EU definitions and of the same quality.

Eurostat has commissioned several reports in order to examine the degree to which the Participating Countries adhere to the common set of definitions. The last such study was done for 2001. Too many changes have occurred since in the execution of the EU-LFS for the results of this study to be presented here.

As most of the variables are defined in accordance with recommendations of the ILO and other international organisations the statistics from the EU-LFS is in the main directly comparable to those of other industrialised countries, especially those of the other members of the OECD.

## 8 Coherence

Coherence of statistics is their adequacy to be reliably combined in different ways and for various uses. It is, however, generally easier to show cases of incoherence than to prove coherence. The following sections show comparable data from other sources, the population and employment data from national accounts. Other comparisons are possible, such as with employment data from the Structural Business Survey and the Labour Cost Survey.

### 8.1 Coherence with population statistics

The coherence with population statistics is of importance for the users, as often the most recent population estimates are available from the EU-LFS statistics. These two statistics are, however, not fully comparable.

Most of the Participating Countries carried out a Population Census in the 2001 Round. New censuses often result in new weights, new sample frames or new sample designs. By 2004 all of the Participating Countries had revised the weights to reflect new population estimates. Re-weighting of previous data series have, however, not always been implemented.

There are other differences that need to be considered:

- The EU-LFS statistics cover only the population in private households, while population statistics cover the whole population.
- Sometimes the rules for defining the usual resident population differ in the LFS from the rule in population statistics.

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<sup>9</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98.

<sup>10</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005.

<sup>11</sup> The European Union Labour Force Survey. Methods and definitions – 2001.

<sup>12</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

- Population statistics usually refer to particular dates, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> January or mid-year for population level and characteristics. The EU-LFS statistics generally refer to the average quarterly or annual situation.

**Table 8.1 Coherence with population statistics 2006**

Country	Population 15-64 1/1/2006			LFS annual average 15-64 2006			Relative difference [(L-P)/P*100]		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-25 <sup>1</sup>	<b>311,268.5</b>	<b>155,910.4</b>	<b>155,358.1</b>	<b>306,804.9</b>	<b>153,047.8</b>	<b>153,757.2</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
BE	6,906.3	3,473.4	3,432.8	6,940.8	3,491.0	3,449.9	0.5	0.5	0.5
BG	5,343.2	2,655.7	2,687.5	5,237.8	2,590.4	2,647.4	-2.0	-2.5	-1.5
CZ	7,293.4	3,661.8	3,631.6	7,307.1	3,671.0	3,636.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
DK	3,588.6	1,811.6	1,777.0	3,569.4	1,802.8	1,766.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6
DE	54,918.0	27,808.0	27,110.0	54,532.6	27,478.7	27,053.8	-0.7	-1.2	-0.2
EE	916.9	440.6	476.4	912.6	437.4	475.2	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3
IE	2,879.0	1,453.2	1,425.8	2,913.3	1,470.0	1,443.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
EL	7,471.1	3,773.3	3,697.8	7,157.8	3,569.6	3,588.2	-4.2	-5.4	-3.0
ES	30,108.2	15,211.9	14,896.3	30,254.7	15,291.9	14,962.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
FR <sup>1</sup>	41,063.3	20,411.3	20,652.1	39,273.5	19,417.8	19,855.7	-4.4	-4.9	-3.9
IT	38,875.4	19,447.6	19,427.8	38,725.8	19,355.1	19,370.7	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3
CY	532.9	263.8	269.0	500.2	243.6	256.6	-6.1	-7.7	-4.6
LV	1,580.4	763.3	817.1	1,580.0	762.9	817.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0
LT	2,321.1	1,120.8	1,200.3	2,321.1	1,120.8	1,200.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
LU	316.6	160.4	156.2	306.7	152.5	154.2	-3.1	-4.9	-1.3
HU	6,932.4	3,407.0	3,525.4	6,815.7	3,328.0	3,487.7	-1.7	-2.3	-1.1
MT	279.7	141.5	138.2	276.3	139.1	137.3	-1.2	-1.7	-0.7
NL	11,019.2	5,561.9	5,457.3	10,964.3	5,523.7	5,440.7	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3
AT	5,591.4	2,800.2	2,791.2	5,532.0	2,752.7	2,779.3	-1.1	-1.7	-0.4
PL	26,892.1	13,362.8	13,529.3	26,324.6	13,026.7	13,297.9	-2.1	-2.5	-1.7
PT	7,115.3	3,515.1	3,600.1	7,115.8	3,517.7	3,598.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1
RO	15,052.3	7,500.4	7,551.8	15,035.2	7,481.2	7,554.0	-0.1	-0.3	0.0
SI	1,407.3	716.3	691.0	1,407.1	716.4	690.6	0.0	0.0	-0.1
SK	3,862.2	1,921.5	1,940.7	3,861.9	1,921.5	1,940.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
FI	3,507.5	1,772.8	1,734.7	3,484.0	1,750.1	1,733.9	-0.7	-1.3	0.0
SE	5,921.6	3,007.5	2,914.1	5,950.8	3,020.1	2,930.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
UK	39,968.6	19,902.8	20,065.9	38,776.8	19,086.7	19,690.1	-3.0	-4.1	-1.9
HR	2,987.2	1,487.5	1,499.7	2,743.9	1,353.3	1,390.6	-8.1	-9.0	-7.3
TR	47,723.2	24,183.6	23,539.6	47,394.7	23,666.2	23,728.5	-0.7	-2.1	0.8
IS <sup>2</sup>	199.5	102.0	97.5	191.6	99.1	92.4	-4.0	-2.8	-5.2
NO <sup>2</sup>	3,050.9	1,548.4	1,502.5	3,062.2	1,549.7	1,512.5	0.4	0.1	0.7
CH	5,073.1	2,543.2	2,529.9	5,073.1	2,543.2	2,529.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

<sup>1</sup> Not including the overseas departments of France.

<sup>2</sup> The age group 16-64 years for LFS Data.

Source: Eurostat website, 20/5/2008

## 8.2 Coherence with other employment estimates

Key concepts used in National Accounts, such as domestic employment, have no correspondence in the EU-LFS, which uses instead number of persons employed based on residency within the national border (national employment)<sup>13</sup>. There are also differences in coverage, where the EU-LFS covers the age groups 15 and older in private households only, while the national accounts cover all persons regardless of age or residence. In addition, the EU-LFS doesn't consider conscripts and unpaid trainees as employed whereas these are explicitly or implicitly accounted for in the National Accounts. The reference period for the measurement could also contribute to some differences. The LFS represent one average week in the year with all the weeks of the year measured. When data are derived from administrative sources or establishment surveys the reference period is usually different, the month, the whole year or a single day within the year or month.

As expected, the employment estimates based on the LFS data usually lie somewhat below the estimates of employment as estimated by National Accounts, as shown by table 8.2. For six countries, however, the opposite is true.

**Table 8.2 Employment (national concept) 2006 in two different datasets on the Eurostat website**

Country	National accounts <sup>1</sup> (x1000)	Absolute difference LFS-NA (x1000)	Relative difference % of NA	Labour force survey <sup>2</sup> (x1000)
<b>EU-25<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>206554</b>	<b>-4,594.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>201959.7</b>
BE	4334	-70.0	-1.6	4264
BG	3612	-502.0	-13.9	3110
CZ	4900	-71.9	-1.5	4828.1
DK	2792	13.4	0.5	2805.4
DE	39006	-1,626.7	-4.2	37379.3
EE	648	-1.7	-0.3	646.3
IE	2042	-3.4	-0.2	2038.6
EL	4647	-194.7	-4.2	4452.3
ES	19985	237.3	1.2	19747.7
FR <sup>3</sup>	25356	-182.9	-0.7	25173.1
IT	24695	-1,706.8	-6.9	22988.2
CY	373	-15.7	-4.2	357.3
LV	1088	-0.9	-0.1	1087.1
LT	1504	-5.0	-0.3	1499
LU	203	-7.7	-3.8	195.3
HU	3905	25.0	0.6	3930
MT	154	-1.6	-1.0	152.4
NL	8366	-105.1	-1.3	8260.9
AT	:	:	:	3928.2
PL	14594	-0.4	0.0	14593.6
PT	5159	0.5	0.0	5159.5
RO	:	:	:	9291.2
SI	935	26.2	2.8	961.2
SK	2301	1.3	0.1	2302.3
FI	2445	-1.5	-0.1	2443.5

<sup>13</sup> At the moment, Eurostat does not produce statistics on annual hours worked from the LFS, which have direct correspondence with similar statistics in National Accounts.

**Table 8.2 Employment (national concept) 2006 in two different datasets on the Eurostat website**

SE	4418	11.4	0.3	4429.4
UK	28947	-609.9	-2.1	28337.1
HR	:	:	:	1586.3
TR	:	:	:	22345.8
IS	170	-2.2	-1.3	167.8
NO	2430	-77.0	-3.2	2353

Source: Eurostat Website, 19 May 2008.

Notes: The LFS estimates are the average of the quarterly totals.

<sup>1</sup> Economy and finance/National accounts (including GDP)/Annual national accounts/Auxiliary indicators (Population, employment and conversion rates)/Auxiliary indicators (Population and employment)

<sup>2</sup> Population and social conditions/Labour market/Employment and unemployment (LFS)/LFS main indicators/  
Employment – LFS adjusted series/Employment (main characteristics and rates) – Annual averages

<sup>3</sup> The National Accounts estimates include the overseas departments, whereas the LFS only covers the mainland territory of France

It should, however, be recognised that the coverage, measurement and conceptual differences mentioned above do not account for but a relatively small part of the difference between the two estimates. As a rule of thumb, relative differences of more than 1.5% need to be explained by other reasons. This would concern 14 Participating Countries shown in table 8.2. Germany and Italy are responsible for the bulk of the absolute difference between the National Accounts estimates and the LFS, with Bulgaria showing the highest relative discrepancies. Four countries have discrepancies of more than 5%.

When comparing LFS data and National Account statistics, users are also interested in whether or not the two approaches show the same trend, i.e. change from one period to another.

Table 8.3 compares the data on employment growth until 2006. The data sources are the EU-LFS and national accounts (ESA95) data. The data is analysed in terms of the importance of the LFS in the production of the National accounts data on employment growth.

The results show that both sources are broadly comparable with relation to the direction of the employment growth for the EU-25. If the ESA95 data are not predominantly based on the LFS, the differences are mostly marked in the levels of the growth figures, and in 2004 and 2005 disparities have developed in otherwise comparable series.

The reasons for the disparities, either in levels or in the direction of the employment growth are not fully known. Some indicative reasons can, however, be mentioned: national accounts may use sources different than LFS (or LFS combined with other sources) to estimate employment, national accounts may introduce adjustments to reach consistency between the employment reported by its sources and other related variables, like salaries or production, national accounts approach, by comparing and combining different sources, is also more prone than LFS to identify underreporting or systematic biases. In addition, it can be pointed out that LFS estimates are subject to sampling error, both with regard to levels and changes between periods (cf. tables 4.1 and 4.2). Thus, when there are relatively small changes between periods, these could easily be shown numerically differently in the different estimates, just because the changes are within the margin of error.

**Table 8.3: Employment growth in LFS and National Accounts Data by method used - 2004 to 2006 annual averages**

	A_LFS	NA	<i>Differe nce</i>	A_LFS	NA	<i>Differe nce</i>	A_LFS	NA	<i>Differe nce</i>
	2004			2005			2006		
<b>1</b>	<b>Countries using LFS as their only source for employment in national accounts. LFS is only adjusted for conceptual alignment to ESA95</b>								
LT	0.0	0	0.0	2.9	2.5	0.4	1.7	1.7	0.0
HU	-0.5	-0.7	0.2	0.0	0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
IE	3.0	3.1	-0.1	4.7	4.7	0.0	4.4	4.3	0.1
UK	0.8	1	-0.2	0.6	1.3	-0.7	0.5	0.7	-0.2
CY	3.3	3.8	-0.5	2.5	3.6	-1.1	2.7	1.8	0.9
EE	0.2	0	0.2	2.0	2	0.0	6.4	5.4	1.0
<b>2</b>	<b>Countries using mainly LFS, but replacing it in a few industries (or labour status), on a case-by-case basis</b>								
LV	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	5.2	4.8	0.4
GR	0.9	0.9	0.0	1.3	1.5	-0.2	1.9	2.5	-0.6
RO	-0.6	-1.7	1.1	0.1	-1.5	1.6	1.9	2.8	-0.9
BG	3.1	2.6	0.5	2.0	2.7	-0.7	4.3	3.3	1.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Countries combining sources for labour supply and demand, LFS being one source among others. This group is rather heterogeneous and can be sub-divided as follows:</b>								
<b>3a Countries giving precedence to labour supply sources (i.e. LFS)</b>									
FI	0.0	0.4	-0.4	1.5	1.4	0.1	1.8	1.8	0.0
PT	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.0
IT	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	1.9	2	-0.1
SE	-0.6	-0.7	0.1	1.3	0.3	1.0	1.9	1.7	0.2
NO	0.4	0.5	-0.1	0.7	1.2	-0.5	3.1	3.4	-0.3
ES	3.9	3.5	0.4	5.6	4.1	1.5	4.1	3.7	0.4
SK	0.3	-0.2	0.5	2.2	1.4	0.8	3.9	2.3	1.6
<b>3b Countries not giving precedence to any labour side</b>									
DE	-0.2	0.4	-0.6	2.3	-0.1	2.4	2.0	0.6	1.4
AT	-1.3	0.2	-1.5	2.2	0.8	1.4	2.7	1.2	1.5
<b>3c Countries giving precedence to labour demand sources (i.e. employment registers and/or enterprise surveys)</b>									
NL	-0.2	-0.9	0.7	0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.8	1.8	0.0
DK	1.1	-0.6	1.7	0.5	0.9	-0.4	1.9	1.6	0.3
MT	0.1	-0.6	0.7	0.4	1.3	-0.9	2.6	1.2	1.4
<b>4</b>	<b>Countries not using LFS, or making minimal use of it</b>								
SI	5.1	0.3	4.8	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.3	1.2	0.1
PL	1.3	1.3	0.0	2.3	2.3	0.0	3.4	3.3	0.1
FR	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	-0.2
BE	1.7	0.7	1.0	2.3	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.2	-0.5
CZ	-0.2	0.3	-0.5	1.6	1	0.6	1.3	1.9	-0.6
LU	0.7	2.2	-1.5	2.8	2.9	-0.1	0.9	3.7	-2.8

Countries within the groups are sorted by ascending difference between LFS and NA based employment growth in 2006.

## **9 Regional unemployment**

### **9.1 Introduction**

The quality report for the EU-LFS has been combined with the regional labour market statistics into a joint standard quality report as a combined effort of the Eurostat units F2-Labour market statistics and D2- Regional indicators and geographical information.

The EU-LFS is only designed to give accurate annual information on NUTS-II level. For the purposes of regional statistics, as well as monitoring for the Structural Funds, unit D2 needs not only NUTS-II data but may also require NUTS-III data.

Depending on the available information in the Participating Countries, the NUTS-III unemployment compilations methods differ for the different countries. Some countries use the annual average of the LFS-data, three countries use a 3-year average from the LFS-data and some countries use combined information of the LFS and registered unemployment. The base benchmark for NUTS-III labour market figures is the EU-LFS NUTS-II results. The EU-LFS NUTS-II data (economically active population and unemployed persons) are distributed to NUTS-III either according to the distribution of LFS NUTS-III figures or to the distribution of register data. Because of the non-sampling errors and because of the (combined) use of registered unemployment, it is well nigh impossible to assess the accuracy for NUTS-III level according to scientific standards. Because of that some countries were not able to provide coefficients of variation (CV) at NUTS-III level.

The first eight sections have been devoted to the national part of the quality assessment of LFS. This ninth and last section will be devoted to the regional labour market statistics.

### **9.2 Sources for NUTS-III compilation of unemployment**

For a limited number of countries the NUTS-III compilation of unemployment is based on registers, or a combination of registers and LFS. These are Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden. For all other Member States including Romania and Bulgaria the NUTS-III data are derived from the national LFS.

Denmark, Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Iceland comprise a single NUTS-II region, i.e. national data represent NUTS-II results (as well as NUTS-1 results).

Luxembourg and Cyprus comprise a single NUTS-III region, i.e. national data represent NUTS-III results (as well as NUTS-1 and NUTS-II results).

Norway provides Eurostat with labour force data on NUTS-III level but no other EFTA country does.

There are no unemployment and economically active population data divided by sex and age (15-24, 25 and over) available at NUTS-III level for France (only the totals for unemployment and economically population by age are available).

Unemployment data (absolute levels) for Portugal at NUTS-III were for the first time published by Eurostat in 2004. Data on the economically active population and unemployment rates at NUTS-III level are available since September 2006.

The annual average of unemployment by NUTS-III regions from the national LFS is compiled by the Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands,



Slovakia, Finland, UK and Bulgaria. Poland and Romania provide a three year average that is based on the LFS. Estonia provides annual average labour force data and 3-year average unemployment data.

### 9.3 Coefficient of variation at NUTS-II and NUTS-III for the rate of unemployment

Table 9.1 gives a summary of the coefficients of variation for the rate of unemployment. Only the lowest and the highest coefficients are shown.

**Table 9.1 Coefficient of variation (CV) for the rate of unemployment, 2006**

Countries	CV of regional (NUTS-II) annual aggregates			CV of regional (NUTS-III) annual aggregates		
	in percentage			in percentage		
	Lowest		Highest	Lowest		Highest
BE	4.2		9.0	-		-
BG	4.7		8.6	5.9		25.7
CZ	4.3		10.2	4.3		10.2
DK	-		-	-		-
DE	2.2		8.6	-		-
EE	-		-	11.2		17.7
IE	3.2		5.5	5.5		12.5
EL	1.9		5.5	1.9		14.9
ES	2.2		20.4	3.2		20.4
FR	4.6		14.1	-		-
IT	2.6		10.9	3.8		23.4
CY	-		-	-		-
LV	-		-	9.3		16.9
LT	-		-	14.9		45.9
LU	-		-	-		-
HU	5.0		8.2	6.3		14.5
MT	-		-	4.1		13.9
NL	3.6		12.4	5.1		25.4
AT	4.8		7.9	-		-
PL	4.1		7.2	5.0		19.0
PT	4.0		14.1	-		-
RO	7.8		14.7	-		-
SI	-		-	-		-
SK	2.8		13.2	3.8		13.2
FI	2.6		24.1	3.8		24.1
SE	6.0		12.8	3.7		7.0
UK <sup>1</sup>	4.5		18.1	-		-
HR	5.7		7.4	-		-
TR	3.1		12.7	-		-
IS	-		-	-		-
NO	4.9		8.3	-		-
CH	6.0		11.5	-		-

Note: Hyphen "-" indicates that CV at the regional level is not applicable, either because the regional level does not differ from the higher NUTS level, the country is not required to deliver NUTS-III employment and unemployment data, or the source is not the LFS. Blank indicates that no information on the regional CV is supplied.

<sup>1</sup> Number of unemployed.

The EU-LFS is designed to give reliable estimates on the NUTS-II level of aggregation, provide the population of the region in question exceeds 300,000 inhabitants. The coefficients of variations given in table 9.1 are nevertheless provided for regions which have small populations and hence small sample sizes. In the EU-25, 20 out of 253 NUTS-II regions have a population less than 300,000. This will tend to inflate the CVs and the range of CVs.

As expected, the CVs for the NUTS-III regions are bigger and have higher range than for the NUTS-II regions. Of the sixteen countries providing data and CVs on NUTS-III level, seven have CVs less than 15% and further three countries with all the regional CVs less than 20%. When counting the regions, the picture is even better; 81.3% of the 433 NUTS-III regions for which data are available, have CV less than 15% and 94.5% less than 20%.

## Annex: Item non-response compared to the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 and clarifications provided by Member States

(Source: Joint Standard Quality Report for Labour Force Survey and Regional Labour Market Statistics – Annual quality reports 2006)

### Quarterly data

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
BE	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	91.9	92	92.4	91.8	HWWISH is only asked to persons who declared to wish to work more. We have to change the questionnaire in the future.
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	.	.	10.8	.	it concerns answers 'don't know'. We have to give specific instructions to the interviewers to avoid 'don't know'.
		Col_116	WANTWORK	42.9	42.4	42.5	43.2	We don't ask 'wantwork' to all persons with seekwork =3. We have no info about 'wantwork' for persons with statbit=2 & seekwork=3 neither for persons with seekwork = 3 but who are (early) retired. 99% or more of the item non-response concerns (early) retired persons. We can consider them as not willing to work anymore since they don't seek work.
BG	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	.	.	11.1	.	For persons who do not wish to work more or less data are derived from variable. If there is no answer of variable HUSUAL (relatively often) no answer could be applied for HWWISH
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	14.9	19.5	16.4	19.1	Respondents meet difficulties to answer on the corresponding question.
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	C	C	C	Generally the number of person looking for job as self employed is very low.
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Only methods A to I are considered as active methods
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Only methods A to I are considered as active methods
		Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	.	.	.	Data on DEGURBA have been provided since q2 2006 (incl.q4)
CZ	compulsory	Col_071	WISHMORE	81.6	81.6	81.6	81.5	We ask only persons who usually work in the main job less than 40 hours or persons who work in the main job part-time
		Col_123	EDUCSTAT	13.7	13.7	13.6	13.7	only persons aged 15-69
DK	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	99.7	99.6	99.6	99.6	
		Col_023	PROXY	11.1	11.2	11.4	11.4	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	83.6	83.4	85.5	85.1	
		Col_084	EXISTPR	28.9	29.5	30.9	30.3	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	C	C	.	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	.	.	.	
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	.	.	11.3	.	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_168/169	INTWEEK	30.2	30.5	30.7	30.7	
		Col_201	INTWAVE	29.4	29.7	30.0	29.9	
DE	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	95.1	95.8	95.5	95.6	Coding error; blank also means no overtime work; no item-nonresponse: STAPRO=3 and HWOVERP=blank has to be: HWOVERP=0. We will change the coding.
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	94.0	95.0	94.9	94.6	Coding error; blank also means no overtime work; no item-nonresponse: STAPRO=3 and HWOVERPU=blank has to be: HWOVERPU=0. We will change the coding.
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	91.4	91.1	91.6	91.6	HWWISH was only answered by persons who would like to work more hours. Persons who do not want to work more hours are coded blank. In future HWWISH will also be answered by these persons.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	.	.	No error; values are correct.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	No error; values are correct.
		Col_201	INTWAVE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Rotation system does not work with waves within a year.
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Not allowed to survey this variable in Germany
EE	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	In 2006, no respondents of corresponding category (employees who were absent from employment in the reference week for other reasons than own illness or maternity leave, or persons who were not employed but on lay-off) was absent for longer than three months. In case other possible situations appear (due to small absolute numbers very few cases are expected, if any) they are properly coded.
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	16.9	17.7	.	15.7	Improved since 2007 (additional question about duration of current contract is included)
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA	.	.	C	.	Due to small absolute numbers only very few cases (in 3rd quarter no cases) then employed persons are looking for another job contacting public employment office
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	C	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	C	C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	C	C	.	.	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	.	C	.	.	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	.	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	C	C	
		Col_115 -	METHODM	C	C	C	C	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Employed						
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	
		Col_117 - Not employed	AVAILBLE	.	.	.	C	
IE	compulsory	Col_015	DATEBIR	.	.	C	C	
		Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_043/46	YSTARTWK	.	.	37.9	17.4	
		Col_050	FTPT	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	.	.	100.0	100.0	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_069/70	HOURREAS	11.2	11.3	12.1	12.1	
		Col_071	WISHMORE	40.9	39.9	40.0	41.0	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	11.4	11.6	11.9	12.4	
		Col_085/88	YEARPR	56.9	29.9	23.0	17.6	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_105 - Employed	METHODC	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_106 - Employed	METHODD	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_107 - Employed	METHODE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_108 - Employed	METHODF	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	97.4	97.5	97.9	97.0	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	97.4	97.5	97.9	97.0	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_117 - Employed	AVAILBLE	C	C	C	C	
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
EL	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	<i>Probably it is quite rare the incidence of persons residing in Greece and working abroad. Usually there is a labour force "input" from bordering countries.</i>
ES	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	16.1	14.6	13.7	14.2	<i>It's the 'don't know' category</i>
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	83.9	84.3	84.9	85.2	<i>We put 'blank' when the person doesn't wish to work more hours. It is intended to code the usual hours, for example, in these cases? Shouldn't be better to change the filter?</i>
		Col_115 -	METHODM	C	C	.	C	<i>There are no active 'other</i>

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions method'
		Employed						
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	.	C	C	There are no active 'other method'
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	13.1	13.0	15.0	13.4	The information about this variable is only available for people aged 16 and more
		Col_129/131	COURLLEN	30.2	32.0	44.8	35.5	The information about this variable is only available for people aged 16 and more. Apart of this, there is a high level of 'don't know' in this variable
FR	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	see note 2084/F230, September 11 2007
		Col_071	WISHMORE	33.0	33.1	33.6	33.1	This question is only asked to persons whose WSTATOR=1;2.
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	80.8	81.0	80.9	80.4	This question is only asked to persons whose WISHMORE=1
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	13.1	13.3	12.5	13.0	Questions about activity are open questions and some answers are very difficult to code. A lot of work is done for the coding of the activity of the first job but less attention is given to the second job.
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	We do not have any detailed information on the various reasons of waiting. We only have some information on the fact of waiting for some answers after having applied for a job. Therefore the 3 variables are empty.
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_116	WANTWORK	31.1	31.2	31.5	30.3	
		Col_129/131	COURLLEN	.	61.5	.	.	
IT	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	.	.	19.2	.	
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	13.4	.	.	.	
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	20.7	22.2	20.6	21.6	
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	22.0	22.5	20.9	23.0	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	10.4	.	13.6	12.9	
CY	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	Country is always CY
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	NUTS 2 is the whole CY
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	C	C	C	C	?
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	.	.	C	?
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	.	.	C	.	?
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	.	.	C	?
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	.	.	C	.	?
		Col_117 - Not employed	AVAILBLE	.	.	C	.	?
LV	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	.	In case of Latvia NUTS 2=NUTS 1, therefore there is used code 00 for whole country.
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	98.3	97.7	97.4	97.2	Mistake in coding. Recoded data will be sent to Eurostat.
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	99.6	99.8	99.7	99.7	Mistake in coding. Recoded data will be sent to Eurostat.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_079	STAPRO2J	91.6	92.3	89.6	94.3	
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	91.6	92.3	89.6	94.3	
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	91.6	92.3	89.6	94.3	
		Col_084	EXISTPR	12.1	12.2	12.2	12.9	Mistake in coding. Recoded data will be sent to Eurostat.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	C	C	.	Numbers are constant due to concurrence.
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	.	C	C	.	Numbers are constant due to concurrence.
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	.	C	C	Numbers are constant due to concurrence.
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	.	.	C	.	Numbers are constant due to concurrence.
LT	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	.	C	All records have two values:00 or 99 because NUTS2 level is all country. We have statistics on NUTS 3 level for this vairable
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG	C	C	.	C	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire; Zero occurred in three quarters because Col_109 is not popular answer and because of small sample size. Sample size is increased from 2007.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	C	C	C	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer, responders say 'No' here.
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	.	.	C	.	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer and small sample for employed looking for another job. Sample size is increased from 2007.
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	C	.	.	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer and small sample for employed looking for another job. Sample size is increased from 2007.
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	.	.	.	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer and small sample for employed looking for another job. Sample size is increased from 2007.
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	.	C	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer and small sample for employed looking for another job. Sample size is increased from 2007.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Statistics is available, everything is included into questionnaire;This is not popular answer and small sample for employed looking for another job. Sample size is increased from 2007.
LU	compulsory	Col_201	INTWAVE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	there is only one wave

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
HU	compulsory	Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	.	11.8	17.9	23.2	<u>EU Filter:</u> REFYEAR – YSTARTWK<=2 <u>HU Filter:</u> SUM (REFYEAR– YSTARTWK<2) or (SUM(REFYEAR– YSTARTWK=2) and (REFMONTH<=MSTARTWK))
		Col_084	EXISTPR	13.8	14.0	14.3	14.4	<u>EU Filter:</u> WSTATOR 3-5 <u>HU Questionnaire:</u> Persons on lay-off are not asked about existence of previous employment experience. Number of persons on lay-off is much lower, then in EU-calculation.
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	.	11.4	17.4	22.3	<u>EU Filter:</u> REFYEAR – YEARPR<=2 <u>HU Questionnaire:</u> *
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	C	.	.	Codes 0, 1 and 9 are available in our database (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 2006) sent to Eurostat
MT	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	23.3	16.7	58.3	59.5	Trying to solve this problem in the next data transmission
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	.	C	.	Mistake in data transmission which is was addressed in the next quarter
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	30.8	33.3	23.4	24.6	Item non response
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	.	C	.	Mistake in data transmission which is was addressed in the next quarter
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	.	.	C	.	Mistake in data transmission which is was addressed in the next quarter
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	87.7	87.5	88.7	88.7	Mistake in data transmission, which is corrected for in 2007
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	.	.	.	C	All the same value by coincidence
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	23.2	34.3	40.4	32.8	This variable is not addressed to persons that are not unemployed, due to routing of the LFS questionnaire.
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	22.9	30.5	31.9	24.3	This variable is not addressed to persons that are not unemployed, due to routing of the LFS questionnaire.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	C	C	All the same value by coincidence
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	.	.	C	All the same value by coincidence
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	This variable is not covered
Col_117 - Employed	AVAILBLE	C	C	C	C	Trying to solve this problem in the next data transmission		
NL	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	.	.	10.2	10.6	
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	.	10.2	10.6	
		Col_043/46	YSTARTWK	18.5	19.0	18.9	19.4	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	70.3	70.0	68.0	70.2	



	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.5	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	.	.	10.4	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	.	.	.	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	.	C	C	
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	.	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C	
		Col_124	EDUCLEVEL	.	.	10.9	.	
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	15.1	15.6	15.7	16.2	
AT	compulsory	Col_089/90	MONTHPR	.	.	12.6	15.9	<i>our filter is not correct (&lt;25 months instead of 'relyear-yearpr&lt;=2'), will be corrected from q2_07 onwards</i>
PL	compulsory	Col_123	EDUCSTAT	17.2	17.3	17.7	17.9	<i>We don't ask persons aged 65 years and more</i>
		Col_128	COURATT	17.2	17.3	17.7	17.9	<i>We don't ask persons aged 65 years and more</i>
PT	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	43.6	44.5	44.3	46.0	These situations are "de facto" "non response". By mistake, in the microdata sent to Eurostat before 2006, the national "non response" were included in the item «More than 3 years» (cód. 8). For 2006 onwards they were converted to «no answer». We have a question: is it necessary to reprocess all data bases before 2006 (since 1Q98)?
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	34.3	35.6	35.6	36.0	The "non response" are related to individuals who were not seeking for a job in the reference week but wanted a job. To Eurostat, this situation is classified as LOOKOJ=1. In 4Q2006, the 160 employed persons with «non response» in SEEKTYPE are SEEKWORK= 9 and LOOKOJ=1. In the national questionnaire, for the individuals who were not seeking for a job but wanted a job, we don't collect information about the type of employment (SEEKTYPE) and duration of seek (SEEKDUR).
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	37.6	38.1	38.5	38.0	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	.	C	
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	
		Col_168/169	INTWEEK	.	.	.	15.0	By mistake, the weeks that depassed the reference weeks of 2006 were not included. Situation to be corrected (4Q06).
RO	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	19.7	19.7	19.7	17.7	<i>For variable TEMPDUR, in Romanian questionnaire, respondents were allowed to answer "Not able to specify". Since there is no code for a situation like this according to CR 430/2006 , TEMPDUR for persons who provided such an answer was left blank.</i>
		Col_069/70	HOURREAS	16.2	15.8	16.3	16.4	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	42.9	32.6	37.0	36.3	For variable SEEKTYPE, in Romanian questionnaire, respondents were allowed to answer "Any type of employment". Since there is no code for a situation like this according to CR 430/2006, SEEKTYPE for persons who provided such an answer was left blank.
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	51.0	54.5	58.4	58.1	For variable SEEKTYPE, in Romanian questionnaire, respondents were allowed to answer "Any type of employment". Since there is no code for a situation like this according to CR 430/2006, SEEKTYPE for persons who provided such an answer was left blank.
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA	.	.	.	C	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	C	C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	.	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	.	C	.	
		Col_116	WANTWORK	25.7	23.2	24.5	23.5	
		Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	C	
SI	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	C	.	.	
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	52.1	52.0	52.7	31.0	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	87.9	87.5	90.3	88.4	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	87.9	87.6	90.3	88.4	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	95.2	95.2	96.6	96.6	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	.	.	.	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	C	
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	.	.	23.2	.	
SK	compulsory	Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	12.1	12.4	11.6	11.8	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	C	.	C	M?
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	.	C	M?
		Col_116	WANTWORK	20.3	21.0	18.7	18.6	M?
		Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Degree of urbanisation will be available since 2007
FI	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	Finland will implement the six new variables and wave approach fully from 2008Q1 onwards.
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	10.1	.	.	11.3	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	11.6	13.9	25.1	11.8	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	11.6	13.9	25.0	11.8	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	.	.	.	11.2	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	.	C	C	.	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	.	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	.	.	
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	.	C	.	.	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
SE	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	11.8	.	.	11.3	Will be looked into, but respondents do not always remember start and end of work
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	.	.	.	No data for Q1
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	37.1	13.9	16.4	No data for Q1, high item non-response Q3
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	C	C	.	Not a relevant variable in Sweden
UK	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Col_54 is currently only produced in AJ. We are investigating whether it can be produced quarterly from 2008 onwards.
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	89.0	88.8	88.6	87.9	There is a high level of non-response due to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	85.4	84.9	86.2	84.5	There is a high level of non-response due to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	92.3	92.6	92.0	92.2	This variable is only computed for those who wish to work more hours. The high level of non-response is due to only 4% of the sample wishing to work more hours
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable is currently only produced in AJ. We are currently investigating whether it can be produced for all quarters from 2008 onwards
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable is currently only produced in AJ. We are currently investigating whether it can be produced for all quarters from 2008 onwards
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG	C	.	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents took a test, interview or examination. Only "no" responses can be computed.
		Col_109 - Not employed	METHODG	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents took a test, interview or examination. Only "no" responses can be computed.
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	.	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents are waiting for a call from a public employment office
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents are waiting for a call from a public employment office
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents are awaiting results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents are awaiting results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_124	EDUCLEVEL	.	.	13.8	.	According to our datasets, the level of non-response was not significantly higher in JS06 than in other quarters
		Col_128	COURATT	40.4	41.6	42.5	41.3	We are currently investigating possible changes that could be made to the flowchart for this variable to reduce the level of non-response
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	81.3	81.7	79.9	78.8	The high level of non-response is due to the fact that not all people who have completed a course in the last 4 weeks are asked how many hours of instruction that have attended in total
		Col_137/138	HATLEVEL	23.8	24.1	24.3	24.3	The highest level of qualification is not asked of women aged 60-99 who are not working. Men aged 65-99 who are not working are also not asked to give their highest level of qualification. These cases appear as blanks rather than non-applicables
HR	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	C	.	C	will be provided from 2007onwards
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	99.8	.	99.3	will be provided from 2007onwards
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	.	100.0	.	100.0	
		Col_172/173	REGION	.	C	.	C	will be provided from 2007onwards
		Col_201	INTWAVE	.	100.0	.	100.0	only one wave
	optional	Col_071	WISHMORE	.	100.0	.	100.0	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	.	91.1	.	92.3	
TR	compulsory	Col_017/18	NATIONAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	According to the 2000 Population Census 99,6 % of population has Turkish Nationality. Thus, this variable does not make much sense and not that easy to cover non-nationals with a sample survey.
		Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable is not available in the questionnaire since there are very few people who are working abroad and considered as household member because Turkey is a very broad country. This may only occur in border cities, but not common.
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Only total overtime is asked in the questionnaire (paid+unpaid). Since it is not possible to distinguish paid and unpaid overtime, total overtime is given in HWOVERP and this variable is coded as blank.
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	C	C	C	.	
		Col_108 - Employed	METHODF	C	C	C	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	.	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	.	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	.	
		Col_172/173	REGION	C	.	.	.	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2 (*)	Quarter 3 (*)	Quarter 4 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	For the current moment there is not an external source to be used for this variable. Studies are going on.
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable was not given in the data set (although asked) since 98.5 % of total population was born in Turkey. The rest (1,5%) does not make any statistical sense (not reliable) especially when tabulated by other variables considering "the sample size is too small for reliable estimates for figures less than two thousand persons in each cell". (Total number is less than 2000). This variable may be coded in the future using different aggregation criteria.
IS	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_050	FTPT	.	.	.	24.6	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	32.8	14.0	13.8	21.7	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_069/70	HOURREAS	17.1	16.0	18.8	18.1	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	78.1	78.0	80.7	78.7	
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	11.5	19.6	21.2	13.3	
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	11.0	29.9	33.8	22.4	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	14.4	21.6	22.6	13.9	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	11.1	29.7	35.1	25.7	
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA	C	.	C	C	
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG	C	.	C	C	
		Col_109 - Not employed	METHODG	C	C	C	C	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	C	.	
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	.	.	.	C	
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	.	.	C	.	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	.	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C			
Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C			
Col_116	WANTWORK	27.4	32.3	32.4	31.0			
Col_124	EDUCLEVL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
Col_137/138	HATLEVEL	.	.	.	100.0			
Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0			
NO	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	100.0	C	C	C	No coding in Q12006
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	100.0	.	.	.	No coding in Q12006
		Col_043/46	YSTARTWK	65.2	48.6	34.8	25.6	Due to the production systems
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	33.5	33.5	32.1	33.7	Due to the production systems
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	65.0	53.6	43.9	49.7	Due to the production systems
		Col_071	WISHMORE	13.3	15.5	16.4	14.6	Due to proxy

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Quarter 1(*)	Quarter 2(*)	Quarter 3(*)	Quarter 4(*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_076	LOOKOJ	10.8	12.6	12.6	12.0	Due to proxy
		Col_079	STAPRO2J	.	46.3	28.4	35.5	Will be corrected later
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	10.0	.	.	.	Difficult to correct
		Col_084	EXISTPR	17.7	12.0	.	.	Not possible to correct
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI	.	C	.	.	Corrected
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	No alternative in Norway
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	No alternative in Norway
		Col_174	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Not possible to give
CH	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	100.0	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	.	100.0	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	.	100.0	.	.	
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	.	21.8	.	.	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	.	100.0	.	.	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	.	20.1	.	.	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	.	C	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	.	C	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	.	100.0	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_174	DEGURBA	.	100.0	.	.	Missing for the four quarters. Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.

(\*) **C: All records have the same value**

## Annual data

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
BE	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	21.4	<i>It concerns persons who answered 'other reason', but since Eurostat doesn't allow 'other reason', they were seen as 'blanco'. Maybe we can change the questionnaire in the future.</i>
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	94.1	<i>Most of the persons concerned don't pass the question about 'avaireas'. A big part of the persons are (pre)retired so it seems not suitable to ask them why they are not available. We suppose the reasons are other reasons. Also the persons with wishmore=1 but not seeking and wishing another job, we can suppose they are not available because of other reasons.</i>
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	15.9	<i>No real item non-response. The biggest part of the missings must be coded '000', they have a diploma of general upper secondary. This will be changed for the future.</i>
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	24.9	<i>No real item non-response. The biggest part of the missings must be coded '000'. This will be changed for the future.</i>
		Col_154/161	INCMON	40.2	<i>Real item non-response. Better instructions for interviewers are necessary.</i>
BG	compulsory	Col_037/38	SIZEFIRM	31.1	<i>Respondents meet difficulties to answer on the corresponding question.</i>
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	15.8	<i>The question is not asked for persons on leave for carrying a child up to 2 years of age. We were planning to change their working status from non-active into employed). In this 'transition' period they were considered as non-active, but were asked mainly the questions, suitable for employed.</i>
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	<i>Will be available in 2008</i>
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	<i>Will be available in 2008</i>
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
CZ	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	<i>We do not include this indicator into the questionnaire</i>
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
DK	compulsory	Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	17.4	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	73.2	
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	33.6	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	12.1	
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
DE	compulsory	Col_019/20	YEARESID	86.1	<i>Code blank also includes respondents who should have code '00'. Coding will be corrected.</i>
		Col_036	SUPVISOR	17.3	<i>Provision of information is voluntary.</i>
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	25.3	<i>Provision of information is voluntary.</i>
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	27.8	<i>Code blank also includes respondents who answered "other reasons"</i>
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	17.1	<i>Provision of information is voluntary.</i>
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	70.3	<i>Wrong! Almost no item non-response!</i>
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	15.2	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	73.3	Code blank also includes respondents who should have Code "9". Coding will be corrected.
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	15.8	Code blank also includes persons who do not have a formal education. The filter of this variable should be changed.
	optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	100.0	Not surveyed.
		Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	
		Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
EE	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	11.6	
IE	compulsory	Col_003	HHLINK	C	
		Col_036	SUPVISOR	100.0	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	100.0	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	25.3	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	
		Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	61.7	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	100.0	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	49.1	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	49.1	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	93.5	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	100.0	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	53.3	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	100.0	
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	81.6	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	16.0	
	Col_152/153	REGION1Y	16.0		
		optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	100.0
		Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_132	COURPURP	44.3	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	35.3	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
EL	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	14.7	Probably some reasons for working temporarily "overlap" and that leads many persons to state "no reason". A solution could be to rephrase the question in the Greek questionnaire (for example, "which is the <b>main</b> reason for not working full time")
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	14.5	Questions on income are always "sensitive"
ES	compulsory	Col_037/38	SIZEFIRM	13.1	This variable has 'don't know' categorie, but according to our data it's 13,4%
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	21.3	We have many cases without equivalence that are coded as 'blank'. We think that the variable is not completely well-defined



	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	13.5	<i>It's consequence of the assumption that 'don't know' in availability implies 'don't know' about the reason for not being available. In the data processing we assign the 'don't know' response in availability as 'not yes', but we don't have then the information about the reason for not being available. For the future we plan to input the code for 'other reasons' in these cases.</i>
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	24.4	<i>It's consequence of the assumption that 'don't know' in availability implies 'don't know' about the reason for not being available. In the data processing we assign the 'don't know' response in availability as 'not yes', but we don't have then the information about the reason for not being available. For the future we plan to input the code for 'other reasons' in these cases.</i>
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	13.2	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	13.2	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	<i>Variable not available in the Spanish LFS</i>
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	<i>Variable not available in the Spanish LFS</i>
FR	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	18.7	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	64.4	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	13.0	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	20.7	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	100.0	<i>The occupation in the last job is fulfilled in the aggregate French nomenclature (PCS in 2 figures). This nomenclature does not allow to code in CITP.</i>
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	63.8	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	<i>For the moment, this question is not asked. We are thinking about the way of computing this variable through other variables or through a new question in the questionnaire.</i>
		Col_121	REGISTER	11.3	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	17.3	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	17.3	<i>These variables are available each quarter but only for new persons in the sample (1/6 of the entire sample). So for using these variables, the quarterly weights (c191-196) need to be multiplied by 6.</i>
IT	compulsory	Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	13.2	13.4 according to our calculations
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	13.2	13.4 according to our calculations
	optional	Col_136	COURWORH	24.9	23.9 according to our calculations
		Col_154/161	INCMON	25.1	
CY	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	C	<i>We did not find anybody who has a contract with a temporary employment agency</i>
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	<i>NUTS 2 is the whole CY</i>
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	<i>Variable is optional and we do not collect it</i>
LV	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	27.9	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	26.8	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	21.3	
		Col_121	REGISTER	55.6	<i>Persons who are not comprised in this question are employed persons, who don't looking to another job (col 76=0). We suppose that those persons are not registered in State Employment Agency and they are not asked about registration because this question displeases persons who work (until 2001 this question was asked to all employed persons). From 2008 we are going to ask this question to all employed persons.</i>

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	50.3	Technical problem in coding. Recoded data will be sent to Eurostat.
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	C	Numbers are constant due to concurrence.
LT	compulsory	Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	NUTS 2 level is all country. Statistics on NUTS 3 is available.
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	20.9	It is planned to use administrative source
LU	compulsory	Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	20.0	small size of respondents
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	53.5	many people don't want to give an answer
HU	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	41.2	<u>EU Filter:</u> AVAILABLE=2 <u>HU Questionnaire:</u> employed persons who would like to work more hours, but didn't look for another job/business during last four weeks, are not asked about availability.
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	32.1	Item non-response or "Don't know" answer
MT	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	95.9	Mistake in data transmission, which is corrected for in 2007
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	C	All the same value by coincidence
		Col_119	PRESEEK	33.1	This variable is not addressed to persons that are not unemployed, due to routing of the LFS questionnaire.
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	This variable is not covered
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
NL	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	50.3	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	11.3	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	28.4	
		Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	20.2	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	80.7	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	81.3	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	100.0	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	29.3	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	65.1	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	19.0	
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
AT	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	21.5	In our national questionnaire we have also a code 5 "Other reasons", in tempreas these cases are sysmi. We are considering to change this from 2008 onwards though it seems hard for respondents to choose one of the items given by Eurostat.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	33.7	sysmis only in quarters 1 and 2, corrected for quarters 3 and 4 (up to q2_06 cases with ftpreas=3 are coded incorrectly "9" in Needcare)
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	To be transmitted only if it is compulsory.
PL	compulsory	Col_142/145	HATYEAR	16.4	We don't ask persons aged 65 years and more
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	30.7	The question is sensitive, we are going to set intervals in 2008
PT	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	
		Col_057	EVENWK	100.0	This variable does not exist in our national questionnaire. It's not applied to the national reality.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	77.0	Due to a mistake in the conversion conditions of col_117. Situation to be corrected (data bases 2006 + 1Q07).
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	The optional variables of the Commission regulation (EC) n° 2104/2002 of 28 November 2002 were not
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	included in our national questionnaire. The reasons for that option can be summarized as follows: 1) safeguarding the levels of participation and contribution of the respondents not increasing the burden on the same ones; 2) keeping the quality of answers of the compulsory variables.
		Col_154/161	INCMON	28.5	
RO	compulsory	Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	14.3	Wrong filter was used. Starting with 2007 the information will be correctly coded.
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	14.3	Wrong filter was used. Starting with 2007 the information will be correctly coded.
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	Optional variable. Wage data were collected in 2006 but they were still under testing (for INCDECIL). The variable will be transmitted starting with Q1 2007
SI	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	12.4	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	27.2	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	100.0	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	100.0	
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
SK	compulsory	Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	17.2	REFYEAR -YEARPR<8 = too long period
	optional	Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	optional variable
FI	compulsory	Col_036	SUPVISOR	100.0	Finland will implement the six new variables and wave approach fully from 2008Q1 onwards.
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	100.0	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	17.8	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	100.0	
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	10.9	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	10.8	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	10.8	
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	78.3	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
Col_154/161		INCMON	100.0		
SE	compulsory	HOUSEHOLD SUBSAMPLE		100.0	Problems. Staff turnover
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	16.9	No data for Q1, high item non-response Q3
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	15.0	?
		Col_121	REGISTER	18.3	?
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	29.4	Register variable. Register quality
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	No data collected. Will be collected as from Q1/07
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	25.9	No data collected. Will be collected as from Q1/07
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	25.9	No data collected. Will be collected as from Q1/07
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	Optional. Will not be collected
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
UK	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	36.1	Respondents who give "Some other reason" as the reason why they have a temporary job appear as blanks on the dataset
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	98.2	Only respondents who get their current work through a private employment agency or business are asked whether they have a contract with an employment agency. Employed people who do not get their current work through an agency appear as blanks.
		Col_059	SATWK	15.6	
		Col_060	SUNWK	15.6	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	100.0	Variable is only produced in OD. We are currently investigating whether data can be collected in all quarters
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	48.8	Not everyone who is unavailable to start work in 2 weeks is asked to give a reason why. We are currently investigating how this can be rectified.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	33.5	Not everyone who is unavailable to start work in 2 weeks is asked to give a reason why. We are currently investigating whether this can be rectified.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	100.0	Variable is only produced in OD. We are currently investigating whether data can be collected in all quarters
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	16.0	Year in which qualification was obtained is not asked of women aged 60-99 who are not working. Men aged 65-99 who are not working are also not asked this question. These cases appear as blanks rather than non-applicables
		Col_148/149	NACE1Y2D	11.7	Variable is only produced in AJ. We are currently investigating whether data can be collected in all quarters
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTANT	100.0	The UK does not produce this variable
		Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	16.1	15 year-olds who are in education appear as blanks for this variable
		Col_132	COURPURP	81.2	The high level of non-response is due to the fact that not all people who have completed a course in the last 4 weeks are asked the main purpose of their course. We are currently investigating whether the flowchart can be amended as a number of changes were made to the education questions in 2007
		Col_136	COURWORH	84.1	The high level of non-response is due to the fact that not all people who have completed a course in the last 4 weeks are asked whether the course took place during working hours. We are currently investigating whether the flowchart can be amended as a number of changes were made to the education questions in 2007
		Col_154/161	INCMON	62.7	A high proportion of respondents refuse to give their income
HR	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	99.8	provided
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	87.9	provided
		Col_150/151	COUNTRY1Y	13.6	provided from 2006 onwards
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	13.6	will be provided from 2007 onwards
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
TR	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	This variable is not asked since temporary working agencies are not common in Turkey for the moment.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	71.3	We need to know how you calculate this ratio (what the denominator is?). Because, when we look at the frequency of this variable (selecting non-employed) the rate of no-answer is not that much.
		Col_121	REGISTER	98.1	Normally we're not asking this question since the coverage of unemployment benefits is very limited in Turkey. (around 10% of registered unemployed are receiving unemployment benefit at the current situation). We've just tried to formulate this variable using the methods asked for employed and unemployed persons and have used only code "2" and "4". The coverage is also not in line with the filter. <b>In this direction, it would be better not to give this variable in other quarters.</b>
		Col_150/151	COUNTRY	100.0	This variable could not be given since 97.9 % of total population had lived in Turkey in their previous settlements (without using year threshold). The rest (2,1 %) does not make any statistical sense (not reliable) especially when tabulated by other variables considering "the sample size is too small for reliable estimates for figures less than two thousand persons in each cell". (Total number is less than 2000). This variable may be coded in the future using different aggregation criteria.
	optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	100.0	This variable was not given in the data set (although asked) since 98.5 % of total population was born in Turkey. The rest (1,5%) does not make any statistical sense (not reliable) especially when tabulated by other variables considering "the sample size is too small for reliable estimates for figures less than two thousand persons in each cell". (Total number is less than 2000). This variable may be coded in the future using different aggregation criteria.
		Col_122	MAINSTANT	100.0	These optional variables are not asked for the moment since these are not critical at national level.
		Col_125/127	EDUCFIL D	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFIL D	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORK	100.0	
		Col_003	HHLINK	100.0	
IS	compulsory	Col_004/5	HHSPOU	100.0	
		Col_006/7	HHFATH	100.0	
		Col_008/9	HHMOTH	100.0	
		Col_019/20	YEARESID	100.0	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	55.5	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	
		Col_075	HOMEWK	11.2	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	27.1	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	30.1	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	89.5	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	24.8	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Year 2006 (*)	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_120	NEEDCA RE	72.8	
		Col_121	REGISTE R	72.3	
		Col_142/145	HATYEA R	37.9	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR 1Y	100.0	
		Col_152/153	REGION1 Y	100.0	
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFIL D	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
NO	compulsory	HOUSEHOLD SUBSAMPLE		?	Perhaps from 2008
		Col_036	SUPVISO R	100.0	Will be delivered from 2008
		Col_037/38	SIZEFIR M	53.9	
		Col_049	WAYJFO UN	20.3	Corrected
		Col_051	FTPTREA S	26.5	Due to proxy
		Col_053	TEMPRE AS	14.3	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3 D	54.6	
		Col_100	SEEKRE AS	26.9	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREA S	11.3	
		Col_119	PRESEE K	12.5	
		Col_121	REGISTE R	100.0	Will be delivered later
		Col_139/141	HATFIEL D	19.5	Will be delivered later
		Col_142/145	HATYEA R	100.0	Will be delivered later
		Col_150/151	COUNTR 1Y	100.0	Will be delivered later
		Col_152/153	REGION1 Y	100.0	Will be delivered later
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTA T	100.0	
		Col_132	COURPU RP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFIL D	100.0	
		Col_136	COURW ORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	100.0	
CH	compulsory	HOUSEHOLD SUBSAMPLE			Only one person in the household is interviewed, so the relationship between all members of the household can not be determined surely.
		Col_049	WAYJFO UN	100.0	Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.
		Col_053	TEMPRE AS	59.1	
		Col_093	STAPRO PR	10.3	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR 2D	21.6	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3 D	10.7	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREA S	63.2	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREA S	23.7	

	<i>Variable status</i>	<i>Column</i>	<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Year 2006 (*)</i>	<i>Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions</i>
		Col_120	NEEDCA RE	15.3	
		Col_139/141	HATFIEL D	12.8	
		Col_142/145	HATYEA R	29.6	
		Col_146	WSTAT1 Y	100.0	<i>Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.</i>
		Col_150/151	COUNTR 1Y	100.0	<i>Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.</i>
		Col_152/153	REGION1 Y	100.0	<i>Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.</i>
	optional	Col_072	WAYMO RE	44.7	
		Col_122	MAINSTA T	100.0	<i>Will be available from 2010 onwards with the introduction of the continuous quarterly survey.</i>
		Col_125/127	EDUCFIL D	100.0	
		Col_132	COURPU RP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFIL D	100.0	
		Col_136	COURW ORH	100.0	
		Col_154/161	INCMON	10.4	

(\*) **C: All records have the same value**





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