

**Quality report of the European Union
Labour Force Survey
2009**

2011 edition

**Quality report of the European Union
Labour Force Survey
2009**

2011 edition

***Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers
to your questions about the European Union.***

**Freephone number (*):
00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

(*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2011

ISBN 978-92-79-21434-9

ISSN 1977-0375

doi:10.2785/17611

Cat. No KS-RA-11-020-EN-N

Theme: Population and social conditions
Collection: Methodologies & Working papers

© European Union, 2011

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Overview of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2009.....	4
2.1	Coverage.....	4
2.2	Legal basis.....	4
2.3	Compulsory participation.....	4
2.4	Reference week.....	5
2.5	Periodicity of the results.....	6
2.6	Sampling designs.....	6
2.7	Rotation schemes.....	7
2.8	Calculation of the weighting factors.....	8
2.9	Data collection methods.....	9
2.10	Use of subsamples to survey structural variables.....	9
2.11	Burden of the EU-LFS.....	9
3	Relevance.....	10
3.1	The users.....	10
3.2	Completeness.....	11
4	Accuracy.....	13
4.1	Sampling errors.....	15
4.2	Non-sampling errors.....	15
5	Timeliness and punctuality.....	23
6	Accessibility and clarity.....	24
7	Comparability.....	24
7.1	Comparability over time.....	24
7.2	Comparability over space.....	27
8	Coherence.....	28
8.1	Coherence with population statistics.....	28
8.2	Coherence with other employment estimates.....	29
9	Regional labour market statistics.....	32
9.1	Introduction.....	32
9.2	Sources for NUTS 3 level labour market statistics.....	33
9.3	Coefficient of variation for NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 regions for the unemployment rate.....	33
9.4	Possible developments.....	35
	Annex: Item non-response compared to the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 and clarifications provided by Member States.....	36

1 Introduction

The present report is the Quality Report on the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) for the year 2009.

The quality concept applied in this report is in conformity with the definition developed by the European Statistical System. In this definition quality consists of the following 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.¹

The individual country quality reports that were delivered to Eurostat during spring and summer 2010 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 2009 and the documentation of the public free data set maintained by Eurostat.

The present quality report follows closely the standard Quality Report format that has been developed within Eurostat and was adapted to the Labour Force Survey by a special Task Force in 2000. Starting with the 2008 exercise, some amendments² have been introduced to the structure of the report for some quality dimensions, in particular those on *relevance* and *comparability*, in order to obtain more focused and more complete information. In some cases, the contents have been enlarged, in particular as regards the use of a subsample to collect the structural variables and the assessment of non-response. In many instances, however, it is impossible to present the data exactly as prescribed by the standard Eurostat format, as this is geared to report homogeneous production processes within each country. This is not the case for the EU-LFS, which is the result of the collection of national data sets from NSIs. In some cases the information from the individual countries was not sufficient to provide an exact summary.

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

This quality report complements the methodological working paper describing the characteristics of the national surveys in 2009 in the Member States, Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries, also available on the Eurostat website³.

Chapters 1 to 8 were drafted by Nicola Massarelli, while chapter 9 was drafted by Lourdes Prado Urena⁴. Eurostat wishes to thank Andrija Djurovic for his support to the drafting of the report while working for Eurostat, and the many experts in the countries participating in the conduct of the EU-LFS, providing the data and descriptions necessary for this report.

¹ Most of the introductory texts shortly explaining each quality component are taken from the “ESS Standard for Quality Reports”, available at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/ver-1/quality/documents/ESQR_FINAL.pdf.

² The need for such amendments was discussed by LFS experts at the Workshop on LFS quality assurance, held in Athens in October 2008.

³ Available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/labour_market/publications.

⁴ Contacts: nicola.massarelli@ec.europa.eu, tel: +352-4301-38525; lourdes.prado-urena@ec.europa.eu, tel: +352-4301-36763.

2 Overview of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2009

2.1 Coverage

This document covers all the thirty-three countries (participating countries) in 2009 providing Eurostat with micro-data from their labour force surveys: the 27 Member States of the European Union, Iceland, which at the same time belongs to the European Economic Area (EEA) and is a candidate country, two more EEA countries, Norway and Switzerland, and three out of four of the remaining candidate countries, i.e. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁵ and Turkey. 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, and for the French overseas departments (DOM)⁶.

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

In Eurostat datasets all age groups are represented for all participating countries, with the exception of Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, which only provide data respectively for those aged 16-74, 15-74 and 15 and more. Most countries interview all age groups, while some (Denmark, Estonia, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) only interview working age population and retrieve information on the rest of the population from administrative sources.

2.2 Legal basis

The EU-LFS is regulated by several regulations of the Council and the European Parliament and of the Commission. The most important regulations are listed in table 2.1. In 2009, Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 entered into force, providing new specifications for the codification of the survey characteristic “Income”, which is now mandatory, and giving rules to define the reference quarters.

In addition to European regulations, many participating countries have their own national legislation for the conduct of a labour force survey. Information on the national laws or regulations is not collected for this report.

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 twenty countries.

⁵ In some tables of this report the abbreviation MK is used for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This is a provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusions of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

⁶ The French overseas departments (*Département d'outre-mer* - DOM) only have a partial coverage over time, as data collection only refers to quarter 2. In the present document only data for Metropolitan France are presented.

2.4 Reference week

The EU-LFS is designed as a continuous quarterly 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. All countries conduct the LFS as a continuous survey, except Turkey and Switzerland. Turkey, although producing quarterly results, only covers the first week of each month, whereas Switzerland in 2009 only has an annual survey carried out in the second quarter.

Table 2.1 Major regulations of the EU- LFS relating to 2009 data collection

General regulations	Comments
Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 315/42)	This regulation changes the status of the survey characteristic 'income' from optional to mandatory.
Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 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.
Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002 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.
Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003 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.
Implementation regulations	
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1022/2009 of 29 October 2009 amending Regulations (EC) No 1738/2005, (EC) No 698/2006 and (EC) No 377/2008 as regards the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)	This regulation stipulates the use of ISCO-08 in replacement of the ISCO-88 (COM) in the LFS from 2011 onwards
Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters (OJ No L 114/57)	Codification 2009, including the compulsory survey characteristic 'income' and the general definition of reference quarters
Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 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

Among those countries conducting a continuous survey, the first week of 2009 started on Monday 29 December 2008. All countries conducting a continuous survey spread the actual sample over the 13 weeks of the quarter. The sample is uniformly spread over the weeks in all countries except in Hungary, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Germany and the Netherlands.

Year 2009 had 53 reference weeks, i.e. one more than usual. According to the criteria laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) 377/2008, the additional week should have been considered as part of the last quarter of the year. Two options were given: either to evenly spread the sample of the 4th quarter over 14 weeks, or to skip one "typical" week in that quarter (with respect to the labour market participation) in a month of five weeks.

The thirty one countries conducting a continuous survey dealt with the additional week in different ways. Eleven countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia) split the sample of one week between two weeks in the 4th quarter. All split the sample between weeks 52 and 53, except Italy which used weeks 51 and 52. All countries evenly distributed the sample over the two weeks, except the Netherlands, Slovakia and Croatia which assigned lower shares to week 53. Eight countries (Estonia, Germany, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia and Finland) spread the sample of the 4th quarter over 14 weeks (all but Germany had an even allocation across the weeks). Seven countries (Belgium, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, the United Kingdom, Iceland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) skipped week 53, while four (Ireland, Greece, Austria and Norway) skipped another week of the quarter. Finally, Sweden attributed 14 weeks to quarter 1, for which it had an even distribution of the sample. The following quarters thus were shifted one week ahead.

2.5 Periodicity of the results

With the exception of Switzerland, which only provides estimates relating to the second quarter of the year, the EU-LFS in 2009 produces quarterly estimates.

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.

Bases used for the sample

Population registers and the latest Population Census or list of addresses 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 grounds the sample frame on the 1987 Census in the western part⁷ and on the Central Population Register, based on the 1981 Census, in the east, both updated by the Register of new dwellings.

Sampling stages and primary sampling units (PSU)

Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, 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. All other countries use a two or three stage sampling design, usually selecting municipalities, administrative districts or census enumeration areas in the first stage⁸.

⁷ The continuous population updating procedure which updates last German census in 1987 in the western part and the Central Population Register in the east by using statistics on births, deaths and migration provides population figures used for calibration. These old updating bases which are used also as sample frame for dwellings not built after 1987 and 1981 respectively may lead to some bias in LFS results.

⁸ 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 five times before being replaced by the next cluster. The second 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.

Ultimate sampling units

Three types of ultimate sampling units are employed: 1) households, 2) dwellings/addresses and 3) persons. In addition, Norway selects family units⁹ 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 households residing within the dwelling/address are interviewed (Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Cyprus, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Romania, United Kingdom and Turkey). When persons constitute the primary sampling units, the selected persons either constitute 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 theoretical sampling rate per quarter (ultimate sampling units) of the EU-LFS is 0.42% (EU-27: 0.43%). Luxembourg has by far the highest sampling rate per quarter (3.9%), followed by Ireland (3.0%), Malta (2.25%) and Iceland (1.9%), while other participating countries have sampling rates of 1% or less. On average, the achieved quarterly sample in 2009 was 1.798 million individuals (EU-27: 1.573 million), of which 1.391 million were in the age group 15-74 years (EU-27: 1.216 million). The achieved sample in the EU-LFS is thus approximately 0.32% of the total population.

Stratification

All the countries, except Lithuania, Malta and Iceland, stratify the sample frame prior to the sampling. All countries but Denmark use the region, either at NUTS 2, NUTS 3, NUTS 4 level or nationally defined areas, as stratification variable. The degree of urbanization is also a common stratification variable (France, Spain, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania). Other stratification variables include register status of individuals in employment/unemployment registers (Denmark, Sweden), population of town/community (Greece), 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 except Belgium and Luxembourg¹⁰ use a rotating panel design for the samples. The number of panels (/waves) ranges from two to eight. All panel designs foresee an overlap between one quarter and the successive one, except for Germany and Switzerland, which only have a year-to-year overlap. The most common panel design with a quarterly overlap in 2009, adopted by 12 participating countries, is 2-(2)-2, where sampled units are interviewed for two consecutive quarters, then stay out of the sample for the next two waves and are included again two more times. Other widespread rotation patterns, each used by six countries, are in for 5 and in for 6 waves, where each panel is interviewed consecutively for five or six quarters before permanently leaving the sample. Three other rotation schemes are used by one or maximum two countries.

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

⁹ Person + spouse or registered partner + dependent children.

¹⁰ Luxembourg has no rotation scheme, although a random number of sampled units took part to previous survey waves. This number is not available for 2009.

successive years. All panel designs with a quarter-to-quarter overlap foresee an overlap of 50% or more¹¹ of the sample between two successive quarters. There is less emphasis on overlap between corresponding quarters in two successive years. One country, Belgium, has no overlap; seven countries have an overlap of 20% or 25% while nineteen countries have an overlap ranging from 33% to 50%. Germany has 75% overlap with the previous year and Switzerland 80%.

2.8 Calculation of the weighting factors

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 2 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 generalized calibration and generalized 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 2 regional classification.

All the countries with the exception of Croatia use data on sex in the weighting process. Croatia also does not use age in calculating the weighting factors while seven countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, and Slovenia) use broader age groups than five-year. All the countries that have NUTS 2 regions defined use at least NUTS 2 regions for calculating the weights, but eighteen countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and Norway) use a more detailed regional classification (NUTS 3 or LAU1; groups of NUTS 3 for Portugal and Hungary).

Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway use register statistics on employment and 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.

Eighteen countries, namely Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, gross the sample to the total population, i.e. including people living in institutional households, although some of them do not (Belgium, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia and Switzerland) or only partially (Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia) cover the institutional population in data collection.

¹¹ These percentages are only theoretical; the actual overlaps are lower due to non-response and panel attrition.

2.9 Data collection methods

Three modes of data collection exist for the EU-LFS: personal visits, telephone interviews and self-administered questionnaires. Sixteen of the participating countries conduct the first wave always or mainly via personal visit, while subsequent waves are interviewed with telephone, if available. Germany collects data mainly with face-to-face interviews (using CAPI); persons not available for the interviewer or refusing oral interviews are in a few cases interviewed by telephone or more frequently fill in self-administered postal questionnaires. Denmark and Norway collect data with telephone interviews, but persons who could not be reached by telephone are interviewed face to face. Belgium conducts the interviews by means of face-to-face, but 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, Portugal, Romania, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) collect data using only face-to-face interviews.

Twenty-one countries conduct the interview only with computerized questionnaires. Four (Belgium, Germany, Estonia and Poland) use both computerized and paper questionnaires. The rest rely solely on paper questionnaires.

2.10 Use of subsamples to survey structural variables

Eight countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Finland, the United Kingdom and Norway,) use a subsample to survey all or some of the thirty-nine structural variables, taking advantage of this possibility offered by Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003. The subsample coincides with one rotation panel in total sample, except for France and Norway, which use both the first and the last survey waves, and Germany, where the subsample is about a randomly selected 10% of the total yearly sample.

Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 stipulates that the estimates produced from the yearly subsample should be consistent with those obtained as annual averages of the full quarterly samples, at least as regards the ILO labour force status broken down by sex and 10-year age groups. This requirement aims at ensuring the consistency of the main indicators (e.g. the employment or the unemployment rates) and their break-downs produced from the two different databases. In 2009, such consistency is ensured by Bulgaria, Spain, Finland and Norway but not by Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. France and the Netherlands do not use the annual averages for the ILO labour status in the weighting scheme for the yearly subsample. No information on the origin of the inconsistency is available for Germany and the United Kingdom.

2.11 Burden of the EU-LFS

Twenty-five countries gave some information on how long the interview lasted per person or household. For these countries, the overall time spent in the household was on average 30 minutes for the first wave and 21 minutes for the following waves. The interview of single persons in the first wave lasted on average about 11 minutes, while subsequent waves took on average around 8 minutes.

3 Relevance

Relevance is the degree to which statistics meet current and potential user needs. It depends on 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 analyzing the different users, who they are, what needs they have, whether they are satisfied etc.

Most EU statistics are compiled according to regulations containing a defined list of variables, which reflect users' needs (at least of the most relevant institutional ones). Examining the completeness of the statistics measured against the relevant regulation is therefore a way to assess the actual relevance of those statistics.

3.1 The users

Eurostat does not carry out any comprehensive 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. Users' 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. Some users, however, seek for more timely data release, at least of a few main indicators. On the other hand, the introduction in 2010 of a release calendar for the main indicators produced by the EU-LFS, even with conservative delays, has been favorably received by users.

The main institutional users, however, are known to the unit F2 Labour Market Statistics (see Table 3.1). Many of them are frequently consulted on various aspects of development and dissemination of labour force statistics.

Table 3.1 Classification and description of users

User	Description of user	Needs in term of concepts/statistics
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
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Varied, detailed tabulations from EU LFS data
ESTAT - Unit E4	Regional statistics and geographical information	Detailed regional statistics, structural funds
ESTAT - Unit C2	National accounts - production	Estimates of amount and quality 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

Since 2005, all Member States of the EU conduct a continuous survey and provide quarterly results. In 2008 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started delivering quarterly labour force survey micro data to Eurostat (from 2006), whereas Luxembourg started providing quarterly weights, thus allowing the production of quarterly estimates, and Croatia moved to a continuous survey producing quarterly results. In 2009 Switzerland, conducting a labour force survey in spring only, thus was the only country in the European Statistical System which did not supply quarterly data¹².

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.

A special case is the coverage of the household variables by the countries sampling individuals, i.e. the Nordic countries and Switzerland. In 2009 no coverage of such variables was undertaken by Iceland and Switzerland, while Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Norway covered them in special household datasets. However, only Finland and Sweden delivered complete household datasets. For Denmark, these datasets covered the household variables but did not contain several other individual variables which should also be included. As for Norway, they only covered the “core” family (i.e. parents and children), but provided no information on other possible members of the household.

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

Table 3.2 Completeness of the EU-LFS variables, 2009

Number of compulsory variables with 100% item non-response ¹	Number of countries	EU-27
0	11	11
1-4	13	11
5-9	7	4
10+	2	1
Total	33	27

¹ Not including variables that are empty because the filtering variable excluded any response.

Table 3.3 Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value¹, 2009

Column number ²	Brief description	Number of countries	EU-27
Col_001/2	Sequence number in the household	2	1
Col_003	Relationship to reference person in the household	3	1
Col_004/5	Sequence number of spouse or cohabiting partner	3	1
Col_006/7	Sequence number of father	3	1
Col_008/9	Sequence number of mother	3	1
Col_017/18	Nationality	1	
Col_019/20	Years of residence in this Member State	1	
Col_028	Continuing receipt of the wage or salary	2	2
Col_039/40	Country of place of work	6	3
Col_041/42	Region of place of work	7	5
Col_049	Involvement of the public employment office at any moment in finding the present job	2	1
Col_055	Contract with a temporary employment agency	3	1

¹² Switzerland moved to a continuous quarterly survey since the beginning of 2010.

Column number ²	Brief description	Number of countries	EU-27
Col_056	Shift work	1	
Col_057	Evening work	2	1
Col_058	Night work	1	
Col_059	Saturday work	1	
Col_060	Sunday work	1	
Col_065/66	Paid overtime in the reference week in the main job	3	1
Col_067/68	Unpaid overtime in the reference week in the main job	3	
Col_073/74	Number of hours that the person would like to work in total	2	
Col_075	Working at home	1	
Col_093	Professional status in last job	2	2
Col_096/98	Occupation of last job	1	1
Col_101	Type of employment sought (employed)	4	
Col_101	Type of employment sought (not employed)	1	
Col_102	Duration of search for employment (employed)	3	
Col_103	Contacted public employment to find work (employed)	1	
Col_104	Contacted private employment agency to find work (employed)	3	1
Col_105	Applied to employers directly (employed)	1	
Col_106	Asked friends, relatives, trade unions etc. (employed)	1	
Col_107	Inserted or answered advertisements in newspapers or journals (employed)	1	
Col_108	Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals (employed)	2	
Col_109	Took a test, interview or examination (employed)	2	1
Col_109	Took a test, interview or examination (not employed)	2	1
Col_110	Looked for land, premises or equipment (employed)	4	3
Col_111	Looked for permits, licenses, financial resources (employed)	6	4
Col_112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job (employed)	4	3
Col_112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job (not employed)	4	4
Col_113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office (employed)	7	4
Col_113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office (not employed)	5	4
Col_114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector (employed)	13	8
Col_114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector (not employed)	12	8
Col_115	Other method used (employed)	7	6
Col_115	Other method used (not employed)	7	7
Col_117	Availability to start working within two weeks (employed)	1	
Col_118	Reasons for not being available to start working within 2 weeks (employed)	5	3
Col_119	Situation immediately before person started to seek employment (or was waiting for new job to start)	3	2
Col_120	Need for care facilities	1	
Col_121	Registration at a public employment office	5	3
Col_124	Level of this education or training	1	
Col_129/131	Number of hours spent on all taught learning activities within the last four weeks	1	
Col_142/145	Year when highest level of education or training was successfully completed	1	
Col_146	Situation with regard to activity one year before survey	2	1
Col_150/151	Country of residence one year before survey	3	
Col_152/153	Region of residence (within Member State) one year before survey	4	1
Col_154/155	Monthly (take-home) pay from main job	11	8
Col_166/167	Region of household	1	
Col_168	Degree of urbanisation	5	
Col_195	Sequence number of the survey wave	4	3

¹ Excluding variables which are constant by default such as country, reference year, region (if NUTS 2 is the whole country)

² According to the Commission Regulation No. 377/2008.

4 Accuracy

The accuracy of statistical outputs in the general statistical sense is the degree of closeness of estimates to the 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).

Table 4.1 Confidence limits¹, 2nd quarter 2009

Country	Number of employed (x1000)	Number of part-time employed (x1000)	Number of unemployed (x1000)	Rate of unemployment (%)	Average number of hours actually worked ² (hrs)
EU-27	218,244 ±532	41,059 ±318	20,886 ±227	8.7 ±0.1	36.8 ±0.1
EU-25	205,563 ±420	40,034 ±298	20,037 ±217	8.9 ±0.1	36.6 ±0.1
EU-15	174,060 ±385	37,668 ±286	17,038 ±198	8.9 ±0.1	36.0 ±0.1
EA-13	138,935 ±355	28,335 ±222	14,087 ±182	9.2 ±0.1	36.2 ±0.1
EA-12	137,955 ±354	28,230 ±222	14,029 ±182	9.2 ±0.1	36.2 ±0.1
EEA	220,926 ±533	41,827 ±319	20,989 ±227	8.7 ±0.1	36.8 ±0.1
BE	4,396 ± 64	1,019 ± 44	355 ± 34	7.5 ±0.7	36.4 ±0.6
BG	3,300 ± 76	86 ± 10	223 ± 19	6.3 ±0.5	40.0 ±0.3
CZ	4,941 ± 46	274 ± 15	334 ± 17	6.3 ±0.4	40.8 ±0.1
DK	2,788 ± 23	720 ± 25	177 ± 14	6.0 ±0.5	34.0 ±0.3
DE	38,645 ±215	10,159 ±133	3,236 ± 92	7.7 ±0.2	35.0 ±0.2
EE	593 ± 22	70 ± 11	92 ± 12	13.5 ±1.7	37.6 ±0.6
IE	1,928 ± 23	402 ± 9	261 ± 10	11.9 ±0.5	35.5 ±0.6
EL	4,532 ± 84	272 ± 16	443 ± 22	8.9 ±0.4	41.2 ±0.3
ES	18,945 ±149	2,451 ± 77	4,137 ± 95	17.9 ±0.4	38.0 ±0.2
FR	25,833 ±152	4,453 ±113	2,486 ± 93	8.8 ±0.3	35.8 ±0.1
IT	23,203 ±123	3,346 ± 80	1,841 ± 64	7.4 ±0.3	37.4 ±0.2
CY	383 ± 9	32 ± 3	21 ± 3	5.2 ±0.6	38.5 ±0.3
LV	999 ± 23	81 ± 10	200 ± 18	16.7 ±1.3	39.6 ±0.5
LT	1,422 ± 45	122 ± 13	223 ± 19	13.6 ±1.0	39.2 ±0.2
LU	219 ± 5	38 ± 3	12 ± 2	5.1 ±1.0	37.8 ±0.7
HU	3,797 ± 32	212 ± 13	402 ± 19	9.6 ±0.4	39.9 ±0.1
MT	161 ± 5	18 ± 2	12 ± 2	7.0 ±0.9	39.4 ±0.5
NL	8,602 ± 44	4,146 ± 43	290 ± 13	3.3 ±0.2	31.4 ±0.1
AT	4,080 ± 45	1,018 ± 27	199 ± 15	4.6 ±0.3	36.7 ±0.4
PL	15,846 ±146	1,356 ± 77	1,355 ± 78	7.9 ±0.5	40.6 ±0.3
PT	5,076 ± 55	592 ± 36	508 ± 31	9.1 ±0.6	38.2 ±0.3
RO	9,381 ±318	940 ±111	627 ± 64	6.3 ±0.6	40.3 ±0.3
SI	981 ± 19	105 ± 8	58 ± 6	5.6 ±0.6	38.5 ±0.3
SK	2,378 ± 23	94 ± 9	302 ± 16	11.3 ±0.9	38.8 ±0.2
FI	2,497 ± 17	333 ± 13	264 ± 10	9.6 ±0.4	36.0 ±0.2
SE	4,525 ± 20	1,220 ± 22	456 ± 14	9.2 ±0.3	34.8 ±0.1
UK	28,793 ±147	7,497 ±178	2,376 ± 75	7.6 ±0.2	35.5 ±0.1
IS	166 ± 3	37 ± 3	17 ± 2	9.1 ±1.1	39.9 ±0.7
NO	2,516 ± 17	731 ± 18	86 ± 8	3.3 ±0.3	33.9 ±0.2
CH	4,280 ± 47	1,472 ± 33	182 ± 13	4.1 ±0.3	37.1 ±0.2
HR	1,611 ± 75	150 ± 24	157 ± 19	8.9 ±1.0	39.8 ±0.5
MK	636 ± 37	33 ± 5	298 ± 30	31.9 ±2.5	42.2 ±0.6
TR	21,455 ±135	2,420 ±133	2,986 ±117	12.2 ±0.5	48.8 ±0.3

¹ The confidence limits at 95% level of significance. ² By people who worked at least one hour in the reference week.
Note: Confidence limits for the EU aggregates are Eurostat's own approximation.

Several types of error, stemming from all survey processes, comprise the error of the statistics (their bias and variability). A certain typology of errors is widely 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 surveyed. **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.

Table 4.2 Confidence limits¹, annual average 2009

Country	Number of employed (x1000)	Number of part-time employed (x1000)	Number of unemployed (x1000)	Rate of unemployment (%)	Average number of hours actually worked ² (hrs)
EU-27	217,827 ±532	40,893 ±223	21,263 ±184	8.9 ±0.09	37.2 ±0.04
EU-25	205,330 ±500	39,914 ±215	20,344 ±180	9.0 ±0.09	37.0 ±0.04
EU-15	139,187 ±261	28,276 ±151	14,364 ±129	9.4 ±0.11	36.6 ±0.05
EA-15	141,553 ±261	28,360 ±151	14,687 ±129	9.4 ±0.11	36.7 ±0.05
EA-12	137,663 ±260	28,121 ±151	14,269 ±129	9.4 ±0.11	36.6 ±0.05
EEA	220,493 ±532	41,646 ±223	21,356 ±184	8.8 ±0.09	37.1 ±0.04
BE	4,421 ± 34	1,034 ± 23	380 ± 17	7.9 ±0.4	37.0 ±0.3
BG	3,254 ± 59	76 ± 6	238 ± 16	6.8 ±0.4	40.4 ±0.1
CZ	4,934 ± 36	273 ± 12	352 ± 14	6.7 ±0.3	40.7 ±0.1
DK	2,776 ± 16	721 ± 18	177 ± 9	6.0 ±0.3	34.9 ±0.2
DE	38,797 ±105	10,137 ± 64	3,227 ± 45	7.7 ±0.1	35.6 ±0.1
EE	596 ± 15	63 ± 6	95 ± 7	13.8 ±1.0	38.0 ±0.3
IE	1,917 ± 23	406 ± 12	255 ± 10	11.7 ±0.4	35.4 ±0.7
EL	4,509 ± 74	272 ± 14	471 ± 19	9.5 ±0.3	41.3 ±0.2
ES	18,888 ±115	2,415 ± 53	4,150 ± 76	18.0 ±0.3	38.1 ±0.1
FR	25,704 ±151	4,451 ± 96	2,573 ± 76	9.1 ±0.2	36.7 ±0.1
IT	23,025 ± 83	3,281 ± 52	1,945 ± 39	7.8 ±0.2	37.4 ±0.1
CY	381 ± 8	32 ± 3	21 ± 2	5.3 ±0.6	39.0 ±0.3
LV	983 ± 12	87 ± 7	203 ± 9	17.1 ±0.8	39.6 ±0.3
LT	1,416 ± 44	118 ± 12	225 ± 18	13.7 ±1.0	39.3 ±0.3
LU	217 ± 4	40 ± 2	12 ± 1	5.1 ±0.5	38.1 ±0.5
HU	3,782 ± 27	210 ± 11	421 ± 16	10.0 ±0.4	39.8 ±0.1
MT	162 ± 2	18 ± 1	12 ± 1	7.0 ±0.4	39.5 ±0.3
NL	8,596 ± 44	4,151 ± 35	304 ± 9	3.4 ±0.1	31.9 ±0.1
AT	4,078 ± 38	1,003 ± 22	204 ± 10	4.8 ±0.2	37.1 ±0.3
PL	15,868 ± 97	1,335 ± 51	1,411 ± 50	8.2 ±0.3	40.5 ±0.2
PT	5,054 ± 54	588 ± 34	529 ± 27	9.5 ±0.5	38.6 ±0.4
RO	9,243 ±172	903 ± 57	681 ± 35	6.9 ±0.4	39.8 ±0.2
SI	981 ± 15	104 ± 3	61 ± 4	5.9 ±0.4	39.4 ±0.2
SK	2,366 ± 17	85 ± 6	323 ± 11	12.0 ±0.6	39.4 ±0.2
FI	2,457 ± 13	343 ± 9	221 ± 6	8.3 ±0.2	36.5 ±0.1
SE	4,499 ± 18	1,216 ± 19	410 ± 8	8.4 ±0.2	35.7 ±0.1
UK	28,923 ±409	7,531 ±141	2,363 ±110	7.6 ±0.4	35.7 ±0.2
IS	166 ± 2	39 ± 1	13 ± 1	7.2 ±0.5	39.7 ±0.3
NO	2,499 ± 16	714 ± 16	80 ± 7	3.1 ±0.3	34.5 ±0.2
CH	4,280 ± 47	1,472 ± 33	182 ± 13	4.1 ±0.3	37.1 ±0.2
HR	1,605 ± 55	145 ± 16	160 ± 12	9.1 ±0.6	39.5 ±0.3
MK	630 ± 25	35 ± 4	299 ± 19	32.2 ±1.5	41.9 ±0.4
TR	21,271 ±217	2,398 ±109	3,053 ± 74	12.6 ±0.3	48.7 ±0.3

¹ The confidence limits at 95% level of significance. ² By people who worked at least one hour in the reference week.
Note: Confidence limits for the EU aggregates are Eurostat's own approximation.

4.1 Sampling errors

Sampling errors affect only sample surveys and arise from the fact that not all units of the frame population are surveyed. 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 statistics. 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 2nd quarter 2009, while table 4.2 provides estimates and confidence limits for the annual averages for 2009.

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	<i>Undercoverage:</i> 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 2 and 6 months.
BG		8.26%		<i>Overcoverage:</i> The sample is planned and formed on lists of households obtained from March 2001 Population Census. During the survey field work problems are found on: - non-occupied houses or houses used for other purposes - one household (according to the Census list) divided into two or more separate households or the opposite.
CZ				<i>Undercoverage:</i> Households are selected once a year from the Register of Census Areas. Due to differences in time span there is not the current information about addresses or flats. The sampling frame contains only private households. Persons living in institutional households are not covered. <i>Overcoverage:</i> The not existing or not inhabited flats remain in the Register of Census Areas and causes overcoverage. On other hand foreigners live prevalingly in collective households and the data for this population based on LFS are not representative for this group
DK	→0	→0	→0	<i>Undercoverage:</i> 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. 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 are guaranteed that they will not be contacted in relation to surveys, thus CPR is not allowed to transmit any information

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
				concerning their potential active status or dwelling address. Although this share of the population is no longer rising, the problem remains relevant. It is particularly acute in the part of the population that moves often. This has been analysed by Statistics Denmark in a paper. The revised weighting scheme in use since 2007 tries to mitigate this problem. <i>Overcoverage</i> : See above
DE				<i>Undercoverage</i> : Homeless people and other people without registered residence (e.g. people living in huts, caravans) are out of the frame. Apart from that German LFS is an area sample. All inhabited dwellings belong to the frame. Thus, changes of the population (e.g. by immigration, emigration) are included in the frame automatically. Main problem: The basis (census 1987) annually updated by the register of new dwellings is very old. The census 2011 will give the German LFS a better frame quality.
EE				<i>Undercoverage</i> : In 20097,121 households of 11,872 households sampled for the survey, were interviewed. Among the households not interviewed, in 166 cases (1.4% 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). By NUTS3 regions the share of frame errors varied from 0.9% in Southern Estonia to 1.8% in Northeastern Estonia.
IE				<i>Undercoverage</i> : Our frame is the Census of population and as such we have no quality concerns regarding our frame.
EL	About 1%	8.2%		<i>Undercoverage</i> : 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. <i>Overcoverage</i> : The sample in Greek LFS is a sample of dwellings. The percentage of over-coverage is computed as the percentage of dwellings that are either used as "secondary residence" of the household or they are used solely for business purposes (e.g. a doctor's office)
ES	1.28% (2007 data)	18.49%	NA	<i>Undercoverage</i> : Percentage calculated as 'omitted' dwellings detected in the 'quality control survey'. Measures of impact not available. <i>Overcoverage</i> : The touristic areas are more prone to higher rates. <i>Misclassification</i> : The dwelling can not be 'wrong classified' and within the target population, at the same time.
FR				<i>Undercoverage</i> : New dwellings seem to be underrepresented in the old sample (RP). The new sample (TH) does not cover very new buildings (less than 2 years old); yet this is taken into account in the weighting since the calibration method uses the number of new dwellings.
IT	-	1.65	1.55	<i>Undercoverage</i> : Households are selected once a year from the municipalities' registry offices; they cover the whole reference population. The data might contain errors as for information such as addresses (due for instance to recent change of the address), wrong inclusions (recent emigration) and missed inclusions (recent immigration). As for the survey's management strategies, Istat requires that each non-responding household be replaced with a household having similar characteristics of the first one, in order to maintain as much as possible the sample representativeness and to minimise the impact of unit non-response. Up to 3 replacements are admitted.
CY	2.00%			<i>Undercoverage</i> : 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 enumeration survey conducted after the census an undercoverage 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. <i>Overcoverage</i> : The sample size per year is approximately 18 400 dwelling units containing approximately 3400 households per quarter. The difference is empty houses.
LV		6.09%		<i>Undercoverage</i> : 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

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
				years. <i>Overcoverage</i> : Overall in year are 6.09 % of over-coverage from sample. Main reason of it are, rarely updated register were can be old information. Also other reasons will be checked.
LT		2.1%		<i>Overcoverage</i> : In 2009 31026 households sampled for the survey, were interviewed. About 25426 households were interviewed. Among the households not interviewed, in 5244 cases (16.9 % of total number of sampled households) the reason was an error or inaccuracy of the frame (person deceased, wrong address, the building was knock down, etc). The main problems are that some persons don't live in Lithuania for a long time and still are in the Population register and people, especially young, move across the country without declaration of their living place.
LU				<i>Undercoverage</i> : Households with no telephone will not be in the frame
HU				<i>Undercoverage</i> : Hard-to-access groups are characterized 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				<i>Undercoverage</i> : The sampling frame being used covers private households. Hence persons living in institutional households are not being covered. Since the 2005 Census is being used as a sampling frame, households created after 2005 are not represented. All regions may be affected as changes are homogeneous across Malta and Gozo. <i>Overcoverage</i> : There is over-representation for households created prior to 2005 and for households which were present in 2005 and no longer exist after 2005.
NL	-	-	-	-
AT	-	-	-	<i>Undercoverage</i> : From 2004 onwards the sample for the Austrian LFS is drawn from the Austrian Register of Residents. 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. 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. This results in undercoverage of recent migrants.
PL	-	-	-	-
PT	-	19.36%	-	<i>Undercoverage</i> : The sampling frame doesn't cover the individuals living in collective dwellings. This population represents less than approximately 1%. <i>Overcoverage</i> : From the first quarter of 2008 onward there are slight differences in the calculation of the over-coverage rate. The situations where the dwellings are unallocated or used for other purposes other than residence are identified and now excluded from the non-respondents and considered as overcoverage.
RO	2.96%	Q1: 2.20% Q2: 2.17% Q3: 2.41% Q4: 2.44%	-	<i>Undercoverage</i> : 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. Thus, an updates has be done for the PSU included in EMZOT, on the basis of a micro-census type survey. The micro-census has aimed in particular the updating of the addresses of the dwellings. Undercoverage rate was estimated as the ratio between number of new permanent dwellings, built in the period end of 2002 year (the year of the census)- end of 2006 year and number of dwellings in EMZOT. <i>Overcoverage</i> : 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.
SI	→0	→0	→0	<i>Undercoverage</i> : Register of private households would be better sampling frame, but we do not have it and we adjust data for unequal probability of selection of households
SK				<i>Undercoverage</i> : The LFS sample is based on a Population Census conducted once every 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. <i>Overcoverage</i> : Mainly young residents working temporarily abroad can stay to live there. <i>Misclassification</i> : Misclassification by incorrect identification is negligible

Country	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification	Comments
FI	→0	1.30%		<i>Undercoverage:</i> 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. Undercoverage fairly small (no large-scale immigration). <i>Overcoverage:</i> Overcoverage: mostly emigration in wave 1, deaths and emigration for later waves.
SE	1% of the population	0.2% of the population	-	<i>Undercoverage:</i> 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 50000 persons or 1 % of the population. This under-coverage is judged to have marginal effects on the LFS-estimates. <i>Overcoverage:</i> 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	Approximately 1.5% of the total GB population	N/A	N/A	<i>Undercoverage:</i> The LFS coverage omits communal establishments, excepting NHS housing and students in halls of residence. Members of the armed forces are only included if they live in private accommodation. The LFS, by not sampling from communal establishments, excludes approximately 1.5% of the total GB population.
IS	→0	→0	→0	No significant problems
NO	10%	-	20%	<i>Undercoverage:</i> Do not include those 75 years and older. Imputes as outside the labour force. Number of persons employed about 0.25 per cent too low. <i>Misclassification:</i> Using family as a proxy for household at the moment
CH				<i>Undercoverage:</i> Standard-sample: The basis 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.
HR	-	-	-	<i>Undercoverage:</i> Starting from the first half-year 2002, the sample frame for the LFS is based on the Census 2001 data. This sample frame includes addresses of private households on the whole territory of Croatia; hence the LFS results relate to the whole country. As the Census database was not updated since 2001, it is becoming obsolete, and some problems regarding migration and/or newly built dwellings can be foreseen for the coming years.
MK		Q1: 6.5% Q2: 6.4% Q3: 4.4%; Q4: 5.6%		<i>Overcoverage:</i> 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.
TR	-	0.51%	-	<i>Undercoverage:</i> Together with the establishment of National Address Database, frame errors are minimised since the database is regularly being updated and during the sample selection current database is taken for each quarter.. <i>Overcoverage</i> The percentage of overcoverage, based on the 2009 survey results, is 0.51%. In the survey, over-coverage was determined due the reason that some addresses were miscoded in the database or the types were changed later on. Such non eligible addresses (establishments, warehouses, parcels, etc.) were found during the field application of the survey and included in the calculation of the overcoverage ratio.

Note: Hyphen "-" indicates that information is not provided. Blank indicates that information is not available to NSI.

Measurement errors

Measurement errors are errors that occur during data collection and cause the recorded values of variables to be different from 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 (unweighted) ¹	Number of interviews per interviewer per quarter ¹	Date of 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-27	33.8	163	-	-	-
BE	16.7	82	November 2008 (for the reference year 2009)	In Q32006, a CAPI questionnaire was tested	About 1000
BG	37.7	287	Q1 2009	2007	Approx. 1060
CZ	46.2	409	December 2008	2001	891
DK	2.0	509	September 2009	Q4 2006	1,000
DE	25.8	88	Yearly	No pilot surveys, only yearly cognitive pretests	N.A.
EE	28.8	54	January 2009	Jan-Feb 2009	230
IE	47.7	-	January 2000	-	-
EL	42.2	942	January 2009	No pilot survey	N.A.
ES ²	53.0	354	June 2005	2004	3,500 households were interviewed. Two models for Characteristics of Main Employment and three models for Search of Employment were tested.
FR	31.2	116	Q1 2009	2005	Around 250
IT ²	13.9	349	January 2009 for Q1, Q3 and Q4 - April 2009 for AHM in Q2	November 2008	707 households
CY	30.7	773	September 2007	October 2007	30
LV	43.1	126	November 2008	May 2005: testing of CAPI	
LT	36.3	179	October 2008	2008-2009	35
LU	29.7	102	Yearly		
HU	45.5	174	August 2008	October 2008	About 300
MT	49.5	113	July 2005	No pilot survey	N.A.
NL	48.2	1,125	January 2000	-	-

Country	% of proxy interviews (unweighted) ¹	Number of interviews per interviewer per quarter ¹	Date of last update of the questionnaire	Date of the last pilot survey in order to test the questionnaire	Number of respondents to the pilot survey
AT	25.6	122	Q1 2009	Test of changes in the questions on hours worked finalized in Nov. 2008	151 Persons
PL	37.5	50	Q1 2009	No pilot survey	N.A.
PT	48.1	175	2006	No pilot survey	N.A.
RO	28.6	62	August 2008	June 2008	100 households
SI	57.6	341	January 2009	No pilot survey	N.A.
SK	37.2	427	July 2005	1992	
FI	4.5	227	January 2009	-	-
SE	2.8	161	January 2009	Pilot studies in March and June 2004.	1,400
UK ²	34.6	118	January 2008	August 2006*	807 households sampled for the Dress Rehearsal. Achieved sample = 528 households.
IS ²	1.3	996	January 2000	November and December 2002	-
NO	14.2	668	Q1 2006	No pilot survey	N.A.
CH	0.5	98	April 2009	February 2009	138
HR	43.0	75	Q1 2009	No pilot survey	N.A.
MK	42.9	133	October 2008	No pilot survey	N.A.
TR	58	486	July 2005	2003	Around 100 households

¹ 15-74 years respondents. ² 16-74 years respondents

Notes: *N.A.* indicates that the item is not applicable. *Hyphen* ("-") indicates that information is not provided. *Blank* indicates that information is not available to NSI.

Source: EU-LFS

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, 4.6 and 4.7 do not show fully comparable non-response rates. All of the countries calculate non-response on the basis of the household unit, except Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, which 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 2009

Country	Waves							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BE	26.9							
BG	22.0	16.2	14.6	12.4				
CZ	23.2	20.8	20.6	20.3	20.2			
DK	34.0	38.6	32.1	30.8				
DE ¹	-	-	-	-				
EE	46.9	39.6	36.7	32.8				
IE	24.3	15.1	19.3	18.7	20.1			
EL	14.4	13.6	13.2	12.9	12.8	12.1		
ES	16.0	12.2	12.0	12.4	12.5	12.7		
FR	18.5	17.3	16.2	15.9	16.3	13.3		
IT	23.1	10.6	8.6	7.9				
CY	2.3	2.6	3.5	4.4	4.7	5.1		
LV	32.6	28.3	28.8	26.0				
LT	15.7	15.8	14.1	19.0				
LU	68.1							
HU	29.0	20.9	13.1	10.3	8.8	7.6		
MT	18.8	26.4	18.0	21.2				
NL	40.7	18.2	5.7	4.4	4.6			
AT	5.0	6.9	7.4	7.4	7.0			
PL	19.9	16.8	16.3	15.3				
PT	-	-	-	-	-	-		
RO	7.2	5.7	4.7	4.3				
SI ²	32.5	18.4	12.4	11.6	8.0			
SK	13.6	-	-	-	-			
FI	21.3	19.9	19.6	19.7	20.2			
SE	26.0	21.9	20.6	19.8	19.5	19.6	19.0	17.7
UK	-	-	-	-	-			
IS	19.2	19.5	20.3	19.9	20.0			
NO	17.6	14.3	12.6	12.4	12.3	11.8	11.5	11.4
CH ¹	38.9	20.5	17.3	16.5	14.5			
HR	-	-	-	-				
MK	19.2	17.3	13.7	10.9				
TR	14.4	12.8	13.6	12.7				

¹ Survey waves are on annual basis. ² Conditional non-response in waves 2-5. The non-respondents from previous waves are excluded from the sample in subsequent waves (waves 2-5)

Note: Hyphen "-" indicates that information is not provided.

Table 4.6 Rates of non-response by survey mode. Annual average 2009

Country	Survey modes			
	CAPI	CATI	PAPI	POSTAL
BE	26.3		27.1	
BG			16.3	
CZ	20.9			
DK	57.7	33.7		
DE	-	-		-
EE	38.6			
IE	17.8			
EL			-	
ES	20.9	7.9		
FR	-	-		
IT	17.9	7.5		
CY	2.3	4.0		
LV	32.6	18.7		
LT	20.3	14.7		
LU		68.1		

Country	Survey modes			
	CAPI	CATI	PAPI	POSTAL
HU		-	-	
MT			21.1	
NL	40.7	7.1		
AT	-	-		
PL	-	-	-	
PT	14.9			
RO			5.5	
SI	30.3	13.4		
SK			6.6	
FI		20.1		
SE		20.5		
UK	-	-		
IS		18.7		
NO		13.6		
CH		25.8		
HR			19.9	
MK			10.0	
TR	13.4			

Note: Hyphen "-" indicates that information is not provided. Blank indicates that that survey mod is not in use in that country.
¹ 1st wave only.

Table 4.7 Total and reason-specific non-response rates. Annual average 2009

Country	Non response rate (%)	Refusals (%)	Non-contacts (%)	Other reasons(%)
BE	26.9	2.9	10.5	13.5
BG	16.3	4.5	10.7	1.0
CZ	20.9	15.7	5.1	0.1
DK	42.1	26.9	10.7	4.6
DE	3.0	-	-	-
EE	39.2	15.1	22.3	1.8
IE	16.9	4.1	4.4	8.3
EL	13.2	3.7	9.5	na
ES	16.1	6.6	9.5	0.0
FR	16.5	4.3	8.6	3.6
IT	13.0	3.7	6.1	3.2
CY	3.7	2.9	0.5	0.3
LV	28.9	12.3	13.5	3.1
LT	16.4	7.3	7.8	1.3
LU	68.1	42.2	24.4	1.4
HU	15.0	4.5	9.3	1.1
MT	21.1	1.8	19.3	-
NL	18.0	8.6	5.1	4.5
AT	6.8	0.3	6.5	-
PL	25.7	16.3	7.6	1.8
PT	14.9	3.9	8.5	2.4
RO	5.5	1.2	2.1	2.2
SI	19.5	11.1	2.0	6.4
SK	6.6	4.6	0.3	1.7
FI	20.1	13.2	6.5	0.5
SE	20.5	9.2	10.7	0.6
UK	35.1	25.4	9.7	-
IS	18.7	6.9	10.0	1.8
NO	13.0	2.8	8.1	2.3
CH	25.8	6.9	15.7	3.2
HR	19.9	10.6	2.2	7.1
MK	10.0	5.0	4.1	0.9
TR	13.4	0.2	8.4	4.8

Note: Hyphen "-" indicates that information is not provided.

5 Timeliness and punctuality

The *timeliness* of statistical outputs is the length of time between the event or phenomenon they describe and their availability.

Punctuality is the time lag between the release date of data and the target date on which they were scheduled for release as announced in an official release calendar, 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 are in the first two months after the end of the quarter.

In 2009, the release of EU-LFS data was 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 Eurostat¹³.

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 2009 – quarterly LFS only¹

Number of calendar days from end of reference period	Number of countries			
	2008	2009		
	All	All	EU-27	Euro area
First release nationally				
<31	6	4	3	2
31-60	7	8	6	1
61-90	8	9	8	7
91+	7	7	6	3
Annual only or no publication ²	2	2	2	2
Not known	2	2	2	1
Total	32	32	27	16
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	68	69	72	77
Transmission to Eurostat				
<31	0	1	1	1
31-60	2	1	1	1
61-90	26	26	23	12
91+	4	4	2	2
Total	32	32	27	16
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	95	81	76	75
Eurostat's dissemination of national data (web site)				
<31	0	0	0	0
31-60	1	1	1	1
61-90	16	19	17	9
91+	15	12	9	6
Total	32	32	27	16
<i>Average number of calendar days</i>	107	92	86	85

¹ I.e. not incl. Switzerland.

² Luxembourg and Germany

¹³ Starting from 2010, a release calendar has been introduced for the dissemination of the EU-LFS based main indicators.

6 Accessibility and clarity

Accessibility and clarity refer to the simplicity and ease with which users can access statistics, with the appropriate user information and assistance: a global context which finally enables them to make optimum use of the statistics.

In 2009 Eurostat published the quarterly results in the series *Statistics in Focus* and annual ones 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 detailed, constantly updated main results from the EU-LFS.

All data on the website are supplemented by meta-data in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS), giving basic information on the background and a summary of the methodology. More detailed information can be found at the EU-LFS main page (http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/).

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

Starting from 1st April 2011, researchers may get anonymised datasets containing microdata free of charge, if certain conditions are fulfilled. Data from all Member States and from Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are available in this format.

7 Comparability

Comparability refers to statistical outputs comprising the same data items (say employment data) but for different reference periods, regions or other domains, where the aim is to combine them to make comparisons over time, or across regions, or across other domains. It can be said 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

Table 7.1 summarizes the situation as regards the availability of quarterly microdata and the uniform spreading of the sample over the whole year.

Table 7.1 Availability of micro-data from the EU-LFS¹

Country	Quarter 2 micro-data from:	Quarterly micro-data from:	Sample evenly spread over reference weeks from:	Remarks
BE	1983	1999	1999	1983-1998: One week in the second quarter 2000-2002: One week per quarter
BG	2000	2000	2003	2003-2007: Uniformly spread over the first 12 weeks of each quarter 2008+ Uniformly spread over all the 13 weeks of each 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
EE	1997	2000	2000	1997-1999: All weeks in 2nd quarter not uniformly spread

Country	Quarter 2 micro-data from:	Quarterly micro-data from:	Sample evenly spread over reference weeks from:	Remarks
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	2007q1	2003	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 2000+: all weeks surveyed, not uniformly spread
AT	1995	2003	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 st and 2 nd quarter. 1992-1997: More than one week per quarter, not uniformly spread
RO	1997	1999	1998	1998-2004: Most or all weeks of the quarter, not evenly spread 2005: Uniformly spread over any 12 weeks of each quarter 2006+: Uniformly spread over all weeks of each quarter
SI	1996	1999	2002	1996-2005: All or most weeks surveyed, not uniformly spread. From 1996 to 2001, in the Eurostat files all records of a quarter attributed to a single week 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 2 nd q onwards. One reference week per month. 2000+: Quarterly data. Continuous survey. Evenly 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 the second quarter (weeks 14 to 17)
UK	1983	1999q2	1992	1992-2006: Seasonal quarters
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.
HR	2002	2007q1	2007q1	2002-2006: Half-year results, one reference week per month
MK	-	2006q1	2006q1	
TR	-	2006	-	Only one week per month covered

¹ The table reflects the actual data availability in the databases of Eurostat in August 2010. National surveys may, e.g., have started producing quarterly results while only spring results were delivered to Eurostat.

Every year, a certain number of changes are introduced in some national LFSs, to take into account changes introduced at European level, to better align the national surveys to the already existing EU regulations or methodological guidelines, or to take into account national needs. These changes can concern the conceptual level (i.e. concepts and definitions used by the LFS, the survey coverage, i.e. the target population, the legislation, the classifications used, the geographical boundaries) or the measurement level (i.e. the sampling frame, the sample design, the rotation pattern, the questionnaire, the instructions to interviewers, the survey modes, the weighting scheme, the use of auxiliary information).

Table 7.2 reports the changes to the national labour force surveys introduced in 2009 by the participating countries. Although it is reasonable to think that such changes will introduce some discontinuity in the time-series, an assessment of their impact is seldom available.

Table 7.2 Improvements or changes compared to previous year

Country	Change	Impact of the changes on the statistics
Changes to sampling frame, sample design or target population		
IE	New Sample introduced Q1 2009	
EL	New primary sampling units were selected and new sampling frames were compiled for the 4/6 of the sample. The update of the sample will be completed by the 2nd quarter 2010	
ES	The sample size was increased by 234 primary sampling units in NUTS2 "Galicia"	
FR	A new sampling frame is used to increase the size of the sample	
Changes to questionnaire or national explanatory notes		
BE	Since 2009 the questionnaire has to be read literal by the interviewer Start and finishing time has to be noted	
BG	Variable INDECILE introduced in 2009	
DK	HWUSUAL: primary input changed from "normal hours" to "contractual hours"	
DE	Respondents registered at the public employment office, but not looking for employment, not classified as job seekers since 2009 Unemployment Respondents registered at the public employment office, but not looking for employment, not classified as job seekers since 2009	
EE	EDUCSTAT: Code 3 "Person in regular education but on holiday" included INCDECIL: since 2009 earning bands are proposed if the exact value is not given	
EL	Questions on full-time/part-time job, on permanent/temporary employment, on job search have been split in two, asking the reasons in separate questions. Four answer categories added to the question on participation to non-formal education	
IT	A number of national questions have been slightly changed in the wording to better align to the EU-LFS explanatory notes. These are: STAPRO, STAPRO2J, STAPROPR, AVAILBLE, INCDECIL, METHODDA, METHODE, METHODDF, METHODDM, SEEKWORK, REGISTER, EDUCSTAT, COURATT, COURWORH	
LV	Wording improvement for some questions Improvement of instructions for interviewers	
LT	A few questions wording changed according to Eurostat recommendations Improvement of instructions for interviewers	
AT	HWOVERPU: unpaid overtime asked from 2009 onwards (before calculated from total and paid overtime hours) HOURREAS: reasons for working MORE hours than usual not asked from 2009 onwards - the three codes can be derived from other variables	
PL	More precise specification of the reference periods, including the one hour criterion in the question concerning performing work in the reference week	

Country	Change	Impact of the changes on the statistics
RO	Question on jobs search method - previously asked as a multiple answer question, was split in a sequence of questions (in principle, one for each method)	
SK	Some codes and filters for some variables corrected HATLEVEL: implementation of new fields to introduce the 3rd digit INCDECIL: implementation of the new variable	
FI	Variables INDECIL, REG3DW, REG3D1Y and REG3D introduced in 2009 Variable EDUCFIELD included as part of the AHM 2009	
MK	Several questions add to improve the data and to collect more information from the surveyed persons Question added for the identification persons with minor jobs Instructions for the interviewers improved	
TR	Wording of question on job search changed to better align to the 12 principles in Commission Regulation 1897/2000 Usual and actual hours criteria better explained in the national explanatory notes in line with the 18th ICLS Resolution WISHMORE and WAYMORE re-designed in the national questionnaire	
Changes to weighting schemes		
TR	From 2009 Q1 new population projections are used for weighting. Back revisions were also completed from 2005.	
Other changes		
LV	Imputation of wages was made in case neither exact wage nor wage band was indicated by respondents, using information from the State Revenue Service	
TR	Definition for resident population clarified considering the UNECE/EUROSTAT recommendations for the Census 2011 (mainly including the treatment of students and persons working outside their residence) FOET started to be used instead of national classification	

7.2 Comparability over space

A common framework regulation¹⁴, common variable definition¹⁵, common explanatory notes¹⁶ and common regulation¹⁷ 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.

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

Over the last years, Eurostat has commissioned several reports to examine the degree to which the participating countries adhere to the common set of definitions. The most recent such study, carried out on the 2008 questionnaires, has been recently finalised. As a general conclusion it emerges that, in spite of the progress regarding the adherence to the

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98.

¹⁵ Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008.

¹⁶ EU Labour Force Survey Explanatory Notes, available at: http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/lfs_main/lfsuserguide/EULFS_UserGuide_2011_Annex.pdf.

¹⁷ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

EU regulations, principles and guidelines (i.e. the explanatory notes), the national questionnaires still largely differ even in the collection of key variables such as WSTATOR (*Labour status in the reference week*). Hence, even if labour market statistics are subject to quite comprehensive international definitions, principles and guidelines, which make it one of the most harmonised statistical domains not only in Europe but worldwide, there is still room for further improvement of cross-country comparability¹⁸.

This applies also to the new variable INCDECIL on income deciles, introduced as mandatory in 2009. At present, the comparability of this variable is still low, which is due to several elements: some countries ask information on monthly pay directly to the interviewees, while others retrieve it from national registers. Some countries ask the exact amounts while other ones collect the information in earning bands. Some countries define the deciles based on external sources, while others do it on the basis of the collected data. Some countries collect net, others gross income. Finally, the treatment of bonuses, allowances and fringe benefits is likely not fully homogeneous across countries. Work is ongoing to reduce these disparities and improve the comparability of the variable.

8 Coherence

The coherence of two or more statistical outputs refers to the degree to which the statistical processes by which they were generated used the same concepts - classifications, definitions, and target populations – and harmonized methods. Coherent statistical outputs have the potential to be validly combined and used jointly. It is, however, generally easier to show cases of incoherence than to prove coherence. The following sections assess coherence with similar data from two other sources, the population statistics and the employment data from national accounts. Other comparisons are possible, such as with employment data from the Structural Business Statistics 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, including those living in collective households (e.g. conscripts).
- Sometimes the rules for defining the usual resident population differ in the LFS from the rules in population statistics.

¹⁸ A Task Force coordinated by Eurostat is currently working to identify shortcomings and suggest possible enhancements of the cross-country comparability of the national Labour Force Surveys in the EU.

- Population statistics usually refer to particular dates, e.g. 1st 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 2009

Country	Population 15-64 1/1/2009			LFS annual average 15-64 2009			Relative difference [(L-P)/P*100]		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	334,366.0	167,429.7	166,936.2	330,898.2	165,078.9	165,819.5	-1.0	-1.4	-0.7
BE	7,101.4	3,569.8	3,531.6	7,125.5	3,582.1	3,543.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
BG	5,261.1	2,616.4	2,644.7	5,121.8	2,540.1	2,581.7	-2.6	-2.9	-2.4
CZ	7,431.4	3,756.7	3,674.7	7,431.0	3,760.2	3,670.8	0.0	0.1	-0.1
DK	3,627.9	1,831.0	1,796.9	3,592.1	1,811.4	1,780.7	-1.0	-1.1	-0.9
DE	54,134.2	27,386.1	26,748.1	53,762.5	27,054.5	26,708.0	-0.7	-1.2	-0.2
EE	910.5	438.5	472.0	906.1	434.5	471.7	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1
IE	3,027.1	1,517.7	1,509.4	3,029.4	1,515.9	1,513.6	0.1	-0.1	0.3
EL	7,544.5	3,816.7	3,727.9	7,222.1	3,614.8	3,607.3	-4.3	-5.3	-3.2
ES	31,438.6	15,913.4	15,525.2	31,348.6	15,854.5	15,494.1	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2
FR ¹	40,595.4	20,106.4	20,489.0	39,841.0	19,591.0	20,250.0	-1.9	-2.6	-1.2
IT	39,531.2	19,746.1	19,785.1	39,406.1	19,669.9	19,736.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.2
CY	559.0	278.8	280.2	528.1	259.9	268.1	-5.5	-6.8	-4.3
LV	1,560.1	756.7	803.4	1,560.1	756.7	803.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
LT	2,308.7	1,118.5	1,190.2	2,308.7	1,118.5	1,190.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
LU	336.0	170.4	165.6	329.6	167.1	162.5	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9
HU	6,898.1	3,398.0	3,500.1	6,770.9	3,315.7	3,455.3	-1.8	-2.4	-1.3
MT	289.9	147.5	142.3	292.0	149.0	143.0	0.7	1.0	0.5
NL	11,090.9	5,588.8	5,502.1	10,969.7	5,511.6	5,458.1	-1.1	-1.4	-0.8
AT	5,642.8	2,823.8	2,819.0	5,588.3	2,780.5	2,807.8	-1.0	-1.5	-0.4
PL	27,160.1	13,484.7	13,675.4	26,338.3	12,970.7	13,367.6	-3.0	-3.8	-2.3
PT	7,130.1	3,527.6	3,602.5	7,142.6	3,535.4	3,607.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
RO	15,036.4	7,498.5	7,537.9	15,028.2	7,494.9	7,533.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
SI	1,414.3	727.3	687.0	1,413.9	726.7	687.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0
SK	3,921.9	1,957.5	1,964.4	3,916.6	1,954.2	1,962.5	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1
FI	3,543.1	1,791.2	1,751.9	3,527.3	1,773.9	1,753.4	-0.4	-1.0	0.1
SE	6,068.9	3,084.2	2,984.7	6,080.2	3,087.9	2,992.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
UK	40,802.5	20,377.6	20,425.0	40,317.6	20,047.4	20,270.2	-1.2	-1.6	-0.8
IS	215.6	111.1	104.5	203.9	104.5	99.3	-5.4	-6.0	-5.0
NO	3,182.2	1,623.8	1,558.4	3,189.9	1,624.4	1,565.5	0.2	0.0	0.5
CH	5,245.7	2,638.5	2,607.1	5,239.6	2,637.3	2,602.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.2
HR	2,973.2	1,484.4	1,488.8	2,735.6	1,346.0	1,389.6	-8.0	-9.3	-6.7
MK	1,442.1	730.5	711.6	1,439.4	728.9	710.5	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
TR	47,835.1	24,114.7	23,720.4	45,988.3	22,821	23,167.3	-3.9	-5.4	-2.3

¹ Not including the overseas departments of France.
Source: Eurostat website, 5 May 2011.

8.2 Coherence with other employment estimates

Coherence with National Accounts

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). 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 type of 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 the National Accounts 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. This emerges from table 8.2, where the data are grouped on the basis of the importance of the LFS in the production of the National accounts data. For four countries, however, the opposite is true.

It should, however, be recognised that the coverage, measurement and conceptual differences mentioned above only account for 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 nine participating countries shown in table 8.2. Germany, France and Italy are responsible for the bulk of the absolute difference between the National Accounts estimates and the LFS, while in relative terms Greece and Italy show the highest discrepancies, with a distance of more than 5%¹⁹.

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 8.2 also compares the data on employment growth in 2009. The results show that both sources are broadly comparable with relation to the direction of the employment growth for the EU-27 and that the differences are mostly marked in the levels of the growth figures.

The reasons for the disparities, either in levels or in the direction of the employment growth are not fully known. In general, the actual sources of incoherence are quite diverse across countries. The issue of incoherence between the LFS and national accounts employment estimates has recently been addressed by a Eurostat-coordinated Task Force on the Quality of the Labour Force Survey. By the use of reconciliation tables, a range of potential sources of incoherence on the LFS side was identified, either related to a biased measurement of specific areas of employment, such as marginal employment, employment in black labour market activities, employment in private households, illegal immigrants, or emerging from data collection, as in the case of non-response and proxy interviews. 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). When changes between periods are small, this may result in diverging trends between the national accounts' and the LFS' figures, just because for the LFS the changes are within the margin of error. As regards national accounts, some indicative reasons for incoherence can 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; the national accounts approach, by comparing and combining different sources, is also more prone than LFS to identify and address underreporting or systematic biases.

¹⁹ Data for Bulgaria, which usually shows the largest relative gap between LFS and NA data, are not available for 2009.

Table 8.2 Employment (national concept) 2009 in two different datasets on the Eurostat website. Levels and growth rates

Country	2009 levels				2008-2009 growth rates		
	Labour force survey ¹ (x1000)	National accounts ² (x1000)	LFS-NA (x1000)	(LFS-NA)/NA *100 (%)	Labour force survey ¹ (%)	National accounts ² (%)	LFS-NA p.p.
1	Countries using LFS as their only source for employment in national accounts. LFS is only adjusted for conceptual alignment to ESA95						
CY	381.3	393.0	-11.7	-3.0	-0.4	1.4	-1.8
IE	1,917.0	1,926.7	-9.7	-0.5	-8.8	-8.2	-0.6
EE	595.8	598.0	-2.2	-0.4	-9.2	-9.2	0.0
UK	28,922.7	28,978.0	-55.3	-0.2	-1.5	-1.6	0.1
LT	1,415.9	1,416.9	-1.0	-0.1	-6.8	-6.9	0.1
HU	3,781.8	3,781.9	-0.1	0.0	-2.5	-2.5	0.0
2	Countries using mainly LFS, but replacing it in a few industries (or labour status), on a case-by-case basis						
BG	3,253.6	3,725.0	-471.4	-12.7	-3.2	-2.9	-0.3
EL	4,508.7	4,757.7	-249.0	-5.2	-1.1	-0.7	-0.4
RO	9,243.5	9,520.6	-277.1	-2.9	-1.3	-1.5	0.2
LV	983.1	986.6	-3.5	-0.4	-12.6	-12.7	0.1
3	Countries not using LFS, or making minimal use of it						
CZ	4,934.3	5,144.1	-209.8	-4.1	-1.4	-0.8	-0.6
FR ³	25,690.6	26,635.0	-944.4	-3.5	-0.9	-1.2	0.3
BE	4,420.7	4,517.0	-96.3	-2.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3
IS	166.2	167.8	-1.6	-1.0	-6.2	-6.0	-0.2
LU	217.2	216.1	1.1	0.5	7.3	1.0	6.3
SI	980.7	983.7	-3.0	-0.3	-1.5	-1.4	-0.1
PL	15,868.0	15,868.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0
4	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:						
	4a Countries giving precedence to labour supply sources (i.e. LFS)						
IT	23,025.0	24,616.0	-1 591.0	-6.5	-1.6	-1.7	0.1
NO	2,499.5	2,606.0	-106.5	-4.1	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1
ES	18,888.0	19,165.7	-277.7	-1.4	-6.8	-6.7	-0.1
SE	4,499.3	4,473.5	25.8	0.6	-2.0	-2.0	0.0
FI	2,457.3	2,462.8	-5.5	-0.2	-2.9	-3.5	0.6
SK	2,366.3	2,365.8	0.5	0.0	-2.8	-2.8	0.0
PT	5,054.1	5,054.1	0.0	0.0	-2.8	-2.8	0.0
CH	4,268.0	4,268.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.0
HR	1,605.3	-	-	-	-1.8	-	-
	4b Countries not giving precedence to any labour side						
DE	38,796.7	40,171.0	-1 374.3	-3.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
AT	4,077.7	-	-	-	-0.3	-	-
	4c Countries giving precedence to labour demand sources (i.e. employment registers and/or enterprise surveys)						
MK	629.9	551.1	78.8	14.3	3.4	2.5	0.9
MT	161.8	163.3	-1.5	-0.9	1.1	-0.3	1.4
DK	2,776.0	2,801.0	-25.0	-0.9	-2.6	-2.9	0.3
NL	8,596.1	8,620.6	-24.5	-0.3	0.0	-1.1	1.1

¹ Labour Force Survey, Annual averages (lfsi_emp_a, at:

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfsi_emp_a&lang=en). ² National Accounts employment data, national concept (nama_aux_pem, at: http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=nama_aux_pem&lang=en).

³ The National Accounts estimates include the French overseas departments (DOM), which are not covered by the LFS.

Hyphen "-" indicates that information is not provided

Source: Eurostat, documentation as available on 21/07/2011.

Coherence with Business Statistics

Business statistics, whether structural business statistics (SBS) or short-term business statistics (STS), are focused on production-related variables like output, turnover or value added, but they also produce some estimates of employment. These estimates may be and frequently are different from LFS. The main reasons for the differences are:

- *Different scope*: business surveys gather information on production units operating in the territory whereas LFS gathers information on people living in the country. Cross-border workers, or seasonal workers, are correspondingly recorded in different countries.
- *Different coverage*: the LFS does not collect information for people living in collective households (business statistics do not exclude them). The LFS covers all economic activities and all firm sizes, whereas business statistics typically do not gather information on agriculture or some service activities. In addition, business registers used to compile business statistics may not include small enterprises below a certain threshold or may leave out employment not included in the payroll or in the accounting books such as family workers.
- *Different units*: business surveys estimate the number of jobs whereas LFS counts jobholders. Business surveys rarely have access to jobholders' features like age, gender, etc. for which LFS is the only source.

9 Regional labour market statistics

9.1 Introduction

The quality report for the EU-LFS has been combined with the regional labour market statistics' into a common standard quality report as a joint effort of the Eurostat units F2-Labour market statistics and E4 - Regional statistics and geographical information. The first eight sections have been devoted to the national part of the quality assessment of LFS. This ninth and last section is devoted to the regional labour market statistics.

The EU-LFS is designed to give accurate quarterly information at national level and annual information at NUTS 2 regional level. Microdata including the NUTS 2 level codes are provided by all the participating countries with a good degree of geographical comparability, which allows the production and dissemination of a wide set of comparable indicators. Eight countries, namely Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia comprise a single NUTS 2 region, i.e. the national data also represent the NUTS 2 results (as well as NUTS 1 results).

For the purposes of regional statistics as well as for monitoring the progress towards regional cohesion, data at NUTS 3 level are also needed. At present the transmission of data at NUTS 3 level has no legal basis and the figures are provided by the participating countries on a voluntary basis.

The compilation of NUTS 2 figures is well specified in the EU-LFS. As this is not the case for the NUTS 3, the sources and compilation methods for this dataset need to be described in detail.

9.2 Sources for NUTS 3 level labour market statistics

Traditionally, NUTS 3 level data were sent to Eurostat in the form of indicators computed directly by the countries. In recent years Eurostat has encouraged the participating countries to provide NUTS 3 codes in the LFS microdata, thus giving a clear indication about the LFS being the favorite source.

At present, twenty Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and Norway send the NUTS 3 codes with the LFS microdata. Fifteen of these countries, namely, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom, transmit tables of indicators in addition to the LFS microdata. Four countries, Germany, Poland, Romania and Slovenia, only transmit tables of indicators. For most countries the only source is the LFS, and the aggregated tables are based on the LFS results. For Denmark, Germany, France²⁰, the Netherlands and Austria, instead, the tables are based on other reliable sources (registers, small area estimation, etc.) or a combination of LFS and other sources. This means that for Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Austria different NUTS 3 level data are produced which are not necessarily consistent.

For two Member States, Cyprus and Luxembourg, the NUTS 3 level does not differ from the NUTS 1 and the NUTS 2 level.

Portugal is the only Member State not providing any NUTS 3 level data. Regarding EFTA and Candidate countries, no data are available for Iceland, Switzerland, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The future of the NUTS 3 data compilation is currently under discussion, as some changes are needed with a double aim: adapting the process to the data availability and trying to minimize the burden to countries.

Due to the non-sampling errors and the combined use of LFS data with the information from registers, it is very difficult to assess the accuracy at NUTS 3 level according to scientific standards.

9.3 Coefficient of variation for NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 regions for the unemployment rate

The coefficients of variation for each NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 region for both, the employment and unemployment rate are provided to Eurostat directly by the countries.

This report focuses on the coefficients of variation for the unemployment rate, which provide information about the accuracy of the most prominent labour market indicator at regional level.

Table 9.1 presents a summary of the coefficients of variation for the unemployment rate, for countries sending LFS-based NUTS 3 level data, reporting the lowest and the highest values for a NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 region in each country.

²⁰ Employment data are still missing for France. Regarding age groups, only 15-max age group is provided. Regarding sex, only totals are provided.

Table 9.1 Coefficient of variation (CV) for the unemployment rate, 2009

Countries	CV of regional (NUTS 2) annual aggregates (%)		CV of regional (NUTS 3) annual aggregates (%)	
	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest
BE	5.4	8.7	N.A.	N.A.
BG	5.8	9.8	7.5	26.3
CZ	4.8	9.6	4.9	9.6
DK	3.6	5.9	N.A.	N.A.
DE	2.6	11.5	N.A.	N.A.
EE	N.A.	N.A.	6.5	10.6
IE	2.6	3.6	4.3	8.2
EL	3.4	11.5	3.4	76.6
ES	1.5	15.7	2.9	15.8
FR	-	-	N.A.	N.A.
IT	3.0	10.0	4.0	20.8
CY	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LV	N.A.	N.A.	4.5	5.8
LT	N.A.	N.A.	7.2	21.5
LU	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
HU	4.2	5.8	-	-
MT	N.A.	N.A.	3.7	11.6
NL	4.2	16.4	6.6	30.5
AT	5.3	8.8	N.A.	N.A.
PL	5.5	9.1	8.5	23.8
PT	3.7	10.7	N.A.	N.A.
RO	7.1	13.1	-	-
SI	4.3	5.0	N.A.	N.A.
SK	2.1	6.0	2.4	6.1
FI	2.4	19.5	3.5	19.5
SE	2.7	6.1	2.9	12.2
UK	3.2	15.5	-	-
IS	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NO	4.9	8.3	N.A.	N.A.
CH	6.3	12.1	N.A.	N.A.
HR	5.1	7.8	N.A.	N.A.
MK	N.A.	N.A.	4.3	8.8
TR	2.3	17.1	N.A.	N.A.

Note: N.A. 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 does not deliver NUTS 3 level employment and unemployment data, or the source is not the LFS. Hyphen "-" indicates that no information on the regional CV is supplied.

The EU-LFS is designed to provide reliable estimates on the NUTS 2 level of aggregation, provided that the population of the region in question exceeds 300,000 inhabitants. The coefficients of variation given in table 9.1 are nevertheless provided for regions which have a small population and hence a small sample size. In the EU-27, 13 out of 252 NUTS 2 regions have a population below 300,000. This will tend to inflate the CVs and the range of CVs.

As expected, the CVs for the NUTS 3 regions are higher and have a wider range than for the NUTS 2 ones. Of the sixteen countries providing CVs on NUTS 3 level, nine have CVs up to 15% and two more have all the regional CVs up to 20%. When counting the regions,

70% of the 458 NUTS 3 regions for which data are available have CV less than 15% and 89% less than 20%.

9.4 Possible developments

Given the growing demand for comparable regional data, Eurostat started encouraging countries to provide NUTS 3 codes in LFS microdata. The number of countries providing this information is increasing year after year. Although some countries do not transmit NUTS 3 codes yet, efforts will continue in order to obtain coverage as wide as possible. The idea is that in the future only countries using sources different from the LFS deliver aggregated tables.

As for the use of the NUTS 3 data, Eurostat will continue to analyze and use them to calculate different indicators in the context of regional cohesion policies. Concerning dissemination, the plan is to release indicators at an aggregated level, grouping NUTS 3 regions in different ways.

Annex: Item non-response compared to the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 and clarifications provided by Member States

(Source: Joint Standard Quality Report for Labour Force Survey and Regional Labour Market Statistics – Annual quality reports 2009)

Quarterly data

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
BE	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	91.6	91.7	91.9	91.6	HWWISH is only asked to persons who declared to wish to work more.
		Col_116	WANTWORK	42.6	42.3	43.7	42.6	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.
		Col_195	INTWAVE	C	C	C	C	One wave in 2009
BG	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	40.0	41.2	41.9	45.1	Respondents meet difficulties to answer the question. About a third of non responded person were working without a labour contract.
		Col_063/64	HWACTUAL	0.0	0.0	10.3	0.0	Problems to obtain data from self employed persons, especially in agriculture and trade.
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	15.4	21.7	19.1	15.1	Respondents meet difficulties to answer the question, especially self-employed. More than a half of non responded persons were self-employed.
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables METHODODA to METHODDI are considered as active methods..
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables METHODODA to METHODDI are considered as active methods.
CZ	compulsory	Col_123	EDUCSTAT	14.6	14.4	14.4	14.4	Only persons aged 15-69
DK	compulsory	Col_023	PROXY	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.6	In the Danish LFS the variable covers only population 15-74.
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	.	12.3	17.7	24.1	
		Col_084	EXISTPR	26.1	26.6	26.6	24.9	In the Danish LFS the variable covers only population 15-74.
		Col_123	EDUCSTAT	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.6	In the Danish LFS the variable covers only population 15-74.
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK	29.9	29.9	29.5	29.4	In the Danish LFS the variable covers only population 15-74.
DE	compulsory	Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	.	C	.	The questions on job search are merged into one multiple-choice question. For that reason non-response for a single search method can't be calculated.

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	.	.	.	The questions on job search are merged into one multiple-choice question. For that reason non-response for a single search method can't be calculated.
		Col_195	INTWAVE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable is not filled because there are no intra-annual waves in the German LFS.
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable is not filled in 2009 for legal reasons.
EE	compulsory	Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
IE	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	.	12.3	10.4	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	.	.	12.4	10.4	
		Col_085/88	YEARPR	14.6	14.1	13.6	13.9	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	.	.	.	11.7	
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	
EL	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	It is quite rare the incidence of persons residing in Greece and working abroad. Usually there is a labour force "input" from bordering countries.
ES	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	12.2	12.6	11.9	13.4	Respondent 'don't know'
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	84.5	84.6	85.3	84.7	Most of the blanks come from people that don't wish to work more/less hours (perhaps the filter for this variable should be changed or add proper categories). Other option is to code the number of hours HWWISH from HWUSUAL.
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	No 'other' active method in the survey
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	.	C	C	C	No 'other' active method in the survey
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	14.2	14.5	15.1	15.6	People aged 15.
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	31.4	32.2	40.8	30.9	People aged 15 plus 'don't know' number of hours
FR	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	The question is not included in the questionnaire.
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	89.9	90.2	91.1	90.2	The individuals who did not have any overtime during the reference week were treated as missing values instead of assigned with a zero; this will be corrected the next time we will send the data to Eurostat
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	82.9	83.7	83.3	83.8	The persons who do not wish any change in their hours were treated as missing values; they will be assigned their usual worked hours the next time we send the data to Eurostat
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	24.5	25.9	29.4	27.3	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	.	.	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013
		113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	.	.	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013
		Col_116	WANTWORK	31.6	31.6	31.5	30.7	The question is not asked for people between 65 and 75; it will be included for them in the new questionnaire in 2013
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK	.	.	10.0	10.2	This is a mistake which will be corrected.
IT	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	.	.	17.3	.	Questions on WISHMORE-HWWISH are referred to the wish of working more than the actual number of hours. Most of the item non-responses are due to persons that did not want to work at all in the reference week (code "0" is not available)
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	18.5	19.9	19.6	16.8	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	23.1	21.6	20.7	19.4	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee
CY	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	.	C	.	.	
		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 of CY
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	C	C	.	C	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	C	.	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	C	
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	.	C	.	.	
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	.	.	.	
LV	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	.	C	.	In case of Latvia NUTS 2=NUTS 1, therefore there is used code 00 for whole country.
		Col_084	EXISTPR	13.6	13.7	13.7	12.5	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.24-5).
LT	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	All records have two values: 00 or 99 because NUTS2 level is all country. Statistics Lithuania collects statistics on NUTS 3 level for this variable.
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	43.9	0.8	1.0	0.6	Statistics is available. Some respondents prefer not to tell the month in order not to tell wrong information. From second quarter non-response was lower because additional rules was written in inclusion program (for example: if person started working before two years or less, reminding rule for interviewers

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	24.7	.	.	.	appears, that they should ask the month in which person started working).
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	3.7	.	17.9	.	Statistics is available. Some respondents prefer not to tell the month in order not to tell wrong information. From second quarter non-response was lower because additional rules was written in inclusion program (for example: if person was not working two years or less, reminding rule for interviewers appears, that they should ask the month in which person worked last time).
LU	compulsory	Col_195	INTWAVE	C	C	C	C	Only 1 wave in 2009
HU	compulsory	Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	.	12.1	17.7	23.0	EU Filter: REFYEAR – YSTARTWK<=2 HUFILTER: SUM (REFYEAR– YSTARTWK<2) or (SUM(REFYEAR– YSTARTWK=2) and (REFMONTH<=MSTARTWK))
		Col_084	EXISTPR	15.6	15.7	15.9	16.1	EU Filter: WSTATOR 3-5. HU Questionnaire: 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	.	.	15.4	20.7	EU Filter: REFYEAR – YEARPR<=2 HU Questionnaire: Q1: When did you last have a regular job/business? Year to be given by respondent. Q2: If the last job/business terminated not more than two years ago from the end of last week, then in which month? Month to be given by respondent
MT	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	.	.	.	C	All persons were working in Malta.
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	National questionnaire excludes the collection of region of place of work for persons working outside the country
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	16.7	26.1	20.4	10.9	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	.	C	.	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not included in the questionnaire

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
NL	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	11.3	11.0	10.8	10.1	
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	11.3	11.0	10.8	10.1	
		Col_043/46	YSTARTWK	19.8	19.7	19.5	19.1	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	74.3	72.3	69.5	70.6	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	.	.	10.2	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	.	.	.	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	.	C	C	
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	.	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	.	.	11.4	.	
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	10.0	.	.	.	
PL	compulsory	Col_123	EDUCSTAT	18.7	18.7	19.2	19.0	We didn't ask persons aged 65 years and more. Since the first quarter of 2010 persons aged 65 years and more have been included in this variable.
		Col_128	COURATT	18.7	18.7	19.2	19.0	We didn't ask persons aged 65 years and more. Since the first quarter of 2010 persons aged 65 years and more have been included in this variable.
PT	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	40.0	38.2	40.2	41.8	These situations are "de facto" "non response".
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	28.7	26.8	26.2	31.2	The "non response" is 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	32.5	29.4	29.9	34.6	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	.	.	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	C	.	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	
RO	compulsory	Col_069/70	HOURREAS	17.2	16.9	17.7	17.3	
SI	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	.	C	C	C	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	88.7	88.7	89.8	87.1	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	93.5	93.9	94.3	93.1	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	84.9	81.6	80.2	81.4	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	C	.	.	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	.	.	.	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	.	

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
SK	compulsory	Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	12.9	.	.	.	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job (no preference between self-employed, employee) causes higher value of the non-response rate.
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	.	10.9	11.8	12.4	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job (no preference between self-employed, employee) causes higher value of the non-response rate.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	.	C	C	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	.	C	C	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
		Col_116	WANTWORK	17.1	17.3	15.7	16.1	Item was evaluated, from 2010 amendment
FI	compulsory	Col_084	EXISTPR	10.6	10.5	.	.	The target group for variable EXISTPR is reference persons aged 15 to 74. This group has weights COEFFY and COEFFQ. Persons 75 or older have not been interviewed, neither household panel.
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	19.3	18.8	.	.	Mistake on the questionnaire: if REFYEAR - YEARPR=2 then MONTHPR was not asked.
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	.	C	C	.	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods has been used.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	.	NA
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	.	NA
SE	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C	C	.	.	No household data has yet been sent from Sweden. The household supplement for the Swedish LFS is added to the 8th rotation where all household members are included in the sample. Persons aged 15-74 years of age are interviewed with regard to the labour market.
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	14.3	13.7	13.3	16.5	Respondents do not always remember start and end of work
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	20.7	30.9	10.0	11.8	High item non response. People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	.	C	C	Not a relevant variable in Sweden
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	Not a relevant variable in Sweden
UK	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	50.7	50.4	47.0	49.0	There is a high-level of non-response due to a relatively proportion of the employed sample working in a temporary job in the reference week.

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	90.3	90.2	90.1	89.9	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	84.7	84.1	86.1	84.8	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	90.1	89.8	89.4	89.6	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_109 - 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_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	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	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
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	.	.	14.0	.	Our data shows there is consistency between all quarters.
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	78.2	78.9	79.3	77.2	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 how many hours of instruction that have attended in total
		Col_137/138	HATLEVEL	17.2	17.4	17.4	17.3	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-applicable
IS	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C	.	.	C	
		Col_025/26	NOWKREAS	21.1	12.3	.	.	
		Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	.	C	
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	.	C	

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	100.0	100.0	74.1	68.5	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	100.0	100.0	73.9	68.1	
		Col_069/70	HOURREAS	13.6	11.3	12.8	14.5	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	.	10.0	.	.	
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA	C	C	C	C	
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	C	C	C	C	
		Col_105 - Employed	METHODC	C	C	C	C	
		Col_106 - Employed	METHODD	C	C	C	C	
		Col_107 - Employed	METHODE	C	C	C	C	
		Col_108 - Employed	METHODF	C	C	C	C	
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG	C	C	C	C	
		Col_109 - Not employed	METHODG	.	C	.	C	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C	C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	C	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	.	C	.	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	C	
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	
		Col_116	WANTWORK	22.8	27.5	26.5	21.3	
		Col_117 - Employed	AVAILBLE	.	.	C	C	
		Col_124	EDUCLEVL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
NO	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	Will be delivered from 2011
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	26.2	30.8	35.1	40.2	High rate of non-response
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	51.1	50.0	46.6	49.9	Persons working in temporary staff recruitment agencies do not have any stop date
		Col_071	WISHMORE	11.5	12.2	12.5	12.8	Due to proxy
		Col_076	LOOKOJ	10.5	11.2	11.8	12.0	Due to proxy
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	.	.	10.6	11.7	High rate of non-response
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	C	C	C	Not an option in Norway
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not an option in Norway
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK	.	10.0	.	.	Due to technical reasons
		Col_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Re-submitted for 2009

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
CH	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	.	100.0	.	.	Will be available from 2010
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	.	100.0	.	.	Will be available from 2010
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	.	100.0	.	.	Not asked when employed; will be available from 2010
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	.	23.4	.	.	Not asked when inactive; will be available from 2010
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	.	100.0	.	.	Not asked when employed; will be available from 2010
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	.	21.2	.	.	Not asked when inactive; will be available from 2010
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	.	C	.	.	Not asked when employed
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	NA for Switzerland
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	.	C	.	.	NA for Switzerland
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	.	100.0	.	.	Will be available from 2010
Col_168	DEGURBA	.	C	.	.	Will be available from 2010		
HR	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	97.4	97.1	96.7	97.1	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	94.1	94.0	94.9	94.9	
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	.	.	12.0	.	
		Col_195	INTWAVE	C	100.0	100.0	C	
MK	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	.	C	C	According to the coding list this variable should be provided the data for persons working in another region on the NUTS level 2. In our country NUTS level 1 and NUTS level 2 represents the whole territory of Republic of Macedonia as one administrative entity
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector. We plan to introduce this variable in the future.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector. We plan to introduce this variable in the future.
		Col_166/167	REGION	C	C	C	C	According to the coding list this variable should be provided the data on the NUTS level 2. In our country NUTS level 1 and NUTS level 2 represents the whole territory of Republic of Macedonia as one administrative entity,
	Col_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Degree of urbanisation. We plan to introduce this variable in the future.	
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	18.4	17.5	17.6	18.0	For this variable we collect the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we didn't have information. In the future we plan to improve this.

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
TR	compulsory	Col_017/18	NATIONAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	According to the 2009 Address Based Population Registration System; 99.8 % of population has Turkish Nationality. So, it is not easy to cover non-nationals with a sample survey.
		Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	.	C	C	C	There are very few people who are working abroad and at the same time considered as household member since Turkey is a very broad country. This may only occur in border cities, but not common. So, this variable is not asked.
		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_073/74	HWWISH	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	This variable was dropped out from the questionnaire in 2009 since it was observed that, results were not reliable. Respondents replied this question as they understand (some give the hours that would like to work in total while others only give the additional hours)
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB	C	C	C	C	For employed people all the methods are not asked in same detail, some of them are grouped looking at the frequency (for example, Public Employment Office and Private Employment Offices are combined in one code). So, while constituting the METHOD variables, there are some blank codes for employed people.
		Col_108 - Employed	METHODF	C	C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	For the moment there is not an external source to be used for this variable.
	optional	Col_021/22_	COUNTRYB	66.3	65.2	62.6	64.6	

(*) C: All records have the same value

Annual data

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
BE	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	29.1	Since 2005 we have in the national questionnaire, for the question "Why do you have a temporary job" included a third category. Beside: 1 cannot find a permanent job. 2. do not want a permanent job we included 3. other reason. No answer concerns persons who answered 'other reason' and who have not a contract covering a period of training (apprentices, trainees, research assistants, etc.) We included the category "other reason" for persons who can find a permanent job but not for the kind of job they want or for persons who want a permanent job but not for every kind of job.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	90.1	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	92.3	(Early) retired persons are asked if they are searching a job. If not, they are not asked if they want a job. So we don't know for these persons if they are available.
BG	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	11.9	Additional response category 'Other' exists to the corresponding question in the national LFS questionnaire, which is transcoded to 'Blank' in TEMPREAS. The necessary change will be made In 2011 questionnaire
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	17.5	This figure refers to only 7 cases in the file. Persons employed but temporary absent from work (e.g. on parental leave) - cases with SIGNISAL=3, were not asked this question due to the limitation of paper questionnaire. The decision will depend on the existence of variable SIGNISAL in the future.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	14.4	Persons temporary absent from work and considered as not-employed (e.g. lay-off) were not asked this question in 2009. This problem was solved in 2010 with a small improvement in the questionnaire.
	optional	Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	This variable is not available in BG LFS.
CZ	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	We will send dataset with this variable during this year (imputation).
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
DK	compulsory	Col_142/145	HATYEAR	17.1	Under-coverage of register. Special issues concern Q1, where the register had further problems.
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	10.7	In the Danish LFS the variable covers only population 15-74.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Will be delivered 21 months later
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	Not compulsory
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Not compulsory
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Not compulsory
DE	compulsory	Col_036	SUPVISOR	19.7	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	30.6	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	30.4	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	19.0	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	100.0	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	66.7	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	30.6	
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	13.2	

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	
		Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
IE	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	26.6	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	44.3	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	59.2	
		Col_056	SHIFTWK	68.3	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_057	EVENWK	69.0	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_058	NIGHTWK	69.0	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_059	SATWK	69.0	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_060	SUNWK	69.0	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_075	HOMEWK	69.0	Variable not carried forward correctly can be rectified.
		Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	23.8	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	100.0	This variable is not collected
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	24.0	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	91.1	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	99.2	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	17.3	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	This variable is not collected
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	71.6	
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	This variable is not collected
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	27.0	
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	31.5	
	Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	This variable is not collected	
	Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	18.7		
	Col_152/153	REGION1Y	18.7		
	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Due to the QNHS being a voluntary survey in Ireland, the non-response rate for this variable is high	
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	14.7	
		Col_132	COURPURP	43.4	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	This variable is not collected
		Col_136	COURWORH	17.2	
EL	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	15.3	In the Greek Questionnaire there is the (residual) answer category "Did not specify the reason" (which is converted in "No answer"). It should be tested if the exclusion of this answer category would reduce the non response in this variable
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	10.4	In the Greek Questionnaire there is the (residual) answer category "Did not specify the reason" (which is converted in "No answer"). It should be tested if the exclusion of this answer category would reduce the non response in this variable
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	12.5	Sensitive question, people avoid to give an exact answer about their income

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
ES	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	13.5	In nearly all the cases the respondent declared "other reasons" different from codes 1-4. In some other cases they declared "don't know"
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	19.7	In these cases the respondent declared not knowing if was or not available to start working within two weeks and because of that he/she didn't answered the reasons for not being available to start working within 2 weeks. The question is that all these records suffered and imputation in the editing and imputation process and because of that they fulfil the filter to v53 but they don't have any answer.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	10.6	
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	12.7	People aged 15.
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	12.7	People aged 15.
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Not provided
FR	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	18.4	The question is not asked to persons aged less than 18 since it is mandatory to be more than 18 to be married; yet no imputation was done yet. This mistake will be corrected.
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	98.4	This is a mistake which will be corrected.
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	12.9	Some imputations should be added (persons in training for instance)
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	21.2	Some imputations should be added (civil servants for instance)
		Col_072	WAYMORE	17.4	Some imputations should be added (persons working full-time)
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	100.0	This is a mistake which will be corrected.
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	77.6	Some imputations should be added (persons in training for instance)
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	100.0	This is a mistake which will be corrected.
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	The question is not asked yet; it will be included in the new questionnaire in 2013
		Col_121	REGISTER	10.9	Some imputations should be added (persons aged more than 65)
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	11.0	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	11.0	
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	25.5	
IT	compulsory	Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	12.9	Item non-response are due to people aged less than 15 years old, for which this information is not collected in the national questionnaire
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	12.9	Item non-response are due to people aged less than 15 years old, for which this information is not collected in the national questionnaire
CY	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	C	There are no temporary agencies in CY
LV	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	22.7	In data files, which had sent to Eurostat, all records hadn't the same value. There are various answers cods, not only one and the same in all cases.
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	36.8	In data files, which had sent to Eurostat, all records hadn't the same value. There are various answers cods, not only one and the same in all cases.
LT	compulsory	Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	All records have two values: NUTS2 or 99. Statistics Lithuania collects statistics on NUTS 3 level for this variable.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	30.0	Some respondents do not want to tell their monthly income.

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
LU	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	100.0	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	99.1	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	54.7	
MT	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	56.8	Non-response in col_044/047 affected col_049
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	85.9	Values were left empty due to routing of the questionnaire
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Exact values for income are available in 2009, but INDECIL was left empty due to change in the format of data transmission
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Not included in the questionnaire
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Not included in the questionnaire
NL	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	52.5	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	10.8	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	30.3	
		Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	13.9	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	75.2	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	75.6	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	25.9	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	55.6	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	15.6	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Statistics Netherlands is currently working on a method for the variable INCDECIL. The information for this variable will be derived from register information. The expectation is that the first figures for this variable will be sent to Eurostat in the beginning of 2011.
AT	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	C	Employed who want to work more hours (WISHMORE=1, mainly in the present job) automatically are coded "6"/Other reasons. The filter has been changed and aligned to the Regulation from 2011.
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	The data will be delivered to Eurostat in autumn 2010. From the first quarter 2009 onwards these data are obtained from an administrative source.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	The data will be delivered in time (administrative source).
PL	compulsory	Col_139/141	HATFIELD	11.4	We didn't ask persons aged 65 years and more. Since the first quarter of 2010 persons aged 65 years and more have been included in this variable.
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	18.1	We didn't ask persons aged 65 years and more. Since the first quarter of 2010 persons aged 65 years and more have been included in this variable.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	12.9	A high non-response item is caused by a delicate character of the question.
PT	compulsory	Col_057	EVENWK	100.0	<i>This variable does not exist in our national questionnaire. It's not applied to the national reality.</i>
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	93.5	<i>Due to a mistake in the conversion conditions of col_117. Situation to be corrected</i>
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	32.3	Corresponds to non-response of the employees who did not give an answer to the income variable.
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	<i>The optional variables of the Commission regulation</i>

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	<i>(EC) n° 2104/2002 of 28 November 2002 were not 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.</i>
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
SI	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	12.5	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	27.6	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIAREAS	100.0	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	
	optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
SK	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	17.8	Item was evaluated, very sensitive variable
FI	compulsory	Col_142/145	HATYEAR	10.7	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	15.8	The target group for variable WSTAT1Y is: HHLINK=1 and age=15-74 and INTWAVE=5. This group has weight COEFFY. For this group non-response rate is 3,8. Persons 75 or older have not been interviewed, neither household panel.
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	40.1	The target group for variable COUNTR1Y is: HHLINK=1 and age=15-74 and INTWAVE=5. This group has weight COEFFY. For this group non-response rate is 5,6. Persons 75 or older have not been interviewed, neither household panel.
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	40.1	The target group for variable REGION1Y is: HHLINK=1 and age=15-74 and INTWAVE=5. This group has weight COEFFY. For this group non-response rate is 6,6. Persons 75 or older have not been interviewed, neither household panel.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	10.1	
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Optional variable.
SE	compulsory	Col_003	HHLINK	100.0	The variable is being tested before the delivery to Eurostat.
		Col_004/5	HHSPOU	100.0	The variable is being tested before the delivery to Eurostat.
		Col_006/7	HHFATH	100.0	The variable is being tested before the delivery to Eurostat.
		Col_008/9	HHMOTH	100.0	The variable is being tested before the delivery to Eurostat.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIAREAS	12.4	The variable have been adjusted 2010
		Col_121	REGISTER	19.7	The high non-response is due to employed who doesn't look for another job.
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	28.0	Register variable. Register quality
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	41.6	A new solution of collecting the data was used during 2007. Some smaller improvements has been done since then.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Register variable.
		optional	Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0
	Col_132		COURPURP	100.0	Optional. Will not be collected
	Col_133/134		COURFILD	100.0	Optional. Will not be collected
	Col_136		COURWORH	100.0	Optional. Will not be collected
	UK	compulsory	Col_051	FTPTREAS	51.3
Col_053			TEMPREAS	33.3	Respondents who give "Some other reason" as the reason why they have a temporary job appear as blanks on the dataset

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	98.9	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	10.3		
		Col_060	SUNWK	10.3		
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	68.6	Not everyone who is unavailable to start work in 2 weeks is asked to give a reason why.	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	38.7	Not everyone who is unavailable to start work in 2 weeks is asked to give a reason why.	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	36.5		
		Col_121	REGISTER	C		
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	19.3	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-applicable	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	25.8	A high proportion of respondents refuse to give their income	
		optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	The UK does not produce this variable
			Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	15.4	15 year-olds who are in education appear as blanks for this variable
			Col_132	COURPURP	80.1	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 the main purpose of their course.
			Col_136	COURWORH	86.0	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
		IS	compulsory	Col_003	HHLINK	100.0
Col_004/5	HHSPOU			100.0		
Col_006/7	HHFATH			100.0		
Col_008/9	HHMOTH			100.0		
Col_019/20	YEARESID			30.7		
Col_053	TEMPREAS			35.9		
Col_055	TEMPAGCY			100.0		
Col_093	STAPROPR			68.0		
Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D			12.4		
Col_100	SEEKREAS			24.8		
Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS			100.0		
Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS			79.4		
Col_120	NEEDCARE			37.2		
Col_121	REGISTER			71.3		
Col_147	STAPRO1Y			11.1		
Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y			100.0		
Col_152/153	REGION1Y			100.0		
Col_154/155	INCDECIL			100.0		
optional	Col_133/134		COURFILD	100.0		

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
NO	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	31.7	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	23.3	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	15.2	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	52.4	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	23.6	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	20.2	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	15.6	
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	Will be delivered from 2011
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	100.0	Will be delivered from 2011
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	100.0	Will be delivered from 2011
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	100.0	Will be delivered from 2011
	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Will be delivered from 2011	
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	
		Col_125/127	EDUCFILD	100.0	
		Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
Col_136		COURWORH	100.0		
CH	compulsory	Col_003	HHLINK	100.0	In Switzerland (see derogation in annex II) only one person per household is interviewed. Si this person is automatically the reference person.
		Col_004/5	HHSPOU	100.0	Not possible to fill in this variable because only one person per household is interviewed in Switzerland.
		Col_006/7	HHFATH	100.0	Not possible to fill in this variable because only one person per household is interviewed in Switzerland.
		Col_008/9	HHMOTH	100.0	Not possible to fill in this variable because only one person per household is interviewed in Switzerland.
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	100.0	Will be available from 2010
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	56.4	Will be made up from 2010
		Col_091/92	LEAVREAS	12.4	M?
		Col_093	STAPROPR	12.4	M?
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	12.8	M?
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIRES	C	Not asked when employed; will be available from 2010
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIRES	88.5	M?
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	16.9	M?
		Col_139/141	HATFIELD	10.6	M?
		Col_142/145	HATYEAR	34.6	M?
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	Will be available from 2010
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	100.0	Will be available from 2010
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	100.0	Will be available from 2010
		optional	Col_072	WAYMORE	45.7
	Col_122		MAINSTAT	100.0	Will be available from 2010
	Col_125/127		EDUCFILD	100.0	Not asked
	Col_132		COURPURP	100.0	Will be available from 2010
	Col_133/134		COURFILD	100.0	Not asked
	Col_136		COURWORH	100.0	Not asked

Country	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2009	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
HR	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	78.3	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	82.9	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	13.4	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	13.4	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	18.8	
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
MK	compulsory	Col_019/20	YEARESID	100.0	Years of residence in this country: this variable we plan to introduced next year.
		Col_056	SHIFTWK	68.1	All employees persons answered this variable
		Col_075	HOMEWK	100.0	This variable will be introduced next year.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	97.5	One part of employed who didn't seek for a job we miss to ask "if they want to work" in the next year we will correct this.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	93.8	Not employed who are: pensioners; disabled and persons who have already found a job didn't answer questions for this variable. In the future we will try to clear this.
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	Planned to be introduced in the future.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	100.0	Planned to be introduced in the future.
		Col_121	REGISTER	78.2	For this variable we didn't collected information for persons who are not registered in our employment agency because they can't apply for benefit.
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	17.4	For this variable we collect the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we didn't have information. In the future we plan to improve this.
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	17.4	For this variable we collect the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we didn't have information. In the future we plan to improve this.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	This variable will be introduced in the future
		optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0
	TR	compulsory	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	64.7
Col_055			TEMPAGCY	100.0	This variable is not asked since temporary working agencies are not common in Turkey for the moment.
Col_056			SHIFTWK	100.0	Dropped in 2009 since they were found unsuitable for country situation.
Col_057			EVENWK	100.0	
Col_058			NIGHTWK	100.0	
Col_059			SATWK	100.0	
Col_060			SUNWK	100.0	
Col_118 - Employed			AVAIREAS	96.8	This variable is not available for employed since 2009. It had been asked until 2009 and found unnecessary.
Col_121			REGISTER	100.0	This question is not asked since the coverage of unemployment benefits is very limited in Turkey. (around 10% of registered unemployed are receiving unemployment benefit at the current situation).
optional		Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	These optional variables are not asked for the moment since these are not critical at national level.
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
	Col_136	COURWORH	100.0		

(*) C: All records have the same value

European Commission

Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey — 2009

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

2011 — 53 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

Theme: Population and social conditions
Collection: Methodologies & Working papers

ISBN 978-92-79-21434-9

ISSN 1977-0375

doi:10.2785/17611

Cat. No KS-RA-11-020-EN-N

HOW TO OBTAIN EU PUBLICATIONS

Free publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- at the European Union's representations or delegations. You can obtain their contact details on the Internet (<http://ec.europa.eu>) or by sending a fax to +352 2929-42758.

Priced publications:

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>).

Priced subscriptions (e.g. annual series of the *Official Journal of the European Union* and reports of cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union):

- via one of the sales agents of the Publications Office of the European Union (http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index_en.htm).

