

# Statistics Explained — your guide to European Statistics

2015 edition



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# What is Statistics Explained?

Statistics Explained is your guide to European statistics.

**Statistics Explained** is an official Eurostat website presenting articles on statistical topics in an easily understandable way. Together, these articles make up an encyclopedia of European statistics for everyone, completed by a statistical glossary clarifying all terms used and by numerous hyperlinks to further information. It is a **portal of statistics** for non-specialists and more skilled users.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Statistics Explained website. At the top left, the logo reads "eurostat Statistics Explained". A search bar at the top right contains the text "Energy price" and a magnifying glass icon. A blue circle with the number "1" is placed over the search bar. Below the search bar, a quote box contains the text: "Did you know that... In 2012, the highest number of patent applications relative to the population was reported by Sweden (200 per million inhabitants), Germany (275) and Finland (271). Read more...". A blue circle with the number "3" is placed over this quote box. In the center, there is a grid of article categories with icons: "General and regional statistics/EU policies", "Economy and finance", "Population and social conditions", "Industry and construction", "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries", "International trade", "Transport", "Environment and energy", and "Innovation and information society". A blue circle with the number "2" is placed over the "Transport" category. Below the grid, there are two article preview cards. The first is titled "Health statistics at regional level" and is marked as "Updated". The second is titled "Amenable and preventable deaths statistics" and is marked as "New". On the right side, there are navigation buttons: "ALL ARTICLES", "ALL ONLINE PUBLICATIONS", "GLOSSARY", "TUTORIALS", and "CATEGORIES". Below these is a "Most viewed:" section with a list of 10 items, including "Unemployment statistics", "Migration and migrant population statistics", "Asylum statistics", "Comparative price levels of consumer goods and services", "Energy price statistics", "Wages and labour costs", "National accounts and GDP", "Population structure and ageing", "Renewable energy statistics", and "GDP per capita, consumption per capita and price level indices". A "Top 100" button is next to the list. At the bottom right, there is a "FOCUS ON" section titled "Balance of payment statistics" with a bar chart and a legend.

## How is the information on Statistics Explained presented?

**Statistics Explained** is made up of highly interlinked webpages working in a similar way as Wikipedia. There are essentially two basic types of pages in Statistics Explained: **Statistical articles** and **Background/glossary pages**.

**Statistical articles** provide information on a particular topic and include the complete range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat — social and economic statistics as well as a large range of more specialised statistics. The most commonly accessed articles relate to unemployment, migration, wages, GDP, price levels, energy, ageing population etc.

**Background/glossary** pages provide information on definitions, statistical concepts and methodology.



# How can I find information in Statistics Explained?

- If you look for an article on energy prices for example...

- 1 Enter **Energy price** in the search in the right hand corner;
- 2 or look at the theme entry pages under **Environment and energy**;  
By clicking on the Energy tab, all articles on energy will appear and articles on Energy prices can be chosen:

**Energy**

This page provides a clickable overview of all articles in Statistics Explained on **energy** (click triangles to expand/hide the lists), or see them in alphabetical order.

**Statistical articles** [edit]

**Energy in general** [edit]

- Energy trends
- Europe 2020 indicators - climate change and energy

**Energy sources** [edit]

- ▶ Coal
- ▶ Electricity
- ▶ Natural gas
- Nuclear

**Other topics** [edit]

- ▶ Energy and environment
- ▶ Energy consumption
- ▶ Energy production, imports and supply
- ▶ Energy prices

...or if you look for a definition of GDP

- 3 For a definition, you need to look in the glossary. The easiest way is to click on the **Glossary** tab on the right hand side on the main page.  
A thematic glossary page will appear and you can choose National accounts where you will find the glossary for GDP:

**Thematic glossaries**

The Statistics Explained Glossary covers all statistical and general terms in Statistics Explained in need of a definition or explanation. Because it is quite large, it may be easier to consult instead one of the focused thematic glossaries from the clickable overview below; they are organised according to statistical themes, preceded by a list of abbreviations and further supplemented by special-topic glossaries.

**Abbreviations** [edit]

List of abbreviations

**Statistical themes**

General and regional statistics Regions and cities glossary	Economy and finance Economy and finance glossary Balance of payments glossary Comparative price levels glossary Consumer prices glossary Exchange and interest rates glossary Government statistics glossary Monetary and other financial statistics glossary National accounts glossary	Population and social conditions Crime glossary Education and training glossary Health glossary Labour market glossary Living conditions glossary Population glossary
Industry and services Industry and construction glossary	Agriculture Agriculture glossary	International trade International trade glossary

## Statistical articles **A**

The typical statistical article starts with an indication of the freshness of the data used and the planned update date, a brief introduction and a table of contents. The main body of each article is composed of the following parts:

- **Main statistical findings:** the most important statistical results are presented through a text and a set of tables and graphs.
- **Data sources and availability:** a brief description on how the data were obtained and the legal basis behind the data.
- **Context:** relates to the policy context and the role of the statistics presented.
- **See also:** a set of hyperlinks providing rapid access to related articles within Statistics Explained.
- **Further Eurostat information:** hyperlinks to more detailed information on the Eurostat website.
- **External links:** a set of hyperlinks to other trustworthy bodies.

## Background articles **B**

These pages are designed to provide comprehensive methodological information on different statistical indicators (definitions of concepts, methods of calculations, classifications etc.). Background articles look deeper into the subject presented and have no predefined structure.

## Glossary pages **C**

Glossary entries appear as hyperlinks within statistical articles, allowing the user to open a new page containing a simple explanation of the glossary terms. Some glossary terms are followed by a set of hyperlinks for more detailed or related information.

## Online publications **D**

Articles related to the same subject of interest are grouped into online publications. Examples are the online publications on *Quality of life* or *Health in the European Union*. The *Eurostat yearbook*, the *Regional yearbook* as well as *EU in the world* are other examples of online publications available in Statistics Explained.

**A**

## Minimum wage statistics

Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database.

This article illustrates how minimum wage levels vary considerably across the European Union (EU) Member States; it also provides a comparison with the situation in the candidate countries and the United States.

Minimum wage statistics, as published by Eurostat, refer to national minimum wages. The national minimum wage usually applies to all employees, or at least to a large majority of employees in a country. It is enforced by law, often after consultation with social partners, or directly by a national intersectoral agreement.

Minimum wages are generally presented as monthly wage rates for gross earnings, that is, before the deduction of income tax and social security contributions payable by the employee; these deductions vary from country to country.

National minimum wages are published by Eurostat bi-annually. They reflect the situation on 1 January and 1 July of each year. As a consequence, modifications to minimum wages introduced between these two dates are only shown for the following bi-annual release of data.

### Contents

[show]

## Main statistical findings

### Variations in national minimum wages

Minimum wages in the EU Member States ranged from EUR 184 to EUR 1 923 per month in January

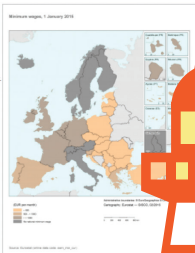
In January 2015, 22 out of the 28 EU Member States (Denmark, Italy, Cyprus, Austria, Finland and Sweden were the exceptions) had a national minimum wage (see Map 1). As of 1 January 2015, monthly minimum wages varied widely, from EUR 184 in Bulgaria to EUR 1 923 in Luxembourg. There was also a national minimum wage in the following candidate countries of the EU: Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

Figure 1 shows gross minimum monthly wage levels expressed in euro terms in January 2015. The countries are divided into three groups based on the level of their minimum wages. The first group comprises 10 countries whose minimum wages were lower than EUR 500 a month and ten of the EU Member States (Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Republic of Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia).

The second group comprises five countries whose minimum wages were between EUR 500 and EUR 1 000 a month (France, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

The final group comprises seven countries whose minimum wages were higher than EUR 1 000 a month (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Luxembourg, Malta and the United States).

It should be noted that for those countries that do not have minimum wages (Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Republic of Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia).



Map 1. Minimum wages, 1 January 2015 (EUR per month) — Source: Eurostat (sam\_min\_wg)

**B**

## Youth unemployment

This article explains how youth unemployment in the European Union (EU) is measured and how youth unemployment rates are affected by the transition of young adults from education to the labour market. Two factors are particularly relevant. First, there is a steep rise in participation in the labour market between the ages of 15 and 24. Second, young people in education are often also employed or unemployed, so there is an overlap between the labour market and education.

The article is part of a set of two: while this one focuses on measures of youth unemployment, a second one called 'Participation of young people in education and the labour market' further develops the interplay between education and labour market participation. The latest Eurostat data on youth unemployment can be found here.

### Contents

[show]

## Definition of unemployment and youth unemployment indicators

A person's labour force status falls into one of three categories: employed, unemployed or economically inactive. Eurostat uses the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s definitions of employment and unemployment. The labour force, also called the active population, comprises those employed or unemployed. These concepts are explained in detail in an article on the EU-LFS methodology. The definitions apply to young people just as they do to any other age group.

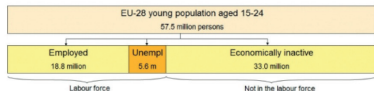


Figure 1: Population employed, unemployed and economically inactive, EU-28, age 15-24, 2012

Total differs from sum of components because of small rounding effects.

People are classified as being employed or unemployed irrespective of whether they are in education or not. In other words, Eurostat unemployment statistics, in line with ILO standards, do not exclude students from unemployment just because they are students. The same criteria that apply to the rest of the population also apply to them. This means that the fact that someone is in education is irrelevant for his/her status regarding employment or unemployment. However, participation in education of the population as a whole has an indirect effect on youth unemployment indicators, as will be shown below.

**C**

## Glossary: Unemployment

An unemployed person is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organization, as:

- someone aged 15 to 74 (in Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway: 16 to 74 years);
- without work during the reference week;
- available to start work within the next two weeks (or has already found a job to start within the next three months);
- actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks.

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

**D**

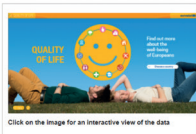
## Quality of life in Europe - facts and views

The publication *Quality of life in Europe - facts and views* is an online Eurostat publication presenting recent statistics on the quality of life of European Union (EU) citizens. It is also available in paper format and as a downloadable PDF file (latest edition), ISBN 978-92-79-43816-1, doi:10.2785/59737, Cat. No KS-05-14-073-EN-N.

This publication presents subjective indicators collected for the first time in European official statistics, complemented by objective indicators within the same field. Another online publication presenting objective measures of the quality of life of EU citizens is available here.

### Introduction [pdf]

1. Material living conditions [pdf]
2. Employment [pdf]
3. Education [pdf]
4. Health [pdf]
5. Leisure and social relations [pdf]
6. Economic and physical safety [pdf]
7. Governance [pdf]
8. Environment [pdf]
9. Overall life satisfaction [pdf]



Click on the image for an interactive view of the data

## What language options are available?

- All articles and glossary terms in Statistics Explained are available in English.
- Around 90 of the most important and mostly viewed articles and around 600 glossary terms are available in French and German.
- 20 of these articles are available in 19 other EU official languages.

## Visit Statistics Explained!

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained>



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