Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey 2015

2017 edition

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1 | Introduction

The quality concept applied in this report is in conformity with the definition developed by the European Statistical System. According to this definition quality includes 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 summer 2016 constitute the main source for the present report. Other sources that have been used or consulted are metadata provided to Eurostat from countries, national quality reports from previous years, websites of the individual countries, the LFS datasets for 2015 and the reference metadata on the data sets disseminated by Eurostat.

The present quality report follows closely the standard Quality Report format that has been developed within Eurostat. 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 statistical working paper describing the characteristics of the national surveys in the Member States, Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries, also available on the Eurostat website [2].

Eurostat wishes to thank the many experts in the countries participating in the conduct of the EU-LFS, providing the data and descriptions as well as their support necessary for compiling this report.

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[1] Most of the introductory texts shortly explaining each quality component are taken from the 'ESS Standard for Quality Reports', available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5909785/KS-RA-08-015-EN.PDF

[2] Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-working-papers/-/KS-TC-16-021

2 Overview of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2015

2.1 Coverage

This document covers all the thirty-three countries (participating countries) providing Eurostat with micro-data from their labour force surveys in 2015: the 28 Member States of the European Union, three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and two candidate countries, i.e. the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [3] 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. Since 2014, also the French overseas departments are covered (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane, La Réunion), with the exception of Mayotte [4].

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, Sweden and Switzerland, which only provide data respectively for those aged 16-74 (Iceland), 15-74 (Norway and Sweden) and 15 and more (Switzerland) [5].

2.2 Legal basis

The EU-LFS is based on European legislation since 1973. The principal legal act is the Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98. The regulations are an important element assuring the quality of the EU-LFS. They stipulate the rules and guidelines to assure the comparability of the results by regulating the survey designs, the survey characteristics and the decision making processes of the EU-LFS. A detailed overview on the EU-LFS regulations is published in Statistics Explained 'EU-LFS – main features and legal basis'.

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.

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[3] 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.

[4] Until 2014 the French overseas departments (*Département d'outre-mer* – DOM) only had a partial coverage over time, as data collection referred to quarter 2.

[5] In addition, Sweden provides special households datasets that cover all age groups

2.3 Compulsory participation

In 2015 the participation in the EU-LFS was compulsory in fourteen participating countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia, Norway and Turkey), and voluntary in the other countries.

2.4 Reference week

The EU-LFS is designed as a continuous quarterly survey with interviews spread uniformly over all weeks of a quarter. Each reference week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. The first week of a year or quarter is defined as the week that includes the first Thursday of the year or the quarter. All countries conduct the LFS as a continuous survey.

2.5 Periodicity of the results

All participating countries in the EU-LFS in 2015 produced quarterly estimates [6].

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. Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland use the population registers as the sole basis while the Netherlands complete this information with postal data, Denmark with other registers, Latvia and Spain with census information. Germany grounds the sample frame on the 1987 census in the western part [7] and on the central population register, based on the 1981 census, in the east, both updated by the register of new dwellings. France uses the tax register for Metropolitan France and the annual population census for the overseas departments.

Sampling stages and primary sampling units (PSU)

Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland use a single stage sampling or single stage cluster sampling design. All other countries use a two or three stage sampling design, usually selecting municipalities, administrative districts or census enumeration areas in the first stage.

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[6] Under Regulation (EC) No 577/98 a specific set of variables, referred to as structural variables, need to be surveyed only as annual averages with reference to 52 weeks rather than as quarterly averages (see chapter 2.10).

[7] The continuous population updating procedure which updates last German census results 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 updated 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.

Ultimate sampling units

Three types of ultimate sampling units are employed: 1) households, 2) dwellings/addresses and 3) persons. Germany, France, Portugal and Romania sample clusters of dwelling units. In samples of dwellings or addresses usually all persons, and thus all households, residing within the dwelling/address are interviewed. When persons constitute the primary sampling units, the selected persons either constitute the final sample (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, and Switzerland) or the sampled persons lead to a final sample comprised of the sampling units and their household members (Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Norway).

Overall sampling rate

The theoretical sampling rate, for all participating countries, per quarter (ultimate sampling units) of the EU-LFS is 0.41% (EU-28: 0.44%). Malta (2.1%) has the highest sampling rate per quarter followed by Iceland (1.9%) while most other participating countries have sampling rates of 1% or less. On average, the achieved quarterly sample in 2015 in all participating countries was 1.737 million individuals (EU-28: 1.538 million), of which 1.334 million were in the age group 15–74 years (EU-28: 1.183 million). The achieved sample in the EU-LFS is thus approximately 0.30% of the total population.

Stratification

All countries, except Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Iceland, stratify the sample frame prior to the sampling. All countries but Denmark use the region, either at NUTS 2, NUTS 3, and NUTS 4 level or nationally defined areas, as stratification variable. The degree of urbanization or the classification in 'urban/rural area' is also a common stratification variable. Other stratification variables concerning information about the characteristics (size, type) of the primary sampling units are also considered in some countries.

2.7 Rotation schemes

All participating countries except Belgium 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, which only has a year-to-year overlap. The most common panel design with a quarterly overlap in 2015, adopted by 13 participating countries, is 2-(2)-2, where sampled units are interviewed for two consecutive quarters, than stay out of the sample for the next two quarters and are included again two more times afterwards. Other widespread rotation patterns are in for 5 and in for 6 waves, used respectively in seven and six countries, 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 the desired precision of change estimates, levels or annual averages, the number of waves and skip patterns lead to different outcomes of overlaps between two successive quarters or between the same quarters in two successive years. All panel designs, with a quarter-to-quarter overlap, foresee an overlap of 50% or more [8] of the sample between two successive quarters. There is less emphasis on overlap between corresponding quarters in two successive years. Belgium has no overlap; seven countries have an overlap of 20% while most other countries have an overlap ranging from 33% to 50%. Germany has 75% overlap with the previous year.

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[8] These percentages are only theoretical; the actual overlaps may be lower due to non-response and panel attrition.

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 requirement of the Regulation to use five-year age groups is not implemented in all 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 countries use data on sex in the weighting process. Almost all countries use five-year age groups in calculating the weighting factors (exceptions are Germany, Greece, and Slovenia) [9]. The three countries use broader age groups than five-year ones. All countries that have NUTS 2 regions defined use at least NUTS 2 regions for calculating the weights, but twenty-one countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) use a more detailed regional classification (NUTS 3 or LAU; groups of NUTS 3).

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

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

2.9   Data collection methods

Four modes of data collection exist for the EU-LFS: personal visits, telephone interviews, web interviews and self-administered questionnaires. More than half of the 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 collects data for the core-LFS with telephone interviews (CATI), but for the household subsample computer assisted web interviews (CAWI) are used. Belgium conducts the interviews by means of face-to-face (CAPI), but in households of retired persons, interviews can be conducted by telephone. The Netherlands uses computer assisted web interviews (CAWI), interviews by means of face-to-face (CAPI) and telephone interviews (CATI). Five countries (Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) rely solely on

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[9]   The Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg, Poland, and Turkey use the five-year age groups up to the 60–64 years old.

telephone interviews. Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom use a mixed mode CAPI-CATI: CAPI mainly for first wave and CATI mainly for later waves. Five countries (Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Romania and Turkey) collect data using only face-to-face interviews. Among them Ireland and Turkey use computerised questionnaires (CAPI).

Most countries conduct the interview only with computerised questionnaires. Seven (Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) use both computerised and paper questionnaires and three countries (Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania) rely solely on paper questionnaires.

2.10 Use of subsamples to survey structural variables

In 2015, ten countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Spain, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland) 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 the total sample, except for Norway, which uses both the first and the last survey waves, and Switzerland, which uses the first and the third wave.

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 2015, such consistency is ensured by all ten countries with small deviations for the Netherlands.

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 in particular the most relevant institutional users' needs. 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 regular satisfaction surveys targeted only at users of labour market statistics. In 2011, Eurostat carried out a LFS Rolling Review through its Quality Assurance Framework which included a user survey. Most users stressed the importance of the EU-LFS results. The results were acknowledged as essential both for the European Commission and its agencies and for international organisations. The data are equally important or even essential for most users from universities, research institutes and businesses [10]. Moreover in 2015 the EU Labour Force Survey was subject to an assessment by the European Commission of its relevance in supporting European Union policies.

For major topics of interest in addition to the standard EU-LFS, the instrument of ad hoc modules has proven to be useful and flexible. Some users, however, seek for more timely data releases, at least for a few main indicators. The availability of a release calendar for the main indicators produced by the EU-LFS, even with conservative delays, has been favourably received by users.

3.2 Completeness

All Member States of the EU provide quarterly and annual results.

Although adhering to the EU-regulations on the EU-LFS, countries do not always provide data for all the variables. The reason can be for example the (temporary) inability to implement the variable in the national questionnaire.

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[10] http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/c/portal/layout?p_l_id=64257&p_v_l_s_g_id=0

A special case is the coverage of the household variables by the countries sampling individuals, i.e. some Nordic countries and Switzerland. In 2015 no coverage of such variables was undertaken by Iceland and Switzerland (derogation), while Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland and Sweden covered them in special household datasets. Norway only covered household information on the family members of working age, but provided no information on other possible members of the household (i.e. children under the age of 15).

A country by country and variable by variable analysis of the situation is provided in the Annex. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 summarize the completeness of data.

Table 3.1: Completeness of the EU-LFS variables, 2015

Number of compulsory variables with 100 % item non-response (¹)	Number of participating countries	Of which: EU-28 Member States
0	26	25
1-4	6	2
5-9	1	1
10+	0	0
Total	33	28

(¹) The variable INCDECIL is not included. The INCDECIL data may be forwarded to Eurostat within twenty-one months after the end of the reference period.

Table 3.2: Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value (¹), 2015

Column number (²)	Brief description	Number of countries	Of which: EU-28
Col_001/2	Sequence number in the household	3	1
Col_017/18	Nationality	1	0
Col_023	Nature of participation in the survey	1	1
Col_028	Continuing receipt of the wage or salary	4	4
Col_039/40	Country of place of work	5	2
Col_041/42	Region of place of work	6	4
Col_055	Contract with a temporary employment agency	2	1
Col_067/68	Unpaid overtime in the reference week in the main job	2	1
Col_073/74	Number of hours that the person would like to work in total	1	0
Col_075	Working at home	1	0
Col_093	Professional status in last job	1	1
Col_094/95	Economic activity of the local unit in which person last worked	1	0
Col_096/98	Occupation of last job	1	0
Col_101	Type of employment sought	2	1
Col_102	Duration of search for employment	1	0
Col_103	Contacted public employment to find work	1	0
Col_104	Contacted private employment agency to find work	2	0
Col_105	Applied to employers directly	1	0
Col_106	Asked friends, relatives, trade unions etc.	1	0
Col_107	Inserted or answered advertisements in newspapers or journals	1	0
Col_108	Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals	2	0
Col_109	Took a test, interview or examination	2	1
Col_110	Looked for land, premises or equipment	13	10
Col_111	Looked for permits, licenses, financial resources	12	8
Col_112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job	4	3
Col_113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office	8	5
Col_114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector	19	14
Col_115	Other method used	6	5
Col_117	Availability to start working within two weeks	1	0
Col_118	Reasons for not being available to start working within 2 weeks	1	0
Col_119	Situation immediately before person started to seek employment (or was waiting for new job to start)	2	1
Col_120	Need for care facilities	1	0
Col_121	Registration at a public employment office	2	1
Col_146	Situation with regard to activity one year before survey	1	1
Col_150/151	Country of residence one year before survey	2	1
Col_152/153	Region of residence (within Member State) one year before survey	6	4
Col_168	Degree of urbanisation	2	0
Col_195	Sequence number of the survey wave	3	3

(¹) Excluding variables which are constant by default such as country, reference year, region (if NUTS 2 is the whole country). The variable INCDECIL is not included. The INCDECIL data may be forwarded to Eurostat within twenty-one months after the end of the reference period.

(²) According to Commission Regulation (EC) 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 one to another implementation of the survey due to random effects) and/or bias (the average of possible values of the statistics is different from the true value due to systematic effects).

Several types of error, stemming from all survey processes, contribute to 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 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. Non-response errors; 4. Processing errors.

4.1 Sampling errors

Sampling errors affect only sample surveys and arise from the fact that not all units of the frame population are surveyed. 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 apply to this population. Official surveys, like the EU-LFS, use probability sampling. This makes it possible to quantify the sampling errors which can be expressed in terms of confidence intervals. Tables 4.1a and 4.1b provide the estimates and 95% confidence limits for the annual results 2015 reached for the seven main indicators. For example, interval 211 409 – 212 077 covers the true value of employed persons at the aggregated EU-28 level with a 95% probability.

Table 4.1a: Confidence limits (1) for employment variables, annual average 2015

	Number of employed (age group 20-64) (x1000)	Employment rate as a percentage of the population (age group 20-64) (%)	Number of part-time employed persons (age group 20-64) (x1000)	Average actual hours of work per week (age group 20-64)(²) (Hrs.)
EU-28	211 743 ±334	70.0 ±0.1	40 197 ±172	37.2 ±0.0
Belgium	4 468 ±25	67.2 ±0.4	1 077 ±20	37.5 ±0.2
Bulgaria	2 963 ±60	67.1 ±1.4	64 ± 6	40.2 ±0.1
Czech Republic	4 913 ±28	74.8 ±0.8	257 ±12	39.5 ±0.1
Denmark	2 523 ±11	76.5 ±0.3	527 ±11	36.3 ±0.1
Germany	38 148 ±105	78.0 ±0.2	10 241 ±64	35.9 ±0.1
Estonia	607 ±12	76.5 ±1.0	56 ± 5	38.6 ±0.3
Ireland	1 869 ±11	68.8 ±0.4	398 ± 7	35.9 ±0.1
Greece	3 536 ±94	54.9 ±0.6	330 ±19	41.0 ±0.2
Spain	17 634 ±121	62.0 ±0.4	2 729 ±56	37.4 ±0.1
France	25 771 ±157	69.5 ±0.4	4 714 ±94	36.3 ±0.2
Croatia	1 549 ±64	60.5 ±1.1	91 ±11	38.7 ±0.3
Italy	21 894 ±86	60.5 ±0.2	3 993 ±59	36.5 ±0.1
Cyprus	348 ± 5	67.9 ±1.0	45 ± 3	38.1 ±0.3
Latvia	862 ± 6	72.5 ±0.5	61 ± 4	39.4 ±0.2
Lithuania	1 296 ±42	73.4 ±1.3	98 ±11	38.9 ±0.4
Luxembourg	251 ± 6	70.9 ±1.3	45 ± 3	38.5 ±0.5
Hungary	4 154 ±22	68.9 ±0.4	235 ±11	38.6 ±0.1
Malta	177 ± 3	67.8 ±0.9	24 ± 1	38.0 ±0.3
Netherlands	7 602 ±31	76.4 ±0.3	3 567 ±19	33.6 ±0.2
Austria	3 918 ±12	74.3 ±0.2	1 087 ±17	36.0 ±0.1
Poland	15 736 ±71	67.8 ±0.3	1 034 ±34	40.6 ±0.1
Portugal	4 277 ±34	69.1 ±0.6	408 ±19	39.6 ±0.8
Romania	8 136 ±140	66.0 ±0.8	687 ±46	39.1 ±0.2
Slovenia	890 ±14	69.1 ±0.8	83 ± 4	39.6 ±0.2
Slovakia	2 396 ±17	67.7 ±0.5	137 ± 8	39.0 ±0.2
Finland	2 303 ±14	72.9 ±0.4	293 ± 9	36.8 ±0.1
Sweden	4 539 ±15	80.5 ±0.3	1 044 ±17	36.6 ±0.1
United Kingdom	28 982 ±74	76.9 ±0.2	6 874 ±61	36.8 ±0.1
Iceland	162 ± 1	86.5 ±0.7	33 ± 1	41.4 ±0.4
Norway	2 437 ±10	79.1 ±0.3	578 ±16	35.3 ±0.2
Switzerland	4 210 ±19	82.8 ±0.4	1 584 ±23	37.5 ±0.2
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	690 ±27	51.9 ±1.3	27 ± 3	41.6 ±0.4
Turkey	24 407±277	53.9 ±0.3	2 344 ±64	47.1 ±0.2

(¹) The confidence limits at 95% level of significance.

(²) By people who worked at least one hour in the reference week. The hours are calculated as the sum of actual hours in the main and second job.

Note: Confidence limits for the EU aggregates are Eurostat's own approximation.

Table 4.1b: Confidence limits (1) for unemployment variables, annual average, 2015

	Number of unemployed persons (age group 15-74) (x1000)	Unemployment rate as a percentage of labour force (age group 15-74) (%)	Youth unemployment rate as a percentage of labour force (age group 15-24) (%)
EU-28	22 884 ±169	9.8 ±0.1	20.3 ±0.4
Belgium	422 ±14	8.5 ±0.3	22.1 ±1.5
Bulgaria	305 ±19	9.1 ±0.5	21.7 ±2.4
Czech Republic	268 ±12	5.1 ±0.2	12.6 ±1.2
Denmark	181 ± 6	6.2 ±0.2	10.8 ±0.6
Germany	1 950 ±34	4.6 ±0.1	7.2 ±0.3
Estonia	42 ± 4	6.2 ±0.6	13.1 ±2.7
Ireland	204 ± 5	9.4 ±0.3	20.9 ±1.1
Greece	1 197 ±44	24.9 ±0.7	49.8 ±2.7
Spain	5 056 ±91	22.1 ±0.4	48.3 ±1.3
France	3 054 ±89	10.4 ±0.3	24.7 ±1.2
Croatia	309 ±22	16.3 ±1.0	43.0 ±3.6
Italy	3 033 ±51	11.9 ±0.2	40.3 ±1.1
Cyprus	63 ± 3	14.9 ±0.8	32.8 ±3.9
Latvia	98 ± 4	9.9 ±0.4	16.3 ±1.8
Lithuania	134 ±14	9.1 ±0.9	16.3 ±4.5
Luxembourg	18 ± 3	6.7 ±1.0	17.4 ±6.1
Hungary	308 ±12	6.8 ±0.3	17.3 ±1.1
Malta	11 ± 1	5.4 ±0.5	11.8 ±1.8
Netherlands	614 ±24	6.9 ±0.2	11.3 ±0.7
Austria	252 ± 8	5.7 ±0.2	10.6 ±0.8
Poland	1 304 ±36	7.5 ±0.2	20.8 ±1.1
Portugal	647 ±23	12.4 ±0.4	32.0 ±3.0
Romania	624 ±30	6.8 ±0.4	21.7 ±2.0
Slovenia	90 ± 5	9.0 ±0.5	16.3 ±2.1
Slovakia	314 ±11	11.5 ±0.4	26.5 ±1.9
Finland	252 ± 7	9.4 ±0.3	22.5 ±1.1
Sweden	388 ± 8	7.4 ±0.1	20.4 ±0.8
United Kingdom	1 747 ±37	5.3 ±0.1	14.6 ±0.5
Iceland	8 ± 1	4.0 ±0.4	8.8 ±1.3
Norway	119 ± 7	4.3 ±0.2	9.9 ±0.8
Switzerland	219 ±11	4.6 ±0.2	8.6 ±0.9
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	249 ±15	26.1 ±1.2	47.3 ±3.9
Turkey	3 035 ±79	10.2 ±0.2	18.5 ±0.7

(1) The confidence limits at 95% level of significance.
Note: Confidence limits for the EU aggregates are Eurostat's own approximation.

4.2   Non-sampling errors

Coverage errors

Coverage errors (or frame errors) are due to divergences between the target population and the frame population. Possible divergence types are undercoverage (i.e. the frame population does not include all units of the target population), overcoverage (i.e. the frame population includes units which do not belong to the target population) and misclassification (i.e. units in the frame population which belong to the target population but are wrongly classified). Table 4.2 summarises the information on the coverage errors given by the participating countries.

Table 4.2: Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Mis-classification	Comments
Belgium	< 0.5 %	→0	→0	*Undercoverage*: Households, all members of which are 77 years or older and collective households (about 0.15 % of all households) are excluded before draw.
Bulgaria		6.5%		*Overcoverage:* The sample is drawn from the lists of households obtained from 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.
Czech Republic	:	:		*Undercoverage:* 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. *Overcoverage:* Not existing or not inhabited flats remain in the Register of Census Areas.
Denmark	→0	→0	→0	
Germany	:			*Undercoverage:* 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. A new sample plan based on the census 2011 will probably be implemented from 2016 onwards.
Estonia	:			*Undercoverage:* In 2015, 9,228 households of 13,800 households sampled for the survey, were interviewed. Among the households not interviewed, in 181 cases (1.4 % of total number of sampled households) the reason was an error or the inaccuracy of the frame (person emigrated or left the county, person deceased, wrong address, etc.). By counties the share of frame errors varied from 0.7% to 2.9%.
Ireland	:			*Undercoverage*: Our frame is the Census of population and as such we have no quality concerns regarding our frame.

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Mis-classification	Comments
Greece	1.0%	7.6%		*Undercoverage:* 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. *Overcoverage:* 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)
Spain	:	20.8%		*Undercoverage* Percentage calculated as 'omitted' dwellings detected in the 'quality control. Measures of impact not available. *Overcoverage:* Average of the four quarter percentages of dwellings out of frame ('no encuestables'). The touristic areas are more prone to higher rates.
France	:			*Undercoverage*: The sample, when it is updated several months before the reference year, does not cover the most recent buildings (less than 2 years old at the end of the reference year and less than 3 years in overseas departments); yet, this is taken into account in the weighting procedure since the calibration method uses the number of newly-built dwellings.
Croatia	:	9.4%		*Undercoverage:* Since the beginning of 2014, the new sample frame based on the data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2011 has been in use. 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 2011, it is becoming obsolete, and some problems regarding migration and/or newly built dwellings will be present in a larger extent. *Overcoverage:* Overcoverage rates are actually non-eligibility rates of addresses selected in sample.
Italy	:	2.2%	1.6%	*Undercoverage*: 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). Each non-responding household is replaced with another household having similar characteristics, in order to maintain as much as possible the sample representativeness and to minimize the impact of unit non-response. No more than 3 replaces are admitted.
Cyprus	2.0%			*Undercoverage*: The sample was drawn from the Census of Population frame of 2011. In a post enumeration survey conducted after the census an undercoverage of 1.97 % was estimated.
Latvia	:	1.5%		*Undercoverage*: In general the list of counting areas covers all territory of Latvia, but there could be some territories not covered by the list. It is due to active building of new dwellings in previously unoccupied areas during the last years. *Overcoverage:* Overall in the year 1.51% of overcoverage from sample. Main reason of it, is rarely updated registers which include outdated information.

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Mis-classification	Comments
Lithuania		:		*Overcoverage:* Among not interviewed households, in 1121 cases (4 % of total number of sampled households) the reason was an error or inaccuracy of the frame (imprecise address, the premises at the indicated address are non-residential (a hairdresser's, shop, etc.), the building was knock down, etc).
Luxembourg	14.0%	0.1%		*Undercoverage*: Homeless people and other people without registered residence are out of the frame. The sampling frame does only cover private households (ie. persons living in institutional and/or collective households are not being covered). According to population statistics, collective households amount to 1.8% of total population. The sample from the Register of Residents is drawn usually four months before the start of the interviews. Persons that moved in after the due date are not covered. *Overcoverage;* Wrong addresses and wrong telephone numbers due to time lag or incorrect information in the register of residents.
Hungary	:			*Undercoverage:* 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.
Malta	:	:		*Undercoverage:* The sampling frame being used covers private households. Hence persons living in institutional households are not being covered. Since the 2011 Census is being used as a sampling frame, households constituted after 2011 are not well represented. *Overcoverage:* There is over-representation for households created prior to 2011 and for households which were present in 2011 and no longer exist after 2011.
Netherlands				
Austria	:			*Undercoverage:* From 2004 onwards the sample for the Austrian LFS is drawn from the Austrian Register of Residents. This register was set up in 2002. 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 could mean undercoverage of recent migrants.
Poland	:	12.8%		*Undercoverage*: New dwellings are underrepresented in the sample; dwellings are selected once a year from the register of housing units and, due to differences in time span, is not avauilable and updated information about addresses or flats as also population living in collective (institutional) households staying or planning to stay in this places for over a year. Homeless people and other people without registered residence (e.g. people living in huts, caravans) are out of the frame as emigrants staying abroad for more than one year. *Overcoverage:* consists of dwellings in which inhabitants are not present for a long time, not inhabited or inhabited seasonally, changed into inhabitable space (for example shop), in liquidation, not found (incorrect address).
Portugal	:	12.5%		*Undercoverage:* The sampling frame does not cover the individuals living in collective dwellings. This population represents less than 1% approximately.

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Mis-classification	Comments
Romania	2.0%	~3.0%		*Undercoverage*: Due to the lack of appropriate information, the new dwellings, built after 2011 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 update (of the addresses of dwellings) will be envisaged for the PSU included in EMZOT. Under-coverage rate was estimated as the ratio between number of new permanent dwellings, built in the period end of 2011 (the year of the last census) - end of 2014 (Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2015), and number of dwellings at the end of 2014 (Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2015). Thus, it was assumed that the proportion of the new dwellings in total dwellings should be the same as in the master sample. *Overcoverage:* Overcoverage rates were estimated on the basis of the survey samples, as ratio between number of not-eligible dwellings and number of sampled dwellings.
Slovenia	→0	→0	→0	*Negligible*
Slovakia	:	:	:	*Undercoverage:* The LFS sample is based on a Population Census conducted once each ten years (last time in 2011). 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 as well people born abroad and living in collective houses. *Overcoverage:* Mainly due to young residents working temporarily abroad. Misclassification: Misclassification by incorrect identification is negligible.
Finland	→0	1.5%		*Undercoverage:* 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). *Overcoverage:* Mostly emigration in wave 1, deaths and emigration for later waves.
Sweden	1.0%	0.2%		*Undercoverage:* The LFS sample is drawn once a year and the sampled persons are interviewed eight times during a two year period. No additional sample selection is made in order to update the sample with immigrants during this two-year period. The average time span between sample selection and the reference week is about 19 months, which means an under-coverage of about 50 000 persons or 1 % of the population. This under-coverage is judged to have marginal effects on the LFS-estimates. *Overcoverage:* 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 cannot 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 %).

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Mis-classification	Comments
United Kingdom	~1.5%			*Undercoverage:* 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.
Iceland				
Norway	:		:	*Undercoverage:* Do not include those 75 years and older and we impute them as outside the labour force. Number of persons employed about 0.25 per cent too low. The sampling frame consists of registered family units where the main person in the family is aged 15-74 years. Women married to men 75 years or older are underrepresented. *Misclassification:* Using family as a proxy for household at the moment.
Switzerland			:	*Misclassification:* Differing household composition. Unit non response if the selected person is not living in the selected household (anymore), else no impact on estimates.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		~12%		*Overcoverage:* Overcoverage rates were estimated on the basis of the survey samples, as ratio between number of not-eligible dwellings and number of sampled dwellings.
Turkey		10.1%		

Notes: (:) indicates that information has not been provided by the country.

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.

Measurement errors may cause both bias and extra variability of statistical outputs. In Table 4.3 below are reported information related to measurement errors as the number of proxy interviews and statistics on the last updates of the questionnaire.

Table 4.3: Share of proxy interviews and last update of the questionnaire

	% of proxy interviews (unweighted) (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-28	29.8			
Belgium	17.8	Nov. 2014	No pilot survey for the changes in 2015	:
Bulgaria	33.8	Q1 2011	2007	approx. 1 060 persons
Czech Republic	44.1	Dec-12	2001	891 persons
Denmark	5.8	Dec-15		
Germany	25.6	yearly	only yearly cognitive pre-tests	:
Estonia	35.7	Jan-15	Oct-Dec 2013	189 persons
Ireland	50.3	Q2 2012.		
Greece	41.2	Nov-15		
Spain[2]	52.2	2005	2004	3 500 households were interviewed.
France	27.9	Q1 2014	2011	1 200 persons
Croatia	48.0	Q1 2015		
Italy	19.0	Jan-15	Oct-14	1 019 households
Cyprus	33.6	Oct-13	Oct-13	150 persons
Latvia	39.4	Nov-13	Testing of CAPI in May 2005	:
Lithuania	34.5	Oct-15	Apr-10	35
Luxembourg	0.0	Yearly update	Nov-12	25
Hungary	42.7	Oct-14	Sep-13	About 2 000
Malta	49.2	End of 2014		:
Netherlands	46.2			
Austria	23.2	Q1 2015	Pilot study in Q3 2015, CATI-interviews, foreign educational attainment	675 persons
Poland	37.8	Q1 2006		
Portugal	47.9	2014	From Q3 2009 to Q2 2010	Around 40 000 individuals by quarter
Romania	24.6	Starting with Q1 2014	Q3 2013	51 482 persons
Slovenia	53.4	2015		
Slovakia	50.4	2015		
Finland	4.2	Jan-15		
Sweden	2.7	Apr-14	Pilot studies in March/June 2004.	1400 persons
United Kingdom[2]	35.0	Jan-15	Jul-14	1 000 households sampled.
Iceland[2]	0.9		Nov. / Dec. 2002	:
Norway	16.5	Q1 2006		
Switzerland	2.7	Mar-10	Dec-09	about 100 persons
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	54.2	Oct-15	May-15	336 persons
Turkey	13.9	2014	2013	Around 500 households

Notes: (:) indicates that information is not provided.

(¹) Respondents aged 15–74 years.
(²) Respondents aged 16–74 years.

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 at Eurostat about the rate of processing errors in the EU-LFS.

Non-response errors

Non-response is the failure to collect data on one or more survey variables, for one or more population units selected for the survey. The term encompasses a wide variety of reasons for non-collection of data: impossible to contact, not at home, unable to answer, incapacity, refusal, inaccessible, unreturned questionnaire, etc. Non-response leads to a reduction in the actual size of the sample, and consequently to an increase in variance. This also produces a bias if the non-respondents have different characteristics from the respondents for the survey variables. 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.

There are two types of non-response:

— unit non-response which occurs when no data are collected about a population unit designated for data collection;

— item non-response which occurs when data only on some but not all the survey variables are collected about a designated population unit.

This section only covers the issue of *unit non-response* while *item non-response* is presented variable by variable in the annex.

Table 4.4 shows unit non-response rates, but they are not fully comparable across countries. Most of them calculate non-response on the basis of the household unit, except Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, which compute non-response at the level of individuals. 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 average than the latter.

Table 4.4: Rates of unit non-response by wave. Annual average 2015

	Total	Waves							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Belgium	26.7	26.7							
Bulgaria	22.2	29.2	21.5	20.1	17.5				
Czech Republic	20.5	22.6	20.3	19.7	19.8	20.3			
Denmark	47.0	50.0	48.0	47.0	45.0				
Germany(1)	3.4	3.4							
Estonia	28.1	48.4	23.7	18.4	11.0				
Ireland	25.1	25.2	24.6	24.4	24.6	24.8			
Greece	25.9	25.7	25.2	24.6	23.8	23.3	22.3		
Spain	12.4	16.1	11.8	11.7	11.9	12.1	12.3		
France	20.3	24.3	20.0	19.1	19.3	18.9	20.1		
Croatia	30.3	30.1	30.2	30.8	30.2				
Italy	12.5	28.5	5.4	5.3	3.7				
Cyprus	5.4	6.5	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0		
Latvia	37.9	36.2	33.8	39.7	39.6				
Lithuania	20.3	28.7	22.9	18.6	15.7				
Luxembourg(2)	48.0	:	:	:	:	:			
Hungary	17.2	34.2	26.0	15.4	11.6	9.0	7.5		
Malta	23.4	16.8	26.7	25.3	24.9				
Netherlands(3)	45.5	42.6	38.4	9.1	4.6	3.7			
Austria	7.8	5.9	7.9	7.4	7.7	7.7			
Poland	34.9	39.7	35.7	32.7	31.4				
Portugal	15.4	11.1	15.3	15.8	17.3	17.2	15.1		
Romania	12.2	13.3	11.5	12.7	11.2				
Slovenia(4)	21.3	32.5	23.4	13.9	12.8	7.9			
Slovakia	15.2	19.8	14.0	14.6	14.0	13.5			
Finland	29.2	29.2	28.2	28.9	29.8	29.8			
Sweden	40.1	42.4	40.8	40.5	39.9	40.0	39.5	38.9	38.3
United Kingdom	47.4	43.7	42.7	47.3	50.5	52.9			
Iceland	22.7	23.0	23.4	23.2	22.4	21.3			
Norway	20.3	21.2	20.4	20.7	20.5	20.3	20.7	20.0	18.1
Switzerland	18.3	38.0	7.8	9.3	4.5				
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	25.6	23.2	23.6	26.9	28.9				
Turkey	5.2	8.3	4.5	4.3	3.6				

(1) Survey wave results are on annual basis.
(2) In 2015 Luxembourg introduced a rotating panel design based on a rotational scheme with 5 waves, but they did not provide non-response rates by wave.
(3) Unit non-response is computed by household in the first wave and by individual in the following waves.
(4) Conditional non-response in waves 2 to 5. The non-respondents from previous waves are excluded from the sample in subsequent waves (waves 2 to 5).
(:) indicates that information has not been provided by the country.

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. Eurostat hence disseminates most national data in the third month after the end of the quarter as well.

A release calendar for the EU-LFS main indicators is in place, scheduling the release of the main indicators around four weeks after the data delivery deadline. In addition Eurostat continuously updates the Eurostat online database with new data after final data processing in Eurostat. Timeliness and punctuality of the transmission to Eurostat and Eurostat's dissemination of the national data have not changed from 2014 to 2015.

Table 5.1: Transmission to Eurostat and Eurostat's dissemination of LFS data by number of calendar days from the end of the reference period 2015 – quarterly LFS data (results)

Number of calendar days from end of reference period	Number of countries			
	2014	2015		
	All	All	EU-28	Euro area
Transmission to Eurostat				
<31	0	1	1	1
31-60	9	8	5	3
61-90	24	24	22	15
91+	0	0	0	0
Total	33	33	28	19
Average number of calendar days	66	67	68	67
Eurostat's dissemination of national data (web site)				
<31	0	0	0	0
31-60	2	2	2	2
61-90	27	29	24	17
91+	4	2	2	0
Total	33	33	28	19
Average number of calendar days	77	80	80	79

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.

In 2015 Eurostat published both quarterly and annual results.

Eurostat also publishes annually a compendium describing the main characteristics of the national surveys as already said above.

The Eurostat public website is free of charge and includes main indicators, derived from the Labour Force Survey, as well as detailed, constantly updated 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 dedicated EU-LFS web page and at the EU-LFS Statistics Explained.

Through direct queries, customized tabulations of EU-LFS results are available to users in electronic format. Eurostat extracts more than 1,000 direct queries each year. These data are also produced free of charge.

Since 2011 researchers can 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. In 2015 around 300 researchers or research groups worked with EU-LFS microdata (new contracts and amendments).

7 Comparability

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

7.1 Comparability over time

For a detailed overview on the availability of quarterly EU-LFS microdata and the uniform spreading of the sample over the whole year, please consult: EU Labour Force Survey EU — Methodology (Statistics Explained).

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 consideration national needs. These changes can concern the conceptual level (i.e. concepts and definitions used by the LFS, the survey coverage, 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 7.1 reports changes to the national labour force surveys introduced in 2015 by the participating countries. Such changes may introduce some discontinuity in the time series.

7.2 Comparability over space

A common framework regulation [11], common variable definitions [12], common explanatory notes [13] and a common regulation [14] regarding the definition of unemployment and the twelve principles of questionnaire construction serve 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 for the core variables.

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

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[11]   Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98.
[12]   Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008.
[13]   EU Labour Force Survey Explanatory Notes, available at:
        http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_methodology
[14]   Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

Table 7.1: Improvements or changes compared to previous year

Changes to sampling frame or sample design	
Belgium	Reduction of sample size in Q3 and Q4 2015 for budgetary reasons (reduction of group size from 26 to 23 for Brussels region and from 23 to 20 for the other two regions). This could affect the precision of all indicators.
Greece	The sampling frame was updated from the 2nd quarter of 2015. That is, from the 2nd quarter of 2016 onwards, all "new" primary sampling units (wave 1) are selected with new probabilities of selection. It is assumed that since the whole design has not changed, there would be no important effect in the LFS estimations
Luxembourg	Interviews of persons, not households. Households interview is planned for 4th quarter. Mixed-Mode CATI/CAWI. Sample taken from the register of persons in Luxembourg, persons are contacted by letter. A rotational panel design has been introduced in 2015. For 5 waves each panel is interviewed consecutively for five quarters before permanently leaving the sample.
Changes to questionnaire or national explanatory notes	
Greece	In 2015 the new NUTS classification was used for the 1st time. The main changes concern Athens grater area was one NUTS3 area and is split in 7 NUTS 3 areas. This change has no effect on the compulsory variables sent to Eurostat, but affects the optional variables at NUTS 3 level. Change in the question on monthly saralay for employees, starting from Q1 2015. The salary is collected as exact value and not in salary bands.
Spain	Introduction of new ISCED 2014 and revision of the education variables from 2014Q1.
Croatia	HATLEVEL, EDUCLEVEL: since there is no formal ISCED 4 in Croatia, it is removed from the LFS questionnaire from 2015 and it will no longer be collected. SEEKTYPE: adding of question needed for defining SEEKTYPE variable. COUNTRY1Y, REGION1Y: changes in the questionnaire flow; all persons aged 1 year or more respond to questions on country and region of residence one year before survey in accordance to requested filter.
Latvia	Starting from Q1 2015 administrative information from the Population Register on variable NATIONAL (col. 17/19) and from the State Social Insurance Agency on variable REGISTER (col. 121) is used.
Poland	Change in NUTS3 and Occupation classifications which do not have any impact on the weighting scheme or influence on estimates. Since the first quarter of 2015, the variables concerning education has been compiled in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011).
Sweden	COURLEN - Transcoding has revised. Revisions for the period Q1 2010 - Q4 2014 will be sent separately through eDAMIS.
Changes to weighting schemes	
Greece	Population estimations (by gender, age groups and NUTS2 areas) were updated based on 2011 Census. Statistics are also been revised from 2001
Luxembourg	Post-stratification of 52 strata (age, sex, nationality).
Norway	Since 1st quarter 2014 new population estimations, based on 2011 census, are used for LFS estimates
Other changes	
Lithuania	Web survey mode started in 2015
United Kingdom	The rate of non-response (from Q1 2015) now includes those that refused to be re-interviewed.

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 other sources, the population statistics and the employment data from National Accounts and Structural Business Statistics. Other comparisons are possible as well, such as with employment data 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.

Differences that need to be considered are:

- EU-LFS statistics usually cover 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.

- 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.

Moreover, most of the participating countries carried out a population census in the 2011 round. New censuses often result in new weights, new sample frames or new sample designs. By 2014 all of the participating countries had revised the weights to reflect new population estimates. Furthermore all countries have already completed the re-weighting of previous data series at least back to 2010.

Table 8.1: Coherence with population statistics 201

	Population 15-64 (in thousands) 01/01/2015			LFS annual average 15-64 (in thousands) 2015			Relative difference [(L-P)/P*100]		
	Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**
EU-28	333,084	166,511	166,573	328,936	164,102	164,834	-1.2	-1.4	-1.0
Belgium	7,272	3,653	3,619	7,281	3,658	3,623	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bulgaria	4,764	2,406	2,358	4,727	2,384	2,343	-0.8	-0.9	-0.6
Czech Republic	7,057	3,577	3,479	7,026	3,564	3,462	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Denmark	3,646	1,839	1,807	3,644	1,838	1,806	-0.1	0.0	-0.1
Germany	53,422	26,968	26,454	52,964	26,694	26,270	-0.9	-1.0	-0.7
Estonia	857	424	434	853	421	433	-0.5	-0.7	-0.2
Ireland	3,004	1,486	1,518	3,002	1,485	1,517	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Greece	7,011	3,456	3,555	6,987	3,455	3,533	-0.3	0.0	-0.6
Spain	30,809	15,495	15,314	30,642	15,379	15,263	-0.5	-0.8	-0.3
France	41,846	20,665	21,182	40,927	20,083	20,844	-2.2	-2.8	-1.6
Croatia	2,809	1,405	1,404	2,802	1,402	1,400	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
Italy	39,193	19,511	19,682	39,035	19,414	19,621	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3
Cyprus	584	284	301	559	267	292	-4.4	-5.8	-3.0
Latvia	1,303	633	670	1,275	617	658	-2.2	-2.6	-1.8
Lithuania	1,949	944	1,004	1,935	937	998	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6
Luxembourg	389	199	191	386	196	190	-0.9	-1.3	-0.5
Hungary	6,664	3,303	3,361	6,530	3,223	3,308	-2.0	-2.4	-1.6
Malta	288	148	141	285	146	140	-1.1	-1.5	-0.7
Netherlands	11,066	5,563	5,503	10,950	5,489	5,461	-1.0	-1.3	-0.8
Austria	5,767	2,891	2,877	5,721	2,854	2,867	-0.8	-1.3	-0.4
Poland	26,431	13,196	13,235	25,128	12,550	12,578	-4.9	-4.9	-5.0
Portugal	6,779	3,286	3,493	6,743	3,262	3,481	-0.5	-0.7	-0.4
Romania	13,414	6,765	6,650	13,404	6,768	6,636	-0.1	0.1	-0.2
Slovenia	1,389	714	675	1,382	711	672	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Slovakia	3,834	1,926	1,909	3,834	1,926	1,908	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finland	3,484	1,763	1,720	3,455	1,740	1,715	-0.8	-1.3	-0.3
Sweden	6,152	3,131	3,021	6,170	3,142	3,028	0.3	0.4	0.2
United Kingdom	41,899	20,880	21,019	41,291	20,501	20,790	-1.5	-1.8	-1.1
Iceland	218	110	108	205	103	102	-5.7	-6.1	-5.2
Norway	3,400	1,744	1,656	3,403	1,744	1,659	0.1	0.0	0.2
Switzerland	5,547	2,801	2,746	5,519	2,786	2,733	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,459	740	719	1,458	740	718	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Turkey	52,641	26,602	26,039	51,596	25,849	25,748	-2.0	-2.8	-1.1

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjan and lfsa_pganws), 24 November 2016 (extracted).

8.2 Coherence with other employment estimates

Coherence of employment for LFS and 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 age or type of residence. In addition, the EU-LFS does not 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 estimates represent the average on all weeks in the year (for annual results) or in the quarter (for quarterly results). National Accounts stock estimates refer to the mid of the year (for annual accounts) or the mid of the quarter (for quarterly accounts).

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. National Accounts estimates on employment are in general higher, especially in countries with a considerable percentage of irregular economy.

Apart from 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 higher than 1.5% need to be explained by other reasons. This would concern seventeen participating countries as shown in table 8.2. Germany, France and Italy are responsible for the bulk of the absolute difference between the National Accounts employment estimates and the LFS employment estimates, while in relative terms Bulgaria, Greece, France, Luxembourg, Italy and Germany show the highest discrepancies, with a distance of more than 5% [15]. When comparing data from LFS and National Accounts, users are also interested in whether the two sources show the same trend or not. Table 8.2 also compares the data on employment growth in 2015. The results show that both sources are broadly comparable as regards the direction of the employment growth for the EU-28 and that the differences mostly lie in the size 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 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 activities, employment in private households, illegal immigrants, or emerging from data collection, as in the case of non-response and proxy interviews. National Accounts combines data from all available data sources in the country. This method allows better coverage of the non-observed economy. For this reason, National Accounts estimates are frequently higher than LFS employment estimates. 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). When changes between periods are small, this may result in diverging trends between National Accounts and 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

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[15] No data is available for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

National Accounts approach, by comparing and combining different sources, is also more prone than LFS to identify and address underreporting or systematic biases. All in all, National Accounts are judged more suitable to measure employment levels, employment growth and industry breakdowns while LFS is more adequate to measure participation in the labour market (i.e. employment rates, activity rates, etc.), or to analyse the situation of specific socio-economic groups of the population (e.g. by age, gender or educational level).

Coherence of employment for LFS and 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 results. 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 usually does not collect information for people living in collective households (Business Statistics do not exclude the information). The LFS covers all economic activities and all firm sizes, whereas Business Statistics typically do not gather information on agriculture, government 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.

Table 8.2: Employment (national concept) 2015 in two different datasets on the Eurostat website. Levels and growth rates

	2015 levels				2014–2015 growth rates		
	Labour Force Survey	**National Accounts**	**LFS-NA**	**(LFS - NA)/NA *100**	**Labour Force Survey**	**National Accounts([1])**	**LFS-NA**
	(in thousands)	**(in thousands)**	**(in thousands)**	**(%)**	**(%)**	**(%)**	**p.p.**
	1 Countries using LFS as their only source for employment in National Accounts.						
	LFS is only adjusted for conceptual alignment to ESA2010						
Estonia	640.9	643.4	-2.5	-0.4	2.6	2.5	0.1
Ireland	1963.6	1989.4	-25.8	-1.3	2.6	2.5	0.1
Lithuania	1334.9	1335.7	-0.8	-0.1	1.2	1.2	0
Hungary	4210.5	4210.5	0	0	2.7	2.7	0
Poland	16083.9	16,083.0 (p)	0.9	0	1.4	1.4	0
	2 Countries using mainly LFS, but replacing it in a few industries (or labour status), on a case-by-case basis						
Greece	3610.7	4,019.8 (p)	-409.1	-10.2	2.1	0.5	1.6
Cyprus	185.9	194.9 (p)	-8.9	-4.6	2.3	3.4	-1.1
Latvia	896.1	898.9	-2.8	-0.3	1.3	1.2	0.1
Romania	8535.4	8,677.8 (p)	-142.4	-1.6	-0.9	-1.2	0.3
	3 Countries not using LFS, or making minimal use of it						
Belgium	4551.6	4678.6	-127	-2.7	0.2	0.9	-0.7
France	26423.7	27,936.0 (p)	-1512.3	-5.4	0.1	0.5	-0.4
Luxembourg	257.5	244.8	12.8	5.2	4.8	2.1	2.7
Slovenia	917.4	941	-23.6	-2.5	0.1	0.4	-0.3
Iceland	183.6	183.7	-0.1	-0.1	3.4	3.4	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)						
Bulgaria	3031.9	3,446.2 (p)	-414.3	-12	1.7	0.4	1.3
Czech Republic	5041.9	5165.9	-124	-2.4	1.4	1.4	0
Spain	17866	18,521.2 (p)	-655.2	-3.5	3	2.5	0.5
Croatia	1589.4	1599	-9.6	-0.6	1.5	1.5	0
Italy	22464.8	23982	-1517.2	-6.3	0.8	0.6	0.2
Portugal	4548.7	4,604.9 (e)	-56.2	-1.2	1.1	1.2	-0.1
Slovakia	2424	2424	0	0	2.6	2.6	0
Finland	2436.8	2497.4	-60.6	-2.4	-0.4	-0.4	0
Sweden	4836.8	4809.7	27.1	0.6	1.4	1.5	-0.1
Norway	2641	2753	-112	-4.1	0.5	0.3	0.2
	4b Countries not giving precedence to any labour side						
Germany	40210.9	42979	-2768.1	-6.4	0.9	0.9	0
Austria	4148.3	4215.3	-67	-1.6	0.9	0.5	0.4
	4c Countries giving precedence to labour demand sources (i.e. employment registers and/or enterprise surveys)						
Denmark	2752	2792	-40	-1.4	1.4	1.3	0.1
Malta	358.2	366.4	-8.2	-2.2	-1.2	0.7	-1.9
Netherlands	8318.7	8,658.0 (p)	-339.3	-3.9	1	0.9	0.1
United Kingdom	31204.9	31293	-88.1	-0.3	1.7	1.8	-0.1
Switzerland	4600.1	4600.1	0	0	1.4	1.4	0

(p) Provisional and (e) estimated
Source: Eurostat Labour Force Survey, Annual averages (online data code: lfsi_emp_a) and Eurostat National Accounts, national concept (online data code: nama_10_pe) – 24 November 2016 (extracted)

9 Regional labour market statistics[16]

9.1 Introduction

The EU-LFS is designed to give accurate quarterly information at national level and accurate annual information at NUTS 2 regional level. Microdata including the NUTS 2 level codes are provided by all 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, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Iceland and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia comprise a single NUTS 2 region, i.e. the national result is also the NUTS 2 result (as well as the NUTS 1 result).

For the purposes of regional analyses as well as for monitoring the progress towards regional cohesion, data at NUTS 3 level are also often requested by users. However, as the transmission of data at NUTS 3 level has no legal basis, the figures are provided by participating countries on a voluntary basis with the purpose of deriving other regional aggregations. Therefore, available NUTS3 data is currently only used for publication at a more aggregated level. For example, unemployment and employment figures are disseminated by urban-rural typology as well as metropolitan and coastal regions, which are based on data of groups of NUTS 3 regions [17].

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 are described below.

9.2 Sources for NUTS 3 level labour market statistics

A majority of Member States provide the NUTS 3 code in the LFS micro data. Most of these countries have given their consent to Eurostat to use the micro data to produce the aggregations by regional typologies. For 2015, 20 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) as well as Norway and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sent the NUTS 3 codes in the LFS micro data. All but two of these

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[16] Chapter 9 was jointly written by Eurostat Units F3 – Labour market and lifelong learning and E4 – Regional statistics and geographical information.

[17] For a detailed description of this regional typologies, see:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/rural-development/methodology
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/metropolitan-regions/overview
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/maritime-policy-indicators/methodology

countries (France and Spain) have given their consent that this data can be used to publish estimates by regional typologies. Three of the 22 countries providing NUTS 3 micro data, namely Austria, Ireland and Spain, also transmitted tabulated results. Six countries, Germany, Croatia, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia, only transmit tabulated results, partly because the data is not always based on annual LFS results. However, due to non-sampling errors and the combined use of LFS data with the information from other sources (e.g. registers, small area estimates), it is difficult to assess the accuracy of NUTS 3 level labour market data according to scientific standards. Portugal and Germany transmit employment and unemployment data already aggregated by regional typologies. In 2015, for Switzerland, Iceland and Turkey, no NUTS 3 data were available. For two Member States, Cyprus and Luxembourg, the NUTS 3 level does not differ from the NUTS 1 and the NUTS 2 level.

From 2014 onwards, the LFS reliability limits used for annual averages of quarterly data ([18]) are applied directly on the aggregated labour market data by regional typologies. In past years the LFS reliability limits used for NUTS 2 data were also applied for the individual NUTS 3 data, which resulted in an unnecessary high number of missing aggregate values.

([18]) For more information, see
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey

10 | Annex

10.1 Item non-response for the variables defined by Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 and clarifications provided by Member States

Table A.1: Quarterly data 2015

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Belgium	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	89.8	89.7	89.8	89.5	HWWISH is only asked to persons who declared to wish to work more.
		Col_116	WANTWORK	43.5	43	43.2	43	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			No panel data (only one wave)
Bulgaria	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	10.1	12.2	13.1	13.7	For persons without employment contract (main part of the variable non-response) the duration of job is often unclear
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	14.5	20.6	34.5	25	Respondents meet difficulties to answer the question, especially self-employed. More than a half of non-responded persons were self-employed on the second job.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C			C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C		C	C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C				This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C		C	C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C		C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA (col_103) to METHODI (col_111) are considered as active methods.
		Col_115 - Not employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA (col_103) to METHODI (col_111) are considered as active methods.
Czech Republic	compulsory	Col_123	EDUCSTAT	17.5	17.8	18.1	18.2	only persons aged 15-69
Denmark	compulsory	Col_023	PROXY	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.8	Computer program error. Has now been corrected.
		Col_028	SIGNISAL	C	C		C	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR			12	15.4	
		Col_084	EXISTPR	26.4	26.8	27.3	37.6	
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH			C	C	
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI			C		
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL				C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL				C	
		Col_123	EDUCSTAT	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.8	
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK	29.4	29.7	29.7	29.8	
		Col_209	EDUCLEVL			10.7	11.1	
Germany	compulsory	Col_023	PROXY			10.8	10.5	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	10.9	11.9	14.3	14.6	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C				
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL			C		
		Col_195	INTWAVE	100	100	100	100	This variable is not filled because there are no intra-annual waves in the German LFS.
	optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	100	100	100	100	This variable is not filled in for legal reasons.
Estonia	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL		C		C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH				C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI		C	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK		C		C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL		C	C		Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
Ireland	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	57.1	48.8	43.5	47.1	Persons are asked the question and the level of non-response generally reflects people not knowing what the duration of temporary employment will be
Greece	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	It is quite rare the incidence of persons residing in Greece and working abroad.
Spain	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	84	84	84.6	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	C	No 'other' active method in the survey
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	37.7	37.5	47.8	38	People aged 15 plus 'don't know'.
		Col_209	EDUCLEVL	11.1	11.2	12.4	11	People aged 15.
France	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	17.9	18.1	15.5	16.5	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	15.7	15.7	16.2	15.7	
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	16	16.4	14.9	15.8	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL		C	C		
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL		C		C	
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK	10.4	10.8	11.4	11.1	For households where all persons are aged 65 or more and are inactive, the variables are imputed for waves 2 to 5; thus there is no interview week for them.
Croatia	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	97.2	96.8	97.3	97.6	
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	86.4	88.3	88.6	87.3	
		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	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Italy	compulsory	Col_073/74	HWWISH	.	.	16.7	.	The questions on WISHMORE-HWWISH in the IT questionnaire 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); they are mainly concentrated in the 3rd quarter in which there are summer holidays. A little percentage of item non-responses is due to "don't know" answers.
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	19.4	20.4	20.2	19.1	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	25.8	27.4	26.7	26.7	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee.
Cyprus	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_110 - Employed	METHODH				C	Rare method to use for searching
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH				C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI				C	Rare method to use for searching
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI			C		
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL		C			Rare method to use for searching
Latvia	compulsory	Col_023	PROXY	13.9	13.8	14.2	14.5	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.023).
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS 1 level.
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU		C		C	Respondents didn't indicate any unpaid overtime
		Col_084	EXISTPR	27.0	27.0	28.4	29.2	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.123).
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C			C	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM				C	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
		Col_123	EDUCSTAT	13.9	13.8	14.2	14.5	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.123).
		Col_128	COURATT	13.9	13.8	14.2	14.5	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.128).

	Variable status	Column	Identifer	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Lithuania	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_110 - Employed	METHODH				C	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents. In fourth quarter only 1% of respondents indicated it.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C				This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents. In 1-3 quarters no body indicated it and only 6 respondents indicated it in quarter 4.
Luxembourg	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C	C	C	C	Data for 2015 has been delivered to Eurostat separately from individual data.
		Col_023	PROXY	C	C	C		
		Col_029/31	NACE3D	10.8				
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	10.1				
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP				11.4	
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	27.8	23.7	40.2	28.1	
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2		12.6	15.5	12.4	
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	17.4	13.7	14.8	16.8	
		Col_195	INTWAVE	C				
		Col_209	EDUCLEVL				13.2	
		Col_021/22	COUNTRYB		70.3			
Hungary	compulsory	Col_047/48	MSTARTWK		12.5	17.2	23.6	EU-Filter: REFYEAR – YSTARTWK<=2 HUFilter: SUM (REFYEAR– YSTARTWK<2) or (SUM(REFYEAR– YSTARTWK=2) and (REFMONTH<=MSTARTWK)) There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
		Col_084	EXISTPR	19.6	20.3	20.4	20.7	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR		11.9	19.4	22.1	EU-Filter: REFYEAR – YEARPR<=2 HU Questionnaire: The HU-LFS (in accordance with the EU-LFS) gives in some cases more detailed information than used in the Eurostat filter. This information is used by transcodification program of HU-LFS dataset. There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH				C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI				C	
		Col_123	EDUCSTAT	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_128	COURATT	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
Malta	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	For persons working abroad, information is collected on Country of work only and regional information is not collected. Otherwise, all information for persons working in Malta is collected and transmitted to Eurostat. Data is transmitted in col 260|262
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI		C			
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ		C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK		C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL		C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_129/131	COURLEN			51.5	49.7	An error in the data entry program led to a high non response rate, which was rather difficult to impute all the information.
Netherlands	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	57.1	56.6	54.9	56.4	
		Col_080/81	NACE2J2D	26.3	26.3	26.4	26.6	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	11.8	13.4	14.6	12.3	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_112 - Not employed	METHODJ	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
	optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB	13.6	13.4	13.5	13.6	
Portugal	compulsory	Col_028	SIGNISAL	.	.	C	.	In the 3rd quarter of 2015, for all the individuals who were absent from work the duration of the absence was up to 3 months.
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	14.7	14.6	13.6	14.1	NC
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM	C	C	C	C	NC
		Col_115 - Not	METHODM	C	C	C	C	NC

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		employed						
Romania	compulsory	Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	C	.	According to the survey results, this is not a popular search method among employed
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	.	.	C	.	According to the survey results, this is not a popular search method among employed
Slovenia	compulsory	Col_065/66	HWOVERP	87.3	87.4	88.7	85.2	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	92.8	92.4	93.2	91.4	
		Col_089/90	MONTHPR	.	13.8	11.6	10.8	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	.	.	C	This method is almost not available in Slovenia
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	.	.	.	C	This method is almost not available in Slovenia
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	.	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not available in Slovenia
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not available in Slovenia
Slovakia	compulsory	Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	14.7	16.3	16.9	18.6	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	17.9	19.4	19.8	16.6	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_110 - Employed	METHODH	.	C	.	.	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	.	.	.	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_209	EDUCLEVL	39.3				Blank items should be added to code 3

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Finland	compulsory	Col_084	EXISTPR		10	10.3		According to our calculations Q1 non-response rate is 1.9 and Q2 non-response rate is 2.0 for 15 to 74 years old reference persons. As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ	C		C	C	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C		C	C	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C		C	C	Not available
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	Not available
Sweden	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C	C	C	C	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. Data for 2015 has been delivered to Eurostat separately from individual data.
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	16.4	16.4	15.4	19.4	Respondents do not always remember start and end of work
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	11.6	12.2	10.5	10.4	High item non response. People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR	28.7	38.8	20.9	20.4	High item non response. People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL			C	C	Very infrequent that this variable has value 1. Checked against micro-data.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C			C	
United Kingdom	compulsory	Col_054	TEMPDUR	54.7	53.2	51.8	54.2	There is a high-level of non-response due to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working in a temporary job in the reference week.
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	90.4	90.3	90.5	90.5	There is a high level of non-response due to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	84.2	84.5	85.6	85.1	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	89.1	89.7	89.5	89.9	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	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	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	The UK-LFS does not collect information on whether respondents are awaiting results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	69.8	68.9	69.3	69.9	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_209	EDUCLEVL	.	.	12.0	.	Seasonal, i.e. higher proportion of cases where EDUCSTAT = 3 in summer
Iceland	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C			C	
		Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR				12.9	
		Col_065/66	HWOVERP	65.9	65.7	72.3	62.5	
		Col_067/68	HWOVERPU	65.9	65.7	72.3	62.5	
		Col_069/70	HOURREAS	14.1	10.6	11.0	10.1	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_073/74	HWWISH	32.0	35.0	33.7	35.7	
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2	15.0	15.8	18.0	12.6	
		Col_101 - Employed	SEEKTYPE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_101 - Not employed	SEEKTYPE		22.2			
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR		21.9			
		Col_103 - Employed	METHODA		C	C	C	
		Col_104 - Employed	METHODB		C	C	C	
		Col_105 - Employed	METHODC		C	C	C	
		Col_106 - Employed	METHODD		C	C	C	
		Col_107 - Employed	METHODE		C	C	C	
		Col_108 - Employed	METHODF		C	C	C	
		Col_109 - Employed	METHODG		C	C	C	
		Col_109 - Not employed	METHODG	C	C	C		
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH		C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI		C	C	C	
		Col_112 - Employed	METHODJ		C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK		C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Not employed	METHODK	C	C	C		
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL		C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C		
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM		C	C	C	
		Col_116	WANTWORK	31.6	38.2	28.4	28.6	
		Col_129/131	COURLEN	14.2	18.8	22.2	14.7	
		Col_209	EDUCLEVL			14.1		
Norway	compulsory	Col_039/40	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_047/48	MSTARTWK	27.5	32.9	37.7	40.2	
		Col_054	TEMPDUR	46.3	47.8	44.0	49.6	
		Col_071	WISHMORE	12.8	12.6	14.2	14.0	
		Col_076	LOOKOJ	11.7	10.9	12.8	12.7	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_082/83	HWACTUA2			10.7	10.1	
		Col_102 - Employed	SEEKDUR		11.4	15.2	12.4	
		Col_102 - Not employed	SEEKDUR		11.7	12.0	10.1	
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH	C				
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH	C			C	
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	C	C	C	C	
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI				C	
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	
		Col_162/163	INTWEEK		10.1			
	optional	Col_021/22	COUNTRYB			11.5	14.5	
Switzerland	compulsory	Col_001/2	HHSEQNUM	C	C	C	C	In Switzerland only one person per household is interviewed (see derogation in annex II). For this person HHSEQNUM automatically equals 1.
		Col_110 - Employed	METHODH		C			No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
		Col_110 - Not employed	METHODH		C	C	C	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
		Col_111 - Not employed	METHODI		C	C		No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C			METHODL is not relevant for Switzerland.
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	METHODL is not relevant for Switzerland.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	compulsory	Col_041/42	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	
		Col_113 - Employed	METHODK	C				We plan to introduce this variable in the future
		Col_114 - Employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
		Col_114 - Not employed	METHODL	C	C	C	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
		Col_115 - Employed	METHODM		C			We plan to introduce this variable in the future
		Col_117 - Employed	AVAILBLE			C		We plan to introduce this variable in the future

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
Turkey	compulsory	Col_017/18	NATIONAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	According to the 2010 Address Based Population Registration System; 99.7 % 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	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.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_111 - Employed	METHODI	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_113 - Employed	METHODK	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_114 - Employed	METHODL	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_168	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Note: 'C' All records have the same value

Table A.2: Annual data 2015

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Belgium	compulsory	Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	90.1	(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.
Bulgaria	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	25.9	Persons who are employed but temporary absent from work (e.g. on parental leave) - cases with SIGNISAL=3, were not asked this question due to the limitations of paper questionnaire. The future decision will depend on the existence of variable SIGNISAL.
	optional	Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	The variable is not available in the national LFS.
Czech Republic	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	We will send dataset with this variable during the next year (imputation).
	optional	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
Denmark	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	73.5	
		Col_121	REGISTER	25.3	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	10.7	
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
Germany	compulsory	Col_036	SUPVISOR	19.8	
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	13.0	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	34.9	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	24.9	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	29.1	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	11.2	
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
Estonia	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	16.3	In the Eurostat's study on 'Analysis of questionnaires, explanatory notes and transcodification programmes for the national Labour Force Surveys', it was pointed out that in the Estonian transcodification program, the EU LFS option 3 (Person did not want a permanent job) of the variable TEMPREAS includes persons having 'no preference' (D15=3) between both categories 'Did not want permanent job' and 'Wanted permanent job, but have not found''. To correct it, persons having 'no preference' (D15=3) are coded as 'blank' since 2010.
Ireland	compulsory	Col_037/38	SIZEFIRM	14.1	Not stated answers arise from respondents
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	41.9	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	18.7	Not stated answers arise from respondents
		Col_093	STAPROPR	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	96.9	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	72.7	Question only asked to direct respondents due to sensitive nature of question
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	46.7	Not stated answers arise from respondents
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Not currently collected
		Col_136	COURWORH	20.9	Not stated answers arise from respondents
Greece	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	18.7	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	AVAIREAS	23.1	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	11.8	It is a sensitive question in which people tend to refuse to answer.
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	17.9	The high non response in this (and the next 2 variables) is probably due to the fact that a part of the respondents (specifically-employed persons) is asked separately about participation in work-related educational activities. In several cases, these are proxies and the person who is answering is aware of the fact that the person participated in an activity but does not know the details (subject, etc.) to report. We are trying to improve the situation
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	17.9	See previous comment.
		Col_136	COURWORH	17.9	See previous comment.
Spain	compulsory	Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	16.7	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	It will be provided from registers in due time.
		Col_132	COURPURP	17.6	People aged 15.
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	19.5	People aged 15.
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Not provided
France	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	18.8	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	13.0	

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_119	PRESEEK	46.3	PRESEEK is not asked in the French LFS questionnaire. However, this variable is rebuilt for people who have been seeking a job for one year or less; Indeed, information are available in the questionnaire regarding the situation at each of the last twelve months and regarding the date since people have been seeking a job.
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	17.6	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	25.3	
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	10.2	
Croatia	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	13.2	
		Col_077	LOOKREAS	21.7	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	83.6	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	13.9	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	25.1	
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
Italy	compulsory	Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	12.4	Item non-response is due to people aged less than 15 years, for which this information is not collected in the national questionnaire
Cyprus	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	C	No such agencies in Cyprus
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	
Latvia	compulsory	Col_146	WSTAT1Y	14.1	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.146).
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS1 level
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	14.1	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.122).
Lithuania	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	10.7	Some respondents do not want to tell their monthly wage (salary). The Social Insurance Fund Board data is used for imputation of wage (salary) from the main job for respondents who didn't answer this question.
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected since 2015
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected since 2016
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected since 2017
Luxembourg	compulsory	Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	16.9	
		Col_121	REGISTER	10.2	
		Col_148/149	NACE1Y2D	10.2	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	13.5	
Hungary	compulsory	Col_146	WSTAT1Y	11.0	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	According to the Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 of the European Parliament and 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 transmission of the results – where administrative data are used to supply data corresponding to the survey characteristic wages from the main job, – may be forwarded to Eurostat within twenty-one months of the end of the reference period". And data always are transmitted to Eurostat to the end of the requested period.
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	11.0	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
Malta	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	23.2	Missing information was related to YSTARTWK. In 2016 further analysis will be carried out on this variable.
		Col_056	SHIFTWK	20.6	There was a problem in the data transmission syntax for Q3 2015. It was corrected in the following wave.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	86.6	Further analysis in the future will be carried out to ensure non response rate.
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	Data was transmitted in col263_265
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.
Netherlands	compulsory	Col_051	FTPTREAS	12.8	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	34.3	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	63.9	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	69.0	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	77.8	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	37.7	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	72.5	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	17.0	
		Col_148/149	NACE1Y2D	10.0	
	optional	Col_136	COURWORH	11.6	
Austria	compulsory	Col_121	REGISTER		Delivered yearly with delay since basic data originates from registers.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL		Delivered yearly with delay since basic data originates from registers.
Poland	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	58.3	It is a very sensitive variable and also not compulsory
Portugal	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	10.9	
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
Slovenia	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	13.4	Problem will be solved in the future.
		Col_049	WAYJFOUN	21.9	Problem will be solved in the future.

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	40.3	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	40.5	Problem will be solved in the future.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	100.0	Problem will be solved in the future.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	Yearly files are sent separately by 31 March of the following year
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	It's optional
Slovakia	compulsory	Col_154/155	INCDECIL	41.5	Very sensitive nature of question
Finland	compulsory	Col_146	WSTAT1Y	18.8	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household. The non-response rate is 5.94 for the right target group with the yearly weighting factor COEFFY: INTWAVE=5 and HHLINK=1 and age=15-74.
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	41.7	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household. The non-response rate is 7.4 for the right target group with the yearly weighting factor COEFFY: INTWAVE=5 and HHLINK=1 and age=15-74.
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Optional variable.
Sweden	compulsory	Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	76.1	The high non-response is due to employed who doesn't look for another job.
		Col_121	REGISTER	19.2	
		Col_146	WSTAT1Y	45.4	A new solution of collecting the data was used during 2007. Some smaller improvements have been done since then.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	
	optional	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
United Kingdom	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	32.7	The current calculation of TEMPREAS assigns WHYTMP6 = 5 (some other reason) to blank (no answer). Eurostat codification only allows the four values covered by the first four response categories. It is not clear how those who answer 'some other reason' should be coded.
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	98.4	TEMPAGCY is derived from NSI var TMPCON (contract with employment agency). TMPCON only asked if HOWGET = 5 (private employment agency). If filter HOWGET = 5 included in DV then item non response falls to < 2%.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	68.3	Further analysis to be undertaken.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	36.2	Further analysis to be undertaken.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	55.7	Further analysis to be undertaken.
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	25.5	Refusal = 15.6%, non-contact (no proxy) = 4.1%, no pay yet received =

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
					0.3%, don't know = 5.9%.
	optional	Col_122	MAINSTAT	100.0	Not currently included on UK LFS.
		Col_132	COURPURP	73.0	The national questionnaire variable that informs COURPURP - T4PURP - is asked only of specific forms of taught-learning. The UK training and taught learning questions are currently being reviewed and will change for 2016.
		Col_136	COURWORH	73.0	As COURPURP.
Iceland	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	39.6	
		Col_055	TEMPAGCY	C	
		Col_077	LOOKREAS	24.4	
		Col_093	STAPROPR	68.2	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	49.4	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	11.5	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	29.9	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	100.0	
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	70.0	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	11.8	
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	84.7	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	14.6	
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	
	optional	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
Norway	compulsory	Col_049	WAYJFOUN	32.4	
		Col_051	FTPTREAS	28.4	
		Col_053	TEMPREAS	16.5	
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	100.0	
		Col_096/98	ISCOPR3D	100.0	
		Col_100	SEEKREAS	30.7	
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	20.6	
		Col_119	PRESEEK	24.8	
		Col_121	REGISTER	100.0	
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	100.0	
		Col_154/155	INCDECIL	100.0	
	optional	Col_132	COURPURP	100.0	
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	
Switzerland	compulsory	Col_053	TEMPREAS	26.3	A considerable amount of respondents have indicated "other reasons" (without specification). As TEMPREAS does not have such a residual category, these respondents have to be coded "blank".

	Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
		Col_094/95	NACEPR2D	10.9	A major part of the non-response in NACEPR2D is due to the fact that the local unit indicated by respondents does not (or not anymore) figure in the register which is used to derive the economic activity according to NACE.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	16.0	Mostly respondents answering "don't know" in the question for AVAILBLE. As AVAILBLE='blank' is not allowed, these respondents have to be coded AVAILBLE=2 and are therefore included in the filter for AVAIREAS, while the respective question is not asked, as it is logically NA.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	28.7	Filter problem. No adaptation planned for the time being, as there are ongoing discussions about future changes of NEEDCARE in LAMAS.
	optional	Col_072	WAYMORE	30.5	Filter/codification error, adaptation planned
		Col_132	COURPURP	34.3	Filter error, modification of the questionnaire made for 2016
		Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.
		Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	compulsory	Col_016	MARSTAT	14.0	Marital status is the conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country.
		Col_075	HOMEWK	100.0	This variable will be introduced next period.
		Col_118 - Not employed	AVAIREAS	94.5	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	This variable is planned to introduce in the future.
		Col_120	NEEDCARE	100.0	This variable is planned to introduce in the future.
		Col_121	REGISTER	85.1	For this variable we didn't collect information for persons who are not registered in our employment agency because they can't apply for benefit.
		Col_150/151	COUNTR1Y	15.4	For this variable we collect the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we didn't have any information. In the future we plan to improve this.
		Col_152/153	REGION1Y	C	For this variable we collect the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we didn't have any 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	The variable is optional but will be introduced in the future.
Turkey	compulsory	Col_055	TEMPAGCY	100.0	This variable is not asked since temporary working agencies are not common in Turkey for the moment.
		Col_118 - Employed	AVAIREAS	C	This variable is not available for employed since 2009. It had been asked until 2009 and found unnecessary when examined the

Variable status	Column	Identifier	2015	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
				frequency.
	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_132	COURPURP	100.0	Questions about attending any courses, seminars, conferences or receive private lessons or instructions outside the regular education system haven't asked since 2014.
	Col_133/134	COURFILD	100.0	Questions about attending any courses, seminars, conferences or receive private lessons or instructions outside the regular education system haven't asked since 2014.
	Col_136	COURWORH	100.0	Questions about attending any courses, seminars, conferences or receive private lessons or instructions outside the regular education system haven't asked since 2014.

Note: 'C' All records have the same value

10.2 Data presentation and abbreviations

Data presentation

The following symbols are used, where necessary:

:	Not available;
–	Not applicable.

Geographical aggregates and country codes

EU-28	European Union of 28 Member States
EU	European Union
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
IE	Ireland
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
HR	Croatia
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
IS	Iceland
NO	Norway
CH	Switzerland
MK[19]	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
TR	Turkey

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[19] Provisional ISO code which does not prejudge in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which is to be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey 2015

The purpose of this quality report is to provide the users of the European Union Labour Market Statistics with a tool for assessing the quality of these statistics which are based on the European Union Labour Force Survey. It provides a brief description of the survey and a summary of the main quality indicators which are: relevance, accuracy, accessibility and clarity, timeliness and punctuality, comparability, and coherence. The quality report is updated annually.

For more information
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/