

Glossary: Labour force survey (LFS)

Statistics Explained

A **labour force survey** , abbreviated as **LFS** , is an inquiry directed to [households](#) , designed to obtain information on the [labour market](#) and related issues through a series of personal interviews.

The [European Union \(EU\)](#) LFS covers all citizens living in [private households](#) and excludes those in [collective households](#) , such as boarding houses, residence halls and hospitals. The definitions used are common to all EU Member States and are based on international recommendations by the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) .

The survey is conducted in European countries by National Statistical Institutes as the "Labour Force Survey".

Further information

- [EU labour force survey](#) - online publication
- [Employment and unemployment \(LFS\)](#) (Eurostat website dedicated section)
- [Employment and unemployment \(Labour Force Survey\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — employ_esms)
- [Labour force survey in the EU, candidate and EFTA countries - Main characteristics of national surveys, 2018](#) (publication)
- [EU-LFS Quality reporting](#) (publication)

Related concepts

- [Employed person](#)
- [Labour cost survey \(LCS\)](#)
- [Structure of earnings survey \(SES\)](#)

Statistical data

- [Labour market](#) (theme navigation page)