



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate C – Macro-economic statistics
C.3 – Statistics for administrative purposes

Luxembourg
ESTAT.C.3/LFO/ID/LN/bd/D(2024)

Subject: Family Budget Survey 2024 among retired EU staff

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

In accordance with the staff regulations, Eurostat – the Statistical Office of the European Communities – periodically calculates the consumption structure (expenditure pattern) of international active and retired civil servants in the different Member States.

2024 is the year for a survey among the retired officials, staff receiving invalidity pensions, widows/widowers and orphans. The purpose is to collect the necessary information in order to estimate an average expenditure pattern of retired European Union officials' households in each Member State.

The resulting pattern is an essential element in the calculation of purchasing power parities (PPP) and the correction coefficients (CC). Consequently, the results of this survey may affect the calculation of the CC which will eventually be applied to your pension.

More information about salary and pension adjustments and the calculation of correction coefficients can be found on the Eurostat website dedicated section describing remuneration statistics for administrative purposes.

Link to dedicated section: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/civil-servants-remuneration/overview>

You may already have seen preliminary announcements (e.g. in INFO SENIOR December 2023 and in VOX January 2024). This note now formally requests your contribution to the harmonized Family Budget Survey (FBS).

We highly recommend you to submit the questionnaire online, but there is also a possibility to download the questionnaire and print out a paper version to fill in by hand for return by regular mail or by sending us a scanned copy by e-mail.

Warning: the online version is shorter than the printed version due to selective sequencing

Link to online questionnaire, available in 3 languages (English, French, German):
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FBS_PEN_2024

Recent survey experience suggests that many people like to use the paper version to compile information, and then enter it online all in one go. However, if you choose to do this, the information you give will be processed in a way to ensure your **anonymity**. Even though the first part of the survey asks for some standard personal information (e.g. place of residence), please do not put any additional personal information in the survey (name, staff number, etc.). The results will only be reported in a summary format and the personal data will only be used for statistical purposes.

Standard Data Protection rules for handling confidential information will apply. Eurostat will only use it to calculate expenditure patterns used to establish correction coefficients. It will not be used for any other administrative purpose.

Link to DPR record <https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-00993.4>

The reference period for the survey is ‘the last month’ or ‘the last 12 months’. For cars - which are typically bought and sold less frequently - the reference period is five years.

The questionnaire is carefully designed to minimise the response burden – but given the nature of the subject and the requirements of the established methodology, a certain degree of complexity cannot be avoided. Whilst we do not expect everybody to have expenditure under every heading, it is important to complete the questionnaire as fully as possible.

Before starting to fill in the questionnaire it may be helpful to compile information about your consumption during the reference period (e.g. contract agreements, subscription renewals, invoices, supermarket till receipts, credit card records, bank statements, insurance records, health claims and reimbursements, education declarations and allowances, tax returns).

Please note that the questionnaire has been extended by comparison to the previous version, and we are asking not only for the amounts you spend “in-area” (i.e. in the country of residence) but also for expenditure “out-of-area” (i.e. in other countries) – e.g. education of children, leisure during holidays, cross-border purchases, maintaining links with home country/former place of work. This will allow the calculation of a broader-based CC.

Please note that only a maximal participation in the survey can guarantee the statistical viability of the results. For this reason, Eurostat and DG Human Resources strongly encourage your participation and ask you kindly to fill in the questionnaire and submit your reply before the closure deadline.

For example, one goal will be to achieve a balanced, representative sample of participants (e.g. to avoid a situation with respondents whose expenditure pattern reflects a situation with only male/female, young/old, single/married, with/without children, low/high income, previously temporary/permanent officials, just arrived/longstanding presence, single/multiple nationality, expatriate/indigenous, city centre/rural commuter).

The online survey will be accessible with effect from 30 June 2024. **The target deadline for submitting your completed questionnaire is 30 September 2024.**

Due to the large number of participants, respondents who have queries about the survey are kindly asked to review the FAQ, before contacting Eurostat. There is also a glossary

in alphabetic order. If you have further questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail.

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Yours faithfully,

Lena FREJ OHLSSON
Head of Unit