Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey 2017

2019 edition

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Contents

1 Introduction

The quality concept applied in this report is in conformity with the definition developed by the European Statistical System and reported in the European Statistics Code of Practice. According to this definition the quality of a statistical output includes the following components: relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, comparability and coherence, accessibility and clarity. Each quality component consists of several sub-components and is shortly explained at the start of the respective section in this report [1].

The individual country quality reports that were delivered to Eurostat during summer 2018 constitute the main source for the present report. Other sources that have been used or consulted are additional metadata provided to Eurostat from countries, national quality reports from previous years, websites of the individual National Statistical Institutes (NSIs), the LFS datasets for 2017 and the reference metadata on the data sets disseminated by Eurostat.

The present quality report closely follows the standard Quality Report format that has been developed within Eurostat. In many instances, however, it is impossible to present the data exactly as required by the standard Eurostat format, as this is targeted to report homogeneous production processes within each country and the EU-LFS is the result of the collection of national data sets from the NSIs. Information from the individual countries was in some cases not sufficient to provide a comprehensive summary.

Chapter 9 of the present report covers the regional aspects of the EU-LFS and has been written jointly by the units within Eurostat dealing with labour market and regional statistics.

This quality report complements the statistical report describing the characteristics of the national surveys in the EU Member States, Candidate Countries and the EFTA countries, also available on the Eurostat website [2].

Eurostat wishes to thank all experts in the countries participating in conducting the EU-LFS and 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 handbook for Quality Reports', available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-GQ-15-003

[2]   Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistical-reports/-/KS-FT-18-009

2 Overview of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2017

2.1 Coverage

This document covers all the thirty-four countries (participating countries) providing Eurostat with quarterly micro-data from their labour force surveys in 2017: the 28 Member States of the European Union, three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and three candidate countries, i.e. Montenegro, 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.

The population interviewed about the employment status is 15 years and more for all participating countries, with the exception of Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom (which interview people aged 16 and more) as well as Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Finland, Sweden and Norway (people aged 15-74), Iceland (people aged 16-74) and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (people aged 15-79).

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 rules and guidelines to assure the comparability of the results by regulating the survey designs, the survey characteristics and the methodology of the EU-LFS. A detailed overview of the EU-LFS regulations is published in Statistics Explained at 'EU-LFS – main features and legal basis' [5].

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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 only referred to quarter 2. In Mayotte this is still the case and 2017 data for this department is still not included in the standard French datasets. Data from Mayotte are nevertheless included in the regional tables.

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_%E2%80%93_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. Detailed information on the national laws or regulations is not collected for this report.

The participation in the EU-LFS is 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.

2.3   Reference period

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.

All participating countries in the EU-LFS produce quarterly and annual estimates [6].

2.4   Sampling designs

The sampling designs applied 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 registers of dwellings or 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 and Latvia with other registers, Estonia, Spain and Malta with census information. Germany grounds the sample frame on the 2011 census integrated with information from the register of new dwellings. France uses the tax register for Metropolitan France and the annual population census for the overseas departments. Poland uses a statistical sampling frame for social surveys based on information coming from administrative sources, regarding persons residing at a given address. In the United Kingdom the survey base is represented by the Royal Mail's PAF (Postcode Address File), a database of all addresses receiving mail, the telephone directories in the far north of Scotland and the Rating and Valuation Lists (which serves for the administration of land taxes) in Northern Ireland.

Sampling stages and primary sampling units (PSU)

Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Iceland, and Norway use a single stage sampling or single stage cluster sampling design. All other countries use a two 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 section 2.8).

Final sampling units

Three types of final sampling units are employed: 1) households, 2) dwellings/addresses and 3) persons. Germany and France 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).

Overall sampling rate

The theoretical sampling rate (in % of final sampling units), for all participating countries, per quarter of the EU-LFS is 0.40% (EU-28: 0.42%). Malta and Iceland (1.7%) have the highest sampling rate per quarter followed by Luxembourg (1.6%), while most other participating countries have sampling rates of 1% or less. On average, the achieved quarterly sample in 2017 in all participating countries is 1.720 million individuals (EU-28: 1.517 million), of which 1.318 million are in the age group 15–74 years (EU-28: 1.163 million). The achieved sample in the EU-LFS is thus approximately 0.29% 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.

2.5 Rotation schemes

All participating countries use a rotating panel design for the samples. The number of panels (waves) ranges from two to eight. All panel designs include 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 2017, adopted by 15 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 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 percentages of overlapping population between two successive quarters or between the same quarters in two successive years. All panel designs, with a quarter-to-quarter overlap, result in an overlap of 50% or more [7] of the sample between two successive quarters. There is less emphasis on the overlap between corresponding quarters in two successive years. 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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[7]   These percentages are only theoretical; the actual overlaps may be lower due to non-response and panel attrition.

2.6   Calculation of 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) post-stratification where the inverse of the selection probabilities are adjusted a posteriori to the population's distribution by sex, age groups and other external (administrative) sources, and 2) calibration which consist in different variations of adjusting to marginal totals. 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, for people aged between 15 and 74, in calculating the weighting factors: exceptions are Germany, Greece, and Slovenia who use broader age groups than the five-year ones [8]. All countries that have NUTS 2 regions defined use at least NUTS 2 regions for calculating the weights, but twenty-three countries (Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) use a more detailed regional classification (NUTS 3 or LAU; groups of NUTS 3).

Denmark, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland use register statistics on employment and/or unemployment in their weighting procedure. 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. Nevertheless, no country directly calibrates a variable determining the International Labour Organization (ILO) labour force status to match non-demographic administrative data. In that respect, the current use of non-demographic administrative data in the production process of the LFS, and in particular in the calibration and weighting steps, does not affect the correct survey measurement of the ILO labour force status.

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

2.7   Data collection methods

The EU-LFS data collection is carried out through mainly four modes: personal visits, telephone interviews, web interviews and self-administered questionnaires.

Most countries conduct the interview only with computerised questionnaires. Seven (Czechia, Germany, Greece, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) use

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

both computerised and paper questionnaires and three countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Montenegro) rely solely on paper questionnaires (PAPI).

As described above, all countries interview responding units several times: about half of the countries (Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom) conduct the first interview always or mainly via CAPI while in subsequent waves the interviews are performed by CATI, if a telephone contact is available. Germany collects data mainly with face-to-face interviews (using CAPI); persons not available for the interview or refusing oral interviews are in a few cases interviewed by telephone or more frequently fill in self-administered questionnaires. Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg and the Netherlands use computer assisted web interviews (CAWI) in combination with other methods. Five countries (Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) rely solely on telephone interviews. Five countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Montenegro and Turkey) collect data using only face-to-face interviews.

Table 3.1 reports the distribution of LFS interviews by technique used for data collection. In 2017 all techniques but CAPI increased their percentages compared to 2016. CATI remains the predominant data collection mode with 47% of interviews in 2017.

Table 3.1: EU-LFS interviews by mode of data collection, 2016 – 2017
(% of interviews)

Data collection technique	2017 [1]	2016 [2]
CAPI	35.1	40.0
CATI	46.8	43.6
PAPI	11.2	10.5
CAWI	3.2	2.4
Other (Postal, self-administered)	3.7	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0

([1]) Data for Lithuania are not available

([2]) Data for Lithuania and Luxembourg are not available

2.8 Use of subsamples to survey structural variables

In 2017, twelve countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Spain, France, Latvia, 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 option offered by Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003. The subsample coincides with one rotation panel in the total sample, except for Luxembourg and Norway, which use 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.

3 | Relevance

3.1   Definition

Relevance is an attribute of statistics measuring the degree to which statistical information meets current and potential needs of the users.

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 analysing 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. If certain variables required by the regulation are not covered, the statistics are incomplete. Hence, lack of completeness affects the relevance of the statistics provided.

3.2   The users

Eurostat does not carry out regular satisfaction surveys targeted only at users of labour market statistics but a general Eurostat User Satisfaction Survey is carried out every year to collect feedback on the quality of its statistics [9].The survey is usually addressed to the registered Eurostat users who are mainly students, academic, private users, business government and international organizations. According to the results of the 2017 User Satisfaction Survey, 62.4% of the users express a "very good/good" judgement of the statistics on Labour market provided by Eurostat.

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 EU-LFS data are equally important or even essential for users from universities, research institutes and businesses. Moreover in 2015 the EU-LFS was subject of an assessment by the European Commission concerning its relevance in supporting European Union policies [10].

For major topics of interest not covered by the standard EU-LFS, the instrument of ad hoc modules has proven to be useful and flexible.

Some users seek for more timely data releases, at least for 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.

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[9]   http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/general-evaluation-results

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

3.3   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 a variable in the national questionnaire or because of insufficient time for testing a required change.

Structural variables may be collected and transmitted for an annual sub-sample only (see section. 2.8). Household data is another special case. In line with the provisions of Council Regulation 577/98, Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland and Sweden provide data for complete households only for an annual sub-sample of their normal samples of individuals. Norway only covers family members of working age, but e.g. no children below 15 yet. Iceland does not send any data for households, while Switzerland has a general derogation in that respect.

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

Table 3.1: Completeness of the EU-LFS variables, 2015 - 2017

Number of compulsory variables with 100 % item non-response (¹)	Number of participating countries					
	2017(²)	Of which: EU-28 Member States	2016	Of which: EU-28 Member States	2015	Of which: EU-28 Member States
0	14	*14*	20	*19*	26	*25*
1-4	16	*13*	10	*8*	6	*2*
5-9	4	*1*	3	*1*	1	*1*
10+	0	*0*	0	*0*	0	*0*
Total	34	*28*	33	*28*	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.

(²)   From 2017 also data for Montenegro is available.

Table 3.2: **Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value** [1], **2017**

Column number [2]	Brief description	Number of countries	Of which: EU-28
Col_003	Relationship to reference person in the household	1	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	3
Col_039/40	Country of place of work	3	1
Col_055	Contract with a temporary employment agency	4	2
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_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	3	1
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	9	6
Col_111	Looked for permits, licenses, financial resources	13	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	9	6
Col_114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector	17	12
Col_115	Other method used	8	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	3	1
Col_119	Situation immediately before person started to seek employment (or was waiting for new job to start)	1	0
Col_121	Registration at a public employment office	4	2
Col_146	Situation with regard to activity one year before survey	1	1
Col_150/151	Country of residence one year before survey	3	2
Col_152/153	Region of residence (within Member State) one year before survey	7	3
Col_166/167	Region of household	1	1
Col_168	Degree of urbanisation	4	1

[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

4.1 Definition

The accuracy of statistical outputs in the general statistical sense is the degree of closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure.

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.

4.2 Sampling errors

Sampling errors affect only sample surveys and arise because 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. The sampling frame is the reference list(s) from which the sample (e.g. individuals, households, addresses or dwellings) is drawn. 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 2017 reached for seven main indicators. For example, interval 217 429 – 218 051 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 2017

	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	**217 740 ±311**	**72.1 ±0.1**	**40 813 ±166**	**37.3 ±0.0**
Belgium	4 550 ±25	68.5 ±0.4	1 101 ±20	36.9 ±0.2
Bulgaria	3 058 ±77	71.3 ±1.8	65 ± 7	40.1 ±0.1
Czechia	5 071 ±26	78.6 ±0.8	306 ±14	39.5 ±0.1
Denmark	2 573 ±10	76.9 ±0.3	552 ±10	36.0 ±0.1
Germany	39 386 ±100	79.2 ±0.1	10 591 ±62	35.8 ±0.1
Estonia	618 ±11	78.7 ±0.9	57 ± 5	39.2 ±0.3
Ireland	2 066 ±15	73.0 ±0.5	391 ±10	36.6 ±0.2
Greece	3 669 ±66	57.8 ±0.6	354 ±18	41.0 ±0.2
Spain	18 531 ±105	65.6 ±0.4	2 714 ±56	37.2 ±0.1
France	26 110 ±118	70.6 ±0.3	4 722 ±81	36.5 ±0.1
Croatia	1 585 ±71	63.6 ±1.1	76 ± 9	39.1 ±0.2
Italy	22 343 ±79	62.3 ±0.2	4 127 ±57	36.7 ±0.1
Cyprus	368 ± 5	70.8 ±0.9	45 ± 3	38.5 ±0.3
Latvia	856 ± 5	74.8 ±0.5	64 ± 4	39.1 ±0.4
Lithuania	1 296 ±35	76.0 ±1.1	96 ±10	38.6 ±0.4
Luxembourg	267 ± 7	71.5 ±1.1	52 ± 3	37.8 ±0.4
Hungary	4 348 ±20	73.3 ±0.3	185 ± 9	38.9 ±0.1
Malta	205 ± 2	71.3 ±0.6	26 ± 1	38.3 ±0.2
Netherlands	7 816 ±23	78.0 ±0.2	3 644 ±28	34.0 ±0.2
Austria	4 048 ±13	75.4 ±0.2	1 142 ±18	35.8 ±0.1
Poland	15 994 ±78	70.9 ±0.3	1 009 ±40	40.4 ±0.1
Portugal	4 478 ±34	73.4 ±0.6	384 ±18	39.1 ±0.7
Romania	8 274 ±148	68.8 ±0.8	537 ±44	39.5 ±0.2
Slovenia	931 ±13	73.4 ±0.7	89 ± 4	38.6 ±0.2
Slovakia	2 491 ±17	71.1 ±0.5	143 ± 8	38.7 ±0.1
Finland	2 334 ±14	74.2 ±0.5	315 ±10	36.9 ±0.1
Sweden	4 704 ±16	81.8 ±0.3	1 030 ±17	36.8 ±0.1
United Kingdom	29 769 ±76	78.2 ±0.2	6 996 ±63	36.8 ±0.1
Iceland	172 ± 1	87.6 ±0.7	35 ± 2	41.0 ±0.4
Norway	2 448 ± 9	78.3 ±0.3	572 ±15	35.2 ±0.2
Switzerland	4 237 ±15	82.1 ±0.3	1 619 ±21	37.4 ±0.1
Montenegro	220 ± 5	58.3 ±0.9	12 ± 1	42.7 ±0.3
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	728 ±29	54.8 ±2.1	29 ± 3	42.3 ±0.3
Turkey	25 905 ±279	55.3 ±0.3	2 351 ±60	46.4 ±0.1

(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, 2017

	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	**18 781 ±145**	**7.9 ±0.1**	**16.8 ±0.3**
Belgium	354 ±12	7.1 ±0.3	19.3 ±1.8
Bulgaria	207 ±14	6.2 ±0.4	12.9 ±1.8
Czechia	155 ± 9	2.9 ±0.2	8.0 ±1.0
Denmark	172 ± 6	5.7 ±0.2	11.0 ±0.6
Germany	1 621 ±30	3.8 ±0.1	6.8 ±0.3
Estonia	40 ± 4	5.8 ±0.5	12.1 ±2.7
Ireland	158 ± 8	6.7 ±0.3	14.4 ±1.3
Greece	1 027 ±34	21.5 ±0.6	43.6 ±2.6
Spain	3 917 ±84	17.2 ±0.4	38.6 ±1.2
France	2 788 ±68	9.4 ±0.2	22.3 ±0.9
Croatia	205 ±17	11.2 ±0.8	27.4 ±3.3
Italy	2 907 ±46	11.2 ±0.2	34.7 ±1.0
Cyprus	47 ± 3	11.1 ±0.7	24.7 ±3.7
Latvia	85 ± 4	8.7 ±0.4	17.0 ±2.0
Lithuania	103 ±11	7.1 ±0.7	13.3 ±3.9
Luxembourg	16 ± 2	5.5 ±0.7	15.4 ±3.9
Hungary	192 ±10	4.2 ±0.2	10.7 ±0.9
Malta	10 ± 1	4.6 ±0.4	11.3 ±1.6
Netherlands	438 ±12	4.8 ±0.1	8.9 ±0.3
Austria	248 ± 9	5.5 ±0.2	9.8 ±0.8
Poland	844 ±32	4.9 ±0.2	14.8 ±1.1
Portugal	463 ±20	8.9 ±0.4	23.9 ±2.3
Romania	449 ±30	4.9 ±0.4	18.3 ±2.2
Slovenia	67 ± 4	6.6 ±0.5	11.2 ±2.2
Slovakia	224 ±10	8.1 ±0.3	18.9 ±1.7
Finland	234 ± 7	8.6 ±0.2	20.1 ±1.1
Sweden	362 ± 8	6.7 ±0.2	17.9 ±0.8
United Kingdom	1 448 ±35	4.3 ±0.1	12.1 ±0.5
Iceland	5 ± 1	2.7 ±0.4	7.9 ±1.4
Norway	115 ± 6	4.2 ±0.2	10.4 ±0.8
Switzerland	234 ± 9	4.8 ±0.2	8.1 ±0.7
Montenegro	44 ± 2	16.1 ±0.7	31.7 ±3.2
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	214 ±13	22.4 ±1.1	46.7 ±3.5
Turkey	3 421 ±82	10.8 ±0.2	20.5 ±0.7

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

4.3   Non-sampling errors

Coverage errors

Coverage errors (or frame errors) are due to divergences between the target population and the frame population.

Table 4.2: Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes, 2017

	Under-coverage	Over-coverage	Misclassification
Belgium	X	N	N
Bulgaria	-	X	-
Czechia	-	-	-
Denmark	N	N	N
Germany	-	-	-
Estonia	X	N	N
Ireland	N	N	N
Greece	X	X	-
Spain	X	X	N
France	X	N	N
Croatia	x	X	N
Italy	X	X	X
Cyprus	X	N	-
Latvia	N	X	N
Lithuania	-	X	-
Luxembourg	X	X	-
Hungary	X	-	-
Malta	X	X	N
Netherlands	-	-	-
Austria	X	N	N
Poland	X	X	-
Portugal	X	X	-
Romania	X	X	-
Slovenia	-	X	N
Slovakia	X	X	N
Finland	N	X	-
Sweden	X	X	-
United Kingdom	X	-	-
Iceland	N	N	N
Norway	X	N	X
Switzerland	N	N	N
Montenegro	-	X	-
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	N	X	N
Turkey	-	X	-

Notes: (X) indicates the presence of the coverage error;
(N) indicates no coverage error or negligible
(-) indicates that information has not been provided by the country or that the country does not know.

Possible divergence types are:

- Under-coverage: the frame population does not include all units of the target population.

- Over-coverage: the frame population includes units which do not belong to the target population.

- Misclassification: units in the frame population which belong to the target population but are wrongly classified.

Table 4.2 summarises the information on coverage errors given by the participating countries. For more details see Table 10.1 in the Annex.

Measurement errors

Measurement errors are errors that occur during data collection and cause 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.

One part of the respondent measurement error can be represented by the level of proxy interviews which are interviews where a person (the proxy) answers questions on behalf of another person. The proxy is generally a household member of the person from whom information is being sought. Table 4.3 shows the reported information related to measurement errors as the number of proxy interviews and their evolution in the recent years. The proxy rate for EU-28 rose to 33% in 2017 compared to a trend quite stable over the previous years. However, large differences can be observed among countries: the proxy rate decreased in 2017 in 19 countries with respect to 2016.

In 2017, the proxy rate exceeded 50% in five countries (Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) while in seven further countries it was higher than 40%. On the other hand, in six countries (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Switzerland and Turkey) the proxy rate was under 10%; in all of these countries, except Turkey, the sampling unit is the individual and the need to directly contact the selected person in the sample leads to a lower proxy rate.

Table 4.4 shows the main methods adopted by the countries to reduce the measurement error. Almost all countries provide training to the interviewers on the contents and possible changes of the survey compared to previous round (32 countries) and send an introduction letter for the survey in advance to the sampled units (32 countries). Less widespread but still used by half of the countries are phone calls for booking or introducing the survey (16 countries) or monitoring directly the survey by listening to the interviews (19 countries).

For a detailed picture by country, see Table 10.2 in Annex.

Table 4.3: Share of proxy interviews (people aged 15-74), 2013 - 2017

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
EU-28	**33.0**	**29.8**	**30.0**	**30.2**	**30.4**
Belgium	25.7	17.8	17.8	19.0	19.8
Bulgaria	28.3	33.0	33.8	33.7	36.0
Czechia	43.2	42.3	44.1	44.6	45.8
Denmark	6.4	5.0	5.8	4.8	5.0
Germany	25.1	23.9	25.6	26.0	25.7
Estonia	36.1	36.8	35.7	36.4	32.6
Ireland	48.7	50.2	50.3	50.5	49.8
Greece	40.4	41.1	41.2	41.4	41.9
Spain [1]	51.5	51.8	52.2	52.5	52.5
France	27.3	26.6	27.9	27.8	28.2
Croatia	51.7	52.3	48.0	46.3	47.9
Italy	26.7	20.3	19.0	18.0	17.7
Cyprus	35.9	34.5	33.6	32.5	31.2
Latvia	38.4	39.7	39.4	37.9	37.0
Lithuania	33.0	35.8	34.5	34.5	32.4
Luxembourg	34.0	41.8	23.3	39.8	37.3
Hungary	42.2	42.6	42.7	44.0	45.4
Malta	47.4	48.3	49.2	49.8	50.7
Netherlands	45.4	45.5	46.2	46.5	46.4
Austria	24.4	24.3	23.2	25.2	24.0
Poland	37.6	37.2	37.8	40.0	40.7
Portugal	48.1	48.3	47.9	47.7	48.3
Romania	20.8	22.2	24.6	25.8	28.3
Slovenia	53.3	49.7	53.4	55.6	55.7
Slovakia	51.6	51.1	50.4	49.8	46.4
Finland	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0
Sweden	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.6
United Kingdom [1]	35.2	34.9	35.0	35.5	35.3
Iceland [1]	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.2
Norway	17.0	17.2	16.5	16.7	15.6
Switzerland	2.8	3.0	2.7	1.9	1.8
Montenegro [2]	39.0	-	-	-	-
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	52.8	50.8	54.2	54.5	55.3
Turkey	9.6	11.6	13.9	20.9	33.6

[1] Respondents aged 16–74 years.

[2] Information for Montenegro before 2017 is not available.

Table 4.4: Methods used for reducing measurement errors, 2017

Methods	Number of participating countries	
	2017	*Of which: EU-28 Member States*
Respondent		
Letter introducing the survey	32	*27*
Phone call for booking or introducing the survey	16	*15*
Interviewer		
Periodical training (at least one time per year)	32	*27*
Feedbacks from the interviewer (reports, debriefings, etc.)	29	*24*
Fieldwork		
Monitoring directly contacting the respondents	24	*21*
Monitoring directly listening interviews	19	*16*
Monitoring remotely by indicators	22	*20*
Questionnaire		
Questionnaire in different languages	22	*19*
On-line checks [1]	29	*25*

(1) In Bulgaria, Romania and Montenegro this item is not foreseen due to the only use of the PAPI data collection technique.

Non-response errors

Non-response errors occur when the survey fails to get a response to one, or possibly all, of the questions.

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 could lead 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.

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 10.3).

Table 4.5 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, Estonia, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, which compute non-response at the level of individuals. In the last five years, the EU-LFS has been affected by a slight increase of the unit non-response rate; in 2017 non-response rate increased in 21 countries compared to 2016.

Table 4.5: Unit non-response rates, 2013 - 2017

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Belgium	17.4	28.4	26.7	27.8	28.8
Bulgaria	19.7	20.3	22.2	23.7	23.6
Czechia	21.2	20.2	20.5	20.6	20.4
Denmark	45.0	52.0	47.0	46.2	47.1
Germany	3.8	2.6	3.4	2.3	2.1
Estonia	33.2	30.2	28.1	31.3	32.5
Ireland	32.2	27.3	25.1	23.9	22.9
Greece	25.4	25.5	25.9	24.6	23.7
Spain	13.1	12.6	12.4	15.2	15.2
France	20.4	19.3	20.3	20.9	19.8
Croatia	44.5	38.6	30.3	31.3	26.2
Italy	14.9	13.3	12.5	11.8	11.7
Cyprus	3.8	4.3	5.4	4.2	2.7
Latvia	35.4	38.0	37.9	35.7	35.2
Lithuania	22.3	21.3	20.3	19.6	19.0
Luxembourg	41.7	47.5	48.0	84.6	79.4
Hungary	21.5	19.3	17.2	17.2	18.5
Malta	24.8	23.1	23.4	23.7	26.7
Netherlands	48.4	47.0	45.5	42.7	20.6
Austria	3.4	5.3	7.8	5.7	5.7
Poland	38.7	37.6	34.9	31.5	28.1
Portugal	16.1	15.8	15.4	14.8	14.3
Romania	12.7	13.3	12.2	9.5	9.4
Slovenia	20.1	21.4	21.3	21.3	21.7
Slovakia	18.0	15.2	15.2	11.0	8.2
Finland	32.7	30.4	29.2	28.0	27.1
Sweden	43.4	43.0	40.1	35.7	30.8
United Kingdom	50.7	44.6	47.4	39.8	39.4
Iceland	31.5	26.8	22.7	21.0	19.2
Norway	15.8	18.4	20.3	19.9	21.1
Switzerland	19.7	19.2	18.3	18.8	20.4
Montenegro	16.7	16.6	18.6	-	-
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11.9	15.6	25.6	24.6	25.1
Turkey	4.3	5.3	5.2	9.3	9.3

Table 4.6 presents the non-response rate by main reasons for non-response (refusal, non-contact, other). The main reason for non-response for most countries is the impossibility to contact the sampling unit; in Czechia, Estonia, Croatia, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, the United Kingdom and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the main reason is the refusal to reply to the LFS while in Belgium and Greece non-response is mainly due to other reasons.

Table 4.6: Non-response rate (%) by category, 2017

	Total	Refusals	Non-contacts	Other reasons
Belgium	17.4	2.5	6.9	8.0
Bulgaria	19.7	4.0	14.3	1.5
Czechia	21.2	16.6	4.0	0.6
Denmark	45.0	6.0	34.0	5.0
Germany	3.8	-	-	-
Estonia	33.2	14.3	13.7	1.0
Ireland	32.2	8.0	12.2	11.9
Greece	25.4	8.2	7.5	9.7
Spain	13.1	4.7	8.4	0.0
France	20.4	3.7	14.7	2.0
Croatia	44.5	26.9	13.6	4.0
Italy	14.9	5.2	8.8	0.9
Cyprus	3.8	1.2	2.0	0.6
Latvia	35.4	10.0	24.0	1.4
Lithuania	22.3	7.1	14.6	0.6
Luxembourg	41.7	3.3	34.2	4.2
Hungary	21.5	7.6	12.8	1.1
Malta	24.8	1.1	23.7	0.0
Netherlands	48.4	35.6	9.2	3.6
Austria	3.4	1.1	2.2	0.0
Poland	38.7	20.4	17.0	1.3
Portugal	16.1	2.4	9.7	4.0
Romania	12.7	2.6	6.1	4.0
Slovenia	20.1	11.1	3.4	5.6
Slovakia	18.0	14.7	1.5	1.7
Finland	32.7	18.9	13.6	0.3
Sweden	43.4	15.1	26.4	1.9
United Kingdom	50.7	42.2	8.7	0
Iceland	31.5	8.8	19.3	3.4
Norway	15.8	1.1	13.4	1.3
Switzerland	19.7	2.6	9.9	7.2
Montenegro	16.7	4.6	8.8	3.3
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11.9	6.1	3.4	2.4
Turkey	4.3	0.1	3.4	0.7

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

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.

According to national quality report information, 19 countries adopt editing and correction procedures to LFS data. These countries are Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In their national quality report, 15 countries also mention to use item non-response data imputation: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and Montenegro. Imputation is mainly used for the INCDECIL variable and in some countries for variables related to job characteristics or education.

No estimates can be produced at Eurostat about the rate of processing errors in the EU-LFS.

5 Timeliness and punctuality

5.1 Definition

Timeliness is the length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon they describe.

Punctuality is the time lag between the actual delivery 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. A release calendar for the EU-LFS main indicators is in place, scheduling the release of the LFS main indicators around four weeks after the data delivery deadline. In addition, Eurostat continuously updates the Eurostat online database (other tables) whenever new data becomes available.

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. Timeliness and punctuality of the transmission to Eurostat and Eurostat's dissemination of national data have slightly worsened with the 2017 data compared to the 2016 exercise, but can still be considered as an improvement in comparison with the 2015 exercise.

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 - 2017 quarterly LFS data

Number of calendar days from end of reference period	Number of countries (1)					
	2017		2016		2015	
	All	EU-28	All	EU-28	All	EU-28
Transmission to Eurostat						
<31	1	1	1	1	1	1
31-60	10	8	11	9	8	5
61-90	22	19	21	18	24	22
91+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	28	33	28	33	28
Average number of calendar days	63	63	62	63	67	68
Eurostat's dissemination of national data (web site)						
<31	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-60	6	5	5	3	2	2
61-90	25	22	27	24	29	24
91+	2	1	1	1	2	2
Total	33	28	33	28	33	28
Average number of calendar days	77	75	73	74	80	80

(1) Montenegro started to transmit regularly LFS data in late 2017 so it has not been included in the table.

6 Comparability

6.1 Definition

Comparability is a measurement of the impact of differences in applied statistical concepts, measurement tools and procedures where statistics are compared between geographical areas or over time.

6.2 Comparability over space

A common framework regulation [11], common variable definitions [12], common explanatory notes [13] and a common regulation regarding the definition of unemployment and the twelve principles of questionnaire construction [14] serve to ensure comparability of the statistics between the participating countries. This is, however, mainly true for the main characteristics of employment and unemployment, where particular definitions and sequences of questions are part of the EU legislation. For the other variables, each country has the responsibility to ensure that the national survey provides data 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 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In Table 6.1 the main divergences of national concepts from the European framework are reported.

Table 6.1: Divergence of national concepts from European concepts, 2017

Divergences in definition of resident population	
Belgium	The Registered population definition in the sampling frame is used. At the beginning of the interview, the interviewer checks with the respondent(s) whether the list of household members as taken from the sampling frame corresponds to the actual situation. Interviewers are instructed to drop household members that no longer live at the given address since at least 6 months (but in practice they sometimes drop household members earlier) and also add new members in the household if any.

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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.

Denmark	The definition of the resident population in the Danish LFS is harmonised with the Danish population register. The permanent address is therefore defined as the place where you regularly sleep, when you are not abroad because of holidays, business trips, or the place where you have your belongings. The definition does therefore not explicitly include the minimum of 1 year, as stated in the Explanatory notes. This solution complies with art. 2(d) of EP and Council Regulation (EC) No 763/2008.
Austria	Prospective information (intention to stay at least one year) is not available
Sweden	To belong to the Swedish resident population the residence permit is needed. This means that some immigrants group, i.e. persons with citizenship outside the EU, don't belong to the population even if they are staying or intended to stay in the country for a period longer than one year. These people can't work or seek job by defaults and they don't exist in the populations register and thereby neither in the sample frame.
United Kingdom	Persons resident in NHS/Health Trust accommodation and students in institutions are included in national survey results.
Norway	In the Norwegian register definition a person is resident if he/she is staying or intends to stay 6 months or more in Norway.
Divergences in concept of employment	
Bulgaria	Persons on maternity leave for raising a child up to 1 year of age are considered employed. According to the legislation during this period they receive compensation equal to about 90% of their normal earning. Persons on leave for raising a child between 1- and 2-years of age are considered as not in employment. According to the legislation during this period they receive fixed amount of compensation (near to the national minimum wage). Persons on unpaid parental leave (with duration of 6 months) are considered employed.
Germany	The category "lay-off" is not implemented in WSTATOR, because there are no lay-offs in Germany.
Croatia	The persons on sick leave, maternity or paternity leave, paid parental leave are always considered as employed, regardless of the length of the absence.
Hungary	According to the ILO recommendation drafted for countries in transition in Prague in November 1995, persons receiving child care allowance or child care benefit during parental leave have been classified since 1998 on the basis of their activity performed in the reference week. Therefore these persons are not classified as persons with a job from which he/she was absent during the reference week, if they are not working beside receiving child care allowance or benefit. Questions about how long they have been out of his/her main job are skipped for this persons. In case of persons older than 74 'other' category (WSTATOR=5) can't be used because we don't know whether they have a job or not.
Portugal	Persons who work on their own small agriculture farms and produce only for their own consumption are considered as employed if the output is considered important (by the household) for the household budget. Persons on compensation leave, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave, paid parental leave are always considered to be employed, regardless of the length of the absence.
Turkey	Three months absence criterion defined by Eurostat is not followed for unpaid family workers, they're not covered as employed if they didn't work in the reference week even one hour. Farmers who only produce for own-consumption are considered as employed if the amount of this production is considerable within total household consumption (if the total amount of this product is at least 51% of total food expenditure).
Divergences in concept of unemployment	
Belgium	In Belgium, unemployment rate is calculated for persons aged 15-64 and not 15-74.
Slovenia	There is a divergence in the unemployment concept. Nevertheless, the figures can be calculated in both ways (national and Eurostat approach). In general, the unemployment rate calculated by Eurostat and by the Slovenian statistical office differs for max. 0.1%.
United Kingdom	All those waiting to start a job already obtained are counted as ILO unemployed. The restriction of job starting within a period of three months is not applied to national estimates. All job search methods counted including passive methods. Differences are not large.
Turkey	For national calculation of unemployment passive job search methods are covered besides the active ones.

6.3 Comparability over time

For a detailed overview of 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 and the geographical boundaries, the target population, the legislation, the classifications used) or the measurement level (i.e. the sampling strategy, the data collection, and the weighting scheme).

Table 6.2 reports changes to the national labour force surveys introduced in 2017 by the participating countries. Such changes may introduce some discontinuity in the time series.

Table 6.2: Changes in LFS in 2017 compared to previous year(s)

Changes to survey concepts (legislation, definitions, coverage and classifications)	
Belgium	New national framework regulation for the LFS (http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=1999011042&table_name=loi)
Ireland	New LFS introduced from Q3 2017 which included a new independent sample from QNHS. Previously published series was back-casted according to the levels of certain indicators in the LFS to enable comparability with new series. However, there are likely breaks in series in indicators not included in this back-casting exercise.
Hungary	In the 2016/2017, school year significant transformations took place in secondary education system. The name of vocational institutions and the task performed changed. From 2017 Q1 onwards, in accordance with the changes mentioned above the questions of the HU-LFS core questionnaire concerning participation in regular education were modified, which resulted – as expected – in breaks in time series for the variable EDUCVOC.
Changes to sampling strategy (sampling frame, sample design, rotational pattern)	
Belgium	Stratification of PSUs by NUTS 2 level (i.e. STRAT12), as before, followed by serpentine sorting of PSUs within strata according to three PSU characteristics: quintiles of the number of private households, unemployment rate and average household income. Introduction of 2-(2)-2 rotational pattern. Introduction of sub-sampling for yearly structural variables.
Denmark	The sample is quarterly based on a stratified sample. The sample size was reduced in the 1st quarter of 2016. This is compensated by reducing the number of people who are drawn out to the sample. The reduction was fully implemented in the 2nd quarter of 2017. A series of tests on this show, however, that it does not appear to have influenced the figures for the labour market participation.
Ireland	New sample for new LFS introduced from Q1 2016 for the new LFS. No overlap in sample between Q2 2017 and Q3 2017 onwards. There was also a change in the sample allocation for the new LFS. In the QNHS, each wave of interviews took place in a particular 2-3 week period during the quarter and the sample was only representative when considered over the full quarter. In the LFS however, all five interview waves have been distributed equally across the quarter such that data is collected from each of the waves in each week of the quarter.
Latvia	Introduction of sub-sampling for yearly structural variables. No impact on estimates.
Poland	All elementary samples (i.e. sub-samples included in quarterly samples) surveyed for the first time in the year 2016 were designed according to the new sample design (in which sample size was slightly increased and sample distribution in all NUTS2 regions was changed). Derived effects of the change also in 2017.

Montenegro	New rotational scheme 2-(2)-2. In process of analyses and calculation of the impact of the changes.
Changes to data collection (questionnaire, national explanatory notes, survey mode)	
Belgium	CAWI and CATI survey technique are used in waves 2-4. Questionnaire and interviewer user guide have been adapted accordingly.
Denmark	In 2017 interviews were conducted by another collector due to a significant low response rate resulted with the previous one. This situation has leaded to a general break in all variables also in 2017.
Ireland	The questionnaire (survey instrument) previously used in the QNHS was reviewed in line with the introduction of the new LFS. This involved standardising some questions and making them more suitable for telephone interviewing. In addition, some questions which had been added at various stages of the QNHS were removed as they were not necessary to meet regulatory requirements. Mixed mode data collection from Q3 2017 with introduction of CATI. Wave 1 interviews carried out by CAPI and all subsequent interviews by CATI.
Lithuania	Updating of Instruction to the interviewers.
Changes to weighting scheme	
Belgium	The weighting procedure has been fitted to the new sampling design. Calibration to the population without collective households.
Ireland	1. The series from Q1 1998 to Q2 2017 was revised based on a comparison of parallel results from the QNHS and the LFS for Q1 2017. 2. The CSO has introduced a non-response adjustment into the weighting procedure for the LFS from Q3 2017 onwards. 3. Labour market estimates have been revised using the updated population estimates from the 2016 Census of Population. As a result, the results for Q3 2017 incorporated the new population estimates for each quarter since Q3 2011 into the weighting methodology.

7 Coherence

7.1 Definition

Coherence measures the adequacy of the statistics to be combined in different ways and for various uses.

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 from the Labour Cost Survey.

7.2 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 in the LFS differ 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.

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, including re-weighting of back data series at least back to 2010. Table 7.1 shows the comparison between population statistics and LFS for people aged 15-64 years.

Table 7.1: Coherence between population statistics and EU-LFS for persons aged 15-64, 2017

	Population 15-64 (in thousands) 01/01/2016			LFS annual average 15-64 (in thousands) 2016			Relative difference [(L-P)/P*100]		
	Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**
EU-28	**332,389**	**166,441**	**165,948**	**328,139**	**163,992**	**164,147**	**-1.3**	**-1.5**	**-1.1**
Belgium	7,329	3,689	3,640	7,266	3,644	3,622	-0.9	-1.2	-0.5
Bulgaria	4,629	2,342	2,287	4,595	2,321	2,274	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6
Czechia	6,943	3,526	3,416	6,917	3,514	3,402	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4
Denmark	3,692	1,865	1,827	3,684	1,861	1,823	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Germany	53,963	27,400	26,564	53,797	27,323	26,474	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Estonia	848	421	426	844	418	426	-0.4	-0.8	-0.1
Ireland	3,129	1,550	1,579	3,141	1,557	1,584	0.4	0.4	0.3
Greece	6,894	3,395	3,499	6,886	3,408	3,478	-0.1	0.4	-0.6
Spain	30,700	15,412	15,288	30,531	15,284	15,248	-0.5	-0.8	-0.3
France	41,857	20,645	21,212	40,947	20,090	20,857	-2.2	-2.7	-1.7
Croatia	2,737	1,369	1,368	2,720	1,361	1,360	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6
Italy	38,878	19,387	19,492	38,726	19,285	19,441	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3
Cyprus	582	284	299	564	272	292	-3.2	-4.1	-2.3
Latvia	1,259	612	647	1,230	595	634	-2.3	-2.7	-1.9
Lithuania	1,876	911	965	1,854	901	954	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2
Luxembourg	411	210	201	407	207	200	-0.8	-1.3	-0.4
Hungary	6,546	3,256	3,290	6,415	3,177	3,238	-2.0	-2.4	-1.6
Malta	309	159	150	313	162	152	1.5	1.6	1.3
Netherlands	11,140	5,604	5,536	11,044	5,535	5,509	-0.9	-1.2	-0.5
Austria	5,884	2,964	2,920	5,800	2,900	2,900	-1.4	-2.1	-0.7
Poland	25,957	12,974	12,983	24,317	12,147	12,169	-6.3	-6.4	-6.3
Portugal	6,691	3,236	3,454	6,659	3,216	3,443	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3
Romania	13,092	6,622	6,470	13,095	6,608	6,486	0.0	-0.2	0.3
Slovenia	1,367	703	664	1,362	698	664	-0.3	-0.8	0.1
Slovakia	3,780	1,903	1,877	3,781	1,903	1,877	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finland	3,459	1,755	1,705	3,434	1,735	1,699	-0.7	-1.1	-0.3
Sweden	6,257	3,195	3,062	6,290	3,214	3,076	0.5	0.6	0.5
United Kingdom	42,182	21,053	21,129	41,521	20,656	20,865	-1.6	-1.9	-1.3
Iceland	224	114	110	213	109	104	-5.0	-4.4	-5.6
Norway	3,446	1,767	1,679	3,445	1,764	1,681	0.0	-0.2	0.1
Switzerland	5,642	2,854	2,787	5,583	2,819	2,764	-1.0	-1.2	-0.8
Montenegro	419	210	209	422	211	211	0.6	0.3	0.9
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,455	739	716	1,451	737	714	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Turkey	54,238	27,409	26,828	53,146	26,686	26,460	-2.0	-2.6	-1.4

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjan and lfsa_pganws), extracted on 19 December 2018.

7.3   Coherence with other employment and unemployment estimates

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.

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, with the EU-LFS covering persons living in private households only, while National Accounts cover all persons regardless of their 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 LFS data usually lie somewhat below the estimates of employment as estimated by National Accounts. This results from table 7.2, 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 eighteen participating countries as shown in table 7.2. Germany, France and Italy are responsible for the bulk of the absolute EU difference between the National Accounts employment estimates and the LFS employment estimates, while in relative terms Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus,

Luxembourg, Norway and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia show the highest discrepancies, with a difference 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 7.2 also compares the data on employment growth in 2017. 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 [16]. 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 hidden/undeclared 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 4.1a and 4.1b). 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 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).

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[15]   No data is available for Montenegro and Turkey.

[16]   See http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/KS-RA-09-020

Table 7.2: Employment (national concept) in levels and growth rates, in two different datasets on the Eurostat website (LFS and NA), 2017

	2017 levels				2016–2017 growth rates		
	Labour Force Survey	National Accounts	LFS-NA	(LFS - NA)/NA *100	Labour Force Survey	National Accounts	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						
Czechia	5,221.6	5,326.9	-105.3	-2.0	1.6	1.5	0.1
Estonia	658.6	661.1	-2.5	-0.4	2.2	2.1	0.1
Croatia	1,625.1	1,634.4	-9.3	-0.6	2.2	2.2	0.0
Latvia	894.8	902.0	-7.2	-0.8	0.2	0.4	-0.2
Romania	8,670.6	8800.71 (p)	-130.1	-1.5	2.6	2.6	0.0
Sweden	5,021.6	5,021.8	-0.2	0.0	2.3	2.3	0.0
	2 Countries using mainly LFS, but replacing it in a few industries (or labour status), on a case-by-case basis						
Greece	3,752.7	4,146.0 (p)	*-393.4*	*-9.5*	2.2	1.5	*0.7*
Lithuania	1,354.8	1,355.7	*-0.9*	*-0.1*	-0.5	-0.5	*0.0*
United Kingdom	31,963.4	32,058.0	*-94.6*	*-0.3*	1.1	1.0	*0.1*
	3 Countries not using LFS, or making minimal use of it						
Belgium	4,637.8	4,801.8	-164.0	-3.4	1.1	1.4	*-0.3*
Denmark	2,816.1	2,884.0	-67.9	-2.4	-0.8	1.7	*-2.5*
France	26,879.6	28,325.0 (p)	-1,445.4	-5.1	1.1	1.1	*0.0*
Cyprus	379.6	400.2 (p)	-20.6	-5.2	4.5	3.8	*0.7*
Luxembourg	271.8	257.3	14.5	5.6	4.3	2.8	*1.5*
Malta	220.5	215.0	5.5	2.5	6.0	5.3	*0.7*
Austria	4,260.4	4,305.3	-44.9	-1.0	1.0	1.6	*-0.6*
Slovenia	959.1	990.7	-31.6	-3.2	4.8	2.9	*1.9*
Iceland	193.9	196.2 (p)	-2.3	-1.2	1.8	4.0	*-2.2*
	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)						
Spain	18,824.8	19,567.0 (p)	-742.2	-3.8	2.6	2.5	*0.1*
Poland	16,422.7	16,423.0	-0.3	0.0	1.4	1.4	*0.0*
Portugal	4,756.6	4,829.7 (p)	-73.1	-1.5	3.3	3.4	*-0.1*
Switzerland (o)	4,604.4	4,604.4 (o)	0.0	0.0	:	:	*:*
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (o)	723.5	788.9 (o)	-65.4	-8.3	:	:	*:*
	4b Countries not giving precedence to any labour side						
Bulgaria	3,150.3	3,525.33 (p)	-375.0	-10.6	4.4	1.8	*2.6*
Hungary	4,421.4	4,421.4	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0
	4c Countries giving precedence to labour demand sources (i.e. employment registers and/or enterprise surveys)						
Germany	41,663.6	44,155.0	-2,491.4	-5.6	1.0	1.4	*-0.4*
Ireland	2,194.1	2,138.3	55.8	2.6	2.9	2.9	*0.0*
Italy	23,023.0	24,650.3	-1,627.3	-6.6	1.2	1.2	*0.0*
Netherlands	8,604.8	8,948.0 (p)	-343.2	-3.8	2.1	2.1	*0.0*
Slovakia	2,530.7	2,530.7	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	*0.0*
Finland	2,473.2	2,545.2	-72.0	-2.8	1.0	1.2	*-0.2*
Norway	2,643.9	2,792.0	-148.1	-5.3	0.2	1.1	*-0.9*

(p) Provisional and (o) data refer to 2016, growth rates are not provided.
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) – data extracted on 2 March 2018.

Coherence of unemployment for LFS and registers

The main coherence issues between unemployment estimated by the LFS and that derived from registers are the different definitions and the different modes of measurement. According to the ILO definition adopted by the LFS, unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who fulfil the three following conditions:

- not employed during the reference week;

- available to start work within the two weeks following the reference week;

- actively seeking work in the four weeks preceding the reference week or have already found a job to start within the next three months.

The definition of register unemployment varies from country to country. In general, the registration as a job seeker at the public employment office is the common basis for being counted in the unemployment register.

The actual sources of incoherence between LFS and register unemployment figures are quite diverse across countries; this may be due to several reasons:

- The LFS excludes from unemployment all individuals who have any kind of job (1-hour criterion), whereas registers can include individuals who have temporary jobs, jobs with less than a certain number of hours, or salaries below a given amount;

- The immediate availability for a job required by LFS is based on self-declarations. On the other hand, registers could exclude individuals who miss periodical meetings or refuse a fair job offer;

- In the LFS, registration at the public employment office in order to find a job is only one of the possible active search actions;

- Persons who are looking for a job but who have not paid any contributions and are not eligible for unemployment benefits may not have any interest in registering for work and consequently do not feature in the registered unemployment figures but may feature in LFS;

- Different reference periods (LFS uses continuous reference week and registers often use a specific day of each month as reference);

- Any delay in updating the registers;

- In some countries unemployed persons, 65 years and older, who are looking for a job, cannot be registered;

- LFS often covers only persons residing in private households while registers cover all persons who fulfil legal criteria to be included in the registers regardless if they live in private or institutional households.

- Persons on lay-off (until 3 months) are not classified as unemployed in the LFS, but as employed persons (temporarily absent from work) while they can be registered at the public employment office as unemployed;

- Figures from registers may not include full-time students looking for employment which could be considered unemployed if they comply with the ILO criteria;

Moreover, LFS estimates are subject to sampling errors which does not affect estimates based on registers.

In thirteen countries (Denmark, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Turkey) unemployment estimates coming from LFS exceed figures from registers while in fourteen countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, France, Croatia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland) is the opposite. Seven countries (Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) are not able to provide any assessment about the direction of the differences.

8 Accessibility and clarity

8.1 Definition

Accessibility and clarity refer to the simplicity and ease, the conditions and modalities by which users can access, use and interpret statistics, with the appropriate supporting information and assistance.

8.2 Available information

Eurostat publishes both quarterly and annual results. Eurostat also publishes annually a compendium describing the main characteristics of the national surveys.

Eurostat's 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.

Eurostat also produces tailor-made tables not available online at the request of users (please refer to http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/help/support). More than 1,300 user request are processed every year by Eurostat concerning LFS data.

Since 2011 researchers can get anonymised datasets containing microdata free of charge if certain conditions are fulfilled (please refer to access to microdata). Data from EU Member States and from Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are available in this format. In 2017 around 300 researchers or research groups work with EU-LFS microdata (new contracts and amendments).

9 Regional labour market statistics [17]

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. Nine countries, namely Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Iceland, Montenegro 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, coastal regions, mountain regions, island regions, border regions as well as metropolitan regions, which are based on data of groups of NUTS 3 regions [18].

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 EU Member States provide the NUTS 3 code in the LFS micro data. For 2017, 20 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) as well as Iceland, Norway and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sent the NUTS 3 codes in the LFS micro data. All but two of these countries (France and Spain) have

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

[18] For a detailed description of these regional typologies, see:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/rural-development/methodology
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/metropolitan-regions/background
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/coastal-island-outermost-regions/methodology

given their consent to Eurostat to use this data to produce the aggregations by regional typologies. Four of the 23 countries providing NUTS 3 micro data, namely Austria, Ireland, France and Spain, also transmit 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 2017, for Switzerland and Turkey, no NUTS 3 data are available. For two Member States, Cyprus and Luxembourg, and Montenegro, 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 [19] 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.

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

10 Annex

10.1 Tables

Table 10.1: Comments and methodological notes about coverage errors

	Comments
Belgium	**Under-coverage**: Households, all members of which are 77 years or older and collective households (about 0.15% of all households) are excluded before draw. Delay between draw of household (from National Population Register, kept up to date "permanently") and fieldwork: between 2 and 6 months.
Bulgaria	**Over-coverage:** non-occupied dwellings.
Czechia	**Under-coverage**: Households are selected once a year from the Register of Census Areas. Due to differences in time span there is not the actual information about addresses or flats. The sampling frame contains only private households. Persons living in institutional households are not covered. **Over-coverage:** Not existing or not inhabited flats remain in the Register of Census Areas.
Germany	**Under-coverage**: 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.
Estonia	**Under-coverage**: Among the households not interviewed, in 312 cases (1.9% of total number of sampled households) the reason was an error or inaccuracy of the frame (person emigrated or left the county, person deceased, wrong address, etc.). By counties the share of frame errors varied from 0.9% to 4.2%.
Greece	**Under-coverage**: 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. **Over-coverage:** 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	**Under-coverage**: Percentage calculated as 'omitted' dwellings detected in the 'quality control survey'; measures of impact are not available. **Over-coverage:** Average of the four quarter percentages of dwellings out of frame ('no encuestables') The touristic areas are more prone to higher rates.
France	**Under-coverage**: No impact on estimates. The sample is usually updated several months before the reference year and it does not cover the most recent buildings. The number of newly-built dwellings is taken into account in the weighting procedure.
Croatia	**Under-coverage**: 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. **Over-coverage:** Overcoverage rates are actually non-eligibility rates of addresses selected in sample.
Italy	**Under-coverage**: Households are selected once a year from the municipalities' registry; they cover the whole reference population. The data might contain errors as for information such as addresses (due for instance to recent change of the address), wrong inclusions (recent emigration) and missed inclusions (recent immigration). As for the survey's

	Comments
	management strategies, ISTAT requires that each non-responding household has to be replaced with a 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	*Under-coverage*: The sample was drawn from the Census of Population household frame of 2011. In a post enumeration survey conducted after the census, under-coverage of 1.97% was estimated.
Lithuania	*Over-coverage:* Among not interviewed households, in 700 cases (2% 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, etc.).
Luxembourg	*Under-coverage*: homeless people and other people without registered residence are out of the frame. The sampling frame does only cover private households i.e. 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 on average four months before the start of the interviews. Persons that moved in after the due date are not covered. *Over-coverage:* Wrong address and wrong telephone numbers due to time lag or incorrect information in the register of residents.
Hungary	*Under-coverage*: Hard-to-access groups are characterised 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 even though it is supposed to be not significant.
Malta	*Under-coverage*: 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 so households created after 2011 are not well represented. *Over-coverage:* There is over-representation for households created prior to 2011 and for households which were present in 2011 and no longer exist after 2011.
Austria	*Under-coverage*: 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. Furthermore, undercoverage of migrants can be observed, although the questionnaires are translated into several languages.
Poland	*Under-coverage*: New dwellings underrepresented in the sample - dwellings are selected once a year from the register of housing units and due to differences in time span there is no current information about addresses or flats. *Over-coverage:* Over-coverage consists of dwellings in which inhabitants are not present for a long time, the dwelling is non-residential (shop) or not found (incorrect address).
Portugal	*Under-coverage*: The sampling frame does not cover the individuals living in collective dwellings. This population represents less than approximately 1%.
Romania	*Under-coverage*: 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. *Over-coverage:* Over-coverage rates were estimated on the basis of the survey samples, as ratio between number of not-eligible dwellings and number of sampled dwellings.
Slovakia	*Under-coverage*: The LFS sample is based on a Population Census conducted once every 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, members of the Slovak embassies and institutions abroad. Under-coverage comprises people born abroad and living in collective houses. *Over-coverage:* Mainly young residents working temporarily abroad can stay to live there.
Finland	*Under-coverage*: 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). *Over-coverage:* Mostly emigration in wave 1, deaths and emigration for later waves.
Sweden	*Under-coverage*: 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. *Over-coverage:* 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%).

	Comments
United Kingdom	*Under-coverage*: 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.
Norway	*Under-coverage*: Do not include those 75 years and older. 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.

Table 10.2: Data collection facilities and methods of reducing measurement errors

Country	Respondent		Interviewer		Monitoring directly by respondents	Fieldwork		Questionnaire	
	Letter introducing the survey	Phone call introducing the survey	Periodical training	Feedbacks		Monitoring directly listening interviews	Monitoring remotely by indicators	Questionnaire in different languages	On-line checks
Belgium	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Bulgaria	Y	N	Y	N	Y	NA	N	Y	NA
Czechia	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Denmark	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Germany	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	UNA	Y	Y
Estonia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Ireland	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Greece	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Spain	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
France	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Croatia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Italy	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cyprus	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Latvia	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lithuania	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Luxembourg	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hungary	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Malta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Netherlands	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Austria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Poland	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
Portugal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Romania	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	NA
Slovenia	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Slovakia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
Finland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Sweden	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
United Kingdom	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Switzerland	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Montenegro	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	NA
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Turkey	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Notes: (-) indicates that information has not been provided by the country; NA indicates Not Applicable (for example online checks with computerized questionnaire when only PAPI technique is used for interviews). UNA indicates information unavailable in the country.

Table 10.3: Item non-response for the variables defined by Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 and clarifications provided by Member States

Quarterly data 2017

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Belgium						
compulsory	PROXY	67.6	.	.	30.5	There has been a wrong coding from our national variable to the Eurostat variable (the information is available in our national variable). We will send corrected files.
compulsory	HWOVERP	10.3	12.4	20.6	14.2	We have almost no item non-response in wave 1 (CAPI) but a high percentage of item non-response in waves 2-4. Especially respondents using CAWI have a high percentage of item non-response. We have to investigate if they do not answer because the question is too difficult or for other reasons.
compulsory	HWOVERPU	10.6	12.7	20.6	14.6	See HWOVERP
compulsory	HWWISH	89.4	89.6	89.5	89.7	HHWISH is only asked to persons who declared to wish to work more.
compulsory	NACE2J2D	12.9	15.2	15.6	14.6	We have no item non-response in wave 1 (CAPI) but a high percentage of item non-response in waves 2-4 (CAWI/CATI). We are investigating if a change in our CAWI/CATI questionnaire could reduce item non-response for NACE2J2D.
compulsory	HWACTUA2	.	10.8	.	10.3	We have a small item non-response in wave 1 (CAPI) but a higher percentage of item non-response in waves 2-4.
compulsory	YEARPR	.	67.2	63.3	67.4	We will send corrected files
compulsory	SEEKTYPE Employed	82.1	81.5	80.1	82.2	There was a change in the numbering of the response modalities in the datafile without adapting the programs. We will send corrected files.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE Not employed	75.8	74.8	74.2	74.7	
compulsory	WANTWORK	48	48	47.8	47.5	We do not 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.
Bulgaria						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	12.5	14.3	13.7	17.5	For persons without employment contract (main part of the variable non-response) the duration of job is often unclear
compulsory	HWACTUA2	18.6	21.3	26.7	24.1	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.
compulsory	METHODI-employed	.	.	C	.	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODL-employed	C	.	C	C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	.	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA to METHODI are considered as active methods.
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	C	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA to METHODI are considered as active methods.
Czechia						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	9.7	4.8	1,2	3.3	
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.8	Only persons aged 15-69

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Denmark						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	Respondents included in the filter are coded with 'don't know'.
compulsory	MSTARTWK	3.62	4.99	7.72	11.3	
Germany						
compulsory	METHODL-employed	.	C	C	C	
compulsory	INTWAVE	100	100	100	100	This variable is not filled because there are no intra-annual waves in the German LFS.
optional	COUNTRYB	23.4	13.8	.	.	
Estonia						
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	C	C	.	Small figures due to very few cases if any.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	.	.	Small figures due to very few cases if any.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	.	.	C	.	Small figures due to very few cases if any.
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	.	.	Small figures due to very few cases if any.
Ireland						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	59.1	52.8	19.7	26.1	Persons are asked the question and the level of non-response generally reflects people not knowing what the duration of temporary employment will be.
compulsory	HWOVERP	.	.	12.5	10.4	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	.	.	12.4	10.4	
compulsory	HWWISH	.	.	81.4	80.5	
compulsory	EXIST2J	.	.	.	96.6	
compulsory	EXISTPR	.	.	20.1	13.6	
compulsory	REGION	.	.	C	C	
compulsory	DEGURBA	.	.	100	.	
Spain						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	47.1	45.2	41.1	45.7	
compulsory	HWWISH	85.2	85.4	86.1	85.9	
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	No "other" active method
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	.	C	.	No "other" active method
compulsory	COURLEN	40.6	40.7	48.1	40.2	People aged 15 and + don't know the number of hours
compulsory	EDUCLEVL	11.2	11.4	12.6	11.5	People aged 15
France						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	11.5	12	11.6	12.1	A part of the non-response comes from the people that declare to be in internship. We do not ask or use the duration of the internship. Other part of the non-response comes from some people who say they do not have any work contract and thus cannot be asked about its duration.
compulsory	HWWISH	15.9	16.4	16.3	15.9	Most of the non-response is due to people saying they don't want to work more or less than their currently amount of hours, and have more than one job. A solution will be studied.
compulsory	STAPRO2J	11.9	11.6	11.9	12.2	The code for EXIST2J has recently changed to correct some errors. The code of STAPRO2J was not changed to take this into account. It will be corrected for next year.
compulsory	NACE2J2D	27.3	27.5	27.4	28.1	The code for EXIST2J has recently changed to correct some errors. The code of NACE2J2D was not changed to take this into account. It will be corrected for next year.

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	HWACTUA2	11.2	10.8	.	11	The code for EXIST2J has recently changed to correct some errors. The code of HWACTUA2 was not changed to take this into account. It will be corrected for next year.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	.	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	INTWEEK	11.5	11.8	12.2	11.9	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	HWOVERP	97.3	96.9	97.6	98	This calculation refers to persons who did not work overtime, and in that case did not answer the question about paid overtime.
compulsory	HWWISH	92.4	92.3	94.5	94.9	This calculation refers to people who do not wish to work usually more than the current number of hours (WISHMORE=0) and which in that case do not answer to the question about number of hours that the person would like to work in total.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	100	100	100	100	Implemented since 2018Q1
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	100	100	100	100	Implemented since 2018Q1
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	C	.	This method is rarely or never used in the job search.
compulsory	COURLEN	.	10.5	.	.	A negligible number of persons caught by the sample attended conferences, seminars, receive private lessons or instruction within the last four weeks.
Italy						
compulsory	HWWISH	.	.	15.3	.	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.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	17.3	19.6	18.5	17.3	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	24.1	25.5	26.3	27.3	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee.
Cyprus						
compulsory	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	Country is always CY
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	NUTS 2 is the whole of CY
Latvia						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS 1 level.
compulsory	HWOVERPU	.	.	C	.	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS 1 level.
compulsory	EXISTPR	28.5	30.3	30	30.8	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.123).
compulsory	METHODB - employed	.	.	.	C	This method is used infrequently
compulsory	METHODM - employed	.	.	.	C	This method is used infrequently
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	.	C	C	C	This method is used infrequently

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	14.3	14.9	14.6	15.2	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
compulsory	COURATT	14.3	14.9	14.6	15.2	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
Lithuania						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	All records have two values: 00 or 99 because NUTS2 level is all country.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	C	C	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	C	C	C	C	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.
Luxembourg						
compulsory	PROXY	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	NACE3D	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	MSTARTWK	15.4	16.6	17.6	19.2	
compulsory	HWUSUAL	11.3	11.1	12.4	13.1	
compulsory	NACE2J2D	.	.	10.5	.	
compulsory	HWACTUA2	38	42.1	36.7	48.3	
compulsory	MONTHPR	.	10.5	12.2	13.5	
compulsory	EDUCLEVL	17	18	14.7	21.6	
Hungary						
compulsory	MSTARTWK	.	13.5	18.3	26.3	HU Filter is different from EU filter for this variable.
compulsory	EXISTPR	21.7	22.2	22.2	22.5	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
compulsory	MONTHPR	.	13	20.2	23.1	HU Filter is different from EU filter for this variable.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	.	C	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.6	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
compulsory	COURATT	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.6	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
Malta						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	.	C	For persons working outside of Malta, 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.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	.	.	C	.	
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
compulsory	METHODJ - not employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	Information on this variable is not collected.

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Netherlands						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	57.7	56.2	57.1	58.6	
compulsory	NACE2J2D	27	27.6	27.7	27.3	Variable collected by registers. Some difficulties in find NACE code for second activity.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	.	10	11.3	10.7	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	16.4	17.9	21.4	17.8	More reasons due to issues with questions about year and month when the search for job has started.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	
optional	COUNTRYB	C	C	C	C	It depends on missing in the variable YARESID.
Portugal						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	.	C	.	.	In 2017 Q2 there were 401 individuals (unweighted value) coded in answer option 1 of the SIGNISAL variable and no record for the other codes.
compulsory	TEMPDUR	16.9	15.8	14.5	16.7	Corresponds to non-response of the employees who did not give an answer this variable.
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	This variable does not exist in our national questionnaire
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	C	C	C	This variable does not exist in our national questionnaire
Romania						
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	.	C	C	This search method is rarely used by employed.
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	C	C	This search method is rarely used by employed.
Slovenia						
compulsory	HWOVERP	84.9	83.2	89.2	85.4	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	91.4	89.8	93.6	91.3	
compulsory	MONTHPR	12.7	16.2	11.4	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	.	C	Not available in Slovenia
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	.	C	C	Not available in Slovenia
Slovakia						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	21.1	21.9	25.1	26.9	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any causes higher value of the non-response rate.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	17.5	17	14.9	13.6	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job causes higher value of the non-response rate.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	.	.	.	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	.	.	.	Methods used in job seeking have the same question "State all methods you used during the last 4 weeks to find work"
compulsory	METHODL - employed	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"

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	METHODM - employed	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"
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	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"

Finland

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	EXISTPR	10.2	10.7	10.8	11.2	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	C	C	.	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
compulsory	METHODJ - not employed	C	.	.	C	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	C	C	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	Not available in Finland
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	.	C	C	Not available in Finland

Sweden

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	TEMPDUR	24.5	23.2	21.3	25	Respondents do not always remember start and end of work
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	11.6	11.6	10.5	10.6	People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	28.3	37.9	21.8	23.5	People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	.	C	.	.	Very infrequent that this variable has value 1. Checked against micro-data.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	.	.	.	Very infrequent that this variable has value 1. Checked against micro-data.
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	.	.	C	.	Very infrequent that this variable has value 1. Checked against micro-data.

United Kingdom

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	TEMPDUR	52.9	53.3	51.1	52.5	High level of non-response owing to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample in a temporary job in the reference week.
compulsory	HWOVERP	90.7	90.8	90.8	90.3	High level of non-response owing to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week.
compulsory	HWOVERPU	85.2	85.8	86.8	86.2	High level of non-response owing to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week.
compulsory	HWWISH	90.2	90.8	90.6	90.9	Variable only computed for respondents recorded as wishing to work more hours; this group equates to only 4% of the employed sample.
compulsory	METHODG - employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents took a test, interview or examination. Therefore only 'No' responses can be calculated.
compulsory	METHODG - not employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents took a test, interview or examination. Therefore only 'No' responses can be calculated.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for a call from a public employment office.
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for a call from a public employment office.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	COURLEN	73.8	76.9	73.5	72.8	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
compulsory	EDUCVOC	25.6	24.8	27.7	27.4	The high level of non-response is down to 15 year olds. The filter is ISCED=3 or 4 at EDUCLEV, 15 year olds are automatically coded to ISCED 3 (Secondary school), which means they are eligible for EDUCVOC but the UK doesn't ask 15 year olds the follow up questions, therefore they are coded as blank at EDUCVOC.
Iceland						
compulsory	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	TEMPDUR	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	HWOVERP	10.1	.	.	.	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	68.1	66.4	74.7	70.6	
compulsory	HOURREAS	68.1	66.4	74.7	70.6	
compulsory	HWWISH	13.7	11.7	.	10.3	
compulsory	HWACTUA2	32.6	33.3	33.4	32.3	
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	19.3	17.9	14.7	11.5	
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	100	100	100	100	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	.	23.5	.	.	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	100	100	100	100	
compulsory	METHODA - employed	.	23.5	.	.	
compulsory	METHODB - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODC - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODD - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODE - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODF - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODG - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODG - not employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODH – not employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	.	.	C	
compulsory	METHODK - employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	WANTWORK	.	C	C	.	
compulsory	COURLEN	27.6	31.8	26.5	26.7	

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	EDUCLEVL	15.5	22.1	15.2	16.3	
Norway						
compulsory	MSTARTWK	28.6	33.7	35.5	40	
compulsory	TEMPDUR	45.8	44.3	46.7	48.7	Many employed do not have any date for the end of their temporary work
compulsory	WISHMORE	13.1	13.7	13.5	13.8	Due to proxy
compulsory	LOOKOJ	11.8	12.3	12.5	12.7	Due to proxy
compulsory	HWACTUA2	.	10.7	11.8	10	Due to proxy
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	13	12.8	13.1	10.5	Due to proxy
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	10.3	13.2	12	.	Due to proxy
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	C	.	Very few answers if any
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	.	Very few answers if any
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	.	C	C	Very few answers if any
compulsory	EDUCVOC	100	100	100	100	
Switzerland						
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	C	C	.	C	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	C	C	.	.	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	METHODL is not relevant for Switzerland.
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	METHODL is not relevant for Switzerland.
compulsory	EDUCVOC	13.4	13.2	12.0	13.0	Filter/codification error, adaptation planned.
Montenegro						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	.	C	.	C	
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	NUTS1-NUTS2-NUTS3 represent the whole territory in Montenegro.
compulsory	METHODH	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	METHODI	.	.	C	C	
compulsory	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	C	
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	NUT2 is the whole country
compulsory	METHODK - employed	.	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	.	.	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	.	.	
compulsory	AVAILABLE	.	C	.	C	
compulsory	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
Turkey						
compulsory	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.
compulsory	COUNTRYW	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.
compulsory	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.

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	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.
compulsory	METHODB - employed	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.
compulsory	METHODF - employed	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.
compulsory	METHODI - employed	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.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	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.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	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.
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	.	.	C	.	
compulsory	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Note: 'C' All records have the same value

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Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Belgium			
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	90.9	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	AVAIREAS - employed	25.7	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	COURWORH	100.0	The variable is not available in the national LFS.
Czechia			
optional	COURPURP	100.0	This variable is surveyed from 2018
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This variable is surveyed from 2018
optional	COURWORH	100.0	This variable is surveyed from 2018
Denmark			
optional	COURPURP	100.0	Not collected
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Not collected
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Not collected
Germany			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	29.0	
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	13.4	
compulsory	AVAIREAS – not employed	26.6	
optional	COURWORH	100.0	
Estonia			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	22.6	Persons having 'no preference' were coded as 'blank'. The variable will be improved during the next revision of the questionnaire (then implementing the IESS Framework Regulation).
Ireland			
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	29.8	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	26.6	
compulsory	HOMEWK	17.7	
compulsory	STAPROPR	53.3	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	98.6	
compulsory	PRESEEK	58	
compulsory	REGISTER	100	Not currently collected
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	100	Not currently collected
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	100	Not currently collected
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	
compulsory	INCDECIL	75.1	Sensitive question only asked to direct respondents.
optional	COURPURP	85.3	
optional	COURFILD	100	Not currently collected
optional	COURWORH	76	
Greece			
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	12.1	In the Greek Questionnaire there is the (residual) answer category "Did not specify the reason" (which is converted in "No answer").
compulsory	INCDECIL	15.1	It is a sensitive question in which people tend to refuse to answer.
Spain			
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	15	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	12.1	
optional	COURPURP	16.2	People aged 15.
optional	COURFILD	16.2	People aged 15.
optional	COURWORH	100	Not provided.

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
France			
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	18.4	Question is not asked to people working in an informal job, or with a temporary employment agency contract.
compulsory	PRESEEK	46.4	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.
compulsory	REGISTER	14	Information is currently not available for people over 65.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	17.2	Question is not asked to people under 15.
optional	COURPURP	12.1	Question is not asked to people over 65.
Croatia			
compulsory	SIZEFIRM	13.9	People do not know information on number of persons working at the local unit.
compulsory	LOOKREAS	19.4	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	82.5	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	20.2	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	INCDECIL	25.9	People do not want to give an answer on this sensitive issue.
optional	COURFILD	100	Optional. Will not be collected.
Italy			
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	12.2	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	TEMPAGCY	C	There are no temporary agencies in Cyprus
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	NUTS 2 is the whole country.
Latvia			
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	15.6	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
optional	MAINSTAT	15.6	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
optional	COURFILD	75	Mistake in coding. Coding will be improved and data will be transmitted in nearest future.
Lithuania			
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	All records have two values: 00 or 99. Statistics Lithuania collects statistics on NUTS 3 level for this variable.
optional	COURPURP	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected.
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	This variable is optional and not collected.
Luxembourg			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	16.8	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	97.5	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	20	
compulsory	REGISTER	14.1	
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	25.5	
compulsory	NACE1Y2D	17.1	
compulsory	INCDECIL	17.7	
Hungary			
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	11.5	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
optional	MAINSTAT	11.5	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
optional	COURPURP	10.9	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
Malta			
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	C	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	82.3	Further analysis in the future will be carried out to ensure non response rate.
optional	COUNTR1Y	C	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Netherlands			
compulsory	FTPTREAS	11.9	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	32.1	
compulsory	STAPROPR	66.8	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	71.1	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	80.5	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	38.7	
compulsory	PRESEEK	75.4	
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	16.2	
compulsory	NACE1Y2D	12.4	
optional	COURWORH	11.7	
Poland			
compulsory	INCDECIL	62.0	Very sensitive variable which makes it possible for respondent to not answer this question
Portugal			
compulsory	INCDECIL	11.3	Corresponds to non-response of the employees who did not give an answer to the income variable.
optional	COURPURP	100.0	This variable does not exist in our national questionnaire
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This optional variable was not included in our national questionnaire.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	This optional variable was not included in our national questionnaire.
Slovenia			
compulsory	MARSTAT	14.1	
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	20.9	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	54.3	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	54.3	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	100	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This optional variable was not collected
Slovakia			
compulsory	INCDECIL	27.1	Very sensitive nature of question for the field survey. Since 2016 we have started to use the new administrative source: Structure of Earnings Survey that substituted the LFS variable.
Finland			
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	20.5	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	42.2	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
compulsory	INCDECIL	76.2	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Optional variable not collected
Sweden			
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	78.1	The high non-response is due to employed who does not look for another job.
compulsory	REGISTER	18.8	The question is not given to employed who are not searching for a job.
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	46.6	
optional	COURPURP	100.0	Optional. Not collected
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Optional. Not collected
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Optional. Not collected
United Kingdom			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	34.7	The current calculation of TEMPREAS assigns WHYTMP6 = 5 (some other reason) to 'Blank' (no answer). The Eurostat codification allows only four values (covered by the first four response categories). It is not clear how those respondents who answer 'some other reason' should be coded.
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	98.4	TEMPAGCY is derived from national variable TMPCON (contract with employment agency). TMPCON is asked only if HOWGET = 5 (private employment agency). If TEMPAGCY were filtered by HOWGET = 5 then NR would be < 2%.

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	69.4	Calculation of variable under review.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	36.7	Calculation of variable under review.
compulsory	NEEDCARE	59.1	Calculation of variable under review.
compulsory	INCDECIL	24.9	Refusal = 12.63%; non-contact (no proxy data collected) = 3.38%; no pay yet received = 0.03%
optional	MAINSTAT	100	Not currently included in UK-LFS.
optional	COURPURP	75.7	The national variable from which COURPURP is calculated - T4PURP - is asked only of specific forms of taught-learning. Revisions to the national taught-learning variables in 2016 have reduced INR from > 70% to the current 15%.
optional	COURWORH	75.7	As for COURPURP
Iceland			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	34.4	
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	C	
compulsory	LOOKREAS	34.1	
compulsory	STAPROPR	68.2	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	51	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	10.6	
compulsory	SEEKREAS	26.3	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	100	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	69	
compulsory	PRESEEK	12.4	
compulsory	NEEDCARE	91.6	
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	99.9	
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	NUTS 2 is the whole country.
compulsory	INCDECIL	100	
optional	COURFILD	100	
Norway			
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	29.1	
compulsory	FTPTREAS	30.4	Due to proxy.
compulsory	TEMPREAS	16.1	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	100	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	100	
compulsory	SEEKREAS	31.7	Due to proxy.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	27.3	Due to proxy.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	13	Due to proxy.
compulsory	PRESEEK	25.2	Due to proxy.
compulsory	REGISTER	100	
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	100	Variable not delivered.
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	Variable not delivered.
compulsory	INCDECIL	100	Variable not delivered.
optional	COURPURP	100	Variable not delivered.
optional	COURFILD	21.8	Difficulties in coding.
optional	COURWORH	100	Variable not delivered.
Switzerland			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	24.3	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".
compulsory	NACEPR2D	11.2	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.
compulsory	NEEDCARE	52.1	Filter problem. No adaptation planned for the time being, as there are ongoing discussions about future changes of NEEDCARE.
optional	WAYMORE	30.1	Filter/codification error, adaptation is planned
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Montenegro			
compulsory	MARSTAT	11.1	
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	NUTS1-NUTS2-NUTS3 represent the whole territory in Montenegro.
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Optional variable, not surveyed.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			
compulsory	MARSTAT	15.8	
compulsory	PRESEEK	100.0	This variable is planned to be introduced in the future.
compulsory	REGISTER	15.6	For this variable we did not collect information for persons who are not registered in our employment agency because they cannot apply for benefit.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	17.7	For this variable we collected the information only for persons aged 15-79.
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	NUTS 2 is the whole country.
compulsory	INCDECIL	11.1	
Turkey			
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	100.0	This variable is not asked since temporary working agencies are not common in Turkey for the moment.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	C	This variable is not available for employed since 2009. It had been asked until 2009 and found unnecessary when examined the frequency.
compulsory	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	COURPURP	100.0	This optional variable is not collected since 2014
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This optional variable is not collected since 2014
optional	COURWORH	100.0	This optional variable is not collected since 2014

Note: 'C' All records have the same value

10.2 Country codes

Geographical aggregates and country codes

EU-28	European Union of 28 Member States
EU	European Union
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czechia
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
ME	Montenegro
MK [20]	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
TR	Turkey

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[20] 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 2017

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
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