

EU- Labour Force Survey December 2009 release

Setup for importing the Anonymised Quaterly Data Sets for 2008

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I. Overview

The following information will help you to import the EU-LFS 2008 quarterly data. The data you received from Eurostat are formatted as comma separated values (csv). With the routines provided by GESIS's German Microdata Lab, these data can be converted into SPSS.

The routine to convert the data into SPSS consists of two files:

Setup_EULFS_2008_q.sps

Labels_EULFS_2007-2009.sps

The setup provided by the German Microdata Lab achieves the following objectives:

- Transformation of EU-LFS 2008 yearly data from csv into sav (SPSS).
- Recoding of alphanumeric variables into numeric variables.
- Recoding of missing values.
- Definition of variable and value labels (by executing Labels_EULFS_2007-2009.sps).

For a first check of the converted data, you can compare the number of cases per country with the number of cases listed in table 1. Consistent numbers indicate that the execution of the setup was successful.

II. Explanatory notes on the recoding of alphanumeric variables in numeric variables

– COUNTRYW

The first two numbers indicate the region, according to the country codification from 2007.¹ Countries not explicitly assigned to one region by this classification have been classified by GESIS.

The last two digits display the order for the country in alphabetical order as given by the ISO 3166-1-alpha-2 code elements (e.g. Algeria=0501).² The last two digits for countries which have been surveyed remain the same as in the COUNTRY Variable (e.g. Bulgaria=0103). The alphanumerical code from the EU-LFS deviated from the ISO classification in regard to two countries: XS instead of RS for Serbia and UK instead of GB for the United Kingdom.

In Slovenia, the coding of COUNTRYW in the raw data differs from the other countries (see Use Guide 2009). Thus the recoding within the Setup is different as well.

– HHNUM, QHHNUM, REGION, REGIONW

These variables have a large amount of values. Thus they remain alphanumeric.

III. Explanatory notes about the recoding of missing values

Coding standard for missing values:

- -1 for "No answer"
- -2 for "Not applicable"
- -3 for "Not available"
- in exceptional cases -9 for "Otherwise" (only LEAVCLAS) and -101 for "No answer" and -102 for "Not applicable" (only LEAVTIME and STARTIME, see below)

In SPSS these missing values are declared as user-missing values.

The Code -3 for "Not available" is assigned, if a variable has no valid cases in a country. Some of these variables have only system-missings (i.e. blanks) in the raw data of the respective country, others have only cases with "No answer" and/or "Not applicable". For detailed information on which variables have no valid cases in which countries and have thus been recoded to -3 see table 2.

¹ http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/LFS_MAIN/Coding_lists_explanatory_notes_and_classifications/Country_codification_from_2007_onwards.pdf

² http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes/iso_3166_code_lists/country_names_and_code_elements.htm

– LEAVTIME, STARTIME

These variables have valid negative values. Thus the missing value category is set to -101 (for "No answer") and -102 (for "Not applicable"). Furthermore there were no cases with the value 999 in the raw data, as mentioned in the User Guide 2009 for "Not applicable". Thus the "Not applicable" category has been derived with help of the filtering variables EXISTPR (for LEAVTIME) and WSTATOR (for STARTIME) (see User Guide 2009, p. 32 f.).

IV. Explanatory notes about specific recoding and the definition of variable and value labels

– ISCOPR3D, ISCO3D

A number of cases belonging to the category "armed forces" had been coded incorrectly in the 3-digit ISCO code. This became obvious while crosstabulating the 1-digit with the 3-digit ISCO code. Thus these cases have been recoded.

– REFWEEK, REM

In Iceland these variables started counting from the value one in each quarter. Thus they have been recoded in accord with the continuous counting across quarters in the other countries.

– REGION, REGIONW

The values of these variables have country-specific meanings (according to the NUTS classification)³. Thus they remain unlabelled.

V. Notes on irregularities not mentioned in the User Guide

– AGE

No persons under the age of 15 and over the age of 74 were asked by the surveys in Iceland and Norway.

– COEFF

There are a number of cases with a weighting factor of zero in France and Poland. There are some system-missings in Finland.

– COURLEN

There is an unusual high frequency of cases with 300 hours in France and Estonia.

– DEGURBA

There are some system-missings in Sweden. The origin of these missings is unclear.

– HHSEQNUM

In Iceland and Sweden all cases have the value 1. In Romania one case is system-missing. Its origin is unclear.

– INTWEEK

There are some system-missings in Denmark, France, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. The origin of these missings is unclear.

³ http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/LFS_MAIN/Coding_lists_explanatory_notes_and_classifications/NUTS_2006_from_2007_onwards.pdf

- INTWAVE
There are some system-missings in Sweden. The origin of these missings is unclear.
- NOWKREAS
There are some system-missings in Iceland. The origin of these missings is unclear.

VI. Classifications

- ISCED classification (HATLEVEL)
http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/LFS_MAIN/Related_documents/ISCED_EN.htm
- other classifications used in the EU LFS
http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/LFS_MAIN/Coding_lists_explanatory_notes_and_classifications/Index_EU_LFS_coding_%20lists_explanatory_notes_and_classifications.htm

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Table 1: Number of cases per country in the EU Labour Force Survey 2008, quarterly data^a

	number of cases (without selection)			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
01 AT Austria	49.570	48.683	48.338	47.479
02 BE Belgium	28.189	25.244	25.914	26.257
03 BG Bulgaria	34.427	33.265	33.752	34.353
04 CY Cyprus	9.862	10.094	10.268	10.156
05 CZ Czech Republic	61.634	60.686	60.191	59.423
06 DE Germany	109.881	115.027	123.395	136.312
07 DK Denmark	28.854	28.748	29.125	28.781
08 EE Estonia	5.844	5.514	5.546	5.338
09 ES Spain	167.350	168.098	166.647	166.699
10 FI Finland	39.059	38.228	38.318	38.600
11 FR France	89.384	87.538	84.777	86.870
12 GR Greece	74.071	73.613	73.118	72.816
13 HU Hungary	72.862	73.125	73.045	71.399
14 IE Ireland	75.022	74.368	69.235	68.762
15 IS Iceland	3.085	3.053	3.115	3.103
16 IT Italy	174.883	169.775	162.729	164.552
17 LT Lithuania	13.951	15.441	15.637	16.747
18 LU Luxembourg	2.791	4.367	3.789	3.341
19 LV Latvia	9.890	9.408	9.554	9.745
20 NL Netherlands	106.487	106.587	106.157	109.192
21 NO Norway	20.510	20.102	20.470	20.887
22 PL Poland	51.765	51.955	51.114	52.059
23 PT Portugal	42.226	42.197	41.599	41.948
24 RO Romania	61.625	60.623	59.543	58.994
25 SE Sweden	51.395	51.361	51.291	51.215
26 SI Slovenia	16.901	16.294	16.188	16.217
27 SK Slovak Republic	27.637	27.559	27.368	27.276
28 UK United Kingdom	119.605	118.386	116.222	117.373

^a see also "datafileinfo_quar_2008.csv" on the CD you received from Eurostat

Table 2: Variables without valid cases in several countries,^a EU LFS 2008, quarterly data

	01 AT	02 BE	03 BG	04 CY	05 CZ	06 DE	07 DK	08 EE	09 ES	10 FI	11 FR	12 GR	13 HU	14 IE	15 IS	16 IT	17 LT	18 LU	19 LV	20 NL	21 NO	22 PL	23 PT	24 RO	25 SE	26 SI	27 SK	28 UK	
DEGURBA															x						x								
EDUCLEVL															x														
HHINST	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
HHSEQNUM							x																						
HWOVERP			x																										
HWOVERPU			x																										
INTWAVE					x																								
ISCOPR1D											x																		
ISCOPR3D											x																		
NA11PRS			x																						x	x			
NA11PR1D			x																						x	x			
NA11S			x																						x	x			
NA111D			x																						x	x			
NA112JS			x																						x	x			
NA112J1D			x																						x	x			
REGION																				x									
REGIONW																				x									
SIGNISAL											x ^b																		
STAPROPR														x															

^a Variables with either only system-missings (i.e. blanks) in the raw data or only cases with "No answer" and/or "Not applicable".

^b In the data of France there were only cases in the two categories "Don't know" and "Not applicable", what indicates that the information is not available.