

EU-Labour Force Survey December 2011 release

Setup for Importing the Anonymised Quarterly Data Sets for 2009

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I. Overview

The following information will help you to import the EU-LFS 2009 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_2009_q.sps

Labels_EULFS_1998-2010.sps

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

- Transformation of EU-LFS 2009 quarterly 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_1998-2010.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 into numeric variables

– COUNTRYW

The first two digits indicate the region, according to the country codification from 2010 (e.g. 05 for North Africa).¹ Countries not explicitly assigned to one region by this classification have been classified by GESIS.

The last two digits usually display the alphabetical order of a country in the corresponding region as given by the ISO code elements (e.g. 01 for Algeria, so that the whole code for Algeria is 0501).² The alphanumerical code from the EU-LFS deviated from the ISO classification with regard to the United Kingdom (UK instead of GB).

In Malta and Slovenia, the coding of COUNTRYW in the raw data differs from the other countries (see User Guide 2011, p. 63). 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.

– YEARESID

The 5-year groups (11-14, 15-19 etc.) had been coded alphanumerically and had to be recoded into numeric values in line with the standard aggregation of AGE.

In Malta, the grouping differs slightly from the other countries (see User Guide 2011, p. 63), however this is documented in the appropriate value labels.

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"
- -4 for "Not specified"
- in exceptional cases -9 for "Otherwise" (only LEAVCLAS) and -101 for "No answer" and -102 for "Not applicable" (only STARTIME and LEAVTIME, 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.

¹http://circa.europa.eu/irc/dsis/employment/info/data/eu_lfs/LFS_MAIN/Coding_lists_explanatory_notes_and_classifications/Country_codification_from_2010_onwards.pdf

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

Specifics and exceptions:

– COUNTRYB, NATIONAL

The code -1 includes not only cases without a valid answer, but also suppressed cases, cases with the original code "Other or Stateless", and in some countries certain other cases (see User Guide 2011, p. 67).

– NA11S, NA112JS, NA11PRS, NA111D, NA112J1D, NA11PR1D

These variables have no valid cases in the anonymised data sets of all countries. Thus they have been recoded to -3.

– STARTIME, LEAVTIME

These variables had valid negative values in previous years. Thus the missing value category is set to -101 (for "No answer") and -102 (for "Not applicable").

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

– ISCO3D, ISCOPR3D

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.

– 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

– AGERESID, YEARESID

There are only blanks in Iceland for persons who have not been born in Iceland. Thus there are only two categories (0 "Born in the country" and -1 "No answer").

– COEFF

There are a number of cases with a weighting factor of zero in France, Germany and Poland. There are a lot of system-missings in Finland. The origin of these missings is unclear.

– DEGURBA

In Switzerland all cases have the value 2 for "Intermediate area".

– HHSEQNUM

In Iceland, Sweden and Switzerland all cases have the value 1. In Denmark all cases have either the value 1 or the value 98. There are some system-missing in Denmark and Germany. The origin of these missings is unclear.

– INTWEEK

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

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

– NOWKREAS

There are some system-missings in Iceland and Malta. The origin of these missings is unclear.

VI. Classifications

– ISCED classification (EDUCLEVEL, 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 2009, quarterly data^a

	N (without selection)			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
01 AT Austria	46.957	46.328	46.424	45.533
02 BE Belgium	27.407	24.615	25.659	26.714
03 BG Bulgaria	34.899	34.772	34.703	34.354
04 CH Switzerland	0	49.390	0	0
05 CY Cyprus	10.257	10.182	10.482	10.501
06 CZ Czech Republic	58.919	58.322	58.801	59.077
07 DE Germany	120.471	113.677	114.667	140.640
08 DK Denmark	29.432	29.476	29.866	29.958
09 EE Estonia	5.203	4.745	5.011	4.897
10 ES Spain	166.436	166.399	175.335	175.682
11 FI Finland	38.254	37.197	37.546	37.803
12 FR France	95.008	101.754	105.195	115.174
13 GR Greece	74.051	74.293	74.256	74.860
14 HU Hungary	72.108	72.275	72.936	71.730
15 IE Ireland	70.488	70.941	66.647	65.054
16 IS Iceland	3.101	3.082	3.080	3.107
17 IT Italy	170.270	164.242	156.394	168.655
18 LT Lithuania	16.559	16.266	16.735	17.243
19 LU Luxembourg	3.719	4.875	4.903	5.732
20 LV Latvia	10.372	10.183	9.997	9.872
21 MT Malta	7.101	7.063	6.197	6.040
22 NL Netherlands	100.308	103.938	100.809	99.640
23 NO Norway	21.037	20.781	20.584	20.618
24 PL Poland	53.077	53.233	53.078	53.032
25 PT Portugal	41.877	41.378	40.881	40.828
26 RO Romania	59.179	59.093	59.904	61.250
27 SE Sweden	51.222	50.445	49.873	49.796
28 SI Slovenia	16.496	16.121	16.666	16.636
29 SK Slovak Republic	26.780	26.324	26.026	25.884
30 UK United Kingdom	116.512	114.307	112.784	110.511

^a see also "datafileinfo_2009-2010.csv" on the DVD you received from Eurostat

Table 2: Variables without valid cases in several countries,^a EU LFS 2009, quarterly data

	01 AT	02 BE	03 BG	04 CH	05 CY	06 CZ	07 DE	08 DK	09 EE	10 ES	11 FI	12 FR	13 GR	14 HU	15 IE	16 IS	17 IT	18 LT	19 LU	20 LV	21 MT	22 NL	23 NO	24 PL	25 PT	26 RO	27 SE	28 SI	29 SK	30 UK
COURLEN				x																										
DEGURBA																x							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	x	x
HWOVERP			x	x																										
HWOVERPU			x	x																										
INTWAVE							x																							
ISCOPR1D												x																		
ISCOPR3D												x																		
NACEPR1D																							x							
REGION					x				x							x		x	x	x	x	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.