

EU-Labour Force Survey November 2021 release

Setup for Importing the Anonymised Quarterly Data Sets for 1996-2020

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I. Overview

The following information will help you to import the EU-LFS from 1996-2020 quarterly data. Even if the setup was controlled and documented for the years 2018-2020 only, it is in principle applicable for all datasets from 1996-2020.

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 and Stata.

The routines to convert the data into SPSS or Stata consist of a year-specific setup and a universal label syntax:

Setup_EULFS_1996-2020_q.sps

Labels_EULFS_1983-2020.sps

Setup_EULFS_1996-2020_q.do

Labels_EULFS_1983-2020.do

The routines achieve the following objectives:

- Transformation of EU-LFS data from csv into sav (SPSS) and into dta (Stata)
- Recoding of alphanumeric variables into numeric variables
- Recoding of missing values
- Assigning a release variable (RELEASE)
- Definition of variable and value labels (by executing the label syntax)

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 2.1–2.3. Consistent numbers indicate that the execution of the setup was successful.

Please note:

- The variable HATLEVEL has been renamed into HAT97LEV since the December 2014 release of the data (compared to older releases).
- The variables HAT11LEV, HATVOC, and EDUCVOC have been added with the November 2015 release.
- The number of cases in quarter 3 and 4 for Sweden in 2018 has been reduced since the 2020 release.
- No quarterly data are available in quarter 4 for the United Kingdom in the year 2020.
- No quarterly data are available for Germany in the year 2020.¹

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

- HHNUM, QHHNUM, QUARTER

These variables have a large number of values or – in case of QUARTER – only four values. Thus they remain alphanumeric.

- YEARESID

The alphanumerically coded 5-year groups (11–14, 15–19 etc.) are recoded into numeric codes in line with the standard aggregation of AGE. In Malta, the grouping differs slightly from the other countries (see User Guide 2021, p. 69), however this is documented in the appropriate value labels.

- COUNTRYW

Numeric 2-digit codes are assigned for European countries. These codes display the alphabetical order of the country as given by the ISO codes (e.g. 06 for BG representing Bulgaria). The alphanumerical codes in the EU-LFS differ from the ISO codes with regard to the United Kingdom (UK instead of GB). In this case, the numeric code is assigned in accordance with the code used in the EU-LFS (i.e. 50 for UK).

Numeric 4-digit codes are assigned for countries outside Europe. The first two digits indicate the region, according to the country codification from 2012 (e.g. 05 for North Africa).² The last two digits display the alphabetical order of the country in the corresponding region as given by the ISO codes (e.g. 02 for EG representing Egypt, so that the whole code for Egypt is 0502).³

In Malta and Slovenia, the coding of COUNTRYW in the raw data differs from the other countries (see User Guide 2021, p. 69). Thus the recoding within the Setup is different as well.

¹ For more information on German data in the year 2020 see

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037342/note_employ_data_tree.pdf

² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037342/Country-codification-from-2020-onwards.pdf>

³ <https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html>

– REGION, REGIONW

The values of these variables have country-specific meanings (according to the NUTS classification).⁴ That is why they are attached to the consequent country variables (COUNTRY, COUNTRYW), excluding region variables with the code "00", which stands for "no information delivered" (see User Guide 2021). The new codes consist of 4 digits. Digits 1 and 2 are similar to the codification of COUNTRY/W. Digits 3 and 4 are similar to the original codification of REGION/W.

III. Explanatory notes on the recoding of missing values

Coding standard for missing values:

in SPSS and Stata	<i>in Stata (optional)</i>	Labels
-1	.a	"No answer"
-2	.b	"Not applicable"
-3	.c	"Not available"
-4	.d	"Not specified"
-5	.e	"No information delivered"
-9	.j	"Otherwise" in exceptional cases (only LEAVCLAS)

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

The Code -3/.c 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".

Please note:

Optionally, missing values in Stata can be encoded as the extended missing values .a, .b, .c, etc. by reinserting the block "Declare User-Missing Values" at the end of the respective setup.

Specifics and exceptions:

– NATIONAL, COUNTRYB

The code -1/.a includes not only cases without a valid answer, but also suppressed cases, cases with the original code "Other and Stateless", and in some countries certain other cases (see User Guide 2021, pp. 75-77).

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_methodology#Regions

IV. Notes on irregularities not mentioned in the User Guide

Note that the weighting factor COEFF can be zero or missing in some cases. This is correct and guarantees appropriate weighting.

Moreover, across years and countries, some variables contain system missings and irregular values (deviating from the User Guide) of unclear origin. These cases are not changed with the setup files. Table 1 shows the number of unexplainable system missing values.

V. Classifications

For information on the classifications used in the EU-LFS, see

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_-_methodology#Classifications_in_the_EU-LFS

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Table 1: Number of unexplainable system missing values per variables and years in the EU-Labour Force Survey 2018-2020 quarterly data

Variables in years	2020	2019	2018
coeff	34,085	35,025	35,069
intweek	96,220	111,099	110,726

Table 2.1: Number of cases per country in the EU-Labour Force Survey 2020 quarterly data^a

Country	N (without selection)			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
01 AT Austria	44,318	44,528	44,558	44,204
02 BE Belgium	38,147	36,309	35,787	36,660
03 BG Bulgaria	27,576	27,013	30,773	30,950
04 CH Switzerland	28,820	29,965	29,259	29,386
05 CY Cyprus	9,626	9,642	9,581	9,582
06 CZ Czech Republic	48,221	48,004	50,812	49,889
07 DE Germany
08 DK Denmark	31,463	31,665	31,818	30,585
09 EE Estonia	7,293	7,772	7,599	7,669
10 ES Spain	158,290	147,985	146,986	147,296
11 FI Finland	29,182	28,347	28,060	27,754
12 FR France	96,973	93,158	98,540	99,524
13 GR Greece	51,698	51,905	49,345	46,356
14 HR Croatia	8,927	8,854	8,662	8,654
15 HU Hungary	48,222	42,813	52,813	54,630
16 IE Ireland	34,831	30,666	30,620	30,950
17 IS Iceland	3,123	3,141	3,180	3,452
18 IT Italy	134,923	134,515	138,179	139,655
19 LT Lithuania	12,426	11,650	13,931	13,695
20 LU Luxembourg	7,987	7,093	7,306	7,894
21 LV Latvia	9,305	8,730	9,660	9,469
22 MT Malta	5,688	5,933	5,148	5,364
23 NL Netherlands	100,380	98,298	96,422	99,162
24 NO Norway	25,438	25,312	26,227	25,899
25 PL Poland	61,674	65,726	81,306	81,941
26 PT Portugal	34,479	29,892	27,304	27,387
27 RO Romania	54,526	51,927	53,388	53,745
28 SE Sweden	24,751	27,820	26,867	27,411
29 SI Slovenia	14,556	15,647	14,084	15,152
30 SK Slovak Republic	20,829	21,639	20,945	20,830
31 UK United Kingdom	76,456	68,172	67,837	.
Σ	1,250,128	1,214,121	1,246,997	1,185,145

^a see also "datafileinfo_quar_AT.csv" - "datafileinfo_quar_UK.csv" in the folder you received from Eurostat

Table 2.2: Number of cases per country in the EU-Labour Force Survey 2019 quarterly data^a

Country	N (without selection)			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
01 AT Austria	43,879	44,113	43,942	44,261
02 BE Belgium	37,201	37,478	37,982	38,614
03 BG Bulgaria	32,946	32,488	32,358	32,686
04 CH Switzerland	30,119	28,671	27,449	27,998
05 CY Cyprus	9,748	9,709	9,657	9,670
06 CZ Czech Republic	51,579	51,182	51,018	51,216
07 DE Germany	126,851	122,055	125,865	147,279
08 DK Denmark	32,138	32,147	32,415	31,151
09 EE Estonia	7,132	7,119	7,303	7,202
10 ES Spain	164,536	164,764	163,365	163,152
11 FI Finland	30,682	29,800	29,236	29,206
12 FR France	129,368	128,184	121,978	125,504
13 GR Greece	58,105	56,840	55,455	53,820
14 HR Croatia	9,458	9,044	8,561	8,508
15 HU Hungary	51,408	50,805	51,658	51,155
16 IE Ireland	38,701	36,385	35,828	37,297
17 IS Iceland	3,084	2,982	2,971	3,047
18 IT Italy	146,476	144,739	141,124	141,626
19 LT Lithuania	14,945	14,431	14,348	13,767
20 LU Luxembourg	8,211	7,119	7,984	7,554
21 LV Latvia	9,940	9,754	9,925	9,598
22 MT Malta	5,650	5,140	4,995	5,191
23 NL Netherlands	109,434	101,425	100,806	94,531
24 NO Norway	25,800	25,403	25,738	25,646
25 PL Poland	68,759	64,918	63,678	63,905
26 PT Portugal	37,393	35,909	36,505	36,039
27 RO Romania	56,748	55,907	55,339	55,200
28 SE Sweden	23,763	23,439	22,746	22,796
29 SI Slovenia	15,979	15,353	15,104	14,920
30 SK Slovak Republic	21,852	21,646	21,493	21,433
31 UK United Kingdom	85,674	84,843	83,697	82,469
Σ	1,487,559	1,453,792	1,440,523	1,456,441

^a see also "datafileinfo_quar_AT.csv" - "datafileinfo_quar_UK.csv" in the folder you received from Eurostat

Table 2.3: Number of cases per country in the EU-Labour Force Survey 2018 quarterly data^a

Country	N (without selection)			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
01 AT Austria	44,167	43,775	44,228	43,744
02 BE Belgium	37,715	36,073	36,187	36,889
03 BG Bulgaria	33,073	33,004	32,657	32,848
04 CH Switzerland	31,907	30,854	29,773	29,813
05 CY Cyprus	10,179	10,028	9,903	9,845
06 CZ Czech Republic	52,683	51,761	51,368	51,545
07 DE Germany	124,121	128,938	128,627	144,831
08 DK Denmark	32,470	32,350	32,359	32,258
09 EE Estonia	6,981	6,972	7,360	7,271
10 ES Spain	160,875	161,506	161,363	163,019
11 FI Finland	31,827	31,089	30,663	30,406
12 FR France	133,060	130,056	126,003	127,613
13 GR Greece	61,505	59,608	59,322	58,769
14 HR Croatia	8,803	9,593	9,264	9,374
15 HU Hungary	53,793	53,768	53,997	52,187
16 IE Ireland	35,635	35,830	36,399	36,455
17 IS Iceland	3,258	3,163	3,234	3,182
18 IT Italy	146,376	145,980	143,221	144,292
19 LT Lithuania	14,843	15,124	14,932	15,055
20 LU Luxembourg	7,425	6,846	6,230	7,435
21 LV Latvia	10,272	9,802	10,190	10,364
22 MT Malta	5,949	5,914	5,719	5,691
23 NL Netherlands	103,761	100,791	104,951	108,764
24 NO Norway	25,901	25,922	26,009	25,901
25 PL Poland	73,856	70,076	69,353	70,341
26 PT Portugal	39,441	38,116	38,001	37,737
27 RO Romania	58,229	56,900	56,305	56,680
28 SE Sweden	48,525	47,209	23,600	24,087
29 SI Slovenia	16,906	16,627	15,780	15,757
30 SK Slovak Republic	22,218	21,917	21,933	21,720
31 UK United Kingdom	87,747	87,795	85,937	84,901
Σ	1,523,501	1,507,387	1,474,868	1,498,774

^a see also "datafileinfo_quar_AT.csv" - "datafileinfo_quar_UK.csv" in the folder you received from Eurostat