

EU Labour Force Survey  
December 2023 Release  
(DOI: 10.2907/LFS1983-2022)

Setup for Importing the Anonymised Yearly Data Sets for 2006-2022

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**I. Overview**

The following information will help you to import the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) 2006-2022 yearly 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 and Stata.

The routines to convert the data into SPSS or Stata consist of a setup and a label syntax. The setup is year-specific and the label syntax is universal for all years. An additional recoding syntax for a core set of variables is additionally required:

Year	Setup (.sps/.do)	Recoding Syntax (.sps/.do)	Label Syntax (.sps/.do)
2006-2022	Setup_EULFS_2022_y Setup_EULFS_2021_y ... Setup_EULFS_2007_y Setup_EULFS_2006_y	RecodeVar_EULFS_2006-2022_y	Labels_EULFS_1983-2022

To get the routines running, you just need to configure the setup. After you have specified all relevant paths and the csv data to be read, everything else runs automatically.

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 1 (see below). Consistent numbers indicate that the execution of the setup was successful.

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

### – QUARTER, QHHNUM

QUARTER has only one value, and QHHNUM has a large number of values. Thus, they remain alphanumeric.

### – COUNTRY

Compared to previous data releases, the alphanumeric code for Greece has changed from "GR" to "EL". Thus, the numerical codes for COUNTRY have changed as well.

### – COUNTRYW, AHM2021\_HATCNTR

Alphanumeric country codes in the LFS are based on the ISO 3166 alpha-2 code.<sup>1</sup> Exceptions are Greece, which is coded as EL (instead of GR in ISO), and the United Kingdom, which is coded as UK (instead of GB in ISO).

Numeric country codes are assigned according to ISO as well.<sup>2</sup> For Kosovo, which has no numeric ISO code yet, we assigned code 899.

In some countries, the coding of COUNTRYW and AHM2021\_HATCNTR is different. In these countries, COUNTRYW and AHM2021\_HATCNTR are aggregated in the same way as CITIZENSHIP and COUNTRYB (see User Guide, Version January 2024, p.100, p.102).

### – REGION\_2D, REGION\_2DW

The values of these variables have country-specific meanings (according to the NUTS classification).<sup>3</sup> That is why they are attached to the consequent country variables (COUNTRY, COUNTRYW). The new codes consist of 4 digits: Digits 1 and 2 are similar to the (alphanumeric) codification of COUNTRY/W, digits 3 and 4 are similar to the original codification of REGION\_2D/W.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU\\_labour\\_force\\_survey\\_-\\_documentation#Classifications](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_documentation#Classifications)

<sup>2</sup> e.g., [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO\\_3166-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU\\_labour\\_force\\_survey\\_-\\_documentation#Coding\\_lists.2C\\_explanatory\\_notes\\_and\\_classifications\\_used\\_over\\_time](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_documentation#Coding_lists.2C_explanatory_notes_and_classifications_used_over_time)

Where COUNTRYW is aggregated in pre-IESS codes, the digits 1 and 2 of REGION\_2DW have the following meaning:

01 European Union (EU15)	09 South America
02 Other European Economic Area	10 East Asia
03 Other Central and Eastern Europe	11 Near and Middle East
04 Other Europe	12 South and Southeast Asia
05 North Africa	13 Australia, Oceania and other territories
06 Other Africa	14 Other or stateless
07 North America	15 EU acceding countries
08 Central America and Carribean	

– YEARESID

In the range from 0 to 9 years, YEARESID is provided in single years. Exceptions are Malta and Slovenia, where all values up to 74 are aggregated to 5-year bands (see User Guide, Version January 2024, p. 100). This is documented in the appropriate value labels.

### III. Explanatory notes on the recoding of missing values

Coding standard for missing values:

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

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 "Not stated" 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:

– AGE

There are missing values for AGE in some countries. They were manually recoded to -3 for "Not available".

– HHPERS

Other than stated in the User Guide (Version January 2024, p. 87), there are missing values for HHPERS. In analogy to the other derived variables at household level, they were recoded to -4 for "Not specified".

#### IV. Remarks on particularities

Note that the weighting factors (COEFFY, COEFF2Y, COEFFMOD, COEFFHH and COEFFHHAvg) can be zero or missing. This is correct and can be used to select the (sub)samples for the analysis of quarterly, annual, biennial, module and household variables (see "Information note on the use of the 2023 release of EU LFS scientific use files" you received together with the csv data from Eurostat).

In addition, some variables contain system missing values in various countries and years that should not exist (according to the User Guide). These system missing values are not changed in the setups and remain in the converted data. Table 2 gives an overview of their frequency.

#### V. Classifications

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

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU\\_labour\\_force\\_survey\\_-\\_documentation#Classifications](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_documentation#Classifications)

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Table 1: Number of cases per country, EU-LFS yearly data<sup>a</sup>

Country	N (without selection)								
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
01 AT Austria	172,668	173,644	177,134	175,752	175,522	178,493	176,995	173,449	176,794
02 BE Belgium	37,714	37,807	40,117	47,558	43,637	47,153	98,568	96,561	102,316
03 BG Bulgaria	31,188	31,418	31,495	34,092	34,128	32,064	35,309	31,453	33,846
04 CH Switzerland	66,377	68,668	63,199	60,822	64,727	63,495	62,732	66,608	68,892
05 CY Cyprus	37,106	37,798	38,182	38,571	39,757	40,653	40,462	39,868	40,320
06 CZ Czechia	38,211	37,406	35,059	39,554	39,823	40,993	41,455	42,214	42,010
07 DE Germany	196,852	186,589	136,433	522,050	520,831	524,974	508,257	473,205	467,674
08 DK Denmark	107,964	118,961	125,496	127,819	129,411	126,558	129,238	139,813	142,222
09 EE Estonia	26,401	29,207	30,242	28,662	28,496	27,560	24,115	23,659	24,230
10 EL Greece	29,263	26,642	199,304	224,220	239,204	247,680	249,731	232,211	237,701
11 ES Spain	84,727	94,390	100,494	105,056	103,237	103,659	104,966	111,218	111,022
12 FI Finland	34,006	38,473	44,887	46,149	47,452	49,516	50,934	51,956	52,918
13 FR France	68,110	66,258	120,446	504,192	515,902	521,570	532,338	526,976	529,032
14 HR Croatia	41,396	38,156	35,097	35,571	37,034	32,475	32,537	38,206	37,406
15 HU Hungary	218,550	225,007	198,478	205,026	213,745	226,927	234,165	245,064	255,230
16 IE Ireland	22,270	22,079	127,067	148,211	144,319	153,386	170,246	192,293	208,574
17 IS Iceland	12,591	-	12,844	12,044	12,797	10,443	11,179	11,839	12,033
18 IT Italy	512,873	499,004	547,272	573,965	579,869	581,449	584,571	597,872	604,580
19 LT Lithuania	51,465	50,134	51,673	57,459	59,928	59,136	56,015	56,504	59,789
20 LU Luxembourg	19,634	23,228	18,719	30,868	27,936	29,616	31,225	27,703	13,734
21 LV Latvia	9,199	9,153	9,032	9,475	17,322	18,078	41,070	41,362	42,685
22 MT Malta	10,988	11,838	22,133	20,976	23,273	24,479	25,513	25,683	25,589
23 NL Netherlands	299,714	279,288	71,598	73,619	80,970	71,557	74,078	73,768	76,990
24 NO Norway	50,741	43,849	25,915	23,116	20,614	20,402	19,694	19,288	19,079
25 PL Poland	288,977	292,048	290,647	261,260	283,626	304,573	323,659	343,085	364,042
26 PT Portugal	32,274	27,735	119,062	145,846	153,295	158,200	162,885	166,495	167,243
27 RO Romania	213,412	213,982	213,586	223,194	228,114	230,482	231,785	239,124	225,202
28 SE Sweden	98,597	90,257	113,876	98,492	149,860	213,088	213,893	229,152	246,656
29 SI Slovenia	70,448	74,258	59,439	61,356	65,070	64,849	62,887	60,979	62,543
30 SK Slovakia	80,051	79,273	84,243	86,424	87,788	89,462	92,759	93,459	97,958
31 UK United Kingdom	-	-	-	82,664	81,881	80,777	79,922	81,933	86,076
Σ	2,963,767	2,926,550	3,143,169	4,104,063	4,249,568	4,373,747	4,503,183	4,553,000	4,634,386

Country	N (without selection)							
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
01 AT Austria	180,459	180,441	180,299	181,630	184,682	193,518	201,162	200,413
02 BE Belgium	96,519	96,720	95,940	102,473	104,395	105,604	111,978	114,278
03 BG Bulgaria	33,240	30,924	33,103	34,791	35,329	34,835	130,865	134,108
04 CH Switzerland	71,705	74,193	71,872	67,088	49,390	47,899	48,485	48,262
05 CY Cyprus	42,480	42,803	42,997	43,160	40,920	39,866	37,982	37,773
06 CZ Czechia	42,868	44,531	45,361	234,219	235,119	241,934	250,602	253,254
07 DE Germany	467,106	470,785	46,917	46,585	48,816	46,835	47,990	48,444
08 DK Denmark	143,253	144,228	140,468	166,376	145,389	143,568	149,957	93,015
09 EE Estonia	24,219	24,360	21,570	19,993	19,786	22,166	23,269	20,122
10 EL Greece	245,180	242,672	271,770	302,136	297,460	293,618	296,383	303,621
11 ES Spain	111,056	113,390	110,032	114,102	113,337	109,503	107,224	106,279
12 FI Finland	53,109	54,715	55,399	57,536	59,113	60,590	60,196	83,805
13 FR France	479,889	514,428	516,136	499,447	416,193	347,753	349,920	338,953
14 HR Croatia	35,784	37,273	38,205	40,038	42,254	43,846	45,176	35,435
15 HU Hungary	259,318	274,633	282,740	282,935	289,049	290,431	305,048	311,397
16 IE Ireland	209,237	234,162	228,205	246,328	273,122	278,293	319,039	85,734
17 IS Iceland	12,384	12,666	12,721	12,482	12,356	12,345	12,399	12,514
18 IT Italy	611,255	606,972	657,569	662,986	659,561	671,939	677,746	684,303
19 LT Lithuania	61,126	62,838	65,166	66,867	66,803	61,774	63,022	44,958
20 LU Luxembourg	16,042	23,163	19,937	18,781	19,229	14,288	21,178	85,024
21 LV Latvia	39,011	34,887	35,856	37,433	40,424	38,597	37,822	18,636
22 MT Malta	25,597	24,656	23,969	26,183	26,399	-	-	-
23 NL Netherlands	83,840	81,733	87,876	82,389	93,491	109,585	106,472	108,545
24 NO Norway	23,619	19,222	19,696	19,932	20,367	20,110	20,736	20,618
25 PL Poland	391,150	418,980	421,133	414,121	212,420	206,893	206,875	216,840
26 PT Portugal	159,659	159,948	159,736	161,168	164,964	167,970	171,960	179,534
27 RO Romania	226,205	230,669	238,807	240,404	239,426	240,785	249,521	257,762
28 SE Sweden	261,781	270,507	275,850	285,258	229,772	205,074	207,879	209,610
29 SI Slovenia	61,223	58,415	61,888	64,599	65,919	65,600	67,877	69,813
30 SK Slovakia	100,810	101,469	104,274	104,685	105,014	109,840	110,377	113,417
31 UK United Kingdom	83,742	85,957	88,474	92,845	94,865	192,803	230,866	120,155
Σ	4,652,866	4,772,340	4,453,966	4,728,970	4,405,364	4,417,862	4,670,006	4,356,622

<sup>a</sup> see also "FILE\_SIZE\_YEARLY.csv" you received from Eurostat

Table 2: Number of remaining system missing values per variable, EU-LFS yearly data

Year	Variable								
	REFWEEK	REFMONTH	INTWEEK	HHSEONUM	INTWAVE	DEGURBA	HHSPOU <sup>a</sup>	HHFATH <sup>a</sup>	HHMOTH <sup>a</sup>
2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	42,472	-	-	-	194,651	194,651	194,651
2019	-	-	104,283	-	-	-	183,757	183,757	183,757
2018	-	-	103,786	-	-	-	236,021	236,021	236,021
2017	-	-	103,051	-	-	-	289,773	289,773	289,773
2016	-	-	102,329	-	-	-	285,043	285,043	285,043
2015	-	-	99,792	-	-	-	303,105	303,105	303,105
2014	-	-	99,454	-	-	-	317,465	317,465	317,465
2013	-	-	96,662	-	-	-	329,422	329,422	329,422
2012	-	-	96,545	-	-	9,542	335,902	335,902	335,902
2011	-	-	94,674	-	-	-	338,878	338,878	338,878
2010	-	-	124,138	-	-	-	320,602	320,602	320,602
2009	-	-	120,178	-	1,209	27,922	181,912	181,912	181,912
2008	-	-	121,159	1	1,220	29,333	604	604	604
2007	-	-	123,663	5	2,756	34,747	570	570	570
2006	-	-	105,799	58,669	20,089	71,617	23,076	23,076	23,076

<sup>a</sup> System missing values for these variables occur only in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, where individuals are sampled and household information is available for a subsample only.