

Quality report of the
European Union
Labour Force Survey 2016

2018 edition



Manuscript completed in October 2018

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Collection: Statistical reports
Theme: Population and social conditions

PDF ISBN 978-92-79-96567-8 ISSN 2529-3222 doi: 10.2785/387993 KS-FT-18-008-EN-N

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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 2017 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 2016 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.

The last chapter 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 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.

⁽¹⁾ Most of the introductory texts shortly explaining each quality component are taken from the 'ESS Standard for Quality Reports', available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5909785/KS-RA-08-015-EN.PDF>

⁽²⁾ Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-statistical-reports/-/KS-TF-18-002>

2

Overview of designs and methods of the EU-LFS in 2016

2.1 Coverage

This document covers all the thirty-three countries (participating countries) providing Eurostat with micro-data from their labour force surveys in 2016: the 28 Member States of the European Union, three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and two candidate countries, i.e. 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⁾.

⁽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 2016 data for this department is still not included in the standard French datasets.

⁽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 and Spain 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, Norway and Switzerland use a single stage sampling or single stage cluster sampling design. All other countries use a two or three stage sampling design, usually selecting municipalities, administrative districts or census enumeration areas in the first stage.

⁽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 0.39% (EU-28: 0.41%). Malta (1.9%) has the highest sampling rate per quarter followed by Iceland (1.7%) and Luxembourg (1.6%), while most other participating countries have sampling rates of 1% or less. On average, the achieved quarterly sample in 2016 in all participating countries is 1.718 million individuals (EU-28: 1.523 million), of which 1.318 million are in the age group 15–74 years (EU-28: 1.168 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 except Belgium 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 2016, adopted by 13 participating countries, is 2-(2)-2, where sampled units are interviewed for two consecutive quarters, then 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. Belgium has no overlap; 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.

(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 five-year ones⁽⁸⁾. All countries that have NUTS 2 regions defined use at least NUTS 2 regions for calculating the weights, but twenty-two countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland 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 directly for weighting. 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.

Thirteen countries, namely Belgium, the Czech Republic, 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 (Belgium, the Czech Republic, 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. Six (Germany, Greece, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) use both computerised and paper questionnaires and two countries (Bulgaria and Romania) rely solely on paper questionnaires.

As described above, all countries but Belgium interview responding units several times: about half of the countries (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary,

⁽⁸⁾ The Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg, Poland, and Turkey use the five-year age groups up to the 60–64 years old.

Malta, 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 conducts the interviews by CAPI, but in households of retired persons, interviews can be conducted by telephone. 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. Four countries (Bulgaria, Ireland, Romania and Turkey) collect data using only face-to-face interviews.

2.8 Use of subsamples to survey structural variables

In 2016, ten countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Spain, France, 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 Norway, which uses 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 analyzing 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 2016 User Satisfaction Survey, 62.0% of the users express a "very good/good" judgement of the statistics 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.

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.

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

Table 3.1: Completeness of the EU-LFS variables, 2014 - 2016

Number of compulsory variables with 100 % item non-response (1)	Number of participating countries					
	2016	<i>Of which: EU-28 Member States</i>	2015	<i>Of which: EU-28 Member States</i>	2014	<i>Of which: EU-28 Member States</i>
0	20	19	26	25	24	23
1-4	10	8	6	2	6	4
5-9	3	1	1	1	3	1
10+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	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.

Table 3.2: Compulsory EU-LFS variables having one or more country returning 100% non-response or constant value (1), 2016

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	1	1
Col_039/40	Country of place of work	4	1
Col_055	Contract with a temporary employment agency	1	0
Col_067/68	Unpaid overtime in the reference week in the main job	1	0
Col_073/74	Number of hours that the person would like to work in total	1	0
Col_093	Professional status in last job	1	1
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	15	12
Col_111	Looked for permits, licenses, financial resources	13	9
Col_112	Awaiting the results of an application for a job	5	4
Col_113	Waiting for a call from a public employment office	8	4
Col_114	Awaiting the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector	17	12
Col_115	Other method used	8	6
Col_118	Reasons for not being available to start working within 2 weeks	2	1
Col_119	Situation immediately before person started to seek employment (or was waiting for new job to start)	1	1
Col_121	Registration at a public employment office	2	1
Col_146	Situation with regard to activity one year before survey	1	1
Col_150/151	Country of residence one year before survey	2	1
Col_152/153	Region of residence (within Member State) one year before survey	7	5
Col_168	Degree of urbanisation	2	0
Col_195	Sequence number of the survey wave	2	2
Col_209	Level of this education or training	1	0

(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 2016 reached for seven main indicators. For example, interval 214 411 – 215 015 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 2016

	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	214 713 ±302	71.0 ±0.1	40 550 ±164	37.3 ±0.0
Belgium	4 508 ±25	67.7 ±0.4	1 102 ±20	37.5 ±0.2
Bulgaria	2 943 ±59	67.7 ±1.4	57 ± 6	40.3 ±0.1
Czech Republic	4 995 ±27	76.7 ±0.8	279 ±13	39.8 ±0.1
Denmark	2 575 ±10	77.4 ±0.3	573 ±11	35.9 ±0.1
Germany	39 068 ±100	78.6 ±0.1	10 452 ±61	36.0 ±0.1
Estonia	606 ±12	76.6 ±1.0	57 ± 5	39.0 ±0.3
Ireland	1 913 ±12	70.3 ±0.4	399 ± 7	36.3 ±0.1
Greece	3 597 ±74	56.2 ±0.6	349 ±18	41.2 ±0.2
Spain	18 087 ± 96	63.9 ±0.3	2 696 ±52	37.4 ±0.1
France	25 874 ±122	70.0 ±0.3	4 694 ±84	36.6 ±0.1
Croatia	1 549 ±66	61.4 ±1.1	86 ± 9	38.7 ±0.3
Italy	22 158 ±83	61.6 ±0.2	4 097 ±58	36.7 ±0.1
Cyprus	352 ± 5	68.7 ±1.0	47 ± 3	38.4 ±0.3
Latvia	857 ± 5	73.2 ±0.4	71 ± 4	39.6 ±0.2
Lithuania	1 309 ±37	75.2 ±1.2	92 ±10	39.1 ±0.4
Luxembourg	257 ± 7	70.7 ±1.2	48 ± 3	38.1 ±0.4
Hungary	4 285 ±23	71.5 ±0.4	204 ±10	39.2 ±0.1
Malta	184 ± 3	69.6 ±1.0	24 ± 1	38.7 ±0.3
Netherlands	7 693 ±23	77.1 ±0.2	3 583 ±27	34.0 ±0.2
Austria	3 998 ±13	74.8 ±0.2	1 127 ±17	36.0 ±0.1
Poland	15 821 ±74	69.3 ±0.1	984 ±32	40.8 ±0.1
Portugal	4 337 ±35	70.6 ±0.6	399 ±18	39.1 ±0.8
Romania	8 078 ±139	66.3 ±0.8	579 ±41	39.5 ±0.2
Slovenia	894 ±14	70.1 ±0.7	79 ± 4	39.2 ±0.2
Slovakia	2 460 ±17	69.8 ±0.5	141 ± 8	39.0 ±0.1
Finland	2 314 ±14	73.4 ±0.4	311 ± 9	37.0 ±0.1
Sweden	4 616 ±15	81.2 ±0.3	1 041 ±17	36.9 ±0.1
United Kingdom	29 389 ±75	77.5 ±0.2	6 979 ±63	36.9 ±0.1
Iceland	167 ± 1	87.8 ±0.7	35 ± 2	41.4 ±0.4
Norway	2 440 ±10	78.6 ±0.3	581 ±16	35.3 ±0.2
Switzerland	4 204 ±16	82.0 ±0.3	1 598 ±22	37.6 ±0.1
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	708 ±25	53.3 ±1.1	31 ± 3	41.6 ±0.3
Turkey	24 981 ±277	54.4 ±0.3	2 234 ±60	46.8 ±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, 2016

	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	20 919 ±147	8.9 ±0.1	18.7 ±0.3
Belgium	390 ±13	7.8 ±0.3	20.1 ±1.5
Bulgaria	247 ±16	7.6 ±0.5	17.2 ±2.2
Czech Republic	211 ±11	4.0 ±0.2	10.5 ±1.1
Denmark	187 ± 6	6.2 ±0.2	12.0 ±0.7
Germany	1 774 ±32	4.1 ±0.1	7.1 ±0.3
Estonia	47 ± 4	6.8 ±0.6	13.4 ±2.8
Ireland	173 ± 5	7.9 ±0.2	17.2 ±1.0
Greece	1 131 ±38	23.5 ±0.6	47.3 ±2.5
Spain	4 481 ±79	19.6 ±0.3	44.4 ±1.4
France	2 972 ±70	10.1 ±0.2	24.6 ±0.9
Croatia	240 ±18	13.1 ±0.8	31.3 ±3.2
Italy	3 012 ±50	11.7 ±0.2	37.8 ±1.0
Cyprus	54 ± 3	13.0 ±0.8	29.1 ±4.1
Latvia	95 ± 4	9.6 ±0.4	17.3 ±1.7
Lithuania	116 ±12	7.9 ±0.8	14.5 ±4.2
Luxembourg	17 ± 2	6.3 ±0.8	18.9 ±4.1
Hungary	235 ±12	5.1 ±0.3	12.9 ±1.0
Malta	9 ± 1	4.7 ±0.4	11.0 ±1.7
Netherlands	539 ±13	6.0 ±0.1	10.8 ±0.4
Austria	270 ± 8	6.0 ±0.2	11.3 ±0.7
Poland	1 063 ±35	6.2 ±0.2	17.7 ±1.1
Portugal	573 ±22	11.1 ±0.4	28.0 ±2.7
Romania	530 ±30	5.9 ±0.4	20.6 ±2.3
Slovenia	80 ± 5	8.0 ±0.5	15.2 ±2.5
Slovakia	267 ±10	9.7 ±0.4	22.2 ±1.7
Finland	237 ± 7	8.8 ±0.2	20.2 ±1.1
Sweden	369 ± 8	7.0 ±0.2	18.9 ±0.8
United Kingdom	1 599 ±36	4.8 ±0.1	13.0 ±0.5
Iceland	6 ± 1	3.0 ±0.3	6.5 ±1.2
Norway	129 ± 7	4.7 ±0.2	11.2 ±0.8
Switzerland	238 ±10	4.9 ±0.2	8.6 ±0.7
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	225 ±13	23.7 ±1.7	48.2 ±3.6
Turkey	3 308 ±83	10.8 ±0.3	19.5 ±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, 2016

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

Notes: (x) indicates the presence of the coverage error; (-) indicates that information has not been provided by the country.

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 below shows the reported information related to measurement errors as the number of proxy interviews and their evolution in the recent years. The proxy rate shows a trend quite stable over the years and around the amount of 30% of total interviews with huge differences among the countries. In 2016, in five countries (Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Slovakia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) the proxy rate exceeds 50%, while in seven further countries it is more than 40%. On the other hand in six countries (Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden, Iceland and Switzerland) the proxy rate is under 10%; in all of these countries 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 exercise (31 countries) and send an introduction letter for the survey in advance to the sampled units (30 countries). Less widespread but still used by half of the countries are phone calls for booking or introducing the survey (15 countries) or monitoring directly the survey by listening to the interviews (18 countries).

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

Table 4.3: Share of proxy interviews (people aged 15-74), 2012 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
EU-28	29.8	30.0	30.2	30.4	30.4
Belgium	17.8	17.8	19.0	19.8	20.7
Bulgaria	33.0	33.8	33.7	36.0	35.3
Czech Republic	42.3	44.1	44.6	45.8	45.9
Denmark	5.0	5.8	4.8	5.0	5.4
Germany	23.9	25.6	26.0	25.7	25.9
Estonia	36.8	35.7	36.4	32.6	32.0
Ireland	50.2	50.3	50.5	49.8	48.3
Greece	41.1	41.2	41.4	41.9	41.0
Spain⁽¹⁾	51.8	52.2	52.5	52.5	52.7
France	26.6	27.9	27.8	28.2	31.4
Croatia	52.3	48.0	46.3	47.9	46.1
Italy	20.3	19.0	18.0	17.7	16.0
Cyprus	34.5	33.6	32.5	31.2	32.4
Latvia	39.7	39.4	37.9	37.0	33.3
Lithuania	35.8	34.5	34.5	32.4	31.6
Luxembourg⁽²⁾	41.8	23.2	39.8	37.3	43.8
Hungary	42.6	42.7	44.0	45.4	44.4
Malta	48.3	49.2	49.8	50.7	51.2
Netherlands	45.5	46.2	46.5	46.4	48.8
Austria	24.3	23.2	25.2	24.0	23.8
Poland	37.2	37.8	40.0	40.7	40.9
Portugal	48.3	47.9	47.7	48.3	48.7
Romania	22.2	24.6	25.8	28.3	27.9
Slovenia	49.7	53.4	55.6	55.7	54.4
Slovakia	51.1	50.4	49.8	46.4	44.0
Finland	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9
Sweden	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7
United Kingdom⁽¹⁾	34.9	35.0	35.5	35.3	35.0
Iceland⁽¹⁾	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.2	2.4
Norway	17.2	16.5	16.7	15.6	14.3
Switzerland	3.0	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.7
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50.8	54.2	54.5	55.3	52.2
Turkey	11.6	13.9	20.9	33.6	38.0

(¹) Respondents aged 16–74 years.

(²) In 2015 the Luxembourgish LFS became an individual survey. No proxies are allowed.

Table 4.4: Methods used for reducing measurement errors, 2016

Methods	Number of participating countries	
	2016	Of which: EU-28 Member States
Respondent		
Letter introducing the survey	30	28
Phone call for booking or introducing the survey	15	14
Interviewer		
Periodical training (at least one time per year)	31	26
Feedbacks from the interviewer (reports, debriefings, etc.)	27	22
Fieldwork		
Monitoring directly contacting the respondents	24	21
Monitoring directly listening interviews	18	15
Monitoring remotely by indicators	21	19
Questionnaire		
Questionnaire in different languages	20	17
On-line checks ⁽¹⁾	25	21

(¹) In Bulgaria and Romania 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.

Table 4.5: Unit non-response rate, 2012 - 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Belgium	28.4	26.7	27.8	28.8	32.0
Bulgaria	20.3	22.2	23.7	23.6	21.5
Czech Republic	20.2	20.5	20.6	20.4	19.3
Denmark	52.0	47.0	46.2	47.1	47.3
Germany	2.6	3.4	2.3	2.1	1.8
Estonia	30.2	28.1	31.3	32.5	31.8
Ireland	27.3	25.1	23.9	22.9	20.3
Greece	25.5	25.9	24.6	23.7	25.0
Spain	12.6	12.4	15.2	15.2	15.5
France	19.3	20.3	20.9	19.8	15.3
Croatia	38.6	30.3	31.3	26.2	24.8
Italy	13.3	12.5	11.8	11.7	10.7
Cyprus	4.3	5.4	4.2	2.7	3.3
Latvia	38.0	37.9	35.7	35.2	34.4
Lithuania	21.3	20.3	19.6	19.0	17.3
Luxembourg	47.5	48.0	84.6	79.4	71.8
Hungary	19.3	17.2	17.2	18.5	16.2
Malta	23.1	23.4	23.7	26.7	26.7
Netherlands	47.0	45.5	42.7	20.6	20.9
Austria	5.3	7.8	5.7	5.7	6.5
Poland	37.6	34.9	31.5	28.1	24.2
Portugal	15.8	15.4	14.8	14.3	15.4
Romania	13.3	12.2	9.5	9.4	8.9
Slovenia	21.4	21.3	21.3	21.7	23.7
Slovakia	15.2	15.2	11.0	8.2	7.8
Finland	30.4	29.2	28.0	27.1	26.1
Sweden	43.0	40.1	35.7	30.8	27.2
United Kingdom	44.6	47.4	39.8	39.4	43.1
Iceland	26.8	22.7	21.0	19.2	16.8
Norway	18.4	20.3	19.9	21.1	19.5
Switzerland	19.2	18.3	18.8	20.4	17.1
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	15.6	25.6	24.6	25.1	18.0
Turkey	5.3	5.2	9.3	9.3	9.7

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 the Czech Republic, Croatia, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the main reason is the refusal to reply to the LFS while in Belgium, Ireland and Greece non-response is mainly due to other reasons.

Table 4.6: Non-response by category, 2016

	Non-response rate (%)			
	Total	Refusals	Non-contacts	Other reasons
Belgium	28.4	5.0	8.6	14.9
Bulgaria	20.3	4.3	14.6	1.4
Czech Republic	20.2	15.5	4.1	0.6
Denmark	52.0	6.0	42.0	4.0
Germany	2.6	-	-	-
Estonia	30.2	13.2	13.1	3.9
Ireland	27.3	7.5	8.8	11.0
Greece	25.5	8.0	7.3	10.2
Spain	17.1	7.7	9.4	0.0
France	19.3	3.7	15.0	0.6
Croatia	38.6	23.1	12.4	3.1
Italy	13.3	4.7	7.7	0.9
Cyprus	4.3	1.6	2.3	0.1
Latvia	38.0	9.6	27.1	1.3
Lithuania	21.3	5.9	14.8	0.6
Luxembourg	47.5	2.9	39.6	4.9
Hungary	19.3	7.9	10.4	1.0
Malta	23.1	1.1	22.0	0.0
Netherlands	47.0	36.0	7.0	4.0
Austria	5.3	1.3	4.1	0.0
Poland	37.1	20.5	14.7	1.8
Portugal	15.8	2.4	9.9	3.4
Romania	13.3	2.9	6.6	3.8
Slovenia	21.4	13.0	2.0	6.4
Slovakia	15.2	12.4	1.2	1.6
Finland	30.4	18.1	12.1	0.3
Sweden	43.0	14.3	27.1	1.6
United Kingdom	44.6	36.4	8.2	0.0
Iceland	26.8	8.8	14.1	3.9
Norway	18.4	1.2	12.7	3.6
Switzerland	19.2	2.6	9.1	7.5
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	15.6	8.7	4.5	2.4
Turkey	5.3	0.1	3.7	1.5

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, 18 countries adopt editing and correction procedures to LFS data. These countries are Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

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, Finland and the United Kingdom. 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 improved in 2016.

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, 2014 - 2016 quarterly LFS data

Number of calendar days from end of reference period	Number of countries					
	2016		2015		2014	
	All	EU-28	All	EU-28	All	EU-28
Transmission to Eurostat						
<31	1	1	1	1	0	0
31-60	11	9	8	5	9	7
61-90	21	18	24	22	24	21
91+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	33	28	33	28	33	28
Average number of calendar days	62	63	67	68	66	66
Eurostat's dissemination of national data (web site)						
<31	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-60	5	3	2	2	2	2
61-90	27	24	29	24	27	24
91+	1	1	2	2	4	2
Total	33	28	33	28	33	28
Average number of calendar days	73	74	80	80	77	77

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, 2016

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.

⁽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+ (Eurostat).
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 2016 by the participating countries. Such changes may introduce some discontinuity in the time series.

Table 6.2: Changes in LFS in 2016 compared to previous year(s)

Changes to survey concepts (legislation, definitions, coverage and classifications)	
All	The new Classification on fields of education (ISCED-F 2013) was introduced in 2016, variables affected: HATFIELD; CORFIELD.
Changes to sampling strategy (sampling frame, sample design, rotational pattern)	
Belgium	On the one hand, reduction of sample size in Q1 and Q2 2016 for budgetary reasons (reduction of group size from 26 to 23 for Brussels region and from 23 to 20 for the other two regions). This could affect the precision of all indicators.
Denmark	The sample is quarterly based on a stratified sample. The sample size was reduced in the 1st quarter of 2016. Before 2016, individuals who had research protection were not interviewed, but this protection has been removed from the first quarter of 2016. This effectively means an expansion of the number of people that actually can be interviewed. This is compensated by reducing the number of people who are drawn out to the sample. The reduction was implemented successively and the sample size for persons aged 15 to 74 was reduced from 38,979 in the 1st quarter of 2016 to 37,426 in the 4th quarter of 2016. The reduction will be 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. Before 2016 the quarterly sample size was 40,532. Persons aged 16-64 years that were registered as unemployed in a specific quarter prior to the survey quarter are selected with a higher probability than their relative proportion of the total population.
Ireland	A new sample was introduced in 2016. Although still based on the 2011 Census of Population, the stratification method changed from using administrative county and population density to administrative county and the Pobal HP (Haaske and Pratschke) Deprivation Index. The introduction in the new sample was highlighted in the background notes to the quarterly publication and in the briefings with users and press.
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).
Changes to data collection (questionnaire, national explanatory notes, survey mode)	
Denmark	From the 1st quarter 2016 data collection is carried out by CATI and CAWI techniques. CAWI has been introduced in the core-LFS (previously it was used for the household subsample. A general break in all variables, also due to a significant low response rate.
Greece	Changes concerning variables: TMPREAS, COURATT, COURLEN, COURPURP, CORFIELD, COURWORH, REGIONW, REGION1Y.

Croatia	Since the beginning of 2016, the earlier PAPI method of data collection has been replaced by CAPI and CATI interviewing methods. Accordingly, the questionnaire was adapted to computer assisted telephone and personal interviewing. Instructions to the interviewers were supplemented by explanations related to intention in terms of length of residence in/out the country and by notes on the operation and the features of the electronic questionnaire.
Latvia	Improved wording of some answers in a few questions.
Lithuania	Updating of Instruction to the interviewers.
Poland	Reasons for having temporary work/contract of limited duration contacted with period of apprenticeship or training (TEMPREAS – Col 53), fields of education (e.g. HATFIELD col. 205/208 or COURFIELD Col. 133/135).
Changes to weighting scheme	
Czech Republic	Added strata for annual weights
Croatia	Due to availability of new and more up-to-date estimates of the total population, data for 2015 and 2016 have been revised in order to adjust the Survey data with demographic figures for the Republic of Croatia.
Cyprus	Calibration used for annual estimates.
Poland	In the year 2016 quarterly weights were adjusted to the demographic estimates at voivodship (NUTS2) level, while previously demographic data at the country level were used.
Switzerland	More accurate calculation of quarterly and yearly weights due to the inclusion of information stemming from the social security register into the weighting scheme for years 2010-2016. From 2016Q1 onwards, the information for a set of sociodemographic variables is no longer gathered through the interview, but derived from the communal and cantonal resident's registers. This change does not only reduce respondent burden, but the information stemming from the resident's registers have also been proven to be more reliable than surveyed information (Variables affected: SEX, YEARBIR, DATEBIR, MARSTAT, NATIONAL, COUNTRYB, YEARESID).

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, 2016

	Population 15-64 (in thousands)			LFS annual average 15-64 (in thousands)			Relative difference [(L-P)/P*100]		
	01/01/2016			2016			Total	Men	Women
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women			
EU-28	333,077	166,701	166,376	328,734	164,202	164,532	-1.3	-1.5	-1.1
Belgium	7,327	3,690	3,637	7,290	3,661	3,628	-0.5	-0.8	-0.2
Bulgaria	4,694	2,373	2,321	4,659	2,351	2,308	-0.7	-0.9	-0.6
Czech Republic	6,998	3,550	3,447	6,968	3,537	3,432	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5
Denmark	3,673	1,855	1,818	3,669	1,854	1,816	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Germany	53,994	27,415	26,579	53,802	27,264	26,539	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2
Estonia	854	423	431	849	420	430	-0.6	-0.9	-0.2
Ireland	3,097	1,535	1,562	3,013	1,492	1,521	-2.7	-2.8	-2.6
Greece	6,934	3,410	3,524	6,937	3,431	3,505	0.0	0.6	-0.5
Spain	30,721	15,437	15,283	30,536	15,304	15,232	-0.6	-0.9	-0.3
France	41,854	20,646	21,207	40,890	20,072	20,818	-2.3	-2.8	-1.8
Croatia	2,774	1,388	1,386	2,753	1,377	1,376	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8
Italy	39,014	19,432	19,582	38,871	19,342	19,529	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3
Cyprus	581	282	299	556	266	290	-4.3	-5.7	-3.0
Latvia	1,282	623	659	1,254	608	647	-2.2	-2.5	-1.8
Lithuania	1,916	928	988	1,899	920	980	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Luxembourg	399	204	195	396	201	194	-0.9	-1.3	-0.5
Hungary	6,609	3,282	3,328	6,478	3,203	3,275	-2.0	-2.4	-1.6
Malta	303	156	147	287	146	141	-5.4	-6.2	-4.5
Netherlands	11,094	5,578	5,516	10,988	5,507	5,481	-1.0	-1.3	-0.6
Austria	5,849	2,944	2,905	5,790	2,900	2,890	-1.0	-1.5	-0.5
Poland	26,199	13,086	13,112	24,649	12,308	12,341	-5.9	-5.9	-5.9
Portugal	6,740	3,262	3,477	6,700	3,238	3,462	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5
Romania	13,259	6,689	6,570	13,263	6,695	6,568	0.0	0.1	0.0
Slovenia	1,378	708	670	1,371	703	668	-0.5	-0.8	-0.2
Slovakia	3,810	1,916	1,895	3,810	1,916	1,895	0.0	0.0	0.0
Finland	3,468	1,757	1,711	3,445	1,738	1,707	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2
Sweden	6,187	3,152	3,034	6,214	3,169	3,045	0.4	0.5	0.3
United Kingdom	42,069	20,977	21,092	41,397	20,581	20,816	-1.6	-1.9	-1.3
Iceland	220	111	108	208	106	102	-5.6	-5.4	-5.8
Norway	3,422	1,755	1,667	3,425	1,754	1,671	0.1	-0.1	0.3
Switzerland	5,595	2,827	2,769	5,556	2,805	2,751	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,457	740	717	1,456	739	717	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Turkey	53,360	26,973	26,387	52,267	26,209	26,058	-2.0	-2.8	-1.2

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_pjan](#) and [lfsa_pjanws](#)), extracted on 2 March 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 seventeen 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, Malta and Slovenia 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 2016. 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).

⁽¹⁵⁾ No data is available for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 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), 2016

	2016 levels				2015–2016 growth rates		
	Labour Force Survey	National Accounts	LFS-NA	(LFS - NA)/NA *100	Labour Force Survey	National Accounts ⁽¹⁾	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							
CZ	5,138.6	5,232.8	-94.2	-1.8	1.9	1.3	0.6
EE	644.6	647.3	-2.7	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.0
HR	1,589.9	1,599.2	-9.3	-0.6	0.3	0.3	0.0
LV	893.3	900.0	-6.7	-0.7	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1
RO	8,448.8	8,579.2	-130.4	-1.5	-1.0	-1.1	0.1
SE	4,909.9	4,910.1	-0.2	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
2 Countries using mainly LFS, but replacing it in a few industries (or labour status), on a case-by-case basis							
EL	3,673.6	4,083.0	-409.4	-10.0	1.7	0.5	1.2
LT	1,361.4	1,362.1	-0.7	-0.1	2.0	2.0	0.0
UK	31,627.7	31,726.0	-98.3	-0.3	1.4	1.4	0.0
3 Countries not using LFS, or making minimal use of it							
BE	4,586.7	4,735.4	-148.7	-3.1	0.8	1.2	-0.4
DK	2,839.7	2,841.0	-1.3	0.0	3.2	1.8	1.4
FR	26,583.8	28,040.0	-1,456.2	-5.2	0.6	0.7	-0.1
CY	363.1	381.6	-18.5	-4.9	1.4	3.2	-1.8
LU	260.5	250.3	10.3	4.1	1.2	2.3	-1.1
MT	191.9	203.2	-11.3	-5.6	3.2	3.7	-0.5
AT	4,220.2	4,249.8	-29.6	-0.7	1.7	1.2	0.5
SI	915.0	967.9	-52.9	-5.5	-0.3	2.8	-3.1
IS	190.5	188.7	1.8	1.0	3.8	4.6	-0.8
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)							
ES	18,341.5	19,043.8	-702.3	-3.7	2.7	2.6	0.1
PL	16,196.9	16,196.0	0.9	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0
PT	4,605.2	4,673.7	-68.5	-1.5	1.2	1.5	-0.3
CH	4,604.4	4,604.4	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
4b Countries not giving precedence to any labour side							
BG	3,016.8	3,463.4	-446.6	-12.9	-0.5	0.5	-1.0
HU	4,351.6	4,351.6	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4	0.0
4c Countries giving precedence to labour demand sources (i.e. employment registers and/or enterprise surveys)							
DE	41,267.3	43,544.0	-2,276.7	-5.2	2.6	1.3	1.3
IE	2,020.0	2,045.5	-25.5	-1.2	2.9	2.8	0.1
IT	22,757.8	24,318.7	-1,560.9	-6.4	1.3	1.3	0.0
NL	8,427.1	8,763.0	-335.9	-3.8	1.3	1.0	0.3
SK	2,492.1	2,492.1	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0
FI	2,448.1	2,510.4	-62.3	-2.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
NO	2,638.2	2,764.0	-125.8	-4.6	-0.1	0.3	-0.4

(p) Provisional and (e) estimated

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;
- 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 fourteen countries (Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland) unemployment estimates coming from LFS exceed figures from registers while in thirteen countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland) is the opposite. Six countries (Ireland, Croatia, Italy, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) 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](#).

Customized tabulations of EU-LFS results in electronic format can be requested by users. Eurostat extracts more than 1,000 customized tables for users each year. These data are also produced free of charge.

Since 2011 researchers can get anonymised datasets containing microdata free of charge if certain conditions are fulfilled. Data from EU Member States and from Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are available in this format. In 2016 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. Eight countries, namely Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Iceland 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 and coastal 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. Most of these countries have given their consent to Eurostat to use the micro data to produce the aggregations by regional typologies. For 2016, 20 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, 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

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

⁽¹⁸⁾ SFor a detailed description of this regional typologies, see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/rural-development/methodology>
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/metropolitan-regions/overview>
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/maritime-policy-indicators/methodology>

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia send the NUTS 3 codes in the LFS micro data. All but two of these countries (France and Spain) have given their consent that this data can be used to publish estimates 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 2016, for Switzerland and Turkey, no NUTS 3 data are available. For two Member States, Cyprus and Luxembourg, 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.

⁽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.
Czech Republic	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 165 cases (1.2% 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 0.3% to 2.1%.
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. (See: http://www.ine.es/en/inebaseDYN/epa30308/docs/epa05_disenc_en.pdf). 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

Comments	
	(recent emigration) and missed inclusions (recent immigration). As for the survey's 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.
Latvia	Under-coverage: In general the list of counting areas covers all territory of Latvia, but there could be some territories not covered by the list. It is due to active building of new dwellings in previously unoccupied areas during the last years. Over-coverage: Overall in year there is 1.36 % of over-coverage from sample. Main reason of it are, rarely updated register were can be old information. Also other reasons will be checked.
Lithuania	Over-coverage: Among not interviewed households, in 735 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. In addition population living in collective (institutional) households staying/or planning to stay in such places for over a year, homeless people and other people without registered residence, emigrants staying abroad for more than one year are all out of the survey frame. Over-coverage: Overcoverage consist 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: Overcoverage: mostly emigration in wave 1, deaths and emigration for later waves.

Comments	
Sweden	<p>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.</p> <p>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%).</p>
United Kingdom	<p>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.</p>
Norway	<p>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.</p> <p>Misclassification: Using family as a proxy for household at the moment.</p>
Switzerland	<p>Misclassification: Differing household composition. Unit non response if the selected person is not living in the selected household (anymore), else no impact on estimates.</p>

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

Country	Respondent		Interviewer		Fieldwork			Questionnaire	
	Letter introducing the survey	Phone call introducing the survey	Periodical training	Feedbacks	Monitoring directly by respondents	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
Czech Republic	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Denmark	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Germany	Y	UNA	UNA	UNA	UNA	UNA	UNA	N	UNA
Estonia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Ireland	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
Greece	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Spain	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
France	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	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	-	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	N
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	-	-	Y	Y	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Switzerland	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
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 not provided by 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 2016

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
Belgium						
compulsory	HWWISH	90.1	90	89.5	90.2	HWWISH is only asked to persons who declared to wish to work more.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	.	.	C	Very few respondents answered METHODDH as method used to find work.
compulsory	WANTWORK	44	43.1	45.6	45.2	We don't 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.
compulsory	INTWAVE	C	.	C	C	No panel data in 2016 (only one wave)
Bulgaria						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	15	13.4	13	11.4	For persons without employment contract (main part of the variable non-response) the duration of job is often unclear
compulsory	HWACTUA2	18.9	22.1	21.4	24.5	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	METHODH - employed	C	.	C	C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	C	C	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	.	C	.	.	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	.	.	This method is rarely used by employed persons to find other job
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA to METHODDI are considered as active methods.
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	.	C	C	Only methods corresponding to variables from METHODA to METHODDI are considered as active methods.
Czech Republic						
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	18.5	18.9	19	19.2	Only persons aged 15-69
Denmark						
compulsory	SIGNISAL	C	C	C	C	Respondents included in the filter are coded with 'don't know'.
compulsory	NACE2J2D	21.3	.	.	.	
compulsory	EXISTPR	34.3	32	32.5	31.4	
Germany						
compulsory	PROXY	.	.	11.1	11.7	
compulsory	HWOVERP	.	.	.	10	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	.	.	.	10.2	
compulsory	HWWISH	14.2	14.3	15.4	16.8	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	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	100	100	100	100	This variable is not filled in for legal reasons.
Estonia						
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	.	.	C	.	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
compulsory	METHODI -	.	C	.	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
	employed					any
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	.	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	.	C	C	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	.	C	C	.	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	.	C	.	.	Due to small absolute numbers very few cases, if any
Ireland						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	59	52.8	46.4	49.7	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	HWWISH	.	10.4	10.3	.	
compulsory	NACE2J2D	.	14.3	10.8	.	
Spain						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	44.9	44.5	42.1	45.8	
compulsory	HWWISH	84.8	85.2	85.9	85.2	Most of the blanks come from people that don't wish to work more/less hours (perhaps the filter for this variable should be changed or add proper categories).
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	No 'other' active method in the survey
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	C	C	C	No 'other' active method in the survey
compulsory	COURLEN	40.3	40.4	49.4	41.7	People aged 15 plus 'don't know' number of hours
compulsory	EDUCLEVL	11	11.1	12.4	11.3	People aged 15.
France						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	13.2	13.2	11.6	11.7	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	15.8	15.9	16.7	16	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	15.6	14.3	13.3	12.8	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	28.9	27.7	27.1	26.6	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.
compulsory	HWACTUA2	14.5	13.3	10.5	11.5	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	METHODL - employed	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	INTWEEK	10.7	11.1	11.5	11.3	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	97.4	96.9	97.1	97.3	According to our calculation, non-response is negligible. This calculation refers to persons who did not work overtime, and in that case did not answer the question about paid overtime.

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	HWWISH	90.9	91.8	92	91	According to our calculation, non-response is negligible. 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	Will be implemented in the future.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	100	100	100	100	Will be implemented in the future.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	.	.	C	This method is rarely or never used in the job search.
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	.	.	C	.	This method is rarely or never used in the job search.
compulsory	COURLEN	20.6	15.7	24	10.9	Most of this non-response is related to a proxy interview. Proxy respondents do not usually know the number of hours spent on all taught learning activities.
Italy						
compulsory	HWWISH	.	.	16.1	.	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	21.6	19.1	19.4	18.1	Item non-responses are due to persons that do not have preferences about an employment as self-employed or employee.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	27.5	25.9	26	25.3	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
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	.	.	Rare method to use for searching
Latvia						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS 1 level.
compulsory	EXISTPR	28.6	29.3	29.6	28.7	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter (col.123).
compulsory	METHODB - employed	.	.	C	.	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	.	.	C	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	.	.	C	.	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
compulsory	METHODM - employed	.	.	.	C	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
compulsory	METHODM - not employed	C	.	C	.	This method is used infrequently and sometimes nobody chooses this method.
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	14.5	14.3	14.3	14.3	There aren't interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
compulsory	COURATT	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.4	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	.	.	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	.	C	C	.	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	.	.	C	C	This method used to find work is not very popular among employed respondents.
Luxembourg						
compulsory	PROXY	C	.	C	C	
compulsory	NACE3D	11.3	10.2	10.5	12.1	
compulsory	MSTARTWK	11.8	20.2	10.7	10.6	
compulsory	HWUSUAL	.	.	11.7	.	
compulsory	HWOVERP	.	10.4	.	.	
compulsory	NACE2J2D	35.9	23.6	29.9	34.1	
compulsory	HWACTUA2	.	.	10.3	.	
compulsory	MONTHPR	17.5	25.2	13.2	17.8	
compulsory	EDUCLEVEL	14.4	12.2	12.5	13	
Hungary						
compulsory	MSTARTWK	.	13.6	17.7	23.4	
compulsory	EXISTPR	20.8	21.1	21.4	21.3	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
compulsory	MONTHPR	.	13.5	19.7	23.6	The HU-LFS (in accordance with the EU-LFS) gives in some cases more detailed information than used in the Eurostat filter. This information is used by transcoding program of HU-LFS dataset.
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	EDUCSTAT	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
compulsory	COURATT	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
compulsory	COURLEN	.	.	.	35.4	Error in data query, it will be corrected by the end 2017
Malta						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	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	.	.	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.
compulsory	COURLEN	49	48.4	17.2	.	An error in the data entry program led to a high non response rate, which was rather difficult to impute all the information.
Netherlands						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	55.4	56.3	54.9	57.6	
compulsory	NACE2J2D	26.6	25.9	26.8	28.1	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	13.7	15.6	17.1	16.1	

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODJ - not employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	
optional	COUNTRYB	13.7	12.9	12.9	12.8	
Portugal						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	13.5	15.1	14.5	15.5	Corresponds to non-response of the employees who did not give an answer this variable.
compulsory	METHODM - employed	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	According to the survey results this is not a popular search method among employed
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	.	C	C	According to the survey results this is not a popular search method among employed
Slovenia						
compulsory	HWOVERP	86.9	85.6	88.3	85.6	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	92.9	91.2	92.9	91.2	
compulsory	MONTHPR	.	15.1	16.5	13.3	
compulsory	METHODH - employed	.	C	.	.	Almost not available in Slovenia
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	.	C	.	.	Almost not available in Slovenia
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	.	C	.	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	Not available in Slovenia
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	.	C	.	C	Not available in Slovenia
Slovakia						
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	15.8	15	18.8	18.4	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job (no preference between self-employed or employee) causes higher value of the non-response rate.
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	16.5	16.5	16.1	17.6	Missing of appropriate code for those who are looking for any job (no preference between self-employed or employee) causes higher value of the non-response rate.
compulsory	METHODH - 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"
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	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	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"
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	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	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	.	.	.	Passive job search methods are asked only if none of the active methods have been used.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	.	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						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	20.1	21	20.9	24.2	Respondents do not always remember start and end of work
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	10.4	12.7	12.2	10.2	People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	29.3	37	19.1	21	People tend to forget how long they have been looking for work.
compulsory	METHODL - employed	.	C	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						
compulsory	TEMPDUR	55	56.4	54.5	53.2	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	89.7	90.1	90.2	High level of non-response owing to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week.
compulsory	HWOVERPU	84.3	82.9	85.8	86.1	High level of non-response owing to a relatively small proportion of the employed sample working overtime in the reference week.
compulsory	HWWISH	89.9	90.4	90.2	90.6	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	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	.	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	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for a call from a public employment office.
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	.	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	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	.	The UK-LFS does not ask if respondents are waiting for the results of a competition for recruitment to the public sector
compulsory	COURLEN	72.2	73.6	73.7	73.1	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
Iceland						
compulsory	COUNTRYW	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	TEMPDUR	10.9	.	.	10.4	
compulsory	HWOVERP	63.4	65.7	71.7	71	
compulsory	HWOVERPU	63.4	65.7	71.7	70.9	
compulsory	HOURREAS	11.2	11.5	12.9	12.3	
compulsory	HWWISH	33.1	33.3	34.6	34.7	
compulsory	HWACTUA2	12.2	16.2	17.5	13.9	
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - employed	100	100	100	100	
compulsory	SEEKTYPE - not employed	.	22.9	.	10.6	

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
	not employed					
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	100	100	100	100	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	.	23.9	.	10.8	
compulsory	METHODA - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODB - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODC - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODD - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODE - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODF - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODG - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODG - not employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODH - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	METHODJ - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODM - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	WANTWORK	27.2	32.9	30	27.9	
compulsory	COURLEN	13	14.6	18	16.1	
compulsory	EDUCLEVL	100	100	100	100	
Norway						
compulsory	COUNTRYW	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	MSTARTWK	31.1	35	37.1	39.3	
compulsory	TEMPDUR	48.2	46.6	43	46.1	
compulsory	WISHMORE	13.8	14.8	13.5	13.7	
compulsory	LOOKOJ	12.7	13.6	12.5	12.2	
compulsory	HWACTUA2	10.2	10.5	10.3	.	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - employed	.	10.8	.	11.5	
compulsory	SEEKDUR - not employed	.	13.4	.	10.8	
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	.	.	C	
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	C	.	.	.	
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	.	C	
optional	COUNTRYB	17.2	.	.	.	
Switzerland						
compulsory	METHODH -	.	.	.	C	No relevant respondent declared to have used this

Variable status	Identifier	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
employed						method.
compulsory	METHODH - not employed	.	C	C	.	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODI - employed	.	C	.	.	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODI - not employed	C	.	C	C	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODK - employed	C	.	C	.	No relevant respondent declared to have used this method.
compulsory	METHODK - not employed	.	.	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.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia						
compulsory	REGIONW	C	C	C	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	METHODK - employed	.	.	C	.	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	METHODL - employed	C	C	C	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	METHODL - not employed	C	C	.	C	We plan to introduce this variable in the future
compulsory	DEGURBA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	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	.	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.
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	.	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	.	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	.	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	.	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	.	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	For employed people all the methods are not asked in same detail, some of them are grouped looking at the frequency.
compulsory	DEGURBA	100.0	C	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	AVAIRES - not employed	91.0	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	AVAIRES - employed	32.6	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.
Czech Republic			
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	We will send dataset with this variable during the next year (imputation).
optional	COURPURP	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Czech LFS does not survey this variable
Denmark			
optional	COURPURP	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	
optional	COURWORH	100.0	
Germany			
compulsory	SUPVISOR	24.4	
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	15.4	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	30.3	
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	25.5	
compulsory	NEEDCARE	30.0	
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	12.0	
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	13.5	
optional	MAINSTAT	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	10.3	
optional	COURWORH	100.0	
Estonia			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	22.1	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	SIZEFIRM	13.6	Not stated answers arise from respondents
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	48.5	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	18.9	Not stated answers arise from respondents
compulsory	STAPROPR	100.0	Not currently collected
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	96.1	
compulsory	PRESEEK	100.0	Not currently collected
compulsory	REGISTER	100.0	Not currently collected
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	100.0	Not currently collected
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	100.0	Not currently collected
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	
compulsory	INCDECIL	71.0	Question only asked to direct respondents due to sensitive nature of question
optional	COURPURP	47.8	Not stated answers arise from respondents
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Not currently collected
optional	COURWORH	22.1	Not stated answers arise from respondents
Greece			
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	23.1	In the Greek Questionnaire there is the (residual) answer category "Did not specify the reason" (which is converted in "No answer"). It should be tested if the exclusion of this answer category would reduce the non-response in this variable.
compulsory	INCDECIL	11.8	It is a sensitive question in which people tend to refuse to answer.
Spain			
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	22.1	

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	12.3	
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	It will be provided from registers in due time.
optional	COURPURP	17.7	People aged 15.
optional	COURFILD	17.7	People aged 15.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Not provided.
France			
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	18.8	Question is not asked to people working in an informal job, or with a temporary employment agency contract.
compulsory	TEMPREAS	11.2	Some of the people declaring they have no contract are reclassified as temporary contracts (TEMP = 2). Yet we don't have the reason. A solution will be studied.
compulsory	PRESEEK	47.8	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	13.0	Information is currently not available for people over 65.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	17.8	Question is not asked to people under 15.
compulsory	INCDECIL	25.4	The non-response come from different reasons: for 18%, people did not answer to the question; for 50%, people gave a net income, but in income groups; for 32%, people only gave a gross income. A solution will be studied to lower non response.
optional	COURPURP	11.1	Question is not asked to people over 65.
Croatia			
compulsory	MARSTAT	12.5	This non-response refers to persons under 15 (children) which should be coded as a single. Real non-response to this question is not possible.
compulsory	SIZEFIRM	12.6	People do not know information on number of persons working at the local unit. In order to reduce non-response, interviewers will be instructed to further emphasize the possible selection between codes 14 (Do not know but less than 11 persons) or 15 (do not know but more than 10 persons) which respondents can choose in case of non-response.
compulsory	LOOKREAS	22.8	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - employed	77.3	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	16.2	Will be improved in the future.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	13.1	Non-response refers to children under the age of 15 who do not answer the question on country of residence one year before survey.
compulsory	INCDECIL	26.1	People do not want to give an answer on this sensitive issue especially in the case of proxy interview.
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Optional. Will not be collected.
Italy			
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	12.3	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	REGION1Y	C	NUTS 2 is the whole of CY
Latvia			
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	14.3	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	Data about workplace are collected at NUTS1 level
optional	MAINSTAT	14.3	There are not interviewed persons aged 75 or more included in filter.
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	HHLINK	C	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	21.0	
compulsory	LOOKREAS	10.3	
compulsory	AVAIREAS - not employed	17.2	
compulsory	REGISTER	10.8	
compulsory	NACE1Y2D	12.1	

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	INCDECIL	16.3	
Hungary			
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	11.2	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable. Till 2014, for missing values of INCDECIL cold-deck donor imputation method was used, missing values were replaced with donor data coming from the previous/following periods of LFS data collections
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	Since it was proved to be not appropriate, data transmission to Eurostat for this variable was stopped. We intend to send INCDECIL data for missing values based on hot deck imputation by the end of 2017 (only as a temporary solution)
optional	MAINSTAT	11.2	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
optional	COURPURP	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
optional	COURWORH	11.1	There is an upper-age limit (74 years) in HU-LFS for this variable.
Malta			
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	78.7	Further analysis in the future will be carried out to ensure non response rate.
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Information on this variable is not collected.
Netherlands			
compulsory	FTPTREAS	11.9	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	33.6	
compulsory	STAPROPR	65.7	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	70.0	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	79.2	
compulsory	AVAIRES - not employed	40.2	
compulsory	PRESEEK	72.8	
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	16.5	
compulsory	NACE1Y2D	10.8	
optional	COURWORH	12.6	
Austria			
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	Delivered yearly with delay since basic data originates from registers.
Poland			
compulsory	INCDECIL	61.3	Very sensitive variable which makes it possible for respondent to not answer this question
Portugal			
compulsory	INCDECIL	11.4	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	13.6	
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	21.7	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	64.3	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	64.4	
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	This optional variable was not collected
Slovakia			
compulsory	INCDECIL	28.5	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	20.1	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	41.9	As Finland is using persons as sampling units, this variable is optional for other members of the household.
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Optional variable not collected
Sweden			
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	75.0	The high non-response is due to employed who does not look for another job.
compulsory	REGISTER	19.3	The question is not given to employed who are not searching for a job.
compulsory	WSTAT1Y	46.1	Even if a new solution of collecting the data was used during 2007 only

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
			some little improvements has been done since then.
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	
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	34.6	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	98.5	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%.
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	69.4	
compulsory	AVAIRES - not employed	34.3	
compulsory	NEEDCARE	56.8	
compulsory	INCDECIL	25.4	Refusal = 12.63%; non-contact (no proxy data collected) = 3.38%; no pay yet received = 0.03%
optional	MAINSTAT	100.0	Not currently included in UK-LFS.
optional	COURPURP	75.5	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	75.5	As for COURPURP
Iceland			
compulsory	TEMPREAS	38.4	
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	C	
compulsory	LOOKREAS	31.6	
compulsory	STAPROPR	67.4	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	50.7	
compulsory	SEEKREAS	26.7	
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	100.0	
compulsory	AVAIRES - not employed	65.9	
compulsory	PRESEEK	12.8	
compulsory	NEEDCARE	91.1	
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	75.3	
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	100.0	
Norway			
compulsory	WAYJFOUN	29.5	
compulsory	FTPTREAS	30.1	
compulsory	TEMPREAS	19.2	
compulsory	NACEPR2D	100.0	
compulsory	ISCOPR3D	100.0	
compulsory	SEEKREAS	33.3	
compulsory	AVAIRES - employed	24.2	
compulsory	AVAIRES - not employed	10.8	
compulsory	PRESEEK	21.8	
compulsory	REGISTER	100.0	
compulsory	COUNTR1Y	100.0	
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	
optional	COURPURP	100.0	
optional	COURFILD	18.5	
optional	COURWORH	100.0	
Switzerland			

Variable status	Identifier	This reference year	Short comments on reasons for non-available statistics and prospects for future solutions
compulsory	TEMPREAS	24.1	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	11.3	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	27.9	Filter problem. No adaptation planned for the time being, as there are ongoing discussions about future changes of NEEDCARE.
optional	WAYMORE	29.4	Filter/codification error, adaptation is planned
optional	COURFILD	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.
optional	COURWORH	100.0	Not asked in the SLFS.
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			
compulsory	MARSTAT	15.4	Marital status is the conjugal status of each individual in relation to the marriage laws of the country.
compulsory	HOMEWK	100.0	We have implemented the variable.
compulsory	AVAIRES - not employed	96.0	We have implemented the variable.
compulsory	PRESEEK	100.0	This variable is planned to be introduced in the future.
compulsory	NEEDCARE	100.0	This variable is planned to be introduced in the future.
compulsory	REGISTER	86.4	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	16.9	For this variable we collected the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we did not have any information. In the future we plan to improve this.
compulsory	REGION1Y	C	For this variable we collected the information for persons 15-79; for other persons we did not have any information. In the future we plan to improve this.
compulsory	INCDECIL	100.0	We have implemented the variable.
optional	MAINSTAT	100.0	The variable is optional but will be introduced in the future.
Turkey			
compulsory	TEMPAGCY	100.0	This variable is not asked since temporary working agencies are not common in Turkey for the moment.
compulsory	AVAIRES - 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 Data presentation and abbreviations

Data presentation

The following symbols are used, where necessary:

- : Not available;
- Not applicable.

Geographical aggregates and country codes

EU-28	European Union of 28 Member States
EU	European Union
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
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
MK ⁽²⁰⁾	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
TR	Turkey

⁽²⁰⁾ Provisional ISO code which does not prejudice 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.

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Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey 2016

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.

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