



EU-LFS

Overview and recent developments in the EU Labour Force Survey

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Outline

- EU-LFS – new legislation and general changes
- EU-LFS – labour status – changes
- EU-LFS – education indicators – changes
- New variables (not exhaustive)
- EU-LFS modules (2021, 2022, and 2024 – education/skills related)

Legislation for EU-LFS (1)

From 2021 data

- Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 = Integrated European Social Statistics
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 – variables, definitions
 - **Explanatory notes:** https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_documentation
 - Variables: quarterly, yearly, every 2 years, every 8 years (= modules)
 - Data transmission deadlines
 - Quarterly data: 10 weeks / 8 weeks
 - Yearly data, regular modules: 31 March / 15 March
 - Ad-hoc subject modules: 31 March
 - INCGROSS (gross monthly pay from the main job): 15 months after the end of the reference period
- Release calendar: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs>
 - 2022 annual data: online since 27th of April

Legislation for EU-LFS (2)

General changes

- Target population
 - Usual residents in private households
 - Age coverage depends on topic: 'everybody' for some HH variables, '15-89' for labour status and educational attainment, '15-74' for participation in education and training
- Periodicity and temporal references
- Data collection modes, use of register / multiple data sources
- National questionnaires
 - Pre-determined order of questions for labour status ("flow chart")
 - National changes of questions where definitions / concepts did not change (e.g. HATLEVEL)
- Imputation and editing standards
- Weighting and precision requirements
- Quality monitoring

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU Labour Force Survey - new methodology from 2021 onwards#Main changes introduced in 2021](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_Labour_Force_Survey_-_new_methodology_from_2021_onwards#Main_changes_introduced_in_2021)

EU-LFS indicators – labour status (1)

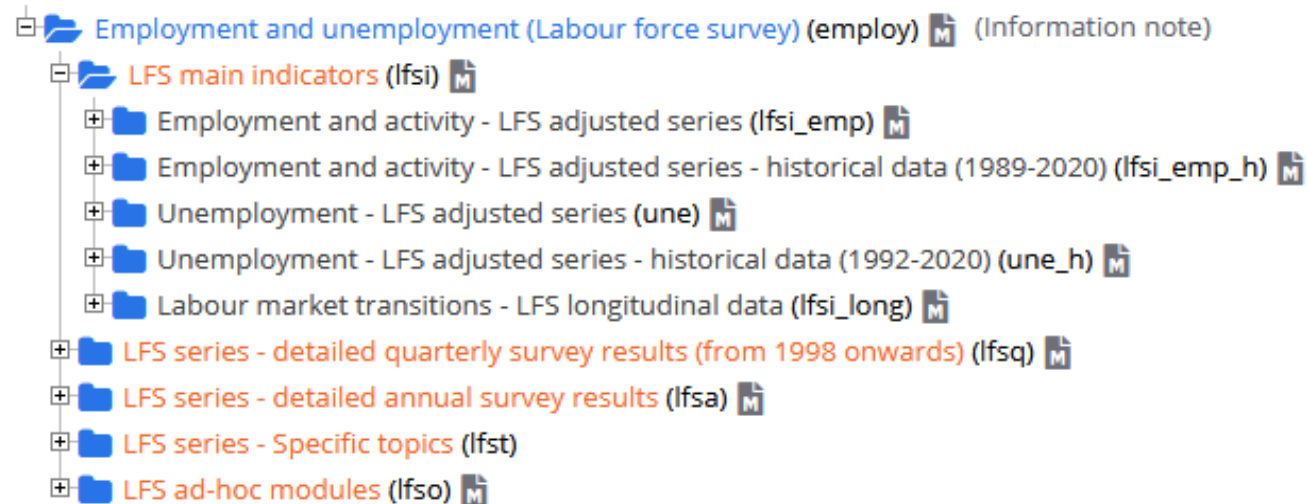
- New ILO definition applied → impact on the results of employment and unemployment
 - Reference population changed from people aged 15+ to 15-89
 - Criteria for classifying the absences from work have been harmonized
 - *Most relevant change (e.g. parental leave, temporary lay-offs)*
 - People engaged in agricultural and fishing activities exclusively for self-consumption are no longer classified as employed
 - Only active search methods are taken into account for not employed people to be considered as looking for a job
 - *No more category 'other'*
 - Input harmonization (flow charts) = mandatory order of questions in the national questionnaires

EU-LFS indicators – labour status (2)

- Break corrected series for main (labour market) indicators: employment, unemployment, NEET, temporary contracts, ...
 - The time span covered by this correction exercise is 2009 Q1 to 2020 Q4

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=EU_labour_force_survey_-_correction_for_breaks_in_time_series

- All other online tables: flag ‘b’ – break in series for all 2021 data



Educational attainment (1)

- **HATLEVEL** – educational attainment level
 - No change in definition, based on ISCED 2011 (since 2014)
 - Some countries changed questions / better aligned to register information
 - Quarterly variable
 - Age coverage: 15-89 instead of 15+ → burden reduction
 - ISCED 2011 levels – unchanged
 - 1-digit for levels 0-8
 - Level 3: partial level completion – without access to tertiary – with direct access to tertiary
 - **More information on orientation** (general/vocational)
 - From 2021, integrated in HATLEVEL: ISCED 3+4+5, for age 15-89
 - Up to 2020, HATVOC: ISCED 3+4, for age 15-34 (or no more than 15 years ago)

Educational attainment (2)

- **HATFIELD** – field of HATLEVEL
 - No change in definition, based on ISCED-F 2013 (since 2016)
 - Yearly variable
 - For HATLEVEL = 3-8
 - Age coverage: **15-89** instead of 15-34 (or no more than 15 years ago)
 - **Narrow fields (29 fields)** instead of broad fields (11 fields)

Participation in education and training (1)

- **EDUCFED4** – participation in formal education (4 weeks)
 - No change in definition, based on ISCED 2011 (since 2014)
 - Quarterly variable
 - Age coverage: 15-74 instead of 15+ → burden reduction
 - Category 1 = yes includes students on holidays
 - Standardised variable = no longer an extra category for data transmission
- **EDUCLEV4** – level of the formal education (4 weeks)
 - No change in definition, based on ISCED 2011 (since 2014)
 - Quarterly variable for EDUCFED4 = yes
 - ISCED 1-digit
 - **New:** orientation general/vocational for ISCED level 3, 4, 5

Participation in education and training (2)

- **EDUCNFE4** – participation in non-formal education (4 weeks)
 - Quarterly variable
 - Age coverage: 15-74 instead of 15+ → burden reduction
 - No change in definition of non-formal education
 - Guided on-the-job training is excluded
 - Explanatory notes further detailed / improved
 - **New:** breakdown by **purpose** integrated
 - Participating in at least one job-related non-formal education or training activity
 - Participating only in non-job-related/personal non-formal education or training activities
 - Not participating in any non-formal education or training activity
 - Relevant breakdown; expected to improve memory; reflects LFS survey context

Participation in education and training (3)

- **New** variables on participation during the last **12 months**
 - For new adult learning indicator – [European Education Area](#) and [Social pillar targets](#)
- EDUCFED12, EDUCLEV12, EDUCNFE12
- Same variables as 4 weeks
- Only asked if answer to 4 weeks is no
- Every 2 years: 2022, 2024, etc.
- Results: still evaluating received data (e.g. checking for outliers, comparing with AES)

New variables – education

- **HATWORK** – work-based learning at HATLEVEL
 - Yearly variable, for HATLEVEL = 3-8 and age 20-34
 - Work experiences at a workplace in a market or non-market unit (i.e. in a company, government institution or non-profit organisation) that were part of the curriculum of the formal programme that led to HATLEVEL
 - Work experience(s) at a workplace from 1 to 6 months, at least one paid
 - Work experience(s) at a workplace from 1 to 6 months, all unpaid
 - Work experience(s) at a workplace 7 months or over, at least one paid
 - Work experience(s) at a workplace 7 months or over, all unpaid
 - No or less than 1 month work experience
 - For the EEA indicator “Exposure of VET graduates to work based learning”
- Results: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=edat1 (e.g. population aged 20-34 with work experience while studying)

New variables – migration (1)

- **COBFATH, COBMOTH** – country of birth of the father / mother
 - Yearly variable, for everybody in the target population aged 74 years or less
- **MIGSTAT** – derived variable for analyses of second generation of migrants
 - Native-born with both parents native-born
 - Native-born with one parent born abroad (second generation)
 - Native-born with both parents born abroad (second generation)
 - Foreign-born (first generation)
- **HHMIGSTAT** – typology for analyses of households by migration status
 - (all) Adults native-born with both parents native-born
 - (all) Adults foreign-born or with one or both parents born abroad
 - Mixed migration status (At least one adult native-born with both parents native-born and at least one adult foreign-born or native-born with one or both parents born abroad)

New variables – migration (2)

- **MIGREAS** – main reason for migrating
- Every 2 years: 2021, 2023, etc. for foreign-born or persons with unknown country of birth aged 15 to 74 years
 - Employment, job found before migrating
 - Employment, no job found before migrating
 - Family reasons
 - Education or training
 - Retirement
 - International protection or asylum
 - Other
- Results: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=lfsa (e.g. foreign-born population by main reason for migrating/employment by migration status)
- Publications: [Foreign-born people and their descendants](#)

New variables – health

- Two variables every 2 years (2022, 2024, ...), for everybody aged 15-89
- **GENHEALTH** – self-perceived general health
 - Self-perceived general health status
 - Very good – good – fair (neither good nor bad) – bad – very bad
- **GALI** – Limitation in activities because of health problems
 - Self-assessment of whether a person is limited (in “activities people usually do”) by any on-going physical, mental or emotional health problem, including disease or impairment, and old age
 - Severely limited – limited but not severely – not limited at all
- Allowing the analysis of “disability employment gap”
- Results: still evaluating received data (e.g. checking for outliers, comparing with EU-SILC)

New variables – monthly pay

- **INCGROSS** – gross monthly pay from the main job
- Yearly variable, for employees aged 15-89
 - Gross pay refers to the monetary component of the remuneration of employees in cash payable by an employer to an employee before deduction of income tax and National Insurance Contributions (after deduction of employers' social insurance contributions). It includes regular overtime, extra compensation for shift work, seniority bonuses, regular travel allowances and per diem allowances, tips and commission and compensation for meals in cash.
- 'Difficult' variable – sensitive information
- Data transmission only **15 months** after the end of the reference period
- Up to 2020: INCDECIL – monthly (take home) pay from main job in deciles
- Results: still evaluating received data (e.g. checking for outliers, comparing with EU-SILC/SES)

More detailed variables – ISCO, NACE, NUTS

- More details compulsory (previously optional)
 - **ISCO4D**
 - Occupation in main job: ISCO-08 at **4-digit** level
 - Results: published ISCO at two digit level instead of only one (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=lfsa_emp)
 - **NACE3D**
 - Economic activity of the local unit for main job: NACE Rev. 2 at **3-digit** level
 - **REGION**
 - **NUTS 3**: not for dissemination but to allow regional typologies (e.g. border regions)

Deleted variables

- Legal marital status
- Situation one year before (5 variables)
- Reasons for hours actually worked during the reference week being different from the person's usual hours
- Detailed methods of job search activities

2021 module on migrants (1)

- Regular module – every 8 years
 - Explanatory notes:
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037334/Explanatory_notes_Module_2021/fcb812fc-dbde-8cf5-c47f-0043a114c511
 - Age group covered: 15 to 74 years
- Variables
 - HATCNTR - Country where the highest level of education was successfully completed
(Everybody in the target population)
 - ESTQUAL - Recognition of formal qualifications obtained abroad
(Those who obtained their highest formal qualification abroad; categories: Has applied, formal qualification partially or fully recognized, Has not applied, because not needed, and etc.)
 - HATPAR - Educational attainment level of the respondent's parents
(Everybody in the target population; categories: low, medium, high)

2021 module on migrants (2)

- JOBSATISF - Job satisfaction

(Persons in employment; categories: to a large extent, to a small extent, and etc.)

- SKILLEQ - Skill equivalence new main and old main job

(Foreign-born persons in employment; categories: higher now, lower now, and etc.)

- DISCRIMI - Feeling of being discriminated against at work in the current job

(Persons in employment; categories: on the grounds of age, gender, origin, and etc.)

- JOBOBSTA - Main obstacle to getting a suitable job

(Foreign-born persons; categories: lack of language skills, lack of recognition qualification, and etc.)

- DURFIJOB - Time required to find the first paid job in the host country

(Foreign-born persons; categories: less than 3 months, from 3 to less than 6 months, ... etc.)

2021 module on migrants (3)

- PRKNLANG - Skills in the main host country language before migrating
(Foreign-born persons; categories: mother tongue, advanced (proficient user), and etc.)
- LANGHOST - Current skills in the main host country language
(Foreign-born persons; categories: mother tongue, advanced (proficient user), and etc.)
- LANGCOUR - Participation in course for the main host country language
(Foreign-born persons; categories: yes, general language course; no, because language courses were not available or affordable, and etc.)

- Results: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=lfso
- Publications: [Self-perceived discrimination at work – statistics](#); [Main obstacles for foreign-born people to enter the labour market](#)

2022 module on job skills (1)

- Ad hoc subject module
 - Explanatory notes: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037334/Explanatory-notes-AHM-2022.pdf>
 - Target population: Persons aged 15 to 74 years who are currently in employment or who left their last employment in the last 24 months
- Variables' categories
 - Proportion scale: All or most of the working time - Half of the working time or slightly more - Some of the working time - Little of the working time - None of the working time
 - Extent scale: - To a very large extent - To a large extent - To some extent - To little extent - To no extent

2022 module on job skills (2)

- Variables
 - DIGITAL - Time spent on working on digital devices
 - READING - Time spent on reading work-related manuals and technical documents
 - CALCULATE - Time spent on doing relatively complex calculations
 - PHYSICAL - Time spent on doing hard physical work
 - DEXTERITY - Time spent on tasks involving finger dexterity
 - COMMINT - Time spent on interacting with people from the same enterprise or organization
 - COMMEXT - Time spent on interacting with people from outside the enterprise or organization
 - GUIDANCE - Time spent on advising, training or teaching other people
 - JOBAUTON - Degree of autonomy on tasks (*categories: large, some, little or no*)
 - REPETITIVE - Repetitiveness of tasks
 - PROCEDURE - Tasks precisely described by strict procedures

2022 module on job skills (3)

- Results: late June 2023
- Potential indicators
 - Persons with tasks in main or last job being largely repetitive and methodical
 - Persons with tasks in main or last job being largely repetitive and methodical and entailing half or more working time spent on tasks involving finger dexterity
 - Persons with half or more of working time in main or last job spent working on digital devices, reading work-related manuals and technical documents and doing relatively complex calculations

2024 module on young people on the LM (1)

- Regular module – every 8 years
 - Explanatory notes:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984/6037334/Explanatory+notes+module+Young+people+on+the+labour+market.pdf/740c852b-78e5-287f-4358-e0454eae5716?t=1673967031943>
 - Target population: Persons aged 15 to 34 years
- Variables
 - DROPEDUC - Formal education or training abandoned
(Everybody in the target population; categories: yes; yes, several; no)
 - DROPEDUCLEVEL - Level of the formal education or training abandoned
(Persons with formal education or training abandoned; categories: ISCED-P codes)
 - DROPEDUCREAS - Main reason for not completing the formal education programme
(Persons with formal education or training abandoned; categories: financial reasons, reasons linked to the education programme, and etc.)

2024 module on young people on the LM (2)

- MEDLEVQUAL - Medium educational attainment qualifications

(Everybody in the target population with tertiary education; categories: At least one formal qualification with vocational orientation, Formal qualifications with general orientation only)

- LEVMATCH - Match between educational attainment level and current/last main job

(Persons aged in employment or not in employment but have been previously in employment; categories: level matches, level is higher, level is lower)

- FIELDMATCH - Match between field of the highest level of education successfully completed and current/last main job

(Persons aged in employment or not in employment but have been previously in employment; categories: large, some, little extent, and etc.)

- SKILLMATCH - Match between skills and current/last main job

(Persons aged in employment or not in employment but have been previously in employment; categories: match, higher, lower)

- Results: summer/autumn 2025

Thank you!



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