LFS Eurostat Requirements

Labour Force Survey / Annual Population Survey
User Group Meeting
10 December 2012

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ONS Social Survey Division
Established in 1953; Directorate-General of EC in 1958

Purpose is to gather and consolidate official data from the National Statistics Institutes of EU member states

Enables comparability between countries and regions

European statistical requirements are met from national budgets.

Piloting of work is sometimes funded via grants (up to 90% of cost)

Only legal reason to undertake LFS – no UK legislation
• **1960**: Original 6 European Community countries conducted first LFS

• **1968-1971**: Annual LFS in most EC countries

• **1973**: UK participated in the EC LFS

• **1975-1983**: Every 2 years from 1975-1983

• **1984-1991**: Every year from 1984-1991

• **1992**: Quarterly LFS

• **1998**: EU Regulation to provide Quarterly LFS data to Eurostat
Legislation dictates that EU Member States must provide certain data to EuroStat regarding the Labour Market.

EuroStat provide definitions for labour status, employment, and unemployment, following International Labour Organisation standards.

Data has to adhere to these standards, as well as meeting certain quality measures – e.g. sample sizes, response rates.

EuroStat can impose fines on Member States if data is not to the required quality, is late, or does not match the specified requirements.
The principal legal act is the **Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98**

This regulation provides details on:
- Frequency
- Units and scope
- Sample / Representativeness
- Survey characteristics
- Transmission of the data
Survey Characteristics

Structural Variables – Asked in All Waves or 2nd Quarter

- Demographic background
- Labour status
- Employment characteristics of main job
- Hours worked
- Second jobs
- Visible underemployment
- Search for employment
- Education and training
- Previous work experience of those not in employment
- Situation 1 year before the survey
European Classifications

**ISCO-08** - International Standard Classifications of Occupation 2008


**NACE** - Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes, Revision 2

**Geographies**

**Country**

**NUTS** - Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics

**LAU** - Local Administrative Units
Differences

- Not continuous in Turkey or Switzerland
- **Telephone only** in 5 countries
- 21 countries use **computer interviewing only**
- 4 use a combination of **computer and paper**
- 8 use **paper only**
- Most, but not all, countries provide data for **all age groups**
- Some only interview **working age population**
- Different sampling rates:
  - Mean was **0.32%**
  - Some more (e.g. Luxembourg, **3.9%**)

- **Comparisons can be difficult!**
Unemployment Definitions

**EuroStat:**
Unemployed persons are persons aged 15-74* who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either *actively seeking work in the past four weeks* or had already found a job to start within the **next three months**.

**UK (ILO):**
Unemployed persons are those without a job, *have actively sought work in the last four weeks* and are available to start work in the next **two weeks** or are out of work, have found a job, and are waiting to start it in the next **two weeks**.
## Ad-Hoc Modules

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<td>Accidents at work and occupational diseases</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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Transition from Work to Retirement – Pensions

• Total of 15 questions
• Topics include:
  ▪ Receipt of regular payments from a pension
  ▪ Type of pension(s) received
  ▪ When respondent expects to retire
  ▪ Reasons for continuing to work
2013 Ad-Hoc Module

Accidents at Work and other Work-Related Health Problems

- 22 questions in total
- Similar to earlier accident questions
- Relates to work accidents rather than general
- Topics include
  - Any accidents at work
  - Not worked because of accident
  - Amount of time away from work
  - Nature of accident
  - Any health problems that have affected work
  - Physical and mental health
Accidents at work
• 3.2% of workers in the EU-27 had an accident at work
• Nearly 10% of these accidents were a road traffic accident in the course of work.

Work-related health problems
• 8.6% of workers in the EU-27 experienced a work-related health problem
• Most prevalent: bone joint or muscle problems; stress, anxiety or depression

Source: Venema, van den Heuvel, Geuskens, 2009

Figure 1. Proportion of foreign born people who came to the UK for employment, by country of birth, April to June 2008, not seasonally adjusted

Source: Labour Force Survey
Euro Area Unemployment Rate = 11.7%
European Union Unemployment Rate = 10.7%
UK Unemployment (Aug 12) = 7.8% (8.0%, UK def.)

Euro area and EU27 unemployment rates
Seasonally adjusted series

Access (in principle) is restricted to:

- Universities / Research Institutes
- National Statistic Institutes
- Central Banks within EU/EEA Countries
- European Central Bank

**Individuals cannot be granted direct access**
Accessing EU LFS Data

Contact European Statistical System Committee with:
• Name/Address of Organisation
• Name of Representative
• Contract Manager
• Data Manager
• Description of All Planned Research Projects

estat-microdata-access@ec.europa.eu

Standard contract is similar to that for accessing ONS Microdata
Accessing Ad-Hoc Data

- Data is transmitted to EuroStat
- EuroStat return data to ONS
- ONS can then send to Data Archive
- Not included on initial data release
Aggregated Data

Unemployment rate by age group

Less than 25 years

Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The... more
Any Questions?

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