

Indicator (definition)	Employment rate of older workers (total, females, males): The number of persons (females, males) aged 55-64 in employment as a share of the total population (females, males) of the same age group.
Eurostat Unit	Labour Market
Other Commission DGs	Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	Labour market
Date	October 2010

1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability (Description of quality grades under the following link: http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d)

A
 B
 C
 Indicator to be Developed

Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology and ensuring high comparability.

2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

In addition to the targets set in the Lisbon conclusions the Stockholm European Council (2001) decided that higher employment rates must be promoted, especially for women and older workers and agreed to set an EU target for increasing the average EU employment rate among older women and men (55-64) to 50 % by 2010 (reinforced by the Employment Guidelines 2003/2004 and the 2005/2008 Integrated Guidelines).

The communication from the Commission of 3 June 2009 – A Shared Commitment for Employment set as one of its objectives “facilitating access to employment” and calls upon the Member States to adopt activation measures aimed in particular at helping, older workers.

In order to face the future of Europe, the European Commission is working of the Europe 2020 which will help Europe to come out stronger from the crisis and turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. Employment and skills is thus one of the EU2020 strategy.

Restriction of the indicator’s relevance and other characteristics which may lead to restrictions in using it in monitoring and reporting

The survey covers the entire population living in private households and excludes those in collective households such as boarding houses, halls of residence and hospitals. They represent on average less than 2% of the working age population.

3. Data availability:

(**t₁**: earliest reference year available; **t₂**: latest reference year available in October 2010)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA
t ₁	1992: BE, DK, DE, GR, ES, FR, IE, LU, NL, PT, FI, SE, UK 1993: IT 1994: AT 1996: HU, SI 1997: PL, RO 1998: CZ, EE, LV, LT, SK 2000: CY, MT, BG	2002: HR 2006: MK, TR	1992	2000: NO 2003: IS 1996: CH
t ₂	2009	2009	2008	2009

Breaks in series are indicated along the results. In few cases, breaks can not be avoided through adjustments either because no auxiliary information is available or because the work is in progress.

4. Overall accuracy

High



The indicator stems from the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS), a households survey based on European legislation. The overall accuracy is considered as high.

The LFS covers persons aged 15 years and over, living in private households to ensure a comparable coverage for all countries. The sampling designs in the LFS are chosen on a country by country basis (sampling rates vary between 0.3% and 3.3%). Most of the National Statistical Institutes employ multi-staged stratified random sample design, especially those that do not have central population registers available.

Regardless of the sampling method or which age groups are interviewed, the data records at Eurostat are representative for the population aged 15-64 (16-64 in Iceland and Norway).

- Employed persons are all persons who worked at least one hour for pay or profit during the reference week or were temporarily absent from such work.
- Unemployed persons are all persons who were not employed during the reference week and had actively sought work during the past four weeks and were ready to begin working immediately or within two weeks.
- The active population (labour force) is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons.
- The inactive population consists of all persons who are classified neither as employed nor as unemployed.

As the results are based on a sample of population they are subject to the usual types of errors associated with sampling techniques and interviews. Sampling errors, non-sampling errors, measurement errors, processing errors and non-response are calculated for each country and documented in the Quality Report of the European Union Labour Force Survey. Subject to Eurostat's quality screening, figures on employment fulfill the Eurostat requirements concerning reliability.

Restricted

(sources, errors,
methodology, etc.)



5. Comparability across countries

High



Comparability across countries is achieved in the EU-LFS through various regulations ensuring harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methodologies for all EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries. The data for US and Japan are produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Government of Japan, respectively. Eurostat obtains those data via OECD and disseminates them without any processing. Data for Turkey is obtained from the National Labour Survey.

Comparability of the statistics between the Participating Countries is ensured for the main characteristics, employment and unemployment where particular definitions and sequence of questions are part of the EU legislation. The degree of comparability of the EU Labour Force Survey results is ensured by:

- (a) the recording of the same set of characteristics in each country;
- (b) a close correspondence between the EU list of questions and the national questionnaires;
- (c) the use of the same definitions for all countries;
- (d) the use of common classifications (e.g. NACE for economic activity);
- (e) the data being centrally processed by Eurostat.

Restricted



6. Comparability over time

High



Although improvements in time have brought some time series break the comparability of the main indicators is high.

The indicator is based on annual averages of comparable quarterly data. A transition from a spring survey to a continuous survey providing quarterly data started in 1998.

In 2003 the quarterly continuous LFS was introduced in France, Luxembourg, Hungary, Iceland and Bulgaria. A quarterly continuous survey was introduced in 2004 in Austria, Italy and Cyprus, in 2005 in Germany. Croatia started with a quarterly continuous survey in 2007 and Switzerland plans to start with a quarterly survey in 2010. In other cases missing quarters are estimated by Eurostat using the harmonised LFS data available at Eurostat as a benchmark. Germany provides national estimates until 2004.

Three countries, made major changes to their survey in 2005. Germany implemented the quarterly continuous survey in 2005 along with changes to the questionnaire; Sweden introduced considerable changes in April 2005 concerning the questionnaire, the sample selection and the weighting scheme, while Spain introduced a new questionnaire in full compliance with the EU regulations. As for the Participating Countries, main changes referred either to the mode of data collection or to adaptations of the questionnaire. Belgium and Latvia changed to computer assisted questionnaires thus speeding up the data production. Poland and Norway adapted their questions on employment and unemployment according to EU-requirements.

Adjustments are performed to minimise the effects of the breaks in series due to the transition process towards a continuous survey

Restricted



7. Development perspective for improving the quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of the burden on Member States and respondents.)

From 2005 onwards with all countries conducting the continuous quarterly survey the indicator can be considered fully developed. No estimates are necessary.

8. Contribution to the coherence of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

The indicator is extracted from the same survey as the main EU unemployment and education indicators which guarantee a high degree of coherence.

Relevant European legislation:

General regulations

Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 77/3).

Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 October 2002 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 308/1).

Regulation (EC) No 2257/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2003 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (OJ No L 336/6).

Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (OJ No L 315/42)

Implementation regulations

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1022/2009 of 29 October 2009 amending Regulations (EC) No 1738/2005, (EC) No 698/2006 and (EC) No 377/2008 as regards the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters (OJ No L 114/57)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 973/2007 of 20 August 2007 amending certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains implementing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 (OJ No L 216/10)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 of 15 March 2005 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be

used for data transmission from 2006 onwards and the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 of 19 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) N° 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2001 onwards (OJ No L 181/16).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 of 7 September 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the operational definition of unemployment (OJ No L 228/18).

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