

Indicator (definition)	Jobless households: The indicator is defined as the number of children aged 0-17 years and the number of persons aged 18-59 years who are living in eligible households where none of the members are working, expressed as a percentage of the total population aged 0-17, respectively aged 18-59, who are living in eligible households. 'Eligible households' means that households composed solely of students are excluded.
Eurostat Unit	Labour Market
Other Commission DGs	DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	WG on Labour Market Statistics
Date	May 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 on jobless households are collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology and ensuring high comparability across countries and over time.

2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

Jobless households are households where no member is in employment, i.e. all members are either unemployed or inactive.

It is important to consider the structure of those households affected by joblessness, as it is the well-being of the whole household that is put at risk by the fact that no-one in the household is working. Beyond the dependency on social benefits, living in a jobless household extends the lack of contact to the labour market, and for children, it increases the risk of intergenerational transmission of poverty since no working adult is in a position to act as a role model. In addition, access to basic services in the fields of health, housing, education, justice and to other private services such as culture, sport and leisure can be seriously hampered.

Living in a jobless household can have many adverse consequences for children and young people. Unemployment has been linked to truancy and non-completion of schooling, family break up, illness and premature death. Future income, social position and relative economic success can suffer. Moreover, joblessness can generate tension and conflict in families, with resultant poor health, family violence and social exclusion, resulting from the loss of social and professional contacts in the workplace.

In the renewed Lisbon strategy it is mentioned that productivity growth and increased employment must go hand in hand. At the same time, Europe must bring the long term unemployed and people with relatively low skills back into work.

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

The results do not cover persons living in institutional households, students living abroad for one year or more and conscripts on compulsory military or community service are not covered by the EU Labour Force Survey.

3. Data availability: details

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

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA ¹
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¹ While being a member of the EEA, Liechtenstein has complete or partial exemptions from several statistical requirements due to its size. Thus, Liechtenstein is excluded from this overview as most of the data are missing.

		Countries		
t ₁	1992: BE, DE, IE, EL, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, PT, UK 1995: AT 1996: HU, SI 1997: CZ, EE, PL, RO 1998: LV, LT, SK 2000: BG, CY, MT 2002: DK 2003: FI	2002: HR 2006: TR, MK	-	-
t ₂	2008	2007: MK 2008	-	-

Comments (including information on time series): No data available for: IE 1998 and PL 1998-2000.

4. Overall accuracy

High



The overall accuracy is considered as high.

The indicators stem from the European Union Labour Force Survey (LFS), a high quality household survey based on European legislation. It is governed principally by the Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98.

The LFS covers persons living in private households to ensure a comparable coverage for all countries. The LFS, like all surveys, is based upon a sample of the population. The results are therefore subject to the usual types of errors associated with random sampling. The sampling designs in the LFS are chosen on a country by country basis (sampling rates per quarter vary between less than 0.2% 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.

Based on the sample size and design in the various Member States, Eurostat implements basic guidelines intended to avoid publication of figures that are too small to be reliable or to give warning of the unreliability of the figures.

Restricted



(sources, errors, methodology, etc.)

5. Comparability across countries

High



The comparability across countries is considered relatively high as all countries apply the same definition and have high quality data sources. It is ensured by the use of a common calculation method and a harmonised data source. EU-LFS is harmonised through a common Council regulation ((EC) No 577/98), common variable definition (Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005), common explanatory notes (The European Union Labour Force Survey. Methods and definitions – 2001) and common regulation (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000) regarding the definition of unemployment and the twelve principles of questionnaire design.

Special cases: the estimate for Finland only uses a sub-sample, which may increase the sampling errors. The estimate for Denmark combines information from population registers for household background and LFS proxy-questionnaire information for a limited number of questions. This could influence comparability. Sweden tested household data in 2009.

Restricted



6. Comparability over time

High



Comparability across countries is high. From 2006 onwards, Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 of 15 March 2005 regulates the codification to be used for data transmission and the use of a sub-sample

for the collection of data on structural variables (OJ No L 71/36). As for the Participating Countries, main changes referred either to the mode of data collection or to adaptations of the questionnaire.

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.)

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

Lack of access to the labour market is an issue that is both the target of labour market and social inclusion policies. Joblessness in the household together with long term unemployment is one of the main factors leading to poverty and social exclusion for adults and children. The number of people living in jobless households is a factor contributing to the persistence of poverty.

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).

Implementation regulations

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).

[Top of the page](#)