

Indicator (definition)	Dispersion of regional employment rates (total, females, males): measures the regional (NUTS level 2) differences in employment within countries and groups of countries (EU-25, euro area). The dispersion is expressed by the coefficient of variation of employment rates of the age group 15-64. It is zero when the employment rates in all regions are identical, and it will rise if there is an increase in the differences between employment rates among regions. Employment rate of the age group 15-64 represents employed persons aged 15-64 as a percentage of the population of the same age group.
Eurostat Unit	Regional statistics and geographical information
Other Commission DGs	Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Regional Policy
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	WG on Employment Statistics
Date	December 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:

The fight against regional imbalances is an important goal of European policies and an objective of the sustainable development strategy. The Brussels European Council in 2003 demanded that the employment guidelines should address, inter alia, regional employment disparities.

According to the Employment Guidelines 2003/2004, economic and social cohesion should be promoted by reducing regional employment and unemployment disparities, tackling the employment problems of deprived areas in the European Union and positively supporting economic and social restructuring (in particular Guideline 10).

The financial perspectives 2007-2013 have as a central objective the promotion of employment and the reduction of regional disparities. This has been implemented through several European initiatives, such as the Community programme for employment and solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013) and the new convergence objective of the European regional policy.

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

Persons living in institutional households (halls of residence, medical care establishments, religious institutions, collective workers' accommodation, hostels etc.) and persons carrying out obligatory military service are not included. They represent on average less than 2% of the working age population.

3. Data availability: details

(t_1 : earliest reference year available; t_2 : latest reference year available in December 2010)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA
t_1	1999: BE, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, IT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SK,	2006: TK 2007: HR	-	1999: NO 2001: CH

	FI, SE, UK 2003: BG 2007: DK			
t ₂	2009: BE, BG, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, IT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SK, FI, SE, UK	2009: HR, TK	-	2009: NO, CH

Comments (including information on time series): The indicator is not applicable for Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia, Iceland and Liechtenstein as these countries comprise only one or (in the case of Ireland) two NUTS level 2 regions. However, the employment rates of all these EU Member States and of the two Irish regions are used to compute the dispersion of regional employment rates for the aggregates.

Missing values: RO (2005, 2006), SE (2005, 2006), CH (2008), HR (2008).

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.

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 fulfil the Eurostat requirements concerning reliability.

Restricted



(sources, errors, methodology, etc.)

5. Comparability across countries

High



Comparability across countries is achieved in the European Labour Force Survey (LFS) through various regulations ensuring harmonisation of concepts, definitions and methodologies for all concerned EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries. The indicator is not applicable for Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

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 construction go a long way to ensure comparability of the statistics between the participating countries.

Restricted



6. Comparability over time

High



The indicator is based on annual average employment rates of comparable quarterly data except for years in which the countries mentioned below either had only a 'spring' Labour Force Survey or provided Eurostat only with 'spring' Labour Force Survey data (referring to the second-quarter except for France and Poland, where data refers to the first quarter). A transition from a spring survey to a continuous survey providing quarterly data was gradually 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, in 2007 in Croatia.

The breaks in time series due to the transition process from 'spring' data to annual average data are documented and explained. These breaks have minor influence to the dispersion.

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

The indicators are extracted from the same survey as the main EU employment 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) (main regulation with provisions on design, survey characteristics and decision making processes).

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) (time limit to the adoption of the continuous LFS).

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 (changes the status of the survey characteristic 'income' from optional to mandatory).

Implementation regulations

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) 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 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