



EUROSTAT QUALITY PROFILE

Indicator (definition)	Employment rate (total, females, males): The number of persons (females, males) aged 15-64 in employment as a share of the total population (females, males) of the same age group.
Eurostat Unit	Labour Market
Other Commission DGs	DG EMPL
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	WG on Employment Statistics
Date	June 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 Lisbon European Council (March 2000) noted that the overall aim of the employment policy should be to raise the employment rate from an average of 61% in the year 2000 to as close as possible to 70% by 2010 and to increase the number of women in employment from an average of 51% to more than 60% by 2010. These objectives were revised by the 2005 communication “Working together for growth and jobs. A new start for the Lisbon strategy”.

On the basis of Commission documents and in the light of the work carried out by the Council, the European Council launched the second cycle of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs for the period 2008-2010, i.e. the Lisbon Community Programme (LCP).

As a result of the economic crisis that hit the world in 2008, the European Union had to come together in order to phase employment problems. After the EU employment summit in May 2009, the EU published its communication called “A Shared Commitment for Employment”, where the Commission proposes that Member States and European social partners make a Shared European Commitment for Employment in order to strengthen their cooperation as part of the European Economic Recovery Plan. This Communication highlighted several measures to promote employment such as: promote employment, upgrade workers’ skills, facilitate access to employment and mobilise Community financial instruments.

Europe 2020 is the successor of the Lisbon strategy and 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 rate is one of the headline indicators in this new strategy.

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

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

	EU Member States	CC	USA and Japan	EFTA ¹
t ₁	1992: BE, DK, DE, EL, 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: BG, CY, MT	2006: TR 2002: HR 2006: MK	-	1996: CH 2000: NO 2003: IS
t ₂	2009	2009	-	2009

Comments (including information on time series): 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).

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 EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries (except Turkey).

Data for Turkey is obtained from the National Labour Survey.

Restricted



6. Comparability over time

¹ While being a member of the EFTA, 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 for structural indicators are missing.

High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. 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.</p> <p>Adjustments are performed to minimise the effects of the breaks in series due to the transition process towards a continuous survey.</p>
Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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 quality 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 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 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](#)