



EUROSTAT QUALITY PROFILE

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	F2, Labour Market
Other Commission DGs	DG EMPL
European Statistical System Working Group (WG)	WG on Employment Statistics
Date	22 May 2007

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 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).

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 May 2007)

	EU Member States	ACC/CC	USA and Japan	EFTA ¹
t ₁	1991: BE, DK, DE, GR, ES, FR, IE, LU, NL, PT, FI, SE, UK 1993: IT 1994: AT 1996: HU, SI 1997: PL 1998: CZ, EE, LV, LT, SK 2000: CY, MT	1997: RO 2000: BG, TR 2002: HR MK no data	1992	2000: NO 2003: IS 1996: CH
t ₂	2006	2006 (no data for HR)	2005	2006 (no data for IS, CH)

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.

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 NSIs employ some kind of 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 55-64.

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 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

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, 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.

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 quality of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

The indicator is 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).

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).

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