EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate D: Single Market, Employment and Social statistics
Unit D-1: Labour market
Directorate E: Agriculture, Fisheries, Structural Funds and Environment statistics
Unit E-4: Structural Funds

Joint
Standard Quality Report
for

Labour Force Survey

and

Regional Labour Market Statistics

General information

This Quality Report is a combined effort of the units D1-Labour market and E4-Structural Funds to describe the quality of data collected by these units.

The aim of the quality reports is to establish the current level of knowledge in Eurostat about the quality of the statistical products. The results from the reports will be used for internal summaries of what is known about the quality and where there is lack of quality.

All available information that describes the quality of the product should be reported. If the information is extensive, references should be given for information more detailed. For lack of information on some quality aspects no complementary data has to be collected from the Member States.

The reports should be updated continuously and transmitted to the quality manager once a year.

The structure of the form is according to the quality concept for Eurostat.

All pre-printed information is in Italics.

All new items (compared to the 2001 Quality Report Form) are in a blue font.

Administrative information

Country	
Statistical product (name)	***Labour Force Survey and NUTS-3 level estimates of the labour force and the number of unemployed***
Reference period	***2002***
Periodicity of the LFS statistics (monthly, quarterly, annual)	**QUARTERLY**
Periodicity of the NUTS-3 statistics	*Annual*
Persons who have filled the present report	Irena Svetin, Katja Rutar

Complete the abbreviations used in the report

Abbreviation	*Explanation*
CV	Coefficient of variation
YN	Yes / No
?	Don't know
M?	Member State doesn't know
NA	Not applicable/ Not relevant
NR	No response: Member State doesn't answer to Eurostat request for information
NC	No change from previous Quality Report
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial unit for statistics or equivalent statistical regions in the EFTA and CC countries

2 ACCURACY

2.1 SAMPLING ERRORS

Table 2.1.1 Coefficient of variation (CV) Quarterly estimates[1)]

Quarter	CV of national quarterly aggregates (in %)				
	Number of employed	Number of part-time employed	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate	Average number of hours usually worked
1	0.9	4.2	4.3	4.2	0.3
2	0.9	4.4	4.7	4.5	0.3
3	0.9	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.2
4	0.9	4.7	4.5	4.2	0.2

1) For the calculation of the CV it is necessary to take into account the design effect.

Reference on software used : SAS Release 8.02 (proc surveymeans)

Reference on method of estimation *Taylor expansion method for complex sample design*

Table 2.1.2 Coefficient of variation (CV) Annual estimates at NUTS-2 Level[1)]

Region (NUTS-2)	CV of regional (NUTS-2) annual aggregates (in %)				
	Number of employed	Number of part-time employed	Number of unemployed	Rate of unemployment	Average number of hours usually worked

Add rows as necessary.

1) For the calculation of the CV it is necessary to take into account the design effect.

Table 2.1.3 Coefficient of variation (CV) Annual estimates at NUTS-3 level[1)]

Only to be completed by countries using the LFS to produce NUTS-3 level data for Eurostat

Region (NUTS-3)	Sample size (number of responding persons)	CV of regional (NUTS-3) annual aggregates (in %)		
		Number of persons in the labour force	Number of unemployed	Unemployment rate

Add rows as necessary.

[1)] For the calculation of the CV for NUTS-3 regions, the national design effect can be used as an approximation of the true regional design effect.
Please indicate if this approximation is used (Y/N): _____

2.2 NON SAMPLING ERRORS

2.2.1 Frame errors

Table 2.2.1 Frame quality, coverage rates and methodological notes

Give brief comments on the main problems of frame quality and the rates of undercoverage/ overcoverage/ classification errors of the statistical units

For household survey it would be better to use household or dwelling register but we don't have them yet. Undercoverage or overcoverage are neglectable in population register.

Brief comments on the main problems of frame quality[1)]	*Rate of under-coverage*	*Rate of over-coverage*	*Rate of classification errors[2)]*	*Reference on frame errors*

[1)] Mention specifically which regions / population groups are not or badly represented in the sample.
[2)] Misclassification refers to statistical units having an erroneous classification where both the wrong and the correct one are within the target population.

2.2.2 Measurement errors

Table 2.2.2.a Errors due to the reporting unit and the interviewer

Is there information on these errors (Y/N)	*Is there some measurement of the errors? (Y/N)*	*If Y give brief comments on the assessment of the errors*
N	N	

Table 2.2.2.b Errors due to the medium (questionnaire)

Date of the last ([1]) update of the questionnaire	*Date of the last pilot survey in order to test the questionnaire*	*Number of respondents to the pilot survey*	*Report from cognitive laboratory available (Y/N)*
1st Jan. 2002	November 2002	?	

([1]) Date of last update of the questionnaire before the end of the reference period for this report

Table 2.2.2.c Are there any methodological notes on the measurement errors?

Methodological notes (Y/N)	*Main references*
N	

Table 2.2.2.d Main methods of reducing measurement errors

Error source	*Brief comments*
Respondent	
Interviewer	
Questionnaire	The usage of CATI, CAPI
Other	

2.2.3 Processing errors

Table 2.2.3a Information available about data capture errors and the error rates

Only for countries not using Computer assisted data collection.

Info. on data capture errors[1)] (Y/N/NA)	*Error rate in %*	*Comments*
N		

1) Errors that occur when information on a questionnaire is converted to a computer format

Table 2.2.3b Information available about codification errors and the error rates

Info. on data codification errors (Y/N/NA)	*Error rate in %*	*Comments*
N		

Table 2.2.3c Information available about editing errors and the error rates

Info. on errors during the editing phase (Y/N/NA)	*Error rate in %*	*Comments*
N		

Table 2.2.3d Information available about other processing errors and the error rates

Info. on other process errors[1)] (Y/N/NA)	*Error rate in %*	*Comments*
N		

1) Mainly due to the use of computers (bugs in computer programs, wrong files etc.)

2.2.4 Non response errors[1]

For comparability reasons use the following definition of non-response rate:

Non-response rate is calculated as 1-*r/n* where *r* represents the number of responding households and *n* is the number of eligible households. Eligible households are all households initially selected into the sample less the households that are not in the target population (over-coverage). When the final sampling unit is the dwelling, non-response rate is nevertheless calculated in this way, thus disregarding the over-coverage created by, e.g., vacant dwellings. Ideally the non-response rate should be calculated before substituting a non-responding household/dwelling with another unit. This is especially important when substitution is used for reasons like refusals, not at home etc in addition to reasons due to frame errors. Member States sampling from a frame of individuals should base their non-response calculation on the sampled individual elements instead of households.

Table 2.2.4.a Availability and calculation of non-response. Annual average

Is non response rate available (Y/N)	*Is the non response rate weighted? (Y/N)*	*If weighted, state the definition of the weights*
Y	N	

Non response errors

Table 2.2.4.b Rates of non response. Annual average

Wave	*Non response rate in %*

[1] Non-responses should absolutely not be confused with under-coverage, i.e. units which are in the target population, but which have no chance of being enumerated because they were not in the frame at the time of selection. No information is, of course, available for them. They should be counted, if detected, in the rate of under-coverage, and not as non-response.

1	15,8 %
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Explanation: We calculate non-response rates separated only on (1) new part of the sample (1. wave) and (2) panel part of the sample (waves 2.-5.). Non response rate for panel is 8.5%.

Table 2.2.4.c Availability and calculation of non-response at NUTS-3 level

Only to be completed by countries using the LFS to produce NUTS-3 level data for Eurostat

Is non response rate available (Y/N)	*Is the non response rate weighted? (Y/N)*	*If weighted, state the definition of the weights*
N		

Explanation: We do not calculate non-response on NUTS3 level for national needs, because we do not publish (quarterly) data on a NUTS3 level (but there are data available to calculate it).

Table 2.2.4.d Rates of non response. Annual average

NUTS-3 region	*Non response rate in %*

Add rows as necessary.

Table 2.2.4.e Divisions of non-response into categories. Quarterly data

Quarter	*Non response rate in %*	*Refusals (%)*	*Non-contacts (%)*	*Other reasons(%)*
1	10,3	6,8	1,8	1,7
2	10,0	6,5	2,4	1,1
3	10,8	7,5	2,2	1,1
4	10,4	7,1	2,2	1,1

Explanation: Only responding householda are taken to the Panel, which means that response rates are not calculated on the base of initially selected units but number of responding units from previous wave are in the enumerator. By calculating refusal-rate non-contacted are not considered.

Table 2.2.4.f Patterns of non response. Underestimation bias

Information available (Y/N)	*Tendency to underestimate the main characteristics (Y/N)*	*If Y give the characteristics*
N		

Table 2.2.4.g Patterns of non response. Overestimation bias

Information available (Y/N)	*Tendency to overestimate the main characteristics (Y/N)*	*If Y give the characteristics*

N		

Patterns of non response refer to the population subgroups for which non-responses are important for structural reasons. The question is to know if these non-responses lead to biases.

Table 2.2.4.h Methods used for adjustments for statistical unit non-response

Describe method used, mentioning which auxiliary information or stratification is used
Weighting with variables stratification variables wave * NUTS3 * settlement size and typ

Table 2.2.4.i Methods used for adjustments for statistical item non-response

Characteristic	*Imputation (Y/N)*	*If imputed, rate of non response*	*If imputed, describe method used, mentioning which auxiliary information or stratification is used*
Imputations are made for all variables except for col: 3, 10, 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 23, 24,26, 27/29, 30/33 60, 62/63, 66, 74, 75/76, 77/79, 80/81, 98, 101, 118/119, 312/315	Y	?	Hot-deck method

Add rows as necessary.

Table 2.2.4.j References to methodological notes on non response rates and their treatment

Available (Y/N)	*References*
Y	AAPOR standard definitions for (non)response rates (www.aapor.org).

2.3 REGISTER ERRORS[2]

Only for those countries using registered unemployment to produce NUTS-3 level data on unemployment or labour force.

2.3.1 Assessment of factors that produce higher number of registered unemployment than should if legal concept were applied correctly

Register and LFS data differ regarding:

- source: register data are obtained from the Register of Unemployed Persons, which is kept by the Employment Service of Slovenia, while survey data are obtained by the Labour Force Survey. In register data we have full coverage while Labour Force Survey results are estimates based on the statistical sample.
- reporting period: register data are extracted on the last day of the month while survey data refer to the activity of the respondent in the week before the interview (from Monday to Sunday).
- observation period: register data are extracted on the last day of the month while the Labour Force Survey is carried out quarterly.
- definitions of unemployed persons: registered unemployed persons are persons who are registered by the employment office and fulfil all criteria defined by the employment office. In LFS the ILO criteria for defining unemployed persons is used.

2.3.2 Assessment of factors that produce lower number of registered unemployment than should if legal concept were applied correctly

[2] Discussion of the conceptual differences with the LFS definition of unemployment or labour force is in section 6.3