

Labour force survey in the acceding countries

Methods and definitions – 2002



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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2004

ISBN 92-894-7086-0
ISSN 1725-0056

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Preface

The present report describes the main characteristics of the Labour Force Surveys in the thirteen EU Acceding and Candidate Countries in 2002.

All but one of the Acceding and Candidate Countries are providing Eurostat with LFS data for publication. Due to legal considerations Turkey has not been able to deliver micro-data to Eurostat. Turkey is however set to start data transmission in 2004, including historical data. The aim of this report is to provide users with the means to accurately interpret the LFS results by providing information regarding the technical features of the Labour Force Surveys carried out in these countries. A similar report on the Labour Force Surveys in central and east European countries was published in 2000.

The Acceding and Candidate Countries have all in common that their Labour Force Surveys are relatively young. The first country to survey the labour market using international standards was Turkey in 1988 and Hungary and Poland in 1992. The last country to start carrying out a Labour Force Survey was Malta in 2000. The countries also have in common a high degree of conformity with the European Union Labour Force Survey, as the national surveys were generally organised with the aim of achieving comparable information with the rest of Europe. In 2002 eight countries had moved to a continuous survey with Hungary and Bulgaria planning to implement the survey in 2003 and Cyprus and Malta in 2004.

The main characteristics of the national practices are presented herein. The information is organised on the same lines as the methodological data accompanying the main results of the European Labour Force Survey, see *European social statistics. Labour force survey results 2002*. This will enable users to evaluate the degree of comparability achieved. For more detailed information on the common practices and definitions of the European Labour Force Survey see *The European Union Labour Force Survey, Methods and Definitions, 2001*.

The information necessary for preparing this publication was mainly collected in early 2003. Eurostat wishes to thank the experts responsible for the national labour force surveys in the Candidate Countries for their help in compiling the methodological information presented in this publication.

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Basic concepts and definitions

The main statistical objectives of the Labour Force Survey is to divide the population of working age (15 years and above) into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups - persons in employment, unemployed persons and inactive persons - and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Respondents are assigned to one of these groups on the basis of the most objective information possible obtained through the survey questionnaire, which principally relates to their actual activity within a particular reference week.

The section 'EU list of questions' together with the explanatory notes show how the survey questioning is organised. Most questions apply to selected groups only. A filter based on information already obtained specifies who should answer a particular question.

The definitions of employment and unemployment used in the Community Labour Force Survey closely follow those adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Employment

A person is considered as having an employment if he or she did any work for pay or profit during the reference week

"Work" means any work for pay or profit during the reference week, even for as little as one hour. Pay includes cash payments or "payment in kind" (payment in goods or services rather than money), whether payment was received in the week the work was done or not. Also counted as working is anyone, who receives wages for on-the-job training, which involves the production of goods or services (ESA 11.13 f). Self-employed persons with a business, farm or professional practice are also considered to be working if one of the following applies:

- (1) A person works in his own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, even if the enterprise is failing to make a profit.
- (2) A person spends time on the operation of a business, professional practice or farm even if no sales were made, no professional services were rendered, or nothing was actually produced (for example, a farmer who engages in farm maintenance activities; an architect who spends time waiting for clients in his/her office; a fisherman who repairs his boat or nets for future operations; a person who attends a convention or seminar).
- (3) A person is in the process of setting up a business, farm or professional practice; this includes the buying or installing of equipment, and ordering of supplies in preparation for opening a new business. An unpaid family worker is said to be working if the work contributes directly to a business, farm or professional practice owned or operated by a related member of the same household.

Self-employed persons

If self-employed persons are absent from work, then they are regarded as in employment only if they can be said to have a business, farm or professional practice. This is the case if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (i) Machinery or equipment of significant value, in which the person has invested money, is used by him or his employees in conducting his business, an office, store, farm or other place of business is maintained.
- (ii) There has been some advertisement of the business or profession by listing the business in the telephone book, displaying a sign, distributing cards or leaflets, etc.

Person who works on their own small agriculture farm, who do not sell their products, but produce only for their own consumption

The classification as employment of persons who works on their own small agriculture farm, who do not sell their products, but produce only for their own consumption depends on whether it falls within the production boundaries. When this production is included in national accounts, underlying employment must be identified. This depends on the relative quantitative importance of the production of agricultural products for own consumption in relation to the total supply of these products in a country (ESA 3.08)

Conscripts

Conscripts who performed some work for pay or profit during the reference week should not be considered in employment.

Seasonal workers

During the off-season, seasonal workers cannot be considered as having a formal attachment to their high-season job— because they do not continue to receive a wage or salary from their employer although they may have an assurance of return to work.

Maternity and paternity leave

Maternity leave is first given to the mother (but may include the leave of the father in the case of a transfer of the entitlements) and corresponds to the compulsory period of the leave stipulated by national legislation to ensure that mothers before and after childbirth have sufficient rest, or for a period to be specified according to national circumstances. People in maternity leave should always be considered in employment.

Parental leave

Parental leave can be taken either by the mother or the father and is the interruption of work in case of childbirth or to bring up a child of young age. It corresponds to the period when parents receive “parental leave benefit”. People in full-time parental leave should be treated as a case of long term absence from work.

Unpaid family workers

The unpaid family worker can be said to have a job but not be at work if there is a definite commitment by the employer (a related household member) to accept his/her return to work and the total absence does not exceed a period of 3 months. In this point Eurostat diverges from the ILO recommendation.

Lay-offs

A person on lay-off is one whose written or unwritten contract of employment, or activity, has been suspended by the employer for a specified or unspecified period at the end of which the person concerned has a recognised right or recognised expectation to recover employment with that employer.

Lay-offs are classified as employed if they receive $\geq 50\%$ of their wage or salary from their employer or have an assurance of return to work within a period of 3 months.

Long-term absence from work.

If the total absence from work (measured from the last day of work to the day on which the paid worker will return) exceeds three months then a person is considered to have a job only if he/she continues to receive $\geq 50\%$ of the wage or salary from their employer (ESA 11.14a).

Unemployment

(1) In accordance with the ILO standards adopted by the 13th and 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), for the purposes of the Community labour force sample survey, unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were:

- (a) without work during the reference week, i.e. neither had a job nor were at work (for one hour or more) in paid employment or self-employment;
- (b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week;
- (c) actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at most three months.

For the purposes of point 1(c), the following are considered as specific steps:

- having been in contact with a public employment office **to find work**, whoever took the initiative (renewing registration for administrative reasons only is not an active step),
 - having been in contact with a private agency (temporary work agency, firm specialising in recruitment, etc.) to find work,
 - applying to employers directly,
 - asking among friends, relatives, unions, etc., to find work,
 - placing or answering job advertisements,
 - studying job advertisements,
 - taking a recruitment test or examination or being interviewed,
 - looking for land, premises or equipment,
 - applying for permits, licences or financial resources.
- (1) Education and training are considered as ways of improving employability but not as methods of seeking work. Persons without work and in education or training will only be classified as unemployed if they are 'currently available for work' and 'seeking work', as defined in points 1(b) and (c).
- (2) Lay-offs are classified as unemployed if they do not receive any significant wage or salary (significant is set at =50%) from their employer and if they are 'currently available for work' and 'seeking work'. Lay-offs are treated as a case of unpaid leave initiated by the employer — including leave paid out of government budget or by funds (16th ICLS). In this case, lay-offs are classified as employed if they have an agreed date of return to work and if this date falls within a period of three months.
- (3) During the off-season, seasonal workers cannot be considered as having a formal attachment to their high-season job because they do not continue to receive a wage or salary from their employer although they may have an assurance of return to work. If they are not at work during the off-season, they are classified as unemployed only if they are 'currently available for work' and 'seeking work', as defined in points 1(b) and (c).

Definitions and notations peculiar to this document

A *survey round* is the instance when the survey is carried out, or in case of continuous quarterly survey, the quarter.

Rotation scheme is denoted in the format R-(R)[-R] where R stands for the number of consecutive survey rounds (quarters for all the countries in this report with the exception of Cyprus) with the number in parenthesis denoting the number of survey rounds skipped. The rotation scheme 2-(2)-2 means that in 6 consecutive quarters the person or household will be interviewed in the first two quarters but not in the third and fourth quarter and finally the person or household will be interviewed in the fifth and sixth quarters. The notation 6-(0) is equivalent to six consecutive survey rounds with none skipped.

Response rate is given as the number of responding households divided by 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. When the final sampling unit is the dwelling, response rate is nevertheless calculated in this way, thus disregarding the over-coverage created by, e.g., vacant dwellings. Ideally the response rate should be calculated before substituting a non-responding household/dwelling with another sampling unit.

Characteristics of national surveys in 2002

CZECH REPUBLIC

General

The survey has been conducted since December 1992 as a continuous quarterly survey, going over from seasonal quarters to calendar quarters by the end of 1997.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The target population comprises all persons living usually in the households of the selected dwellings. The temporarily absent persons (for not more than 1 year) and domestic servants are included. People in student or worker's homes are included if satisfying this rule. Lodgers are considered as independent budget keeping households. People living abroad are excluded. Conscripts are surveyed for demographic background only.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is stratified two-stage probability sample of dwelling units.

The strata consist of 77 districts with Prague considered one district.

The primary sampling units are census areas that are sampled (by randomised systematic sampling) with probability proportional to size, i.e. the number of dwellings per census area.

In the second stage, dwelling units are selected from the initial sample by simple random sampling.

The initial sample of PSUs is 5 650 census areas, while the approximate final sample size is 25 000 dwelling units, constituting an overall sampling fraction of 0.6%.

Each quarterly sample consists of five panels interviewed for five quarters consecutively until rotated out of the sample.

Weighting Procedure

The weights are produced by extrapolating *a posteriori* to the population in 12 age groups, sex and the 77 districts. The demographic figures for individual quarters 2002 were interpolated according to the final result of Census 2001 taking into account the definitive demographic data for end-of-year of 2001 and 2002.

Data Collection

Data are collected in first visits with face-to-face interviews, with repeated interviews usually made by telephone. In the 2nd quarter, when ad hoc module is surveyed, all interviews are face-to-face. In 2002 all interviews were conducted with the aid of electronic questionnaires with few exceptions.

All persons aged 15 years and older living in the sampled dwellings are interviewed.

The number of field workers was 127 in 2002. The response rate was 76-77%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

In 2002 the questionnaire and variable definitions were brought completely in line with *The European Union Labour Force Survey, Methods and Definitions, 2001*.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

ESTONIA

General

The Estonian Labour Force Survey started in 1997 as an annual survey. Since 2000 the Estonian LFS has been organised as a continuous quarterly survey.

The survey covers the whole country. Both private and collective households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The target population comprises all persons aged 15-74 years with permanent residence in Estonia, i.e. the people who have lived or intend to live in Estonia for more than one year.

The household is made up either of persons living alone or of two or more persons who share a household budget and usually occupy the same dwelling.

Sampling Plan

The sample size per quarter is approximately 2 200 households.

The sampling design is a stratified systematic two-phase sampling of individuals, whose households are included in the sample.

The 15 counties of Estonia and the capital Tallinn are divided into four strata, according to size. The small strata have higher sampling probability than the larger strata.

The sampling frame is based on the 2000 Population and Housing Census database, comprising all registered persons aged 15-74 years. In the first phase the sample is selected by systematic sampling inside strata and the information on the size of sampled households is collected. In the second phase the sample is grouped by the number of persons aged 15-74 years in the household of the sampled individual. The final sample is then selected by systematic sampling from each size group with inclusion probability inverse to the size. This yields an equal probability sample of households (and its 15-74 years old members) inside strata. All persons aged 15-74 years in the households of the final sample are interviewed.

Every sampled household is interviewed four times according to the rotation pattern 2-(2)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The weighting procedure includes computation of the weights that are inversely proportional to the inclusion probability in each strata, adjustment for non-response and calibration by sex, 5-year age groups and place of residence using a method known as the 'raking ratio'. The calibration is based on the distribution of the Estonian population by sex, age and county as of 1st January of the survey year.

Data Collection

The data are collected with face-to-face interviews, using paper questionnaires. The response rate in 2002 was 85%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

CYPRUS

General

The Cypriot Labour Force Survey started in 1999 as an annual survey, covering all the weeks of the second quarter uniformly.

The survey covers only the areas of Cyprus controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Only private households are covered.

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

The resident population comprises persons who usually reside in Cyprus or intend to stay in Cyprus for at least 12 months. It excludes Cypriot students studying abroad as well as foreign armed forces and foreigners who work in embassies or diplomatic missions.

The private household is made up either of persons living alone or of two or more persons, whether or not of the same family, usually occupying the same dwelling and sharing a joint budget.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a stratified two-stage probability sampling of dwelling units.

The variables used for stratification are the Districts and the urban/rural areas within each district.

The primary sampling units (PSUs) in each stratum are the enumeration areas in urban areas and the villages in rural areas as specified in the Population Census of 1992. The selection of PSUs is based on probability proportional to size sampling. The size refers to the number of households enumerated in the Population Census of 1992.

The secondary sampling units (SSUs) are the dwelling units selected systematically from a list of all dwellings belonging to the selected PSUs. This list was updated by a new enumeration in 1998. Refusals, non-contacts (households absent for more than one month) and households unable to respond are substituted by the next household on the sampling frame.

The sample size per year is approximately 4 500 dwelling units containing approximately 3 600 households, which represents an average sampling rate of 1.6%.

Each household is interviewed for four years consecutively before being rotated out of the sample.

Weighting Procedures

The results are weighted *a posteriori* to the population in each district by sex and five-year age groups. No urban/rural weighting is carried out.

Data Collection

Data are collected with face-to-face interviews by 15 field workers using CAPI. The response rate before substitution in the second quarter of 2002 was 99.4%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

HUNGARY

General

The Hungarian Labour Force Survey started in 1992 as a quarterly survey. Starting from May 1998, some main results of the LFS are published monthly as moving averages of data of the last three months. The reference week is the week containing the 12th of the month.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The data cover the population aged 15-74 years. Included are household members temporarily absent and persons residing abroad if they have consumption in common with the surveyed household. The institutional and unsettled population is excluded, as well as conscripts. Demographic and educational information is collected on persons younger than 15 years and older than 74 years.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a stratified multi-stage probability sampling of dwelling units.

The sampling frame or address register of the LFS covers 751 settlements of the country, with the stock of addresses of 12,775 enumeration districts (EDs) of the 1990 census, which includes about 626,000 addresses.

All settlements with 15 000 inhabitants or more are included in the sample, or self-represented (SR). Other settlements constitute the non self-representing part (NSR). Each SR settlement can be regarded as a stratum in itself. The NSR settlements are stratified by counties and the size categories of settlements.

The sampling of the dwelling units in the SR settlements proceeds in two stages. The EDs constitute the primary sampling units, which are selected systematically with probability proportional to size. The dwellings units are selected with simple systematic sampling with random start.

For the NSR part the sampling is a three-stage process. The primary sampling units are settlements and the secondary sampling units are EDs. Both are sampled systematically with probability proportional to size, while the dwelling units are sampled using simple systematic sampling. Each stratum sample contains at least two settlements.

All households residing in the selected dwelling units are surveyed.

The overall sampling fraction is 0.9%, yielding 38 487 dwellings per quarter or around 32 000 households and 65 000 individuals aged 15-74 years.

All households are surveyed for six consecutive quarters, before being rotated out of the sample.

Weighting Procedure

The weighting procedure comprises two steps. In the first step each sampling unit is allocated the inverse of the inclusion probability of each stratum. In the second step, adjusted final weights are computed with *a posteriori* stratification by 20 geographical units, sex and 10 age groups. The adjusted final weights are assigned to the dwelling units.

Data Collection

Some 500 field-workers using paper questionnaires collect data throughout the year. The first interview is face-to-face, while the repeated interviews are carried out by telephone when feasible.

The response rate in 2002 was 82.9%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 with the exception of column 176.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

MALTA

General

The survey started in 2000 with two survey rounds in June and December. From 2001 the survey has been carried out quarterly with one reference week per quarter in March, June, September and December.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is obligatory.

The residence population comprises all persons residing in the Maltese Islands and eligible to vote in Local Council elections as well as their dependants.

A household is defined as one or more persons who live together and share expenses. A person who is abroad during the reference week and who visits Malta on a regular basis i.e. at least 2 times a year, is considered to be part of the household. Children or any other members who are living in another dwelling or institution are excluded.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a one-stage stratified systematic random sample of households from the Electoral Register.

The strata are defined by the localities. The sample is 2 500 households, with an effective sampling rate of 2%.

Each quarter the sample includes a sub-sample of 600 households which is carried over from previous quarter.

Weighting Procedure

The results are weighted by *a posteriori* stratification at one level by sex, six age groups and six districts.

Data Collection

Data are collected with face-to-face interviews by 80-100 trained interviewers. All persons in the household aged 15 years and over are interviewed. The average response rate in 2002 was 82.3%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 with the exception of columns 15, 56/57, 87, 89, 93, 94, 95, 132/139, 148/155, 156/163.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. However, two active search methods—"Asked friends, relatives, trade unions, etc." and "Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals"—are not asked for in the Maltese questionnaire.

LATVIA

General

The Latvian Labour Force Survey started in November 1995, producing results in May and November each year. In 2002 the survey was redesigned as a continuous survey.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The target population includes all the residents aged 15 to 74 years, with permanent residence in Latvia. Persons who are temporarily absent for one year or more are excluded.

A household is defined as a group of two or more persons living together in a house or a part of a house and share expenses for common living and eating. The person stating that he/she does not belong to any household and that he/she lives on his/her own budget is considered as a single person household.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a two-stage stratified probability sample.

The strata are defined by degree of urbanisation (Riga, six other largest towns, towns and rural areas).

The census counting areas constitute the primary sampling units with few exceptions. These are selected from each stratum using systematic sampling with probability proportional to size.

The final sampling units are 2 574 households selected from the PSUs by a simple random sampling method.

Each household is interviewed three times with a six months interval.

Weighting Procedure

The initial weights are calculated according to the sample design, with all persons within the same PSU having equal design weights. These initial weights are then adjusted with *a posteriori* stratification using urban and rural population data broken down by 14 age groups and sex.

Data Collection

Data are collected throughout the year by 43 trained interviewers, with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires.

The response rate in 2002 was 82.7%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 except columns 122/123.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

LITHUANIA

General

The Lithuanian LFS started in April 1994 as a semi-annual survey with one reference week in the second and fourth quarter each. In 2002 the survey was also carried out in the first quarter and from the third quarter on the LFS was redesigned as a continuous survey.

The survey covers the whole country. Both private and collective households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The target population covers all residents aged 15 years and over. Persons living abroad are included if they contribute to the common income / consumption.

A private household comprises either persons living alone or two or more persons, whether they are of the same family or not, who usually occupy the same dwelling and share a common budget.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a one-stage simple random sample of 4 000 individuals aged 15 years and over, using the Population Register as a sampling frame. All persons in the household of the sampled individual are also surveyed, so that the total sample is approximately 12 600 individuals per quarter, constituting a sampling fraction of 0.4%. As a result of this sampling method the inclusion probability of each household is directly proportional to the number of persons aged 15 years and over in the household.

Each household is surveyed for four quarters according to the rotation pattern 2-(1)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The weighting method for the Lithuanian LFS is based on the generalised calibration method introduced by Deville and Särndal in 1992. The initial household design weights are adjusted by the use of auxiliary information relating to population data on the intersection of 13 age-groups, sex and 10 NUTS III (counties) as well as data from the National Labour Exchange on the number of registered unemployed persons. Each member of the household receives the same weight as the household.

The calculation of the calibrated weights is carried out with the use of the SAS macro program CLAN, developed by Statistics Sweden.

Data Collection

The data are collected by face-to-face interviews in the first wave and by face-to-face or telephone interviews using paper questionnaires.

The field staff comprises 168 persons. The response rate in 2002 was 85.5%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

POLAND

General

The Polish Labour Force Survey started in May 1992 as a quarterly survey, using one reference week per quarter. A rotation scheme was introduced in the second quarter of 1993. A continuous survey design was introduced in the fourth quarter of 1999.

The survey covers the whole country. Only non-institutional households are covered.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The target population covers all persons 15 years and older with usual residence in Poland. Persons living in institutional households (army, hospital, prison etc.) and students living away from home for a total period exceeding two months are excluded from the survey. The same applies to persons living permanently or temporarily (for more than two months) in other countries.

The household is a group of relatives or other people living together and maintaining a joint unit. Persons not belonging to any household and living and managing the household all by themselves are considered as single person households.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan for the Polish LFS is a two-stage stratified probability sampling of dwelling units.

The sampling frame for both stages of the sample is based on the Domestic Territorial Division Register. The primary sampling units refer with few exceptions to census clusters in towns and enumeration districts in rural areas.

The primary sampling units are stratified by urban/rural division of voivodships (provinces), as well as division within voivodships depending on the size of the place, with rural areas included in the smallest ones. PSUs are sampled within strata with sampling probability proportional to the number of dwellings in a PSU.

In the second stage a total of 24 700 dwelling units per quarter are sampled from each PSU stratified by size of the municipality. The overall sampling fraction is 0,14% of private households.

The sample is divided into four panels, using the rotation scheme 2-(2)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The weights are computed using a four-step procedure.

First the initial design weights are calculated for each dwelling unit, i.e., the reciprocals of the selection probabilities for the final sampling units in each strata. Secondly the weighted response rates for each sampling unit are calculated stratified *a posteriori* by six categories of place of residence. Thirdly, the initial weights are adjusted by the response rates. The final step consists of modifying the adjusted weights by the population estimates stratified *a posteriori* by the urban-rural division, sex and 12 age groups.

Data Collection

The data are collected by 1 100-1 200 field workers with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires. Repeated interviews are sometimes carried out by telephone.

The response rate in 2002 was 80.5%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 with the exception of columns 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 17/18, 19/20, 21/22, 38/39, 91, 93, 94, 95, 99, 111 and 176.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow in the main the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. Layoffs are, however, always classified as employed regardless of the date of return to work and the fact that no significant salary is received.

SLOVENIA

General

The Slovenian Labour Force Survey started in 1993 as an annual survey, using four weeks in May as the reference period. Since the second quarter of 1997 the LFS has been conducted as a continuous survey, providing quarterly results.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

Members of the household temporary absent for a period exceeding 6 months (army, hospitals, prisons, student's homes) and persons living in other countries were excluded from the survey. Foreign nationals are included, if they correspond to the criteria of household. For the household members up to 15 years only very few questions are collected.

A household is a single person or a group of persons, who live together and share expenses related to common living and eating.

Sampling Plan

The basis of sampling frame is the Central Population Register.

The sampling method is a one-stage stratified simple random sampling of individuals aged 18 years and older, whose households are selected. The selection probability of each household or household member is thus proportional to the number of persons aged 18 years or older in the household.

Strata are defined by region and six types of settlement, according to the settlement size and proportion of farmers. Stratum allocation is proportional to the population distribution, but adjusted by previous non-response by stratum.

Each household is interviewed five times according to the rotation pattern 3-(1)-2. Each quarter the sample is renewed by selecting a new wave of 2 000 new households.

Weighting Procedure

The individual records are weighted for unequal probability of selection, non-response and stratified *a posteriori* according to 12 regions, 8 age groups, sex and wave. Annual weights are computed as the arithmetic mean of quarterly weights.

Data Collection

The data are collected by approximately 50 field workers with face-to-face interviews using electronic questionnaires. All repeated interviews are carried out by telephone if the household has a telephone.

The number of households responding in 2002 was approximately 6 500 per each quarter.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.

SLOVAKIA

General

The Slovakian Labour Force Survey started 1993 as continuous quarterly survey using seasonal quarters. In 2000 the Slovakian LFS moved to calendar quarters.

The whole country is covered. Only private households are surveyed.

The target population of the survey is every person aged 15 and over, living in the household of the selected dwelling without regards to permanent, temporary or unregistered stays. Data for the students living in hostels, schoolchildren living in boarding schools and persons living temporarily in worker homes are collected within the households to which they belong. Inmates of prison or mental institutions, foreign citizens with temporary stay and domestic servants are not surveyed. Since the first quarter of 1997 the conscripts on compulsory military service are included in the LFS.

A household is a group of persons sharing common accommodation and house keeping. Persons living on their own constitute one-person households.

Sampling Plan

The sample selection method is based on a stratified two-stage probability sampling design. Each stratum corresponds to a district (79). The sample frame for the first stage of sampling consists of the register of the municipalities. For the second stage of selection the sample frame is based on the list of dwellings from Population Census conducted in 1991.

For the first sampling stage, the municipalities in all districts are selected. The selection probability of each municipality is proportional to its population number. In the second sampling stage the dwellings are selected from each municipality selected on the first stage. The selection is performed by interviewers on basis of the list of dwellings from 1991 Population Census. Five dwellings are chosen within each selected municipality. The interviewer chooses randomly the number, which assigns the first dwelling selected from the list, and then he chooses the other four dwellings from the same list using a step of ten.

The sample size is about 10 250 dwellings every quarter, representing 0.6% of all permanently occupied dwellings.

Every selected dwelling remains in the survey for five consecutive quarters.

Weighting Procedure

Data from survey are weighted with *a posteriori* stratification using demographic data on population according to 8 regions, sex and 14 age groups.

Data Collection

The data are collected by face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires. In most cases the repeated interviews are carried out via telephone using paper questionnaires.

The field staff comprises 48 persons. The response rate in 2002 was 91.7%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are collected on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 with the exception of columns 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 19/20, 21/22, 111, 120/121, 122/123 and 176.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow in the main the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. The definition of unemployment, however, includes persons who have already found a job to start within one month.

BULGARIA

General

The survey started in 1993, providing quarterly results from 2000 based on a single reference week in March, June, September and December.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are included.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The resident population includes all persons usually residing in Bulgaria, including persons temporarily abroad (less than one year). The survey covers all the members of the selected households including conscripts and people absent from home due to: business trip, seasonal or temporal work, tourism, temporary (less than 6 months) stay in hospitals or other health institutions for medical cure and other. Members of collective households are surveyed if they maintain a relationship with the selected household.

A household is defined as a group of two or more people living together in a house or a part of a house and having common budget. The person stating that they do not belong to any household and that they live on their own budget is considered as a single person household.

Sampling plan

The sampling plan is a stratified two-stage probability sampling of household units.

The sampling frame is based on the 2001 Population Census.

The strata consist of areas of residence (urban/rural) and 28 regions.

The primary sampling units are enumeration districts. An initial sample of 655 enumeration districts in rural areas and 1 345 enumeration districts in urban areas is selected. The sample contains enumeration districts from each of the regions selected with probability proportional to size, the size being the population aged 15 years and over.

The final sampling units are the households, selected systematically from each of the selected enumeration districts.

Each quarter the final sample size is 24 000 households, representing 0.8% of the population.

Each quarterly sample consists of four panels that are rotated out of the sample according to the pattern 2-(2)-2.

Weighting procedure

The results are extrapolated *a posteriori* to the population in each stratum by sex and four age groups.

Data collection

The data are collected with face-to-face interviews, using paper questionnaires. All persons in the household aged 15 years and over are interviewed.

The interviews are carried out by about 800 interviewers who are mainly the staff of the regional offices of NSI. The response rate in 2002 was 85-90%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Information is not provided on optional variables (item k, l) and on item j of Article 4 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 nor the following columns defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000: 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 19/20, 21/22, 58, 95, 100, 104, 106, 107/8, 204, 205, 206, 207 and 208.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow in the main the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000, the main difference being the treatment of the registration in Employment offices. Registration itself is considered as active method of job search, not only the contact with employment office to find a job.

ROMANIA

General

The Romanian Labour Force Survey started in 1993 with a pilot survey, with two annual surveys in 1994 and 1995. In 1996, a continuous LFS started, providing quarterly results.

The whole country is covered. Only private households are surveyed.

The target population includes all the Romanian citizens, resident in Romania. The survey covers all the members of the selected households including the persons absent from home for a long period (over 6 months), if they are preserving family relations with the household to which they belong, such as conscripts, pupils and students away for study, persons absent due to work, prisoners and persons temporarily in hospitals for medical cure.

A household is defined as a group of two or more persons, usually living together, being generally relatives, managing the household in common, entirely or partly participating in income formation and spending. The person stating that he or she does not belong to any household, that he or she lives and manages the household all by him or herself is considered as a single person household.

Sampling Plan

The sampling plan is a two-stage probability sampling of clusters of housing units.

In the first stage, a random sample of 501 areas, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), was designed after the 1992 census. This is the Multifunctional Sample of Territorial Areas, so called the master sample EMZOT. The EMZOT sample has 259 PSUs selected from urban areas and 242 PSUs selected from rural areas.

In the second stage, 6 012 clusters, composed of three housing units each, are systematically selected from the initial sample of PSUs. The final sample consists of 18 036 dwelling units. All households within each sampling unit are included.

Each sampling unit is observed for four quarters according to the rotation pattern 2-(2)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The weights are calculated in three steps. The first step assigns the inverse of the selection probabilities to each sampled dwelling unit. The second step adjusts for non-response, categorising the responding dwelling units by the following characteristics: county (NUTS3), urban/rural residency, occupational status of the head of household. The third and final steps consists of calibrating the secondary weights to the best latest available population totals by county / urban-rural residency, sex and 8 age groups, using the raking-ratio method as supplied by the French SAS Calmar macro.

Data Collection

The data are collected by approximately 500 field workers with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires

The response rate in 2002 was 94.7%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available on all the variables defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000 with the exception of columns 19/20, 38/39, 111, 122/123 and 176.

The definition of unemployment and the construction of the questionnaire follow the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. In the case of the self-employed and family workers in agriculture, however, the threshold for employment is set at 15 hours in the reference week instead of 1 hour.

TURKEY

General

Labour Force Surveys in Turkey started in 1966, while regular annual Labour Force Surveys applying ILO recommendations started in October 1988. The Turkish LFS was carried out in April and October each year from 1989 to 1999 with major changes in design introduced in October 1994. From 2000 onwards the survey has produced quarterly results.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are surveyed.

The population surveyed comprises all persons in the country excluding persons who are not of Turkish origin and residents of collective households. Villages with fewer than 100 inhabitants are not in the sampling frame. Participation in the survey is compulsory.

A household is one person or group of persons with or without a family relationship who live in the same house or in the same part of the house, who share their meals, earnings and expenditures and who take part in the management of the household and who render services to the household.

Sampling Plan

The Turkish LFS sample is based on a five-year master sampling plan starting in 2000. The sampling frame is based on the 1995 Dwelling Enumeration Study. The total number of eligible households each quarter is approximately 23 000.

The sampling design is a two stage stratified probability clustered sample of addresses.

The strata are defined by 7 geographical regions and rural-urban classification. Moreover each of the 9 province centres form a separate stratum. An urban area is a settlement with more than 20 000 inhabitants.

In the first stage of sampling the primary sampling units are defined in urban areas and larger villages as blocks of addresses containing approximately 100 households. These are selected with equal probability using systematic sampling. Medium sized villages are sampled with probability proportional to size.

The final sampling units are addresses. In urban PSUs these are selected with equal probability using systematic sampling. In medium sized villages the households are selected with probability inversely proportional to size. The number of units selected from each PSU is determined so as to achieve a uniform overall sampling rate. All households within an address are taken into the sample.

Villages too small to permit sub-sampling of households are selected directly with equal probability using systematic sampling and all households within them taken into the sample.

Each household participates in the survey according to the rotation pattern 2-(2)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The results are weighted to the projections of the General Population Census 2000, using a three-stage procedure.

In the first stage each sampling unit is assigned the design weights, which then are normalised to give an average weight of 1.0 per unit. In the second stage the initial weights are adjusted for non-response. These weights are also normalised.

In the final stage the weights are calibrated to the projected population distributions, using a three-step raking ratio method. The first step uses the distribution of 7 geographical regions; the second step the rural-urban by age group distributions and the final step the sex by age group distributions. The calibration is iterated until any relative changes in the weights are within a pre-specified range. The final weights are then inflated by an overall inflation factor, i.e., the projected population divided by the sample size.

Data Collection

The data are collected each month by approximately 120 interviewers, starting on the 8th day of the month and finishing within 15 days. The reference week is a moving seven-day period immediately preceding the day of the interview.

The response rate for the year 2002 was 89.3%.

Harmonisation with the European Labour Force Survey

Data are available for all the main characteristics defined by the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1575/2000.

The Turkish LFS questionnaire is not fully harmonised to the guidelines set in the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000. A major divergence is in the definition of unemployment. The Turkish LFS uses a period of job search of three months instead of four weeks in the EU Regulation. The question on methods of job search only enumerates active steps and two active methods—"Studied advertisements in newspapers or journals" and "Took a test, interview or examination"—are not asked for in the Turkish questionnaire.

Tables

Table 1 – Sample design

	CZ	EE	CY	HU	MT	LV	LT	PL	SI	SK	BG	RO	TR	
Groups of population included:														
Target population	15 years and over	aged 15-74	15 years and over	aged 15-74	15 years and over	aged 15-74	15 years and over	15 years and over	15 years and over	15 years and over	15 years and over	15 years and over	15 years and over	
Foreign nationals	yes	permanent residents	yes	yes	if eligible to vote in local council elections	permanent residents	yes	permanent residents	yes	permanent residents	permanent residents	permanent residents	no	
Institutional population	no	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Other collective households	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	
The sample														
Sample size per quarter	25 000 dwellings	2 200 households	4 500 dwellings	38 487 dwellings	2 500 households	2 574 households	4 000 households	24 700 dwellings	10 000 households	10 250 dwellings	24 000 households	18 036 dwellings	23 000 households	
Stages of sampling	2	1 (2 phases)	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	
Final sample unit	dwelling	individual	dwelling	household	household	household	individual	dwelling	individual	dwelling	household	dwelling	dwelling	
Basis of sampling frame	Census	Census	Census	Address Register (census)	Electoral Register	Census	Population Register	Census, Register of housing units	Population Register	Census	Census	Sample Master (census)	Dwelling Enumeration Study 1995	
Stratification	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Variables used for the stratification	region	region	districts, urban/rural	counties, size categories of settlements	locality	region, urban/rural	region, urban/rural	region, urban/rural, size of the place of residence	region, urban/rural	region	region, urban/rural	urban/rural	geographical regions, settlements, urban/rural	
Self weighting	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Rotation pattern	5-(0)	2-(2)-2	4-(0)	6-(0)	sub-sample carried over from previous round	1-(1)-1-(1)-1	2-(1)-2	2-(2)-2	3-(1)-2	5-(0)	2-(2)-2	2-(2)-2	2-(2)-2	
Weighting														
Main method of weighting	Post-stratification	Raking ratio	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Generalised calibration	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Post-stratification	Raking-ratio	Raking ratio
Variables used for weighting calculation	district, age group, sex	age group, sex, region	districts, age group, sex	age group, sex, geographical unit	district, age group, sex	age group, sex, urban/rural	age group, sex, urban/rural, regions, registered unemployed	age group, sex, urban/rural, size of the place of residence	region, age group, sex, wave	region, age group, sex	region, urban/rural, age group, sex	county, age group, sex, urban/rural	region, age group, sex, urban/rural	

Table 2 – Implementation of the household concept

	CZ	EE	CY	HU	MT	LV	LT	PL	SI	SK	BG	RO	TR
Criteria for inclusion in private households:													
common dwelling	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
common house keeping budget	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
kinship relations	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Inclusion of related persons:													
temporary absent persons	no longer than 1 year absence	depends on the economic relations, contribution to the household	no longer than 1 year	depends on the economic relations, contribution to common budget	yes	< 1 year, if they are preserving family relations with the household	yes	if the job requires it (regardless of the duration) or the duration ≤ 2 months	< 6 months	yes	< 6 months or if they are preserving family relations with the household	< 6 months or if they are preserving family relations with the household	< 6 months, if they are preserving family relations with the household
persons in student homes	"	"	no	"	yes	no	yes	if ≤ 2 months	no	yes	no	"	no
persons in workers homes	"	"	no	"	yes	no	yes	if ≤ 2 months	no	yes	no	"	no
domestic servants	yes	"	yes	as separate household	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes
lodgers	no	"	no	no	no	depends on the economic relations, contribution to the household	yes	yes	depends on the economic relations, contribution to the household	yes	no	no	depends on the criteria used for household definition
conscripts	yes	"	yes	no	not applicable	yes	no	no, if more than 2 months	no	yes	yes	if preserving family relations with the household	no
persons living in institutions	no	"	no	depends on their contribution to common budget	no	if < 1 year	no	"	no	no	if they are preserving family relations with the household	"	no
persons living in other countries	no	depends on the economic relations, contribution to the household if < 1 year	no	"	yes if they come home at least twice a year	if < 1 year	depends on their contribution to common budget	"	no	no	for less than one year	"	no

Table 3 – Data collection and data processing

	CZ	EE	CY	HU	MT	LV	LT	PL	SI	SK	BG	RO	TR
General:													
Start of regular survey	December 1992	1997	1999	1992	June 2000	November 1995	April 1994	May 1992	1993	1993	September 1993	1994	1988
Start of continuous survey	December 1992	2000	—	—	—	2002	2002 (Q3)	1999 (Q4)	1997 (Q2)	1993	—	1996	—
Frequency of results	quarterly	quarterly	annual	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly	quarterly
Reference week	evenly spread	evenly spread	evenly spread over 2nd quarter	1 week per month	1 week per quarter	evenly spread	evenly spread	evenly spread	evenly spread	evenly spread	single week in the last month of each quarter	evenly spread	moving 7 day period at start of each month
Information to respondents in advance	letter at disposal (rarely used)	letter	no	letter	letter	letter	letter	letter & leaflet with main LFS results	letter	letter	letter	letter	letter
Sources of information:													
actual interview	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
previous interview	no	yes (if confirmed)	only for checking data	no	only to update for the following quarter	only for checking data	no	only for checking data	demographic data	demographic data	no	only for checking data	only for checking demographic data
register	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Mode of data collection:													
face to face (paper, pencil)	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no
face to face (CAPI)	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes
telephone (paper, pencil)	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	yes (not in the first interview)	no	yes	no	no	no
telephone (CATI)	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no
self administered	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Field staff:													
Size of field staff	127	60	15	500	80-100	43	168	1100-1200	50	48	800	500	120
professional	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
ad hoc	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	no	no
Training of field staff:													
general	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no
LFS specific	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Response and non-response:													
Response rate	76-77%	85%	99%	83%	82%	83%	86%	81%	—	92%	85-90%	95%	89%
% of refusals in total non-response	75%	38%	14%	29%	22%	30%	12-16%	54%	—	93%	20-22%	29%	12%
% of proxy interviews	45-50%	15%	45%	33%	44%	38%	39%	40 - 42%	63%	54%	31-35%	28%	50-60%
item non-response imputation	no	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no

Annex I. Statistical regions of the Accessing and Candidate Countries

CODE	REGION	COUNTRY
CZ		CESKA REPUBLIKA
CZ01	Praha	
CZ02	Stredni Cechy	
CZ03	Jihozapad	
CZ04	Severozapad	
CZ05	Severovychod	
CZ06	Jihovychod	
CZ07	Stredni Morava	
CZ08	Moravskoslezsko	
EE00	Eesti	EESTI
CY00	Kypros / Kibris	KYPROS / KIBRIS
LV00	Latvija	LATVIJA
LT00	Lietuva	LIETUVA
HU00		MAGYARORSZAG
HU01	Kozep-Magyarország	
HU02	Kozep-Dunantul	
HU03	Nyugat-Dunantul	
HU04	Del-Dunantul	
HU05	Eszak-Magyarország	
HU06	Eszak-Alfold	
HU07	Del-Alfold	
MT00	Malta	MALTA
PL00		POLSKA
PL01	Dolnoslaskie	
PL02	Kujawsko-Pomorskie	
PL03	Lubelskie	
PL04	Lubuskie	
PL05	Lódzkie	
PL06	Malopolskie	
PL07	Mazowieckie	
PL08	Opolskie	
PL09	Podkarpackie	
PL0A	Podlaskie	
PL0B	Pomorskie	
PL0C	Slaskie	
PL0D	Swietokrzyskie	
PL0E	Warminsko-Mazurskie	
PL0F	Wielkopolskie	
PL0G	Zachodniopomorskie	

CODE	REGION	COUNTRY
SI00	Slovenija	SLOVENIJA
SK00		SLOVENSKA REPUBLIKA
SK01	Bratislavsky	
SK02	Zapadne Slovensko	
SK03	Stredne Slovensko	
SK04	Vychodne Slovensko	
BG00		BULGARIA
BG01	Severozapaden	
BG02	Severen tsentralen	
BG03	Severoiztochen	
BG04	Yugozapaden	
BG05	Yuzhen tsentralen	
BG06	Yugoiztochen	
RO00		ROMANIA
RO01	Nord-Est	
RO02	Sud-Est	
RO03	Sud	
RO04	Sud-Vest	
RO05	Vest	
RO06	Nord-Vest	
RO07	Centru	
RO08	Bucuresti	
TR00		TURKIYE
TR10	Istanbul	
TR21	Tekirdag	
TR22	Balikesir	
TR31	Izmir	
TR32	Aydin	
TR33	Manisa	
TR41	Bursa	
TR42	Kocaeli	
TR51	Ankara	
TR52	Konya	
TR61	Antalya	
TR62	Adana	
TR63	Hatay	
TR71	Kirikkale	
TR72	Kayseri	
TR81	Zonguldak	
TR82	Kastamonu	
TR83	Samsun	
TR90	Trabzon	
TRA1	Erzurum	
TRA2	Agri	
TRB1	Malatya	
TRB2	Van	
TRC1	Gaziantep	
TRC2	Sanliurfa	
TRC3	Mardin	