METHODS AND NOMENCLATURES

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Labour force survey in the EU, Candidate and EFTA countries

Main characteristics of the national surveys

2004

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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.
It can be accessed through the Europa server (http://europa.eu.int).

Preface

The present report describes the main characteristics of the Labour Force Surveys in the 25 Member States of the European Union, the four Candidate Countries and three EFTA countries in 2004.

All but one of the Countries provide Eurostat with LFS micro-data for publication. Due to legal considerations Turkey has not been able to deliver any micro-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.

In 2004 Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Austria implemented the continuous quarterly survey, while Germany planned to do so in 2005.

The reference period of the LFS is one week, spread over the year. When the reference week belongs to two year, it is allocated to the year which has the majority of the weekdays. In 2004 this resulted in that the year had 53 weeks instead of the usual 52 weeks. The anomaly was dealt with differently in the Member States, as shown in Table 4 at the end of this report.

The main characteristics of the national practices are presented herein. The information is organised on the same lines as the methodological data for 2003 in *The European Union labour force survey: main characteristics of the national surveys*. This will enable users to evaluate the degree of comparability achieved. Tables 1 to 3 at the end of the report provide summary information for some of the characteristics described in the report.

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*.

For a summary of the data quality of the European Union Labour Force Survey see *The European Union Labour Force Survey, Quality Report, 2004*.

The information necessary for preparing this publication was mainly collected in 2005. Eurostat wishes to thank the experts responsible for the national labour force surveys in the Member States, Candidate and EFTA countries for their help in compiling the information presented in this publication.

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Characteristics of national surveys in 2004

BELGIUM (BE)

General

The survey started in 1983 as an annual survey, but has been continuous since January 1999 providing quarterly and yearly results.

The survey covers the entire country. Only private households are included where at least one person is younger than 75 years old.

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

The household is the simple or collective unit comprising either one person living alone or two or more persons, whether or not of the same family, who usually occupy the same dwelling and live there together.

Sampling plan

The planned quarterly sample size is 11,960 households, which represents an average survey rate of about 0.3%. Every week 920 households should be interviewed.

The survey is based on a 2 level stratified sampling plan.

The survey base is the National Register of Persons, which is derived from communal population registers.

The entire national territory is divided into provinces (NUTS-2) forming 11 strata. The allocation is proportional to the square root of the number of households in each province. This increases the sampling rate of the least-populated strata.

Within each stratum, a two-stage sampling is carried out. The primary units comprise parts of the communes called 'statistical sections' (6,192 in the whole country, with 704 households in average and covering 5 km² in average). Their probability of selection is proportional to the number of households in them, with replacement of any 'small' section (at most 27 households) by another section of the same municipality; the 'small' sections only represent 0.15% of the total number of households.

The secondary sampling unit is the household.

Within each primary unit, 20 households (as well as 10 substitute households) are drawn at random.

The overall survey rate (secondary units) is identical for all municipalities in each stratum.

Weighting procedure

Extrapolation to the population, including adjustments for non-response, is done at the level of individuals, using *a posteriori* stratification by province (NUTS-2), sex and age (5-year age groups). In each of the post-strata thus obtained, a weight is calculated whose numerator is the population

as at 1 January 2004 according to the National Register of Persons and whose denominator the number of usable responses.

Data collection

The detailed information (related to individuals aged 15 years and over) is collected by means of face-to-face interviews in the 3 weeks following the reference week. In households of retired persons, interviews can be conducted by telephone.

The field staff comprises 300-350 persons.

In 2004, 25% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were carried out by authorised third parties. In terms of initially drawn households, the response rate is 76.0%.

A second interview takes place 3 months after (except for people aged 65 years and over) by mail or by telephone, with a shorter version of the questionnaire which aims only to measure the ILO labour situation (employed, unemployed and inactive).

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ)

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, using the Register of Census Areas as a sampling frame.

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 2004 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. All interviews were conducted with the aid of electronic questionnaires with few exceptions.

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

The number of field workers was 113 in 2004.

In 2004, 48% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were carried out by proxy. The response rate was 79.8%.

DENMARK (DK)

General

The survey started in 1984 as an annual survey, but has been organised as a continuous survey, providing quarterly results since 1994.

The entire country is covered, apart from Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

The survey covers persons living in either private or collective households.

There is no specific national legislation making it compulsory to provide information for the survey, and participation is therefore voluntary.

The resident population comprises persons with domicile in Denmark (excluding Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) according to the Central Population Register.

Sampling plan

The quarterly sample size is 16,665 persons, which represents an average survey rate of 0.42%.

The sampling unit is the individual.

A stratified sample design is used. The sampling frame is the Central Population Register and the Unemployment Register.

The quarterly sample size of the people aged 15-66 is 15,600. Persons aged 16-66 years that were registered as unemployed in a specific quarter prior to the survey quarter are selected with a higher probability than their relative proportion of the total population. Thus, Stratum 1) is drawn from the Unemployment Register whereas other 15-66 year olds (Stratum 2)) are drawn from the Population Register. Additional 1,065 individuals aged 67-74 years are drawn the Population Register (Stratum 3)).

Respondents are questioned 3 times. First time in the initial quarter, then the following quarter and yet a third time a year later. One-third of the sample is renewed each quarter.

Weighting procedure

The three strata are weighted separately:

I. Initial weights:

For Strata 1) and 2) the following register-based information is used to derive initial non-response weights:

Stratum 1) Age (16-29, 30-54, 55-66), Education ("None", "Vocational training, trainees or apprentices" and "Higher education"), Gross income (<202,500 DKK, 202,500+ DKK)

Stratum 2) Age (15-29, 30-54, 55-66), Gross income (<135,000 DKK, 135,000-269,999 DKK, 270,000+ DKK), Group of industry ("Production", "Other private", "Public" and "No information").

II. Weighting by sex and (mainly) 5 years age groups:

After this step weighting is performed by using a combination of sex and mainly 5 years age groups for the 3 sampling strata separately, based on quarterly updated data from the Population Register.

Stratum 1) sex and age (16-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-66);

Stratum 2) sex and age (15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-66);

Stratum 3) sex

III. Region

No regional-adjustment is made, as Denmark is considered a homogeneous region at NUTS-2 level.

Data collection

The Danish LFS uses a mix of modes. The main part of the interviews (92% in 2004) is conducted via telephone interviewing (CATI). Persons who could not be reached by telephone receive a mailed questionnaire. Demographic information (e.g. sex, year of birth, marital status, nationality) and level of education, training and the year of completion are variables obtained from the statistical registers based on administrative sources (The Population Register and The Educational Statistical System).

The field staff comprises approximately 40 interviewers.

Less than 3% of the interviews (of persons 15-74 years) were carried out by authorised third parties. However, from 2002 special proxy household interviewing has been implemented, so selected data on household composition as well as main status and labour status for the other household members are collected via proxy interviewing in the third (and last) wave with the current respondents.

The response rate is 64.8%. The exact percentage of refusals is difficult to calculate, because it is impossible to know if a questionnaire sent by post but not returned represents a refusal or some other kind of non-response.

GERMANY (DE)

General

The Labour Force Sample Survey is carried out as part of the annual micro-census, which is based on the 'micro-census law'. The micro-census has been carried out since 1957 in the old West-Germany, but since 1991 in the new *Bundesländer* and East-Berlin. In general the micro-census is compulsory. Additionally, the questionnaire includes optional parts of the LFS and other special national programmes.

The survey covers private and collective households, except for military quarters. A private household comprises either a person living alone or two or more persons, irrespective of their relationship. The members of a private household are characterised by the same dwelling and common housekeeping. National service personnel and students are included in their parents' households.

The resident population (statistical population) includes all inhabitants with their main place of residence in the territory of the Federal Republic. Foreign armed forces and members of the diplomatic corps and their families are excluded.

The reference week for the survey is usually the last week in April which includes no holiday. In 2004 this week was the week Monday to Sunday 22-28 March.

Sampling plan

There are three sources used for the sampling plan. The census data from 1987 is the survey base for the 'old' federal States. The central population register of the German Democratic Republic gives data for the 'new' federal States. Both statistics are annually updated by the register of new dwellings. Sampling unit is a household. The sample is an area sample covering all areas of Germany. The sampling districts comprise a number of dwellings.

All buildings are attributed to one of three strata, depending on the number of dwellings they comprise. The first stratum contains a number of buildings which are close to one another (but not necessarily contiguous) and comprising fewer than five dwellings. In this stratum, each sampling district comprises 12 dwellings. The second stratum comprises buildings with between five and 10 dwellings. Each of these buildings constitutes a sampling district. The buildings in the third stratum comprise 11 dwellings or more. In this stratum, the 'sampling district' is a subdivision of the building, the target size being 6 dwellings. An additional stratum covers the population living in collective households. It is divided into sampling units with a target size of 15 persons.

All persons in a selected sampling district are interviewed.

The stratification by region and size of the buildings is based on the size classes used to work out the sampling units. The sampling rate varies from one region to another. Within each stratum, an effect similar to stratification is obtained by systematic sampling in a list classified by geographical entity.

The regions comprise an average of 350,000 inhabitants. The list of sampling districts is sorted within each stratum by sub-region, *Kreis* (administrative district), the size class of the commune, commune and number of the sample district. This list is divided into groups of 100 consecutive sampling districts. A sample of 1% is drawn at random for the micro-census in each of these groups. A systematic sub-sample of the 1% -sample is used for the LFS. To reach the degree of sampling error required at NUTS-2 level (as laid down in the Regulation), the rate of sub-sampling varies:

either 100%, 80%, 60% or 40%, giving overall sampling rates of 1%, 0.8%, 0.6% or 0.4%. The sample comprises about 380,000 persons, giving an average sampling rate of 0.45%.

A rotation system is composed of four waves. Each address remains in the sample four years and 25% of the sample is replaced each year.

Weighting procedure

A two-stage adjustment procedure is used.

(a) If possible, limited data are collected for households which fail to respond. These data can include: number of persons of the household, nationality (German/foreign) and for households comprising only one person: age (under or over 60 years) and sex. From this data, the weightings of respondent households are increased to take account of non-responses in the region.

(b) The sample, weighted to take account of non-response, is stratified *a posteriori* by region, sex and nationality (German/foreign) and is extrapolated to the population (adjusted of military personnel).

Data collection

The field staff of the 16 statistical offices of the *Länder* comprises 7,000 interviewers. For all four waves information should be collected by face-to-face interviews. In some cases (approximately 15%), the interviewers are not able to contact members of the household. In that case, a questionnaire is sent and a hotline is offered. One person (18 years or older) is allowed to answer instead of the rest of the household. Proxy interviews of persons 15-74 years were 27% in 2004. More and more interviews are carried out with the help of portable computers (CAPI).

The response rate is 96-97%; the rate of non-response of optional questions is up to 40%.

Further methodological information

The German LFS question on employment in the reference week asks if the person was "having employment or occupation", which has overtones of main status. This also applies to the first question on job-search, asking if the person "was unemployed … or … looking for work" in the reference week.

ESTONIA (EE)

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 2,500 households, with a sampling rate of approximately 0.5% of the working age population.

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 Tallinn are divided into four strata according to the population numbers (I – Tallinn, II – four bigger counties, III – ten smaller counties, IV – Hiiu county) and different inclusion probabilities are used in strata, the highest being for Hiiu county.

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 for four quarters according to the rotation pattern 2-(2)-2.

Weighting Procedure

The weights are formed in a sequence of steps. A weight resulting from the previous step is multiplied by the correction factor calculated at the current step. The correction factors are scaled in such a way that their sample average is unity at each step. As a result, the final weight is a product of the initial weight and correction factors.

As stratified sampling is used as the first step of sample formation, first the initial weight that is inversely proportional to the inclusion probability in each stratum is calculated.

For non-response adjustment the non-response correction factors are computed. The weighting groups of reasonably uniform size of sampled households are formed on the basis of the place of residence of the household according to the non-response rate in the region. Within each group the correction factor is inversely proportional to the overall response rate in the region.

In the next step the weights are calibrated so that they produce exact population numbers in certain subgroups known from demographic data (including institutional population):

For working-age persons the subgroups by sex, age (5-years age groups) and the place of residence (urban/rural area, 15 counties (NUTS-4 level) and the capital city) are considered. For this purpose the linear consistent weighting method is applied.

For nonworking age persons the non-calibrated household's weights are calibrated by sex and 5-years age groups.

Data Collection

In 2004, 90% of interviews were face to face interviews (paper / pencil) and 10% computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI). All interviews are conducted by 60 interviewers of the Data Collection Department of the Statistical Office of Estonia. The interviewing is normally done during the week immediately following the reference week but never later than five weeks after the reference week. About 12% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years old were by proxy.

The response rate in 2004 was 72.7%.

GREECE (EL)

General

The survey started as an annual survey covering all weeks of the second quarter in 1983. In 1998 it was redesigned as a continuous survey providing quarterly results.

It covers only private households.

The resident population comprises persons who usually reside on Greek territory and who spend most days and nights there.

Sampling plan

The sample size is about 36,000 households, which represents a survey rate of 0.85%.

The sampling frame is based on the census. The sampling design is a two stage probability sampling of dwellings. Each area unit (primary unit - one or more building blocks) of the stratum has a probability of being selected proportional to its size (number of households in the last population census of the year 2001). In second stage the sample of dwelling units is selected from each primary unit with systematic selection with equal probabilities. If more than one household lives in the selected dwelling, all of them are interviewed.

In each Department (NUTS-3), the stratification of primary units was conducted by allocating the Municipalities and Communes according to the degree of urbanization (urban, semi-urban, and rural regions). Except for the two major city agglomerations (*Athens* and *Thessaloniki*) the produced strata according to the degree of urbanization are:

Urban Stratum: Agglomerations and Municipalities with 10.000 inhabitants or more

Semi-urban Stratum: Municipalities and Communes with 2.000 to 9.999 inhabitants

Rural Stratum: Communes up to 1.999 inhabitants

The Greater Athens Area was divided into 31 strata of about equal size (equal number of households) on the basis of the lists of city blocks of the municipalities that constitute it and taking into consideration socio-economic criteria. Similarly, the Greater Thessaloniki Area was divided into 9 equally sized strata. The two Major City Agglomerations account for 40% of total population and for even larger percentages in certain socio-economic variables.
A rotation system comprising six waves is used. Each sampling unit is kept in the sample for six consecutive quarters.

Weighting procedure

The survey weights are adjusted every quarter so that the estimated (from the survey) total population coincides with the estimated (from the projection of the 2001 census results) population by region (NUTS-2), age groups, and sex (for the members of private households).

Data collection

All the information is collected by means of face-to-face interviews (printed questionnaires).

The field staff comprises 600 interviewers.

43.3% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years old were carried out by proxy.

The average response rate in 2004 was 90.4%. Refusals are 30% of the non-responses with the remainder due to difficulties contacting the household.

SPAIN (ES)

General

The Spanish Labour Force Survey was launched in 1964. In 1999 the survey was redesigned as a continuous survey providing quarterly results.

Since 1996 the survey is compulsory as it was included in the yearly statistical programme.

The population residing in private households is covered, including servants; persons living in collective households and persons who are temporarily absent are sampled via the relatives living in private household. Foreign nationals are included in the resident population if they have lived or intend to live in Spain for more than one year.

The household concept used is that of the 'dwelling household' (all people living in the dwelling are interviewed).

Sampling plan

The sample size is approximately 65,000 households, which represents an average survey rate of 0.5%.

The sampling is a two-stage sampling procedure with stratification of the primary units. First stage units are geographical areas in which all the country is split. These areas are stratified within each province, using the population size of the municipality. Within each stratum, the areas are sub-stratified according to the socio-economic characteristics of the population.

Second stage units are private households (dwelling units).

The sample is made up of six rotation groups. Household once selected remain in the sample for six consecutive quarters before being replaced. In any quarter, households of one wave are receiving the first interview; households of another wave are receiving the second interview, and so on.

Each quarter, the household sample in one sixth of the primary unit sampled, is replaced by a new sample. Thus, there is an 83% overlap in the samples for each consecutive quarter.

The sample size of primary units is 3484 and, the sample size of the secondary units in each area is 18, except in the provinces of Barcelona, Madrid, Sevilla, Valencia y Zaragoza where the size is 22.

Units are selected in such a way to obtain self -weighted samples within each stratum. The first stage units are selected with proportional probability to the size and second stage units are selected with equal probability.

Weighting procedure

The design uses Ratio Estimator and the auxiliary variable is the Population Projection at stratum level.

Every quarter, population projections by age group (0–15 years and 16 years +) and NUTS-2 region are made. Projections by age and region are distributed by stratum in proportion to the population of each stratum. In each stratum, age group and region, the weighting is determined by the ratio of the projection to the sample size.

The sample is then calibrated in order to adjust to the population distribution. The auxiliary information used is the population by sex, age (0-4, 5-9, 10-15, 16-19, 20-24, …, 65+), nationality (nationals-non nationals) and NUTS-2.

A linear weighting method is used, in which each member of the household has the same weight.

Data collection

All the information is collected by interview. The first interviews are personal interviews. Interviews in the second and subsequent waves are carried out by telephone, except when the family wants a personal interview or there is no telephone. All interviews are done with the help of portable computers.

The field staff comprises 220 interviewers per quarter.

58.2% of the interviews of persons 16-74 years old were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 91.0%, with 40% of non-responses being due to refusals.

FRANCE (FR)

General

The French Labour Force Survey was launched in 1950, organised in 1982 as an annual survey. Redesigned in 2003, the survey is a continuous survey providing quarterly results.

The survey covers private households in metropolitan France.

It includes part of the population living in collective households, persons who have family ties with private households.

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

The resident population comprises persons living on French metropolitan territory.

The household concept used is that of the 'dwelling household': a household means all persons living in the same dwelling. It may consist of a single person, or of two families living in the same dwelling.

Sampling plan

All 15 years old or more individuals in the household are surveyed.

All weeks of the year are reference weeks. Data collection is continuous. The quarterly sample is distributed among its 13 weeks.

The results are quarterly. Each quarter consists in 13 reference weeks. The sample is representative of the French population each quarter.

The sample of the new quarterly survey is made with geographical delimited areas (*aire*s). From a theoretical point of view, the sampling method consists in a stratification of Metropolitan France in 189 strata (21 French regions x 9 types of urban units), and a first stage sampling of areas in each stratum (with different probabilities, average sampling rate = 1/600). Areas contain about 20 dwellings, and among them only dwellings which are main residences are surveyed.

The base used for the sample is the Population Census of 1999. New dwellings (constructed between the date of the Census and the date of the survey) in the areas are listed by the surveyor at the time of the survey. If the area contains less than 10 new dwellings, all of them are surveyed ; if the area contains between 10 and 40 new dwellings, 10 of them are surveyed (srs) ; if the area contains more than 40 new dwellings, a quarter of them are surveyed (srs).

The sample unit is the dwelling: in each sampled area, every private household living in its main residence is surveyed.

The sample rate is about 1/600 for a given quarter. In the preceding annual survey, the sample rate was 1/300 for a given year.

Each quarter, about 54,000 dwellings are sampled. Among them, about 35,000 include at least one respondent, i.e. 75,000 persons 15 years old or more.

The stratification is crossing two criteria: French region (NUTS-2) and type of urban unit (21 regions x 9 types of urban unit).

Each area is surveyed six quarters consecutively. Each quarter, the sample contains 6 sub-samples: 1/6 of the sample is surveyed for the first time, 1/6 is surveyed for the second time, …, 1/6 is surveyed for the 6th (and last) time.

Weighting procedure

The expansion factor is the population totals (15 years old or more) less the estimated number of persons living in communities.

1. a correction for non-response is made, using several criteria: size of urban unity, number of rooms in the housing, type of housing (individual house, building…), number of new dwellings.

2. an adjustment with the population pyramid (at the middle of the quarter) by five-year age groups and gender is made for each sub-sample.

Data collection

The collection method is a face-to-face interview for the first and the last interrogations and a telephone interview for intermediate interrogations (2nd to 5th). The first interview lasts on average 15 minutes, the following ones 7 to 9 minutes.

About 620 interviewers work for the French LFS per quarter.

About 33% of the interviews were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 81.9%, with 23% of non-responses being due to refusals.

IRELAND (IE)

General

The Quarterly National Household Survey started in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (1983-1997). The survey is a continuous one, providing quarterly results. The quarters refer to the seasonal quarters, i.e. the winter quarter (1st quarter) refers to December of the previous year, January and February, and so on.

The population comprises persons who usually reside on Irish territory.

All the regions are covered.

Only private households are included.

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.

There is no specific legislation making it compulsory to provide information for the survey. Participation is therefore voluntary.

Sampling plan

A two-stage sample design is used. This comprises a first stage sample of 2,600 blocks (or small areas) selected at county level to proportionately represent eight strata reflecting population density. Each block was selected to contain, on average, 75 dwellings and the sample of blocks is fixed for a period of about five years. In the second stage of sampling, 15 households are surveyed in each block to give a total quarterly sample of 39,000 households with 3,000 households interviewed every week of the quarter.

The primary sampling units are stratified as follows:

1 County Boroughs

2 Suburbs of County Boroughs

3 Environs of County Boroughs

4 Towns 10,000 +

5 Towns 5,001 - 10,000

6 Towns 1,000 - 5,000

7 Mixed Urban/Rural Areas

8 Rural Areas

The base for the sampling frame is the 2002 Census of population.

Households are asked to take part in the survey for five consecutive quarters and are then replaced by other households in the same block. Thus, one fifth of the households in the survey are replaced each quarter and the QNHS sample involves an overlap of 80% between consecutive quarters and 20% between the same quarters in consecutive years.

Weighting procedure

The expansion factor is to population totals.

The survey results are weighted to agree with population estimates broken down by age (5 year age groups), sex and region (NUTS-3 regions). The estimates are calculated as follows:

1. The previous quarter's population estimate or census of population at regional level is used as the base population.

2. A quarter of this population is aged on by 1 year.

3. Births for the relevant period are added to each region – source = registered births.

4. Deaths for relevant period are subtracted from each region – source = registered deaths.

5. Net migration (inflows from other regions minus outflows to other regions plus inflows from abroad minus outflows to abroad) is added to each region – main source = Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS – formerly annual Labour Force Survey).

The result is the new population estimate at regional level.

Data collection

Interviews are carried out on a face-to-face basis with the help of portable computers (CAPI). All the information is obtained by interview.

The field staff comprises 140 interviewers plus 30 back-up interviewers.

40% of the interviews were carried out by authorised third parties.

The response rate in the spring quarter 2003 was 79.2%, with 16.6% of non-responses being due to refusals.

ITALY (IT)

General

The Italian Labour Force Survey was launched as a quarterly survey in 1959. Since the beginning of 2004 the survey is a continuous one, covering all weeks of the year. Survey results are produced and disseminated on quarterly bases. Professional status for every analysis unit in the sample is referred to a specific week (reference week), usually the one preceding the interview.

The new continuous survey has replaced the traditional quarterly survey with a single reference week per quarter, carried on until the end of 2003.

Participation in the survey is compulsory. All the regions are covered.

The resident population is that recorded in the population registers of Italian communes. Only private households are included. 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.

Sampling plan

In 2004 the quarterly sample size has been on average 67,932 households, giving an average survey rate of 0.3%.

The sample frame is a stratification of the primary units (municipalities) in each NUTS-2 (Region) based on the population of the municipality. The ultimate sampling units are the households and are drawn from municipal registers.

Stratification of the municipalities in each NUTS-2 region is based on the population of the communes.

The households are rotated according to a 2-(2)-2 rotation plan. Households are interviewed during two consecutive quarters. After a two-quarter interval, they are again interviewed twice in the corresponding two quarters of the following year. As a result, each household is included in four waves of the survey.

Weighting procedure

The estimates of the survey are obtained through a calibration estimator.

The procedure for working out the grossing weights is based on the solution of a minimisation problem under constraints, which requires the equalisation of the sampling estimates of certain auxiliary variables (in particular gender and age) with their respective total obtained from demographic estimates based on different sources.

The grossing weight is determined as follows:

- □ firstly, the base weighting factor is obtained as the inverse ratio of the probability of inclusion of any sample household;

- □ then, the correction factor for total non-response is worked out as the reciprocal of the response ratio for each strata;

- □ then, the correction factor that assures that the sample replies the same structure as the population, with regard to the distribution by sex and 5-year age groups at NUT 2 area and by sex and five age groups of different width at NUT 3 area, is finally determined.

This procedure is applied iteratively to ensure that all members of a given household have the same final weight.

Weighting factors are calculated on quarterly basis, whereas annual estimates are calculated as averages of quarterly estimates.

Data collection

The information is collected through computer assisted personal (CAPI) or telephone (CATI) interviews carried out by professional interviewers under ISTAT direct control.

36% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years in 2004 were by authorised third party.

Personal interviews, carried out by 310 professional interviewers under ISTAT direct control, concern 1st wave interviews, all interviews made in particular periods such as summer or Christmas holidays, 2nd, 3rd and 4th waves interviews to households with no telephone. Telephone interviews, carried out in service by about 120 professional interviewers, concern all other cases.

The response rate in 2004 has been on average 89.5% (90.2% for CAPI interviews, 87.9% for CATI ones), with approximately 12.5% of non-responses being due to refusals (23.1% for CAPI interviews, 8% for CATI ones).

CYPRUS (CY)

General

The Cypriot Labour Force Survey was launched in 1999 as an annual survey in the second quarter of the year. Starting with the second quarter 2004, the survey was redesigned as a continuous survey providing quarterly results.

The survey covers 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 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 2001. This list is updated by new enumerations every year.

The secondary sampling units (SSUs) are the dwelling units selected systematically from a list of all dwellings belonging to the selected PSUs. 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 1.54%.

Each sample consists of 6 waves, 5 of which are carried over from the previous quarter. Each household is interviewed 6 times 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 in wave 1 are collected with face-to-face interviews by 4 field workers using CAPI. Data in subsequent waves (2-6) are collected with telephone interviews by 7 interviewers using CATI. The response rate before substitution in the last three quarters of 2004 was 98.4%.

The number of proxy interviews of persons aged 15-74 years was 32% in 2004.

LATVIA (LV)

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 permanently residence in Latvia. Persons 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.

Two sampling frames are built for each sampling stage. At the first stage the list of Population census 2000 counting areas is used as sampling frame. All territory of Latvia was divided in small territories during the Population census 2000. The list contains information about the number of households in each counting area.

At the second stage sampling frame is built from The Population Register, statistical register of dwellings and statistical register of households.

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. The overall sampling rate is approximately 0.3%.

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. The design weights are adjusted using the data of response level in each PSU. These weights were then adjusted on the basis of demographic data. The breakdown into groups was various for adjustment of quarterly and yearly weights. Demographic data were broken down by degree of urbanisation (as in stratification), 14 age groups (0-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-74; over 75) and sex for adjustment of the quarterly weights. Demographic data were broken down by degree of urbanisation (as in stratification), NUTS-4 (33 units), 14 age groups (0-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-69; 70-74; over 75) and sex for adjustment of the yearly weights. All persons within the same household have equal initial weights, but the final weights tend to be diverse.

Data Collection

Data are collected throughout the year by 42 interviewers, with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires. 46% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were collected from authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 84.4% with 39% of the non-response due to refusals.

LITHUANIA (LT)

General

The Lithuanian LFS started in April 1994 as a semi-annual survey with one reference week in the second and fourth quarter each. Since the third quarter 2002 the survey has been 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 15 years and older living in private and collective households, including those who are temporarily abroad for a period of less than a year. The population also includes foreign nationals who have been living in Lithuania at least a year. An additional sample is selected and children under the age of 15 years since 2002.

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.

The sample is constructed as follows: having selected a simple random sample of the fixed number of persons of the sampling frame, the members of their households are also added. Even in case turned out that according to the address sampled, a part of people or all of them were not included into the list of the sample, all persons actually living at the address are interviewed. A cluster sample of persons is thus obtained. All the persons living at the address selected belong to the same cluster. The actual composition of the cluster is indicated by the interviewer when visiting 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 calculated taking into account the unequal selection probabilities of the households. These are then adjusted by the use of auxiliary information relating to population data on 10 NUTS-3 (counties) and the intersection of 13 age-groups, sex and urban/rural 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.

Data Collection

The first interview must be carried out face-to-face, while the subsequent interviews could be conducted according to the situation – by telephone or face-to-face. The interview normally takes place during the week immediately following the reference week but never later than the five weeks after the reference week. The interview is on the average about 20 minutes in the first interview and shorter in the subsequent interviews. If the target persons selected to the sample cannot be reached, a proxy may by used on certain conditions.

The field staff comprises 130 interviewers. The average response rate in 2004 was 88.9%, with 21% of non-response due to refusals.

Approximately 46% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were by proxy.

LUXEMBOURG (LU)

General

In 2003, a new survey design was launched for the Luxembourg LFS, which is characterized by continuous data collection by telephone interviews, replacing the annual survey in the spring from 1983.

The survey yields annual results as average of the whole year. The resident population comprises persons registered as residing in one of the communes.

There is no specific legislation making it compulsory to provide information for the survey. Participation is therefore voluntary.

The survey covers only private households.

The household is defined as persons living in the same household, other than subtenants and military personnel returning home at the weekend.

The demographic part of the questionnaire is submitted to all the household members. But only the 15-74 years old should be interviewed for the rest of questionnaire.

Sampling plan

Single stage stratified random sample

The Central Population Register (RGPP) is used to draw the sample. The strata result from the crossing of the canton and the household size class. There are 13 cantons in Luxembourg. The household size is divided into 4 classes: 1, 2, 3, and 4+. So, the product of the number of cantons (13) and the number of size classes (4) gives 52 strata.

The sampling unit are the households. All the individuals included in the aforementioned households are considered as targets of the survey.

A yearly sample is drawn and spread over 52 weeks. The households are randomly chosen by proportional allocation in each stratum, with the exception of under-populated strata, but with the constraint that its yearly minimum size be at least 48 households.

The sample size is 23,463 households, corresponding to a yearly sampling rate of 10.45%.

In 2004 6,399 households from previous year's sample were incorporated in the 2004 sample and spread over the last 3 quarters of the year.

Weighting procedure

The initial household weight is the inverse of the selection probability in each stratum. According to the general sharing weight method, all the individuals of the same household have the same weight.

1. A calibration is performed with CALMAR macro of INSEE-France for correcting the non-response. Among many variables like region (merger of cantons), household class size, age of reference person and citizenship of reference person, we try to find out, by logistic regression, by how much they account for the non-response phenomenon. These variables were selected: canton, size of household, and age of the reference person. Its purpose is to make the distribution of these variables in the sampling frame and in the set of respondents agree. Three "regions" are determined by grouping some cantons: North, Centre and South. The following classes are used for the age: 0-38, 39-49, 50-64, 65+. This calibration is implemented at the household level.

2. A final adjustment is carried out for getting more accurate estimates of the variables of interest. It consists in making the most recent distribution of sex * age class * citizenship in the population agree with the distribution of the same variables in the set of respondents. The following age classes are used: 0-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-39, 40-54, 55-64, 65+. This calibration is implemented at the person level.

Data collection

The sample is divided into 52 reference weeks. Once a year, each selected household should be interviewed within 3 weeks from the reference week. All the interviews are carried out by telephone. One interview (covering the core variables as well as the ad hoc module variables) lasts in average 10 to 15 minutes per interviewed person.

In 2004, 52% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years old were carried out by authorised third parties.

The response rate is 33.4%, with 23% of non-responses being due to refusals.

HUNGARY (HU)

General

The Hungarian Labour Force Survey started in 1992 as a quarterly survey, producing monthly results for some indicators since May 1998. In 2003 the survey was redesigned as a continuous survey. Each month three weeks are surveyed.

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 common consumption with the surveyed household. The institutional and unsettled population is excluded, as well as conscripts. Demographic information is collected on persons younger than 15 years and older than 74 years.

Sampling Plan

From 2003 on the LFS sample is a two-stage stratified sample of dwellings based on the 2001 Population and Housing Census. The sampling frame is the dataset of all addresses used in that census; the terms "dwelling" and "address" may (and will) be used as equivalents.

The sample includes 662 localities, of which 126 are self-representative and the rest are non-self-representative. At national level, self-representative localities are those which have at least 3,975 dwellings (i.e. approximately 5,000 inhabitants), while all other localities are non-self-representative. The former are all included in the sample with certainty, while a stratified (sub-)sample is selected from the latter with probability proportional to size (PPS). In the case of non-self-representative localities, design strata are defined as cross-classes of four size categories and 19 administrative units (counties). In the case of non-self-representing localities, the primary sampling units (PSUs) are localities, and the secondary (and ultimate) sampling units are dwellings. By contrast, the PSUs are dwellings in the case of self-representing localities, thus sampling has actually only one stage in this case.

The final sampling units are dwellings in each case. They are selected with systematic random sampling from lists of addresses belonging to the sampled localities. Prior to selection, the lists are properly sorted for the purpose of implicit stratification. As a result, the different parts of the localities (downtown areas, suburbs, etc.) will be properly represented. All households residing in the selected dwelling units are surveyed.

The overall sampling fraction is 0.9%, yielding approximately 37,100 dwellings per quarter.

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

Weighting Procedure

At the first stage, design (or design based) weights are determined. For any stratum of the sample, the unique design weight is defined as the ratio of the total number of dwellings in the stratum to that in the sub-sample for that stratum. Some adjustments are also included at this stage.

At the second stage, calibrated weights are determined with the method of generalized raking. For each of the 20 geographical units (i.e. the capital city and the 19 counties), the calibration variables or controls are the following:

☐ totals for age-sex groups (2x10 totals),

☐ total number of households,

☐ total resident population in cities with at least 50,000 inhabitants.

The calibration is organized so that the members in any sample households have the same calibrated weight as the household.

Method of deriving controls: demographic components method combined with census-based proportions.

Data Collection

Data are collected throughout the year by some 419 field workers on the average using paper questionnaires. The first interview is face-to-face, while the repeated interviews are when feasible carried out by telephone. Interviews are done during the week immediately following the reference week.

The average response rate in 2004 was 87.8% with 30% of the non-response due to refusals.

In 2004, 43% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were collected from authorised third parties.

MALTA (MT)

General

The Maltese Labour Force Survey started in 2000 providing quarterly results from 2001. The survey was redesigned as a quarterly continuous survey in 2004. At the same time a new sampling frame was introduced.

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

Participation in the survey is obligatory.

The survey covers private households, including people who are temporarily absent from the usual place of residence.

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 systematic random sample of households from the Household Register - Water Services Corporation Database.

The sample is 2,500 households per quarter, with an effective sampling rate of 2%.

The sample consists of two panels. All the households that responded in the first wave are chosen for the second panel.

Weighting Procedure

A *posteriori stratification* at one level was performed by sex, age-group and district. This allows the tabulation of estimates on national and district levels. The totals are benchmarked to Census Population Totals.

For weighting procedures, NUTS-4 is used, and age groups consist of the ages between 0-15, 16-24, 25-34, 35-54, 55-64 and 65+ years.

Data Collection

Data are collected with face-to-face or telephone interviews by 60 interviewers. All persons in the household aged 15 years and over are interviewed.

The average response rate in 2004 was 78.4% with 16% of the non-response due to refusals, and 84% due to non contacts.

In 2004, 48% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were carried out by authorised third parties.

NETHERLANDS (NL)

General

The Dutch Labour Force Survey started in 1987 as an annual survey. In 2000 it was redesigned as a continuous quarterly survey.

The survey covers only private households.

The year is divided into quarters of 13 weeks: January to March, April to June, July to September and October to December. For each of these periods, the reference weeks are distributed uniformly over the 13 weeks.

There is no specific legislation making it compulsory to provide information for the survey. Participation is therefore voluntary.

The resident population comprises persons residing in the Netherlands.

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

Sampling plan

The survey base is a list of all addresses drawn up by the postal services in combination with the Population Register. All institutions are eliminated from the sample. The file also contains

information on the number of letterboxes at each address (mailing addresses), which are used as sampling units.

The sampling plan is a three stage stratified probability sample of addresses:

(a) primary sampling units: the municipalities;

(b) secondary sampling units: mailing addresses;

(c) tertiary sampling units: households.

Municipalities are selected with a probability proportional to their population. All municipalities with a population of more than 18,000 persons (of which there are about 200), are permanently represented in the survey.

Mailing addresses are selected systematically out of a mailing list sorted by postal code. At addresses with more than one letterbox, all letterboxes appear in the list. If a selected mailing address includes only one household, this household is questioned. If the address includes more than one household, only half of the households are questioned, with a maximum of three households. This makes it possible to increase the effectiveness of the survey. Sixty-six strata are defined using cross-classification based on 40 '*Corop*' regions and 18 employment-exchange regions.

Weighting procedure

A posteriori stratification in two stages is applied, using independent demographic information. A linear weighting method in which each member of the household has the same weight is used. Four *a posteriori* stratifications are used:

- first, a detailed breakdown by age and sex,

- secondly, a broad breakdown by age and sex and a detailed breakdown by ethnic background,

- third, a broad breakdown by age and sex and marital status,

- finally, a detailed breakdown by region and a broad breakdown by age and sex.

The weights are benchmarked to the population totals without the institutional population.

Data collection

Interviews in the first wave are carried out face-to-face with the help of portable computers (CAPI). Interviews in the next four waves are carried out by telephone (CATI). The field staff comprises 220 CAPI and 95 CATI interviewers.

The response rate in 2004 was approximately 64%.

In 2004, 47% of the interviews of 15-74 years old persons were by proxy.

AUSTRIA (AT)

General

The Austrian Labour Force Survey started in 1995 as an annual survey in March. In 2004 the LFS in Austria was redesigned as a continuous, quarterly survey, covering all weeks of the year. The changes also concern the sampling frame, the sampling size, the sampling plan, the rotation scheme and the questionnaire.

Only the population in private households is included in the European Union Labour Force Survey. Participation in the survey is compulsory.

The resident population comprises persons who have their main residence on Austrian territory during the reference week.

A private household is made up of all people actually living in a dwelling, independently registered in this dwelling or not.

Sampling plan

The survey base is the Central Population Register.

The sampling design is a stratified single random sample from the sampling frame, with each "Bundesland" forming a stratum.

The sampling unit is the dwelling with at least one person with main residence. All the people in the selected dwellings are surveyed.

The overall survey rate is 0.6%, which gives a sample of about 22,700 households.

A rotation system comprising 5 waves is used. Each dwelling is kept in the sample for five quarters and one-fifth of the sample is replaced each quarter.

Weighting procedure

The weights are calculated in two steps. In the first step for each record a basic weight which depends on the stratum is calculated. In the second step the weights are adjusted in such a manner that the resulting distribution is in accordance to the population within the federal provinces (*Bundesländer*). These figures correspond to the population with main residence at the beginning of each quarter minus persons in institutional households calculated by age-, sex- and nationality specific rates based on Census results 2001. The variables which are used for adjusting the data for each Bundesland are age and sex on the one side and nationality on the other side and furthermore household size. Age is grouped by 5 year age groups up to 85 years, except for children aged 0 - 2 and 3 - 4 years are weighted separately. Nationality groups are citizenship of Austria, Turkey and Ex-Yugoslavia, EU 14, others. Each member of the household has the same weight.

Data collection

Data is collected with face-to-face interviews using paper and pencil in the first wave (PAPI) and mostly computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) in the second to fifth wave.

The field staff comprises 140 PAPI and 80 CATI interviewers.

The average response rate in 2004 was 80.2% with 9.6% of the non-response due to refusals.

Approximately 43% of the interviews with persons aged 15-74 years were carried out by authorised third parties (interviewing other adult members of the household).

POLAND (PL)

General

The Polish Labour Force Survey started in May 1992 as a quarterly survey, using data collection in one reference week per quarter. Since the 4th quarter 1999 the survey covered all weeks of the year.

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 old 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 alone 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 selected PSUs stratified by size of the municipality. This corresponds to 0.14% overall sampling rate.

The sample is divided into four sub-samples, subject to 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 dwelling units, i.e., the reciprocals of the selection probabilities for the final sampling units in each stratum. Secondly, the weighted response rates are calculated for sampling units stratified *a posteriori* by six place-of-residence categories. Thirdly, the initial weights are adjusted by the response rates. The final step consists of modifying the adjusted weights using the population estimates *stratified a posteriori* by the urban-rural division, sex and 12 age groups (15-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+).

Data Collection

The data are collected by 813 field workers with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires. Repeated interviews are sometimes carried out by telephone.

The average response rate in 2004 was 80.2%, with 58% of the non-response due to refusals.

Approximately 40% of the interviews are by proxy.

PORTUGAL (PT)

General

The Portuguese LFS started in 1983 as a quarterly survey. Since 1998, the survey is a continuous one yielding quarterly results.

All the geographical territory of Portugal is covered, i.e. mainland, Madeira and the Azores.

Only private dwellings are covered, although the survey also covers part of the population living in collective dwellings and who represent a potential for the labour market, insofar as they have family links with the private dwellings (national servicemen or students).

Participation in the survey is compulsory (in accordance with Law No 6/89, *Sistema Estatistico Nacional*, of April 1989).

The resident population consists of individuals residing in a private dwelling during the reference week. Individuals who are absent for short periods of time and not occupying another dwelling permanently are also included.

A private dwelling is made up either of persons living alone or of 2 or more persons, whether or not they are of the same family, who usually occupy the same dwelling and share a common budget.

Sampling plan

From 2003 to 2004 there were a change of frames in the Portuguese LFS. In order to avoid a break in the series, this change has been implemented progressively. It started in the first quarter of 2003 and the LFS sample was constituted by 5/6 selected from the Master Sample 1996 (MS1996) and 1/6 from the Master Sample 2001(MS2001). In each quarter, 1/6 of the sample was replaced, thus the sample was fully selected from the MS2001 in the second quarter of 2004.

Therefore the 2004 LFS sample is a sub-sample of the MS1996 and MS2001 which are described as follows.

The MS1996 was designed and selected using the results of the '1989 Electoral Census' and the 'Geographical Spatial Reference Framework' used for the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. The MS is a cluster sample with a two-stage design with the selection of '*freguesias*' in the first stage and the selection of '*secções*' (sections) in the second stage. The MS1996 consists of 1,143 '*secções*' and it is representative at the level 2 of the NUTS.

The MS2001 is a stratified one-stage cluster sample constituted by private dwellings from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. In each stratum (NUTS-3) the clusters were selected systematically with probability proportional to size (number of private dwellings of usual residence). The sampling frames for the MS2001 are the Census 2001 data and the BGRI-Geographic Information Referencing Base (geographical referencing system supported by digital topographic mapping and aerial photographs, containing the limits of administrative divisions and statistical divisions). The MS2001 consists of 1,408 'areas' and it is representative at the level 3 of the NUTS.

After the selection of the geographical areas (primary units) of the MS2001 the LFS sample of private dwellings (secondary units) were selected sequentially in two systematic blocs.

All the persons living in the same dwelling are interviewed. Despite the survey being directed to the households, the dwellings are the sampling units.

A rotation system comprising six waves is used. Houses are kept in the sample for six consecutive

quarters before being replaced by an identical number of houses in the same statistical section. One-sixth of the sample is replaced each quarter.

Due to the change of the sampling frames, the sample size was between 22,201 dwellings in the first quarter of 2004 and 22,554 dwellings in the second to fourth quarter, which represents a survey rate of approximately 0.6%.

Weighting procedure

The weight is derived as the product of a design weight (which incorporates design information and non-response) and a factor that calibrates the sample to the independent demographic estimates (using *a posteriori* stratification method by NUTS-2, sex and 5-year age groups; NUTS-3 (or groups of NUTS-3) by six age groups; and NUTS-3 (or groups of NUTS-3) by sex).

Data collection

Interviews are carried out on a face-to-face basis with the help of portable computers (CAPI). All information is obtained by interview.

The field staff comprises 170 interviewers.

46% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 89.3%, with 12% of non-responses being due to refusals.

SLOVENIA (SI)

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 of the Republic of Slovenia.

The sampling method is a two-phased stratified systematic random sampling of households. The first phase consists of a stratified systematic random sample of individuals aged 18+ from the sampling frame, leading to addresses of households. In the second phase, all members of the household of the selected individual are included.

Each quarter app. 7,300 households are in the sample, corresponding to an overall sampling rate of 1%.

Strata are defined by NUTS-3 (12) and type of settlement, defined according to the settlement size and proportion of farmers (6). Stratum allocation is proportional to the population distribution, but adjusted by previous non-response rates by stratum.

Each household is interviewed five times according to the rotation pattern 3-(1)-2.

Weighting Procedure

In the first step the data is weighted for unequal probability of selection and for non-response. Next, the post-stratification is performed according to the known population distribution: age (0-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+), sex and region (NUTS-3 level). The post-stratification is done on individual level (members of the same household thus receive different weights) and benchmarked to population totals. Institutional population is included in population totals.

Data Collection

The data are collected by approximately 30 field workers with face-to-face interviews using electronic questionnaires and 10 telephone interviewers. All repeated interviews are carried out by telephone if the household has a telephone. Repeated interviews in the households without telephone are done face-to-face.

The average response rate in 2004 was 86.1% with 63% of the non-response due to refusals.

Approximately 57% of the interviews are carried out by authorised third parties.

SLOVAKIA (SK)

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.

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

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 sampling design is a stratified two-stage probability sampling of dwelling units, using the Census of Population 2001 as the basis for the sampling.

The strata are formed by (79) districts, which correspond to the NUTS-4 level.

The primary sampling units (PSU) correspond to the Census Administrative Units. These are

selected at the first sampling stage in each district with probability proportional to the district's population size. Each PSU can be selected more than once.

At the second stage, five dwelling units are selected from each instance of the PSU using a simple random sampling method.

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 the survey for all persons participating in the survey were weighted by administrative data on total population (including institutional population) as of 1 January 2004 by region, sex and age group.

Extrapolation to the population is done at the level of individuals. The sample size is about 24,500 persons (aged 15 and over). The population and the sample are the subject of a post-stratification by NUTS-3 administrative region (8 regions altogether), sex and five-year age group (15-19, 20-24, ..., 70-74, 75+). In each of the strata thus obtained the weight w_i is assigned to each person in the sample:

$$w_i = \frac{N_i}{n_i}$$

where

N_i - the number of persons in stratum *i* of population (age 15+)

n_i - the number of persons in stratum *i* of the sample (age 15+).

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 51 interviewers. The average response rate in 2004 was 92.5% with 82% of the non-response due to refusals.

The average percentage of proxy interviews in 2004 for persons aged 15-74 years was 62%.

FINLAND (FI)

General

The Finnish Labour Force Survey started in 1959, adapted to the ILO concepts in 1989. The survey is a monthly survey with the reference weeks distributed uniformly throughout the month. The data for the first two months of the each quarter are estimated on the basis of 4 survey weeks and data for the third month on the basis of 5 survey weeks.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

The whole country and the Autonomous Territory of the Åland Islands are covered, as well as both private and collective households.

The target population contains population aged 15 to 74 who are registered as permanently resident in Finland, including those who are temporarily abroad for a period of less than a year, members of the armed forces, and institutional population. The population also includes foreign nationals who have been living in Finland for at least a year or intend to do so.

As Eurostat needs information about the total population, an additional sample is selected of persons aged over 75 years. They are not interviewed but their register data are included in the response database on a quarterly basis for Eurostat purposes. The data for persons aged less than 15 years is included in the household sample. They, however, do not belong to the target population.

A household consists of persons who live, share meals or otherwise use their income together.

Sampling plan

The sampling design used in Finland is stratified systematic sampling of elements, having as a sampling frame the total population database maintained by Statistics Finland. It is based on the Population Information System of The Population Register Centre and updated regularly. The population of individuals is divided into strata. The strata are formed according to NUTS-1 regions with over-sampling from the Autonomous Territory of the Åland Islands.

The sampling unit is the individual. The sample comprises 12,000 persons per month, or 36,000 persons per quarter corresponding to a survey rate of 0.9% over the quarter.

In each stratum systematic random selection is applied to the frame sorted according to the domicile code which yields implicit geographic stratification. So far no indication of selection bias due to systematic sampling has been encountered, so the selection procedure can be approximated by simple random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR).

The sample for the household-based study was based on the individuals who participated in the last wave of the current study design of the continuous Community LFS in 2004. Household members were interviewed throughout the year 2004. The reference person was interviewed as usually in the continuous survey. After that the composition of household was checked and persons aged 15 or more were interviewed.

Because the continuous survey sample frame only includes persons aged 15 to 74 years, a separate sample of dwelling units was drawn to correct the frame for elderly persons. A technical sample of persons aged 75 or more was added to the file of the fifth wave after data collection. This technical sample corrects the sampling frame, which in the continuous LFS is limited to persons aged 15 to 74 years. However, this technical part of the sample was not interviewed. Instead, data was imputed assuming that persons aged 75 or more are outside the labour force together with data available from administrative files.

Thus, in the LFS sample there are two sets of persons aged 75 or older for all four quarters of the year 2004. One part is coming from the household interviews and the second part from the technical sample of households (dwelling units), where all persons were aged 75 or more, added to the file after data collection. The data in this part was imputed to be outside the labour force and for them only the data available from administrative files were incorporated. The technical sample is needed, because the original LFS sample does not include households, where all persons are aged 75 years or more

Respondents are questioned always in the same month of the quarter at quarterly intervals for 3 successive quarters and then, after skipping one quarter, for 2 further consecutive quarters. This corresponds to a quarterly rotation pattern of 3-(1)-2. Retired persons aged 65-74 were interviewed only every second quarter, with responses for the times skipped supplied from the preceding interview.

Weighting procedure

A. Two phase weighting of individuals

Phase 1 - Post-stratified weights: The strata are now constructed by gender, age (6 categories: 15-24, 25-34, etc.) and region (21 categories consisting of the regions on NUTS-3 and the Greater Helsinki area), totalling 252 cells.

Phase 2 - Calibrated weights: Subsequently the post-stratified weights are calibrated according to gender, age group (5-year), region, reference week and register-based job-seeker status taken from an administrative register maintained by Ministry of Labour. The register indicator is further divided into three categories according to the length of being unemployed in the register: 0-180 days, 181-360 days and over 360 days. Additionally four indicators, which tell if the respondent is included in the unemployed job-seekers register but not actually unemployed at the time of measurement. These persons may, e.g., be in some type of education to improve their employability. For practical reasons the register counts were selected for the last day of each month for use with the next month's LFS data.

B. Weighting of the sub-sample of households

Post-stratified weights: The post-stratified weights were calculated separately for the household sample part and the technical sample of households (all persons in the household who were aged 75 or more).

a) Post-stratified weights for the household sample were adjusted corresponding to the population numbers of the survey quarter in the age groups 15-74 years by regional post-strata (21 categories consisting of the regions on NUTS level 3 and the Greater Helsinki area).

b) Post-stratified weights for the technical sample of households (all persons in the household who were aged 75 or more) were adjusted corresponding to the population numbers of the survey quarter in the age 75 or more by gender post-strata.

The combined post-stratified weights were composed from these two parts.

Data collection

The Labour Force Survey is a computer-aided telephone interview using decentralized computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Interviews are carried out in Finnish, Swedish and English. Demographic information (sex, year of birth, marital status, nationality) and level of education, training and the year of completion are variables obtained from administrative sources (population register, register of completed education and degrees).

The field staff comprises 150 interviewers.

8.7% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years old were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate was 84.1% in 2004 with 64% of the non-responses being due to refusals.

SWEDEN (SE)

General

The Swedish Labour Force Survey started in 1959, with a quarterly survey starting in 1963 and a monthly survey in 1970. From 1999, the reference weeks are distributed uniformly throughout the year and the survey provides monthly, quarterly and annual results.

Participation in the survey is voluntary.

Through sampling of individuals persons living in both private and collective households are covered. Persons living in a collective household are also recorded in the central population register and are therefore sampled as well as persons living in private households.

The resident population for the purposes of the survey comprises persons between the ages of 15 and 74 who are domiciled in Sweden according to the population register.

A household is either a person that lives alone or persons that live together and share household expenses.

Sampling plan

The sampling design is a single stage stratified systematic probability sampling of individuals.

The sampling frame is Statistics Sweden's Register of the Total Population with auxiliary information retrieved from the following registers:

Register of the total population (RTB): Information of sex, age, region (county) and citizenship is used.

Annual employment register (RAMS): Information on employment or not according to RAMS is used. RAMS is a statistical register with information on employment for the total population. The register is based on six other administrative registers where the main source is a register of income from employment with a link between the employer and the employee. The register is primarily used for taxation purposes. The reference period for RAMS is November and the register is available to use about 14-15 month after the reference period. The conceptual definition of employment in RAMS is persons who have had work corresponding to on the average at least one hour a week during November.

The sample is drawn at the end of the first quarter every year to cover the coming year's need of sample persons. When the sample is drawn it is stratified according to county, sex, citizenship (Swedish, foreign), and employment (employed, not employed) as appears in the Register of Regional Employment. In this way 192 strata are constructed. Within each stratum then population is ordered by age, and a systematic probability sample is drawn. The sampling differs from different regions according to NUTS-3 and between Swedish and non-Swedish citizens. Within regions and each of the two citizen groups the sample size is directly proportional to stratum size.

The inclusion probability for individual k on a certain survey occasion is calculated approximately as:

$$\pi_k = \frac{n_{h_j}}{N_{h_j}}, \text{ where}$$

   n_{h_j} = The number of individuals in the sample that belong to sample stratum h and to the year's sample j.

   N_{h_j} = The number of individuals in the age group 16-64 in sample stratum h at sample selection occasion j.

Every month about 20,000 persons are included in the sample.

The LFS sample consists of three separate samples, one for each month in the quarter. Each of the sub-samples is rotated in such a way that an eighth leaves the sample between two survey cycles. For every sample this occurs every three months. Persons in sample are interviewed once a quarter with a total of eight interviews during a two-year period, after which they leave the sample.

Weighting procedure

The estimates build on two regression estimators (GREG) with two different types of auxiliary information. The first GREG estimator is used in the estimation of the number of unemployed and subgroups of unemployed. The estimator (GREG I) makes use of auxiliary information from RTB and the register of persons seeking work from the National Labour Market Board.

The second GREG estimator (GREG II) is used in the estimation of the number of employed and subgroups thereof. The GREG II estimator makes use of auxiliary information from RTB and the register on employment, RAMS.

The estimator is a generalised regression estimator (GREG) briefly described below:

From a given sample design we have a sample s with a sample size A part r *of size* are respondents. A GREG estimator for a total, based on data from this sample is:

$$\hat{t}_y = \sum_r w_k y_k$$

where

$\hat{t}_y$ = Estimate of a total, e.g. number of employed

$$y_k = \begin{cases} 1 = \text{If the individual has the characteristic in question} \\ 0 = \text{Otherwise} \end{cases}$$

w_k = Final weight

$w_k = g_k \times d_k$,

$d_k = 1/(\pi_k \hat{\theta}_k)$ = Design weight with respect to the non response.

π_k = Inclusion probability for individual k

$\hat{\theta}_k$ = The estimated probability of being a respondent for individual k, $\hat{\theta}_k = \dfrac{m_h}{n_h}$ when k belongs to stratum h.

$$g_k = 1 + (\mathbf{t}_x - \hat{\mathbf{t}}_x)' \left[\sum_r \frac{\mathbf{x}_k \mathbf{x}'_k q_k}{\pi_k \hat{\theta}_k} \right]^{-1} \mathbf{x}_k q_k$$ .Correction factor by using the auxiliary information

$\mathbf{x}_k = (x_{1k}, \ldots, x_{jk}, \ldots x_{Jk})'$ is a vector for auxiliary information of length J.

 is a known constant.

$\mathbf{t}_x = (t_{x1}, \ldots, t_{xj}.., t_{xJ})$ is a vector of length J consisting of known register totals.

$\mathbf{\hat{t}}_x = (\hat{t}_{x1},...,\hat{t}_{xj}..,\hat{t}_{xJ})$ is a vector of estimates of the elements in vector $\mathbf{t}_x$. Where the estimate of a given element is given by:

$$\hat{t}_x = \sum_r d_k x_k$$

The variance for is estimated as

$$\hat{V}(\hat{t}_{yGREG}) = \sum\sum_r \frac{\pi_{kl}\hat{\theta}_{kl} - \pi_k\hat{\theta}_k\pi_l\hat{\theta}_l}{\pi_{kl}\hat{\theta}_{kl}} w_k e_k w_l e_l$$

where

π_{kl} is the second order inclusion probability,

$\hat{\theta}_{kl}$ is the estimated probability that k and l belongs to r (i.e. the respondents), $\hat{\theta}_{kl} = \frac{m_h}{n_h}\frac{m_h-1}{n_n-1}$,

$k \neq l$ and

$$e_k = y_k - \mathbf{\hat{B}}' \mathbf{x}_k, \quad \mathbf{B} = \left(\sum_r \frac{\mathbf{x}_k \mathbf{x}_k' q_k}{\pi_k\hat{\theta}_k}\right)^{-1} \sum_r \frac{\mathbf{x}_k y_k q_k}{\pi_k\hat{\theta}_k}$$

The estimation method is to be found in "The Sampling- and the Estimation Procedure in the Swedish Labour Force Survey" by Hassan Mirza and Jan Hörngren (R&D report 2002:4, Statistics Sweden).

Data collection

The information is, for the most part, collected in telephone interviews by Statistics Sweden's interviewers. Interviews are conducted using computer assisted telephone technology and techniques. Personal interviews are conducted when the respondent cannot be reached by telephone. Less than 0.5% of all interviews are conducted face-to-face.

The field staff comprises about 200 interviewers.

In 2004, 2.9% of the interviews of persons 15-74 years old were proxy interviews.

The average response rate in 2004 was 83.5%, with approximately 40% of non-responses being due to refusals.

UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

General

The survey started in 1973 as a biennial survey (not using the ILO definition of unemployment). It was redesigned in 1984 as an annual survey and from 1992 as a continuous, quarterly survey.

The survey covers private households and includes persons who are temporarily absent. Students living in university accommodation (e.g. halls of residence) are sampled via their parents living in private households. In Great Britain, an additional sample is drawn to cover persons living in National Health Service/Hospital Trust accommodation.

The UK LFS is a voluntary survey.

The resident population comprises persons who regard the sample address as their main address. Persons who have lived in a dwelling for more than six consecutive months are considered a member of the resident population, even if they do not regard this as their principal dwelling. Persons absent for more than six months are not regarded as a member of the resident population.

A private household comprises one or more persons whose main residence is the same dwelling and/or who share at least one meal per day. Students aged 16 + who live in a collective household but who return to their parents for the holidays are also regarded as being a member of their parents' household.

The year is divided into quarters of 13 weeks: winter (December to February), spring (March to May useful for results at EU level), summer (June to August) and autumn (September to November). For each of these periods, the reference weeks are distributed uniformly over the 13 weeks.

Sampling plan

The sampling design is a stratified single stage systematic (single random in NI) probability sampling.

The survey unit is the postal address (the telephone number in the far north of Scotland). For most of Great Britain, the survey base is the Royal Mail's PAF (Postcode Address File), a database of all addresses receiving mail. The list is limited to addresses receiving fewer than 50 items of post per day, in order to exclude businesses. Because of the very low population density in the far north of Scotland (north of the Caledonian Canal), interviews are carried out exclusively by telephone with telephone directories being used as sampling frames. In Northern Ireland, the *Rating and Valuation Lists* (which serves for the administration of land taxes) is used.

Most of Great Britain constitutes one stratum, while the far north of Scotland forms a separate stratum and Northern Ireland three strata: Belfast and eastern and western Northern Ireland.

In Great Britain, a systematic sample is drawn each quarter from the three sampling bases, using a sampling interval of 1440 units. This yields 16,600 PAF addresses, 75 telephone numbers for the north of Scotland and 25 units of National Health Service housing. As the PAF is broken down geographically, the systematic sampling produces a pseudo-stratification effect which ensures that the sample is representative at regional level. In Northern Ireland, a simple random sample is drawn each quarter from each of the three strata, giving 650 addresses in all.

The sample design currently consists of about 55,000 responding households in Great Britain every quarter, representing about 0.1% of the GB population. A sample of approximately 2,000 responding households in Northern Ireland is added to this, representing 0.1% of the NI population, allowing United Kingdom analyses to be made.

A rotation system comprising five waves is used. Respondents are questioned 5 times at 13-week intervals and one-fifth of the sample is replaced each quarter.

Weighting procedure

The adjustment procedure is based on a three-stage *a posteriori* stratification. In each case, estimates are based on independent demographic estimates.

(a) The stratification variable for the first stage is the *Local Authority District or Unitary Authority*. This stage makes it possible to make adjustments for different rates of non-response in the various local authority areas and ensures that the results are geographically representative.

(b) The second-stage variables are sex and age group (0-15, each year of age in the 16-24 group and 25 +). This stratification is intended to ensure that the age profile of the 16-24 year olds is correct at national level.

(c) The variables in the third stage are region, sex and 5-year age group.

The three stages are applied by means of an iterative procedure designed to ensure that the estimates are consistent with the stratification variable sets.

Data collection

Interviews are carried out on a face-to-face basis with the help of portable computers (CAPI) for the interviews in the first wave. In the far north of Scotland (north of the Caledonian Canal) and for interviews in the second to fifth waves wherever possible, interviews are carried out by telephone (CATI). All information is obtained by interview.

Results for respondents who are not contacted and circumstantial refusals in waves 2 to 5 are carried forward from the previous wave if an interview has been carried out in the previous wave. Imputation is however carried out only once.

The field staff comprises 650 telephone and face-to-face interviewers.

33.6% of the interviews of persons aged 16-74 years were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 73.6%, with 68% of non-responses being due to refusals.

BULGARIA (BG)

General

The survey started in 1993, providing quarterly results from 2000 based on a single reference week in the last month of the quarter. In 2003 the survey was redesigned as a continuous Labour Force Survey, providing quarterly results.

The survey covers the whole country. Only private households are included. Persons, living in student hostels or in workers' hostels are treated as private households.

All households, covered in the sample, are surveyed within three months with the reference period evenly spread throughout 12 weeks of the quarter.

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 Labour force survey is based on two-stage stratified cluster sample. Clusters at the first stage are the enumeration districts and at the second stage - households. With probability proportional to the population in the districts 2,250 enumeration districts are selected, within which eight households are sampled with systematic selection method.

The sample consists of three independent sub-samples of enumeration districts for each month of a quarter. The households from each of these sub-samples are evenly spread through the 4 weeks in a month. Each month, 6,000 households in 750 enumeration districts are observed, e.g. 1,500 households per week.

The sample is stratified by districts (28 administrative districts at NUTS-3 level), crossing with urban/rural area.

The base for the LFS sample is provided by 2001 Population Census. The enumeration districts and households in the sample have been selected from the list roll of enumeration districts and households prepared during the March 2001 Population Census.

The sample unit is the household. In total 18,000 households are sampled each quarter, corresponding to an overall sampling rate of 0.6%.

A 2-(2)-2-rotation pattern is used. According to the rotation scheme (applied since March 1996) half of the households (4 in each enumeration district) stay in the sample for two consecutive quarters. Respondents are interviewed in two consecutive quarters, then temporarily are removed for the next two quarters and enter again for the following two quarters afterwards being definitely removed from the survey.

Weighting procedure

The current population estimates as of 31 December the preceding year are used for weighting the results from the labour force survey. These data do not exclude institutional population, although it is not covered by the survey. Data obtained by the survey are post-stratified by 28 districts, urban/rural areas, sex and 4 age groups (0-14, 15-24, 25-49 and 50 years and over). All persons in each of these 448 strata have the same weight. The weight is calculated by dividing the population in each stratum by the number of interviewed persons in the same stratum.

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 460 interviewers (incl. those working part-time on LFS) who are mainly the staff of the regional offices of NSI.

In 2004, 41.9% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were by proxy.

The average response rate in 2004 was 84.0% with 23% of the non-response due to refusals.

CROATIA (HR)

General

The Labour Force Survey in Croatia was carried out for the first time in November 1996 and in June 1997. Since 1998 the survey is carried out every month when a part of the total sampled households is interviewed. Data are processed and published for each half-year period.

Only private households are surveyed and participation is voluntary.

The reference week for the LFS is the last week of the each month which does not contain public holidays.

The Labour Force Survey covers the whole country since 2000. (Before 2000 the sample frame used was the one based on data from Census 1991 and in this period the parts of Croatian territory with still ongoing war operations at the time when survey was prepared, could not be included in the sample frame.

The target population comprises all persons who usually reside in Croatia or intend to stay in Croatia for at least 12 months.

Household is a small economic group of persons that is usually, although not always, the group of relatives living together and sharing costs of living (housing, food, etc.).

Sampling Plan

The sampling is in two stages. First stage sampling frame is a list of area units called segments. Segments are created from one or more neighbouring 2001 population census areas and they do not cross borders of municipalities. Second stage sampling frame is a list of 2001 population census dwellings within selected segments. Dwellings on sampling frame are dwelling in which one or more private households have been found in Population census 2001. All members of all private households in dwellings are interviewed.

Segments are selected by PPS systematic sampling, where measure of size of segment is number of private households in segment according to Population census 2001. They are used for whole year 2004. Within selected segments, dwellings are selected by simple random sampling. Different samples of dwellings are selected for two half years. After selecting a sample of segments, six non-overlapping sub-samples of segments are selected from sample of segments by systematic sampling. They are allocated to six months in each half year.

The sample is divided into 21 strata using proportional allocation. The strata are 20 counties and City of Zagreb area.

In the year 2004, 717 segments are selected. From each selected segment, 12 dwellings are selected for the first half of the year, and 12 dwellings are selected for the second half of the year. In total, roughly 8,600 dwellings are selected for each half of the year, yielding an overall sampling rate of 0.59% for each half year.

No sample unit is carried over from previous years.

Weighting Procedure

The weights are calculated in several steps.

First design weights are calculated as the inverse of overall sampling probabilities. Sampling probabilities for persons are sampling probabilities for segments times sampling probabilities for dwellings times 1 (all households are selected) times 1 (all persons are interviewed). (Obviously, design weights for dwellings, households and persons are the same.)

Secondly, the non-response weights are calculated using weighting classes method. There are 57 weighting classes. In Croatia, municipalities are officially divided in two groups, according to the level of urbanisation. Weighting classes are 17 city quarters in City of Zagreb, and, in each of 20 counties, two groups of two types of municipalities. (There is no other information on the sampling

frame that can be used for adjustment for non-response.) Non-response weights are inverses of weighted response rates (response rates are weighted by design weights).

Overall weights are design weight times non-response weights. In each weighting stage and in each stratum, weights are scaled to the number of persons aged 15 or more in the sample, which is population of interest. This ensures that for each strata mean weight is 1 and that non-weighted and weighted numbers of persons aged 15 or more are the same.

At the end, two sets of weights are calculated, multiplying weights by two different factors. One set of weights, i.e. persons' weights, ensures that estimates of total numbers of persons are the same as numbers of persons in private households obtained from Department for population statistics. The other set of weight, i.e. households' weights, ensures that estimated numbers of households are the same as numbers of households obtained from Department for population statistics. The second set of weights is only used for the estimation of certain national variables.

Data Collection

Data are collected by face-to-face interviews, using paper questionnaires.

The number of field-workers was 110 interviewers per month.

In 2004 the average response rate was 84.6% with 34% of the non-response due to refusals.

In 2004, 37.3% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were by proxy.

Further methodological information

The Croatian questionnaire does not differentiate persons who have found a job to start working in "at most" and "more than" 3 months (codes 11 and 12). These are all coded as 11.

ROMANIA (RO)

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.

Because of the lack of appropriate registers (dwelling register, population register etc), the

household surveys carried out by NSI-Romania are based on the repeated use of a master sample, which involves further the use of multi-stage sampling designs. LFS sampling design is founded on a two-stage sampling technique.

The primary sampling unit, corresponding to the selection of the master sample, is a group of census sections

The secondary (ultimate) sampling unit, corresponding to the selection of the survey sample, has been the cluster of 3 dwelling units.

In the first stage, a stratified random sample of 780 areas, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), was designed after the 2002 census, using as stratification criteria the residence area (urban/rural) and county (corresponding to NUTS-3 level) – 88 strata in all. This is the Multifunctional Sample of Territorial Areas, so called the master sample EMZOT. The EMZOT sample has 427 PSUs selected from urban area and 353 PSUs selected from rural area.

In the second stage, 9,360 clusters, composed of three housing units each, are systematically selected from the initial sample of PSUs. The final sample consists of 28,080 dwelling units each quarter. All households within each sampling unit are included.

The overall sampling rate, estimated as ratio between number of sampled dwellings, after the two sampling stages, and number of dwellings at country level, is about 0.38%.

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 (NUTS-3) and urban/rural residency. The third and final steps consists of calibrating the secondary weights to the best latest available population totals by region / urban-rural residency, gender, 14 age groups (0-14, 15-19, …, 70-74, 75 and older) and the households totals by region, using the SAS macro Calmar.

In the calculation of weighting factors the totals known at population level from current demographic statistics, recalculated based on 2002 Census population, available twice a year (1st of January and 1st of July) are used. The current demographic statistics used to calibrate the LFS estimates also include the institutional population.

Data Collection

The data are collected by 780 field workers with face-to-face interviews using paper questionnaires

The average response rate in 2004 was 95.0%, with 34% of the non-response due to refusals.

In 2004, 28.2% of the interviews of persons aged 15-74 years were by proxy.

Further methodological information

In the case of the self-employed and unpaid family workers in agriculture, the threshold for employment is set at 15 hours in the reference week instead of 1 hour.

TURKEY (TR)

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. Starting with 2004, the new questionnaire has been conducted where all variables requested by Eurostat were covered. Full harmonization with Eurostat requirements in terms of variables is provided with this new questionnaire.

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

The population surveyed comprises all persons in the country excluding 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 persons 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 2004. The sampling frame is based on the 2000 Dwelling Enumeration Study. The quarterly sample size of the survey was increased to approximately 37,000 and 140,000 households for the year in order to produce regional estimations on NUTS-level 1 and 2 in yearly bases.

The sampling design of the survey was not revised in the new series which has begun in 2004. The sampling design is a two stage stratified probability clustered sample of addresses.

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 to small to permit sub-sampling of households are selected directly with equal probability using systematic sampling and all households with 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 units is assigned the design weights, which then are normalized 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 normalized.

In the final stage the weights are calibrated to the projected population distributions, using a three-step raking ratio method. 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 170 interviewers using Computer Assisted Personnel Interviewing method.

Since the year 2004, the first week of each month starting with Monday and ending with Sunday has been used as the reference period and the field application is completed within 15 days.

The average response rate for the year 2004 was 85.2%.

ICELAND (IS)

General

The survey started in 1991 as a semi-annual survey. Since 2003 the survey has covered all weeks of the year uniformly, providing quarterly results.

The survey covers persons aged 16-74 years old in private households and collective households.

The resident population comprises persons registered with domicile in Iceland, excluding persons attached to foreign missions and registered persons living abroad for more than 6 months, but including Icelandic personnel in missions abroad.

The definition of private household used is the one of housekeeping unit.

Sampling plan

The sampling plan is a one-stage simple random sample without stratification.

Each quarter one fifth of the sample is renewed by a single random sample without replacement of persons younger than 75 in the first week of the quarter and older than 16 in the last week at the end of the rotation cycle.

The quarterly sample is sorted according to sex, age and residence and then allocated systematically (with random start) to the 13 weeks of the quarters so that each week is representative of the total sample by age, sex and residence. Persons younger than 16 on the last day of the reference week, are not included in the weekly sample until this age is reached.

The survey frame is the National Population Register; all persons aged 16-74 years of age with domicile in Iceland.

The sample size each quarter is 4,030 individuals, giving an average survey rate of 1.9%.

The survey unit is the individual.

The household sub-sample is selected from the fifth and last wave so that the sampling probability is inversely proportional to the number of persons aged 16-74 years in the household of the drawn individual.

The survey follows a rotating panel sample design, according to the rotation design 3-(2)-2.

Weighting procedure

The *a posteriori* stratification variables are 5-year age groups and sex.

The weighting factors are calculated as follows:

w = N(sa)/[n(sa) + n'(sa)]

where *N* = population, *s* = sex, *a* = age, *n* = sample size and *n'* = over-coverage (i.e. registered persons living abroad for more than 6 months)

Data collection

Interviews are carried out by telephone with the aid of computers (CATI). Information on sex, age, years of residence, citizenship and marital status are obtained from administrative sources (National Population Register).

The field staff comprises on the average 33 interviewers per quarter.

In 2004, 1.0% of the interviews were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 81.3% with 46% of the non-response due to refusals.

NORWAY (NO)

General

The Norwegian labour force survey started in 1972 as a quarterly survey. From 1996, the survey has been designed as a continuous survey providing quarterly results.

It covers collective households.

Participation in the survey is compulsory.

The definition of household used is concept of housekeeping unit, but only to cover the structure of the household (household members who don't belong to the family unit are not asked any questions about their labour market participation).

The definition of resident population is the *de jure* one based on the Central Population Register.

Sampling plan

Inhabitants in all municipalities are randomly selected, on the basis of a register of family units. Each family member aged 16-74 participates in the survey, answering questions about their situation during a specified reference week.

The sampling frame is based on the Central Population Register, which is continuously updated by the local population registration offices. The sampling frame is stratified according to county (NUTS-3 regions).

Each quarter the sample consists of 24,000 persons (12,000 families), corresponding to 0.8% sampling rate.

Each family participates in the survey 8 times at 3-monthly intervals during a period of 8 quarters.

Weighting procedure

The initial weights are adjusted by post-stratification according to sex, age groups (16-19, 20-24, …, 70-74) and employment status, altogether 96 (=2*12*4) post-strata. The variables used for post-stratification are based on information from the Central Population Register, the Register of Employees and the Tax Register. Finally, the post-stratification adjusted weights are calibrated within each of the 19 counties, which is equivalent to the NUTS-3 level, with respect to the marginal totals of the same auxiliary variables. The expansion factors are calculated according to the population totals aged 16-74, i.e. the institutional population included.

Data collection

Interviews are carried out mainly by telephone, using portable computers (CATI). Only 2-3% of the interviews are done by CAPI. Information on age, sex, county of residence, children below 16 years, nationality and years of residence are obtained from administrative sources (population register).

The field staff comprises round 150 interviewers per quarter.

In 2004 13.4% of the interviews were carried out by authorised third parties.

The average response rate in 2004 was 89.0%, with 22% of non-responses being due to refusals.

SWITZERLAND (CH)

General

The survey is conducted in the second quarter of each year (April-June), having the reference week the week before the interview.

The survey population consists of all persons living in private households aged 15 years and older. The SFLS covers only the permanent resident population in Switzerland and excludes some categories of foreign persons. The permanent resident population includes all persons who officially reside in Switzerland for the entire year. Swiss citizens, foreign citizens holding a permanent residence permit or a residence permit valid for at least one year, international civil servants, diplomats and their family members all fall into this category.

Only private households are covered.

The participation in the survey is voluntary

A household comprises either a person living alone or two or more persons, whether or not they are of the same family, who usually occupy the same dwelling (dwelling concept).

Sampling plan

Since 2003 the Swiss LFS is divided in two parts:

a) Standard sample (2004: 39,000 households/persons) The base used for the standard sample are the registered phone numbers which covers until now more than 90% of the Swiss population.

b) Extra sample of foreign persons (2004: 15,000 persons). The base used for the extra sample is the register of foreign persons in Switzerland. The register allows stratifying the sample according individual characteristics (region, nationality).

The standard sample is stratified by region and the number of persons (population) by region; the extra sample of foreign persons is stratified by region, nationality-groups and the number of persons in this categories.

The sampling unit is the phone number for the standard sample (but only one person is interviewed per household); in the extra sample the sampling unit is the individual (as it is selected from the register of foreign persons)

The sampling plan is in two stages. Stratification is carried out by administrative (Swiss cantons) regions in a first level and by number of persons (population) living in administrative regions in a second level.

The sampling rate for the total sample: 0.8% of all persons aged 15 years and older.

In the SLFS a rotation system comprising five waves is used. Each unit (person) remains in the sample for five consecutive years. The size of the first wave is normally 27-29% of the total sample size.

Weighting procedure

The weighting procedure is based out on a two-phase process: At first the base weights are obtained as the reciprocal of the inclusion probability of the sample units. Then the sample is stratified *a posteriori* by region (NUTS-2), marital status, 5-years age-groups, sex, nationality-groups (North-EU, South-EU, West-Balkan, Other). This procedure is applied iteratively. The expansion factor is a factor to total population (15 years and older)

Data collection

Interviews are carried out by telephone (CATI). In the CATI questionnaire, data previously gathered in the preceding wave are included. The questionnaire exists in 6 languages (German, French, Italian, Serbo-Croatian, Albanian and English). All information is obtained by interview.

The field staff comprises around 400 persons.

0.8% of the interviews in the standard sample were carried out by authorised third parties, but 0.4% of the extra sample.

The response rate in 2004 was 79.7% with 33% of non-responses being due to refusals.

Table 1. Coverage, frequency and response rate of the EU-LFS by country 2004

Country	Participation	Population interviewed for employment status	Population in institutional households	Frequency of the results	Response rate
BE	Compulsory	15+ (2nd wave: 15-64)	No	Quarterly	76.0%
CZ	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	79.8%
DK	Voluntary	15-74	Sampled	Quarterly	64.8%
DE	Compulsory. Some LFS questions are voluntary.	15+	Sampled	Annual	96-97%
EE	Voluntary	15-74	Sampled	Quarterly	72.7%
EL	NA	15+	No	Quarterly	90.4%
ES	Compulsory	16+	No	Quarterly	91.0%
FR	Compulsory	15+	Via the household	Quarterly	81.9%
IE	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	NA
IT	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	89.5%
CY	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	98.4%
LV	Voluntary	15-74	No	Quarterly	84.4%
LT	Voluntary	15+	Sampled	Quarterly	88.9%
LU	Voluntary	15-74	No	Annual	33.4%
HU	Voluntary	15-74	No	Quarterly	87.8%
MT	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	78.4%
NL	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	64.0%
AT	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	80.2%
PL	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	80.2%
PT	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	89.3%
SI	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	86.1%
SK	Compulsory	15+	No	Quarterly	92.5%
FI	Voluntary	15-74	Sampled	Monthly	84.1%
SE	Voluntary	15-74	Sampled	Monthly	83.5%
UK	Voluntary	16+	Via the household (students)	Quarterly	73.6%
BG	Voluntary	15+	Via the household	Quarterly	84.0%
HR	Voluntary	15+	No	Semi-annual	84.6%
RO	Voluntary	15+	No	Quarterly	95.0%
TR	Compulsory	?	No	Quarterly	85.2%
IS	Voluntary	16-74	Sampled	Quarterly	81.3%
NO	Compulsory	16-74	Sampled	Quarterly	89.0%
CH	Voluntary	15+	No	Annual	79.7%

Table 2. Sampling designs and sample sizes of the EU-LFS by country 2004

Country	Basis of sampling frame	Primary sampling unit	Final sampling unit	Overall sampling rate pr quarter	Achieved sample size (average quarter 2004)	
					Households	Persons 15-74
BE	Population Register	Statistical sections	Households	0.3%	11,300	22,400
CZ	Reg. of Census Areas	Census areas	Dwellings	0.6%	25,500	49,200
DK	Central Population Register / Unemployment Register	-	Persons	0.4%	-	10,800
DE	Census 1987 / Population Register / Register of new dwellings	-	Clusters (sampling districts) of dwellings	0.5%[1]	149,900	248,100
EE	Census 2000	Persons	Households	0.5%	1,800	3,600
EL	Census 2001	Building blocks	Households	0.9%	32,000	62,200
ES	Census 2001, updated with Population registers	Geographical areas	Dwellings	0.5%	61,300	134,300
FR	Census 1999	Geographical clusters (aires)	Dwellings	0.2%	37,300	63,000
IE	Census 2002	Census blocks (75 dwellings)	Clusters of (15) dwellings	3.3%	30,400	64,100
IT	Municipal registers	Municipalities	Households	0.3%	67,900	134,400
CY	Census 2001	Census enumeration areas / villages	Dwellings	1.5%	3,600	7,700
LV	Population, household and dwelling Registers	Census enumeration areas	Households	0.3%	2,200	4,900
LT	Central Population Register	Persons	Addresses	0.4%	3,500	9,500
LU	Central Population Register	-	Households	2.6%[2]	1,900	4,000
HU	Census 2001	Settlements	Dwellings	0.9%	31,000	63,700
MT	Household Register - Water Services Corporation Database	Households	Households	2.0%	1,800	4,100
NL	Postal addresses and population register	Municipalities --> mailing addresses	Households	0.7%	43,200	87,300
AT	Central Population Register	-	Dwellings	0.6%	19,100	36,500
PL	Census, Register of housing units	Census clusters (towns) / enumeration districts (rural)	Dwellings	0.1%	18,900	44,200
PT	Census 2001/BGRI-Geographic Information Referencing Base	-	Dwellings	0.6%	18,000	38,300
SI	Population register	Persons	Households	1.0%	6,200	15,600
SK	Census 2001	Census administrative units	Dwellings	0.6%	9,700	22,500
FI	Central Population Register	-	Persons	0.9%	-	36,400
SE	Central Population Register	-	Persons	1.0%	-	49,200
UK	Postal addresses / tel. numbers (N Scotland) / housing units (N Ireland)	-	Addresses/tel. numbers in N Scotland	0.1%	54,000	91,000
BG	Census 2001	Census enumeration districts	Households	0.6%	14,100	28,900
HR	Census 2001	Census areas	Dwellings	0.3%[3]	3,500	7,300
RO	Census 2002	Territorial areas	Clusters of (3) dwellings	0.4%	26,100	54,600
TR	Dwelling enumeration 2000	Address blocks	Addresses	?	?	?
IS	Central Population Register	-	Persons	1.9%	-	3,100
NO	Central Population Register	-	Families	0.8%	-	21,400
CH	Telephone directory/ Register of foreigners	Private telephone connections/-	Persons	0.8%[1]	-	48,900

[1] Sampling rate of the annual survey in the spring [2] 10.45% pr year [3] 0.59% pr half-year

Table 3. Stratification, rotation scheme and weighting in the EU-LFS by country 2004

Country	Variables used for the stratification	Rotation scheme	Variables of weighting
BE	Region	2-	Sex, age group, province
CZ	Region (districts, Prague 1 district)	5-	District, age group, sex
DK	Registered unemployment	2-(2)-1	Sex, age, income, sector of activity, vocational education, reg. unemployment
DE	Region	4-(annual)	Sex, region, nationality
EE	Region	2-(2)-2	Age group, sex, county, urban/rural
EL	Region (NUTS-3)*urbanisation	6-	Sex, age, Region (NUTS-2)
ES	Population size of municipality	6-	Sex, age, region, nationality
FR	French region (NUTS-2) and type of urban unit	6-	Size of urban entity, size & type of housing, number of new dwellings, age group, sex, regions, wave
IE	Region, urbanisation	5-	Sex, age group, region
IT	Size categories of municipalities within NUTS-3 region	2-(2)-2	Sex, age group, region
CY	Districts, urban/rural	6-	Districts, age group, sex
LV	Region, urban/rural	1-(1)-1-(1)-1	Age group, sex, urban/rural
LT	-	2-(1)-2	Age group, sex, urban/rural, regions, registered unemployed
LU	Cantons, households size classes (1,2,3,4+)	2*-	Household size class*age group, sex*age group*citizenship
HU	Administrative units, size categories of localities	6-	Age*sex, N of households, Population in cities (50 th+)
MT	-	2*-	District, age group, sex
NL	Region (*Corop*), employment exchange regions	5-	Sex, age group, region, ethnic background, marital status
AT	*Bundesland*	5-	Sex, age group, region, nationality
PL	Region, urban/rural, urbanisation	2-(2)-2	age group, sex, urban/rural, size of the place of residence
PT	Region (NUTS-3)	6-	Sex, age group, region
SI	Region, urban/rural	3-(1)-2	Region, age group, sex, wave
SK	NUTS-4	5-	Region, age group, sex
FI	Region	3-(1)-2	Sex, age group, region, reference week, job seeker status
SE	Sex, county, nationality, employment status	8-	Sex, age group, sector of activity, registered unemployment
UK	By frame (See Table 2)	5-	Sex, age group, region
BG	Administrative units, urban/rural	2-(2)-2	Sampling strata, sex, 4 age groups
HR	Counties, city of Zagreb	-	County*urban/rural, Zagreb*districts
RO	Region, urban/rural	2-(2)-2	County, age group, sex, urban/rural
TR	-	2-(2)-2	Urban/rural, sex, age group
IS	-	3-(2)-2	Sex, age group
NO	County (NUTS-3)	8-	Age group, sex, employment status
CH	Region (std sample) / Region + size of nationality group (sample of foreigners)	5-(annual)	Region, marital status, age-groups, sex, nationality-groups.

Table 4. Distribution of interviews (15-74 years) by reference week 2004 (%)

		BE	CZ	DK	DE	EE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT
2003	48																
	49									2.2							
	50									2.0							
	51									2.1							
	52									2.1							
2004	1	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9		1.9	1.9	0.2	-	2.1
	2	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9		1.9	1.9	1.9	-	1.8
	3	2.0	1.9	2.0		2.2	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.9		2.0	1.9	1.8	3.4	2.1
	4	2.0	1.9	2.0		2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9		2.0	1.9	1.4	3.2	2.0
	5	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9		2.0	1.9	1.1	2.0	1.8
	6	2.1	1.9	2.0		2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.9		1.8	2.0	1.4	-	1.7
Q1	7	1.9	2.0	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8		2.0	1.9	1.9	3.1	2.1
	8	2.0	2.0	2.0		2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9		2.0	2.0	2.9	3.3	1.7
	9	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.9		2.0	1.8	2.3	2.1	1.8
	10	2.0	1.9	1.9		2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0		2.0	1.8	2.5	-	1.9
	11	2.0	1.9	2.0		1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9		1.9	1.8	1.7	3.0	1.8
	12	2.0	1.9	1.9		2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9		1.8	1.9	2.7	3.3	1.8
	13	1.9	1.8	2.0	100	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.8		1.8	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.0
	14	1.9	1.9	2.0		1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.3	-	2.2
	15	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.0	2.0	0.7	3.4	1.9
	16	1.9	1.9	2.0		1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.8	1.8	1.9	0.6	3.1	2.0
	17	1.9	1.9	2.0		2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.3	2.0	2.1
	18	2.0	1.9	2.0		1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.3	-	1.9
	19	2.0	1.9	1.9		2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1	3.1	1.8
Q2	20	1.9	2.0	2.1		2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.9	1.8	2.1	1.7	3.3	1.8
	21	1.9	2.0	2.0		1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7
	22	1.9	1.9	1.9		1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.8	2.0	1.7	-	1.8
	23	1.9	1.9	1.9		1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.8	1.8	1.9	1.3	-	1.8
	24	1.9	1.9	2.0		1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	4.1	2.0
	25	1.9	1.9	1.8		2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.9	1.8
	26	1.8	1.8	1.9		1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.8	3.3	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.9
	27	1.8	1.9	1.9		1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	3.2	-	2.0
	28	1.9	1.9	1.8		1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	3.0	1.9	2.2	0.8	-	2.0
	29	1.8	1.9	1.8		1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	0.6	3.5	1.9
	30	2.0	1.9	1.8		1.8	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.3	1.8	2.1	1.2	3.1	1.8
	31	2.0	2.0	1.9		1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.6	1.9	1.8	2.9	1.7	1.9
	32	1.9	1.9	1.8		1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	-	1.8
Q3	33	2.0	1.9	1.9		1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.9	3.2	1.8
	34	2.0	2.0	1.9		1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.8	2.4	3.0	1.8
	35	2.0	1.9	1.8		1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.9	1.8	1.8	2.8	2.2	2.1
	36	1.9	1.9	1.8		1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.0	1.9	2.7	-	2.0
	37	1.8	1.9	1.9		1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	3.0	1.8	1.8	2.5	-	2.0
	38	1.9	2.0	2.0		2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	3.2	2.0	1.8	2.6	3.7	1.9
	39	2.0	1.9	1.0		1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.9	3.0	1.9
	40	1.9	2.0	0.9		1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.3	1.6	1.8
	41	2.0	1.9	1.9		1.9	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.8	2.0	2.6	-	2.0
	42	2.0	1.9	1.9		1.9	1.0	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.0	2.8	3.1	2.0
	43	1.9	1.9	1.9		1.7	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.5	1.9	2.0	5.7	3.1	1.7
	44	1.9	2.0	1.9		1.8	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.0	2.0
	45	2.0	1.9	1.9		1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.9	0.8	-	1.8
	46	2.0	1.9	1.8		1.7	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.6	1.9
Q4	47	1.8	2.0	1.8		1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.8	4.5	3.3	2.0
	48	2.0	1.9	1.9		2.2	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.9
	49	-	1.9	2.0		2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7		2.0	2.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	-	2.1
	50	1.9	1.9	1.9		1.9	2.6	1.9	1.9		1.9	2.5	1.8	1.7	0.4	-	2.2
	51	2.0	2.0	1.9		2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8		2.0	2.5	1.9	1.8	0.1	4.5	2.2
	52	1.9	1.9	2.0		1.9	1.8	0.9	1.9		2.0	2.2	2.0	1.7	0.0	2.2	2.2
	53	1.9	-	1.9		-	0.0	0.9	1.7		-	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.0	1.4	-
x1000		90	197	43	248	15	249	537	252	256	537	23	20	38	16	255	17

Note: Quarters are demarcated by horizontal bars. The reference weeks involved in the adjustment to a 53 week calendar are indicated by shading.

NL	AT	PL¹	PT	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	BG	HR	RO	IS	NO	CH		
								1.9							48	2003
								2.0							49	
								1.9							50	
								1.9							51	
								2.0							52	
0.4	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.0	-		-	1.9	2.0		1	2004
1.6	1.6	2.0	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.7	2.4	1.9	2.3		-	1.9	2.0		2	
2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.7	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.2		0.0	2.0	2.0		3	
2.8	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.2	9.0	7.9	2.0	2.0		4	
1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.1		1.0	2.0	2.0		5	
2.2	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.3		2.1	2.0	2.0		6	
2.3	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.5	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.2		2.5	2.0	1.9		7	Q1
2.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.2	8.3	2.3	1.9	2.0		8	
1.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.8	-	1.9		1.3	2.0	2.0		9	
2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3		2.0	2.0	2.0		10	
2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.2		2.5	1.9	1.9		11	
2.2	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	8.4	2.1	1.9	1.8		12	
1.6	1.6	1.9	2.0	0.0	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.0		1.4	1.8	1.8	21.1	13	
1.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	3.0	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.0	-		1.1	1.8	2.0	11.4	14	
1.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.6	2.2	2.0	2.2		2.3	1.9	2.0	7.5	15	
1.7	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.9	1.9	1.6	2.2	1.9	2.1	8.7	2.4	1.9	2.0	18.1	16	
2.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	0.8	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.1		1.9	2.1	1.9	13.9	17	
1.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.0	2.0		1.5	1.9	1.9	9.7	18	
1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.1		2.3	1.9	2.0	5.9	19	
2.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.1		2.4	2.0	1.9	3.5	20	Q2
2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.2	8.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.6	21	
1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9		1.3	2.0	1.9	2.2	22	
1.5	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.0		1.4	2.0	1.9	1.6	23	
1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	8.1	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.1	24	
2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.2		2.5	1.8	1.8	1.4	25	
2.3	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.3	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.0		1.5	1.9	1.7		26	
2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.9	-		1.1	1.9	2.0		27	
2.2	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.1		2.3	1.8	2.0		28	
2.1	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.1	8.0	2.3	1.9	2.0		29	
1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.0		1.9	1.9	2.0		30	
1.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.9	2.0		1.3	-	1.9		31	
1.4	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.1		2.1	1.9	1.9		32	
1.8	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.1		2.4	1.9	1.9		33	Q3
2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.1	8.1	2.0	1.8	2.0		34	
2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8		1.4	1.8	1.9		35	
1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1		1.3	2.0	1.9		36	
1.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.7	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.0		2.2	2.0	1.9		37	
1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.1	8.5	2.8	2.0	1.8		38	
1.9	1.9	2.0	1.0	0.0	1.6	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.0		1.7	1.9	1.8		39	
2.1	2.0	1.8	1.0	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.0	-		0.9	1.9	2.0		40	
1.9	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.9	2.1		2.2	1.9	2.0		41	
2.2	2.0	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.8	2.2	8.6	2.5	1.9	1.9		42	
2.3	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.9	1.9		2.0	2.0	1.0		43	
1.6	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.3	2.0	2.1		1.2	1.9	1.0		44	
1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.5	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.2		2.0	1.9	1.9		45	
2.3	-	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.1		2.6	2.0	1.9		46	
2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.1	8.1	2.1	1.9	1.9		47	Q4
1.9	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.6	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9		1.7	1.8	2.0		48	
1.9	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.4		2.1	8.0	1.6	2.0	1.9		49	
2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.5	1.9	1.7	1.4		2.0		2.9	1.9	2.0		50	
2.3	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4		2.0		2.0	2.0	1.9		51	
1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	-	1.4	1.7	1.4		1.9		1.6	2.0	1.9		52	
0.2	1.9	1.9	2.0	-	-	1.7	1.4		-		-	1.9	1.8		53	
349	**146**	**177**	**153**	**62**	**90**	**146**	**197**	**364**	**116**	**15**	**218**	**12**	**85**	**49**	x1000	

¹ One week skipped in the fourth quarter, but the skipped week varies by region.