



# EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL



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QUALITY IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS  
2024 ESTORIL - PORTUGAL

# Unemployment – Monthly data – Sources & Methods



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The conference is partly  
financed by the European Union



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# AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and problem statement**
- 2. The flexible approach – from initiation to cooperation**
- 3. Value added – enriching the qualitative information**
- 4. Outlook and way forward**



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# 1. Introduction and problem statement

Based on the ILO definition, the unemployed comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who:

- are without work;
- are available to start work within the next 2 weeks;
- and have actively sought employment within the past 4 weeks.

Harmonised data source: the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Continuous survey, covering all weeks and months of the year.

17 countries compile monthly unemployment based solely on the LFS,

9 EU Member States do not compile monthly unemployment according to the ILO standards,

5 countries are only able to do so after using auxiliary information from the national employment authorities.



# 1. Introduction and problem statement

**What are the methods employed to ensure comparability?**

**Even though all options of compilation result in the same concept of ILO unemployment standards, what differences could be observed when looking at the data?**

**Finally, how are the choices of statistical sources, methods and features interlinked?**



## 2. The flexible approach – from initiation to cooperation



**Project launched with an iterative procedure of reflections between Eurostat and partners**

**Proposition of a template:**

- Vertical structure defined by the chronology of the processing steps
- Horizontal structure:
  - i) the Performing Institution,
  - ii) the Description of the subject matter, and
  - iii) the Frequency and timing of the operations.

**First discussion with Member States in June 2021, mutually agreed deadline for completion June 2022.**



## 2. The flexible approach – from initiation to cooperation

Templates were compiled into a single document and checked for coherence, completeness and consistency.

In some cases, Eurostat requested additional information or clarifications from countries.

Furthermore, Eurostat prepared:

- an introduction explaining the legal background
- a schematic overview of the different statistical options,
- a short explanation on interdependencies (data volatility and magnitude of revisions),
- an extra table with hyperlinks to all national sources.



### 3. Value added – enriching the qualitative information

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/quality>

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/une\\_rt\\_m\\_esms.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/une_rt_m_esms.htm)

Unemployment statistics -  
Statistics Explained (europa.eu)

#### Related metadata

[employ\\_esms](#) - Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey)

[lfsi\\_esms](#) - LFS main indicators

#### Annexes

[Technical details unemployment calculations](#)

[Sources and methods](#)

#### Direct access to



Other articles



Tables



Database



External links

- EU Labour Force Survey - main concepts and definitions
- ESMS metadata file — [une\\_esms](#)
- Sources and methods for the monthly unemployment rate [📄](#)





### 3. Value added – enriching the qualitative information

Type of institution	Illustrative wording of the questions
National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the national media, the numbers presented on unemployed persons are different to those presented by Eurostat.</li><li>Why is this so and what is the source of Eurostat's figures?</li></ul>
National Statistical Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When we decide to review our methods, how can we know what country is using what method?</li><li>Are there any institutes that use similar software for the seasonal adjustment step?</li></ul>
Journalists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where can I find not only Eurostat's monthly unemployment figures but also the corresponding statistical reports of a particular country?</li><li>What national source does Eurostat use?</li></ul>

## 4 . Outlook and way forward

SOURCES AND METHODS

Volatility measures

Frequency of REVISIONS



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**Staying committed to quality....**

**... and making it available to the public.**



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