MEASURING EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH LABOUR FORCE SURVEYS IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES: METHODOLOGY AND DATA*

by I. Chernyshev**

In November 1990, the ILO and the UN Statistical Division organized jointly a “Workshop on Economic Statistics in Population and Housing Censuses” in Moscow for labour statisticians from Central and Eastern European transition countries and the former Soviet Union. At the Workshop countries, then with a predominantly planned economy, were for the first time specifically informed about the advantages of and encouraged to introduce Labour Force Surveys as a major tool of measuring employment and particularly unemployment in both public and the emerging private sectors.¹

Three months later Professor Saul Estrin, Department of Economics, London School of Economics, in his address to the Heads of the National Statistical Offices of Central and Eastern European Countries and the former Soviet Union said: “... When the Labour Force Survey was introduced in the United Kingdom, just after we signed the Treaty of Rome, it was largely ignored. The early surveys were very small; they were bi-annual and researchers just did not use the information from them. It gradually became clear that the survey was an extraordinarily useful tool, and the survey became larger, more complicated, and more frequent. The survey has been increasingly used as a basis for analysis. Because we have had this experience within the United Kingdom, I propose that Eastern Europe consider going through the same sort of experience”². This plea was made at the “Conference on Economic Statistics for Economies in Transition: Eastern Europe in the 1990s”, held in Washington, D.C. (14-16 February 1991) and jointly sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and EUROSTAT. This was the first international forum held for Heads of Statistical Offices of Central and Eastern European countries and the USSR which focused on the immediate and longer term challenges facing the Eastern European statistical agencies in adapting their systems to market-oriented needs. The major outcome of the Conference was a recommendation to introduce Labour Force Surveys in this group of countries without delay.

The above shows that in 1991 transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (countries of the Former Soviet Union)³ did not have at their disposal such a powerful tool of labour statistics, extensively used throughout the world, as a Labour Force Survey. Therefore, the following statement made by Farhad Mehran, ILO Chief Statistician, only three years later at the joint ILO/Ministry of Labour of Belarus “International Conference: Restructuring of Labour Statistics in Transition Countries: First Results and Emerging Challenges” (Minsk, August 31 - September 2, 1994) is very revealing: “Labour Force Surveys, recognized as the most comprehensive sources of statistics on the economically active population, employment and unemployment, have become or are becoming part of the national statistical system of a larger number of transition countries. ... This is a remarkable achievement which could hardly have been predicted only four or five years ago ⁴.”


Indeed, within a historically brief period between 1991 and 1997, the following 14 transition countries have managed to develop both the relevant technical capacity and infrastructure for the launching of regular Labour Force Surveys and started collecting comprehensive and internationally comparable employment and unemployment statistics: Hungary (January 1992), Poland (May 1992), Russian Federation (October 1992), Czech Republic (December 1992), Slovak Republic (December 1992), Republic of Slovenia (May 1993), Bulgaria (September 1993), Romania (March 1994), Lithuania (April 1994), Estonia (January 1995), Ukraine (October 1995), Latvia (November 1995), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (April 1996) and Armenia (November 1996).

Two more countries, Croatia and Moldova are planning to launch Labour Force Surveys in 1998, and Georgia will include a module with specific questions to measure employment and unemployment in the quarterly Survey of Georgian Households beginning 1998.

This article contains methodological descriptions as well as employment and unemployment data collected through Labour Force Surveys (see Annex) in the fourteen transition countries mentioned above. It can be viewed as a complement to the ILO publication entitled “Statistical Sources and Methods, Volume 3: Economically active population, employment, unemployment and hours of work (Household Surveys)”.

ARMENIA


3. Coverage of the survey:

(a) Geographical: All urban areas of the country. It is planned to cover both urban and rural areas in the next HLFS round.

(b) Persons covered: Men aged 16-60 and women aged 16-55 years old present in the household at the moment of the interview. As from the 1997 round, all the population aged 16 years and above.

Excluded are:

1) students living in hostels and schoolchildren living in boarding schools;
2) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
3) military personnel (conscripts and career) living in barracks;

4. Periodicity of the survey: The survey, which has been conducted since November 1996, is annual.

5. Reference period: The calendar week.

6. Topics covered: The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, underemployment, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education.
7. Concepts and definitions:

(a) **Employment:** Employed persons are:

1) all persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or on their own farm as well as persons who worked as unpaid family workers in an enterprise operated by a family member; and
2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labour-management disputes, or personal reasons, whether they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs.

Included in the totals are:

1) full- and part-time workers seeking other work during the reference period;
2) full- and part-time students working full- or part-time;
3) persons who performed some work during the reference week while being either retired and receiving a pension; or were registered as job seekers at an employment office or receiving unemployment benefits (beginning the 1997 round);
4) paid and unpaid family workers;
5) members of producers' co-operatives;

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed persons are all civilians who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and who had made specific steps to find employment.

Included in the unemployed are full- and part-time students seeking full- or part-time employment, provided they are currently available for work (if they are seeking work for some future date, such as for the summer months, they are considered inactive); as well as persons who found a job and made arrangements to start a new job on a date subsequent to the reference period.

8. Sample design:

(a) **The sample frame:** The HLFS sample was built up on the basis of address lists established for the 1995 micro-census and used as a sample frame for the Household Family Budget Survey.

(b) **The sample:** The sample is based on a two-stage stratified random sampling design. At the first stage administrative regions are divided into strata on the basis of enumeration districts. At the second stage the ultimate sampling units/households are selected proportional to their size. The sample size is about 1.500 households which means that 0.2 per cent of the total population are interviewed.

(c) **Rotation:** The rotation pattern has not been established yet.

9. Documentation: Results of the HLFS will be published by the Department of Statistics of the Republic of Armenia in a special information bulletin and in the next issue of the “Statistical Yearbook of the Armenian Republic”.
1. Title of the survey: Labour Force Survey (LFS).


3. Coverage of the survey:
   (a) Geographical: The whole country.
   (b) Persons covered: All usual residents aged 13 years and above including those temporarily absent. Conscripts are considered as members of households, where they usually live. Student dormitories are included in the scope of the survey.

Excluded are:
1) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
2) persons in hospital and school dormitories;
3) foreign members of diplomatic corps and their families as well as foreign citizens who have lived in the country for less than a year.

4. Periodicity of the survey: The survey started in September 1993. Two rounds of the LFS were carried out in 1994 - in June and October. Since 1995 the survey has been conducted three times a year.

5. Reference period: The calendar week.

6. Topics covered: The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), hours of work, status in employment, unemployment, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, ways of seeking a job, discouraged workers, persons not in the labour force. The information on the employed and unemployed persons is provided by urban/rural areas, sex, age, level of education, marital status, industry and occupation.

7. Concepts and definitions:
   (a) Employment: Employed persons are:

1) all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week, performed some work for at least one hour for pay or profit; and

2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or an enterprise from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, vocational training or other similar reason.

As employed are considered to be persons who are in paid employment, operate their own enterprise or farm, performed independent work for profit as well as persons who worked without pay in an enterprise owned by a relative member of the same household. Persons on maternity leave are considered as employed only during the fully-paid maternity leave (120-180 calendar days),
otherwise they are considered as not in the labour force.

(b) **Unemployment**: Unemployed are all persons of 15 years and over who did not work at all during the reference week, were actively looking for work during the four weeks previous to the interview and were available to start work within the two weeks following the survey week.

Also included in the unemployed are persons who were not actively looking for work because they expected to return to their former job from which they were released or sent on an unpaid leave (if total duration of absence is more than one month), provided that they had the employer's promise and the concrete date of return to work.

Students, home-makers, pensioners and other persons who had no work during the reference period are considered as unemployed if they satisfy the above definition.

8. **Sample design**:

(a) **The sample frame**: The LFS sample is built up on the basis of the Population Census conducted in December 1992.

(b) **The sample**: The survey uses a stratified two-stage area sampling design in which probability of selection is proportional to the population size. The LFS sample is a sub-sample of a 10% household master sample. At the first stage, 2,000 enumeration districts are selected and stratified by administrative regions as well as urban and rural areas. At the second stage, 12 households are selected for each enumeration district. Households are selected systematically using a random start with a different sampling interval for each enumeration district in order to obtain a constant number of sampled households per district.

(c) **Rotation**: According to the rotation scheme that existed until October 1995, two-thirds of households stayed in the two consecutive observations. Since March 1996 the ratio has been changed to 1/2.

9. **Documentation**:

Results of LFSs are regularly published by NSI.

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**CZECH REPUBLIC**

1. **Title of the survey**: Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS)³


3. **Coverage of the survey**:

(a) **Geographical**: The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered**: The entire population (questionnaire "A"); all persons aged 15 years and over
(questionnaire "B").

Excluded are:

1) persons, not staying in the surveyed domicile more than 3 months;
2) persons living for a long time (more than 3 months) in mass lodging facilities (social, health, church and others);

4. Periodicity of the survey:

The LFSS, which has been conducted since December 1992, is a continuous quarterly survey. Unlike other statistics, the quarters start one month earlier (e.g., the first quarter - “winter” includes the reference period December - February, etc.).

5. Reference period: The calendar week.

6. Topics covered: The survey provides information on employment (main and secondary jobs), unemployment and underemployment, number of employees in various organizations and firms. It also provides information on independent activities of entrepreneurs, hours worked as well as labour force mobility. In addition, the survey yields the information on unemployment by occupation, qualification and duration, as well as by regional cross-section classification. Questionnaire “A” provides a wide range of social and demographic statistics on household members.

7. Concepts and definitions:

(a) Employment: Employed are all persons aged 15 years and above who during the reference week did any work for at least one hour and were in paid employment or self-employed. Unlike previous releases, persons on child care leave are excluded. Total employment includes regular and temporary members of the armed forces, civilian employment excludes the armed forces.

Included in the totals are persons who during the reference week were temporarily absent from work but had a formal job attachment with their employer.

“Self-employed” comprise employers, own account workers, members of producers' and agricultural co-operatives and unpaid (contributing) family workers.

(b) Unemployment: Unemployed are all persons aged 15 years and over who met the following three conditions during the reference week: (i) had no work; (ii) were actively looking for work. The active form of seeking work includes registration with an employment office or private employment exchange, checking at work sites, farms, markets or other assembly places, placing or answering newspaper advertisements, taking own steps to establish own business, applying for work permit and license, or looking for a job in a different manner; and (iii) were currently available for work - i.e., were available during the reference period for paid employment or self-employment either immediately or within the 14 days following the reference week.

The only exception are persons who did not look for work because they had already found
work but it would start at a date subsequent to the reference period. These persons are classified as unemployed.

(c) **Underemployment:** Underemployed are considered to be all persons in paid employment or self-employment whether or not involuntarily working less than the normal duration of work determined for a given activity, who were seeking and available for additional work during the reference period. Excluded are persons classified as unemployed.

8. **Sample design:**

(a) **The sample frame:** The LFSS sample is built on the basis of the Population Census conducted in March 1991.

(b) **The sample:** The sample is based on a two-stage systematic sampling design from the frame stratified by administrative districts. At the first stage, enumeration districts are selected according to the administrative districts’ size. At the second stage, a constant number of dwelling units is selected from each enumeration district. The total sample size is about 27,000 dwellings located within the territory of the Czech Republic (0.8% of all permanently occupied dwellings), in which some 73,000 persons of all age groups are surveyed, of which about 60,000 are aged 15 years and over. The LFSS covers all persons living in a selected dwelling continuously for at least three months, irrespective of whether they are permanent, temporary or unregistered residents. The exception are temporary members of the armed forces who, for practical reasons, are surveyed at their resident households before they have been called up.

**Rotation:** 20 per cent of sampled dwellings are replaced every quarter (every selected dwelling remains in the survey for five consecutive quarters).

9. **Documentation:** Preliminary results of LFSS first appear in a press release which is usually issued on the 30th day after the end of the reference quarter. Definite results are published in "Czech Statistics" on the 50th day (Czech version) and on the 60th day (English version). Both are available in printed version and a floppy disk. LFSS results are regularly published in the CSO-CZ’s "Statistical Bulletin", "Monthly Statistics of the Czech Republic", "Statistical Yearbook of the Czech Republic" and in a specialised journal "Statistics" as well as distributed through mass media.

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**ESTONIA**

1. **Title of the survey:** Estonian Labour Force (ELFS)

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The Regional Bureau of Statistics of Central Estonia (RBSCE).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**

   (a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

   (b) **Persons covered:** The target population of the ELFS 97 were residents of Estonia of working
age, i.e., persons who, as of 1 January 1997, had turned 15-74 years old (i.e., those born between 1922 and 1981).

4. **Periodicity of the survey:**

The first ELFS was conducted in January-April 1995; the current methodological description refers to the latest ELFS which was conducted in April-June 1997.

5. **Reference period:** The last 2.5 years, beginning January 1995 and including the week of the survey.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on employment, unemployment and underemployment by industry, occupation, status in employment and educational levels. It also provides information on hours of work, wages, income, informal sector activity, duration of employment and unemployment, number of discouraged and occasional workers as well as usual activity of the surveyed population.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

(a) **Employment:** Employed are all persons aged 15-74 years who during the reference period did any work for at least one hour and were in paid employment or self-employed. Persons on parental leave, granted to mother or father until the child is 3 years old are considered as not active. Conscripts are classified as not active, whereas volunteers and career military are included.

Included in the totals are persons who during the reference period were temporarily absent from work due to illness, injury, vacation or annual leave, educational leave, absence without leave, bad weather, labour management dispute, mechanical breakdown, other reduction in economic activity or temporary lay-off without pay provided that the period of such absence was less than 4 months. Also included are women on paid pre-natal and post-natal leave whose duration is 70 and 56 days respectively.

The usual activity is the economic activity of a person during the last 12 months. An exception is the case when a person’s economic activity has changed recently: he/she finished school and started to work; retired; took maternity leave, etc. In such a case, a person is classified in conjunction with his/her latest status, e.g., if a person retired a week before the end of the reference period, he/she must be classified as a non-working retiree even though this person would have worked during the last 12 months prior to retirement. The categories of usual activity include: employed, unemployed, child of pre-school age, non-working student, non-working disabled person, non-working retiree, woman on maternity leave, homemaker, person in military service, prisoner.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are all persons aged 15-74 years who met the following three conditions during the reference week: (i) had no work; (ii) were actively looking for work; and (iii) were currently available for work - i.e., were available for paid employment or self-employment either immediately or within 14 days following the reference week.

Seeking work includes all steps taken by a person in order to find work or start
entrepreneurship: registration with employment offices, placing and answering advertisements, seeking assistance of relatives and friends, arranging for financial resources, etc.

(c) **Underemployment:** A person is considered as underemployed if he/she worked less than full-time, i.e., less than 35 hours, and less than he/she wanted to work, was seeking additional work and was available for it.

8. **Sample design:**

(a) **The sample frame:** The EFSS sample is built on the basis of the population data base of the State Computing Centre.

(b) **The sample:** The ELFS uses a three-stage systematic random sample. At the first stage, a systematic random sample from the population data base of the State Computer Centre is drawn. The computer draws a list of 6,500 persons of the working age. At the second stage, coordinators of the Statistical Office of Estonia’s interviewer network specify the number of working age members of the target population households. To do this, the population data base is used. Also help is provided by local authorities and communal co-operatives. At the same time, other information is checked: addresses, names, register of deaths as well as persons who left the country. The probability of a household to be selected in a sample depends on the number of working age persons in it. Thus, if compared to a household with one working age member, the probability of a household with two working age members being selected is twice as high, and of that with three working age members is three times as high, etc. In order to keep the probability of selection even, the following rule is applied at the third stage: all households with one working age member are retained in the list and, by the bias of systematic random sampling, half of the households with two working age members, one third of the households with three working age members, etc. are selected. All working age members selected in the sample are interviewed. The overall sampling fraction is 0.5% of the Estonian population aged 15-74 years or 3,000 households, in which some 5,400 working age persons are surveyed.

(c) **Rotation:** No rotation scheme has been used so far.


**HUNGARY**

1. **Title of the survey:** Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**
(a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered:** All persons living in private households during the reference week. This definition also includes persons absent from a household for a short period due to studies, holidays, illness, business trip, etc.

Excluded are:

1) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
2) persons in hospital.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The survey, which has been conducted since January 1992, is quarterly.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, hours of work, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, discouraged workers, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

   (a) **Employment:** Considered as employed are all persons aged 15-74 years who, during the reference week:

   1) performed some work for at least one hour for pay in cash or in kind, or for profit;

   2) worked at least for one hour without pay in a family business or on a farm ("unpaid/contributing family workers");

   3) did not work, although having employment, as they were temporarily absent from their work because of illness, holidays, bad weather, labour-management dispute, etc.

Excluded from the employed are persons who during the survey week were engaged in the following activities:

1) work without remuneration for another household or institution (voluntary work);
2) construction or renovation of own house or apartment;
3) housework;
4) work in private garden or piece of land for own consumption.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are all persons of 15-74 years of age who did not work at all during the reference week, were actively looking for work during the four weeks previous to the interview, were available to start work within the two weeks following the survey week and were waiting to start a new job within a period of 30 days.

Active job search include: looking for work at the public or private employment office, applying to
employer directly, placing or answering advertisements, asking relatives and friends, etc.

(c) **Underemployment**: Underemployed are considered to be persons aged 15-74 years who during the reference week:

1) worked for less than 40 hours due to economic reason (e.g., slack time in production, full-time work was not available, etc.);
2) usually worked for 40 hours due to economic reasons;
3) were temporarily laid off.

8. **Sample design:**

(a) **The sample frame**: The LFS sample is built up on the basis of the Population Census conducted in 1990.

(b) **The sample**: The Hungarian LFS is based on a multi-stage stratified probability sampling design. The sampling procedure involves the following steps: first, the primary sampling units/enumeration districts (EDs) are selected and grouped into strata within each geographical area, then, the secondary and ultimate sampling units/dwellings are selected. The sample is randomly drawn from the address register of 8,272 EDs with a probability of selection of three addresses from each enumeration district per quarter so that some 27,000 households or about 47,000 persons are interviewed quarterly. Currently, EDs encompass 555 settlements with 15,000 inhabitants and more. As the survey is conducted with continuous data collection throughout the year, each month only one-third of a quarterly sample of dwellings are visited and interviewed. The overall sampling fraction is 0.8 per cent.

(c) **Rotation**: The sample has the following rotation pattern: any household entering the sample at some time is interviewed for a period of six consecutive quarters and then leaves the sample for ever. One-sixth of the sample is thus changed on each occasion.


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**LATVIA**

1. **Title of the survey**: Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey**: The Central Statistical Bureau (CSB).

3. **Coverage of the survey**:

(a) **Geographical**: The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered**: All persons aged 15 years old and above living in private households during the reference week. The 1995 round covered persons aged 15-69 years old.
Excluded are:

1) persons aged below 15 years
2) institutional population, such as inmates of penal and mental institutions, student hostels, hotels, barracks, etc.;
3) conscripts;
4) persons absent from a household for more than 3 months.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The survey, which has been conducted since November 1995, is biannual.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on employment, unemployment and underemployment by industry, occupation, status in employment and educational levels. It also provides information on hours of work, wages, income, duration of employment and unemployment, number of discouraged and occasional workers.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

(a) **Employment:** Considered as employed are all persons aged 15 years and above who, during the reference week:

1) performed some work for at least one hour for pay in cash or in kind, or for profit;

2) worked at least for one hour without pay in a family business or on a farm ("unpaid/contributing family workers");

3) did not work, although having employment, as they were temporarily absent from their work because of illness, holidays, bad weather, labour-management dispute, etc.

Also included are persons who perform unpaid communal and social work, as well as women on child-care during the first 3 month following a child’s birth.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are all persons of 15 years of age and above who did not work at all during the reference week, were actively looking for work during the four weeks previous to the interview, were available to start work within the two weeks following the survey week.

(c) **Underemployment:** Underemployed are considered to be persons who during the reference week worked, against their will, less than the normal working hours laid down for a given industry by legislation, such as:

1) Part-time workers who would like to work full time.
2) Full-time workers who had to work part time during the reference week.

8. **Sample design:**
The sample frame: The sample for urban areas is drawn from the Population Register. For rural areas, the sample is built on the basis of a complete list of households (prepared for 119 “pagasts” (primary sampling units) selected at the first stage of sampling).

The sample: The sample design is different in urban and rural areas. The national sample size is about 6,000 households.

Urban areas: A one- or two-stage stratified random sample is used. The distribution of the sample between strata is proportional to the population size registered in each stratum. Selection of persons from the Population Register to be included in the sample is made with a random number generator.

Capital Riga and six other major cities: For six administrative districts of Riga and six major cities from 12 separate strata the sample is drawn on the following basis: within each stratum a random sample of persons aged 15 years and above is made from the Population Register.

Other towns: All other towns of Latvia are distributed between 10 strata according to their size and their geographical location. A two-stage stratified random sample is used. Primary sampling units (PSUs) are towns within each stratum and the selection of PSUs is made with probabilities proportional to the total population size of a PSU. At the second stage, a random sample of persons aged 15 years and above is made within each selected PSU. All persons living in a selected household are surveyed.

Rural areas: In the rural areas a two-stage stratified sample with stratification at each stage is used. At the first stage, 4 or 5 PSUs are included in the sample within each stratum and further divided into 26 strata depending on the administrative district they are located in. PSUs within each stratum are sampled with probabilities proportional to the number of households located in a corresponding PSU. At the second stage, 20 households from each PSU are included in the sample. Households to be included in the sample are selected from a PSU list of households using a random number generator.

Rotation: Each household is retained in the survey for three consecutive rounds. This rotation scheme provides that one-third of households within each town selected for the sample are replaced in a new round. As for the rural areas, all households are replaced in one-third of PSUs in each round.


LITHUANIA

1. Title of the survey: Sample Survey on Employment and Unemployment (SSEU)\(^\text{12}\).


3. Coverage of the survey:
(a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered:** All permanent residents aged 14-74 years including those temporarily absent.

Excluded are:

1) persons on long-term missions (six months and longer);
2) students living in hostels and schoolchildren living in boarding schools;
3) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
4) military personnel (conscripts and career) living in barracks;
5) foreign citizens.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The SSEU, which has been conducted since April 1994, is biannual.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, hours of work, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, discouraged workers, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

   (a) **Employment:** Employed persons are:

1) all persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked at least one hour or more as unpaid family workers in an enterprise operated by a member of a family; and

2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, advance qualification training, labour-management disputes, or personal reasons, whether they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs.

   (b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed persons are all civilians who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific steps to find employment.

8. **Sample design:**

   (a) **The sample frame:** The SSEU sample is built up on the basis of the population register.

   (b) **The sample:** The sample is based on a two-stage stratified random sampling design. At the first stage administrative regions are divided into strata on the basis of enumeration districts and then the ultimate sampling units/households are selected at the second stage. The sample size is about 5,000 households which means that some 12,000
persons or 0.4 per cent of the total population are interviewed.

(c) **Rotation:** The sample has the following rotation pattern: any household entering the sample is interviewed four times and then leaves the sample for ever.

9. **Documentation:**

Results of the SSEU are published regularly by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics in yearly statistical publications.

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**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

1. **Title of the survey:** Labour Force Survey (LFS)\(^{13}\).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia (SORM).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**

(a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered:** All permanent residents aged 15 years and above including those temporarily absent abroad for a period of less than one year.

Excluded are:

1) persons on long-term missions abroad (over one year);
2) students living in hostels and unsettled population;
3) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
4) armed forces;
5) foreign citizens.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The LFS, which has been conducted since April 1996, is annual.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, underemployment, hours of work, income, informal sector activity, duration of unemployment, discouraged workers, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

(a) **Employment:** Employed persons are:

1) all persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked at least one hour or more as unpaid family workers in an enterprise operated by a member of a family;
and all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, advance qualification training, labour-management disputes, or personal reasons, as well as due to the end of activity of an enterprise.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed persons are all persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work during the reference week or within one week following the reference week, and had made specific steps to find employment.

(c) **Underemployment:** Considered as underemployed are persons who satisfy the following three criteria:

1. Worked less hours than usual hours of work;
2. Were absent from work during the reference week due to economic reasons;
3. Were looking for an additional job and were available to undertake it.

8. Sample design:

(a) **The sample frame:** The LFS sample is built up on the basis of the 1994 Population Census and the Population Register.

(b) **The sample:** The sample is based on a two-stage stratified random sampling design. At the first stage administrative regions are divided into strata on the basis of enumeration districts and then the ultimate sampling units/households are selected at the second stage. Primary sampling units (PSUs) are selected with probabilities proportional to the number of households. In each PSU eight households are randomly selected. The sampling fraction is 1.5% with the sample size of about 7,500 households.

(c) **Rotation:** The sample is planned to have the following rotation pattern during the next round: 75% of households will remain two consecutive rounds in a sample, whereby one household can be interviewed maximum three times. Complete renewal of the sample is expected to be every three years.

9. Documentation:

Results of the LFS are regularly published by Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia in “Labour Force Survey” (Preliminary results) and “Labour Force Survey” (Final results).

**POLAND**

1. **Title of the survey:** Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland (CSO).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**
(a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered:** All persons of 15 years old and above, who are members of households selected for the survey.

Excluded are:

1) persons living in collective dwellings (e.g., workers' and students' hostels, boarding schools, army barracks, old age pensioners homes, etc.);
2) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
3) member of private households staying for more than two months abroad;
4) temporary guests staying for less than two month in a given household;
5) staff members of foreign official missions.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The survey, which has been conducted since May 1992, is quarterly.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment by sectors of economic activity, status in employment, occupation and sectors of ownership; working hours; unemployment by industry, duration, methods of work search; and persons not in the labour force.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

(a) **Employment:** Employed persons are those who during the reference week:

1) performed some work for at least one hour for pay or profit as employee, own-account worker or unpaid/contributing family worker;
2) did not perform any work but had a formal job attachment as employee or own-account worker.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are considered to be persons who had no work during the reference week, were available for work during the reference week or the week which followed, and were actively looking for work.

Also included in the unemployed are persons who did not look for work because they had already found it and were waiting to start a new job.

8. **Sample design:**

(a) **The sample frame:** The LFS sample is built up on the basis of the register of dwellings and territorial statistical units (enumeration districts (EDs) and census clusters (CCs) created for that purpose.

(b) **The sample:** The LFS sample is based on a two-stage stratified probability sampling design. At the first stage, the primary sampling units (CCs) are stratified according to the territorial and administrative units. At the second stage, housing units are selected. For rotation purposes, the sample for a given quarter is treated as a set of four elementary
samples (e-samples). Each e-sample is selected as a self-weighted sample of housing units with selection probability equal to 1/2,000, what gives about 5,725 housing units per e-sample.

(c) **Rotation:** The quarterly four e-samples rotate according to the 2-(2)-2 scheme, i.e. a housing unit remains two consecutive quarters in a sample, leaves it for two quarters and returns again for another two consecutive quarters before leaving the sample for ever.

9. Documentation: Results of the Labour Force Survey are published in the "Statistical Yearbook of Poland" and the following quarterly publications: "Quarterly Information on the Labour Market Developments" (in Polish/English); "Quarterly Information on the Economic Activity of the Populations" (in Polish); "The Economic Activity of the Population of Poland" (in Polish); and "The Economic Activity and Unemployment in Poland" (in Polish).

**ROMANIA**

1. **Title of the survey:** Household Labour Force Survey (AMIGO)

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The National Commission for Statistics of Romania.

3. **Coverage of the survey:**

(a) **Geographical:** The whole country.

(b) **Persons covered:** All permanent residents aged 15 years and over (in the 1994 and 1995 rounds 14 years old and over) living in households selected for the survey, including those temporarily absent for a period longer than six months provided they are permanently in touch with their family, such as:

1) conscripts;
2) students and schoolchildren who study away from their place of permanent residence;
3) persons who are working in localities other than their permanent residence;
4) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
5) persons in hospital as well as those undergoing rehabilitation treatment.

Excluded are persons living permanently in specialized institutions, such as old age pensioners homes, establishments for handicapped persons, sanatoriums, etc.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The survey was conducted in March 1994 and March 1995. Since 1996, it is conducted quarterly.

5. **Reference period:** The survey is carried out on a continuous basis. The reference period is the week previous to the interviewing week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment by sex, industry, occupation and status in employment; hours of work; unemployment, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed; underemployment; forms of ownership and level of education.
7. Concepts and definitions:

(a) **Employment**: Employed are considered to be all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week, performed some economic or social work for at least one hour for pay or profit in cash or in kind.

Also included are:

1) persons who worked part-time or had a temporary or occasional job;
2) persons with a job but temporarily not at work due to illness or injury, vacation or leave, statutory maternity leave, educational leave, labour-management dispute, professional training and re-training, production stoppages due to bad weather, mechanical breakdown, shortage of raw materials or energy, etc.
3) persons who temporarily or over an indefinite period did not receive any pay or profit in cash or in kind but who had a strong job attachment;
4) persons who performed some work for pay or profit during the reference week, while being subject to compulsory schooling; or retired and receiving a pension; or registered as job-seekers at an employment office or receiving unemployment benefits;
5) full-time and part-time students working full/part-time;
6) unpaid/contributing family workers, including those temporarily absent during the reference week;
7) apprentices and trainees;
8) conscripts and career military personnel.

(b) **Unemployment**: Unemployed are considered to be persons aged 15 years and over who during the reference period were without work, available within 15 days for a new job and were actively seeking work.

Also included in the unemployed are persons who found a job and made arrangements to start a new job on a date subsequent to the reference period; full- and part-time students seeking full- or part-time employment, provided they are currently available for work.

8. Sample design:

(a) **The sample frame**: The AMIGO sample is built up on the basis of the 1992 Population and Housing Census.

(b) **The sample**: The AMIGO sample is based on a two-stage systematic sampling stratified design from the frame stratified by geographical areas. At the first stage, census sections (CSs) are selected systematically using a random start and stratified by urban and rural areas (altogether 501 CSs including 249 in urban and 252 in rural areas). At the second stage, 18,036 dwelling units are selected systematically for each quarter.

(c) **Rotation**: The rotation sample is designed on the 2-(2)-2 pattern. Thus, one households is included in the sample for two consecutive quarters, leaves it for two quarters and returns again for another two consecutive quarters before leaving the sample forever.
9. Documentation: Quarterly results of the survey are published by the National Commission for Statistics in the following two reports: "The Household Labour Force Survey - AMIGO" (a detailed report); and a synthetic report with rapid information.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. Title of the survey: Population Sample Survey of Employment (PSSE)\(^{16}\).


3. Coverage of the survey:

   (a) Geographical: The whole country.

   (b) Persons covered: All the population aged 15-72 years including those temporarily absent.

   Excluded are:

   1) persons on long-term missions (six months and longer);
   2) students living in hostels and schoolchildren living in boarding schools;
   3) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
   4) military personnel (conscripts and career) living in barracks;

4. Periodicity of the survey: The survey, which has been conducted since October 1992, is annual.

5. Reference period: The calendar week.

6. Topics covered: The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, hours of work, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, discouraged workers, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education.

   Information on the informal sector is provided to the extent that survey respondents report on their activities. As regards underemployment, the only data available are statistics on persons working part-time for economic and other relevant reasons.

7. Concepts and definitions:

   (a) Employment: Employed persons are:

   1) all persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or on their own farm, or who worked at least one hour or more as unpaid family workers in an enterprise operated by a family member; and

   2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were
temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, advance qualification training, labour-management disputes, or personal reasons, whether they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs.

Included in the totals are:

1) full- and part-time workers seeking other work during the reference period;
2) full- and part-time students working full- or part-time;
3) persons who performed some work during the reference week while being either retired and receiving a pension; or were registered as job seekers at an employment office or receiving unemployment benefits;
4) paid and unpaid family workers (if they worked at least one hour);
5) private domestic servants;
6) members of producers' co-operatives;
7) members of the armed forces living in households.

Each employed person is counted only once. Those who held more than one job are counted in the job which they consider to be the major one.

Excluded are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (painting, repairing, or own housework); volunteer work for religious, charitable and similar organisations and unpaid apprentices and trainees. They are considered as unemployed or not economically active.

(b) Unemployment: Unemployed persons are all civilians who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and who had made specific steps to find employment.

Note: Temporarily not working paid/unpaid family workers are considered to be unemployed or not economically active depending on whether or not they were seeking work during the reference week.

Included in the unemployed are full- and part-time students seeking full- or part-time employment, provided they are currently available for work (if they are seeking work for some future date, such as for the summer months, they are considered inactive).

The "specific steps to find employment" include any of the following: registration at a state or commercial/private employment office; writing letters of application; seeking assistance from friends or relatives; placing or answering advertisements; waiting at a designated labour pick-up point, etc.

(c) Hours of work: They relate to the actual and usual number of hours worked during the reference week (including overtime but excluding meal breaks, paid or unpaid days off and approved time away from work). For persons working in more than one job, data are also available on the number of hours worked in all jobs during the week.

8. Sample design:

(a) The sample frame: The 1992-1993 PSSE sample was built up on the basis of the decennial Population Census (conducted in 1989) and compiled from the lists of census enumeration districts. The 1995-1997 PSSEs sample was based on the 1994 micro-census list of households; such micro-censuses are usually conducted five years after the
Population Censuses.

(b) **The sample:** The sampling procedure is based on the search for an optimal variant of the sample according to the following seven variables: gender, age, family size, source of means of subsistence, education (first level), nationality, "household belongs to". The full sample is based on a stratified two-stage random sampling design with a sampling fraction of 0.6% of the population aged 15-72 years. At the first stage the census enumeration districts are selected. At the second stage ultimate sampling units (households and persons) are selected. Substitution of ultimate sampling units is made only if nobody lives at the selected address. The sample is stratified by household size and by the census indicator "household belongs to". An update of the sample will be made for the next round of the survey.

(c) **Rotation:** The rotation size is about 20 per cent.

9. **Documentation:** Results of the PSSE are regularly published by GOSKOMSTAT Russia in the Statistical Yearbook; annual compendium “Trud and zaniatost v Rosijskoj Federatsii” (Labour and Employment in the Russian Federation); subject-specific publications in the “Statisticheskoye Obozrenie” (Statistics Review) journal; subject-specific reports in the “Informatsionnoye statisticheskoye obozrenie” (Statistical Information Review); as well as information in monthly statistical reports of GOSKOMSTAT of Russia.

**SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

1. **Title of the survey:** Selective Registers of the Labour Force (VSPS)\(^17\).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**
   
   (a) **Geographical:** The whole country.
   
   (b) **Persons covered:** All permanent residents aged 15 years and over.

   Excluded are:

   1) students living in hostels and schoolchildren living in boarding schools;
   2) inmates of penal and mental institutions;
   3) military personnel (conscripts and career) living in barracks;
   4) foreign citizens.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:** The VSPS, which has been conducted since December 1992 (launched in the former Czechoslovakia), is quarterly.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.
6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary) by age, sex, industry, occupation and status in employment; wages, salaries and other types of remuneration; unemployment by age, sex, level of education, means of job search, duration, last employment (industry and occupation), retraining, etc.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

   (a) **Employment:** Employed are all persons aged 15 years and over who during the reference week did some work at least for one hour, as well as unpaid family workers and persons who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, holiday, maternity leave, labour-management dispute, etc.

   (b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are considered to be persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week, did not work for pay or profit, were actively looking for work during the last four weeks prior to the survey and were available to start work in the two weeks following the survey.

8. **Sample design:**

   (a) **The sample frame:** The VSPS sample is built on the basis of the Population Census conducted in March 1991.

   (b) **The sample:** The sample selection is based on a two-stage systematic sampling design from the frame stratified by administrative districts. At the first stage, communities and enumeration districts are selected. The sample size (number of enumeration districts) is the same in each district regardless of the size of the district. There are 50 enumeration districts in every administrative district. At the second stage, a constant number of dwelling units (five) is selected from each enumeration district, with the exception of large districts, which brings up the total to 250 dwellings. The sample size is 10,000 dwelling units or 0.6 per cent of the total number of permanently occupied dwellings.

   **Rotation:** 20 per cent of sampled dwellings are replaced every quarter (every selected dwelling remains in the survey for five consecutive quarters).

9. **Documentation:** Results of the VSPS are published quarterly by the Statistical Office in "Statistical Figures and Graphs".

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**REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

1. **Title of the survey:** Labour Force Survey (LFS)\(^{18}\).

2. **Organization responsible for the survey:** The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SO).

3. **Coverage of the survey:**

   (a) **Geographical:** The whole country.
(b) **Persons covered:** All persons living in private households whose usual place of residence is in the territory of Slovenia, including persons temporary absent (less than six months).

Excluded are:

1) institutional population;
2) persons temporarily or permanently living abroad;
3) persons absent longer than 6 months from their usual place of residence.

4. **Periodicity of the survey:**

The survey, which has been conducted since May 1993, is annual.

5. **Reference period:** The calendar week.

6. **Topics covered:** The survey provides information on employment, unemployment, duration of unemployment, hours of work, discouraged workers, industry, occupation and level of education.

7. **Concepts and definitions:**

(a) **Employment:** Employed are considered to be persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

1) did some work for payment or profit in cash or in kind;
2) did not work but had a job from which they were temporarily absent (maternity leave, illness, holiday, etc.);
3) unpaid family workers;
4) persons on lay-off.

(b) **Unemployment:** Unemployed are considered to be persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week, did not work for pay or profit, were not employed or self-employed and those who:

1) were actively looking for paid employment;
2) took specific steps to set up their own business;
3) were available for work (within the two weeks following the survey);
4) found a job and made arrangements to start a new job on a date subsequent to the reference period.

8. **Sample design:**

(a) **The sample frame:** The LFS sample is built on the basis of the population register.

(b) **The sample:** The LFS is based on a panel sample design. Each household is retained in the survey for three consecutive years. The design for the households included in 1994 \(n = 2,489\) was a three-stage cluster sample with 159 primary sampling units (local communities) and 300 secondary sampling units (enumeration districts). The design for
the households included in 1995 (n = 2,970) and 1996 (n = 3,034) was a two-stage sample encompassing the total of 623 enumeration districts (343 in 1995 and 280 in 1996). In the 1996 LFS round the overall sampling fraction was 1.2% of the total population which represented 7,417 households or 24,640 persons.

Rotation: Every year, 1/3 of households are replaced. Usually, a household is interviewed three consecutive years and then leaves the sample for ever.


UKRAINE

1. Title of the survey: Employment Household Sample Survey (EHSS).  


3. Coverage of the survey:

(a) Geographical: The whole country.

(b) Persons covered: All the population aged 15-70 years including those temporarily absent.

Excluded are:

1) persons on long-term missions (six months and longer);  
2) students living in hostels and schoolchildren living in boarding schools;  
3) inmates of penal and mental institutions;  
4) military personnel (conscripts and career) living in barracks;

4. Periodicity of the survey: The survey, which has been conducted since October 1995, is annual.

5. Reference period: The calendar week.

6. Topics covered: The survey provides information on the following topics: employment (main and secondary), unemployment, hours of work, duration of unemployment, reasons for not being employed, discouraged workers, occasional workers, industry, occupation, status in employment and level of education, as well as employment in the informal sector (since October 1997).

As regards underemployment, the only data available are statistics on persons working part-time for economic and other relevant reasons.

7. Concepts and definitions:
Employment: Employed persons are:

1) all persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all as paid employees, in their own business, profession, or on their own farm who worked for at least four hours during the reference week, as well as persons who worked at least thirty hours on their own farming plots or as unpaid family workers in an enterprise operated by a family member (persons working at least one hour are classified separately); and
2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, advance qualification training, labour-management disputes, or personal reasons, whether they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs.

Included in the totals are:

1) full- and part-time workers seeking other work during the reference period;
2) full- and part-time students working full- or part-time;
3) persons who performed some work during the reference week while being either retired and receiving a pension; or were registered as job seekers at an employment office or receiving unemployment benefits;
4) paid and unpaid family workers (if they worked at least twelve hours);
5) private domestic servants;
6) members of producers’ co-operatives;
7) members of the armed forces living in households.

Each employed person is counted only once. Those who hold more than one job are counted in the job which they consider to be the major one.

Excluded are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (painting, repairing, or own housework); volunteer work for religious, charitable and similar organizations and unpaid apprentices and trainees. They are considered as not economically active.

Unemployment: Unemployed persons are all civilians who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and who had made specific steps to find employment.

Included in the unemployed are full- and part-time students seeking full- or part-time employment, provided they are currently available for work (if they are seeking work for some future date, such as for the summer months, they are considered inactive); persons temporarily released from work and waiting to be called back, as well as persons who found a job and made arrangements to start a new job on a date subsequent to the reference period.

Hours of work: They relate to the actual and usual number of hours worked during the reference week (including overtime but excluding meal breaks, paid or unpaid days off and approved time away from work). For persons working in more than one job, data are also available on the number of hours worked in all jobs during the week.

8. Sample design:

(a) The sample frame: The EHSS sample was built up on the basis of the 1989 Population Census.
The sample: The sampling procedure is based on the search for an optimal variant of the sample according to the following seven variables: gender, age, family size, source of means of subsistence, education (first level), nationality, “household belongs to”. The full sample is based on a stratified two-stage random sampling design with a sampling fraction of 0.2% (1% in the 1995 round) of the population aged 15-70 years. At the first stage the census enumeration districts are selected. At the second stage ultimate sampling units (households and persons) are selected. Substitution of ultimate sampling units is made only if nobody lives at the selected address. The sample is stratified by household size and by the census indicator “household belongs to”. An update of the sample will be made for the next round of the survey.

Rotation: The rotation size is about 20 per cent.

9. Documentation: Results of the EHSS are regularly published by DERZHSTAT in “Statystychny shchorichnyk ukrainy” (Statistical Yearbook of Ukraine); annual compendium “Pratsia v Ukraini” (Labour in Ukraine); subject-specific press-releases and information bulletins.

References


3. Transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia.


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