

I. Generic template for national reports providing information on quality, sources and methods, together with information on the statistical processes used for the compilation of the statistics underlying the MIP indicators (including concrete specifications for **Labour Force Statistics)**

Reporting institution: Federal Statistical Office Germany

Selected principles					Some specific examples for indicators and related questions (Response options, unless indicated otherwise: not implemented; partially implemented; fully implemented)	Statistical domain specifications
European Code of Practice principles	Public Commitment on European Statistics by the ESCB	Selected elements				
<i>Institutional Environment</i>	<i>Institutional Environment</i>	<i>CoP/PC</i>	<i>IMF DQAF</i>	<i>SIMS</i>	<i>Question(s)</i>	<i>LFS</i>
CoP1 Professional Independence	PC1 Professional Independence	1.1/1.1	1.1.1 1.1.2		<p>The independence of [name of reporting institution], from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating official statistics is guaranteed by law.</p> <p><i>Legal basis: Pls confirm the independence by referring to the relevant national and EU legal act(s) and the formulation used in the legal act.</i></p>	<p>Article 1 of the <i>Federal Statistics Law</i> mandates that “Federal Statistics shall be subject to the principles of neutrality, objectivity and scientific independence.” Article 2 of the <i>Law</i> prescribes the FSO as an independent superior federal authority (selbständige Bundesoberbehörde).</p> <p>The National Statistical System (NSS) in Germany is decentralised and follows the federal structure of the country. The main producers of federal and European statistics are the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (NSI) and the 14 Statistical Offices of the Länder (SLOs). Another 17 National Authorities (ONAs) also produce European statistics.</p>

		1.4/1.5			<p>The [name of reporting institution] has an annual statistical work programme which is made public.</p> <p><i>Statistics work programme: Pls confirm the existence of a statistics work programme and specify where to find it (or similar document), if available.</i></p>	<p>Statistics work programme:</p> <p>A work programme for the years 2015 to 2019 covering all statistical domains has been developed and addresses the entire National Statistical System.</p> <p>https://www.destatis.de/EN/AboutUs/OurGoals/StrategyProgrammePlan2019.html</p>
CoP2 Mandate for data collection	PC2 Mandate for data collection	2.1/2.1	0.1.1	S 7.1	<p>The mandate(s) of the [name of the institution(s)] to collect information for the development, production and dissemination of European Statistics is specified in law.</p> <p><i>Allocation of responsibilities: Pls explain the allocation of responsibilities in producing the relevant statistics.</i></p> <p><i>Legal basis: Pls confirm the mandate by referring to the relevant legal act(s) and any other kind of formal agreements.</i></p>	<p>Allocation of responsibilities:</p> <p>In Germany, the Labour Force Survey of the European Union (LFS) is integrated in the Microcensus, the largest official household survey in Europe. The Microcensus is organized as a decentralized survey, which means that the methodological, organizational and technical preparation is done at the Federal Statistical Office, while executing the survey and processing the data are tasks of the Statistical Offices of the Länder. It is based on a legal provision with a limited period of validity, the Microcensus Law.</p> <p>Legal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Regulation (EC) N° 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community (Official Journal of the EU No L 77 p. 3), last amended by Regulation (EC) No 545/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 (Official Journal of the EU No L 163 p. 10).; - the Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes of 22 January 1987 (Federal Law Gazette I pp. 462, 565) that was last amended on 25 July 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I pp. 2246); - The Microcensus Law 2005 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1350) that was extended until 2016 with the "Microcensus Extension Law of 14

						December 2012" (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2578).
CoP6 Impartiality and objectivity	PC6 Impartiality and objectivity	6.6/6. 6	1.2.4	S9.1 + S9.2 S.20.1	<p>Advance notice is given on release calendars and on major revisions or changes in methodologies, source data and techniques.</p> <p><i>Advance release calendar: Pls confirm the existence of an advance release calendar and provide a link to it.</i></p> <p><i>Revision policy: Pls explain succinctly the revision policy and provide a link to material on the revision policy, if existent.</i></p>	<p>Release calendar: The production of the main indicators (quarterly results) is accompanied by an EU-LFS release calendar which provides transparency for the users on the availability of the data and favours a timeliness data release of the results.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1978984//6048829/LFS_release_announcement.pdf</p> <p>For the monthly unemployment statistics, the national release dates of the press releases are announced in the Federal Statistical Office's release calendar that is available at:</p> <p>https://www.destatis.de/EN/PressServices/Press/preview/cal_e.pdf?_blob=publicationFile</p> <p>Revision policy: Revisions of previously released quarterly data based on EU-LFS are not expected, unless major errors are identified in the data delivered or in their processing. Exceptional revisions may happen e.g. after new estimates of population from a population census.</p>
Statistical Processes	Statistical Processes	CoP/ PC	IMF DQAF	SIMS	Question(s)	LFS
CoP7 Sound methodology	PC7 Sound methodology	7.1/7. 1	2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4	S4.3 S4.4 S4.5 S4.6	<p>Pls specify the relevant statistical standards to which the statistics abide</p> <p><i>Links/references to existing comprehensive methodological documentation on specific aspects of the national sources and methods can also be provided</i></p>	<p>General remarks:</p> <p>The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) provides population estimates for the main labour market characteristics, such as employment, unemployment, inactivity, hours of work, status in employment, occupation, economic activity, and other labour related variables, as well as important socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, age, education, household characteristics and regions of residence. In definitional terms, the EU labour force survey is based on the international standard adopted by the International Conference of</p>

				S 6 S12.1	<p>Labour Statisticians (ICLS). In Germany, the labour force survey is integrated in the microcensus.</p> <p>The definitions of employment and unemployment, as well as other survey characteristics follow in general the definitions and recommendations of Eurostat and the International Labour Organisation. The definition of unemployment is further specified in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000.</p> <p>Comprehensive EU-LFS methodological documentation: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey</p>
				Pls specify adherence or deviations from concepts and rules according to international standards and highlight coverage gaps that are of <u>material relevance</u> for the statistics. Pls indicate whether actions to address the deviations and coverage gaps are envisaged.	There are no major country-specific deviations between the concepts and rules to the ILO standards and definitions concerning the data on the labour status.
CoP8 Appropriate Statistical procedures	PC8 Appropriate Statistical procedures	8.2/8. 2	3.1 3.3 3.4	S12.1 S21.1 S21.3 S 21.5- 6 <i>Pls provide links/references to existing comprehensive methodological documentation on specific aspects of the national statistical procedures. The objective</i>	<p>Pls provide a succinct assessment of the robustness of the statistics by elaborating briefly on the relevant sources of information, statistical methods and procedures used across the various frequencies.</p> <p><i>Pls provide links/references to existing comprehensive methodological documentation on specific aspects of the national statistical procedures. The objective</i></p> <p>The following publications provide users with a tool for assessing the quality of the statistics which are based on the EU-LFS. It gives a brief description of the survey and a summary of the main quality indicators, which are: relevance, accuracy, accessibility and clarity, timeliness and punctuality, comparability, and coherence. The quality report is updated annually.</p> <p>Labour force survey in the EU, candidate and EFTA countries — Main characteristics of national surveys</p> <p>Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey</p> <p>See: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/publications/quality-reporting</p>

					<i>should be to get an overview on how much the statistical output are anchored in actual collected data rather than on estimation methods or similar judgemental inputs.</i>	Further individual country information: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/employ_esqrs.htm The national quality report of the Microcensus is available at: https://www.destatis.de/DE/Publikationen/Qualitaetsberichte/Bevoelkerung/Mikrozensus2014.pdf?__blob=publicationFile (in German) The national quality report on the monthly unemployment statistics according to the ILO concept is available at: https://www.destatis.de/EN/Publications/QualityReports/LabourMarket/MonthlyILOConcept.pdf?__blob=publicationFile (in English)
<i>Statistical Output</i>	<i>Statistical Output</i>	<i>CoP/PC</i>	<i>IMF DQAF</i>	<i>SIMS</i>	<i>Question(s)</i>	LFS
CoP11 Relevance	PC11 Relevance	11.1- 11.3	0.3	S.14	Pls specify briefly why the statistics are relevant by referring to the multiple purposes for which the statistics are used at (i) international, (ii) EU and (iii) national level. References to the statistical legislation and other formal or informal commitments could be sufficient. In addition, if applicable, the outcome of user consultation processes could also be given.	EU-LFS results are used by the DG Employment and a number of other Directorates of the Commission mainly for measurement and monitoring of policy agenda purposes. The European Central Bank (ECB) uses short term LFS statistics related to Euro area. Key users include NSI's, international organizations, news agencies and researchers which use various aspects of EU-LSF data for international or intra EU comparisons. Nationally, main users include the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Economics, the Federal Ministry of Finance, economic research institutes and the general public.
CoP12 Accuracy and reliability	PC12 Accuracy and reliability (including	12.1/ 12.1	3.5	S 15.1 S 15.2	The analysis should be based on the following indicators (to be compiled by the ECB/Eurostat on a common data vintage) on the reliability of	Information on the accuracy and reliability of the LFS data by providing information on the quality indicators.

	stability)			<p>S15.3 first releases for the relevant series (selected for their material impact and to avoid compensatory effects in the case of balancing items):</p> <p>S.18.2 Directional reliability indicators;</p> <p>S 20.2 Revisions' indicators (e.g. MAPE, MACE or RMSRE depending on the indicator).</p> <p>and provide a succinct assessment of the accuracy and reliability of the statistics on the basis of the results, with an attempt to provide a relative objective measure, explaining also the main reasons for revisions.</p>	<p>Confidence limits at 95 % level of significance, country-specific annual average 2014:</p> <p>Number of employed (x1000): 39 879 ±109, Number of part time employed (x1000): 11 017 ± 67, Number of unemployed (x1000): 2 090 ± 34, Rate of unemployment (%):5.0 ±0.1</p>
				<p>Pls provide a succinct assessment of the level of the statistical discrepancies (“<i>internal consistency</i>”) focusing on their size and direction (systematic bias).</p>	<p>Information on country-specific frame quality (under and over coverage and misclassifications) of the LFS sample and specific measurement errors.</p> <p>Undercoverage: Homeless people and other people without registered residence (e.g. people living in huts, caravans) are out of the frame. The basis of the sampling frame (census 1987) is annually updated by the statistics of new dwellings. The census 2011 will give the German LFS a better frame quality. A new sample plan based on the census 2011 will be implemented from 2016 onwards.</p>
CoP13 Timeliness and punctuality	PC13 Timeliness (including punctuality)	13.1 13.4	4.1	<p>S.16 Pls specify the timeliness requirements for international and EU purposes and the national target publication dates.</p> <p>Pls specify punctuality defined as</p>	<p>Information on possible delay of delivery to Eurostat of the full dataset.</p> <p>According to Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 data shall be delivered to Eurostat within twelve weeks from the end of a reference</p>

					<p>deviations in relation to the timeliness requirements and target dates specified above.</p>	<p>quarter. For 2014 deadline for transmitting the data was respected.</p> <p>National target publication dates exist for the monthly unemployment statistics according to the ILO concept. The publication is usually due within 30 days following the reference month.</p> <p>The exact release calendar is available at https://www.destatis.de/EN/PressServices/Press/preview/cal_e.pdf?_blob=publicationFile</p> <p>So far, there have been no deviations from the announced release dates.</p>
CoP14 Coherence and comparability	PC14 Consistency and comparability	14.1/ 14.1	4.2.1 4.2.2 4.2.3	S17.2 S 18.1	<p>Pls provide a succinct assessment of the results of the consistency check of the statistics with other related domains or data sets with which the statistics must show coherence (“<i>external consistency</i>”).</p> <p>The results should provide a relative objective measure to facilitate cross-country comparability, e.g. be presented as a ratio of the inconsistency between compared statistics, as a percentage of GDP, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Information on the assessment of the results of the consistency check of the statistics with other related domains (“<i>external consistency</i>”). Coherence of LFS data with National Accounts data, registered unemployment and Business statistics data.</p> <p>Generally coherence to other statistics can be limited due to different sources, different scopes or different coverage and units.</p> <p>The coherence of LFS data with Business statistics data is good. The coherence of LFS data with registered unemployment and with National Accounts data is lower.</p> <p>For a summary of the deviations see: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-working-papers/-/KS-TC-15-004 (Chapter 8)</p> <p>The results of the Microcensus regarding the number of employed persons differ from the employment figures of the Employment Accounts in the framework of National Accounts. This discrepancy is to be explained mainly by the different methods and techniques of the</p>

					<p>two statistics, but also in part by differences in concepts and definitions. According to the definitions, the main distinctions are in the differentiation of persons who have interrupted their employment, e.g. due to parental leave. Regarding methods, it is important to note that national accounts are estimating an employment figure based on some 60 statistical sources, while Labour Force Survey as a household survey rests upon the information provided by interviewed persons. This explains why discrepancies are to be found predominantly in the field of marginal employment. According to experience, the collection of small (side) jobs and of occupations in the border area of clandestine employment often proves to be problematic in household surveys. Therefore, National Account estimates make use of additional adjustments for areas which are difficult to measure, e. g. in the field of domestic servicing.</p> <p>The differences should be taken into account when using employment data based on the Microcensus and the Employment Accounts respectively. Detailed information regarding the current level of differences in the employment figures is available at https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/NationalEconomyEnvironment/LabourMarket/Methodology/Tab_ETR_zum_MZ.html</p> <p>The internationally agreed definition of unemployment according the ILO concept is the basis for international comparisons. It deviates from the national definition of registered unemployment, which is based on the criteria laid down in the German social code (Sozialgesetzbuch). The statistics on registered unemployment is based on this latter definition and is taken care of by the Federal Employment Agency. According to the social code, a person is, amongst others, counted as registered unemployed if he or she registered at the employment agency (or equivalent institution), is seeking employment of at least 15 hours</p>
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					<p>per week. Still, persons registered as unemployment can have an employment of less than 15 hours of work per week.</p> <p>Consequently, the monthly unemployment statistics according to the ILO concepts counts some persons as unemployed that are not registered unemployed according to the legal definition. At the same time, there are some registered unemployed who are not considered as unemployed according to the ILO definition.</p>
				<p>Pls provide a succinct assessment of the time consistency, specifying (i) whether the time series presents breaks and if so explaining the reasons for the breaks; (ii) the length of the series for which back data are consistent; and (iii) whether the statistics are consistent across the various frequencies (monthly/quarterly/annual) where relevant.</p>	<p>The information applies only to LFS detailed survey results series. The LFS adjusted series (including LFS main indicators) include corrections for breaks.</p> <p>Since 1983, improved comparability between results of successive surveys has been achieved, mainly due to increased harmonisation, greater stability of content and higher frequency of surveys. However, the following factors may somewhat detract from perfect comparability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - population figures used for population adjustment are revised at certain intervals on the basis of new population censuses; - reference periods may not have remained the same for a given country due to the transition to a quarterly continuous survey; - countries may modify their sample designs; - in order to improve the quality of results, countries may change the content or order of their questionnaire. <p>Information on EU-LFS breaks and individual country breaks are documented:</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_%E2%80%93_data_and</p>

						<p>publication</p> <p><u>Major country-specific changes in recent years</u></p> <p>2006: Implementation of the wave approach</p> <p>2007: Questionnaire changed to better capture ILO employment.</p> <p>2008: Questionnaire further changed to match more closely the EU-LFS operational guidelines for the definition of labour status.</p> <p>2009: Respondents registered at the public employment office, but not looking for employment, are no longer classified as job seekers.</p> <p>2011: Questionnaire changed to better capture ILO employment.</p> <p>2012: The full sample is used for the EU-LFS data collection.</p> <p>2014: Adaption of the extrapolation frame based on 2011 Census data and in this context revision of LFS data 2013, 2012 and 2011</p> <p>Changes at MEASUREMENT level introduced during the reference year and affecting comparability with previous reference periods (including breaks in series): 2013 Change of editing rule for FTPT +1% (PT)</p>
CoP15 Accessibility and Clarity	PC15 Accessibility and Clarity	15.1/ 15.1	5.1.1 5.2.1	S9.3 S 11 S12.1	Pls provide a brief description of the dissemination policy and dissemination means, including links to the data and respective metadata.	The Eurostat online publication describes the European Union (EU) labour force survey (EU-LFS), a large sample survey among private households in Europe and an important source for European statistics about the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The publication provides information on the main features, the legal basis, the methodology and the data as well as on the historical development of the EU-LFS.

						http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey
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