

WORKSHOP ON LABOUR FORCE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

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DATA PROCESSING AND DATA QUALITY

Madrid, Spain, 10 – 11 May 2012

B. Data processing: Coding of economic activity, occupation and educational attainment

B4– Coding of occupations in the Polish LFS – monitoring and instructions for interviewers

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Summary of the presentation

“Coding of occupations in the Polish LFS, monitoring and instructions for interviewers”

1. Organisation of Labour Force Survey in Poland

The work connected with the preparation and conducting questionnaire surveys in sampled dwellings is managed by the Labour Department in the Central Statistical Office of Poland in cooperation with the Programming and Coordination of Statistical Surveys Department and with the Labour Force Survey Centre in the Statistical Office in Gdansk. The survey is conducted by Regional Statistical Offices in 16 voivodships.

The tasks and responsibilities of Regional Statistical Offices are:

- the establishment and updating the register of the sampled dwelling,
- the establishment and updating the register of the households' files,
- training of interviewers,
- the supervision of the conducted survey and data transmission,
- checking the completeness and analysis of reasons of non-response,
- the logical control of completed questionnaires, coding some of responses and checking the coding which was made by interviewers,
- transfer the information to the Labour Department CSO about problems, which may occurred during the time of conducting the survey,
- computer registration of data collected in case of paper questionnaires, analysis and correction of the sets, error checking, analysis and approval tables, timely acceptance of the voivodships' sets.

2. Classification of occupations and specializations 2010

The Classification of occupations and specializations has been introduced in Poland by the Regulation of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy on 27 April 2010 on the classification of occupations and specializations for labour market needs (Journal of Laws No. 82, 17 May 2010, pos. 537). This classification is based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations ISCO-08.

The Classification is a five level, hierarchically structured set of occupations and specializations on the labour market. It groups occupations (specializations) by more aggregated groups and determines their symbols and names. The Classification's structure is the result of grouping various occupations and specializations in the unit groups, and these in more aggregated groups of minor, sub-major and major groups, on the basis of similarity of qualifications required for the tasks of the occupation (specialization) with respect to both aspects of qualifications, i.e. their level and specialization.

The final result is, that the classification structure comprises 10 major groups, 43 sub-major groups, 132 minor groups and 444 unit groups and 2360 occupations and specializations.

In LFS occupations are symbolized on the level of unit groups (4 digits).

In comparison to the previously existing classification, the new classification contains a greater number of occupations (653 more) and groups: major – 13 more; sub-major – 16 more, unit - 52 more.

3. Control of coding occupations

In connection with the implementation of the new classification of occupations and specializations into the LFS since 01/01/2011 some problems were occurred. We had been reported that interviewers and coordinators from Regional Statistical Offices found difficulties in correct coding of occupations in some cases. Due to care about the quality of data, the Labour Department in CSO has decided to conduct the special control of individual data.

The control of coding occupations and specializations covered coding occupations in the first quarter of 2011. Two questions of the Polish LFS questionnaire were taken into account:

- Q. 50: "What was your occupation in the reference week?"
- Q. 66: "What was your occupation in your last job?"

It was checked in the first quarter of 2011, directly during the implementation of the new classification to the survey. During the research period 51 031 occupations were coded, 2788 was incorrect, which was 5.5%. The biggest number of errors -12.8% occurred in group 1 – Public government representatives, senior officials and managers, the least - 1.0% in 6 group – Skilled agricultural and fishery workers.

As a result of the occupations' coding control some repetitive errors were noticed:

- Connected with the change of the classification and using by interviewers – even after changing – codes which were used in the previous classification;
- Caused by using by employers different names of occupations from these which are in classification;
- Due to the fact that the occupation and attained education are both related, but on the contrary, there are some respondents, whose work for many years in particular job, but don't have that kind of education level, which is now required for particular occupation;
- Due to the fact that some occupations are customary described by using names typical to another occupation;

- Due to the fact that the information about the respondent's occupation may be obtained from the other person from the household;
- Due to the fact that similar occupations are coded in different groups;
- The respondent, intentionally or not, use the different name of occupation than the job which he or she in fact does.

The presentations shows examples of the most repetitive incorrect occupations' encoding. The control was generally based on comparisons between notes made by interviewer on the questionnaire and given codes. There were also made comparisons to the kind of activity of the main job (NACE).

The whole control process has involved: Labour Department CSO, Statistical Computing Centre, LFS Centre in Gdansk, Statistical Office in Bydgoszcz – Centre of Research and Analysis of Labour Market and coordinators from sixteenth Regional Statistical Offices in Poland.

4. Conclusions

The best way to eliminate coding errors is the continuous training of interviewers in different forms: as lectures and trainings conducted by coordinators as well as a self-study and continuous monitoring of their work. Instructions for LFS provide a detailed description of conducting the survey and rules of coding occupations. In Poland LFS coordinators participate in trainings prepared by the Labour Department CSO twice a year and then they share the knowledge with interviewers.

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