

# The LFS and the EAPS

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## The LFS as a harmonised statistical operation in the EU

The Community Labour Force Survey (LFS) is obtained from surveys carried out on the population of the Member States of the European Union, candidate countries for joining the EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, except Liechtenstein. The survey consists of twelve modules covering demographic characteristics, relationship to the activity, characteristics of main employment, untypical work, working hours, characteristics of secondary employment, previous professional experience, searching for a job, self-declared main employment situation, education and training, situation a year ago and income.

The survey target population are those resident in family dwellings, although the variables relating to the labour market are obtained, of a general nature for the population aged 15 years old and over.

Each country provides the survey variables from a linked national survey. In the case of Spain, the LFS variables are compiled from the information obtained in the EAPS. That provides a common base for estimates of the main labour market indicators (total number of employed persons, unemployed persons, etc.) both in the EAPS (national source) and in the LFS, European source for Spain. However, there are some differences.

Most noticeable is the consideration in the EAPS of the age limit of 16 years old (age up until which regulated education is compulsory in Spain) in order to respond to the variables on the relationship to the activity. Conventionally, in Spain persons aged 15 years old are considered economically inactive. That leads to differences in the rates of activity of the youngest age group (15-19) in the EU and the rates used for Spain (based on the group aged 16-19 years old). The same occurs when analysing rates of activity in the EU, which contain the population aged 15 years old (for example, young persons 15-24, population of working age 15-64, etc.) that will bring up the lowest magnitudes as compared with the Spanish counterparts (16-24 or 16-64).

Another particular feature of the LFS as compared with the EAPS is the estimate of the number of households in both sources. In the EAPS, the same factor is used as the population of a working age resident in the household (16 years old and over), whereas in the LFS they use the average factor of all residents in the dwelling (including children).

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## The LFS on the Eurostat website

The basic methodology may be consulted at the LFS on the Eurostat website, [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment\\_unemployment\\_lfs/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_unemployment_lfs/introduction)

For further details regarding features and contents of the survey the Council Regulation (CE) No. 577/98 of 9 March 1998 regarding the organising of a sample

survey of the economically active Community (OJ No. L77/3) may be consulted. Said regulation and those specifying the detail of variables and their content may be consulted at:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment\\_unemployment\\_lfs/legislation](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_unemployment_lfs/legislation)

Since 1999, an integral part of the LFS have been the annual ad hoc modules, dedicated to the specific topics of particular relevance, which can be viewed at:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment\\_unemployment\\_lfs/methodology/ad-hoc\\_modules](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_unemployment_lfs/methodology/ad-hoc_modules)