

B Labour force, the employed and the unemployed

(as measured by the Labour Force Sample Survey)

Methodological notes

The Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) used by the CZSO is a source of information on the labour market. The survey provides information collected in households of respondents. The methodology of indicators measured by the LFSS is in line with the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians held in October 1982 as a basis for direct international comparability of labour market characteristics in various countries. At the same time, the Eurostat implementation methodology, which explains the contents of particular labour market characteristics, is respected.

Tables show average figures for respective years. Differences between the piece of data on the total and the sum of partial figures in the tables follow from the fact that the total is a rounded total; it is not equal to the sum of rounded partial figures.

In each quarter of 2021, the sample contained 23 thousand dwellings (flats) on average in the territory of the whole Czech Republic (over 0.6% of all permanently occupied dwellings), in which almost 48 thousand respondents of all age groups were surveyed. Over 44 thousand of them are aged 15+ years. All persons usually living in the sampled dwellings (flats), irrespective of the type of their residence, are subject to the LFSS. The LFSS is a continuous survey results of which are evaluated and published quarterly.

Before 2001, all LFSS data were weighted to the age distribution of the population obtained from current vital statistics while taking into account the last known development of the balance of natural change and migration. Since 2001, data are based on the final results of the 2001 Population and Housing Census and then on the final demographic data. Population movement and natural change according to the latest available data were taken into account in the population projections for mid-quarters since 2003. Since 2011, the data are based on the final results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census and on the following final demographic data. This calculation approach corresponds best to the group of persons included in the survey.

The comparison of the labour force structure in the time series is affected by methodological changes to the LFSS. Since 1 January 2002, the LFSS questionnaire has been fully harmonised with the EU standard, including the order of questions for respondents. Economic status of respondents, i.e. their classification as the employed, the unemployed, or the economically inactive, is therefore principally related to the reference week, not to their so-called usual status. If a respondent stated that he/she had worked at least one hour in the reference week, he/she is strictly classified, according to the ILO methodology, as a person in employment. Compared to the questionnaire structure before 2002, when the usual status was of primary concern, the existing questionnaire entitles us to assume that the number of positive answers to the question about employment in the reference week is higher.

Since 1 January 2011, the Classification of Occupations (CZ-ISCO), a national version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (ISCO-08), which replaced the previously applied KZAM, has been in force. Results for previous years were retroactively converted to match the CZ-ISCO.

Since 1 January 2014, the Classification of Education (CZ-ISCED 2011), a national version of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) has been applied. This classification replaced the previously applied International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97) in sections defining levels of educational attainment.

The **labour force** includes all persons aged 15+ years who meet the criteria for being classified to the category of employed or unemployed persons.

The **economically inactive** (economically inactive persons) are all children up to 15 years of age and persons aged 15+ years who do not meet the criteria to be included in the labour force.

The **employed** are all persons aged 15+ years who belonged to the remunerated employed or the self-employed in the reference week. It makes no difference whether their work activity was of permanent, temporary, seasonal, or occasional nature, or whether they had the only (main) job or multiple jobs simultaneously. For the purpose of the survey, the concept of the work is interpreted as the work performed for at least one hour in the reference week. Apprentices, who receive wages, salaries, or other remuneration according to the same principle as other persons, are also included into the employed. Similarly students, homemakers, and other persons primarily engaged in non-economic activities, who were active in employment in the reference week, are also classified as the employed. On the other hand, the group of the employed does not include persons on parental leave – their position is of a different character compared to other persons with a formal job attachment. The employed are classified to industries according to the economic activities of their workplaces, which is why the numbers here differ from the numbers of the employed presented in other chapters of the Yearbook because in other chapters the number of the employed is measured by the business method.

Employees are all persons with a formal job attachment irrespective of whether or not they actually worked in the reference week. The formal job attachment refers to, first of all, an employment contract, then a contract for work (in Czech “dohoda o provedení práce” translated as “an agreement on work performance”) and contract on works (in Czech “dohoda o pracovní činnosti” translated as “an agreement on work activity”) and, as the case may be, other contractual relations outside the domain of the labour law. According to the ILO, the category of employees also embraces members of the armed forces (professional soldiers, and before 2005 also conscripts serving compulsory military service). Since 2012, members of producer cooperatives have not been measured separately in the survey but they have been included in employees. This step was retroactively reflected in time series.

The **self-employed** with employees (employers) and without employees (own-account workers) are persons employed in their own enterprises. Contributing family workers, irrespective of hours they worked in the reference week, are also considered as the employed in their own enterprises.

The **underemployed** are all persons in paid employment or self-employment, whether or not at work in the reference week, who work part-time or usually less than 40 hours a week and wish to work longer hours. Persons who have not worked for more than four weeks are excluded.

The **number of main job holders** refers to the total number of persons (headcount) who had one job within the reference period and also persons who, besides their main job, also had a second job at the same time.

Second job holders refers to working activity of all persons who have two jobs. Such persons have already been included once in the number of main job holders.

The **unemployed** are all persons aged 15+ years (without any upper age limit) who were simultaneously meeting all of the three basic conditions in the reference period as follows:

- were jobless, i.e. they were neither employed for pay nor self-employed;
- were seeking a job/employment in an active manner. “In an active manner” means the following activities: job seeking through a labour office, through private employment agencies, directly in enterprises, through relatives and acquaintances, by using advertisements, making steps to set up own business, by placing or updating their curriculum vitae on-line;
- were ready to take a job, i.e. they were available to work in paid employment or self-employment immediately or within two weeks at the latest.

Besides these persons, persons who are not seeking employment, because they have already found one, but their commencement of work is fixed for some later date (within three months, at the latest), are also classified as the unemployed according to the Eurostat definition.

Persons **not meeting at least one of the aforementioned three conditions** are classified as the **employed or economically inactive** (depending on other particular characteristics). The table below demonstrates the methodological differences between unemployed persons measured by the LFSS and those kept in the register of labour offices.

Job applicants kept in the labour office register not meeting the ILO conditions for being classified as the unemployed	Job applicants kept in the labour office register meeting the ILO conditions for being classified as the unemployed	Non-registered unemployed persons meeting the ILO conditions being classified as the unemployed
Job applicants kept in the labour office register (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)		
	Unemployed according to the ILO (LFSS)	

The **unemployed, with former work experience**, are persons who have already had employment, i.e. persons who do not seek their first job after completing their process of education/training. The structure shown in the appropriate table excludes persons who finished their employment more than eight years ago.

The **general unemployment rate** is an indicator calculated from the LFSS results and complying with international definitions and recommendations (ILO). It is constructed as the percentage of the number of unemployed persons in the total labour force.

Specific unemployment rates refer to indicators showing unemployment broken down by age or other structure of the population. The numerator includes the unemployed, whereas the denominator includes the total labour force in a given population group (e.g. aged 25–29 years), which the specific unemployment rate is calculated for.

The **participation rate** is constructed according to the ILO and Eurostat methodology as the share of the total labour force in the total number of working-age persons and post-working-age persons (i.e. the population aged 15+ years).

The **employment rate** is the proportion of employed persons in the number of all persons aged 15+ years.

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Further information can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:

– www.czso.cz/csu/czso/employment_unemployment_ekon

or on the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at:

– www.mpsv.cz/web/en/

– www.uradprace.cz/web/en