

Introduction

The release is issued for the big users' interest in the annual average data of Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) taken in the Czech Republic. It appears in the same structure as regular quarterly LFSS publications (3101-08) and informs the reader about the level and structure of employment, unemployment and underemployment in the Czech Republic in 2008 as measured in compliance with international definitions and recommendations by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The definitions and content of all labour force survey indicators requested by Eurostat are fully applied and respected in the Czech Labour Force Sample Survey.

As a rule, statistics provided by the LFSS are directly comparable with information on labour markets handed over to Eurostat by other EU Member States and other countries taking similar surveys. The methodology used is affected by specifics of national legislation and economic circumstances of a particular country to a minimum. For these reasons, results obtained according to the methodology and recommendations of ILO can be taken for an unbiased tool to assess the level of labour markets in all countries which adopted this methodology.

*Compared to common reporting, the Labour Force Sample Survey makes it possible to measure **employment** in organizations and companies, including activities of self-employed persons in business according to the trade licensing act and other regulations. It identifies the latest pattern of employment by sex, age, qualification, industry, and respondents' employment status. It provides data on hours worked, scope of underemployment, multiple jobs and labour force mobility, as well as on **total unemployment**, unemployment pattern, structure of unemployed persons in terms of social, professional and qualification characteristics, length of unemployment, etc. - all this in the territorial cross-section, too.*

*Together with information on population not economically active, data on general employment and unemployment allow to quantify the level and structure of **labour force** currently available and estimate its development in the future. Combining various issues of **social and demographic characteristics** of respondents and their households yields a multitude of data needed by institutions responsible for making social and employment policies.*

The LFSS regularly provides indicators constructed on the basis of ILO international definitions as a supplement to the regular information of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on trends in the labour market and on the implementation of active employment policy. In line with the ongoing harmonisation of the LFSS contents with the EU standard, the LFSS questionnaire is continuously modified and so are the structure and the scope of the statistics provided.