

I. Basic methodological approaches

Since 2002 the **LFSS questionnaire** has been fully harmonised with standard of Eurostat and has corresponded to the contents of Council Regulation (EU) no. 577/98. Nevertheless, the content of Eurostat's standard is still developing and in this context the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) makes appropriate adjustments to the national LFSS questionnaire. However, the content and formal structure of the publication are kept in the same form which enables good orientation with respect to the publications for previous quarters. At the same time, continuity and consistence of statistical data are ensured in a required time sequence.

On 1 January 2000, a territorial structure of the Czech Republic, dividing the country into **14 Regions** ("higher territorial administrative units"), became effective based on the Constitutional Act No. 347/97 Coll. In this context and for statistical and analytical needs, as well as for the needs of the European Commission, eight statistical territorial units (**Areas**) were defined within the Czech Republic in compliance with the Resolution of Cabinet of the CR No. 707/1998. The territorial structure of the Czech Republic, which complies with the system of NUTS (La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques) used in the EU member countries, can be seen from the maps in the Technical Notes. This quarterly LFSS publication gives an insight into the labour market at all basic levels, i.e. NUTS 1 - the Czech Republic, NUTS 2 - statistical Areas and NUTS 3 - Regions.

The LFSS concentrates on households living in dwellings chosen at random. It addresses all persons living usually in the dwellings, disregarding the type of their stay there (permanent, temporary or non-registered). In persons under 15, only basic data are asked for: relationship to the head of household, age, sex and nationality. Persons 15+ are supposed to answer additional questions concerning their status in the labour market. The survey does not cover persons living in collective accommodation establishments for a long period of time, which is why data on certain population groups (foreign nationals living and working in the CR in particular) are rather scarce. According to Eurostat, such data can be retrieved from administrative sources or acquired via separate survey taken outside the LFSS.

In the 1st quarter 2008, the sample comprised almost **26 thousand dwellings** on the territory of the Czech Republic (0.6 % of all dwellings permanently lived in), in which **62 thousand respondents of all age groups** were surveyed, including more than **53 thousand respondents aged 15 or more**. This sample size makes it possible to get estimates of labour market characteristics at the national level and also regional estimates with reliability required by Eurostat.

Number of households and persons aged 15+ in the sample

Czech Republic	Regions													
	Hl. m. Praha	Středočeský	Jihočeský	Plzeňský	Karlovarský	Ústecký	Liberecký	Královéhradecký	Pardubický	Vysočina	Jihomoravský	Olomoucký	Zlínský	Moravskoslezský
Number of households in the sample														
25912	2135	3159	2116	1672	1290	1616	1231	1242	1591	1440	2553	1431	1591	2845
Number of persons aged 15+ in the sample														
53212	3902	6470	4381	3417	2462	3103	2465	2588	3312	3072	5729	3033	3454	5824

All data from the sample were reweighed onto age structure of population according to demographic projection of quarterly middle states for the Labour Force Sample Survey (Capt. IV.C – Population). The above mentioned method of recounting corresponds the best to the group of persons included in the survey (permanent residents).

The LFSS is a continuous survey, whose results are evaluated and released on a quarterly basis. The results are released three months after the end of the reference quarter. In the context of the unification of content of the national questionnaire and list of questions obligatory for Member States of EU, the content of this publication will be changed steadily.