

I. Basic methodological approaches

Since 2002 the **LFSS questionnaire** has been fully harmonised with Eurostat's survey and corresponds to Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98. Nevertheless, the contents of Eurostat's survey are still developing and in this context the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) makes appropriate adjustments to the national LFSS questionnaire. In spite of that, the contents and formal structure of the quarterly publication remain unchanged, which enables the reader good guidance with respect to the publications for previous quarters. Also kept are the continuity and consistence of statistical data in chronological order.

On 1 January 2000, a territorial administrative structure of the Czech Republic dividing the country into **14 Regions** ("higher territorial self-governing units"), became effective under the Constitutional Act No. 347/97 Sb. As a follow-up, to comply with the statistical and analytical needs and the needs of the European Union, eight statistical territorial units (**Areas**) were formed according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of the Czech Republic No. 707/1998. The territorial administrative structure of the Czech Republic, complying with the NUTS classification (La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques) used in EU 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 - Czech Republic, NUTS 2 - statistical Areas and NUTS 3 - Regions.

The LFSS **covers households living in randomly sampled dwellings**. Under reporting duty to the survey are all persons usually living in the dwelling, disregarding the type of their stay (permanent residence, temporary, long-term or not registered stay). For persons aged under 15 only basic data are asked for: relationship to head of the household, age, gender and nationality. Persons aged 15 and over 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 (especially foreign nationals living and working in the Czech Republic) are rather scarce. According to Eurostat, such data can be retrieved from administrative sources or obtained through a special survey taken outside the LFSS.

In Q3 2008, the sample comprised almost **26 thousand dwellings** in the Czech Republic (0.6% of all permanently occupied dwellings), in which over **60 thousand respondents of all age groups** were surveyed, including more than **52 thousand respondents aged 15 and over**. This sample size allows making estimates of labour market indicators for the country and also estimates for regions and areas with reliability required by Eurostat.

Number of households and persons aged 15 and over 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														
25568	2125	3153	2100	1612	1242	1569	1209	1224	1580	1420	2446	1388	1569	2931
Number of persons aged 15 and over in the sample														
52098	3791	6333	4336	3292	2322	3003	2415	2517	3343	3049	5407	2931	3411	5948

Weight adjustments have been made to **all the sample data** according to the age structure of the population based on mid-quarter population projection for the Labour Force Sample Survey (section IV.C – Population). The above method of adjustments reflects best the group of permanent residents in the survey.

The LFSS is a continuous survey whose results are assessed and published on a quarterly basis. The results are released three months after end of the reference quarter. In connection with the unification of the national questionnaire and the list of questions obligatory for EU member states, the contents of this publication are being modified.