

Introduction

This publication presents the results of the official Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) taken in the Czech Republic (CR) for Q4 2008. It is aimed to inform the reader on the level and structure of employment, unemployment and underemployment in the Czech Republic measured in compliance with international definitions and recommendations by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The definitions and contents of all Labour Force Survey indicators requested by Eurostat are fully applied and respected in the Czech Labour Force Sample Survey.

As a rule, the statistics produced by the LFSS are directly comparable with labour market statistics transmitted to Eurostat by other EU member states and other countries taking similar surveys. The applied methodology is affected to a minimum extent by national legislation specifics and national economic circumstances. For this reasons, the results can be regarded as an unbiased tool for comparisons of the labour markets in all countries which adopted this methodology.

*Compared to routine reporting, the Labour Force Sample Survey allows making expert estimates of **employment** in organisations and companies, including activities of self-employed persons in business under the Trade Act and other legal regulations. The LFSS examines the current structure of employment by gender, age group and qualifications, CZ-NACE activity and respondents' employment status. It produces data on hours worked, multiple jobs and labour force mobility, also data on **total unemployment**, unemployment pattern, structure of unemployed persons by social, professional and qualification aspects, length of unemployment, etc., including breakdowns by territorial administrative units.*

*Total employment and unemployment data, together with data on economically inactive population, allow quantifying the level and structure of disposable **labour force** and anticipating its trends in the future. Combining a wide range of issues of **social and demographic indicators** on respondents and their households yields a multitude of data required by institutions responsible for social and employment policies.*

The LFSS regularly provides indicators built on the basis of international ILO 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 survey, the LFSS questionnaire is continually modified and so are the structure and the scope of the statistics provided.