

Labour Force Survey (LFS) Guidelines

Survey Background

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) replaced the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) from Q3 2017. Similar to the QNHS, it is a large-scale, nationwide survey of households in Ireland. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include the official measure of employment and unemployment in the state (International Labour Organisation classification).

The original QNHS (re-labelled LFS) series from Q1 1998 to Q2 2017 has been adjusted to enable comparability with the new LFS for a number of headline indicators. The complete series is available from Q1 1998 to present. The original quarterly sample of 26,000 households has been increased incrementally by 1,300 households from Q3 2017 to account for the additional attrition as a result of the introduction of mixed mode data collection. This has resulted in a total sample of 32,500 in Q3 2018.

The principal variables are ILO status (employed, unemployed etc.), industry of employment, occupation of employment, status of employment, duration of unemployment etc. Indicators are published by a range of classifications including sex, age, nationality, region of residence and highest level of education attained

Checking of outputs by Labour Market Section

The Labour Market section will not be peer reviewing the outputs of researchers, i.e. the Labour Market section will not be verifying the correctness or otherwise of derived estimates by researchers. This will be the responsibility of researchers. Instead, the Labour Market Section will be checking for the risk of disclosure and the reliability of estimates presented. To do this, researchers will be required to provide the Labour Market section with the following when seeking approval for the release of outputs from the RDP:

A completed Output Request Template must accompany all requests for outputs to be approved. This template is available from the project Outputs folder.

1. Email Labour Market at labour@cso.ie (for the attention of Jim Dalton) the name(s) of files for approval and their exact location on the RDP, for example <\\VDI\Research Projects\ Projects\LFS 002 2018 Project\output>
2. All tabular outputs must show both weighted and un-weighted data. The thresholds listed above must be applied to the weighted tabular data with data suppressed or enclosed in parentheses as necessary. Failure to do so will result in delays in approval of researcher outputs by Labour Market section.

3. The Labour Market section will then check the un-weighted tabular data to ensure that the thresholds have been applied correctly. It may also make recommendations for further grouping of data as deemed necessary.
4. Once approved for release, the Labour Market section will then send the output files to the researcher.
5. All research project outputs must be accompanied by the following footnote:

“Results are based on analysis of strictly controlled Research Microdata Files provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The CSO does not take any responsibility for the views expressed or the outputs generated from this research.”

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS), Central Statistics Office, Ireland

* Estimates for numbers of persons or averages where there are less than 30 persons in a cell are not produced as estimates are too small to be considered reliable.

Parentheses [] indicate where there are 30-50 persons in a cell, estimates are considered to have a wider margin of error and should be treated with caution.

The Labour Market section should be sent a copy of all releases/publications using LFS data prior to publication.