

*Approved by Order
of the National Bureau of Statistics
no. 84 of October 11, 2024*

*With the changes operated by
Order of the National Bureau of Statistics
no. 66 of June, 30, 2025*

*With the changes operated by
Order of the National Bureau of Statistics
no. 147 of December, 23, 2025*

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

(HOUSEHOLD SURVEY)

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| ACRONYMS | 3 |
| I. GENERAL PROVISIONS | 4 |
| II. SURVEY OBJECTIVES | 5 |
| III. BASIC CONCEPTS / DEFINITIONS | 6 |
| IV. LEGAL BASIS | 20 |
| 4.1 International standards / recommendation..... | 20 |
| 4.2 National legislation, related to the LFS | 21 |
| V. CLASSIFICATIONS USED..... | 22 |
| VI. REFERENCE POPULATION. REFERENCE PERIOD | 22 |
| 6.1. Reference / statistical population (coverage)..... | 22 |
| 6.2 Particular cases in application of the concept of usual residence..... | 22 |
| 6.3 Observation unit | 23 |
| 6.4 Reference periods and reference dates | 23 |
| 6.5 Survey periodicity | 24 |
| VII. SURVEY / SAMPLING DESIGN | 24 |
| VIII. DATA SOURCE. SURVEY TOOLS. DATA COLLECTION..... | 26 |
| 8.1 Data source and gathering methods..... | 26 |
| 8.2 Main provided information..... | 27 |
| 8.3 Statistical survey staff..... | 28 |
| IX. DATA PROCESSING | 29 |
| X. ESTIMATION OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS (ESTIMATES) AND CALCULATION RELATIONS | 32 |
| XI. DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE | 36 |
| XII. DATA REVISION POLICY AND COMPARABILITY OVER TIME, WITH OTHER SOURCES AND AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL | 37 |
| XIII. PROCEDURES FOR ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY | 40 |
| XIV. DATA DISSEMINATION | 41 |
| XV. SOFTWARE USED..... | 43 |
| XVI. LIMITATIONS | 43 |
| XVII. BIBLIOGRAPHY | 44 |

ACRONYMS

CAPI – Computer-assisted personal interview

CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States

EMDOS - Multifunctional Master Sample for Social Surveys

Eurostat - Statistical office of the European Union

HBS – Household budget survey

ICLS – International Conference of Labour Statisticians

ILO – International Labour Organisation

IMF – International Monetary Found

LFS – Household Labour force survey

NBS – National Bureau of Statistics

NEA – National Employment Agency

PHC - Population and Housing Census

PSUs - Primary Sampling Units

RSC - Regional statistical centers

SIMS - Single Integrated Metadata Structure

SNA – System of National Accounts

UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

WB – World Bank

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Methodology of the household Labour Force Survey (*hereinafter – the Methodology*) explains the objective of the survey and describes: the legal basis; the stages of conducting the Household Labour Force Survey (LFS); the main concepts and definitions, the calculation formulas of the main indicators; the classifications used and their level of detail for the survey; the target population and the reference period; the survey/sample design; the survey questionnaires; the methods of data collection and processing; the way to ensure data quality; data dissemination and other specific aspects related to the LFS.

Since 2000, the LFS has been part of the national statistical programme, being implemented in practice in accordance with international standards. The methodology was developed according to: a) [13th ICLS Resolution](#) (1982) concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment and b) Council Regulation (EU) [No 577/98](#) on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community.

During the survey period, the LFS was re-design several times. The changes made related in particular to the following:

- Establishment of a common sampling frame and common network of interviewers and supervisors for the statistical social surveys (LFS and HBS) in households.
- Introduction of a new rotation schemes and new household samples;
- collection of new variables etc.

The latest important changes were introduced in the LFS methodology:

- Starting with 2019: a) „employment” definition was adjusted to new international standard¹ (19th ICLS, 2013); b) new sampling plan was implemented based on the 2014 PHC; c) the number of usually resident population is used for estimate the LFS results². These changes involved (for the first time) revisions to the 2014-2018 data series.
- Starting with April 1, 2024, a common network of interviewers was created for all statistical household surveys. In particular, the LFS is carried out by 130 interviewers.
- Starting with 2025: new sampling plan was implemented based on the 2024 PHC.
- starting with 2026: the LFS methodology is harmonized with European Union standards, ensuring the comparability of the survey results at European level.

In the Republic of Moldova, the LFS is carried out in accordance with the Annual Statistical Work Program, approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova by Government Decision.

¹ [Resolution I of the 19st ICLS, 2013](#): “Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization”.

² For the period up to 2018, inclusive, the results of the LFS were estimated using the number of the resident population.

II. SURVEY OBJECTIVES

LFS is a modern method for statistical surveys of the labour market, with the main objective of measuring the labour force - the employed and unemployed population and the population outside the labour force.

Designed as an important source of information between censuses on the labour force, the survey provides essential data on all segments of the population, with numerous possibilities of correlation and structuring according to various demo-socio-economic characteristics, in conditions of international comparability.

Since 2000, LFS has been carried out as a continuous quarterly sample survey, providing quarterly and annual results (average values), thus allowing the obtaining of conjunctural data on the size and structure of the labour supply and highlighting seasonal phenomena that occur on the labour market.

The resulting indicators from the LFS are used in the process of developing, evaluating, analysing and monitoring policies in the economic, social and labour market fields. They are also directly relevant to citizens, as employment and unemployment are of central concern to individuals and society.

Internal users:

- Parliament
- Presidency
- Government
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization
- NEA
- Other central public authorities
- Academic society
- Analytical centers
- Mass media etc.

External users:

- ILO
- Eurostat
- IMF
- UNECE
- UNESCO
- UNICEF
- UN Women
- WB
- etc.

III. BASIC CONCEPTS / DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **Microdata** means non-aggregated observations or measurements of characteristics of individual units, without direct identifier
- 3.2 **Pre-checked aggregated data** or **pre-checked microdata** means data or microdata without direct identifiers, verified by the Member States on the basis of common validation rules where available
- 3.3 **Domain** means one or several data sets that covers particular topics.
- 3.4 **Observation unit** means an identifiable entity about which data can be obtained.
- 3.5 **Topic** means the content of the information to be collected about the observation units, each topic covering a number of detailed topics.
- 3.6 **Detailed topic** means the detailed content of the information to be collected about the observation units related to a topic, each detailed topic covering a number of variables.
- 3.7 **Variable** means a characteristic of an observation unit that may assume more than one of a set of values.
- 3.8 **Main variable** means a variable with a quarterly periodicity.
- 3.9 **Structural variable** means an annual, biennial, eight-yearly variable or a variable collected on an ad hoc subject.
- 3.10 **Minimum set of variables** means the variables to be collected for all household members to allow analyses both at household level and at individual level broken down by specific household characteristics.
- 3.11 **Headline indicator** means widely used information that serves to monitor a central objective of Union policy.
- 3.12 **Ad-hoc subject** means themes that are of particular interest to users at a specific point in time but that are not included in the regular data sets.
- 3.13 **Face-to-face interview** - a method of collecting statistical data collected by an interviewer, based on an interview conducted directly with the respondent, through which the interviewer asks the questions included in the statistical questionnaire and records in the specially designated spaces the answers given by the respondent. In general, the face-to-face interview is carried out at the usual residence of the respondent.
- 3.14 **Proxy interview** means an interview with someone other than the person from whom information is being sought following specific rules set by each survey specifying in which cases proxy interviews can be accepted.

3.15 **Usual residence** means the place where a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage.

The following persons alone are considered to be usual residents of a specific geographical area:
(a) those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the reference time; or

(b) those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the reference time with the intention of staying there for at least one year.

Where the circumstances described in point (a) or (b) cannot be established, “usual residence” can be taken to mean the place of legal or registered residence.

Particular cases in application of the concept of usual residence are mentioned in point 6.2 below.

3.16 **The country of residence** is the country in which the person or the household have their usual residence, in accordance with the current national boundaries.

3.17 **The country of birth** of an individual is defined as the country of usual residence of the individual’s mother at the time of delivery, according to the current national boundaries (and not according to the boundaries in place at the time of birth).

3.18 **Country of main citizenship** is defined as the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation.

3.19. **Quality report** means a report conveying information about the quality of a statistical product or process.

3.20 **Sampling frames** means a list, map or other specification of the units which determine a population that is to be completely enumerated or sampled.

3.21 **Sample rotation scheme** means the split of the total sample into sub-samples of observation units similar in size and design, used to specify the number of times and the exact reference quarters of the year for which an observation unit shall provide information in the survey.

3.22 **Wave** means the sub-sample of observation units due to be interviewed for the same nth time according to the sample rotation scheme in a reference quarter

3.23 **Uniform sample distribution of the annual sample** with regards to all the reference quarters of the year means that each quarterly sample is the total annual sample divided by four.

3.24 **Uniform sample distribution of the quarterly sample** with regards to all the reference weeks of the quarter means that each weekly sample is the total quarterly sample divided by the number of the weeks of the quarter.

3.25 **Sample of independent observations** means a sample where each observation unit occurs only once according to the sample design.

3.26 **Reliability limits** mean estimated sizes of population groups below which figures have to be suppressed or published with warning.

3.27 **Dwelling or housing unit** means a building, part thereof, other premises or living quarters used for human habitation and includes „conventional dwellings” and „other housing units”.

3.28 **Conventional dwellings** are structurally separate and independent premises at fixed locations which are designed for permanent human habitation.

3.29 **Other housing units** are huts, cabins, shacks, shanties, caravans, houseboats, barns, mills, caves or any other shelter used for human habitation.

3.30 **Private household** means a person living alone or a group of persons who live together, providing oneself or themselves with the essentials of living

One-person household, i.e. a person who usually resides alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room or rooms of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household as defined below,

A multi-person household, i.e. a group of two or more persons who:

- (i) are usually residing together in the whole or part of a housing unit, and
- (ii) provide themselves with food and other essentials for living, or
- (iii) are sharing income or household expenses with other household members.

“Sharing household income” means contributing to the household income and/or benefitting from the household income.

Flatmates or housemates who occupy a housing unit on a house-sharing basis and share only house-related expenses, but not income, shall not be considered as part of a multi-person household occupying this housing unit, even if they share some other subsidiary household expenses.

3.31 **Household member** means the usual resident of a private household.

3.32 **Family home** means a housing unit occupied by the members of a multi-person household, as well as by a person who spends some time elsewhere but retains close ties with the members of the multi-person private household, especially through family relationships or regular stays.

3.33 **Household expenses** mean expenses incurred by private household members in relation to providing themselves with the essentials of living. They include house-related expenses (namely rent, house or apartment charges and housing insurance) as well as other expenses related to daily life, encompassing needs such as food, clothes, sanitary products, furniture, equipment and utensils, commuting and other transport, medical care and insurance, education and training, leisure and sports activities and holidays.

3.34 **Institution** means a legal body or establishment providing a group of people with long-term housing and the amenities and services needed for daily life. The majority of institutions fall under the following categories:

- hospitals, hospices, convalescent homes, establishments for people with disabilities, psychiatric institutions, old people's homes and nursing homes;
- assisted living facilities and social welfare institutions, including those for the homeless, asylum seekers or refugees;
- military camps and barracks;
- correctional and penal institutions, retention and remand centres, prisons;
- religious institutions;
- tertiary student dormitories (depending on specific arrangements).

3.35 **Reference person in the household** (head of the household) is the person towards whom the kinship relations between all household members are established.

3.36 **Labour force** (active population from the economic point of view) refers to the current³ supply of labour for the production of goods and services in exchange for pay or profit. The labour force includes the persons in employment and in unemployment.

3.37 **Working-age population**⁴, for the purposes of this survey, includes all persons aged 15-64. To ensure comparability, the internationally used age limits were used to define this population category.

- Working age population according to national legislation includes all women aged 16–62⁵ and men aged 16–63⁵.

3.38 Depending on their **labour force status** (labour status according to ILO), persons can be classified as being:

- in employment,
- in unemployment,
- outside the labour force.

The classification of the population by category, according to labour force status, is done according to the **principle of priority of employment over unemployment and of unemployment over persons outside the labour force**.

3.39 **Labour force participation rate** (activity rate) represents the share of the labour force (active population) in age group X in the total population in the same age group X (is presented in percentages (%)).

3.40 **Employed persons** comprise persons aged 15 to 89 (in completed years at the end of the reference week) who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:

- (a) persons who during the reference week worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit, including contributing family workers;

³ During a short reference period, equal to seven days or one week (according to [Resolution I of the 19st ICLS](#), 2013: Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization).

⁴ Working-age population is the segment of a country's population considered capable and available for work, typically defined by an age range, most commonly 15 to 64 years old.

⁵ The standard retirement age for men is 63 years old starting July 1, 2019. The standard retirement age for women increases annually in stages, in accordance with art. 41 (1), table no. 2, of [Law No. 156 of 14.10.1998](#) regarding the public pension system.

(b) persons with a job or business who were temporarily not at work during the reference week but had an attachment to their job, where the following groups have a job attachment:

- persons not at work due to holidays (vacation or annual leave); working time arrangements (days off within a flexible work schedule, in shifts, etc.); sick leave (for temporary incapacity for work) due to own illness or injury (including occupational); maternity or paternity leave (within the limits of a period provided for by law);
- persons in job-related training;
- persons on parental leave, either receiving and/or being entitled to job-related income or benefits (on partially paid leave for childcare up to the age of 3, with payment of the allowance from the state social insurance budget⁶), or whose parental leave is expected to be 3 months or less;
- seasonal workers during the off-season, where they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations;
- persons temporarily not at work for other reasons where the expected duration of the absence is 3 months or less (on study leave, strikes or lockouts, reduction in economic activity, temporary lay-off, slack work (including technical unemployment, unpaid leave) due to bad weather, mechanical, electrical or communication breakdown; problems with information and communication technology; lack of raw materials, energy or fuels; lack of orders or customers, etc.

(c) persons that produce agricultural goods whose main part is intended for sale or barter.

Persons in own-use production work (producing agricultural goods mainly for their own consumption⁷), voluntary workers, unpaid trainees and individuals involved in other forms of work are not included in employment on the basis of those activities.

In accordance with the principle of priority of employment over unemployment and of unemployment over the population outside the labour force, employed are considered:

- persons who have a job (full-time or part-time), looking for another job;
- persons who during the reference week carried out any paid or gainful work, even if they were in compulsory education, were retired or receiving a pension, were registered with the employment offices, whether or not they were receiving unemployment benefit;
- paid apprentices and trainees, working full or part-time;
- members of the armed forces (as of 2018 - except for conscripts).

3.41 Employment rate: the share of the employed population in age group X in the total population in the same age group X (%).

3.42 Gender employment gap: the difference between the employment rate of women and the employment rate of men (percentage points – p.p.).

3.43 Economic activity of the job is defined and coded according to the Classification of Activities in the Economy of Moldova, (CAEM-2). The employed population is distributed by economic activities at the level of sections, according to CAEM-2.

⁶ Until 2023, including persons who were on partially paid leave to care for a child up to the age of 3 were not included in employment.

⁷ Starting with 2019, persons producing agricultural goods mainly for own-use are no longer part of the employment according to [Resolution I of the 19st ICLS, 2013](#): “Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization”.

When establishing the economic activity of the job, the following are taken into account:

- the main activity of the local unit;
- the activity defined on the basis of occupation, for self-employed persons;
- the activity of the job of the assisted person, for (unpaid) family workers.

3.44 **Economic sectors:** employed population is distributed among 3 economic sectors, which include economic activities according to CAEM-2 as follows:

- primary: agriculture, forestry, fishing;
- secondary: industry (mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities) and construction;
- tertiary: trade services (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities; information and communication; financial and insurance activities; real estate activities; professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities etc.) and social services (public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities; arts, entertainment and recreation etc.)

3.45 The **type of production units** is defined according to the System of National Accounts:

- Formal Sector Production Units;
- Informal Sector Production Units;
- Households.

3.45.1 **Employment in the formal sector** is defined as employment in:

- incorporated enterprises, organization, and institutions (economic units with status of legal entities) or
- unincorporated enterprises (without status of a legal entity), which are registered according to the legislation.

3.45.2 **Employment in informal sector** includes all persons that, irrespectively of their status in employment, were employed during the reference period in *informal sector* enterprises. Informal sector enterprises are defined as non-registered unincorporated private enterprises (without status of legal entity).

3.45.3 **Employment in households** includes the persons engaged as paid domestic workers, employed by the household.

3.46 The **type (nature) of the job** can be *formal* or *informal*.

3.46.1 **Formal employment** includes:

- 1) Self-employed person without employees working in formal sector enterprises (including members of formal producers' cooperatives (who are not employees in these cooperatives));
- 2) Self-employed persons with employees working in formal sector enterprises;
- 3) Employees for whom the employer pays social contributions, who benefit from annual paid leave and paid sick leave.

3.46.2 **Informal employment** includes:

- 1) Self-employed person without employees working in informal sector enterprises (including members of informal producers' cooperatives);
- 2) Self-employed persons with employees who work in informal sector enterprises;
- 3) Family worker (unpaid), working in formal or informal sector enterprises;
- 4) Employees in formal or informal sector enterprises, or in private households, and meet at least one of the below criteria:
 - the employer does not pay social contributions for them;
 - do not benefit from paid annual leave;
 - in case of illness, do not benefit from paid sick leave.

3.47 **Undeclared work** - undeclared work means any work performed by an individual for and under the authority of an employer without respecting the provisions of the Labour Code regarding the working contract.

3.48 **Occupation** is the useful, income-generating activity (in money or in kind) that a person carries out, generally in an economic or social unit or in an individual household. Occupation is defined and coded according to the Classification of Occupations of the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021). The grouping of the population by occupation took into account the position or profession actually exercised by the employed persons. The employed population is distributed by major occupation groups according to CORM 006-2021:

- 1 Legislators, executive members, other senior officials and heads of public administration leaders and senior officials from units
- 2 Professionals in various fields of activity
- 3 Technicians and Associate Professionals
- 4 Clerical support workers
- 5 Services and sale workers
- 6 Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
- 7 Craft and related trades workers
- 8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations
- 0 Armed forces occupations

3.49 **Status in employment** represents the situation of a person, depending on the way he/she obtains incomes from the performed activity, and namely: employees (paid employment); non-employees (self-employment); employers; own account workers; contributing family workers; member of a producers' cooperatives.

- Employees;
- Self-employment: self-employed persons with employees, self-employed person without employees, (unpaid) family workers.

3.49.1 **Employees** are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer based on a written or oral contract and who receive a payment in cash or in kind.

3.49.2 **Self-employed persons with employees** (previously employers) are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a

profit derived from the goods or services produced, and who employ at least one other person.

3.49.3 **Self-employed persons without employees** (previously own account workers) are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit derived from the goods or services produced, and who do not employ any other person, being helped or not by (unpaid) family workers. This status covers the independent entrepreneurs (street vendors, meditation teachers, private taxi drivers etc.), freelance professionals (traveling musicians, plastic artists, lawyers), occasional workers, and individual farmers. Members of producers' co-operatives should be considered as self-employed. These members take part on an equal footing with other members in determining the organisation of production, work, sales and/or investments of the establishment.

To carry out some work, "independent workers" can hire temporary employees.

3.49.4 **Family workers (unpaid)** are persons who help another member of the family to run a farm or other business, provided they are not considered as employees. Thus, they may not receive a kind of payment for their work in the family.

The agricultural farm is considered as such unit.

If several persons from a household are working within their farm, one of them – generally the household head – is considered as self-employed persons without employees (previously own account workers) and the others are considered as unpaid family workers.

3.50 **Usual working programme** of employed persons is defined as being **full-time** or **part-time**, according to the respondents' statements. Generally, a *full-time* programme for employees is considered to be the programme related to a full-time schedule, as provided in the collective employment contract (normal duration); and a *part-time* programme is the programme the duration of which is significantly shorter than the normal duration, as provided in the individual employment contract.

The **usual length** of the workweek is considered to be the length of the typical workweek, not that provided for in the collective labour contract or other types of labour agreement. This length also includes overtime, if these are systematically performed.

3.51 **Involuntary part-time employment** is when respondents report that they work part-time because they are unable to find full-time work.

3.52 **The method of hiring** employees can be as follows:

- Individual working contract (written) or administrative act (employment order);
- Agreement (verbal).

3.53 **Homework** includes professional activities that are carried out entirely or partially at the home of the interviewed person; it is practiced mainly by freelancers - self-employed workers, but also by some employees. In the case of employees, "homework" is interpreted as meaning that there is a mutual understanding between the employee and the employer that part of the work is carried out at the employee's home on a regular basis.

3.54 **Remote work** is the form of work organization in the fields of activity, through which the employee performs the duties specific to the occupation, position or profession he holds in a

place other than that organized by the employer, including using means in the field of information and communications technology (telework).

3.55 Non-standard work includes: a) atypical work - persons who work in the evening (between 6pm and 10pm), at night (between 10pm and 6am), on Saturdays or Sundays; b) shift work (i.e. working in 2, 3 and 4 shifts), c) work "on call", etc.

3.56 Inadequate employment situations related to:

- **skill**, includes employed persons, whose occupation does not correspond to the field of education, and who during the reference period wish to change the situation at their current job, to using their skills and qualification more widely, and are available to do so.
- **income** includes employed persons who during the reference period wish to change their current job situation in order to increase their income and are available to do so.
- **excessive hours** include employed persons who during the reference period wish to work fewer hours than they actually work either at the same job or at another job with a corresponding reduction in income.

3.57 Time-related underemployment: employed persons who meet the following criteria:

- are willing to work overtime;
- are available to work overtime; if they had this opportunity;
- the hours actually worked in all activities during the reference period are below a set limit. The threshold of 40 hours per week has been adopted in accordance with the labour legislation in force.

3.58 Time-related underemployment rate: share of the underemployed population in the total employed population (%).

3.59 ILO⁸ Unemployed comprise persons aged 15 to 74, (in completed years at the end of the reference week) who were:

- a) during the reference week not employed according to the definition of employment described in p. 3.40 above; and
- b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week: and
- c) actively seeking work, i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week.

For the purposes of identifying active job search, such activities are:

- studying job advertisements;
- placing or answering job advertisements;
- placing or updating CVs online;
- contacting employers directly;

⁸ According to the ILO definition

- asking friends, relatives or acquaintances;
- contacting a public employment service;
- contacting a private employment agency;
- taking a test, interview or examination as part of a recruitment process; and
- making preparations to set up a business.

Seasonal workers not at work during the reference week (off-season) but who expect to return to their seasonal job are to be considered as having “found a job”.

3.60 ILO unemployment rate: share of ILO unemployed in the labour force (active population) (%).

3.61 Gender unemployment gap: the difference between the ILO unemployment rate among women and the ILO unemployment rate among men (p.p).

3.62 Long-term unemployment: the number of persons unemployed for one year or more.

3.63 Long-term unemployment rate: share of the number of ILO unemployed persons unemployed for 12 months and more in the total labour force (%).

3.64 Incidence of long-term unemployment: share of long-term unemployment (12 months and over) in the total number of unemployed (%).

3.65 Very long-term unemployment: the number of persons unemployed for 24 months or more.

3.66 Very long-term unemployment rate: share of the number of ILO unemployed persons unemployed for 24 months and more in the total labour force (%)

3.67 Youth unemployment:

- a) youth unemployment rate: share of unemployed persons aged 15-24 in the total number of labour force in this age group (percentage);
- b) the ratio of the youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) to the adult unemployment rate (25 years and over) (percentage);
- c) the share of unemployed young persons in total unemployment (percentage);
- d) the proportion of youth unemployment among youth: share of unemployed persons aged 15-24 years in the total number of young persons in the same age group (15-24 years) (percentage).

3.68 Long-term unemployment among youth: the number of young persons (15-24 years old) unemployed for 6 months or more.

3.69 Incidence of long-term unemployment among youth: the ratio between the number of ILO unemployed persons aged 15-24 who have been unemployed for 6 months or more and the total number of unemployed persons in the same age group (15-24 years) (%).

3.70 Persons outside the labour force (inactive population) comprise persons who were in one of the following categories:
 (a) aged below 15 (in completed years at the end of the reference week);

(b) aged above 89 (in completed years at the end of the reference week); or
(c) aged 15 to 89 (in completed years at the end of the reference week) and neither employed nor unemployed during the reference week according to the definitions of employment and unemployment.

The population outside the labour force includes the following categories:

- pupils or students (persons who attend any regular educational institution, public or private, for systematic instruction at any level of education);
- pensioners/retired (persons who receive pensions from former employment);
- performing unpaid household services (or „homemaker”) (who are engaged only in unpaid household duties in their own home: responsible for the care of the home, children or elderly people, including persons on additional unpaid leave for the care of a child aged 3 to 4 years according to the legislation in force);
- other categories:
 - dependent persons (mainly supported by other persons or by the state);
 - capital income recipients (persons who receive income from property or investments, interests, rents, royalties.);
 - prisoners, detainees, etc.

3.71 **Inactivity rate** of population aged 15 years and over represents the share of population outside the labour force aged 15 and over in the total population aged 15 years and over (%).

3.72 **Discouraged persons** are inactive persons, available to work in the next 15 days, who do not have a job and who stated that they are looking for a job, but did not take any step over the last 4 weeks for this purpose, or they do not look for a job due to the following reasons:

- thought there are no vacancies or did not know where else to look for;
- do not feel themselves skilled;
- think will not find a job because of the age;
- previously looked for a job and did not find any.

3.73 **Dependency ratio**: the ratio of not employed (unemployed or outside the labour force) to employed persons (per mile - ‰).

3.74 **Learning processing** encompasses all learning activity undertaken with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and competences, within a personal, civic, social and or employment related perspective and involves making a prior decision to learn, with the prospect of improving knowledge, information, competence, understanding, qualification, and behaviour. It takes place:

- within the national education system (formal education);
- outside the national education system by participating in courses, seminars, conferences, etc. (non-formal education).

3.75 **The level of education attainment** refers to the highest level of education successfully completed in the education system of the country in which the education was received. Completion of an educational level/programme is validated by assessing acquired knowledge, skills and competences. Level of education or training is usually awarded by a recognised educational qualification, certified by an issued educational document (secondary school certificate, qualification certificate, diploma, etc.)

The grouping by **highest level of education attainment**⁹ is as follows:

1. *No education* (less than primary) - this level includes both children and adults who have not graduated from any school.
2. *Primary* - this level includes education in grades I-IV. This includes persons who have completed the primary education cycle.
3. *Lower secondary (gymnasium)* - this level includes education in grades V-IX. This includes persons who have graduated from lower secondary education. This also includes persons who have graduated from the former incomplete 7 or 8-year secondary schools.
4. *High school, upper secondary (general)* - includes upper secondary general education (grades X-XI) and high school (grades X-XII). This also includes persons who have graduated from the former 10-year/11-year secondary schools.
5. *Upper secondary vocational* - includes education in vocational schools, with the aim of obtaining a profession (trade) for workers. This includes persons who have graduated from a vocational school.
6. *Post-secondary vocational (secondary professional)* - includes education provided in colleges/centres of excellence. This includes persons who have graduated from current colleges/centres of excellence and persons who previously graduated from specialized secondary institutions ("technicum" schools, pedagogical schools, medical schools, schools of cultural education, etc.).
7. *Post-secondary non-tertiary vocational (short-cycle tertiary)* – includes education provided in colleges/centres of excellence in the fields of education „Pedagogy and Educational Sciences” and „Health”. It also includes education completed in colleges in the Republic of Moldova during the period 1995–2007, or in similar educational institutions abroad.
8. *Bachelor’s degree / higher education, Cycle I* – includes education provided by higher education institutions (3–5 years), the completion of which is certified by a Bachelor’s degree diploma. This category includes individuals who have graduated from higher education institutions such as universities, academies, institutes, etc.
9. *Master’s degree / higher education, Cycle II* – includes the following categories:
 - a) persons who have recently graduated from higher education institutions, with completion confirmed by a Master’s degree diploma. Master’s higher education programmes last 1–2 years;
 - b) persons who completed higher education programmes lasting 4–5 years prior to 1994;
 - c) persons who completed higher education programmes lasting 4–5 years during the period 1995–2007;
 - d) persons who have graduated from integrated study programmes in the fields of medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, veterinary medicine, and architecture.
 - e) persons who have completed „aspirantura” (postgraduate studies) with a duration of 3 years.
10. *Doctoral degree / higher education, Cycle III* – includes persons who have completed doctoral and postdoctoral higher education studies, confirmed by Doctor and Doctor Habilitat diplomas.

Another grouping of education level is as following:

- **low**: lower secondary (gymnasium), primary, less than primary;
- **medium**: high school, upper secondary (general), upper secondary vocational, post-secondary vocational, post-secondary non-tertiary vocational;

⁹ Starting with 2011

- **high (tertiary):** university (Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral).

3.76 **Adult educational attainment (25-64 years):** the structure of the population aged 25-64 years by level of completed education: low, medium, tertiary. It represents the share of the population aged 25-64 years in each educational attainment category in the total population of the same age group (%).

3.77 **Participation in education and training (lifelong learning):** the share of the population who had received some form of education and training in the last four weeks before the interview, in the total population of the same age group.

Is calculated for age groups:

- 15-64 years;
- Youth - persons aged 15-24;
- Adults - persons aged 25-64.

3.78 **Educational attainment of youth 20–24-year:** the share of young persons aged 20-24 having attained at least upper secondary education (%).

3.79. **Early leavers from education and training (18-24 ani):** represents ratio of population aged 18-24 with elementary (low) level of education, who do not attend any type of education (formal or non-formal) in the last four weeks before the interview, in total population aged 18-24 years (%).

3.80 **Youth NEET¹⁰ rate** corresponds to the percentage of the population of a given age group neither in employment nor in education and training. The indicator is calculated for age groups 15-24, 15-29 and 15-34 (%).

3.81 **Potential labour force** is defined as all persons of working age who, during the short reference period, were neither in employment nor in unemployment and:

- (a) carried out activities to “seek employment”, were not “currently available” but would become available within a short subsequent period established in the light of national circumstances (i.e. *unavailable jobseekers*); or
- (b) did not carry out activities to “seek employment”, but wanted employment and were “currently available” (i.e. *available potential jobseekers*).

3.82 **Extended labour force** defined as the sum of the labour force plus the potential labour force. This indicator is used as the reference population (denominator) for the computing indicators on labour underutilization.

3.83 **Labour underutilization (or labour market slack)** refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. Measures of labour underutilization include, but may not be restricted to:

- (a) *time-related underemployment*, when the working time of persons in employment is insufficient in relation to alternative employment situations in which they are willing and available to engage (the definition is given in point 3.57);

¹⁰ Young people Neither in Employment nor in Education and Training (NEET)”

- (b) *unemployment*, reflecting an active job search by persons not in employment who are available for this form of work) (the definition is given in point 3.59);
- (c) *potential labour force*, referring to persons not in employment who express an interest in this form of work but for whom existing conditions limit their active job search and/or their availability (the definition is given in point 3.81).

According to the [19th ICLS Resolution](#), 4 indicators of labour underutilization are established: LU1 - unemployment rate, LU2 - combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment; LU3 - combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force; LU4 - composite measure of labour underutilization (or extended labour underutilization rate)¹¹.

- 3.84 **Underutilization rate (labour market slack rate)** represents the share of the labour force underutilization in total extended labour force (%).
- 3.85 **Main job (main activity)** is one where the respondent usually works the most hours (i.e. with the longest hours usually worked), even if the respondent may be absent during the reference week for some reason. If a person has more than one job of the same duration, the main job shall be the one from which the person earns the highest income.
- 3.86 **Territorial profile** is coded according to the Nomenclature of the Territorial Statistical Units (NUTS): North, Center, South (including ATU Gagauzia) and Chisinau Municipality.
- 3.87 **Metadata** means information that is needed to use and interpret statistics and that describes data in a structured way.
- 3.88 **Administrative records** mean data generated by a non-statistical source, usually a public body, the main aim of which is not the provision of statistics.
- 3.89 **Non-response** means the failure of a survey to collect data for all data items in the survey questionnaire or from all of the population units designated for data collection, or both, specifically:
- (a) **unit non-response** is a type of non-response occurring when no data are collected about a population unit designated for data collection;
 - (b) **item non-response** is a type of non-response occurring when no data are collected about a survey variable in relation to a designated population unit.
- 3.90 **Sampling error** means part of the difference between a population value and an estimate of that value derived from a random sample, arising from the fact that only a subset of the population is enumerated.
- 3.91 **Non-sampling error** means error in survey estimates that is not attributable to sampling fluctuations.
- 3.92 **Substitution** with regards to respondents means the replacement of a unit that was originally sampled by another unit, including an inter- or intra-household replacement.

¹¹ See point 73 (c) „Measures of labour underutilization” of [19th ICLS Resolution](#)

- 3.93 **Eligible units** means the set of population units selected from the sample frame that are part of the target population.
- 3.94 **Ineligible units** means units in the sample that are not part of the target population.
- 3.95 **Net sample**, also referred to as ‘achieved sample’, means the set of population units (including substitution units) selected from the sampling frame, from which enough information has been obtained to include the unit in the survey estimations.
- 3.96 **Gross sample**, also referred to as ‘initial sample’, means the set of population units initially selected from the sampling frame. The gross sample comprises the eligible units (the net sample and the non-response units) as well as the ineligible units.
- 3.97 **Imputation** means a procedure for entering a value for a specific data item where no response is available.
- 3.98 **Local unit** is an enterprise or part thereof (e. g. a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which one or more persons work (even if only part-time) for one and the same enterprise.

IV. LEGAL BASIS

The legislation regulating LFS includes:

4.1 International standards / recommendation

- [ILO C160 - Labour Statistics Convention No. 160](#) (1985)
- [ILO R170 – Labour Statistics Recommendations No. 170](#) (1985)
- [Resolution I of 19st ICLS \(2013\)](#) Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1700](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, amending Regulations (EC) No 808/2004, (EC) No 452/2008 and (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 (OJ L 261 1/1, 14.10.2019, pp. 1–32)
- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/256](#) of 16 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a multiannual rolling planning (OJ L 54, 26.2.2020, pp. 1–8)
- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/257](#) of 16 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the title of the variables for the labour force domain (OJ L 54, 26.02.2020, pp. 9–15)

- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2240](#) of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the labour force domain in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 336, 30.12.2019, pp. 59–124)
 - [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2180](#) of 16 December 2019 specifying the detailed arrangements and content for the quality reports pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 330, 20.12.2019, pp. 8–15)
 - [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2181](#) of 16 December 2019 specifying technical characteristics as regards items common to several datasets pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 330, 20.12.2019, pp. 16–41)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/2001](#) of 6 October 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the description of the eight-yearly variables for work organisation and working time arrangements and accidents at work and work-related health problems in the labour force domain (OJ L, 2025/2001, 7.10.2025)
- [Law No. 186 of 29.09.2011](#) on the ratification of the ILO Labour Statistics Convention No. 160 (published on 28.10.2011 in Official Monitor No. 182-186 art. 528)

4.2 National legislation, related to the LFS

- [Law No. 112 of 02.07.2014](#) for ratification of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova, of the one part, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the other part (published on 18.07.2014 in Official Monitor No. 185-199 art. 442)
- [Law No. 315 of 17.11.2022](#) approving the National Development Strategy "European Moldova 2030" (published on 21.12.2022 in Official Monitor No. 409-410 art. 758)
- [Government Decision No. 953 of 28.12.2022](#) On the approval of the national framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (published on 14.02.2023 in Official Monitor No. 42-44 art. 84)
- [Government Decision No. 785 of 16.11.2022](#) On the approval of the National Employment Program for 2022-2026 and the Action Plan for its implementation (published on 22.12.2022 in Official Monitor No.411-412 art. 999)
- [Government Decision No. 306 of 28.05.2025](#) On the approval of the National Action Plan for the Accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for the years 2025-2029 (published on 02.06.2025 in Official Monitor No.269-288 art. 319)

V. CLASSIFICATIONS USED

The classifications used to produce LFS statistics include:

- [Classification of Activities in the Economy of Moldova](#) (CAEM-2), harmonized with the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE Rev.2), approved by NBS Order No. 28 of 07.05.2019 (published on 14.06.2019 in Official Monitor No. 193-202 art. 1007)
- [Classification of Occupations of the Republic of Moldova](#) (CORM 006-2021), developed on the basis of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) and the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO), approved on 12.11.2021 by Order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection No. 11 (published on 14.01.2022 in Official Monitor No. 6-16 art. 23)
- [International Classification on Status in Employment](#) (ICSE-93)
- [International Standard Classification of Education](#) (ISCED-2011)
- [Classification of Ownership Forms](#) in the Republic of Moldova (CFP), approved by the Decision of the Department of Standards, Metrology and Technical Supervision no.276-st of 04.02.1997
- [Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics \(NUTS\)](#) of the Republic of Moldova, approved by Government Decision No.570 of 19.07.2017 (published on 21.07.2017 in Official Monitor No. 253-264 art. 663)

VI. REFERENCE POPULATION. REFERENCE PERIOD

6.1. Reference / statistical population (coverage).

The survey is being carried out in the whole country, with the exception of the localities located on the left side of the Nistru River and m. Bender.

The target population is all persons with usual residence in the territory of the Republic of Moldova for a period of 12 months and over, members of private households in the selected dwellings.

6.2 Particular cases in application of the concept of usual residence

The usual residence for all persons in the target population is established on the basis of the ‘most of the time’ criteria, i.e. a person is assigned to the dwelling where he/she spends the majority of the year (more than 6 months).

Particular cases in the application of the ‘most of the time’ criteria are the following:

- (1) Person who works away from the family home during the week and who usually returns to the family home at the weekends, shall consider the family home to be his or her place of usual residence, regardless of whether his or her place of work is elsewhere in the country or abroad.

- (2) Primary and secondary school pupils who are away from the family home during the school term shall consider their family home to be their place of usual residence regardless of whether they are pursuing their education elsewhere in the country or abroad.
- (3) Tertiary students always have their term address as main residence if it is a private address. They are out of the target population if their term address is a tertiary student dormitory.
- (4) In case of a dependent child alternating between two places of residence, the place where the child spends most of his or her time shall be considered as his or her usual residence.

Children alternating two places of residence and spending an equal amount of time with both guardians/parents, the place where the child is found during the reference week is taken as the usual residence. This place of usual residence is to be the same between first and following interviews.

6.3 Observation unit

- (1) Observation unit is the private household. Only private households in permanent dwellings are interviewed. Shared (long-term housing units, as defined in p. 3.34 above) and persons living permanently in such units are not covered by the survey. Seasonal housing is also not covered.

The following are not considered members of the household:

- Persons performing compulsory military service (conscripts)
- Tertiary education students, who live in a (temporary) dwelling other than that of the household.

- (2) Where a person regularly lives in more than one dwelling, the dwelling where that person spends the greater part of the year shall be taken to be his or her place of usual residence, regardless of whether it is located elsewhere within the country or abroad.

6.4 Reference periods and reference dates

- (1) Interviews are spread uniformly over quarter, being carried out a continuous survey.
- (2) The information collected for the labour force domain shall generally relate to the situation during the course of a single week, running from Monday to Sunday, which constitutes the **reference week**. For certain questions there are other reference periods: the last four weeks, the last year, the next two weeks, etc.
- (3) The **age** of a person shall be the age in completed years at the end of the reference week.
- (4) **Reference quarters** shall be as follows:
 - (a) quarters of each year refer to the 12 months of the year divided into four periods, which correspond to the 4 calendar quarters (quarter I, respectively, includes the months of January, February and March, etc.).
 - (b) the reference weeks are allocated to the reference quarters so that a week belongs to the quarter as defined in point (a) to which at least four days of that week belong (called 'Thursday rule'), unless this results in the first quarter of the year consisting of only 12 weeks. In that case, the quarters of the year in question will be formed by consecutive blocks of 13 weeks.

- (c) where, in accordance with point (b), a quarter consists of 14 weeks instead of 13 weeks the sample is speeded over all 14 weeks; that includes the option to divide the sample usually assigned to one week over 2 weeks.
- (d) if it is not feasible to spread the sample to cover all 14 weeks of the quarter, it will skip one week of that quarter by not covering it.
- (e) the weeks with a divided sample and the week to be skipped should be typical with regard to unemployment, employment and average actual hours worked and should be part of a month containing five Thursdays.
- (f) the first quarter of 2026 shall begin on Monday, 29 December 2025. For each subsequent year, the calendar dates on which the first quarter begins are established in the annex to the Eurostat guide „[EU Labour Force Survey – Explanatory Notes](#) (in force from 1 January 2021)” (Annex – Definition of reference quarters and months)”.

(5) A **reference year** shall be the combination of the four reference quarters of that year.

6.5 Survey periodicity

The survey is conducted quarterly.

VII. SURVEY / SAMPLING DESIGN

The **sampling design** used for LFS is a complex probabilistic two-stage sample design. At the first stage, the Multifunctional Master Sample for Social Surveys (EMDOS 3) serves as the sampling frame. It was designed in 2025 and it is used for all social surveys carried out by the NBS. The Master Sample is a representative sample of 585 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), selected for a six-year period. The sample ensures representativeness at the national level, as well as across regions and by area of residence.

The **sampling frame** for EMDOS 3, corresponding to the first stage of sampling, was developed using data from the 2024 Population and Housing Census. It comprises 1,678 PSUs (922 PSUs in urban Chişinău and 765 PSUs in the rest of the country), or 839 pairs of PSU. At the second stage, the sampling frame consists of lists of occupied dwellings within the PSUs selected in the first stage. All households residing in a selected dwelling are included in the survey. The list of eligible (occupied) dwellings was compiled using information collected during the 2024 Population and Housing Census.

The **sampling unit** differs depending on the stage of sample selection. At the first stage, the sampling unit is the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU), created by aggregating several census enumeration areas so that they include a sufficient number of households required for the planned period. At the second stage, the sampling unit is the dwelling (address), and all households located within a selected dwelling are included in the survey.

Stratification is applied only at the first stage of sampling. A total of eight strata were defined based on two criteria: the *statistical region* (North, Center, South (including UTA Gagauzia) and Chişinău Municipality) and the *area of residence* (urban or rural) in which a given PSU is located.

Sampling method. At the first stage of sampling, a stratified sampling design is used, and the technique for selecting PSUs was probability proportional to size. Within each stratum, pairs of PSUs were selected with a probability proportional to the size of the pair, where measure of size is defined

as the number of dwellings. From each pair of PSUs, one PSU was randomly selected, which entered the survey first and is used for all household sample surveys conducted by the NBS.

In urban Chişinău, however, the PSUs within each pair were randomly assigned to statistical surveys, so that a PSU is used exclusively for one of the ongoing continuous surveys - either LFS or HBS.

At the second stage, dwellings (the secondary sampling units) are selected from each PSU to participate in the survey, using simple random sampling.

Rotation scheme. At the first stage of sampling, within the urban Chişinău stratum, PSUs are rotated quarterly according to the 2-(2)-2 scheme. Under this scheme, a PSU participates in the survey for two consecutive quarters, is excluded for the following two quarters, and then re-enters the survey for another two consecutive quarters. After six consecutive quarters, a PSU is permanently excluded from the survey. The rotation scheme ensures the replacement of 25% of PSUs with new ones, with the aim of achieving better territorial coverage over time. At the same time, it ensures a 50% overlap both between the same quarters of consecutive years and between consecutive quarters.

In order to ensure the continuity of time series, in the first quarter of 2025 data collection was carried out in parallel on two full samples in the PSUs from EMDOS 2 and EMDOS 3, with the exception of localities in urban Chişinău.

At the same time, for urban Chişinău, gradual transition from EMDOS 2 to EMDOS 3 scenario is applied. Thus, the survey includes both new PSUs and old ones belonging to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th participation waves of the LFS. Accordingly, in the first quarter of 2025, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sample of PSUs were selected from the new PSUs, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sample - from the PSUs from EMDOS 2. In the following quarters of 2025, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the PSUs were selected from the new PSUs and $\frac{1}{2}$ of sample from the old PSUs. In the first quarter of 2026, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sample was drawn from EMDOS3 and just $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sample from EMDOS 2. Starting with the second quarter of 2026, only new PSUs are considered.

At the second stage of sampling, the same 2-(2)-2 rotation scheme is applied to all secondary sampling units, with the exception of the urban Chişinău stratum. Each dwelling is observed over a period of 16 months and is interviewed four times. Thus, 25% of the sample is replaced each quarter.

Sample size. Due to the gradual transition from EMDOS 2 to EMDOS 3, the national sample size increases from one quarter to the next until the second quarter of 2026, as new PSUs are introduced in urban Chişinău. Thus, in Q1 2025, 133 PSUs participate in the survey; in Q2–Q4 2025, 137 PSUs; in Q1 2026, 141 PSUs; and from Q2 2026 onward, 145 PSUs. The replacement of PSUs in the urban localities of Chişinău Municipality will take place gradually, according to the 2-(2)-2 rotation scheme, with data collection carried out in both EMDOS 2 and EMDOS 3 PSUs until 31 March 2026 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of PSUs by quarters, Q1 2025 – Q2 2026

| Quarter | EMDOS2, Chişinău urban | EMDOS3, Chişinău urban | EMDOS3, rest of the country | Total |
|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Q1, 2025 | 18 | 10 | 105 | 133 |
| Q2, 2025 | 12 | 20 | 105 | 137 |

| | | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----|-----|
| Q3, 2025 | 12 | 20 | 105 | 137 |
| Q4, 2025 | 12 | 20 | 105 | 137 |
| Q1, 2026 | 6 | 30 | 105 | 141 |
| Q2, 2026 | 0 | 40 | 105 | 145 |

At the second stage, dwellings (the secondary sampling units) are selected from each PSU to participate in the survey. Thus, in each quarter, 48 dwellings are selected within each PSU, with the exception of urban Chişinău, where 60 dwellings are selected from each PSU. The total sample size of the survey amounts to 7,440 dwellings per quarter (see Table 2). All households within a selected dwelling, as well as all persons aged 15 and over belonging to the households in the selected dwellings, are surveyed. Under these conditions, the sample size of households, as well as the sample size of persons, are random variables, depending on the sample of dwelling selected at the second stage.

Starting with 2026, the sample is uniformly distributed across reference weeks, in accordance with Annex III of Regulation 2019/1700 and Article 6 of Regulation 2019/2240.

Table 2. Sample size by strata

| Strata | Q1, 2025 | | Q2 – Q4, 2025 | | Q1, 2026 | | Strating with Q2, 2026 | |
|----------------|------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | No. of PSU | No. of dwellings | No. of PSU | No. of dwellings | No. of PSU | No. of dwellings | No. of PSU | No. of dwellings |
| North rural | 20 | 960 | 20 | 960 | 20 | 960 | 20 | 960 |
| North urban | 15 | 720 | 15 | 720 | 15 | 720 | 15 | 720 |
| Center rural | 22 | 1056 | 22 | 1056 | 22 | 1056 | 22 | 1056 |
| Center urban | 10 | 480 | 10 | 480 | 10 | 480 | 10 | 480 |
| South rural | 21 | 1008 | 21 | 1008 | 21 | 1008 | 21 | 1008 |
| South urban | 13 | 624 | 13 | 624 | 13 | 624 | 13 | 624 |
| Chişinău rural | 4 | 192 | 4 | 192 | 4 | 192 | 4 | 192 |
| Chişinău urban | 28 | 1680 | 32 | 1920 | 36 | 2160 | 40 | 2400 |
| Total | 133 | 6720 | 137 | 6960 | 141 | 7200 | 145 | 7440 |

Sampling fraction. The overall sampling fraction, defined as the share of dwellings included in the annual sample relative to the total number of dwellings is approximately 2.3%.

VIII. DATA SOURCE. SURVEY TOOLS. DATA COLLECTION

8.1 Data source and gathering methods

The **data source** is information directly provided by the respondents - individuals from the selected households.

Data collection takes place at the households address in the surveyed dwellings through the face-to-face interview, which is conducted by computer-assisted interviewing methods (CAPI). The main role rests with interviewer, who must ensure the smooth conducting of the interview (informing respondents about the purpose and specifics of the survey, appropriately formulating questions, providing possible explanations in case of misunderstandings, recording the answers according to the free declaration of the respondents, etc.).

The interviews usually take place during the week immediately following the reference week, and no more than 5 weeks after it.

In duly justified cases and only to the necessary extent, the interview period may be further extended.

Proxy interviews are allowed.

Data collection refers to a reference week for each observation unit. The reference week is assigned to the observation unit prior to the fieldwork.

8.2 Main provided information

- a) For every person of whatever age on the topic ‘technical items’. As well, for every person of whatever age on topic “person and household characteristics: sex; age in completed years; country of main citizenship; country of birth; relationship to the household reference person; marital status; etc.;
- b) For every person aged 15 to 74 on the “participation in education and training” topic: participation in formal education and training programmes in the last 4 weeks; level of most recent formal education or training activity in the last 4 weeks; participation in non-formal education and training programmes in the last 4 weeks; participation in formal education and training programmes in the last 12 months; level of most recent formal education or training activity in the last 12 months;
- c) For every person aged 15 to 89 for quarterly, annual and biennial variables on all other topics:
 - „Labour market participation”: ILO employment status; number of jobs; main reason for not searching for employment; main reason for not wanting to work; having used an active search method to find a job (for not employed persons); homework for main job; status in employment in main job, economic activity of the local unit for main job, occupation in main job; etc.;
 - „Educational attainment and background”: educational attainment level; field of the highest level of education successfully completed; year when the highest level of education was successfully completed; work experience at a workplace as part of educational attainment level; etc.;
 - „Job tenure, work biography and previous work experience”: year / month in which person started working for current employer or as self-employed in current main job; most effective method used to find the current main job; existence of previous employment experience; etc.;
 - „Working conditions including working hours and working time arrangements”: contractual working hours; number of hours per week usually worked; days of absence from job; overtime or extra hours; number of hours actually worked; Shift work; etc.;
 - „Health: status and disability, access to, availability and use of health care and health determinants”: self-perceived general health; limitation in activities because of health problems;
 - „Income, consumption and elements of wealth, including debts”: Gross monthly pay from the main job.

To these are added:

- a set of variables collected every eight years on one of the topics:

- „Work organisation and working time arrangements” (2027, 2035 etc.) - for every employed person aged 15 to 74;

- „Accidents at work and work-related health problems” (2028, 2036 etc.) – for every person aged 15 to 74;
- „Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants” (2029 etc.) - for every person aged 15 to 74;
- „Pensions and labour market participation” (2031) – for every person aged 50 to 74;
- „Young people on the labour market” and “educational attainment – details, including education interrupted or abandoned” (2032) – for every person aged 15 to 34;
- „Reconciliation of work and family life” (2033 etc.) - for every person aged 18 to 74.

- A set of ad-hoc variables on a topic decided by Eurostat - every 4 years (2030, 2034, etc.).

The survey questionnaire is accompanied by explanatory notes – updated periodically.

The survey questionnaire is updated annually and published on the NBS website www.statistica.gov.md under the heading: For respondents / Household surveys / Labour force survey.

8.3 Statistical survey staff

At the central level (NBS), the Labour Force Statistics Division ensures the coordination of the design activities of the survey methodology and tools, as well as the conditions for organizing and conducting the survey in the field, processing, analysing and preparing the final results for dissemination.

The activities of sampling design, weights calculation and results adjustment are carried out by the sample survey division within the General Division for Statistical Methods and Innovations.

The activities of developing IT solutions are carried out by the Designing of Applications Division within the general division for informational technologies.

The activities of coordination and monitoring of the work of the supervisors and interviewers' network, as well as the hiring and training of the RSC staff are carried out by the Data Collection in Household Division.

At the local level (territorial subdivisions / regional statistical centers) 26 supervisors are involved in the process of verification, coding and transmission of data.

The interviewers' network for the LFS consists of 130 persons.

The survey fieldwork involves two successive stages:

(1) The **identification of dwellings** in the survey unit and notification of households is done by the interviewer.

In the identified households, letters and leaflets are left in advance, informing them that they are part of the sample and on what date they will be visited by the interviewers to conduct the interview, and at the same time, the households are familiarized with the objectives and the main results of the survey. In order to establish contact with the household, the interviewer makes at least 3 visits to the selected households (on different days and at different times during the day).

(2) The **data registration** in the survey questionnaires is done by the interviewer at the residence of the selected households.

In accordance with the LFS Work Calendar, the interviewers collect and send daily the completed questionnaires to the server, to the LFS supervisor.

IX. DATA PROCESSING

Data integration. The information received monthly from the RSC is imported into a single data set (LFS database). Some logical checks are applied to the received files before creating integrated data.

Review and validate. At both the central and district levels, by applying pre-established procedures, including those allowed by the IT solution (over 1000 logical correlations), the way in which the questionnaires are completed is checked once again on a monthly basis: checking the logical paths/flows in the questionnaires; respecting the correlations between the answers to different questions, correct coding of certain variables, eliminating illogical answers, etc.

In case of detection of potential problems, multiple errors or discrepancies, such as extreme values, empty fields or wrong coding, etc., the data received from the RSC are rejected/not accepted. The RSC is to check the data repeatedly (if necessary, the respondents are contacted) and provide the appropriate explanations (the IT solution provides a special field for these purposes). After clarifying/solving all the problematic situations detected, the input data (received from the CRS) are accepted/validated

Edit and impute. Identified errors and insignificant discrepancies are analysed in collaboration with the RSC controller specialist and are corrected both in the RSC database and in the integrated database, at the central level. For certain categories of respondents, whose situation/status is known, (e.g. conscripts), the answers to a series of questions in the CI are imputed, applying certain automatic corrections, preset by the IT solution. These corrections are operated only after data integration at the central level.

If information on certain variables is missing, invalid, or inconsistent, statistical imputation methods may be applied where appropriate, with the exception of the following variables: „Work in the reference week”, „Main reason for absence from work during the entire reference week”, „Formal job attachment”, „Searching for employment during the 4 weeks ending in the reference week”, „Having used an active search method to find a job” and „Availability to start working immediately or to work more”.

For the variable „Gross monthly pay from the main job,” statistical imputation is always applied when the non-response rate exceeds 5%.

Derive new variables. The edited and validated monthly data sets are integrated into the LFS database at the central level (non-extended data). The quarterly database consists of a) variables corresponding to the questions in the LFS questionnaires and b) derived variables, which are calculated based on the variables in the LFS questionnaires. The automatic editing application program, in addition to correcting the data, generates derived variables according to a pre-established algorithm. In this way, the quarterly integrated database with non-extended data (ANCREP) is created, which, in turn, is subjected to additional analysis by applying an additional set of logical correlations. After completing this analysis, the quarterly integrated database is transmitted to the Sample Surveys Division of the General Division of Statistical Methods and Innovations for non-response analysis and calculation of weights.

Calculation of weights/grossing up of survey data. In order to produce person-level estimates the statistical weights are computed following three main steps:

1. Computation of design weights
2. Non-response adjustment
3. Calibration of weights using auxiliary information

Computation of design weights

The design weights are computed as the inverse of the overall probability of inclusion of a dwelling.

$$w_{dki} = \frac{1}{p_{fki}}$$

Since the survey design is complex, stratified, and two-stage, the overall probability of inclusion in the sample depends on the probabilities of selection of the sampling units at each stage of sampling and is calculated using the following formula:

$$p_{fki} = p_{1ki} \cdot p_{2ki}$$

At the first stage, taking into account that each PSU was selected with a probability proportional to the size of the pair to which it belongs, the probability of a PSU being included in the sample is determined using the following formula:

$$p_{1ki} = a_k \cdot \frac{M_{ki}}{\sum_{i=1}^m M_{ki}} * \frac{1}{2}$$

where: a_k – number of pairs of PSUs that were drawn from stratum k

M_{ik} - number of dwellings in the PSUs from pair i of the stratum k

In urban Chişinău, the probability of inclusion at the first stage is calculated using the following formula:

$$p_{1ki} = a_k \cdot \frac{M_{ki}}{\sum_{i=1}^m M_{ki}}$$

where: a_k – number of PSUs that were drawn from Chisinau urban

M_{ik} - number of dwellings in the PSU i from Chisinau urban

At the second stage of sampling, the probability of selecting a dwelling is determined using the following formula:

$$p_{2ki} = \frac{n_{ki}}{M_{ki}}$$

where: n_{ik} - number of sampled dwellings within the PSU from pair i of the stratum k

It should be noted that the probabilities of including dwellings in the sample are the same for all households within the same PSU, but they differ from those in other PSUs.

Adjustment the design weights for the non-response rate

An analysis of non-responses is conducted in order to highlight any potential differences between responding and non-responding units. If such differences are detected, it is necessary to adjust the expansion coefficients based on the overall non-response rate, according to the following formula:

$$w_{d_{ki}}^a = w_{d_{ki}} \cdot \frac{n_{ki} - sf_{ki}}{r_{ki}}$$

where: n_{ki} – number of sampled dwellings within the PSU from pair i of the stratum k
 sf_{ki} – number of sampling frame errors within the PSU from pair i of the stratum k
 r_{ki} number of responses within the PSU from pair i of the stratum k

Calibration of weights

Calibration of weights is a very important step in the process of determining the final weights. The purpose of calibration is to improve the quality of estimates by eliminating structural differences that may exist between the sample and the population. A critical requirement in the calibration process is to ensure full comparability between the variables from external sources used for calibration and those in the sample. Within the LFS, the following variables were used for the calibration of coefficients: sex, age (using 5-year age groups), area of residence, and statistical region.

For the calibration of weights, the *raking ratio* method was applied. This method consists of comparing the marginal distributions of the calibration variables in the population and in the sample. The population marginal distributions are taken from the current demographic statistics as of January 1st, including the institutionalized population. Initially, the adjusted expansion coefficients are modified by calibrating them to the population marginal distributions based on the first calibration variable:

$$w_{d_{kijn}}^{c1} = w_{d_{ki}}^a \cdot \frac{P_g}{\hat{P}_g} = w_{d_{ki}}^a \cdot \frac{P_g}{\sum w_{d_{ki}}^a}$$

where: $w_{d_{kijn}}^{c1}$ - quarterly weights, calibrated by the first variable, for person n in household j , belonging to the PSU in pair i of stratum k ;
 P_g - represents the marginal total of the population distribution for the variable g ;
 \hat{P}_g - represents the estimated total from the sample for the variable g .

Subsequently, the calibrated weights using the marginal distribution of the first variable are recalibrated based on the second variable:

$$w_{d_{kijn}}^{c2} = w_{d_{kijn}}^{c1} \cdot \frac{P_g}{\hat{P}_g} = w_{d_{kijn}}^{c1} \cdot \frac{P_g}{\sum w_{d_{kijn}}^{c1}}$$

The process is iterative and continues until convergence is reached, typically ensuring that the deviations of the estimated totals from the population values do not exceed 1% for any of the

calibration variables. At the end of this stage, the final weights are produced, varying for each individual. Household-level weights are then calculated as the average of the individual weights within each household.

Data aggregation and validation. By applying weights, quarterly data extended to the entire population are obtained. At the validation stage, coherence with previous periods and with data obtained based on statistical surveys of enterprises is analysed. After validation, the final aggregated data file is prepared for the calculation of indicators and the analysis of the survey results.

X. ESTIMATION OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS (ESTIMATES) AND CALCULATION RELATIONS

The estimation of the main LFS indicators is carried out using Horvitz-Thompson estimators, which are determined according to the following formulas

$$\hat{Y}_{HT} = \sum \frac{y_{kijn}}{p_{f_{kijn}}} = \sum y_{kijn} \cdot w_{d_{kijn}}^c,$$

where: y_{kijn} - represents the values of the variable of interest,
 $w_{d_{kijn}}^c$ – represents final calibrated weights.

The unit of measurement for the majority of indicators (labour force, employed population, unemployed, etc.) is the number of persons (thousands). Some indicators are estimated as rates (employment rate, unemployment rate, etc.) or ratios (in total employed population, etc.). Some variables are reported in other units (age groups - in years, working time - in hours, etc.).

Annual data are calculated as arithmetic averages of quarterly data.

10.1. Labour force (FM) / Active population (PA) comprises all persons supplying the available labour force for the production of goods and services during the reference period, including the employed population (POC) and the ILO unemployed (SBIM):

$$FM = P_{OC} + S_{BIM}$$

where:

FM / P_A – labour force / active population

P_{OC} – employed population

S_{BIM} – ILO unemployed

10.2. Labour force participation rate (R_{PFM_x}) represents the share of the labour force in age group x (FM_x) in the total population in the same age group (P_{TOT_x}):

$$R_{PFM_x} = \frac{FM_x}{P_{TOT_x}} * 100$$

where:

R_{PFM_x} – labour force participation rate / activity rate of the population in age group x

FM_x – labour force / number of active population in age group x

P_{TOT_x} – total number of population in age group x

10.3. Employment rate (R_{OC_x}) represents the share of the employed population in age group x (P_{OC_x}) in the total population in the same age group x (P_{TOT_x}):

$$R_{OC_x} = \frac{P_{OC_x}}{P_{TOT_x}} * 100$$

where:

R_{OC_x} – employment rate of the population in age group x
 P_{OC_x} – number of employed populations in age group x
 P_{TOT_x} – total number of population in age group x

10.4. ILO unemployment rate (RS_{BIM} , or LU1 according to ILO) represents the share of ILO unemployment (S_{BIM}) in active population (P_A):

$$RS_{BIM} = \frac{S_{BIM}}{P_A} * 100$$

where:

RS_{BIM} – ILO unemployment rate
 S_{BIM} – number of ILO unemployment
 P_A – active population

10.5. Long term unemployment rate (RS_{BIM_LD}) represents the share of ILO unemployment being unemployed for 12 months or more (S_{BIM_LD}) in total active population (P_A):

$$RS_{BIM_LD} = \frac{S_{BIM_LD}}{P_A} * 100$$

where:

RS_{BIM_LD} – long term unemployment rate
 S_{BIM_LD} – number of unemployed persons being unemployed for 12 months or more
 P_A – active population

10.6. Youth long-term unemployment rate (15-24 years) (R_{STIN_LD}) represents the share of youth ILO unemployment (15-24 years) being unemployed for 6 months or more (S_{TIN_LD}) in active population aged 15-24 years (P_{ATIN}):

$$R_{STIN_LD} = \frac{S_{TIN_LD}}{P_{ATIN}} * 100$$

where:

R_{STIN_LD} – youth long-term unemployment rate
 S_{TIN_LD} – youth unemployment (15-24 years) being unemployed for 6 months or more
 P_{ATIN} – youth active population (15-24 years)

10.7. Very long-term unemployment rate (RS_{BIM_FLD}) represents the share of ILO unemployment being unemployed for 24 months or more (S_{BIM_FLD}) in active population (P_A):

$$RS_{BIM_FLD} = \frac{S_{BIM_FLD}}{P_A} * 100$$

where:

R_{SBIM_FLD} – very long-term unemployment rate
 S_{BIM_FLD} – number of unemployed persons being unemployed for 24 months or more
 P_A – active population

10.8. Incidence of long-term unemployment (I_{SBIM_LD}) represents the share of ILO unemployment being unemployed for long-term (12 months or more) (S_{BIM_LD}) in total number of ILO unemployment (S_{BIM}):

$$I_{SBIM_LD} = \frac{S_{BIM_LD}}{S_{BIM}} * 100$$

where:

I_{SBIM_LD} – incidence of long-term unemployment
 S_{BIM_LD} – number of unemployed persons being unemployed for 12 months or more
 S_{BIM} – total number of ILO unemployment

10.9. Incidence of youth long-term unemployment (15-24 ani) (I_{STIN_LD}) represents the share of youth unemployment (15-24 years) being in long-term unemployment (6 months or more) (S_{TIN_LD}) in total number of ILO youth unemployment (15-24 years) (S_{TIN}):

$$I_{STIN_LD} = \frac{S_{TIN_LD}}{S_{TIN}} * 100$$

where:

I_{STIN_LD} – incidence of youth long-term unemployment
 S_{TIN_LD} – number of youth unemployment (15-24 years) being in unemployment 6 months or more
 S_{TIN} – total number of ILO youth unemployment (15-24 years)

10.10. Incidence of very long-term unemployment (I_{SBIM_FLD}) represents the share of ILO unemployment being unemployed for 24 months or more (S_{BIM_FLD}) in the total number of ILO unemployment (S_{BIM}):

$$I_{SBIM_FLD} = \frac{S_{BIM_FLD}}{S_{BIM}} * 100$$

where:

I_{SBIM_FLD} – incidence of very long-term unemployment
 S_{BIM_FLD} – unemployed persons being unemployed for 24 months or more
 S_{BIM} – total number of ILO unemployment

10.11. Share of youth unemployment in total youth (P_{STIN}) is calculated by dividing the number of youth ILO unemployment (15-24 years) (S_{TIN}) by the total population aged 15-24 years (P_{TIN}):

$$P_{STIN} = \frac{S_{TIN}}{P_{TIN}} * 100$$

where:

P_{STIN} – share of youth unemployment in total youth
 S_{TIN} – number of youth unemployment (15-24 years)
 P_{TIN} – total number of youth (15-24 years).

10.12. Youth NEET rate (R_{NEET_x}) represents the share of Youth NEET in age group x (T_{NEET_x}) in total number of youths in the same age group x (T_x):

$$R_{NEET_x} = \frac{T_{NEET_x}}{T_x} * 100$$

where:

R_{NEET_x} – (youth) NEET rate in age group x

T_{NEET_x} – number of youth NEET in age group x

T_x – total number of youths in age group x

10.13. Potential labour force (FMP) represents the sum of two categories of inactive persons: “inactive persons who are looking for a job but are not available to start work” (P_{CND}) and “inactive persons who are not looking for a job but are available to start work” (P_{NCD}).

$$FMP = P_{CND} + P_{NCD}$$

where:

FMP – potential labour force

P_{CND} – inactive persons who are looking for a job but are not available to start work

P_{NCD} – inactive persons who are not looking for a job but are available to start work

10.14. Extended labour force (FME) represents the sum of two categories of persons: labour force / active population (FM/PA) and potential labour force (FMP).

$$FME = FM(PA) + FMP$$

where:

FME – extended labour force

FM/PA – labour force / active population

FMP – potential labour force

10.15. Combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment (ILO, LU2) represents share of persons in time-related underemployment (PSO) and persons in ILO unemployment (S_{BIM}) in the total labour force (FM):

$$LU2 = \frac{PSO + S_{BIM}}{FM} * 100$$

where:

$LU2$ – combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment

PSO – persons in time-related underemployment

S_{BIM} – persons in ILO unemployment

FM – labour force

10.16. Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (ILO, LU3) represents share of ILO unemployment (S_{BIM}) and potential labour force (FMP) in total extended labour force (FME):

$$LU3 = \frac{S_{BIM} + FMP}{FME} * 100$$

where:

$LU3$ – combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force

S_{BIM} – ILO unemployment

FMP – potential labour force

FME – extended labour force

10.17. Labour underutilization rate¹² (RSFME, ILO, LU4) is calculated as the ratio between the sum of time-related underemployment, ILO unemployment and potential labour force (**PSO + S_{BIM} + FMP**) and extended labour force (**FME**):

$$LU4(RSFME) = \frac{PSO + S_{BIM} + FMP}{FME} * 100$$

where:

LU4 / RSFME - labour underutilization rate

PSO - time-related underemployment

S_{BIM} – ILO unemployment

FMP – potential labour force

FME - extended labour force

XI. DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE

Data quality is monitored at all stages of the survey. Quality control is ensured by:

- a self-control of interviewers
- fieldwork monitoring
- software validation rules – primary data editing (logical control conditions at the level of each questionnaire and data integrity conditions)
- internal microdata analyses - final data editing analysis of non-responses by causes

The logical control conditions at the questionnaire level aim to: track and check logical flows in questionnaires; respecting correlations between answers to different questions, correctly coding certain variables, eliminate illogical answers.

The integrity verification conditions aim to correlate and verify the household identification data from the time of selection with those completed during the interview and the identification data related to the members of the selected households between the types of questionnaires used.

Meetings / trainings are periodically organized with interviewers and supervisors to explain the definitions, the correct way to complete the questionnaires, especially in the case of making changes to the questionnaires / methodology.

Metadata „Employment and Unemployment. (Labour force survey)”, developed in the ESMS format, are updated at the beginning of each year. They include the following quality indicators:

- The non-response rate, is estimated based on the total number of non-responses and is calculated according to the formula:

$$r_{nr} = \frac{nrref}{n - nr sf}$$

where:

¹² LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilization indicator

n – number of dwellings selected in the sample (sample size),
 $nrsf$ – total number of sampling frame errors, and
 $nrref$ – total number of refusals.

- Sampling errors are expressed through estimates of the sampling error limits or margin of error, taking into account the complexity of the survey design, with results guaranteed at a 95% probability. Sampling error limits can also be expressed as confidence intervals, which represent the bounds that will contain the unknown true value of the indicator in 95% of cases.

Sampling errors are determined for five basic characteristics: number of employed persons, number of unemployed, labour force participation rate, employment rate, and unemployment rate.

- Comparability (international, over the time) and coherence with other statistics.

[LFS Metadata](#) are posted on the NBS website <https://statistica.gov.md/en>, under the Metadata heading.

In addition, “Sampling errors of the main estimators” are presented in the thematic publication “[Labour force in the Republic of Moldova. Employment and Unemployment](#)”:
www.statistica.gov.md / Statistics by themes / Labour force and earnings / Employment and unemployment / Publications / Labour force in the Republic of Moldova. Employment and Unemployment.

Quality reports

Starting with 2026, the NBS is to submit quarterly accuracy reports and an annual quality report to Eurostat.

The quarterly accuracy reports will contain basic information on the accuracy and reliability of the survey and will describe changes in basic concepts and definitions that affect comparability over time.

The annual quality report will contain data and metadata related to the quality of the LFS data and will be prepared in SIMS format.

Note: The LFS data quality report, first designed in SIMS format for the year 2023, is to be reviewed and updated annually starting with the data for the year 2026.

XII. DATA REVISION POLICY AND COMPARABILITY OVER TIME, WITH OTHER SOURCES AND AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

LFS data are revised according to the Statistical [Data Revision Policy](#), approved by NBS Order No. 35 of 30.08.2022.

Planned revisions

- **Routine revisions.** LFS results are usually considered final upon first dissemination. **Seasonal adjustments** do not apply.

Major revisions. Major revisions of the disseminated LFS data have taken place/**are to take place** for the following reasons:

- a) The use, starting with 2019, the number of usually resident population for estimating LFS results. During 2019-2020, the LFS results for 2014-2018 were recalculated, using the number of usually resident population, estimated (for the first time by the NBS) based on the results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census¹³. This revision had an impact on all LFS indicators, with the estimators significantly decreasing compared to previously disseminated data.

The revised data are placed on the NBS website, <https://statistica.gov.md/en> under: Statbank / Social statistics / Labour force and earnings / LFS - Employment and unemployment / (in all folders) Discontinued Series / 2014-2018, based on the usually resident population

- b) Implementation of a new definition of “Employment”. Starting with 2019, employment not includes longer “persons producing agricultural products mainly for own use consumption” (regardless of the number of hours worked). This change also generated a visible impact on the AFM estimates, especially in terms of reducing the number of employed population and labour force (as well as employment and labour force participation rates).

The revised data on the number of the employed population for the years 2014-2018 are also placed on the NBS website, <https://statistica.gov.md/en> under: Statbank / Social statistics / Labour force and earnings / LFS – Employment and unemployment / Employment.

- c) Implementation of EMDOS 3 based on the 2024 PHC. Based on the results of the 2024 PHC, during 2026 the time series on the usually resident population (URP) by sex, area of residence, and age group will be retrospectively recalculated. Using the recalculated URP data, the time series on labour force, employment, and unemployment (main indicators) will also be recalculated.

Unplanned revisions

Unplanned revisions could occur if errors are discovered in previously disseminated data.

Comparability over time. The LFS methodology has been redesigned/changed several times, resulting in breaks in the time series.

For the period 2000-2018 inclusive, data were estimated using the number of resident population.

The 2006-2018 data series (based on the resident population) is not entirely comparable to the data series from previous years due to: a) adjusting the national definition of employment to the International Guidelines concerning treatment in employment and unemployment statistics of persons on extended absences from work (childcare leave, seasonal work, unpaid leave, technical unemployment), adopted in 1998 by the ICLS-16; b) implementation of the new sample of households and of the new rotation scheme.

The 2019-2024 data series are not comparable to the data series for previous years due to: a) adjusting the national definition of employment to the [Resolution I of 19st ICLS \(2013\)](#); b) implementation of

¹³ Users were informed about the initiation of activities to revise statistical indicators based on the number of the usually resident population during the launch/presentation event of the revised number of the population of the Republic of Moldova and data on international migration on July 11, 2019.

the new sample of households (based on 2014 PHC) and the new rotation scheme; c) use of the number of the usually resident population for estimate the results.

The comparable time series covers the years 2019-2024.

The data series starting from 2025 is not comparable with the data series from previous years due to the implementation of the new EMDOS -3 sampling plan.

The data series starting from 2026 is not fully comparable with the data series from previous years due to the implementation of the new LFS questionnaire, which includes all subjects and variables in accordance with the EU LFS legislation.

International comparability. The LFS is in line with ILO international standards.

Starting with the 2026 data, LFS is carried out according to EU legislation in the labour force field.

Coherence of the LFS with the data from the statistical surveys in enterprises/social and economic units (based on the quarterly Survey on earnings (M-1), and annual Labour cost survey (M-3):

Total employed population

Differences in concepts: statistical questionnaires in enterprises have as their target population only persons employed in enterprises (employees).

Differences in measurement: statistical questionnaires in enterprises are surveys carried out in enterprises/economic and social units. The information collected refers (as a reference period) to the calendar year (M-3, annual), or the calendar quarter (M-1, quarterly, starting with 2017. Until 2016 inclusive - calendar month).

Number of hours worked

Differences in concepts: statistical questionnaires in enterprises (M-1, quarterly and M-3, annual) track data only on the number of hours worked by employees.

Differences in measurement: the information collected in enterprises refers to the quarter or calendar year.

Coherence of the LFS with the data on registered unemployment

Differences in concepts: unemployment registered by the NEA is followed according to the national legislation and its level differs considerably from the unemployment estimated according to the ILO methodology.

Differences in measurement: part of registered unemployed are qualified as employed persons by LFS.

XIII. PROCEDURES FOR ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY

According to [Law No. 93/2017](#) on official statistics:

- Official statistical bodies ensure the confidentiality of individual data and their use only for statistical purposes;
- confidential data held by the NBS is not transmitted to third parties;
- producers of official statistics take all regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to protect confidential data and prevent their disclosure;
- personnel involved in the of the LFS organization and implementation (in the central office of the NBS - the Labor Force Statistics Division, the General Division for Statistical Methods and Innovations, the Data Collection in Household Division, the Designing and Application Division. In the RSC - the supervisors and interviewers), who, according to their job duties, have direct access to individual data, are obliged to respect the confidentiality of these data during and after the cessation of their activity in the respective position;
- personnel who have direct access to confidential data are not entitled to use individual data for purposes other than statistical purposes, in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics No [93/2017](#).

In addition, NBS staff involved in the collection, processing and dissemination of LFS results strictly adhere to:

- The policy regarding the protection of personal data, which establishes the principles and requirements for ensuring the security of personal data when processing them (in accordance with Law No. 133/2011 on the protection of personal data), approved by the NBS order No. 48 of 07.11 .2022 (as subsequently amended).
- The BNS staff involved in conducting the survey (data collection in the field carried out by interviewers and data processing by BNS specialists) ensure the confidentiality and protection of the collected and processed personal data, by signing, upon employment, a *Commitment to comply with the requirements of conformity and security in the processing of individual data*.
- [Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes](#), approved by the NBS order No. 51 of 31.12.2021.

Households are informed of the NBS commitment to ensuring the protection of collected individual data and to using them only for statistical purposes in accordance with the legislation in force. Individual data are not disclosed under any circumstances. This is brought to the attention of respondents during the first visit to the selected households, when the interviewer explains the purpose of the visit, the objectives of the survey and sends the household an information letter (about the survey, how the household is selected, how the interview is conducted, etc.) and a leaflet (containing general information about what the LFS is, how it is conducted, what are its uses. Some indicators resulting from the survey are also presented). The letter and the leaflet are signed by the Director General of the NBS. The LFS questionnaire, likewise, inform respondents about the guarantee of confidentiality of the collected data and their use only for statistical purposes.

Before being disseminated, the final aggregated data are subject to rigorous control in order to prevent any breach of their confidentiality, by applying statistical disclosure control methods.

Microdata files provided to users for scientific purposes are depersonalized and also subject to statistical disclosure control.

XIV. DATA DISSEMINATION

Main resulting indicators:

- Labour force (previously - active population)
- Employed population
- Population employed in the informal sector
- Informal employment
- ILO unemployment
- Population outside the labour force (previously - inactive population)
- Labour force participation rate (previously - activity rate)
- Labour force participation rate of working age population
- Employment rate
- Employment rate of working age population
- ILO unemployment rate
- ILO long-term unemployment rate
- Labour underutilization (labour market slack)
- Inactivity rate
- Participation in education and training of youth (15-24 years) and adults (de 25-64 years) (lifelong learning)
- Youth education attainment level (20 - 24 years)
- Adult education attainment (25-64 years)
- Early leavers from education and training (18-24 years)
- Youth NEET rates

Level of disaggregation of indicators:

labour force (active population) – by sex, area, age groups, marital status, educational attainment level, statistical regions;

employed persons - by sex, area, age groups, educational attainment level, form of ownership, economic activities, status in employment, occupation groups, working program, working hours, type of economic unit, nature of the job, statistical regions;

unemployed persons - by sex, area, age groups, educational attainment level, work experience, unemployment duration, characteristics of the last job (forms of ownership, economic activities, status in employment, occupation groups), statistical regions;

population outside the labour force (inactive) - by sex, area, age groups, marital status, educational attainment level, inactivity categories, relationship with the labour market, statistical regions;

population aged 15 years and over - by sex, area, educational attainment level.

Dissemination frequency. LFS data are disseminated quarterly, on the 65th day, and annually – on April 1 in accordance with [the Release calendar](#) of electronic dissemination of statistical Information (posted on the NBS website).

Forms of presentation of results:

- [News releases](#) (www.statistica.gov.md → Media / News releases)
- [Statistical databank “Statbank”](#) (in Romanian and English), by subject-area:
 - Social statistics / Labour force and earnings / LFS – Employment and unemployment, which includes sub-topics:
 - Main indicators
 - Employment
 - Informal Sector / Informal Employment
 - Working hours
 - Unemployment
 - Inactive population
 - Gender statistics / Women’s economic empowerment
 - Regional statistics / Labour force and earnings
- **Publications:**
 - [“Labour force in the Republic of Moldova. Employment and Unemployment”](#), annual online publication containing information on the methodology and organization of the survey, and tables with annual average data, as well as information on the evolution over time of the main labour force indicators; available in Romanian and English. (www.statistica.gov.md / Statistics by themes / Labour force and earnings / Employment and unemployment / Publications / Labour force in the Republic of Moldova. Employment and unemployment)
 - Statistical yearbook of the Republic of Moldova and other annual publications, produced by NBS: Moldova in figures (statistical pocket-book), Territorial statistics; Chisinau in figures.
- [Special Data Dissemination Standard \(SDDS\)](#), IMF
- **International Questionnaires** (UN, ILO, Eurostat, UNECE, CIS etc.)
- Quarterly and annual **datasets** with LFS **microdata**, accompanied by the respective metadata, are to be transmitted to Eurostat starting with 2026, using the statistical data and metadata exchange standards specified by the Eurostat and the Single-Entry Point.
- **Upon request**, data is processed to respond to requests and provided to a large number of users (national and international).

Besides this, NBS can grant **access to LFS individual data** for scientific research projects in accordance with the [Regulation on access to individual data for scientific purposes](#), approved by NBS Order No. 51 of 31.12.2021. The Regulation and the Annexes to the Regulation can be accessed online - <https://statistica.gov.md/en> under: Products and services / Request for access to microdata.

XV. SOFTWARE USED

For the CAPI method of data collection and primary checking (performing arithmetic and logical validations in the questionnaire), the CSPro application is used. It allows data collection, coding – where necessary, verification of correlations within the questionnaire; tracking the pace of data collection, producing summary statistics, etc. Similarly, data checking takes into account two categories of logical conditions:

- logical control conditions - at the level of each questionnaire;
- data integrity conditions

A server is used for data storage where all data collected in the field is kept.

The logical control conditions at the questionnaire level aim to: track and check logical paths/flows in questionnaires; observe correlations between answers to different questions, correctly code certain variables, eliminate illogical answers.

The integrity checking conditions aim to correlate and verify the collected data against the allocated sample.

The **local** IT solution allows the migration of data collected through the CAPI method to the computer, arithmetic and logical control both for a survey center and at the territorial division/unit level.

The IT solution at the **central level** is implemented in STATA / the R software and includes, in addition to the version for regional centres, *the Database Administrator Module*, which allows:

- performing all import and export operations of the collected information, exporting the files necessary for installing and modifying the information processing program in the RSC;
- validation of databases received from RSC for aggregation;
- database aggregation;
- automatic corrections / generation of derived variables;
- modifying/removing/adding variables, logical control conditions, verification conditions of logical paths/flows in questionnaires, etc.;
- recording and viewing all operations (events) executed in the database with indication of the user, date and code of the executed operation;
- storing and modifying information about program users (supervisors, administrators).

At the stage of sample design / dwellings selection is used STATA.

At the stage of calculating of weighting coefficients – STATA.

At the stage of data analysis and estimation of indicators, are used SPSS and STATA.

Statistical disclosure control is performed within the R software, using the package `sdcMicro/sdcTable`.

XVI. LIMITATIONS

There are no administrative sources or sources from other NBS surveys that are perfectly comparable (definitions, coverage, reference period) with the survey data and, therefore, the reconciliation of the survey results with other data sources is limited.

In addition, the data are based on the free declaration of the surveyed persons, consequently the existence of a certain bias for some sensitive information (e.g. the existence of an employment contract in the case of employees, monthly earnings, etc.) cannot be excluded. Another limitation refers to the low level of detail of the resulting indicators - in territorial profile (NUTS 3), considering the design and sample size. Thus, the LFS results are representative only at the level of the North, Center, South, Chişinău statistical regions.

XVII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ILO, [Resolution I of the 19st ICLS, 2013](#): “Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization”
- Eurostat, [Employment and unemployment \(LFS\) / Methodology / Main concepts](#)
- Eurostat, [European Statistics Code of Practice](#), 2017
- Eurostat, [European Statistical System handbook for quality and metadata reports](#), 2021 re-edition
- National Institute of Statistics, Romania, [Labour force survey methodology \(AMIGO\)](#), 2021