Employment and Unemployment
(Labour force survey)
Metadata

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

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2. Metadata Update

2.1. Last certification of metadata
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3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. General description

The domain „Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey)" includes the results of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The structure of this domain is as follows:

„Main indicators" consists of a selection of the most important quarterly and annual labour market indicators, based on LFS.

„Employment" - a more comprehensive selection of annual LFS results on employment (economic activities, occupations, status in employment, other desegregations).

„Working hours" - a selection of annual results on working program and duration of working week.

„Informal sector and informal employment" - a selection of annual results about type of the production/economic unit and type of the job of the employed persons.

„Unemployment" - a selection of quarterly and annual results about unemployment.

„Inactive population" - a selection of annual results on persons outside the labour force by categories of inactivity and their relation with labour market.

The LFS is a continuous quarterly household sample survey carried out in the Republic of Moldova starting 2000. It is the main source of information about the situation and trends on the labour market in the Republic of Moldova.

Starting from 2019, the survey methodology was changed/improved. This led to important changes in the LFS indicators and created the break in the time series. In order to have comparable data with previous years, the NBS launched an exercise to adjust the interruption / recalculate the indicators disseminated for previous years. At the same time, the recalculation of historical data series was only possible for the years 2014-2018.

Thus, the domain „Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey)" in the Statistical databank „Statbank" contains 3 types of data sets, depending on the methodology used.

The first type of data sets are new tables that are filled with data according to the new methodology and cover the period 2019-2023.

The second type of data sets comprises tables with data series recalculated based on the number of the usually resident population for the years 2014-2018.

The third type of data sets comprises tables with historical time series for the years 2000-2018, estimated according to the methodology in force up to 2018, inclusive.

The last two type of data sets are in all folders under „Discontinued Series".

For details see LFS Methodology:

https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_AFM_2019.pdf

3.2. Concepts and definitions

3.2.1. Definitions

The definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment, as well as other survey characteristics follow the definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Office (ILO).

Labour force (*active population* from the economic point of view) covers all the persons aged 15 years and over, who provide the labour force available for production of goods and services during the period of reference, including **employed** and **unemployed population**.

Priority is given to employment over the other two categories and to unemployment over outside the labour force.

Labour force participation rate *of the population aged 15 years and over* (or *activity rate*) represents the share of the labour force in total population aged 15 years and over (%).

Employed population covers all the persons aged 15 years and over who were engaged in any economic activity to provide goods or services for at least one hour during the reference period (one week), in order to obtain incomes – pay or profit.

Remark: Starting with 2019, persons that produce agricultural goods mainly for own-use <u>are no longer part</u> of the employment. (For the period up to 2018, inclusive, the persons employed in the subsidiary plot producing agricultural products exclusively for own consumption (of the household), were included in employment if they worked 20 hours and over per week).

Employment rate: the share of employed population aged 15 years and over in the total population of the same age group, expressed in percentage.

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

- willing to work additional hours;
- are available to work additional hours;
- worked less than a threshold relating to working time in all jobs during the reference period; the threshold set according to the labour legislation in force accounts for 40 hours per week.

Underemployment rate represents the share of underemployed population in the total employed population.

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.

Status in employment: persons are classified by their professional status in line with the international classification ICSE-93. Status in employment represents the situation of a person, depending on the way he/she obtains incomes from the carried-out activity, and namely: employees (paid employment); non-employees (self-employment); employers; own account workers; contributing family workers; member of a producers' cooperatives.

- **Employee** – is the person carrying out an activity under a working contract within an economic or social unit – irrespective of its ownership type – or for private persons, receiving remuneration in form of salary, in cash or in kind, commission, etc.
- **Employer** – is the person carrying out the activity (craft) within his/her own unit (individual enterprise, shop, office, farm, etc.) having one or several permanent employees.
- **Own account worker** – is the person carrying out an activity within his/her own enterprise or business, without hiring any permanent employee, being helped or not by unpaid family workers. This status covers as well the independent entrepreneurs (private tutors, private taxi drivers, etc.), freelance professionals (strolling players, artists, lawyers), occasional workers, and individual farmers. Own account worker can have temporary employees.
- **Contributing family worker** – is the person carrying out the activity within a family economic unit, headed by a family member or by a relative, for which he/she does not receive remuneration in form of salary or payment in kind. 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 own account worker and the others are considered as contributing family workers.
- **Members of producers' cooperatives** – is the person who worked as member of a co-operative, where every member has equal rights in decision-making process, solution of problems on production/sale, etc.

The method of hiring employees can be as follows:
  – individual working contract (written);
  – agreement (verbal)

Type of production units is defined as:
  – Formal sector enterprises;
  – Informal sector enterprises;
  – Households.

Employment in 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 in the way established by the legislation in force.

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).

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

Type (nature) of the job may be formal or informal.

Formal employment includes:

  – own account workers working in formal sector enterprises;
  – employers working in formal sector enterprises;
  – employees for whom the employer pays social contributions, who benefit from annual paid leave and paid sick leave;
  – members of formal producers'cooperatives (who are not employees in these cooperatives).

Informal employment includes:

  1) own account workers working in informal sector enterprises;
  2) employers who work in informal sector enterprises;
  3) members of informal producers' cooperatives;
  4) contributing family workers, working in formal or informal sector enterprises;
  5) 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.

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.

ILO Unemployed are persons aged 15 years and over, who during the reference period meet simultaneously the following conditions:

- do not have a job and do not perform any activity to obtain some income;

- are looking for a job over the last 4 weeks and use different methods: get registered at the National Employment Agency or at private employment agencies, take measures to start a business, publish and answer to job announcements, call for help from friends, relatives, colleagues, trade-unions, etc.;

- are available to start working in the following 15 days, if they could find immediately a job.

This category of population also includes:

- persons without job, available to work, waiting to be called back to work or those who found a job and will start working at a date following the reference period;

- persons who are usually included in inactive population (pupils, students, pensioners), but who stated that they are looking for a job and are available to start working.

Unemployment rate: represents the share of ILO unemployed in total labour force (active population), expressed in percentage.

Long-term unemployment: the situation when the unemployed person has no work and is looking for a job for one year and longer.

Persons outside the labour force (or inactive population from the economic point of view) covers all persons, irrespectively of age, who did not work for at least an hour and were not unemployed during the period of reference.

Economically inactive population includes the following categories of population:

– pupils or students;
– pensioners (of all kinds);
– housekeepers/housewives (carrying out only domestic work within the household);
– dependent persons (mainly supported by other persons or by the state); or who are supported by other incomes (rents, interests, etc.);
– persons declared as being left abroad for work or looking for a job for the period less than 12 months.

Inactivity rate *among population aged 15 years and over* represents the share of inactive population aged 15 and over in the total population aged 15 years and over (%).

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.

Labour force underutilization includes time-related underemployment, unemployment and potential labour force.

Potential labour force represents the sum of two categories of persons: „inactive persons who carried out activities to seek employment, but were not currently available to start work" and „inactive persons who did not carry out activities to seek employment, but wanted employment and are currently available".

Extended labour force represents the sum of labour force and potential labour force.

Underutilization rate represents the share of the labour force underutilization in total extended labour force (%) („labour market slack", according to Eurostat).

Youth NEET are young persons not in education, employment or training.

Usual residence is defined as the place at which the person has lived continuously for more of the last 12 months regardless of temporary absences (for the purpose of recreation, holidays, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages etc.).

3.2.2. Unit of measurement

Data expressed in absolute values: number of persons (labour force, employment, unemployment, persons outside the labour force etc.) are presented in thousands of persons.

Indicators on rates of: labour force participation (or activity), employment, underemployment, unemployment, inactivity, as well as the growth rates are expressed in percentage (%).

Some variables are expressed in other units of measurement (age – in years, worked time – in hours, etc.).

3.2.3. Formula of calculation

The annual extended data are calculated as arithmetical means of the extended quarterly data.

Labour force (LF) / Active population (A_P) = Employed population (E_P) + ILO Unemployed (Un)

Labour force participation rate/activity rate (LFPR/AR) = Active population (LF/A_P) / Total population aged 15 years and over (P_T) * 100

Employed population (E_P) = Labour force/active population (LF/A_P) – ILO Unemployed (Un)

Employment rate (ER) = Employed population (EP) / Total population aged 15 years and over (P_T) * 100

Unemployment rate (UnR) = ILO Unemployed (Un) / Labour force/active population (LF/AP) * 100

Inactive population (IP) = Total population aged 15 years and over (T_P) – Labour force/active population (AP)

Inactivity rate = Inactive population aged 15 years and over (IP) / Total population aged 15 years and over (P_T) * 100

3.3. Used classifications

The LFS results are produced in accordance with relevant international classification systems.

*Economic activity***:** survey results are classified at the level of sections, according to the Classification of Activities in Moldova Economy (*CAEM-2 - Clasificatorul Activităților din Economia Moldovei, in Romanian*), harmonized with NACE rev.2, approved by the Order of the National Bureau of Statistics no. 28 of 7 May 2019.

Occupations: Data on occupations are classified at the level of major groups, according to the Classification of Occupation in the Republic of Moldova (CORM 006-2021), approved by the Order of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection no. 11 of 12 November 2021, harmonized with the respective international standard ISCO-08 (ILO) and with the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO).

Education: The grouping of data according to the level of educational attainment is done considering:

- level of educational attainment,

- the correspondence between the levels of education (established according to the national legislation) and the levels of education defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education in force at the respective date (from 2014 - ISCED 2011).

Level of the highest graduated school level (meaning the type of educational institution):

Higher education (including postgraduate);

Post-secondary non-tertiary education (secondary professional);

Upper secondary vocational education;

High school, upper secondary (general)

Lower secondary education (gymnasium);

Primary education;

Preschool education or with nor primary school.

Another grouping of education level is the following:

- low: lower secondary (gymnasium), primary, with no primary school;

- secondary: lyceum, high school, upper secondary (general), upper secondary vocational, post-secondary non-tertiary (secondary professional);

- tertiary: university, post-graduate.

Forms of ownership: Data are grouped in public, private and other forms of ownership, according to the Classification of Ownership Forms in the Republic of Moldova (CFP - *Clasificatorului formelor de proprietate din Republica Moldova, in Romanian*), approved via the decision of the Standards, Metrology, and Technical Supervision Department No. 276-st dated 04.02.1997.

3.4. Scope

3.4.1. Sector coverage

LFS covers all economic activities.

3.4.2. Statistical population

LFS covers only private households of permanent dwellings.

The subject of the survey registration is the persons with usual residence in the territory of the country for a period of 12 months and over, members of the households in the selected dwellings, including persons absent for a long period (over 6 months), if they maintain family connections with the household from which they are part of, as:

– persons in military service in term;
– pupils and students left for studies;
– persons left for work;
– detainees and arrested people;
– hospitalized persons or those who are temporarily in treatment or recovery resorts;
– persons, on duty trips to another locality of the country.

The data for the above persons is collected by interviewing their relatives or the other members of the households of which they are a part.

The survey does not cover:

The persons who live permanently in common dwelling units (hostels for elderly people, asylums disabled people, student dormitory etc.) or in seasonal dwelling units are not covered by the survey.

3.4.3. Geographical coverage

The statistical data do not cover the territory on the left side of the River Nistru and Bender municipality.

3.4.4. Time coverage

Time series are available starting with 2000.

3.5. Level of disaggregation

The LFS provides population estimates for the main labour market characteristics, such as employment, unemployment, people outside the labour force, economic activity, occupations, status in employment, ownership forms, working hours and other labour related variables, as well as important socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, age groups, education levels, marital status, area of residence, statistical regions (North, Centre, South, Chisinau municipality).

More details see in p.3.3

Restrictions: if disaggregated data cover confidential information (see p.7.1), they are not disseminated; they are aggregated at the minimum available level to ensure data confidentiality.

3.6. Periodicity of dissemination

Quarterly

Annual

3.7. Submission (dissemination) deadlines

Quarterly – on the 65th day following the reported quarter.

Annually – 1 April.

3.8. Revision

The LFS data revision policy is in accordance with the Data Revision Policy, approved by NBS order no. 35 of 30.08.2022:

https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/despre/planuri/Politici/Politica_revizuire_2022_en.pdf

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

Major revisions. Major revisions to the disseminated LFS data have occurred for the following reasons:

a) The use, starting with 2019, the number of usually resident population for estimating the LFS results. 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. 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 / Table 2 „Employed population by economic activities, level of education, age groups, sex and area, 2014-2022".

3.9. Period of reference

The period of reference (for the majority of questions under the LFS) is the *week* from Monday till Sunday, including from before the interview.

Other periods of references exist for certain questions: the last 4 weeks, the following 15 days, the last year.

4. Data Collection and Processing
4.1. Data source
4.1.1. Statistical surveys

The statistical household-based survey – Labour Force Survey (LFS)
https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_AFM_2019.pdf

4.1.2. Administrative sources

Not used.

4.1.3. Estimations

Not applicable.

4.2. Characteristics of the statistical survey
4.2.1. Objective and background

LFS is a modern method for labour market statistical survey aiming to measure the labour force (active population) – employed and unemployed – and population outside the labour force (inactive population), to estimate the structure of these categories and trends in evolution, to supply essential data about labour force.

The methodological and organizational concept of the survey was developed with the technical assistance provided by the National Statistical Institute from Romania (INS) and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies from France (INSSE) within the framework of the European Union TACIS Program, as well as with the assistance of the experts of Department of Statistics of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The practical organization and implementation of the survey in the field is performed by the NBS.

There are some stages in LFS implementation:

2000–2005 – implementation, according to the ILO standards, of the LFS in households as a continuous survey with quarterly and annual dissemination of results.

At the first stage, the sample size accounted for 8208 dwellings, distributed into 114 primary sampling units (PSU). A number of 114 interviewers and 44 supervisors were employed to carry out the field work.

A probabilistic sample in two stages was used: during the first stage – the survey centers have been selected based on the electoral lists, and during the second stage – the dwellings were selected. The 2-(2)-2 rotation scheme is used at the second stage.

2006-2014 – LFS is carried out according to a new sampling frame, a new rotation scheme, and improved questionnaires. The changes performed in 2006 refer to the following:

- Development of a joint sampling frame for the LFS and Households Budgets Survey (HBS) – creation of the common network of interviewers and supervisors, respectively 150 and 51;
- Introduction of a new rotation scheme (2-(1)-1-(8)-2) and a new sample of dwellings (12000 per quarter);
- Methodological changes including the treatment for certain employment and unemployment situations;
- New topics tackled by LFS.

Starting with 1st January 2009 the rotation of PSU is implemented (once every 2 years).

2015-2018 - introduction of a new rotation scheme (1-(2)-1-(8)-1) with reduction of the sample size (7200 dwellings per quarter).

Starting with 2019:

- The „employment" definition is in line with the new international standard[1]: this category doesn't include persons producing agricultural products mainly for own use consumption (regardless of the number of hours worked);
- LFS is carried out according to the new sample of households and new rotation scheme;
- The number of usually resident population is used for estimate the LFS results (for the period up to 2018, inclusive, the results of the LFS were estimated using the number of the resident population).

For details see LFS Methodology, chapter 11 Methodological Changes:

https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_AFM_2019.pdf

4.2.2. Statistical unit

The household is the observation unit: the group of two or more persons who usually live together, having, in general, kinship relations and who keep the house together, participating in totality or partially to income formation and its spending. The person who does not belong to the household and who declares that he/she lives alone and keeps the house alone is considered to be a single-person household.

The person is the registration unit: all persons aged 15 years and over are interviewed, but also some data are registered regarding the under 15 years old persons, so as to characterize the size and the structure of the households, as well as the population outside the labour force (inactive population).

4.2.3. Sampling frame

Starting with 2019:

The sampling plan used for the LFS survey is a sampling plan in two levels.

At the first level, based on the population census from 2014, a stratified sample was designed of 150 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). It represents the Multifunctional Sample for the surveys in social area no.2, the so-called master sample EMDOS 2. The geographic criteria, the area of residence and the size

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[1] Resolution II of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2023 (21-ICLS, 2023). Resolution to amend the 19th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization:
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms_230304.pdf

of localities were used for stratification. EMDOS covers 52 PSU selected from urban area and 98 PSU selected from rural area.

During the second stage, 17145 dwellings are extracted annually (secondary sampling units), using the procedure of simple random extraction from EMDOS 2. All the households from a dwelling are included.

The sample size for a quarterly survey represents 7620 dwellings.

Every dwelling is observed during one period of 16 months, according to the rotation scheme of the following type 2-(2)-2.

4.2.4. Survey periodicity

Quarterly.

4.2.5. Data collection

Data are collected through face-to-face interview method. The registration of information in the survey questionnaires is performed by interviewing the persons aged 15 years old and over, at the households' residence of the selected / surveyed dwellings.

The interviews are distributed uniformly along the quarter, and the survey is a continuous one.

Data recording is done by the interviewer at the homes of the households, based on the questions included in the two types of questionnaires:

- Dwelling Questionnaire - CL

- Individual Questionnaires – CI.

4.3. Data processing and compilation

4.3.1. Data validation

Data are verified and analysed from quality point of view, especially the internal coherence and coherence with other data.

Software application is used to ensure the verification of data regarding the observance of the entire set of control conditions (logical conditions):

- logical ways in the questionnaires;
- data from the questionnaires;
- integrity between identification data of the households when these are selected with those that are filled in during the interview.

The logical control conditions at the questionnaire level aim to: follow and verify the logical ways/flows in the questionnaires; observance of the correlations between the answers to different questions, correct codification of variables, eliminations of some illogical and aberrant answers.

The integrity verification conditions aim to follow the correlation and verification of households' identification data when households are selected as compared to those data which are filled in during the interview, and the identification data afferent to members of selected household among the types of used questionnaires.

4.3.2. Compilation of data

Annual data are calculated as simple arithmetic averages of quarterly data.

4.3.3. Adjustments

No adjustments are made.

4.3.4. Quality assurance

The quality of statistical data is assured by observing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the UN General Assembly on 29 January 2014, as well as those set forth in the national Law on Official Statistics no. 93 of 26 May 2017.

Quality control is ensured by:
- a self-control of interviewers
- fieldwork supervision
- software validation rules – primary data editing (logical control conditions for each questionnaire and data integrity conditions)

- • internal microdata analyses – final data editing
- • analysis of non-responses by causes

Periodically, meetings (seminars) are organized with interviewers – respondents for explaining the definitions, the correct way to fill in the questionnaires, especially when they are modified or implemented.

4.4. Data accuracy

4.4.1. Non-response rate

The non-response rate is determined based on the total number of non-responses and is calculated according to the following formula (nrrsf)/(n-nrsf) where: n – number of households selected according to the sample plan, nrsf – number of errors of the sampling base and nrref – number of refusals. Non-response rate for 2022 was 18,6%.

4.4.2. Sampling errors

Sampling errors are expressed by estimations of the limit sampling errors, taking into account the complexity of the sampling plan, the results being guaranteed with a probability of 95%. The limit sampling errors may be also expressed as a confidence interval, which represents the limits which will cover in 95% of cases the real value of the indicator.

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

At the national level, the confidence intervals for the significance level of 95% for 2022, account for $862,3 \pm 72,8$ (x 1000) for the number of employed persons, $27,7 \pm 5,2$ (x 1000) for the number of unemployed persons, $41,8 \pm 0,02$ (%) for activity rate, $40,5 \pm 0,02$ (%) for employment rate, and $3,1 \pm 0,01$ (%) for unemployment rate.

5. Comparability and Coherence

5.1. International comparability

LFS follows international standards and European norms:

a. LFS information is complete in relation to the international recommendations in force in the area of labour force statistics, adopted by the International Labour Organizations:
Resolution II of the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2023 (21-ICLS, 2023). Resolution to amend the 19th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

b. Eurostat assessed with „Medium compliance level" of the LFS with the standards set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 and its Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240.
(2022 round of the Compliance monitoring exercise for the candidate countries and potential candidates)

5.2. Comparability over the time

Breaks in time series, changes of the methodology:

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:

- 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 by 16 ICLS, 1998;
- implementation of the new sample of households and of the new rotation scheme.

The data series from 2019 are not comparable to the data series for previous years due to:

- adjusting the national definition of employment to the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by 19 ICLS, 2013:
- implementation of the new sample of households and the new rotation scheme;
- use of the number of the usually resident population for estimate the results.

The LFS results for the period 2014-2018, inclusive, have been recalculated using the number of usually resident population.

For details see LFS Methodology, p. 11 Methodological Changes:

https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_AFM_2019.pdf

5.3. Coherence with other statistics

Coherence of the Labour Force Survey with the data from the statistical surveys in enterprises/social and economic units (based on statistical questionnaires M-1 "Earnings" - quarterly, and M-3 "Earnings and labour cost" – annually.

Total employed population

Differences in concepts: the statistical questionnaires in enterprises focus only on employed persons from enterprises (employees).

Differences in measurement: statistical questionnaires in enterprises are surveys which are carried out in enterprises/social and economic units. The collected information refers (as period of reference) to the calendar year (M-3, annually), or the calendar month (M1, monthly, until 2016 inclusively), or the calendar quarter (M1, quarterly, beginning with 2017).

Number of worked hours

Differences in concepts: the statistical questionnaires in enterprises (M-1 and M-3) follows the data only regarding the number of hours worked by employees.

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

Coherence of the Labour Force Survey with the data on registered unemployment

Differences in concepts: unemployment registered by the National Employment Agency 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.

6. Institutional Mandate (normative-legal basis)

The NBS activity is based on respecting the Republic of Moldova Constitution, the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, other legislative and normative acts, NBS management decisions and orders.

The Law on Official Statistics regulates the organization and operation of the unique system of official statistics, establishing the general principles for collecting, processing, centralizing, diminishing, and stocking statistical information (art.1).

Art. 5 of the Law provides that the production of statistical information is based on respecting the following principles: impartiality, objectiveness, relevance, transparency, confidentiality, cost-efficiency etc.

Being the central statistical body, the National Bureau of Statistics is an administrative authority created under the Government for leading and coordinating the activity in the statistics area.

In accordance with Government Decision 935 of 24.09.2018 on the organization and operation of the NBS, the Bureau exercises the following tasks:

    1) Coordinates the national statistical system on the development and production of official statistics;

    2) Elaborates and implements strategies for the development of the national statistical system, annual and multiannual statistical programs;

    3) Elaborates the normative and institutional framework necessary for the achievement of the strategic objectives in its field of activity, as well as the mechanisms for their implementation in practice;

    4) Performs the management and control of the achievement in quality conditions of the programs and statistical plans adopted at central and regional level;

    5) Harmonizes and aligns national statistical indicators, methodologies, methods and techniques with international regulations and standards;

6) Promotes the statistical culture in the society.

The legislative and normative acts ruling the activity of the NBS are available on its official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under *About*. (https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html).

7. Confidentiality

7.1. Principles

According to art. 19 of the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, producers of official statistics shall take all regulatory, administrative, technical and organizational measures to protect confidential data and prevent their disclosure.

Chapter VII of the above-mentioned law stipulates that the data collected, processed and stored for the production of statistical information are confidential if they allow the direct or indirect identification of the respondents.

According to the Law on Official Statistics, art. 20, access to confidential information is granted to the persons who, according to their official functions, participate in the production of statistical information shall have access to individual data in so far as individual data are necessary for producing this information.

The same article stipulates that the access to individual data, which do not allow the direct identification of respondents, may be given for scientific survey projects, whose expected results do not refer to identifiable individual units, under the regulation approved by the central statistical authority.

7.2. Practical assurance of the confidentiality rules

To ensure the protection of confidential statistical data in compliance with the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, the National Bureau of Statistics undertakes all the regulatory, administrative, technical, and organizational measures to protect the confidential statistical information and prevent its disclosure.

In compliance with the above-mentioned law, the employees of producers of official statistics, including temporary employees who, according to their official functions, have direct access to individual data shall be obliged to observe the confidentiality of these data during and after termination of employment.

Before being disseminated, the statistical data are verified if they meet the protection requirements set for confidential data. If the statistical data contain confidential information (see p. 7.1), they are not disseminated, but aggregated at the minimum available level which ensures the protection of data confidentiality.

8. Access to Information and Dissemination Format

8.1. Access to information

8.1.1. Calendar of statistical publications

Annually the Data release calendar is developed by NBS.

8.1.2. Access to the calendar of statistical publications

The data release calendar is posted on the NBS official page https://statistica.gov.md/en

8.1.3. Access to statistical data

According to the Law on Official Statistics No. 93 dated 26.05.2017, art. 23:
   a) Producers of official statistics shall be obliged to disseminate the statistical information within the deadlines specified in the programme of statistical works and in the release calendar.
   b) The dissemination of statistical information laid down in the programme of statistical works to all categories of users shall be made free of charge and under equal access conditions in terms of volume, quality and time of dissemination.

The program of statistical work may be accessed on the web page https://statistica.gov.md/en , under About / Normative acts (https://statistica.gov.md/en/normative-acts-56.html)

The NBS web page https://statistica.gov.md/en represents the most important information source for ensuring users' access to different statistical information and transparency about the NBS activity.

All news releases, analytical reports, time series, as well as the statistical publications developed by NBS are placed on official web site.

8.2. Dissemination format

8.2.1. News releases / Analytical reports

News releases and analytical reports are published on the NBS official web site:
https://statistica.gov.md/en under *News Releases*, according to the *Release Calendar*.

8.2.2. Publications

Publications developed by NBS containing statistical data on labour force:
- Statistical yearbook;
- Publication "*Labour Force in the Republic of Moldova, Employment and Unemployment*" – annual detailed publication containing information regarding the survey methodology, with tables with annual mean data, as well as information regarding the evolution over the time of the main labour force indicators;
- Moldova in figures (statistical pocket-book);
- Territorial statistics;
- Chisinau in figures (yearbook).

Access to publications in electronic format, on NBS official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under Products and services / Publications https://statistica.gov.md/ro/publications

8.2.3. Databases/time series

- **Statistical databank** http://statbank.statistica.md, under *Social statistics / Labour force and earnings / LFS*

- NBS **official page**: https://statistica.gov.md/en under:
- *News Releases*
- *Statistics by themes / Labour force and earnings / Employment and Unemployment*
- *Products and Services / Publications / Labour force in the Republic of Moldova. Employment and unemployment*

- **Special Data Dissemination Standard** (SDDS): http://www.statistica.gov.md/SDDS/NSDP/

8.2.4. Questionnaires/data sent upon request from international organizations

International questionnaires UNSD, ILO, UNECE, Eurostat, CISSTAT etc.

8.2.5. Requests for additional data

NBS makes available for users' additional statistical information beyond the data presented in the statistical publications, news releases, analytical reports placed on the official website, in the limits of available information, in line with the Law on Official Statistics. Request can be sent personally, by post, by e-mail moldstat@statistica.gov.md or via online web form – https://statistica.gov.md/en under: Products and services / Statistical data request: https://statistica.gov.md/ro/information_request.

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:

https://statistica.gov.md/en/request-for-access-to-microdata-205.html

9. Useful References (links)

9.1. Accessibility of documentation on methodology

The LFS Methodology is available in Romanian language on the official website
https://statistica.gov.md/ro, under *Metadata and Classifications / Statistical methodologies / Labour force* https://statistica.gov.md/files/files/Metadate/alte/Metodologie_AFM_2019.pdf

9.2. Accessibility of documentation on Evaluation Reports

The NBS assessment reports are available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under *About / External assessments and user surveys / Assessment reports*

(https://statistica.gov.md/en/external-assessments-and-user-surveys-73.html)

and:

https://statistica.gov.md/en , under *Metadata and Classifications / Statistical methodologies / Labour force:* ILOSTAT Report „Changes to the Labour Force Survey of Moldova – overview and assessment of impact" (2020):

https://statistica.gov.md/en/statistical-methodologies-104.html

9.3. Accessibility of information on user surveys

User surveys are available on the official page https://statistica.gov.md/en, under *About / External assessments and user surveys / User surveys*

(https://statistica.gov.md/en/external-assessments-and-user-surveys-73.html)

9.4. Other useful references

IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard - SDDS	https://statistica.gov.md/en/prezentare-generala-9865.html
EUROSTAT database	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/database
United Nations Database - UNData	http://data.un.org/
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) database	https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en/
ILO Department of Statistics database - ILOSTAT	https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/