

# Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## Labour Cost Survey

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

**2012**

Status: **11.04.2016**



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## Executive Summary

The **labour cost statistics** display the level and structure of labour costs in different economic activities, size classes of enterprises and regions. In addition these statistics also provide information about the amount and structure of employments as well as hours worked and hours paid which relate to the labour costs. Labour costs are defined as the total expenditure borne by employers in order to employ staff (e.g. wages and salaries, social contributions, vocational training costs, taxes etc.).

These Community statistics, which are based on the results of the national Labour Cost Surveys, are integral to the **European System of Labour Costs and Earning Statistics**, which also include the likewise four-yearly published structure of earnings statistics as well as the quarterly Labour Cost Index. The annual Labour Costs and Earning Statistics according to a Gentlemen's Agreement have been discontinued at EU level in 2013. However, it will still be provided at national level.

European System of Labour Costs and Earnings Statistics			
Labour Cost Survey (LCS)	Structure of Earnings Survey (SES)	Annual Labour Costs and Earnings Statistics Ceased in 2013!	Labour Cost Index (LCI)
every 4 years	every 4 years	annually	quarterly

Statistical data on labour costs are an important basis for information and decision-making at international and national level (e.g. collective bargaining, assessment of business locations and settlement, economic analysis and forecasts).

The Labour Cost Survey (**LCS**) 2012 is the **fifth survey** of its kind in Austria after 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 which is conducted according to European law, whereby the coverage has been extended to the entire manufacturing sector and nearly all service sections (excluding the section Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security). Before the EU entry in 1995, the survey on labour costs used to be a domain of the statutory representations of interests of the business economy, who surveyed in their particular industrial sections in three-yearly intervals since 1960.

Following the previous surveys, the LCS 2012 was conducted as a **sample survey**. Units with less than ten employees as well as public administration units have been excluded from the survey. The sample size amounted to 7 390 units which corresponded to a sampling fraction of 17.0% of the population. **Survey and reporting units** are enterprises, consortia, public corporations, establishments of public corporations and associations. **Display** of the results took place on the level of the local units. The breakdown of the results from enterprise level to the level of **local units**, divided by economic activity, NUTS-1-regions and - for the first time - by federal states, has been applied by a distribution key which was computed by the data from wage tax statistics, Structural Business Statistics 2012, the Short Term Statistics in the production sector 2012 and the business register for statistical purposes.

The **extrapolation** was performed at enterprise level and in a second step at the level of the subaggregates consisting of the enterprises' local units. In both steps the number of employees was adapted to the population with regard to the divisions of NACE Rev. 2, broken down with the federal states (NUTS 2) of the local units according to the business register for statistical purposes. The extrapolated results represent about 97 100 local units with 2.49 million employees.

**Coherence** with comparable or similar items from other statistical data is given with reservations that can be attributed to differences in the questioning techniques (micro-census Labour Force Survey), the definitions (Structural Business Statistics), the data sources (Labour Cost Index) and the coverage of the statistical units (National Accounts).

## Labour Cost Survey 2012 – Main Features

<b>Subject Matter</b>	Labour Costs (Wages and Salaries, Employer's social contributions, Vocational training costs, Taxes etc.); Hours actually worked and paid as well as employees (each divided into full- and part-time employees, apprentices and other trainees).
<b>Population</b>	About 43 .000 enterprises, consortia, public corporations, establishments of public corporations and associations with at least 10 employees in sections B to N and P to S of ÖNACE 2008 and about 97 100 associated local units.
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary statistical data collection (sample) incl. usage of secondary statistical data sources.
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	<b>Primary statistical data collection:</b> sample stratified by divisions of ÖNACE 2008 and size classes of enterprises, surveyed by web and paper questionnaire. <b>Secondary statistical data:</b> wage tax statistics, Structural Business Statistics 2012, Short Term Statistics in the production sector 2012. <b>Register:</b> business register for statistical purposes.
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	2012.
<b>Periodicity</b>	Every 4 years.
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Obligatory.
<b>Main legal acts</b>	<a href="#">Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999</a> , <a href="#">Commission Regulation (EC) No 1737/2005</a> , <a href="#">No 698/2006</a> and <a href="#">No 973/2007</a> as well as <a href="#">BGBl. II Nr. 126/2006 in der Fassung von BGBl. II Nr. 107/2009</a> .
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Federal states (NUTS 2).
<b>Availability of results</b>	Final results: t + 18 m delivery to Eurostat; t + 20 m publication.
<b>Other</b>	The results are displayed at local unit level.