

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Structure of Earnings Survey 2018

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Executive Summary

The [Structure of Earnings Survey](#) (SES) provides detailed and comparable information on the structure and distribution of earnings of 2.7 Million employees in the manufacturing and services sector (sections B to S excluding O of NACE Rev. 2). Since 2002 the survey is conducted every four years in all Member States of the European Union (EU) on harmonised standards under the Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 and the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1738/2005.

In Austria, the SES was carried out for the first time for the reference year 1996. Since 2002 data on gross hourly, monthly and annual earnings as well as information on working time are collected every four years. This data allow detailed analyses on the level and structure of remuneration by economic activity, occupation, highest level of education, age, sex and other individual or work-place related characteristics.

Due to amendments in European legislation or revisions of classifications the survey was subject to constant changes. In 2006 the scope of the survey has been significantly expanded and the local unit has been introduced in addition to the enterprise level. This was followed by the implementation of the revised Classifications NACE and ISCO in 2010. Since 2010 the SES is compiled on the basis of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2). In the same year, the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) has been switched to the new version ISCO-08. With the survey for the reporting year 2014 the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED-97 finally was replaced by the new version ISCED-2011.

The survey itself is conducted on the basis of a two-stage random sampling approach of enterprises (first stage) and employees (second stage). This approach corresponds to the European requirements, on the one hand, and reduces the response burden, on the other hand.

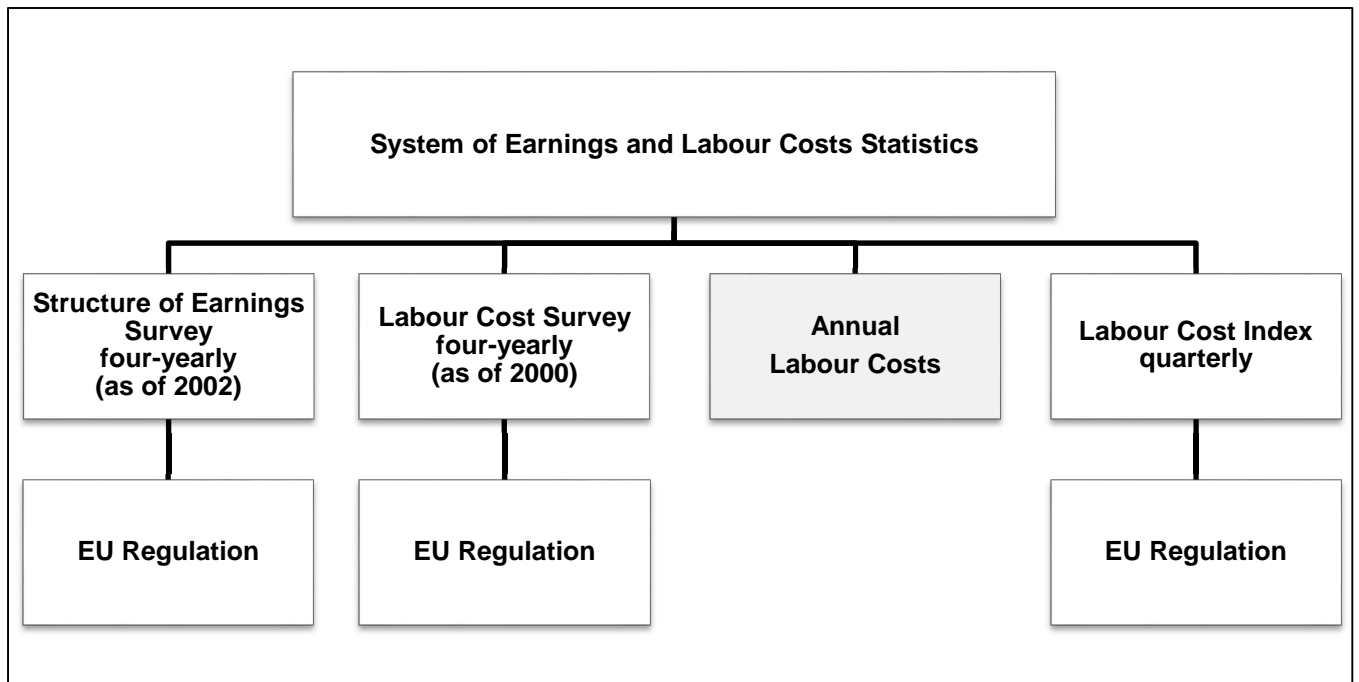
Based on a stratified random sampling 11 350 enterprises and 212 000 employees were selected in 2018. The population used for sampling comprises around 46 155 enterprises with at least 10 employees in NACE Rev. 2 sections B-N and P-S and approximately 2.7 million employees in these enterprises.

The sampling rate for 2018 was 24.6% and has declined since the beginning of the survey (2014: 27.4%, 2010: 28.1%, 2006: 30.5% and 2002: 34.3%). In order to achieve a better distribution of employees by size of the enterprise the selection has been modified in 2006 so that less small but more large enterprises were represented in the sample. This resulted in a reduction of the sampling rate of enterprises. The sampling fraction of the employees was 7.8% in 2018 and was therefore somewhat lower than in the former years (2014: 8.6%, 2010: 8.6%, 2006: 9.1%; 2002: 8.3%).

According to the national legislation the SES is conducted as a combination of primary and secondary statistics since 2002. The use of secondary data enables Austria to restrict the survey to those characteristics which cannot be obtained from sources of administrative data. The SES is carried out as a written survey and is obligatory due to national legislation. The response rate was 98.1% in 2018. For data transmission, 99% of the enterprises used the web-based questionnaire (eQuest-Web). Only 1% reported via paper-and-pencil questionnaire.

The results of the SES, on which the Community statistics is based on, is an important corner stone of the European System of Earnings and Labour Costs Statistics. The system includes also the four-yearly Labour Cost Survey, the Annual Labour Cost statistics and the quarterly Labour Cost Index.

The data on earnings and labour costs are an important information and decision-making basis on the international and national level (e.g. for collective bargaining, assessing the economic situation as well as economic analyses and forecasts).



From the reference year 2006 onwards, the SES is also the EU-wide data source for the calculation of the EU-Indicator [gender pay gap](#) (GPG) as well as the proportion of [low-wage earners](#).

Structure of Earnings Survey – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Structure and distribution of earnings (gross hourly, monthly and annual earnings) and working hours by economic activity, occupation, highest completed level of education, age, sex and other individual or work-place related characteristics
Population	Employees in enterprises with at least 10 employees in the areas of economic activity defined by sections B to S excluding O of NACE Rev. 2. (approx. 2.7 million employees in 46 155 enterprises)
Type of statistics	Combination of primary and secondary data collection
Data sources/Survey techniques	Primary data: Sample survey of approx. 11 350 enterprises and 212 000 employees in these enterprises Secondary data: Business register, social security data, wage tax data and education register
Reference period or due day	Reference month: October 2018 Reference year: 2018
Periodicity	Every four years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Obligatory
Main legal acts	Order of the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour on the Structure of Earnings Survey in industry and parts of the service sector (<i>Verdienststrukturstatistik-Verordnung</i>), Federal Law Gazette (BGBI. II No 66/2007 , as amended by BGBI. II No 99/2011 and Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 , No 1738/2005 and No 698/2006)
Most detailed regional breakdown	NUTS 2 level
Availability of results	Final results: t + 18 months (18 months from the end of the reference year)
Other	The allocation of the employees by NACE and NUTS is carried out at the level of local units.