

What is Statistics Explained?

Statistics Explained is a new tool that provides easy access to Eurostat's statistical information. Working in a similar way to Wikipedia, it is easy to use and easy to navigate. Statistics Explained is a rich source of information for the full-range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat.

Statistics Explained is:

- an **encyclopaedia** of European Union statistics;
- a **portal** to further information for occasional and for regular users alike;
- a **statistical glossary**.

Statistics Explained makes extensive use of hyperlinking and similar possibilities offered by the Internet to provide seamless access to information at various levels. It contains statistical data and explanations, but also provides links to the latest figures and all kind of relevant background information which may be useful to understand the statistics presented.

How is the information on Statistics Explained presented?

Statistics Explained is made up of highly interlinked web pages. There are essentially two basic types of pages on Statistics Explained: statistical articles that provide information on a particular topic, and glossary/background pages that provide more detailed, technical descriptions of an indicator or specific data collection. More details on how to navigate the wealth of information and on the general structure of statistical articles is provided overleaf.

The content of Statistics Explained

Statistical articles are the core of Statistics Explained. Statistics Explained includes articles across the complete range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat – including social and economic statistics, as well as an enormous range of more specialised statistics. The most commonly accessed articles in 2012 related to unemployment, migration, wages, GDP, government finance statistics and various environmental issues.

The typical statistical article starts with an indication as to the freshness of the data used, a brief introduction, and a table of contents. The main body of each article is composed of the following parts:

- **main statistical findings** – these highlight the most important statistical results, both through text and through a set of tables and graphs; occasionally maps or diagrams are also used to help portray the information being presented.
- **data sources and availability** – this briefly describes how the data were obtained (for example, through which statistical survey); this section may also highlight the legal basis for the collection of the statistics, provide some background metadata and general explanations of the data and terminology used, as well as highlighting some of the potential limitations and problems that may be associated with the use of the data set.
- **context** – this section provides information on the uses that may be made of the data, in particular providing links to the policy context behind the statistics that are being presented – explaining the role the statistics aim to serve and their importance for society as a whole or for particular groups.
- **further Eurostat information** – this section provides direct links to more detailed or more recent information on the Eurostat website.
- **external links** – the articles generally close with a set of hyperlinks to other trustworthy bodies.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Eurostat website. The main heading is "Minimum wage statistics". Below the heading, there is a search bar and a navigation menu. The page content includes a table of contents with the following items:

- 1 Main statistical findings
 - 1.1 Variation of statutory minimum wages
 - 1.2 Minimum wages expressed in purchasing power standards
 - 1.3 Minimum wage level in relation to average gross monthly earnings
- 2 Data sources and availability
 - 2.1 Statutory monthly minimum wages
 - 2.2 Countries not covered by the data collection
 - 2.3 Monthly minimum wage as a proportion of average monthly earnings
- 3 Context
- 4 Further Eurostat information
 - 4.1 Publications
 - 4.2 Main tables
 - 4.3 Database
 - 4.4 Methodology / Metadata
- 5 External links
- 6 See also

Statistics Explained –
your guide to
European Statistics

2013 edition

- **see also** – at the end of each article and many of the glossary/background pages there are a set of hyperlinks to internal pages within Statistics Explained that provide rapid access to related articles that may well be of further interest to the reader.

Getting behind the figures

Many users not only want to view data, but they also wish to be informed about their exact meaning. Statistics Explained contains two types of special web pages in the form of a glossary of statistical terms and more detailed methodological information through background pages.

Glossary pages

Glossary entries appear as hyperlinks within statistical articles – they allow the user to open a new page that contains a simple explanation of the glossary term and then to return to the original article. Some glossary entries are followed by a set of hyperlinks for more detailed or related information.

Underemployment and potential additional labour force statistics

Data from January 2013. Most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and charts

This article reports about three forms of unemployment in the European Union (EU) which are defined by the ILO definition of unemployment. They are: underemployed part-time workers, jobless persons available for work but not immediately available for work and jobless persons available for work but not immediately available for work.

Glossary: Unemployment

An unemployed person is defined by Eurostat, according to the guidelines of the International Labour Organization, as:

- someone aged 15 to 74 (in Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway: 16 to 74 years);
- without work during the reference week;
- available to start work within the next two weeks (or has already found a job to start within the next two months);
- actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

There are a large number of glossaries focused on particular subjects or groups of information, for example:

- a set of **statistical glossaries** for the main statistical themes (for example, population and social conditions), as well as a number of more detailed subject specific glossaries (for example, living conditions and social protection).
- **abbreviations** used within Statistics Explained, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Abbreviations

- geographical areas, for example, ASEAN, EAC or the Andean pact are detailed in the **geography glossary**, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Geography_glossary.
- abbreviations and special names that are used in relation to the European Union, its policies, institutions and treaties, for example, the EU 2020 strategy, the EIB, or the CAP are grouped under the category heading of **EU institutions glossary**, see http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:EU_institutions_glossary.

Category:Geography glossary

The Geography glossary contains all glossary items concerning regions, countries and groupings of countries.

Search:

Pages in category "Geography glossary"

The following 89 pages are in this category, out of 89 total.

A	E	G cont.
• ACP	• EA-11	• Geographical information system (GIS)
• APEC	• EA-12	• Geographical information system at the Commission (GISCO)
• ASEAN	• EA-13	• ENP
• AU	• EA-15	• Geomenclature (GEONOM)
• Accessing countries	• EA-16	• Group of Twenty (G20)
• African Union (AU)	• EA-17	
• African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)	• EAC	
• Andean Community (CAN)	• EEA(1)	
• Andean Pact	• EFTA	
• Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)	• EMU	
	• EU	

Access to the full range of glossary items is available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Thematic_glossaries.

Thematic glossaries

The Statistics Explained **Glossary** covers all statistical and other terms in Statistics Explained requiring a definition or explanation. Because it is so extensive, however, it is easier to consult one of the more focused **thematic glossaries**, organised according to **statistical themes** and subthemes and supplemented with a list of abbreviations and some further special-topic subglossaries.

Below is a clickable overview of all subglossaries in Statistics Explained.

- Abbreviations**
 - List of abbreviations
- Statistical themes**
 - General and regional statistics**
 - Regions and cities glossary
 - Economy and finance**
 - Economy and finance glossary
 - Balance of payments glossary

Background articles

These pages are designed to provide comprehensive methodological information, on subjects such as particular statistical indicators, statistical methods or classifications. Background articles look deeper into the subject presented and have no predefined structure as they are diverse in nature. Examples include articles on European sector accounts, the agricultural census, and the methodology used for the harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP).

HICP methodology

The harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) are a set of European Union (EU) consumer price indices (CPIs) calculated according to a harmonised approach and a single set of definitions. This article outlines the aims and methodology of the HICPs, summarises the main harmonised standards and notes some key items on the agenda for further harmonisation. The HICP development project is ongoing. This article describes the state of development of the HICPs at the end of 2007.

The HICPs have a legal basis in that their production, and most elements of their methodology, to be used, is laid down in a series of legally binding European Union...

The main HICPs

The HICPs on which most attention is focused are:

- the Monetary Union index of consumer prices (MUICP) — an aggregate index covering the countries in the euro area;
- the European index of consumer prices (EIPC) — for the euro area plus the other European Union countries;
- the national HICPs — for each of the Member States of the European Union.

Beyond these there are also the European Economic Area index of consumer prices (EEAICP) and HICPs for the individual countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. There are also interim HICPs for candidate countries. It is expected that once these countries accede to the EU their HICPs will be fully compatible with those of the existing Member States. The national HICPs are produced by the national statistical institutes, while the country-group aggregates are produced by Eurostat.

The official country-group aggregates reflect the evolution of economic and monetary union (EMU), the EU and the EEA. New Member States are chained into the index at the time of accession. In addition to these official aggregates, Eurostat computes also country aggregates with stable composition over time. For example, the aggregate 'EU-27' shows price indices covering all current 27 Member States since 1997.

Uses of the HICPs

Consumer price indices have a variety of potential uses, for example for indexing social benefits or contracts; or as inputs into various types of economic analyses. Following the Maastricht Treaty, the main thrust of the harmonisation project has been the use of the HICPs as convergence criteria and the main measure for monitoring price stability in the euro area. The HICPs have been set up to provide the best measure for international comparisons of consumer price inflation in the EU and the euro area, and for assessing price convergence and stability in the context of monetary policy analysis.

In the early stages of the project until 1998, the main use of the HICPs was in assessing the price stability and price convergence required for entry into Economic and monetary union. Since then, convergence in terms of price stability for new potential Members of the EMU has been assessed regularly by means of the HICP.

From 1999 onwards, the focus of interest shifted towards country-group aggregates — and in particular the euro area. This change of emphasis reflects the European Central Bank (ECB) objective of price stability and the view that the HICPs are the most appropriate price measure for assessing price stability. The focus of the HICPs on measuring price stability and convergence, and on international comparisons, does not mean that a wider range of users should not or cannot use HICPs for other purposes. Depending on the precise purpose the user has in mind, the HICPs may be the best available price statistics. All users of the HICPs should note, however, that the HICPs are sensitive; the indices may change after the initial results are published.

PDF version of articles and collections ('create a book')

Although Statistics Explained is first and foremost an electronic publication channel, separate articles as well as chosen sets of articles can also be converted to a PDF file and saved or printed. The lay-out is basic but quite sufficient for its use as printout, including rescaled and repositioned tables, figures and maps. The articles in the category 'Statistics in focus' have an even more elaborate publication-like PDF output.

Single article

On any article web page, click 'PDF version' under 'Toolbox' in the left-hand column. A link will be provided to download the PDF version which you then can save or print. Of course you can also print the page via the 'print' button on top - this is quicker but the result is a more basic look without scaled images.

Toolbox

- What links here
- Special pages
- PDF version

Set of articles: create a book

You can also make your own personal publication with selected articles, including front page and table of contents, and download this as a PDF file by using the 'create a book' tool (down in the left-hand column of any article page).

As a first step, you have to make a 'collection', a set of articles: go to an article you want to include and click 'Add this page' (under 'Create a book'); then go to a second page and do likewise, etc. Don't include too many articles, however, the PDF conversion time has been limited to protect against overload.

If you have all the articles you want in your collection, you can take a look at it by clicking 'Show collection'.

On the collection page you add a title (needed for download) and possibly a subtitle, rearrange the content at will, and then download it as a PDF file from the download page opening.

Create a book

- Add this page
- Show collection (2 pages)
- Clear collection
- Collections help

Collection

Create and manage your individual selection of wiki pages. See Help: Collections for more information.

Your book:

Title: XXXX
Subtitle: in Bulgarian

Sort alphabetically Clear collection

Use drag & drop to reorder wiki pages and chapters

- GDP and household accounts at regional level
- GDP per capita, consumption per capita and price level indicators

Download

To download an offline version choose a format and click the button.

Download as PDF

Save and share your collection

If you want to save collections for later use, please log in or create an account. Collections are saved in the category Collections.

Eurostat's website

Eurostat provides users with free access to all of its databases, as well as PDF versions of its publications; these are available from Eurostat's website. To discover more, open a web browser and go to the Eurostat homepage, at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.



How to find Statistics Explained?

Statistics Explained is available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained.

For those already familiar with Eurostat's website, it may be reached from many web pages including the Eurostat homepage. Just look for the **SE** icon.

But the easiest way is probably via an internet search using 'Statistics Explained Eurostat' as terms, the link to access Statistics Explained is sure to be among the very first result pages.

Who should visit Statistics Explained?

The main objective of Statistics Explained is to reach as broad an audience as possible. It is aimed at experts from academia or business, who are not familiar with Eurostat's website, while at the same time presenting information in a simple and easy to understand fashion so that it also appeals to the general public. Statistics Explained should also be convenient to those who cannot or prefer not to use online databases. It is therefore useful to a broad array of users, for whatever purpose: study, work, discussing or sharing information with others, or curiosity.

Navigation and collaborative tools

There is a permanent navigational tool provided on the left-hand side of each screen within Statistics Explained, this provides useful tools to navigate, as well as links to other parts of Eurostat's website, a toolbox of utilities and other language versions.

Along the top of each page there is a wide range of useful collaborative tools that allow interaction through social media networks, providing opportunities to share, blog, cite, print, bookmark or send articles. These built-in tools (such as Twitter or Facebook) allow users to communicate their findings to colleagues, friends or family.



Searching for information on Statistics Explained

An easy way to find a particular article in Statistics Explained is through a standard search on the Internet using a few keywords - the chances are high that the article will appear near the top of the ranking of results.

Statistics Explained also has its own search facility that is always available in the top left-hand corner of each page.

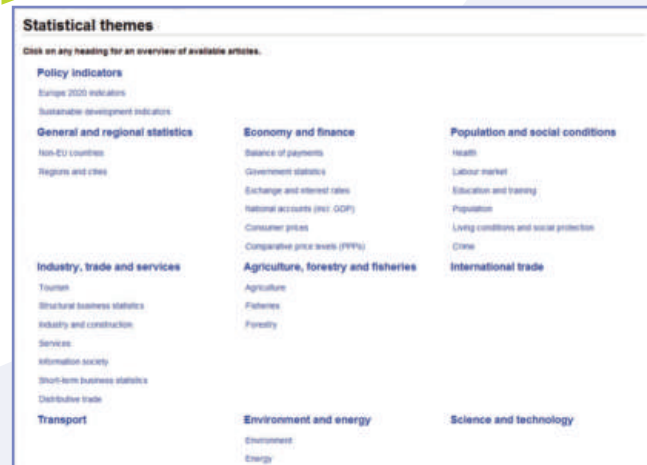
Furthermore, Statistics Explained pages are included when users make a search for particular keyword(s) on Eurostat's website; the results are returned above a list of hyperlinks to related publications, datasets and metadata.



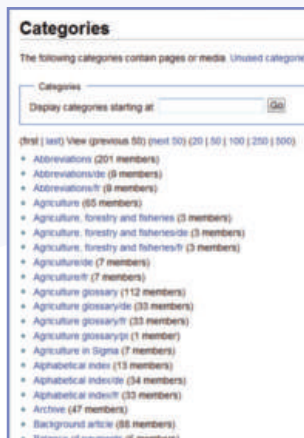
Navigating around Statistics Explained

Besides a search on keywords, there are two other navigational tools within Statistics Explained that may help users find an article: these are **statistical themes** and **categories**.

The hierarchy of **statistical themes** (and subthemes) reflects the thematic logic of Eurostat's website, where data and publications are grouped under one of ten headings, starting with **Policy indicators** followed by **General and regional statistics**, through to **Science and technology**. There is a hyperlink to a listing of all themes and subthemes that is available in the left-hand column of each Statistics Explained page.



In a similar way, **categories** are used on Statistics Explained for logical groupings of articles in a less formal manner. Categories are not classified in a hierarchy and new categories are created if they are useful for grouping sets of related articles. There is a hyperlink to an alphabetic listing of all categories available in the left-hand column of each Statistics Explained page. Furthermore, at the bottom of statistical articles and glossary pages there is a list of categories to which the particular page belongs; these hyperlinks can provide a useful tool for finding related information in other articles.



Online publications in Statistics Explained

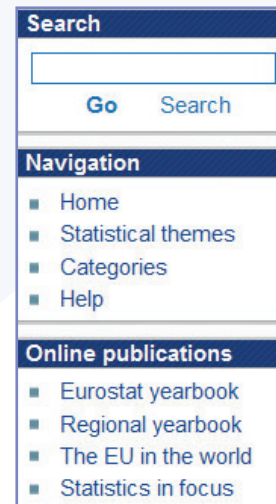
Since it was created in 2009, Statistics Explained has gradually developed into the central publication hub of Eurostat, in two ways:

- as the repository of online publications, increasingly electronic and no longer produced in paper or PDF format;
- as the wiki common working platform for anyone involved in the creation or update of a publication, both internally and externally.

Using Statistics Explained as a publication tool has drastically increased the freshness of the published information, (often to days only after new data have become available) and it makes the updating quite easy. This has resulted in a significant increase in overall quality, at a much lower production cost.

Online publications can be accessed on any page from the 'Online publications' section in the left column, linking to a clickable table of contents. The first three publications are the 'Eurostat yearbook', the 'Regional yearbook' and 'The EU in the world', presenting a range of important statistics at the level of the European Union, the regions of the EU and the EU versus other major economies, respectively. The fourth, 'Statistics in Focus', is a collection of articles analysing statistical data in-depth to highlight meaningful patterns. And finally, 'Other publications' contains an increasing number of online publications, both statistical and methodological, covering different statistical themes and topics.

All articles can be rendered as PDF and paper output. Online publications are available in the form of a 'collection' of articles and can be downloaded as a PDF file with basic lay-out, including front page and table of contents. Furthermore, Statistics Explained allows the possibility of creating one's own 'do-it-yourself' publication with the 'Create a book' functionality in the left column. The result can be stored as a dynamic collection of continuously updated articles or downloaded as a static PDF file. Of course, every article separately is also available in PDF version.



What language options are available?

All articles and glossary items in Statistics Explained are available in English. A basic version, consisting of some 100 important and representative articles and 450 glossary items, is available in French and German. Finally, the 20 most important articles are available in 18 other EU official and working languages - some of those languages also have a set of glossary pages, thanks to input from national statistical institutes.

On any page an overview of the available languages for that page can be found under 'In other languages' in the left column. Clicking a language allows switching to that language. Each language version has also a Main Page and an overview of all statistical articles in that language: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Category:Statistical_article (select language under 'In other languages').



Where can Statistics Explained be found?

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained

