Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 of 25 April 2008 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 377/2008

of 25 April 2008

implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community as regards the codification to be used for data transmission from 2009 onwards, the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables and the definition of the reference quarters

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community[(1)], and in particular Articles 1 and 4(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 577/98 requires that, in the case of a continuous survey, a list of the weeks making up the reference quarters for the survey is drawn up by the Commission.

(2) In accordance with Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 577/98, implementing measures are necessary in order to define the codification of the variables to be used for the data transmission.

(3) Under Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 577/98, a list of variables, hereinafter referred to as structural variables, may be identified from among the survey characteristics which need to be surveyed only as annual averages with reference to 52 weeks rather than as quarterly averages. Therefore, the conditions for the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables should be laid down.

(4) In view of the importance of data on employment and unemployment, the totals for these indicators should be consistent whether they are produced from the annual sub-sample or on the basis of an annual average of the four quarterly full samples.

(5) In view of the importance of data collected in ad hoc modules, this information should be combinable with any other variable from the survey.

(6) Regulation (EC) No 577/98 as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1372/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council makes the transmission of the variable ‘wages from the main job’ compulsory. Therefore, the codification of the variables should be amended.

Changes to legislation: Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 December 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

(7) Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community concerning the codification to be used for data transmission from 2006 onwards and the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables[(2)] defines the codification to be used for the data transmission from 2006 onwards. However, it is necessary to amend the coding scheme from 2009 onwards in order to take account of changes in two variables (field of highest level of education or training successfully completed and monthly pay from main job), to adapt the transmission columns accordingly and to correct some filter errors and omissions for other variables. Commission Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 should therefore be repealed with effect from 1 January 2009.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Statistical Programme Committee established by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom[(3)],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Structural variables

The conditions for the use of a sub-sample for the collection of data on structural variables are laid down in Annex I.

Article 2

Reference quarters

The definition of the reference quarters to be applied from 2009 is laid down in Annex II.

Article 3

Codification

The codes for the variables to be used for the data transmission for the years 2009 onwards are laid down in Annex III.

Article 4

Repeal

Regulation (EC) No 430/2005 shall be repealed with effect from 1 January 2009.

***Changes to legislation:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 December 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Article 5

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2009.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Changes to legislation: *Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 December 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

ANNEX I

CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF A SUB-SAMPLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON STRUCTURAL VARIABLES

1. Yearly/quarterly variables

The word 'yearly' in the 'Periodicity' column of the Codification laid down in Annex III identifies structural variables which optionally need only to be surveyed as annual averages, using a sub-sample of independent observations with reference to 52 weeks, rather than as quarterly averages. Core variables to be surveyed each quarter are identified as 'quarterly'.

2. Representativeness of the results

For structural variables, the relative standard error (without taking design effect into account) of any yearly estimate representing 1 % or more of the working-age population shall not exceed:

(a) 9 % for countries with a population between 1 million and 20 million inhabitants and,

(b) 5 % for countries with a population of 20 million or more.

Countries with fewer than 1 million inhabitants are exempted from these precision requirements, and structural variables should be collected for the total sample unless the sample meets the requirements set out in (a).

For countries using a sub-sample for data collection on structural variables, if more than one wave is used, the total sub-sample used shall consist of independent observations.

3. Consistency of totals

Consistency between annual sub-sample totals and full-sample annual averages shall be ensured for employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex and for the following age groups: 15 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 +.

4. Ad hoc modules

The sample used to collect information on ad hoc modules shall also provide information on structural variables.

ANNEX II

DEFINITION OF THE REFERENCE QUARTERS

(a) Quarters of each year refer to the 12 months of the year, so that January, February and March belong to the first quarter, April, May and June to the second quarter, July, August and September to the third quarter and October, November and December to the fourth quarter.

(b) The reference weeks are allocated to the reference quarters so that a week belongs to the quarter as defined in (a) to which at least four days of that week belong, unless this results in the first quarter of the year consisting of only 12 weeks. When that occurs, the quarters of the year in question will be formed by consecutive blocks of 13 weeks.

(c) When, according to (b), a quarter consists of 14 weeks instead of 13 weeks the Member States should attempt to spread the sample over all of the 14 weeks.

***Changes to legislation:** Commission Regulation (EC) No 377/2008 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 December 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(d) If it is not feasible to spread the sample to cover all 14 weeks of the quarter, the Member State concerned may skip one week of that quarter (i.e. not cover it). 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.

(e) The first quarter of 2009 shall start on Monday, 29 December 2008.

Until the end of 2011, Member States running the Labour Force Survey along with other surveys as one single integrated survey may define the start of reference quarters one week earlier than laid down in (a), (b) and (e).

ANNEX III

CODIFICATION

Name	Column	Periodicity	Code	Description	Filter/ Remarks
DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND					
HHSEQNUM	1/2	QUARTERLY		*Sequence number in the household (it should remain the same for all waves)*	everybody
			01-98	Two-digit sequence number allocated to each member of the household	
HHLINK	3	YEARLY		*Relationship to reference person in the household*	HHTYPE=1,3
			1	Reference person	
			2	Spouse (or cohabiting partner) of reference person	

a **[**[F1]Coding based on ISCED mappings to be delivered to Eurostat.**]**

b **[**[F1]Highest level of education successfully completed as defined by ISCED 2011, coding based on ISCED mappings to be delivered to Eurostat.

c Or subdivisions of the classification of fields of education and training.**]**