

Cultural employment – based on the Icelandic Labour Force Survey (IS-LFS)

1. Contact

1.1 Contact organisation	Statistics Iceland
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Labour market, living conditions and demography
1.3 Contact name	Erla Rún Guðmundsdóttir
1.6 Contact e-mail address	erla.gudmundsdottir@hagstofa.is
1.7 Contact phone number	528 1052

2. Metadata update

2.3 Metadata last update	14.03.2022
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3. Statistical presentation

3.1 Data description

Sample and response. The sampling frame for the Icelandic Labor Force Survey (IS-LFS) is drawn from all Icelandic and foreign citizens in the National Registry who are 16-74 years of age and domiciled in Iceland.

The data are collected continuously throughout the year. The year is divided into four 13-week periods and the sample is about 5,200 individuals every quarter. The size of the sample each time is around 5,200 individuals, divided into five rotation groups (waves), so that in each survey one group from the sample is being interviewed for the first time, another group for the second time and so forth. When each new survey arrives, the group which has been in the sample five times is replaced by a new group of persons. The new individuals are selected as a simple random sample without any rejections.

In all, participants are partake in the study three quarters in a row, followed by a two quarters rest before returning to participation in the survey for two quarters in a row (a 3-2-2 design). When survey participation is over respondents are not returned to the sampling frame until two years after having last belonged to a sample.

Questionnaire. Questions in the IS - LFS of Statistics Iceland are based on various models in comparable questionnaires used in neighboring countries, particularly the Nordic countries. The main focus of the questionnaire is labour participation of people, but it also includes questions about education and people's labour market experience.

In the questionnaire design it was considered that the results must be aligned to the Eurostat's [main employment indicators](#) and that data must be standardized in accordance with agreements on the EEA.

Scheduling. Those participating in each survey are asked about their employment activity in a given reference week. The reference week starts on a Saturday and is the last whole week before the interview occurs.

3.2 Classification system

Status in employment: Self-employed or employees

Industries are categorized according to Icelandic sector classification, ÍSAT2008 (NACE Rev. 2). The following industries are classified as fully cultural according to Eurostat's Guide to Culture Statistics 2018:

ÍSAT08	Description
18.11	Printing of newspapers
18.12	Other printing
18.13	Pre-press and pre-media services
18.14	Binding and related services
18.20	Reproduction of recorded media
32.12	Manufacture of jewellery and related articles
32.20	Manufacture of musical instruments
47.61	Retail sale of books in specialised stores
47.62	Retail sale of newspapers and stationary in specialised stores
47.63	Retail sale of music and video recordings in specialised stores
58.11	Book publishing
58.13	Publishing of newspapers
58.14	Publishing of journals and periodicals
58.21	Publishing of computer games
59.11	Motion picture, video and television programme production activities
59.12	Motion picture, video and television programme post-production activities
59.13	Motion picture, video and television programme distribution activities
59.14	Motion picture projection activities
59.20	Sound recording and music publishing activities
60.10	Radio broadcasting
60.20	Television programming and broadcasting activities
63.91	News agency activities

- 71.11 Architectural activities
- 74.10 Specialised design activities
- 74.20 Photographic activities
- 74.30 Translation and interpretation activities
- 77.22 Renting of video tapes and disks
- 85.52 Cultural education
- 90.01 Performing arts
- 90.02 Support activities to performing arts
- 90.03 Artistic creation
- 90.04 Operation of art facilities
- 91.01 Library and archives activities
- 91.02 Museum activities
- 91.03 Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions

Two additional categories have been added to Statice's definition of cultural employment

- 73.11.0 Advertising Agencies, which is categorized as *partly cultural* by Eurostat.
- 47.78.3 Activities of art galleries and art dealers, which is 5-digits and therefore specific to the Icelandic ÍSAT2008 and not applicable to the Eurostat definition.

Occupations are classified according to the Icelandic occupational classification, [ÍSTARF95](#). The following occupations are classified as fully cultural according to Eurostat's Guide to Culture Statistics 2018 (occupations marked with asterisk are not included as cultural by Statistics Iceland's:

ÍSTARF95 Description

- 1229* Production and operations managers not elsewhere classified
- 2141 Architects, town and traffic planners
- 2148 Cartographers and surveyors
- 2359* Other teaching professionals not elsewhere classified

2431 Archivists and curators
2432 Librarians and related information professionals
2444 Philologists, translators and interpreters
2451 Authors, journalists and other writers
2452 Sculptors, painters and related artists
2453 Composers, musicians and singers
2454 Choreographers and dancers
2455 Film, stage and related actors and directors
3131 Photographers and image and sound recording equipment operators
3132 Broadcasting and telecommunications equipment operators
3139 Optical and electronic equipment operators not elsewhere classified
3340 Other teaching associate professionals
3437 Administrative associate professionals not elsewhere classified
3439 Administrative associate professionals not elsewhere classified
3471 Decorators and commercial designers
3472 Radio, television and other announcers
3473 Street, night-club and related musicians, singers and dancers
3474 Clowns, magicians, acrobats and related associate professionals
4141 Library and filing clerks
7312 Musical-instrument makers and tuners
7313 Jewellery and precious-metal workers
7321 Abrasive wheel formers, potters and related workers
7322 Glass-makers, cutters, grinders and finishers
7323 Glass engravers and etchers
7324 Glass, ceramics and related decorative painters
7331 Handicraft workers in wood and related materials
7332 Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials



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7424* Basketry weavers, brush makers and related workers

7431* Fibre preparers

7432* Weavers, knitters and related workers

In 2021 ÍSTARF95 codes categorized as cultural occupations by Eurostat were revised. Five ÍSTARF95 categories were found to be unrelated to culture in Iceland and were therefore excluded from these statistics. These are marked with an asterisk in the list above.

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3.3 Sector coverage

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3.4 Statistical concepts and definition

Statistics Iceland's (Státice) published numbers for cultural employment are based on the Eurostat definition for [culture statistics](#). According to this definition those are considered in cultural employment who 1) are working in cultural industries, irrespective of whether the person is employed in a cultural occupation, 2) those in cultural occupation, irrespective of whether they are employed in a non-cultural industries and 3) those who are in cultural occupation in cultural economic industries.

The numbers published by Státice are based on a cross-tabulation (see figure below) of cultural occupations (ÍSTARF95), on one hand, and cultural industries (ÍSATO8), on the other. The numbers are thus the total (sum) of all people working in all jobs within cultural industries and those working in cultural jobs within all industries. Furthermore, total numbers of those working in other jobs in other industries are published for comparison.

		Industries	
		ÍSATO8	
		Cultural Industries	Other Industries
Occupations ÍSTARF95	Cultural Occupations	Cultural occupations in cultural industries	Cultural occupations in other industries
	Other Occupations	Other occupations in cultural industries	Other occupations in other industries

It is proper to note that *register based employment* in cultural industries refers only to those working in cultural industries (ÍSATO8), regardless of whether the occupation (ÍSTARF95) is categorized as cultural or not, as occupation type is not included in register data.

In the IS-LFS, all concepts and definitions are aligned to those of the European statistical office (Eurostat) main employment indicators. These indicators are in turn used for international comparison.

The main definitions are:

Job. Any kind of work in return for money or a kind, unpaid work with a company of your own family, unpaid work on building your own home or production for your own consumption. Furthermore, artistic work counts as work, even if the person does not have income from it. Unpaid work at home in a home has not been considered employment.

Employed persons are classified as those respondents who worked one hour or more in the reference week or were temporarily absent from the work which they are usually hired to do. Numbers for cultural employment include all those who have a main and/or second job within cultural occupations or cultural industries. Each individual is counted only once, even if they are both self-employed and employees in culture. If a person has a second job within culture, but a main job in other, they are included under cultural employment but not for other employment.

Main job refers to the job the respondent considered as his or hers main job. In doubtful cases the main job should be the one with the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.

Self-employed persons are defined as persons who work in their own business, for the purpose of earning a profit.

Both. Those who have both a main and a second job within cultural occupations and/or cultural industries but with a distinct status in employment (self-employed and employees) for main and second job.

3.5 Statistical unit	Individuals
3.6 Statistical population	A population for the labor market survey constitutes of all Icelandic and foreign citizens aged 16–74 who are registered in the National Registry and domiciled in Iceland in the reference week of the study.
3.7 Reference area	Figures are generally published for the country as a whole.
3.8 Time coverage	Continued results from the Icelandic labor market survey have been published since 2003. Results regarding cultural employment have been published since 2019 but the publications include data 2003 and onwards.
3.9 Base period	Calendar year
4. Unit of measure	
4. Unit of measure	The basic unit of the labor market survey is the individual. In most cases, the results are published as number of individuals (in thousands).
5. Reference period	
5. Reference period	<p>Data is collected continuously throughout the year. The year is divided into four 13-week periods.</p> <p>From 2018, the quarterly sample constitutes about 5,200 individuals, but between 2003 and 2017, the sample counted about 4,000 people.</p> <p>The sample is divided evenly over all 13 weeks and each participant is asked about their position in the given reference week of the study. Base period for cultural employment is one year.</p>
6. Institutional mandate	
6.1 Legal acts and other agreements	Law nr. 163/2007 on Statistics Iceland and official statistics and EU regulations 2019/1700 and 2019/2240..



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7. Confidentiality	
7.1 Confidentiality - policy	See rules on confidentiality
7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment	Law nr. 163/2007 on Statistics Iceland and official statistics.
8. Release policy	
8.1 Release calendar	See rules on statistical releases
8.2 Release calendar access	The Advance release calendar with scheduled releases.
8.3 User access	All results from the labour market survey are accessible through Statistics Iceland website under the heading “ Labour Market ”. Results regarding cultural employment are accessible through Statistics Iceland website under the heading “Economic measures” under “Culture”.
9. Frequency of dissemination	
9. Frequency of dissemination	Results regarding cultural employment are published yearly.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1 News release	
10.2 Publication	
10.3 On-line database	
10.4 Micro-data access	It is possible to apply for micro-data access though Statistics Iceland research service .
10.5 Other	

10.6 Documentation on methodology	
10.7 Quality documentation	
11. Quality management	
11.1 Quality assurance	
11.2 Quality assessment	<p>Approved methods are used in all our sample studies.</p> <p>Numbers on cultural employment have been compared to published figures from Eurostat for Iceland. Due to a less inclusive categorization in the figures published by Eurostat, the figures disseminated by Eurostat are somewhat lower than those published by Statistics Iceland. However, the figures published now are fully compliant with the trident model of cultural employment, based on the four digit categorization of occupations.</p> <p>The labor market survey is also used in validation tests of other research within Statistics Iceland, which in turn supports correspondence between the IS-LFS and other data collected and processed by Statice.</p> <p>Regular quality reports are submitted to Eurostat. The purpose of these reports is to ensure that the quality of the Icelandic research is in line with the European standard for official statistics.</p>
12. Relevance	
12.1 User needs	The main users of the IS – LFS are labor market and cultural stakeholders and governmental institutions and ministries.
12.2 User satisfaction	
12.3 Completeness	
13. Accuracy and reliability	



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13.1 Overall accuracy

13.2 Sampling errors

The labor market study is a sample based survey. Every sample survey entails a degree of uncertainty because of the sample not being an exact reflection of the entire registry or population. In order to adjust the sample to the population responses are weighted by the gender and age of the respondent. Therefore, the results are subject to uncertainty, which becomes greater as the breakdown of the numerical content becomes more detailed.

It is proper to point out that numbers of those in cultural employment are based on a considerable breakdown. This means that there is a noteworthy uncertainty in the counts where the breakdown is great (such as for those who are fully in cultural employment). Hence, these numbers may greatly change between years according the numbers of individuals and how much they weigh in the data production.

13.3 Non-sampling errors

The main errors other than sampling errors in the IS-LFS are *coverage errors* and *non-response errors*.

Coverage errors. Cover errors, on the one hand, stem from the fact that the registry that is the basis for the selection of the sample (the sampling frame) is not exhaustive and, on the other hand, because in the frame there are individuals or entities that do not belong there. This is called on the one hand *under-coverage* and on the other hand *over-coverage*.

For example, in the IS-LFS sample sometimes includes individuals who have real residence abroad because they are studying or working for more than 6 months in a given year and should therefore be considered as not a part of the population. If this group is not deducted from the population of working age, there is a disturbance, an assessment of the total size will be overestimated by the amount. This kind of distortion is called *over-coverage*.

It is much more difficult to detect *under-coverage*, i.e., people who should be included in the population. This group may be considered Icelandic nationals registered domiciled abroad but who are actually resident in Iceland and people from the European Economic Area who live and work in Iceland without being registered here as legally domiciled.

In all surveys, results may be skewed due to the fact that *attrition* in the sample varies by group. The main reasons for attrition are refusals, barriers to illness or disability, absence from home during a survey or failure to find the address or telephone number of those in the sample.

In the labor market study, the most prominent error is attrition. The main reasons for the attrition in the study are refusals, barriers to illness or disability, absence from home during the investigation, or failure of participants, for example, when people do not respond to the phone, failure to find the address or phone number of those in the sample.

Since 2003, the response rate in the VMR has fallen from about 80% to about 65%, mostly because participants could not be reached by telephone. To reduce the impact of dropout errors, the data is weighted by gender, age, and place of residence.



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Imputation. In addition, to address respondents' failure to respond to particular questions in study missing information likely to add to the attrition error is imputed. The methods are mainly two types: 1) the likely answer is derived from the answers of other similar respondents or 2) the likely answer has been derived from other responses of the same person in the same survey or from previous surveys he has participated in. For specific variables, regression models have also been used in order to impute missing data.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

14.1 Timeliness

Annual results are available 4 weeks after the last reference week of the year ends.

14.2 Punctuality

The results of the labor market study are usually published on previously advertised dates. It is very rare for publications to be delayed.

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1 Comparability – geographical

The labor market study provides, among other things, figures for Eurostat's [international data collection](#), which is intended to gather information on international labor supply and short-term labor market organization. Emphasis is placed on coordinated data collection and processing between European countries where the aim is to ensure the comparability of results across the countries participating in the European statistical co-operation

15.2 Comparability – over time

From 1991 to 2002, Statistics Iceland's labor market study was carried out twice a year, but since 2003 it has been continuous throughout the year. Since 1991, a number of changes have taken place in the questionnaire and the questionnaire and the conduct of the study were revised before the continuous study began in 2003.

15.3 Coherence – cross domain

Various information on the number of people employed, development and size of industries can be found in other publications of Statistics Iceland. Statistics Iceland also publishes figures on the total number of employed persons, by sex, background and industry from public registries, monthly figures on the number of employees by months and years derived from tax data and annual operating and balance sheets of enterprises by industry, based on their tax returns which gives an overview of the status and development of individual industries.

15.4 Coherence – internal

16. Cost and burden

16. Cost and burden

Participants in the sample are free to refuse to participate in the study. The average interview time is about 6 minutes, shorter if participants have previously been in the study but longer if they are new to the study.

17. Data revision	
17.1 Data revision - policy	See Statistics Iceland revision policy .
17.2 Data revision -practice	
18. Statistical processing	
18.1 Source data	This is a sample study of individuals based on their answers in telephone surveys. The main purpose of the survey is to assess the size of the workforce and those outside the labor market and their experience of the labor market.
18.2 Frequency of data collection	Weekly
18.3 Data collection	<p>Data is collected via computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) and collected using the BLAISE data collection program. This program saves task time, helps the interviewers choose the right series of queries and reduces errors.</p> <p>Most phone calls take place in the evenings and during weekends, but there are also efforts to phone participants during the daytime if information from other household members indicates they are most likely to be reached then. Thoroughgoing attempts are made to reach those who have moved or do not have a registered telephone number, though no trips are undertaken to the participants' homes.</p> <p>Since after 1991, interviewers have been hired to phone the participants. Before each survey begins, the interviewers are instructed in interview techniques, reviewing the list of questions, and computer system and explaining unclear issues.</p>
18.4 Data validation	Validation is done during data collection during which responses must adhere to certain internal conformity rules for each respondent. In data processing, other rules are used to check the data set and its consistency across different variables and measures.



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18.5 Data compilation	Since the third quarter of 2019 all data compilation and processing has been done using the statistical program R. Variables are coded based on Eurostat's recommendation for the operational definition of the main indicators of employment .
18.6 Adjustment	Data is weighted by gender and age group so that the results reflect the number of these groups in the National Register.
19. Comment	
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