
GERMANY, FED. REP. OF

Title of the series:

Placement Statistics (Statistik der Arbeitsvermittlung).

List of tables published by the ILO:

A. Year Book of Labour Statistics:

Unemployment:

- 9A General level
- 9B By sex and age group
- 10A Unemployed by work experience - general level
- 10B Unemployed by work experience - by industry
(major divisions)
- 10C Unemployed by work experience - by occupation
(major groups)

B. Bulletin of Labour Statistics:

Unemployment:

- 4 General level

Organisation responsible for the series:

The Federal Labour Office (Bundesanstalt für Arbeit) is responsible for statistical collection and processing. Publication is done by the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung).

Coverage:

The data from this series cover the whole country which is administratively divided into federal Laender (or states), office districts, "Landkreise" and towns not attached to a "Landkreis" and municipality offices, and for FLO purposes, Land labour office districts and employment office districts, comprising altogether some 146 employment offices. Persons from all industrial and occupational groups who are at least 15 years of age but not yet 65 years old and are seeking work as employees are covered in the series.

These unemployment data are classified according to the above administrative areas, by sex, marital status, age, occupational sectors (sections, groups and unit groups) according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-1968), economic divisions according to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC-1968), by occupational status, duration of unemployment, newly unemployed, by nationals of the Federal Republic of Germany or other nationals, by disabled persons, part-time unemployed, and by youth unemployment. Other data on the number of applicants for work, short-time workers, unfilled vacancies, placements, recipients of payments and measures to create jobs are also available with this series.

Periodicity:

The series is monthly and started in January 1950.

Definition:

Unemployment: "Persons aged from 15 to 64 who are seeking work, have registered in person at the appropriate employment office, are seeking permanent work as employees for a duration of more than three months with 19 or more hours per week, are not attending full-time education, are not unfit for work, are not working or are working less than 19 hours per week, are not in receipt of retirement or disability pension, are resident in the Federal Republic or Berlin (West)¹, are able and entitled to perform the work sought and are immediately available for employment." Recipients of, and applicants for, unemployment benefits are both considered as unemployed.

¹ The interests of Berlin (West) are represented in the International Labour Office by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Also included are: Persons seeking temporary work but only if the period sought is more than three months (this generally refers to those who do not normally work as employees i.e. housewives or less than full-time students); persons seeking part-time work, if they wish to work for at least 19 hours per week as required in the definition; first jobseekers who are school or university leavers if available for work and not seeking academic or industrial training only; and re-entrants to the workforce who are included from the date on which they register. These last two categories are eligible to receive unemployment benefit or unemployment assistance if they fulfil the criteria or requirements. Employable disabled persons (not receiving invalidity benefits) are also included. Persons in receipt of pensions other than retirement or disability pensions may be included.

Persons participating in State-assisted further training or retraining schemes on a part-time basis or through correspondence courses who were out of work prior to commencing and those who lost their jobs during the schemes are considered unemployed.

Persons who have specified a desire for work in a given firm, for work at home only and persons on strike are excluded. Persons taking part in work-creation schemes supported by the employment office are not classified as unemployed but as non-unemployed persons seeking work.

Responsibility for loss of a job has no effect on persons' inclusion in the unemployment statistics, however, if the unemployment has been caused intentionally or is due to negligence etc., they are disqualified from benefits, usually for a period of eight weeks.

In ILO publications registered jobseekers who are working less than 19 hours per week are excluded from the statistics.

Registration: This is the voluntary process of registration in person at an employment office in order to seek employment as an employee. Unemployed persons must remain in regular contact with an employment office (every three months).

In order to receive unemployment benefit persons must have registered as unemployed, must have worked for at least 360 calendar days in the past three years in insurable employment and must have applied for it. Unemployed persons in receipt of benefit (which is paid from the time they register and claim it) must report to the employment office only as requested to do so. Such invitations should be made at least every three months. Unemployment assistance covers persons who inter alia are not, or no longer, entitled to unemployment benefit.

Deletion from the register: Temporary inability to work of at least three months due to illness is one cause for deletion. (Persons whose illness is not expected to last longer than three months who specifically state that they wish to continue their job search are not removed from the register but are counted as "non-unemployed seeking work".) Unemployed persons receiving benefit who have caused two periods of disqualification to be imposed since their initial claim, who are not prepared to accept any suitable employment or participate in a suitable employment training scheme; as well as unemployed persons not receiving benefit who have not been in contact with their employment office for over three months are deleted from the register. Deletion from the register automatically leads to exclusion from the unemployment count.

Holidays taken after contacting the employment office do not affect persons' classification as unemployed or their position on the register. Refusals of employment offers do not automatically lead to removal from the register, however, persons in receipt of benefits who refuse one offer may be disqualified for such benefits for eight weeks.

Reference period:

The reference period is one day each month for the count of unemployed usually between the 24th and the 28th of the month. The reference period for the annual data concerning unemployment by sex and age group, by work experience (general level and by industry major divisions), and by occupation (major groups) is the end of September of each year; otherwise the annual figure is the average of the 12 months.

The monthly data and the detailed September data are generally compiled within one week after the actual count.

Data collection and evaluation:

Before each monthly count the unemployment register is checked either by asking the persons involved to report to the employment office or by contacting them in some other way to ascertain whether they are still unemployed.

Unemployment rate:

Unemployment rates are computed and published monthly with the absolute numbers of registered unemployed. The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage of the number of wage and salary earners and the number of unemployed, excluding soldiers, derived from a sample survey (the Microcensus). The percentages are related to the number of wage and salary earners of the preceding year.

Changes in the series:

From 1 January 1986 changes were introduced with regard to recipients of unemployment benefit. The relevant law (Arbeitsförderungsgesetz AFG) contains new provisions for the length of payment of unemployment benefits according to the number of days worked.

References:

Statistisches Bundesamt: "Statistischer Wochendienst" (weekly) (Wiesbaden, 1988).

idem: "Statistisches Jahrbuch für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland" (annual) (ibid., 1987). Each year's issue contains data for the previous year.

Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung: "Bundesarbeitsblatt" (monthly) (Bonn, 1985). Issue No. 4 of April 1985 contains historical unemployment data from 1955 to 1984.

idem: "Amtliche Nachrichten der Bundesanstalt für Arbeit" (monthly) (Nürnberg, 1988). The data are published within a two month time lag.

idem: "Amtliche Nachrichten der Bundesanstalt für Arbeit, Arbeitstatistik 1987" (annual) (ibid.).