

Labour Force Statistics (ALFS) – User Guide

1. Introduction

The ALFS CD-ROM contains data published in the ALFS paper publication including extra series by sex (see section 3.3) but excluding Participation and Unemployment rates by age and sex. Data are available in both the *Beyond 20/20* software and in csv format. This guide presents a summary of the organisation and contents of these electronic products.

2. Description of *ALFS on Beyond 20/20*

The data in the *Beyond 20/20* software consist in four datasets. The datasets are:

Population and Labour Force with four dimensions (variables, countries, time, sex),
Employment by Activity and Status with four dimensions (variables, countries, time, sex),
Labour Force Statistics Summary tables with three dimensions (variables, countries, time)
Population and Vital Statistics with three dimensions (variables, countries, time)

On opening the datasets, the series for each country or geographical areas are presented vertically with time shown across the page. The table may be transposed easily for different presentations. The CD-ROM is issued on an annual basis, and covers annual data from 1960 when available. It is possible to select all variables for any one country or geographical areas or alternatively to select all countries for a particular variable using the search function. It should be noted that not all variables exist for all countries.

2.1 Description of table fields

The descriptive fields which can be selected for viewing by clicking on the “Next label” icon along with the data are:

Series Code: a string composed of up to 19 characters made up of a country code, subject code, and a measure code.

Country code: characters 1 to 3 refer to the ISO country code or geographical areas abbreviation (see Appendix A).

Subject code: characters 4 to 11: are made up of four 2-character abbreviations of the four level subject hierarchy.

Measure code: characters 12 up to 18. A measure describes the way data are presented. For example IXOB signifies that data are expressed as an index in base year 2000. A list of all the measures is given in Annex C.

Country names or geographical areas names in full.

Subject hierarchy: a string containing the position of the time series in the logical organisation of subjects (four levels).

Series title: short title for the time series.

Unit: unit in which the series is expressed in the printed publication and on the ivt file. When data are exported from Beyond 20/20 they should be multiplied by the corresponding power of ten (see next item). As a result of the multiplication, indices will be expressed in base = 1.00 (and not base = 100). The power of ten (see next item) associated with indices is -2. Applying the power of ten to the indices will transform them into indices with base year =1.

Power of ten: the number 3 signifies that the data in the printed publication and on the ivt file are expressed in thousands, 6 means that the data are in millions. The number is the power of ten needed to multiply the figures to obtain the data in units. See item above for the particular case of indices.

3. Contents of the CD-ROM

The data for Population and Labour Force, Employment by Activities and Status and Population and Vital Statistics datasets are currently given for all the 30 OECD Member countries. The Labour Force Statistics Summary tables consist instead of a collection of summary indicators for all the 30 member countries and for geographical areas.

This chapter describes:

- the countries and geographical areas
- the data

3.1 The Countries and Geographical areas (see also Appendix A)

The OECD Member countries are:

Canada, Mexico, United States, Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

This is the order of the countries as they appear in ALFS on Beyond 20/20. That is, alphabetical order by continent for North America, Asia/Oceania, and Europe.

The 4 Geographical Areas for which Population and Labour Force Summary tables are shown are (see also Appendix B):

OECD-Total:

Canada, Mexico, United States, Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

EU15 (countries of the European Union):

Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

Euro area (countries of the European Monetary Union):

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain

Major Seven (the group of seven most industrialized nations):

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States.

3.3 The Data

The data consist of annual time series showing the evolution of labour force indicators for 30 OECD Member countries. The data are organised according to a standard subject classification under the main headings listed below. These are similar, but not identical, to the subject headings of the paper publication. The names of all levels of the hierarchy are given in full in both the Beyond 20/20 and csv formats in the description field along with the data. The main subject headings included in each dataset are given below.

Labour Force Statistics Summary tables

This dataset contains the same data as the first part of the paper publication.

The main subjects covered are:

- Population data by sex;
- Total Labour Force;
- Civilian Labour Force by sex;
- Total Employment;
- Civilian Labour Force by sex;
- Civilian employment by sectors;
- Unemployment levels and rates;
- Part time employment by sex;
- Duration of unemployment.

Population and Labour Force Statistics

This dataset contains a set of indicators published in the country-oriented tables of part two of the paper publication. Expressly, they refer to a part of tables I and II.

The main subjects covered are:

- Population by sex and age-classes;
- Total Labour Force by sex, levels and indexes;
- Total Employment by sex, levels and indexes;
- Members of the armed forces by sex;
- Civilian Labour Force by sex, levels and indexes;

- Civilian employment by sex, levels and indexes;
- Unemployment by sex, levels and rates;
- Participation and employment rates by sex;
- Part-time rates by sex;
- Duration of unemployment by sex.

Employment by Activities and Status

- This dataset contains the labour market indicators by country published in tables IV and V of the second part of the paper publication, plus extra series by sex.

The subjects covered are:

- Civilian employment by sex break down by professional status (employers and self-employed, unpaid family workers, employees) distinguished between agricultural or non agricultural sector;
- Civilian employment by sex break down in ISIC 2 and/or ISIC 3 major classifications;
- Employees by sex break down in ISIC 2 and/or ISIC 3 major classifications.

Population and Vital Statistics

This dataset contains all the population indicators by country published in table I of second part of the paper publication.

The subjects covered are:

- Population by sex and age-classes;
- Components of change in population, including births, deaths, net migration;
- Crude birth and death rates, natural increase and total increase rates.

4. Exporting ALFS Data

Files can be exported from Beyond 20/20 as CSV, WKS, WK1, dBASE, TEXT and AREMOS TSD.

4.1 Description of the OECD csv file format

The csv file format version of Annual Labour force statistics is an ASCII comma separated values (csv) format. It has been designed for easy bulk data transfer of OECD data files onto a database system.

4.2. Record structure of the file

The first record gives the list of fields in the correct order. The other records contain the time series, one per record, with the attributes and data as presented in the first record and separated by commas. In case the data or the attribute is not available there is nothing between the corresponding commas.

The fields used to store the time series which are presented in the first record of the file are: *series code*, *country*, *subject hierarchy*, *title*, *power of ten*, *unit*, then *data*, *control code*, from 1960 to present.

The content of the fields is the following:

- *Series code*: a string composed of a country code, a subject code, and a measure code (see earlier description in Section 2.1).
- *Country*: the name of the corresponding country or geographical areas.
- *Subject hierarchy*: a string containing the position of the time series in the logical organisation of subjects (four levels).
- *Series title*: a string containing the English title of the time-series.
- *Power of ten*: the number 3 signifies that the data in the printed publication are expressed in thousands, 6 means that the data are in millions. The number is the power of ten needed to multiply the figures to obtain the data in units. See item below for the particular case of indices.
- *Unit*: unit in which the series is expressed in the printed publication. When data are exported from the csv file they should be multiplied by the corresponding power of ten (see next item). As a result of the multiplication, indices will be expressed in base = 1.00 (and not base = 100). The power of ten (see item above) associated with indices is -2. Applying the power of ten to the indices will transform them into indices with base year =1.
- *Data and control codes*: value and qualifier. Values are expressed in the corresponding unit. In general there is no qualifier. The permitted qualifiers are: P for estimated values, R for breaks in the series and U indicates data are not available.

4.3. Examples of record

The following is an example of a first record:

"Series code", "country", "subject hierarchy", "series title", "power of ten", "unit", "1960", "control code", "1961", "control code", "1962", "control code", "1963", "control code", "1964", "control code", "1965", "control code", "1966", "control code", "1967", "control code", "1968", "control code", "1969", "control code", "1970", "control code", "1971", "control code", "1972", "control code", "1973", "control code", "1974", "control code", "1975", "control ... etc.

The following is an example of a time series record corresponding to that description:

"AUS.YAFE3AP2.ST", "AUSTRALIA", "(ALFS) Civilian employment by activities/Females/ISIC Rev. 3 Agriculture/% females among agriculture", "AUS Civ Emp % females among agri ISIC Rev 3 / Quantum (non-additive or stock figures)", "0", "%", "9.46", "P", "9.14", "P", "8.95", "P", "8.66", "P", "8.26", "P", "8.02", "P", "7.68", "P", "7.85", "P", "7.32", "P", "6.93", "P", "6.90", "P", "6.56", "P", "6.63", "P", "6.33", "P", "6.49", "P", "6.49", "... etc.

4.4 Support

If you have any question regarding the data or the format please do not hesitate to write to stat.contact@oecd.org

Appendix A: ISO and geographical areas codes

COUNTRY	CODE
Australia	AUS
Austria	AUT
Belgium	BEL
Canada	CAN
Czech Republic	CZE
Denmark	DNK
Finland	FIN
France	FRA
Germany	DEU
Greece	GRC
Hungary	HUN
Iceland	ISL
Ireland	IRL
Italy	ITA
Japan	JPN
Korea	KOR
Luxembourg	LUX
Mexico	MEX
Netherlands	NLD
New Zealand	NZL
Norway	NOR
Poland	POL
Portugal	PRT
Slovak Republic	SVK
Spain	ESP
Sweden	SWE
Switzerland	CHE
Turkey	TUR
United Kingdom	GBR
United States	USA

GEIOGRAPHICAL AREAS	CODE
OECD-Total	OTO
Major Seven	G7M
EU15	E15
Euro Area	EUZ

Appendix B: Geographical Areas

This table shows the countries that are included in each of the four geographical areas.

COUNTRY	COUNTRY GROUP			
	OECD-Total	Major Seven	EU15	Euro Area
Australia	✓			
Austria	✓		✓	✓
Belgium	✓		✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓		
Czech Republic	✓			
Denmark	✓		✓	
Finland	✓		✓	✓
France	✓	✓	✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greece	✓		✓	✓
Hungary	✓			
Iceland	✓			
Ireland	✓		✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japan	✓	✓		
Korea	✓			
Luxembourg	✓		✓	✓
Mexico	✓			
Netherlands	✓		✓	✓
New Zealand	✓			
Norway	✓			
Poland	✓			
Portugal	✓		✓	✓
Slovak Republic	✓			
Spain	✓		✓	✓
Sweden	✓		✓	
Switzerland	✓			
Turkey	✓			
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	
United States	✓	✓		

Appendix C: Explanation of measures

ST Stock or Quantum

STSA Stock or Quantum seasonally adjusted

IXOB Index, publication base year (2000)