

# COVID-19 SITUATION – OVERVIEW OF STATISTICAL RESPONSE IN EUROPE

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August 2020

# Presentation outline

- Impact of COVID-19 on European Statistics
- Eurostat response to the Covid-19 outbreak
- Current situation and future developments

# Impact of COVID-19 on European Statistics

- Difficulties with primary data collection
- Challenge to communicate under high uncertainty
- Challenge to keep statistical releases as planned and with required quality
- Need for methodological support by Eurostat to ensure comparability
- Prioritisation of issues to be addressed
- Response to emerging new data needs

## → Challenges in primary data collection

- Halt to “physical” collection
  - Consumer prices
  - Household surveys (for example, LFS)
- Closed or partially closed industries
  - Lower response rates
  - Statistical burden on businesses
- Delayed access to sources (e.g. from public administrations)

# Eurostat response to the Covid-19 outbreak

## → New/innovative approaches

- Enlargement of existing innovative and experimental approaches
  - For example, collection of prices and labour market data remotely
- Access to new data sources (public and private)
  - For example, payments / credit card data, detailed taxation data
- Opportunities for the future...
  - Build on experience to enhance official statistics

## → Guidance to statistical producers

- Eurostat has released a range of guidance, in collaboration with countries and international organisations...

### Guidelines and methodological notes in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

-  [Guidance on time series treatment \(26/03/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the compilation of the HICP \(03/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the EU-Labour Force Survey data collection \(Updated version - 30/06/2020\)](#)
-  [Draft note on statistical implications of some policy measures \(09/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the 2020 EU-SILC data collection \(14/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on estimation and imputation of missing data for short-term business statistics \(20/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance note on labour costs statistics \(24/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on quarterly national accounts \(including flash\) estimates \(24/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on publication and transmission of national accounts data and metadata \(27/04/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the compilation of statistics on intra-EU trade in goods \(05/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Clarification on the implications of COVID-19 measures on the statistical treatment of existing PPPs and concessions \(12/05/2020\)](#)
-  [ESS strategic communication during the COVID-19 crisis \(18/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on statistical processing for health and safety at work \(ESAW and EODS\) \(20/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on statistical processing for public health statistics \(COD and HCnE\) \(20/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Annex to guidance note \(COD and HCnE\) – WHO international guidelines \(20/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on non-market output \(25/05/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on deferred and waived interest payments of households \(24/06/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on quarterly sector accounts \(29/06/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the compilation of balance of payments statistics \(03/07/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance note on HICP issues emerging from the lifting of lockdown measures \(09/07/2020\)](#)
-  [Guidance on the compilation of the HPI and the OOHPI \(17/07/2020\)](#)

# Examples of statistical domains

## (1) LFS-based labour market statistics - difficulties with:

- Data collection (no face-to-face; closure of call centers)
- Key ILO concepts (employment/unemployment) not reflecting current COVID situation
- ✓ Guidance note on LFS data collection
- ✓ ILO definitions of employment/unemployment to remain unchanged (to ensure comparability between countries and over time) but complementary indicators defined and disseminated.

# Examples of statistical domains

## (2) Integration into accounting frameworks

- Impact of availability of source data on ‘accounting frameworks’ such as national accounts and BOP
- Guidance available on quarterly national accounts, close cooperation between Eurostat and NSIs
- Need for increased imputation and re-assessment of parameters of models used



# Current situation and future developments

→ Example of Eurostat COVID-19 website

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Your key to European statistics

Type a keyword, a publication title, a dataset title...



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## COVID-19: Statistics serving Europe

INTRODUCTION

### What information can I find here?

In this section, you can find a **wide range of statistics and data published by Eurostat related to COVID-19**. This can give you a baseline against which the impact of the crisis can be measured, provide the wider background or help you to see the evolution of the crisis.

The information covers a range of topics related to the economy, society and work, population and health as well as agriculture, energy, transport and tourism. For each topic, we show our [latest releases](#), an [interactive data visualisation](#), links to more in-depth information in Statistics Explained and a list of [relevant datasets](#).

[> read more](#)



## → Being even more relevant : Example of COVID epidemic (mortality)

- No epidemiological data – role of the ECDC
- Demographic data on weekly deaths, in order to assess the possible excess of mortality during the pandemic
- Weekly deaths available on Eurostat web site for a majority of countries, with detailed breakdowns (age, sex, NUTS)
- First analysis of the mortality around mid/end June
- More detailed analysis and cooperation with specialised bodies

# Current situation and future developments

## Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity

Leveraging the innovative solutions and new data sources used during the crisis for the future production and dissemination of European statistics