Structure of earnings survey

Aim of the statistics: Results of the structure of earnings surveys contain information about the distribution and dispersion of earnings of employees as well as about important factors influencing the individual level of earnings. On the basis of structure of earnings surveys, various socioeconomic analyses can be conducted. They are complemented by continuous earnings surveys which, however, only offer average values because of the sum procedure used.

Periodicity: In the future every four years; in the past this survey was conducted irregularly (1951, 1957, 1962, 1966, 1972, 1978, 1990, 1992 (new Länder), 1995, 2001, 2006).

Regional classification: All Länder

Reporting period: October and year

Survey population: Local units with 10 or more employees in the economic sections C – K of WZ 93 (German Classification of Economic Activities). Those sections include industry, wholesale and retail trade, financial intermediation, hotels and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, real estate, renting and business activities.

Sampling method: The survey is conducted as a representative sample among 34,000 local units, which corresponds to a sampling fraction of 8%.

Survey characteristics: Gross earnings; gross annual earnings; wages; salaries; collectively agreed salary bracket or performance group; sex; age; length of service with an enterprise; actual job; qualification; hours of work paid; days of work paid; holiday entitlement; economic branch

Legal bases:
EU legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs, amended by Art. 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006; Regulation (EC) No 1916/2000, amended by Regulation (EC) No 1738/2005.
National legal basis: Art. 4 of law on statistics of earnings and labour costs (earnings statistics law - VerdStatG) of 21 December 2006, amended by Art. 10 of the law of 17 March 2008.

Subject-related breakdown: Current edition of the German Classification of Economic Activities (WZ)