



# Private households and extra-territorial bodies

## Fact sheet

### Background

Eurofound's European Working Conditions Surveys (EWCS) have been carried out every five years since 1991. Each wave of the survey provides an overview of the state of working conditions throughout Europe and indicates the nature and extent of changes affecting the workforce and the quality of work. The fieldwork for Eurofound's most recent edition of the EWCS was carried out in 2005 in 31 countries, including the 27 EU Member States, plus candidate countries Croatia and Turkey, as well as EFTA countries Norway and Switzerland. In 2005, the sample size was set at 1000 per country (600 for Cyprus, Estonia, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovenia).

Following the 2005 survey, Eurofound asked TNO Work & Employment to perform a secondary statistical analysis of the data from the fourth EWCS 2005 on sector profiles with regard to working conditions in the 27 Member States. For the analysis, NACE Revision 1.1<sup>1</sup> was applied. The findings are set out in 26 fact sheets, each covering one of the 26 sectors in the NACE classification. Each fact sheet presents:

- a profile of the sector's socio-demographic characteristics based on data at NACE at 1 and 2 digit level;
- a profile of working conditions in the sector based on data at NACE at 1 and 2 digit level.

This fact sheet presents a snapshot of working conditions in two sectors: private households and extra-territorial bodies (Nace Rev 1.1, P and Q). For the purposes of this fact sheet, these two sectors are viewed as one sector.

<sup>1</sup> This is a revision of the 'General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities', known by the acronym NACE and originally published by Eurostat in 1970. The NACE code was subsequently revised (REV. 1.1) in the 1990s.

### Sector profile

The private households and extra-territorial bodies sector is characterised by a higher than average proportion of female workers (81.9%) and a relatively high proportion of workers aged 55 years or older (23.4% compared with a cross-sector average of 12.7%). Moreover, there are fewer workers aged 25 to 39 years (22.1%) in the sector than on average (36.8%).

Job turnover is relatively high: 45.8% of the workers in this sector are in the current job for less than 2 years, whereas the cross-sector average is 27.1%. Only 7.2% of workers have a job tenure of 16 years or longer (compared to an average of 22.4%). This could partly be explained by the relatively high prevalence of non-permanent contracts in this sector (57.1% compared to an average of 23.4%).

With regard to company size, 69% of workers in the sector work in one-person companies compared with an average of 10.4%.

The education level in the sector is relatively low when compared to the cross-sector average, with 5.7% of the workers having no education. In total, for more than half of the workers in this sector (61%) the highest educational level attained is level ISCED 2 or below (against a cross-sector average of 22.7%).

Looking at the income level, a similar distribution can be noted: the majority of workers in this sector (69%) are in the lowest income band and only 4.3% are in the highest band (against a cross-sector average of 25.1% and 24.3% respectively).

Differences by job tenure, type of employment, and company size between this sector and the average for all sectors are not statistically significant and therefore do not merit further analysis here.

Gender		
	Men	Women
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	18.1% ▼▼▼	81.9% ▲▲▲
All sectors	55.5%	44.5%

Age					
	Average age	Age group			
		≤ 24 years	25-39 years	40-54 years	≥ 55 years
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	44.3 ▲▲▲	9.9%	22.1% ▼▼▼	44.7%	23.4% ▲▲▲
All sectors	40.0	11.8%	36.8%	38.6%	12.7%

Years in company or organisation				
	≥ 2 years	3-5 years	6-15 years	≤ 16 years
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	45.8% ▲▲▲	21.0%	25.9%	7.2% ▼▼▼
All sectors	27.1%	20.9%	29.6%	22.4%

Type of employment		
	Self-employed	Employee
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	15.3%	84.7%
All sectors	16.7%	83.3%

Employment contract		
	Permanent contract	Non-permanent contract
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	42.9% ▼▼▼	57.1% ▲▲▲
All sectors	76.6%	23.4%

Company size					
	One-person company	Micro enterprise (2-9 employees)	Small enterprise (10-49 employees)	Medium enterprise (50-249 employees)	Large enterprise (250+ employees)
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	69.0% ▲▲▲	17.0% ▼▼▼	7.3% ▼▼▼	5.9% ▼▼▼	0.8% ▼▼▼
All sectors	10.4%	27.5%	27.7%	19.4%	15.0%

Education level							
	No education	Primary education (ISCED 1)	Lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Upper secondary education (ISCED 3)	Post-secondary including pre-vocational or vocational education	Tertiary education - first level (ISCED 5)	Tertiary education - advanced level (ISCED 6)
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	5.7% ▲▲▲	26.6% ▲▲▲	28.7% ▲▲▲	20.1% ▼▼▼	10.3%	8.2% ▼▼▼	0.3%
All sectors	0.9%	5.3%	16.5%	44.5%	7.3%	23.5%	2.0%

Income level				
	Income bands			
	Lowest	Low	High	Highest
Private households and extra-territorial bodies	69.9% ▲▲▲	19.0%	6.8% ▼▼▼	4.3% ▼▼▼
All sectors	25.1%	23.9%	26.7%	24.3%

#### How to read the table

The comparison is between the subgroup/sector and the average for all sectors based on the 2005 European Working Conditions Survey sample for the EU27. ▲ (p<0.05), ▲▲ (p<0.01), and ▲▲▲ (p<0.001) indicate differences between the sector profiled and the sample average at different levels of statistical significance. Each mean is tested with parametric tests of difference (t-test) to determine whether such differences are statistically significant. The more triangles, the higher the statistical significance of the figure (i.e. it is more likely to reflect a real difference in the population).

Where estimates are not accompanied by triangles, this indicates that observed differences are not statistically significant.

## Working conditions and outcomes

The figure below shows specific dimensions of working conditions with favourable and unfavourable scores in the private households and extra-territorial bodies sector, taking as a point of reference mean exposure (0.0 score in the chart below).

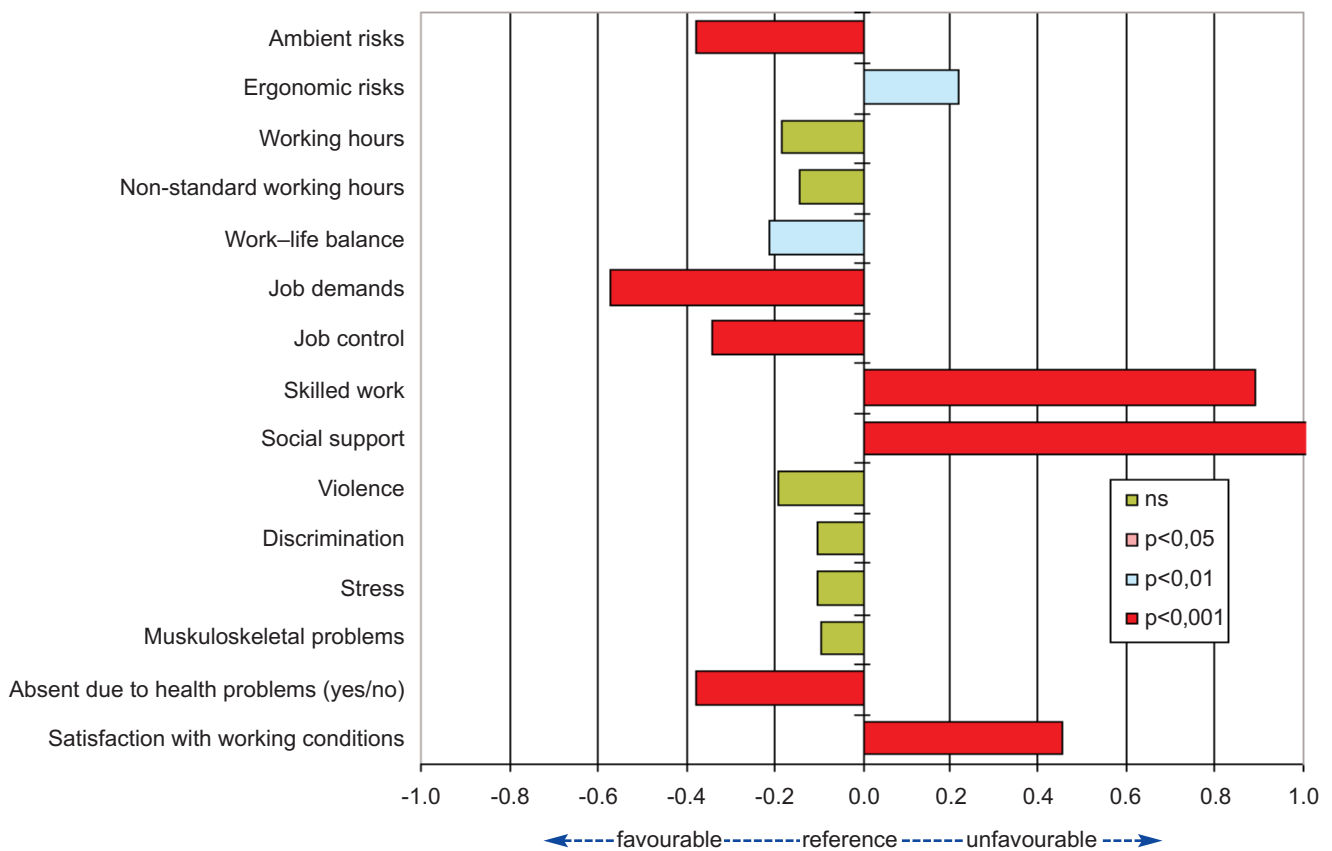
Looking at the statistically significant differences only, employees in this sector score unfavourably on social support from colleagues and/or boss and skilled work (use of quality standards in the work process, solving unforeseen problems, job complexity and learning new things). Also, the exposure to ergonomic conditions in this sector is higher than average – although the score is at a lower level of statistical significance than  $p < 0.001$ .

On a more positive note, the sector scores relatively favourably on ambient risks (exposure to vibrations, noise, high/low temperatures, breathing in smoke, fumes, powder or dust, breathing in vapours, handling chemical products or substances), job demands (working at high speed and to tight deadlines) and job control (ability to choose or change the order of tasks, methods of work and speed or rate of work).

Other favourable scores are those in relation to absence due to health problems and work–life balance which are higher than the average (however, the latter score has a lower level of statistical significance than  $p < 0.001$ ).

In terms of outcomes, workers in this sector report a lower than average level of satisfaction with their working conditions.

Private households and extra-territorial bodies



### How to read the figure

For the profiling of the sector, eleven aspects of working conditions (mainly composite indexes based on several variables) and four outcomes (stress, musculoskeletal disorders, absence due to health problems and job satisfaction) were taken into account.

In the chart above,  $p < 0.001$  represents the highest level of statistical significance, while  $p < 0.01$  and  $p < 0.05$  indicate comparatively lower levels of statistical significance; 'ns' stands for no statistically significant difference. Statistical differences from the average can be either favourable (scores on the left side of the chart) or unfavourable (scores on the right side of the chart) on a specific set of working conditions.

Score values greater than  $\pm 0.2$  indicate a small deviation from mean exposure (0.0) while score values ranging from  $\pm 0.2$  to  $\pm 0.5$  and greater than  $\pm 0.5$  indicate respectively substantial and very substantial deviation from mean exposure.

For example, the chart above shows that values indicating skilled work are highly statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) and greater than  $-0.5$  in the relative scale meaning that workers in the households and extra-territorial bodies sector report a comparatively lower level of skilled work than the average.

## Key findings

- In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, the private households and extra-territorial bodies sector is a relatively old, female-dominated sector with a higher than average proportion of non-permanent employees.
- The sector is also characterised by short job tenure. In this sector, working in one-person companies is common and education as well as income levels are relatively low compared to the cross-sector average.
- The sector scores relatively unfavourably on social support and skilled work, but favourably on exposure to ambient risks, job demands and job control.
- Workers in this sector have favourable scores on absence due to health problems and work–life balance. However, a lower than average level of satisfaction with working conditions is also reported.

## Methodology

The European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS) is carried out every five years by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), a tripartite European agency based in Dublin. The questionnaire is developed by the Eurofound team in close cooperation with an expert questionnaire development group. This group comprises representatives of the European social partners, other EU bodies (European Commission, Eurostat, European Agency for Safety and Health at work), international organisations (OECD, ILO), national statistical institutes, as well as leading European experts in the field. The sample of the EWCS is representative of persons in employment (according to the Eurostat definition this comprises both employees and the self-employed aged 15 years and over) resident in the countries covered for the respective periods. In each country, the EWCS sample followed a multi-stage, stratified and clustered design with a random walk procedure for the selection of the respondents at the last stage. All interviews were conducted face-to-face in the respondent's own household.

### Further information

The Fourth *European Working Conditions Survey* report and secondary analysis of survey data are available on the *European Working Conditions Observatory* website:  
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/surveys/ewcs2005/>

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