

RB211: MAIN ACTIVITY STATUS (SELF-DEFINED)

Topic and detailed topic: Labour market participation / Main activity status (self-defined)

Variable type: Core Variable/Annual

Unit: All current household members (of any age)

Reference period: Current

Mode of collection: Household respondent or registers

In use (period): Yes, since the first year of EU-SILC data collection

Series' differences: Yes, in 2009 and in 2021 the name was changed from RB210 to RB211 and modalities changed

VALUES AND FORMAT

1. Employed
2. Unemployed
3. Retired
4. Unable to work due to long-standing health problems
5. Student, pupil
6. Fulfilling domestic tasks
7. Compulsory military or civilian service
8. Other

FLAGS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Collected via survey/interview |
| 2 | Collected from administrative data |
| 3 | Imputed |
| 4 | Not possible to establish a main source |
| -1 | Missing |
| -7 | Not applicable (RB010 < 2021) |

DESCRIPTION

The variable refers to a person's own perception of his or her current main activity status. Self-perception means the variable shall capture how people perceive themselves, not how they meet certain objective criteria. When more than one status applies to the person, the respondent should select the category that best describes his/her situation. No criteria for that are specified but it could be determined by the status/activity with the most time spent.

The main status refers to the current situation (situation at the moment of the data collection/interview).

Registers as a source of information could be used in exceptional cases.

In cases where respondents cannot choose one category, as several categories apply to them, the interviewer can provide some clarification. However, it should not be indicated, which category should be chosen, should not be given.

For example:

- Respondents can consider themselves being *employed* irrespective of their official labour market status, working time or kind of income from employment. Respondents helping in the family business, even if it is unpaid, can consider themselves as employed. Opposite can occur when a person who chooses another main activity status can also be in employment. For instance, people who regard themselves as full-time students or mainly fulfilling domestic tasks can have a job.
- Respondents can see themselves as being *unemployed* irrespective of an official status or a registration with the public unemployment office. Unemployed persons can also have part-time or ad hoc jobs while seeking for a full-time job.
- Respondents who are in various forms of vocational education or training that (partly) takes place at the work site can consider themselves as being in employment. This also applies to apprentices, as well as