

## PL211A: MAIN ACTIVITY IN JANUARY

**Topic and detailed topic:** Working conditions including working hours and working time arrangements / Calendar of activities

**Variable type:** Annual

**Unit:** All current household members aged 16 years and over or selected respondent (where applicable)

**Reference period:** Income reference period

**Mode of collection:** Personal interview (proxy as an exception for persons temporarily away or in incapacity) or registers

**In use (period):** Yes, since 2009

**Series' differences:** No changes

### VALUES AND FORMAT

- 1 Employee working full-time
- 2 Employee working part-time
- 3 Self-employed working full-time (including family worker)
- 4 Self-employed working part-time (including family worker)
- 5 Unemployed
- 6 Student, pupil
- 7 Retired
- 8 Unable to work due to long-standing health problems
- 9 Compulsory military or civilian service
- 10 Fulfilling domestic tasks
- 11 Other

### FLAGS

- 1 Collected via survey/interview
- 2 Collected from administrative data
- 3 Imputed
- 4 Not possible to establish a source
- 1 Missing
- 3 Not applicable (Non-selected respondent (RB245 equal to 3))

### DESCRIPTION

The variable replaces, from the 2009 operation onwards the variable PL210<sup>59</sup>.

**The self-declared current 'main activity status':** the concept of 'current' implies that any definitive changes in the activity situation are taken into account. For instance, if a person has lost a job or has retired recently, or the activity status has otherwise changed in a definitive manner, then the situation as of the time of the interview should be reported. In this sense, 'current' overrides any concept of averaging over any specific reference period.

The target variable captures the person's own perception of their main activity at present. It differs from the ILO concept to the extent that people's own perception of their main status differs from the strict definitions used in the ILO definitions. For instance, many people who would regard themselves as full-time students or homemakers may be classified as ILO-employed if they have a part-time job. Similarly, some people who consider themselves 'unemployed' may not meet the strict ILO criteria of taking active steps to find work and being immediately available.

The self-declared main activity status is determined on the basis of how most time is spent, but no criteria

<sup>59</sup> An agreement was made during the Living Conditions Working Group (WG) meeting in June 2008 that the variables PL210 will be replaced by the variable PL211 with slightly different labelling in order to harmonise labour variables. In 2010, the LC WG agreed to suppress PL210 and to keep only PL211 from the 2011 operation onwards.