

PL051: Occupation (ISCO-08 (COM))

Domain/Area	Labour information/Basic labour information on current activity status and on current main job, including information on last main job for unemployed previously active people
Transmission type	Regular
Reference period	Current/last situation
Unit	All current household members aged 16 and over
Mode of collection	Personal interview, proxy or registers
Values	<i>ISCO Code 08</i> (2 digits / see Annex 4: ISCO: International Standard Classification of Occupations)
Flags	<i>1</i> Filled <i>-1</i> Missing <i>-2</i> Not applicable (PL015 not equal to 1)

Description

The EU-SILC Regulation refers to the classification ISCO-88. However, from the 2011 operation onwards, the classification ISCO-08 should be used¹. For the 2011 operation, coding according to both classifications ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 was conducted but no back-casting was required. The double reporting should only be performed for 2011. From the 2012 operation onwards, only the new classification ISCO-08 should be used.

This variable refers to the main job, namely the current main job for people at work (PL031 = 1, 2, 3 or 4) or the last main job for people who do not have a job (PL031 not = 1, 2, 3 or 4 and PL015 = 1).

If multiple jobs are held or were held, the main job should be the one in which the greatest number of hours usually worked.

Interviewers, when asking the ISCO code, should refer, if applicable, to the code given the preceding year(s) in order to avoid too many (and unjustified) changes in the value of this variable from one year to another.

The basis for the classification is the nature of the job itself and the level of skill required. A job is defined as the set of tasks and duties to be performed. Skills are the abilities to carry out the tasks and duties of a job. Skills consist of two dimensions: skill level and domain specialisation. The skill level is related to the level of educational attainment. The questions needed for the classification by occupation are the job title associated with the main job and a further description of the tasks and duties.

For a few occupations, information on the size of workplace (the local unit of activity) is needed).

This should be coded according to the ISCO-08 (COM) classification provided in Annex 4: ISCO: International Standard Classification of Occupations.

¹ The Living Conditions Working Group agreed in December 2009 by written consultation to use the double coding according to ISCO-88 and ISCO-08 in the 2011 operation, and the sole use of ISCO-08 from the 2012 operation onwards. This is in line with the Commission recommendation on the ISCO classification.