

Job skills

In 2022, the Labour Force Survey was supplemented by the EU ad-hoc module on „Job skills“. Interviews were carried out all year round on a subsample.

The questionnaire explores the skills and abilities required to perform certain jobs in certain positions.

The target population was those persons aged 15–74 that were part of the subsample and had a job in the reference week or have left their last employment in the past 24 months.

The questions refer to the usual/general state of affairs in the respondent's main job for employed persons and for the most recent main job for persons not-employed. In the case of employed persons, the 4 working weeks preceding the interview can be considered “the general situation”, and in the case of persons not in employment, the last 4 weeks spent working in their last job. If the respondent's duties change/changed weekly and in case of persons with jobs they are permanently absent from due to childcare leave, the answers refer to the situation most characteristic of the last 3 months of work.

Answers reflect the respondents' subjective opinion.

Answers "don't know" are not indicated but included in totals in Summary tables (STADAT).

The following jobs skills and features were examined in the survey.

Working on digital devices

Working on digital devices means using a computer, tablet or smartphone for work tasks. Reading emails, web-surfing, video chat and any other software used for working purposes are included. Phone calls on smartphones are excluded.

Reading work-related manuals and technical documents

Work-related manuals are documents that provide information, help, guidance and/or instructions for the implementation of job tasks. They can also include materials read during working hours for professional self-education purposes. Letters and emails without attachments are excluded.

Doing relatively complex calculations

Relatively complex calculation refers to higher level calculations that are beyond elementary computations.

Doing hard physical work

Hard physical work could be the lifting or hauling of (what the respondent perceives to be) heavy objects in tiring or painful positions, lifting or moving of people, and standing for a long time.

Tasks involving finger dexterity

Dexterity in this survey refers to skilful use of fingers, the ability to make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers in order to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects, such as surgery, drawing, repairing objects, playing a musical instrument, etc. Typing and handwriting are excluded.

Interacting with coworkers or superiors

Only work-related verbal communication with coworkers or superiors is included, which can happen through personal meetings or phone/video calls. Communication through texts and emails is excluded.

Interacting with people other than coworkers or superiors

Only work-related verbal communication with persons other than coworkers or superiors is included, which can happen through personal meetings or phone/video calls. Communication through texts and emails is excluded.

Advising, training or teaching other people

Only work-related verbal communication is considered, which can happen through personal meetings or phone/video calls, on an individual and on a group level as well. Advising, training or teaching through writing only (such as online courses) is excluded.

Autonomy on tasks

Autonomy on tasks refers to the extent to which the respondent thinks he/she can influence the order and the content (scope, methods, tools or materials) of his/her work tasks.

Repetitiveness of tasks

Repetitiveness of tasks refers to work tasks that are implemented frequently in the same way without any change or modification.

Tasks precisely described by strict procedures

It means activities, where the implementation of the job includes following strict guidelines, which determine the timing, the order of tasks, the production process such as recipes, medical protocols, construction plans, etc.