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# Key data: Key national and cross-national surveys

The webinar will begin at 3pm

- You now have a menu in the top right corner of your screen.
- The red button with a white arrow allows you to expand and contract the webinar menu, in which you can write questions/comments.
- We won't have time to answer questions while we are presenting, but will answer them at the end
- You will be on mute throughout – we can't hear you.



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# Key national and cross-national surveys

Sarah King-Hele and Margherita Ceraolo



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# Can you hear us?



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# Can you hear us?

## If NOT:

- Check your volume, and that your speaker/headset is plugged in
- Your invitation also included a phone number, you can call that to listen in
  - UK +44 (0) 20 3713 5012
  - US +1 (646) 307-1716
- We are recording this webinar, so you can always listen to it later



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# What we will cover today

- UK Data Service
- survey data
- documentation and tips
- demo
- questions
  - Can be typed in, but we will wait until the end to answer them



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# What is the UK Data Service?

- a comprehensive resource funded by the ESRC
- a single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- support, training and guidance



# Our main data types

## UK Surveys

- Data from individuals and households on many topics

## Cross-national surveys

- Data from individuals and household in different countries

## Longitudinal

- Major surveys following individuals over time

## International databases

- Multi-nation aggregate data

## Census

- Census data 1971-2011

## Business

- Microdata and administrative data

## Qualitative

- Range of multimedia qualitative data source

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 Register / Login

Explore the UK's largest collection of social, economic and population data resources.

Search data 

## About the UK Data Service



## Guides and resources

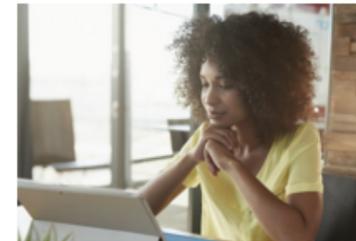
[Dataset guides](#)

[Topic guides](#)

[Methods and software guides](#)

[Guides to exploring online](#)

[See more >](#)



### Video tutorials

See our growing range of training videos



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# UK Surveys

- Data about individuals or households
- Often commissioned by the Government and conducted by the ONS or NatCen
- Large sample sizes
- Nationally-representative
- Repeated cross-sectional surveys – a new sample of people every time the survey is run
- Many surveys are repeated every year



# Survey microdata

The image displays two overlapping screenshots of the IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor interface. The top window shows a data grid with columns: Household, RSex, RAge, P2Sex, P2Age, P2Rel3, and P2Rel2. The bottom window shows a similar data grid but with additional columns: P2Rel2, P2Rel1, and P2Rel0. The data in the bottom window is more detailed, including gender (Male/Female) and relationship status (Partner/sp..., No further..., Son/daugh...). The cell containing 'Partner/sp...' in the bottom window is highlighted with a yellow background.

	Household	RSex	RAge	P2Sex	P2Age	P2Rel3	P2Rel2	P2Rel1	P2Rel0
1	3	1	73	2	67	1			
2	1	2	75	0	-1	0			
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9	1	3	Male	73	Female	67	Partner/ sp...	Partner/sp...	Part...
10	2	1	Female	75	No further...	No further ...	No further ...	No further ...	No fu...
11	3	3	Male	36	Female	32	Partner/ sp...	Partner/sp...	Part...
12	4	2	Female	56	Female	32	Son/ daug...	Son/daugh...	Son/...
	5	2	Male	38	Female	30	Partner/ sp...	Partner/sp...	Part...
	6	1	Female	34	No further...	No further ...	No further ...	No further ...	No fu...
	7	5	Male	39	Female	36	Partner/ sp...	Partner/sp...	Part...
	8	2	Male	81	Female	73	Partner/ sp...	Partner/sp...	Part...

# Some key topics and surveys



## Employment and work

- Labour Force Survey
- Annual Population Survey
- European Working Conditions Survey



## Health

- Health Survey for England
- Scottish Health Survey
- Diet and Nutrition surveys



## Family Finance

- Family Resources Survey
- Living Costs and Food Survey



## Crime

- Crime Survey for England and Wales
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey



## Attitudes and opinions

- British Social Attitudes Survey
- NI Life and Times Survey
- Eurobarometer
- European and World Values Surveys



## Housing and the local environment

- English Housing Survey
- Living in Wales



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# Not just survey data?

Which do you think are collected as part of UK surveys?



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# Accessing the data

## Download

- Download datasets and documentation
- Access through a package such as SPSS, STATA or R
- Different formats: SPSS, STATA and Tab

## Online access via Nesstar

- Browse variables and metadata
- Simple data analysis
- Export tables and graphs
- Download subsets of data



# British Social Attitudes Survey

- annual measures of attitudinal movements
- complements large-scale government surveys that deal largely with facts and behaviour patterns, and party political attitudes data produced by the polls
- to monitor patterns of continuity and change, and examine the relative rates at which social attitudes change over time
- ~3,000 people interviewed most years since 1983
- 'core' questions, which are repeated in most years: background and classificatory questions
- modules on a range of social, economic, political and moral issues - some asked regularly, others less often



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# Poll

## Attitudes to gender roles

Support for a traditional division of gender roles has declined over time, though substantial support remains for women having the primary caring role when children are young.



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# Poll

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# Quarterly Labour Force Survey

- Key government survey about employment and the workforce
- Measures employment, unemployment and economic activity
- Plus a wide range of related topics such as occupation, training, hours of work and personal characteristics of household members aged 16 years and over
- Quarterly survey from 1992- with ~60,000 interviewed per quarter
- As well as the main survey, several sub-sample and derived datasets are also produced, including longitudinal series and a Eurostat version of the dataset



UK unemployment and employment statistics

## UK jobless rate falls to 5.6%, lowest since 2008, but pay still sluggish

Economists say fall in unemployment is still not feeding through to consumers in the form of higher wages

Katie Allen and Phillip Inman

Friday 17 April 2015 11:00 BST

189 Shares 933 Comments



The UK employment rate is 73.4%, the highest since comparable records began in 1971. Photograph: Danmy Lawson/PA

Britain's unemployment rate has dropped to its lowest level since 2008 but earnings growth has slowed, according to the final official labour market figures before the election.



# Series

UK Data Service series record for:

## Labour Force Survey

[Abstract](#) | [Access](#) | [Get started](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Related](#) | [Links](#) | [Search](#)

### SERIES ABSTRACT

The Labour Force Survey (LFS), which began in 1973 as an annual survey, is a unique source of articulated information using international definitions of employment and unemployment and economic inactivity, together with a wide range of related topics such as occupation, training, hours of work and personal characteristics of household members aged 16 years and over. From March 1992, quarterly data were made available and the survey became known as the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS). As well as the main survey, several sub-sample and derived datasets are also produced, including longitudinal series and a Eurostat version of the dataset.

### DATA ACCESS

- GN 33132 | LABOUR FORCE SURVEY, 1975-1991 +
- GN 33246 | QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY, 1992- +
- GN 33286 | QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: LOCAL AREA DATA, 1992-2006 +
- GN 33298 | LABOUR FORCE SURVEY HOUSEHOLD DATA SETS, 1990- +
- GN 33315 | LABOUR FORCE SURVEY TWO-QUARTER LONGITUDINAL DATA SETS, 1992- +
- GN 33316 | LABOUR FORCE SURVEY FIVE-QUARTER LONGITUDINAL DATASETS, 1992- +
- GN 33366 | QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY EUROSTAT DATASETS, 1999- +
- GN 33378 | QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY: SPECIAL LICENCE ACCESS, 2003- +
- GN 33399 | LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ANNUAL EUROSTAT DATA SETS, 1999- +

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# Health Survey for England

- General health, longstanding illness, smoking and alcohol
- core questions every wave + each year focuses on a disease or condition or population group revisited later at appropriate intervals in order to monitor change
- Annual survey, run since 1991
- Currently ~11,000 interviews a year
- The survey combines questionnaire-based answers with physical measurements and the analysis of blood sample



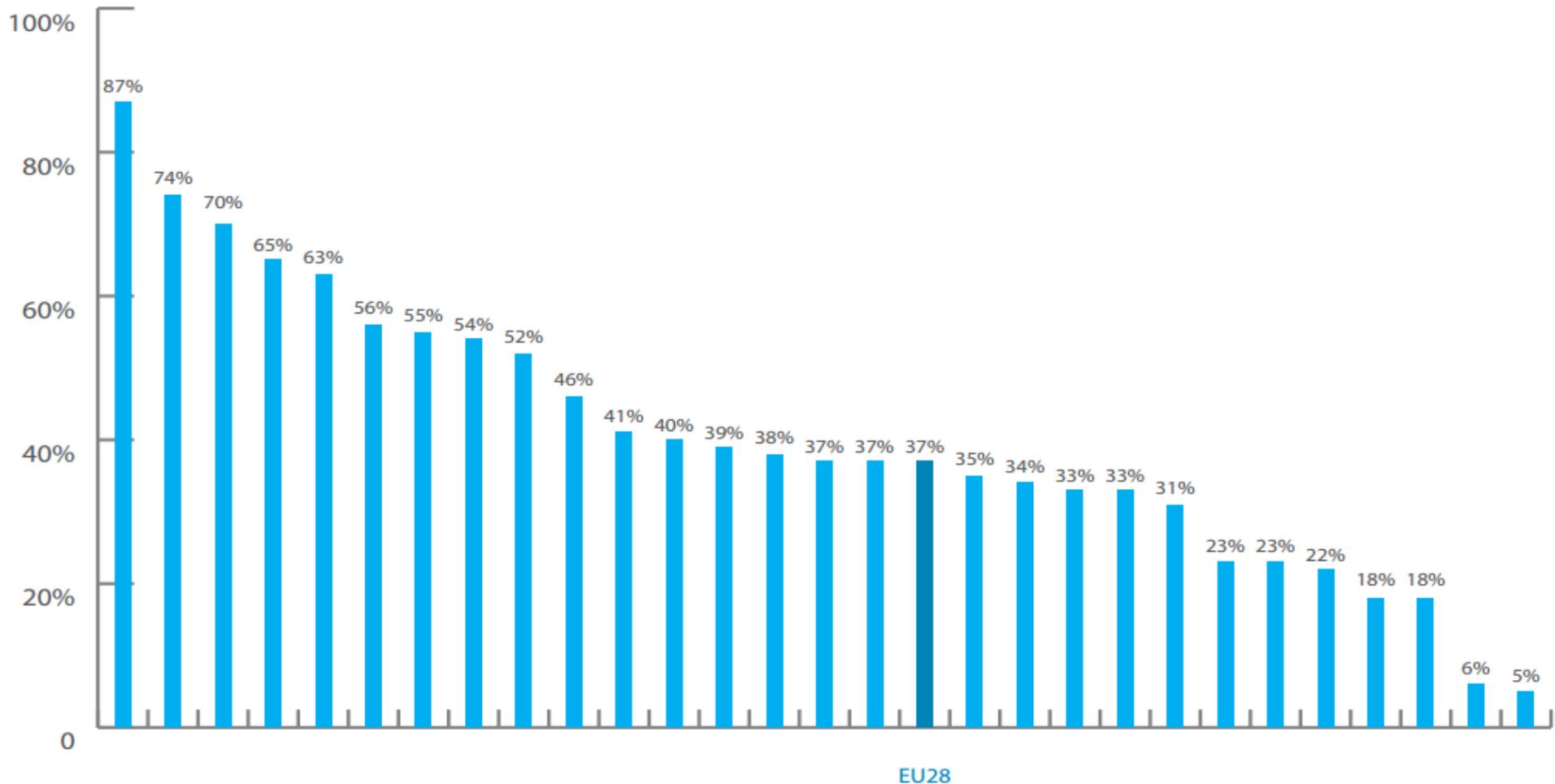
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# Eurobarometer

- The longest running regular cross-national and cross-temporal opinion poll program
- Monitors social and political attitudes
- Run since early 1970s, individual level data with face to face interviews with individuals in each of the EU countries
- More information about the series may be found on the Data Archive for the Social Sciences (GESIS) [Eurobarometer Survey Series](#) web pages
- Access to the data is via the German data archive



# Poll: Difficulties in paying bills at the end of the month, EU countries in 2013



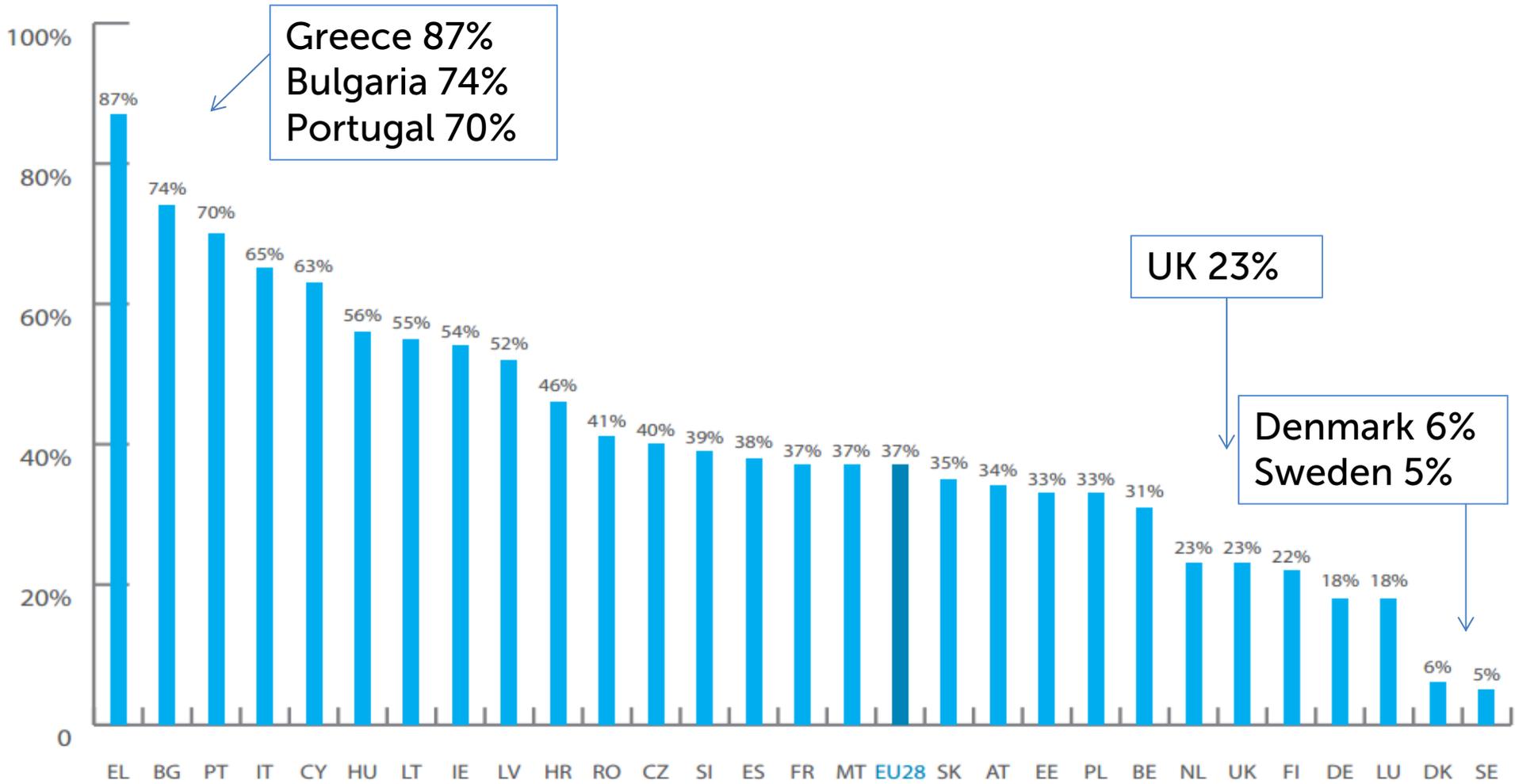
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Eurobarometer Almanac 2013

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/topics/almanac2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/topics/almanac2013_en.pdf)



# Poll: Difficulties in paying bills at the end of the month, EU countries in 2013



Greece 87%  
Bulgaria 74%  
Portugal 70%

UK 23%

Denmark 6%  
Sweden 5%

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Eurobarometer Almanac 2013

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/topics/almanac2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/topics/almanac2013_en.pdf)

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# Tip 1: Survey documentation

- Questionnaires, user guides, technical reports, details of derived variables
- Key to understanding the data.  
Tells you about...
  - The questions that were asked
  - Who answer the questions
  - How the survey was conducted
  - Any changes to the raw data
- Freely available on our website



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## Tip 2: Survey weights

- Often needed with survey data
- Variables in the dataset
- Make the sample data better represent the population
- Easy to use in statistics packages
- Details will be in the survey documentation



See our guides: 'What is weighting?' , 'An introduction to using weights in social surveys (Video)' & 'How to use weights in Nesstar (Video)'



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# Live demo

- How to find survey data
- Catalogue pages: getting information about the survey
- How to download the data
- How to view and do simple analyses with the data online using Nesstar



# Access conditions

Data Type	Access conditions
<b>Open access</b> <i>Small number of teaching datasets</i>	Open access
<b>End User Licence</b> <i>Most research datasets</i>	Requires registration and user name and password UK academics and students login using their institutional username and password
<b>Special Licence</b> <i>Most survey microdata with lower level geography</i>	Restricted to 'Approved Researchers' under the Statistics and Registration Act
<b>Secure access</b>	Restricted to 'Approved Researchers' and access limited through a physical or virtual environment



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# Other resources and support

## Webinars & Workshops

- See events pages

## Guides & Video tutorials

- Topic
- Dataset
- Methods and software

## Helpdesk

- Individual support by e-mail

## Case studies

- How others used the data



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# Questions

UK Data Service mailing list  
Twitter: @UKDataService  
Facebook  
Youtube: [UKDATASERVICE](#)

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